



# PUTNAM VILLAGER

Friday, March 12, 2021

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## Woodstock Academy & area school staff receive vaccine



Photo Courtesy

The Woodstock Academy Director of Health Services Mrs. Bobbie-Jo Saucier, is pictured administering the vaccine.

WOODSTOCK — Ten members of The Woodstock Academy staff received the newly-released single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine on March 3 at Day Kimball Healthcare in Putnam.

Day Kimball Healthcare received 1,500 doses of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, which was FDA approved over the weekend. March 3rd was the first day that Day Kimball, as well as other hospitals across the country, administered the vaccine. Day Kimball was the first hospital in Connecticut to administer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and doses from Day Kimball Healthcare will be offered to teachers and school personnel in the region this week and next week.

On March 4, many more Woodstock Academy and other local school's employees received vaccination shots at a clinic that Day Kimball Healthcare set up at Woodstock Middle School. As more of The Woodstock Academy community becomes vaccinated, a future with students returning to school full-time is within reach.

"With the partnership of Day Kimball

Healthcare, getting our staff members vaccinated has come with relative ease, and it allows us to solidify plans to safely bring our students back to school faster," Woodstock Academy head of school Christopher Sandford said.

Day Kimball Healthcare CEO Kyle Kramer added, "Day Kimball is proud to be a leader in the state in the COVID-19 vaccination effort, and I couldn't be more pleased for our team to be able to efficiently and effectively deliver the vaccine to our local educators. We value our community's schools, and are glad to do our part to help them get back to providing excellent in-person education."

In addition to the vaccinations at Woodstock Middle School on March 4, the Woodstock Academy set up a food drive, Community Cares, outside for those receiving the vaccine to donate food items for families in need. Community Cares is a food pantry run by Woodstock Academy students in partnership with TEEG that prepares food bags for delivery to families in the local community facing food insecurity.

## Thompson residents to vote on combined budget

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON – The town of Thompson held a hybrid special town meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 24 where voters approved significant changes to its budget referendums while also increasing tax abatements for first responders.

As many as 115 voters were present for the meeting either in person or over Zoom, where four items were discussed over the course of nearly two hours. The first article on the warrant addressed proposed changes to town referendums concerning the town budgets. In a vote of 67 to 48, voters approved changing the town's budget process by combining the general government and education budgets into one item for voting purposes only, rather than voting on each one separately, which has been in practice since 1997. Over

the past decade, Thompson has seen its fair share of struggles to pass both budgets at referendums, leading to, at times, several additional town departments to satisfy voters' demands for lower increases to the tax rate. In 2019 alone, Thompson took four referendums to approve the education budget resulting in cuts to both spending plans and increased costs to the town to pay poll workers.

First Selectwoman Amy St. Onge justified the move, saying that it would bring a sense of unity to both budgets.

"If you look at the history it will show that when the school budget might have been voted down and the town budget passed that generally both budgets received some type of cuts because it's up to the Board of Finance to use their judgement

Please Read **BUDGET**, page **A3**

## Killingly receives Active CT grant

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY – The town of Killingly has received grant funding to help fund a study to increase opportunities for physical activity in the town's industrial park.

At a meeting on March 2, Economic Development Director Jill St. Clair told the Economic Development Committee that Killingly was successful in its bid for \$30,000 Active CT grant through the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The grant is associated with Complete Streets, an initiative to help promote safe modes of transportation for all including walkers, bikers and drivers.

The funding will be used to pay for a walking and biking

feasibility study at the town's industrial park which would add to Killingly's ever-growing accessible options for recreation and personal transportation.

"The beautiful thing about that is they will be doing the work with the consultants, so no town hall staff need to spend time doing that," St. Clair told the EDC. "They'll come back with their consultants and work with the planning department for next steps and what they found."

The study will be implemented by the Capital Region Council of Governments. The consultant that will conduct the study was not named during the meeting nor was a timeline for the study projected at the time.

## Woodstock Academy boys claim No. 1 seed in ECC North Region

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy boys' basketball team improved to 5-1 and grabbed the top spot in the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) North Region with a pair of victories in as many days.

The Centaurs opened the week with a home win over Putnam High, 61-37, on Monday, March 1, and then went on the road the next night and defeated Killingly High, 42-37.

Senior Logan Talbot paced WA's win over Killingly, scoring a game-high 18 points, while classmate Andrew Johnson added 10.

Killingly, tasting defeat for the first time after four consecutive victories, was led by sophomore Yianni Baribeau (15 points) and junior Jason Grzysiewicz (10 points).

The Centaurs' win over the Clippers was keyed by a 10-2 run to close the third quarter. The spurt broke open a close game, pushing WA's lead to 15 points as play entered the fourth quarter. Woodstock led by double digits the rest of the way.

Senior center Dmitrii Zinchenko led the Centaurs, scoring a game-high 19 points, while junior Ethan Davis added 10.

Sophomore Cooper Livingston paced 2-3 Putnam. He scored a team-high 17 points and connected on four of his attempts from beyond the three-point arc.

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Junior Emma Carpenter turned in a game to remember, scoring a game-high 18 points, grabbing seven rebounds, making four steals, and serving up four assists to lead undefeated Killingly to a 51-40 road win over Woodstock Academy on Tuesday, March 2.

Freshman Hannah Grudzien was instrumental in the victory as well, scoring 13 points, including eight in a pivotal 18-point third quarter, during which Killingly (5-0) took the lead for good. Grudzien finished with a double-double, finding time to also pull down 14 rebounds. Sophomore Ella Lach added nine points and five assists to the winning effort while junior Sophia Moore chipped in with



Photo Courtesy Woodstock Academy Athletics

Woodstock Academy honored its senior girls' basketball players (from left) Alexa Pechie, Peyton Saracina, Sara Soria Cutillo and Kaitlin Birlin, before the Centaurs' March 2 game against Killingly.

nine points and five steals.

For the 3-3 Centaurs, Kaitlin Birlin celebrated Senior Night in fine style, scoring a season-high 12 points. Junior Aurissa Boardman also scored 12 points for WA.

Boardman scored a team-high 14 points for Woodstock Academy On Monday, March 1, but the Centaurs lost to Putnam High, 44-32. The Clippers improved to 3-1 with the win.

Elsewhere in the region, Ellis Tech jumped out to a 27-9 halftime lead and from there cruised to a 36-19 victory over Norwich Tech on Wednesday, March 3. Senior co-captain Vivianna St. Jean helped lead the way to the win by scoring 11 points and grab-

bing 15 rebounds, both team highs. Junior Skylar Egan canned a pair of 3-pointers and finished with eight points. Brooke Montecalvo added six points, senior Amber Cutler five and freshman Kylie Damble four for 4-2 Ellis Tech.

### PREP SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The St. Thomas More varsity connected on six of seven free throws in the final 2 minutes, 17 seconds to hold off comeback-minded Woodstock Academy and earn a 62-55 road win on Sunday, Feb. 28. Ethan Edwards was the lone

Please Read **SPORTS**, page **A2**



# St. Patrick’s Days past

Since this is my column closest to St. Patrick’s Day, I thought I’d browse through some old papers to see what was being done to celebrate/commemorate the day in past years. A St. Patrick’s Day Whist party at St. James was apparently common in the early 1900’s. The Thursday, March 19, 1914 Norwich Bulletin had the following small clip, “Albert Mailhot, John Burns, D.E. Jette, Fred Lahie, Miss Clara Mailhot, Mrs. George Davignon and Miss Georgianna Godreau won the honors at the St. Patrick’s night whist in St. James’ parish hall.” (newspapers.com, p. 2). In 1920 in addition to the yearly whist party, a non-card playing event was held in Danielson, “A masquerade ball at the State Armory Wednesday evening was a feature of the St. Patrick’s Day observance in Danielson. The dance was attended by a large number as offering an opportunity for a mid-Lenten period of enjoyment.” (Norwich Bulletin, March 18 1920, p. 6, newspapers.com).

Oh, how I would have loved to have been present at the St. Patrick’s Day event sponsored fifty years ago by the Brooklyn Grange in March 1971. Hopefully this will bring back fond memories for a few of you. In addition to traditional Irish songs such as “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling,” “Danny Boy,” “An Irish Lullaby,” “Tipperary,” and “Galaway,” Sadie Huhtal dressed in a Scottish outfit and sang “Believe Me if All Those Endearing Young Charms.” The hit of the program was described

thusly, “Then one of the most hilarious skits ever put on any stage was by Bob and Harold Payne. This was called ‘Bridget O’Flynn’. Bob, as the daughter dressed appropriately, red color chestnut hair with black dress with fringe from the waist down, high heels and figure. He was the daughter who stayed out until a late hour. Harold, as the mother, with indignation at the time, being awakened from sleep, long white nightgown, and curly wig and appropriate figure. The hall rocked with laughter, so that some of the lines were lost. We hope they will do a repeat sometime in the near future as the acting cannot be caught on paper...” “Bebe Doyen sang

That Old Irish Mother of Mine.’ Buffy Fiske sang a comedy number, “The Shorter They Wear ‘em The Longer They Look’; The quartet Ralph Ingalls, Bob and Harold Payne and Ed Duhamel sang “The Sidewalks of New York’ and ‘Let me Call you Sweetheart.’ The finale chorus was ‘My Wild Irish Rose’ and the audience was asked to join in which they did with gusto. It was one of the highlights of the year and we hope for another real soon.” (Windham County Transcript, March 3, 1971, under the Brooklyn column).

In last week’s column, I mentioned that March is Women’s History Month, and gave you a few of Northeastern Connecticut’s female notables to identify. Here’s why they are “notables”. Mary Dixon Kies of Killingly (1752-1837) was the first woman in the United States to be given a patent in her own right in 1809 and she even received a congratulatory letter from Dolley Madison, who was first lady at the time. Emeline Roberts Jones (1836-1916) was living in Danielson with her husband, dentist Daniel A. Jones, when she became the first female dentist in the United States in 1859. Ida Bailey Allen (1885-1973), who was born in Killingly, was a noted radio cooking show host and cookbook author and an editor of Good Housekeeping. Ellen D. Larned of Thompson (1825-1912) wrote a two volume “History of Windham County, Connecticut,” which is my “go-to” source for history on 18th and early 19th century Northeastern Connecticut.



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
.....  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

haven’t written anything about either of these artists in this column, I thought I’d write a little about these accomplished women in honor of Women’s History Month.

Anne Hall was one of 11 children of Pomfret physician Dr. Jonathan Hall, who “encouraged his daughter’s early artistic efforts. At age five, Anne was cutting paper figures and modeling in wax, a common medium of the period. She was aided in her childhood endeavors by a family friend, who supplied her with watercolors and pencils. Within a short time, she was painting and drawing birds, flowers, and insects. Although she gradually gravitated to portraiture, she never lost her love of flowers, and often incorporated bouquets into her later figure paintings. During a visit to Newport, Rhode Island, Hall met Samuel King, the teacher of Gilbert Stuart, Washington Allston, and miniaturist Edward Green Malbone. King gave Hall her first lessons in the technique of painting miniatures on ivory, which she later supplemented by studying oil painting with Alexander Robertson, a miniaturist and landscape painter and one of the first art teachers in America. Hall’s brother, a successful businessman in New York, also supported her art instruction by sending paintings from Europe for her to copy. The ‘old master’ color of her later miniatures was attributed to these early copies.

“Hall had her first exhibitions at the American Academy of Fine Arts in New York in 1817 and 1818. She moved to the city in the mid-1820s and was the first woman admitted to the newly formed National Academy of Design in 1827. She was elected to full membership in 1833 and exhibited regularly in the Academy’s annual shows, although, as a proper lady, she did not attend regular meetings. (The one exception was in 1846, when she was summoned to fill out a quorum for an important vote.)” She never married and died in New York City at the home of her sister in 1863. (www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/hall-anne-1792-1863; also see www.askart.com/artist/Ann\_Hall/80090/Ann\_Hall.aspx)

Nineteenth Century artist Hannah Thurber Fairfield (Nichols) of Pomfret was brought to my attention by Kate Benessa, who wrote to historical societies in Northeastern Connecticut requesting assistance with her search for paintings by Fairfield/Nichols. According to the site askart.com Hannah (1808–1894) married Norwich banker Franklin Nichols in 1839. She studied under artist Francis Alexander (a Killingly native) prior to being at the Academy of Design from 1836-1839 where she stud-

ied under Alexander Robertson. Kate wondered when Hannah might have studied with Francis Alexander and where their paths might have crossed.

In the family files at the Killingly Historical Center, I discovered a letter and materials from Ann Z. Wrenn of New York, which had been written in March 1990. She also included excerpts from a Hirsell-Adler Folk Art Exhibit Catalog, Young Faces, 1986, NYC. “It is conceivable that she (Hannah) might have studied under his (Alexander’s) guidance in Providence, where Alexander was listed as a portrait painter in that city’s first published directory in 1824. Fairfield’s maternal relatives lived there, and the city served as the farmer’s marketplace and cultural center for Pomfret. A promising young artist such as Fairfield might well have gone to Providence or perhaps to nearby Boston, where (Francis) Alexander also maintained a successful studio from 1826 to 1836. However, there is no positive evidence to corroborate the supposition that Fairfield did go to Providence and it was, after all, to New York that Alexander himself had gone for his first instruction.

Kate Benessa wrote, “I am especially interested in finding unknown Fairfield works for comparison. Besides our family’s portraits, I have located only 12 other Fairfield works. A handful of her most popular works of children in white dresses are easily found online. There is also one in Sturbridge Museum and one at Jackson Homestead Museum. Many more must be in private collections like mine.” If you have or know the location of portraits by Hannah Fairfield Nichols, please email me and I will pass the information on to Dr. Benessa. Thank you. If you are interested in what Hannah Fairfield Nichols’ portraits look like, visit www.askart.com.

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, March, 2021. Special thanks to Dr. Kathryn Benessa for bringing Hannah Fairfield Nichols to my attention. 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*

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*I thought of you with love today*

I thought of you with love today but that is nothing new  
I thought about you yesterday and days before that too.

I think of you in silence  
I often speak your name  
All I have are memories and your picture in a frame

Your memory is my keepsake with which I'll never part  
God has you in his keeping  
I have you in my heart.

*Happy Birthday in Heaven Cecile!  
You are forever in our hearts, and we all miss you very much!*

Love,  
*Your Mom, Dad (Bruce & Brenda Weeks), your wife Emma and your sisters and brothers*

## POLICE LOGS

### Putnam police log

PUTNAM — The Putnam Police Department reports the following arrests.

Danielle Bailey, age 44, of North Scituate, R.I. was arrested on Feb. 26 on two counts of Risk of Injury to a Minor and two counts of Leaving a Child Unsupervised in a Motor Vehicle.

Paula Long, age 58, of Thompson was arrested on Feb. 27 for Breach of the Peace.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC

### AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 1: Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Northern Harrier, Common Merganser, Carolina Wren, Brown Creeper, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Goldfinch, Junco, Song Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

## SPORTS

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Centaur’s player to score in double figures. He finished with 16 points.

### BOYS’ ICE HOCKEY

Woodstock Academy’s spirited rally forced overtime, but E.O. Smith prevailed in the game, potting a goal in the extra session for a hard-fought 6-5 win on Sunday, Feb. 28, at South Windsor Arena.

The Centaurs (2-2) trailed 5-2 going into the final period but forced overtime with three goals in the final 2 minutes, 25 seconds. Junior Evan Haskins and seniors Guerin Favreau and Nick Chubbuck all scored down the stretch, Chubbuck’s goal coming with 48 seconds remaining to keep the game going. Haskins, freshman Noah Sampson, and junior Zach Girard all scored their first career varsity goals for Woodstock Academy.



Insightful

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# Tax season scam alert



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We're now deep into tax season and many of us have been busy gathering the appropriate documents, meeting with accountants and ensuring that relevant tax deadlines are met. But in all the hustle and bustle, taxpayers also need to keep an eye on the risks, especially tax season scams. Each year, scammers get more savvy with strategies they use to gain access to other people's personal information and money.

To help you steer clear of this year's top scams, here are some red flags to watch out for—along with some timely tax-filing reminders.

“Ghost” tax return preparers

One truly frightening scam haunting taxpayers is the ghost preparer. These preparers remain hidden from the IRS by not signing returns, making the returns appear to be self-prepared. In cases where the individual e-files, the ghost preparer will refuse to digitally sign the return. The result can be disastrous for taxpayers, leaving them open to serious filing mistakes, tax fraud, penalties, and audit by the IRS.

Red flags. To help avoid this issue, be in the know when it comes to red flags surrounding ghost preparers. They usually:

- Don't sign the return with a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) (The PTIN is required by law for anyone who is paid to prepare or assist in preparing a federal tax return.)
- Lure clients in with the promise of big refunds

(Unfortunately, these scammers will resort to claiming fake deductions to boost the size of the refund.)

- Require payment in cash
- Have refunds directed into their bank accounts, not the taxpayer's
- Pro tip. If you're looking for someone to prepare your taxes, the IRS has a great online resource that offers a tool for checking your tax preparer's credentials and tips for avoiding potential tax scammers. No matter who prepares your return, it's important to review it carefully, including the routing and banking numbers if you're receiving your refund via direct deposit.
- New round of COVID-19 scams
- As the coronavirus continues to spread, so do scams, unfortunately. Criminals often try to exploit taxpayers during times of uncertainty, and this pandemic has been no exception. The latest COVID-19 scams center around the most recent round of stimulus payments. They have taken on a few forms, all with the singular goal of stealing taxpayers' money and personal information.
- Red flags. The IRS Criminal Investigation division has compiled a list of the latest COVID-19 scams. Here's what to be on the lookout for:
- Text messages asking you to disclose bank account information in order to receive the \$1,200 economic stimulus
- Emails, letters, and social media messages that use “coronavirus,” “COVID-19,” and “stimulus” in different ways, requesting personal information and financial account information (e.g., account numbers and passwords)
- Sale of fake at-home COVID-19 test kits
- Fake donation requests for

individuals, groups, and areas heavily affected by COVID-19

- “Opportunities” to invest in companies developing COVID-19 vaccines, which also promise these companies will drastically increase in value as a result
- Pro tip. If you receive unsolicited emails or social media attempts that are aimed at gathering your personal information and appear to be from the IRS or an organization linked to the IRS, forward the message to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).
- Online identity theft
- One of the most common tax scams remains personal identity theft, which is particularly rampant during tax season. Why? By accessing the social security numbers, addresses, and birth dates of unsuspecting taxpayers, scammers can file phony tax returns and steal refunds. The worst part is this can all be done before the victims even know their identities have been stolen.
- Red flags. So, what can you do to help ensure that someone doesn't file a return in your name? Know the warning signs of this pervasive scam:
- If you receive an IRS notice regarding a duplicate return, that you received wages from somewhere you never worked, additional taxes are owed, the refund will be offset, or collection actions are being taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return, contact the IRS immediately.
- As noted above, ensure that your tax preparer has the appropriate credentials.
- Unless there is a valid reason, don't give out your social security number—and always know who you're giving it to.
- Pro tip. The best way to avoid this scam is to file your taxes early, before a scammer can access your information. You might also think about using

an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) to proactively protect yourself from identity theft. The IP PIN is a six-digit number known only to you and the IRS that can be used to help the IRS verify your identity when a paper or electronic tax return is filed.

Never has the IRS ever . . .

When it comes to tax scams, one of the most important things to know is how the IRS does (and doesn't) contact taxpayers. Here are some things the IRS just won't do:

- Demand that you pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount it says you owe
- Call to demand you make an immediate payment using a specific method (e.g., prepaid debit card, gift card, or wire transfer)
- Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers, or other law enforcement to arrest you for not paying (Threats are a common tactic used by scammers.)
- So, if you get a call or email that sounds like any of the above, it's likely a scam. For steps to take if you suspect fraudulent tax activity, visit the IRS's Report Phishing and Online Scams page.
- Scams don't end with tax season
- Although the focus here is on tax season, we would all be wise to remember that new

scams are popping up every day, year-round. So, remain vigilant in keeping your personal information safe and be on the lookout for potential scams.

*This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate and useful, we recommend you consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, or lawyer.*

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## BUDGET

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as far as what's best suited to be cut,” St. Onge said. “The purpose of combining them back together again is to bring more of a sense of unity. I'm working very closely with Melinda Smith, our Superintendent, to share services which brings cost saving to the town and it's really the hope that we will face fewer referendums if it's combined as one.”

Voters also overwhelmingly approved the second item on the meeting warrant, a proposal to change the referendum notice time frame allowing the town to hold referenda after 21 days of the legal notice being published in a paper. This is shorter than the state statute of thirty days. The ordinance is designed to allow the town more flexibility with referenda should one be required in a shorter window of time.

The third and final vote taken at the meeting proposed an increase to the tax abatements for volunteer firefighters and EMS workers. This allows the town to offer the state maximum \$1,500 in tax abatements to firefighters and EMS workers compared to the previous \$1,000 which was the state maximum until 2020. That proposal was approved unanimously by all who cast their vote.

The town meeting adjourned to a referendum that was scheduled for March 9 to vote on the proposed \$4.7 million appropriation for costs related to the roof replacement at the town schools. Voters present for the town meeting decided to require that the paper ballots be hand-counted rather than machine counted. The results of that referendum were not available for press time.



GOOD NEWS



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.

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Due to Covid-19 our regularly scheduled Have a Heart event is cancelled this year. We used this opportunity to support our local community partners who have been very generous to us, by purchasing gift certificates to support them in this challenging time.

For more information or to purchase tickets please visit our website at [www.teegonline.org/have-a-heart-calendar-affle](http://www.teegonline.org/have-a-heart-calendar-affle) or call TEEG at 860-923-3458



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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# Woodstock Academy launches pilot ground school class



Photo Courtesy

Richard Garceau (right) and Woodstock Academy student Ethan Pokorny (left) after Pokorny flew the Cessna 150 plane (pictured). Photo taken by Joanne Swanson, Pokorny’s flight instructor from Norby Aviation.

WOODSTOCK — Long-time Woodstock Academy social studies teacher Rich Garceau, an avid pilot, was online recently looking to reserve an airplane at the Southbridge (Mass.) Municipal Airport.

While looking through the schedule, he noted the name of one of his students.

“There is an app that you can go to and see where all the different airplanes are, and I found him in the air. I was standing in my kitchen and I was just so giddy,” Garceau said.

Ethan Pokorny is not one of Garceau’s social studies students. He belonged to the teacher’s inaugural private pilot ground school class which was launched at The Woodstock Academy this past fall semester.

Two years ago, Garceau had suggested the course to Woodstock Academy’s dean of academics, Dr. Michael Harten. Garceau wasn’t suggesting he teach it, but he is well-versed in aviation, having graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla. with a degree in air traffic control. The original plan was to have a certified ground instructor teach the course, but those plans went awry just before the fall semester and Garceau stepped in.

The course was offered this fall and 19 students signed up.

“I was thrilled (with the number). No one was sure if there would be enough interest and, suddenly, all these kids came out of the woodwork. It’s one of those things that you think may be cool, learning how to fly a plane, but don’t think that it’s actually even possible,” Garceau said.

The class doesn’t include any actual flying lessons. Instead, Garceau teaches everything that students will need to get to that next step academically including the physics of flight; federal aviation regulations; the national airspace system; the markings at an airport; how to communicate with air traffic control and the flight systems on an airplane.

“A lot of people are excited to jump into flight training without realizing how much they will need to learn beyond flying an aircraft in order to become a

pilot,” said commercial pilot and certified Federal Aviation Agency flight instructor Joanne Swanson, who works with Pokorny in the air. “Starting the ground school course before enrolling in flight training helps new student pilots like Ethan to become more knowledgeable on important topics other than actually flying. This has helped him advance more quickly in-flight training than others who wait to start ground school until after they start flying.”

“The most enjoyable part of flying is the freedom from just taking in the sights of our community from above or flying down to Block Island for some lunch. The possibilities and freedoms that come from holding a pilot’s license are nearly endless,” Pokorny added. “I want to fly for the adventure, to be able to explore places that most people don’t even know exist; You can’t drive to Hawaii.”

And it’s not only flying. There is plenty of work available on the ground.

“It opens the door for a lot of other things. Most of the people who work in aviation are not pilots. They are air traffic controllers. Some of my kids like to work on their cars and there is aviation maintenance and engineering where you design planes. This course kind of sets the foundation for everything else,” Garceau said.

He is now in the process of doing a self-study to become a certified ground instructor which would enable him to sign off so his students can take the FAA written exam. The school plans to adopt the Aircraft Owner’s and Pilot’s Association curriculum which will help students get even closer to a private pilot’s license.

“It’s the AOPA curriculum that has been developed by professional pilots and certified ground and flight instructors. It’s a solid program,” Garceau said.

Garceau would like to see some female students enroll in the class in the fall, as all 19 this past semester were male students. He also hopes to make some field trips to Logan or Bradley airports and tour the air traffic control facility as well as the airport, the hangars and maintenance facilities.

## NDDH, Day Kimball close in on completion of school vaccination campaign

BROOKLYN – The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) and Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) collaborated on a busy week of school vaccination clinics, delivering over 1,600 vaccinations to eligible school personnel and licensed child care providers. Public, private, and parochial schools from Sterling, Thompson, Eastford, Putnam, Pomfret, Woodstock, and Hampton were vaccinated last week along with employees from EASTCONN, which serves multiple schools districts in eastern and central Connecticut.

The week of March 7 included schools from Brooklyn, Killingly, and Canterbury, Marianapolis, Harvard H. Ellis Technical School, and EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College. NDDH and DKH expect to deliver another 1,000 doses this week, which will bring vaccination totals for this target population to more than 2,600. Nearly 3,400 school personnel were eligible for vaccination.

“The initiative has taken a significant amount of coordination but has been well worth the effort because we have attained high vaccination rates in a very short amount of time,” commented Sue Starkey, NDDH Director of Health “The aim was to vaccinate as many eligible education and child care personnel as possible and we did that thanks to strong community partnerships with our clinical providers, schools, vaccination planning teams, and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. We could not be more grateful for these partnerships.”

Remaining EASTCONN employees will be vaccinated the week of March 14

, along with any school personnel and child care providers who were unable to make scheduled clinics.

DKH used the new one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine at school clinics last week and will use it Tuesday, March 9 to vaccinate personnel from Killingly schools, while NDDH will roll out the J & J vaccine for their VAMS clinics scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of this week.

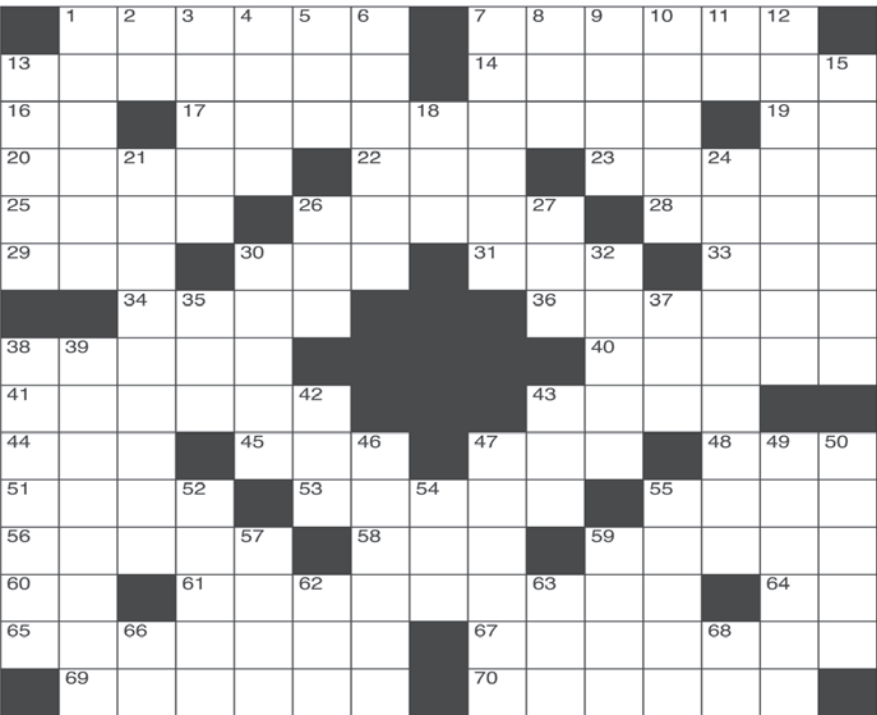
Generations Family Health Center has added appointment slots in their VAMS scheduling platform and vaccine is also available at Walgreens, CVS, and Walmart pharmacies.

“The success of the vaccination effort in Connecticut is giving all communities a real sense of hope,” said NDDH Education and Communications Coordinator Linda Colangelo. “We are still abundantly cautious as we face variant strains and outbreaks that may arise as restrictions ease, sports return, and warmer weather beckons people to gather. Keep up the prevention strategies that work. Wear your mask, watch your distance, wash your hands. Let’s cross that finish line together.”

Vaccination eligibility: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19/Vaccination---Phases>. Eligibility for educators and childcare: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-Vaccinations---Education-and-Childcare-Eligibility>.

NDDH primary resource for linking people to vaccination options:

<https://www.nddh.org/services/emergency-preparedness/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccination/>



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Large dung beetle

7. Representation of a plan

13. In a fervid way

14. The Book of Psalms

16. Morning

17. Exactly the same

19. About

20. Brown and basmati are two

22. Swiss river

23. Philippine island

25. Expressions of surprise

26. An ant

28. Common Japanese surname

29. Deoxyribonucleic acid

30. Car mechanics group

31. A person’s brother or sister

33. Ancient pharaoh

34. Quantitative fact

36. Vividly colored bird

38. Your home has one

40. Organic compound
41. Section at the end of a book

43. Flat tableland with steep edges

44. Criticize

45. Split pulses

47. Brief trend

48. Cool!

51. Purposes

53. Brews

55. Skin condition

56. Pops

58. American air travel company

59. Minute bug

60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)

61. One who rides in your car

64. One of the Gospels

65. City in southern Spain

67. Inquisitive

69. Jean Paul \_\_, author

70. Pop singer Harry

### CLUES DOWN

1. An ape or monkey

2. Chemical element

3. Zodiac sign

4. Removes

5. Brew

6. Nickname

7. Architectural structures

8. Trigonometric function

9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna

10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two

11. Mountain (abbr.)

12. Landscaping practice

13. Capacitance unit

15. Redirect

18. Hat for women

21. In a way, dressed down

24. Granny

26. Feed

27. Endpoint
30. Indian instrument

32. Bleated

35. Cablegram (abbr.)

37. Root mean square (abbr.)

38. Jellyfishes

39. Individual TV installments

42. Talk

43. More (Spanish)

46. Leaseholder

47. Monetary units

49. Hostility

50. Work stations

52. Linguistics giant

54. Female sheep

55. Calendar month

57. Seasoning

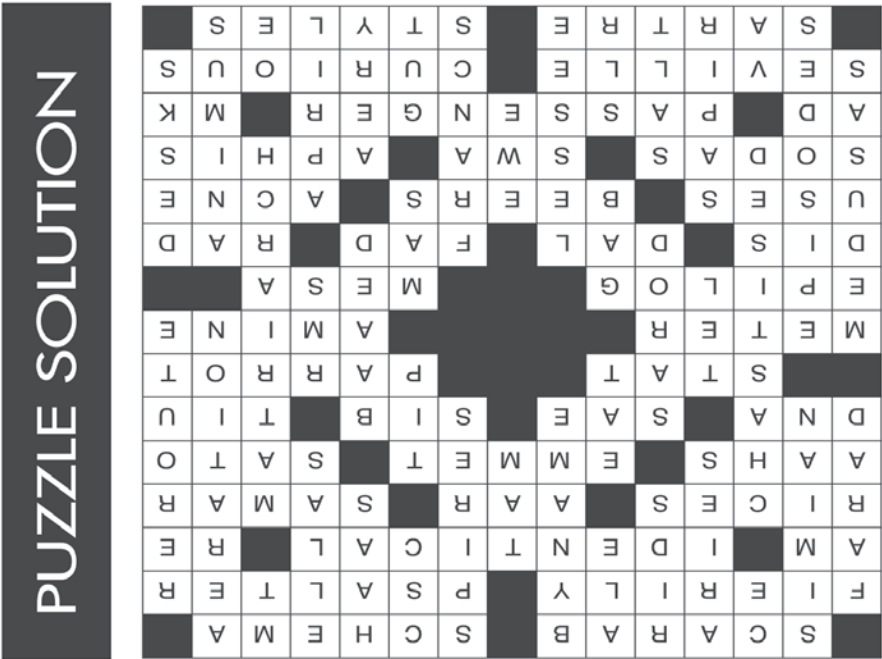
59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey

62. Single Lens Reflex

63. A way to remove

66. Virginia

68. Old English



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# Day Kimball names Amanda Ponciano Employee of the Month

PUTNAM — Amanda Ponciano, mental health worker in Day Kimball Healthcare's (DKH) behavioral health department, has been named employee of the month for February.

Ponciano began working at Day Kimball in September 2018. In her role, Ponciano assists registered nurses with direct patient care and works to ensure a safe, therapeutic environment for patients.

According to Ponciano's supervisor, Pete Neal, Ph.D., LPC, director of behavioral health services, Day Kimball Healthcare, "Amanda embodies the spirit of what we are aiming to accomplish in Day Kimball's behavioral health department. She is kind and compassionate with our patients, making sure they feel safe and supported. She brings a positive attitude every day and works hard at her job. Amanda is an excellent employee, and an even better person."

In response to being named employee of the month, Ponciano said, "It's an honor. I work with so many great people here at Day Kimball and it is nice to feel appreciated." When asked what she likes most about her job, she shared, "The opportunity to help people. I love working with patients and hearing them say that I helped support them during their time here. There is such a stigma with



Photo Courtesy

**Day Kimball Healthcare's Employee of the Month for February 2021, Amanda Ponciano, mental health worker in Day Kimball Healthcare's (DKH) behavioral health department.**

mental health, and being in the field, I get to actively fight against that stigma every day."

Ponciano obtained a Bachelor of science in psychology from Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts

and is a native of Northeast Connecticut.

Day Kimball Healthcare's employee of the month program is sponsored by Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut. "The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation and Foxwoods Resort Casino has been focused on taking care of the people that serve within our community, and we appreciate everything Day Kimball Healthcare does," said Foxwood's Director of Sponsorships and Partnerships Roy Colebut-Ingram. "Supporting meaningful employee recognition programs like that at DKH is just one way that we feel we can express our appreciation."

About Day Kimball Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is [www.daykimball.org](http://www.daykimball.org).

## Daughters of Isabella hosting Easter basket drive

PUTNAM — A community Easter basket drive is underway sponsored by the Daughters of Isabella.

We need your help to supply Easter baskets to local shelters and food banks in time for the holiday. Big or small, together, we can make a difference.

Please do not include peanut butter products or nuts in baskets. Wrapped candy or small toys only, please.

Community drop-off day will be Sunday, March 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the following Putnam locations:

Knights of Columbus parking lot, 68 Providence St.

Commuter parking lot on Kennedy Drive

Farmers' Market Pavilion, Kennedy Drive

Dr. Botta's parking lot, 24 South Main St.

Baskets or cash donations may be dropped off any time before March 28 by calling Sandra Montie at (860) 963-9552, Pat Webster at (860) 481-1841, Maureen Desilets at (860) 928-5644, or the St. Therese Parish office at (860) 928-6535. Checks should be made out to Daughters of Isabella, and can also be mailed to Priscilla Dowd, 46 Senexet Rd., Putnam, CT 06260.

## Killingly High School honor roll

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

### Senior class

High Honors: Cal Barber, Abby Card, Joshua Dumas, Nikki Flynn, Annie Griffin, Cole Lavigne, Julia Purcell, Daniel Raheb, Sydney Rosen, Jordan Rukstela, Grace Socha, Madelyn Sumner, Samantha Swenson, Kaleb Watson, Matthew Weiss, Meghan Wrobel.

First Honors: Evelyn Allen, Abraham Antonelli, Zoe Conklin, Michelle Dumphy, Laney Dunn, Mackenzie Farquhar, Sophie Griffin, Madison Hopkins, Olivia Lamoureux, Chase LeClerc, Hunter Leite, Patricia Lillibridge-Reek, Nevaeh Lyon, Abigail Norgren, Viren Patel, Alyssa Pomerleau, Hannah Reid, Lillian Stockford, Amaya West, Bo Yaworski.

Second Honors: Dedrick Baublitz, Lorelai Bessenaire, Abigail Burgess, Grace Cerbo, Janelle Charron, Kamila Correa, Evan DeRonsle, Evan Despathy, Colton Douglas, Abigail Driscoll, Alyssa Elsey, Virgil Fensley, Jacob Galarza, Grace Gilman, Brooke Harrington, Ann-Marie Hebert, Julia Hopkins, Kaleigh Hopkins, Paige Keefe, Tate Larrow, Zachary Lehtonen, Amelia MacPhail, David Nduati, Madyson Peaslee, Piper Pellitier, Benjamin Richardson, Nickolas Steele, Thomas Wright, Avery

Zanauskas, Emily Zmayefski

### Juniors

High Honors: Georgia Barry, Kylie Beaudry, Ayvri Brytowski, Makala Dube, Lennon Giambattista, Emma Gilbert, Samantha Goulston, Ryan Holmes, Payton Keefe, Sage Lamparelli, Kathryn Strangman.

First Honors: Brandon Baker, Shelby Bellows, Emma Carpenter, Khloe Crossman, MaryGrace Dufault, Lily Gutierrez, Hannah Jarvis, Maggie Jellison, Faith Klingensmith, Ella Mandeville, Thomas Martell, Rhiannon Martin, Benjamin Mayo, Sophia Moore, Gianna Ormstead, Benjamin Percival, Felicity Surprenant, Kaia Torrente, Laylah Zea.

Second Honors: Emma Barbeau, Gregory Bigelow, Rodrigo Candelario Jimenez, William Carver, Payton Cathell, Nicole Cicchetti, Thomas Curran, Quinn Ellis, Emily Fortune, Kenna Lavallee, Hailey Lawrence, Collin Loiselle, Julia Magao, Ryan Miller, Kayleigh Norris, Katherine Poirier, Jason Simoneau, Kaylei Sirimongkhoun, Hailey Toth, Lola Ward, Alyssah Yater.

### Sophomores

High Honors: Kalob Barclay, Casey Beauregard, Emily Benoit, Lainey Buffington, Matthew Card, Alyssa Caron, Carley DiMartino, Aila

Gutierrez, Ciara King, Ella Lach, Hailey Magao, Aryn Nisbet, Anjolina Ortiz, Henrik Pawul, Anthony Purcell, Chloe St. Pierre, Jerson Suarez, Salena Thongsouvanh, Kaitlyn Tingle, Joshua Torre, Jady Williams.

First Honors: Ryan Abdullovski, Willow Charles, Gabriel Dowd, Logan Gagnon, Katrina Imre, Owen Johnson, Ethan Lackner, Elizabeth Marcoux, Jada Neri, Jayden Olson, Braden Pedersen, Moss Souksanti, Jane Stockford.

Second Honors: Evan Adams, Amber Amosco, Heather Anderson, Jillian Bennett, Lyana Bott-Cuevas, Renee Bunn, Grace Colangelo, Giovanni Couture, Tayler Cummings, Chloe DiFusco, Hannah Donovan, Mia Falcioni, Lavender Gaudette, Harrison Giambattista, Emma Girardin, Danny Kien, Hailey Merritt, Avi Miller, Zoe Miller, Margaux Molyneux, Chloe Nason, Zachary Rainville, Ryan Rattray, Connor Richardson, Jack Richardson, Austin Stravato, Connor Thompson, Sayge Trajanowski, Amelie van der Swaagh, Tianna Wallace, Kyle White, Madison Zachow, Gavin Zajac

### Freshmen

High Honors: Shanaya Brown, Kiana Capiga, Cassidy Card, Julie Carver, Amber Cobb, Molly Crabtree, Sydney Crabtree, Jocelyn Crowley, Annina Desabota, Darin Exarhoulias, Devin Exarhoulias, Laura Farquhar, Lillian

Gaudet, Hannah Grudzien, Ross Hill, Melody Kettle, Emily Lamparelli, Gavin Lancot, Raigan Leveille, Selina Metzermacher, Sydney Mullen, Kelsea O'Rourke, Sai Patel, Christina Rattray, Peyton Rosen, Sherrie Simoneau, Grace Sumner, Malia Taylor-Robichaud, Emma Vandale, Maddox Wedge, Chloe Yip, Julia Young, Lindsey Zicolella

First Honors: Kaeli Adams, Kaylee Baker, Domenico Capuano, Abigail Comtois, Elizabeth Conway, Deven Delaney, Isabella Graichen, Owen Gratton, Erika Horne, Jonah Hussey, Rachael Hutchinson, Ava Johnson, Illyana Malarkey, Sofia Morin, Ava Peloquin, Elizabeth Reynolds, Benjamin Robinson, Kaylee Stillman, Mauricio Suarez, Demetrius Thornton, Gabriel Torrente, Lilly Verraneault, Talan Walker, Gabriella Zink.

Second Honors: Harrison Allard, Ryan Barretta, Harrison Bauer, Trenton Brytowski, Avery Caisse, Ian Cathell, Spencer Chviek, Madison Daniels, David Evans, Lila Fortin, Mason Frazer, Owen Glushchenko, Ava Izzo, Madyson Mitchell, Layne O'Leary, Devon Palumbo, Soren Rief, Selina Rivera, Zaiden Rukstela, Sophia Scandalito, Hunter Schafmayer, Emma Seide, Ian Stone, Austin Townsend, Justin Wellman, Cassidy Wilson.



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# LEARNING

## QVCC Foundation announces \$20,000 endowed scholarship

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation graciously announces the creation of The Robert and Mary Heneault Memorial Fund, which will support a deserving QVCC student that demonstrates high academic achievement while contributing to the overall good of their community. Robert and Mary Heneault (nee Keenan) were born and raised in Danielson, CT, and while their lives took them away from Danielson, it remained home in their hearts. With their children

they made a life in Canada; first in Montreal, then in Toronto, where Robert's career culminated in his appointment as President and CEO of Stelco Enterprises. Robert and Mary recognized the transformative value of education and passed on a passion for learning that their children wish to extend to a QVCC student. Monique Wolanin, director of institutional advancement, stated, "Special thanks to the Heneault siblings for endowing their second scholarship with

the QVCC Foundation. This meaningful gift pays tribute to their parents, helps local students pursue their academic dreams and shows the family's trust in the QVCC Foundation." The QVCC Foundation annual scholarship application period will end on March 12. \$150,000 in scholarships are available for students who are planning to start next fall and students who are currently enrolled at the College. Learn more and apply at [www.qvcc.edu/scholarships](http://www.qvcc.edu/scholarships).

## Local students named to University of Hartford President's Honors List

WEST HARTFORD — The University of Hartford congratulates the students who have been named to the President's Honors List for Fall 2020. The President's Honors List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester. Jordyn Brousseau of Woodstock, Kathleen Joiner of N. Grosvenordale, and Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 5,000 under-

graduate and 1,500 graduate students from 48 states and countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit [www.hartford.edu](http://www.hartford.edu) for more information.

## QVCC awarded Gold Status as military friendly college

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College has earned the designation of Gold status as a 2021-2022 Military Friendly® School. This is the highest designation given to any of the community colleges in the state of Connecticut. Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey with around 750 schools earning the designation of which 162 selected for the

"Gold" award status for their leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs. Tracey Ferguson, QVCC Veteran Services Certifying Official, "QVCC is proud to be designated a Military Friendly School. Offering exemplary educational opportunities to our military members, both active duty and veteran, is just one small way that we thank our service members and their families for the tremendous sacrifices that they have made for our country." Military Friendly® is owned

and operated by VIQTORY, a veteran-owned business. Founded in 2001, VIQTORY is a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) that connects the military community to civilian employment, educational and entrepreneurial opportunities through its G.I. Jobs®, Military Spouse, and Military Friendly® brands. For resources or information regarding QVCC Veteran Service, please contact Tracey Ferguson [tferguson@qvcc.edu](mailto:tferguson@qvcc.edu).

### Eastford's Andrew Hughes graduates from Johnson & Wales

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Andrew Hughes of 232 Old Colony Rd. in Eastford graduated from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. in January 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.



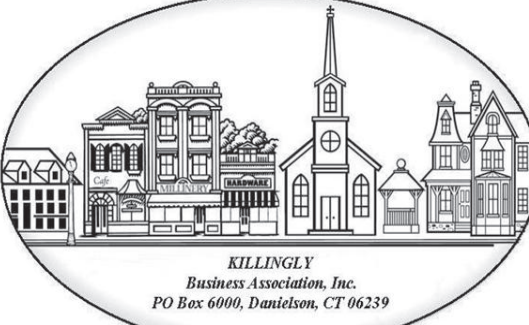
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### TAFT POND ROAD IN POMFRET CLOSED TO THROUGH TRAFFIC

*Photo Courtesy*

The Taft Pond Road in Pomfret will be closed to through traffic Friday, March 12, for an undetermined period of time. The State DOT has determined that the bridge must be closed due to deterioration of the substructure. The Town of Pomfret is aggressively pursuing remediation to minimize closure time and a contractor is expected to be on site within a month. The bridge (No. 05664) is approximately 1 mile north of Route 97 and has been closed to one lane and limited to 3 tons in recent months. Crossing the Mashamoquet Brook, the bridge is just 25 feet long and was last rebuilt in 1993. Please contact First Selectman Maureen Nicholson at 860-974-0191 with questions or concerns.





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# Quinebaug Valley Senior Center serves drive-up turkey soup luncheon



Harry Adams giving out soup to Gil Simmons.

BROOKLYN — More than 90 seniors from the Senior Center located in Brooklyn took part in the annual turkey soup luncheon last week. Harry Adams, President of the Board of Directors, was

the chief chef, and wasn't about to disappoint his many followers. "This has become an annual event that everyone looks forward to," said Adams. "Around here, we are a hearty



Photos Courtesy

Volunteer Dale Clark with Harry Adams.

can-do group who can accomplish anything we set our minds to!" Normally held inside the center accompanied by entertainment, this year's event was a drive-up and take your soup home to enjoy. The soup was packed cold with a roll and dessert in the bag. Seniors took their soup home to heat, which was a welcome meal on a very cold day, with temperatures only in the 20s. Several volunteers helped to make this program possible. Harry's wife Carol assisted in the kitchen, along

with Diane Allen. Donald Manns helped peel all the vegetables, and Carolyn Logee, Marcia Manns, Dale Clark and John and Linda Warner packed the lunches to go. The senior center portion of the building is currently serving as a Northeast District Department of Health COVID vaccination clinic site during the week. For more information about the services and programs offered by QVSCC in the 10-town area, please call (860) 774-1243.

## Creation Church relaunches kids' program

THOMPSON — Creation Church is pleased to announce that their Creation Kids program for children ages four to 11 has been relaunched at their 10:30 a.m. service time. This exciting Sunday morning program for children is led by Gale Norman, a former Special Education teacher in the Killingly School System, and wife of the pastor of Creation Church, Bernie Norman. Miss Gale, as the children call her, brings an incredible amount of teaching experience to this popular program for kids. She has a wonderful staff of teachers and teaching assistants, who make Creation Kids an enjoyable and encour-

aging experience each Sunday. The church uses "The Gospel Project for Kids," which immerses kids and preschoolers in the gospel through stories, theological concepts, and missions, from the books of Genesis to Revelation. A Christ-connection is made in every lesson for the children using a mix of curriculum videos, hands-on activities, and take-home activity sheets. Classes are based on the birthday/age of the child. The current program is for children ages four to 11. Pioneers are ages 9-11. Seekers are ages six to eight. Explorers are ages four and five. The church, also, has

a program for children ages two and three called Little Learners and has Nursery for children 0-24 months. For more information, please contact Creation Church at 860-923-9979 or go online at [www.creationchurch.org](http://www.creationchurch.org). Creation Church is a non-denominational, Christian church located at 47 W. Thompson Rd. in Thompson. The church hosts two Worship Services on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and 10:30am. "A Place of New Beginnings" the church, also, hosts a Women's Bible Study on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and a Men's Bible Study on Saturday mornings at 8 a.m.

## Local students named to St. Lawrence University Dean's List

CANTON, N.Y. — The following students have been selected for inclusion on St. Lawrence University's Dean's List for their academic achievements during the Fall 2020 semester. Olivia Kremer is a member of the Class of 2021, and is majoring in history. Kremer is from Pomfret and attended . Duun O'Hara is a member of the Class of 2022, and is majoring in

Hispanic studies and government. O'Hara is from Woodstock and attended . About St. Lawrence University Founded in 1856, St. Lawrence University is a private, independent liberal arts institution of about 2,500 students located in Canton, New York. The educational opportunities at St. Lawrence inspire students and prepare them to be critical and creative thinkers, to

find a compass for their lives and careers, and to pursue knowledge and understanding for the benefit of themselves, humanity, and the planet. Through its focus on active engagement with ideas in and beyond the classroom, a St. Lawrence education leads students to make connections that transform lives and communities, from the local to the global. Visit [www.stlawu.edu](http://www.stlawu.edu).

## Local students named to Dean's List at Worcester State

WORCESTER, Mass. — The following local students have been named to the Worcester State University Dean's List for Fall 2020: Denise Hoxha of Brooklyn Ryley J. Meyers of Danielson Jaylyn D. Armstrong and Lauren M. Ramos of North Grafton Sarah E. Tuttle and Mikayla D. Wilcox of Pomfret Center Kelsey N. Kingman and Jane Vongvirath of Putnam Victoria J. Babcock and Paige M. Boisvert of Thompson Dean's list honors are awarded to matriculated undergraduate students who have earned

a 3.5 GPA or higher. Full-time students must have earned a minimum of 12 credits and part-time students must have earned a minimum of 6 credits.

## Ahrim Esther Joy Kim named to Abilene Christian University Dean's List

ABILENE, Texas — Ahrim Esther Joy Kim of Gangnamgu was named to the Abilene Christian University Fall 2020 Dean's List. Kim is a freshman majoring in animal science. Kim was among more than 1,300 students named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List. To qualify, students must be registered for 12 or more credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher. Abilene Christian is the highest-ranking university in Texas in a 2021 U.S. News & World

Report assessment of institutions highly regarded for their commitment to student success. Nationally, ACU achieved Top 10 status in three and Top 50 in another of eight high-impact categories among 1,500 universities evaluated for the annual «America's Best Colleges» edition. No other Texas university was named in the top 10 of any category. Learn more at [acu.edu](http://acu.edu).

## Eastford's Emily Hughes named to Cornell Dean's List

ITHACA, N.Y. — Emily Hughes of 232 Old Colony Rd. in Eastford attained the Dean's Honor List for outstanding scholastic performance in the College of Engineering at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. in Fall 2020.

## FOODSHARE



Photo Courtesy

Putnam resident and American Legion Post #13 member Pierre Desilets (right) prepares to load a box of groceries during the "FOODSHARE" event held at the Putnam Elementary and Middle Schools on Saturday, March 6. On hand to assist Desilets is his wife, Maureen (left). The "FOODSHARE" event was sponsored by American Legion Post #13; VFW Post #1523; The Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse; and the Town of Putnam.


## Federated Church to hold drive-thru lasagna dinner

BROOKLYN — The Federated Church of Christ, located at the corner of Routes 6 & 169 in Brooklyn, will be hosting a drive-thru lasagna dinner Saturday, March 27 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meat or vegetarian lasagna only (no salad or dessert for this dinner) will be available for \$8. Call (860) 774-9817 by 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 25 to reserve your lasagna. Drive through, and we will deliver your order to your car. Order early — we sell out quickly!

## Art exhibit to benefit Save The Church campaign

THOMPSON — The Thompson Public Library is hosting an Art Guild Gallery exhibit through March 30 in support of Save The Church, a campaign to preserve the Thompson Congregational Church. A GoFundMe page has been linked to a Historical Society matching grant. Visit the library to view artwork, visit our Facebook page or [artguildne.org](http://artguildne.org), or e-mail us at [info@artguildne.org](mailto:info@artguildne.org) for a list and photos.





Villager Newspapers

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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

Here comes  
the sun,  
and we say  
it's all right

After a long (but, we think, mild) winter, warmer, longer days are finally here. As the official first day of spring nears on March 20, we're noticing people have more of a pep in their step. A refreshing sight given the year 2020 delivered.

While each season has its own perks, there is something about spring that seems to surprise us each year. We re-acquaint ourselves with our yards as they slowly reveal themselves as the snowbanks melt away. Muddy grass has never been a kinder sight.

Over the past few weeks, the common chatter has been about baseball, springtime fitness goals, gardening, hiking, you know the usual. This week we reminisced about old April Fool's Day pranks in the office. Tacks on seats, the soda bottle filled with water sitting on top of a door waiting to be opened in order to drench an unsuspecting individual, saran wrapped cars, fake lottery winnings, fake wedding proposals and lost wedding rings, to name a few. Stunts to make Larry, Moe and Curly proud.

With spring comes "spring fever." In modern times this is a semi-positive term, however back in colonial times, 'spring fever' referred to the poor quality of health everyone was in, after sustaining a winter without fresh vegetables and proper diet. Today's "spring fever" will have children restless, new romances transpire and people attacking their homes with dust cloths and Windex.

Experts say the changes that a person goes through during the springtime are due to hormonal changes in the body. During the winter months, the body secretes a large amount of melatonin, (the sleep hormone). The presence of more sunlight in spring sends the body a message to stop producing as much melatonin. This causes folks to be more awake. Add this to the uptick in your serotonin levels due to the sunlight and you will not only be awake but enthusiastic.

Interesting to note is that during the springtime the body becomes more susceptible to illnesses. Way back when, scurvy outbreaks always occurred during this time of year as did rubella and measles. Doctors note that in spring, gout, a condition that affects joints, peaks in individuals. Because there are more allergens in the air, you will see more cases of rosacea and other skin irritations on the rise.

We encourage everyone to spend as much time outdoors this spring, including the days leading up to its official start. Get back to basics, back to nature, keep things simple and pick up an old hobby you have abandoned but have been meaning to reconnect with, life is meant to be fun.

LETTERS  
POLICY

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

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



www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This silliness shall pass

To the Editor:  
Regarding the recent hyperbolic theatrical ravings regarding the "invasion" and "insurrection" at the Capitol and resultant Trump "trial": there is but one remedy for hysteria — time. Reason will reassert itself.

What to do? Take a walk. Breathe. Relax. Revel in the glorious emergent spring. This silliness shall pass.  
Sincerely,

ALLAN PLATT  
EASTFORD

A Commercial Driver's License is not like a ballot

To the Editor:  
As my good friend, Hull Forest Products owner Bill Hull (Woodstock Villager, Feb. 26) knows very well, the difference between requiring a CDL to drive a loaded logging truck or semi and voting is the former can, and does, kill people as I am sure his fleet insurance bills reflect. Voting does not. Our democracy is based on popular vote/voice for our government, not driving heavy trucks.

The problems is, has been, and remains not enough voting, rather than the mythical "voter fraud." Efforts to disenfranchise Democratic voters, largely on race, is a poor substitute for good policies benefiting all. And Un-American. True patriots want more voting, not less.

TIM McNALLY  
POMFRET CENTER

Only truth can restore election faith

To the Editor:  
I am writing in response to Mr. William B. Hull's letter published in last week's Woodstock Villager, titled "Biden is President."

While I agree with the letter's title, I find many other aspects of the letter troubling, in part because Mr. Hull, albeit in more subtle ways, perpetuates the myth of a "stolen election" espoused by former President Trump and his allies.

Of the "75 million people" who did not vote for candidate Biden, Mr. Hull writes, "Many, if not most of these people, feel the election was somehow stolen." He continues, "However, they did not and do not today have sufficient rock solid proof to base their stolen election claim on."

Regarding the doubts of these folks, Mr. Hull fails to acknowledge that these doubts come almost entirely from false claims propagated by the former President and his allies, enabled by the opportunism and the lack of personal and political courage of others in the GOP to repudiate claims they know—and have known all along—to be false. Mr. Hull's expressed lack of "sufficient rock solid proof" implies that there is substantial evidence but that it does not somehow meet the required legal threshold. The facts don't support this.

According to USA Today, by Jan. 6, former President Trump and his allies had filed 62 lawsuits, three of which went to the U.S. Supreme Court. He prevailed in only one, and that was related not to voter fraud of any kind but to the requirement of voters to present ID in order to "cure," ballots, meaning to correct an error such as an omitted signature or to reconcile a disputed signature or incomplete form. In a rejection of the former President's attempt to block Joe Biden from being declared the winner in Pennsylvania, a three-judge Federal Appeals Court panel stated, "Charges require specific allegations and then proof. We have neither here" (Reuters). This lack of proof—of any kind—was cited in numerous other dismissals of cases brought by former President Trump and his allies, many with Republican judges presiding, some appointed by the former President himself. Allegations are not evidence.

Trump allies Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell, and Mike Lindell are learning this the hard

way, as they face billion-dollar lawsuits from Dominion Voting Systems for defamation. Whatever come-uppance they and others who were the true perpetrators of an attempted steal of the 2020 election receive, it will not undo the damage done by the former President and his allies. Mr. Hull in his February 26 letter writes, "What, then, are we to do as a nation to heal this unease and restore faith and creditability to our election process for all voters?" I think that the first step is for those who have sewed doubt about the 2020 election to give a truthful accounting of it, that it was by most objective accounts the most reputable and secure election in American history. Christopher Krebs, the head of the Trump administration's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) declared the 2020 election to be "the most secure in American history"(N-PR). He was subsequently and unsurprisingly fired by former President Trump. Mr. Hull in his editorial suggests a sequence of steps aimed at tightening election security. He compares these steps to the process he follows to renew his Commercial Driver's License. That comparison creates a false equivalence. The Constitution guarantees my right as an American citizen to vote, as it does Mr. Hull's. The Constitution does not guarantee anyone's right to licensure for professional work.

Mr. Hull suggests "five things states can and should be doing to restore integrity to our election process." On their surface, some of these seem reasonable, such as establishing a voter's U.S. citizenship, but others—limitations on mail-in and absentee ballots and voter ID laws—often disenfranchise legitimate voters, both by default and by design. Rather than creating obstacles to voting, why not devote our energy to increasing voter turn-out? It is antithetical to American democracy when a political party views suppression of the vote as a path to victory. When increased voter turn-out damages a political party's prospects, it is time for that party to do some soul-searching and enact reforms that more fully meet the needs of the people they aim to serve.

RICHARD TELFORD  
POMFRET CENTER

Disappointment?  
Join the club

So, I get an email last night from a reader of this column ...

"You always write about optimism, now that you have cancer, what do you think?

What do I think?

Let me begin with this ... If you want to avoid disappointment, don't do anything. Do not try to live your dreams. Stop reaching for the stars. Never build a business or try to compete. Don't apply for the promotion. Refuse to take a risk. Don't try to beat cancer. And above all ... never fall in love. If you want to avoid disappointment, its easy, just be the anti-Nike and Just 'Don't' Do It.' Problem solved, right? Not hardly ...

The best of life is available for those who go for it.

The rewards of life go to those who risk, and when you risk, you will often be disappointed. I've suffered more emotionally crushing moments in my life than I can recount. It's all part of the game. You win some, you lose some and some are rained out. Some disappointments are minor, and you move on quickly, while some stay with you for an exceptionally long time. So yes, I've suffered great disappointment, while also enjoying great success. You can't have one without the other.

By coincidence, previously, on a day where I got the call from another reader about disappointment, I personally suffered a major disappointment.



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

About an hour before the call, I suffered a business setback that was stunning. It was something I didn't expect, and the disappointment lingered for an exceptionally long time. I was pursuing an opportunity that I was convinced was a sure thing, and had been working on it for months. I felt

assured by the client that they were eager to take advantage of my proposal. It was a great program, and there was every reason that the group I was courting should have said yes. When I was told no, it was like a punch to my gut. I was given no reason for the refusal other than "we just think we'll pass at this time." When I came home from the meeting with my tail between my legs, my wife consoled me for a few minutes then said, "Get on the tractor and mow the grass" ... and I did.

The grass doesn't stop growing because I'm disappointed.

Life goes on. I had to pick myself up off the floor, get on the tractor and get cutting, and for me, the tractor is a great place to plan (or plant) my next move.

So, you are disappointed? Join the club. You are not alone. You were laid off from your company or your spouse left you. Your team didn't win the big game and your diet isn't working as fast as you'd like. Your son or daughter was cut from the team or didn't get into the college you'd hoped. There are

Some positive  
side effects of  
COVID

Getting my second Covid vaccination made me feel as if a great cloud had been removed from my body. I thought I might float out the door and rush headlong into doing all the things and seeing all the people I had missed so much for the past year. I thought about driving somewhere, anywhere, just for the sake of feeling free. Instead, I went home, looking at the same scenery, but imagining how nice it would feel to hug my grandchildren and children. A year of isolation has taught us plenty.

I don't know what you have learned about yourself and your family and friends, but I think it is worth stopping for a moment to consider. There's also the community to think about and, of course, our country. Let's start with the community.



NANCY WEISS

I've noticed that the number and the vitriol in the Letters to the Editor section in this newspaper have gotten longer, more partisan and most often written by men. I often

know the authors and, when I don't, I feel as if I have met them by reading their opinions.

I think it's important for a local newspaper to provide a forum for people to express themselves. The back and forth among some of the writers gets quite heated, but the amount of time and effort many put into their letters is impressive. Whether or not the pieces lead readers to change their opinion is not something I can measure, but the writers stick their necks out to express themselves and that matters.

Through this difficult year, I've been really proud of our hospital. Full disclosure: I am a member of the board of Day Kimball, a post I've had for several years. I pay close attention to how it operates. Times are hard for small hospitals and the past year slammed the entire health care system, but DKH kept on going. At first there was relatively little COVID here, but the regular business declined anyway. By last fall, they were flooded with infected people and stepped up effectively.

My husband and I came to rely on Dr. John Graham's clear, conversational tone on WINY when he brought the community up to date on numbers and predictions. Kyle Kramer was hired as CEO and bringing expertise and a bit of fun. Who can resist any appeal from Linda Colangelo of the Northeast District Department of Health? Linda packages her educational messages in such a way that getting a shot sound like an adventure. Through it all, WINY provided access to the information to everyone. I don't think many places have such consistent and supportive media.

I thought I would write the great American novel while quarantined. I didn't, but singer and song writer, Sally Rogers, sang every day on the internet, a remarkable feat. Four friends and I wrote haikus to share with each other. Photos were added. Some of us have been more consistent than others, but the process has been eye opening. Try condensing what you think into 17 syllables and watch what happens.

I threw myself into making bagels, English muffins, pizza and boules. I walked miles and miles with various friends on remarkable trails and roads.

I watched more TV than in my entire life and I read, cleaned, fed birds, called my brother and zoomed with my friends.

Were there side effects from the vaccine shot? Yes. I developed a deep sense of gratitude for my remarkable husband, for being alive, for the life I live, for the community I live it in.

Hope you have the same side effects.



# Antique reproductions and fakes



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

Antiques have been copied for years. For example, in 1876, the Centennial Exposition took place in Philadelphia. Americans were interested in their history and cabinet makers produced many quality reproductions of pieces from the previous century. Often, the goal with reproductions is to create copies of furniture or other antiques for people who couldn't afford to pay what an original would cost. Other times though, the goal is to deceive an unsuspecting buyer.

When I started selling antiques over 30 years ago, a friend informed me that he was running a golf auction. I was new at the antique business and bought some cast iron doorstops of a man and woman golfer that I thought would be a good fit. My friend who was running the auction informed me that the doorstops were reproductions. Someone had artificially aged them by exposing them to weather and hitting them with chains. Even when accurately described as reproductions in his golf auction catalog, the pair sold for well over \$200 and I was able to make a small profit, despite my mistake.

Around 15 years ago, I was helping a friend set up his booth at the Brimfield Antique Show. We finished early that night and walked around to see what other dealers were offering for sale. My friend specialized in antique furniture and saw a barrister's bookcase that was reasonably priced. Barrister's (or stacking) bookcases are rectangular sections that fit on top of each other. The glass fronts lift upward and slide inward at the top. When my friend examined the bookcase more closely, he found a "Made in Malaysia" sticker in the back. Around the same time, we auctioned a



great collection of Tiffany Studios desk accessories for a client who had collected them for many years. Fortunately, the collector sold the collection when they did. Many copies have been made in Asia since we sold the collection. The flood of reproductions has caused the price of originals to drop considerably. There are so many reproductions that it may be easier to list antiques that haven't been reproduced than things that have. A search of Wayfair's Web site of antique reproductions lists: telephones, tea sets, telescopes, bottle openers, scrimshaw boxes, toilet paper holders, statues, and furniture. There are hundreds more. I should point out that they are doing nothing illegal or unethical by selling these. They are merely offering decorative pieces to people who want them. On the other hand, U.S. Customs

seized 36 fake guitars that were shipped from China, according to a February NBC Washington report. Many of the guitars were Gibson Les Paul copies. A Gibson Ace Frehley had a suggested retail value of \$9,000. The total suggested retail value for all the guitars was \$158,692. Guitar.com reported that the bogus guitars were en route to buyers in 21 states and Australia. If you are a collector, here are some things that you can do to make sure you are buying legitimate pieces. Buy from a reputable dealer. Learn as much about the items you collect. Before I became a full-time auctioneer, I spent a lot of free time in local antique shops. If I saw the same item in multiple shops I looked closely and found it was typically either a reproduction or a recent warehouse find. Sometimes, it can be obvious that what you are looking at

is a reproduction. If you see "copy of," reproduction," or a modern "Made in China" label on a piece, you don't have to look any further. We will soon auction another group of antique, vintage, and contemporary model trains, die-cast cars, and other toys online. We also picked up a large collection of sports and non-sports cards that will be sold by online auction. We are also still accepting quality consignments of valuable items like jewelry, coins, art, and better collectibles for our May multi-estate auction. See our website for details: <https://centralmassauctions.com> Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612- 6111) [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com)

# Designing a wildlife-friendly landscape



GARDEN MOMENTS  
• • • • •  
MELINDA MYERS

We love watching the bunnies hopping across the lawn or ground squirrels scurrying away with a cheek full of seeds. That is, until they dine on our favorite shrub or take just one bite out of each red ripe tomato in the garden. Finding a way to coexist is critical for wildlife struggling to survive and our enjoyment of nature and our landscapes. As gardeners, we know that digging in the soil and tending a garden is good for our mind, body, and spirit. Researchers discovered the same is true when we take time to observe wildlife. Our need for a relationship with nature is also important to our wellbeing. It helps us feel more content and function more effectively. But we love our gardens too. Implementing some design and management strategies can help us support and enjoy wildlife, care for our landscapes, and improve our quality of life. By reducing the amount of edge habitat, where one type of habitat meets another, can allow us to support wildlife while reducing the risk of damage. Create circular or square garden beds that have more interior space and less border space. Long linear beds with more edges and less interior space allows easier access for animals to dine. Work with neighbors and your community to create large blocks and corri-

dors of habitat. Providing them spaces, other than your gardens, with needed food and shelter can help you and the wildlife to coexist. Protect key gardens and plants. Fencing is an option. Make sure your fence is high enough, tight to the ground, and the gates secure. Repellents are a less obtrusive option. Select a product labeled for the animals and rodents you are trying to manage. For best results, apply repellents before the animals start feeding. Then reapply as recommended on the label. Look for one, like organic, bird- and pollinator-friendly Plantskydd(plantskydd.com), that is rain and snow resistant, requiring fewer repeat applications. Work with nature to maintain a balance in your landscape. Invite hawks, owls, and fox to your backyard. Grow tall grasses and plants that provide cover for foxes. Include trees with good perches or install perch poles to attract and support raptors. And like any landscape endeavor, start with a plan. Make a sketch of your existing landscape. Identify existing plants and wildlife-friendly habitats. Make note of both the natural habitats and any supplemental food, water, and shelter you provide. Review and note various features in your landscape throughout the year. Now decide what you want to accomplish in your landscape. What wildlife do you want to attract and have the space to support? Perhaps you want to attract more songbirds to your gardens or animals, like toads, that help manage pests in the garden. Make sure your landscape provides the habitat features needed to attract and sustain these welcome residents. You will find lots of helpful resources on



Photo Melinda Myers

Include habitat features in your garden and landscape that are needed to attract and sustain the wildlife you are trying to attract.

National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, and University Extension websites. Be patient and wait for a year to evaluate the results of your efforts. Then begin making any needed changes to meet your goals. Developing a landscape for you to enjoy and one that supports wildlife takes time, but as a gardener this is not only part of the process but an exciting adventure.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Tree World Plant Care* for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## MOORE

continued from page A8

different levels of disappointments and different people feel them to different degrees. But the fact is that we all suffer disappointment, but here's the key ... It's not important that you were knocked down. All that matters is that you get back up again. It is all a matter of personal resilience. As my dad always said to me, "You gotta keep on keepin' on." So, I was deeply disappointed that morning. At 11:20 a.m., I felt like I was punched hard by a friend, but by 3 p.m. the same day, I was planning my next move. The pain of the morning was eclipsed by the optimism of the afternoon. I was still hurt and disappointed, but I made a choice to leave my unfulfilled dream of the morning behind and embrace the future of my next idea. I made the choice to move on. Always fish with more than one pole. The more baited hooks you have in the water at one time, the more chances you have of landing the big fish. Be creative. Have more than one idea, project, or proposal. Pursue more than one job. Apply to multiple schools. Never rely

on a single outcome and never allow the disappointment of one day, stop you from taking a chance on the next. Keep going. Keep trying and never give up. There are only two things you can control in life ... So back to the reader question. Having cancer has not changed my attitude or optimism. I'm focused on living a happy and optimistic life. I believe I can beat this cancer and am working to do so. You can't control the weather ... or how others feel about you ... or the decisions others make that influence your future. You can control your attitude and your attitude will drive how you respond to the inevitable disappointments ... and you can also control your effort. Be optimistic and work hard. Next time you won't be disappointed.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, *"Playing with the Enemy."* Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at [www.garywmoore.com](http://www.garywmoore.com).



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# OBITUARIES

## Louise Anne Mayo, 69

PUTNAM- Louise Anne Mayo, 69, passed away surrounded by family and love at Day Kimball Hospital on Sunday, February 28, 2021. She was born and grew up in Putnam, daughter of Louis and Glenna Ericson, both of Putnam. She graduated from Putnam High School, and worked for Acme White Cross, as well as Crabtree and Evelyn and Linemaster Switch, where she made many lifelong friends and was beloved among her co-workers. Known for her sharp wit and sense of humor, she brought joy and light into every room she was in. After retiring from Linemaster Switch in 2009, she dedicated her time to community service, crocheting hundreds of baby blankets for the Diaper Bank at IHSP-Daily Bread in Putnam. She also donated to the food bank at Daily Bread, often using her retirement income to buy holiday dinners for families in need. Louise is survived by Dennis Mayo,



her beloved husband, also of Putnam; her daughter, Sheri Houghton and her husband Shawn of Putnam; her son, Matthew Mayo and his husband Ernest McLemore who reside in Birmingham, Alabama; her grandchild, Haley Houghton and their fiancé Matthew Brisco, and seven brothers and sisters. She is predeceased by her mother and father, Louis and Glenna Ericson, as well as a brother. Due to the restrictions of the COVID pandemic and concerns for the health and welfare of all, services will be private, although a small outdoor gathering of remembrance for family and close friends will be held later in the Spring. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St, Putnam, CT. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her memory to the food and diaper bank at IHSP-Daily Bread in Putnam, as well as the American Cancer Society. For memorial guestbook, please visit [www.gilmanandvalade.com](http://www.gilmanandvalade.com).

## George R. Viens, 81

George R. Viens, 81, of Attawaugan passed away after a courageous fight with cancer. George was born in Putnam on June 29, 1939 son of the late Rosaire and Agnes (Dupras) Viens. George grew up in the village of Attawaugan and went to Killingly High School where he was co-captain of the football team. After high school, George joined the Marine Corp. While stationed in Hawaii, he played football for the Marines. After his honorable discharge, he went to work for the State of Connecticut as a surveyor until his retirement in 1995. George married Dorothy Helen Gauthier who predeceased him. He is survived by his children Margaret Viens and Christine



Sorokowski and husband David, son Michael and his girlfriend Christina, and daughter-in-law Donna. He is survived by one brother Robert and wife Wendy, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son George Viens Jr. and brothers Joseph Viens and Rosaire Viens Jr. George coached midget and little league baseball, mini basketball and loved the years he was head coach of the Dolphins in the midget football league. He also enjoyed playing softball in both the Killingly and Putnam leagues. George was a member of the Marine Corp League, past fire chief of the Attawaugan Fire Department, and a member of East Killingly VFW and American Legion in Danielson. A Memorial Mass of Christian burial will be held on Tuesday March 16, 2021 at 10:30 AM at St. James Church in Danielson. Burial will follow with full military honors in St. Joseph Cemetery in Dayville. [tillinghastfh.com](http://tillinghastfh.com)

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## Margaret “Peggy” L. Robbins , 73

STOW- Margaret “Peggy” L. Robbins passed away at home at the age of 73 on March 3, 2021. Peggy was the daughter of Edward “Red” Robbins and Dorothy (Smutnick) Robbins both of Pomfret, CT. Originally from Pomfret, CT Peggy moved to Thompson, CT and then built her dream home in Stow, Maine. She attended Putnam High School and Amherst College. Peggy had a hand in many jobs throughout her life. She owned a donut shop, a real estate agency and worked many years for Putnam Savings Bank. After moving to Maine, she was employed part time at the Post Office and finally she served as Selectwoman of Stow. During her life Peggy had a great love for the game of golf and enjoyed all outdoor activities. She volunteered for AARP helping seniors prepare tax returns.

Peggy is survived by her brother Edward Robbins and his wife Cally of Danielson, CT; her niece Angela Morelly and her husband Michael of Princeton, MA; nephew, James Robbins and his wife Breanna of Brooklyn, CT; great nephew Allen Morelly; She had numerous lifelong friends including Anne Nizamoff of Stow, ME. In lieu of flowers donations to the American Cancer Society or the Long Journey to a new beginning animal rescue in Stow, ME. Following Peggy’s wishes all services are private and at the convenience of the family. The family will hold a private burial service in Abington, CT. Arrangements are under the care of Wood Funeral Home, 9 Warren Street, Fryeburg. Online condolences may be shared with her family at [www.woodfuneralhome.org](http://www.woodfuneralhome.org) --

## Philip B. Dean, 71

WOODSTOCK- Philip B. Dean, 71, it is with deep sorrow that the Deans announce the sudden passing of the patriarch of our family. Philip B. Dean was born in San Gabriel, California on May 13th, 1949. It was Friday the 13th, and the “Lucky Baby” made the local newspaper represented by the iconic flying stork, holding up the newborn by his diaper. Phil was the son of Benjamin Palmer Dean and Joan L. Dean. Phil Dean was truly a remarkable and inspirational man. He was recognized by the city of New London as a Good Samaritan for his intervention during an assault that was taking place in the street on March 28, 1989. Phil was seriously injured while trying to protect another person. His memories and indelible spirit will live on forever in the hearts of many. Phil graduated from Thames River Valley College, and he began his career in 1972 as an electronic technician at the Naval Underwater Systems Center, in New London, CT. He was recognized over the years for his distinguished accomplishments and service with numerous awards related to his work with antennas for the communication between submarines. His work sent him traveling across the world for many top secret projects while working for the Government. In 2004 Phil retired as computer technician after 34 years with NUSC, and then he founded the Computer HQ. Phil was an entrepreneur. He built, and repaired computers for more than 15 years at the HQ. Phil was a powerful force in physical



pursuits such as: running, swimming, bicycling, surfing, scuba diving, downhill skiing, barefooting and tennis. He was also a very good chess player, and he loved science. He cherished his vacation time spent with family members on Lake Winnepesaukee, NH. He was an elite, long distance runner and completed multiple marathons, including the Boston Marathon. He went on to become a triathlete and relished competing in many triathlons. Phil founded the Woodstock Memorial Day 10K Road Race in 1980, and acted as the road race director for many years. Phil had an illustrious career as a world class barefooter, and he competed in and placed in the nationals and world champion barefooting tournaments. Phil leaves behind his sister, Penelope Dean and his brother, C. Ronald Dean and his wife Linda. Phil leaves his three children, Kathy Gustavsen and her husband Jim, Jen Dean Brown and her husband David, and Philip B Dean II. He also leaves his niece, Venessa Dean, nephew, Craig Dean, and his two nieces, Katherine Brede and Elizabeth Dean, and numerous cousins, including William Jouney. Furthermore, he leaves his four beloved grandchildren, Austin Dean, Abby Gustavsen, Alivia Dean, and Tessa Brown. Due to the pandemic, the funeral service and burial will take place this summer. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam. For memorial guestbook please visit [www.gilmanandvalade.com](http://www.gilmanandvalade.com) as well as the upcoming details on Phil’s funeral. In lieu of flowers, consider making a donation to [theheartfoundation.org](http://theheartfoundation.org).

# LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF Sonja L Healey (21-00061)  
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 23, 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:  
Richard L. Vinal  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS  
168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
March 12, 2021

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF Daniel Atkinson (21-00038)  
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 2, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim,  
Alysia Casiano, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
James Atkinson, 3546 Stony Point Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22911  
March 12, 2021

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF Sylvia S Danenhower

(21-00041) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 25, 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:  
Garfield Danenhower, III  
c/o DOUGLAS JAMES WILLIAMS, ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
March 12, 2021

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF Ronald D. Smith (21-00068)  
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 25, 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:  
Cameron D. Smith, 17 Knollwood Lane, Putnam, CT 06260  
March 12, 2021


**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF Alyce J. Upton (21-00073)  
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March

1, 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:  
Laura J. Sullivan  
c/o ALYSON & R ALEMAN, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860) 928-2429  
March 12, 2021


**Town of Eastford Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Notice of Decision**  
On February 25, 2021 the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission made the following decision:  
• **Show Cause Hearing, Aaron G. Smith & Harry Ratasep, property at 216 & 220 Chaplin Road, Eastford, CT. Notice of Violation sent on October 5, 2021. Cease and Correct letter sent on February 17, 2021. Decision: To uphold the Cease and Correct Order issued on February 17, 2021. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**  
Details can be found in the minutes filed at the Town Clerk’s Office, Town Office Building, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT.  
Dated at Eastford this 4th day of March, 2021.

Susan Welshman  
Recording Secretary  
March 12, 2021  
**TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE**  
The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 2021 via ZOOM at 6:00 PM and rendered the following decision.  
Application PZC #21-03 – The Town of Thompson, 815 Riverside Drive, to approve the Plan of Conservation and Development According to The State of Connecticut Statutes, Chapter 126, Section 8-23. Approved.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman  
March 12, 2021

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF Louise C. O’Connell (20-00253)  
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 10, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.  
Alysia Casiano, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Sharon O’Connell, 71 Reservoir Street, Boylston, MA 01505  
March 12, 2021



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# Early-blooming spring flowers

The arrival of spring is a welcome occurrence for many people. Budding flowers are among the harbingers of spring. Spring flowers can revitalize winter-weary people just when they need it most — and provide reassurance that brighter, warmer and longer hours of sunlight are just around the corner.

Cold-tolerant flowers are hardy enough to start blooming before the last frosts have dissipated. Other flowers will begin to fill in as days warm a little bit more, according to Better Homes and Gardens. Home gardeners looking to warm up their gardens with early blooms can use these flowers in their early-season containers, window boxes and planting beds.

- Pansy: Pansies prefer cool weather, which can make them one of the best flowers to plant in early spring and late fall. Pansies come in a variety of colors, so there's bound to be an offering that will blend with any homeowners' landscape design.
- Creeping phlox: Also known "moss phlox," creeping phlox is a short ground-cover that is a herbaceous perennial. Phlox produces small, fragrant flowers in dense clusters, which can attract wildlife, such as butterflies,



Crocus blooms are some of the first seen in early spring.

to their mats across the soil surface.

- Snowdrops: Snowdrops can peek out even when there is snow still on the ground — sometimes as early as January and February. But their name is actually a reference to their appearance, as snowdrops have three white petals that hang down like drops dripping off the stem.
- Violets: These flowers are closely

related to pansies and, as a result, prefer cool seasons. Violets are generally slightly smaller than pansy blooms, but they can be just as beautiful. But as with pansies, violets will start to fade when the heat arrives.

- Crocus: Crocus plants are relatively small, only reaching three to six inches in height. However, their grass-like leaves are some of the first sprouts that can be seen among bulb and corm plantings. Preferring full to partial sun, these gold, purple, lavender, white, or yellow flowers can be enjoyed during the earliest days of spring.
- Daffodil: Daffodil bulbs produce cheerful, yellow flowers in early spring. They're one of the most recognizable flowers thanks to their familiar shape and fragrant aroma.
- Lenten rose: Hellebores, also called the Lenten rose or Christmas rose, can tolerate light frosts. These blooms get their name from the time of year when they bloom, which is typically around the Christian Lenten season. Despite their name, these delicate flowers are not actually related to roses, however.

Early-blooming flowers give winter-weary gardeners hope that spring has arrived.

## Picky pooches: Solutions for finicky eaters

The image of a dog devouring a bowl of food is a familiar one for dog owners. It's easy to see dogs as indiscriminate eaters, and many breeds will happily inhale any and as much food as their owners set before them. However, many picky pooches will turn up their noses at even the most savory selections.

According to "The Old Farmer's Almanac," roughly 40 percent of American households have at least one dog. A survey by Kynetec of more than 3,000 pet-owning households in Canada found that 41 percent of Canadian households have at least one dog, and those numbers have increased by 7.6 million households since 2016. One component of pet ownership is providing quality sustenance. But what to do when your dog goes on a hunger strike?

Why dogs refuse to eat

Owners of dogs that consistently refuse to eat may wonder just what is going on in that canine brain. The American Kennel Club says various factors may be at play.

- Illness: Dogs may refuse to eat if they have a virus or do

not feel well. A trip to the vet may be necessary. Similarly, medications can adversely affect appetite.

- Emotional changes: Refusal to eat may be a symptom of a major life change, such as a move, home renovation or the arrival of a baby.
- Food changes: Dogs like routine, and when their food formula changes they may not eat. This can occur if a vet or a health professional suggests changing a dog's diet due to a health issue. Patience is necessary in such instances, as dogs may need some time before they acclimate to a new diet.

Handling picky eaters

Experts cannot agree on a single strategy to treat pups who are picky eaters. Pet parents can ask their vets and experiment. Here are some suggestions to try, courtesy of the pet food company Dawgie Bowl.

- Dogs do not crave variety; they live for consistency. Do not change the dog's food frequently or because you feel they need a buffet.
- Exercise your dog more, as

this can stimulate metabolism and appetite.

- Pick up food after a certain period of time, such as 20 minutes. The dog will learn to eat during that period or face waiting until the next feeding.
- Reward eating after the meal has been consumed so the dog associates eating with good attention. Do not provide any attention to sad, puppy dog eyes and never yell at the dog for not eating.
- Dogs can go a few days without eating, particularly if the pooch is drinking water and showing no signs of illness. So don't fret. A hungry, stubborn dog will eventually eat.

A picky nature is something pet owners must contend with at times. Patience can help get dogs back on a solid eating schedule. TF213797 and appetite.

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