



# KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, February 5, 2021

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POMFRET — The 29th Annual Food Bank Benefit Concert with Howie Bursten and Sally Rogers at The Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret was broadcast live on Musae.me this past Saturday, Jan. 30 to more than 200 people.

The show must go on, or in this case, the annual benefit concert for the local food bank went on! Beginning in 1992, Howie Bursten has been producing and performing at this annual event. What started out with just Howie and a few instruments has grown to include

many talented performers through the years and has become an event that sells out annually. The intimate size of The Vanilla Bean Café (The Bean) has always limited the number of guests and donations each year but has continually raised well over \$2,000 annually for this worthy cause.

This year, the folks at The Bean felt strongly that the benefit should continue, and they partnered with a streaming platform at Musae.me to do just that. The Bean began the Wish You Were Here Concert

Series in 2020 because of the pandemic and a need to keep the live music, well, 'live.' They began by broadcasting shows on Facebook Live, but recently switched to Musae.me to create a higher quality viewing experience, and to reach a larger audience. By promoting the show through this platform three weeks ahead of the performance date along with advance ticket sales, Howie and Sally were able to raise over \$7,800 this year from friends and fans all over the globe, not just from the Quiet Corner of Connecticut

patrons. Musae.me broadcasts interactive live performances in Virtual Reality and HD, that patrons can watch on their TV, laptop, tablet, phone, or even a VR headset, and the sound quality is fantastic. Viewers from New Zealand to California and even from a few miles from down the road were able to tune in to watch this high-quality entertaining broadcast.

The Bean will continue producing live shows this year as part

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## Killingly Council enters new agreement for courthouse parking

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council has entered into a new agreement with the State of Connecticut to allow for the continued use of up to 50 parking spots for the Danielson courthouse on School Street.

The agreement, approved unanimously by the Town Council in early January, applies to the municipal lot across from the court along Center

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## Troop 21 Scouts learn how to fix cars

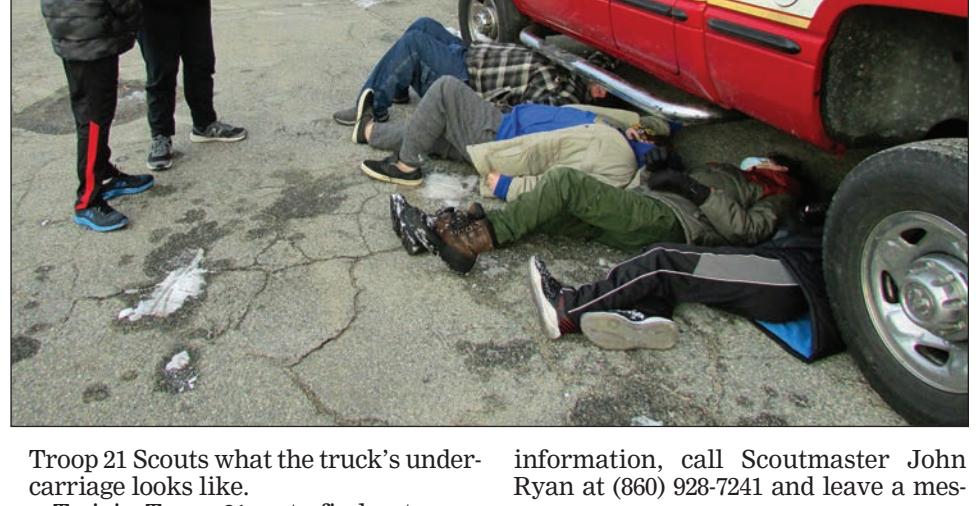
PUTNAM, Conn. — Scouts BSA Troop 21 in Putnam started Automotive Maintenance Merit Badge on Thursday.

In the coming weeks, the Scouts will learn how to change the fluids and oil, change a tire, do minor repairs and take care of motor vehicles in general.

"This is the kind of thing everybody should learn," said Troop 21 Assistant Scoutmaster Christopher Jodoin. "People who know what to look for when they buy and take care of a car are going to save money and avoid problems. It's great that our boys are learning this."

Troop 21 continues to meet every week, outdoors, in keeping with Coronavirus restrictions, with a full program, including hikes and learning practical and fun skills, like how to maintain a motor vehicle. The troop has been meeting every week since restrictions were first relaxed in early June. Camping trips and other activities are being planned and will be scheduled when they are permitted.

Assistant Scoutmaster Jodoin, pictured in the photo on the far left under the pickup truck, is showing several



Troop 21 Scouts what the truck's undercarriage looks like.

To join Troop 21 or to find out more

information, call Scoutmaster John Ryan at (860) 928-7241 and leave a message.

## NDDH announces expanded COVID-19 testing

BROOKLYN — The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH), in collaboration with the State of Connecticut, Sema4, Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC), and the towns of Putnam and Killingly announce the expansion of COVID-19 testing services in northeast CT.

A current site at QVCC, 742 Upper Maple Street in Danielson, will now operate on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 3 from 3 – 7 p.m. and Saturdays beginning Feb. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A new site will also open on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at the Putnam Riverview Market Pavilion, 18 Kennedy Dr. in Putnam. Testing services will be offered Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

with the exception of Tuesdays and the first Thursday of each month, when the site will operate from 1 – 4 p.m.

"We are grateful for the many state, regional, and local partners who have worked together to make this happen in a relatively short amount of time," said Linda Colangelo, NDDH Education and Communications Coordinator. "The expanded hours and additional site will offer added convenience to those seeking a COVID-19 test. Both locations also offer a priority workforce lane that provides priority access for childcare and early childhood staff, teachers, and first responders – those who need to get tested quickly, to ensure their workday is not interrupted."

Priority workforce includes teachers, school staff and bus drivers, early childhood/child care, police officers, fire fighters, paramedics, EMTs, National Guard and Dispatchers.

Both locations offer drive thru or walk-up service at no cost with no appointment required. All ages are eligible for testing, though minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who can provide consent.

Individuals qualify for testing whether they are showing symptoms or not. "As someone who recently survived a very serious case of COVID-19, I know first-hand how important it is for people to get tested," commented Putnam Mayor Barney Seney. "Getting tested

for COVID-19 and knowing what to do if you test positive can save lives. It can protect your health and the health of many others. The Putnam site was established to serve people from throughout the northeast corner, so I hope people will take advantage of this important service."

The expansion supplements other testing services in the area offered by Generations Family Health Center, Day Kimball Healthcare, and other providers. Discussions are also currently underway to bring testing services to the town of Plainfield.

PCR testing in both locations is con-

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*Turn To TESTING, page A3*



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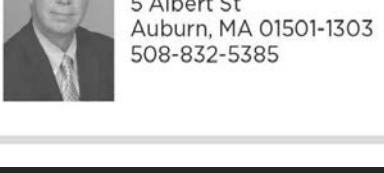
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## Courtney pays a visit to TEEG

THOMPSON — Congressman Joe Courtney paid a visit to several Quiet Corner businesses and organizations on Thursday, Jan. 28, including TEEG in Thompson where he sat with employees of the social services agency to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

TEEG is a non-profit agency that serves the towns of Pomfret, Thompson and Woodstock and has been hard at work for nearly a year serving its clients under social distancing guidelines including assisting with heating, homelessness, school attendance and mentorship, and serving clients through its food pantry. The agency is also launching a new program to assist seniors with registering for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Congressman Courtney's visit included a brief, socially distance round table discussion where Executive Director Anne Miller provided some insight into the adjustments that employees have had to make in the wake of the pandemic.

"Each and every one of the people who are sitting here, I would say 'how are we going to do this?' and they'd figure it out around every turn," Miller said.

Courtney complimented TEEG on their adaptability and the speed at which the agency was able to evolve to continue to meet the needs of the community since COVID-19



Courtesy Photo

TEEG Executive Director Anne Miller talks with Congressman Joe Courtney during a visit to the social service agency in Thompson.

struck the world in March.

"Your agility in terms of responding to this thing, they're going to write history books about it. I truly believe that. When we get to the other side of it, you're going to look back and see you held it together for the community," Courtney told the TEEG staff. "We just have to get these vaccinations. We do, in big numbers and stop nickel and diming. It's really awesome (what TEEG has done). You're not going to see something like this ever again."

Anne Miller said she was thankful for

Congressman Courtney taking the time to see what TEEG does and to gain more understanding of how the pandemic has affected local towns and agencies.

"I am incredibly grateful for Joe's interest and understanding of the work we and other nonprofits are doing. His questions of the staff were thoughtful and informed. It is my hope that our voices will be heard as decisions are made that will help guide us out of the challenges we have faced," said Miller.

## Flexer urges area residents to get vaccinated

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION — Connecticut 29th District State Sen. Mae Flexer has joined numerous other lawmakers in calling for those who are qualified and able to get the COVID-19 vaccine to consider doing so.

Sen. Flexer release a statement on Tuesday, Jan. 26 calling Connecticut a "national leader" in the distribution of the vaccine. As of that date, there were 1,267 active COVID cases in Connecticut and over 6,930 deaths due to the infection with more than 1,000 patients hospitalized due to complications with the virus.

"The only way we are going to return to any semblance of normal life and economic activity is by undertaking a very broad COVID-19 vaccination program," Flexer said. "I would encourage anyone

who does not have a medical exemption to get their vaccine as soon as possible so we can help bring an end to this awful pandemic."

Several vaccine locations have opened in the Quiet Corner, specifically in the Putnam area. Walgreen at 203 Kennedy Dr. and CVS at 57 Providence Pike are both active vaccine locations as of the end of January with registration available on their individuals company websites.

As of the start of February, Connecticut has entered Phase 1b, which means healthcare professionals, long-term care facility residents, medical first responders, residents in select congregate settings and individuals 75 and older are all eligible for the vaccine. Phase 1b is expected to expand to include individuals age 65 and older by the end of February before expanding to frontline workers in March.

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## VILLAGER ALMANAC

### AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Jan. 25: Barred Owl, Great-horned Owl, American Tree Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Brown Creeper, Bluebird, Flicker, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow. Visit [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home).

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# Tourtellotte Student Spotlight: Kyle Cournoyer

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Each month, Tourtellotte Memorial High School's Student Spotlight program recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, character, leadership, attitude, and/or contributes to the school and community. January's Student Spotlight honoree is Kyle Cournoyer. Kyle was nominated by classmates Kiera O'Brien and Brooke Fettig.

O'Brien writes in her nomination, "Kyle is a very hard working student. He is always engaged in class whether it's answering questions or speaking up when nobody else talks. Kyle is always kind to everyone, and he always acts in very respectful ways. Overall, I believe Kyle is very deserving of a spotlight because he always does what is right and he doesn't get the recognition that he deserves."

Brooke Fettig also adds, "Kyle is deserving of this award because he is such a kind and genuine person. Kyle is a diligent worker in all of his classes and always has a positive attitude towards everything he does. He never gets noticed for any of his kind actions which is why he is a great recipient for this award."

Besides being an excellent student, Cournoyer has been a member of the



TMHS Concert Band for three years.

He states, "Band has been a very big part of my school career ever since I joined in 6th grade."

Cournoyer plays the French horn and, as a soloist, goes above and beyond to practice. Mrs. Anderson says, "Kyle's understanding and demonstration of hard work, patience, and courage has been essential for his success. His com-

mitment to his musical craft and school work humbly sets him apart, all while inspiring each of the members of the music department to strive for their personal best." Outside of school, he represents Tourtellotte on an esports team that has made it to the playoffs for two years in a row. Along with being involved in school, Cournoyer has received many awards for his accomplishments. He has received an award for highest average in Physical Science, the Most Improved Instrumentalist Award, and the Citizenship Award. He was also given the opportunity to represent TMHS in the HOBY Virtual Seminar where he learned about ways to strengthen leadership skills.

Cournoyer plans to pursue his hobbies in college and hopes to get a job that revolves around those hobbies.

He states, "I plan for my future self to have a family and a well paying job. I work hard now, so I don't have to pay for my decisions later."

Finally, his message to his school and community is, "Make the most out of your school career and your life. We don't have much time, as life is short, so make sure to stay positive and push through any obstacles you come across. Stay positive, have fun, and work hard in order to accomplish your goals."

## Scramble the Duck predicts six more weeks of winter weather

EASTFORD — Earlier this week, Scramble the Duck, the accurate weather-predicting groundhog alternative, predicted six more weeks of winter. In what promises to be yet another accurate prediction, Scramble revealed through the speech read by Isaac Torcellini that, "My shadow have I seen today; the cold is here to stay!"

Benjamin Torcellini, in an opening speech, read the wise words of Mark Twain, "If you don't like the weather in New England now, just wait a few minutes," and reminded the audience, watching on livestream due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that Scramble is able to forecast despite the unpredictability of the weather in New England.

After the opening speech, the doors of a model Ivy Glenn Memorial were opened, and Scramble strolled down the red carpet. Subsequently, he informed his handlers which scroll to read. The scroll forecasted a long winter.

Scramble concluded with offering

### TESTING

*continued from page A1*

ducted by Sema4, a patient-centered health intelligence company based in Stamford. Collection samples are processed in their state-of-the-art laboratories and results are typically returned in two or three days.

For more information on Sema4 test sites and other testing locations, and to download a Sema4 fact sheet and Test Form that can be completed prior to arrival for a test, visit: <https://www.nddh.org/services/emergency-preparedness/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/>.

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sixth prediction. Videos and pictures of the event may be found at his Web site, [scrambletheduck.org](http://scrambletheduck.org).

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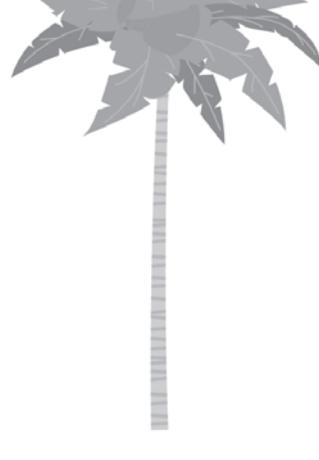
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# An early non-white family



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February is Black History Month, and Walt Woodward, the Connecticut State Historian, said that this year's focus is on the Black Family. Years ago I did research on non-whites in Killingly and the surrounding towns, but in most instances I did not work on family units. James Danielson (d. 1728) listed several slaves in his will and inventory, but there's no indication if they were related to each other. In the 1790 census, Samuel Danielson of Killingly is listed as having five free non-whites and three slaves. If they were not related, they still would likely have been "family" for each other.

The earliest publication that I have access to where non-whites are listed in family units is Heads of Families First Census of the United States 1790. The following is a listing of free non-white households in Northeastern Connecticut towns. Ashford: George Smith, 11; John Freemans, 2; Brooklyn: Stephen Finch, 8; Peter Malborne, 3; Benjamin Dayley, 3; Canterbury: Job Amirell, 7; Christopher Amy, 2; Hampton: Benjamin Roger, 2; Jabez Porrage, 5; Killingly: Peter Fuller 4; Demas Cape, 6;

Plainfield: Newport Kinsmar, 2; Jonathan Whipple, 3; Jack Badcock, 8; Pomfret: no separate non-white families; Thompson: Sharp Wilson, 2; Woodstock: Judge (no first name, entry says Negro), 4; John Wally, 4; Amos Hull, 3. (pp. 140-154). There were also free non-white individuals connected to white heads of families and even a number of slaves. Keep in mind that when the 1790 census was taken, Indigenous peoples and African Americans were counted in one column, not separately.

Being a resident of Killingly, my interest during my early research period was on Killingly inhabitants. Demas Cape, who has six non-whites listed in the family, has always been of particular interest. Over the years I have searched many land records in East Killingly. I first came across her while working on a tract referred to as the Chestnut Hill Purchase. In 1710 and 1711 Israel Proctor, formerly of Chelmsford, Massachusetts purchased almost 400 acres from John Chandler west of present-day Chestnut Hill Road. With divisions of common lands the property extended west to the eastern side of present-day Chase Reservoir and partly bounded on Whetstone Brook (below the Baptist Church). It was quite a desirable tract of land with wetlands in addition to woodland and meadowland. Israel's son Josiah, who was given 104

acres on February 2, 1720/21, died in 1752. Israel's daughter Lydia married Ebenezer Knight who was given land by his father-in-law on December 21, 1752 (KLR Vo. 5, p. 245).

Two years later, on Nov. 14, 1754, Israel conveyed two tracts for "love and good will" to Negro Cape, Philis, and the mulatto Dimis, which included 80 acres of the homestead with a "mansion" and a 10 acre woodlot. The deed stipulated that they were not to convey said land without the approval of the Killingly selectmen. (Killingly Land Records, Vo. 6, p. 252). It is likely that they were caring for Israel's physical needs in his old age. (Israel was born April 29, 1668 according to the Chelmsford Vital Records). According to Proctor's will they were all former "servants". The word "slave" is never used in the documents so I won't use that terminology. On October 5, 1759 they also received the one-acre barn lot in Israel's distribution (Plainfield Probate 3, p. 294).

Another former Proctor servant, Charles, received 11 acres 116 rods in the distribution of the estate. I wonder what motivated Israel Proctor to be so generous? A deed from Cape Mount, a Negro, and Dimess, his wife, both of Killingly, on February 4, 1769 refers to them as "heirs of Phillis" (KLR 8-11). That indicates to me that she was probably the mother of Dimess/Demas.

Now the fact that these non-whites received such a large tract of land is unusual in itself and while discussing and walking the property in the 1990's with former State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni, he thought that it might be the largest early acquisition of land by free non-whites in Connecticut. My research on the property ceased in 1998 when my late husband Charles became critically ill.

At various times, Demas/Dimis appears in the records with several different surnames—Mount, Cape, and Garner/Gardner. Demas and Cape were husband and wife and births of three of their children—Prince (b. 1765), Deane/Diana (b. 1767) and Asa (b. 1774) were recorded in the Killingly Vital records. Daughter Waity/Waty was born about 1782 according to her death record

and would have been a young child when Cape died prior to March 29, 1788. (Putnam Vital Records for Waity's death; KLR Vo. 20, p. 79 for Cape). There may have been a son named for Cape. An interesting Norwich Packet article of July 3, 1795 gives the following: "Stop a Run-away. Ran-away from the subscriber on the evening of the 14th instant, an indentured Negro Boy, named Cape Mount, bound to me by the town of Killingly; he is in the 20th year of his age, and very large...Timothy Lester, Plainfield." Young Cape might have been a handful for Demas to manage after the death of his father. An Aquilla Proctor also had a share in Demas' estate so was probably another child or grandchild. (Plainfield Probate Vo. 18, p. 208; 19 June 1828).

It is interesting to note that although Cape and Demas were Killingly landowners, they had to have the approval of the Selectmen to sell their property. Also, the runaway Cape Mount had been indentured by the Town of Killingly. "Free" but not exactly what we would consider free today.

Land ownership provided them more flexibility than most non-whites in the area. It enabled Demas to pay for a doctor when Cape was ill as she conveyed land to Ezekiel Herenton of Smithfield, Rhode Island for doctoring Cape in his last illness. Why would they have a doctor from that great a distance? They probably knew each other well since they had once been neighbors; Herrinton had purchased land from Israel Proctor in 1753 and retained it until 1789 (KLR 6, p. 53; 13, p. 111).

Unfortunately, I have been unable to locate the family in 1800. It seems at some point Demas remarried for on April 7, 1812 she conveyed four acres of land to David Chase as Demas Garner of Killingly (KLR 21, p. 24). By that time, daughter Waity had married Jesse Cornelius and according to the census, they had established their own household.

On Jan. 31, 1828, Dimis Gardner of Killingly sold to Jesse and his wife, Waty Cornelius of Killingly both her home lot and woodland for love, natural affection, good will and \$800 already received. The homelot with dwelling totaled 69 acres; the woodland,

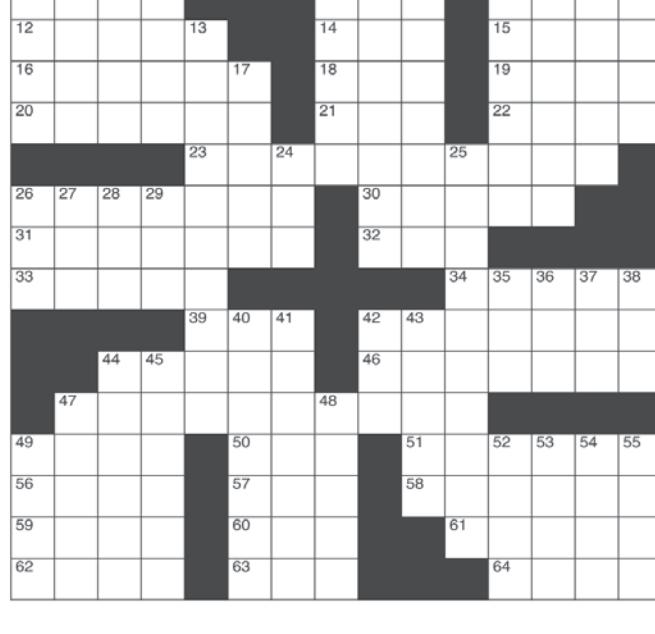
27 acres 50 rods. On the same day Jesse and Waty leased both lots back to Dimis and a cousin, Bathsheba Proctor... They could use, occupy and improve the property. If Dimis died first, Jesse and Waty could manage and take profits from the property provided they provided sufficient food, raiment, doctoring and nursing for Bathsheba... (KLR Vo. 25, p. 91-2).

Demas/Demus was apparently deceased by 1836 for on February 27 Jesse and Waty sold all their land and buildings in Killingly to Joseph Westcott (62 acres houselot, 17 acres woodlot; KLR Vo. 30, p. 3). They purchased other land and remained in the Killingly/East Putnam area (KLR 30, p. 28, 29). What happened to them is another story.

I leave you with food for thought. Why did Israel Proctor give his former servants his home and land? Who was cousin Bathsheba Proctor? Who was the mulatto Demas's father? I wonder if it was Israel Proctor himself! No mention of him having a wife while living in Killingly has ever been located.

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

*Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, January, 2021. This column would not have been possible without the materials my late husband Charles R. Weaver compiled on the properties. 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*



## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Nuclear near reach weapon
- 5. Of she
- 8. Hyperbolic function
- 12. Rice dish
- 14. A team's best pitcher
- 15. Strong and healthy
- 16. Induces
- 18. Popular manga series
- 19. From a distance
- 20. Split
- 21. Consumed
- 22. Cushions
- 23. All over
- 26. One who provides food
- 30. St. \_\_ Girl, brand of beer
- 31. Walking slowly
- 32. Wood
- 33. Semitic gods
- 34. Bugle
- 39. 60-minute periods (abbr.)
- 42. Congressman
- 44. Plant of the heath family
- 46. Subdivision of an army
- 47. Having many different forms
- 49. Shellfish
- 50. Latin for hail
- 51. Between sixth and seventh
- 56. Maori war dance
- 57. Precious or semiprecious stone
- 58. Teeter totter
- 59. Deity
- 60. A major division of geological time
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Small Caribbean bird
- 63. Field force unit
- 64. Japanese beverage

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prevents oil spills
- 2. Monetary unit
- 3. The color of the sky
- 4. Dough used to make tortillas
- 5. Popular comic strip character
- 6. Distinct form of a plant
- 7. Replenishment
- 8. Has its own altar
- 9. Expedition to see animals
- 10. Group of related organisms
- 11. His and \_\_
- 13. Frentically
- 17. Small integer
- 24. Unit of energy
- 25. Studies of culture
- 26. Taxi
- 27. Doctors' group
- 28. Don't know when yet
- 29. Former measure of length
- 35. Popular CBS series
- 36. Skin condition
- 37. Christian creator and ruler of the universe
- 38. They \_\_
- 40. Caused severe damage
- 41. Work done under harsh conditions for no pay
- 42. One point east of due south
- 43. Sea eagles
- 44. Drenched
- 45. State capital
- 47. Italian city
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Brief talk
- 52. Popular disco group: Bee \_\_
- 53. First Chinese dynasty
- 54. Military vehicle
- 55. Chinese Moslem

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# Red Cross assisting Dayville resident displaced by fire

DAYVILLE — The

American Red Cross is helping one individual after a fire last week on Hartford Turnpike, Dayville. The Red Cross provided assistance to meet the individual's immediate needs. Responders included: Sue Bolen, Fred Bolen and Eldon Griffiths.

The Red Cross also provided a recovery envelope containing information helpful to families recovering from a fire, including tips on cleanup; notification of important contacts; dealing with damaged items and more.

The Red Cross is also providing comfort kits containing personal care items such as toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving supplies and other items a resident might need when suddenly displaced from their home by a fire.

Those affected will connect with Red Cross caseworkers in the coming days to work on a longer-term recovery plan. The Red Cross is able to provide assistance through the generosity of our donors and commitment of our volunteers.

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# Legislators urged to support Northeastern Connecticut service system

DAYVILLE — United Services, Inc. held its annual Legislative Meeting Jan. 28 to provide area members of the General Assembly with an update on the dramatically rising need for behavioral health services in northeastern Connecticut, especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and United Services continued efforts to provide critical care to residents.

The evening meeting was hosted online and attended by legislators and members of the United Services Board of Directors. The agency reviewed its successes over the past year, which included providing more than 109,000 units of service to more than 3,000 residents.

One of the meeting's largest areas

of focus was the impact of COVID-19. United Services has remained open throughout the pandemic. The agency has seen a significant rise in individuals seeking services since the pandemic began. From June to December 2020, United Services Crisis Response Services program averaged a 236 percent increase in services over the previous year.

Funding and service system inequities continue to adversely affect northeastern Connecticut residents, according to the agency. Board members called for legislators to support United Services programs, which have been underfunded for years.

United Services board members also urged the delegation to support legisla-

tion that would require equalization of behavioral health services across the state, so all residents have access to supportive services that will assist them in improving and maintaining their behavioral health.

"United Services is dedicated to providing comprehensive care to northeastern Connecticut,"

said United Services President/CEO Diane L. Manning. "We are grateful to the members of our General Assembly delegation who are committed to working with us to advocate for a service system that can better meet the needs of our residents."

About United Services, Inc.

United Services, Inc. is a private, non-profit and comprehensive behav-

ioral health center, creating healthy communities throughout northeast Connecticut for more than 55 years by providing psychosocial, behavioral health, chemical abuse, primary care, care coordination, wellness and prevention services to the community, and employee assistance program services for business and industry. With 11 locations and a staff of over 200, United Services operates more than 30 separate behavioral health programs, including the only domestic violence shelter for women and children in the region. United Services, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. To learn more, visit [www.UnitedServicesCT.org](http://www.UnitedServicesCT.org).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Matthew Hill of Woodstock graduates from Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the Class of 2021 who have completed their graduate studies to earn a Bryant University degree, one which has more value now than at any time in Bryant's history.

Matthew Hill of Woodstock earned with Honors a Master of Business degree in Leadership.

Hill joins a powerful network of more than 50,000 accomplished alumni who are inspired to excel and make a difference as leaders in organizations and communities around the world.

About Bryant University

For 158 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barrons. Visit [www.Bryant.edu](http://www.Bryant.edu).

### Sacred Heart University announces Dean's List

FAIRFIELD — Madelyn Lecuyer of Woodstock was named to the Dean's List of Sacred Heart University. Madelyn Lecuyer is a freshman majoring in Nursing.

About Sacred Heart University Sacred Heart University, the second-largest independent Catholic university in New England, offers more than 70 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs on its main campus in Fairfield, Conn., and satellites in Connecticut, Luxembourg and Ireland. More than 8,000 students attend the University's five colleges: Arts & Sciences; Health Professions; Nursing; the Jack Welch College of Business; and the Isabelle Farrington College of Education. The Princeton Review includes SHU in its guides Best 379 Colleges – 2015 Edition, "Best in the Northeast" and Best 296 Business Schools – 2015 Edition. U.S.News & World Report ranks SHU among the best master's universities in the North in its annual "America's Best Colleges" publication. SHU fields 32 division I athletic teams and has an award-winning program of community service. [www.sacredheart.edu](http://www.sacredheart.edu)

For additional Sacred Heart University news, please visit <http://www.sacredheart.edu/aboutshu/news/>.

### Aidan McGannon receives degree from Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, Ga. — Aidan McGannon of Brooklyn has earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Honors from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

McGannon was among approximately 3,800 undergraduate and graduate students who earned their degrees during the Fall 2020 semester and were recognized during the Institute's 259th Commencement exercises December 11-12, 2020, at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

One of the nation's leading research universities, the Georgia Institute of Technology is in the business of Creating the Next: the next idea, the next technology, and the next legion of agile minds well-equipped to imagine and engineer our future. Nearly 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled, and Georgia Tech is ranked in the nation's top 10 public universities by U.S. News & World Report. For more information, visit [gatech.edu](http://gatech.edu).

### Kaylin Shippee named to Becker College Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Becker College is proud to announce that Kaylin Shippee, of Thompson, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Shippee is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

The Dean's List recognizes all full-time students (24 or more credit hours earned for the academic year; 12 minimum each semester - September through May) whose term grade point average is 3.50 or higher with no grade below a B and no incomplete (I) or withdrawal/failing (WF) grades.

Founded in 1784, Becker College is an undergraduate and graduate, career-focused private college, providing a supportive and inclusive learning community that prepares graduates for their first to last careers. Nearly 1,700 students from the United States and around the world attend Becker College, which has campuses both in Worcester and Leicester, Massachusetts. With nationally recognized programs in nursing, game design and animal studies, Becker has been consistently ranked as a "Best College" for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review.

## Registrations open for Thompson's Garden By the River

THOMPSON — It's not too early to think spring. Did you ever wish you had a sunny place to garden, with nice raised beds to make it easier? The Friends of the Garden By the River, Thompson Economic Development Commission and Thompson Recreation Department are pleased to announce that registrations for plots in the Garden By the River are officially open for the 2021 season! Register now to reserve your spot, which will be open for planting from April to October.

Installed in 2019 with funding from EDC, The Last Green Valley and the Eastern CT Association of Realtors,

in its first full growing season the garden was maintained by its founding volunteers. With one successful growing season behind them, the volunteers now feel confident in opening up the Garden By the River to area residents.

To register for your own garden plot, visit the Thompson Recreation website: [thompsonrec.org](http://thompsonrec.org). Single plots of 3x6 of 4x4 are available for a \$25 yearly fee, with double plots of 3x12 or 4x8 available for \$45 for the full year. Plots will be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis, up to 15 single plots/7 doubles.

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Back Row: Andrew MacKenzie, MD; Julie Van Saun, PA-C; Devon Jacobson, MD; Erica Kesselman, MD

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# HUSSON UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES FALL 2020 PRESIDENT S LIST

BANGOR, Maine — The following students have been named to the Fall 2020 Presidents List at Husson University. Students who make the President's List must carry at least 12 graded credit hours during the semester and earn a grade point average of 3.80 to 4.0 during the period.

**Kyle Jonathan Derosier** of Danielson is a senior who is currently enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Accounting/Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.

**Samantha E. Murd** of Danielson is

a first-year student who is currently enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice/Psychology and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program.

**Jolie R. Wilber** of North Grosvenordale is a sophomore who is currently enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in National/Corporate Security and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program.

**Rori M. Johnson** of Thompson is a sophomore who is currently enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science

in Healthcare Administration and Public Health/Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program.

For more than 120 years, Husson University has shown its adaptability and strength in delivering educational programs that prepare future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has come to represent a superior value in higher

education. The hallmarks of a Husson education include advanced knowledge delivered through quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; as well as communication. According to a recent analysis of tuition and fees by U.S. News & World Report, Husson University is one of the most affordable private colleges in New England. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

## HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY CONGRATULATES FALL 2020 DEAN S LIST STUDENTS

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievement. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

The following students from the local area have been recognized:

**Lily Brin** of Pomfret Center  
**Maxwell Underhill** of North Grosvenordale

Hofstra University is a nationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y. that is the only school to ever host three consecutive presidential debates (2008, 2012 and 2016). Our campus is a leafy oasis just a quick train ride away from New York City and all its cultural, recreational and professional opportunities. We offer small classes and personal attention, with the resources, technology and

facilities of a large university. Students can choose from more than 165 undergraduate program options and 175 graduate program options in the liberal arts and sciences, education, health professions and human services, the Peter S. Kalikow School of Government, Public Policy and International Affairs, the Fred DeMatteis School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business, the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication, the Maurice A. Deane School of Law, the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, and the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Hofstra University is a dynamic community of 11,000 students from around the world who are dedicated to civic engagement, academic excellence and becoming leaders in their communities and their careers.

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Cassandra Sledoba of Danielson; Lauren Carita, Madison Clifford and Kira Horan of Putnam; Kayla Gaudreau of Eastford; Katherine Dallmonte and Emily Lengyel of Pomfret Center; and Austen LeDonne, Haley Armstrong, Leah Randolph, Dylan Bouchard, and Nathan John of Woodstock have been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire.

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their

superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

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## LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN S LIST AT SAINT MICHAEL S COLLEGE

**COLCHESTER, Vt.** — The following local students were named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2020 semester.

\* **Summer Chaponis**, a sophomore exploratory major from Woodstock and a graduate of Woodstock Academy.

\* **Sofia Jendrewski**, a sophomore psychology / elementary education major from Woodstock and a graduate of Woodstock Academy.

**About**  
**Saint Michael's College**  
Saint Michael's College, founded in the great Catholic

intellectual tradition, which also recognizes the principles of social justice and compassion, is a selective, fully residential Catholic college in Vermont's beautiful Green Mountains. Our closely connected community delivers internationally-respected liberal arts and graduate education near Burlington, one of the country's best college towns. To prepare for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives, young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other and their world.

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. The University is pleased to recognize the students who have been named to the Deans' List for the fall 2020 semester.

"The challenges of the last year have revealed the character and grit of our community of scholars," said Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., reflecting on Bryant's successful fall semester. "I am impressed and proud of their resilience, dedication,

and innovative spirit."

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

Emily Robinson, class of 2023, from Danielson

Corrine Khamphoukeo, class of 2022, from Danielson

Lucie Castagne, class of 2024, from Putnam

About Bryant University

For 158 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing

world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

## ASHLEY VEILLETT NAMED TO BECKER COLLEGE DEAN S LIST

WORCESTER, Mass. — Becker College is proud to announce that Ashley Veillette, of Danielson has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Veillette is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science, Criminalistics.

The Dean's List recognizes all full-time students (24 or more credit hours earned for the academic year; 12 minimum each semester - September through

May) whose term grade point average is 3.50 or higher with no grade below a B- and no incomplete (I) or withdrawal/failing (WF) grades.

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States and around the world attend Becker College, which has campuses both in Worcester and Leicester, Massachusetts. With nationally recognized programs in nursing, game design and animal studies, Becker has been consistently ranked as a "Best College" for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review.

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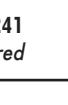
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# In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI

"In the Studio" is a newer feature for the Villager Newspapers. The Quiet Corner is home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this semi-weekly series, we'll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We'll also learn some "artspeak" terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those "artist words".

Today, we are talking with professional photographer, Virge Lorents.

**Virge, you have such a sound background and understanding of photography—I'm wondering how you got started in this field. Did you begin with studying film?**

I graduated as a French major in 1972. Since I didn't want to be a French teacher, I (surprisingly) got hired to work in a printing/publication company in Syracuse. The man who owned the business was a feminist. He hired and trained only women, knowing that only men worked in the rest of printing industry. He trained us in graphic design, darkroom processing of film, production of metal plates for printing presses and running printing presses.

While the skills learned in the darkroom were the beginning of my path towards photography, my favorite activity was running the printing presses. Each press had its unique orchestra of sounds. If any one note changed from its usual sound, you knew disaster was imminent if you didn't hit the kill switch immediately.

My next stop was Buffalo, where I was able to afford buying a 35mm camera.

**Do you have any particularly memorable "photo experiences" while living in Buffalo and exploring with 35mm? (I'm imagining a lot of snowy pictures.)**

I lived near Forest Lawn Cemetery, known for its regionally famous inhabitants, as well as President Millard Fillmore. The first image I ever printed was a cemetery stone with a man's

name on it. The word "wife" was also engraved on it, but her name was left out. I'm still speechless.

**How would you describe your career path in photography?**

I moved to Killingly in 1975 to live in my family's vacation home. I soon found work in the graphics department at the Racine Printing Company. The owner let his customers know that if they needed photos of their products, I'd be able to provide them with high quality images. I am very grateful for that opportunity.

I opened my own full-time business in 1985, focused on product and industrial photography. I enjoyed 35 years of lighting industrial widgets and machinery so that they looked like sculpture. Alas, the iPhone and Facebook allowed everybody to be a photographer.

**Yes, popular digital tools have really changed things for the photography industry. I understand that you are currently focusing on the art of high-quality photo restoration—an area requiring great patience beyond adjusting computer program histograms, correct?**

Correct. The restoration of a beloved family photograph is not so easy. A seriously damaged print requires an array of tools, as well as technical and artistic skills. I look forward to seeing how I can restore a piece of a family's history. My primary goal is to provide the client with the best prints, on archival-quality paper that will last 100 years if treated properly.

**Restoration work includes working with photos which may be torn, water damaged, scratched, faded, or even moldy. Any tips for preserving photos to prevent damage?**

When putting a photo into a picture frame, put a mat in between the photo and the glass. When a photo touches glass, there is a chemical reaction in which the colors in the print puddle into blobs. If a face has dissolved there is no clue as to what that person looks like, so it's unfixable. While a mat is only 1/16 of an inch thick, that's enough to keep the image safe from dissolving.

There are other ways to shorten the lifespan of a print. Avoid hanging an image where sunlight would fall on it. It will fade far more quickly than a print displayed in a shady spot. Areas of high humidity should also be avoided, such as hanging it near a shower stall



Before



After

or near pots of boiling water on your kitchen stove.

**Are restoration jobs always very old black and white images?**

Really old photos were never black and white. The chemistry of that era (19th century and early 20th century) created images that were shades of brown. They are often referred to as "sepia" prints.

Over time, image-developing chemistry changed. By the 1920s and 1930s, monochrome (one-color) prints mostly appeared to be a warm black and white. Later still, around the 1940s and 1950s, the warm black became a neutral black.

**What have been some of your favorite projects?**

A favorite project was a large oval photograph of a great-grandmother's formal studio wedding picture, taken over a hundred years ago. It arrived in pieces. With care, the new print will last at least another century.

**What is one of your greatest challenges as an artist?**

Like everybody else, economic survival.

**Why do you think our geographic area is home to many artists?**

I can only describe why some people (like me), who were young in the 1970s, came to this area as well other rural areas across America: moving back to the land meant growing one's own pes-

ticide-free organic food. The idea caught on and now organic food is available in supermarkets. Thank the hippies.

**How can people contact you for photo restoration?**

Give me a call at 860-428-2798

**Please show us an example of "before" and "after".**

OK. Here is a family photo before and after restoration. It was torn, and damaged in other ways as well.

**Beautiful! You've really brought her to life. I can't get over the details in the restored image.**

Old photographs from film don't last forever; it's good to know that you're in the neighborhood. Thank you.

\*\*\*

Word of the day

Histogram. A graphical display where the data is grouped into ranges (such as "100 to 149", "150 to 199", etc.), and then plotted as bars. [mathisfun.com] In digital photography, it refers to the control for contrast in an image.

**About the writer:** Cynthia Saari (Woodstock, CT) is a nationally recognized framework glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitationals. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

## Joy! It's an inside job

POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
GARY W. MOORE

A long-time friend, Brenda Badger Bonser posted a meme this week. For those unaware, a "meme" is a picture that someone has added a message to make a point. Brenda posted a picture of a joyful child. It read, "Don't wait for things to get easier, simpler, better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now. Otherwise, you'll run out of time."

It doesn't surprise me that Brenda felt it important to post this. Brenda was always a person with a kind word upon her lips and a smile for everyone. Brenda radiated joy and still does.

Thank you, Brenda, for your beautiful posting. We all needed to hear this. We know it to be true. We all recognize our lives aren't infinite, yet we often live as though we have forever to do the things we want to do.

Brenda's meme conveys a short and concise message

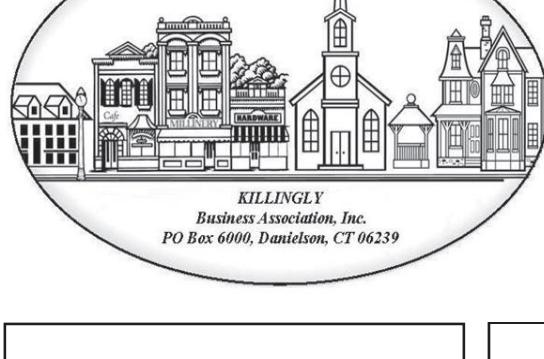
accompanied by a matching picture. In a way, it's like a much shorter version of my weekly column. My mission with this column is to provide enough information to influence mindsets from negative to positive, hopefully turning readers from pessimists to optimists. I want to help others understand that we have far more control over our lives than they believe.

Most people travel through life looking for others to blame and others to resolve their issues. Too often, they are looking for

the government to solve their problems. The government has never been good at solving the problems of citizens. Optimistic people tend to be more self-reliant. Instead of looking for solutions from the government, optimists just want the government to get out of the way. I don't look for my doctor to solve all my medical problems. I want help and support from my doctor, but I have taken control of my healthcare. No one will be a better advocate for my health than me.

Optimists look for a better outcome and believe it will happen. Not through wishful thinking, but because they believe something better is coming. That belief motivates them to act to make it so. Optimists believe by working in concert with others, positive things can happen... but if they sit and wait for someone to take them by the hand and make things better, they will always be disappointed. The commonly heard phrase, "If it is to be, it's up to me" is true.

Turn To MOORE page A11



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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**

EDITOR

## We can bridge the divide between us

It has been one of the most tumultuous times in recent history in regard to politics, and the divide taking place across the country is very real. This Editor has noticed plenty of disagreements take place between individuals with opposing viewpoints. Being privy to all sorts of news stories and situations where politics are discussed puts us right in the heart of it.

This may not be the case in every situation; however, we have noticed that residents in small towns do not let politics divide them. Sure, you have members of various select boards going head to head about an issue, you have citizens up in arms over certain topics, but people out about the town have remained quite hospitable to each other.

During one event we recently covered, we witnessed two long-term residents from the same town who could not be further apart in viewpoints have a refreshingly peaceful and genuine discussion. Imagine a long haired 'hippie' woman holding protest signs and a die-hard Republican, former Marine and hunter dressed in steel toe boots, joking around with each other and having a genuine laugh, then wishing each other well with sincerity, you wouldn't have believed it. But it happened.

Since that moment, we have noticed more and more situations like this unfold. Hands are being shaken and smiles are being exchanged despite the so called political 'divide' that has ripped through the country. We think citizens in small towns, no matter who or what they are about can genuinely appreciate each other's differences. A person may not agree with hunting or wouldn't head out into the woods themselves, however they could see a neighbor who shot an eight-point buck and offer a friendly congratulations. We have seen conservatives with a snowbank of over a foot covering their driveways be plowed out by someone with a 'Bernie' sticker on their plow truck. We have seen posts on social media that have nothing to do with politics invoke laughter from both sides.

In a small town everyone knows everyone, and if they don't they are only separated by one person. In such small towns, that allows for communities to rally around each other and to make sure at the end of the day, that we all had a good one. It's cold up here, the winters are long and brutal. That camaraderie of wanting to protect our small town niche has benefits that have always stood the test of time. You may be a Republican, Independent or a Democrat but you all root for the New England Patriots. Perhaps now maybe Tampa, but having that home town pride is something that connects us all.

## 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.

## The tactics of authoritarianism

To the Editor:

Ed DeLuca's letter in your Jan. 29 edition, "Some questions for Mr. Taylor," is yet another example of the authoritarian tactics I deplored in my previous letter to you. It also displayed characteristics of a cult follower. Upon first reading it, my reaction was, "Who does this person think he is that he can order me to answer his silly questions?" But then I quickly recognized the characteristics of authoritarianism that scholars such as Timothy Snyder, Steven Levitsky, Juan Linz, Hannah Arendt and numerous others have chronicled:

First, bully anyone you disagree with by demanding answers to questions that have little or nothing to do with their position. Example: demanding that I guess if quotes attributed to Speaker Pelosi, Representative Waters and Vice President Harris without any context whatsoever are "clear." Another example: asking if

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### We can make a difference

To the Editor:

Walk with me; so many crosses of white sown upon the grass so green. Your brother and my brother died so far from home on dirt so red.

What has happened to our world? We march, destroy and burn our flag, shame should be upon our face. Is this what we want for our children? We should walk arm and

arm together we can make a difference. Stop and take from the streets our flag and Rest In Peace of brothers I have your flag and it will wave so high the whole world will see we are proud to be an American.

JOHN WALKER, SR.  
THOMPSON

### The duping continues

To the Editor:

The duping of many in our country is on full display. Continuing to believe that the presidential election was fraudulent when the courts found no supporting evidence is testimony to the lack of intelligence required to sustain this position. When faced with facts contrary to their erroneous beliefs, most rational individuals will accept that they were misled, or they misjudged. To maintain a journey along a path of falsehood is juvenile at best and delusional and dangerous at worst. And when the path is paved in part by some of those elected to represent and serve the citizenry, knowing full well that it is an illusion, it is downright surreal.

We need to fight the forces that promote

disinformation and work to educate those who cannot see the truth. This should begin with those in Congress who perpetuated the Big Lie immediately retracting their statements. This is their patriotic duty and would be a step toward a return to belief in evidence. This takes courage and puts the country ahead of self-interest. Sen. Mitt Romney and Rep. Liz Cheney are among the few in the Republican party to demonstrate such character. As Andrew Jackson said in 1865, "The life of a republic lies certainly in the energy, virtue, and intelligence of its citizens." These are qualities to which we all should aspire.

PATRICIA SUSLA  
WOODSTOCK

### Back to work under new management

To the Editor:

Two Trump Party letters, last week, cataloging all the failures and sins of Democrats, but they forgot to blame the Left for the attack on the Capitol, the Congress and democracy, itself. Is the Right no longer alleging that it was Antifa?

On Wednesday, the Capitol Police announced that the Jan. 6 white supremacist insurrection left nearly 140 officers injured, including some who suffered brain injuries or smashed spinal discs. And in addition to the five people, including one officer, who died in the attack, two additional officers present during the siege have since died by suicide. Could it be that the Blue Lives Matter party bears some blame? I saw lots of their flags.

I recognize the no-longer-president's debating style in one writer's letter, as he mockingly used the full name of the writer he was answering six times in one short letter. Repeating a name as an insult is something most of us left

behind in elementary school, but Trump used it, often, as his best laugh line. It doesn't work so well in print.

One letter said that Democrats "have reached the pinnacle of how low they can get." That is alarming but confusing: now I can't tell if they're at the top or the bottom!

In just five paragraphs, that letter lists twenty-four major anti-God-and-country Democrat sins, including "destroying the Constitution," election fraud, "using gender to change names" (?), taking the Lord's Prayer out of schools (that was actually the SCOTUS,) that who-uses-which-bathroom issue, avarice and, (OMG,) using nasty names (but we remember who likes to call women "nasty.") A refutation point-by-point would be too long to read and you've seen it all here, before.

Reading these letters, I feel like I've had a couple of buckets of wet manure

Turn To SWEETNAM page A10

### Home "learning" in Woodstock

To the Editor:

I sit down this evening with extreme frustration, having just read a letter written by a board of trustee member. The letter was sent to the students of Woodstock Academy expressing sympathy for their situation. There is no doubt in the sincerity of the trustee member and in fact the individual was trying to encourage and keep the kids engaged. I commend our educational leaders for attempts to engage our kids during such trying times, but I strongly disagree in the manner we are doing it.

Learning from home simply does not work. I need not provide any statistics here because if you have a child, you know the truth. In fact, I will go so far as to say that E-learning is even more trying on kids who have learning disabilities, emotional issues, and those who come from "troubled homes." So far, I likely have the vast majority of people in agreement with what I have said so far for some disagreement.

Many of our top medical professionals including Dr. Fauci, who so many people hold in such high regard believe our kids should be in school. Nearly 100 percent of school aged kids who contract Covid survive. Of course, there are anomalies as there are with nearly anything. But you might say the teachers are more susceptible and therefore in person learning isn't worth the risk. Please look up the statistics regarding deaths and you will see percentages of survival for working age people is higher but not significantly. Yes, people are dying from this horrific virus but please show me the proof that school atten-

dance is causing it.

Many schools in our region have had full in person learning or at a minimum hybrid learning, Woodstock Elementary being the closest example. Why is it that W.A. has been fully remote? And one day a week is not hybrid but rather a pacifier for some. My understanding is that very few have taken advantage of this in person opportunity. I'd argue that the lack of interest in this one day of in person learning is not because kids don't want to be in school or that parents don't want to send their kids, but rather they realize the lack of value in one day a week.

Maybe my opinion regarding Woodstock Academy's approach to learning would change with more information from those making the decisions. I would try to be open minded but when I see the elementary kids from Woodstock at the bus stop, I'm a skeptic. We would all be safer if we stayed home or even more so in our rooms, but life cannot continue down this path. I'm already hearing from some of the medical professionals that we may need to continue wearing a mask and social distancing even after the vaccine. Social distancing and school simply don't go together.

If Woodstock Academy needs a couple weeks off from their one day a week educational approach at this time, fine, but let's get them back in school with some sort of real hybrid system. There are many approaches out there; please pursue one of them.

JEFF CHILD  
WOODSTOCK

I know about claims that there is a call from unidentified people to "reprogram" Trump supporters.

Second, continue to repeat the little lies that lead up to the big lie. Example: regarding the 6 January insurrection at the Capitol, asserting that, "...Democrats... stood idly by and let that happen."

Third, belittle and/or insult those you disagree with, for example demanding to know if he "ruffled" my "little feathers."

Regarding "reprogramming of Trump supporters," I don't have any obligation to respond to Mr. DeLuca's demand that I answer his question about it. I didn't propose it. His obvious intent is to attempt to associate me with it, and thereby lump me together with those he hates.

One does have to wonder how some Trump supporters, who have been fed a steady diet of lies through the right wing media and by the former president, threatened to kidnap governors, kill

US representatives and overturn a fair election, can be brought back to reality, however. These people exhibit many of the traits associated with cults such as unquestioning commitment to the leader, regarding his beliefs as the Truth, believing only he can right perceived wrongs, believing he is not accountable to any laws or authority, and an us-versus-them mentality (scapegoating immigrants, hating politicians and Democrats).

By quoting me about all politicians needing to get elected, Mr. DeLuca falsely states that I agree with him that all politicians are "whores." He effectively denigrates politicians of all stripes as "whores," from local school board members to members of Congress. Obviously, he detests our system of government which depends on voters electing their representatives. But by his own definition, if Mr. DeLuca has ever voted, he

Turn To TAYLOR page A9

## The beauty of a February snowstorm

As I write, snow is swirling in such heavy flakes that the afternoon light is reduced to a smudge of gray. The town snowplow rumbles past, and the noise fills me with a feeling of security. At least for the present, we could get out of our house and drive down the road if we needed to go somewhere. It is February in what seems like the longest slog of weeks and months we have ever known, but changes are happening.

A February snowstorm, no matter how intense, is always less threatening than one earlier in the season. Despite the cold, the light has changed and a hint of spring is in the air. I know this is true because I'm sure

I heard the spring notes in the birdsong at dawn, creeping in a minute earlier every day. I know it is true because the willow branches are turning a deeper yellow. I know it's true because I plan to pick an armload of forsythia to force in vases around the house. It will burst

into bloom in less than a week. Perhaps I'll find snowdrops, a gift from a friend, peeking out from under the holly bushes.

I read a piece by Katherine May from her book, "Wintering." In it she points out that winter is often the setting for fairy tales and stories. I've spent hours with my granddaughter, Eloise, reading the book "Frozen" and, much more exciting, watching the Disney film by the same name.

The icy retreat of Princess Elsa is beautiful in its mystery, but it is cold and remote until redeemed by sisterly, and romantic love.

In "Wintering," the author sees the season as a time of hibernation, migration and getting through lean times but also as a moment of adaptability and preparation. By retreating, nature replenishes itself. She suggests that "wintering" is something that happens to humans, often repeatedly in a lifetime. It is better to acknowledge it and withdraw to refresh and recuperate. The pandemic has forced many of us to isolate in our homes and face serious issues of life. Together we are experiencing a communal winter. Some good will come out of it.

The long shadows remind me of an Emily Dickinson poem, No. 82: "There is a certain slant of light/ On winter afternoons/That oppresses, like the weight/ Of cathedral tunes."

When I look at shadows, especially on snow, I often refer to a painting by our neighbor, painter Barbara Lussier, that hangs in our living room. It is the west field at our old farm and the light on the snow is made up of a variety of subtle colors. Barbara has taught me how to better see the landscape right under my nose. A poet and a painter are idea guides to view things as ephemeral as light in more concrete ways.

I walk outside nearly every day, regardless of the weather. I need the fresh air and the movement. I walk with friends and with my husband. Sometimes I meander alone along well-traveled streets. On a recent Sunday afternoon, we were walking along Pomfret Street. It was cold, and a sharp wind was grazing our faces. I had a neck warmer and a mask over the lower part of my face. My husband did too.

A car drove by, and the driver yelled the "F" word out the window at us. We stopped, wondering what had provoked his outburst. Probably the masks, I thought, or our mere presence. Perhaps he needs a little hibernation or a different slant of light.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Let capitalism do its work

To the Editor:

On Jan. 6, 2021, we watched democracy teeter precariously on the edge of its own ideals. Misguided by their own ignorance of the basic tenets of the Constitution, an angry mob tried to overthrow the very country they claim to love. It was a nail-biter, and we, along with the rest of the world, asked ourselves, "Is the United States of America really this fragile?"

Democracy is a fragile thing, and history is witness to the fact that other democratic nations have been easily toppled by the likes of Donald J. Trump. Germany elected Adolph Hitler through a democratic process. But within a few years, his nationalistic rhetoric, lies and anti-Semitism had infiltrated and eroded the constitution which had been signed into law by the democratic socialist party in 1919. Like Trump, he trucked fear and lies and peddled scapegoating, a deadly outcome for over six million Jews.

So far, American democracy has withstood the verbal sticks and stones and other projectiles Donald Trump has launched at our government and democracy itself. The justice system thankfully threw out the frivolous lawsuits and accusations of voter fraud for lack of evidence, and in spite of an attempted coup, the legislative body of the government went right back to

work, rolled up their sleeves and did the work of the people.

Meanwhile, half of the people in this country continue to throw fits and tantrums like their leader, and threaten a violent overthrow fueled by lies and driven by white supremacists. You know you're getting old when you start to sound like your father in the 1960's: "Throw'em all in jail and throw away the key! Deport'em!" or as I like to say, "Send them all to Russia and let Putin teach'em a lesson about fascist autocracies!"

Unfortunately, the voice of cranky dissent will not be quelled with reason, and the lawlessness of Trump and his followers cannot be tamed by the law. But we do have another weapon in the national arsenal. I'm not usually a fan of unchecked capitalism, but it looks like the calvary has arrived in the form of our free-market economy. A wide range of corporations are finally speaking up and bailing out on Trump and the republican party. In the last few days, large companies and donors have pulled back their funding. Usually, it's those of us on the liberal side calling for boycotts of companies that support Trump, but after the attempted coup, multiple corporations and individuals have condemned the Fuhere and

*Turn To DUFRESNE page A10*

### A false equivalency

To the Editor:

There seem to be many who equate the recent Washington Jan. 6 demonstration with the Black Lives Matter marches which took place all over the country (and all over the world) last year. This is misguided. One had no basis in reality. The other was the culmination of a systemic racist undertone which has permeated America's fabric since its early days. Both include the vile specter of White Supremacy at their core.

The Black Lives Matter movement is really not new. Arguments giving African Americans the same human rights afforded white citizens date back to Philadelphia and the Constitutional convention. Sadly, the political power of Southern states outdid the abolitionist sentiments of their Northern neighbors and led to mandated state sponsored racism. This push and pull ultimately led to the Civil War. Unfortunately, even though they lost, and slavery was declared illegal, the South refused to give up. What followed was years of a Federal failure to protect its black citizens from the ongoing Southern prejudice. Thousands of blacks and the whites who supported a doctrine of equality during the Reconstruction years were killed as former Confederate soldiers and sympathizers in organizations such as the KKK and the White League militia rode the land burning, pillaging, and murdering in an effort to maintain a white status quo. Blacks who had been voted into government offices were quickly expunged as intimidation meant only a very small minority of blacks ever made it to a voting booth. In fact, after two black senators were elected in the 1870's, it took over a century for one from the south to return (Tim Scott of NC, 2013).

Reconstruction gave way to black codes and archaic voting regulations designed to prevent the freed slaves from having their constitutional mandated say. Confederate monuments were erected to celebrate those that fought to secede from the Union. In other words, traitors. Year after year saw blacks relegated to a second class. KKK marches and lynchings became an accepted common occurrence. Outright massacres such as the Tulsa Race riot of 1921 when white citizens were deputized and given weapons, attacking black residents and businesses. Innocents were assaulted, both from the ground and from the air as private planes shot and dropped bombs on the defenseless below. Thirty-five square blocks of the Greenwood district, known as the Black Wall Street, were destroyed. Dozens were murdered. Hundreds were injured. Many more were displaced. Official inquiries blamed black mobs for the violence. The incident was largely shrugged off. No one was ever brought to justice. The Tulsa incident was by far the fiercest but there were many other such pogroms spanning the early 20th century.

Blacks only restaurants, bathrooms and water fountains were seen as ordinary. Blacks had to go to the back of the bus. Segregation was accepted by the white majority.

The 1950's and '60's remain peppered by names such as Emmett Till and Medgar Evers victims of white hate crimes, The 16th Street Baptist Church bombing took the lives of four young girls and injured many others..

Things began to change with President Johnson's passage of the Civil Rights Act 1964, aiming to prohibit discrimination in the public domain. At the same time Martin Luther King was championing a non violent protest. He paid with his life.

Since then, African Americans continued to find racial bias in the work

### Is Biden also guilty by association

To the Editor:

Last week, Donna Dufrense said: "Trump is and always has been a racist who identifies with extremist right-wing views. In 1927, Donald Trump's father, Fred Trump was arrested during a KKK riot that took place at the Memorial Day Parade in NYC."

I wonder if Donna Dufrense is aware that Joe Biden was joined at a campaign rally by his admitted "dear friend and mentor," Sen. Robert Byrd? And in case you don't know who he is, Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd was once a KKK member and recruiter who held the title of "Grand Cyclops."

Oh, my God, Democrats were actually members of the KKK, and is there anything more racist than that organization? So, are you now going to say that Biden has always been a racist who identifies with extremist views? And if Fred Trump was basically guilty by association, are you also going to say the same thing about Joe Biden? Answer those questions, Donna Dufrense! Additionally, Biden delivered the eulogy at Byrd's funeral, and other speakers there were Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

You recently said that some angry white man «foamed at the mouth» at you over some situation, but is that any different than the time you «foamed at the mouth» when you saw somebody driving around Pomfret with a Confederate flag? You can call whomever a racist all you want, but as of today, owning or displaying a Confederate is not illegal!

Also, you've twice mentioned «Rush Limbaugh, and where the hell did you ever come up with that name? «Rush» Limbaugh has more political knowledge in his toe-nail clippings than you'll ever have, so show some respect for the

man who has the most listened to radio program in the entire United States!

I do, however, understand your good intent, but if you really want to do something for BLM, why don't you help them look into where all this donated money went like many local chapters are now wondering? Or, why don't you ask Biden and Harris why they haven't responded to BLM's request for "return favors" for their help in getting them elected? And by the way, you can't blame Donald Trump for any of that!

And I'm certainly not going to let Pelosi slide this week, either. She is now being slammed as a "hypocrite" for praising the storming of the Wisconsin state capitol building back in 2011 when she called the break in and occupancy of that building an "impressive show of democracy in action." And if anybody didn't see that news article (from The U.S. Sun, Jan. 25, 2021), the 2011 incident was basically an attack on republicans which Pelosi is evidently okay with. However, she's since changed her opinion after being whisked away - soiled pants and all - on December 6th, that she's now called: "an assault on our democracy." A hypocrite indeed!

A recent Villager front page article stated: «Courtney casts vote for impeachment»; what a surprise! I hope this impeachment pursuit again backfires in all of their faces, and that includes these "RINO" republican turn-coats who I'd say now only have their own future interests in mind. The only goal of this impeachment attempt is to now keep Donald Trump from ever running for office again. Are they really that scared of him? I'd say that they certainly are.

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### Woodstock hijinks

To the Editor:

Back in September, Board of Finance member Roy Bradrick wrote about the tragic death of "public review and approval." What Roy was referring to was the use of the Governor's Executive Orders allowing town boards to make decisions without any real public review and without normally required town meetings and referenda, which would seem logical in these times of social distancing and isolation – the work must go on; however, some boards have taken this as an opportunity to do things they would otherwise not do, as there would be serious questions and political ramifications, not to mention difficulty passing some of these items.

Roy specifically was speaking about the transfer of "surplus" funds from the 2020 town budget to the "non-recurring capital fund" and subsequent use for projects some of which are highly questionable as capital expenses as they would normally be considered the operational expenses that they are; things like removal of dead trees;

an operating expense that has been in the budget for years under a different name and in fact this occasion

was actually the second time in less than one year – which would certainly make it a "recurring" expense.

And then there's the \$212,483 of Woodstock

Academy tuition, second payment,

which was declared a "non-recurring

capital expense" last year by the town

attorney with support of the town

auditors despite knowing that this

capital assessment had been part of

the regular tuition for at least two

decades and will continue to be ad

infinitum. It took some real twisting

of the definition of "recurring" and

"capital expense" to get there as there

is no real asset involved, but then

that's what they are paid for.

As a note in defining what is a capital expense, from the auditor's report, we have this statement, "The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of a capital asset or materially extend capital asset lives are not capitalized." Except of course, when they are, and when no one can question it. One person referred to this as "Enron accounting"; we know how all that turned out. As a real kicker to all this, while using the governor's "Executive Orders" to bypass public scrutiny, they failed to properly notice the meeting in which this took place – September 2020. The EO's require that virtual meetings such as this be posted "on the town's website" 24 hours before the meeting so that the public can have time to review and present questions/concerns; that

requirement counts only business days, no weekends or holidays; again to provide time and opportunity for feedback. The Board of Finance meeting in question was not posted in accordance with those requirements.

I am bringing this up again, as this is just the tip of the malignant iceberg that lies below. This is hardly the first time the BOF/BOS/BOE has tried to use deception to spend taxpayer dollars beyond the limits of Prop 46, and even state statute, and, as it is more likely than not that these EO's will be extended once again, this budget season will fall under those same rules – ignore town ordinances, state statutes and do whatever you please. There will be a penalty at some point but they will worry about that when the time comes.

Just for reference, no questions by the public of the auditors was allowed during the recent (January 2021) audit review, and nothing of substance was asked by the BOF, I did manage to ask the board and treasurer, after the auditors signed off, where the Tuition Asset and Dead Tree Asset were on the town balance sheet. The response to the tree issue was by the auditors through email: "The emergency tree removal was not capitalized by the Town as it does not increase the service utility of the Town's asset. The amount was expended on a government-wide basis as part of public works expense. For your information, this is consistent with how several other municipalities have treated costs for tree removal due to the significance and nonrecurring in nature of the costs." So it was capitalized and the funds taken from the "Non-recurring Capital Fund" but not deemed "capital" expense. The treasurer said in the meeting that the Tuition was handled in the same manner - watch the video. No asset, no depreciation, repeating expense in both cases – remember it has been budgeted as an operating expense for years and specifically on the dead trees two capital expenses approved 9 months apart, but a non-recurring capital expense – "Enron Accounting." Why? Simple, to get around Prop 46; not the first time and will not be the last and not the only time this past year.

There is much more but will require another letter. Remember budget season is upon us – will get more interesting. It's your money and only you can put a stop to this foolishness, all it takes is to just say "No" if you even get a chance.

DAVE RICHARDSON  
WOODSTOCK

### TAYLOR

*continued from page A8*

voted for whores.

I harbor no illusions that the bullying, lies and unquestioning adulation of the dear leader will end even though he no longer holds office. After all, there are still fascists in the US who adore Hitler 75 years after his death and Communists who can't find fault with Stalin. I also fear that there will be no unity until the lies and

"alternative facts" are consigned to a (very) small fringe. Violent, right wing groups have always been the biggest threat to marginalized groups in America such as African Americans, Native Americans and, at times, various religious and ethnic groups. But now they're the biggest security threat to the entire nation.

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY

LEE WESLER  
WOODSTOCK

# OBITUARIES

## Brenda D. Baker, 96

**PUTNAM:** Brenda D. (Cook) Baker 96, passed away from Covid-19, on January 18, 2021 at Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam, CT.

She leaves behind her son Levi Benjamin Baker of Woodstock, CT; her 2 daughters Rosalie Petrillo and her husband David of Southbridge, MA; Pauline Hebert and her husband Ralph of Putnam, CT; a son in law Michael Addington of Southbridge, MA; 5 grandchildren Nicolina Montigny, Rosalina Smith, Valarie Baker, Angelina Lafrenais, Stacey DeGraca. She has 15 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

She was born in Suffolk, England on April 24, 1924 daughter of Arthur and



Lilly (Flood) Cook.

She is pre-deceased by her husband Harold E. Baker whom passed away in 2013.

She is predeceased by her son Michael Baker, her daughter Monica Addington, and her granddaughter Pamela Fitzgerald, her 4 brothers Benjamin Cook, Sylvester Cook, Russell Cook, John Cook, her two sisters Fay Stannard and Margaret Joan.

She was an active member of the Holy Trinity Church in Southbridge.

Brenda was a member of the VFW Auxiliary in Putnam, CT. She loved flowers and enjoyed baking.

Due to the current Covid-19 situation all services will be private.

Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St., Southbridge is directing arrangements.

An online guestbook is available at [www.BelangerFuneralHome.com](http://www.BelangerFuneralHome.com)

## Laura M. Laroche, 95

**PUTNAM** – Laura M. Laroche, 95, a resident of Wing A at Matulaitis Nursing Home, went peacefully home to our Lord and Savior, on Sunday, January 24, 2021, with her loving Granddaughters by her side.

Laura was born in Thompson CT, the daughter of Christ and Adrienne (Berthiume) Mike. She married Norman Laroche in 1952 and they had over 63 fun and adventure filled years together until his passing in April of 2016.

Laura worked at various mills in her younger years, but her favorite jobs were working at Bugbee's Department Store and the Children's Clothing Shop in Putnam.

Affectionately known as Mem, she enjoyed time spent with her family, playing cards, flower gardening, making crafts out of seashells, cooking her specialties of boiled dinner, spaghetti, and pancakes, but her biggest passion was creating beautiful hand sewn heirloom quilts for her cherished family and friends.

Laura is survived by her grandchildren, Donna and Michael Faucher of Putnam, Darlene Baker and Robert Booth of Brooklyn, and Kerri and

## DUFRESNE

*continued from page A9*

his sycophants in the republican party who were complicit in spreading disinformation and lies about election fraud.

The list is growing. American Express, BlueCross BlueShield, Commerce Bank, Dow, and Marriott have all pulled funding from the RNC and the individual republicans who voted to overturn the elections. These are not small players in the U.S. economy, but mega companies with mega bucks who traditionally support and fund republican notions. But that was back when the republican party was a normal, fiscally conservative, and socially flexible party. It's about time that they stepped up and put their money where their mouths are to support democracy and snuff out the candle of hate, bigotry, and right-wing

extremism that has usurped the republican party.

Defunding the republican party may be a revolutionary party to reason and responsibility, but they have also come down hard with their condemnations. For example,

"Airbnb strongly condemns last week's attack on the US Capitol and the efforts to undermine our democratic process," the company said in a statement. "We will continue to uphold our community policies by banning violent hate group members when we learn of such memberships, and the Airbnb PAC will update its framework and withhold support from those who voted against the certification of the presidential election results."

From BP Oil to Dow Chemical, the most surprising on the growing list, corporations have repeated that they are "immediately suspending all corporate

and employee political action committee contributions to any member of Congress who voted to object to the certification of the presidential election."

Put that in your incendiary pipe and smoke it, Ted Cruz, Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, Kansas Sen. Roger Marshall, and Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville. They, along with hundreds of other Congress members who were actively complicit in attempting to overturn the election results and disenfranchising millions of American citizens. Obviously, these traitors do not deserve the honor of serving as legislators. At the very least they should be censured and jailed as drug felons for drinking and peddling the Trump Kool aid. But perhaps it is best to sit back and let capitalism do its work.

DONNA DUFRESNE  
POMFRET

## Glenn Hochstetter, 73

Glenn Hochstetter, 73, of Brooklyn passed away on Saturday January 23, 2021 at Hartford Hospital. Glenn was born on December 8, 1947 in Stafford Springs, the son of the late Gustav and Marie (Zugeber) Hochstetter. He was a 1965 graduate of Windham High School. Glenn served in the Air Force as a

Sargent and was a Vietnam veteran. He worked as an Arborist for local area tree services and was a member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church in Danielson. Glenn was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and UConn Girls Basketball. He is survived by his wife

Ruth (Burton/Oppert) Hochstetter and her children. Two daughters from a previous marriage, Alyssa Hochstetter and husband Brian Young and Judith H. Jaeger and husband Eric. Grandchildren Quinn Young, Eliza, Vivian and Samuel Jaeger. One brother Robert Hochstetter and wife Jennifer and a sister Joan Lang

and husband Mike. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. A graveside service will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers donations in Glenn's memory may be made to United Service Organizations (USO) [www.uso.org.tillinghastfh.com](http://www.uso.org.tillinghastfh.com)

## Jerome (Jerry) U. Ethier, 76

**POMFRET** Jerome (Jerry) U. Ethier, 76, died Wednesday evening, January 27, 2021 at Westview Healthcare Center following a ten-year battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was the loving husband of Diane (Morrisette) Ethier for 47 years. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Urbain and Lucille (Bouthillier) Ethier.

Jerry grew up in Putnam and graduated from St. Mary's

School and Marianapolis Preparatory School. He served as a Personnel Services technician in the U.S. Air Force from 1965 to 1971, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Jerry's childhood interest in aviation and construction shaped his life's work and experiences. In the 70's and early 80's he worked at Metal Mast Marine in Putnam as a ship's carpenter and maintenance mechanic and at J. Gibson McIlvain Lumber in Danielson as a millwork foreman and operations mechanic.

Jerry then worked as a self-employed tradesman in residential construction and design. His biggest project was designing and building his dream house for his family. Years of research, planning, hard work and creativity led to an earth-sheltered, passive solar, post and beam masterpiece.

When he was fifty, Jerry started

taking flying lessons to fulfill a lifelong dream of becoming a private pilot. He earned his pilot's license, bought a 1946 Taylorcraft airplane, and decided to go back to school. He enrolled in The School of Aircraft Maintenance at Harvard H. Ellis Regional Vocational Technical School.

Jerry received his certification in the Airframe and Power Plant Course in 2001.

Jerry was a loving husband, father and grandfather who will be sadly missed. He was a true jack-of-all-trades, always willing to help family and friends with all types of projects. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Diane; his sons, Neal Ethier and his wife Amy of Woodstock and Daniel Ethier and his wife Heather of Plainfield; and grandchildren Emma, Ava, Caroline and Samuel. Jerry was predeceased by his granddaughter Ella Mae Ethier.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Westview for their compassionate and loving care over the last two years.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time. 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).

## CONCERT

*continued from page A1*

their Wish You Were Here Concert Series in cooperation with Musae.me with Andrew McKnight on booked on Feb. 20 and Brooks Williams on March 20. Check out their on-line calendar for more information.

Due to the pandemic, The Bean was not allowed to have a live audience and could only have a few performers in the building, so Howie Bursten teamed up with his wife Sally Rogers for this event. Sally began her career as a full-time touring musician in 1979, after encouragement from Stan Rogers, the legendary Canadian singer-songwriter. Her travels have since taken her to Europe, China, Hungary and Poland, England and Scotland and all across the United States.

Howie Bursten is best known for his gravity-defying, triplet-filled, fiddle-tune variations and is certainly one of today's foremost practitioners of the clawhammer banjo style. Howie is also an excellent singer, song-writer

and guitarist, and he makes his living as head wine-maker for Sharpe Hill Vineyard in Pomfret.

The Vanilla Bean Café, a popular destination eatery in Pomfret, has been producing live music and benefit shows since their beginnings in 1989. The iconic eatery has become a stop for many touring musicians from around the country and internationally, along with the many talented musicians from throughout New England. The food bank benefit is one of many benefit concerts held throughout the year, and is the longest running benefit show in their performance space.

The Access Agency Emergency Food Pantry Service is available to individuals and families in Windham and Tolland Counties who find themselves in an emergency situation where they run a risk of being without food. One Dollar can purchase ten-dollars' worth of food at the State's Food Bank, you can see why this year's donation will be very helpful.

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and she'll be happy to help!

## SWEETNAM

*continued from page A8*

thrown at me to blind me and distract me. I don't mind the smell, been living in it for four years. I can wipe off my glasses and go back to doing my tiny bit, not to make America Great Again but to see America be as kind and just and honorable as it was meant to be. Maybe throw out some seed and straw on all this manure and grow the lawn and garden back.

Wear your mask, get your shots; we have better management, now. We will get back to work.

G. LESLIE SWEETNAM  
WOODSTOCK

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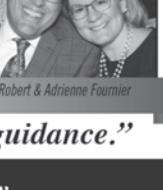
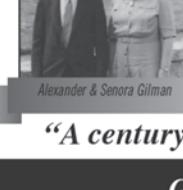


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# OBITUARIES

## Mauno Antero Petajasoa (Oja)

On January 12, 2021, Mauno Antero Petajasoa, loving husband of Paula C. Petajasoa (Cozzens) for fifty-six years, passed away while at Day Kimball Hospital. Mauno lived well! Although he was diagnosed with cancer, he continued working on his projects and reinventing machinery until he no longer could. Mauno's bravery and determination are remembered by all.

Born on October 5, 1944, in Pyhajoki, Finland, Mauno's father (Johan Alfred Petajasoa) and mother (Sylvia [Puistolahti] Petajasoa) emigrated to the United States of America in 1949 by way of ship, The Gripsholm. Once in America, the family settled on Cherry Hill Road in Pomfret, Connecticut and established a large chicken farm. Even as a young boy, Mauno worked on the farm with his parents and siblings.

Mauno attended Pomfret Community School and matriculated to Putnam High School graduating as Salutatorian in 1962. Mauno briefly attended the University of Connecticut until 1963 when he began his forty year career as a supervisor in manufacturing. In the early years of his career he also "moonlighted" at Rovero's Service Station in Putnam, CT. He must have enjoyed working with his colleagues at Rovero's as his part-time moonlighting position lasted for 20 years. (Remember the "Finn")? Rarely sitting still, Mauno continued to keep busy after his official retirement from manufacturing as he accepted a part-time position with New England Laborer's Training Academy in Pomfret, CT. Mauno loved working with and repairing every different type of engine. He had the skill and intellect to assess any mechanical situation and find a resolution. His wife and daughters were especially appreciative of his ability to fix vehicles, air conditioners, generators, washer, dryers - no machine was a match for Mauno's capabilities.

In 1964, Mauno married his high school sweetheart, Paula Christine Cozzens. Although Mauno was known by the surname Oja in high school, when he married Paula they agreed to use the entire last name of Petajasoa thereby honoring Mauno's Finnish heritage.

Although Mauno was certainly a jack of all trades, the role he mastered was that of Father. He valued spending time

with his children, often taking them on Sunday drives throughout New England. The Petajasoa's always spent part of the summer taking a family vacation which more often than not involved camping. The family would often reminisce about the summer camping trips as there was much humor involved. Mauno loved to camp. Later in life he and Paula continued sharing that love at their "vacation home" campsite in Vermont. The two would spend many weekends and long weeks in October enjoying the natural peace and solitude afforded by the Vermont mountains.

Besides his wife Paula, Mauno is survived and remembered lovingly by his sister, Lisa Liimaa, of Brattleboro, VT; his two daughters and their spouses, namely, Tracy (Petajasoa) Scala and Scot Scala of Avon, CT as well as Nancy E. (Petajasoa) Fraser and Mark. R. Brouillard of Woodstock CT; his very special niece otherwise entitled his third daughter, Amber L. Ewing of Putnam, CT; his loving grandchildren who were his pride and joy, Ryan Scala and Evan Scala of Avon, CT and Campbell E. Fraser of Woodstock, CT. Mauno also leaves three nephews (John Majonen-married to Elly Majonen; John Liimaa, and Jonathan

Liiamaa) and two great-nieces as well as many cousins in CT, FL and Finland. Mauno's parents, elder brother, and nephew predeceased him.

Mauno was a good, honest, industrious man. He kept kindness in his soul and loved his family and friends. He embodied acceptance as he befriended others based upon their good nature, character and spirit. His dry wit, intellect and thoughtful words will be dearly missed by all who loved him. Mauno left an indelible mark on the hearts of his family and will be cherished and remembered always as the remarkable human being he was.

As of now, there will not be any service. At some point in the future Mauno's family will host a Celebration of Life remembering Mauno and enjoying the memories of his friends and family. Should you wish to honor Mauno, please do so by donating to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital or to the local food bank/pantry.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church Street, Putnam, Connecticut, 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com)

**NORTH GROSVENORDALE-** Robert (Bob) L. Blain, 70, of Fabyan Rd., died Friday evening, January 22, 2021 at Westview Healthcare Center. He was the loving husband of Theresa "Terry" (Lippiello) Blain for 46 years. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Lionel and Doris (Ravenelle) Blain.

Bob was the Owner and Operator of Blain Heating Oils, the family business, which he took ownership of in 1978 and held ownership until his retirement in 2002. Before and during this time he also worked as

a teacher at New England Technical Institute and taught the plumbing code at Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School's evening program. Bob also started RDT Racquet Stringing and strung tennis racquets for his friends until his illness.

He was a board member of the Independent CT Petroleum Association from 1985-2002, President of the Northeast Chapter of the Independent CT Petroleum Association from 1986-1992 and served as a board member of the New England Fuel Institute in Boston.

Bob was an avid sports fan and phenomenal athlete. He played on the Deary Brothers softball team for many years during their championship seasons in the 80's and then went on to play in the Thompson Jack Benny Softball League. He had a passion for playing tennis and was a ranked 4.0 USTA player. He cherished his years playing that sport until his illness.

Bob is survived by his wife, Theresa "Terry" Blain; his children, Derek Blain of Arlington, VA; Jodi Bellefeuille and her husband Scott of Uxbridge, MA; Todd Blain and his wife Stephanie of Sutton, MA; Meghan Leonard and her husband R.J. of Montville, NJ, his sister; Michelle Reis and her husband Michael, of Leicester MA; father-in-law, Connie Lippiello of N. Grosvenordale; and grandchildren, Charlee, Bodie, Colton, Lincoln, Riley, and Jacob and his nieces and nephews.

For all our wonderful friends and family who have been so supportive

during this time, we ask you to remember the years before Bob's illness. Please reminisce about the fun times you had with him. Remember his quiet demeanor or yet knowing what to say at the right time. Please recall his sportsmanlike conduct always, his athleticism, graciousness, mechanical abilities, and his classiness. Remember how hard he worked to support his family and who can forget those gorgeous blue eyes? Look back on memories and remember the man he really was, a son, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a brother, an uncle, a son-in-law, a brother-in-law, a father-in-law, and a friend. Say a prayer for him as we all know he is now at peace.

Bob's family will forever be grateful for the many medical professionals who cared for him and who fought endlessly to help him. They are especially thankful for Craig Kilgore who donated his bone marrow through the National Bone Marrow Donor program, for Bob's transplant in 2005. This unselfish act allowed Bob the opportunity to see his children get married, to meet his 6 grandchild and to have many more years with his loving wife.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Bob's family from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021, in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. A gathering began in the funeral home on Friday, January 29, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 12:30 p.m. in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. Due to the current Covid-19 restriction we ask that facial coverings be worn, and social distancing be practiced.

Memorial donations may be made to either the Thompson Little League c/o Thompson Recreation Department, P.O. Box 899, N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255, whom Bob supported as a sponsorship to a team during his ownership of Blain Heating Oils or UMASS Memorial Bone Marrow Unit, 365 Plantation Street, Biotech One, Worcester, MA 01605, who gave him an extended life of over 15 years. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

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## LEGALS

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

The Planning & Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 7:45 p.m., to be held in accordance with Governor's Executive Order 7B, conducted as a web-based virtual meeting via Zoom. Login information will be contained on the agenda found at the Woodstockct.gov website. SP-96-04-M – GED Enterprise, LLC dba Bradford Standing Seam – 130 Brockway Road – Modification to a Special Permit. Chairman Jeffrey Gordon, M.D. February 5, 2021 February 12, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Marie Cecile Houghton, AKA Marie C Houghton (20-00426) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated January 26, 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.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Michael G Houghton  
c/o NICHOLAS A LONGO, BACHAND,  
LONGO &, HIGGINS, 168 MAIN ST.,  
P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
February 5, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Street an includes two five-year extensions that could expand the agreement to 20 years. It also includes three escalations increasing the monthly lease every five years.

Town Manager Mary Calorio said the lease has been in place in 1999 and actually expired some time ago. The town has been in negotiations with the state and after a few issues with communication finally settled on an agreement.

"We finally were able to get to having a ten-year lease that incorporates escalation at each of the five-year points which previous leases did not have any escalation factored

into it at all. So, we're at least going to be able to recognize some escalation in that. The town does have to maintain that parking lot including snow removal and salting and sanding," Calorio said.

The initial lease maintains the previous \$9,000 monthly lease charge paid to the town by the state. After year five, that lease would increase for \$9,450 with increases also set after year ten and year fifteen. The agreement also includes a 30-day notice for cancellation of the agreement which Calorio said is standard and not indicative of any plans for the court to relocate.

"It's their courthouse parking. I don't know that they're going to move the

building any time soon, so I think that's just standard language that they require in any contract," Calorio said.

She also noted that the town will retain liability of the lot because it's the town's job to maintain the municipal parking areas.

"Our highway department, because they recognize our parking lots are a liability risk, they work really hard to keep them clean and treat them appropriately. We've been very fortunate in that," she added.

In her 15 years with the town serving in different capacities, Calorio said only one claim has been filed with the town during the partnership with the state.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Heriberto Soler (21-00023) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated January 27, 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:  
Seth Laprey, 175 Fiberloid Street,  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151  
February 5, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Barbara K Caparulo (21-00001) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Celeste R Chartier  
c/o GABRIELLE LABONTE, LAW  
OFFICE OF GABRIELLE LABONTE,  
5 VINA LANE, P.O. BOX 709,  
BROOKLYN, CT 06234  
February 5, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Gloria J. Sawyer (20-00340) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated January 26, 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:  
Chandra Bliss,  
c/o WENDELLIN DEAN AVERY,  
THE LAW OFFICE OF WENDELL  
D. AVERY, 72 W. STAFFORD RD.,  
UNIT C-1, STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT  
06076, (860)851-9419  
February 5, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Elizabeth Guertin (21-00032) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated January 28, 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.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Jody Cameron  
c/o PAUL M SMITH, BORN ER,  
SMITH, ALEMAN, HERZOG &  
CERRONE, 124 WAUREGAN ROAD,  
DANIELSON, CT 06239  
February 5, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated January 26, 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.

or at work ... in a quiet time or a busy situation. Find joy with your spouse, your kids or with a person you are meeting for the very first time ... or find it in a quiet moment, alone. You will only find it within you.

Optimism makes our lives and the world a better place. Last week I spoke of the pandemic of pessimism and how pessimism can spread like a virus. It's also true of optimism.

So how and where do you look for happiness and joy? For happiness, look around you and seek it in every circumstance. For joy, look within your heart and mind.

I have found joy this morning in writing to you.

Will you join me?

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).

# Grow quick, easy and nutritious microgreens

Add fresh flavor to your meals year-round with microgreens. These easy-to-grow greens need minimal space and no special equipment for a flavorful and nutritious harvest in little more than a week.



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tainer to a sunny location or under artificial lights.

Increase the fun and success with a microgreen growing kit like the Organic Herb and Microgreens Grow Kit from Gardener's Supply ([www.gardener.com](http://www.gardener.com)). This set up is

the perfect size for your countertop or other small space. The full spectrum light is adjustable so you can raise or lower it as needed whether growing short microgreens or taller herbs.

Or skip the growing mix and mess with a Jute Microgreens Starter Kit. Set the jute mat in the shallow tray, add seeds, and water. Then compost the jute mat after harvesting your greens.

Follow the planting directions on the seed packet. You typically need two to three tablespoons of seeds for an 11-by-21-inch tray. Buy enough seeds to make additional plantings every week or two to ensure a constant supply. Microgreens like most vegetables taste best and are most nutritious when eaten fresh. And these tasty bundles do not last long in storage.

The microgreens are ready to harvest once the plant forms the first set of true leaves. These are the leaves that resemble those of the mature plant. This takes anywhere from 7 to 14 days, depending

on the room temperature and type of microgreens you are growing.

Use scissors to clip the greens off at ground level. If you prefer to use the whole seedling, roots and all, you will need to wash off any of the seed starting mix clinging to the roots.

Once you harvest all the greens, it is time to replant. Save money and be kind to the environment by composting the used planting mix and reusing containers. Convert shallow fast-food containers into planting trays. Disinfect these or other planting trays before using them for subsequent plantings. Just soak the containers in a 10% bleach and water solution for ten minutes. Then rinse in clear water before planting.

Gardening doesn't get much easier than this. You will enjoy the fresh flavor all winter long as you wait for the outdoor growing season to begin.

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 Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).



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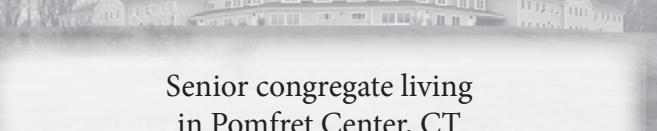
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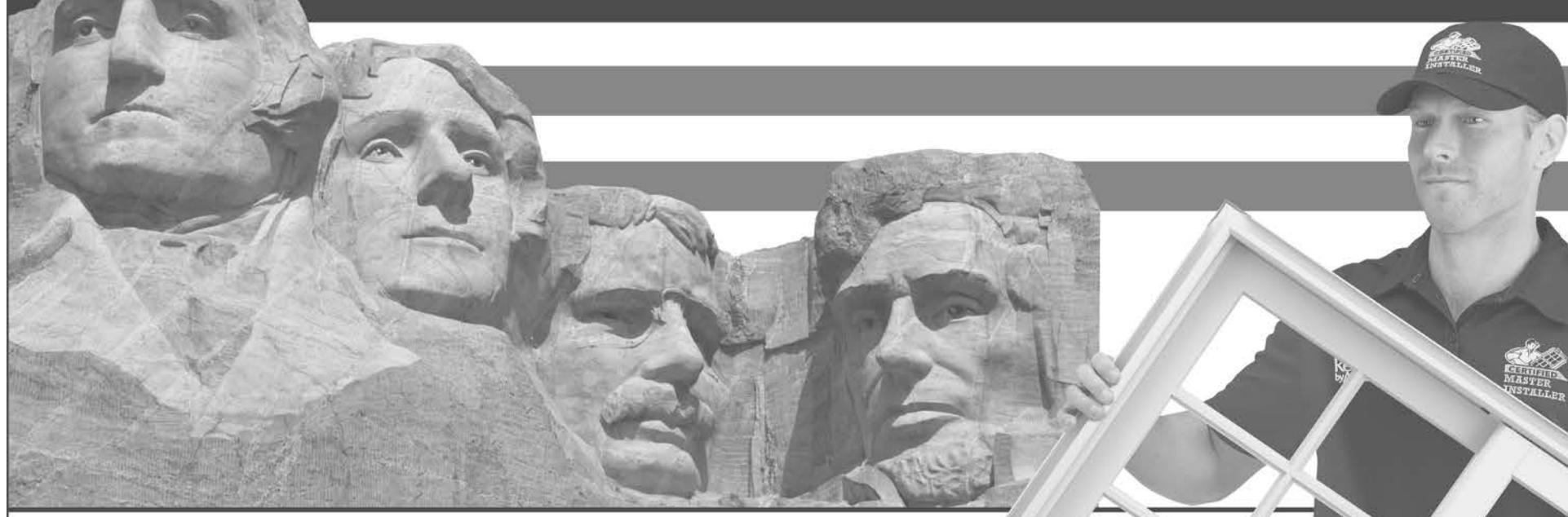


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