WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

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Woodstock businesses come together for food drive



Photos Jason Bleau

Members of the Woodstock Business Association were on hand to collect food for TEEG during a special food drive on Dec. 13.

BY JASON BLEAU CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK – The Woodstock Business Association stepped up in a big way to help provide for the local community during the holidays. The alliance of local business leaders collected around 750 pounds of food for the TEEG food pantry in Thompson to help provide families in Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock with a wonderful holiday meal.

Nichole Houle, co-owner of Classic Country Drives, said the fundraiser was an extension of the WBA's food drive that started in November and is set to conclude this month. After the company won a chance to rent the Roseland Barn at Roseland Park in Woodstock, she donated the prize to the cause allowing TEEG to park their truck on site as part of a drive-

through food drive.

"The Woodstock Business Association was already doing a food drive through November and December, so we wanted a way to increase and drive traffic. All the Woodstock businesses joined forces and we decided to set up this event here. The whole idea was to get as many donations as we possibly could," Houle said. "Everyone was happy to give. I think everyone

appreciated the TEEG organization and that is stays local. That's the biggest reason we wanted to support them as well because everything does stay local. We're absolutely over the moon with the generosity the community showed us today for sure."

Brooke Gelhaus of Gelhaus realty group added that the drive-through

Turn To **FOOD DRIVE,** page **A12**

Killingly Town Council voices support for local businesses

BY JASON BLEAU CONTRIBUTING WRITE

KILLINGLY – As cases of COVID-19 continue to rise and Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont considers the possibility of reverting the state back to Phase 1 of reopening, the Killingly Town Council has voiced their support for supporting small businesses and avoiding further damage to the local economy because of further shutdowns.

The conversation was struck during the council's Dec. 8 meeting, when Town Manager Mary Calorio brought forward communication from Cory Smith, the co-owner of Black Pond Brew, who wanted to encourage the council to communicate with the state about taking a different path if the Governor recommended a rollback. For the most part, Council members

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Tree of Life Ceremony goes virtual

BY JASON BLEAU CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION – Each year, Day Kimball Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut holds its annual Tree of Life ceremony lighting trees throughout the region to remember those we have lost in years past. Sadly, as with many events in 2020, this year's event had to be altered due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic but that did not stop the tradition from continuing for the 31st year.

DKH Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut did hold their Tree of Life ceremony, but for the first time the event was virtual with the ceremony posted on Facebook and YouTube to allow viewers from across the region to partake in the event from the comfort and safety of their homes. Renee Smith, VP of Post-Acute Services at DKH Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, opened the ceremony acknowledging the eleven communities lighting trees as part of the event and the yearly annual contribution of \$30,000 the fundraiser brings to help offset costs insurance won't

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cover for patients of the program.

"From the moment a member of our hospice team steps through the doorway of a patient's home, a sacred journey of companionship and compassionate care begins," Smith said. "Tonight, we reflect on that journey, remembering those we have lost, honoring our family members, and recognizing staff

and volunteers who have provided that special care to our community for the past 31 years."

Each tree lit up on the night of Dec. 13 was sponsored by a family whose loved ones spent their final days I the care of the hospice program. Chairman of the 2020 event Roger Franklin, who also serves as a hospice volunteer, knows



Photo Courtesy

Turn To CEREMONY, page A12 One of the eleven Trees of Life is lit during the virtual DKH Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut Tree of Life Ceremony.

Woodstock Academy to add prep school athletic programs to repertoire

BY KEN POWERS

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Academy announced last month that they will add a pair of prep school athletic programs within the next calendar year.

Centaurs' athletic director Sean Saucier confirmed recently that the school, which is both a public high school and a private prep school, will add a prep school level boys' soccer team beginning in the fall of 2021, and a prep level girls' ice hockey program for the 2021-2022 season. Woodstock Academy already fields a boys' prep

BOYS' SOCCER, GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY TO SOON ENTER CENTAURS' LINEUP

school basketball team.

In addition, the school, founded in 1801, has 11 boys, 14 girls, one co-ed and three unified teams that participate at the high school level.

The school's announcement that it would be expanding its prep sports program seemed like a good time to explain to readers new to the area — and to those who have never been able to figure it out — how a school can

serve as both a high school, and participate in high school athletics, and also a prep school, and field what is soon-to-be three prep programs.

"We are an independent school. What that means is we are governed by a Board of Trustees, not a local board of education," Saucier said. "At the same time, we are also what is called a sending town academy. There are six agricultural towns — Brooklyn,

Canterbury, Eastford, Pomfret, Union and Woodstock — around us that don't have their own high schools, so those towns pay tuition to send their kids to Woodstock Academy for their high school years, if they choose. So, we are a public school in that sense."

In addition to Woodstock Academy, high-school-aged students in the aforementioned towns may also choose to attend several other schools, including Killingly High, Ellis Technical School, Norwich Free Academy, Quinebaug Valley Middle College (QVMC), and

Turn To **SPORTS,** page **A12**

100 years ago today

I recently had an email from Donna Bronwell reminding me about the dance hall that once was situated in Killingly Center. Please feel to share your memories by emailing me. I'll add them to my Killingly Center folder.

This week, I thought I'd take a look again at what was happening 100 years ago in December 1920. "Killingly High school students will be out in force the (Wednesday) evening to witness the basketball game between the school team, which has been going like a whirlwind, and the Bartlett High school team of Webster. With three straight victories by astounding margins to the Killingly team's credit, the enthusiasm of the student body is at a high pitch and

they are rooting hard for another sweeping victory over the Massachusetts town team, this evening.' (Norwich Bulletin, Wed., Dec. 15, 1920, p. 6; newspapers.com).

"Next week being Christmas week many business places in Danielson will keep open extra eve-

nings for the accommodation of holiday buyers." (Ibid.).

"Frank Barber, of the Casino alleys, was at New London Tuesday evening to roll a 10-game bowling match with



KILLINGLY AT 300

MARGARET WEAVER

match will be rolled at the Casino alleys here. {The fact that] So many people crowded the alleys here at the last match has brought about a decision to put in a large number of chairs for the convenience of spectators at the coming match, which is to be rolled for \$200. The attraction for bowling fans here Thursday evening is the appearance of the Taftville state league team. (Ibid.).

J. F. Hallasey under

the same conditions agreements

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in which Barber

Friday evening of

this week the final

10 games of the

Barber-Hallasey

Barber-

match,

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was the

"A high-tension substation of the Eastern Connecticut Power Company is nearly completed and in temporary use in a field between the tracks of the New Haven road and the Assawaga River (Five Mile), just west of the supply station of the Standard Oil Company, on Mechanic Street." (Ibid.).

"Farmers who supply the Boston milk market and other city markets in New England are continuing to receive 10 ½ cents a quart in December in spite of a determined effort on the part of Boston milk dealers to break the two month's contract made at that price November 1." (Ibid.).

I'm sure with the weather we've had lately, we can all emphasize with area residents of 1920. "Another of the severe southerly storms that have marked the present fall season drenched Danielson under deluge of rain during Tuesday and incidentally proved a business killer of the first magnitude. Few ventured out in the driving rain and the blustering gale. The storm, out of the southeast, ran the temperature up remarkably high for December, some thermometers in town registering over

50 degrees." (Ibid.). I loved the following ad: "Hello, Danielson! Dembo is Still Here With a Large Stock of Footwear. Dembo has taken a new location, in the basement, under the Attawaugan Hotel, for he wanted a low rent so that he could sell his shoes even lower than ever before. He is now setting prices on shoes much as they were before the war. The conditions of industries in Danielson and surrounding towns have thrown a large number of people out of work and there is very little money in circulation. Therefore, I have taken all necessary means of economy by locating in this basement where I have no high rent to pay, no clerk hire, etc., and my stock having been bought on the present declining market and directly from the factory, I am able to give the public the benefit of large savings in the purchasing of footwear... This is strictly high-grade footwear, all well-known makes, at slaughter prices. COME! LOOK! COMPARE! The Attawaugan Shoe Bargain Basement. (Ibid.). The following week there were a number of Christmas related articles. "Goodyear will have the only community tree in this vicinity this holiday season. The tree will be brilliant with many electric lights and laden with gifts for the little people of the village, where much is always made of Christmas and of New Year's day." (Norwich Bulletin, Thursday, Dec. 23, 1920, p. 6; newspapers.com). "Upwards

of 350 children received gifts Friday

evening at a Christmas tree held under

the community plan at Goodyear. Social organizations of that village, cooperating with the Goodyear mills, distributed Christmas baskets to 30 families." (Norwich Bulletin, Saturday, Dec. 25, 1920, p. 6; newspapers .com).

There is to be a Christmas tree party at the Congregational Church in South Killingly this evening and Santa Claus is to pay a visit to those who gather there, a fact that is of special interest to the little people." (Norwich Bulletin, Thursday, Dec. 23, 1920, p. 6; newspapers.com).

"Christmas tree parties for the children of Connecticut village, the new section of Danielson, provided joy for many little people Thursday and Friday." (Norwich Bulletin, Saturday, Dec. 25, 1920, p. 6; newspapers .com).

"Home-made pop corn balls, stuffed dates, molasses and other candies for Xmas. Inquire 149 Main Street.—Adv." (Norwich Bulletin, Thursday, Dec. 23, 1920, p. 6; newspapers.com).). My guess is that this is for The New York Fruit Store. A second candy ad was, "Chocolates in fancy packages, all sizes 1-4 to 5 lbs. at Mose the Druggist, the Rexall store." (Norwich Bulletin, Thursday, Dec. 23, 1920, p. 6; newspapers.com).

A Christmas concert was to be given Christmas night at the Pentecostal Church on Academy Street. The Baptist Church would have theirs on Sunday.

Norwich Bulletin, Saturday, Dec. 25, 1920, p. 6; newspapers .com). The origins of our favorite Christmas songs always fascinate me. "O Holy Night" (also known as «Cantique de Noël») is a well-known Christmas carol composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847 to the French poem «Minuit, chrétiens» (Midnight, Christians) by poet Placide Cappeau (1808–1877). The carol reflects on the birth of Jesus as humanity's redemption.

"In Roquemaure at the end of 1843, the church organ had recently been renovated. To celebrate the event, the parish priest persuaded poet Placide Cappeau, a native of the town, to write a Christmas poem. Soon afterwards that same year, Adolphe Adam composed the music. The song was premiered in Roquemaure in 1847 by the opera singer Emily Laurey. Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight, editor of Dwight's Journal of Music, translated the song into English in 1855" (en.wikipedia.org/ wiki/O_Holy_Night).

It has been my pleasure and privilege to write these columns. Thank you for sharing your memories. Please continue to do so throughout 2021.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. Peace and blessings.

The mail and answering machine are being checked although the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center is closed.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, December, 2020. Special thanks to Marilyn Labbe for extracting Windham County Transcript summaries when director of the Killingly Historical Center. 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







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Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for of Dec. 7: Bobwhite, Golden Eagle, Bluebird, Pileated Woodpecker, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Redwinged Blackbird, Purple Finch, Cooper's Hawk, Mallard, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Robin, Brown Creeper, House Finch, Goldfinch. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home

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82 pairs of boots donated during WDTC boot drive



WOODSTOCK — A little rain Saturday couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of donors and volunteers alike at the first Winter Boot Drive presented by the Woodstock Democratic Town Volunteers Jordan Stern (holding sign) and Jeff Danforth at the WDTC Boot Drive entrance Saturday welcoming donors to drive right in.

Committee (WDTC) in partnership with TEEG. The efforts resulted in 82 pairs of warm, winter boots for kids plus \$768 in cash being donated.

Beneficiaries of this generosity will be the children of Woodstock and northeast Connecticut. As a Youth Services Bureau, TEEG will distribute the boots to deserving families in its service area.

'The Democratic Town Committee

was very pleased to partner with TEEG for this needed community service project," Greg Kline, event coordinator for WDTC, said.
"The outpouring of support from the

"The outpouring of support from the community in these times of particular health and economic distress was heartening and we thank all who donated to the cause," Kline said. "Donors along with our volunteers really stepped up to make this a big success," he said.

The WDTC also thanks the Woodstock

Volunteer Fire Association Station #76 for donating use of their facilities for the event.

"Being able to hold the Boot Drive at the fire station made it convenient for donors and volunteers alike," Kline said.

Volunteering at the event were Democrats Donald Barach, WDTC treasurer Kathleen Barach, Jeff Danforth, Christine Duquette, Jordan Stern, Suzanne Woodward, Sky Bridgman, Sean Connor, Su Connor, Suzanne Kline and Greg Kline.

"The success of WDTC's Winter Boot Drive will ensure that every child in Woodstock who needs warm, winter boots gets them!" Anne Miller, executive director of TEEG, said.

Potential donors wishing to contribute can still mail checks, payable to TEEG, to the Woodstock Democratic Town Committee, ATTN: Winter Boot Drive, P.O. Box 813, Woodstock, CT 06281. Cash donations will be used to purchase additional boots for area children

Villager Newspapers

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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



What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

Email us your thoughts to: Brendan@ villagernewspapers .com

Putnam resident Nathan Sarachick completes intensive research project

WORCESTER — Nathan Sarachick of Putnam, a member of the class of 2022 majoring in Biology & Biotechnology at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Glacier Recycling at Glacier National Park.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue. Nearly 90 percent of students typically complete a project in collaboration with partners in communities across the country and around the world, through the university's 50-plus project centers. Students usually travel to the project center for seven-week terms; this fall, however, due to the global coronavirus pandemic, they worked remotely, using video conferencing and other technology to complete their projects. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of their comfort zones to apply their knowledge to solve real problems for people in communities around the globe,' said Professor Kent Rissmiller, interim dean of the WPI Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division. "Students have the opportunity to learn about a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school appli-

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute WPI, a global leader in project-based



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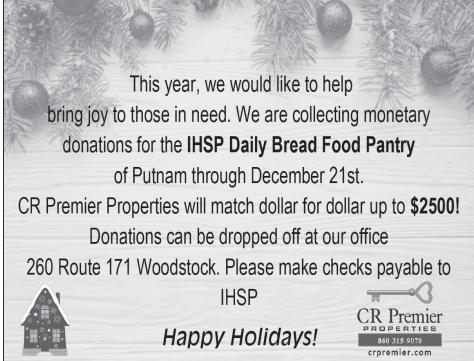
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Eastern musicians persevere through trying semester, changing industry

WILLIMANTIC — No industry has adapted to COVID-19 quite like the performing arts. With venues shuttered and musicians quarantined, an experience once universally live and in-person now streams virtually to a dispersed audience who watch via computer screens and cellphones. It's been a dramatic turn of events, but as the Music Program at Eastern Connecticut State University has demonstrated this fall, the new performance "space" has tested the character of musicians and come with developments that will leave the industry changed for-

Despite restrictions in response to the pandemic, the Music Program was able to pull off a near full slate of concerts and recitals this fall - in some cases, to wider audiences than ever before. Music students continued their lessons through a mix of hybrid and on-ground classes and presented their work using a range of technological approaches. And performing arts faculty and staff developed new systems that make their programs more resilient moving forward.

All of the Music Program's 12 instrumental and vocal ensembles were active this semester. The size of each ensemble determined whether the students could gather in person for rehearsal and performance.

(For singers, horns and woodwinds, 12 feet - not six - is the recommended physical distancing guideline.) Smaller ensembles, such as the Jazz Combo and Percussion Ensemble, could gather synchronously, while larger groups like the Concert Band and Concert Chorale exclusively conducted activities remotely.

"As you can imagine, running ensembles in an asynchronous manner has been a real challenge, and not being able to showcase student work by way of public performance has caused us to be creative," said professor David Belles, who directs the Concert Chorale and Eastern Chamber Singers. "We've had to be very creative and catch up on technology that we ordinarily don't use in acoustic live performance.

For their performance of "I Carry Your Heart in Me" by composer David Dickau, the 38 vocalists in the Concert Chorale recorded their parts separately while following a guide track. The individual audio/video recordings - often captured with cellphones were then mixed and mastered into a finished performance, produced by a company called Arts Laureate and uploaded to YouTube.

The instrumentalists in the 25-person Concert Band used the same approach for their performance of "A Song for Tomorrow" by composer Kevin Day.

"This was perhaps the most non-traditional semester the Eastern Concert Band has seen in its 40 years of existence," said ensemble director Kelly Watkins, "but through it all we found ways to learn, grow and make music."

The majority of productions this semester were produced in-house in collaboration with Media Services and staff in the Fine Arts Instructional Center (FAIC). Virtual performances were either presented via livestreaming or prerecorded and premiered online, depending on the size of the ensemble and need for editing. The Music Program's already robust YouTube channel served as the streaming platform of choice.

Throughout the semester Sheila RuJoub, FAIC events coordinator, has been monitoring the YouTube channel's viewership, "which has really been my barometer on whether or not our virtual events have been reaching our normal audience," she said. "As the semester went on and we polished our format, not only did views rise, but we've had an overall boost in subscriber count by margins we haven't seen before, so our audience is definitely adapting with us.

"We've really gotten to a point where we can make all these limitations work for us," said RuJoub. "Our spring semester is looking to be much fuller since we know what we're working with now."

Even when the pandemic subsides, these new capabilities are important for the Music Program - and the industry at large - moving forward. "I think live broadcast is part of the future for all performing arts," said lecturer and accompanist David Ballena. "This pandemic has forced us to move in that direction in a much faster way. It's been a steep learning curve for everyone, but a necessary one.'

Explaining the benefits of

live broadcast, Ballena said, "My mom and other relatives were able to watch my faculty recital live in Peru through YouTube. The same is true for our out-of-state students, whose friends and relatives may not have heard them perform in a long time, if ever at all."

Ballena says the video recordings are good for the performers as well, as they can review the videos and learn from watching themselves play.

This emphasis on video production and sound engineering is also resulting in new professional opportunities for students. Music and new media studies double major Christiana Montalbano, who performs in several vocal and percussion ensembles, had an integral role in the video editing process for the majority of the percussion concerts.

She set up the recording equipment, retrieved the video recordings from cell phones set at different angles, then used DaVinci Resolve software to sync the videos with the master audio. "Once the videos were synced with the mixed audio, I got to be creative and choose what video would play at certain points in the piece," said Montalbano.

A lonely endeavor

The Music Program's innovative and successful semester has not come without its toll on the musicians, as the need for social distancing has hampered the camaraderie and thrill of live performance across the entire performing arts industry.

"Studying music can be a lonely endeavor at times," said music major and trombonist Hannah Ävena. "You spend hours each day in a practice room and spend a lot of time with yourself. This can be great in teaching patience, discipline and other values. However, it can certainly be challenging in an already isolating COVID

Avena found solace in her daily visits to the FAIC, where she reserved a practice room through the building's new online reservation system. "Just having somewhere to go, a place that isn't your room, is a luxury that not everyone has. School felt more normal to me because I was still making that walk every day and seeing students and faculty around.

"The Music Program at Eastern is made up of a wonderful group of people that certainly make this hard time easier," added Avena. "I'm grateful to have something bigger than myself that I can work toward every day, distracting me from the craziness around us right

Through the experience of performing in isolation, students have reported the need to develop self-sufficiency and affirmation, as the audience is not present to provide feedback. "Music and performance is such a communal activity,' said Montalbano, "and it's been challenging and a little disheartening to not have normal in-person concerts this semester. However, I'm grateful for the flexibility and adaptability we've all shown."

Music professor and program coordinator Okon Hwang congratulates students for their efforts in this trying semester: "I am very proud of the way our students persevered," she said. "Needless to say, this semester has been full of challenges. But our students in general were fully engaged regardless of the modality they had to deal with."

Even with a curriculum bolstered by virtual capabilities and a campus modified for the pandemic, the Music Program will certainly welcome an eventual return to normal.

As Avena puts it: "I will never take another live performance for granted. This experience has helped me realize the importance of the arts and of live performance, and how lucky I am to have had the opportunity to participate in it devoid of COVID'

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular pickup truck
- 4. Profoundly wise men 9. Camera company
- 14. Folk singer DiFranco
- 15. Passerine birds 16. Plum-shaped fruit used for
- 17. Popular kids channel
- Dodgers' skipper 20. Removes
- 22. The Atlantic is one
- 23. Badgerlike mammal
- 24. Foulness
- 28. Luke's mentor -Wan 29. Commercial
- 30. A type of gin
- 31. Temptress
- 33. Shuts in an enclosed space
- 37. Milligram
- 38. Actress Adams 39. Strive to equal or match

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Driver 2. Bone cavities
- 3. Menacing
- 4. Where coaches patrol 5. Greek mythological figure
- 6. War-based board game 7. Midway between northeast
- and east 8. 18-year period in astronomy 9. Mid-century term used to
- describe Japanese-Americans
- 10. Large bodies of water 11. Eurasian ryegrass
- 12. Perform on stage
- 13. Greek island
- 21. One point east of southeast
- 24. Belgian city

N

- 25. Praise excessiv
- 26. River in France

SOLUTION

- 41. Health insurance 42. A detective's source Small American rails
- 44. Alfred __, Brit. poet 46. Crest of a hill
- 49. Atomic #52
- Caesar, comedian
- 51. Breaks apart 55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- 58. Worker 59. Chemical compound
- 60. Disgraced newsman 64. Born of
- 65. Chemical substance
- 66. Supernatural powers
- 67. Clothes
- 68. Indy footballers
- 69. Moves forward
- 70. Midway between south and
- southeast

- 27. Edible lily bulbs 31. Quarterbacks take them
- 32. Organic compound 34. Tears down (Brit.)
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Unconscious
- 40. Missouri
- 41. Firemen use them
- 45. Pig noise 47. Greatly dismay
- 48. Imitator 52. Moves by turning over
- 53. Boxing's GOAT
- 54. Swarms with
- 56. Margarines
- 57. Feudal superior 19. 10th month of the year (abbr.) 59. As fast as can be done
 - 60. Reciprocal of a sine

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C H A R L I E R O S E

M A N A

Woodstock Academy offers new course in African American, Black, Latino, and Puerto Rican studies

WOODSTOCK Woodstock Academy has developed a new course on African American, Black, Latino, and Puerto Rican studies, extending the depth and breadth of social studies offerings at the school.

The new course gives students the opportunity to take a deeper look into Black, Latino, Puerto Rican experiences and history inside and outside of the United States. For example, in an introductory unit students will explore African kingdoms and the subsequent impact of the Atlantic slave trade. By the end of the semester students will have a better understanding to approach contemporary issues involving minority groups and expressions of culture.

Sara Dziedzic, social studies department chair at The Woodstock Academy, added that the class will give greater opportunity to "highlight the accomplishments of people who have made this country great." class is in addition to giving space for the narratives, history, culture of minority groups within the core social studies

"Part of The Academy's mission is that our students will become more informed and engaged global citizens. The topics covered in our core curriculum, and the electives we offer need to reflect the inclusion of diverse cultures, thoughts, and experiences that we strive for as a school," said Head of School Christopher Sandford.

Over the years, but this year especially, the Woodstock Academy has continued the process of making sure multiple voices, multiple perspectives, and multiple viewpoints are presented. This has involved changes in content, for example the novels and writings selected for English courses or topics to focus on in social studies, but it

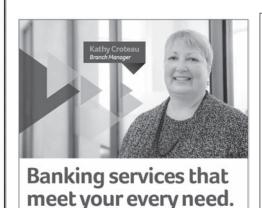
also involves changing the entire approach to content in other

This is a part of The Academy's school wide goal for the 2020-21 year to work as a faculty and staff to employ a growth mindset to gather data and expand knowledge in order to develop a plan to improve equity and inclusion and reduce bias.

Michael Harten, dean of academics, said "This is the beginning of the process, not the end. We are working through growth mindset and bias over the course of the year as a staff while bringing some of those changes into the classroom."

course on African The American, Black, Latino, and Puerto Rican studies will first be offered at The Woodstock Academy during the 2021-2022 school year, a year ahead of a state-wide requirement for a similar course to be added to school's elective offerings.

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We're interviewing Quiet Corner artist, Kurt Newton in this issue. His stories and poetry have been selected and published in books and prestigious literary journals. I'm eager to share what he has to say to us. By way of background:

"Goodreads" has this to say about him: Kurt Newton sold his first story, "The Promise of the Sea," in 1993. Since then, he's had over 400 poems and 250 short stories published in a wide variety of magazines, anthologies and webzines in the U.S., Canada, England, Australia, Germany and Poland. To date, he has received sixteen honorable mentions from the editors of The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror, and has been four times nominated for the Rhysling Award for his poetry.

I looked up Kurt Newton on "Amazon" and found this: Kurt Newton grew up in rural Connecticut. His interest in art and music at an early age laid the foundation for what would become his first love: writing. He is the author of two novels, two short story collections and eight collections of poetry. His third short story collection, BRUISES, is due to be published in 2021 by Lycan Valley Press.

Tell us a bit about the form your work takes.

I write mostly poetry and short stories in the horror, science fiction and fantasy genres. Presently, I'm finishing up a poetry collection based on a futuristic Earth where insect A.I. have taken over the planet.

What kind of research or preparation do you do before starting a

project?

It varies. One of the freedoms of speculative fiction is that you can make things up. However, there are nuts and bolts to every piece of creative writing. A lot of the research I do is learning about the mechanics of systems--whether actual physical machinery or the inner workings of social structures and societies. I have to be able to visualize what I'm writing about.

What would I see in your workspace?

Organized clutter. Macabre mementos. Books. Magazines. Scraps of paper.

Do you have a general philosophy about making art?

Thomas Edison said "Success is 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration." For me, that's the equation for creating art. All it takes is that moment of insight or epiphany and you're off and running. Or, in my case, writing. The rest is working to flesh out that initial idea and create something three-dimensional.

How has Covid-19 affected your business?

As a writer, it's given me a lot of insight into the behavior of people during times of great fear and hardship.

If you could give your younger self one piece of career advice, what would it be?

If my older self went back in time and offered advice to my younger self, my younger self would probably tell me to "Go to Hell." I had arrogance back then. It was me against the world. Having others cheer you on is nice but, if you don't believe in yourself and have faith in your abilities then...I don't know. I've always believed I could do anything I set my mind to. So, I guess

my advice to my younger self would be to believe in yourself. (My younger self would probably still say "Go to Hell".)

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

It's New England. It's the oldest part of the New World. We have history here, even if some of that history is pretty damning. We're rich in all the complexities that make life interesting.

Where does your work intersect with the Quiet Corner community?

Unfortunately, I'm not aware of any other writers in this area. I'm sure there are, but I don't think there are many opportunities here to benefit writers, such as venues to perform readings or have book release parties or signings. There used to be a pretty cool independent bookstore in town but, sadly, that's

Where can people see your work?

An Internet search is a great place to start. I've got an Amazon Author Page, a Goodreads page. I post links to everything on my Facebook page, that's the most up-to-date.

What is one of your greatest challenges as an artist?

Deciding which projects to work on and which ones can wait.

What are your thoughts on the following quote: "Whether you succeed or not is irrelevant, there is no such thing. Making your unknown known is the important thing." – Georgia O'Keeffe

Yes, that's it completely, the whole ball of wax in a nutshell. Art for art's sake, whether a million people see it or just one.

Today's term:



Kurt Newton

Genre is "a category of artistic, musical, or literary composition characterized by a particular style, form or content" (according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary).

About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock, CT) is a nationally recognized flamework glass artist. She has exhibited her work and taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications and invitationals. Significant projects include the establishment of flamework classes at the Brookfield Craft Center and The Corcoran College of Art, guest demonstrator and speaker at the Peabody Essex Museum, textile work for the Santa Fe Opera costume department, featured artist at the Kittrell-Riffkind Art Glass Gallery, and Gallery Shows Chair for the Lowell ISGB conference. Cynthia offers talks and workshops in the Quiet Corner and is adjunct professor of art at a local

Brooklyn resident Thomas Nurse completes intensive research project

WORCESTER — Thomas Nurse of Brooklyn, a member of the class of 2022 majoring in Robotics Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Understanding Air Pollution in Amager, Copenhagen and its Effects on the School-Aged Population at Denmark Project Center.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue. Nearly 90% of students typically complete a project in collaboration with partners in communities across the country and around the world, through the university's 50-plus project centers. Students usually travel to the project center for seven-week terms; this fall, however, due to the global coronavirus pandemic, they worked remotely, using video conferencing and other technology to complete their projects. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of their comfort zones to apply their knowledge to solve real problems for people in communities around the globe," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, interim dean of the WPI Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division. "Students have the opportunity to learn about a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.

About Worcester Polytechnic

Institute WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu





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Are we still a beacon of democracy?



Positively SPEAKING GARY W.

MOORE

I'm a lifestyle columnist that promotes optimism and positivity in our daily lives. I'm not a political pundit. Occasionally a subject arises that connects the two areas of positivity and politics and I feel it's important to address. We have a problem.

Depending on which poll you believe, almost 40 percent of all Americans believe our recent election was either dishonestly counted or was unfair, while seventy-seven percent of Republican voters say their candidate was fraudulently defeated. There has never been so much distrust in our voting

Former US Congressman and retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Allen West is now floating the idea of secession for those states who feel election laws were broken to elect Joe Biden.

This was an unprecedented election, with new rules and extreme methods, designed to accommodate voters due to our current Covid-19 pandemic. Former President Jimmy Carter, a long-time global advocate and judge for free elections, a Democrat, says that mail-in ballots are wrought with the opportunity for fraud. Never in our

number of vote-by-mail ballots as we did in this 2020 election.

The Beacon of Democracy? The Land of the Free and Home of (because) of the Brave now floating a break-up of our Union?

Yes. I believe our Union is at risk, but let me be clear. I do not advocate overturning the recent election. I accept the results based upon the election rules that were in place. The problem I see, and it should disturb both sides, is that the looseness of rules, methods, techniques, and monitoring of the last election places our democracy at risk. This isn't about Trump or Biden. This is about election security. We can and must do better.

You may say Allen West isn't representative of most voters on the right, but I'd say you may be wrong. This shouldn't be a left or right issue, it's an American issue. We should be united in preserving the integrity of our

I'm born and raised in Illinois, and for as long as I can remember, there has been, and continues to be, a desire for the Illinois "outside of Chicago" to separate from the Windy City. The Chicago Machine rules Illinois with an iron fist and has for almost one-hundred years. Look no further than the 1960 presidential election if you want to understand the power of the machine and how a small dishonest group can impact an entire nation.

There has been a movement

vast expanses of red California to break away from the influence and control of blue Los Angeles and San Francisco. And red Western Washington and Oregon could not be more polarized from their fellow statesmen in Seattle and Portland. They are now discussing breaking away and joining Idaho. Then back to Texas, there's been a group calling themselves the "Republic of Texas" that has been pushing secession from the U.S. for years. And now a former congressman. retired Lt. Colonel (Army) and head of the GOP in Texas, calling for a discussion of secession.

The secession movement is growing and gaining momentum. It's fueled by a large minority (upwards of forty percent) that believe their candidate was cheated and the rightful winner was denied. Yes, the country is divided almost perfectly down the middle by a different ideology but that alone isn't enough to fuel a dissolution of our Union that has lasted since 1776. A lack of trust in our elections ... just might be. If we believe our elections are not honest and fair ... how can we possibly be the Beacon of Democracy? Why should we vote if every legal vote isn't counted? It is a National dilemma.

To those calling for secession, let me remind you how well it worked for our nation last time this idea reared its ugly head. The southern states paid a devastating price, while the whole

history have we had the massive over the last few years for the nation suffered the massive losses of our civil war. I cannot believe anyone would want to risk a second American Civil War, but there are those who do, and the numbers are growing. Ideology alone will not cause this break-up, but a lack of a reliable, honest, and trustworthy voting system can and maybe

> If we want to secure our Union, we must secure our voting system.

How do we do it?

We must show picture identification for many less important reasons in our states and our nation. What's more important than voting? Picture ID must be shown to vote. And no ... this is not voter suppression but reasonable election security.

Absentee ballots must be used for legitimate reasons for being absent on Election Day and should not be available to the masses because they don't want to vote in person. If you care about the future of your nation, show up at the voting booth, show your ID and vote. How is this asking too much?

Counting of every single vote must be done with poll watchers from each party. Any vote that is illegally counted under the view of only one side must be either thrown out or counted again, with proper witnesses.

As for voting machines and the allegations they are easily open to fraud, I don't know enough to comment, but I've heard enough to believe they must be exam-

ined before they are used again.

Then you have our tech giants who I believe clearly favor one side over another and influence voters by their bias. Why is this allowed and how do we stop this?

Want to preserve our Union? Secure our elections. Taking the steps to secure our elections is not voter suppression but election security. Without election security, everything we say we stand for is a lie.

I love my blue friends and love my red friends. If we love our Union, we must join hands and engage in election systems we can all trust. The risk of not doing so is unfathomable.

My prayer for our nation this Christmas is that we can come together and reflect the values that have held us together for almost 250 years. If we only agree upon one thing, let's agree that our United States of America is worth preserving and saving. Imagining the world without our influence creates a frightening picture. Let's set aside our political and ideological differences and preserve our nation.

God bless America, and may God save and preserve our troubled Union.

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.



GARDEN Moments MELINDA **MYERS**

Clear out your fall containers and make room for some winter greenery. These planters are sure to brighten those dreary winter days and add life to your landscape.

Transform weatherproof summer and fall containers for winter. Fiberglass, plastic, cement and wood will hold up to the cold, ice and snow. Don't subject terra cotta and glazed pots to the harsh elements that can cause them to crack. Remove faded fall flowers and add a bit of potting mix to fill the container within two inches of the top. Or select a new weatherproof container and fill it with potting mix.

scape design and other outdoor winter decorations when creating or purchasing a holiday planter. Place a couple of winter planters on your front steps or dress up your patio, deck or balcony and enjoy the view from the comfort of your home. Don't overlook those hanging baskets. Fill them with winter greenery

Dress up your landscape with winter-inspired container gardens

to elevate your winter containers to a fun new level.

Fresh-cut needled evergreens like spruce, white pine, fir and broadleaf evergreen boxwood and holly combine nicely to form the backbone of your container design. Make it easy by using spruce tips to create vertical interest in a container. You only need to set a few in the center of the pot to look like a pro. Surround these with graceful white pine boughs to anchor the arrangement to the container.

Add sprigs of other evergreens for additional texture and shades of green. Next, it's time to put your creativity to work. For those that prefer a natural look, consider white birch branches and stems of red twig dogwood, corkscrew willow or contorted hazelnut. Add a bit more color with berry laden winter holly branches and dried seed rudbeckias, allium. and coneflower seed heads or hydrangea flowers. Finish off your arrangement with a few evergreen cones and a bow.

Or add a bit of glitz with paint-

ed and glittered cones, twigs, ornaments, or other holiday adornments. You can purchase these or create your own with a bit of paint and glitter. Just make sure your materials will hold up to the winter weather.

Once your arrangement is complete, water thoroughly. The moist soil helps keep greenery fresh and in place. Once the soil is frozen you can stop watering. The cold weather will help keep your greens looking good throughout the holidays and beyond.

Extend the life of your greenery with an organic biodegradable antitranspirant. These materials help seal in the moisture, delaying the browning of cut greens. Always read and follow label directions carefully. Most need to be applied to evergreen boughs outdoors and allowed to dry before bringing it indoors or beginning your arrangement.

For additional ideas and a bit of inspiration, watch my Create Beautiful Outdoor Evergreen Containers video. You will find



Winter container gardens brighten up the landscape all season long.

more ways to enhance your landscape with winter contain-

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and 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. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.



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Connecting a lifetime of memories: A self-interview guide

Welcome back as you may recall, last week's we focused on key dates to mark on your calendars to help put yourself in a good position to emerge from this year and well-positioned for 2021. This year has taught us many lessons, and before we start the new year let us reflect on your unique values and what is most important to you. This week we want to share a brief self-interview guide to help you on your path for 2021

It doesn't take much to start capturing valuable memories—just a notepad, an audio recorder, or a video camera. While you could write down all the answers, it might be easier and more fun to record them for future generations to hear or, better yet, see! Other than that, the best advice is to be open and honest about your thoughts and experiences. While recording your memories might feel a bit forced at first. you'll be surprised at how easy it flows once you get started.

Keep in mind that you don't need to answer all of these questions in one sitting: this guide can be used over the course of months or even years. You can decide at what pace you want to address these questions, as well as any others that might come to mind. If your children or grandchildren are interested in participating, it can be even more fun. They can use this guide to interview you, and if they have other questions, let them ask!

Questions About Your Values

What values are most important for you to exhibit and to pass on to your

How have these values helped you in

your life?

· How did you learn these values?

· What's a good way to teach them to kids?

· Who are your heroes? Why?

What do you admire about your

What do you look for

in a good friend? What has helped you most throughout your life?

- Family, friends, mentors
- Skills, knowledge, behaviors
- Organizations
- Other

What are some of the best financial decisions you've ever made?

 How about your best financial habits or practices?

Where did you learn about money? What are some of the lessons that you picked up?

Questions About Your Life

What are you most proud of in your

What might you change if you could do it over again? What would you like people to think

when they think about you? What do you know about your family

What special things or memories do you have from your mom or dad?

What was your favorite job? What are some of your most memorable stories? Think about when you

• Falling in love

FINANCIAL

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· Raising your chil-

· Visiting or living in interesting places

 Growing up Going

through moments of joy/sadness/struggle/success Taught a valuable

· Proudest of each child

Questions About the Future

What do you hope you'll be able to do or see that you haven't yet done or seen?

What would you like to do or see again? What are you most proud of about your family?

 What steps can you take as a family to do more of that?

If you woke up at 2:00 a.m., what might keep you awake these days? What is most important to you about

where you live? • If you wanted or had to move from your house, what should others consid-

er when looking at options? What plans do you have in place for your medical care if something were to

happen? · Do you have a durable power of

attorney in place? · Does it clearly state what your wish-

Are you happy with your will?

· Is it up to date, signed, and in a safe

· Do you have any advice for family

members who may be creating a will? Is there anything others can do to help you? Or is there anything others should start helping with so they can

learn more about it?

Final Thoughts

This valuable record never has to be 'closed"; you can always share more about the life you have led, the lessons you've learned, and your plans for the future. The key is that you record what's most important to you. As those who have completed the process have found, creating this gift for future generations is well worth the effort. At WHZ we hope that you can utilize this activity with family, as it could continue to keep you close in a time where we feel so far apart from one another. If you want to see other activities like the interview guide, we encourage you to take a look at our resource page for more at www. whzweatlh.com/live-well-feel-well.

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What makes estate personal property valuable?

There are many components of estate assets, with home and land typically being the most valuable. Stocks, bonds, or bank accounts may be worth more in certain situations. Personal property is typically the least valuable, but there are times when there are some very desirable items in the

Being an antique WAYNE TUISKULA estate auctioneer, I focus on antiques, col-

lectibles and other estate personal property and will explain in this column what we look for in determining whether estate



ANTIQUES, **COLLECTIBLES** & ESTATES

objects.

contents are potentially valuable.

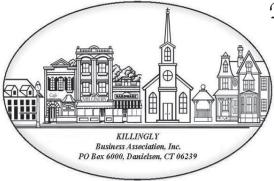
One factor is how long the family has been in the country. We've handled at least one estate where the family came over on the Mayflower. There were books and documents dating back to the 18th century. In an estate where items have been passed down through generations, you can usually expect to find some valuable

The family's wealth is another important factor. Some families have the financial means to buy Rolex instead of Timex watches and to buy large sterling silver flatware sets instead of silverplate or stainless steel. Even though formal dining isn't as popular today, sterling silver flatware can be worth thousands.

One of the rules that most collectors follow is to collect what you like. Collectors typically don't look at their collections as an investment. However, when the collection is auctioned and converted to cash, having collected popular items will benefit the collector or their heirs. Some common collectibles like coins, 1960s and earlier baseball and other trading cards, and comic books

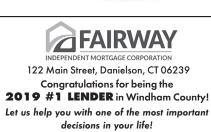
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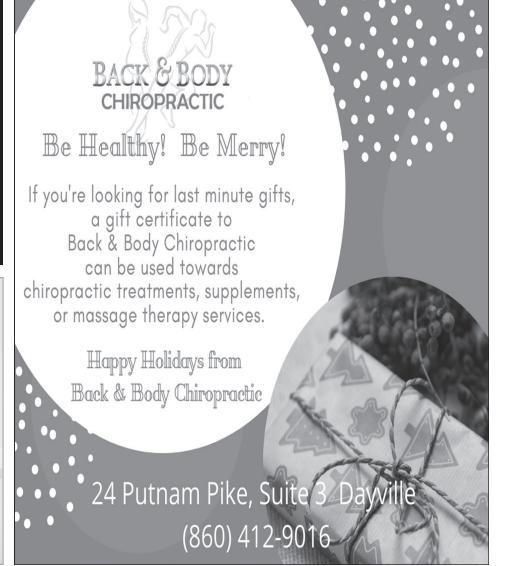
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BRENDAN BERUBE **EDITOR**

We all share responsibility for protecting the vulnerable

Something we've been hearing over the past few months with regard to COVID-19 deaths is the downplaying of elderly victims succumbing to the virus. When we look at the data and have conversations about the infection rate, and the numbers of those who actually pass away as a result, it seems to be dismissed in cases where the person is over the age of 65. "Well, they are old anyway, and in that age bracket" is often overheard.

What an awful world view.

True, when we hear about an older person passing, we can find some sort of solace knowing that they were able to live for a fairly long time and enjoy life as such. However, isn't the point to try to live as long and healthy as possible? Many of these elderly individuals who have fallen victim to this virus, would still be alive today, had COVID not come into all of our lives.

This outlook is a dangerous viewpoint to have, especially amidst a pandemic. Of course the younger, healthier population is less at risk; however the responsibility falls on all of us to protect the vulnerable, regardless of our odds of contracting a severe case ourselves. We may be fine if we catch it, and may decide not to take precautions, telling ourselves "I'll be fine." However, walking around asymptomatically may infect someone who might not be OK. As a society of neighbors, co-workers, family and friends, it should always be our job to look out for each other. Despite our differences, we must always put humanity first and take care of one another. Whether that looks like helping someone with a flat tire, pulling someone out of a ditch who's car slid off the road, helping someone in need with groceries, or taking precautions during a pandemic to keep each other safe, it's our duty as decent human beings to do the right thing, not for ourselves but for each

In overhearing such statements regarding the elderly, we want to remind those that need to hear it, that these long lived lives are just as important as they always have been. Being elderly shouldn't mean we are automatically dismissed as a member of society. The golden years should be protected as best they can as we all age, and we all will.

Our elderly community are just as valuable now as they were when they were in their twenties. Remember that senior citizens still pay taxes, grocery shop, take care of family members including grandchildren. It is our grandparents that make up the highest number of child care providers, allowing their own children to continue to work, which in turn boosts the economy.

Our elderly population provides friendship and support to everyone around them. In addition, the highest number of volunteers come from the senior citizen population. Again, this in turn helps to contribute to our economy.

It doesn't seem like any of this hits home for some individuals, until they are affected personally. If you are not close with someone who is elderly, remember that many of us are. It is important to continue to value and protect the most vulnerable among us.

In an attempt to bridge recent political division, we want to remind everyone to look out for each other, despite your differences. What matters in the end is community and how we operate in our own small circles.

We have seen refreshing occurrences of both Republicans and Democrats, locally, who have joined forces to make our communities a better place...individuals who have not lost sight of what really matters in life.

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

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

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Restaurants aren't the only ones who need help

To the Editor:

To the Editor:

The government is thinking of helping the restaurants out by giving them a loan, but if they don't give a stimulus to everyone, how can they repay the loan if no one has money to pay for takeout?

Since the virus started, everyone has raised their prices so high that people can just about afford to put food on their table.

Maybe the people in Washington should give up their paychecks for three to four

A dishonorable discharge

If the President served in the military,

which he does in his capacity as Commander

in Chief, at the conclusion of his term he has

earned himself a dishonorable discharge.

His conduct since the election has been dis-

graceful. This recent election has been the

most carefully and thoroughly scrutinized

in history. Any honorable loser under these

circumstances would concede, congratulate

the winner and urge his supporters to give

the President-Elect an opportunity to prove

himself. President Trump has broken ranks

with time-honored tradition and done pre-

doubt that the President's primary concern

It should be clear beyond a reasonable

months to help the people who put them in Washington.

Mitch McConnell thinks the unemployed don't need help; well, maybe the people in Washington should try living on unemployment for a while.

Thank you,

cy works.

DOROTHY JUDY **PUTNAM**

is not the country's welfare, but his own self interest. Not only do his delusional claims of election fraud exacerbate our divisions, but they have put leading numbers of his own party at risk. Both the governors of Georgia and Arizona are receiving police protection because of threats to them and their families. The potential for violence is real, and our President is responsible for it. Equally outrageous is his recent effort to pressure Georgia's governor to overturn the results

of the election in his state. The will of the

people be damned. This is not how democra-

BEN WILLIAMS

POMFRET CENTER

We are all God's children

To the Editor:

cisely the opposite.

In this season of Advent, Christians prepare for God's love to be born anew: in our hearts, in our homes, and in our communities. Our sacred texts, music, and rituals help us remember the gift of love and the charge to share it generously with others.

At the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, one way we give witness to God's extravagant love is to display a rainbow flag on our signpost on Route 169. Many in the gay community have been told that they are not welcome in churches. We want to offer a visible symbol that states, "no matter who vou love, vou are welcome here.

We believe that God created humankind in God's own image. That includes a beautiful rainbow of skin colors, abilities, and gender orientations. And God said, "It is good!"

This symbol has been cheered by many in the community:

"Our church affirms the inherent dignity of all people. There is no but, except, or other qualifier.'

"I love the flag and the inclusiveness it

"Seeing the flag is a little (but symbolically HUGE) beacon of love in this town"

"As a person who grew up queer in this town it is incredibly important to me."

But the flag has also been the focus of vandalism, repeated theft that is more than a one-time prank. Over a dozen flags have been stolen from our lawn in the past two years. Our policy is simply to replace the flag each time, persisting in our witness and message

of love for all persons. Instead of saying there is "no room in the inn," we wish to welcome the stranger and feed the hungry. Rather than rejecting individuals, we aim to greet the divine which is

present in every human being. Members of the church crafted this Open

ANTIQUES

continued from page A7

can be worth a considerable amount. We recently sold a collection of mainly gold and silver coins that brought nearly \$40,000 and sold a baseball card collection a few years ago that sold for over \$20,000.

The time period that the person collected their items also impacts the value of personal property. Over 20 years ago, we were contacted by a woman who had a large collection of Barbie dolls and other toys. She was at the age where she could've begun collecting when some of the first Barbies were manufactured and we had high hopes for selling her items after our conversation with her. Unfortunately for her and us, she collected all of her toys later in her adult life and they had little value. When you've collected something in your youth, you don't have to worry about fakes and reproductions in your collection that have become more prevalent now.

Many people are uncomfortable when we first meet if the estate they are handling is packed with items. I assure them that there are never too many items as far as an auctioneer is concerned. Even if there and Affirming Statement in 2003:

We, the members of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, seek to embody in our words and actions the unconditional grace and hospitality of God that we have experienced in the personality of Jesus Christ. In him, we have been invited into the life of God, and welcomed into the community of faith. Led by Jesus' spirit and following his example, we invite all who seek to be his disciples into this church family, without regard to race, nationality, age, marital status, gender, mental, emotional or physical challenges, economic status, or sexual orientation. We believe there are no outsiders in a community that is observant of God's will.

In our denomination, the United Church of Christ, the local church has authority to create its own statement of welcome. As of this writing there are 328 congregations in the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ (CT, MA, and RI combined) that provide safe space for LGBTQ siblings to worship.

We admit that we don't always get it right, but we seek to love God and love our neighbor? with all our might. It is something that we as a congregation try to live into more fully.

We offer this letter with the hope that we can expand dialogue and build understanding. Please go to www.firstchurchwoodstock. org to join us for worship, or to make an appointment to talk with our Pastor, Rev. Kevin Downer. We invite you to connect with the powerful story of Jesus' radical love this Christmas.

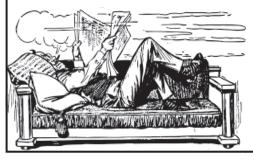
Peace.

DEBBY KIRK BOARD OF OUTREACH FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF

aren't a lot of valuable objects, sometimes the sheer volume of items can make an auction or estate sale profitable. Around 15 years ago, we auctioned a collection of items from the 1920s through 1960s that a collector had acquired over many years. There was enough material to fill a box truck. Although there weren't any big-ticket items, 1950s hair dryers, 1940s household items and even circa 1930s rolls of toilet paper combined to bring in tens of thousands for the consignor.

We have a small online auction taking place with items from a Worcester estate. Included is a commercial tractor, dump truck, motorcycles, other vehicles, a large Coke sign and Ford Mustang pedal car. The first session of the large toy collection from a West Boylston estate will soon be ready for online bidding. Session I will contain diecast toys. Antique and vintage toys will be in later sessions. You will also be able to bid online for equestrian and other paintings from artist Fay Moore's estate after the holidays.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com.



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

> George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

The Feast of Seven

When I close my eyes, I can smell the pot of seafood bubbling away on my stove, at least in my imagination. For a decade, we have celebrated the Feast of Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve with family and friends. We are not of Italian descent, but we loved visiting Italy and, as is true of nearly everyone, we like



NANCY WEISS

in could scoot out just after dessert with whomever I

could coerce to come with me to the Christmas Eve service at beautiful Christ Church.

It takes effort to incorporate seven different fish in a meal, but over the years, we managed. We generally had a dozen or so adults and a growing assortment of children, who were not impressed with the fish menu. One family, related to us by marriage and friendship, often brought an assortment of fresh, briny oysters either from a local fish market or from a trip to the Rhode Island shore. I love oysters, but they do need to be perfectly fresh and icy cold. I eat them with just a squirt of lemon, but others like cocktail sauce or mignonette sauce, a mixture of diced shallots, pepper and

My diary notes say we served cioppino, an Italian-American Fisherman's Stew for several years and then gravitated to Portuguese Stew, which had the added benefit of some linguica, a smoky sausage. On Federal Hill in Providence, there is a wonderful market, Venda Ravioli, that sells more prepared meats and sausages than one can ever want. Ingredients for the Christmas Eve stew gave my husband a good excuse to dive into the holidays crowds at Venda's and buy a cart full of delicious goodies. He also liked to buy traditional rum cake from Scialo Bros. Bakery, a fixture since 1916, that sadly has recently closed forever.

Our daughter liked to make bouche de noel, which in the past was bought at Phyllis's Bakery along with excellent French pork pie or tourtiere, another holiday favorite. We also dove in to making pistachio honey rolls, a recipe Bill Abbott shared when making church fair goodies. Our neighbor, Annie, makes the best fruit cake I've ever had.

A younger friend began WOODSTOCK introducing us to fancy cocktails, which I recall when I find bottles of odd spirits such as Apperol and Amaro in the pantry. Is there anything more elegant that a shaker, ice, and the right glass filled with some exotic concoction? I tend to stick to white wine, but a holiday cocktail is hard to resist.

My husband is a chocolatier, and the sweet smell of cacao wafts from the tempering machine on chilly afternoons. He makes chocolate for his own amusement and gives it away. Christmas is intertwined with the taste of chocolate and peppermint. He crushes candy canes and sprinkles the pieces on chocolate bark and bonbons, capturing the season in small bites.

I haven't decided what to make for our very small holiday gathering this year. A feast of seven fishes seems a bit much. A friend, a remarkable cook, is getting take-out from a Chinese restaurant. I noticed several area restaurants are offering dinners much as they did at Thanksgiving. No matter what we have, the memory of seven fishes bubbling in a stew will trigger nostalgia for what is always lost by the passage of time as well as

the deeper losses of 2020. My best wishes to my readers for the holidays. I look forward to greeting you every week.

DKH Plainfield walk-in clinic re-brands to DKH Express Care

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) announces that the walk-in clinic at its Plainfield Healthcare Center, located at 12 Lathrop Road in Plainfield, has re-branded to DKH Express Care.

"We are pleased to continue to serve our community by offering convenient, affordable, and efficient on-demand care at DKH Express Care," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. "With the center open seven days a week, including extended weekday hours, it has never been easier to reach a trusted DKH primary care provider. We believe this rebranding better reflects the type of healthcare services available at the center and raises awareness about the high-quality care DKH offers as we continue to improve our services."

The Express Care center is open seven days a week. Hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., andmajor holidays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

DKH Express Care provides fast, convenient access to high-quality health-care for common, non-life-threatening conditions, such as minor injuries and infections. It offers a more affordable option for basic medical services than an emergency facility.

The DKH Express Care's team of dedicated medical professionals includes

physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who can treat the entire family with quality care and personal service. Patients can expect a wide-range of services available for low acuity health issues, minor sports or work related injuries, including on-site immunizations for flu and tetanus, and more. The Express Care center features 6 exam rooms with the advantage of adjacent laboratory and imaging services when required.

Patients who have an established primary care provider (PCP) within the Day Kimball Healthcare network will be followed-up with by their provider after their visit to Express Care as needed. And, patients that receive treatment at Express Care but do not have a PCP will be provided with a recommendation to one of Day Kimball Medical Group's caring practitioners, extending the continuum of care beyond the Express Care visit.

In the case of life threatening medical issues or situations, call 9-1-1 immediately, or report to the nearest emergency facility. The Townsend Emergency Medical Center at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam has remained open throughout the pandemic and is ready to treat any emergency, 24/7, in a safe, COVID-19 free environment.

To learn more about DKH Express Care visit daykimball.org/express.



For more information and guidelines about safely returning to care at Day Kimball Healthcare, visit daykimball. org/return-to-care.

About Day Kimball Healthcare Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball

Healthcare At Home, and health-

Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

care centers in Danielson, Dayville,





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OBITUARIES

Ronald L Baribeau, Sr., 75

DANIELSON - Ronald L. Baribeau, Sr., 75, of Margaret Henry Rd, died Saturday, December 5, 2020, at home following a brief illness. Ron will be remembered for his warm smile,

generous spirit, and no-nonsense, tell-it-

like- it is attitude. Ron leaves behind his best friend and the love of his life, Deborah (Harding) Baribeau. Anyone

who knew Ron quick-

ly recognized that his

world revolved around her. The two met as teenagers, married in 1967, and have been inseparable ever since. Ron's second love, his big Cadillacs, were even named after her. Perhaps you've seen the "DEBBYB" parked in front of 4G's Restaurant. By traveling, summers at the lake, casino excursions. or their nightly dinner dates, Ron built lasting memories and truly lived life to the fullest until the very end.

Born in Putnam, CT, to Louis & Irene (Theroux) Baribeau, he was one of four children and a proud life-long resident of Killingly. After graduating from Ellis Technical School, he joined his in-law's family business, People's Loan Company on Main Street in Danielson. There he learned the lending business while forging lasting friendships with clients and eventually went on to head the company where he led as president for decades. Though a sharp businessman, Ron's generous nature always won out and he aided many families in their times of need. Ron was a life member of the Elks and a committed supporter of Special Olympics; he volunteered countless hours with his family.

Soon after retiring, Ron realized the idle life was not for him and took on Robbins, 99, formerly of Greene Lane., a second career when he got a CDL license and went to work for the Town of Killingly as a school bus driver. Ron loved the children and the children loved him back. He was a surrogate grandfather to many and got much joy from not only those relationships, but also from the many friends he made at the bus garage.

Above all, Ron was a family man. In addition to his wife Deborah, Ron is survived by his children Jayne Haythe and her fiancé Richard Ryan of Dayville, and Ronald (Joe) Baribeau, Jr. and his wife Holly (Backes) of Pomfret Center. What brought him the most joy in life was his children and his five grandchildren. He was proud of every one of them and the fine young men they've become: Crawford Haythe, Sean Haythe and his wife Alecia (Fontaine), Aidan Morin, and Alec and Yianni Baribeau. Nothing brought him more joy than sitting courtside with Debbie and family cheering on his grandsons throughout their years. Ron and Debbie also loved watching UCONN Women's basketball and were season ticket holders to the Connecticut Sun and never missed a

When the games are able to resume, we know the loudest cheers for his youngest grandson Yianni will be coming from heaven.

A graveside service will be held for Ron in late Spring 2021, at Westfield Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in his memory to Special Olympics. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.

Jeffrey N. Guillot, 49

GROSVENORDALE Jeffrey N. Guillot, Age 49, of Red Bridge Rd. formerly of Medford, MA,



ing, December 13, 2020 in Day Kimball Hospital surrounded by his loving family and friends. Born in Putnam, he was the son of Laurent "Larry" Guillot of N. Grosvenordale and

the late Louise Ann (Naum) Guillot.

After high school, Jeffrey pursued a career in modeling in the U.S. and abroad. He eventually settled in the Boston area, and with a flair for fashion, a trait he clearly inherited from his mother, he worked in the fashion clothing merchandising field. In recent years, he worked for Cole Haan clothier of Newbury St. in Boston as an Associate Sales Manager.

Jeffrey enjoyed being a member of local gay softball, basketball, and flag football leagues throughout the Boston area. He also enjoyed hiking, walking, working out, doing crafts, and reading. Jeffrey enjoyed taking vacations with family and friends, particularly trips to Provincetown in the summer.

Jeffrey lived his short life to the fullest. Never afraid to wear his emotions on his sleeve, or to share his opinions freely. If you were fortunate to have Jeffrey as your friend, soon your family and friends were his friends, and he remembered and cherished you all. Jeffrey was a Warrior in his battle with cancer. Dignified to the end. A true inspiration to those he met along

In addition to his father, he is survived by his siblings; Gregory Guillot and loving companion Tanda Dumas of Putnam, and Andrea Cronin and her husband John of Tolland. He was the "Funcle" to Elizabeth, Alexander, Maddie, Kathryn, Victoria, Delaney, and Olivia. Also his lifelong best friend and confidante, Jessica Lechner, along with his extended network of friends throughout the world. He will also be truly missed by his furry bedmate "Maeve".

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Jeff's family from 2:00PM to 4:00PM and 6:00PM to 8:00PM on Friday, December 18, 2020 in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2020, in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, please meet directly at church. Burial will be held at a later date in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge, MA.

Memorial donations may be made to either the Boston Medical Oncology Developmental Department c/o Boston Medical Center, Office of Development, 801 Massachusetts Avenue, First Floor, Boston, MA 02118-2393 or the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168. For memorial guestbook visit www. GilmanAndValade.com. Due to the current Corona Virus pandemic please wear masks at both the funeral home and church as well as practice social distancing.

Wanda V. Robbins, 99

THOMPSON-Wanda (Vandi) died Tuesday morning, December 8, 2020 at Westview Healthcare. She was the wife of the late Raymond E. Robbins. Born in Santarcangelo, Italy,

> she was the daughter of the late Aurelio and Louisa (Bruni) Vandi.

> On May 1st, 1965 in Thompson she was united in marriage to Raymond E. Robbins who passed away in 1982. Mrs. Robbins

worked for many years in the admitting department of Day Kimball Hospital.

Mrs. Robbins was a member of the Daughters of Isabella and a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in N. Grosvenordale, and she cherished

the quality time that she spent with her family and friends at her beloved Quaddick Lake.

Wanda is survived by her sister in laws, Mary Vandi, Mercedes Robbins, Carol Smith and her husband Robert, Norma O'Leary and her husband Ernest, and Louise Robbins; her nephew Michael Vandi and his wife Janene; and her great nieces Allyson and Michaella. She was predeceased by her brothers, Mario Vandi and Joseph Vandi.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Wanda's family from 9:30a.m. to 10:00a.m. on Saturday, December 12, 2020 in the St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00a.m. Burial will follow in E. Thompson Cemetery. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

Natalie Ann Basto Alexander Kennison

Natalie Ann Basto Alexander Kennison of Agusta, Maine May 24, 1941 to October 19, 2020



Natalie was born at Daykimball Hospital in Putnam, Ct on May 24, 1941 and passed away on October 19. 2020 surrounded by her family she was raised in Woodstock, Ct where she attended Eastford Baptist

church during school years and later moved to Agusta, Maine where she continued to expand her family.

Worked as a dishwasher, Lockeed Aluminum, In a weaving mill and was a glass cutter.

She loved singing and dancing mostly Gospel songs with her brothers and sisters, loved to make braided rugs, crocheting blankets and dollies. Her favorate color was blue she also loved butterflies, but most of all she loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Natalie was the daughter of the late Dorothy and Francis Basto, she was one of seven children. She was predeceased by soms, Jody Alexander and Duane Mark Foux Jr.

She is survived by four sisters, Judy, Gail, Carolyn and Faye, two brothers, Ronnie and Dana all residing in Connecticut. She is also survived by her children Daughters Jackie Lee Beauvais of Connecticut, Billie-Jo Welliver of Maine, and Tina Marie Contios of Rhode Island, sons Jammie Alexander of Maine and Jessie Alexander of Maine, 18 grandchildren and 46 great grand-children several of whom reside in Wiscasset area.

Natalie passed away peacefully with her family by her side while music was playing.

Memorial services to be held at a later time, Please contact Billie-Jo at 207-751-6383, Jackie at 860-315-0416 or Tina Contois 401 225 3174 for further information. May she forever rest in peace and fly high with the angels.

PFC William J Fedorowicz

PFC William J Fedorowicz died December 6th 20/20 at home in New Port Richey FL after losing his year-



long battle with pancreatic cancer. Bill was born June 12th 1948 in Providence RI to Ruth(nee McBride) William Fedorowicz(both predeceased). Bill graduated Killingly High School and after

graduation joined the Army to served his country and was sent to Vietnam. After his tour of duty, he was honorably discharged in 1970. Bill then enrolled and graduated from Johnson & Wales College in Providence RI with

a BA in marketing. For 20 years he was sales person for the family business in Crompton, RI. Bill then moved to Tucson, AZ and work selling cars. He then moved to FL where he met and married his dear Marselina and settled there making FL his home. Bill was a good man with a great generous spirit and a" tell it like it is" attitude. He was a very witty man . This made him a lot of friends, and when you were his friend you are a friend for life. Bill loved to ride his Harley year-round in FL and lived his life to the fullest until the very end. He is survived by wife Marselina, sisters Karen and Paula nephew Jonathan In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Pancreatic Cancer Society

Michael John Cartier, 39

THOMPSON - Michael John Cartier, 39, of Thompson Rd., passed away on December 10, 2020 at his home. He



was born in Putnam, CT on June 22, 1981 and lived most of his life in the Thompson

Michael was a loyal Bruins and Patriots fan. He enjoyed fishing, four-wheeling, and spending time

with his dogs. Michael always put others first and wore his heart on his sleeve.

He is survived by his beloved mother, Brinda Cartier of Thompson, CT; his sister. Jesse Cartier and her wife Lynsey of Woodstock, CT; numerous aunts: uncles: and cousins. His death is preceded by his father, the late Bernard

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Michael's family from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday December 17, 2020 in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main Street, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. If attending, please wear a mask and respect social distancing. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Thimothy Michael Beaudreau, 72

Thimothy Michael Beaudreau passed away on December 9th, 2020 at the age of 72. He was born on May



28, 1948 in Putnam. CT to Antoinette and Charles Beaudreau Sr. of Dayville. Thimothy married Judith Gendron of Vernon, CT in July of 1985 where they raised one daughter, Darci Beaudreau.

Thimothy enlisted in the Marines, in 1970 and served two years in the Vietnam war. Thimothy was a great craftsman and was known for his wise-cracking sense of humor. He could tell one joke after another. One of his favorite sayings



to his wife was "Pack your trash" whenever he was ready to leave somewhere. He loved to stay busy and he was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone who needed it. He also loved playing cards with his friends

on Saturdays.

Thimothy was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, his brother Charles

2019

Beaudreau Jr. and his sister Frances (Beaudreau) Higgins. He is survived by his sister Patricia LaTour and her husband Timothy LaTour of Danielson.

Also his daughter Darci, his grandson Devon and two great children Sienna and Angelo all of Pennsylvania and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring at an outdoor location TBD

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LEGALS

TOWN OF THOMPSON

At the December 8, 2020 meeting of the Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission the following application was approved: Application # IWA20044, Town of Thompson, West Thompson Rd (Assessor's maps 48 & 50, blocks 104 & 103, respectively, no lot #), replace existing culvert carrying Wheaton Brook under West Thompson Rd.

On December 3, 2020 the following wetlands agent approval was issued with conditions: Application #WAA20045, James Fogarty, 0 Brickyard Rd. (Assessor's map 38. block 87, lot 6), construction of a driveway in the 100-foot upland review area for a new single family home.

George O'Neill, Chair December 18, 2020

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On December 7, 2020, the Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agency granted wetlands approval for application 10-20-32 - George Harakaly, 10 Loyola Road Ext. - replace existing wall with concrete wall on same footprint. Chair Mark Parker. December 18, 2020

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FOOD DRIVE

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concept was, of course, due to the ongoing pandemic as thev wanted to make people feel comfortable donating without having to leave their cars. The response was beyond anything the WBA expected.

'We wanted to do this in a COVID friendly way where people didn't have to get out of their

cars. They just popped their truck and we brought it right over to the TEEG truck so that we could do it safely. Everybody wants to do something this year, but it's hard to know what to do safely. People were super generous. We got bags and bags of food and they made cash donation as well. The community really came together for this and we have people from out of state also stop by to donate while they

Latkes

Serves 12

(Potato Pancakes)

how much we had. Donations were steady all day and I think we surpassed what we thought we were going to get."

serve between 230 and 250 families for the Christmas holiday. The food drive was complimented by several smaller food drives held by Woodstock businesses throughout the months of November and December.

said. "We were so excited with CEREMONY

The donations will help TEEG



Potato pancakes are traditionally

served during Chanukah celebrations.

This dish is often referred to as "lat-

kes," a Yiddish word that loosely trans-

to Jewish celebrations and cuisine. Germans have their own variation called "kartoffelpuffer" that can be served with sour cream, applesauce or

smoked salmon. The Irish have "boxty,"

which may be made with a combination

of shredded potato and mashed potato

Many potato pancake recipes are

quite similar. They involve only a few

ingredients and fry up in a flash. Some

chefs recommend draining the shred-

ded potato prior to cooking so that the

pancakes will fry up crispy and not be

soggy or break apart. Enjoy this recipe

for "Latkes," courtesy of AllRecipes.

Potato pancakes are not exclusive

lates to "little oily thing."

before being fried. .

Around 750 pounds of food was collected to support TEEG's holiday distribution program during the Woodstock Business Association's drive-threw food drive on Dec. 13.

large potatoes, peeled and shredded

Serve potato pancakes for holiday celebrations

small onion, shredded

large eggs 3

teaspoon salt

tablespoons all-purpose flour, or as needed

cup vegetable oil

1. Place the potatoes and onion into a bowl, and stir in eggs, salt and flour as needed to make the mixture hold together. With wet hands, scoop up about 1/3 cup of the mixture per patty, and form into flat round or oval shapes.

2. Heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat until it shimmers, and gently place the patties into the hot oil. Fry until the bottoms are golden brown and crisp, 5 to 8 minutes, then flip with a spatula and fry the other side until golden.

3. Line a colander or strainer with 2 paper towels, and drain the cooked latkes in the colander. Serve hot. TF20C562



Enjoy this recipe for "Latkes," courtesy of AllRecipes.com.

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all too well the benefits of the hospice program as his wife spent her final years in hospice care which inspired him to get involved. Years later, he remains a part of the hospice community and has helped lead the Tree of Life effort for the last two seasons to help others honor those they have lost and educate the community of the good work the hospice care program provides.

"I firmly believe that it takes a very special calling to join the hospice team. Therefore, it gives me a great sense of thankfulness to be part of the hospice program. While we are not able to closely gather at each of the eleven sites throughout Northeastern Connecticut this evening, as we light the tree of life, it is my hope that wherever you may be, you will light a memory tree of your own. In doing so I hope that you will feel a sensing a part of the entire community to not only remember your loved ones who have passed on but to honor those who provide end of life care,' Franklin said.

Kim Durand, a clinical

manager, spoke on behalf of the hospice team at Day Kimball Homecare and said that while the holidays may be a tough time for those who are living without their loved ones, it's also a time to reflect on memories made and the special relationships formed by those who are no longer here to celebrate.

"When someone chooses hospice, they reshape the meaning of hope and show us that hope is never lost, but just changed," Durand said. "They are now hoping for comfort, peace, and most often to just spend time with the ones that they love to create lasting memories when they are no longer with us. Each light on this tree is a symbol of the love for friends and family and a symbol of hope. May we not walk from here in the darkness but carry the light of our love for all to see."

The ceremony concluded with the lighting of all the trees throughout Northeastern Connecticut and recognition of the donors who sponsored each tree for 2020. A complete video of the ceremony can be found on the Day Kimball Healthcare YouTube channel and Facebook page.

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EASTCONN's Arts at the Capitol Theater Magnet High School.

Woodstock Academy has both a north campus, located in Woodstock at 57 Academy Road, and a south campus, located in Woodstock at 150 Route 169.

The south campus is a residential campus. At the south campus we have start prep programs for boys' soccer and girls' ice hockey.

international boarding students, we have domestic boarding students, and we have dorms," Saucier explained. "The boarding component allows us to offer a prep basketball program and

COUNCIL

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agreed that small businesses have already been hurt enough from the pandemic shutdown, and they would disagree with imposing further restrictions on local businesses.

Councilor Ernest Lee, the Council's liaison to the Killingly Business Association, said Black Pond Brew is not alone in their concerns. A recent meeting with the KBA revealed numerous businesses are fearing another shutdown while some have even taken to spending more money just to bring customers in the door.

One of the local restaurant owners remarked that she actually has to give away food to be able to serve people who want to have a drink. So, she's giving away slices of pizza at her cost just so she can be in compliance. They did express a fear of being fined if they step over the line. These small businesses have been really bending over backwards, doing the best they can to survive and they are very frustrated with the restrictions placed upon them. That's their livelihood and many of

"These prep programs serve a lot of different purposes," Saucier continued. "Obviously, they serve enrollment purposes. We want to get kids and fill our dorms, like any other private school, boarding or day. We're always looking to maximize our enrollment. Being an independent school that has boarding students, and the fact that we participate in a public school athletic league, creates a lot of issues for us because there are rules we need to follow.'

Saucier said an international student at Woodstock Academy on an f1 visa is not allowed to play a Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) varsity sport in their first year at the school.

them are just struggling to get by," Lee

Lee's comments led to a surge of input from different members of the Council, most of them speaking against further restrictions. Councilor Ulla Tiik-Barclay went so far as to say she believes the COVID-19 numbers are being inflated by the number of symptom-free positive cases. She also said it's easy for lawmakers to ask businesses to shut down when their income is unaffected by the pandemic.

"I think if the municipalities and the people that were paid their salaries had to have their salaries and their livelihoods cut, I believe it would take a different stance. The businesses cannot go on. If you don't want to be in a restaurant then don't go to a restaurant. You can't go to a restaurant and eat with a mask on. This is already how many months going on and people have been wearing their mask and people have still be getting COVID. Also, I think the statistics are skewed," Tiik-Barclay said later, reiterating a common complaint that while small business suffer, big box stores have yet to make the same major sacrifices during the pandemic. "How about if we closed Walmart down? I

"Essentially what that means is, if we get a junior from who knows where, who just chooses to come to our school to study, and they're a good athlete — a mature varsity athlete — they can't compete their first year in the CIAC.

'That's problematic for us," Saucier said, "because we want to be able to provide equal opportunities to all our students, whether they're from down the street or across the word. The prep programs are going to allow our international students an opportunity to play regardless of what grade they're in or when they come to our school. Really what we're trying to do is provide an equal opportunity for all our students whether they're day, local, or interna-

think there would be a huge problem with Walmart's corporation with having that store closed down. Those small businesses, they don't have a leg to stand on. We have to support them.

Offering a different take, Councilor Ed Grandelski said he appreciated the struggles businesses like Black Pond Brew are facing, but he also feels businesses that aren't following the protocols are negatively impacting the town as a whole by helping contribute to the rise in COVID cases in the community.

"I appreciate the comments about excessive issues with the businesses, but my recent experience is, I have a number of businesses I will not go to. You go there, no masks are being worn. I wear my mask all the time. Maybe if they went to all the businesses and everybody followed the rules, I might be more likely to go along with some of this stuff, but it's not a hundred percent followed. If I engage someone in a store about not wearing a mask I'm chastised. It's not a big thing to wear a mask. If they can't follow that minimal social inconvenience to try to stop this I don't know where we're going and the numbers are going way out of whack. This is uncharted territory no matter how

tional students."

The sitting-out-a-year obstacle doesn't exist at the prep school level. Student-athletes participating in those sports can play right away at Woodstock

"We're trying to build a program that services all our students, not just the ones who live in the local area," Saucier said. "We still have our traditional high school athletics. Anything on the prep level is above and beyond our high school program. We're going to still have our traditional high school boys' soccer program which we've always

we look at it," Grandelski said. "We've got to take the responsibility ourselves and make the compliance, so we don't get the numbers where they are, we get

Offering something close to a middleof-the-road argument on the subject, Councilor Raymond Wood, II said that businesses do need to be responsible, but they also shouldn't be punished because of those who decide to break

"The reality is, it's not unprecedented. We've delt with pandemics before as a nation. We've continued on. We understand that we don't want people to die because of a disease. It's sad when anybody dies of any disease or accident – The reality is personal responsibility has to come first and I believe people will always do what they believe is right. Not everybody does, but the majority of people will do what is right and we cannot punish businesses, especially small businesses, for some bad faith actors," Wood said.

As of Dec. 10, Killingly was still considered a "red" community, along with most of Connecticut. The town's average was at 55 cases per 100,000 residents.

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Start new caroling traditions

Caroling is a symbol of community that once was a wildly popular holiday tradition but has largely fallen by the wayside. According to the Pew Research Center, about 16 percent of Americans reported caroling in 2017. However, this once-beloved tradition can be brought back with vigor.

History of caroling

Caroling evolved from the practice of wassailing. The word "wassail" is derived from the Old Norse phrase "ves heill," which translates to "be well and in good health." As early as the 13th century, people in England would travel between houses to go wassailing and wish their neighbors well during the winter months. In some places, the word "wassail" referred to a hot and thick spiced beverage given to travelers to help them stay warm. It is the precursor to modern-day mulled wines, cider

Caroling largely remained separate from Christmas until Saint Francis of Assisi incorporated similar well wishes and songs into his Christmas services. Music was embraced as part of liturgical services during the holiday season.

Caroling today

Many caroling sessions now take place inside of churches or schools as part of choral performances. However, with social distancing limitations in place, it may be the ideal time to once again implement door-to-door caroling. This can help bring cheer to people who may be missing loved ones who can't travel, and may even buoy the spirits of those who have been spending more time alone in their homes.

These tips can make caroling more successful.

· Find someone with some musical knowledge to guide the group. While everyone needn't be the next star singer, it helps if one person can help keep the group in time and in tune.

· Choose familiar songs. Select a body of music that is familiar to all. Songs such as "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," "Deck the Halls," and "The 12 Caroling is a symbol of community that once was a wildly popular holiday tradition but has largely fallen by the wayside.

Days of Christmas" are easily recognizable. The more familiar the song, the easier it is for carolers to follow the tune. Have roughly 10 songs and rotate as needed when visiting homes.

 Map out your course. Caroling can take place over several days as carolers visit various parts of their communities. A caroling session may last about an hour or two.

· Dress for weather. Layer clothing and agree on some festive trimmings that unite the caroling group. Wear comfortable shoes for walking.

 Advertise your intentions. Let others know that carolers will be stopping by on particular dates so they can come out on their front porches or doorsteps. Follow social distancing guidelines if necessary and urge spectators to avoid congregating too closely in one place.



Caroling is a great way to enjoy the holiday season responsibly. HL20A338

How to avoid foggy eyeglasses

Billions of people across the globe need eyeglasses to drive a car, read a book, watch television, and perform a host of other tasks of daily life.

Although glasses are highly effective, people who wear them understand they may have to make a few concessions while doing so. Unlike contact lenses, which sit directly on the eye, glasses rest on the bridge of the nose. They may slightly impede peripheral vision or even slip down if not properly fitted. Those accustomed to wearing glasses in the cold weather understand fogging of the lenses is a nuisance they may be forced to confront. That nuisance became even more profound when masks became a must-have accessory to help curb the spread of the COVID-19

Glasses may fog due to the formation of condensation on the lens surface, which happens when moving from a cold outdoor environment into a warm indoor one. This is a problem that has affected eveglass wearers for some time, including health professionals who often wear masks. The issue has become even more widely known due to the sheer number of people who have been wearing face masks as a public health safety measure.

So how does one counteract the condensation and fogging that occurs from both winter weather and increased mask usage? There are a few different methods, but eyeglass wearers should always consult with an optometrist to verify the safety and efficacy of any method before trying it.

Use soapy water

A 2011 study published in the Annals

of The Royal College of Surgeons of England found that washing eyeglasses in soapy water and shaking off the excess can help reduce fogginess. Afterward, let the spectacles air dry before putting them back on. The soapy water leaves behind a thin surfactant film that reduces surface tension and causes the water molecules to spread out evenly into a transparent layer. This can help prevent fogging.

Use a commercial product

Antifogging products are widely used to prevent fogging of scuba masks or ski

Get a mask that fits tightly

Make sure the mask fits securely over the nose, advises The Cleveland Clinic. Also, a mask with a nose bridge will help keep warm exhaled breath from exiting up to the glasses. Use your glasses to help seal the mask on your face by pulling the mask up higher on the nose. Block breath with a tissue

The AARP suggests placing a folded tissue between your mouth and the mask. The tissue will absorb the warm, moist air, preventing it from rising up to reach the glasses.

Adjust the fit of glasses

Choosing glasses that sit further away from the face can improve air circulation and reduce the formation of condensation.

Consider other options

If these tricks seem like a lot of work, you also can speak to an eye doctor about contact lenses or eye surgery.

Fogging of glasses has been a problem for some time, but has become more widespread thanks to the use of masks during the pandemic. TF211639

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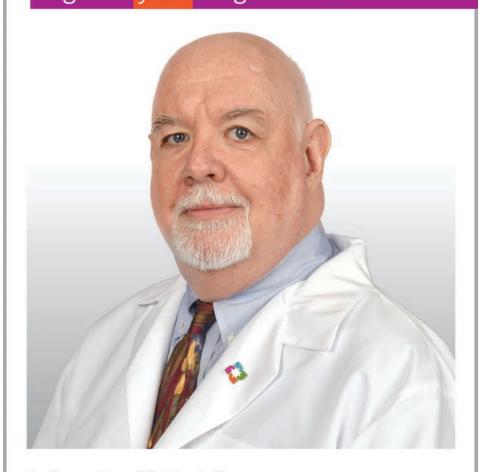
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