

Brendan Phaneuf of Danielson named Marianapolis Valedictorian



Brendan Phaneuf

THOMPSON — Brendan Phaneuf, son of David and Jessica Phaneuf of Danielson, Connecticut, was named the Marianapolis Preparatory School Class of 2020 valedictorian, earning the highest academic spot in a class of 99 students. Brendan delivered the valedictory address at the School’s virtual graduation on May 30.

Prior to Marianapolis, Brendan attended Sacred Heart School in Taftville. With 15 honors and AP® level courses, he earned the distinction of AP® Scholar, and was inducted into both the National Honor Society and the Chinese National Honor Society. Brendan was the sophomore class president, winner of the Friends of Marianapolis Award in the 10th grade, and the Harvard Book Prize in the 11th grade. He is currently the Student Council treasurer and a Peer Leader. Brendan has been a staple in the drama program, having appeared in seven productions during his time at Marianapolis.

Reflecting on how Marianapolis has impacted him, he said, “I have grown from the self-contained person I was when I entered. I thought that I could make it through all by myself, without needing any kind of meaningful relationships. However, I’m glad I was proven wrong, as my life has been changed for the better thanks to the actions of the staff and students at Marianapolis. It helped me understand that it’s okay to rely on other people for help.”

“Brendan is a scholar, artist, student leader, and a wonderful young man,” said Head of School Joseph Hanrahan. “We will miss Brendan’s quick wit and the positive energy he has brought to our community. I am confident that Brendan will make a major impact at Providence College next year. The Friars are blessed to have Brendan join their ranks.”

Brendan will be attending Providence College in Providence, R.I. He has not declared a major yet, but would like to work in the film or television industry one day.

Day Kimball Hospital re-opens main entrance

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Hospital (DKH) is re-opening its Main Entrance for patients accessing the hospital for select services, as part of its gradual reactivation plan.

Effective Wednesday, June 3, at 5:30 a.m., the Main Entrance at Day Kimball Hospital (Entrance A at the back of the hospital) will be open for patients coming to the hospital for the following services:

- Day Kimball Medical Group OB/GYN and Pediatric Center
- Day Kimball Hospital Surgical and Endoscopy Services
- Day Kimball Hospital Oncology Services
- Day Kimball Hospital Laboratory
- Northeastern Asthma & Allergy Associates, LLC

The Main Entrance at the hospital will be open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. through 8 p.m. On weekends, it will be open from 8 a.m. to noon for laboratory patients only.

“Day Kimball is continuing to proceed with an abundance of caution as we enter this time of recovery,” said John O’Keefe, chief nursing officer and vice president of patient services, Day Kimball Healthcare.

“We will continue to screen anyone coming to our facility, and markings along the sidewalk coming into the main lobby and along the corridor in front of the lab registration area are being installed to demonstrate social distancing,” said O’Keefe.

“We are continuing to limit visitors at our buildings until further notice,” O’Keefe continued.

“In very limited circumstances, exceptions may be made to this visiting policy at the discretion of medical and/or nursing leadership. Exceptions will also be considered for individuals with developmental, physical, mental and/or other

Please Read **DAY KIMBALL**, page **A7**

Marianapolis Preparatory School graduates 99

THOMPSON — For the first time in the history of Marianapolis, graduation was held virtually on Saturday, May 30. The class of 2020, which graduated 99, hails from three states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island), and 11 countries (Austria, China, Czech Republic, Ireland, Kuwait, Mexico, Serbia, South Korea, Turkey, United States, and Vietnam). Families from around the world tuned in to watch the ceremony which included the announcement of the senior awards, as well as speeches from Head of School Joseph Hanrahan, valedictorian Brendan Phaneuf (Danielson), and salutatorian

Elizabeth Schoemer (Oxford, Mass.).

The class of 2020 will be remembered in the history of Marianapolis for several reasons, not only due to the unique ending to their high school career. Beginning in the fall of 2016, the class of 2020 was the first to take part in the Ninth Grade Experience - a combination of a Humanities course and the Casimir Seminar. Both courses aimed at better preparing the freshman for the remainder of their high school years. Beyond the Ninth Grade Experience, the class of 2020 is the first class to graduate members from the Centers of Excellence. In addition to their diplomas, 18 seniors also

received certificates from the Business & Entrepreneurship and Civic Engagement & Service Centers.

Salutatorian Elizabeth Schoemer, who will be attending Trinity College, reminisced on the last four years, and while the class has had its ups and downs, and may not be perfect, “We make up for it by being us. By being: ‘resilient, strong, cool, determined, epic, creative, hard-working, perseverant, powerful, talented, unforgettable, weird, smart, ridiculous, wild, fun, memorable’ and, the most sentimental of all of the Google Form responses, a ‘family.’”

Valedictorian Brendan Phaneuf echoed Schoemer’s

sentiments – saying that the class has grown stronger together through many unpredicted obstacles.

“No matter what unexpected things were brought our way,” he said, “we had each other to rely upon. And I don’t think that’s been more evident than in these past few months. Despite being kept apart; we’ve found our ways to keep connected. When obstacles came our way, we could unite to become an unrelenting force. I don’t think I’ve ever seen such a resilient group of people in my life, and I don’t know if I ever will again.”

During his farewell address, Head of School Joseph Hanrahan touched upon the

impact that the class has had on Marianapolis, saying, “It is obvious to me that the class of 2020 is destined to reach heights that are not yet imagined.”

“You are educated in the Catholic tradition of excellence,” Hanrahan said. “You are prepared to meet any challenge. You are prepared to create opportunities for yourselves and others. You are prepared to effect change for good and what is right. Your faith, your creativity, and your passion will carry the day.”

Marianapolis Class of 2020 in Alphabetical Order

Ali Abdel-Jalil, Bayan, Kuwait; Michael Acquah-

Please Read **GRADUATION**, page **A7**

The Scranton Shops – an antique history



Photos Courtesy

Scranton’s Shops in South Woodstock as it appeared in the 19th century (left) and as it looks today (right).

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — Antiques are gems from a different time. Each has a memory, a story of where they came from. To Debra and Richard Nielsen, owners of Scranton’s Shops in South Woodstock, preserving antiques is as important as preserving the building where they sell them.

The large, sans serif letters sprawled on the front of the building read “Scranton’s Antiques,” leaving no doubt to passersby what this building is all about. Yet, prior to its renovation in 1984, this build-

ing in South Woodstock wasn’t an antique store. Much like many other fascinating places in Connecticut, the building has been around for decades and has functioned in different ways throughout the years. Since its foundation was laid, it has been used as a blacksmith shop, a bus shop, a post office, and an auto repair station.

In the mid-1800s, the store was run as a blacksmith shop. Family records show that Maggie Scranton purchased the property from Darius Fisher as a homestead for herself and a workplace for her husband, Asa Robert Scranton I. There, the Scranton family maintained a business of building buggies, black-



smithing, and later repairing cars. Eventually, increased growth in the auto repair business led them to build a southernmost addition in 1930. This addition was connected to the house by a long center area that the Scrantons used to house the town’s school bus, nicknamed “Blue Bird.” Later, in the early 1950s, the automotive shop transitioned to a post office.

It wasn’t until 1984 that Asa Robert Scranton IV, otherwise known as Bob Scranton, transformed this 3,800-square-foot building into an antique shop. Though Bob died in 1999, his wife Gail maintained the shop until 2005, when she sold it to Debra and Richard Nielsen, the current owners.

Those who visit the shop are greeted by a large assortment of antiques, vintage furniture, and collectibles. Hundreds of unique treasures from over 85 dealers line the walls and clutter the floor—everything from old kitchenware to children’s playthings. Stepping into each of the 7 rooms is like stepping into a time machine, leading visitors deeper down and around the elaborate halls of history.

“We acquire items from all areas,” said Debra Nielsen. “Estate sales, private parties, yard sales, flea markets, and other shops.”

Since merchandise changes on a weekly basis, visitors are sure to

Please Read **SHOPS**, page **A7**

QVCC Foundation recognizes 2020 scholarship winners

DANIELSON — Congratulations to all 2020 QVCC Foundation Scholarship recipients. The QVCC Foundation is pleased to award more than \$135,000 in scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic school year. Thank you to our all of our donors who continue to support students in Northeast Connecticut and allow them the opportunity to receive an excellent education at Quinebaug Valley Community College.

While we are unable to congratulate our scholarship winners in person at our annual Scholarship Night, we are excited to announce this year's recipients:

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Allison Hall
bankHOMETOWN Scholarship (Transferring Student)
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THE PUTNAM VILLAGER (025-154), THE THOMPSON VILLAGER (024-998) THE KILLINGLY VILLAGER (025-004) AND THE WOODSTOCK VILLAGER (024-999) ARE PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS, P.O. BOX 90, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT WOODSTOCK, CT AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICE(S). POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

VILLAGER STAFF DIRECTORY

NEWS EDITOR, BRENDAN BERUBE 860-928-1818 x 323 brendan@villagernewspapers.com	ADVERTISING MIKAELA VICTOR ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE 860-928-1818, EXT. 313 mikaela@villagernewspapers.com
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FOR ALL OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
KERRI PETERSON
860-928-1818 EXT. 303
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS ARE PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER FRANK G. CHILINSKI 860-928-1818 EXT. 103 frank@villagernewspapers.com	EDITOR BRENDAN BERUBE 860-928-1818 x 323 brendan@villagernewspapers.com
BUSINESS MANAGER RYAN CORNEAU 860-928-1818 EXT. 102 ryan@salmonpress.news	PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE 860-928-1818, EXT. 305 julie@villagernewspapers.com

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

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At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 25: Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Yellow-throated Vireo, Eastern Wood Pewee, Wood Duck, American Woodcock, Barred Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Veery, Wood Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Louisiana Waterthrush, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Eastern Towhee. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Safety tips for open water swimming

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION — Connecticut offers more than 20 beaches and dozens of swimming holes across the state. As the warmer weather begins to roll in, more and more people will be heading to these areas to escape the heat. Swimming is a great way to cool off and exercise while staying socially distanced, but it can also lead to dangerous circumstances such as drowning and bacteria contamination.

According to CT.gov, unintentional drowning accounts for 27 deaths in Connecticut every year. Of these cases, 25.6 percent occur in natural water—lakes, rivers, oceans, and streams. Drowning becomes a risk when people don't follow the proper safety measures. Below are a few tips to keep you and your children stay safe while swimming in fresh water this summer.

Adult safety

When planning to spend the day in the open water, decide what you need before you leave—bottled water, snacks, life jackets, sunscreen, water shoes, etc. As you prepare, also make sure to check the weather and stay aware of it throughout the day. Storms can roll in quickly. If you hear thunder, leave the water immediately. Do not return to the water until 30 minutes after the last thunder boom.

Pollution is another concern to many fresh-water swimmers. Be careful when swimming in rivers and ponds after rainy periods. High waters can be contaminated with sewage, insecticides, and other chemicals from the surround-



ing banks. If the water looks stagnant or oily, stay out. Connecticut lists the swimming conditions of many public sites online. Always follow their regulations and your own judgement.

Another thing to watch out for when swimming in open water is the current. A fast-moving current can pull even a good swimmer away from safety quickly. It's best to stay close to

land and out of risky areas, especially rocky areas or places where other people are boating. If you can, use the buddy system, as a second person can help in case of an emergency.

If you have been drinking alcohol, stay out of the water. Intoxication causes slower reactions and reduces attention to danger, leading to a higher risk of drowning. To stay safe, keep a

level head and don't do anything that could cause an accidental injury.

Children Safety

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger. When swimming, keep any children younger than five within an arm's reach and have them use swimming aids such as floaties. However, do not trust the swimming aids to protect your child, especially in open water or on a boat. Malfunctions are possible and can leave your children defenseless. Because of this, always supervise them and teach them to swim when they are old enough. If you notice a swimming child is beginning to get tired, ask him to take a break outside the water.

While supervising your children, make sure that they don't drink the water. Pond and river water can be contaminated with algae and can make your children extremely sick. Make sure to bring fresh bottled water for them to drink to avoid dehydration and a few snacks to keep their energy up.

If the area where the children will be swimming is rocky, consider buying water shoes to protect their feet from underwater debris, and make sure they wear sunscreen to prevent burns.

Stay safe and have fun

As you travel out to Connecticut beaches and swimming holes this summer, keep in mind these simple tips. We want you to stay safe and to have fun. You can check CT.gov for other safety information and specific details about the water quality in your area.

Finding a new normal – The lasting effects of COVID-19

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION — Since COVID-19 cases in Connecticut have begun to decline, changes are being made to progress toward normalcy. As of Sunday, the Connecticut totals stood at 42,201 cases and 3,844 deaths with the numbers beginning to taper. Only 52 new patients were hospitalized the day before. Windham County has remained the least affected area of Connecticut with 384 cases and only 14 deaths.

This positive dip in cases has led Gov. Ned Lamont to ease restrictions. On Friday, he raised the limit of inside gatherings from five people to 10 people. Also, he has allowed outside gatherings to have up to 25 people if they continue to socially distance.

This change is encouraging to many Connecticut residents who are eager to return to a state of normalcy, though some wonder if the world will ever be the same as it was before the outbreak. Some speculate that this pandemic will incite further pressure on healthcare workers to improve regulations and prepare for emergency situations of larger scales. Others wonder how the United States will cope with broken trust with China in both the traveling and manufacturing industries.

For now, where the road to recovery will lead is shrouded in speculation, but one thing is certain—public hygiene measures will continue to be of large concern. COVID-19 has created in people a heightened awareness of what they are touching and breathing, and this concern won't be easily forgotten. Regular hand washing and detailed sanitation will remain a part of life for some time.

Comfort is a huge concern as the world moves forward. People want to be safe, but they also want to feel safe. The virus has caused many shoppers to live with a sense of distrust of each other and fear for their security. This fear will not be easy to quell. Even after the masks come off, places of close quarters such as supermarkets, elevators, and airports may still carry a sense of discomfort for visitors—a discomfort that may take years to overcome.

Certain businesses are also suffering from the effects of the coronavirus as they reopen their storefronts. Connecticut employs more than 500 people in more than 2,100 business, 14 of which are Fortune 500 companies. Many of these businesses are encountering economic problems after their long closures. Federal relief programs will help them get back on their feet, but it will take time.

Though COVID-19 is a worldwide tragedy that will take time to recover from, many have found ways to stay happy and active during these challenging circumstances. Some families have found new hobbies or games to play together, while others have gone outdoors in pursuit of fun, creative ways to escape the house and to exercise. For some people, the coronavirus has created a new appreciation for the common household items that became sparse during the panic. Many have even begun growing their own fruits and vegetables as a self-sustaining measure in case similar circumstances arise again.

Since Connecticut restrictions were lifted on May 20, outdoor dining, retail stores, churches, and outdoor museums and zoos have once again been entertaining visitors. Ice cream shops are bustling, and normal everyday life seems to be returning.

By shutting off the news and stepping out into the lovely weather of a Connecticut afternoon, it becomes easier to believe that things will be back to normal soon. Until then, those who call the Constitution State home will continue to do their part in making their environment clean and safe for themselves and their neighbors.

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Former Putnam Bank officials elected to advisory roles at Centreville Bank

PUTNAM — John Miller, former vice chair of the Putnam Bank board of directors, has been elected to the board of trustees at Centreville Bank, announced Centreville’s President, CEO and Chairman of the Board Harold M. Horvat.

Miller also was elected to Centreville’s Corporators, as were former Putnam Bank leaders Thomas A. Borner, Esq., Robert J. Halloran, Jr., Richard A. Loomis, and Charles H. Puffer. Centreville’s Corporators consists of businesspeople providing insights into the communities served by the bank.

“We are fortunate to have the ongoing commitment of these individuals as the voices of Eastern Connecticut,” said Horvat. “They were instrumental in the long-term success of Putnam Bank, and we’ll be leaning on them for their insight and guidance as we write the next chapter of the bank’s long history.”

Miller is the president and owner of the National Chromium Company, Inc., Putnam, a metal finishing company that specializes in chromium and nickel coatings, servicing accounts across the United States. Prior to National Chromium, he worked as a management consultant for JPM Futuremanagement, and as director of human resources for Day Kimball Healthcare, both in Putnam. An adjunct instructor of business management at Quinebaug Valley Community College located in Danielson, Miller serves as president of the board of directors for Matulatis Nursing Home, Inc., in Putnam. In addition to his role as vice chair of Putnam Bank’s board, he served as compensation committee chair. Miller earned an undergraduate degree and an MBA from Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I.

Borner is the retired president and chief executive officer of Putnam Bank.

He served as a director of the bank since 1987, and as chairman of the board of the bank from 1992 to 2012. In addition, Mr. Borner was interim chief executive officer of the bank from 1999 to 2000. Since October 2005, Mr. Borner has been Of Counsel to the law firm of Borner, Aleman and Davis, LLC in Putnam, Connecticut. He received BS and JD degrees from the University of Connecticut.

Halloran retired as a Putnam Bank director and as its executive vice president and chief financial officer. He joined Putnam Bank and its parent company, PB Bancorp, Inc., in 2004 and, until his appointment as bank president from 2006 to 2012, served as senior vice president and chief financial officer of Putnam Bank and President and Treasurer of the PB Bancorp. Halloran earned a BS degree from Clark University in Worcester, Mass. and an

MBA from Clark University Graduate School of Business.

Loomis is a retired board member of Putnam Bank and a partner with The Loomis Team, LLC, which is a partnership affiliated with RE/MAX Bell Park Realty that has concentrations in residential and commercial sales and leases. Loomis is also a controlling partner in TLC Group, LLC. TLC Group concentrates in real estate development and investment.

Puffer is retired chairman of the board of Putnam Bank and former owner of Leschke-Puffer Insurance Agency. He worked for and owned Leschke-Puffer, which is located in Putnam, for over 35 years until the company was sold in 2010. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Bradley University. Puffer has been an active member of the Putnam Rotary Club for more than 33 years.

Day Kimball to host virtual hospice memorial garden planting ceremony

PUTNAM — Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, a program of Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH), will host its annual memorial garden planting ceremony virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The annual remembrance

ceremony honoring hospice patients who have passed away in the last year will be broadcast live through Day Kimball Healthcare’s Facebook page on Thursday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m.

The flower planting ceremony, held at Day Kimball Hospital’s Memorial Rainbow

Garden, creates a living tribute in the form of a memorial garden and offers Hospice families and the community a place to grieve, reflect, and remember their loved ones.

“This year, although we may be separated from each other physically, keeping our tradition of honoring our loved ones we have lost brings us closer together in spirit,” said Renee Smith, executive director, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home. “Through technology and determination, our dedicated team has created a moving tribute to honor the memory of lost loved ones we

have had the privilege to serve, which we hope will be just as meaningful as our ceremonies in years past.”

Visit Day Kimball Healthcare’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/daykimballhealthcare on Thursday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m. for a Facebook live stream of the commemoration.

To learn more about Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut visit www.daykimball.org/athome.

About Day Kimball Healthcare
Day Kimball Healthcare

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Swiss shoe company

5. __ Caesar, comedian

8. __ and flow

11. Horsefly

13. Egyptian pharaoh

14. African nation

15. Tony-winning actress Daisy

16. Initial public offering

17. Long-winding ridge

18. Guinea peoples

20. Fellow

21. About aviation

22. Able to make amends

25. Easy to perceive

30. Cut off

31. Northeast Thai language

32. Earthy pigment

33. Water nymphs

38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

41. Those who deal

43. Apply a new fabric

45. Confusions

48. “To __ his own”

49. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks

50. Heavy cavalry sword

55. Partner to pain

56. A type of savings account

57. In a way, felt pain

59. Wide-beamed sailing dinghy

60. Consume

61. Jewish spiritual leader

62. Body part

63. Midway between south and southeast

64. Check

CLUES DOWN

1. Indicates a certain time (abbr.)

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Central American lizard

4. Muslim military commanders

5. One who takes to the seas

6. Select jury

7. Parts of the small intestine

8. Painter’s accessory

9. Honk

10. Ballpoint pen

12. Large, dark antelope

14. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

19. Exhausts

23. __-bo: exercise system

24. Not written in any key or mode

25. Chinese principle underlying the universe

26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

27. Powdery, post-burning residue

28. Company that rings receipts

29. Rugged mountain range

34. Commercials

35. NY football player

36. A form of be

37. Soviet Socialist Republic

39. Kindnesses

40. Natural electrical phenomenons

41. Your

42. Diana __, singer

44. Upper surface of the mouth

45. National capital

46. Fluid in Greek mythology

47. Renowned jazz trumpeter

48. Freedom from difficulty

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. Revolutionaries

58. Criticize

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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D E T I V V R I E H C V

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B B E D I S V T V B

Saint Joseph School, North Grosvenordale to close

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Very Rev. David Choquette, Pastor of St. Therese Parish, has announced the closing of St. Joseph School in North Grosvenordale effective at the end of 2019-2020 School year.

In a letter addressed to the St. School Community, Father Choquette praised the dedication of so many over the years, explaining that, “the school has fallen into serious financial difficulty stemming primarily from

a significant decline in enrollment which has been trending downward for some time. The number of students that had been enrolled for next year was 84.”

Superintendent of Schools, Henry Fiore, Jr. stated, “It is never easy to see a Catholic school close, especially one that has served children for multiple generations, as St. Joseph School has. Unfortunately, the decline in enrollment led to unsustain-

able levels of subsidy, despite the valiant efforts of the principal, board, and entire school community. The effects of the coronavirus pandemic further weakened the financial position of the school and parish.”

Saint Joseph School has been in operation since 1882, and is one of 11 Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Norwich

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Brendan Berube, editor
brendan@villagernewspapers.com
Villager Newspapers

QVCC congratulates Class of 2020

DANIELSON — Nearly 150 Quinebaug Valley Community College students will receive degrees and certificates in QVCC’s 48th commencement, which will be virtually celebrated on QVCC’s Facebook and Instagram pages. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

PRESIDENT’S AWARD
Award given to the degree graduate with the highest academic average with at least 45 credits earned in residence at QVCC.

Garrett Lucas Sward (Engineering Science, 81 credits)

GRADUATES WITH A 4.0 GPA
Korrin Durning, William Kalvinek, Kristi Luchi, Tatiana Lukyanova, George Rosenberg, Monique Sanborn

LIST OF GRADUATES
Brooklyn: Alison Jean Brennan, Kimberly Ann Byrne, Kelsea Morgan

Carpenter, Lindsay Danielle Cartier, Austin Edward Cedio, Jeffrey Stevens Clang, Cheryl Lynn Clark , Andrew Richard Mario Davis, James Scott Dinnauer, Shane David Dort , Jillian Marie Earehart, Nathan J. Graveline, Amara V. Greene, K. Rebecca Haines, William Gordon Miano Hamill, Anthony M. Jean, Molly Katherine Johnson, Sherry Ann Lowe, Bradford Daniel McLeish, Taylor Nicole Morin, Alisha Marie Pedersen, Tiahma Latreece Rawls, Michael A. Scott, Robert P. Siwko, Justin Louis Soucy, Heather L. Tracy

Danielson: Karen Anne Aune, Meaghan A. Bellavance, Ricky Chanthaboury, Rachel Anne Coolidge, Phoebe Ann Corey, Rebecca L. Ducat, Amy Dufault, Jon A. Dufault, Chelsey J. Fisher, Maxim Ionkin, Michael A. Lee,

Jordan Phillip Mahon, Michaela Grace Marshall, Samantha Marie Morowski, Dayle Louise Parsons, Elizabeth C. Patton, Joshua R.G. Robichaud, Monique Grant Sanborn, Caleb M. Santangini, Brandon Michael Wallace

East Killingly: Muriel J. Pepper

Grosvenordale: Hunter Christian Raymond

Groton: Jennylyn Salva Duyan

Killingly: Bethany J. Oliver, Eliezer A. Violette

North Grosvenordale: Laura Melissa Durand, Heather Jean Gauthier-Bourgeois, Dylan A. Para

Pomfret Center: Hannahrose Andrews, Sydney Colleen Feragne, Thomas Raymond Kacerik, Cecily L. Warren, Raymond Matthew Rilling Jr.

Putnam: Steven Roy Davis, Kerryann J. Frenier, Veronica Saige Fuchs,

Kristen Gentile, Leah H. Jackson, Devin M. Leroy, Kris M. Levesque, William John Mathias, Andrew Joseph Montie, Sara Evelyn Rouillard, Garrett Lucas Sward, Abigail Amelia Thompson, Alicia Lynn Troiano, Brianna Joy Walsh, Ryan Louis Walsh, Tyson R. Winchell

South Woodstock: Cuinn Stevenson

Thompson: Lynzie Marie Hancock, Benjamin Paul Larson, Hannah Carole Weiss

Woodstock: Robert John Baldino, Carina Isabella Coman, Korrin L. Durning, Stephen Paul Gallo, André Michael Lamprey, Jared Caine Law, Sean R. McGroary, William Thomas Minkema

Woodstock Valley: Harrison Frost, Erin K. Manis, Jocelyn Marie Matulis

The optimism of the human spirit



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

The events unfolding as I pen this column are an insult to the human spirit. The unnecessary and terrible death of a fellow human being at the hand of someone we should trust is beyond the limits of the word tragic. I’ll resist dedicating the limited space available weekly by repeating what many other columnists are writing in the despair we all feel the over the death of George Floyd. My sympathies are with his family.

Buried in the tragedy is our nations return to human space travel. The weekend accomplishment of a wildly successful joint venture between SpaceX and NASA was something in which we should all take pride.

For the first time since 2011, American astronauts were delivered safely and successfully to the International Space Station by this collaboration between the private sector and the federal government. The United States of America has once again taken the lead and

made us all proud.

I think that all the advancements are not as important as the effect these achievements have on the human spirit. Space.com writes, “Many of us still remember the first time we saw Earth from the Moon’s orbit, when the astronauts of Apollo 8 filmed it on Christmas Eve, in 1968. Many argue this global awareness started the conservation movement, which might turn out to be the space program’s greatest spinoff and may save the earth’s climate in the long run. Many of us were inspired when we saw the astronauts walk on the Moon, and realized that if mankind could do that, we could do almost anything. The achievements of NASA’s unmanned spacecraft are phenomenal, and deserving of acclaim, but they don’t lift people’s spirits to these heights.”

Our return to manned space travel is important beyond the technology it inspires. I’m a Baby Boomer. I remember as if it were yesterday, the pride of the nation as our Mercury Astronauts were breaking new ground and taking our nation into space. We were taken out of our grade school classes and brought to the gymnasium while five hundred students

crowded around a small black and white television screen and struggled breathlessly to watch John Glenn become the first human being to orbit the earth. The technological climax of it all was as Neil Armstrong placed the first human foot in history on the Moon.

The pride and sheer joy of American’s have maybe never been higher since that day. It made our generation believe the stars were not the limits and we could achieve anything our minds could conceive. The very idea that we are on the path to sending astronauts to Mars is an incredible tribute to the indelible optimism of the human spirit. As Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX says, “There is a difference between improbable and impossible. If we are not defying the laws of physics, any challenge can be met and accomplished through engineering.” That is pure optimism and it’s true.

NASA says, “Human space exploration helps to address fundamental questions about our place in the Universe and the history of our solar system. Through addressing the challenges related to human space exploration we expand technology, create new industries, and help to foster a peaceful connec-

tion with other nations.”

The past benefits of our manned space efforts are often forgotten. Ranging from kidney dialysis, fetal heart monitors and programmable heart pace-makers, these are just the tip of the technological iceberg created by our efforts to reach out to the stars. Our return to space will undoubtedly not just provide celestial travel but once again bring our nation back to the forefront of technological advancement.

Unfortunately, this magnificent achievement in space has been forever scarred by one man’s indifference and lack of compassion for his fellow man. A human being who callously placed his knee on the throat of another simply because he had the power and could, has caused pain, suffering and death. If we can figure out how to catapult two men into space and return them safely, surely, we can learn to live in peace and harmony with others ... at least logic tells us so. Unfortunately, this week, logic, compassion, and love for one another is out the window.

I believe in the compassion and love of our human nature. I know we cannot allow the tragic actions of the few to destroy the lives of the majority. Those

of us who love must condemn and fight hate. Where there is good, there will also be evil, but we cannot give into this reality and must fight evil with love.

I’m left only this morning with prayer.

Heavenly Father,
You taught us through your words and example to love each other as we love ourselves. You commanded us not to murder, yet through all our advances, we seem unable to protect the vulnerable from the powerful. I pray for the family of George Floyd, that they will find peace amidst the chaos and comfort from their pain of loss. I pray for our nation and world to find healing and resolution to the hurt and anger rampaging through our communities and I pray fervently that we will finally internalize your words and love one another.”

Amen
I believe we will overcome. ■

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Celebrate diversity during Race Amity Day

PUTNAM — The Windham-Willimantic NAACP Chapter and Greater Putnam Interfaith Council (GPIC) urge you to observe Race Amity Day, Sunday, June 14 as a day for you and your family to celebrate the truth that our nation is comprised of multicultural, multi-ethnic people, and an opportunity for you to collectively encourage friendship, collegiality, civility, respect, and kindness among all our great nation’s citizens.

With few exceptions, the most ‘American’ of us can trace our lineage back through a few short generations to include ancestors who, themselves once were immigrants to this country, and were, in all probability, subject then to the alienation of distrust, disunity, and doubt that many in our country still struggle under. Let us then, in thanks to, and in the spirit of, those who came before us and what they surmounted, welcome, with open hearts and generous hands, all who are, after all, our fellow Americans.

We urge you to use Race Amity Day as an occasion to celebrate the most spiritual of qualities: kindness, humility, peace, and love in celebrating the commonly shared ideals of collective citizenry to which our nation aspires in its most noble, core beliefs, and to reflect and celebrate with amity, the beauty of the diverse garden peopled with the heritages of many backgrounds, that is our rich heritage.

We suggest that as individuals and families you meditate, pray, light a candle, plant a flower, or a tree to honor Race Amity. And of course, be kind to everyone, and promote this ideal that means so much to our collective, spiritual health and to our social well-being and fortune.

For more information, contact Lyn Tolar at tolar@inforesolution.com or 860-455-8144.

Avery Robinson, Danielson resident, named to Berea College Dean’s List

BEREA, Ky. — Avery Robinson, a resident of Danielson, has been named to the Spring 2020 Dean’s List at Berea College.

A student is named to the Dean’s List who achieves a GPA of 3.4 or higher while passing at least four total credits*, a course load equivalent to 16 semester hours.

Berea College is distinctive in higher education. Offering bachelor’s degrees in 34 majors, including arts and sciences and select professional programs, as well as independent majors designed by students to mirror approved majors at other colleges, Berea College awards four-year tuition scholarships to all its students, who because of financial circumstances cannot otherwise afford a high-quality, residential, liberal arts education.

All students are required to work at least 10 hours per week in campus and service jobs. Berea’s student labor program creates an atmosphere of democratic living that emphasizes the dignity of all work and provides opportunities for students to earn money for their

rooms, books, and board.

Founded upon inclusive Christian principles in 1855, Berea was the first interracial and coeducational college in the South. The college promotes understanding and kinship among all people, service to communities in Appalachia and beyond, and sustainable living practices that set an example of new ways to conserve our limited natural resources. More information about Berea can be found at www.berea.edu.

*For the Spring 2020 term, the minimum credits required to earn Dean’s List standing was changed to three due to the COVID-19 outbreak and campus closure.

Berea, the first interracial and coeducational college in the South, focuses on learning, labor, and service. Supported by Berea’s No-Tuition Promise, Berea College admits only academically promising students with limited economic resources, primarily from Appalachia. All students must work 10 hours or more weekly, earning money for books, room and board. The College’s motto “God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth,” speaks to its inclusive character, and the quality of its programs ensures that graduates from Berea go on to distinguish themselves and the College in many fields.

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Amiah Van Dyke achieves Dean’s List at Belmont University

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Amiah Van Dyke of North Grosvenordale qualified for the Spring 2020 Dean’s List at Belmont University. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Approximately 53 percent of Belmont’s 6,313 undergraduate students qualified for the Spring 2020 Dean’s List. Belmont Provost Dr. Thomas Burns said, “This achievement for the spring semester indicates that these students have placed a high priority on their work at Belmont and have invested time and energy in their studies. It is our strong belief that consistent application in this manner will reap great benefits, which will equip them for a lifetime of learning and growing.”

About Belmont University
Belmont University-home of the

October 22, 2020 Presidential Debate, the third and final in the election season-is made up of nearly 8,500 students who come from every state and more than 36 countries. Nationally ranked and consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report for its innovation and commitment to teaching, Belmont brings together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service. The University’s purpose is to help students explore their passions and develop their talents to meet the world’s needs. With more than 95 areas of undergraduate study, more than 25 master’s programs and five doctoral degrees, there is no limit to the ways Belmont University can expand an individual’s horizon. For more information, visit www.belmont.edu.

Becker College recognizes graduates

Becker College recognizes graduates

LEICESTER, Mass. — Becker College is pleased to announce the graduation of more than 430 students at a virtual commencement celebration, including the following local residents:

Alexandra Ablondi, of Thompson, has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

Audra Arel, of Danielson, has graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science, Veterinary Technology Concentration.

Joshua Holmes, of Putnam, has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Interactive Media Design, Game Production & Management Concentration.

Alexandra Lamontagne, of North Grosvenordale, has graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, Pre-PT/Health Science Concentration.

Curran Mead, of Quinebaug, has graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

To see Becker College’s Commencement page, including details on graduates, awards and a video message from President Crimmin, go to <https://www.becker.edu/student-life/commencement-2020/>

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

Spencer Fulone of Thompson elected to Lasell Student Alumni Association executive board

NEWTON, Mass. — Spencer Fulone, a Lasell University student from Thompson, was elected to the University’s Student Alumni Association (SAA) executive board for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Fulone, a Marketing major at Lasell, was elected the SAA’s President.

The SAA is comprised of student leaders, ranging from first years to seniors, who engage with the University’s alumni community. Members serve as a liaison

Baccalaureate nursing students who son to alumni on behalf of the current student community. They are high-capacity leaders looking for a leadership development experience that heightens awareness about Lasell’s history and traditions and inspires a commitment to lifelong engagement with the University.

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

President’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Halladay Glode of North Grosvenordale has been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Spring 2020 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better for the Spring 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. Glode is an Elementary Education major at Plymouth State.

About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Moosup resident receives scholarship from Focus on Veterans

MOOSUP — Focus on Veterans Inc. is awarding one of this year’s scholarships to Mitchell A. Barstow of Moosup.

Mr. Barstow completed the process of writing an essay on “Why Veterans are Homeless, and the solutions to this problem.” He is a graduate of Plainfield High School, and is an active member of the Natchaug Young Marines. His plan after graduation is to attend Plymouth State University. Upon college graduation he plans to enlist in the United States Marines.

One scholarship is still available. Qualification is having a family member who had military service with an honorable discharge and a 300 word essay on “Why Veterans are Homeless, and the solutions to this problem.” Applications can be forwarded by mail.

The mission of Focus on Veterans is to provide low cost housing to Veterans and provide free medical rides to facilities in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Territory covered is Eastern Connecticut and North Western Connecticut. Five cars and two mobility vans service approximately 800 veterans and spouses annually.

Emily King named to President’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Emily King of Brooklyn has been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Spring 2020 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better for the Spring 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. King is a Theatre Arts major at Plymouth State.

About Plymouth State University

demonstrate excellence in scholarship and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing are eligible for induction.

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

Halladay Glode named to

Kaylin Shipe inducted into Sigma Theta Tau honor society

LEICESTER, Mass. — Becker College is proud to announce that Kaylin Shipe, of Thompson, has been inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau honor society. Shipe is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

Sigma Theta Tau is the Honor Society of Nursing. To be inducted, students must have completed at least half of the nursing curriculum, have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0, rank in the top 35% of the graduating class and meet the expectation of academic integrity. Sigma Theta Tau’s mission is to develop nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere. Sigma has recognized the value of scholarship and excellence in nursing practice.

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Give the gift of life in Putnam June 10

PUTNAM — The Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse will host a blood drive Wednesday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Elks Club, 64 Edmond St., Putnam.

Just one donation can save three lives, so please register online for your time slot at www.redcrossblod.org/give/html/donation-time.

Weekday masses to resume at St. James Church

DANIELSON — St. James Church, 12 Franklin St., Danielson, will be open for weekday masses at 9 a.m. beginning June 8.

Visit our Web site, stjameschurch-danielson.com, for the Sunday Mass and all other updates

Graduation

continued from page A1

Harrison, Charlton, Mass.; Lily Alessandro, Pomfret Center; Owen Alicandro, North Oxford, Mass.; Zachary Atwood, Woodstock; Ryan Barnwell, Danielson; Nicholas Basley, Danielson; Phuong Bui, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Francesca Capalbo, Worcester, Mass.; Marielle Caparso, Worcester, Mass.; Panachai Chauychoo, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Pannawat Chauychoo, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Aidan Cook, Uxbridge, Mass.; Julia Crosby, Whitinsville, Mass.; Benjamin Daggett, Dudley, Mass.; Anh Dao, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Nina Darvish, Worcester, Mass.; Paul Davey, Oxford, Mass.; Eva Dellea, North Oxford, Mass.; Emily Dodos, Charlton, Mass.; Khanh Dong, Hanoi, Vietnam; Uyen Duong, Binh Duong, Vietnam; William Engle, Plainfield; Gilbert Fournier, Putnam; Zichen Gan, Kunming, China; Caroline Gardiner, Grafton, Mass.; Serena Godin, Glendale, R.I.; Juliette Golden, Millville, Mass.; Ethan Gosper, Danielson; Zachary Hall, Plainfield; Shuyi Han, Dalian, China; Michael Hanrahan, Thompson; Alyson Hartman, Holden, Mass.; Madeline Hollett, Charlton, Mass.; Katelyn Jacoboski, Willington; Sydney Kennison, Somers; Julia Kilroy, Upton, Mass.; Doyoon Kim, Seoul, South

Korea; Leonie Krutina, Breitenfurt bei Wien, Austria; Ben Laconto, Oxford, Mass.; Ava LaRoche, Stafford Springs; Andie Lee, Charlton, Mass.; Syhyoung Lee, Seoul, South Korea; Kaiyin Li, Beijing, China; Landuo Li, Fuyang, China; Linwei Li, Beijing, China; Eve Listerud, Uxbridge, Mass.; Chenxi Liu, Changzhou, China; Yuran Ma, Chengdu, China; Lauren Makie, Webster, Mass.; Ryan Martin, Douglas, Mass.; Hunter Moon, Shrewsbury, Mass.; Daniel Moors, Uxbridge, Mass.; Connor Murray, Southbridge, Mass.; Jocelyn Nguyen, Auburn, Mass.; Nhi Nguyen, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Aaron Nkrumah, Worcester, Mass.; Kaylynn Nolan, Oxford, Mass.; Jared O'Connor, Sutton, Mass.; James Olivieri, Douglas, Mass.; Yasmeen Osborne, Brooklyn; Ngoc-Minh N. Phan, Hung Yen, Vietnam; Brendan Phaneuf, Danielson, CT; Colby Pion, Danielson, CT; Olivia Pisegna, Oxford, Mass.; Aleksandar Poturica, Belgrade, Serbia; Bronagh Power-Cassidy, Dublin, Ireland; Sara Powers, Grafton, Mass.; Niamh Raftery, Thompson; Andrew Raps, Webster, Mass.; Jonathan Reardon, Fiskdale, Mass.; Ashley Robert, Plainfield; Patrick Sabourin, Uxbridge, Mass.; John Sarantopoulos, Pomfret Center; Elizabeth Schoemer, Oxford, Mass.; Xiangyu Shi, Shanghai, China; Ashley Smith, Holden, Mass.; Ivana Smyckova,

SHOPS

continued from page A1

find a new treasure every time they enter the shop.

The Nielsens take pride in their business and consider their vendors as family. They won 1st place for the Norwich Bulletin Readers' Choice Awards in 2019 and 2nd place in 2018.

"I love my vendors," said Debra, "always meeting amazing people who also have the love for antiques. We have so many regular customers that support our business."

Debra admits that she has fallen in love with several of the items that come into her shop. To her, it's a bittersweet moment when someone else purchases an item she thought was special. She reminds herself, "Someone else is going to love it as much as you do."

Debra and Richard just recently celebrated their 14th anniversary of

owning the shop. Sadly, the recent virus situation caused them to close their store for two months right after.

"Not only did it affect us, but it affected my vendors," said Debra. She hopes that things can return to normal soon.

Their shop will reopen June 3, and will be open Monday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the month of June. The Nielsens are proud to own a plot of history and to keep historical pieces alive.

"Preserving antiques brings back the lovely pieces from the past," said Debra. "The furniture from that time period is beautiful and well made."

Connecticut is spotted with more than 20 antique shops, showing the state's desire to maintain their history. As for the Scranton's Shops, their story will continue to live on as it has been for decades. The shop stands as an homage to Connecticut history in the items that pass through it as well as in the walls that surround it.

English Medal: Marielle Caparso
Eric Gustavson U.S. History Medal: William Engle

Fr. Albin Gurklis, MIC Mathematics Medal: Owen Alicandro

Fr. Casimir Kuckell, MIC Memorial Award: Sydney Kennison and Ryan Martin

Fr. John Petrauskas, MIC Memorial Award: Sara Powers

Gertrude Salvas English Language Medal: Mingyou "Samuel" Xu

John Kendrtarvich Memorial Award: Nhi "Rosa" Nguyen

Marianapolis Alumni Merit Award: Caroline Gardiner

Marianapolis Service Award: Chenxi "Ellen" Liu

Marilyn S. Ebbitt Award: Nhi "Rosa" Nguyen

Mothers of Marianapolis Award: Doyoon Kim

Music Medal: Ryan Barnwell

Physics Medal: Mary Wall

Religious Studies Medal: Nhi "Rosa" Nguyen

Salutatorian Bowl: Elizabeth Schoemer

Social Studies Medal: Yasmeen Osborne

Spanish Medal: Lily Alessandro

Tom Perkins Art Medal: Yaxuan "Lisa" Xu

Valedictorian Bowl: Brendan Phaneuf

DAY KIMBALL

continued from page A1

disabilities," he said.

In addition to mandatory screenings, continued visitor restrictions, and social distancing protocols, anyone entering a Day Kimball building will be provided a mask. Patients having medical procedures or surgeries are tested in advance of their scheduled procedure. Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout all sites and adherence to the most stringent protocols for cleaning and disinfecting have been put into place.

"The risk of contracting the virus is extremely low at Day Kimball Hospital," said Dr. John Graham, chief medical officer and vice president of quality and medical affairs, Day Kimball Healthcare. "In fact, Day Kimball Hospital has remained the safest hospital in the state during the pandemic."

"Patients should not avoid necessary care for fear of catching COVID-19," Graham continued.

"We have rigorous screening procedures in place and apply infection control measures throughout and across our locations. We are a safe place to receive care," he said.

Other patients coming to the hos-

pital will need to enter through the Emergency Department to access the hospital. Those include patients with care appointments at the Day Kimball Hospital Wound Healing Center, IV Therapy, Diagnostic Imaging, and Urology. All vendors and staff will need to continue to enter at the Emergency Department.

Day Kimball Healthcare encourages patients to allow extra time for the screening process prior to a scheduled visit.

"We understand these screenings may be inconvenient, but is important to protecting the health of our patients, staff, families, and the community. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and patience with our new procedures. They are all designed to keep everyone safe," O'Keefe said.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the incidence of COVID-19 in Windham County has been the lowest in Connecticut, with only 4 hospitalizations at Day Kimball Hospital. For more information and guidelines about 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 healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball

Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.



Thompson Public Schools
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Registration is available online for students in all grades!

- (1) Original birth certificate
- (2) Immunization record/Current Physical - Please email directly to a school nurse: ddumouchel@thompsonpublicschools.org (MRFES) ahougasian@thompsonpublicschools.org (TMS) sgrauer@thmpsonpublicschools.org (TMHS)
- (3) Proof of residency (example: mortgage, rental or lease agreement, or utility bill)

Please log on to Thompsonk12.org and complete the Google Form



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Marinara:	1 quart \$15.00	(warm with cheese and bread)
	1Quart \$8.00	(Warm)

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The chosen class

Students throughout the area are flipping tassels this week, albeit not in the traditional way. But while nothing about this rite of passage will unfold as expected this year, we hope that our local graduates seize the opportunity to fulfill Oprah Winfrey’s prophetic comment that they are “the chosen class.”

Many seniors and their underclassmen counterparts have faced big changes as they navigate the world amid a global pandemic. This summer, finding work won’t be as easy as it once was, and figuring out if college campuses will even open this fall remains another question mark. With that being said, this time in an 18-year-old’s life is still quite pivotal.

Students will be bombarded with advice and speeches as these final weeks unfold. Our favorite bit of advice, however, is the following

1. Don’t smoke
2. Drink plenty of water every day; and
3. Wear sunscreen (your 40-year-old selves will thank you)
4. Spend as much time as humanly possible outside; and
5. Watch the Back to the Future trilogy.

The most important thing you can do, however, is to find out who you are. From there the entire world opens up. Do not limit your lives to the same scene and same people you have always surrounded yourself with. This doesn’t mean you need to forget people or places, it simply means that now is a great time to branch out. The more people you meet in different places, with different experiences will shed light on who you really are.

Always remember your roots. These are what has shaped you and prepared you for your next chapter. Remember how important your community has been to you, and remember to always give back.

Always practice kindness, even when it’s hard. The world can aggravate and frustrate the most mellow of us. Anger is a normal human emotion, however it’s what you do with it that really matters. If you have disagreements or you think the way you feel about a certain issue is correct, remember to not let your anger take you over. It never feels good, plus harboring too much anger and discontent ages us, plus it’s really no fun. The more fun and kindness you have in your life, the happier you are. Try to find balance between your work and your leisure time. Spend time doing the things you love, and never forget what those things are, despite how busy your life may become.

As you go through life, you will make mistakes. None of us are perfect and mistakes can actually define who we become if we learn from them. The best formula for mistake making, is to own up to them, have some self awareness, be gentle on yourself, learn, then move on. Simple.

Remember to follow your own gut, always, no matter what. This is your life, and you are the one who needs to make it what it is and what it will be.

And above all, we invite our readers to join us in expressing congratulations to the class of 2020!

LETTERS POLICY

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.



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OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pelosi & co. have also lost their moral compass

To the Editor:

It’s been mentioned that “everything” President Trump does is only for the benefit his own re-election. Keep in mind that a President can only do eight years tops, unlike these politicians (on both sides of the aisle) who feel that they should be able to ride the wave until they’re either voted out of office or they finally decide to retire.

Having said that, can anybody convince me that any of these now career politicians never had that same goal - along with its numerous benefits - in mind when they first took office? If you really want to learn how their road to re-election works, I recommend that you check out a YouTube segment entitled: “Honest Political Ad Gil Fulbright.”

Now for a quick comment on the May 22 Villager piece by Mr. David Cassettari, specifically where he states: “Those who will

do anything to be near power, will do whatever it takes to have their master approve of them, even to giving up their own moral compass and values.” I’d totally agree with the man had he made it clear that he was also including any number of Democrats when he said this. Like Schumer, Schiff, Waters, and Nadler aren’t among that servitude buckling up to their master, Nancy Pelosi? I realize that there are two sides to every coin, but I can easily compare that crew to Dorothy and company cowering in the presence of the “great and powerful,” Oz! And as far as whomever is “giving up their own moral compass and values” goes, I’d say Gil Fulbright nailed that explanation also.

Ed DeLUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Unsung heroes

To the Editor:

I would like to thank this opportunity to thank the amazing Food Service and Maintenance Staff at Thompson Public Schools for their hard work and dedication in preparing, transporting, and serving “free” breakfast & lunch meals to children in our Community during COVID-19. I am so proud and appreciative for all of their efforts!

Wind? Rain? Cold? Nothing has ever stopped them from getting meals to our children! They work tirelessly serving meals Monday-Friday at four separate sites,

Thompson Public Library, TEEG, and the East Thompson and Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Departments. I must also thank our District’s Security Staff and any volunteers that have pitched in along the way! It has certainly been a group effort and a positive life experience for all of us that have contributed!

LISA DURAND
FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR
THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
N. GROSVENORDALE

Follow the Constitution

To the Editor:

The First Amendment of the US Constitution says:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

The oath of office for military service says: “I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.” Governmental servants swear a similar oath.

On Monday, citizens, 100 percent peaceably, exercised their constitutional right to assemble, in Lafayette Park near the White

House. The President then arranged that the protesters be disbanded with tear gas and rubber bullets in order that he could walk across the street to pose in front of a church for a photo op holding a Bible. He was accompanied by his Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Attorney General. All of them violated their oath to defend the Constitution of the United States.

Military servants are not required to follow unlawful orders. But now many men and women faithfully serving in the military will be torn between their oath to defend the Constitution and their inclination to obey orders of the President. Their choice will affect whether we continue to be a democracy or slide toward a dictatorship in which one man has unchecked military power.

It is time now for all citizens to shout out that ours is not a government for one man, but a government of, by, and for the people.

JOCK McCLELLAN
WOODSTOCK

Global citizens in the face of racial injustice

To the Editor:

A part of our mission as a school is to cultivate global citizens. This means giving students the tools they need to be informed and engaged. In this particular moment, it starts with having difficult conversations about racial injustice at an individual level and as an institution and community.

Many teachers have dedicated the last hours of the school year to having open and honest conversations with their students. We know the value of these conversations, but we also have responsibilities as an institution and community to not be a part of the problem.

We grieve with our students, alumni, and employees who suffer from racial injustice. We grieve over the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and too many others. The Woodstock Academy stands with those who voice their frustrations in order to

see meaningful change.

An important piece in bringing about real change is education, something we, as a school and Woodstock Academy community, have prided ourselves on. As a school we have made intentional efforts to celebrate diversity and address issues of social injustice; we know that we have not done enough, and we still have a long way to go. Listening, learning, and engaging are all a part of Respire Futurum, our school’s motto which invokes us to look to the future while informed by our past.

As individuals, a community, and neighbors in the quiet corner we can listen and be a force for change against racism and social injustice.

In partnership,

CHRISTOPHER SANDFORD
HEAD OF SCHOOL
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

We must not repeat our past mistakes

To the Editor:

While it is true that the US military is more than able to counter any foreign challenge that comes its way, why must it continue to have to prove it to the rest of the world?

Memorial Day is set aside for us all to pause and to reflect on the sacrifices our soldiers have made. They risked their lives so others could live in peace and security. It is a day of national reflection meant to promote healing and to preserve the legacy of those who made the supreme sacrifice. Wars have taken a great toll on our nation.

I once traveled to French IndoChina (Vietnam), one of the furthest corners of the world, on a mission to rid the world of Communism. I had no previous knowledge of what awaited me there. I had been trained to expect the unexpected at a school for combat military police officers at Eglin Air Proving Grounds in Florida’s panhandle, an area of gator and snake infested swamps. I trained with the 1st Ranger Army Division from Ft. Benning, Ga. and a Navy Seal team from the Pensacola Naval Station. This was a tough, survival course in which two officers drowned on a night exercise in the Gulf of Mexico. This was just the beginning. Soon after, I found myself knee deep in rice pad-

dies, jungles, and Ben-Jo ditches, all of which ended in a quagmire of gigantic proportions.

The way Vietnam has come to be explained in history is a telling example of how rationalized failure occurs when illusion evaporates. Vietnam’s true legacy is memorialized in stone on a black, granite wall that sits low in the back of our National Mall within 1,000 feet of the Korean War Monument. These are both silent reminders and sad tributes to our heroes who went when called and then did not return to their homeland alive. The stark reality of all this is that we live in a less than perfect world. The Declaration of Independence, so thoughtfully planned and written so brilliantly, summed it up beautifully by stating our basic human liberties—“We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal.”

It is no secret that veterans take pride in their prior service. They have a lot to be thankful for, but never discount their allegiance or loyalty to our country. Others have tried; all have failed. Vietnam stands out as a painful and diverse chapter in my life. After all these years, it is still difficult for me to square up to it all. At its worst, 400

The upside of an empty calendar

I flipped the page of my calendar to a new month. Everything I had written down as reminders, except for birthdays, is cancelled. I like parties and trips. I love restaurants and shops. I even enjoy fund-raiser and baby showers. I love to hug my friends and be embraced in return. Not happening. This month will be another opportunity to observe and be grateful.

My sadness at an empty appointment book is nothing compared to the events other people are missing out on. I watched the faculty at a nearby school line up, social distanced, masked, to process into a graduation. Perhaps it was being filmed, but it was a shadow of what might have been. A bride scaled



NANCY WEISS

her ceremony down to ten people from several hundred and invited friends to drive by. The hardest thing for me to imagine is the pain people feel when someone close has died and there are no calling hours or funerals. I’ve been comforted by such traditions and I know they matter.

We are living in unprecedented times, but on we go. The choices we are making are not all bad. The results of staying inside or at least modifying our outings and our actions are having some surprising results. Nature is bursting with life and beauty. Rhododendrons have never been more glorious. In our area there are plenty of “Estate Rhododendrons,” planted a century ago when the world was heading toward an economic crash. The shrubs, blooming in shades of pinks, magenta and white, go on, oblivious to the financial stresses of the properties on which they grow. They survived and they flourish still.

Slow creatures are safer. As I helped a little turtle across the road, I remembered other springs when the pavement was littered with the roadkill of frogs, salamanders, night crawlers and baby turtles. It may be my imagination, but I’m seeing more butterflies, too. Bird song, bird’s nest, and photos of baby birds fill our ears and our Instagram with the sweet innocence of their beings.

A trip we planned to northern Italy in late fall has been cancelled. We were going to the international slow food conference. After that we were signed up for truffle hunting, the olive harvest and vineyard tours and, because of my husband’s interest, visits to chocolate makers. A hiking trip in southern Wales with women friends has been abandoned also. All extras in life, but adventures we were hoping to have that now may never occur. Instead, we are watching travel shows on television and reading cookbooks. A friend sent me half a case of wine much nicer than I buy myself, so I pretend I am sipping it in Paris.

Every day, my husband and I take a walk. Often, we amble around our neighborhood, but sometimes, we drive elsewhere for a change. When we meet up with other walkers, the interaction is pleasant. People pull up their masks or step aside. If we meet someone we know, which happens often, we give each other plenty of space and have much longer conversations than usual. We welcome news and connection. There is a shared sense of gratitude that nature is so glorious and embracing. The isolation of the pandemic would be even more onerous if the weather weren’t so good.

We get mail now once a week at our post office, a place I enjoy for its sense of community. I long for magazines, newspapers and local weeklies. I am grateful to be here, watching nature and people adjust. Not happening is changed to happening, but differently.



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

This week, I thought I'd again write about what life was like in Northeastern Connecticut and Killingly 100 years ago. Did you realize that people were beginning to live under Prohibition? Did you know that Killingly still had a number of small district schools?

"Lightning struck all around the town of Killingly, Friday, when state police and federal revenue men made the first raids for illicit stills in Windham County, but this town escaped an official visit. One still was taken in a raid in the town of Thompson, another still in an advance by the officers on an isolated farmhouse in the Black Hill section of the town of Canterbury. At Central Village and at Moosup the officers made seizures of what is coming to be known as prohibition grape juice and also a quantity of Jamaica ginger. The visits of the officers to villages in the town of Plainfield and the territory in that vicinity is believed to have been due to 'tips' that came to them." (Norwich Bulletin, June 5, 1920, p. 6; newspapers.com).

I didn't have any specifics about Prohibition in my files so once again turned to the internet for some dates and facts. The following provides a nice summary: "The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—which banned the manufacture, transportation and

Looking back to 1920

sale of intoxicating liquors—ushered in a period in American history known as Prohibition. Prohibition was ratified by the states on January 16, 1919 and officially went into effect on January 17, 1920, with the passage of the Volstead Act. Despite the new legislation, Prohibition was difficult to enforce. The increase of the illegal production and sale of liquor (known as 'bootlegging'), the proliferation of speakeasies (illegal drinking spots) and the accompanying rise in gang violence and other crimes led to waning support for Prohibition by the end of the 1920s. In early 1933, Congress adopted a resolution proposing a 21st Amendment to the Constitution that would repeal the 18th. The 21st Amendment was ratified on December 5, 1933, ending Prohibition." (www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties/prohibition).

June is the month for graduations. With the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous restrictions in the recovery phases, the 2020 Killingly High School graduation will certainly be unique. In 1920, the lower grades in Killingly had an elaborate ceremony in the present town hall building, which had a nice auditorium. Keep in mind that one hundred years ago it was not uncommon for many individuals to begin working in the factories and other businesses after completing their eighth grade educations. Not everyone continued on to high school.

"A musical festival and graduating exercises marked the close, Tuesday afternoon of the grade schools of the

town of Killingly for the school year. This all important affair in the lives of scores of young people who have completed their grade school work or who are climbing toward that coveted place on the broad highway of education brought a large audience to the town hall, those assembled being representative of many sections of the town of Killingly. This year the annual musical festival in which the grade school children have participated for years past was combined with graduation, to make an event of importance...The hall was prettily decorated with flags and streamers of the national colors and the front of the stage was flanked with ferns and the letters K.G. was worked out in daisies.

"The musical part of the program included the presentation of the operetta Flora, by pupils of grades 2-5 of the Danielson graded school; Sailing, a vocal number by the eight grades of the different schools; They Met on the Twig of a Chestnut Tree, quartet of the Danielson schools; Little Tulip, East Killingly; The Birth of Joy, two parts, Dayville schools; Mew, sub-primary school of Goodyear; Dixie, three parts, Ballouville schools; Almond Blossoms, two parts, Attawaugan schools; Gondolier, three parts, Dayville schools; America, all schools.

"Diplomas to the graduates of the eighth grades of the various schools of the town were presented by Robert W. Boys of Goodyear, member of the town school committee. Prize awards were made by Supervisor Horace F. Turner

of the schools in Killingly and Brooklyn. In the supervisory district made up of the towns of Killingly and Brooklyn 64 pupils have successfully completed their eighth grade work. All of these who were students in Killingly's public schools received diplomas at Tuesday's graduation." (Norwich Bulletin, Wednesday, 6/16/1920, p. 6; newspapers.com).

Did you count how many schools were represented at the graduation? It was not until after World War II that the smaller district schools in Killingly were consolidated. The Attawaugan, Ballouville, and East Killingly schools are still standing. For photos of the first two see "Images of America Killingly Revisited" by Natalie L. Coolidge, p. 83. A photo of the East Killingly School appears on page 104 of "Images of America Killingly" by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer. The brick Dayville School that was in use in 1920 appears on page 85 of that book.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, June 2020. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329.

Prayers for righteous causes

Throughout history, God has used key people to champion causes and do things on behalf of righteousness and justice. It seems that William Wilberforce was one of those people. He was born to a wealthy English merchant in 1759. He was sickly as a child and had poor eyesight. As a twelve-year-old, he was exposed to evangelical Christianity while on a visit to the home of his aunt Hannah, who was the sister of the wealthy Christian merchant John Thornton. Thorton did many good social projects and was a supporter of the leading Methodist preacher George Whitefield. But his mother and grandfather, who were staunch members of the Church of England, were worried about the Evangelical influences, so they brought him back to Hull in 1771.

At the age of 17, Wilberforce enrolled in St John's College, at Cambridge. Then, because his grandfather and uncle

passed, he became independently wealthy. So, he felt little need to study and he began to pursue a party lifestyle that included cards and drinking. While still a student, he was elected a Member of Parliament where he became a very influential orator. Four years later while touring Europe he converted to become an Evangelical and soon took a great interest in humanitarian reforms. Although a wealthy member of Parliament his new-found faith caused him to empathize with the lower classes of society. He came to conviction that he should be living out his faith by obeying the words of Jesus: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) He poured his life into a number of "righteous" causes.

His efforts initiated the abolitionist movement. This battle would take several decades and



BEYOND
THE PEWS
.....
JOHN
HANSON

would include much prayer, speaking, writing and campaigning. It ultimately led to freedom for slaves, not only in England but other nations, including the United States of America. After being defeated for several years, The Slave Trade Act finally received royal assent on 25 March 1807. Many years later in 1863 Abraham Lincoln would issue the similar Emancipation Proclamation. That means Wilberforce didn't see his cause get a legal foothold until he was forty-eight and it didn't legally impact America

until he had been dead for thirty years. But his faithful prayers and obedience were monumental.

Here is what Wilberforce had to say about prayer:

This perpetual hurry of business and company ruins me in soul if not in body. More solitude and earlier hours! I suspect I have been allotting habitually too little time to religious exercises, as private devotion and religious meditation, Scripture-reading, etc. Hence I am lean and cold and hard.

I had better allot two hours or an hour and a half daily. I have been keeping too late hours, and hence have had but a hurried half hour in a morning to myself. Surely the experience of all good men confirms the proposition that without a due measure of private devotions the soul will grow lean.

But all may be done through prayer - almighty prayer, I am ready to say - and why not?

For that it is almighty is only through the gracious ordination of the God of love and truth. O then, pray, pray, pray!

William Wilberforce died a liberator of the unfortunate, slaves, orphans, even the chimney sweeps who were struggling for survival in his day. He proved that a righteous cause or mandate from God coupled with prayers of faith and Christian charity are a powerful combination. Those who have the privilege of participating in such endeavors are greatly blessed and, as a result, the kingdom of God prospers.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. The congregation has established a dozen prayer groups that meet throughout Southern New England. For more information please visit www.ActsII.org.

How short- and long-term planning can help you achieve financial wellness amidst the struggles of COVID-19

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, many people have been laid off, furloughed, or may have had to take time off to watch their children. Many business owners may have suffered a loss of revenue. That's why right now there's no better time to dive into understanding your finances and strive for financial wellness; take a look at your statements and define your financial life goals, values, and time horizon (are your goals short-term or long-term?). Understanding these aspects of financial planning can help you achieve your financial life goals. Throughout June, our focus in each article will be explaining the differences between short-term and long-term financial life goals and planning strategies to help you Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well. TM



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Defining financial wellness
Financial wellness is usually defined as feeling secure when it comes to your

money - both in the short- and long-term. However, there is a wide range of how people relate to financial security, so your definition of wellness may differ from others.' In fact, definitions of financial wellness may even be different between you and your spouse or partner.

The key to financial wellness is understanding how short-term and long-term goals impact your saving and investing strategies. If you're dealing with financial hardship right now, which many people are, this exercise may feel like putting a band-aid on a much bigger problem. However, the sooner you get clear on defining financial wellness, the sooner you can start adjusting your financial habits to make a lasting positive impact.

There are a few questions to ask yourself when trying to determine what financial wellness means to you:

How big of a "safety net" or cash sav-

ings do I need to have to feel safe?

Does my job provide enough of an income to cover my expenses?

What are my short- and long-term goals? (under 7 years = short-term, beyond 7 years = long-term)

Am I on track to meet long-term financial goals (like retiring by a certain age)?

If your answers to these questions surprise you, take time to dig deeper. Uncovering why you feel the way you do can help you to ensure you're aligning your vision of financial wellness with what you value.

Short-term strategies
Achieving financial wellness is best broken into two actionable categories: short-term and long-term goals. In the short-term, you want to take steps that will stabilize your cash flow, prioritize debt repayment, and align your spending with your values (while living within your means). Here are some short-term planning strategies to consider:

Build a budget
Consider your monthly income, critical bills, discretionary funds, nonessential spending activity, and debt.

How does your budget align to your goals? Are there places where you need to cut back (especially right now if you are facing a loss of income)?

Perhaps setting up automatic payments on all or some of your bills can be a tactic to help make sure that your funds are being dispersed appropriately.

Once you have created your budget, start focusing on building an emergency fund of 3-6 months of living expenses with left over income. If this feels out of reach, start with saving up just one month of living expenses, and grow from there. You might also start saving small amounts until you return to work, and then you can amp up your saving if necessary and able.

Sit down with your spouse or partner to determine your top three to five goals. Look at how you've been spending your money for the past month - do your expenses match those goals? If not, consider adjusting. Finding a way to save for when you retire is essential to determine in the short-term so you can achieve long-term goals.

Once you do this and you determine any discretionary dollars from your income, you can then apply those funds to help you meet your long-term goals.

Financial wellness doesn't happen overnight. However, these short-term actionable steps can help move you toward a better, more secure financial future. Don't discount baby steps in the right direction!

Long-term strategies
Long-term steps can be more challenging but are even more critical to achieving financial wellness. Thinking ahead into your financial future may feel nerve wracking. It's tough to plan ahead, especially when you're focused on getting yourself out of a bad financial situation in the short-term, like many people are right now. Your goal shouldn't be to make complex financial plans. Instead, consider these strategies to help move you toward long-term

STEVENSON

continued from page A8

Americans lost their lives each week—four times as many more were wounded. This is when our leaders realized this conflict was no longer sustainable. Robert McNamara later admitted that neither he nor the President had investigated what was truly at stake.

Vietnam ended terribly. Yes, it is half a world away from here, but it is still important for the lessons that can be learned from the conflict. Yes, it was complicated especially from the perspective of our government, not to mention our South Vietnamese counterparts. There was no backing from Washington, D.C. We were not allowed to give it our all. It was like fighting with one hand tied behind our backs.

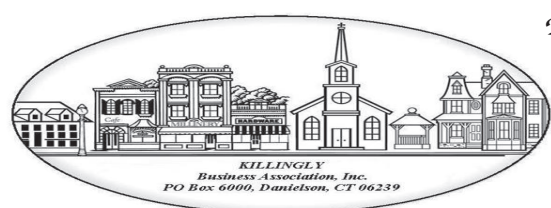
We believed in our leaders, and if there was a chance to get it right, it was our job to make it work. When we realized that we were only pawns in a giant chess game and were expendable, it was too late for so many brave souls. We were committed!

Dickens was required reading at Woodstock Academy in the 1950's. In reading his "Tale of Two Cities," I remember 12 words he wrote that sum up my six years of military service... "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." We cannot let history repeat itself in Afghanistan in the same way. Every life is important. Surely, we must have learned something from our past. We must realize that there is no military solution in the Middle East. Peace will be difficult if not impossible to achieve between the Afghanistan government and the Taliban. Too much

blood has already been shed in the longest war in American history. Our 18 year old soldiers there today were not even born when this all started. Clearly, our nation's liberty is at stake, to say nothing about our safety. We must bring our troops and National Guard home. We are no longer separated from the rest of the world, as we once were by measureless oceans of space. Our world is shrinking. We can no longer rest on our oars. We must continue to protect what so many soldiers have given their lives to preserve...our homeland and shores...so the rest of us can live in peace and security, knowing our families are safe.

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OBITUARIES

Richard William “Rick” Orzulak

DANIELSON- Richard William “Rick” Orzulak, a proud Marine, ardent fan of the Packers and Yankees, passionate Elvis devotee, sports trivia innovator, genius of the one-liner, local softball legend, longtime coach, and beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend who marched to the beat of nobody’s drum but his own died at home on Monday, May 25, 2020 – Memorial Day – his favorite holiday. He was 81 years old.



The cause was cancer. There’s a good chance that Mickey Mantle, Vince Lombardi, and Elvis Presley haven’t gotten a second’s rest since he joined them. Born in New York, NY, he was the son of Edna Orzulak and a father he never knew. Speaking nothing but Polish and French until he was nine years old, he was raised by his doting grandmother, Polish immigrant Antonio Orzulak, and her husband, Albert. A pitcher with a terrific fastball, he attracted the attention of Major League scouts as a student at Putnam Technical School before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1957, where he was a member of the 8th Engineer Battalion.

After six years of distinguished service to his country, he was honorably discharged. Not long after, on a warm summer night in Putnam, he saw Beverly Mayhew, the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. She was dating a friend of his. If she should ever break up with the friend, he asked, would she mind if he called? Please do, she said, and he did. They were never apart after that. They would have celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in August. He loved her even more on their last day together than he did on their first, as did – does – she.

The ace of numerous local softball championship teams in the 1960s and 70s, he threw out the very first pitch at the new softball field – now named for his longtime friend, Foxy Fortin – at Owen Bell Park in Dayville, CT. He was also a revered Little League coach – and eventually, Little League President – to a generation of young men in Danielson, many of whom remember him as one of the best coaches they ever had.

Long before Google and the Internet, he was also the go-to person in the area for sports trivia. Almost every night, the phone would ring, with somebody asking about a pitcher from the 1940s or a quarterback from the 1950s, and he would provide the answer. His secret was that he had a photographic memory for sports, and he had collected and read every issue of Sport Magazine ever published. When asked a question, he would remember an article he had read years before, go to his stack of magazines, and find it. Across more than three decades, there was only one question that ever stumped him.

Along the way, he also earned a rep-

utation as quite a singer, who was regularly asked to perform Elvis songs at parties and the weddings of friends. A lifelong believer that athletes were better back in his day, he revered the Green Bay Packers teams of the 1960s and was known to have a Vince Lombardi story for every occasion. He also had a nickname for every friend, many going back decades, and regularly peppered his conversations with memorable one-liners – known by his friends as “Rick-isms” – that left more than a few people laughing.

For 25 years until his retirement in 2002, he worked as a sheet metal mechanic at Kaman Aerospace in Moosup, CT. As he got older, his service in the Marine Corps became even more important to him. He became active in the local Paul C. Houghton detachment of the Marine Corps League, and in the mid-1990s, he led a project that was near to his heart. Searching across all 50 states (pre-Internet), he collected five World War II-era combat uniforms, right down to the bayonets. On February 19, 1995, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the flag raising on Iwo Jima, he and four fellow members of the Marine Corps League recreated the event and were later asked to re-stage it at a state-wide event. It led a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps to write that he walked away, “with a lump in my throat and a tear in my eyes,” which made him immensely proud.

In retirement, he walked five miles every day at the running track at Owen Bell Park, often with Beverly alongside him. Nothing brought him greater joy than spending time with his grandchildren, of whom he would talk about with anybody who would listen. They have fond memories of his kindness, his endless jokes, and of him stopping in mid-conversation whenever he heard an Elvis song, aligning both hands with fingers pointed skyward in the style of back-up singers of the late 50s and 60s, and belting out the King.

And now, as tears subside, his friends and family find it all so amusing to think he did all that, and there is very little question that he could say, “I did it my way.”

Rick Orzulak is survived by his loving wife, Beverly, of Danielson; his son, Paul, and his wife, Beneva Schulte, of Chevy Chase, MD; his daughter, Karen Konow, and her husband, Jim Konow, of Lebanon, CT; his brother, William McPadden, of Great Falls, Virginia; and his granddaughters Ellie Orzulak, Anna Orzulak, and Emma Rose Orzulak, all of Chevy Chase, MD; and Alison Konow, Kelsey Konow, and Julia Konow, of Lebanon, CT.

Due to the current crisis, his family will hold a small private service at the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory in Putnam, CT, per his request. At a later date, there will be a celebration of Rick’s life with family and friends. In lieu of flower or donations, the family asks that, as Rick did, you tell your spouse you love them every day, hug your child or grandchild, and be thankful for all the small things in life – which, in the end, are everything. For memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanandValade.com.

Wendell George Davis Sr., 81

Wendell George Davis Sr., 81 of Danielson passed away on Sunday May 24, 2020 at home with his family by his side. Wendell was born in Milo,



ME on September 6, 1938, the son of the late Wendell F. and Inez (Bennett) Davis. He was the husband of Joyce Marie (Dempsey) Davis, they were married on August 6, 1961. Wendell graduated from Old Town High School in 1956, the University of Maine Orono in 1960 and held an advanced degree from Eastern Connecticut State University. He served in the Army from 1961-1964 and was a Vietnam veteran. Wendell taught English at Killingly High School from 1966-1989, and after his retirement worked as a tour guide for Kaplan Travel. Wendell was a member of the Danielson Methodist Church, the Veterans Coffee House in

Danielson and The Bradley Playhouse. He was a rollercoaster enthusiast and a member of the old spooks and spy’s organization. Besides his wife Joyce, he is survived by his children Dee (Dorothy) Inez Davis of Orlando, FL, Wendell G. Davis, Jr. and wife Sarah of Amsted, CT and Sean Edward Davis of Dayville. One brother Forrest F. Davis and wife Kim of Rochester, NH. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren 3 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and grandchildren Amanda and Matthew who always held a special place in his heart. Memorial services will be held on a date and time to be announced. Donations in Wendell’s name may be made to the Danielson Veterans Coffee House, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, The Bradley Playhouse <https://www.thebradleyplayhouse.org/donations/> or the Providence VA Medical Center: www.providence.va.gov and click on “Make a Difference, E-donate”, or mail a check to Providence VA Medical Center (135), 830 Chalkstone Ave., Providence, RI 02908 and please put in the memo field of the check, “In memory of Wendell G. Davis Sr.”. tillinghastfh.com

HALE

continued from page A9

financial wellness and security (think tortoise and hare style):

Determine long-term goals, retirement for example, and make those goals a priority.

Automate contributions to your retirement savings. Even if you’re only contributing up to the company match, continue contributing consistently.

Think about other long-term financial life goals (or purchases) you may want to make and estimate their cost. Do you want to buy a home? Purchase a new vehicle? Knowing the value of your goals may help you prioritize and save accordingly.

Set a goal to become debt-free and stick with it.

Monitor your goals yearly to determine if you are still on track to achieve them and consult with your financial advisor to make changes if necessary.

Other things to consider:

Do you have 10, 20, even 30 years before you aim to accomplish your goals? Determining your time horizon can allow you to establish how risky your investments should be. If you have a lengthy amount of time, you might be more aggressive with investing, and as your timeline shrinks, you may consider stepping back from riskier strategies.

The advantages of short-term and long-term financial planning

Short-term and long-term planning strategies have important differences to consider to help you define and achieve financial wellness in the long run. They can also help you achieve financial wellness right now amidst the struggles of COVID-19 we are all facing. Despite strains due to the pandem-

ic, the concerns you may have because of the market volatility, or the urge to avoid doing anything in regards to your finances, now is a good time to take a comprehensive look at your finances to make sure you are on track to achieve your goals, both in the short- and long-term. Whether you have had to put your short-term goals on hold, extend your time horizon for your long-term goals, or are in need of adjustments to your investment strategies, understanding the values and differences among them can be advantageous.

For more information on planning tips, COVID-19, the CARES Act, and more, visit our website www.whzwealth.com/covid19-resources. If you would like information about financial planning services, email us at info@whzwealth.com or call us at 860-928-2341!

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Tiffany L. Duquette, 39

MANCHESTER – Tiffany L. Duquette, 39, of Bidwell St., formerly of Danielson and Putnam, passed away on



Monday, May 25, 2020 at Hartford Hospital. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of Cheryl (Wild) Bowen and the late Donald Duquette.

Tiffany worked as a piece worker for N.E.P.S. where she made many friends over the years. She enjoyed watching T.V. and making puzzles. She loved all animals and people, especially her cat “Precious.”

She will be remembered as a sweet and kind soul.

In addition to her mother, Tiffany is survived by her step-father, Raymond Bowen of Putnam; step-sisters, Angel Dean of NY, and Kelly Bowen of Danielson; her grandparents, Susan and Raymond Soto of Thompson; Violet and Robert Bowen, Sr. of Danielson as well as several nieces; nephews; and cousins.

Tiffany will not be having any services. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St, Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

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OBITUARIES

Dimitrios Koutsonidas, 91,

Dimitrios Koutsonidas, 91, of Worcester passed away on May 20th, 2020, peacefully in his home surrounded by his loving family.



Being predeceased by his beloved wife, Anastasia Koutsonidas in 2016 Dimitrios is survived by his two daughters, Despina Koutsonidas of Worcester and Kathryn Mironidis, and her husband Yanni of Oxford along with four grandchildren: Kristina, Loukas, Maria, and Dimitri Mironidis all of Oxford.

Dimitrios was born on June 10th, 1928 in Northern Greece and immigrated to America with his wife and two daughters in 1971; He was an avid cobbler before coming to America. Dimitrios loved his family, especially his four grandchildren, very much; He worked for Table Talk Pie Co. for many years and Nissen Bakery until his retirement. Dimitrios was a

member of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Worcester.

We would like to thank and show our deepest gratitude to the following people, Megan Dumais, RN and her team, from Salmon VNA & Hospice of Milford for the excellent and warm care they showed us and our dad, our dear friend, Rod Perro of Perro's Flowers 284 Grafton St. Worcester for his generous service for many years, our close and dear friend Joseph Gliniecki, and Richard Majercik and staff of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home for their tender care and s May his memory be eternal **μυροί η μνήμη του να είναι αιώνια.**

A private funeral service will be held at the St. Michael's Romanian Orthodox Church in Southbridge. Dimitrios will be laid to rest beside his beloved wife at Hope Cemetery in Worcester.

A guest book is available at the www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Dimitrios,

Paul L. Lafleche

Paul L. Lafleche of Okeechobee, Florida passed away peacefully on May 25, 2020. He was born on August 22, 1945 in



Southbridge, MA to the late Henry O. & Rita F. Lafleche. He leaves behind his beloved soulmate Bernice Blain Broughton, his loving son, Richard L. Lafleche of Woodstock, CT, his loving daughter, Kelly Lafleche Cristo of Charlton, MA, His brother, Donald Lafleche of Southbridge, MA. His beloved grandchildren, Benjamin Lafleche, Brian Cristo, Lacey Cristo, Laynie Cristo, Brianna, Sierra, Riley, Gabriella Rowe, Brooke Broughton.

In addition, great grandchildren, Caedon, Brody, Ameila, & great grand-

daughter, Oakley. He is predeceased by his son, Michael S. Lafleche of Woodstock, CT.

In addition, he leaves behind many beloved friends.

Paul grew up in Southbridge, MA where he was owner of Pauls Used Cars in Sturbridge until moving to Stuart, FL in 1987 where he continued working as a sheet metal mechanic. He retired early and relocated to Okeechobee, FL where he enjoyed boating and the lake. During his lifetime, he loved boating, fishing, beaching and collecting stuff along with flea marketing.

He loved people and always made a new friend. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and had the best infectious laugh. He loved riding the roller coasters with his kids.

Services will be held at a later date.

Julia L. St. John , 93

Julia L. St. John known to everyone as "Nannie", 93 years old of Brooklyn, CT gained her wings on Saturday morning at 4:51am, surrounded by her loved ones. Julia was predeceased by the love of her life, her husband Clarence C. St. John, son Robert St. John, her mother, father, sisters and brothers of Vermont.



She is survived by her children, Evelyn Yater, Jeffrey St. John, Maureen Sorel (Paul), Gregory St. John (Samantha) and Susan Langevin; all of Brooklyn,

CT. She is survived by many grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

Julia was known for her heart of gold, always taking care of everyone else. She was so loved by everyone that knew her. We are all so lucky for having such a special woman in our life for so long, she will be missed dearly. 2-3-5-10-2

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of "Nannie".

Elaine N. Jeffrey, 80

QUINEBAUG, CT- Elaine N. Jeffrey age 80 passed away Tuesday, May 19, 2020 with her forever friends at her side. Elaine was born and grew up in Webster, daughter of the late Leo Jeffrey and Constance (Lamothe) Jeffrey. She lived in Quinebaug for several years, prior to that living in Thompson.

She leaves a brother Leonard Jeffrey and his wife Sandra of Forest Hill, CA, a sister Jeanne Wunsch and her husband Edward of Webster, several nieces and nephews; She was predeceased by her sister Leona LaFountain of Webster. Elaine was a graduate of Bartlett High School class of 1958; She was a communicant of Sacred Heart of

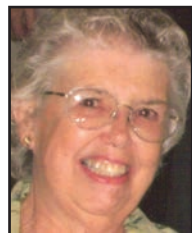
Jesus Church in Webster.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 am Friday May 29, 2020 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main Street Webster; Committal will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Please omit flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the COPD Research C/O Worcester Medical Center, Worcester, MA attn. Dr. Rosiello.

The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Jean Goyette Desmarais, age 85

Jean Goyette Desmarais, age 85, of Spencer died Saturday, May 30, 2020 at Baystate Health of Springfield after being stricken ill at physical therapy in Ludlow as she was recovering from recent surgery



She is survived by two daughters: Lynn Skladzien and her husband Joseph of Dudley, and Leslie Sullivan and her husband Steven of Dudley. two sons: Joseph Bottasso and his wife Margaret of Putnam, CT and James Bottasso and his wife Deborah of Fabyan, CT, 11 Grand Children, 13 Great grandchildren Jean leaves a brother Robert Goyette and his wife Rachel of Chelmsford, sister-in-law Marion Goyette, of California wife of Jean's brother Norman Goyette who passed in December 2019, many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends

She was predeceased by her husband, Denis P Desmarais on Jan 11, 2011. She also leaves her beloved cat Lacey a great comfort to her after the passing of her husband.

Jean was born October 20, 1934 in Uxbridge, MA. She is the daughter of Norman Goyette and Alma Croteau. Jean was a member of the Spencer Historical Commission , serving as

chairwoman for many years. Jean had a great interest in touring historical sites, in her travels with her husband, throughout the Eastern seaboard. In her earlier years she volunteered for many organizations including the Red Cross, food pantries and making personal birthday cakes for the residents of The Joshua House in Worcester. Jean was one of the first employees of Commerce Insurance Company, which originated in the Friendly's plaza in Webster, Ma, served as secretary for Pakachoag Church in Auburn, Ma as well as several medical practices. If all of Jeans accomplishments, she was most proud of being a mother, grandmother and great grandmother, creating many new happy memories after the loss of her beloved husband Denis. Though we are greatly saddened by the loss of Jean, it is comforting to know, that after waiting so long, she has been reunited with Denis, the love of her life

A Mass of Christian burial was held 10 am on Thursday, June 4 at Sacred Heart Of Jesus Church, 16 East Main St., Webster, MA after cremation she will be laid to rest in St. Anne Cemetery in Three Rivers with her beloved Denis. Calling hours were Wednesday , June 3 from 5 to 7 pm with current safety precautions in place at Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel, 33 Schofield Ave., Dudley, MA.

Rachel C. Vilandre, 91

Rachel C. (Bonnette) Vilandre, 91, was called home to her Lord and Savior on Saturday, at The Overlook in Charlton after a long battle with dementia.

Rachel was born April 5, 1929 in Southbridge MA to the late Evelyn (Guillette) and Antonio Bonnette. She lived in Sturbridge all of her life. She was predeceased by her sister, Lorraine Breen of Southbridge.

She is survived by her 4 children, Sharon (Vilandre) Gardner of Woodstock CT, Randall Vilandre and his wife Roberta of Holland, MA, Denise (Vilandre) Pontbriand and her husband Marc of West Brookfield, and Darlene Vilandre and close friend Terry Banusiewicz of Dudley MA. She leaves six grandsons, Andrew Gardner of Chester, CT, Jared Gardner of Eastford CT, Ryan Pontbriand of Warren MA, Jeremy Pontbriand of Brimfield MA, Matthew Vilandre of Brimfield MA, Luke Vilandre of Holland MA a granddaughter Rachel Gardner of Brighton MA. and 2 great-grandchildren, Brynn Pontbriand and Jack

Vilandre.

Rachel was the Billing Coordinator at Harrington Hospital retiring in 1991.

Rachel loved her cat Mindy, was an avid reader, she enjoyed gardening, knitting and never lost a scrabble game. One of her favorite places was spending time at the ocean. Her family was her life. She will be missed dearly by everyone who knew her. Rachel always had a smile and great sense of humor. Her quick-witted responses brought laughter and joy to all around her.

The family would like to thank The Overlook care team including Kathy Walker, Director and the staff of Fieldstone Assisted Living. As well as the 3rd floor memory care team, (especially her primary caregivers Chris and Kim) for the love, compassion and care that Mom received during her stay.

The service will be private and at the convenience of the family. The family requests in lieu of flowers that a donation be made to The Second Change Animal Shelter East Brookfield, MA.

Michael A. Plasse, 63

WEBSTER- Michael A. Plasse, 63, passed away peacefully at the Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge on Monday May 18, 2020.



Michael is survived by his son Jacob Plasse of Webster; four sisters: Christyne Plasse of Webster, Rachelle Aubin of CT, Marcella Bugbee of Webster, and Linda Plasse of CA; he also leaves many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Michael was predeceased by his sister Rhonda Plasse of Dudley.

Michael was born in Webster on February 17, 1957, son of the late

George M. and Carol A. (Williams) Plasse; he lived in the Dudley/Webster area all his life. Michael worked for Holland Landscaping for many years; he greatly enjoyed riding his motorcycle and spending time with his family and friends.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday May 27, 2020 at 10:00 am in Mount Zion Cemetery in Webster.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Michael.



To place an In-Memoriam, Card of Thanks, Birthday or Anniversary Greeting, in the Villager Newspapers

the deadline is Monday at noon for that week.

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3") or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3"). You can add a photo at no additional cost.

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OBITUARIES

Philip I. Ravenelle, 95

WEBSTER - Philip I. Ravenelle of Webster went to the Lord on Thursday May 29, 2020 while a patient at UMass Memorial Health Care-Memorial



Campus following complications from COVID-19. He was 95 years old. He was the son of Narcisse and Dora (Faucher) Ravenelle and was born and raised in North Grosvenordale, CT. He moved to Webster when he married in 1949.

He was a communicant at St Louis Church in Webster. He belonged to the North Grosvenordale CT Knights of Columbus. He leaves his daughter Karen M Ravenelle, with whom he lived and was predeceased by his wife of 46 years Rose M (Gorski) Ravenelle in 1995. Rose was the love of his life.

Phil is also predeceased by his sister Mrs. Doris Blain and her husband Lionel, his brother Normand Ravenelle and his wife Bernice, and his sisters Mrs. Gertrude Hardy, her husband Roland and her former husbands Philip Laramee and Raymond Verdone, and Mrs. Jeannette Cardinal and her husband Roland. He is also predeceased by several in-laws: Edward and Cecilia Willette, Warren and Margaret Waters, Bernard and Helen Perry, Bernard and Joan Duclos, Leo and Theresa Jacques, Bernard and Emily Cournoyer, Arthur

and Julia Bonin and Norman and Alice Baker. Phil also leaves many nieces and nephews.

Phil served with honor in the U.S. Navy during World War II. His ship was part of the fleet involved in the D-Day invasion and was also in the North Atlantic and off the coast of Africa. Once home, he became a Master Mechanic on automobiles and later moved into diesel truck mechanics. He was shift foreman at International Harvester in Worcester and managed the truck fleets at the former Deary Brothers in Dudley and Quality Seafood in Worcester. He retired in 1987.

Phil loved the outdoors. He was an avid deer hunter and especially loved hunting in Connecticut and with his buddies at their hunting camp in Grafton, NH. He was able to hunt deer until he was 91 years old and went fishing in his boat on Webster Lake. He was a member of the Uxbridge Rod and Gun Club.

Phil was a good friend to others, with a good sense of humor. He had childhood friendships that lasted a lifetime and later friendships that stood the test of time. He was a wonderful father to his daughter and he will be sorely missed and always loved.

His funeral was held Wednesday, June 3, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. A time of visitation was held from 9:30 to 10:30 AM Wednesday in the funeral home, with current precautions in place.

www.websterfunerals.com

Joseph Andrew McDonald Sr,

OXFORD- On Saturday, May 2, 2020 Heaven gained a special angel as Joseph Andrew McDonald Sr, born March 9, 1932, passed away peaceful in his sleep at Webster Manor where he was lovingly nicknamed The Mayor of the Manor due to his infectious charm and outgoing personality. No matter his situation it was always his mission to bring a smile to your face.



Andy was blessed to have the love of a large family, leaving behind his wife of 64 years, Doris Beatrice (Beaudette) McDonald, one living brother Cleo McDonald, 5 children including his daughter Susan McDonald Vincent, daughter Andrea Cutting with her husband Michael Cutting, son Mark McDonald with his wife Michelle McDonald, daughter Sandy Hansen with her husband Tom Hansen and his son Joseph Andrew McDonald Jr with his wife Leah McDonald. He also left 12 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. As a devout Catholic he was looking forward to being reunited with his par-

ents and 7 siblings that passed before him. He was a devoted member of St Roch's church where he lead rosary classes, bible study and prayed over anyone in need. In his earlier years he was a Sergeant in the United States Air Force and served in the Philippines. Upon leaving the military he worked at Webster Spring/General Spring where he retired from while also serving as a reserve Oxford police officer for many years. But of all the titles he held over his years, Dad was the one liked best. To know him was to love him. He had a hug, a joke or a prayer for everyone he met and along with his wife they raised a very strong, tight knit family that stretched far beyond DNA. However, God waited long enough for his loyal patron and needed him by his side, so until we meet again he will be deeply missed.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated in St. Roch's Catholic Church, 332 Main Street Oxford, MA on Saturday June 6, 2020 at 11:00 am

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Joseph.

Corey G. Brunnett, 41

WORCESTER - Corey G. Brunnett, 41, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester. He is survived by his



parents, Bruce R. Brunnett of Oxford and Sharon A. (Roy) Brunnett of Oxford; three children, Geovani G. Brunnett of Worcester, Natra T. Brunnett of Independence, OR, and Julieann R. Brunnett of Independence, OR; a brother, Richard G. Brunnett of Oxford; a

sister, Tanya L. Holmes and her husband Paul of Putnam, CT; his paternal grandmother, Harriet E. Brunnett of Oxford; his former wife, Mylena (Mongeau) Brunnett of Independence, OR; six nephews and one niece. He was born in Worcester and lived there for the past 10 years. He graduated from South High School in Worcester.

Due to gathering restrictions in Massachusetts, a calling hour and graveside service will private. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

paradisfuneralhome.com

Carolyn Swierzbin, 81

WEBSTER - Carolyn Swierzbin, 81, died Monday, May 25, 2020 at home after a period of declining health.

She leaves a nephew, Stephen J. Swierzbin and his partner Jamie Belhumeur of Woodstock, CT; 3 great-nieces, Alisha, Katelyn and Paige Belhumeur; and 2 great-great nephews, Greyson and Alexander Varner; and several cousins. Her brother John J. Swierzbin died in 2019.

She was born in Webster on March 7, 1939, the daughter of Joseph J. and Lena T. "Nellie" Swierzbin and was a lifelong resident. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1957.

Ms. Swierzbin was a legal secretary at the former Rocheleau Law Firm in

Worcester for many years before retiring in 2005.

She was a communicant of Saint Joseph Basilica. She enjoyed reading, traveling and shopping.

The funeral was held Friday, May 29, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. An hour of visitation was held from 9:30 to 10:30 Friday morning in the funeral home, with current guidelines in place. Donations in her name may be made to St. Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb St., Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com

Deborah K. Lucier, 65

PUTNAM - Deborah K. (Roy) Lucier, 65, of Wilson Rd. passed away on Sunday afternoon, May 17, 2020, at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester. God received another angel after a long fight with kidney and heart disease. She was the beloved wife of forty-three years to Gary Lucier.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit with Deborah's family on Saturday June 20, 2020 from 9:00a.m. to

11:00a.m. at the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT followed by a service in the funeral home at 11:00a.m. Burial will follow in Putnam Heights Cemetery. Memorial donations in Deb's memory may be made to either the American Diabetes Assoc., 2080 Silas Dean Hwy., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or the National Kidney Foundation, 3000 Whitney Ave, Suite 121, Hamden, CT 06518. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com. You may be gone mom, but never forgotten. Till we meet again, we love you. XOXOXO

Mary A. Byrnes

Mary A. Byrnes, of Wilsonville CT, entered into rest surrounded by loved ones on Tuesday, May 19 2020, she was 95.



Daughter of the late Thomas F. and Anna (Welch) Collins, she was born on March 16 1925, in Worcester, MA. She was a graduate of Newburgh Free Academy and Syracuse University. Mary started her career as an operator with Bell Telephone in Newburgh and retired 30+ years later as a Supervisor with Michigan Bell in Kalamazoo, MI. Even at 95 years old Mary could still recite any 10 digit number given to her. After retiring Mary and her late husband of 60 years, Bill, settled on the Welch family farm in North Grosvenordale, CT. Mary had a passion for the arts, she loved sculpting, decoupage, knitting, cooking, refinishing furniture and tending her roses. She was a kind, generous, thoughtful soul who always surrounded herself with beauty.

Mary was a parishioner of the Saint Louis Church, Webster, MA, a mem-

ber of the Alter Rosary Society at the church, and a member of the Sierra Club Dioceses of Worchester, MA. She also volunteered for Hospice and loved her Airedales.

Mary is predeceased by her loving husband of 60 years, William F. Byrnes, two brothers Thomas and Robert Collins and her nephew Robert Collins. She is survived by her nephews whom she loved dearly: Thomas Collins (NY), Randall Collins (VA), Michael Collins (VA) and Brandon Collins (VA), her loving God Daughter, Mary Mueller and husband Thomas (NY), her Great God-Grandchildren Claire, Thomas and Emily and her 5 Great Great God- Grandchildren Brady, Sawyer, Kearney, Fischer and Meegan.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's name can be made to the New England Airedale Rescue (NEAR) at 3 Carter Road, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754, (860)927-3420. Private cremation has taken place at Cedar Hill Crematory. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at a later date with burial at Calvary Cemetery, Newburgh, NY. You may post a condolence or light a candle at www.shaw-majercik.com

Thomas H. Andrews, 81

DAYVILLE - Thomas H. Andrews, 81, passed away at home on Tuesday May 26, 2020.



Thomas is survived by three sons: Allen, John Henry, and Michael Joseph Andrews; two daughters: Tina Smith and Michelle Andrews; many grandchildren, relatives, and dear friends; he was prede-

ceased by his son Thomas, and by his brother and his seven sisters.

Thomas was born in Warwick, RI on January 16, 1939, son of the late Clarence and Agnes (Chagnon) Andrews; after serving honorably in the United States Navy, he worked as an independent truck driver for many years, retiring fifteen years ago and

moving to Dayville, CT from Cranston, RI. Thomas was a kind man with a terrific sense of humor; he will be truly missed by those who were blessed to know him.



Please consider making a memorial contribution to a charity of your choice to benefit our veterans in honor of

Thomas.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Thomas.

LEGALS

TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM via Zoom. The following actions were taken:

PZC Application #20-08 - Applicant J.& J Construction, LLC, property Owner Richard Desrochers, 484 & 486 Quaddick Town Farm Road, Map 158, Block 20, Lot 81 for a Gravel Operation Permit. Rescheduled to a Special Public Hearing on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

PZC Application #20-09 - Applicant and owner Patricia Rudzinski, 0 Labby Rd, Map 95, Block 27, Lot 17, Zone R40, gravel operation renewal permit. Approved with conditions.

PZC Application #20-10 - Applicant, French River Materials, Owner, Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. d/b/a Rawson Materials, 307 Reardon Road LLC, Map 156, Block 8, Lot 7, Zone, renewal of gravel mining operation, to excavate sand and gravel. Approved

PZC Application #20-11 - Applicant &

Owner - Northeast Sand and Gravel, Owner John Mercier, at 659 Riverside Dr. (access drive is North of Grosvenordale Post Office), Map 63, Block 58, Lot 15/P, located in R-40 Zone District for renewal of Gravel Mining Permit to excavate sand and gravel. Approved with conditions

File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Planning and Zoning Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman

June 5, 2020

TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER ASSESSMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received

Payments will be received

1. by mail at Town of Killingly 172 Main Street Danielson CT
2. by telephone 855-985-1106
3. online at our website www.Killingly.org
4. in our drop box, rear of the building, near the handicap entrance.

Online and telephone pay fees apply credit or debit card 2.95% EFT charge 95 cents.

Sewer assessment bills are due June 1, 2020. If payment is not received on or before July 1, 2020 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$5.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org. Dated at Killingly this 22th of May 2020

Patricia Monahan CCMC
REVENUE COLLECTOR FOR THE
TOWN OF KILLINGLY
June 5, 2020

Town of Eastford Connecticut Planning Commission Notice of Decision

On May 12, 2020 the Planning Commission made the following decision:

File # 20-001 Scott Perry, 101 Eastford Road, Eastford, CT. Amended Subdivision. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS UNANIMOUSLY.

File # 20-002 RCN Ashford, LLC, Lakewoods Subdivision, Eastford, CT. Amended Subdivision. APPROVED

UNANIMOUSLY.

Details can be found in the minutes filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Office Building, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT.

Dated at Eastford, CT this 20th day of May 2020.

Susan Welshman
Recording Secretary
June 5, 2020

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

At the May 21, 2020 Regular Meeting, the Planning & Zoning Commission took the following action:

Approved Modification of Subdivisions: #639-03-23 Bruce Noren, Rtes 198&197 (Map 5124, Block 19, Lots 13D&20A); #637-02-21 (M-#323) Stephen G. & Lorraine E. Gabriele, Lot 39F, Crystal Pond Rd.

Denied request for prorated fee: #609-01-13 Zdany's Family Transfer, 567 Center Rd (10% penalty to be paid). Chair Jeffrey Gordon, M.D.
June 5, 2020

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OBITUARIES

Robert S. (Dr. Koo-Koo) Kallio, 81



WORCESTER-cRobert S. (Dr. Koo-Koo) Kallio, 81, of Worcester passed peacefully on 20 May 2020 at St. Mary Health Care Center. Robert leaves his sister Andrea Morris of Manchester, NH. Robert was predeceased by his loving boxer, Katie who passed last month due to cancer, his brother Leo W. (Billy) Kallio, Jr. of Rockville, MD and his sister Judith Logan of Shrewsbury, MA.

Robert was born in Worcester son of the late Leo W. (Luxie) Kallio and Kathleen M. Kallio (Daley) and lived in Shrewsbury and Grafton all his life. He worked in the Mack Truck Industry and tractor maintenance for years before starting his own business. He was a member of Goodguys Rod & Custom Association, East Coast Roadsters, Ty-Rods, Boston Area Roadsters, National Street Rod Association (NSRA), Jaguar Association of New England (JANE), Jaguar Clubs of North America, Maynard Area Auto Club, Northeast Land Rover Club, North East Timing Organization, Marine Corps League (Worcester), and The American Legion. His loving niece, Brenda Morris of Worcester and nephew Herbie Morris of Virginia would like to thank St. Mary Health Care Center and Hospice of Western & Central Massachusetts for their loving care and support for Robert for over a year. During this difficult time of COVID-19, they never wavered and demonstrated what it means to be a health care professional. What an amazing group or caring and supportive agencies serving our family members. Robert loved his boxers, antique automobiles, not rods, his garages, and the ladies—in that order his entire life. His house selections were always based on the needs of his pets and the need for more garage space to hold his many toys and projects. Robert enjoyed cooking, eating good food, and spending most of his time driving to nowhere specific with one of his toys, going to car shows, building new hot rods or buying ones just to take apart to better understand how they were designed and how he could design or build a better one. He received numerous awards over the years for “First Place”, “Best in Show” and “Furthest Driven” to name a few. In the 70’s, he won 1 st Place at the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) Eastern Fall Nationals in Hershey, PA

and he was proud of the fact that he never “trailerred” one of his vehicles to an event. He would say, “They were built to be driven, not trailerred!” It goes without saying, he never put antique plates on any of his vehicles. He would say, “No one is going to tell me when I can drive any of my vehicles!” He had a “need for speed”. His moto was, “I work hard, so I earned the right to play as hard and long as I want”—an did he (in his younger days anyways). He was an active member and user of The Playboy Club (Presidential Key) from 1961 to 1991; did he have stories to tell. He was an avid fan of the New England sports teams and NASCAR, most events turned into an after-party in his younger days. His house parties were like no others; lots of food, live music, games, and anything you can think of to drink. A Federal judge, lawyers, and police officers (off duty of course) where in attendance in case someone called the cops—which actually happened ONCE in 1982. If Robert called you a friend, you could rest assured, that if you ever needed guidance (Dr. Koo-Koo guidance that is), a place to sleep, a car, or some help—you just needed to ask—if he didn’t already figure it out.

He lived life the way he wanted and enjoyed it every step of the way. He had regrets along the way, some he owned and others he didn’t control. His heart was broken twice during his life and mended by his many boxers over 60+ years. He had a dislike of anyone that was arrogant, pretentious, condescending or rude to other people. He gave anonymously to a lot of people and local charities; he’d read something in the paper about someone in need and he would do something to have a positive impact. He leaves an emptiness in our lives, though he will always be in our hearts.

Robert’s funeral will be private per his wishes and interment will take place in North Carolina. At his insistence there will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers and condolences, contributions can be made to The Boxer Rescue, PO Box 440, Grafton, MA 01519 a 501(c)3 Non-Profit serving New England or a charity of your choice “in the name of your pet”.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Robert.

Charles Demetrios Zeotas, 91

WEBSTER-Charles Demetrios Zeotas age 91 passed away Sunday, May 31, 2020 at his home. He leaves his nephew and niece James P. Skoutas of Stuart, FL and Rita Gionis of Providenc, RI, also two great nephews, one great niece, four great great grand nephews and three great grand nieces. He was predeceased by a sister Dorothea Sullivan of Port St. Lucie, FL.

He was born in Webster son of

William J St. Marie, Jr., 85

William J St. Marie, Jr., age 85, of Dudley died Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at Southbridge Rehabilitation after a period of declining health and the covid 19 virus William was born March 3, 1935 in Dudley, MA. He is the son of the late William St. Marie Sr. and the late Florence (St. Germain)

He is survived by two sisters: Elaine St. Marie and Geraldine St. Marie of Dudley, several nieces and nephews .

He was a factory worker at B&W Footwear Co, and Angelo Fabrics Co. in Webster . Sanitary Dash Co. in North Grosvenordale for 34 years retiring in

the late James Zeotis and Anastasia (Pappas) Zeotis and lived here all his life. He was Korean War, US Army Veteran. Charles was retired from Cranston Print Works in Webster.

There are no calling hours and all services are private. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Mildred (Mickey) E. Pierce age 86

MARLBOROUGH- Mildred (Mickey) E. Pierce age 86 passed away Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at the Reservoir Center for Health and Rehabilitation. She leaves her daughter Debra Pierce Durant of Marlborough/ Wilsonville, CT and her life partner Dick Majercik of Wilsonville, CT, three sons Steven Pierce and his wife Kimberly of Grant Michigan, Stanley Pierce and his wife Linda of Chicopee, MA and Breck Bator- Pierce and his husband Frank Bator of NY, NY. She also leaves a sister Helen Riley of Texas. Mickey also has eight grandchildren and ten greatgrandchildren nieces and nephews.

She was born in Pere Marquett Charter Township, Michigan, daughter of the late Fred Taylor and Margaret (Wanamaker) Taylor. Mildred was a US Airforce wife and lived in many different parts of the country and Philippines. She was known by



all the students as the lunch lady at Marlborough High School. If the student didn’t have the money she would pay for them.

Mickey had a great love for cats and always ready to nurture a cat without a home. She enjoyed reading mysteries, crafts, watching her favorite TV shows like csi and big bang theory., and shopping at second hand stores. She was also known for making the most fantastic fried chicken. She enjoyed travel, Chinese food when the opportunity arose and sitting at home with her cats and a cup of coffee on her porch. She always stayed in contact with her oldest friend Flossy back in Michigan.

She was a member of the Marlborough Senior Center. There are no calling hours. Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle. Please omit flowers and donations in her memory may be made to the Cat Connection, 289 Thompson Rd., Webster, MA 01570.



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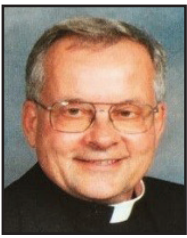
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OBITUARIES

Rev. Donald G. Baribeau, M.S., 74

Father Donald G. Baribeau, M.S., 74, passed away peacefully May 26, 2020 in the rectory of St. Mildred Catholic Parish. Swansboro, NC. He was born November 30, 1945 in Danielson, Connecticut, the son of Louis G. and Irene (Theroux) Baribeau. He grew up in a Catholic family and attended St. James Catholic Church.



He attended Junior College at the La Salette Seminary in Altamont, NY. Father entered the La Salette Novitiate in Bloomfield, CT in 1968. He pronounced his First Vows on August 15, 1969 and professed his Perpetual Vows on March 19, 1974. On May 17, 1975, Father was ordained to the priesthood at the La Salette Seminary Church in Ipswich, MA. Father received a B.A. in English at Merrimack College and his S.T.B. in Theology at the Angelicum in Rome.

Upon his ordination, Father Baribeau was named Associate Pastor of St. Peter Church in Dagenham, England. In 1981, he attended Plater College in Oxford, England for a sabbatical year. Returning to the USA, he ministered as the Associate Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Fitchburg, MA.

In 1985 he became the Co-Director of the La Salette Shrine in Ipswich, MA, Director of College Formation and Editor of "Our Lady's Missionary". In 1986 Father was named Director of Development. He then was assigned as Pastor of St. Thomas Parish in Smyrna, GA before serving as Pastor of Mother of Mercy Parish in Washington, NC. In August 2000 he was assigned as Pastor of St. Mildred, where he served with unparalleled grace, love and dedication until the day God called him to heaven.

His love for God and the people, his gentle humanity, sense of humor and deep dedication to his ministry touched the hearts of all who have known him. He cherished all of God's creation and enjoyed taking care of his rectory flowers, his cat and his fish aquaria of which he was ever so proud.

In addition to his La Salette community, Father Baribeau is survived by his brother Ronald (and wife Deborah) Baribeau of Danielson, CT, his sister Gloria of Florida and many friends.

A private Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 1:00 PM at St. Mildred Catholic Church with Luis Rafael Zarama, Bishop of Raleigh officiating. Burial service was held at Seaside Memorial Park.

May his soul rest in Peace!

Rev. George W. Larkins II

Danielson – Reverend George W. Larkins II beloved husband of Donna L. (Barcomb) Larkins for 33 years peacefully went home to be with his Lord Jesus Sunday morning May 10,



2020. He was born September 15, 1951 in Willimantic first born of Earl and Mildred (James) Larkins and resided in Brooklyn/ Danielson for many years. George attended school at E.O. Smith and graduated from UCONN with a degree in Agricultural Science. He went on to work for the USDA as a federal meat and poultry inspector for 32 years earning many awards for his standard of excellence at his job. After retiring in 2008, George worked at a drug and alcohol rehab center in Putnam and in the same year he started Bible courses. In 2012 George became a licensed minister and in 2018 was ordained with the Assemblies of God. Sharing the word of God whether it was in his home church at Valley Shore AG in Old Saybrook or where ever he was invited was his passion. Through his years as a minister he married several couples and presided over funerals of family and friends very dear to him. He reminisced often about the wonderful memories of Sunday school, men's ministry and youth groups that

he and his wife taught. George loved and adored his wife, loved his entire family and always looked forward to spending time with them especially family camping vacations, all the holidays and birthdays. Besides gardening, traveling and woodworking his favorite hobby was kayaking with his son Mark and his "kayaking buddy" Rene Suprenant. One of George's treasured memories was the recent trip to Lake Tahoe, CA with his sons Damian and Mark to visit son Trevor and family who reside there. Besides his wife, George leaves his sons Damian, Trevor (Alexandria) and Mark Larkins, Michael and David (Holly) Bunning and daughter Rebecca Jordan and fiancé Jeff Tatiro; and a brother Charles Larkins. Also 8 grandchildren Makenna Larkins, Eric Bunning, Zachary, Tyler Alex and Julie Jordan, Alyson and David Bunning, Jr. and 8 great grandchildren as well as a niece and nephew, cousins and many dear friends. He was predeceased by his brother Michael Larkins and sister Joanne Rodriquez. George will always be remembered for his genuine sense of caring, his kind, helpful, loving ways, a good and honorable man who touched and impacted many lives. But most of all, he will be remembered as a man who loved God and his family. A celebration of George's life will be held at a later date for all of his family and friends. www.doughertybrosfuneralhome.com

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Robin A. Kyriakakis, 57

PUTNAM- Robin A. (Woy) Kyriakakis, 57, died peacefully at home on Sunday, May 24, 2020. She was the daughter of Eugene Waoy and the late Lois (Gorr) Woy.



Robin was born in Coraopolis, PA and lived in Bethel Park, PA where she graduated from Bethel Park High School. She attended The Pennsylvania State University at University Park, PA and graduated with a degree in education. She spent her junior year abroad student teaching in London, England. Robin lived for several years in California, before moving to New Hampshire, where she worked as an elementary school teacher. In 2011 she moved to Putnam to be near her loving sister, Janet Blanchette, who helped care for her in her later years.

Robin enjoyed spending time at the beach, especially at Ocean City, NJ with her aunts and cousins. She was a voracious reader and could read several books in one day. She also enjoyed

arts and crafts projects, especially flower arranging. She loved attending Penn State football games, tailgating often with her family.

She is survived by her son, Dylan Kyriakakis of Boston, and her father Eugene Woy and wife Carol of North Canton, Ohio; sister Janet Blanchette and her husband Dennis of Thompson, CT and their 3 children, Daniel, Ellen and Alison; brother David Woy and his wife Amy of Canal Fulton, OH and their 2 children, Caleb and Olivia; also 3 beloved aunts - Nicky, Carol and Kay and numerous cousins. She was predeceased by her mother, Lois Woy.

In view of the current situation, a memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.GilmanandValade.com. Memorial donations may be made to the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group, (TEEG). TEEG is a dedicated non-profit human service organization that provides assistance and support to families in the communities of Northeast Connecticut. Their address is: PO Box 664, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 or on line at www.teegonline.org.

Ryan Lee Lefevre

Ryan Lee Lefevre of Danielson, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Monday, May 18, 2020. Ryan was born October 21, 1991, the loving son of Donna Savoie of Danielson and Donald Lefevre of Moosup.



Ryan lost his battle to the demons of drug addiction and chronic depression. Throughout his journey he attended rehabilitation at the Isaiah House treatment center in Willisburg, KY as he fought hard every day for his sobriety. Ryan was not defined by his addiction. He was caring, loyal and loving soul with a heart of gold. He often put others before himself to make sure they were doing okay. Those fortunate enough to know him were comforted by his presence and warm smile. He had a great sense of humor with the ability to make people laugh.

Ryan was an avid sports fan; there wasn't a sport he didn't like. He was a huge Red Sox and Eagles fan, "Fly Eagles Fly"! His other passions were playing basketball, baseball, softball and golf. In his senior year of high school he was

ranked #2 of his high school golf team.

Ryan loved his family and friends, always willing to lend a helping hand. He found great joy playing with his younger cousins and they always looked forward to his patience and kindness. He is now our forever angel watching over us. Ryan will be greatly missed by all. Besides his parents, Ryan is survived by a step-father Gary Grenier of Danielson and step-grandmother Marguerite Grenier of Danielson. His half-brothers Donald, William, Jacob and Samuel Lefevre, half-sisters Mandy Lefevre (Smith) and Natalie Lefevre and stepsister Laura Grenier, as well as several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was predeceased by his half-sister, Michelle Pettigrew, maternal grandparents, Julian and Mildred Savoie and paternal grandparents, Leo and Cecile Lefevre.

A memorial service will be announced and held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Ryan Lefevre to Isaiah House Treatment Center at 2084 Main Street, Willisburg, KY 40078; Community Speaks Out at 214B Thames Street, Groton, CT 06340; KB Ambulance Corp. P.O. Box 209 Danielson, CT 06239. as well as any other charity you wish in his honor. tillinghastfh.com

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