



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, May 21, 2021

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Putnam budget heads to referendum this weekend

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — Putnam voters are being summoned to the polls this weekend to decide the fate of the town's proposed budgets for the 2022 fiscal year.

Following the 2021 Annual Town Meeting on May 12, which Mayor Barney Seney said was one of the quickest meetings he ever presided over, the spending plans were sent to the polls

bringing increases to both education and government spending.

The school district has proposed an \$18.9 million budget, with an increase of \$169,407. This amounts to just under a percent increase over the current fiscal year's spending plan. On the town side, the general government budget sits at \$3.2 million, which includes bonded indebtedness of a little under \$2 million, adding up to a \$300,404 increase, or 3.79 percent, over the current fiscal

year. The library budget proposal for the next fiscal year has a decrease from \$440,000 2021 to \$429,905 in 2022. In total the budgets combine to a spending plan of \$27.6 million. The projected mill rate for the next year is 21.63, an increase from the current rate of 20.84.

A referendum to decide the budgets will be held this Saturday, May 22 from noon until 8 p.m. Residents can determine their voting site on the Town of Putnam Web site.



Eastern graduates upwards of 1,000 at on-campus commencement exercises

WILLIMANTIC — On May 15 and May 16, Eastern Connecticut State University returned to its Willimantic campus for the first time in 13 years to hold graduation exercises.

Since 2009, the University has held Commencement at the XL Center in Hartford. Due to COVID-19 health and safety protocols, the University's 131st Commencement was held outdoors on the grounds of nearby Windham Technical High School. Two sessions for 2021 undergraduates were held on May 15 to manage social distancing, as well as a separate session for graduate students. On Sunday, May 16, the Class of 2020 returned to campus for an in-person ceremony.

Eastern presented honorary degrees to Saturday's three commencement speakers, including Jeffrey Flaks, president and CEO of Hartford HealthCare; Mark Boxer, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the University of Hartford; and Maryam Elahi, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal was a special guest and speaker at the afternoon ceremonies on May 15 and at Sunday's graduation for the Class of 2020.

Over the course of the two days, 700 undergraduates of the Class of 2021, 61 graduate students, and more than 200 members of the Class of 2020 attended the Commencement Exercises, along with more than 2,000 guests for the four events.

Class of 2021 Speaking at both undergraduate exercises on Saturday, Senior Class President Nour Kalbouneh '21 told her classmates, "No matter what life adventure you take on next, learn to be comfortable - comfortable with failing, comfortable with taking risks, comfortable with having a plan and then having life completely ruin it, comfortable with being wrong, and comfortable with learning, growing and changing as a person. I hope you take your new wisdom and use it to fight for what's right, let your voices be heard, and make the world a better place."

Flaks, who spoke at the morning exercises on Saturday, is an

innovator and leader in the healthcare field, overseeing a \$4.3 billion enterprise serving more than 1.7 million patients and customers.

"You are about to embark on the next chapter of your lives," said Flaks, "and I want to offer three pieces of advice that have served me well. First, 'dream big.'"

Flaks shared that his grandfather, an immigrant from Turkey in the early 1900s, taught him to work hard and believe in himself. His grandfather became a CPA and saw his own son attend an Ivy League law school.

"What will you do with your own big dream?" Flaks asked the graduates.

His second piece of advice was to be resilient: "If you want to hear a good laugh from God, tell him your plan . . . Everything you went through this year is an essential part of your college education that will never appear on your transcript. I am certain it will be one of the most impactful lessons - truly once in a lifetime."

"Finally, serve others. Be generous with . . . Turn To **EASTERN**, page **A4**



Courtesy Photo

Killingly High senior Bo Yaworski proudly holds up the ball he used to finish off his no-hitter against Windham — his second no-hitter of the season — on Thursday, May 13.

Centaurus knock Killingly from ranks of unbeaten with doubleheader sweep

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The two hottest high school baseball teams in the northeast corner of the Nutmeg State — Killingly High and Woodstock Academy — after more than half a season beating up on the same teams, finally squared off against each other.

The result was 15 innings of top-notch hardball, the Centaurus not only knocking

Killingly from the ranks of the undefeated, but sweeping a doubleheader, played Saturday, May 8, at Owen Bell Park.

Woodstock Academy ended Killingly's season-opening 11-game winning streak with a 3-0, eight-inning victory in the first game. The Centaurus went on to take the second game as well, by a score of 3-2.

"It feels fantastic," Woodstock Academy senior Jacob Hernandez told WA sports infor-

mation director Marc Allard. "We came into this game knowing that we didn't have anything to lose. All the pressure was on them because of their undefeated season. We felt like coming in, playing some baseball and having some fun on a Saturday afternoon."

Hernandez certainly had some fun, providing the insurance runs for Woodstock Academy (12-4, 11-2 ECC Division

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

QVCC among schools receiving stimulus funding

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY — Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) is one of seven colleges and universities receiving a share of over \$92 million through the American Rescue Plan.

Congressman Joe Courtney made the official announcement on May 11 that QVCC is receiving \$3.4 million through the plan including a minimum of \$1,756,630 for student aid and a maximum institutional aid of \$1,707,868. Also included on the list were Eastern Connecticut State University, the University of Connecticut, Three Rivers Community College, Asnintuck

Community College, Mitchell College and Connecticut College, all nestled in or near the Eastern part of Connecticut.

The funding is provided through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund program of the American Rescue Plan with half of the money required to help fund direct relief to students at each institution. Congressman Courtney, a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, helped draft and authorize the provisions to support higher education in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Keeping our schools open is in the first row of priorities when it comes to getting life back to normal and getting peoples'

careers and our economy back on track," said Congressman Courtney in a statement. "That's why the American Rescue Plan is delivering new funding directly to our local universities, community colleges and others, helping them offset costs and making sure that whatever speedbumps and challenges lie ahead, they've got the support to stay ahead of the curve, to stay open, and to ensure that a year of disrupted learning isn't compounded even further. A well-trained, well-educated workforce is essential to the present and future strength of our communities and our economy, and our local universities and commu-

Turn To **QVCC**, page **A2**

“Manufacturing fever” strikes Connecticut



**KILLINGLY
AT 300**
.....
**MARGARET
WEAVER**

If you think about where you live, do you think about your town's past, about the numerous changes that have occurred over the years, about the people who have lived there, about how their lives were affected by not only local but also national events? If only walls could talk!

If you resided in Northeastern Connecticut between 1800 and 1836, you would have been amazed at the changes in the landscape, at the influx of new ideas and families, at the numerous building projects and the abundance of employment opportunities that were becoming available. In almost a “blink of an eye,” the region was losing its agricultural focus and was being caught up in “manufacturing fever.”

The inhabitants of that time probably looked at the material benefits of the change; most probably had no idea of the number of individuals involved to make this new way

of life possible, of the benefits for some and the great disadvantages for others. A huge web was woven when textile manufacturing became the rage.

In the past, I believe I have written mostly about Killingly's manufacturing concerns. In this column, I'd like you to look at the region from a larger perspective and imagine that you are back in the early 1800's. If you've been to Old Sturbridge Village, you've seen the “before” textile factories were built. You have only to take a drive near this area's rivers and brooks to see the many remains of mills and factories that once dotted the landscape and that forever altered a way of life.

Until the opening of the railroad from Norwich to Worcester in 1840, it was much easier for the families of this area to go east to Providence for supplies and to market their finished goods and commodities. In fact, a number of Rhode Island families settled along the border in Connecticut. Thus, it is not unreasonable that the story of change begins in Rhode Island in Pawtucket, in 1798, with the opening of a cotton mill by Samuel Slater and his father-in-law Ozias Wilkinson. In less

than a decade they were looking for new sources of water-power to expand their operations, and eastern Connecticut had a number of rivers and brooks. The west bank of present-day Putnam (then part of Pomfret) on the Quinebaug River below Cargill Falls was their choice for an initial mill. On “January 1, 1806, Ozias Wilkinson, his sons, Abraham, Isaac, David, Daniel, Smith, his sons-in-law Timothy Green and William Wilkinson, together with James, Christopher and William Rhodes formally associated as “The Pomfret Manufacturing Company.” The frame of the factory was raised on the Fourth of July, and “on April 1, 1807, the first cotton factory in Windham County was set in operation.” Nine boys and girls and a few men were the initial workforce. All the factory did at first was spin cotton, which was then passed on to the women of the area the weave into “coarse cloth and bed-ticking.” “Many workmen were employed in tending mill, hauling cotton and goods, preparing ground and setting up buildings.”

Other factories soon followed. It was a though many “wanted a piece of the action.” The Sterling Manufactory and Plainfield Union Manufacturing Company were in operation by 1809. The Danielson Manufacturing Company, with stockholders James Danielson, Walter Paine, Israel Day, William Reed, Ira and Stephen Draper, Ebenezer and Comfort Tiffany, and William Cundall, Sr. and Jr., opened about 1810 as did the Stone Chapel Manufacturing Company in present-day Attawaugan. By 1819, the Danielson Company had added a second building to the complex. The Thompson Manufacturing Company “the Swamp Factory” on the French River in Thompson, financed with Rhode Island capital, opened in 1811 as did the Connecticut Manufacturing Company on the Quinebaug River in Thompson. In 1813 the Quaddick Manufactuirng

Company, which at first manufactured woolen hats, utilized the Five Mile River in Thompson. In that same year Judge Ebenezer Young of Killingly purchased a building that had housed a carding machine on the Whetstone Brook in East Killingly and became one of the original shareholders of the Chestnut Hill Manufacturing Company. In 1814, the Killingly Manufacturing Company converted a site on the Five Mile River, which had housed Talbot's grist mill, to cotton manufacturing (later called Daniels' Village). (See Ellen Larned's History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vo. II for the above factories).

“A Pomfret Woolen Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1817, and erected buildings upon the Mashamoquet, but it suffered severely from the great flood the following year, and other causes, and disbanded after a time with pecuniary loss to its associates.” (Larned, II, p. 445).

The manufacturing concerns in the region were impacted by the Financial Panic of 1819, the young nation's first Depression, but by the mid-1820's another wave of construction of small mills had begun. Since Killingly had become the greatest cotton manufacturing town in Connecticut by 1836, I'll summarize that town's rapid growth. Jabez Amesbury and Leonard Ballou purchased a corn mill from Asa Alexander in 1825 and converted it to a cotton factory in what became Ballouville. They had a second factory (Amesbury) by 1833 in what is now Pineville. Caleb Williams of Providence erected a factory on the Quinebaug River in 1827; Williamsville (now Rogers) came into existence. In 1828, Jedediah Leavens and Calvin Leffingwell constructed a factory below the Chestnut Hill Mill (Young's) on Whetstone Brook. That year Asa Alexander erected a cotton mill on the same brook. Isaac Cundall constructed a small mill on the Five Mile River in present-day Danielson in 1830.

About 1831-2, Asa Alexander constructed another mill on the Whetstone, the Valley Mill. In 1832 John Day, Prosper and William Alexander established a cotton factory on the Five Mile River in Dayville. About 1832-3, the Elliotville Mill was erected on the Whetstone. As you can see, much of Killingly seemed to be under construction. Just imagine the domino effect this must have had and the number of lives that were being impacted by this new system.

According to Larned, this time period was also one of a greater awareness (or perhaps just vocalization) of some of the social problems of the time. Temperance and the plight of the African-Americans were just two of the main issues. I'm sure most of you are well aware of what happened to Prudence Crandall in Canterbury after she converted her school to one for “young misses of color.” Many were not ready to treat non-whites equally. Our country has made progress with social justice issues, but it still has a long way to go.

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

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2021. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.

WELCOME TO WOODSTOCK!

Spring is bustin' out all o-o-ver!

The Woodstock Veterinary Clinic, on RT 171 close to RT 169, celebrates 50 years of service. Five DMVs today build on the reputation of Dr. Looby who in 1971 saw the need as did Dr Hackett in 1978, who joined in. Phone for your appointment! Gift-giving is assisted nicely at **The Black Walnut**, south Woodstock RT 169 near the school buildings. Cindy Sherman has collected a wide variety of interesting items for home and family... be sure to notice the Corner for Kids with gift ideas.

A very popular Woodstock business, **American Doll Clothes**, New Sweden Road, tucked way out of sight, creates clothing and accessories for the owners of famous American Dolls. Look on-line: Suzanne Hagstrom just loves to sew and sew!

Beaver Pines Campground, near the Southbridge border on RT 198, has been owned and managed by Duane and Kathy Frederick for 20 years, with son Dean transitioning in now. Sites are spacious, the atmosphere friendly and the ratings sky-high!

*Woo - Woo - Woodstock.
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2021 – 2022 Kindergarten Registration

Woodstock Elementary School invites all families with Kindergarten eligible students to register for the 2021-2022 school year. All students turning five years old before December 31, 2021 are eligible for entry into our full-day Kindergarten program.

Registration packets can be obtained by calling the main office at 860-928-0471 or by email at wesoffice@woodstockschoools.net

Completed registration packets can be submitted in person at Woodstock Elementary School the week of May 24th between 8am and 4pm or mailed to:

Woodstock Elementary School
24 Frog Pond Rd., Woodstock, CT 06281
Woodstock Public Schools

Scouts celebrate Father's Day outdoors

N. GROSVENORDALE — Join Scout Troop 25 from Putnam at the West Thompson Dam Saturday, June 19 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for a fun-filled day of outdoor activities in honor of Father's Day. And it's not just for dads!

Bring the family for fishing,

kayaking, field games and sports. We will be grilling burgers and hot dogs, or you can bring your own lunch.

Bring your lucky fishing pole and favorite tackle or pack up the kayaks and life vests and join us for a fantastic day celebrating dads, uncles, brothers, and all

those special fatherly figures in our lives!

Please wear your mask and respect social distancing guidelines.

To RSVP or for more information, email bsatroop25putnam@gmail.com.

QVCC

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nity colleges are who we depend on to keep us competitive. The American Rescue Plan is continuing to fuel eastern Connecticut's recovery, and it's good to see these federal dollars come home to institutions where they'll be highly effective.”

According to Congressman Courtney's office the funding awarded to the schools can be used for a wide range of purposes including offsetting costs of mitigating the spread of COVID-19, providing vaccination opportunities, retaining and reengaging students, and increasing direct support to the student body.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 10: Northern Harrier, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Veery, Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Parula Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Pine Wabler, Prairie Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Lincoln's Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Von Trapp returns to the stage

DAYVILLE — On Friday, May 7, Elisabeth von Trapp brought her legendary voice, sensational joy, and heartfelt gratitude to the Westview family. Her microphone and guitar were connected to a sound system in the Great Room at Country Living at Westview Commons, but the messages in her performance connected much deeper with the hearts and minds of those attending and those watching on the closed-circuit Channel 2 at Westview Health Care Center.

Country Living at Westview Commons is the brand new, 110,000 square foot, state-of-the-art independent and assisted living facility located across the street from Westview Health Care Center.

Originally, von Trapp's concert was meant to coincide with the grand opening of the new location last summer. Though it required rescheduling, the artist's ultimate arrival exceeded expectations of both the listening audience and von Trapp herself.

Early in her set, she exclaimed, "How beautiful it is to be here! What a beautiful place you live in."

Elisabeth is the granddaughter of Baron and Maria von Trapp, and the daughter of Werner von Trapp (second oldest son of the Trapp Family Singers). The story of her family's desperate departure from war-torn Europe became the award-winning Broadway musical and Hollywood film "The Sound of Music."

Everyone present at the concert was vaccinated, providing a sense of normalcy as they watched and listened. Throughout the show the audience sustained social distance but emotional closeness. Music has an innate ability to bring people together. This is surely something that Elisabeth von Trapp learned from her father Werner, as well as her own career on stage. Elisabeth's family history and personal experiences showcased her as the perfect entertainer for this transitional time moving away from a historically difficult era. Live musical performances used to be among the most frequent events in both locations, but out of medical necessity, such performances were discontinued over the past year.

Considering all of the anticipation, she delivered a huge moment for the enthusiastic crowd.

"(Elisabeth's) voice was exquisite and the event played out beautifully. As she sang, I thought about her grandparents and the von Trapp family legacy. It was amazing to see her performing right in front of us," said Nancy Cowley, a resident at the facility.

Resident Richard Morrison added, "She has a wonderful voice, and an even brighter smile. She warmed the entire room with her singing."

Many of the residents took this opportunity to wear some of their finest fashions, further highlighting the event as a special occasion. Their appreciation for Elisabeth von Trapp returned in her kind interactions with the audience.

"She is very talented, and the passion behind her effort made it clear that she loved where she was," resident Patricia Blain commented. "It felt like we weren't only her audience—we were her friends."

Well before the concert's conclusion, it proved clear that emotions stirred. If it were not for the melodic mastery that filled the room with sound, a pin drop could be heard. As she sang, played, and entertained, Elisabeth frequently addressed the crowd directly. These moments not only provided context for the songs she performed, but also established a deeper link between her and the audience. Westview Commons' Executive Vice President David T. Panteleakos saw the performance and simultaneously saw the residents of the independent and assisted living facility enjoying the show to the fullest extent. Later he received a great



deal of feedback from staff members at Westview Health Care Center indicating that the impact was equally profound among staff members and residents of the skilled nursing facility.

"Elisabeth von Trapp's performance was scheduled over a year ago, and it proved to be even more powerful at this moment in our lives. After what we have endured, we will always cherish this memory of Elisabeth as a beacon of light drawing us away from the darkness of the pandemic," Mr. Panteleakos remarked.

Elisabeth von Trapp looked forward to this May 7 show with shared anticipation, considering she hadn't performed a concert in the previous year.

Before she finished, Elisabeth addressed the audience with gratitude, stating, "When the singer is gone, let the song go on...I just love that line. You brought song back to me. It's a beautiful gift—I shall always remember you. It's been a full year of waiting and the gift is going to keep growing in me, because that's the type of gift it is. I shall celebrate you and take you with me in my heart: that your life here flourishes and you blossom in your way, that your hopes and dreams continue to happen, and if you have hopes and dreams for others—you send those out. There's such a need to have those prayers sent out."

That extra special message was immediately followed by an a cappella version of "I'll Be Seeing You," which segued into a deeply poignant edition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." This grand experience concluded with a meet and greet between the artist and her patrons. Many of the residents took the opportunity to purchase Elisabeth's album "Something Good," which features Rodgers and Hammerstein classic tunes. The CD contains her signature in sound and she embellished the copies sold to Westview Commons residents with her signature in ink. Elisabeth von Trapp's beautiful music provided an emotional earful, and throughout the concert many eyes remained cheerily tearful. Undoubtedly uplifting, the hour-long performance offered a timeless memory for all in her presence.

Country Living at Westview Commons is a brand new, state-of-the-art, 75-unit independent and assisted living destination located adjacent to and affiliated with the FIVE STAR and

US News and World Reports America's Best Westview Health Care Center located in Dayville, CT. Westview Commons provides seniors in residence with agency, amenity, activity—a lifestyle they deserve. For more information please visit the Country Living at Westview commons Web site: westview-commons.com



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Villager Newspapers

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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author Dina Stander (Mass.)

Montreal International Poetry Contest finalist & author Karen Warinsky (CT)
and National Beat Poet Laureate (2020) Paul Richmond

Everyone Is Invited To A

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

State Project No. 141-157

**Replacement of Bridge No. 02128
Route 12 over Sunset Hill Brook
Thompson**

Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project.

Please join us on Thursday, May 27, 2021

The meeting will be live streamed via: Microsoft Teams Live Event and YouTube Live

Formal Presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

Instructions on how to access the meeting and on how to provide comments or ask questions, can be found at the project webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTThompson141-157>

The Virtual Public Information Meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. Persons with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them by contacting Raymond I. Basar by email at Raymond.Basar@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 594-3313, allow one week for processing and delivery.

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling (888) 949-2798 and entering the Participant Code when prompted: 1591603. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). The MS Teams Live Event offers closed captioning for the hearing impaired and non-English translation options. A recording of the formal presentation will be posted to YouTube following the event and closed captioning (including non-English translation options) will be available at that time. The recording will also be available in the list of DOT virtual public meetings here: <https://portal.ct.gov/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library>

Visit the project webpage for options for Apple users. During the Q&A session and the 14-day comment period that follows the meeting, individuals may leave a question or comment via email (preferred) at DOTProject141-157@ct.gov. Individuals may also leave a voicemail question or comment by calling (860) 944-1111. Please reference the project in your voicemail.

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

Pending Budget approval, Eastford School in Eastford, CT (PK-8) seeks applicants for the following, anticipated positions for the 2021-2022 school year:

1.0 FTE Language Arts Teacher
CT Certification (015, 215, 001, 004 or 006) required

1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher
CT Certification (029, 229, 001, 004, or 006) required

Salaries: Eastford Teachers Association Agreement: Commensurate with Experience
Send letter of intent, resume, copy of Connecticut certification, 3 letters of reference and unofficial transcripts to:

Dr. Donna Leake, Superintendent Eastford School District
P.O. Box 158 12 Westford Road, Eastford, CT 06242-0158

Application materials may also be emailed to:

Carole McCombe, Principal cmccombe@eastfordct.org

Application Deadline: open until filled • Starting Date: August 26, 2021

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Richard Orzulak

June 5, 1938 ~ May 25, 2020



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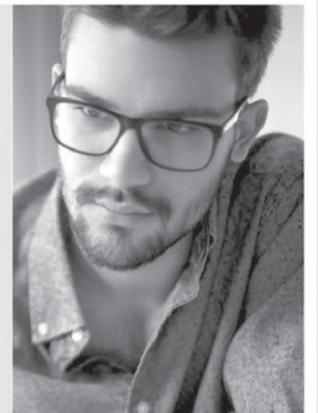


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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Two wooden sticks formed my world

I've been a percussionist since I was eight years old. For those who are unfamiliar with the term ... I'm a drummer.

A man named Levi Rock handed me a pair of Ludwig 3S laminated drumsticks. Although I didn't know it at the time, the trajectory of my life was set. He then said, "Hey Bill ... strap a drum on this kid and take him outside and teach him to play Paradiddles, Triplets and Shave and a Hair Cut." Bill Buck, still a dearest friend to this day, nodded and I followed him into "the cage," the equipment room for the Kankakee Challengers Drum & Bugle Corps.

It was love at first grip as I held those sticks in hand and looked at that red, silver, and blue sparkle drum strapped to my right shoulder and resting on my left thigh. It felt natural ... as if I were born to wear it.

Time passed, but every step of my life was guided or influenced by this pair of wooden sticks. My junior high and high school years were all dominated by concert band, jazz band, marching band, and drum & bugle corps at the American Legion.

The sticks then took me to VanderCook College of Music for a

degree in music education. I won a state NBTA Rudimental Drumming Solo Championship and two months later placed third in the nation. I performed and toured for a season with the National/World Champion Chicago Cavaliers. Music never became my vocation but led, guided, and influenced my professional and personal life in profoundly positive ways.

Those sticks took me on a five-week tour as a drummer for Country Star Ray Price. All along the way, I couldn't have ever imagined where my sticks would take me next.

Through the years, I've performed off and on in my church with our praise and worship team, but life, health and professional travel brought me to the point where performing ended.

A few weeks ago, Pastor Matt Smith, arranged an opportunity for me to take those wooden sticks and make music one more time, and maybe for the last time. I was so rusty ... but the band pulled me along and allowed me the privilege to sit at those drums and play



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

I'm grateful.

What's the point of this column? One point is to emphasize the importance of music education, which I believe is tragically undervalued within our educational system. More importantly, the point is to

highlight the impact of doing what you love and finding your passion. The joy of taking those two pieces of wood into my hands and making a joyful noise, for me, is priceless. It has enriched my life in indescribable ways.

You just never know the profound impact moments in time can have. Lightning may strike at any time. You must always be open to new experiences, as you never know where they will lead.

For my dad, I'm guessing it might be the first time someone handed him a baseball. For my daughter, a Pastor, the first time she was handed a Bible. For my wife, it's gardening. Drumsticks, a baseball, a Bible, a few flowers magically arranged to create beauty ... all unexpected but profound moments that led to a lifelong passion.

We can't choose those moments that lead to our passions. They just happen. We don't plan them and usually are not even aware that they've happened at all until years later. A parent can't choose for a child ... and I don't think we choose at all. Maybe the passion chooses us ... seizing our emotions, creating a lifelong love.

I think the best we can do is give ourselves and our children a wide variety of experiences until they find what they love. And unfortunately, for some, maybe they never find that passion. It's never too late. I know people who in the latter years of their life were struck by something they learned that they loved.

Be open. Let your mind and heart explore the possibilities.

Did you have that moment in your life? If not, are you open to having it?

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 @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Olivia Antonson of Thompson named winner of Elevator Speech Competition at Nichols College

DUDLEY, Mass. — The Elevator Speech Competition is an annual tradition at Nichols College where students test their communication and public speaking skills. Participants are challenged to create a one-minute, memorable speech to practice the skill of marketing themselves to prospective employees. The competition took place virtually on Monday, April 12.

At this year's Ninth Annual Elevator Speech Competition, Olivia Antonson of Thompson was awarded the first-place

prize. The theme of her speech was the importance of going outside of your comfort zone.

Antonson starts her speech, "I love my comfort zone, it's safe, it's secure, it's easy. However, I came to the realization that my comfort zone was stopping me from growing, stopping me from reaching my full potential." This realization happened for Antonson after her freshman year. "I thought to myself, 'Wow, I really didn't challenge myself or take advantage of opportunities at Nichols and I can't go on like this for another two years.' I made it a point to start to challenge myself and go outside of my comfort zone."

Since her mindset shifted, Antonson, now a junior scheduled to graduate early this December, has said yes to many experiences that challenged her. As a general business major

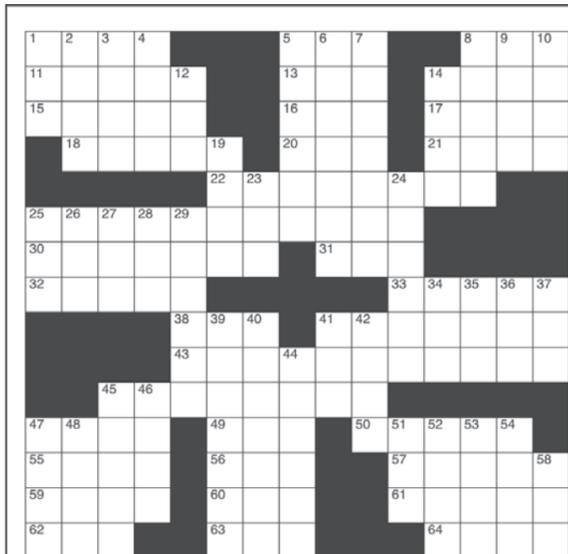
concentrating in management, communications, and civic leadership & politics, Antonson cites those experiences in her speech - presenting research at an academic conference and competing at an International Model UN Conference. She has also found great growth experiences through the mentorship of Professor Erika Smith and coursework in her civic leadership & politics program.

When asked what Antonson got out of saying 'yes' to competing in the Elevator Speech Competition, she said, "Five hundred dollars!" referring to the 1st place prize. On a more serious note, she expressed her gratitude for being able to learn from this experience and the opportunity to receive feedback from alumni judges.

When Antonson finished her speech, one of those judges,

E.J. Landry, a retired partner at Deloitte, exclaimed, "If I wasn't retired, I'd hire you!"

About Nichols College Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols also offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Prevents harm to young
- 5. "Losing My Religion" rockers
- 8. Partner to pan
- 11. Cavalry unit
- 13. Peyton's little brother
- 14. Mexican dish
- 15. Disseminates info to the public
- 16. Set an animal on
- 17. Canadian flyers
- 18. Elongated mouths of arthropods
- 20. I (German)
- 21. Opposite of west
- 22. Glows
- 25. Measures how quickly a car moves
- 30. One who has gained wealth
- 31. Patti Hearst's captors
- 32. Extensive landed property
- 33. Male aristocrat
- 38. For each
- 41. More fidgety
- 43. Very happy
- 45. A place to store info
- 47. Helps to heal
- 49. 12th month (abbr.)
- 50. Broad, shallow craters
- 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 56. Frost
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Curved shapes
- 60. Company that rings receipts
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Sheep native to Sweden
- 63. Cars need it
- 64. Partner to relaxation

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Scientist's high-resolution tool (abbr.)
- 2. Type of school
- 3. Formal close (music)
- 4. Transmits high voltage
- 5. A way to occupy a certain area
- 6. Draws out
- 7. His Airness
- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. South American plants
- 10. Homestead
- 12. Bland or semiliquid food
- 14. Forest resident
- 19. The body needs it
- 23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)
- 24. Spell
- 25. Relaxing place
- 26. Political fundraising tool
- 27. Make a mistake
- 28. Partner to Adam
- 29. Tyrant
- 34. Unit of electrical resistance
- 35. A history of one's life
- 36. Actor DiCaprio
- 37. Sea eagle
- 39. Avoiding being caught
- 40. de Mornay, actress
- 41. Belonging to a thing
- 42. Not us
- 44. Motorcars
- 45. Capital of Bangladesh
- 46. Ancient Greek sophist
- 47. Practice boxing
- 48. Grant, actor
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. S. Sudan river
- 53. A bumpkin
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)

EASTERN

continued from page A1

your time and your talents ... I expect great things from you!"

At the afternoon session, honorary degree recipient Mark Boxer described his family's experiences during COVID-19: his oldest daughter got married, his younger daughter started graduate school and a good friend had his first child - "And you are all graduating! You all persevered through this pandemic and finished your education socially distanced, wearing masks, in a highly virtual manner, but you accomplished what you started. The pandemic did not define you. Your accomplishment today does. Savor the moment."

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal spoke at the afternoon ceremony on Saturday, telling the graduates, "Your last year at Eastern has been marked by grit, grace, and yes, gratitude. It was marked by heartbreak and hardship, but also by renewal and hope. You are better prepared than any recent class to face the challenges to come. I ask you to make the same compact that every generation makes - to leave this country better than you found it."

Eastern President Elsa Nunez reminded the Class of 2021 of the realities of COVID-19 - remote learning, social distancing and limited contact with faculty and friends.

"Instead of complaining, instead of 'mailing it in,' or worse, giving up, you put your head down, kept your chin up, and forged ahead. You discovered an inner strength that will serve you well for the rest of your lives. You stretched yourself even more than you had before," Nunez said. "You have a courage and a determination that will mark this Class of 2021 for years to come. You now share a resolve and a strength of heart that confirms that each of you - by yourselves or united together - can meet any challenge, stare it in the face, and stand tall in its wake."

Graduate Division 2021

At the Saturday afternoon ceremony for Master of Science graduates in Accounting, Education, and Organizational Management, Maryam Elahi, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, applauded the graduates for their hard work and perseverance.

Elahi, who grew up in Tehran, Iran, described her grandfather's commitment to helping others: "He would hand out portions of his wages to laborers on the street, telling them, 'this is your share.'"

While a senior in college studying biology and planning a career as a neurosurgeon, Elahi confronted South African apartheid and it changed her life.

"Follow your conscience and speak to power," Elahi urged the graduates. "Do not allow apathy and cynicism into your soul."

Class of 2020

In May of 2020, the Class of 2020 was limited to a virtual commencement on YouTube due to the national shutdown following the outbreak of COVID-19. On Sunday, May 16, more than 200 of those graduates returned to campus for an in-person ceremony.

Jane McBride Gates, interim president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System, gave the commencement address to the Class of 2020.

"Since March 2020, you have experienced unimaginable, life-changing experiences during one of the hardest times in the history of our country," said Gates. "You endured testing, isolation, quarantine, Zoom fatigue and a sense of loss of identity. Eastern's liberal arts education has challenged you to solve problems and helped you learn which ones to solve and why. You entered a world that needs your talents, insights and compassion."



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Local students graduate from Assumption University

WORCESTER, Mass. — Mitchell Hudon of Danielson and Jacques Bergeron of Woodstock were among the nearly 400 graduates to receive a bachelor's degree during Assumption University's 104th Commencement exercises on Sunday, May 9, at the DCU Center in downtown Worcester. Pulitzer Prize-winning and nationally syndicated Washington Post columnist George F. Will, Ph.D., delivered what he called the "last Assumption lecture for which you will be a captive audience" to the Class of 2021, in which he urged the graduates to live in the present while also imagining the past. The Class of 2021 is the first to graduate from Assumption University, which transitioned from Assumption College last year.

"Mr. Will's influence as an author, newspaper columnist and journalist, particularly for the Washington Post as well as a political commentator on ABC and MSNBC, cannot be overstated," said Salutatorian Maeve McDonald '21 in her introduction of the speaker. «In speaking with Mr. Will about the value of such an education, he noted that, «the point of a liberal arts education is to teach you to open your mind to question, not to reject, but to question received opinions.» He argued that this is a particularly important skill for graduates today as we enter a world that is fraught with political turmoil and moral relativism.»

In his commencement address, Will shared an example of just how one's liberal education can help one better understand the world. He prompted graduates to consider the political unrest in America and the "mudslinging" against "past Americans who played large roles in the creation and preservation of our nation," whose statues are being toppled and names scrubbed from public buildings and places for what mudslingers deem moral and political failures.

"No one says our nation was, or those who passed it on to us, were without sin," he shared. "Rather, I am here to warn against the sin of pride. This is the sin of those who today so much enjoy rendering harsh judgments against those who acted in earlier days. In harshly judging those who produced our nation, today's unforgiving critics are guilty of their own sin. It is the sin of presentism."

Will explained that presentism is "the fallacy of judging by our standards the behavior of those who acted in circumstances very different than ours," and that the only cure is a deep historical knowledge. "Only such knowledge can give us the ability to imagine what it was like to have been America's leaders trying to act morally, as we all must try, in situations not of their choosing or of their making," he said. "What I'm asking for, what I'm pleading for, is imagination. Usually when we speak of imagination, it is prospective imagination, imagination of the future. But what we urgently need now is retrospective imagination. The ability to imagine the past," he said, adding that we need to reimagine the textures of a time long ago, with social settings, customs, political practices, and institutions and ethical standards much different than we have today.

He asked those in attendance "on this 21st century Sunday morning" to return in their imaginations to 167 years ago when the Kansas Nebraska Act became law. It allowed popular majorities in Kansas and Nebraska to decide whether to permit enslavement. Will asked the audience to imagine the scene as politically engaged Americans in 1954, and asked «What would you have advocated? What would you have done?»

Will shared that while Lincoln was against enslavement, he was also opposed to allowing the Union to dis-

solve, which would have called self-government into doubt. He "adopted the ethic of responsibility and committed himself to the patience of politics, to the long path of maneuver and persuasion." Will said that to understand such dilemmas that politicians confronted in the past requires more than just the grounding of facts in history; it requires imagination and the empathy that imagination can nourish. "Our nation today needs the empathy that can only come from imagination and the ability to imagine oneself in other people's shoes. The ability to reason, and maneuver, and compromise as they had to do."

Will called presentism a "pandemic of vindictiveness," and a pandemic, though not of a virus, but something for which there is no vaccine. "Historically-grounded empathy inoculates us against the sin of pride that is at the cold heart of presentism," said Will.

Will said that he hoped that the graduates' time at Assumption had provided them with two talents that would make them immune to such moral vanity—a talent for gratitude and a talent for praising. "Having gratitude for those men and women in the American past, who, like all of us, were flawed but who nevertheless handed on to us a nation that had fewer flaws than when they inherited it," he said. "Praising is an act of humility, an act of homage to those who have been in the arena and who have distinguished themselves there."

He concluded his "final lecture" with an old English couplet: "The couplet is: 'All men are created equal. They differ only in the sequel.' You are the sequel to this excellent University's fine touch," he said. "You will go forth from here and live in the present. But you will, I hope and expect, leave the nation better, because you will avoid presentism. You will do so by appreciating the always crooked road we Americans are always traveling toward a more perfect Union."

Assumption President Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., also emphasized the enduring importance of a liberal arts education. "While so much changed this past year, what did not change was the essence and value of your Assumption education," he said. "The pandemic has made more evident the value of the Catholic liberal education you have received in the last four years. You

have come to appreciate that enduring ideas matter and provide a framework for understanding our contemporary world. You have explored the deepest questions of the human heart, which transcend time and place."

President Cesareo added that these questions include understanding the common good, cultivating good judgment and understanding complexity, finding one's purpose in life, and understanding the responsibilities we have to one another, especially among the most vulnerable. "A Catholic liberal education engages these questions and has prepared you to live out your vocations, professions and to be lifelong learners," he said. "It has provided you with the wisdom and courage to confront the challenges we face during a time like this and that you will face throughout your life."

Valedictorian Hannah White '21 also spoke of Assumption's emphasis on vocation and its importance as she and her classmates enter "a pandemic-stricken workforce with no guarantee that we'll find our ideal entry-level job, much less a clear career path," she said. "Over the past four years we have become familiar with the tagline, 'Light the way.' How can we be a light for others when we ourselves cannot see through the darkness of the unknown?"

White shared her experience in the SOPHIA program as one example in how Assumption helps its students understand what it means to choose a vocation. "Our vocations—our life callings—affect all aspects of how we live, work, and engage with the world around us," she said. "Although we find it difficult to discern our future through the haze of uncertainty, remember this: our life purpose is not some far off goal that will allow us to be happy forever. Vocation is an ever ongoing process of self-discovery. It is living magnanimously, striving for the greatest good, especially in the day to day. It is using what gifts we have to serve others who have nothing. It is living in authentic community with others, where we help each other bear our burdens. Even if our futures are shrouded in darkness, in our vocations we have the light we need to see the next right step."

In closing, President Cesareo reminded the graduates that they are the first

class to graduate from Assumption University, representing a milestone in the history of Assumption. "Throughout its history, Assumption has shown itself to be a resilient institution, overcoming challenges that on the surface seemed insurmountable," he shared. "This year, you have also shown yourself to be resilient as you adapted to the changes that were necessary as we addressed the impact of the pandemic. The sacrifices you made have allowed you to grow as a person in ways that were unexpected. In this way, the pandemic shaped your education as it shaped you as well. Thank you for the many ways you contributed to making Assumption a better place over the last four years. As you move on to the next chapter of your journey, I congratulate you on all that you have accomplished as students at Assumption. We look forward to the many contributions you will make to our society because of your education at your alma mater."

During the ceremony, Will and Vincent Strully, Jr., founder and CEO of the New England Center for Children, received honorary degrees. Will was honored for his "steadfast pursuit of knowledge and distinguished commentary [that] has enriched the American media landscape," while Strully was recognized for his "four decades of selfless service" in which he has dedicated himself to "empowering those in the autism community."

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England's premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.



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KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

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

The following seniors achieved High Honors in Quarter 3: Evelyn Allen, Cal Barber, Abby Card, Abigail Driscoll, Joshua Dumas, Nikki Flynn, Annie Griffin, Sophie Griffin, Cole Lavigne, Patricia Lillibridge-Reek, Julia Purcell, Daniel Raheb, Sydney Rosen, Madelyn Sumner, Matthew Weiss.

First Honors: Abraham Antonelli, Dedrick Baublitz, Austin Brayman, Zoe Conklin, Laney Dunn, Mackenzie Farquhar, Alexis Faucher, Virgil Fensley, Ann-Marie Hebert, Olivia Lamoureux, Chase LeClerc, Amelia MacPhail, David Nduati, Grace Nichols, Abigail Norgren, Alyssa Pomerleau, Hannah Reid, Jillian Robidas, Jordan Rukstela, Sean Saunders, Rayssa Seixo, Grace Socha, Nickolas Steele, Lillian Stockford, Kaleb Watson, Meghan Wrobel, Bo Yaworski, Emily Zmayefski.

Second Honors: Skyler Allen, Scott Aubin, Jack Basiliere, Lorelai Bessenaire, Zachary Blade, Savannah Buisson, Abigail Burgess, Abigail Cornell, Kamila Correa,

Leilani Dean, Evan Despathy, Colton Douglas, Michelle Dumphy, Alyssa Elsey, Jacob Galarza, Laura Garcia-Lara, Grace Gilman, Brooke Harrington, Julia Hopkins, Kaleigh Hopkins, Madison Hopkins, Kyle Keene, Zachary Lehtonen, Hunter Leite, Nevaeh Lyon, Piper Pellitier, Hannah Siegmund, Samantha Swenson, Avery Zanauskas.

The following juniors achieved High Honors in Quarter 3: Georgia Barry, Emma Carpenter, Makala Dube, Lennon Giambattista, Emma Gilbert, Lily Gutierrez, Payton Keefe, Sage Lamparelli, Rhiannon Martin, Benjamin Mayo, Sophia Moore, Kaia Torrente.

First Honors: Brandon Baker, Kylie Beaudry, Shelby Bellows, Kayla Bonin, Ayvril Brytowski, William Carver, Khloe Crossman, Robert DeRouin, Quinn Ellis, Samantha Goulston, Ryan Holmes, Hannah Jarvis, Maggie Jellison, Hailey Lawrence, Gianna Ormstead, Benjamin Percival, Kathryn Strangman, Felicity Surprenant, Hailey Toth, Laylah Zea.

Second Honors: Mackenzie Buell, Lucinda Burke, Payton Cathell, Seth Dootson,

MaryGrace Dufault, Marcy Ferraj, Emily Fortune, Veronica Hussey, Faith Klingensmith, Kenna Lavallee, Ella Mandeville, Ryan Miller, Katherine Poirier, Alyssa Rice, Rachel Sanchas, Kaylei Sirimongkhoun, Alyssah Yater.

The following sophomores achieved High Honors in Quarter 3: Casey Beauregard, Emily Benoit, Lyana Bott-Cuevas, Lainey Buffington, Renee Bunn, Matthew Card, Alyssa Caron, Chloe DiFusco, Carley DiMartino, Aila Gutierrez, Ciara King, Ella Lach, Hailey Magao, Margaux Molyneux, Aryn Nisbet, Henrik Pawul, Anthony Purcell, Chloe St. Pierre, Jane Stockford, Jerson Suarez, Salena Thongsouvanh, Kaitlyn Tingle, Joshua Torre, Jadyn Williams.

First Honors: Heather Anderson, Kalob Barclay, Nicole Blanchette, Willow Charles, Katelyn DeMelo, Gabriel Dowd, Logan Gagnon, Katrina Imre, Ethan Lackner, Avi Miller, Jada Neri, Anjolina Ortiz, Braden Pedersen, Zachary Rainville, Connor Richardson, Jack Richardson, Samantha Sibley, Moss Souksanti, Sayge Trajanowski, Amelie van der Swaagh,

Second Honors: Ryan Abdullovski, Evan Adams, Terrence Allen, Amber Amosco, Jillian Bennett, Lucas Clayton, Grace Colangelo, Hannah Donovan, Mia Falcioni, Harrison Giambattista, Kara-Lynn Hebert, Owen Johnson, Cameron Loeber, Elizabeth Marcoux, Kevin Merigan, Zoe Miller, Allison Myrter, Alexander Potapskiy, Alexis Rainey, Cameron Seiffert, Austin Stravato, Abigail Therrien, Connor Thompson.

The following freshmen achieved High Honors in Quarter 3: Kaeli Adams, Kiara Barrientos, Kiana Capiga, Cassidey Card, Julie Carver, Amber Cobb, Elizabeth Conway, Molly Crabtree, Sydney Crabtree, Deven Delaney, Annina Desabota, Connor Doyle, Darin Exarhoulias, Devin Exarhoulias, Lila Fortin, Lillian Gaudet, Hannah Grudzien, Alina Hadley, Erika Horne, Rachael Hutchinson, Ava Johnson, Melody Kettle, Emily Lamparelli, Gavin Lanctot, Raigan Leveille, Selina Metzermacher, Sofia Morin, Sydney Mullen, Kelsea O'Rourke, Sai Patel, Christina Rattray, Elizabeth Reynolds, Peyton Rosen, Sherrie Simoneau, Kaylee Stillman, Grace Sumner, Olivia

Tetreault, Emma Vandale, Maddox Wedge, Chloe Yip, Julia Young, Lindsey Zicoella.

First Honors: Shanaya Brown, Jocelyn Crowley, Laura Farquhar, Owen Glushchenko, Owen Gratton, Ross Hill, Mercedes Manfredo, Layne O'Leary, Caitlin Oleszewski, Anya Oliverson, Ava Peloquin, Madilyn Provost, Soren Rief, Selina Rivera, Benjamin Robinson, James Rosati, Zaiden Rukstela, Brylee Shaw, Malia Taylor-Robichaud, Lilly Verraneault, Talan Walker, Justin Wellman, Cassidy Wilson, Gabriella Zink.

Second Honors: Harrison Allard, Kaylee Baker, Ryan Barretta, Harrison Bauer, Abigail Berube, Trenton Brytowski, Avery Caisse, Domenico Capuano, Ian Cathell, Kaitlin Cicchetti, Madison Daniels, Mason Frazer, Isabella Graichen, Jonah Hussey, Isabella Lepine, Illyana Malarkey, Xzavior Matson, Emma Miller, Madysen Mitchell, Dillan Neal, Caleigh O'Brien, Devon Palumbo, Sophia Scandalito, Hunter Schafmayer, Emma Seide, Gina Soraseun, Ian Stone, Demetrius Thornton, Gabriel Torrente, Austin Townsend.

EASTCONN Plainfield Head Start moving to Recreation Center

PLAINFIELD — EASTCONN is pleased to announce that its Head Start and Early Head Start Plainfield programs will be relocating to the Plainfield Recreation Center, 482 Norwich Rd., in summer 2021. The programs are currently located in the Plainfield Early Childhood Center at 651 Norwich Road, which is owned by Plainfield Public Schools.

"Maintaining our EASTCONN Head Start program in the town of Plainfield will continue to benefit the children and families within the area," said Kimberly Mansfield, EASTCONN's Director of Head Start. "Relocating to this new building will open more possibilities with space, utilization of the nature trails and outdoor space, as well as the multigenerational aspect with the senior center. Our teachers and staff look forward to this exciting opportunity and look forward to sustaining our current collaborations in Plainfield."

Early Head Start and Head Start are federally funded child and family development programs that provide a comprehensive support system to children, prenatal to age five. EASTCONN Early Head Start and Head Start programs are free and provide high-quality early childhood programming, including small class sizes, a low child-to-staff ratio and family engagement in their children's learning. A developmentally appropriate curriculum is used together with medical, dental,

nutritional and social service supports.

"The Plainfield Recreation Department welcomes the opportunity to partner with EASTCONN. The Head Start program is an important asset to the community, and housing the program in the Plainfield community center only furthers our mission of offering programs and services that meet the needs of this community," said Mark Simons, Plainfield Recreation Director.

The Plainfield Recreation Center has offered programs for adults and children since 1996, and included a daycare program, which ended several years ago.

"Since 2017, we've had a void and we hope that working with Head Start will bring positive support opportunities for our families and children in our area," said Kevin M. Cunningham, Plainfield First Selectman.

Applications are being accepted for Fall 2021, and can be found online at www.eastconn.org/ headstart or by calling EASTCONN Enrollment Coordinator Jen Snyder at 860-455-1586. Families may also request a facility tour, as appropriate, or a home visit for help with the application.

EASTCONN is a public, non-profit, Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving the education needs of northeastern Connecticut schools and communities since 1980. Learn more at www.eastconn.org.

QVCC Foundation awards more than \$125,000 in scholarships

QVCC Foundation awards more than \$125,000 in scholarships

DANIELSON — The Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation is pleased to announce that 102 scholarships, totaling more than \$125,000, have been awarded to current and future QVCC students in support of a debt-free education. Students from Northeast Connecticut, Central Massachusetts and Western Rhode Island round out the list of winners.

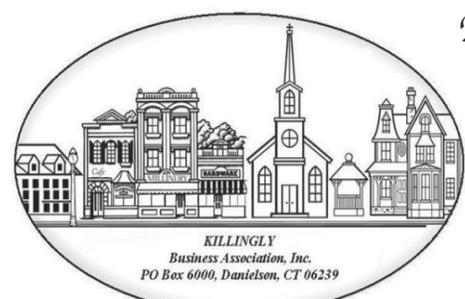
In addition to current QVCC students, several area high school students were scholarship recipients. New for 2021, matriculated students may use scholarship funds for summer college, fall, winter intersession, or spring of the 2021/2022 academic year. This is an expansion to the typical fall and spring semester usage of funds by students.

Peter Deary, President of the QVCC Foundation,

offered his best wishes to the recipients, adding "On behalf of the entire QVCC Foundation, it's my honor to congratulate our 2021 Scholarship Winners, who have distinguished themselves in numerous ways. We are proud of your efforts and look forward to celebrating your future accomplishments."

Deary also shared his appreciation for donor and community support of Foundation scholarships, commenting "It is thanks to the generosity of many donors who believe in education as a "hand up" that the Foundation is able to provide these scholarships and additional block grants to students. To our loyal supporters, current and former, heartfelt thanks."

For more information about the QVCC Foundation, please contact Monique Wolanin, director of Institutional Advancement at 860-932-4174 or mwolanin@qvcc.edu.



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Thompson Congregational Church receives donation from Art Guild

THOMPSON — Beth Hall, assistant moderator of the Thompson Congregational Church, accepted the donation presented by President, Elaine Turner of the Art Guild. The exchange was made in the undamaged wing of the Church's lower level to which

Mrs. Hall remarked, "What a generous gift! We hope to plan an Auction or Art sale for a later date."

In the meantime, there is much to be done, letters to go out, and fundraising to continue. The Church, which was organized in 1730, suffered a devastating loss nearly five years ago in a fire.

"From the outside, everything looks pretty normal. I wish people could see the extent of the damage inside," reflected Hall on a tour of the Church with Elaine Turner. "The last service was Christmas Eve, 2016. The programs and used candles still remain in the ruins, frozen in time."



Elaine Turner, President of the Art Guild, with the donated art.

The idea of supporting the renovations for this historic landmark by the Art Guild came

through resident recommendations.

"The Thompson Library has hosted our exhibit for years and it seemed like a great way to show our appreciation", says Mrs. Turner, "and Chase Graphics generously contributed with Print set up and copies."

Initial fundraising had begun in 2018 with a restoration campaign. Anya also helped raise funds through two raffles. Future fundraising will continue with the support of local residents and community partnerships.

To donate to the restoration of our beautiful church, please mail your check to Thompson Congregational Church, PO Box 308, Thompson, CT 06277

Artists may get involved by sending inquiries to: info@art-guildne.org

The Northeastern CT Art Guild Inc. is a 501c3 dedicated to creating opportunities and partnerships celebrating the Arts.

Photo Courtesy

Amiah Van Dyke of North Grosvenordale achieves Dean's List at Belmont University

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Amiah Van Dyke qualified for the Spring 2021 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 6,170 undergraduate students qualified for the Spring 2021 Dean's List. Belmont Provost Dr. Thomas Burns said, "Students achieving the Dean's List recognition at Belmont have clearly demonstrated enormous commitment to their educational endeavors - they have invested

deeply in their studies and in their future. We are happy to celebrate their success and know that their continued, consistent and comprehensive dedication to their academic work will equip them to embrace future opportunities to engage and transform our world."

About Belmont University Belmont University-home of the October 22, 2020 Presidential Debate, the final in the election season-is made up of more than 8,200 students who come from every state and 28 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 100 areas of undergraduate study, 27 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.

TLGV, Thompson Rec, TEEG and more team up for summer camp

THOMPSON — The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) has partnered with Thompson Recreation, TEEG and others to offer a unique summer camp experience for sixth to eighth graders. Registration for the camp is now open and space is limited. Visit thompsonrec.org or call 860-923-9440 to register.

Up to eight campers in each session will spend one week exploring the Air Line Trail State Park. There are two sessions for the camp, June 28 - July 2 and Aug. 16 - 20. Session one will travel the Air Line Trail from Thompson to Pomfret. Session two will begin in Hampton and end in Lebanon. All travel will be provided from the Thompson Recreation drop-off point and campers will return to Thompson at the end of each day.

Activities include a hike to the tri-state marker, orienteering, letterboxing, pottery, historical tours and more. The idea for the camp experience grew out other efforts in Thompson to promote interest in the Air Line State Park Trail, including the design of an interpretive park at the site of the Great East Thompson Train Wreck and a multi-town initiative to develop a series of map-brochures highlighting the tourism assets in each

community. All of the towns hosting activities for this special summer camp are also members of the 12-Town Task Force working to develop a master plan for the Air Line Trail, led by CT RC&D.

Funding for the camp is possible through a grant from the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation, The Last Green Valley, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and private donors. The cost of camp is \$75 per week for Thompson residents and \$100 for non-residents. Financial assistance is available.

The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is the last stretch of dark night sky in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. The Last Green Valley, Inc. is a member-supported, non-profit organization working for you in the National Heritage Corridor. Together we can care for, enjoy and pass on The Last Green Valley!

TEEG (Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group) is a grassroots non-profit social service agency in North Grosvenordale. TEEG serves the communities of Thompson, Woodstock and Pomfret, providing "a handup, not a handout."

Ahrim Esther Joy Kim named to ACU's Spring 2021 Dean's Honor Roll

ABILENE, Texas — Ahrim Esther Joy Kim of Gangnamgu was named to the Abilene Christian University Spring 2021 Dean's Honor Roll. Kim is a freshman majoring in Animal Science.

Kim was among nearly 1,200 students named to the Spring 2021 Dean's Honor Roll. To qualify, students must be registered for 12 or more credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher.

Abilene Christian is the

highest-ranking university in Texas in a 2021 U.S. News & World Report assessment of institutions highly regarded for their commitment to student success. Nationally, ACU achieved Top 10 status in three and Top 50 in another of eight high-impact categories among 1,500 universities evaluated for the annual «America's Best Colleges» edition. No other Texas university was named in the top 10 of any category. Learn more at acu.edu.

Christina McDermott of Danielson graduates from The University of Tampa

TAMPA, Fla. — Christina McDermott, of Danielson, graduated from The University of Tampa on Saturday, May 8. McDermott graduated with a Bachelor of Science - B.S. Degree in Environmental Science.

The virtual commencement ceremony included 1,781 undergraduate and graduate candidates. The ceremony included

remarks by UT President Ronald Vaughn, James S. MacLeod, chair of UT's Board of Trustees, the deans of UT's four colleges and student challenge speakers. Additionally, each graduate received a personalized video commemorating their achievement.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive uni-

versity located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University serves approximately 10,000 students from 50 states and most of the world's 195 countries.

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WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD



ON DEPOSIT

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WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Terrific opportunity for one large business or several businesses. 4784 sq ft bldg. Zoned B5. Off 1395 exit 1. High Traffic & Visibility. Excellent Location!
assisted sale **\$695,000.**

WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful CAPE! Enormous amount of updates. New Asphalt Shingles, & 8 New Skylights! 4 Bedrooms 3 - 1/2 Baths! 24 x 26 Great Rm w/ Gas Fireplace! Master Suite w/ Spa Like Bath & Soaking Tub! WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT? INGROUND POOL? OK! Has that TOO! All Painted! SS Appliances. New Tankless Hot Water Boiler. **\$467,000**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate Sale! Scenic View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Boarding Stone Walls! Split Level! 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Hollywood Bath! Master Bedroom & Master Bath. Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level w/1/2 Bath, Garage. "Salt Water" Inground Pool.
\$319,000.

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



SORRY, SOLD!

large 3 Family - a rare find! 1st Floor spacious 2 bedroom apartment. 2 - 2nd floor, 3 bedroom apartments Walkout basement to off street parking.
\$289,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind, Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180' +/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Re-member, Timing Is Everything!
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BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Believe it, or not



BEYOND THE PEWS

 BISHOP JOHN W. HANSON

The pitfalls of 'senioritis'

We've all heard the term 'senioritis' — perhaps even experienced a case of it ourselves — but is this diagnosis real? After some lengthy research, we say absolutely.

Senioritis is defined as, "A supposed affliction of students in their final year of high school or college, characterized by a decline in motivation or performance." The end is near, with graduation just around the corner, and many seniors can taste freedom, but aren't quite sure what to do with it. Even with some students heading off to college, the fear of the unknown combined with a complete change in the cadence in life is enough to make several seniors come down with a serious case of senioritis. The senioritis is a way to break away from the stress and rigors of 13 years of schooling.

Some signs of the affliction include a lack of motivation, a decline in grades, or feeling as though nothing they do in the final months leading up to graduation really matters much. Most students' entire senior years of high school are spent trying to plan for the future, this can be daunting and stressful for these kids, who are still really, just kids. Some symptoms parents should look for include extreme laziness, apathy, spending all of their free time with friends away from home.

Unfortunately, the rapid decline in motivation does not go unseen by universities. After being accepted, many schools will look at a student's last semester, and a substantial decrease in grades raises a red flag. This has admissions offices questioning a prospective student's level of commitment and the question of maturity is also put on the table. If the situation is bad enough, a college or university can rescind an acceptance. Each year, thousands of students receive such letters. Sometimes a student will enter their freshman year of college already on academic probation. If a student was issued merit aid from an institution, they risk losing those funds.

There are things that can be done to help offset senioritis. One thing a student can do is to set tiny goals such as getting a B or higher on the next quiz or test, or to finish an assignment ahead of time. Working on better ways to study for tests is also crucial. Too much pressure can cause students to shut down so taking some time to relax and have fun with family and friends is a great idea.

Another idea is for parents and teachers to reassure students that life after high school is an exciting time and that not every graduate needs a definitive plan right away. Explain different opportunities for a gap year, including the pros and cons of taking one.

If your child becomes too self-destructive handing out consequences is key. Finding their currency and removing it may change their perspective and keep them on track. Remembering to reward good behavior is a must. If your child is behaving in such a way that they become emotionally removed, disobedient and disrespectful taking a gap year might be the best option as college is expensive and tuition should never go to waste. Sometimes when students see their friends off at school while they are left behind can be motivation to get back into the swing of things.

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.

A mask-wearing honor system is a joke

To the Editor:
 I was driving by one of our local watering holes the other day, and noticed a completely full parking lot — so full that if even half of the drivers of those vehicles were inside, it would be pretty darn crowded — what only a few months ago we would have termed a "super-spreader event." A number of vehicles had bumper stickers that said things like "Stop the Steal," "Trump 2024," "Trump 2020, the Best Is Yet to Come," etc.

A few days earlier, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had said on CNN that "people have to be honest with themselves" when deciding whether to wear a mask after the agency lifted masking requirements for vaccinated people. "Saturday Night Live" had its own take: the "man walks into a bar" asks during the cold open, "Well, I'm entering a bar at 11 a.m. Did you really think I was vaxxed?"

Which got me to thinking about a number of news reports I'd seen recently. Three months after a mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol to try to overturn the election, about half of Republican voters believe the siege was either a non-violent protest or the handiwork of "left-wing activists" trying to make Trump look bad,

according to a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll. The same poll showed that nearly six in ten Republican voters also believe the false claim that "the election was stolen."

Rep. Andrew Clyde of Georgia, who had been photographed helping Capitol security barricade the doors to the House chamber doing the Jan. 6 Trump insurrection, claimed last week that it was not much more than "a normal tourist visit." He said that to call it an insurrection was a "bold-faced lie."

And, the kicker, a recent Quinnipiac University poll found that 45 percent of Republicans have no intention of getting vaccinated. So, let's see — we are asking the same people who made mask-wearing the latest front in the culture wars, while at the same time saying that Covid was a hoax, while promoting hydroxychloroquine as its cure, and who are now saying that the vaccine has microchips or causes autism or...whatever...

We are now asking these ("truth-challenged," to be polite) people to "be honest with themselves" (and us, and bar owners, and...)... You've got to be kidding me.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
 WOODSTOCK VALLEY

To the Editor:

Please stop it already with this «the lie is part of the big lie» garbage nonsense. Who cares if Donald Trump (or anybody else, for that matter) cannot accept the results of the 2020 election - he is no longer the POTUS - and isn't that what you wanted?

After incessantly tracking and reporting Trump's lies (falsehoods or misleading statements), the Washington Post said it will give up on cataloguing Biden's lies after his first 100 days in office. (No hypocrisy or double standard there, right?) Also, to you letter writers who continually mention this cult [nonsense] - it's time for you to get some new material!

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki admitted that the Biden team tells President Joe Biden to avoid answering impromptu questions from reporters outside the formal setting of a White House press conference.

"That is not something we recommend," Psaki said. "In fact, a lot of times we say 'Don't take questions.'"

And to quote a line from a Lynyrd Skynyrd song: "Don't ask me any questions, and I won't tell you no lies."

As for Liz Cheney, if she wasn't anti-Trump, she'd still be a villain of the Democrats. She can cry all she wants to, and I don't feel sorry for her at all. And what about the Utah Republicans censuring and booing Mitt Romney? If you want to play on the big stage, you have to deal with its consequences.

That most ungrateful refugee, Ilman Omar (and her squad member idiots), are now con-

Spend less. Tax more.

To the Editor:
 The Woodstock Board of Finance met on May 11 to re-do their authorized budget. The old budget had to be voided because of errors made in the Assessor's Office concerning the taxable yield from the town's Grand List. Somehow the Grand List was overstated by about \$5 million, so the expected tax revenues had to be reduced. That error is another bag of worms...

After recalculation, the maximum allowable budget was reduced to \$25,203,511. Still a heck of a lot of money for a small town. The Board of Finance had previously approved \$25,235,696, and this was going to be voted on at a now-canceled referendum. That budget anticipated a tax increase of ¾ of a mil, and was taking \$473,190 from the Town's reserves to fund everything. There was little opposition at the Town Meeting, and this was likely to be passed at the referendum. That amount was under the maximum allowable budget as limited by Prop 46. It was decided not to Tax to the Max.

The new and improved budget, as passed on May 11, was \$25,203,496. Remember this number. It's important. Yes, it's less than before. But wait! Now there is concern that taking funds from the town's reserves is excessive. But raising the tax rate isn't. The current anticipated tax rate now increases to 1 mil, and slightly less is taken from the Town's reserves. Spend less and tax more.

It should be noted that, on paper, this budget does not reach the limit allowed under Prop

demning Israel for defending itself against Hamas, though President Biden said that they have the right to do so. Are these squad morons really that stupid to think that the United States should forego our number one ally in the Middle East and support a terrorist organization instead? However, President Biden's administration, along with Congress, has just approved a massive \$735 million sale of weapons to Israel. You can say what you want about this conflict, but I'm giving President Joe Biden and Congress a lot of credit for this decision. Also, thanks to President Biden for essentially slapping these squad clowns in their faces, and I hope they have many sleepless nights because of it! Again, if you want to play on the big stage...

Todd Patrie (in last week's letter) nailed it when he said, "The American people need to confront Congress in the voting booth," but when will this actually happen? I don't care who replaces the likes of Pelosi, Romney, the squad members and several others, just as long as somebody does.

Lastly, kudos to Danny Rovero, who was appointed to the State Contracting Standards Board. Mr. Rovero is a good man, and when he was our State Representative, he would talk to you personally when you contacted his office.

ED DELUCA
 NORTH GROSVENORDALE

46. By \$15. It is nothing less than an insult to the taxpayers of Woodstock to say "We stayed under the Prop 46 limits. We didn't Tax to the Max." By 15 (count 'em - fifteen) whole dollars. A pizza at Sweet Evalina's. If this is being fiscally conservative, we're in deep trouble. And this budget already has some dark magic behind the scenes - \$162,000 from the Town's Fund 51 is already allocated to the Board of Education's health expenses. And nowhere - nowhere - is the pending \$225,000 Woodstock Academy capital assessment mentioned. Those funds have not even been requested yet, even though the Academy has quantified them to the sending towns. Fixing that bell on the roof of the old Academy Building ain't cheap. If you add these expenses in, they exceed the Prop 46 allowable by \$387,000. So that fifteen bucks didn't help much.

Reject this budget at the next referendum. This spending and raids on the Town's reserve funds has to stop. We are still in a recovering COVID economy. If you think a 1 mil tax increase is bad this year, hold onto your chair. It's not going to get any better. How about spending less?

Disclaimer: I am a Member of the Woodstock Board of Finance. Two members voted against this proposed budget. I was one of them, and I hoped there would have been more.

ROY BRADRIK
 WOODSTOCK

Time-traveler from the 15th century: "That is crazy! If you believe that, I have a bridge I want to sell you!"

Twenty-first century guide: "No, I'm dead serious. There are thousands of words and pictures traveling through the atmosphere, all around us. All you need is a device that can detect and decode them."

Time Traveler: "I don't see or hear anything, and I've never heard anything like it in all my life!"

Guide, as she takes out her cell phone and clicks on her favorite app: "Let me show you. See, I am making a video call to my sister in Australia. Hi Sarah, I just wanted to crash Tina's party...See, that is my niece opening her presents. Today is her birthday. You can't see the words and pictures traveling through the air, but here is the evidence."

If time travel were possible, we can all imagine how difficult it would be for someone to believe in some of the things we take for granted. I wonder if a similar conversation may have taken place 2000 years ago on another topic. It may have gone like this:

Mary: "I am telling you the truth. An angel just appeared out of nowhere and told me I would become pregnant. Then another angel showed up in my fiancé's dream and told him I was going to have a baby, but that he should not be afraid to marry me, because I had not done anything immoral."

Skeptic: "I don't believe you. I have never seen an angel."

Mary: "But look, there is Jesus, my son, performing miracles. And, I had never slept with a man when he was born. Besides that, angels appeared to shepherds on the night he was born and told them where to find us."

Skeptic: "I still don't believe you."

Mary: "Sadly, there are many people who don't have the faith to believe in and experience the supernatural world. But it has been a great blessing to me, and I have been given one of the greatest honors that could be given to a human being."

There are so many things we can't see or fully comprehend; like forgiveness, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, healing, angels, and eternal life. But believers all over the world have been experiencing little evidences of those things for centuries. The skeptic may never believe, but those who have faith, and are sensitive, will experience the miraculous and lay hold of eternal life - believe it or not!

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson, where people are still experiencing the supernatural. Please visit www.ActsII.org for more information.

GOOD NEWS

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL

860Local.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep zoning local

To the Editor:

There are multiple efforts in the state legislature to take away from you the local decision-making about land use planning and zoning in your town.

State government wants to remove public hearings from certain types of housing proposals, limit what can be said and done when reviewing these types of land uses, and weaken environmental concerns that people may have.

State government wants to force a system onto your town to meet unrealistic affordable housing quotas. The design is unworkable and impossible for our rural towns to meet. What will happen is that state government will penalize your town and you will have to pay more taxes to meet the penalty.

This is not common sense.

As an elected town official (Chair of Woodstock's Planning & Zoning Commission), I believe strongly in giving people opportunities to know what is going on and to have a say in what is happening in their town.

Why would state government want to take this away from you?

The efforts in the legislature are antithetical to the long established and long respected tradition of people, like you, having a direct say in their own communities. A Planning and Zoning Commission is comprised of people who live in your town and who are elected directly by the people of your town. This type of Commission is designed to and functions to work with people throughout your town to discuss, craft, change, and update the town's subdivision and zoning regulations. By working in such an inclusive manner, the people of each town decide for themselves what works and what does not work for municipal needs, all within a legal framework.

Each town in Connecticut is unique. A top down, one-size fits all approach to zoning would be to attempt to hammer a square peg into a round hole. It does not work. It would be unfair to you and to others in your town to have rules imposed upon you that have not been thought through carefully and that do not include your direct involvement, for how the rules would work or not work. It could create avoidable, unintended consequences.

There are already rules and laws

focused on fair and proper decision making on land use and on affordable housing (such as the Fair Housing Act). We do not need more mandates. The best way to continue to work on these important things is to do so locally in each community across Connecticut. This is what towns across Connecticut have been doing and are doing. Speaking from my own first hand experience, a lot of time, effort, and understanding goes into having land use regulations that meet the needs as best as possible for everyone while maintaining the commitment to the entire community.

I support realistic efforts to look into affordable housing, livability within a community, protection of natural resources, and economic job growth. I support inclusive and fair zoning rules and affordable housing efforts. I know from first hand experience over many years that a lot of time, effort, and understanding goes into having land use regulations that meet the needs as best as possible for everyone who live, work, and move into our towns. These are local issues in your neighborhoods that affect elder people or low to middle income families trying to stay in their homes and towns; young adults looking for first time housing; owners of working farms trying to keep things in their families or to have workers join their farms; small businesses working hard to thrive in town and to create jobs; and concerned people who want to prevent crowded over-development of public infrastructure and natural resources (like water).

It is very important that you and others who live in your town determine the common sense, local planning and zoning for your town, not people who don't know your town. Don't let your voice be taken away.

We need state government to work with us. We don't need state government ruling over us.

What Connecticut needs to promote better public policy is to promote a flourishing, sustainable economy that benefits everyone. This would provide more opportunities to everyone and the ability of more people to be able to use these opportunities if they choose to do so.

JEFFREY A. GORDON, M.D.
WOODSTOCK

Reject Woodstock's proposed budget now, or pay later

To the Editor:

My last Letter to the Editor was titled "Woodstock Budget Final," but in Woodstock finances, little is as it would appear to be.

During the annual town meeting, all 18 minutes of it, other than the moderators walking us through the agenda and pro forma votes, I was the only one who spoke — about five of those 18 minutes — and town officials complained to the moderator I spoke too long.

What I spoke about was the misuse of town funds to add to the planned spending; money taken from the Healthcare Reserve Fund and capitalization of recurring expenses. I pointed out how town auditors and the town attorney have previously stated, in writing, that the use of town funds in this manner could only be done as part of the budgeting process, i.e. under Prop 46 — the Town Attorney and town officials owe the people of Woodstock an explanation.

Even more significantly, I warned that while many town officials and others believe Prop 46 is at the root of all problems, the real threat is the fact that spending is outstripping revenues, and that gap is growing. There was no response from any town official or the town attorney, who was present, even with a specific prompt from the moderator — just dead silence... Later, when a person attending through Zoom asked if there was a response to my questions, it was the same — more dead silence. And then, a day later, we learned of the \$5 million error in the grand list and the cancellation of the referendum scheduled for May 11.

On May 11, the Board of Finance (BOF) met in a special meeting to revise the budget to get it in compliance with Prop 46 — well sort of as the \$162,000 of under the table funding and use of capital to fund tuition never came up. It appeared during the meeting that at least a couple of BOF members were starting to get it — by that, I mean

that spending is getting out of control, and is going to lead to some serious consequences; watch the video, particularly between 18 and 30 minutes. But then things go right back to the usual, spend to the maximum and then some. The discussion of mil rate comes up at about 58 minutes and goes on for roughly 20 minutes — this discussion will tell you a lot about what and how town officials think of the voter/taxpayer. They finally agree on fielding an expected 1 mil tax increase; that's roughly 4.1 percent, but does not cover even the budgets proposed that will draw and additional \$386,000 from the general fund — after having already drawn something like \$2.6 million over the last three years. The hole just keeps getting deeper and deeper. In order to cover the budget shortfall and the under the table spending, it would take more than 2 mils, or more than an 8 percent tax increase. They most certainly don't want that out there, as it might actually get taxpayers' attention, but sooner or later, it will have to be paid.

Even scarier is that the spending base continues to grow, so next year, the climb out of the hole will be even greater. Taxpayers, brace yourself; 4 percent, give or take, is not a one-time thing — this will go on for years — year after year. Next year, the Healthcare Reserve (Fund 51) will be empty, debt service will grow with the new bond issue (debt service went down this year creating a one-time \$138,000 cash benefit) and then there's the "non-recurring capital" for Woodstock education/Woodstock Academy tuition that goes on forever. Buckle up because they, the BOF, really don't get it and just want to get through this year, then worry about tomorrow when it gets here.

This budget needs to be rejected and rejected hard on June 3 — you can vote "no" now or pay later.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

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.

Saving for retirement and a child's education at the same time

You want to retire comfortably when the time comes. You also want to help your child go to college. So how do you juggle the two? The truth is, saving for your retirement and your child's education at the same time can be a challenge. But take heart — you may be able to reach both goals if you make some smart choices now.

Know what your financial needs are. Answering the following questions can help you get started:

For retirement:

How many years until you retire?

Does your company offer an employer-sponsored retirement plan or a pension plan? Do you participate? If so, what's your balance? Can you estimate what your balance will be when you retire?

How much do you expect to receive in Social Security benefits? (One way to get an estimate of your future Social Security benefits is to use the benefit calculators available at ssa.gov. You can also view your Social Security Statement online, which contains a detailed record of your earnings, as well as estimates of retirement, survivor's, and disability benefits.)

What standard of living do you hope to have in retirement? For example, do you want to travel extensively, or will you be happy to stay in one place and live more simply?

Do you or your spouse expect to work part-time in retirement?

For college:

How many years until your child starts college?

Will your child attend a public or private college? What's the expected cost?

Do you have more than one child whom you'll be saving for?

Does your child have any special academic, athletic, or artistic skills that could lead to a scholarship?

Do you expect your child to qualify for financial aid?

You can also use the financial calculator at whzwealth.com/resources to help you predict your retirement income needs and your child's college funding needs.

Figure out what you can afford to put aside each month.

After you know what your financial needs are, determine what you can afford to put aside each month. To do so, you'll need to prepare a detailed family budget that lists all of your income and expenses. Once you've come up with a dollar amount, you'll need to decide how to divvy up your funds.

Retirement takes priority.

Though college is certainly an

important goal, you should probably focus on your retirement if you have limited funds. If you wait until your child is in college to start saving, you'll miss out on years of potential tax-deferred growth and compounding of your money.

Remember, your child can always attend college by taking out loans (or maybe even with scholarships), but there's no such thing as a retirement loan!

If possible, save for your retirement and your child's college at the same time.

Ideally, you'll want to try to pursue both goals at the same time. The more money you can squirrel away for college bills now, the less money you or your child will need to borrow later. Even if you can allocate only a small amount to your child's college fund, you might be surprised at how much you can accumulate over many years. If you're unsure about how to allocate your funds between retirement and college, a professional financial planner can help you determine the best allocation for you, and help you select appropriate investments for each goal.

What if the numbers say you can't meet both goals?

If the numbers say that you can't afford to educate your child or retire with the lifestyle you expected, you'll probably have to make some sacrifices. Here are some suggestions:

Defer retirement: The longer you work, the more money you'll earn and the later you'll need to dip into your retirement savings.

Work part-time during retirement to make the retirement savings you do have last longer.

Reduce your standard of living now or in retirement: You might be able to adjust your spending habits now in order to have money later. Or, you may want to consider cutting back in retirement.

Increase your earnings now: You might consider increasing your hours at your current job, finding another job with better pay, taking a second job, or having a previously stay-at-home spouse return to the workforce.

Invest more aggressively: If you have several years until retirement or college, you might be able to earn more money by investing more aggressively (but remember that aggressive investments mean a greater risk of loss).



Note that no investment strategy can guarantee success.

Expect your child to contribute more money to college, by taking out student loans or working part-time to earn money for college.

Send your child to a less expensive school.

Don't feel guilty — a lesser-known liberal arts college or a state university may provide your child with a similar quality education at a far lower cost.

Think of other creative ways to reduce education costs: Your child could attend a local college and live at home to save on room and board, enroll in an accelerated program to graduate in three years instead of four, take advantage of a cooperative education where paid internships alternate with course work, or defer college for a year or two and work to earn money for tuition.

Can retirement accounts be used to save for college?

Yes. Should they be? That depends on your family's circumstances. Most financial planners discourage paying for college with funds from a retirement account; they also discourage using retirement funds for a child's college education if doing so will leave you with no funds in your retirement years. However, you can certainly tap your retirement accounts to help pay the college bills if you need to.

With IRAs, you can withdraw money penalty free for college expenses, even if you're under age 59 and a half (though there may be income tax consequences for the money you withdraw). But with an employer-sponsored retirement plan like a 401(k) or 403(b), you'll generally pay a 10 percent penalty on any withdrawals made before you reach age 59 and a half (age 55 or 50 in some cases) even if the money is used for college expenses. There may be income tax consequences, as well. (Check with your plan administrator to see what withdrawal options are available to you in your employer-sponsored retirement plan.)

Get professional guidance to help you make the best choices for your family and circumstances, so you can all live as well possible.

There's a lot to consider when it comes to saving for retirement and education, with a variety of important personal goals at stake and potentially high emotions in the mix. On top of that, there are many details and options

to be aware of when making any financial investment. A financial advisor can provide you with the unbiased financial expertise and insights required to make sound investment decisions that will offer the most potential for meeting all of your various goals, so you can plan well for the future for both yourself and your children.

At Weiss, Hale and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors we use our proprietary Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ strategic process to help our clients create a financial plan that's personally designed to best balance all of their various goals. Learn more about the process on our Web site at www.whzwealth.com/process and contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com if you're ready to create the strategic financial plan that will best serve you and your family.

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OBITUARIES

Ernest C. "Bubba" Adams, 82

UXBRIDGE- Ernest C. "Bubba" Adams, a caring, wonderful husband and father; 82, of East St. passed away on Sun. May 9, 2021 after a long illness, with his adoring family by his side.



He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Anne-Marie I. (Goyette) Adams; 4 children, Cindy M. Greene and her husband Michael of Oxford, Kevin M. Adams and his fiancé Alicia of N. Grosvenordale, CT, Tammy A. Hull and her husband William of Eastford, CT, and Keith C. "KC" Adams of Uxbridge; 5 grandchildren, Connor, Michael, Nathan, Adam, and Emily; a sister, Diane Cortis of Oxford; and several nieces and nephews.

Born in Northbridge, on Sept. 3, 1938 he was the son of Ernest A. Jr. and Inez (Aldrich) Adams and lived in Uxbridge most of his life.

Mr. Adams owned and operated EC Adams Roofing and Siding Co. for 60 years. Previously he worked for George Whitehead Siding, Capital Siding, and Pratt Whitney Co. in CT. He also plowed snow for the Town of Uxbridge. He was

a graduate of Uxbridge High School, Class of 1956 where he played football and was a standout baseball pitcher. He pitched the first No Hitter Game for the Uxbridge Spartans. He also played the trumpet in the School Band. He served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Bubba enjoyed deer hunting over the years, especially using archery and black powder. He also played softball for the Gray Barn and NV Café Leagues. A lifelong member of the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club, he served as Treasurer and Past President. He liked bird watching, square dancing with his wife, bragging about his grandchildren, clowning around, and making everyone laugh. Bubba will be remembered for his dedication to hard work, his love for family, and his willingness to lend a hand to anyone who needed it.

His Funeral Service and burial in St. Mary's Cemetery will be private. Memorial donations in his memory may be made to: the Alzheimer's Assoc. 311 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA 02472. To leave a condolence message for the family please visit www.jackmanfuneralhomes.com

Jeannette M. Colburn

Jeannette M. Colburn of Killingly passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on May 8, 2021. She was born April 9, 1935 in Willimantic. She was the daughter of the late Albert and Doris (LaForce) Jarvis. She is survived by her husband David J. Colburn Sr. and close family member Kenneth Griggs Sr. Her children David J. Colburn Jr. and daughter-in-law Linda Senechal of Killingly, Joann and Ronald Briere of Florida. Her sister Cheryl and Theodore Penrod of Hampton. Her grandchildren



David J. Colburn III, Kristina Colburn, Stephanie and Travis Michaud and Benjamin Chrzan all of Killingly. Her great grandchildren Ryan Griggs, Kiley Griggs, Kenneth Griggs Jr., and Elijah Michaud. Jeannette is predeceased by her brothers Albert and Ronald Jarvis and by her son Earl Davis. She worked for many years at American Thread and American Optical. In her spare time, she enjoyed watching Channel 8 News, hours of crossword puzzles and above all, valued and enjoyed frequent family time around the table. She left a mark on the lives around her and will be missed dearly. Funeral services will be held at a later date. tillinghastfh.com

Edward F. Luciano



There will be a Memorial Service for Ed Luciano on Saturday, 19 June at 12:30 o'clock in the sanctuary of Central Congregational Church, 296 Angell Street, Providence,

Rhode Island. Mr. Luciano was the former department head and teacher of business education for many years in Putnam High School, Putnam, Connecticut.

Rock and roll memorabilia

It may seem hard to believe, but the Beatles made their first American appearance on the Ed Sullivan show over 60 years ago, on Feb. 9, 1964. Rock and roll's origins go back further, even prior to Bill Haley and the Comet's release of Rock around the Clock in 1954. Rock and Roll was influenced by R & B performers of the 1940s and 1950s.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES WAYNE TUISKULA

In a 1950s interview Fats Domino said, "Rock & roll is nothing but rhythm & blues," according to a Rolling Stone article. Which is the first rock and roll song is the subject of debate. Mental Floss Magazine's website lists 5 songs that might be considered the first rock and roll song:

1. "That's All Right Mama" by Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup (1946)
2. "Good Rockin' Tonight" by Wynonie Harris (1948)
3. "Rock this Joint" by Jimmy Preston and his Prestonians (1949)
4. "Saturday Night Fish Fry" by Ls Jordan & the Tympany Five (1949)
5. "Rocket 88" by Jackie Brenston and his Delta Cats

(1951) Of these songs, "Rocket 88" is considered by most to be the first rock and roll record. Ike Turner wrote the record that was recorded at Sam Phillips' Sun Records studio in Memphis. According to Mental Floss magazine, "the guitarist's amplifier had a torn speaker; and producer Sam Phillips (who a few years later, would discover Elvis) jerry-rigged it, stuffing some packing paper in

the speaker cone. The unexpected result was a fuzzy sound that defined the song's raw vibe, and became a blueprint for the guitar tone of everyone from Chuck Berry to the Rolling Stones." Later during the 1950s, Rock grew and other acts such as Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, Chuck Berry, and Fats Domino became popular. In the 1960s Berry Gordon's Motown Record Company produced a string of hits by multiple artists. The Beatles, the Animals, and the Rolling Stones were some of the bands that came to the U.S. as part of the British Invasion during the '60s. The Vietnam War influenced many American performing artists

during the 1960s, like Bob Dylan, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, and the Doors. The Eagles and Southern rock bands Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers were some of the most popular performers during the 1970s. Alternative musical acts such as the Ramones, Blondie, and the Talking Heads started to gain attention and fans. The 1980s and 1990s saw a wide range of styles from Van Halen and ZZ Top to the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Pretenders.

There are a variety of items from throughout Rock's history that are popular with collectors. If you happen to have something exceptional like a Ringo Starr drum kit or Kurt Cobain played guitar, it could sell for millions. More common things like records and posters can still be valuable though. The First U.K. pressing of Led Zeppelin's III album sold for over \$3,300 in 2011. A rare Beatles poster for a 1966 Toronto Maple Leafs Garden performance sold for \$50,000 in 2019. Even a guitar pick can be valuable. An Eddie Van Halen Ed Leffler guitar pick recently sold for \$1000 online after striking a chord with bidders.

Our next multi-estate online auction will begin soon and end in June. Our sports and non-



sports cards auction will also be running online soon. More auctions are being planned. See our website for details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

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Voters pass Killingly budgets

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

KILLINGLY -Killingly's town and education budgets both passed on their first go around at the polls on Tuesday, May 11.

While one spending plan was overwhelmingly supported, the other saw a close margin of victory as 810 registered voters, just over 8 percent of those in town, turned out for the vote. The general government spending plan was easily approved in a 500 to 305 vote decision, a difference of just under 200 votes.

The \$18.2 million budget is a \$2.21 million, or just under 14 percent, increase over the current fiscal year's number.

The education budget saw a much closer margin with a 416 to 391 victory, a difference of only 25 votes. The education spending plan comes in at \$45 million, a two percent increase of \$882,524 over the current fiscal year.

The combined budgets add up to an increase of half a mil bringing the mil rate to 25.14. Town officials have indicated that \$950,000 from the general fund will be used to help offset the mill rate impact of the budget.

"Buddy" Poppies honor those who served

THOMPSON — Thompson Memorial Post 10088 Veterans of Foreign Wars and the VFW Auxiliary will conduct their annual "Buddy" Poppy campaign May 26 through May 29 in the Town of Thompson, according to an announcement by Elmer Preston, VFW Commander and Virginia Livernoche, Auxiliary President.

The Poppy has been recognized as the memorial flower and symbol of all who have given their lives in our nation's wars. Since

1922, the VFW has conducted an annual distribution of "Buddy" Poppies to raise funds for its charitable programs on behalf of needy, disabled, hospitalized and active-duty veterans and their families. All funds raised are strictly accounted for and dedicated entirely to veteran's welfare.

When you are handed a "Buddy" Poppy – give generously. And when you wear your Poppy – do it proudly. When you meet a Veteran – Thank them for their service.

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Exploring different backyard structures

Designing an ideal backyard space requires forethought and an eye for style. Knowing which features to include in a yard often boils down to what homeowners want to achieve in the space. Will it be a relaxing oasis or a central entertaining focal point?

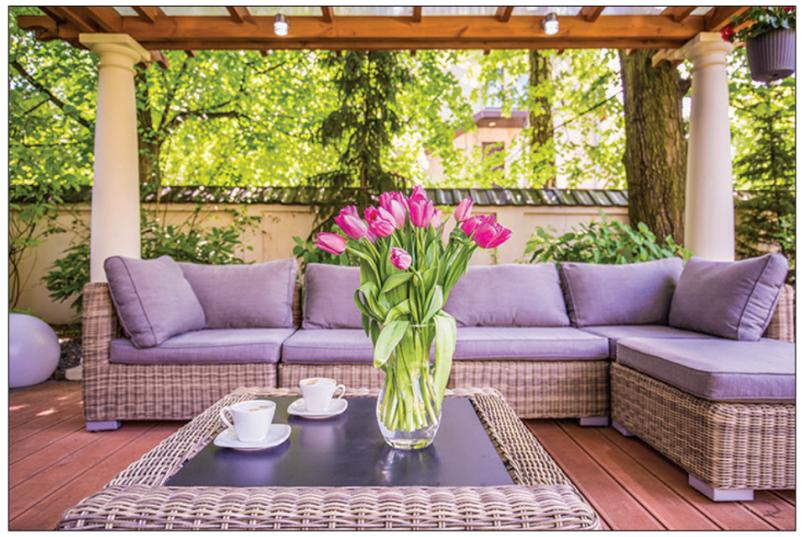
People often look to various structures to add height and visual interest to outdoor spaces. Homeowners will likely come across structures like arbors, gazebos, pergolas, and even trellises as they wade through the variety of features they can incorporate into backyard plans. Each of these structures can add appeal, but they also can offer shelter from the sun and privacy when enjoying the yard. There are significant differences between each structure, so here's an in-depth look at what sets them apart.

• **Arbor:** An arbor is one of the more simple garden structures. It is usually a frame that is arched or square-cornered. Most homeowners use it as an entryway to a garden or even the front of the home. Those with green thumbs may cover the arbor with climbing and trailing plants. The Spruce says arbors date back to early Egyptian and Roman

gardens and were used throughout Europe by the late 16th century.

• **Pergola:** The words arbor and pergola are often used interchangeably, but to suggest the two structures are the same would not be accurate. Pergola comes from the Italian word "pergola," which means "projection." Pergolas were once projected from exterior walls and supported on one side by pillars or columns. Today, arbors are usually freestanding units with two or four posts. Pergolas may be connected on one side to a home or another structure. Some are freestanding units supported by four posts. Pergolas tend to be larger and offer more privacy and shade than arbors.

• **Gazebo:** Gazebos are more defined garden buildings, states the contractor referral site Network. Gazebos are freestanding units that can be built in various shapes. Some are octagonal, others are square. Like a pergola, a gazebo is supported by columns and may have low railings or built-in benches. Gazebos also may have a more solid roof than arbors or pergolas, providing sun and other weather protection. The roof may have added architectural



appeal, like a cupola.

• **Trellis:** A trellis is a simple, geometrically-shaped structure that provides a surface for climbing plants. A trellis also may support fruit-bearing trees. Trellis work may be used in conjunc-

tion with an arbor or pergola, or be installed on fencing.

Incorporating structures into backyard designs can provide functionality and appeal.

LEGALS

LIQUOR PERMIT Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I,
URANIA G PERRY
281 VALLEY RD
DANIELSON, CT 06239-1513
Have filed an application to add live entertainment with the Department of Consumer Protection for my existing RESTAURANT LIQUOR permit A located at: 305 HARTFORD PIKE DAYVILLE CT 06241-2115 The business is owned by: GOLDEN GREEK RESTAURANTS INT'L INC Live Entertainment Added: Acoustics (not amplified), Disc Jockeys, Karaoke, Live Bands, Comedians
URANIA G PERRY
May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE

PLACE: AMERICAN SELF STORAGE UNITS 179 QUINEBAUG RD. NO. GROSVENORDALE, CT 06255
DATE: May 25, 2021
INSPECTION TIMES: 10:00AM & 3:00PM

Sale of all goods stored in delinquency at AMERICAN SELF STORAGE UNITS. The following named people have until the morning of sale to settle their account, including all subsequent fees pertaining to Sale, and to vacate their unit or the unit will be sold to cover debts, Unit# sorted by contents.

A3 FRANK ZOLA
B36 VERONICA SARCO
B18 FRANK ZOLA
D22 BRANDY SULLIVAN
F37 FRANK ZOLA
J7 FRANK ZOLA
G33 BRENDA NOWAK

Cash or certified check only. All sales final. Merchandise must be removed within five (5) working days of bid acceptance.

Highest bidder must pay a \$100.00 deposit on unit and will be returned when said unit is vacant.

Highest bidder will be notified by telephone the following business day.
May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021

TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom or Location to be determined on the following Applications.

PZC Application #21-09 Applicant Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission, 815 Riverside Drive, Amendments to the Amended Planning and Zoning Regulations Approved on 9/15/2020.

PZC Application #21-10 Applicant Shelley Ashton-Briggs and Jeffrey Briggs owner of 30 West Thompson Rd, Map, Lot, Block, Zone RRAD requesting a Special Permit for Wedding/Event

Venue Business, according to the Town of Thompson Amended Regulations, Article 4A RRAD, Section 2 Table of Permitted Uses #17.

PZC Application #21-12 Applicant Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. d/b/a Rawson Materials, of 6 Kennedy Drive, Putnam, CT property owner River Junction Estates, LLC., 204 Munyan Road, Putnam, Ct 06260 for Gravel Mining at property located at 0 East Thompson Rd, Map 154, Block 5, Lot 10, Zone, RRAD creation of a 3.5+/- acre pond. Approximately 120,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel will be removed from the site to create the pond. *File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Planning and*

Zoning Commission. Written communication will be accepted prior to the meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman
May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021

Notice of Decision

At their 5/11/2021 regularly scheduled meeting, the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission ("the Commission") held a hearing to provide Shane O'Connor of 181 Paradise Drive, (Assessors Map 49 Lot 46) Brooklyn, CT an opportunity to be heard and show cause why the Cease and Desist Order issued on 4/28/2021 for Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Violations should not remain in effect. The Commission decided that the Cease and Desist Order remains in effect. Shane O'Connor is required to have a soil scientist delineate any wetlands on the subject property, and to submit a report from the scientist with their findings to the Commission no later than 12:00 p.m. on 6/7/2021. Shane O'Connor is hereby required to attend the 6/8/2021 meeting of the Commission at 6:00 p.m. A site inspection will be scheduled upon review of the soil scientist's report at the 6/8/2021 meeting.
May 21, 2021

Notice of Decision

At their 5/11/2021 regularly scheduled meeting, the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission decided to close the Cease and Desist Order issued on 11/30/2020, revised on 4/4/2021, to Terrance Veazie for violations of the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations at 177 Tatnic Road (Assessors Map 16/Lot 84). The Cease and Desist Order is hereby closed and no longer remains in effect.
May 21, 2021

Notice of Decision

At their 5/11/2021 regularly scheduled meeting, the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission ("the Commission") held a hearing to provide Deborah Love of 35 Kara Road, (Assessors Map 23/Lot 35) Brooklyn, CT an opportunity to be heard and show cause why the Cease and Desist Order issued on 5/6/2021 for Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Violations should not remain in effect. The Commission decided that the Cease and Desist Order remains in effect. Deborah Love is required to attend the 6/8/2021 meeting of the Commission at 6:00 p.m.
May 21, 2021

TOWN OF BROOKLYN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

At the regular meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 the following actions were taken:

- Rescind and revoke Gravel Special Permit SPG 20-001 (as per Sec. 9.D.8.5 of the Brooklyn Zoning Regulations) issued to Paul Lehto on September 15, 2020 for his property at the eastern end of River Walk Drive (71 acres, Assessor's Map 32, Lot 148) for failure to comply with the Conditions 2, 3 and 4 of approval as outlined in his Notice of Decision and for failure to comply with Requirements 3 through 10 of the Enforcement Order issued on March 31, 2021 by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

- Renew the existing Gravel Special Permit SPG 19-001 issued to HM & E Co, LLC on April 3, 2019 for the property at 291 Canterbury Road and tolled by Executive Order 7JJ by an addition-

al two years. The next permit renewal date is April 3, 2023.

- Renew for one year the existing Gravel Special Permits SPG 19-003 and SPG 19-004, both issued to Strategic Commercial Realty, dba Rawson Materials, on June 3, 2020 for the property on the southeast side of Maynard Road (Assessor's Map 29, Lot 5) and the property southerly of Rukstela Road (Assessor's Map 21, Lot 7; Map 30, Lot 16) and tolled by Executive Order 7JJ. The next permit renewal date is June 3, 2022.

Dated this 11th day of May 2021.

Michelle Sigfridson
Chairman
May 21, 2021

TOWN OF KILLINGLY TAX COLLECTORS LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows; Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-4:30pm Tuesday 8-5:30pm Friday 8-11:30

Sewer assessment bills are due June 1, 2021. If payment is not received on or before July 1, 2021 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 1/2% 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 21st of May 2021
Patricia Monahan CCMC
REVENUE COLLECTOR FOR THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY
May 21, 2021

The results of the May 3, 2021 elections for the Borough of Danielson are as follows:

Total registered voters in the Borough: 1,950

Total voter turnout: 23

President: Heidi Clifford: 18

Borough Council Members:

Miguel Antunes-18

Scott Clifford-18

Lynn Laberge-18

Amy Shatney-16

Tom Soderberg-18

Tammy Wakefield-18

Clerk/Treasurer: Susanne Allard-18

All candidates ran unopposed and serve a two year term.

When not restricted by the COVID 19 pandemic, the Council meets in person at the Danielson Fire Department on the third Wednesday of the month, from September to June. During the pandemic they meet online over Google Meets. We hope to return to meeting in-person soon and are eagerly awaiting the Governor's upcoming guidance. The Borough Council's next meeting is Wednesday, May 19th at 7pm. For more information on where that meeting will be held, please contact Brenda Duchesneau, Borough Administrator at borough@sbcglobal.net

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you!
Heidi Clifford Borough President
860-942-0116
May 21, 2021

Notice of Decision

At their 5/11/2021 regularly scheduled meeting, the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission ("the Commission") held a hearing to provide Jared Chviek of 95 Wauregan Road, Brooklyn, an opportunity to be heard and show cause why the Cease and Desist Order issued on 5/5/2021 for Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Violations at Brown Road CT (Assessors Map 34/Lot 31) should not remain in effect. The Commission decided to close the Cease and Desist Order because

the agricultural activities are considered an as-of-right use. The Cease and Desist Order is hereby closed and no longer remains in effect.
May 21, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Dennis T. Peck (21-00166) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 11, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Linda Goodbrand
c/o Anna Vladim Zubkova,
Anna Zubkova, Attorney at Law,
P.O. Box 275, Plainfield, CT 06374
May 21, 2021

TOWN OF THOMPSON

At the May 11, 2021 meeting of the Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission the following action was taken: Application #IWA21009 (aka WAA21009), approved with conditions, Neil P. LLC, 1321 Thompson Rd (Assessor's Map 85, Block 95, Lot 10A) – construction of a 132' X 54' new commercial building with associated drainage changes in the 100-foot upland review area and the relocation of a culverted intermittent watercourse.

On May 12, 2021 the following wetlands agent approval was issued: Application # WAA21008 approved with conditions, Jason Lavallee, 597 East Thompson Rd. (Assessor's Map 154, Block 5, Lot 10) - Construct underground utilities in the 100-foot upland review area for a new single family home.

George T. O'Neil, Chair

May 21, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joshua Edward Sylvia (21-00152) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 11, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Kaleena Fadden,
19 Library Lane South,
Sturbridge, MA 01566
May 21, 2021

TOWN OF THOMPSON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals held a Regular Meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 beginning at 7:00PM via Zoom and took the following action. ZBA Application #21-02-Bates Auto Parts, Inc., Owner of Record Linehouse Road LLC, c/o Maher and Cotnoir, PO Box 187, Putnam, CT, property located at 64 Linehouse Rd, Map 38, Block 71 and 71B, Lot 13 and 5, Zone RRAD. This is an application pursuant to Conn.

Gen. Stat. Sec. 14-67 for approval to use the premises for the operation or maintenance of a motor vehicle recycler's yard or motor vehicle recycler's business. Rescheduled to June 7, 2021.

File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals. Written communication will be accepted prior to the meeting
Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Beno, Chairman
May 21, 2021

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Woodstock Academy softball ends week with three-game winning streak

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — After dropping a heartbreaking 7-6 decision to Griswold on Thursday, May 6, in a game in which it held a three-run lead with six outs to go, the Woodstock Academy softball team bounced back into the win column, with three straight victories.

The highlight of the win streak was a doubleheader sweep of Killingly High. The Centaurs won the first game, 5-4 in nine innings, and prevailed in the second game, 3-1.

In the first game, WA freshman Sarah McArthur popped a ball just over third base and just into fair territory with the bases loaded, scoring Madison Martinez with the game-winning run in the bottom of the ninth to lift the Centaurs to the win. Martinez, Meg Preston (two RBI), Mackenzie Leveille (who homered in the Griswold game) and winning pitcher Lexi Thompson all had two hits for Woodstock Academy.

In the second game Thompson pitched a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts, smacked a pair of hits — including a double — and scored a run to help lead the Centaurs to the win.

For Killingly (8-2) in the doubleheader, Emma Carpenter recorded four hits, including a triple, and Izzy Robbins added three hits. In the second game, Killingly pitcher Lexi Faucher went the distance, striking out nine and allowing two earned runs.

Woodstock followed up the doubleheader sweep of Killingly with a 27-14 thumping of Wheeler on Wednesday,

May 12. The two teams combined for 45 hits, 33 coming off the Centaurs' bats.

Martinez had four hits and knocked in eight runs. Leveille had five hits, including her fifth home run of the season, and knocked in seven runs. Thompson and Marissa Mayhew had five hits each for the Centaurs, who improved to 11-3, (10-1 ECC Division 2).

Elsewhere in the Quiet Corner: Putnam defeated St. Bernard, 15-1, on Thursday, May 6, behind the hitting of Chloe Kerr, Rachel Boledovic, and Celenia Lopez (three hits each). Lopez finished with four RBI, while Abby St. Martin drove in three runs.

BOYS' LACROSSE

Woodstock Academy split a pair of games recently, defeating Norwich Free Academy, 13-8, on Thursday, May 6, before dropping a 21-7 decision to East Lyme on Tuesday, May 11. Against NFA, Centaurs senior Guerin Favreau scored five goals and assisted on five others while Jonah Libby and Zach Gessner added three goals each for the Centaurs. Against East Lyme, Favreau had a hand in every goal for WA, with four goals and three assists.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

Woodstock Academy defeated NFA, 9-8, on Monday, May 10. Rachel Canedy scored five goals and Sofia Murray made 13 saves in goal for the Centaurs (2-7). Sydney Haskins, Peyton Saracina, Eliza Dutton and Shannon Gagnon also scored for the Centaurs.

BOYS' GOLF

Killingly High bounced back from its first loss of the season to defeat Woodstock Academy, 6-1, on Monday, May 10. Cameron Seiffert was the medalist with a 1-over par 37 for Killingly (9-1, 5-0 ECC Division 2), Ethan Lackner carded a 41. Kyle Brennan was best for Woodstock Academy (3-4, 3-2) with a 39.

GIRLS' GOLF

Woodstock Academy won four matches in a six-day span, defeating NFA, 192-243, on Wednesday, May 12, and 176-233 on Tuesday, May 11. The Centaurs defeated East Lyme, 174-234, on Monday, May 10 and 192-248, on Thursday, May 6. Junior Mia Dang was the medalist in all four matches, while senior Kaily LaChapelle was the Centaurs' No. 2 finisher in each match. Dang is ranked in the top 10 in the state among individual girls' golfers.

BOYS' TENNIS

Woodstock Academy enjoyed an undefeated week, defeating Lyman, 7-0, on Wednesday, May 12, Montville, 4-3, on Friday, May 7, and St. Bernard, 7-0, on Thursday, May 6.

The Montville match took five hours to complete. The holdup was the No. 1 singles match between the Centaurs' Stefan Chervenkov and Montville's David Baukus, which alone took 3-1/4 hours, Chervenkov winning 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 7-5.

GIRLS' TENNIS

Killingly High defeated St. Bernard,

4-3, on Monday, May 10. Singles winners for Killingly were Julia Purcell and Rachel Sanchas. Double winners were Marcy Ferraj-Ava Johnson and Nicole Cicchetti-Payton Cathell.

Woodstock Academy defeated Montville, 7-0, on Thursday, May 6. The Centaurs (4-1, 4-0 ECC Division 2) lost only four games, all in singles play. The three doubles teams for Woodstock Academy: Morgan Bentley-Logan Reynolds; Sara Cotillo-Camila Roman and Fiona Rigney-Stella Atchinson didn't lose a game in the win.

BOYS' TRACK & FIELD

Nick Vagnini finished first in the 100 and 400 meters and ran a leg of the winning 400 relay to help Putnam High defeat Montville, 48-47, on Saturday, May 7.

The winning relay team consisted of Vagnini, Thomas Heydecker, Ethan Gardner, and Raymond Jordan, who also won the javelin. Connor Vassar won both the shot put and the discus for the Clippers. Heydecker finished second in the javelin and the 100. Jordan finished second in the shot put and the 200. Gardner finished second in the discus and the 1,600 meters.

GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

Scoring points for Putnam, in the Clippers' 103-8 loss to Montville, were Emma Rudman (second in the 300 hurdles and the 200) and Bailey Touchette (third in the 100 and long jump).

Elite Renegades reach championship game of Mother's Day Tournament

MANSFIELD — The District 12 Elite Renegades would meet a somewhat familiar foe in the championship game of the Mansfield Elite Mother's Day Tournament.

The 12U Webster Wrath were a thorn in the sides of the Renegades last season, winning three of four matchups between the two teams in the Summer of 2020. The Wrath, led by superstar pitcher Sienna Stawieki, proved once again to be a formidable opponent, defeating the Renegades 7-3 to capture the championship.

The Wrath jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead in the top of the first, as Stawieki singled to lead off the game and came around to score. Renegades starter Kaylee Ziarko would settle down in the second inning, striking out the side to keep the score at 1-0. After going down in order in the bottom of the first, Ellary Sampson would single off Wrath pitcher Stawieki to lead off the bottom of the second. Sampson then stole second and came around to score on an RBI single off the bat of Kaylee

Saucier to even the game at 1-1. Saucier then used her speed, stealing second base and advancing to third and home on passed balls to give the Renegades a 2-1 lead after two innings.

The top of the third saw the Wrath put up three runs on Ziarko and the Renegades to take the 4-2 lead. Rosie Lopez would come on in relief of Ziarko in the top of the fourth inning, but the Wrath would strike for three more runs to extend their lead to 7-2 heading into the bottom of the fourth inning. The Renegades struggled to generate any offense off Stawieki, going down in order in the third, fourth and fifth innings.

Lopez settled down nicely, tossing a scoreless fifth and sixth inning which featured two double plays, one in each inning, involving shortstop Kaylee Saucier and first baseman Ellary Sampson. Trailing 7-2 heading into the bottom of the sixth inning, the Renegades went down fighting with Samantha Podgorni and Loretta Lannon working back-to-back walks to start the inning. Maci Corradi would then single to right field, scoring Podgorni. On the throw home, Lannon hustled to third base and Corradi into second to place runners on second and third with no out and the Renegades trailing 7-3. But



Courtesy Photo

The District 12 Elite Renegades recently reached the championship game of the Mansfield Elite Mother's Day Tournament, falling to the 12U Webster Wrath 7-3.

Stawieki buckled down, retiring the middle of the Renegades batting order by inducing Campbell Favreau to pop

up and then striking out both Lopez and Sampson to end the game.

SPORTS

continued from page A1

2) in the first game with a two-run double in the eighth after Kaden Murphy had put the Centaurs ahead with an RBI single.

In the second game, Killingly (14-2, 12-2) jumped in front, 2-0, thanks to RBI singles off the bats of Bo Yaworski and Cole Lavigne, before WA staged a fifth-inning rally.

The Centaurs' Trey Ayotte knocked in a run with a ground-rule double, Hamilton Barnes had a sacrifice fly and Hernandez had what proved to be the game-winning RBI single. Murphy went the distance on the hill for the Centaurs, giving up five hits and striking out five.

"It was a just a great day of high school baseball," Killingly coach Ben Desaulnier said. "Both teams played great. It just stinks for us that we couldn't come up with a win or two."

Killingly rebounded from its first two losses of the season by winning three games in three days. Killingly defeated visiting Windham, 25-0, on Thursday, May 13, Tourtellotte High 10-3, on the road on Wednesday, May 12, and visiting Putnam, 10-0, on Tuesday, May 11.

Against Windham, Yaworski threw his second no-hitter of the season, striking out 11 in the process. Yaworski provided some punch at the plate, too, going 3-for-3 with three doubles. Lavigne also went 3-for-3 with a three-run homer and 5 RBI. Chris Jax, Jay Grzysiewicz and Cam Noury all finished with two hits each.

In its win over Tourtellotte, Grzysiewicz led Killingly, hurling a complete game, five-hitter, allowing just one earned run. Ben Jax led the offense

with three hits and Grzysiewicz helped his own cause with a pair of doubles. Yaworski and Trevin Russ had two hits each. Nate Keefe busted the game open with a two-run double in the fourth inning.

Against Putnam, Lavigne tossed a complete-game shutout, scattering five hits. Keefe led the offense going 3-for-3. Grzysiewicz and Brady Waterman each had two hits while Yaworski and Justin Baker both doubled.

Woodstock Academy followed up its doubleheader sweep of Killingly by defeating Tourtellotte, 7-0, on the road on Thursday, May 13, and visiting Wheeler, 4-1, on Wednesday, May 12.

Against the Tigers, Brendan Hill got things rolling for the Centaurs with a three-run triple in the first inning. WA freshman pitcher Riley O'Brien did the rest, getting the complete-game win by allowing three hits and striking out two in an 84-pitch effort. For Tourtellotte (4-9, 4-9), John Steglitz and Jon Ferraro were the only players to register hits off O'Brien.

Against Wheeler the Centaurs bats were slow to get going, but Eddie Niejadlik didn't need much help. Niejadlik allowed two hits and struck out eight to pick up the win. Hernandez, Smith and Zach Roethlein drove in runs for the Centaurs.

Two days before sweeping Killingly, Woodstock Academy enjoyed a 7-3 road win over Putnam High. In the game the Centaurs rallied from a 2-1 deficit with six runs in the fifth inning to take home the victory. Roethlein led the way offensively with two hits and two RBI. Smith also contributed two hits and two RBI for WA. For the Clippers (2-8, 2-8), Jon Carita went 4-for-4 and Colby Livingston knocked in a pair of runs.

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Create a garden anywhere with straw bale gardening

Add productive garden space and raise your planting bed with straw bale gardening. This technique allows you to create a raised bed garden on the patio, lawn, or poor compacted soil. Straw bale gardening has been around for centuries, but thanks to Joel Karsten's book "Straw Bale Gardens," it has gained new popularity.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

every day. On days three and five you will also add more fertilizer at the same rate used on day one.

Days seven through nine use half the rate used on day one. This would be one quarter cup of a complete garden fertilizer or one

and a half cups of an organic fertilizer. And once again thoroughly water the bale.

On day ten you will add one cup of 10-10-10 or three cups of an organic fertilizer rich in phosphorous and potassium. This completes the conditioning process.

Bales treated with a complete fertilizer should be ready to plant. You will likely need to wait a few more days when using an organic fertilizer. The inside of the bale should be the temperature of warm bath water or cooler. If it is hotter than this, wait for the bale to cool a bit before planting.

Use a trowel to pry open a hole in the bale. Place the transplant in the hole and cover the roots with potting mix or compost.

Create a planting bed for seeds by covering the bale with a one- to two-inch-thick layer of planting mix. Follow the planting directions on the back of the seed packet.

Regular watering is critical for success with this method. Soaker hoses or drip irrigation make this an easier task. You can also use gallon milk jugs with holes in the bottom or inverted



Photo Melinda Myers

The straw bale gardening technique begins with the conditioning process which is done to start the inside of the straw bale composting, so it can support plant growth.

All you need are a few straw bales, fertilizer, a bit of compost and time to condition, plant and water your garden.

Purchase straw bales made from alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye or other cereal that have less weed seeds than hay. Start a few weeks before you plan to start planting.

Place bales in their permanent location with the cut sides up and twine parallel to the ground. When you start the condition process, they become very heavy and hard to move. Once the bales are in place, you are ready to start the conditioning process. This is done to start the inside of the straw bales composting, so they will support plant growth.

Day one spread fertilizer over the top of the bale. Use one half cup of a complete garden fertilizer or three cups of an organic fertilizer, like Milorganite. The organic fertilizers feed the microorganisms that help decompose the straw into a nutrient rich planting medium. Now thoroughly moisten the bale with water.

Continue to thoroughly soak the bale

2-liter soda bottles placed near the base of each plant to provide water where it is needed.

Give your straw bale garden a nutrient boost about once a month or as needed throughout the growing season.

You are on your way to growing a productive straw bale garden to enjoy throughout the season.

Melinda Myers has written more

than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

QVCC to hold drive-through diploma ceremony

DANIELSON — Thursday, May 27 from 3-7 p.m.

Quinebaug Valley Community College proudly celebrates our 270 degree and certificate recipients in its 49th commencement. On Wednesday, May 26 from 3-7 p.m., the college is hosting a drive-through diploma distribution, outdoors, at the main campus at 742 Upper Maple St. in Danielson. The rain date will be

Graduating students who have chosen to participate in the celebration are instructed to come to campus, in one vehicle including their family and friends, at a designated time according to their last name. Timeframes are as follows:

- 3-4 p.m. A-C
- 4-5 p.m. D-H

- 5-6 p.m. I-P
- 6-7 p.m. Q-Z

All participants will have the opportunity to receive their diploma, cross the stage and have their photograph taken by QVCC staff photographers. Faculty, staff and the QVCC Foundation and Alumni Association will be on-hand to cheer our graduates.

Second Annual Maker Fair a success

THOMPSON — On Saturday, May 1, the Town of Thompson, in partnership with Thompson Together, held the Second Annual Thompson Maker Fair. On a breezy sunny day, nearly 4,000 people attended the event, looking for that perfect artisanal Mother's Day gift.

Eighty local vendors attended, selling their handmade products including pottery, jewelry, scarves, decorative items, soaps, food products, and more.

Many attendees enjoyed lunch from Creamery Brook Bison and Hungry Lion Food Truck before taking kettle corn from Canterbury Kettle Corn

home for a snack.

Attendees enjoyed the musical offerings of guitarist and vocalist Paul Courchaine, who sang radio classics from the Thompson Lions Gazebo/Bandstand.

There are more great events scheduled for Riverside Park this summer! The summer concert series kicks off the weekend of July 14 and 15 with Throwback to the '60's and Pulaski Brass Band!

Check out thompsonrec.org for more events!

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