



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, March 25, 2022

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Undefeated Putnam Science Academy wins another national championship

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The ice cream sundae for the Putnam Science Academy (PSA) men's prep basketball team was winning its third national title in five years. The cherry on the top of that accomplishment was the Mustangs did so while at the same time not losing a single game in the process.

"I thought we'd be pretty good because I knew we were fast, quick, really tough and very athletic," said PSA coach Tom Espinosa, whose team finished the 2021-2022 season 38-0. "But I never anticipated an undefeated national cham-

pionship season."

But that's exactly what happened for the Mustangs, who won the national championship in 2018 and then were named co-champions with Brewster Academy in 2020 when COVID-19 and the accompanying global coronavirus pandemic shut down the country.

Espinosa said the Mustangs' ability to go undefeated and win the national championship this year wasn't a case of the team being better than he thought. The team was, however, more focused and driven than any team he's coached at PSA.

"Leadership-wise, kids just

stepped up," said Espinosa, who started the PSA men's prep team in 2007. "Arturo Dean, who's from Miami, and Barry Evans, who's from Baltimore, those two guys were the leaders of this team and they didn't just do the talking; they led by example in every area and it trickled down to the rest of the team. We had so many good leaders on this team including Desmond Claude and Da'shon Gittens, but it was really the entire team.

"The coaching staff was blown away by the leadership this year, and, personally, I



Photos Courtesy
The Putnam Science Academy basketball team won its third national title in the past five years.

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Visitors examine some of the pieces available for purchase or bidding during the Art for Ukraine Auction event.

Art auction nets \$17,000 for Ukrainian relief efforts

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — They say all it takes it's a small spark for the flames of inspiration to spread. We've seen that many times in the Quiet Corner, but the effort put on by a local gallery and area artists and volunteers on March 19 is possibly the truest example of this the region has experienced in some time.

Art for Ukraine is an initiative that was thought up only weeks ago after Russia's much-criticized invasion of Ukraine left many in America and around the world looking

for ways to help. Local artist ad Director of the Silver Circle Gallery in Putnam's downtown was one of those people and thought up the idea of an art auction with proceeds assisting the Josiah Venture, a religious-based organization currently working to support and transport refugees from Ukraine.

"Over 80 artists have donated over 200 pieces of art with a hundred percent of the proceeds going to the nonprofit over in the Chez Republic, Ukraine, and Poland," said Lisa Andrews. "They are on the ground right now helping

refugees with food, shelter, clothing, and everything they need. The organization is driving across the border and picking up people and driving them out. I'm good family friend with Julia Budd, she's from Eastford and an art teacher at Woodstock Academy. She is part of that organization. So, for us this was near and dear to our hearts in many ways and the artist community came out in force."

Not only were all the art pieces donated, but the gallery itself donated the space

Turn To **AUCTION** page **A13**



Photo Courtesy
The Superintendents House at 65 Main St. will be renovated thanks to funds included in the omnibus spending package approved by Congress on March 10.

Thompson receives funding to renovate Superintendent House

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON — The future of Thompson's historic Superintendent's House seems to be set thanks to recently announced federal funding that will allow for its transformation into a new economic support center for the town.

In early March, the town announced that \$240,000 was included in the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus spending bill approved by Congress on March 10 which will fund the renovation of the town-owned building at 65 Main St. in North Grosvenordale. The building has had deep roots in Thompson history since it was donated to the town by the Harriet Tourtellotte to serve as the home of school district's Superintendent in the early 1900s. It has also served as a library and most recently was home to the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG) before they moved into their current facility on Thatcher Road in 2012. Since then, the building has remained unused and in deteriorating condition, but in 2019 plans to redevelop the home were revitalized. The town then approached Congressman Joe Courtney and State Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy

about seeking financial support for the initiative. Their efforts resulted in the project's inclusion in the omnibus spending package.

The Stonebridge Press approached Thompson's Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek to learn more about the impending revitalization of the building. She explained that the town has long desired to renovate and reuse the facility but had run into countless roadblocks until this recent funding was approved.

"This is critical funding for us because the obstacle we continually have run into is that local funds were not going to cover this project. It's a high risk for a small town. Certainly, this money will cover a significant portion and stabilize the building," Penn-Gesek said. "It's a facelift for the neighborhood. It's a sign that things can happen at the local level if they get a chance - It was always going to be something like a grant or federal award that was going to unlock this project."

Penn-Gesek confirmed the current plan for the facility is to evolve it into a center to support economic development and agricultural business in town. The idea was spawned

Turn To **HOUSE** page **A13**

Woodstock Academy to support displaced Ukrainian students

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy is actively working with global educational partners to welcome students from Ukraine who have been displaced due to the war. The first student is set to arrive on March 21, with a total of five to seven students expected to join The Academy family.

"Like many, we are watching what is happening in Ukraine and we are concerned for the families and citizens who are under attack and are currently being displaced. Also, like

many, we are asking ourselves what we can do to support the people of Ukraine," Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Amy Favreau said.

Preparations include working on logistics for international study, equipping the boarding environment, and tailoring to specific educational and medical needs for each student. Tuition, room, and board will be provided free of charge for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

"This work is truly in line with our mission statement

and who we are as an institution," said Chris Sandford, head of school.

To help support this mission, and welcome more students in need, The Woodstock Academy is seeking financial support from its community partners. To discuss financial support or other ways to help, please contact Associate Head of School for Advancement Jonathan Sturdevant at jsturdevant@woodstockacademy.org, or call (860) 928-6575, ext. 1211.

Emeline Roberts Jones, America's first female dentist

First, thank you to my daughter-in-law Ashley Weaver, who found the following about tambo and bones who were mentioned in the article about the St. Patrick's minstrel show in Williamsville in last week's column. Mr. Tambo played a tambourine; Mr. Bones "rattled the bones (a pair of clappers, named after the original material from which they were made)" (Britannica.com).

I've been trying to become better at using my subscription to Genealogy Bank and much to my delight came across the following ad for Killingly's female dentist Emeline Roberts Jones in the Dec. 15, 1864 Windham County Transcript. I found it most interesting, especially since this is Women's History Month, and Emeline Roberts Jones is RECOGNIZED as the FIRST FEMALE DENTIST in the United States. Imagine an image of a dentistry display with false teeth and tools which accompanied this ad: "DENTISTRY. MRS. D. A. JONES, Would announce to the people of Danielsonville and vicinity that she has permanently secured the services of Dr. R. D. Brown, formerly of this place, late of Springfield, and is now prepared to execute first class work in Dentistry in short order. Teeth Inserted on Gold, Silver, Platins and Vulcanized Rubber in the best styles and on reasonable terms. Teeth Filled, Cleaned and Extracted with the least possible pain and in a manner that will give satisfaction. Particular attention paid regulating Teeth for children. Painless operations in Dentistry by the use of the Nitrous Oxide or Laughing Gas. All agreements made with my (late) Husband will be filled with satisfaction.



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

County, Connecticut in 1836. She was probably the daughter of John E. Roberts in whose household she appeared in 1850. At age eighteen she married dentist Daniel A. Jones who had studied dentistry under Dr. R. B. Curtiss in Winsted, Connecticut (Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame; (www.cwhf.org).

Daniel A. Jones and his wife were residents of Killingly in April 28, 1856 when he executed land transactions for two tracts of land in Danielsonville with Silas Hyde. Ads in the Windham County Telegraph (later named the Transcript) list D.A. Jones, resident dentist, as having an office over S. Hyde and Co.'s Store near the Depot in Danielsonville as early as March 1856 (March 6, 1856).

When Emeline had expressed an interest in dentistry, her husband did not agree. "Although he loved and respected his wife, Dr. Jones shared the belief that dentistry was not a suitable profession for women. Refusing to be deterred, Emeline watched him work for a while. Then she collected teeth that he had extracted and discarded and practiced filling them. Once she had filled a two-quart jar with samples of her work, she showed them to her husband, who was impressed enough to reluctantly allow her to work on some of his patients. Although influenced by convention, he also realized that his wife had genuine talent. Encouraged, Emeline began

studying anatomy and related subjects to deepen her scientific knowledge. By 1859, four years after she began practicing dentistry, she had become proficient enough to transition to full-fledged partner at her husband's practice. Her reputation as a skilled dental practitioner grew." (dew.life/2018/10/01/history-women-dentistry-emeline-roberts-jones/)

In that same year she began purchasing property on the south side of Reynolds Street in Danielsonville in her own name (KLR Vo. 41, p.5; 42, p. 439). This land would have been across from the present Davis Park. The 1864 deed refers to her house. Unfortunately, a check of the historic surveys indicates that at least a second generation of homes has been constructed in the vicinity of the former Jones dwelling. By late 1859 Daniel Jones had gone into partnership with Joshua Perkins and had offices in Jones' house east of the Congregational Church and then in the Arcade building in Danielsonville. Apparently R.D. Brown was being trained by Dr. Jones in dentistry (Windham County Telegraph and Transcript Oct. 13, 1859, Jan. 12, 1860, Feb. 16, 1860).

The family left Killingly for a few years and were living in Barkhamstead, Litchfield County, Connecticut when the 1860 United States Census taken July 19, 1860. Daniel and Emeline had a two-year old daughter in their household. Their absence from Killingly was a fairly brief one since an April 17, 1862 Transcript advertised that D. A. Jones had returned and was located in an office on Main Street. By March 1864 he had relocated his offices to his new house on Reynolds Street, several doors east of the Congregational Church (WCT March 24, 1864, May 5, 1864).

How terribly sad it was to read of the death of Daniel A. Jones in June of 1864 (WCT June 30, 1864). He was buried in Old Westfield Cemetery in Danielsonville.

Emeline Roberts Jones, a widow with two small children, "bravely carried on alone ...traveling with her portable dentist's chair to eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island." (Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame-www.cwhf.org).

It was with great interest that I read a dentistry notice in an old Transcript from 1866: "Dr. H. S. Young would inform the citizens of Danielsonville and vicinity that he has leased the Office of the late Dr. Jones, rear of the Congregational Church. Mrs. D. A Jones will also be present to assist in the office" (WCT Feb. 1, 1866). Her association with dentist Horace S. Young would prove to be a lasting one in more ways than one since they were married in 1866 (Killingly Vital Records, Vo. 2, p. 352).

In 1876, Emeline Jones Young moved with her husband and children to New Haven where she practiced dentistry for many years retiring a year before her 1916 death.

If you are interested, there are a number of photos of Emeline R. Jones Young that can be seen by doing a search on the Internet.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian March 2022. Special thanks to Ashley Weaver for her assistance. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or contact the Killingly Historical Society at www.killinglyhistorical.org. Leave messages for the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.

Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital completes \$200,000 pledge supporting Birthing Center renovations

PUTNAM — The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital (WBDKH) announced the completion of a three-year, \$200,000 pledge in support of renovations to Day Kimball Hospital's (DKH) Burdick Family Birthing Center, and presented a check in the amount of \$5,882 to DKH leadership at its quarterly membership meeting held on March 10. Funds for this commitment were raised through the gift shop at Day Kimball Hospital and various fundraisers sponsored by the Woman's Board.

The Birthing Center renovation project began in October 2018, and has provided aesthetic updates to fourteen patient rooms including new counter tops, privacy curtains, sleep couches and rocking chairs, artwork from local artists, and more.

"Since 1894, Day Kimball has counted on the support of our community to enhance the

quality and services we provide, and we are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Woman's Board who have continuously been an active and significant partner to us in this effort for 127 years," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. "These funds will enable DKH to continue to provide critical women's health services for our community, and will make such a difference in the lives of countless families across Northeast Connecticut."

Woman's Board President, Valentine Iamartino, spoke to the Board's fundraising efforts amid the pandemic that pushed the organization to think strategically and complete its commitment.

"As President of our 170 member non-profit, I could not be more proud of this group for all the hard work and determination they endured to pay off our

\$200,000 pledge commitment that commenced three years ago to renovate the patient rooms within the Burdick Family Birthing Center at Day Kimball Hospital," Iamartino said.

"With two of those years involving the 127-year institution being under the stronghold of a pandemic, the Woman's Board was determined to keep moving forward no matter what, by rallying the troops, rethinking fundraising strategies and never losing sight of the goal. Adaptability, perseverance, and member commitment and involvement, no matter how insignificant, were undoubtedly key in our success," she said.

Also announced at the meeting was the Woman's Board's newest pledge of \$250,000 to support the purchase of a new da Vinci surgical system for Day Kimball Hospital, which will enhance surgical capabilities and enable surgeons to perform minimally invasive surgeries including both laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgical procedures across multiple surgical services.

"As part of our commitment to clinical excellence and providing the most advanced and accessible options for care, Day Kimball is excited to begin fundraising for a da Vinci surgical system," Kramer said.

"This novel technology will allow us to extend surgical services in urology, colorectal surgery, gynecologic surgery, urogynecology, and general surgery. The Woman's Board's generous pledge toward the procurement of this cutting-edge technology will significantly contribute to helping us reach



Photo Courtesy

Members of the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital gathered with Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare, at Grille 37 in Pomfret on Thursday, March 10 to present the final check completing the Board's \$200,000 pledge. Back row (l to r): Kristen Willis, DKH Director of Development and WBDKH member; Deb Cornman, WBDKH Corresponding Secretary; Patti Bernier, DKH Director of Ancillary Services and WBDKH member; Valentine Iamartino, WBDKH President; Kyle Kramer, DKH Chief Executive Officer; Heidi Hare, WBDKH Asst. Treasurer; Kim LeCuyer, WBDKH Treasurer & Gift Shop Manager; Elaine Turner, DBDKH member. Front row (l to r): Cheryl Medlyn, WBDKH Fundraising; Linnea Sarantopolous, WBDKH Fundraising; Nancy Weiss, Director, DKH Board of Directors and WBDKH member; Wanda Mineo, WBDKH Vice President & Membership.

our goal," Kramer said.

The mission of the Woman's Board is to raise funds to enhance the quality and services of Day Kimball Hospital. Since its establishment in 1894, the Woman's Board has raised nearly \$2 million to support important and necessary medical equipment needs at the Hospital, including the Hospital's first ambulance in the early 1900s. For more information about the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital visit www.daykimball.org/womansboard.

About Day Kimball Healthcare
Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) is a non-profit, community hospital and integrated medical ser-

vices and healthcare system serving Northeast Connecticut and nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities for 127 years. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network includes Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, four healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield and Putnam, Day Kimball HomeCare, and Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut. Approximately 1,100 personnel including nearly 300 highly-skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists are employed by Day Kimball Healthcare. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

Woodstock • Public Schools

Pre-K Lottery Selection

Woodstock Elementary School is accepting applications for our PreK lottery selection for the 2022-2023 school year. Applications are open to all Woodstock children with birthdates between September 1, 2017 and December 31, 2018. Applications are due to the main office no later than April 29, 2022.

For an application please visit:
<https://www.woodstockschoos.net/o/elementary-school/page/pre-k>

Lottery selection to occur in June at a special Board of Education Academic Subcommittee meeting.

Woodstock • Public • Schools

**Woodstock Elementary School
Kindergarten Registration
2022-2023**

Children of Woodstock turning 5 on or before December 31, 2022 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

Please contact the main office at 860-928-0471 or at wesoffice@woodstockschoos.net to add your child's name to our Kindergarten list and receive a registration packet.

Woodstock • Public Schools

**Child Find
Developmental Preschool Screenings**

Woodstock Elementary School is accepting appointments for Woodstock children ages three and four for developmental preschool screenings. These screenings are intended to screen age appropriate development skills, address questions/concerns about growth, development and speech, and identify children who may need further evaluation for special services.

Screenings are held on Friday mornings.

Please call the Woodstock Elementary School office to schedule an appointment at 860-928-0471. **Preregistration is required.**

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Cindy Ouillette named Neag School of Education Alumni Board's 2022 Outstanding Professional



Cindy Ouillette

STORRS — Cindy Ouillette has been named the 2022 Outstanding Professional by the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education Alumni Board. Ouillette was recognized formally at the Neag School's 24th annual Alumni Awards Celebration on Saturday, March 12.

Ouillette earned her Bachelor's degree in history in 1997 and her master's degree in curriculum and instruction in 1999, both from UConn's Neag School. Currently, she is the library media

specialist at Tourtellotte Memorial High School in North Grosvenordale, Connecticut. In that role, she has the unique opportunity to impact the educational community beyond the scope of one classroom and is known for being a forward-thinker, impactful educator.

"Cindy is an integral part of Tourtellotte Memorial High School, so much so that I could not imagine our school without her," says Tourtellotte High School special education teacher Paula Coderre. "This woman wears many hats in the makeup of our school, and she readily gives her time and energy to every one of the projects and activities she is involved with."

One of the many activities that Ouillette is directly involved in is the Student Leadership Team, a group that she co-found and currently co-advises. She works with students to respond to student body's needs and create solutions to whatever issue that may be at stake. For example, after noticing a decline in enrollment, Ouillette and Tracy Williams, an English teacher at Tourtellotte, began co-chairing the Promotion Committee.

"Through our work, we have instituted programs that have not only helped increase the number of eight grade students choosing to attend Tourtellotte but also have significantly improved our school climate," says Williams.

In 2016, Williams and Ouillette collaborated again to create Peer Point, a student writing center.

"As we began our work, Cindy found solutions to every potential obstacle, even giving up her own office to be used as the peer writing center," says Williams. "Such dedication and willingness to give of herself is a hallmark of Cindy's commitment to her work, our students, and community."

As an advisor for Tourtellotte's National Honor Society, Ouillette implemented "Homelessness Awareness" and "Trick or Treat for Canned Goods," where students went door to door collecting goods for the local food pantry.

"Tourtellotte students slept outside overnight both to become aware of the plight of homeless people and to raise monies contributed to help the homeless," says technology education teacher Michael Joyce.

Ouillette also collaborated with teachers at the school on integrating information literacy skills into the curriculum and initiated a paradigm shift on how the library was used in the building.

"Ms. Ouillette's investments far exceed the regular responsibilities of a library media specialist," says Megan E. Parrette '12 6th Year, '17 ELP, principal at Tourtellotte High School and past Neag School Alumni Board president. "She is key in building strong collegial collaborations, rigorous academic opportunities, a powerful and proud students leadership team, as well as being at the center for having rebuilt and now nurturing an amazingly posi-

tive school climate, promoting just how wonderful the students and faculty are at Tourtellotte Memorial High School."

These are only several of many activities and programs that Ouillette is involved in at Tourtellotte, and her community service work outside the school. By her peers, she is described as "indispensable, incredible, outstanding, and impactful," to name a few.

This award annually honors a graduate of UConn's Neag School of Education who demonstrates excellence and has made significant contributions to their profession.

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Trout Unlimited works to promote catch and release fishing

REGION — You may see some colorful new signs at popular fishing access sites in the northwest part of the Quiet Corner in the next few weeks.

The Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, with the support of local sportsmen's clubs, are launching a campaign to encourage more catch and release fishing.

Gary Lussier, President of the Thames Valley Chapter of TU, states: "The intent is not to discourage people who like to enjoy a fresh trout now and then (who doesn't?) but to raise awareness of the benefits of catch and release with minimal harm to the fish."

Figures from Andrew Bale of the DEEP show about 120,000 freshwater licenses and permits being issued. This includes about 80,000 trout stamps. Plus, who knows how many younger kids who don't need licenses. At the same time the state stocks about 500,000 catchable size trout annually.

According to Steve Gerling, coordinator of the project, "Fishing provides a truly great opportunity to enjoy the best of the outdoors But

with those numbers it's not hard to see why the lakes and streams can be quickly depleted of trout when many people keep their entire catch at every outing."

He continues, "The main message of the campaign is that more catch and release will yield better fishing for more of the season. Especially in the case of trout, this also increases the possibility of more "holdover" fish and ups the chances for natural reproduction in our lakes and streams. The signs give tips on how to minimize injury to your catch, and will even have a small pair of pliers attached for those who wish to bend down hook barbs at waterside."

In addition to the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the following clubs added their endorsement and support to the effort: Putnam Fish and Game Club, Pomfret Rod and Gun Club, Eastern Ct. Sportsman's Club (Ashford), Fin, Fur, and Feather Club (Chaplin) and Stafford Fish and Game Club.

All of these groups ask you to please consider Catch and Release. It makes for better fishing for everyone.

Le Moyne College names Kobe Akana to Dean's List

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Kobe Akana, a Senior History major from Thompson has been named to the Le Moyne College Fall 2021 Dean's List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Located in a suburban setting on a picturesque 160-acre campus in Syracuse, N.Y., Le Moyne College is one of only 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. Offering more than 30 majors, Le Moyne provides a values-based education that helps students explore their potential through academics, experience and service. In 2021, for the ninth consecutive year, Le Moyne was ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, an honor achieved by only 15 percent of the colleges and universities in the nation. A Le Moyne education provides students with the intellectual skills necessary to succeed in the world and the will to use their abilities to promote a more just society.

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Originally Produced by Disney/Theatrical Productions

Thompson Public Schools Auditorium

Tickets go on sale March 1, 2022

Admission: Adults \$10 Students/Seniors \$5 Children under 3 Free

Friday, March 25th 7:00pm Saturday, March 26th 7:00pm Sunday, March 27th 2:00pm

To purchase tickets, go to the link below and type in Thompson Public Schools into the search bar.
www.showtix4u.com

Beauty and the Beast is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials also supplied by MTI, 423 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 Tel: (212) 541-4604 Fax: (212) 397-4604 www.MTITheatre.com
The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

ACT presents FOUR: DanceFest 2022 on April 8 & 9

WILLIMANTIC — EASTCONN's Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) magnet school will present FOUR: DanceFest 2022 on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2022, at 7 p.m. on the Capitol Theater's main stage, 896 Main St., Willimantic. This family-friendly, annual dance performance is open to the public.

FOUR is a full-length evening of concert dance inspired by the four elements of nature — fire, earth, water and air — and informed by shifting societal attitudes toward climate change.

Showcasing a variety of dance genres including classical ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary and hip-hop, FOUR is a collaboration with students in ACT's Media Arts and Technical Theater pathways, resulting in a true multimedia experience, complete with special effects, video and innovative costumes.

Directed by ACT Director of Dance Tiana Mancuso, and featuring faculty works choreographed by both Mancuso and Ashley Green, FOUR also marks DanceFest's triumphant return to live performance after 2021's virtual event.

"We are excited to once again host a full audience for



Photo Courtesy

The DanceFest 2022 cast plus Emma Kent, Kaylie Nazarko, Alexis Butler, Alanis Mendez and Emma Patterson.

a live production in the ACT theater," said ACT principal Sarah Mallory. "The students and staff have been working really hard on this production, and it will be a great experi-

ence to be able to perform the work for a full house now that COVID-19 restrictions have been modified."

ACT students performing in FOUR include seniors

Taegan Praytor (Hampton, Student Dance Company director), Ariana Sandi (Coventry), Aria Martin (Norwich) and Bianca Pontes (Norwich), juniors Madison Dufault

(Sterling), Samantha Perry (Lebanon) and Alora Kerwin (Tolland) and sophomore Layla Edmiston (Sterling).

"We are super excited to have the students back in the audience," Mancuso said. "It is crucial for underclassmen and other majors to experience the live performances at ACT, because it is usually the motivation and inspiration to create and perform."

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and non-ACT students. ACT students may attend for free. To reserve tickets, call the Capitol Theater Box Office at 860-465-5636.

ACT is a public, performing arts magnet high school administered by EASTCONN. ACT is currently recruiting academically motivated students who will enter grades 9-12 in the 2022-2023 school year. To learn more about ACT or to download an application, visit www.eastconn.org/act or call 860-465-5636.

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.

Loos & Co. donates to wildlife conservation

Photo Courtesy

Loos Director of Corporate Marketing Robert Davis and Steve Gerling of Trout Unlimited with the newly posted fishing signs, complete with Loos cable and assembly.



POMFRET — A coalition of conservation and local sporting groups is the recipient of high-quality cable and hardware donated from Pomfret's Loos & Company.

The wire and cable manufacturer is proud to have recently

donated to the Thames Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited, a national freshwater conservation organization.

TVTU is working with the Pomfret Rod and Gun Club, Putnam Fish and Game, Eastern Ct. Sportsman's Club of Ashford

Fin, Fur, and Feather of Chaplin, and the Stafford Fish and Game club to try to maintain and improve the quality of recreational fishing in our area.

"We're encouraged by Trout Unlimited's sense of tradition and sustainability," said Loos Director of Corporate Marketing Robert Davis. "We're pleased sportsmen in our local towns are interested in catch and release fishing, and it's fulfilling for us to help them in that mission."

Loos & Co. donated stainless steel aircraft cable and cable attachment sleeves.

These durable and long-lasting products will be used with posted signs advocating for fishing catch and release. The cable and assemblies will be attached to a pair of needle-nose pliers for fishermen to pinch down barbs on their hooks and safely return fish to the water.

"We deeply appreciate the generosity from Loos & Company," said Steve Gerling from the Thames Valley Chapter. "We are working to place these signs at heavily fished areas in our part of Windham County."

Loos & Company firmly believes in the importance of helping those in and around the Pomfret, Connecticut community. This includes fish and other wildlife, but also Connecticut women and girls, Pomfret seniors, and Danielson veterans.

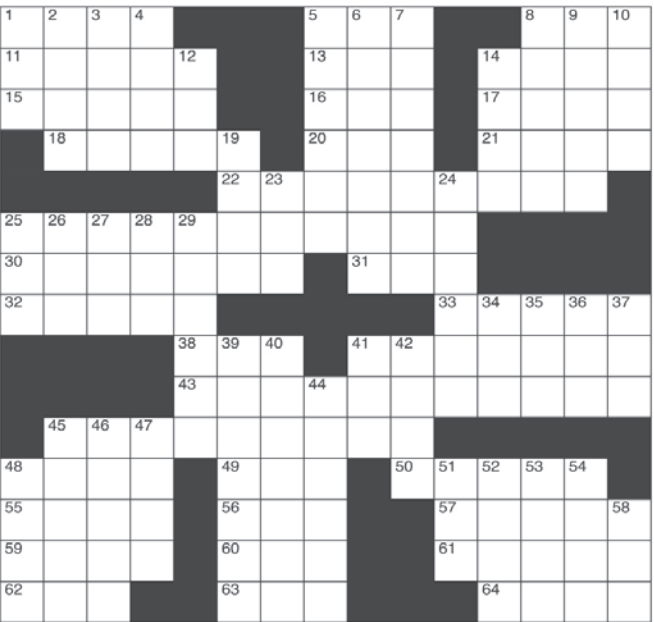
Over the past year, several monetary donations were made to these local organizations.

"While our cash donations have been very well received, it is serendipitous to be able to donate our products locally to an organization in need," Davis said. "From military jets to freshwater fish, Loos makes cable and cable assemblies for multiple applications."

More information about Loos & Co.'s community commitment is available on our website. Loos & Co., Inc. located at 16B Mashamouet Road in Pomfret Center, is the industry leader in the wire and cable industry. More information about Loos is available at loosco.com.



GOOD NEWS

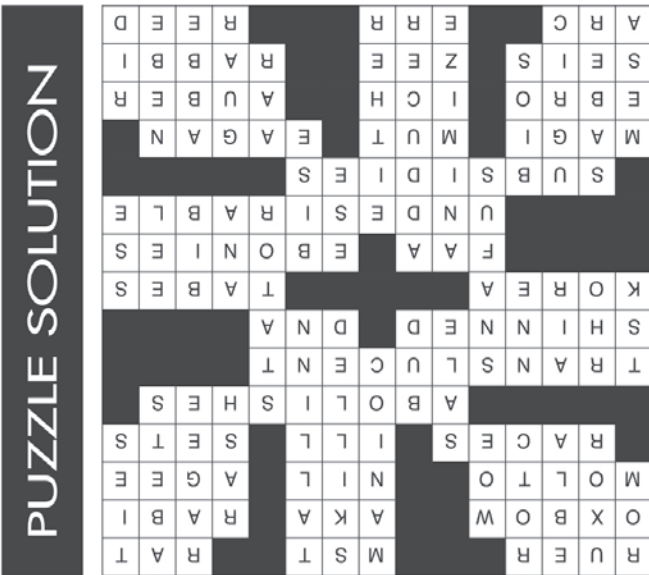


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One who regrets
- 5. Time zone
- 8. Subway dweller
- 11. Bend in a river
- 13. Alias
- 14. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- 15. Very (music)
- 16. Zero
- 17. Phil __, former CIA
- 18. Competitions
- 20. Unwell
- 21. Puts in place
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Allows light to pass through
- 30. Climbed quickly
- 31. We all have it
- 32. There's a North & South
- 33. Emaciation
- 38. Supervises flying
- 41. Very dark colors
- 43. Unwanted
- 45. Grants
- 48. Three visited Jesus
- 49. Wife of Amun
- 50. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. A Spanish river
- 56. I (German)
- 57. French opera composer
- 59. Six (Spanish)
- 60. Last letter
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Noah had one
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. Tall plant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Computer memory
- 2. "Et __": "And wife" (Latin)
- 3. Ancient Syrian city
- 4. College army
- 5. Cassava
- 6. Talented
- 7. Capital of Estonia
- 8. Finger millet
- 9. In a way, assists
- 10. Men's fashion accessories
- 12. Misery
- 14. Skin disorder
- 19. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 23. Good friend
- 24. Stationary portion of a generator
- 25. Expression of disappointment
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Where birds fly
- 28. Midway between north and northeast
- 29. Chaotic states
- 34. Comedic actress Gasteyer
- 35. Kids' dining accessory
- 36. Snakelike fish
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. Assign lifelike qualities to
- 40. One who cites
- 41. Midway between east and southeast
- 42. North wind
- 44. One or the other
- 45. Cavalry sword
- 46. Of the Hungarian language
- 47. Life stories
- 48. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. French cleric
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Free from



VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 14: Woodcock, Robin, Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Eastern Meadowlark, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Song Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Carolina Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, Barred Owl, Wild Turkey, Black Vulture, Bald Eagle. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home.

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@villagernewspapers.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

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

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
860-928-1818 x 323
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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ACT and Windham Public Schools offer free summer musical theater program

WILLIMANTIC — Downtown Willimantic will look and sound a little more like Broadway this summer, when EASTCONN’s Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) magnet high school and Windham Public Schools host a free Summer Musical Theater Program for northeastern Connecticut students entering grades 5-12.

Participating students will work collaboratively to put on a Broadway show, developing their acting, singing and dancing skills under the supervision of experienced directors. They’ll also create props, contribute to make-up, costumes and set design and learn about lighting and sound technology.

Students will also develop marketing materials for the show, from Playbill-style programs, video commercials and posters to social media posts to be shared by EASTCONN and Windham Public Schools. Wherever possible, program staff will integrate academic skills – literacy, math and science – into the daily instruction.

The final show will be the first full-length musical produced in the ACT theater since fall 2019.

“The collaboration between EASTCONN’s Arts at the Capitol Theater and Windham Public Schools is exciting to be part of,” said Sarah Mallory, Principal at Arts at the Capitol Theater. “We are going to be able to bring the opportunity to perform and produce a musical of this caliber to a wide range of students in the area. The arts bring people together, and this is so desperately needed right now in the community.”

Dara E. Bowling, an English teacher at Windham High School, called the program a “powerful opportunity for students to authentically utilize their skills in real-world situations in a way that is fun and engaging and wholly collaborative.”

The Summer Musical Theater Program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily between Monday, July 11 and Friday, Aug. 12 at Arts at the Capitol Theater (896 Main St., Willimantic). Show dates are Friday, Aug. 12 and Saturday, Aug. 13.

Registration is open at www.eastconn.org/oz until June 1.

ACT, housed in Willimantic’s historic Capitol Theater, enrolls approximately 135 students from 48 towns in its NEASC-accredited, interdisciplinary and arts-infused academic program. Each grade consists of approximately 30 students, making ACT an intimate, highly focused learning environment.

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

Woodstock Academy dives deeper into social and emotional health

WOODSTOCK — As the third school year affected by the pandemic steadily remains strenuous, the focus on students’ social and emotional health continues to be prioritized. The Academy has made persistent efforts to support students socially and emotionally including additional student support staff, school-based mental health services, training for teachers, and increased opportunities for open discussion in classrooms and advisory.

“We are keenly aware of how crucial it is to be innovative and make concerted efforts to address our student’s social and emotional needs,” said Chris Sandford, head of school at The Woodstock Academy. “We truly believe it is the responsibility of all educational institutions to not only provide educational support, but also social and emotional support to protect the mental health of our youth.”

To meet these needs, The Woodstock Academy has hired a full-time member of the student support staff team and will continue to provide school-based mental health services through its recent partnership with Silver Linings Counseling. School-based counseling allows students to begin therapy much sooner and eliminates the need for transportation to and from appointments, which has a direct impact on students’ mental health and well-being.

“Over the past two years, The Academy has made several changes to better meet the social-emotional needs of our students,” said Karin Hughes, dean of student affairs at The Woodstock Academy. “Through our partnership with Silver Linings Counseling, our students have had direct and ongoing access to counseling services. A significant increase in need for services, combined with fewer resources in our local area, means that many community-based providers have lengthy waitlists, or have stopped taking new clients altogether.”

In addition, The Woodstock Academy recently hired a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, Mr. Christopher Smith, to work with students on behavioral issues such as school avoidance. Because this varies by student, Mr. Smith can recommend support and interventions that are individualized for each student and their unique needs.

Faculty and staff have continued to receive professional development throughout the year to assist in their focus on social-emotional learning.

“As we aim to provide support by any means necessary, we continue to ask ourselves ‘What is best for our students? What needs do our students have? How can we partner with families to meet those needs?’” said Sandford.

Nutmeg Chapter of American Truck Historical Society donates more than \$7,800.00 to non-profit organizations

WOODSTOCK — The Nutmeg Chapter of the American Historical Truck Society who runs the “Brooklyn Antique Truck Show” recently donated more than \$7,800 to regional and state non-profit organizations.

According to Tom Bachand of Woodstock, the club has been running the “Brooklyn Antique Truck Show” at the Brooklyn Fair Grounds the Sunday after Father’s Day for the past 32 years. The event is the largest single day antique truck show in New England. It is very family oriented and is well attended by the public as well as truck enthusiasts from the New England region. We would like to thank everyone who attends the event and supports us. The date of the 2022 show is Sunday, June 26, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For a number of years, the chapter has been donating money to local and regional non-profit organizations. It is a good feeling, to give some assistance to those who give so much back to the local community in all forms of social assistance and help.

All of the money collected at the gates and sales of tee shirts on the day of the show after expenses to host the show are annually donated.

The Nutmeg Chapter of the ATHS is very proud to be associated with the following groups we have donated to as a result of the 2021 Brooklyn Antique Truck Show. Haul of Fame Museum, Ashford Boy Scouts, TEEG, Arc of Danielson, Arc of Enfield, Willimantic Interfaith Ministry, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Ct Lion Eye Research, National ATHS Library, Brockway Truck Museum, Woodstock Cornet Band, Addie Coderre Cancer Fund and the Brooklyn Fair.

The chapter is very active with more than 160 members and is extending an invitation to those interested in trucks to consider checking us out on the internet as well as on Facebook at [nutmegchapteraths.com](https://www.facebook.com/nutmegchapteraths.com). You do not have to own a vehicle to join the group. Membership forms are available on line or can be picked up at the show. Everyone is welcome!

Woodstock Recreation, Roseland Cottage announce Summer Twilight Lawn Concert Series

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Recreation and Historic New England are thrilled to continue the tradition begun by Henry Bowen himself: open-air concerts on the grounds of Roseland Cottage. This summer will feature three free concerts featuring some familiar local talent offering a variety of musical styles. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket and a picnic

supper, or purchase food from our TBD Food Truck vendors and enjoy a beautiful, musical New England summer evening.

Little Band	Big Band
Friday, June 10, 7 - 8:30 p.m.	Friday, June 24, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Rain date	Rain date
A dynamic 15-piece swing band with a repertoire including popular swing and big band music from traditional standards, through today’s contemporary swing sounds, with a little big band rock n’ roll and rhythm n’ blues added.	
Dynamite	Rhythm
Friday, July 29, 7 - 8:30 p.m.	Friday, Aug. 12, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Rain date	Rain date
Carefully selecting songs spanning 50 years of jukebox gold, Dynamite Rhythm’s 4 vocalists	

all sing lead and harmony on top of a solid rhythm section. Add a sizzling trumpet on top and you’ve got one “Dynamite” show!

Beck	N’	Call
Friday, Aug. 19, 7 - 8:30 p.m.	Friday, Aug. 26, 7 - 8:30 p.m.	Friday, Aug. 26, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Rain date	Rain date	Rain date
A Quiet Corner favorite, Beck N’ Call is a local stringband playing Americana, Celtic, Blues & retro-pop & originals.		

Important Information:
Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169, Woodstock, Conn.
All concerts are free and open to the public.
Please call 860-928-4074 for more information or contact Woodstock Recreation at erinlucas@woodstockct.gov.



Loos donates to school robotics clubs

POMFRET — Pomfret’s Loos & Company is working to inspire youngsters in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields by donating to local schools’ robotics teams.

The wire and cable manufacturer recently donated to the Ashford School and Killingly Intermediate School robotics programs.

“This donation allows us to make a difference in our community and industry,” said Director of Corporate Marketing Robert Davis. “Today’s students are proving the importance of science and technology, and we’re thrilled to lend a hand in that effort.”

The Ashford and Killingly schools will be participating in the 2022 VEX Robotics World Championships. The competition will take place in Dallas in early May.

This month the schools qualified for the championship, and are working to finalize the budget for trip expenses. Loos’s donation will help them showcase their game strategy, design and teamwork skills by covering registration costs and other team expenses.

Each school received a \$500 check, just two of many given to local organizations and initiatives in the last year.

Killingly Intermediate School is hoping to send students Wesley and Avery to Dallas, while Ashford School is hoping to send students Ben and Nicholas. All are eighth-graders.

Wesley, for example, hopes to use robotics in the field of agriculture. He aims to make robotics for farming purposes.

“There are very smart kids in the area,” said Killingly Intermediate School STEM Teacher Mike Eddy. “It’s up to us, teachers and community members, to help them out.”

Eddy said the teams are very student-oriented. Students design, build and code robots with very little guidance from teachers or staff.

In Ashford School, 10 teams of students compete in the challenges.

“I think students like the creativity of robotics,” said K-4 Science Teacher and K-8 enrichment teacher Dr. Carly Imhoff. “They don’t have to follow a kit or strict instructions. They can really exercise their minds.”

Ashford School has been participating in the robotics competitions for 11 years, Imhoff said.

For the students, competitions bring unique challenges, like working together to troubleshoot a robot build or code that breaks down on the big day.

“These students have a lot of ambition and huge potential in the STEM field,” Davis said. “Loos wants to give back to public education and help out the boys and girls in our local communities.”

More information about Loos & Co.’s community commitment is available on our Web site.

Loos & Co., Inc. located at 16B Mashamoquet Road in Pomfret Center, is the industry leader in the wire and cable industry. More information about Loos is available at loosco.com.

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SPORTS

LOCAL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Putnam’s Espinosa shines in Elks Hoop Shoot competition



Putnam resident TJ Espinosa stands with Connecticut Elks Association president Mike Stewart moments after Stewart presented Espinosa his second-place trophy for his fine showing in the New England Regional competition, held March 12, in Portland, Maine.

Putnam resident TJ Espinosa narrowly missed out on a trip to Chicago and a spot in the Elks Hoop Shoot national championships recently.

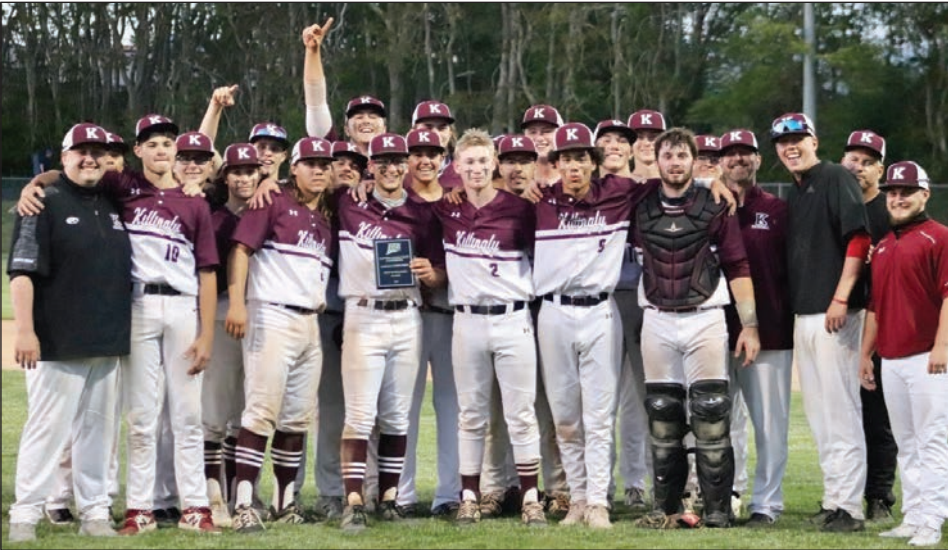
Espinosa, the Connecticut Elks Hoop Shoot champion, competed in the organization’s New England Regional, held on Saturday, March 12, in Portland, Maine. The sixth-grader at Putnam Middle School, representing the Putnam Lodge of Elks No. 574, turned in what would have been a winning effort in most years, sinking 22-of-25 free throws. Unfortunately, Espinosa ended up second place due to the winner of the event hitting on 24 of his 25 attempts. The competition consisted of two rounds, a 10-shot first round followed by a 15-shot second round. The 12-year-old Espinosa, competing in the 12-13 year-old bracket, made all 10 of his first-round free throws, and went 12-for-15 in the second round. Espinosa advanced to the regional competition by winning the state title, which he did in an epic triple-overtime shootout. After hitting 22 of his initial 25 free-throw attempts, Espinosa was tied with another competitor. Espinosa was 5-for-5 in the first overtime and 4-5 in the second overtime. Still tied after two OT periods, Espinosa won the title with a perfect 5-for-5 third-overtime performance. Espinosa was not the only local basketball player who participated in the New England Regional competition in Portland on March 12. Sidney Anderson, an eighth-grader at Danielson’s St. James School, finished in fifth-place in her division, hitting on 16 of her 25 free throw attempts. The

winner in Anderson’s division connected on 23-of-25 of her shots. Anderson, who was representing the Danielson Lodge of Elks No. 1706 in both the regional and state competitions, won the state title on Saturday, Jan. 15 in Manchester. Anderson won the Connecticut title by sinking 23 of the 25 shots she took. **High School Gymnastics** The Woodstock Academy girls’ gymnastics team, thanks to its best team performance of the year, finished third in the New England Region Gymnastics Championship, held at Fairfield-Warde High School on Saturday, March 12. The Centaurs’ finishing score of 143.1 was just 5.1 points less than Massachusetts’ Franklin High, who turned in a winning score of 148.2, and 0.125 of a point behind second-place finisher Daniel Hand High School of Madison. “I feel like we had some of our best performances (in the regional meet); we really did a good job,” Woodstock Academy coach Kasey Tocchio told Centaurs’ sports information director Marc Allard. “Franklin was awesome, they had some really great kids, and Daniel Hand just had a great meet.” Woodstock junior Taylor Markley finished second in New England with a 38.175 all-around total. Emma White of Franklin won the all-around with a 39.0 score. Markley turned in second-place finishes on the vault (9.825), floor (9.5), and

bars (9.75), while her teammate, freshman Olivia Aleman, placed fifth on floor (9.375) and sixth on vault (9.475). **Auto Racing** Spring has finally arrived and with it comes another season of bumper-to-bumper action at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park (TSMP). The 2022 season begins on the .625-mile oval on Friday, April 1 with practice for the Annual Icebreaker Weekend for the seven divisions which will take to the track on April 2-3. The Highlight of the weekend is the Icebreaker 125, which will pay the winning driver \$10,000. Other highlights on the TSMP schedule include a pair of visits by the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour (WMT). The ground pounders will be in The Quiet Corner on Wednesday, Aug. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 8. Both races are tentatively scheduled for 150 laps of door handle-to-door handle racing. The August WMT event is sponsored by Phoenix Communications, while the October event is part of TSMP’s annual World Series of Auto Racing. The American Canadian Tour (ACT) will bring its Late Model Division to TSMP for a 75-lap feature during the World Series of Auto Racing weekend in October. For TSMP’s complete 2022 racing schedule visit www.thompsons Speedway.com.

Killingly baseball, last year’s ECC Tournament champ, prepares for another strong season

KILLINGLY — As the Killingly High School baseball team prepares for the 2022 season — pitchers and catchers started practicing Saturday, March 12, position players Saturday, March 19 — it does so with its sights set on winning a second consecutive Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Tournament championship. Killingly won the ECC title last year thanks to semifinal- and final-round victories on the same day (Thursday, May 27). After defeating Waterford High in Waterford, 13-2, in the semifinals, Killingly traveled to Groton where it defeated Fitch High, 1-0, to capture the crown. Last year’s ECC Tournament championship was the first in school history and the first ECC baseball crown of any kind since winning ECC regular season championships in 1972 and 1973. “We’re looking to build off the momentum created from last season’s record-breaking year, and continue to assert ourselves as a baseball force,” said Killingly coach Ben Desaulnier, whose team finished 20-3 last season. We have a good core of returning players from last season, but will need some young players to step up and bring their talents to the table.” Six everyday starters and seven players who saw significant playing time last year return to the diamond this season for Desaulnier. Topping the list of returning starters for Killingly are seniors Nate Keefe, Jay Grzysiewicz, Trevin Russ, Brady Waterman, Justin Baker and Cam Noury and junior Ben Jax. Keefe, who earned All-ECC honors for the second time last season, is the team’s starting catcher. Keefe batted third in Desaulnier’s lineup last year and finished with a .381 batting average, six extra-base hits and 16 RBI. He also stole 14 bases. Keefe will play his college baseball at UConn-Avery Point. Grzysiewicz, a right-handed pitcher, was also named to the All-ECC Team. He finished the season 9-2 with a 1.59



The Killingly High School baseball team won the ECC Tournament in 2021.

earned run average and 71 strikeouts in 65-2/3 innings. Grzysiewicz, who will be hurling for Rhode Island College next year, played shortstop when he wasn’t on the hill. Russ, a first baseman/outfielder for Desaulnier, was Killingly’s clean-up hitter in 2021, finishing with a .271 average, 17 RBI and 13 stolen bases. Waterman, an outfielder, started all 23 of Killingly’s games last year. He will also play at the next level next year, for Johnson & Wales University. Baker started 20 games last season, splitting his time between first base and designated hitter. Noury made 10 starts in the outfield last year. Jax (.273 average, 15 RBI) will start in the outfield. This is the core that will try to replace last year’s seniors — Bo Yaworski, Chris Jax and Cole Lavigne. Yaworski, the ECC Player of the Year last year, was dominant on the mound, throwing three no-hitters and striking out 103 batters in 54 innings. Defensively Jax, also on the All-ECC Team, alternated between shortstop and third base, depending on who was pitching. At the plate he finished with a .457 average and 27 runs scored. Lavigne, the team’s

No. 3 pitcher, started regularly at first base and occasionally at third base. Top newcomers to Killingly’s varsity team include seniors Brandon Baker and Corbyn Adams, sophomore Mason Frazer and freshmen Ashton Goodwin, Lincoln Waterman, Brady Zadora, Lucas Bertram and Dominik Kubera. Baker is a right-handed pitcher and Adams is a lefty. Frazer should get starts at a middle infield position while Goodwin will compete to be the starter at third base. Waterman is currently competing for a regular outfield position. Zadora will back up Keefe behind the plate. Bertram, another left-handed pitcher, and Kubera, a righty, are competing for a spot in the rotation. Desaulnier said the tentative Killingly pitching rotation features Grzysiewicz at No. 1, Baker at No. 2, Adams at No. 3, and Bertram and Kubera battling for the No. 4 slot. “Jay is not only our No. 1 pitcher; I think he’s the No. 1 pitcher in the ECC,” Desaulnier said. “He had a terrific year for us last year and I expect him to pick up this year where he left off last season and have another terrific year for us. “Brandon was our No. 4 last year, but



Right-handed pitcher Jay Grzysiewicz was 9-2 with a 1.59 earned run average and 71 strikeouts in 65-2/3 innings for Killingly High School last season.

he only pitched three or four innings for us because Bo and Jay were so dominant, and we had Cole as our No. 3,” Desaulnier said. “Because our top three guys were so dominant, we didn’t need a No. 4 in most instances. That’s not very typical of a normal pitching staff, to not have a No. 4. Corbyn pitched a ton on JV last year for us and was, probably, our best JV pitcher.” Desaulnier, now in his third year as Killingly’s varsity coach, wants qualifying for the state tournament to become a yearly tradition for his team. “For a lot of smaller schools in Northeast Connecticut, if you make the state tournament that’s considered a great season,” Desaulnier said. “I feel like we’ve moved to a point as a program that we’re past that; we expect to make the state tournament, we expect to be in the mix at the end of the season. “We want to build the program to the point where not only can we compete for league titles, but we can compete like the football program and the wrestling program, for a state title,” Desaulnier said. “I want to be part of the Killingly team that wins the school its first state title in baseball.”

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SPORTS

Woodstock Basket Bash returns

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK – After a brief absence, the Woodstock PTO celebrated the return of their annual Basket Bash fundraiser on Saturday, March 19 at the Woodstock Middle School.

The event helps raise money for a variety of school programs, events and needs with members of the PTO staffing the raffle with 123 themed baskets up for grabs throughout the day. Emily Laprade, PTO Vice President and Chair of the Basket Bash, said it was thrilling to see the event return after a brief hiatus.

“This, I believe, is our fifth year. Last year we couldn’t have it because of COVID so we’re excited to be bringing it back this year,” said Laprade. “This is our biggest fundraiser and the programs we do are field trips for the kids, Field Day, products and items for the teachers’ classrooms, just anything that parents would normally pay for we try to lesson that load. Everything goes



Photo Jason Bleau

The 123 baskets made up the 2022 Woodstock PTO Basket Bash event on March 19.

back into the school.”

While the exact amount raised from the event wasn’t release for press time, the event was considered a big success. Everything from electronics to local business-themed baskets, toys and

games, sports team items and more made up the largest variety of prizes at the event to date. Laprade said what made the event even more special is that it was a true school community effort to bring it all together.

“We had different classrooms and businesses donate baskets and all the money goes back to the PTO which goes o the school directly,” said Laprade. “Every classroom was assigned a theme and parents donated items to fit those themes. We wrapped the baskets and then went to local businesses who also donated baskets as well. This gets the parents to know who we are too. A lot of people don’t know who the PTO is, so this fundraiser helps bring everyone together.”

The Woodstock PTO is a nonprofit dedicated towards supporting programs throughout the Woodstock school district. Those interested in being a part of their cause can contact the PTO directly at info@woodstockpto.org or visit their Facebook page.

Rectory School boys’ basketball champs of Future Stars Tournament

POMFRET — Rectory School’s boys’ varsity A basketball team recently traveled to Suffield Academy for the prestigious Future Stars Tournament and came away as champions. Rectory played four games and bested all their opponents including a finals victory over tournament rival The Fessenden School.

“We picked a great time to play our best basketball as a team. It has been a continuous process throughout the year, starting in September to get the boys to buy-in and support each other, and it showed in this tournament,” Coach Robert Roy said.

“It feels great to be a champion,” team co-captain Deron R. ’23 told Rectory School’s Wolf Den Sports Center. “We put in a lot of work in the gym, and this makes us see that it paid off.”

The Wolves opened the tournament, which had been postponed until the last weekend in February, with a victory against Indian Mountain School 60-44 with ninth graders Bryce B. and Jacob D. scoring 21 and 15 points, respective-

ly, with LJ S. ’22 close behind shooting for 14 points. The team kept their energy up and rolled on from there.

Rectory took the second game, this time against Hillside School, 50-38, with Jacob and Deron tallying 30 of Rectory’s points (20 and 10, respectively). The win sent them to the semifinals where they faced a team from the Boys Club of New York. The Wolves were dominant throughout the game and cruised to a 63-46 victory, led by Deron who scored a whopping 30 points, followed by Jacob with 14.

The championship game pitted Rectory against its perennial tournament rivals, The Fessenden School. The last time the teams met — in 2020 just prior to the COVID-19 shut down — it was the Fessenden players who walked away with the close win. The 2022 results were different. Through a team effort, Rectory bested the Bears 64-55 with Jacob (20 points), LJ (19 points), Bryce (14 points), and Deron (10 points) helping to lead the way.

Athletic Director Michael Healy said what impressed



Photo Courtesy

The Rectory School’s boys’ varsity A basketball team recently won the Future Stars Tournament.

him most was the teamwork and outstanding effort that the Rectory boys displayed throughout the day.

“I am confident that the high school coaches that came to see this tournament were also impressed with Rectory’s team,” Mr. Healy said. “Each member of the team did their job, and it paid off by bringing home the championship. I love each one of these guys and couldn’t be prouder of their hard work,” Coach Roy said.

Major changes in store at Woodstock Golf Course

WOODSTOCK — With winter’s icy grip losing its hold on the Quiet Corner, the Woodstock Golf Course at Roseland Park is planning to launch its 2022 golf season on Saturday, April 2, subject of course to mother nature’s cooperation. The melting snow will reveal that an extensive tree and brush removal program has taken place during the off season, which will continue through the coming months. The project involves removing trees that encroach the fairways on several of the holes, as well as reducing overgrowth from the edges

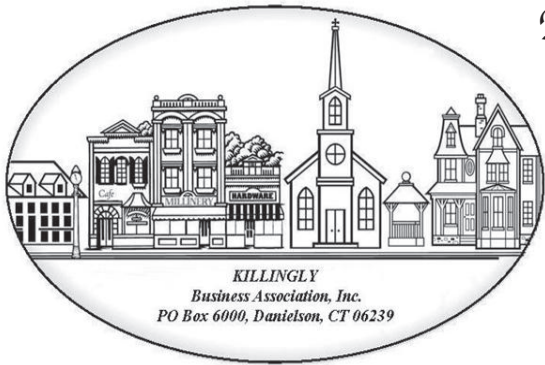
of the course. The improvements are expected to help speed play and make the golf experience more enjoyable for all.

The course, which opened in 1896, is among the oldest courses in the United States, while the game itself dates back to 1552 in St. Andrews, Scotland. It seems that most area golfers likely took some of their first swings at the Roseland layout which is on private land operated by the Trustees of the Bowen Family Trust and open to the public.

The nine-hole course plays between 2,000 and 2,400 yards, making it ideal for women, seniors and beginners. In fact, there are plans to add additional forward tees on several of the longest holes for players seeking slightly less challenging options. Golfers can also take advantage of an onsite driving range where beginners and experts alike can hone their skills. As in the past, golf instruction for beginners and golfers of all levels will be available. The course will also continue its participation in the PGA’s First Tee program, aimed at

active learning experiences for youth that build their inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience.

The course is offering discounted season passes between now and the end of April, and also has opportunities for league play. Interested golfers or groups, including local businesses interested in establishing their own league, can learn more on the course’s website at woodstockgolfcourse.com, or by calling Mike Pizzetti, Director of Golf Operations, at (860) 315-7698.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

An end to Daylight Savings Time would be a welcome change

Last week, the United States Senate voted unanimously to nix daylight savings. The plan is to make daylight savings time permanent. If the bill passes, it will go into effect in November of 2023 to avoid a scheduling nightmare with the travel industry.

The bill is called the Sunshine Protection Act. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio noted that most people despise the changes, and he questioned, why it's still a thing. The time change first became known to Americans in 1918.

Rhode Island Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse noted that the change places New England in complete darkness during afternoon hours, affecting youth sports and leads to depression. A sunset of 4:15 p.m. is not conducive to daily life. Some experts relayed that year-round daylight savings will make people happier and more productive.

We are all always happier when it stays lighter longer. Most of us. If the bill passes, the rest of the country will join the likes of Arizona, Australia and Hawaii who opt not to spring forward and fall back. Daylight savings time is used in roughly 70 countries across the globe. Here we compiled a list of pro's and con's so you can determine your own thoughts.

The idea of DST is to utilize activity during daylight hours. Some benefits include decreased electricity consumption, a decrease in the number of traffic accidents and crime. DST also increases recreational time, hence boosting the economy.

According to studies the changes cost \$60 billion. Interesting is the fact that the barbecue industry and small convenience stores increase sales by \$135 billion.

As for energy consumption, a study in 1997 revealed that no significant effects occurred when DST was observed all year. In all energy demands were reduced by just 2.6 percent.

Another pro is the decrease in traffic accidents. When more people drive during daylight the risk of accidents decreases due to the simple fact that driving in the dark is typically more dangerous.

Pedestrian accidents would also significantly drop.

A reduction in crime has also landed on the pro list. When folks finish work, and run errands while it's still light out, the exposure to crime becomes less since more crimes take place at night.

The increase in recreational time is a no brainer. The longer it's lighter out, the more time there is to have fun outdoors. As stated above this is also an economy booster. When more people are out and about, they spend more money. The exposure to more Vitamin D that the sun provides also proves as a health benefit.

On the flip side of the coin, the change may disrupt sleep schedules. The transition can be rough, especially for those who don't get more than five hours per night as it is. However, after the initial adjustments, no long-term adverse effects on circadian rhythms were noted.

The longer the day, the more fuel consumption takes place in the atmosphere. The increase in evening traffic emits more pollution in the air.

It is clear that the pros outweigh the cons. In our opinion, the natural cadence of the sun should not be altered. If we stick with longer days and leave it at that, we think a much more positive population would ensue.

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.



OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thompson Conservation Commission offering bluebird nesting boxes

To the Editor:
The Thompson Conservation Commission has Bluebird nesting boxes available to Thompson residents on a first come, first served basis.

The Bluebird was once common in Connecticut until their numbers declined due to loss of habitat and suitable nesting areas. The installation of nesting boxes is helping them make a comeback.

To request a nesting box, please contact the Conservation Office by email or phone at conservation@thompsonct.org or 860-923-1852.

Do you have a Bluebird nesting box already installed and in use? Send us a picture!

DAN MALO
CONSERVATION AGENT
THOMPSON

Killingly BOE members are not qualified for their positions

To the Editor:
I'll not write a long diatribe about the Killingly BOE vote to reject a student-based mental health clinic for Killingly High School. Just two points;

#1. It is reported some opponents have said mental health is not an educational matter. This tells you everything you need to know about the lack of qualifications six of the BOE members have for overseeing a public school system. Depression and anxiety are major reasons students function below their potential; to deny otherwise is simply ignorant.

Introducing Desegregate Connecticut

To the Editor:
After reading Jason Bleau's article "Woodstock Planning Board Chair participates in affordable housing forum" (Villager, March 18), I would like to introduce an organization that is actively promoting the expansion of housing in our state.

Desegregate Connecticut (desegregatect.org) is a research-based advocacy partnership that recognizes that our state does not have sufficient housing, with the result that many move away. Based on a statewide town-by-town zoning atlas developed in the past year, it has identified barriers to the creation of abundant and diverse housing. It works for laws that will allow our towns to create equity, inclusive prosperity, and a cleaner environment.

Zoning laws must be reformed to address

real, 21st century needs of young adults, families, traditionally marginalized households, and older adults wishing to age in place. The strategies that Desegregate CT advocates will enable communities to increase quality housing while reducing sprawl into the fields and forests of our state. Affordable housing includes public housing for households spending 30 percent and more of their incomes on shelter. Connecticut will thrive when statewide housing policy is based on making it possible for every resident to live near work opportunities and in a structure that promotes the physical and mental health and safety of its occupants at a price that fits the household budget.

CAROLINE SLOAT
THOMPSON

The negative backlash against Joly is justified

To the Editor:
For anyone who feels the petition to remove Janice Joly as Chairwoman of the Killingly BOE is unfair or being done just because a few parents disagreed with her, please read.

It is the job of a Board of Education to provide a suitable educational experience for all children. When the chair of your town's BOE expresses concern over why teachers and staff didn't report to DCF that a percentage of high schoolers had a suicide plan, you know there is a problem. The survey was anonymous, for one, but even worse, she didn't even know 211 is called, not DCF. Should the fate of our children be in the hands of someone that doesn't even know basic facts? Then, on top of that, she accused the students of not being truthful on the survey! It was anonymous for a reason, and she had no basis for

Thank you, town of Woodstock

To the Editor:
Those who attend meetings in the Woodstock Town Hall will not overlook the change in Rm. 1 & Rm A- the two most used meeting rooms-especially if you are hearing impaired, as I am. Through the recent addition of acoustic wall and ceiling panels, the sound in the room is "calmed" and the echo that we who have hearing aids are hindered by, are greatly reduced. Speech is much more clear.

It has been acknowledged for years that in these rooms, it has been difficult for the public, as well as board members, to hear even if seated up front. And for the public to hear board members is only half the problem- everyone in the room (including the tape recorder) also needs to clearly hear citizens' concerns/suggestions from wherever they are seated.

Thank you, Selectmen and Board of Finance, for acting on the need for better acoustics and Crystal Adams for implement-

Our children are not "fallen sparrows"

To the Editor:
Killingly High School recently had the opportunity to have a School Based Health Center instituted to help children obtain mental services at the time of need, and at no cost to the school.

I attended numerous meetings regarding this very necessary clinic until the current Board of Education voted it down this week.

It is important that the public be aware of comments that have been made regarding our children.

Dale Dauphinais attended the meeting last week to speak against the clinic, and during that time proudly proclaimed he is the husband of State Rep. Anne Dauphinais.

This week, when the clinic was voted down

even mentioning that, except for her belief that "that is what kids do."

I don't know about you, but calling all children liars and not knowing proper protocol for emergencies happening at the school level are two adequate reasons for immediate removal. If you need one more, the current policy states public comment is limited to five minutes per person and a total of 20 minutes. The chairwoman limited public comment to three minutes, which goes against their own policy. However, the BOE does plan on voting to change that from five minutes to three minutes because they just don't want to listen to us!

HEIDI DRISCOLL
DANIELSON

ing the solution. And thanks also for a simple, permanent solution which has no further costs or maintenance requirements- and is not the (incorrect) "fix" of obtaining louder speakers.

The pandemic brought us ZOOM, which has considerably increased citizen attendance for many board and commission meetings and works fairly well for the hearing impaired when people are within microphone range. But ZOOM meetings are not the equal of in-person meetings because not all communication taking place at meetings can be perceived via the screen at home.

Woodstock now has two meeting rooms that will reliably improve two-way communication between town officials and the interested public.

Thanks again for this very noticeable improvement.

WAYNE (WOODY) DURST
WOODSTOCK

6 to 3, Mr. Dauphinais immediately took to Facebook and posted the following comment on a WINY article about the outcome of the meeting:

"Completely agree with this vote. Parental rights matter. It is not the job of the Educational system to stop the fall of every sparrow."

The public needs to be aware of these comments and how our children are viewed.

I want to make this abundantly clear: Our children are not "sparrows." But it absolutely is our job to stop their fall.

We should want to stop their fall every single time. Every single "sparrow."

Turn To **LUNEAU** page **A9**

The rhythms of springtime

Darkness greets me in the morning, but once we moved time forward, I'm impatient to go outside. What flower, weed or stalk of grass has poked its head through the earth? The sun rises in a ball so pink, it reminds me of clothes designed by Lily Pulitzer, the Palm Beach fashion maven, with a taste for nearly gaudy hues. I like her flashy designs, just as I like the waves of red-winged blackbirds, the unexpected bluebirds and the hungry hawk that cruises my neighborhood. It's spring! No matter what madness plays out in the world or how fragile we've learned life can be, the coming of spring in our corner is always glorious. It rushes in like the Mad Hatter, late for an important date.

We've had an easy winter. It has been one of the few easy aspects of life right now, but staring into the woods, it's clear that something dramatic is happening

with snapped crowns of trees and general chaos of vines and limbs. Along the roadsides, it looks like carnage, with dead and dying trees laying everywhere. It feels as if

I am losing old friends. On closer examination, almost every casualty is rotten in the middle or deeply split. We are losing the ash trees, the old maples and the state-ly oaks. I remember when the elm trees died in a matter of a few years, stealing the glory from tree-lined driveways and buildings once framed by their gracefulness. This time it seems even worse with many species dropping away in a cataclysm of death.

The hellebores, or Lenten Roses, are blooming in my garden. As I raked away the detritus of winter and snipped off dry leaves, I thought about the odd blooms which last for months and first appear at the beginning of Lent. I don't come from a tradition of giving up something for Lent, but the plant reminds me that Lent is about looking at one's weaknesses. A garden in spring reveals the naked truth of what the gardener has and hasn't done.

The writer, Verlyn Klinkenborg wrote: "A garden is just a way of mapping the strengths and limitations of your personality into the soil."

I didn't establish my current gardens, other people did the work before me. Its taken years, but I've begun to add, subtract and move plants around. I liked the orderliness the previous owners created, but my personality gravitates towards a little chaos. I like to be surprised at what is coming up. I like to make plans for the future. I like to see all the bulbs I've planted push their way up through the cold soil.

Margaret Renkl writes a column for the New York Times. She notes that one day when she had slept poorly because the news of the world was so heavy, she walked into her garden in springtime. She saw caterpillars feasting on milkweed plants, the resident red-tailed hawk being chased away by mockingbirds and angry crows, and a bluebird guarding a nest as his mate was laying an egg. She concluded: "Be an egg. Be a mockingbird. Be a weed."

The peepers have been singing in the evenings. The wood frogs croak and my daughter saw turtles at Roseland Park. Light lingers and we eat dinner later and stay outside in the quiet twilight. An enormous bouquet bought at an art show to benefit Ukraine graces our table. It epitomizes variety. Our personalities are mapped in our gardens. I know I am a weed. Perhaps you are too, but like Lenten roses, we answer the rhythms of springtime.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Killingly’s Board of Education has become a danger to our children

To the Editor:
Our students, families, and staff deserve better! In the last few months that Ms. Joly has been the BOE chair, her comments, actions, and behaviors have proven dangerous for our children, staff, and community.
As a parent and community member, I need to make the larger community aware of Ms. Joly’s most recent comments and actions at the March 16th BOE meeting. For weeks, she has not listened to many reports, surveys, and factual data presented to the BOE and the pleas from students, staff, and professionals around the success and benefits of the mental/behavioral services provided through the proposed SBHC. Ms. Joly voted NO to the SBHC without giving **any explanation as to why she is voting no**.

The worst part (which the whole world heard in the news coverage) is that instead of taking the mental health student survey responses seriously, she questioned the integrity of the very students she was supposed to be acting in the best interest. Referring to the 14.7 percent of Killingly students who

responded that they had made a suicide plan, Ms. Joly said: **“How do you know they were honest responses? We’re dealing with kids. They could have written anything. That’s what kids do,”**. The parents in the audience gasped, staff began to cry and worse – so didn’t the students who came to speak (many who were part of the 14.7 percent that answered the survey) – that she just called liars!
I don’t understand how Janice Joly is a teacher in another district, or how the rest of the BOE members feel that she is an effective BOE member or Chair. Why are the other BOE members not asking her to step down, if they don’t, that means that they condone her behavior and agree with her actions and comments.
Ms. Joly – we deserve better! Killingly students, we want you to know, we stand with you, up for you and beside you! We believe you!
Signed,

SUZIE RENAUD
KILLINGLY

Elected officials can only do so much in the face in inflation

To the Editor:
It should be of no surprise that Ed DeLuca again accused me of something I didn’t write in his letter that you published on March 11. Contrary to Mr. DeLuca’s assertion, I never called him “boring.” He may very well be boring, but I can’t, and didn’t, say.
He goes on to criticize my characterization of the current inflationary period as “temporary.” I suppose that there is a possibility that a period of high inflation would become permanent but that would be unprecedented. Periods of high inflation have always ended before and there is no reason to believe that the current one won’t end as well.
In his March 18 letter, Mr. DeLuca engages in the ridiculous but persistent practice of crediting or blaming the current President for everything that’s perceived as right or wrong in the country. The truth is that every president benefits and suffers from his predecessors’ actions. Often things beyond control of the president or Congress are to be blamed or credited.
Such is the case with inflation. Aside from the fact that both major parties participated in the distribution of billions of dollars in stimulus payments that undoubtedly contributed to the problem, most of the factors causing inflation worldwide couldn’t be anticipated. Calling it “Biden’s inflation” is dishonest.
President Biden didn’t cause Covid-19, and didn’t fumble the initial response. People couldn’t vacation, travel or patronize restaurants. As a result, they bought lots of things causing shortages in stores and prices to rise. Recall that the cost of building materials skyrocketed during the last year of the Trump administration. High demand coupled with the closing of factories and processing plants gave rise to shortages that justified price increases. Supply chains were overwhelmed and raised prices. All Trump’s fault? No, and certainly not Biden’s fault.
Who’s to blame? Politicians who

flooded the country with cash in a well intentioned attempt to help people who couldn’t work and businesses that couldn’t operate due to a worldwide pandemic? Sure. Individuals who went on a spending spree? Yes. Corporate CEOs who bragged about record profits as a result of price increases? Most certainly. Failure to enforce anti-trust laws allowing only four meatpackers to act as a monopoly? Yep. And now Putin’s illegal, brutal invasion of Ukraine. Yes again.
As far as blaming elected leaders for not doing enough to end high inflation or for not having a plan to end it, let’s be honest. There is very little that they can do. Remember how successful wage-and-price controls, lowering highway speed limits and turning down the thermostats were forty years ago? The truth is that an unelected Federal Reserve must increase interest rates to put the brakes on demand. Unfortunately, applying just enough braking on the economy is difficult and rising unemployment may well result.
Finally, please stop the disingenuous nonsense surrounding the myth that somehow, we had “energy Independence” under Trump, lost it under Biden, and the result is historically high prices for gasoline. Petroleum prices are determined in the worldwide marketplace. The fact that the US has, and continues to, produce more oil and gas than it consumes, hasn’t had much effect of the price at the pump. US oil companies aren’t going to charge less than the market rate just because you and I are struggling to pay.
Politics has a role to play here. Under some geopolitical strategy, we refuse to allow Venezuela to sell its oil (bad dictatorial regime) but continue to buy oil and supply civilian killing weapons to Saudi Arabia and UAE (good dictatorial regimes). Venezuela could more than make up for the loss of Russian oil that contributes to high gasoline prices.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Addressing the Board of Education and their decision

To the Editor:
Gabriel Stapleton. That name might not hold significance to you, but to several of the peers of my graduating class, that name holds an insurmountable significance.
On Jan. 19, 2017, Gabe tragically and suddenly took his own life. This was an event that could have 100 percent been avoidable, had the school provided proper mental health services. My best friend had taken his own life by jumping off of a freeway, just a few miles from where Killingly High stands. I was 16 at the time.
Kids my age should not have to see peers die. Kids that age should not have to think about what to wear to their best friend’s funeral. There were no signs. There was no warning. Gabe was bubbly and high-energy as usual on his last day on Earth, and no one was any wiser to what was going on inside his head. Had there been a proper space provided where Gabe could have opened up safely, and been provided with proper care he would still be here. He would have been able to attend prom. He would have been able to graduate. He would have been able to start his life, alongside his friends, classmates, and peers.
In 2020 alone, 1.2 million students in the USA attempted suicide. And the numbers continue to rise at an alarming rate (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/index.html>). The facts are plain to see, and why you make the active choice to not care about our youth’s well-being is absolutely disgusting. The reasons as to why you are not in support of a mental health facility

are purely because you are trying to make a point that simply is not there. Why shouldn’t students have safe and easy access to mental health services, where most otherwise would not? Why don’t you want to prevent student suicides like this from happening? And if you know anything, you would know the butterfly effect that suicide has on young adults. It is an infectious plague that is stealing our children from this world. More often than not, student suicides cause chain reactions within peers of the members of groups of young people who have committed suicide. That means, when my friend Gabe died tragically, it caused several of my other peers to fall into a depression and take their own lives too.
How many more of our children do we have to lose for you to finally open your ears and listen to these young kids screaming for someone, anyone to help them? You tell them to go to a trusted adult to seek help, and when they do, you turn a blind eye? What service are you really offering this community if you are not taking the proper solutions that are laid out for you to help better the quality of life for the youth in our community? Besides year after year signing checks for football turf that no one really needs. Why not put money where it matters, if money is the issue?
Killingly High School’s slogan, seen in the window of every bus, and on a big banner you cannot miss on the entryway of the school, is “Attendance Matters!” Do you realize the effect depression has on school attendance? 3.2 percent

Turn To **ZICOLELLA** page **A10**

Janice Joly needs to step down from Board of Education

To the Editor:
“STEP UP or STEP DOWN” is not a catchy slogan; it’s a call to action through advocacy for all of us. Janice Joly is the current Killingly Board of Education (BOE) Chairperson. Ms. Joly’s actions, behaviors, and comments are downright dangerous for our children, staff, and community.
Ms. Joly’s most recent comments and actions at the March 16th BOE meeting were so damaging to our students, leading to a public outcry for her to step down. Instead of taking the mental health student survey responses seriously, she questioned the integrity of the very students she was supposed to be acting in the best interest. Referring to the 14.7 percent of Killingly students who responded that they had made a suicide plan, Ms. Joly said: “How do you know they were honest responses? We’re dealing with kids. They could have written anything. That’s what kids do.” You can hear audible gasps from the parents and students as she just called the students liars. You can watch those comments at <https://youtu.be/FGM4v9R1fok>.
Ms. Joly’s behaviors & comments over the last two months show a pattern of disturbing behavior where she is not acting in the best interests of our students.
Janice Joly is a teacher (yes, a teacher at Ella T. Grasso Tech School). She is supposed to have the knowledge, compassion, and experience of an adult in education, yet at the March 16 BOE meeting, she accused our children of lying on a mental health survey and crossed every line. It is alarming that an adult on the BOE would make statements about our students that would inflict even more trauma on top of what they are already experiencing.
This isn’t the first time Ms. Joly has abused her power as the BOE Chair and made dangerous decisions for our children. You can watch the public meeting videos that highlight how she does not listen to facts presented by the Superintendent (who is to be the

Educational Expert for the District). She constantly rolls her eyes and audibly sighs, rudely cuts people off, abuses her power to “silence” the students/community and other BOE members, and transfers blame onto others.
At the March 16 meeting, the only discussion was from the parents/community during public comment. Public comment was cut short when Miss Joly cut off community members after three minutes each, although BOE policy states they can speak for five minutes each. Ms. Joly and several other members went around the table and scolded the parents and community members who wrote to them in anger about the BOE’s lack of concern and support for the SBHC.
Despite the many reports, surveys, and factual data presented to the BOE and all the testimony from students, staff, and professionals around the success and benefits of the SBHC, Ms. Joly voted no to the SBHC. Not once during these six weeks has Ms. Joly given a clear explanation as to why she is voting no. Not once have we heard her ask a question to the Superintendent or to other professionals about getting more information to make an informed decision.
The six BOE members, Janice Joly, included, ignored the overwhelming majority of our community/students’ voices by voting no on the free school-based mental/behavioral health center (SBHC) operated by Generations. Denying our students access to this vital resource and ignoring the pleas of students, parents, staff, mental health professionals, and the majority of our community is not acting in the best interest of our students.
In the few months Janice Joly has been BOE Chair, she has made dangerous and negligent decisions. She has a four-year term; imagine the damage that Ms. Joly could do if she remains in office that long.

MISTY MURDOCK
DANIELSON

Pointing fingers will not stabilize our economy

To the Editor:
Economics is a complex subject. People go to college and graduate school to master it. There are thousands of books pertaining to it. A few renowned experts are even awarded Nobel prizes for it. None, though, are with 100 percent accuracy able to predict the future. There are simply too many variables and the occasional “black swan” event. What history has shown is that with even the best planning, recessions will occur as will inflation.
Pointing fingers without understanding economic intricacies ignores the many factors that have led to a frustrating spike in prices.
We have been very lucky for the past 30-odd years. Inflation has remained low, and the Federal Reserve, which sets interest rates and monetary policy, and is an independent commission not under Presidential control, had, for the most part, charted us correctly. The world also experienced a prolonged period of relative peace. We managed to make it through the Great Recession brought on by a deflating housing bubble, as well as a global financial meltdown, with a temporary dip in the stock market which came roaring back along with American job creation. President Trump was blessed with this, and was able to watch over a continued expansion. What was not expected, and could not have been predicted, was the covid 19 pandemic.
Because of the virus, things virtually changed overnight. Businesses closed. Supply chains in what is a global economy dried up. People had to drop out of work to take care of their children, who no longer were able to go to school during the day. The unemployment rate shot up, and the stock market tanked. The price of oil temporarily hit negative numbers as demand disappeared and tankers had nowhere to empty their stores.
To combat this, both the Federal Reserve, in buying back bonds and maintaining historically low interest rates, and the government flooding the economy with trillions of dollars, tried to maintain the status quo. This managed to keep people in their homes, but the natural consequence is inflation. The hope was that as businesses came back online and people got back to work, the transition would be smooth. This, unfortunately, turned out to be an incorrect calculation.
One of the most perturbing factors has been the lack of workers. People no longer want to go back to menial jobs

at minimum wage. Because of this, jobs that used to attract high school kids at fast food restaurants now offer \$20/hour (with benefits). And world-wide business channels remain gummed up.
There is also the thorny consequence of putting a lid on US immigration. By eliminating both legal and illegal immigrants, many jobs that were traditionally filled by these hard workers, and as a result, a boon to many American businesses, remain unfilled. The argument that immigrants usurp jobs was always an illusion. There have been more than enough spots to go around.
At the same time, as industry has tried to ramp up to full capacity, there has been a sudden rise in both energy and material costs. Remember, we live in a free market system. Our government does not set prices. All this and more have led to an abrupt bout of inflation.
And then came Ukraine. Russia is one of the largest energy producers in the world. Ukraine is one of the largest producers of food and minerals. The war has brought these vital exports to a sharp halt, further exacerbating rising prices.
That is why things will not get better quickly. The Federal Reserve will have to raise interest rates to cool things off. Congress will need to work to close tax loopholes to pay for what they have borrowed. But as other writers to the Villager have pointed out, our politicians will need to work together, and in today’s hostile winner take all environment, this appears unlikely.
It is also why placing all the blame on President Biden is foolish. He plays a small, albeit an important, role in what is a global puzzle. By leading the world-wide effort to make Mr. Putin stand down, and hopefully get Russia back into the brotherhood of nations sooner rather than later, the economy will again find itself on sound footing. So far, he has performed admirably, and may go down in history as the person who changed the face of modern warfare from that of bombs and bullets to one of money and goods. The Russian people may be reeling far longer than the Ukrainians. China must sit up and take notice and think twice before considering any military expansion. Still, it will be up to Congress, the Fed, OPEC, China, manufacturing companies and a myriad of factors beyond Biden’s control to ultimately repair things. Until then, there will be pain.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

representative’s family member decided your child struggling with their mental health and contemplating suicide is just a fallen sparrow, not worth catching?
Please remember this the next time it’s your turn to vote.
We need to stop the fall of all of our children in Killingly Public Schools before it’s too late.

LACEY LUNEAU
KILLINGLY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Joly is unfit to serve on BOE

To the Editor:

My name is Jennifer Pratt, and I live in the town of Killingly. I grew up here, and I have a daughter who attends KIS.

I am also a registered nurse who worked for almost seven years for an inpatient locked psych hospital that houses up to 24 pediatric patients. The children in this hospital are from the surrounding area and suffer mostly from depression and anxiety with suicidal thoughts and thoughts for self harm. A large population of these children are neglected, abused or struggle with some other emotional trauma which have left them feeling like they don't matter. Others struggle because of issues of self worth or body dysmorphia. Think about how prevalent depression and anxiety is in the adult population never mind our children. This is real, and I'm here to tell you there is never a shortage of patients but often a shortage of available beds.

Our children have gone through an amazingly difficult last two years. We have been in a pandemic. Our children now have memories of a major global crisis that our childhoods know nothing about. Our childhood memories are of playing tag or baseball at Owen bell. Swimming at Quaddick or your neighbor's pool. Our children now have childhood memories of face masks and stand six feet apart stickers or single file shopping in one direction. Covid cards and zoom education. Our children have memories of being afraid that their moms or dads were going to get sick if they went to work that day.

Imagine being 10 years old, and suddenly, overnight, your entire life has been shut off and you no longer are allowed to go to school or play with your friends. Stay inside and cover your mouth. Don't get next to the mailman he may be sick! Wash your hands! Imagine being a child and hearing the news stories of all the dead bodies piling up in the freezer trucks in New York City and wondering if that is what would happen in your town next. Imagine being a kid and being scared that you were going to get sick and die just from going with mom to the grocery store. Now imagine you're one of the children whose parents died or grandparents died from Covid.

Don't forget how we had no idea what was going to happen! Remember how hard it was for us as adults to get through the last two years and now tell me that our children did not struggle. I know mine did. My daughter would burst into tears sometimes and I would hug her and ask her what is wrong and she would cry and say "I don't know..." My daughter was 10 years old. The mental health crisis is real, and we need to address it so our children can start to

ZICOLELLA

continued from page A9

(approx. 1.2 million) students are affected by depression (source: <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/features/anxiety-depression-children.html>). And that's not including the kids who are not officially diagnosed. Most of those kids experience what experts call "school refusal", which is defined as issues with consistent attendance or active participation in school. I was one of those kids. In my sophomore year, I missed a staggering 108 days of school. Not because I was 'lazy' or I did not want to go. But because the thought of seeing my sexual abusers I was forced to share a classroom with sickened me to my stomach. So much so I became depressed and suicidal and did everything in the book to avoid school. I acted out by skipping classes and playing hooky. Had I been given the proper space to talk about what had happened to me in a professional environment, my attendance and behavioral health would have significantly improved. It would not have changed what happened, but it would have provided a safe

understand the feelings and emotions of the last two years. Our children need to feel safe again and to feel like they can trust this world again.

So when you have Janice Joly, the chairperson of the Board of Education for the Killingly School District, accuse our children of lying on an anonymous mental health survey, I am beyond appalled. This woman, who is making the decisions for our children, just blatantly, and to our faces, told each and every one of us that she has absolutely no care for any of our kids. She literally just stood there and told every single one of us that she thinks our children are manipulators and that they are attention seeking little liars.

Our children did not lie. Our children took a moment to be honest and to tell us about their struggle. Our kids did exactly what was asked of them and spoke their truth in what they thought was going to be a judgement free zone. They disclosed their honest thoughts and thought they were going to be accepted and listened to. What did Janice Joly do...she looked at them and said I don't believe you. I think your lying that's what kids do! Such abuse. The damage Janice Joly has done to our children who were brave enough to write their truth is heart breaking.

Janice Joly has demonstrated a complete lack of empathy for the very children she was elected to protect. She is in charge of making choices that will directly impact our children on a longterm basis. She has demonstrated such a complete disgust for our kids I don't see how she can continue to hold her place on the board.

Whether you want a school-based health center or not is not even the issue at this point. We can circle back to that. The issue that needs to be handled first is, Janice Joly has blatantly demonstrated how she negatively feels about our children. This woman has proven unfit for her current position. She has shown a level of unprofessionalism and an inability to make decisions in the best interests of our children Her actions require her immediate resignation. She has shown herself to be out for her own interests and has made it completely clear that she has no interest in hearing or believing what the people in this town have to say.

Janice Joly, you are unfit to be on the Killingly BOE. You are a disappointment to this town, and you have repeatedly failed to represent your constituents. This time, you have gone too far. Walk away, Janice; you aren't welcome here anymore.

JENNIFER PRATT
KILLINGLY

outlet for me to process my emotions in the right and productive way.

So, enlighten me, Killingly Board of Education. What exactly are the cons? Yes, the school is not a mental health facility, but it is, however, responsible for the safety and well-being of its students, and under that umbrella includes behavioral and mental health. The school is not a hazard training site either, yet you still practice fire drills, evacuations, shooter drills... How is the preservation of the student body's mental health not as essential as these other practices you have in place? When you chose not to support these students, you spat in their faces and told them they do not matter. How are they supposed to feel valued in their school and their community and feel honored to be a part of it, when the very people put in place to protect them and make sure their needs are met, do not care about the issues that are important to them? How are they supposed to feel safe when the adults they trust do not put their needs first? Shame on you.

ALLYSHA ZICOLELLA
KILLINGLY

The personal attacks need to stop!

To the Editor:

The constant attacks on the Board of Education Chair, Ms. Janice Joly and other commission members need to stop.

What is happening here in Killingly is a disgrace. Not only are a select group of staff members of the Killingly school system and some parents being rude, disrespectful and abrasive in public meetings but they are also having a hard time taking "no" for an answer. Some of them have a real problem with facts as well. Lying to the public to gain support for your cause tends to backfire when people actually research what you're saying. There are parents on both sides of this discussion but no one wants to hear about the petition that had close to 1,800 signatures who were not in favor of this clinic. It wouldn't suit their purpose to bring in this petition.

This type of nonsense began back when anyone supporting the Redmen name for our mascot was deemed racist, a white supremacists or just terrible people in general. This led to an all out war of words between opposing sides who for the most part are normally good neighbors. It hasn't stopped yet.

We again saw the division in this town rear its ugly head when the paraprofessionals were coming up for contract negotiations in 2021. The supporters for a large wage increase went into action before the entire board of education was even given the contract to review. It was with the personnel subcommittee and was supposed to be "confidential" but a representative for that union went on a FB post for Winy Radio and was talking about the specifics of the contract trying to rile up more dissent. This led to the "Rally with the Rat," which showed disrespect and disdain for the Superintendent of Killingly Public Schools, Mr. Bob Angeli, and our Chair at the time, Mr. Doug Farrow. Not a great look.

This was all political theater. The paraprofessionals were given a fair contract after all was said and done and the nonsense could have been avoided altogether. Again, we are dealing with the same immature, divisive behavior. The push to bring a School Based Health Clinic into our schools is a tool being used before the November elections. The petition we now see with less than 300 signatures at last count against Ms. Joly is pointless. She is an elected official and did her job. I understand the concern for mental health for our students. Ms. Joly pointed out there are alternatives to be looked at. Under CT State law there are too many instances where parents are removed legally from the conversation with regards to the well being and health of their children. That is a fact. The supporters of the clinic want you to ignore that. I prefer to have people on the board of education who are coming to a logical fact-based decision rather than one based on the emotions we see portrayed when mob rule is the objective. I don't care how many times facts are presented. If some of these people don't want to hear the facts, they turn into screaming accusatory lunatics who refuse to even listen. I am pleased the board of education voted and can now move onto other important business. I am confident alternatives to the mental health of our students will be addressed. No one is saying there isn't a problem that needs to be addressed but acting as if this is the only solution is being very closed minded. I also hope some of these people calling for Ms. Joly to resign or be forced out get some help as well.

This level of anger is unhealthy for anyone. I saw many people involved in this conversation are those who lost local elections in November. Again, more political theater. We need to move forward and conduct the business of the town and our schools as adults. If you keep trying to divide us instead of working together, you aren't just

going to hurt one side, you are hurting everyone. There is so much more to be done to improve our schools. For one, the Tier 3 program needs to be addressed. We brought the alternative program back into the schools and that is causing some stress and problems but nobody wants to talk about that. If that program was funded and put back the way it was, we would see a lot of the problems in the high school resolved. Ask yourself, why no one wants to address that.

We must keep in mind when we act like disrespectful, ignorant immature fools, there are major consequences. There is one board member in particular who voted for this clinic and constantly reminds everyone who is listening that the children are watching. Well, I think we should all take note of that fact. What are you teaching the students when you scream and yell, put phones in people's faces, lie and put out misinformation and claim that our BOE chair is abusing her authority when she tries to keep a meeting on topic, avoid drama and conduct the district's business? We keep hearing how our students need social emotional learning to learn how to be good global citizens. I would advise these people signing petitions to remove an elected official who voted in a way you didn't like, who continue to organize rallies against the board of education who are acting in accordance with their duties and complain about anything else they don't like, go ahead and sign up for an SEL workshop themselves. I've never seen such childish behavior in a group of adults on a continuing basis. It's time to set an example for the kids and look for solutions that benefit them. These people act like the problems with mental health are unique to Killingly. They are not. Ned Lamont kept his executive orders in place longer than most states. Another thing the left wants to ignore is how the mandates and lockdowns were detrimental to these students as well. We are now at a point where they can literally breathe again and have a normal school experience. Why not let them get acclimated to some normalcy again and take some time to look for ways to make the transition with less chaos, stress and a constant barrage of negativity.

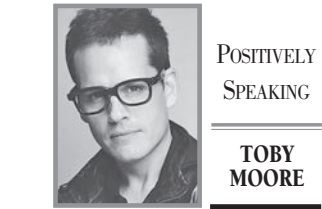
It is very easy to write an abusive email without picking up a telephone to have a talk about your concerns. It is easy to sit in a meeting and not like what you are hearing and react negatively in the moment. We have all done it. We have all had a knee jerk reaction to something said that we didn't agree with. It is a bit more difficult to take the high road and realize there is much work to do and this is but one thing on the plates of our elected officials. It is not as easy to serve as you may think it is. Since this board has been seated and Ms. Joly was elected to the Chair the board has gotten nothing but grief from the supporters and friends of those who didn't win the election last year. I wish people would reign in their egos and act like adults. The children are watching.

And before any of you start a petition to remove me from my seat on the Town Council because you don't like what I have to say; I am self employed therefore you can't dox me and cancel me. I really don't take kindly to bullying, harassment and ignorant behavior. And it just motivates me more.

As always, I look forward to hearing people's point of view but as soon as you are disrespectful, you are dismissed. If more people took that stance, there would be much more productive conversation in the world; wouldn't you agree? Ms. Joly is doing her job and working for all of our community. I applaud her ability to see past the hate and political theater to do the work people elected her to do.

PATTI LARROW GEORGE
KILLINGLY

The Placebo Effect



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

People believe all kinds of things. Often, what we believe is a product of our surroundings, current events, the influence of friends and family, experience, and our religion, or lack thereof. Beliefs can be emotional; this is why many people become emotionally charged when their beliefs are challenged. Emotions are the byproduct of chemicals produced in your brain called neuropeptides. Every thought produces a neuropeptide or a blend of neuropeptides.

How much power do our beliefs have over our health? Many are skeptical that belief has any influence over our physical health. Thankfully, we don't have to look any further than The Placebo Effect to find that belief plays a significant role in our health. Numerous scientific papers, books, and articles have discussed the

topic for over 200 years.

In 1799, British Physician John Haygarth is credited with first having discovered and demonstrated The Placebo Effect.

French Pharmacist Emile Coue had experienced results when he developed a technique called Conscious Autosuggestion and instructed his patients to tell themselves daily, "Every day, in every way, I am getting better and better."

In 1955 an article was published called, "The Powerful Placebo" by Henry K. Beecher. Since then, the phenomenon has been considered a scientific fact.

My favorite author, Joe Dispenza, explains The Placebo Effect like this:

"If you give someone a sugar pill, a saline injection, or perform some type of false procedure, a certain percentage of those people will accept, believe, and surrender that they're actually getting the real treatment without any analy-

sis. Those people begin to make their own pharmacy of chemicals in their brain, and their body will heal by thought alone. This process is known as The Placebo Effect."

Some say The Placebo Effect cannot cure disease, and others say it can cure any disease, but the fact that it works at all is a wonder of the human mind.

One exceptional case of the Placebo was a woman suffering from severe nausea and vomiting. Doctors measured her gastric contractions that indicated a disrupted pattern matching the condition in which she complained. They told her of a new magical, extremely potent drug that the doctors proclaimed would undoubtedly cure her nausea. Within a few minutes after taking the substance, her nausea disappeared. They measured her gastric contractions, and indeed, her sickness was gone. The odd part about it is that she ingested a syrup named Ipecac, which doctors usually give to induce nausea in

case of poisoning. It's believed that when the syrup was presented to her, paired with an authority figure's strong suggestion of relief of sickness, it acted as a command message to the brain that triggered a cascade of neuropeptides that stopped her nausea.

Alternatively, there is a studied phenomenon called The Nocebo Effect. The Nocebo works similarly and is sometimes described as the Placebo's evil twin. If a doctor presents an inert substance to a patient and tells them it could lead to increased pain and a worsening of symptoms, roughly the same percentage of people for whom the Placebo works will experience the Nocebo, with more pain and a worsening of symptoms.

In 1995, shortly after the sarin gas terrorist attack in Japan, patients were overwhelming hospitals with symptoms associated with the attack but hadn't been exposed. Their worry and fear made them have similar

symptoms as those exposed.

Since beliefs can cause people to feel better or worse, how much do our regular day-to-day thoughts affect our health? Neuropeptides constantly change, reflecting changes in our emotional state throughout the day.

When our mental and emotional state is imbalanced, neuropeptides will make physical symptoms appear in the body.

If you're constantly thinking negative thoughts that make you feel bad, what effect will that have on your health? Will it make you more susceptible to sickness and disease? Conversely, if you're thinking positive, uplifting thoughts that make you feel good, will that help make your body more robust and less likely to experience ill health? Take notice of your thought life. If you find a thought that causes you harm, you can change it immediately. The more you do it, the more you'll change into a different and better person.

From seed to bouquet - Grow your own flowers for cutting

You don't need a lot of space or a big budget to grow and enjoy garden-fresh bouquets. Just fill a few vacant spaces, add an extra row in garden beds or fill a container with easy care flowers started from seeds.

You'll jump-start the season and enjoy earlier blooms by starting some of the seeds indoors to transfer into the garden after the danger of frost has passed. If you're not in a hurry, want to stretch your budget and extend your garden's bloom time, sow some seeds directly in the garden. Just follow the directions on the seed packet.

Annual flowers like these are known for season long bloom and a long vase life. You'll need to plant annuals each year, but you may decide the continuous bloom is well worth the effort. Supplementing them with perennial flowers and bulbs means you need to plant fewer annuals each year for a season filled with colorful garden-fresh bouquets.

Here are a few easy-care annual flowers that you can start from seed indoors or directly in the garden. These beauties will brighten those sunny spots in the landscape and bouquets in your home.

Start zinnia seeds indoors four weeks before the last spring frost or sow them directly in the garden. Either way, you'll have flowers about eight weeks after planting the seeds. Grow taller varieties like Benary's Giant for long stems,



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Queeny Lime Orange or Zowie! Yellow Flame for eye-catching color or Profusion and Zahara for small daisy-like flowers on compact mildew resistant plants in your low maintenance cut flower garden.

Like zinnias, cosmos make a great cut flower, and both are heat and drought tolerant in the garden. Start cosmos seeds indoors four to six weeks before the last spring frost or directly in the garden. The fine foliage adds texture to the garden and the white, pink, lavender blooms light up the mid-summer through fall garden. Plant tall varieties en masse to eliminate the need for staking. Or grow shorter varieties like Sonata and Cosmic. Once you plant cosmos in the garden, you may be rewarded with volunteer seedlings in subsequent years.

Marigolds have long been favorites in the garden, but they also make great cut flowers. Like zinnias, you can start them indoors or directly in the garden and have flowers in about eight weeks. Include a variety of single, double, large and small flowers to create a marigold only arrangement or mix with other flowers. The Gem series of marigolds have lacy leaves with a citrusy scent and small single flowers all summer long. Not only are these 12 inch tall plants great in arrangements, but the flowers are also edible and attract beneficial insects to your garden.

Include calendula, another edible flower, in your garden and arrangements. Plant seeds directly in the garden in fall through spring when growing in the Deep South, Gulf and Pacific Coast areas. Those in other regions can plant seeds directly in the garden after the danger of heavy frost has passed. Also known as pot marigolds, these plants thrive in cooler temperatures. If plants fade as temperatures rise, cut them back, continue to water as needed and watch for new flowers when the weather cools. These will reseed readily so watch for welcome seedlings the following year.

Sunflowers make dramatic statements in the garden and in the flower vase. The 2022 All-America Selections winner, Concert Bell grows 10 to 12 flowers on each stem. You'll have a ready-made bouquet with each stem removed. Suncredible® Yellow sunflower produces four-inch flowers on two to three feet tall plants. The plants continue to bloom throughout the season even if you don't remove the faded flowers.

Keep the flowers coming to enjoy in the garden and arrangements with regular picking. The more you pick, the more flowers you'll have. Share extras with friends, neighbors, or senior centers. Studies at Rutgers University found cut flowers immediately increased happiness and had a long-term positive impact on the recipient's mood.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20



Photo Courtesy – All-America Selections

Zowie! Yellow Flame is a semi-tall zinnia with a unique bicolor pattern of blooms with scarlet-rose center and yellow petal edges.

gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* 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.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES

WAYNE
TUISKULA

Of the wide range of items that we sell, historical items are some of my favorites. Regular readers of this column might remember that we sold famed crime fighter Eliot Ness' credentials back in 2012. Those credentials remain the highest selling item we've sold at auction, reaching \$46,000. Now, we will be auctioning a scrapbook full of law enforcement ephemera next month.

Merriam Webster defines ephemera as "paper items (such as posters, broadsides, and tickets) that were originally meant to be discarded after use but have since become collectibles." The scrapbook we'll be selling contains advertisements for cots, locks and other items that jails would use. It also includes wanted posters for both local criminals and for those who perpetrated larger crimes across the country.

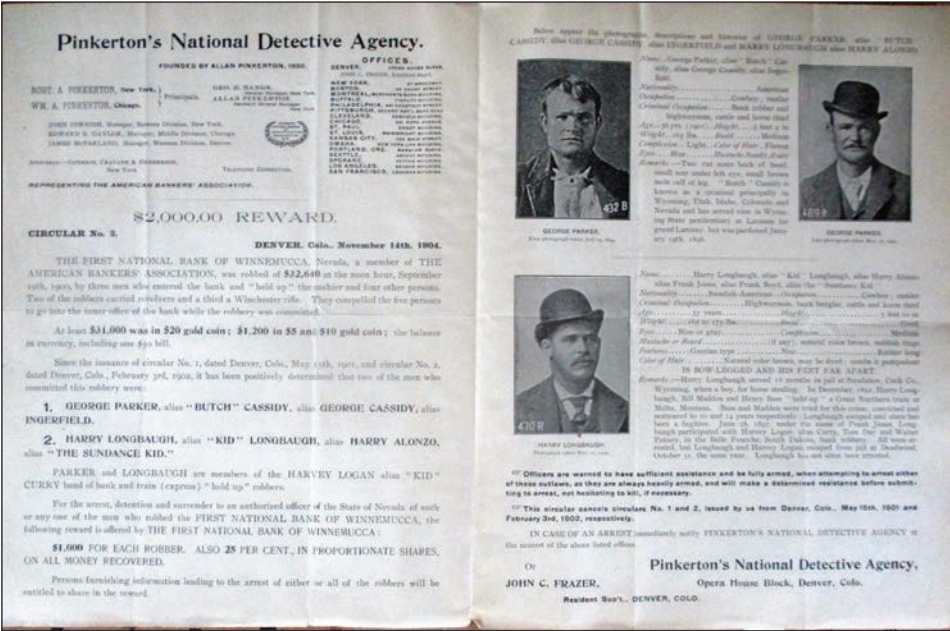
The New Yorker writes that police history dates back to the 13th century "when maintaining the king's peace became the duty of an officer of the court called a constable, aided by his

watchmen." The United States first implemented watchmen in Boston in 1631. However, the practice did not go well because rich men would pay poor men to take their shifts. The New Yorker goes on to say that "most watchmen were either very elderly or very poor, and very exhausted from working all day." Boston is also credited with beginning modern policing as the Massachusetts legislature first hired police officers for the city in 1838.

With such a long history of policing, there are many pieces of interest for law enforcement collectors in addition to ephemera. Patches and badges from different departments are two of the most popular items. Many law enforcement collectibles are "cross-collectibles," meaning they appeal to two or more different types of collectors. For example, a vintage toy police motorcycle will also be of interest to toy collectors. Police memorabilia collectors and license plate collectors will be interested in a police license plate. A gun that was used by an infamous criminal will appeal to collectors of historical items, law enforcement collectors and firearms collectors.

Whether you're new to police mem-

Law enforcement memorabilia



orabilia or have been collecting for years, there are many different types of items available. A beginning collector can find badges for \$10, and patches for even less. On the other end of the price spectrum, an early 1880s New York City police badge sold for \$5,500 in June 2020. A heavily engraved Colt

Model 1862 Police revolver with Tiffany grips sold for \$32,500 in 2012. A 1949 Harley-Davidson Police Servi-Car three wheeled motorcycle sold for \$45,000 in 2011.

The highlight of the collection we'll be offering next month is a 1904 want

Lessons learned from women business leaders



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
.....
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

As we close out Women's History Month, it's important to look ahead to the future for women. As a financial advisor to business owners, I tend to do this through the lens of business. The picture for women in business is very interesting, and holds lessons that all business leaders (and investors) can learn from.

While the world has seen an increase in women assuming leadership positions across the board, senior positions in large corporations are still primarily dominated by men. In fact, for every one company run by a woman, 13 are run by men.¹ Yet, companies run with women at the helm tend to follow a similar trend - improved performance and rising prices in stocks.

A reminder about the gender gap

Despite a growing number of women in C-suite positions, the gender gap is still prevalent in America and other developed countries. As of 2019, for example, women employees represented 21 percent of C-suite executive positions - meaning more than three-quarters of these positions are filled by men. What's more, only four percent of those women were women of color.¹

Women account for 50.8 per-

cent of the total population in America, and about 47 percent of the workforce.^{2,3} Therefore, proportionally speaking, women should account for nearly half the management positions available - but as we've seen, they do not.

However, numerous studies have shown the benefits of having diverse women in leadership and c-suite positions. Here's what we know about companies run by women and their correlating levels of performance - especially by the six percent of women-led S&P 500 companies.⁴

Evidence supporting women in leadership

Studies around the globe have shown an interesting correlation between the incorporation of women in executive leadership roles and positive performance trends. A study reported by the Harvard Business Review, for example, concluded:

"Going from having no women in corporate leadership (the CEO, the board, and other C-suite positions) to a 30 percent female share is associated with a one-percentage-point increase in net margin — which translates to a 15 percent increase in profitability for a typical firm."⁵

Other studies have suggested that while women CEOs on their own may not perform better or worse than their male counterparts, it's the bringing of other women into multiple management positions that can create a positive impact on performance.

Another study conducted by S&P Global found that in the two

years following their appointment, "female CEOs saw a 20 percent increase in stock price momentum."⁶ Additionally, companies with more gender diversity on their executive board were more profitable than those without.⁶

Why does female leadership lead to better performance?

Truthfully, there is no concrete answer to this question. There are, however, theories as to why putting women in executive positions can increase stock performance and profitability.

Theory #1: Few women make it to the top

As the numbers have shown, few women make it into executive leadership and C-suite positions. Therefore, the women who do make it into these roles are often the most motivated, dedicated and hard-working in their field. They excel enough in their fields to beat the odds and outperform the competition. As a result, the women who do make it to the top are often high-performing and well-positioned to propel the company forward.

Theory #2: Diversity brings perspective

Women, and women of color especially, can bring a fresh and different perspective to the table. New ideas can spark positive change, which results in better performance. Opening the doors to a more diverse executive team can bring a much-needed breath of fresh air to any company's leadership board.

Theory #3: Women tend to be more careful

Simply put, men (statistically speaking) take more risk

than women. Put somebody under pressure, and these gender differences amplify. One study found that men are more likely to make risky decisions under pressure, while women are less likely to do so.⁷ In terms of leadership positions and profitability, this tendency may work in a woman leader's favor.

Whether you're in charge of appointing the leadership board of your own company or you're an investor looking to make your next move, the statistics shouldn't be ignored. Women in leadership can bring positive change to a company's momentum and profitability. And while a person's gender isn't the only factor that should be considered when appointing employees, there's enough evidence out there to encourage diversity in hiring and promoting.

We're proud to have several women on our leadership team here at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, including our Senior Vice President and Financial Advisor Leisl Cording, who is among just 25 percent of women in the financial advisory field. We're also proud to work with women business owners on strategies to grow and benefit from their business so that they can perform well now and Live Well down the road.

To see how we can put our Strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process to work for you and your business, contact us at (860) 928-2341 or visit our website at whzwealth.com.

Presented by Principal/

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<https://www.catalyst.org/research/women-in-management/>

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<https://hbr.org/2016/02/study-firms-with-more-women-in-the-c-suite-are-more-profitable>

https://www.spglobal.com/division_assets/images/special-editorial/iif-2019/when-womenlead.pdf

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0963721411429452>

Leaving a Legacy: Planning today to make a difference tomorrow

Planned or legacy giving is the practice of designating a major gift to a charitable organization in life or as part of an estate plan. All too often, planned giving is viewed as complicated and is something that you do later in life and only for older, more mature individuals to consider. Nothing could be further from the truth. Anyone with an income or assets, the right information, and some thoughtful planning can create a legacy gift, representing an opportunity to leave a larger gift that they may not have thought financially possible in their lifetime. Such was the case for Theodore ‘Ted’ and Virginia ‘Ginny’ Gellert who recognized early on in their lives that they could make a lasting contribution to the causes they cared about through an estate plan.

It was in the 1980’s, when they were in their early 50’s, that Ted and Ginny Gellert of Abington indicated their desire to make a planned gift that, among other things, would include a benefit to Day Kimball Hospital upon their passing. As consistent annual donors to the hospital, they wanted to do whatever they could within their means to create a legacy to support programs focused on the health and welfare of their family, friends, and neighbors far into the future. Modest funds were then set aside to be invested into stocks and bequeathed to DKH.

Ted and Ginny Gellert moved to Abington shortly after their marriage in 1960, becoming actively engaged in

the community. Ginny was a career educator who began her teaching in 1953 at the Eastford and Scotland Elementary Schools before becoming principal in Eastford for 10 years until her retirement in 1972. She was an active member of her church and directed a musical ensemble known as the Eastwinds Singers for many years. Ginny was also a highly engaged member of the Day Kimball Hospital Woman’s Board for over 30 years until her passing in December of 2005. All who knew her would recall her joyful and spirited nature, with a formidable, larger-than-life presence.

Ted was both a WWII and Korean War Navy Veteran, and a Seabee Naval Reservist and lineman for SNET for 31 years. He was an active member of many organizations including the VFW, American Legion, State Rifle and Revolver Association, among others. A strong supporter of the Wyndham Land Trust, Ted established a retained life estate with the Trust shortly after Ginny’s passing, preserving the 125 acres and Bittersweet Hill Christmas Tree Farm that he and Ginny enjoyed very much. Ted passed away in December of 2017 at the age of 90.

Ted and Ginny loved life and learning,



PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

• **KRISTEN WILLIS**
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,
DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE

leading and living by example. They were positive influences on the many lives they touched. When not involved in church and hospital activities, they enjoyed traveling together in their retirement.

Just prior to Ginny’s passing, the Gellerts updated their earlier estate plans to specifically include the Woman’s Board of DKH which Ginny valued highly, and DKH’s hospice program which was an important part of her end-of-life care. Two years later, it was that same thoughtful planning and foresight that led Ted to enter into the retained life estate with Wyndham Land Trust. Upon Ted’s passing in 2017, ownership of he and Ginny’s homestead was transferred to the Trust. Among other estate contributions to family and organizations they held dear, their planned gift of stock to DKH realized over \$158,000 benefitting the Woman’s Board pledge to DKH for upgrades and renovations of the birthing suites in the Burdick Family Birthing Center; and to Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut to provide support for patients and families in their most critical time of need.

Planned and estate gifts such as the Gellert’s have historically played a significant role in fund development at

DKH since its inception. Trusts established by individuals and families up to fifty years ago – names like Dunleavy, Harvey, Hibbard, Overlock, Paine, and Starkweather, continue to support the hospital today. Planned gifts place financial resources in the pipeline, enhance financial stability, and allow leadership to extend its vision for DKH far into the future. Far more flexible than other types of philanthropy, planned gifts allow donors to leave a purposeful legacy in a way that fulfills their wishes and intent with larger gifts than they could make from budgeted income.

Having had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Ginny and Ted, I am certain that they would be pleasantly surprised and modestly humbled by the value achieved through their estate plans. The impact of their thoughtful planning reaches far beyond our hospital, benefiting the entire community of Northeast Connecticut. It is a fitting tribute to two people with a life-long and lasting legacy of caring, and to whom we’re eternally grateful.

If you’d like more information about planned giving, or have questions, concerns, or stories to share related to philanthropy and Day Kimball Healthcare, please feel free to reach out to Kristen Willis at 860-928-7141 or email kewillis@daykimball.org.

HOUSE

continued from page A1

from discussions she had with members of the Economic Development Commission and the Mills Sites Redevelopment Committee and is in line with the priorities established through a community vision workshop that as facilitated by NECCOG and the town’s Branding Implementation Subcommittee. Penn-Gesek said the project could potentially be a huge step forward for Thompson’s economic future.

“All the discussion landed on the idea of refurbishing it as a municipally owned small business support center and that’s a pretty open-ended description because we haven’t finalized any programming there yet,” Penn-Gesek said.

Penn-Gesek believes the project will not only help enhance economic development initiatives, but also provide increase support of Thompson’s agricultural identity and improve the character the historic downtown area serving as a gateway for Thompson’s march towards the future.

AUCTION

continued from page A1

for the day. Visitors could either bid on the different pieces or buy them for full price immediately. Several of the artists even stopped by to talk with those bidding on their pieces or purchase other artists’ work themselves. Laura Moorehead, who contributed the pieces to the auction, found it to be an inspiring event supporting a great cause.

“You can’t turn on the news without hearing about the suffering in Ukraine, and I think it’s the least we can do to help them just survive day to day,” said Moorehead. “I love doing art so I got to do something I love and give it to help someone I will never meet, but it doesn’t matter because they need the help.”

The event raised \$17,000 over the course of a single day, with every penny going to Josiah’s Venture. Lisa Andrews said it was a huge success that evolved quickly from humble beginnings and shows the power a strong-knit community can have to give back in a big way.

“It all just came together. We didn’t lay out one dime or take one dime from anything that’s happening today,” said



Art pieces decorate the walls of the Silver Circle Gallery during the Art for Ukraine Auction on March 19.

Andrews, who noted everything from the space, music, food, advertising, and more were donated. “This is such a humbling and amazing experience. Every time I talk about it I get chills. The Quiet Corner can speak so loudly and come together. People are frustrated and they

want to help, and this was a way for them to help. I’m amazed at the outpouring of people who have come forward. This was planned in three weeks and if little old me can do this in three weeks we can all do something.”

LEGALS

Borough of Danielson
The Audit Report of the Borough of Danielson for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, as prepared by Hoyt Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 172 Main Street, Danielson, Connecticut, and is available for public inspection, in accordance Section 7-394 of the 1993 Revision of the Connecticut General Statutes.
Dated at Killingly, Connecticut, this 18th day of March 2022.
Borough of Danielson Administrator
March 25, 2022

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 5, 2022 7:00 P.M.
WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL, RM 1
The Board of Finance of the Town of Woodstock will hold a Public Hearing at the Woodstock Town Hall on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with section 7-344 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Itemized estimates of the expenditures of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education will be presented and the Board of Finance will hear all persons who wish to be heard in-regards to any appropriation which they are desirous that the Board of Finance shall recommend or reject for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.
Dated at Woodstock, CT. this 15th day of March, 2022
Michael Dougherty, Chairman
Woodstock Board of Finance
March 25, 2022

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 8-11:30AM. By mail, online, or in our drop box.
The fourth quarter installment of tax-

es becomes due on April 1, 2022, and becomes delinquent on May 3, 2022, and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 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 16TH day of March, 2022
Patricia Monahan CCMC
Revenue Collector for the
Town of Killingly
March 25, 2022
April 8, 2022
April 29, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Davis W Burton (22-00082)
The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Elsa C Burton, 420 Brandy Hill Road, Thompson, CT 06277
c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260
March 25, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Cheryl R. Wakely (22-00068) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 14, 2022, 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.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jonathan R. Wakely
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
March 25, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Gloria L Beaudreault, AKA Gloria Beaudreault (22-00093) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Laura A Salo,
3 Andrews Rd., Woodstock, CT 06281
c/o WILLIAM J MONTY, LAW OFFICE W MONTY, 930 ROUTE 169, PO BOX 266, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
March 25, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Nicholas Pines (22-00083) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 14, 2022, 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.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Susan Pines
c/o CHARLES J SHIMKUS, SHIMKUS, MURPHY AND, ROSENBERGER, P.C., 382 NEW BRITAIN AVENUE, HARTFORD, CT 06106
March 25, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Richard R, Regis (22-00092) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree

dated March 14, 2022, 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.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Maurice J, LaPierre and Naomi L. Regis c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS • 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
March 25, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Linda Ricci-McNiel, AKA Linda McNiel (22-00095) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 15, 2022, 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.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Richard E. McNeil
c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260
March 25, 2022

TOWN OF THOMPSON
At the March 8, 2022 meeting of the Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission the following action was taken: Application #21031, approved with conditions, Max Candidus, 0 Sunnyside Dr. (Assessor’s Map 133, Block 1, Lot 3) - Construction a driveway and septic system for a new single family home, portions of which are in wetlands and the 100-foot upland review area.
George T. O’Neil, Chair
March 25, 2022

Eastern to present “Hansel and Gretel” opera April 1-3

WILLIMANTIC — The opera studio at Eastern Connecticut State University will present Engelbert Humperdinck’s classic fairytale opera “Hansel and Gretel” on April 1-3 in the Fine Arts Instructional Center (FAIC) Concert Hall. The production is directed by Music Professor Emily Riggs with musical direction by David Ballena. Showtimes are April 1 at 7:30 p.m. and April 2 and 3 at 4 p.m.

Based on the 19th century German fairytale by the Grimm Brothers, the opera follows siblings Hansel and Gretel as they travel through an enchanted forest. Soon they get lost and are forced to stay in the woods overnight. When they wake the next morning, they discover a magical house made of sweets and candy. Their curiosity gets the best of them, and they soon find themselves trapped in the spell of a nasty witch. Hansel and Gretel must use all their wit to outsmart the witch before they are baked into gingerbread.

The cast includes Samantha Warshauer (West Hartford) as Hansel;

Emily Gillespie (Lebanon) as Gretel; Christiana Montalbano as The Witch; Mya Millbauer as the Mother; Callie Sullivan as the Sandman; and Sarah Potter as the Dew Fairy. Scenic design is by Kristen P.E. Zarabozo; lighting design is by Megan O’Brien; and the scenic artist is Anna Brewster.

This production will be performed in English with original narration. The run time is one hour and 20 minutes, with no intermission.

Tickets are free for all children and youth (under 18); \$10 for senior citizens (62 and older); free for Eastern students; \$12 for Eastern faculty, staff and alumni; and \$20 for the general public. Free youth tickets are possible due to a generous grant from the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation. To purchase tickets, please visit <http://easternct.showare.com/hanselandgretel>

For more information, visit: <https://www.easternct.edu/music/event/hansel-and-gretel.html> or contact the FAIC Box Office at (860) 465-5123 or email atreboxoffice@easternct.edu.

Local students named to Dean’s List at MCPHS University

BOSTON — MCPHS University is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2021 semester:

* Ayana Patel is a native of Brooklyn, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Premedical Health Studies degree. Ayana will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2022.

* Grace Cerbo is a native of Dayville, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Grace will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2024.

* Annie Griffin is a native of Dayville, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Premedical Health Studies (Physician Assistant Studies) degree. Annie will graduate from

the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2025.

* Prachi Patel is a native of Dayville, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Premedical Health Studies (Physician Assistant Studies) degree. Prachi will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2023.

* David Kresge is a native of Putnam, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. David will graduate from the Worcester, Massachusetts campus in 2021.

The Dean’s List recognizes those students with a full-time course load who have achieved outstanding scholarship with a 3.5 GPA or higher for the academic term.

The mission of MCPHS University is to prepare

graduates to advance health and serve communities worldwide through excellence, innovation, and collaboration in teaching, practice, scholarship, and research. Founded in 1823, MCPHS University is the oldest institution of higher education in the City of Boston. In addition to the original Boston campus, the University has campuses in Worcester, Massachusetts, and Manchester, New Hampshire, as well as robust online learning options. The University currently offers more than 100 unique baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degree programs and certificates covering a variety of health-related fields and professions.



CHERRY TREES PLANTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WERE A GIFT FROM THIS NATION.

ANSWER: JAPAN

What’s the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A

B

Answers: 1. Bird on nest 2. Missing egg 3. Bird house in back 4. Extra blossoms bottom center

THIS DAY IN...

HISTORY

- **1765:** THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT PASSES THE STAMP ACT, LEVYING A DIRECT TAX ON THE AMERICAN COLONIES.
- **1894:** THE FIRST STANLEY CUP COMPETITION IS HELD IN MONTREAL, CANADA.
- **1997:** COMET HALE-BOPP MAKES ITS CLOSEST APPROACH TO EARTH IN THE SKIES OVER THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

BLOSSOM

a flower or a mass of flowers

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH:	Flower
SPANISH:	Flor
ITALIAN:	Fiore
FRENCH:	Fleur
GERMAN:	Blüte

Did you know?

THE FLOWERING CHERRY TREE BLOOMS EARLY EACH SPRING.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BIRD



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Eastford Senior Citizens host first Learn-at-Lunch of 2022

EASTFORD — The public was invited to an Eastford Senior Citizens (ESC) Free Learn-at-Lunch program held on Tuesday, March 15 at the Eastford Town Office Building.

Anticipation was high for the first 2022 meeting of the ESC, a Brown Bag Lunch. As participants arrived, they found the finishing touch being made to floral arrangements that were assembled by Mary Ann Lally, the Treasurer, and Marie Sannon, the Hospitality Chair, of the Eastford Senior Citizens. The beautiful flowers were generously donated by both the Estate of Jennie V. Procaccini, a former member of the ESC, and by Marc & Jess LaMountain, the New Owners of The Sunshine Shop, 925 Upper Maple Street, Dayville, Connecticut, USA, TheSunshineShopCT@gmail.com, (860) 774-1662. The quantity of flowers was such that Each Senior attending, as well as the Speaker: Jeannine Spink, the Eastford First Selectman: Deborah Richards, and the helpful Town of Eastford secretaries, all received an arrangement contained in donated Starbucks Frappuccino glass bottles.

There were lots of smiles shared as well as stories of their winter experiences. Participants had added to their brought-from-home lunches, a selection of banana, blueberry, and chocolate chip Little Bites muffins, chocolate-peanut butter wafers, chocolate cream swiss rolls, and cinnamon coffee cake, along with a cup of coffee, or a can of Coke or Sprite, or a bottle of Aquafina water; all provided by the new owners, Sunny & Sanders Choudhry (and their two beautiful daughters) of the Sunny Mart, 793 Mashamoquet Rd., Pomfret Center,



(203) 850-3329.

No one moved from their seat, when Jeannine Spink began discussing “Basic First Aid: What Every Senior Should Know.” There was a lively Question and Answer section afterwards. Many asked if Jeannine Spink would return at a future meeting to discuss CPR and more. Jeannine Spink was formerly of the Eastford Independent Fire Company.

The Eastford Senior Citizens will hold another program at the Eastford Town Office Building on April 19. For details, call 860-538-8868.

Photos Courtesy



If it's important to you,
It's important to us.

ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

SCIENCE
continued from page A1

noticed right away how serious this group was,” Espinosa continued. “These guys were all business and very mature.”

The Mustangs began their trek to the title with a first-round tournament win over Bradford Christian Academy of Lawrence, Mass., 91-60, on Tuesday, March 8. Claude led PSA with 14 points, five rebounds, five assists, and three steals, while Ugonna Kingsley added 14 points, nine rebounds, and five blocks, and Evans contributed to the winning effort by scoring 12 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Putnam Science Academy’s quarterfinal-round matchup provided a much tougher test, Sunrise Christian Academy, from Bel Aire, Kan., cutting the Mustangs’ lead to a single point with four minutes to play. PSA scored the final 13 points of the game to defeat Sunrise Christian, 84-70, on Thursday, March 10. Claude finished the

game with 22 points, Dean added 20, and Kingsley flirted with a triple double (nine points, nine rebounds, and 10 blocks).

The Mustangs punched their ticket to the championship game with a 78-53 semifinal-round victory over Scotland (Penn.) Campus prep school, on Friday, March 11. Claude (20 points, seven rebounds), Dean (18 points, five rebounds, four assists), Gittens (12 points), Mouhamed Dioubate (12 points), Kingsley (12 blocks, 11 rebounds), and Momo Cissé (five blocks, five rebounds) all figured prominently in the lopsided win.

In the national championship game — played just hours after the win over Scotland Campus — Claude scored a game-high 26 points to help lead PSA past Northfield Mount Hermon, 72-54. For his efforts throughout the Mustangs’ postseason run, Claude was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player.

“Desmond averaged 20 points a game in the tourna-

ment,” Espinosa said. “He had an unbelievable tournament; an unbelievable run.”

Kingsley’s final championship game numbers were 15 points, 11 rebounds, and four blocks, while Evans added five points, six rebounds, and five steals.

Five Mustangs have committed to play at the next level. Evans is headed to St. Bonaventure while Dean and Gittens are going to Florida International University in Miami. The 7-foot Cissé will be playing at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Claude verbally committed to attend Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, next year, but Xavier recently fired head coach Travis Steele, which, Espinosa said, has prompted Claude to rethink his decision to join the Musketeers.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen with Desmond at this point,” Espinosa said. “He didn’t sign (a National Letter-of-Intent, or NLI) with Xavier, but he did verbally commit to them about eight weeks ago. My feeling is he is going to de-commit to Xavier.”

Espinosa said he believes if Claude de-commits to Xavier many top-tier programs, including the University of Kansas, the University of Louisville, the University of South Carolina, and the University of Tennessee would all be interested in his services.

Espinosa said Kingsley, who enrolled at Putnam Science



On its way to winning the prep basketball national championship, Putnam Science Academy had an undefeated 2021-2022 season.

Academy in January, is scheduled to return next year for a final season with the Mustangs. His play in the recently-completed tournament, however, could make him the biggest prospect on the market should he forego his final year of prep school.

“Ugonna has Providence, UConn, and Syracuse looking at him right now, but I think

he’ll end up getting recruited by Kentucky, Kansas, Ohio State and other high-level programs,” Espinosa said. “He’s a senior and the plan is for him to come back for a fifth year, but we don’t know what’s going to happen because everyone (Division 1 colleges) is going to try and get him to leave early. Right now, though, he is planning on coming back.”

Cary Marcoux, SRES®
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