

THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, April 2, 2021

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Grudzien, defense lead Killingly to second straight championship



Photo Courtesy - Killingly High Athletic Department

The Killingly High girls' basketball team and its coaching staff pose for a team picture after defeating Windham High, 41-29, in the championship game of the ECC Northern Division Tournament on Wednesday, March 24.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Back-to-back championships. That's been the buzz for the last week in the Quiet Corner, a region of northeastern Connecticut that includes Killingly, Woodstock, Putnam, Thompson, Brooklyn, Pomfret and Eastford.

Playing in its own gymnasium, the top-seeded Killingly High girls' basketball team accomplished its season-long goals of having an undefeated season and winning a championship by defeating Windham High,

the No. 3 seed, 41-29, on Wednesday, March 24.

With the win Killingly (13-0) captured the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Northern Division Tournament. Thirteen months ago, on Feb. 26, 2020, Killingly won its first-ever ECC Division II Tournament Championship, defeating Putnam High, 55-49, at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville.

"I'm very excited," said Killingly junior Sophia Moore, who scored five points in the game, all in the first quarter. "It feels very

Please Read **KILLINGLY**, page **A10**

Hayes supports increased tax deductions on first responder stipends

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

HARTFORD — State Representative for the 51st district and former Putnam Police Chief Rick Hayes is throwing his support behind an amendment to a House bill that would increase personal income tax deductions for stipends paid to volunteer firefighters and EMS workers.

Hayes is a co-sponsor of H.B. #5722 out of the Public Safety and Security Committee in Hartford that would allow for a deduction of up to \$1,000 for stipends issued to volunteer firefighters and ambulance members on their personal income taxes. However, Hayes made a motion before the committee in late March to increase that amount to \$1,500. The amended bill now awaits action by the House of Representatives.

"As a former police chief, I have always been a supporter of emergency services in my community and across Connecticut. I've received many phone calls about the way that this bill was written. I didn't think the original amount of one thousand dollars was a reasonable tax stipend and believe our volunteers deserve more," Hayes said in a press release. "Our volunteer firefighters and ambulance members protect our communities around the clock and save their towns thousands of

dollars in expenses that would otherwise be paid to full-time personnel. The idea of someone getting a stipend from a municipality and then having to pay state taxes, I think is ridiculous. Raising this amount another five hundred dollars is the right thing to do."

The bill has also received backing from the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. President Robert Duval, the chief of nearby Atwood Hose Fire Company in Wauregan, supported the bill in his testimony in February.

"Volunteer fire fighters, like their career colleagues, are required to complete countless hours of training, along with the time needed for responses to calls for service. Although stipends seek to recover some out-of-pocket costs and place a small value on the time spent serving their communities, it does not cover everything. Charging a state tax on a stipend could be a deterrent to finding and retaining volunteers in this difficult time. In these extraordinary times that we are living in, it is even more important that we maintain a trained, ready to serve, force of volunteers in our communities to focus on our citizens," Chief Duval said. "Exempting the state income tax from stipends would be a gesture to thank those who volunteer

Please Read **HAYES BILL**, page **A10**

Putnam votes to restrict municipal building naming rights

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — The town of Putnam held a special town meeting through a Zoom conference call where four items were discussed and approved by the less than 100 voters present.

The first item on the warrant asked voters if they wanted to sell land at 44 Highland

Dr., a plot in Putnam's industrial park, to Edgewater Construction for \$83,000. Voters overwhelmingly approved the request in a 53 to 3 decision. Two other matters on the warrant were decided in similarly one-sided votes. The second article on the agenda ask if Putnam would create a Veterans Commission and that received a 56 to 1 vote of approval while the final article on the warrant asked if

voters would support amending the Quinebaug Regional Technology Park agreement between the town and the other participating communities in the region. Putnam voters decided to support the motion in a 46 to 4 vote although the remaining towns in the partnership also have to approve the changes for them to be implemented.

The most contentious and divisive article discussed was

the third item of the night, seeking to implement a new ordinance that would prevent naming Putnam's new municipal complex, being constructed on the site of the old Owen Tarr Park or any section of that building after any individual, be they town official or average citizen. The debate included arguments from both sides of the issue, with some feeling it was too limiting and disrespectful to former offi-

cials whose names are in the current town hall and won't be carried over to the new facility, while a counterargument was made that the municipal complex is a building owned by the people of Putnam, and should not be associated with one single name.

The vote proved to be the most divisive of the night, but was approved by voters in a 33 to 22 decision.

Thompson Icebreaker to be broadcast on Speed51.TV



Photo Matthew Wiernasz — Courtesy

The annual Thompson Icebreaker, which includes the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125, will be aired live via pay-per-view on Speed51.TV.

THOMPSON — Fans of Northeast auto racing now have another way to enjoy the lid-lifter on 2021 season. The American-Canadian Tour (ACT), Pro All Star Series (PASS), and Speed51.TV have announced a live pay-per-view broadcast for the annual Icebreaker at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on April 10 and 11.

Both days of the auto racing festival will be available in full via the live broadcast. Fans around the world can enjoy 10 divisions of heart-pounding action. This includes the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on Sunday for the new Outlaw Open Modified Series, a 75-lap Saturday showdown for the PASS Super Late Models, and all of Thompson Speedway's local divisions.

Tickets for the pay-per-view live stream are \$30 for Saturday-only, \$35 for Sunday-only, or \$55 for a two-day pass. The sign-up link will be available later this week at www.speed51.tv. Post time is 1:00pm on Saturday, April 10 and 1:15pm on Sunday, April 11.

The Icebreaker broadcast is part of a multi-year agreement between PASS and Speed51.TV. As part of the deal, all six Thompson Speedway oval track events will be aired live on the network. This includes four Wednesday shows featuring \$5,000-to-win Outlaw Open Modified Series shows as well as the return of the Thompson 300 at the World Series of Speedway Racing. Pay-per-view details for each event will be announced in the weeks leading up to the event.

"We're excited that fans around the world can now watch every lap of Thompson Speedway oval action in 2021," PASS President Tom Mayberry said. "The Icebreaker and the World Series are two of the most revered auto racing events in North America. The Wednesday Summer series is sure to enthrall fans, too. Thanks to Speed51.TV, even fans who can't get to the track or don't yet feel safe in crowds can still enjoy some fantastic racing."

Speed51.TV is one of the leading

Please Read **ICEBREAKER**, page **A10**

A family of physicians

Carlene Sabourin sent an email in response to last week’s query about Elfgren’s Nursery. “I think you are talking about the old Norway Spruce tree forest on Slater Hill Road. The house is a beautiful stone place. All the nursery buildings are still there. It was run by an elderly, very friendly Swedish man. Several years our trees came only from him. Balled, rooted, dig or cut your own... All the baby seedlings are now 25-40 feet tall. It is within a half mile to the crooked corner new bridge.” (email, March 27).

In last week’s Killingly at 300 column, I wrote about Killingly-born physician Ellen Hammond Gladwin. Her obituary had mentioned that her cousin, Grace Peckham Murray, was also a physician. Now, I knew that Grace had been buried in the Putnam Heights Cemetery, which is not far from my home, so I was curious to learn a little more about her. A look on Ancestry.com brought forth many items, but I started with her obituary. I learned that she was a much-travelled lady in addition to being an early female physician in New York.

The April 10, 1933 Times Union, Brooklyn, N.Y., revealed the following, “Dr. Grace P. Murray Dies in Japan at 84. One of First Women Physicians in City. Dr. Grace Peckham Murray, 84, one of the first women physicians in New York, is dead in Japan

according to word received here today. Since her retirement from active practice in 1917 and the death of her husband, Judge Charles H. Murray of the New York Court of Claims Dr. Murray has traveled extensively all over the world. Her last visit to New York was last April, when she arrived here in just seven days from Honolulu, flying across the continent. Dr. Murray practiced medicine 37 years in Manhattan. She was a professor adjunct to the chair of gynecology at Post-Graduate Hospital and Medical School, an editorial writer for the New York Medical Record, and a member of the editorial staff of The Women’s Journal. Born at Killingly, Conn., the daughter of a physician, she studied at Mount Holyoke, and the Women’s Medical College of New York. “(p. 9). The April 13, 1933 Windham County Transcript added a few specifics. She “was stricken with influenza and died at Kyoto, Japan on Saturday (April, 8). A native of Killingly, Dr. Murray had...crossed the Atlantic twenty times and the Pacific fifteen times and had taken a 3,000 mile trip up the Amazon river. A year ago, on April 3, she arrived in Putnam to visit relatives...Dr. Murray was born in Killingly October 16, 1848, a daughter of Dr. Fenner H. and Katherine (Torrey) Peckham...She married the late Judge Charles H. Murray



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

of New York in 1893. (She was survived by) a sister, Miss Katherine F. Peckham, a niece, Mrs. Rosamund Danielson, and a nephew, Whitman Danielson, of Putnam Heights.”

Through the invitation of Robert Carlson, I had the wonderful opportunity this past week to participate in a virtual Civil War Round Table presentation by Guntis Goncarovs on “Convergence of Valor The Men of the H. L. Hunley,” his historical fiction novel on the men of the Confederate submarine the H. L. Hunley. Now some of you may recall the name Hunley name from the beginning of the century from when the gold medallion for the Killingly soldier Ezra Chamberlin made national news when it was discovered on the Hunley. At that time the bodies had not been identified so all sorts of thoughts were running around including, “Was there a Union spy on the Hunley?” “Was Chamberlin among those who had given their lives in the Confederate cause?” If Chamberlin had not died there, where were his remains?

I love mystery stories and was very glad to be among those at the Killingly Historical Center (I think Ed Ledogar and Natalie Coolidge were others) who worked with then state archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni to see what could be learned here in Killingly. To add to the “detecting fun”, Ezra’s name was included on a marker in the older section of Westfield Cemetery. Hmmm?

First, a quick review about the H. L. Hunley, which is considered “the first successful combat submarine in world history. This very small Confederate submarine, out of Charleston, was operated by an eight-main crew, packed like sardines into the cramped quarters, using “muscle power” under the leadership of Lt. George Dixon. “On a moonlit night in February, 1864 (17th), the crew of the Hunley

was given the calm sea they had waited for and embarked on their ambitious attack. The target was the USS Housatonic, one of the

Union’s mightiest and newest sloops-of-war. The Hunley’s approach was stealth and by the time they were spotted, it was too late. At about 8:45 p.m., several sailors on the deck of the USS Housatonic reported seeing something on the water just a few hundred feet away. The officer on the deck thought it might be a porpoise, coming up to blow.

As the object approached the ship, the crew realized it was no porpoise. The alarm sounded and the sailors fired their guns, the bullets pinged off the metal hull of the Hunley. Below the surface, the spar torpedo (from the Hunley) detonated and the explosion blew a hole in the ship. The Housatonic sank in less than five minutes, causing the death of 5 of its 155 crewmen...the submarine and crew disappeared into the darkness of the sea.

Their fate became a mystery and their accomplishment a legend. The submarine would not see the light of day again for over 136 years.”((www.hunley.org/history-is-made; also Ragan, Mark K., Last Days of the Hunley in The Blue Light, Vo. 5, September 2002).

“After fifteen years of searching, on May 3rd, 1995, New York Times best-selling author Clive Cussler and his team finally found the submarine. Long interested in maritime history, Cussler founded the National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA), an organization that searches for some of history’s most famous shipwrecks...Using a magnetometer, the Cussler crew located a metal object about four miles off the coast of Sullivan’s Island. After diving in nearly 30 feet of water, they removed three feet of sediment to reveal one of the Hunley’s two small conning towers. As if stuck in time, the Hunley lay on her starboard side with the bow pointing almost directly toward the Housatonic wreck and Sullivan’s Island. Her position looked like she was heading home, a trip that was finally about to be completed over a century later.

On Aug. 8, 2000, the Hunley was rescued from the sea and taken to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center and (was) “placed in a 75,000 gallon steel tank filled with chilled, fresh water to help protect and stabilize the submarine. The lab facility was specifically designed to excavate and conserve the vessel.”

“The submarine and the hundreds of artifacts found onboard are currently undergoing preservation work while archaeologists use the historical clues they have found to piece together the final moments of the Hunley and her

crew.”

As part of the Hunley Project genealogist Linda Abrams did extensive research on individuals connected with the submarine. An extract of her findings appeared in a May 2002 issue of The Blue Light. “Forsensic experts working on the Hunley crew’s remains have found that the crewman wearing the ID tag [Ezra’s] was in his thirties, while Ezra would have been only 24 at the time of the Hunley’s historic mission. This corresponds with the conclusion drawn after careful study of Ezra’s life: that he could not have been aboard the Hunley...We do know that Pvt. Chamberlain (sic) was killed-in-action, body-not-recovered, on Morris Island, July 11, 1863, and the artifact, bearing his name, discovered on the Hunley, was a battlefield souvenir obtained by a Confederate soldier and subsequent a Hunley crewmember. There is simply no evidence to support any other conclusion.”

An 1880 obituary for his father Elisha Chamberlin noted that a son (Ezra) had been missing in action during the Civil War, and his body had never been found (Windham County Transcript, Nov. 25, 1880).

Note: Unless otherwise noted quotes have been taken from the www.hunley.org Web site. If you are at all interested, I suggest you visit the site which includes many photos and much history about the submarine and the crew. It’s a fascinating story.

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

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, March, 2021. Special thanks to Robert Carlson and Guntis Goncarovs. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistorical-society. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329

Office Assistant Position

Solair Recreation League in Woodstock CT has one or two hourly positions for an office assistant. This position involves greeting guests, accepting payments, scheduling reservations, working with our office manager to help with paperwork, mailings, etc. The successful candidate should be able to work with limited supervision, have a working knowledge of personal computers (Windows 10, familiar with MS Word), and good customer service skills. We will work with the successful candidate on a fixed schedule which will include weekends. Up to 38 hours per week are available. Training will be provided for our scheduling and reservations software. Weekend hours are required.

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At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 22: American Woodcock, Tree Swallow, Fox Sparrow, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Canada Geese, Wild Turkey, Song Sparrow, Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.



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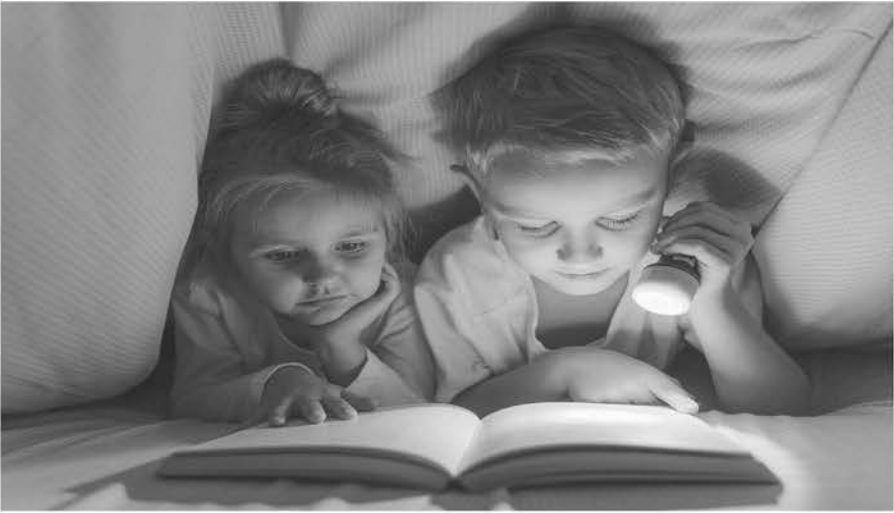
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Follow these budgeting basics to create a strong foundation for your finances



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April is financial literacy month – a great time to learn about or refresh your memory on the basics of personal finance. While getting “back to basics” may not seem very exciting, it’s critical – it’s the basics of financial literacy that allow you to form the foundation you need to build wealth so you can live well, now and

in the future.

If you’re feeling like your financial literacy isn’t up to par, you’re not alone. The latest National Financial Capability Study conducted by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation found that an alarming 66% of Americans are financially illiterate.

The good news is, you have the power to change that for yourself. Investing a bit of time to educate yourself about the basics now will pay off for years to come. The four basic elements of personal finance are: budgeting, credit, saving and investing.

Learning how to budget is step one; if you can’t properly manage your budget, you can’t very well save or invest, and the chances of having good credit become pretty slim as well. Here are six tips for how to create and stick to a budget that will allow you to plan well, invest well and live well:

First, sit down and thoroughly take stock of your income and expenses. This seems like an obvious step, but in the routine of everyday life it can be

surprisingly easy to lose sight of exactly what the cash flow is in and out of your bank account each month.

So take some time to add up your monthly income, including income earned from work as well as any other income from sources like investment accounts or real estate. Then tally up your monthly expenses, being thorough and honest with yourself. Include everything from your rent or mortgage payment and utilities, to your car and education loan payments, insurance premiums, clothing, food and what you typically spend on discretionary items like entertainment or travel. How much is left at the end of the month to save or invest? Is it enough to meet your long-term goals? Is there anything even left at all? Your answers to those questions will tell you whether you need to strike a better balance between your monthly income and your spending habits.

Follow the 50/30/20 rule. This rule is an excellent way to break down budgeting into an easy-to-follow template. Figure out what your monthly income is after taxes. Then take that amount and dedicate 50 percent of it to your needs (housing, utilities, medical care, bills, and other essentials). Allow 30 percent to be spent on those things that are not essential, but that you want – dinner out or other special activity, or that item in the shop window you’ve been wishing for since last month. And finally, put that last 20 percent into savings for future goals and emergency needs.

Don’t spend beyond your means. This tip follows from the previous two and pretty much speaks for itself. But it’s

not the complexity of the idea that’s the challenge; it’s the willpower to remind yourself of it every time you want to splurge even when you know you shouldn’t. So remember this phrase, and listen when your conscience tells it to you in the heat of the moment.

Pay yourself first. It’s a common misconception that you should pay down debt before stashing your extra cash in savings – and it can be a dangerous one, too. While you do want to eliminate debt as quickly as possible, make sure you’re putting money into savings every month as well. If you find yourself in credit card debt, move the high interest balances to 0% interest credit cards, if possible, and allocate some of your wants category discussed above to pay down that balance as quickly as you can.

Use a budgeting app. Yup – there’s an app for that. Lots of them, actually, and they can be a huge help in keeping track of your budget and how well you are (or are not) sticking to it. Mint is the one that I recommend most often, but there are others as well – just search the app store or the internet to find one that works for you, and then use it faithfully. Your online banking app may also provide a budgeting tool which you can use to track income and spending. You’ll be surprised what you’ll learn about your spending habits and the ways you can save a bit more here and there.

Don’t count on windfalls. We’ve all planned out how we’d spend those lottery winnings a time or two. But whether it’s wishful lottery winnings, anticipation of a suspected big bonus, or some

other type of influx of cash that you’re hoping for, don’t count on it. That’s not to say you can’t dream or hope – but be sure you’re not spending real money based on the expectation of fictitious income.

While these are basic ideas, they are key to building that foundation of personal financial knowledge to help you work towards achieving your financial goals and living well! Be sure to consider your special circumstances before beginning to budget. If you need assistance prioritizing your finances to help you work toward your long-term financial life goals, give our office a call at 860-928-2341, visit us online www.whzwealth.com or follow us on LinkedIn and Facebook so that we can leverage our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process to help you get to the financial freedom you desire.

Authored by Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor *Leisl L. Cording, CFP®*. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. *These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative.* Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>.

Danielson budget meeting set for April 12

DANIELSON — At the March 17 Borough Council meeting, the Council put forth to the voters the proposed 21-22 FY budget. This budget comes in \$7,275 less than last year, at \$824,635, because of a slight decrease in the grand list. However, the mil rate is anticipated to remain the same as it has been for the past two years, at 5.05mills.

Included in this budget are some much needed upgrades to the Borough Administrative Office and the Danielson Fire House. One project we plan to undertake is to upgrade the lighting in the building from the old fluorescent style to the more cost efficient LED fixtures. This proposal will not only save money on electricity, but it will also increase the ceiling height in

the truck bays to better accommodate the height of the apparatus. If approved the estimated cost to the taxpayers is approximately \$12,000 and is included in our Building Capital Improvement line.

Over the past year, the pandemic has shown everyone how important it is to have a reliable technology network. Included in this proposed budget is a plan to bring both security and some much needed technology to not only the Danielson Fire Department but to the Borough Administrative Office. One phase of this plan is to contract with Venture Communications to install security cameras and a keyless entry system throughout the building. The estimated cost to taxpayers for the

installation is approximately \$30,000 and is included in our Building Capital Improvement line.

The Annual Budget meeting of the Borough of Danielson will be held April 12 at 7 p.m. via Google Meets. I encourage all Borough residents to participate

virtually to vote on the budget. Only registered voters living within The Borough of Danielson are allowed to vote. For access to the link please contact Borough Administrator, Brenda Duchesneau at 860-428-0442.

Ragged Hill Woods offering outdoor activity sessions at W-T 4-H Camp

POMFRET CENTER — Get your overly zoomed children out of the house into the spring breeze to participate in some fun and educational environmental science programs outdoors at the camp, 326 Taft Pond Rd in Pomfret.

March 30(PK & K)/ March 31 (Gr. 1 – 6)/ & April 1 (Gr. 7 – 8) Pollinators (learn about pollinators and what they do)

April 6 (PK & K)/ April 7 (Gr. 1 – 6)/ & April 8 (Gr. 7 – 8) Water Cycles (learn about how the water cycle works)

April 13 (PK & K)/ April 14 (Gr. 1 – 6) & April 15 (Gr. 7 – 8) Salamanders (hunt for and learn about salamanders)

Sessions last one hour, (max 10 per time slot) \$12 per child (all 4 sessions \$40), held outside, masks and social distancing required. Must pre-pay, (all payments are non-refundable). Pre-K and K sessions offered at either 11:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. Grades 1 – 6 sessions are offered at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Grades 7 – 8 will be offered at 4:30 p.m. To register and get further information about time slots available, please call 860-974-1122 or e-mail raggedhillwoods@gmail.com.





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Villager Newspapers

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

In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI

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

Jaimie, your sculptures in clay are remarkable. What are your favorite pieces?

My top three sculptures are vastly different from each other! My number one favorite is definitely one of my most recent sculptures which got me a scholarship to Hartford College last year. It’s a sculpture of a man holding the lifeless body of a mythical unicorn; they are standing on the Earth. With the title “Humanity’s Loss”, this piece was made to symbolize the lack of action we take as people in taking care of the Earth. This was by far the hardest sculpture I’ve ever worked on. It was sculpted as two pieces and I made a poor chance in not coming up with a final design before making

these pieces. In order for the Earth to support the person I had to hollow part of the calf in order to glue two aluminum screws into it for support. I also had to make a metal base to hold the Earth as it was round and very unstable. It is my favorite piece because it holds a lot of symbolism and it taught me a lot on how I need to properly plan before attempting the final piece.

My second favorite sculpture has to be a horse head I sculpted titled “A Horse’s Smile”. This one holds no symbolism, instead I went with the flow when I created this. The expression it holds is welcoming with the bright yellow smile it gives the viewer. I experimented a lot with colors on this project and aimed to make a cohesive color scheme while also achieving an odd but ‘natural’ look. I believe that I have captured that with the yellow and blues littered throughout the design. It has subtle yellows peeking through the matte blue skin that tie into its deep glossy blue eyes as well as tying into the yellow teeth. Yellow nostrils, blue gums, blue and yellowish mane—all aimed to make it work—and it was a success!

The third sculpture that I absolutely love is a sculpture of my cat and dog. This was another experimental piece where I wanted to try new glazes. It was a soda fire (which I only got to do this one time); it was extremely fun and holds great memories. I wanted to get a lot of fur texture on their bodies to see how the glaze would react. My cat is bigger than my dog (a chihuahua) so he lays on top of my cat and they are both sleeping. The glaze came



out of extremely glossy, while spots I didn’t glaze turned to be slightly more matte. This firing process makes glazes very ‘glass-like’. This piece probably holds the most nostalgia for me, as the figures are my own pets, and I also love how tranquil they are in their sleep.

What are you working on right now?

I’m currently working on a semi-life-sized fox! My aim is to make a few sculptures for Sawmill Pottery’s window next month, I already have a rabbit that is about to be bisque fired (I pray it doesn’t explode). I also have made a snail and hope that I can make more than what I listed to put in the exhibit, even if I’m slightly late.

Where do you get your ideas?

I usually get my ideas on a whim. I’ll look at something and think “that looks interesting” and build off of that. Most of the time, however, I don’t really have any control on what ideas come to me; they just appear as if a lightbulb lit up.

How do you start your animal pieces?

The way that I start creating an animal is trying my best to think majorly about what expression or emotion the animal I’m considering is emitting. I aim for that sometimes before I’m aware of what kind of animal I’d like to make. After that, I usually Google a type of animal I’d like to sculpt reference images. I then get out the clay and start solid sculpting the basic shape and characteristics of the animal. I used to make pinch pots and sculpt hollow, but I’ve recently discovered that by sculpting solid I don’t run into the problem of collapsing my piece. Once the general shape and position is done, I usually can’t help myself and sculpt most of the face to see who I’m working with.

If the expression differs from the body’s posture, at this stage I can choose to either change the face or the pose which allows a lot of freedom. After the face, I work along the body. Because I usually make furry animals, I create a fur texture along the body. Next, there are the individual features that I give them, for example claws or teeth. After the bisque kiln firing, I glaze the piece as I like, with underglazes or glazes, trying my best to add what suits the individual piece.

You’ve been making art since a very young age which landed you a scholar-



ship to college for art. Tell us about the path you’ve been on.

The path that I have been on has been filled with art. I always enjoyed arts and crafts as a kid in grade school or camp, which my mom to sign me up for a weaving class at Silver Circle in Putnam. Once that class ended, I was taken to a “paint-your-own” class at Sawmill Pottery where I painted a small birdhouse. After that I began kid’s class at the studio which rapidly became teen’s class and currently an adult class. It’s always important to remember that in places where others say you’ll fail, you need to believe in yourself.

Now that I’ve been making pottery for a while, I’ve received a few awards! It started in 9th grade when I got accepted into the NCECA [National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts] conference. That year I received the Curator’s Book Award and a Honorable Mention Award. In junior year I got accepted into NCECA again with “A Horse’s Smile” which landed me a small scholarship as well as a scholarship from QVCC (Quinebaug Valley Community College) for an application I submitted. In my senior year of high school, I was accepted into NCECA again, this time with two pieces, one being “A Humanity’s Loss”; the other a coil vase with a version of “Starry Night” painted on it. I received another small scholarship that year and I also got that piece into an exhibition at Hartford Art School where I was awarded a large scholarship and currently attend. I am very grateful for all of the awards I’ve gotten and how they helped me along.

Are you experimenting with other mediums in school?

I went to QVCC while I was a senior in high school so although I’m technically a sophomore in college, I haven’t been in school for what feels to be a long time. Luckily, I’m going back in the fall! At QV I took an oil painting class, which I loved, and was met with many challenges along the way. There was a lot of focus on creating depth in a two-dimensional portrait, which is very different from my three-dimensional work. While I’m not in school I have been trying to learn about different mediums. I started taking stained glass



classes at the Worcester Center for Crafts and I’ve been enjoying that a lot so far. The next medium I’m going to start trying to learn is flameworking. Someday I hope to be able to combine all of these processes/materials into making multi-medium pieces.

In a few sentences, where would you like to be in five years?

In five years, I would like to be somewhat established in terms of being recognized for my artwork, maybe not by many, but by a few at least. I would definitely want to have good control of my personal life and housing as well as have a good career—maybe someday I’ll even become a resident artist some place. I am not too sure of what exactly I will be doing as a career, but I will try my best to make the arts have be prominent feature in whatever will be supporting me and my journey.

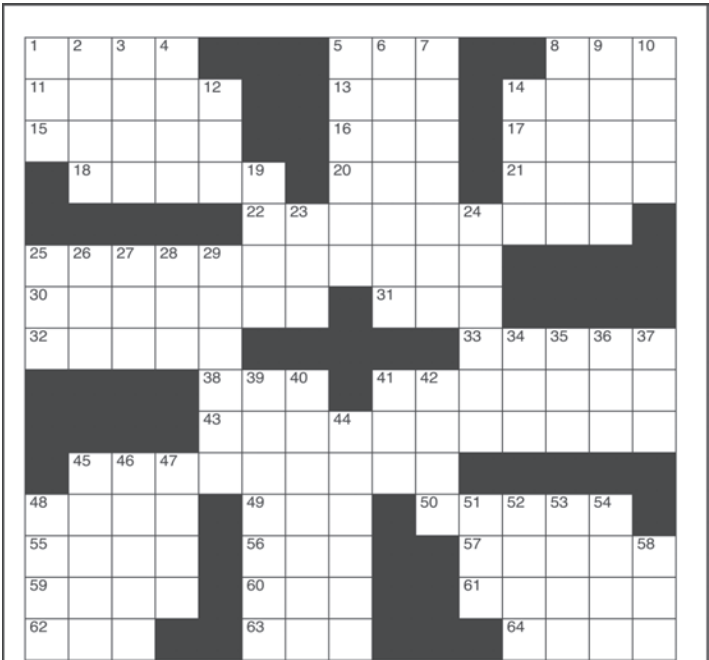
Thank you, Jaimie! This has been a very informative and fun interview. Your story really underscores the importance of supporting the arts and young artists here in the Quiet Corner. I’d like to remind readers to see your work for sale at Sawmill Pottery in Putnam’s Montgomery Ward Building next month.

Today’s terms:

Soda firing is a process where ceramic material is heated to temperature in a (usually) gas-fired kiln. Towards the end of the firing, a super-saturated solution of sodium carbonate (and sometimes bicarbonate) is sprayed into the kiln with a garden-sprayer. The sodium carbonate separates into sodium (Na) ions and carbon dioxide. The CO2 leaves the kiln, while a portion of the Na attaches to the silicon dioxide in the clay. You end up with a texture called “orange peel,” because it feels like the skin of an orange. When the Na reacts with the glaze, you end up with running, color changes, and changes in surface qualities (i.e. matte to glossy variations). (ref. nolanbaumgartner.com)

Biscuit firing or Bisque firing...is given to the very first firing of pottery before it is glazed. Most pottery goes through a bisque firing and is then fired again to melt the glaze and fuse it to the clay body. Bisque firing pottery is the most popular type of firing and is extremely important. It transforms the object into a porous state for glazing. (ref. thesprucecrafts.com)

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

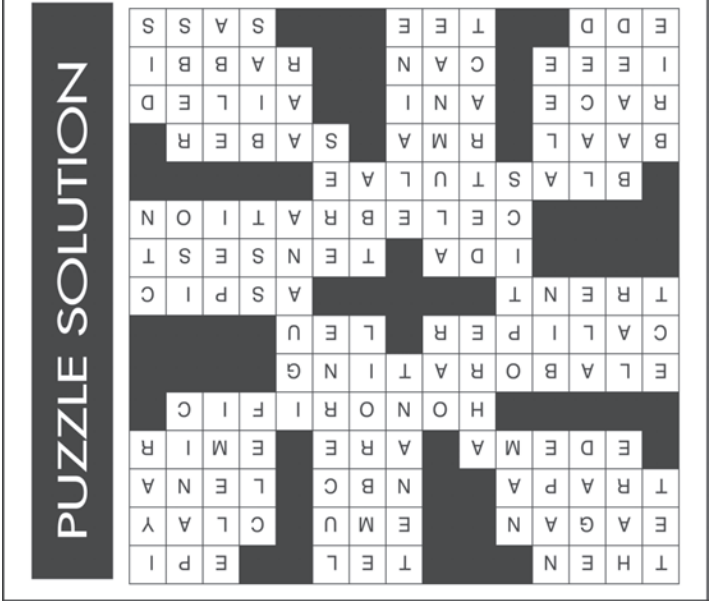


CLUES ACROSS

1. Now and __
5. Israeli city __ Aviv
8. Indicates near
11. Minneapolis suburb
13. Large Australian flightless bird
14. Fine-grained earth
15. Plant genus that includes water caltrop
16. Peacock network
17. TV writer Dunham
18. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
20. They __
21. Muslim ruler title
22. Position given in respect of
25. Explaining further
30. Measuring instrument
31. Romanian monetary unit
32. Council of __, 1545-1563
33. Savory jelly made with meat stock
38. Journalist Tarbell
41. Most suspenseful
43. Festivity
45. Animal embryos
48. Fertility god
49. Medical patients’ choice (abbr.)
50. Type of sword
55. Competition
56. Bird of the cuckoo family
57. Afflicted in mind or body
59. Engineering organization
60. Beverage receptacle
61. Spiritual leader
62. Doctor of Education
63. Where golfers begin
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. Vietnamese offensive
2. Fast mammal
3. Oh goodness!
4. The back of one’s neck
5. One who lives in another’s property
6. Involve deeply
7. Alfalfa
8. Tropical tree resin
9. Sudden fear
10. Jewish religious month
12. Veterans battleground
14. Musical symbol
19. German river
23. Paddle
24. Lizard
25. Shock treatment
26. The common gibbon
27. Brew
28. Usually has a lid
29. Lenses in optical instruments
34. Time zone in Samoa (abbr.)
35. Wrinkled dog; Shar __
36. Denotes equal
37. TV network for children
39. Take the value away from
40. Female graduates
41. Don’t know when yet
42. “__ tú”: Spanish song
44. “Seinfeld” character
45. Bleated
46. Entwined
47. Away from wind
48. Soft creamy white cheese
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. They resist authority (slang)
58. Speak ill of



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High School Roundup

Woodstock Academy claims ECC North Region Championship

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The top-seeded Woodstock Academy boys’ basketball team scored 13 straight points in the second quarter of its game with third-seeded Plainfield High, a run that helped turn a one-point deficit into a 10-point halftime lead.

It was just the momentum The Centaurs needed to take control of their Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) North Region Tournament championship game and go on to defeat the visiting Panthers, 49-36, on Friday, March 26.

After a back-and-forth first quarter junior Parker Anderson, Woodstock’s starting point guard — who had missed the last two games with a deep thigh bruise — came off the bench and drained a 3-pointer that keyed the Centaurs’ 12-11 lead at the end of the opening quarter.

Senior Elijah Brady scored to put Plainfield, which finished 10-3, ahead, 12-11, but it was a short-lived lead for the Panthers as Woodstock scored the game’s next 13 points, five different players scoring for the Centaurs, who finished the season 11-1.

Junior Ethan Davis scored four of his eight points in the game in the run and Anderson canned the second of his three 3-pointers to help lead WA to a 24-14 halftime advantage.

Centaurs’ senior Logan Talbot, who averaged 27 points in the two regular-season meetings between the teams this year, scored the first five points of the third quarter to push the Centaurs lead to 15, 29-14. Talbot scored 11 of his game-high 13 points in the second half.

Plainfield answered Talbot’s run with a three-point spurt of its own, but Anderson then hit his third 3-pointer



Photo Courtesy — Woodstock Academy Athletics

Woodstock Academy junior Ethan Davis helps cut down the net as the Centaurs celebrate their 49-36 win over Plainfield in the championship game of the ECC North Region Tournament, played at Woodstock on Friday, March 26.

of the game and WA was back up by 15, 32-17.

With Davis, Woodstock Academy’s premier defender and rebounder on the bench in foul trouble, Plainfield hit eight straight free throws in a three-minute span to cut its deficit to 32-25.

At that point, the Centaurs’ Liam Blanchflower ended Plainfield’s run with a momentum-changing basket that steadied the ship for Woodstock. Blanchflower drove the baseline, sliced between two defenders and threw down a thunderous dunk that brought his teammates on the bench to their feet.

Plainfield scored the last five points of the quarter to trail by four, 34-30, as play entered the final quarter, but the damage had been done. The momentum created by Blanchflower’s slam sparked an 8-0 run to start the period by the Centaurs to push the WA lead to 12, 42-30, which essentially ended the Panthers’ comeback hopes.

“I’m thrilled,” Woodstock Academy coach Marty Hart told WA Sports Information Director Marc Allard after the game about winning the championship this year. “It’s the end of a long season and these guys really held together at the end. Adversity came our way and I’m so proud of their integrity and char-

acter and the way they stuck together and got the job done.”

The Centaurs advanced to the ECC North Region Tournament championship game with a 70-49 semifinal-round win over visiting Windham, the No. 5 seed, on Tuesday, March 23.

Senior Andrew Johnson led the Centaurs, scoring a game-high 20 points while Talbot added 18, Davis 12, and senior Dmitrii Zinchenko 11. Johnson scored 11 of his points in the second quarter as WA rallied from a two-point first quarter deficit to lead by 12 at halftime.

Second-seeded Killingly High (8-2) had hoped to play the Centaurs in the championship game, but Killingly was prevented from doing so in the semifinal round by Plainfield, the No. 3 seed, the Panthers winning the game, 50-42, in overtime.

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL

Putnam High’s dreams of capturing the ECC North Region Tournament championship were derailed in the second-seeded Clippers’ semifinal round game against visiting Windham (8-2), the No. 3 seed. The Whippets, led by Sienna Ortiz’s game-high 23 points — 15 coming from beyond the three-point arc — winning, 50-37.

Putnam (8-2) was led by seniors Abby St. Martin and Emma Braithwaite, who scored 12 points each. Upperclassmen Laylah Chavez (nine points) and Alex Hutchins (four points) also scored in the game.

The Clippers rallied from a nine-point deficit to tie the game, 20-20, at halftime. Windham, however, used an early run in the third quarter to take the lead for good. The Whippets led, 36-28, as play headed into the fourth quarter.

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Student Spotlight: Shane Yurkevicius



Each month, Tourtellotte Memorial High School’s Student Spotlight program recognizes a student who has

demonstrated outstanding achievement, character, leadership, attitude, and/or contributes to the school and community.

March’s Student Spotlight recipient is Shane Yurkevicius. Shane was nominated by his fellow peers including Joseph Poplawski, Brooke Fettig, Cheyann Tiffany and Trinity Davis. Joseph Poplawski included in his nomination that “Shane is very motivational, in both school and Boy Scouts. He always helps me when I am having trouble and he is an overall good person and friend.” Brooke Fettig also shared that “Shane is a very nice and hardworking student and is also an active leader for his Boy Scout Troop. He

recently just designed and built a free library available to the Thompson community at TEEG.” A close friend of Shane’s, Trinity Davis, also had these kind words to share about Shane stating, “Shane has always been a great friend to have. Whenever I need to talk to someone he is the main person I go to. He has always participated in class discussions and he has done a lot of things outside of school to help make the community a better place. When his mind is set on a task he always gives it his best shot.” Another good friend of Shane’s, Cheyann Tiffany, also adds that “In History class Shane is like a museum and can tell you anything about dates and wars of any kind.

He always has good grades and tries hard. He is a great friend that always makes me laugh every time I see him.”

Outside of school, Shane participates in Boy Scouts where he volunteers for the community. He has helped to create the community garden in town and the TEEG book box, and has earned many different badges and ranks through his Scout training. When Shane was asked what motivates him, he shared, “I have three older brothers who are all successful. All of them went to college and have good jobs. As I’m the youngest, I always try to talk to them and learn about the processes ahead. I look up to them for guidance. Along with this, I have a handful of very

good friends who help me along when I’m down and who I help when they are struggling.” Of his plans for the future, Shane says, “I’m not entirely sure on this yet, some pathways that I have thought out include technical careers, engineering, or architecture. My goal is to have a stable living situation so I can do the fun things in life.” Shane’s message to his school community is, “Enjoy life when you can; you never know when something big or small will happen. You will face many challenges in your life. It’s what you do with those challenges that can turn them into great opportunities.”

Eastern students bring “Blood at the Root” to online audience

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University’s Theatre Program presented its second production of the year, “Blood at the Root,” for two weekends between March 19 and March 28.

Among the students who made the production possible were seniors Erin Raymond of Pomfret Center, who majors in Theatre, and Elizabeth Jourdan of Thompson, who majors in Communication.

Raymond served as a costume construction and wardrobe run team member, while Jourdan served as a film director and crew member.

The virtual show, which streamed online for two weekends, was directed by three students and supervised by Theatre Professor DeRon Williams. “Blood at the Root” was written by Domonique Morisseau and first premiered at Pennsylvania State University in 2014.

Inspired by the Jena Six case-a 2006 racially charged incident in Louisiana-the production features a Black student who disrupts her high school’s status

quo by occupying space typically reserved for White students. As a result, her community erupts in hate speech, violence and chaos.

The play’s title comes from the 1939 song “Strange Fruit” by Billie Holiday, who hauntingly sang “Southern trees bear a strange fruit, blood on the leaves and blood at the root.”

Combatting issues of race and homophobia, the show followed students who struggle with their own identities, as well as their acceptance of others. “Blood at the Root” utilized a combination of backdrops, lights, musical and rhythmic breaks, as well as dance. The unique show

involved multiple directors and myriad COVID-19 restrictions including social distancing and mask wearing on stage.

The Theatre program offers many opportunities for students to work on-stage, backstage and front-of-house through classes, independent studies, internships, and practicum work. Students also showcase their talents in full-length major productions, one-acts, original plays and staged readings.

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Bats – friend or foe?

BY DENNIS R. BLANCHETTE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Bats are our best friends. They eat thousands of insects, pollinate crops, and provide guano for fertilizer. Without them we'd have no more bananas, avocados, cacao, agave or mangoes. Bats are our worst enemy. They carry rabies, Ebola, SARS and covid. Bats are a sign of rebirth and long life. Bats are a sign of darkness, malevolence, witchcraft, vampires and death. Is there a more dichotomous animal?

Initial thoughts for many people encountering a bat are rabies and what if it gets tangled in my hair. Followed immediately by thoughts of a broom to kill the ugly creature. You might think I'm batty, but the bats I've encountered have been pretty cute. I've caught them inside the house and rescued them from the soffit. Pro Tip: If you should rescue a bat, place it up high so it can glide for takeoff. Bats cannot take off from the ground and must glide before flying.

They are the world's smallest mammal (size of a penny) and the only flying mammal. Squirrels glide and anything else that flies is typically called a bird or an insect. There are 1,400 species of bats worldwide, 45 in the US and Canada, and nine in Connecticut. Bats

can live 30-40 years. They have one baby per year, called a pup, and it feeds on breastmilk. They practice monogamy and also promiscuity. In an ingenious move, the first male leaves a mating plug to block further would be suitors. Thus, they all get to have lots of sex, but they always know who the father is. In hibernating species, males are known to mate with females in torpor. This is similar to some human marriages.

The largest bat, the flying fox, lives in Asia and Australia. They have a wingspan of up to six feet and good eyesight, which is handy since they cannot echolocate. Most bats hibernate but a few migrate. Thankfully, flying foxes are one of those that hibernate. Seeing bats with 6' wingspans migrating through my yard would be like a bad Hunter S. Thompson acid trip.

In the typical German way of creating compound words, bats are called die Fledermaus - literally fluttering mouse. You may be familiar with Die Fledermaus as a comical operetta by Johan Strauss II in which a character is costumed as a bat. In his book "Geography of Genius," Eric Weiner explores the question of why there are so many German speaking philosophers and concludes that the creativity of the German language lends itself to

philosophical thought.

April 17 is International Bat Appreciation Day Three states have an official state bat - Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia. Connecticut has a state animal - the sperm whale. According to the Connecticut Web site, the sperm whale did a lot for Connecticut historically, but what has it done for us lately I ask? Connecticut also has a state insect, state bird, state shellfish and even a state fossil. Connecticut does not have an official bat, even though bats are currently doing a lot more for us than sperm whales.

Many people are unduly concerned with vampire bats. There are only three species of vampire bats and they reside in Central and South America. Bats are named after vampires rather than the other way around. They mostly feed on the blood of sleeping mammals. Although recently they have expanded their diet to humans because of lack of natural prey, probably due to habitat loss caused by humans. Good on you, I say. Most animals we drive to extinction have no such recourse.

There are many idioms involving bats. "Blind as a bat" is not really true, bats can see, they use echolocation as an assist. "Bats in the belfry" means bats in your head, i.e. crazy. Sounds

old and gothic, but it is really a recent American phrase (and a great song by Dispatch). "Bat out of hell" means to leave a place quickly. Some sources claim to trace this back to Aristophanes play "The Birds" written in 414 B.C. The reference is actually to a "bat of a man", so it seems a stretch to me. J. Dos Passos used the expression in 1921 and then there's Meatloaf's eponymous album. "Bat s**t" meaning crazy, comes from the tendency of bats to fly around erratically.

Bats are eaten for food around the world, most everywhere except North America and that's only because our bats are too small to make a decent meal. You can find recipes online for bat adobo, bat stew, deep fried bat and stir fried bat. They are said to taste like, what else, chicken.

So best friends or worst enemies? Bats eat the insects, pollinate the crops and then go hide in a cave to sleep. Humans invade the cave, collect the guano and eat the bats. In my opinion, if disease is spread by human initiated contact, bats should not get the blame. Its like jumping into river full of crocodiles and them blaming them for eating you.

Community spirit recognized

WINDHAM — The pandemic dealt a mighty blow to the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp, forcing it to close in-person camp in the summer of 2020. It was a heart wrenching decision to make and the financial ramifications were daunting to say the least. Board members, staff and 4-H friends donated extraordinary hours of service this past year to keep the camp afloat and ready to re-open for campers June 2021.

At this year's virtual annual meeting of the Windham County 4-H Foundation, two local businesses were given Community Spirit Awards to acknowledge their extremely generous support during this difficult year. Both businesses were recently awarded plaques to display that recognize their efforts.

Buck's Soft Serve offered the Windham-Tolland 4-H camp the opportunity to sell water to patrons of their rich ice cream concoctions. The \$1 price was often rounded up to \$10 by generous patrons. The donations jar to support the camp was in prominent display at the check-out area and owners Judy Buell



From left to right Heather Logee, Camp Director, Emilie Hebert and Judy Buell of Buck's.

and Emilie Hebert were also frequent contributors.

Buzzy Balogh of Mansfield Tree Service donated many hours of crews and equipment service clearing dead trees away from buildings, the ropes course and our walking paths to make our campus a safer place. As an added bonus, our volunteers and

staff cut up the downed trees and sold cords of firewood to make some extra money to pay the bills. Win/win situation!

The Windham County Foundation is very grateful for the generous support of these community partners and is pleased to recognize them publicly.

JOINING THE HALL OF FAME



Ronald P. Coderre, The American Legion District #4 Commander (right) presented a citation of Achievement to Post #52 Commander Manuel "Manny" Rodrigues in recognition of his selection into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. Rodrigues, a United States Marine Corps veteran has served as Post Commander for 17 years. He also serves as the District #4 Finance Officer. Rodrigues is an involved community volunteer in Coventry, assisting numerous organizations, as well as organizing the community's Food Share program.

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Putnam couple arrested in connection with social media post



PUTNAM — On Feb. 26, the Putnam Police Department initiated an investigation into a video that surfaced on social media depicting a female on the hood



of a vehicle while yelling at the operator, while being operated on Providence Street in Putnam. As a result of the investigation, the involved parties were identi-

fied as Melissa Messier on the hood of the vehicle and Andrew Veltheim as the vehicle operator. Subsequent to the investigation, arrest warrants were issued by Danielson Superior Court. On March 28, both parties were arrested and charged with Breach of the Peace. See below for details. Messier, age 31, of Putnam was arraigned on March 29 and released on \$1,000 non-surety. Veltheim, age 36, also of Putnam, was charged with Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree in addition to Breach of the Peace, and arraigned on March 29. He was also released on \$1,000 non-surety.

Second arrest made in connection with 2015 assault

PUTNAM — On March 27, 34-year-old Amy LaPointe of 466 Robinwood Dr., Dayville, was arrested by Putnam police on a warrant for Assault in the First Degree, Kidnapping in the First Degree, Cruelty to Persons, Threatening in the Second Degree, Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, Conspiracy To Assault in the First Degree, Conspiracy To Kidnapping First Degree. The arrest warrant issued by Danielson Superior Court was the result of an investigation initiated on Nov. 29, 2015 and conducted by Putnam Police Department with assistance of the Connecticut State Police Major Crimes Unit. This is the second arrest related to that incident. The victim, a male who was 29 years old at the time,



reported that he was assaulted by several people and forcibly transported from Putnam to the area of Pulaski State Park in Rhode Island, where he was left. The victim suffered significant injuries and was hospitalized. No additional information will be released at this time. More arrests related to this incident are expected.



Easter Services

“We believe that the church is not the building, the church is within us.”

Easter is April 4, and typically that means church in the morning and families getting together for a meal and maybe an Easter egg hunt. But this year, coronavirus has changed the way the Christian community is able to celebrate. As a solution, many local churches have gotten creative by hosting virtual masses and even some drive-in ones.



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550 HAMPTON ROAD, POMFRET

The Abington Church
There will be no Easter Sunrise Services during corona virus pandemic.
We will have Sunday Service in the Sanctuary at 11 am

Easter is the time to rejoice and be thankful for the gift of life, love, and joy.

The Abington Church has the oldest meetinghouse in Connecticut (1751), and is located in Pomfret Center, on Route 97, a quarter mile south of the junction with Route 44. Our website is www.abingtonchurch.org, and the phone number of the Reverend Bruce Hedman is 860 377 6190.



CELEBRATE JESUS WITH CREATION CHURCH

Good Friday, April 2nd
5pm & 6:30pm in the sanctuary;
8pm online

Easter Sunday, April 4th
9am & 10:30pm in the sanctuary & online
Creation Kids Ministry at 10:30am only

creationchurch.org
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Palm Sunday March 28th 10am
Maundy Thursday April 1st 7am
Service of shadow and Light
Easter Sunday April 4th 10am
“Who will roll the Stone Away?”
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543 Route 169, Woodstock | 860-928-7405 | www.firstchurchwoodstock.org



No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
on life's journey,
You are welcome here.

Easter Sunday Community Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 4, 2021
6:00 a.m.

He is Risen! Alleluia!

All are invited to join us at **6:00** a.m. on the back lawn of The Woodstock Academy Commons to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Woodstock Academy, North Campus Commons, 57 Academy Road, Woodstock, CT



Easter Week Services

South Woodstock Baptist Church


Palm Sunday
Worship Service 8am & 10am
Facebook Live 10am
March 28th

Maundy Thursday
Tennebrae Service 6:30pm at church and on Facebook
April 1st

Easter Sunday
April 4th
Worship Service 8am & 10am
Facebook Live 10am

South Woodstock Baptist Church
23 Roseland Park Rd, Woodstock, CT - southwoodstockbaptist.org





Villager Newspapers

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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Springtime legends

The first day of spring just passed us by on March 20. Now that we are over the hump and into the rainy, sunny, snowy, muddy bit we thought we would share some fun myths surrounding this blooming time of year.

The first story begins with Persephone and Demeter. Persephone was the goddess of spring and holds the most well known story of the season to date. Persephone is the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and Zeus, the king of the gods. Persephone married Hades who kept her hidden against her will. Demeter set off to find her daughter and for every minute she was lost, not a crop would grow. Zeus then ordered his daughter to remain in the underworld for half of the year because she ate all of the fruit (pomegranate seeds), the other half of the year she spent with her mother. The idea is that every time Persephone goes into the underworld, winter arrives and the crops die, when she is with her mother, crops bloom.

According to Cherokee legend, the reason trees lose their leaves in the fall is because of the communication between animals and humans. Apparently, animals were able to communicate with humans and the world was utopian. Every year the birds would fly south for the winter. During one particular year, a sparrow who was injured was not able to fly south, he sent his flock ahead without him so the would not freeze, meanwhile he sought shelter. The bird flew to an old Oak tree and was told that he could not seek shelter in its branches, the same thing happened with every tree the bird visited until he was finally granted permission to stay in a pine tree. The pine tree, not popular with the others because of its hard, sharp leaves welcomed the little bird. The sparrow was forever grateful.

The sparrow survived the winter and welcomed his family home during the warmer months. Because the other trees, turned on the Sparrow during a most vulnerable time, the creator cursed their leaves to die during the winter except for the pine tree.

The Shinto Sun Goddess and Bringer of Light, Amaterasu, according to legend, is in control of the sun's movement to insure rice and other crops will grow. This goddess is well known for her ability to spin satin. Her fame caused her brother Susanoo, the god of storms, to become extremely jealous. The angry deity destroyed his sister's weaving loom and wrecked her rice fields. The rampage caused one of Amaterasu's closest friends to parish, as a result she locked herself inside a mountain resulting in the disappearance of light. Because of this, crops would not grow. Uzme, the goddess of laughter traveled to the mountain where Amaterasu was hiding. She placed a shiny necklace on a tree, then began to dance causing the other gods to laugh. When Amaterasu heard the laughter she peeked out of her cave and slowly began to walk towards the necklace. At this, Uzme had the cave blocked and light was restored to the world.

Some actual facts concerning the spring season are as follows; in 1582, if Pope Gregory XIII would not have established the Gregorian calendar, then every 128 years, the vernal equinox would have come a full calendar day earlier, which would put Easter in the middle of winter.

The famous myth about being able to balance an egg on its end on the spring equinox is not true. Attempting to balance an egg on its end is no easier on the spring equinox than on any other day.

During the springtime, birds are louder as they sing to attract mates and to warn enemies to steer clear.

The term "spring fever" refers to the psychological and physiological symptoms that go along with the arrival of spring, which include, daydreaming and restlessness. Over the years, scientists surmise the cause in the hormone shift could be due to the increase in sunlight and increased physical activity.

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

An epidemic of violence

To the Editor:
 "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The Second Amendment to the Constitution --- probably the most misquoted, misinterpreted, and misunderstood sentence ever written. When it was adopted as part of the Bill of Rights in 1791, our country (and the world) was obviously a very different place. Its true meaning has been debated by history scholars for decades, and probably will be for decades to come.

I'm not a hunter or a gun collector, but I am a veteran. I believe you can be any one of those things (or all of them) and still view gun control legislation from a "common sense" perspective. We have laws that regulate and restrict many things in our lives with good reason --- to help provide a safe and healthy world for us to live in. Motor vehicle laws are a good example. Getting tested for a driver's license, having a vehicle inspected and registered, following speed limits and practicing safe driving habits are all things we accept as part of normal daily life. Those laws and regulations don't prevent all accidents from happening, but without them, it would be total chaos on our town roads and highways.

Gun laws and regulations should be no different. Any law-abiding citizen who wants to own a gun (or guns) should be able to do so, after getting trained on proper use and handling, and being screened to insure there

aren't any legal or mental health issues. There must also be restrictions on the types of weapons private citizens can own. Again, it's common sense that weapons designed for the battlefield should only be in the hands of the military and law enforcement. There's no legitimate place for them in a civilized society. We all know the "bad guys" can get any weapon if they try hard enough, but the fact that some people break laws doesn't justify not having laws at all.

So, what prevents common sense gun legislation from being passed? Politicians (Republicans and Democrats) are the biggest problem. The majority of them seem to be motivated by two things; their need to get re-elected, and their need for campaign contributions. Too many politicians are willing to sell their souls to satisfy those needs.

We can't forget the NRA. I'm not talking about the millions of average Americans who are members, I'm referring to the NRA's largest supporters --- gun manufacturers. Like all big corporations, they're only driven by profits, and there's lots of money to be made with guns. For them, less regulation means more money, regardless of the cost in human lives.

When and how will the epidemic of gun violence in our country ever end? I wish I had the answer. As voters, we have the power to make our voices heard every election day. Weeding out all the spineless politicians may be the only hope for change.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Woodstock budget update

To the Editor:
 On Tuesday, March 23, the Woodstock BOF held its "Combined" meeting for the 2022 budget; not a shining performance by any of the boards -- watch for yourself the video is available on the Town Web site.

What is the "Combined" meeting? It is the third BOF meeting in the budget process typically held two weeks after the presentation of the last of the first round proposals from the BOS and BOE. This schedule normally allows for an extra week between meetings so the BOS and BOE can refine their respective budget proposals based on guidance from the BOF to be given at or after the initial meetings. This year the BOE was so overwhelmed in January and February that they asked to move their meeting from March 2, and it was changed to the 16th -- the open week; so the town presented their budget on the 9th followed by the BOE on the 16th compressing the schedule, and, more importantly, because the BOF provided no real guidance during or after either of those meetings, the meeting on Tuesday was basically a regurgitation of the previous two meetings. There was little to no real analysis of either budgets and only Mr. Bradrick, backed by Mr. Shead, raised any significant issues during the meeting. Mr. Bradrick questioned the use of internal service funds and the capitalization of clearly recurring operating expenses specifically related the Woodstock Academy, both obviously to circumvent spending limits under Prop 46 -- roughly \$400,000 in total. There was no real response.

The budget proposals by the BOS and BOE total nearly \$2.2 million in increased spending not including the aforementioned roughly \$400,000. While these boards had not been given any guidance, and that rests on the BOF, and the Prop 46 increase limit was not made available until Tuesday the 23rd -- by

the way, that limit is \$664,799 -- a draft revenue sheet had been available since Feb. 26, so one would think the BOS and BOE would be capable of some simple math and realize that a \$2.2 million (or really a \$2.6 million) increase in spending was not realistic or even in the ballpark of realistic. So while the BOF clearly shirked its duty in not providing guidance none of the boards come off very well -- again, watch the video.

It is very clear from watching this meeting that there is no financial management being done by any of the parties. It is simply calculate the Prop 46 maximum and spend to that limit. What that would mean for this year is a 6.6 percent tax increase (\$1.62 million). Now the BOF can reduce this by simply taking more cash from the general fund, as they have done for the last couple of years, but there is no free ride. The base goes up and then next year the shortfall gets greater and the next tax increase gets larger. That is how a \$664,799 increase, or \$900,000, becomes a \$1.62 million increase (6.6 percent). Sooner or later you have to pay up. Maybe they were counting on federal "Covid" dollars to come in to hide all of this, at least for one more year, or two, but then when those dollars go away they'd have to drop a 15+% tax increase on the unaware taxpayers. And by then a new base would have been set and anything less would be called extreme cuts to services and underfunding the kids. Hey, it's worked before. Woodstock -- time to wake up or what you're going to smell when you do isn't going to be roses. Hopefully this year you will get a chance for a town meeting and a referendum and a chance to say "no." The E.O.'s and cover they provided are running out. Be sure to vote.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

There was no money grab

To the Editor:
 Woodstock Board of Finance (BOF) member, Roy Bradrick, Jr.'s letter to the editor of March 26 is incorrect and makes false statements. The first is that The Academy's "rehabilitation of the pretty old wooden Academy building" might or will be paid for by taxpayer money. In fact, an Academy Foundation campaign to raise money to match the 1.5 million in tax credits granted to help pay for the renovation of the almost 150-year -old Academy building has already begun.

As the letter of poison goes on, Mr. Bradrick implies that the funding for the stonework on the north campus road front and of the refurbished Loos Center for the Arts was done with Woodstock taxpayer money.

Bradrick writes, after mentioning the wall and the Loos Center, that "... unnecessary pretty things get billed to sending towns" (what's his problem with the feminine "pretty," does he prefer ugly or functional or tough?). The fact is the wall was a gift from an Academy alumni family from China (please read the plaque at the wall) creating an aesthetic asset that exists to benefit not only the "brand" of The Academy (this specific word Bradrick used in the letter in a tone of disgust?) but also for the Town of Woodstock. And let us not forget in financial amnesia that the Loos family completely funded the redoing of the Arts Center, giving millions, which is a benefit, again, not only for The Academy and the Town, but also for the whole cultural area.

This enhanced ability of The Academy's to raise funds independent of taxpayers is what

The Academy was founded on more than 200 years ago and has sustained it over two centuries. Please note that this independent, development fund raising was re-invigorated by The Academy only recently in the last 15 or so years and has brought, besides building improvements, important school athletic programs like football and girls' hockey and greatly expanded, with state-of- the-art equipment, the teaching of science and technology. Again, all this was done with gifts from mostly local individuals and corporations.

Also, this letter is oozing criticism of The Academy purchasing The Hyde School. But imagine what The Hyde School site would look like if closed and vacant in this Town. The Academy's purchase stopped the Decline of the property and has maintained it in its original use as an educational center which began with its incarnation as Annhurst College in 1941.

So, there is a great amount of benefit for the residents of Woodstock that many of the elected leaders of our Town traditionally fail to acknowledge especially at budget time. Instead, it seems they pursue a public policy of implicit lies and mockery, deriding the much good that The Academy does for the Town, the community, and individual families. Why is this? Clearly it seems that the problem at Town Hall and for many Woodstock citizens is that The Academy is an independent, corporate school only owned by its alumni that has been educating Woodstock's teenagers

Poetry is for everyone

"Poetry, like bread, is for everyone," is a line from the poem "Like You" by Roque Dalton. This year is the 25th anniversary of designating April as National Poetry Month by the Academy of American Poets. In celebration of poetry as an art form available to all, I am going to share works by local people, some of whom are comfortable calling themselves poets and some who might be a bit shy about the title. For all of us who read, write, chuckle or weep over poems, this is the month to revisit familiar verses and dip your bread into the works of contemporary poets, some of whom might be your neighbor. Or you?

Not long ago, I would have said that Robert Frost was the poet most people knew. His verses strike home with New Englanders like us. We can see the bending birch trees and the woods on a snowy evening. Then Mary Oliver came along and brought us a new version of ourselves as seen through the eyes of a woman



NANCY WEISS

who loved nature, dogs and solitude.

If our younger years are framed by thoughts of Frost's "The Road Not Taken," our later life can be imagined in Oliver's lines about death:

"When Death Comes" -- "When death comes/like the hungry bear in autumn;/when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse/to buy me, and snaps the purse shut ..." The lines, read at funerals and celebrations of life, are original and vivid. We needed them in the year just past when we count up who and what was lost.

Poetry doesn't need to perform a function. It doesn't have to be there when we want a clever toast at a wedding breakfast or a poignant thought at a grave side, but it certainly helps. It bounces around in our heads because we are hard-wired for it. Our two-year-old twin grandchildren respond to the end rhyme of "Twinkle, Twinkle..." and learn simile in "like a diamond in the sky." No matter our age, circumstance or affiliations, we are connected by our inherent love of verse.

I had some remarkable English teachers in high school. English teachers deserve laurel wreaths for helping teenagers imagine what the world offers them. Colin Woodfall, a dapper, urbane gentleman, led me through prose and poetry with flair. Recalling lines of verse has calmed me, comforted me and lifted my eyes to cherry trees on spring days. When I heard Amanda Gorman read "The Hill We Climb" at President Biden's Inauguration, I thought of Mr. Woodfall. He would have loved the poem, which begins: "When day comes we ask ourselves/where can we find light in this never-ending shade?"

Here is my plan to celebrate April with poetry. I belong to Quiet Corner Poets, led by the remarkable Christine Kalafus. Our group meets several times a year to share our poems and to improve them. I'll start off with a poem of mine. Other members will add theirs. I also enjoy exchanging haikus with four other women. Their work will be printed here too. Area poets are invited to lend their voices to this column.

Here goes!

Disappointment
 Disappointment curls like smoke
 Up the side of my brain and back down
 Ricocheting off my cerebellum.

The small superhighway nervous system
 Rolls my thoughts into balls of worry

Like roadside trash.
 There's nothing to do but damp it down.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Progress demands that blame be accepted, not just assigned

To the Editor:
After a brief respite, Ed DeLuca wrote to you last week (“The blame game continues”) to blame Democrats for various offenses and bemoan the “blame game stupidity.” It’s impossible not to see the irony, possibly parody, in him blaming Democrats for blaming Republicans for their offenses. I had to check the calendar and make sure it wasn’t April Fool’s Day.
Of course, progress demands more than just assigning blame; it demands accepting it. Most people learn at an early age that they are blamed when they hit their sibling or disrespect their elders, just to cite two examples. Assignment of blame is fundamental to our system of justice. Isn’t that what courts are for? Isn’t that how we try to teach our children the difference between right and wrong? Acceptance of blame is also fundamental in taking responsibility for our trespasses and making amends for them.
Unfortunately, politicians find it nearly impossible to admit they were wrong. We’re witnessing that now with Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Former President Trump gave us a master class; he never accepted responsibility

for anything despite his egregious conduct.
Turning to Charles F. Harrington’s letter (“What’s the plan, Joe?”), I would agree that many have a poor understanding of the issues. Our political system has devolved so that it is based largely on identity; Democratic voters are largely white with a college education, a member of a minority and urban or suburban; Republican voters are largely white without a college education and rural. In that sense, Mr. Harrington is correct in saying that voters view candidates as “the face and talking head of their own group of people.”
He also gets it right when he says that our national government is adrift. A number of factors contribute to this including, but not limited to, hyper-partisanship, fear, racism, hyper-militarism and the ability to spread lies and conspiracy theories like wildfire (or a pandemic) through society. Primary factors are also our Constitution that allows over-representation of minority views and the outdated Senate filibuster that grew out of racism and was almost exclusively employed to deny African Americans equal rights

from Reconstruction to the 1960s.
The result is a society that can’t provide adequate healthcare for its citizens, adequate education for poor and minority children, equal opportunity and justice to all and maintenance of vital infrastructure, but does produce sky high rates of poverty, infant mortality, gun violence and income disparity. These conditions seemingly can’t be addressed by our ineffectual national government and are responsible for the inevitable decline of the United States.
Now turning to where Mr. Harrington gets it wrong. Enter Joe Biden. Contrary to Mr. Harrington’s assertion that the new administration has no “cohesive, forward thinking, focused” plan, President Biden, signed the recent \$1.9 trillion bill to help people economically survive the pandemic and address poverty among children. In addition, he has an infrastructure proposal that will begin to address the dismal state of roads, bridges, public transit, and other vital infrastructure, that will produce good paying jobs, provide training and begin to address climate change which has already

begun to cause huge impacts around the world including mass migrations.
There is a sorely needed proposal to raise the minimum wage which would ameliorate income disparity and poverty. There is even a proposal to address immigration, many of the provisions of which have broad public support, that would fairly resolve the status of undocumented immigrants brought here as children. On top of that, the Administration has been telling the truth about the pandemic and recommending science-based measures to control it.
Need any more “cohesive, forward thinking” approaches? There’s another. The President is restoring dignity and integrity to the presidency by bringing down the divisive rhetoric. Isn’t it refreshing not to be subjected to the daily barrage of Tweets, insults, name-calling, race baiting, lies and conspiracy theories? That can only make governing easier and also help restore our severely damaged reputation around the world.
BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Far more than a pretty thing

BY DR. ROBERT SMITH
HISTORIAN
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

A recent letter by Mr. Roy Bradrick characterized the preservation of the 1873 Woodstock Academy Building and other recent school projects as unnecessary branding expenditures, more cosmetic than consequential. While clearly entitled to his view, the expressed description was a misrepresentation which requires consideration of a larger context—a bigger boat, if you will.

Here’s why:
In my over 30 years on the Academy faculty, I had taught in each of the building’s classrooms on each of its three stories, as well as the second floor hall. Far more than a rehabilitation of a mere “pretty thing” or “pretty old wooden building” that has outlived its usefulness, the 1873 Woodstock Academy Building is a valuable resource of interior space, a priority for restoration that offers viable and much deserved opportunities for a highly skilled faculty to create state of the art learning environments. Further, even a brief glimpse into the 1873 Building’s distinguished history reveals its local, regional, and national importance.

Now approaching its 2023 sesquicentennial celebration, the 1873 Woodstock Academy Building was the result of the movement fostered by Benjamin Franklin that proliferated academies throughout the new Republic. An early product of that era, The Woodstock Academy is Connecticut’s oldest coeducational secondary school, dating from the State support of academy founding begun in 1799. Following the Civil War, the 1873 Building replaced the original 1801 “community raised” facility. Henry C. Bowen, an alumnus and patron who grew up in a house next door to the campus, proposed and paid for most of the 1873 construction.

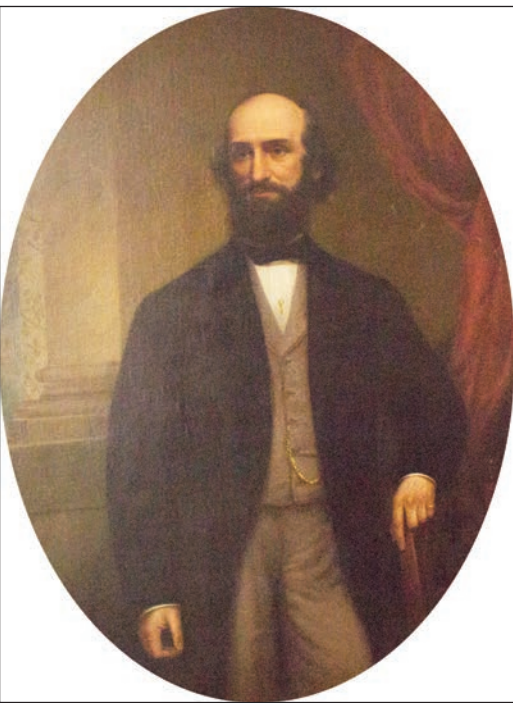
The wooden Italianate architecture of the 1873 Academy Building, with its multiple exterior design features, is distinctive among the few remaining Italianate academy buildings in the United States. Of these, it is the only three-story wooden structure. The significance of the building was recognized by its addition to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. This recognition mandates the preservation of the building’s historic exterior, yet allows the freedom to modify the interior. The current preservation initiative for this visually stunning structure is a true marriage of form and function.



The 1873 Woodstock Academy Building as it looked in late 19th century. The building was saved from destruction during the 1907 fire that destroyed the boarding house next door, also funded by Bowen, that had served the school for 66 years. Daring boys spread carpets soaked from the science laboratory cistern over the building roof to shield it from cinders blown by the Woodstock Hill wind.

The 1873 Academy Building first served as a comprehensive facility. The interior included a resident west wing for a principal and family, and ten third-floor rooms for student boarders. The first and second floor held classrooms, a science laboratory (donated by Charles Lewis Tiffany), an office, and a library with merged town and academy collections. The bell and clock spire was the first of its kind in the town. A reason for the massive size of the building was the two-story high Academy Hall on the second floor. Mr. Bowen considered the hall as essential for the events and entertainments that filled both Academy and community life. The planned interior renovation includes the hall, and will revive this traditional role.

In 1913, the Academy Corporation accepted a proposal from the Town of Woodstock for the 1873 Woodstock Academy Building to serve as a designated high school. The proposal followed the 1910 designation of NFA as its high school by the Town of Norwich that allowed the Connecticut town academies access to state funding. The curriculum developed with the advent of the 1873 Building was particularly significant in expanding opportunities for women. By 1913, Woodstock Academy girl graduates were attending Middlebury College, Brown University, Bryn Mawr



Academy alumnus and patron Henry C. Bowen proposed and funded the 1873 Woodstock Academy Building. This portrait, originally hung in Bowen’s Brooklyn, New York mansion, is displayed on the school campus. Bowen, owner of the abolitionist newspaper The Independent, and a founder of the Republican Party and Plymouth Church, hosted Abraham Lincoln on the weekend before his famous Cooper Union address.

College, New Haven Normal School, Willimantic Normal School, Mt. Holyoke College, Smith College, and Wellesley College. During the twentieth century, interior resident spaces would be converted to additional classrooms as enrollment increased with designations from additional towns.
The current preservation initiative has an even larger context. The Woodstock Hill Historic District, established in 1997, includes the 1873 Woodstock Academy Building

and historic 1801 campus. The district was an initiative by concerned citizens who sought to prevent the commercialization of their historic Woodstock Hill village, as had happened in other New England communities, and to preserve its buildings and character for future generations.
The 1873 Academy Building, along with Roseland Cottage and the Prudence Crandall House on the same road, are also prominent features of The Last Green Valley National Historic Corridor, established in 1994. The 1,085 square mile corridor of northeastern Connecticut and southern Massachusetts communities includes natural river valley landscapes with historic sites, museums, a nature conservancy, and many essential regional features and resources to preserve and celebrate.
The Connecticut academies were part of the origin and growth of the American system of secondary education. In fact, the many academies established in cities and rural towns were the model for the public high schools that followed. The charter and magnet schools of our current era, and the private foundations being established in communities to support their public schools, are examples of supporting education by using multiple resources, and rooted in the academy era. The acquisition of the former Annhurst campus at the

beginning of its third century has created The Woodstock Academy envisioned by its historic founders and patrons—an inclusive, coeducational secondary school serving the vicinity, offering both college and vocational preparation, with a residence component for long-distance students.
I will not go into the long list of nationally prominent Woodstock Academy alumni who have impacted American history and are associated with the 1873 Building, or the historic persons who spoke from the Academy Hall stage. However, over decades of research and service as the Academy Historian, I have examined written records of the school from multiple sources dating from its 1801 founding to the present, and have interviewed every principal and head of school appointed since 1944.
The devotion and patronage of Henry C. Bowen in funding the 1873 Building has been mirrored throughout the Academy history. It is important to note that every subsequent facility construction, renovation, expansion, and acquisition has been supported by private donations, grants, state or federal funding, and of course, a most recent tax credit that affirmed the historic importance of preserving the 1873 Building. (Lest we forget, the first major renovation of the 1873 Academy Building, guided by historic architects and completed in 1992, included the raising up of the massive structure upon steel girders to allow a concrete foundation to be poured over its original basement dirt floor. The renovation was part of a four-year project, 70 percent of which was funded by the state through the Academy’s proactive initiatives, and approved by three to one Woodstock, and ten to one Eastford referendum majorities.) Over more than two centuries, tens of millions of local tax dollars have been saved by the communities choosing a town academy as their secondary school.
Perspectives that display a lack of understanding and appreciation of historic preservation and facility development for the future are disappointing, though not unprecedented. That being said, the enthusiasm and excitement of preserving and celebrating a prominent and beloved symbol of both legacy and future excellence is now shared by a growing base of Academy alumni, families, and advocates, not only from the six communities served by the school, but also from families in the many states and countries that enroll their children.

WEISS
continued from page A8

Life is full of disappointments, they say.
Slough it off like old skin.

Block up your ears with cotton balls.
Go deep inside where there’s nothing else.
Smoldering fires turn to ash.

Email your poem to: Brendan@villagernewspapers.com

SHULTZ
continued from page A8

since 1801. The Academy is not “a private school” as Bradick declaims in his second paragraph. And as the town’s politicians do not control The Academy, they try to bully and deride it, amazingly, in a local, bipartisan way (a model for Washington?).
The “continuing money grab” is not by the Academy, but the perennial money lust of the Woodstock Public Schools and their elected officials that

all too often have family (children in the schools), financial, or professional ties (spouse is a teacher or aide) to it. The public schools do not indulge in a money grab each year. They don’t have to. The Board of Finance seems to just throw money at them ignoring local and State legal checks and balances, and prudent spending. All the while blaming the Academy’s meagre charges for their poor budgeting and even poorer results.

PRESTON D. SHULTZ
WOODSTOCK



“You ain’t nuthin but a hot dog?” Those are fighting words in ChiTown!

For the love of the dog ...
My parents were both small town kids. My mom from Sand Springs, Oklahoma and dad from Sesser, Illinois. Their move to the far south sub-urbs of Chicago in 1953 to find work must have been a culture shock of great magnitude.

So, I was born and raised within the gravitational pull of the Windy City on beautiful Lake Michigan. To my brother, sisters, and I, our many trips into what was at the time, the second largest city in America, seeing the Chicago skyline as it appeared and grew on the horizon was like driving to the magical city of Oz. Breathtaking.

I’ve written of my love of Chicago pizza and the Chicago Cubs. Somehow, I’ve skipped over my passion for the best hot dogs in the universe ... Vienna Beef, served Chicago Style.

I can hear the collective gasps of my friends and neighbors on the East coast. “Vienna what?” They’ll ask, then claim, “Nathan’s is the best dog around.” And rest assured, I love Nathan’s. But there is just something special ... familiar ... a Chicago Style Vienna Beef dog is my comfort food.

What is “Chicago Style” and where did it begin?

The Vienna Beef website offers this historical beginning ...

“The Chicago Style hot dog got its start from street cart hot dog vendors during the hard times of the Great Depression. Money was scarce, but business was booming for these entrepreneurs who offered a delicious hot meal on a bun for only a nickel. The famous Chicago Style Hot Dog was born!”

The style itself is extremely specific and no deviation is allowed. Make a



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

small addition, omission, or change of any kind and you have committed sacrilege. It’s Chicago way or the highway. I’ll try to describe it for you without drooling all over my keyboard.

This delicacy begins with a Vienna all beef hot dog mounted upon a poppy seed bun. Then add bright yellow mustard (yes, the color and shade do matter). Chopped onions, Vienna brand bright green relish (same color as the Chicago River on St. Patrick’s Day), two Italian pickled sport peppers (hot Serrano), two wedges (not chopped) of tomato, a long slice or wedge (no fancy wavy or crinkle cut) of kosher/deli dill pickle, topped off by celery salt sprinkled the length of the bun. The most important admonishment is no ketchup! You can have ketchup with your fries, but you are required to keep it at least twelve inches from the sacred dog. There’s no room for deviation here.

I see dogs as I travel claiming to be Chicago, but the slightest modification disqualifies it’s claim. I was in St. Louis and a dog stand advertised Chicago Style but made two critical errors. Chopped tomato and jalapeño slices instead of sport peppers. The dog was destroyed ... dead to me. I mean really ... is it the Mona Lisa with a different smile? Is it the Magnificent Mile without Big John standing at the end? Some things in life require a purity about them ... a tradition ... knowing my dad was the first in our family to taste one and I was next. I introduced the exact same dog to my Iowa wife (she’s still struggling with the idea of eating a hot dog at all). I introduced them to my kids and now to Caleb and Noah. I find satisfaction in the fact every dog, regardless of generation had

the same aroma, look, texture and taste. I find joy and comfort in the consistent continuation of this Chicago tradition. It’s food, it’s a delicacy, it’s tradition and it’s artful beauty on a bun.

There are some things in life so perfect they should never change. To do so could roll our very planet off its access and destroy life on earth as we know it. If you’ve tasted the delicacy that is Chicago Style, no explanation is needed. If not, no explanation is possible. For those in this group, you have the recipe. Give it a try. Your taste buds will be forever changed. The integrity of the construction of a Chicago Style Hot Dog is one of the few food items with this power.

As for me, I’ll take two dogs, “Chicago Style!”

(I awoke this morning after a dream of being outside of Wrigley waiting to get in with Caleb and Noah. We were all eating Chicago Style Hot Dogs. I got out of bed and what popped out of my head? A Chicago Style column!)

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

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF THOMPSON

Notice is hereby given that the audit report for the Town of Thompson for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 as audited by King, King, & Associates, Certified Public Accountants of Winsted Connecticut, is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, Ct. Dated at Thompson this 2nd day of April, 2021
Renee Waldron
Town Clerk
April 2, 2021

TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission held a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021 via ZOOM at 7:00 PM and rendered the following decisions.
PZC Application #21-04 Applicant Keith & Karolyn Champagne, Property Owner Charles Adam, 230 Pleasant St., Seekonk, MA, for property located at 1321 Thompson Avenue, Map 114, Block 24, Lot 54, Zone RRAD, request for a 2-lot subdivision. Tabled
PZC Application #20-06 applicant

Strategic-Commercial Realty, Inc. dba Rawson Materials Applicant, property owners Lynn Rawson Landry & Cheryl Jane Foshay 0 Quaddick Town Farm Rd, Map 145, Block 14, Lot 14, Zone R-40 gravel operation renewal permit. Approved
Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman
April 2, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Doris D. Rekola (21-00100)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 23, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Brett L. Rekola,
c/o JAMES K KELLEY (attorney for Brett L, Rekola), LAW OFFICES OF JAMES K. KELLEY & ASSOCIA, 33 BROAD STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239, (860)774-9627.
April 2, 2021

BOROUGH OF DANIELSON ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

The legal inhabitants of the Borough of Danielson qualified to vote at Borough meetings are hereby notified and warned to join Google Meet on April 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm for the following purpose to wit:
1. To hear and act upon the report of the President.
2. To hear and act upon the report of the Fire Chief.
3. To hear and act upon the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 as presented to the meeting.
4. To see if the voters will vote to authorize the President and Treasurer to borrow money, if required, upon notes of the Borough, whether funded, floating, emergencies or of any other nature during the ensuing year.
5.To do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

	2020-2021 Approved Budget	2020-2021 Actual and Anticipated Budget	2021-2022 Proposed Budget
REVENUES			
<u>General Fund</u>			
Property Taxes	805200	805200	797611
(uncollectible 5%)	- 40000	- 40000	- 39880
Back Taxes Collected	30000	30000	30000
PILOT Money	10980	10980	10980
Elderly Tax Relief	0	0	0
Telecommunications Tax	900	900	850
LOCIP Grant	2830	2830	2674
Fire Protection Services	20000	20000	20000
Interest Income	2000	2000	2400
General Funds	0	0	0
Total Revenues	✓ 83 19 10	✓ 83 19 10	824635
EXPENDITURES			
<u>Fire Department</u>			
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Allotments	20000	20000	20000
Fire Chief Salary	8000	8000	8000
Annual Member Recognition	3000	3000	3000
Capital Expenses	6000	6000	6000
Operating Expenses	90390	90390	91200
Retention/Recruitment	34000	34000	34000
Pension Fund Indicator	8000	8000	8000
Total	✓ 169390	✓ 169390	170200
<u>Other Expenses</u>			
Building Maintenance	35000	35000	40355
Building Capital Improvement	0	0	44600
Building Reserve	20000	20000	10000
Facility Infrastructure Reserve	15000	15000	10000
Fire Truck Loan Payment	62540	62540	62540
Fire Truck Reserve	25000	25000	25000
Hydrants	267400	267400	255000
Insurance	42000	42000	42000
Total	✓ 466940	✓ 466940	489495
Total Fire Department	✓ 636330	✓ 636330	659695
<u>General Government Expenses</u>			
Attorney	2500	2500	2500
Auditing/Accountant	15000	15000	15000
Borough Administrator Net Salary	15000	15000	15000
Borough Clerk Office Expense	1290	1290	1000
Building Rehab Loan Payment	13500	13500	13500
Council Contingency	500	500	300
Council Expense	500	500	300
Election	1000	1000	1000
Insurance	13200	13200	13200
Legal Notices	8000	2000	2000
Government Payroll Taxes	4850	4850	4900
Fire Department Payroll Taxes	4200	4200	4200
President's Net Salary	1000	1000	1200
Revitalization	200	200	0
Sidewalk Repair	20000	20000	18000
Sidewalk Reserve	20000	20000	5000
Stipend for Council	840	840	840
Street Lights	57000	57000	50000
Tax Collection Services	15000	15000	15000
Tax Refunds/Liens	2000	2000	2000
Total General Government Exp	✓ 195580	✓ 189580	164940
Total Expenses	✓ 83 19 10	✓ 825910	824635

14th Annual Julius Sokenu Poetry Awards Night features student poets, Cornelius Eady Trio

DANIELSON/WILLIMANTIC — Quinebaug Valley Community College will hold its 14th Annual Julius Sokenu Poetry Prize Celebration from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, live-streamed on the College’s YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/8ChIim1N-W1g>. The event, organized by the QVCC Cultural Programming Committee, will feature a reading and performance by The Cornelius Eady Trio and award-winning student poets.

National Book Award winner and Pulitzer prize nominated poet Cornelius Eady has set his poetry to song with the Cornelius Eady Trio. Eady’s songs tell the story of passing time, the Black American experience, and the blues in the style of folk & Americana music. Guitarists Charlie Rauh & Lisa Liu create layered and graceful arrangements to bolster Eady’s adept craftsmanship as a songwriter, lyricist, & poet. The Trio have been featured in many venues, including The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, the Julia de Burgos

Park, and The Sunken Garden Poetry Festival at the Hill-Stead Museum. They have recorded at Sun Studio in Memphis, Tenn. More information is available at www.corneliuseadytrio.com.

The Julius Sokenu Poetry Awards is a lively annual event honoring the best student poetry in English and Spanish at Quinebaug Valley Community College and at the Quinebaug Middle College. The event is sponsored by the QVCC Foundation, Department of English, Department of Spanish, Cultural Programming Committee, QVCC Library, EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College, and the QVCC Student Government Association, as well as generous Julius Sokenu Poetry Prize donors.

For more information contact Jon Andersen, professor of English at jandersen@qvcc.edu or Elkin Espitia-Loaiza, professor of Spanish, at eespitia-loaiza@qvcc.edu.

WEF supports local educational programs

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Education Foundation is happy to keep supporting educational programs for the kids in the Woodstock elementary and middle schools.

The WEF is funding an educational and fun Math Games program for Grade 6. The WEF is funding (and has funded in past years) the PRIDE team building event at The Adventure Park at Storrs for Grade 8. The WEF is funding the National junior Honor Society Chapter at the Middle School. So far this school

year, the WEF has funded 13 programs for the Woodstock school kids, including the purchase of styluses for the 400 ipads at the Woodstock Middle School. The WEF has funded more than \$550,000 in grant support since it was founded. The Woodstock Education Foundation is a local non-profit with a Board of volunteers who support public education in the local community.

For more information, visit www.woodstockeducation.org.



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Care for spring flowering bulbs



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Bright yellow daffodils, colorful tulips and fragrant hyacinths brighten our spring gardens. Give them the care they need to extend their spring display and keep them coming back for years.

Hybrid tulips and hyacinths are short-lived stars of the spring garden. They bloom profusely the first spring, but the number of flowers decline each year. You may want to treat these like annuals, carefully removing them from the garden to avoid damaging any remaining plants. Toss these in the compost pile and start planning for their replacements. It is a great opportunity to try something new and freshen the look of your spring garden. If you are looking for a permanent replacement, consider using species tulips that are less floriferous but return each year.

Add a few years to the life of hybrid tulips and daffodils and get the most from all your long-lived spring flowering bulbs with proper care. Water spring gardens thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist. Spring rains often take care of this task, but when they don't it is easy to forget to provide spring gardens with the water they need. Providing the right amount of water when needed will keep your bulbs looking their best.

Bulbs often receive sufficient nutrients at the time of planting or when the other plants in the garden are fertilized. Apply fertilizer to established bulb plantings, if needed, as the leaves begin to emerge from the soil. Use a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer to encourage slow steady growth. Follow the label directions so you apply the recommended amount for the area you are fertilizing.

Remove spent flowers on tulips and hyacinths you plan to keep so the energy is directed back into the bulbs instead of setting seeds. Do the same if you want to improve the appearance of daffodils. Leave allium seed heads in place to extend their beautiful contribution to the garden. Remove these before they drop their seeds if you want to limit the number of seedlings sprouting in next year's garden. The same is true for grape hyacinths and squills. The only reason to remove their faded flowers is to slow down the spread.

Leave the leaves on your bulbs until they naturally yellow and dry. The leaves produce energy needed for beautiful blooms next spring. The longer you leave the leaves intact, the more energy and better bloom for next season.

Hide the declining bulb leaves by planting annuals between the bulbs. Or add perennial flowers that return each year for a more permanent solution. As the bulbs decline, the perennials will grow and mask the declining foliage. Try mixing spring flowering perennials for double the impact or combine with summer and fall bloomers to extend the floral show.

Take some pictures of your spring bulb display and make notes of the



Photo Melinda Myers

Providing proper care to tulips and other spring flowering bulbs will extend your enjoyment and keep them coming back for years.

areas where you want to add some color. Then order early for the best selection and to make sure you are ready for bulb planting season next fall.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space*

Gardening. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series* and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

April 2021

THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>Did you know? In England there are many cuckoo festivals. The arrival of the cuckoo bird in April is a signal that spring has arrived.</div>			<div>1 LUNCH #1 Beef Nachos Cheese Sauce ~ Pasta Salad #2 Deli Turkey Grinder (Mayo) Pickle ~ Chips #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST French Toast or Cereal</div>	<div>2 NO SCHOOL GOOD FRIDAY</div>
<div>5 LUNCH #1 Hamburger/Bun (Ketchup) #2 Cheeseburger/Bun (Ketchup) #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Cinnamon Bun or Cereal</div>	<div>6 LUNCH #1 Chicken Nuggets & Rice Bowl (Sweet & Sour Sauce/Ketchup) #2 Fish Patty/Bun (Tartar Sauce/Ketchup) #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Pancakes w/Syrup or Cereal</div>	<div>7 LUNCH "Cookie Day" #1 BBQ Pulled Pork Sliders #2 Bacon-Ranch Chicken Wrap #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Ham/Egg/Cheese on Eng. Muffin or Cereal</div>	<div>8 LUNCH #1 Quesadilla (Salsa ~ Sour Cream) #2 Deli Turkey Grinder (Mayo) Pickle ~ Chips #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST French Toast or Cereal</div>	<div>9 EARLY RELEASE LUNCH #1 Cheese Pizza #2 Pepperoni Pizza #3 Yogurt Bag Lunch BREAKFAST Pop-Tart or Cereal</div>
<div>12 LUNCH #1 Chicken Patty/Bun (Mayonnaise) #2 Chicken Fillet/Bun (Honey Mustard) #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Apple-Cinnamon Bun or Cereal</div>	<div>13 LUNCH #1 Meatball Grinder #2 Tuna Salad Grinder #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Pancakes w/Syrup or Cereal</div>	<div>14 Early Release LUNCH "Cookie Day" #1 Hot Dog/Bun (Ketchup) #2 "Chili" Dog/Bun #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Yogurt w/Grahams or Cereal</div>	<div>15 LUNCH #1 Beef Nachos Cheese Sauce ~ Pasta Salad #2 Deli Italian Grinder Italian Dressing ~ Pickle ~ Chips #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST French Toast or Cereal</div>	<div>16 EARLY RELEASE LUNCH #1 Cheese Pizza #2 Bacon Pizza #3 Yogurt Bag Lunch BREAKFAST Pop-Tart or Cereal</div>
<div>19 NO SCHOOL SPRING RECESS</div>	<div>20 NO SCHOOL SPRING RECESS</div>	<div>21 NO SCHOOL SPRING RECESS</div>	<div>22 NO SCHOOL SPRING RECESS</div>	<div>23 NO SCHOOL SPRING RECESS</div>
<div>26 LUNCH #1 Hamburger/Bun (Ketchup) #2 Cheeseburger/Bun (Ketchup) #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Cinnabar or Cereal</div>	<div>27 LUNCH #1 Chicken Nuggets & Rice Bowl (Sweet & Sour Sauce/Ketchup) #2 Fish Patty/Bun (Tartar Sauce/Ketchup) #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Pancakes w/Syrup or Cereal</div>	<div>28 LUNCH "Cookie Day" #1 BBQ Pulled Pork Sliders #2 Bacon-Ranch Chicken Wrap #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST Ham/Egg/Cheese Wrap or Cereal</div>	<div>29 LUNCH #1 Enchilada Stack (Sour Cream) #2 Deli Turkey Grinder (Mayo) Pickle ~ Chips #3 Yogurt Meal BREAKFAST French Toast or Cereal</div>	<div>30 LUNCH #1 Cheese Pizza #2 Pepperoni Pizza #3 Yogurt Bag Lunch BREAKFAST Pop-Tart or Cereal</div>

DAILY VEGGIE SIDES

Monday (Other)
Green Beans and/or Wax Beans

Tuesday (Green)
Broccoli

Wednesday (Legume)
Baked Beans and/or Chicken Pea Salad

Thursday (Red/Orange)
Carrots

Friday (Starchy)
Oven-Baked "Crispy" Fries

Meals Include
Milk, Fruit and/or Juice

Yogurt Meal
Yogurt ~ Cheese Stick ~ Muffin
Fruit and/or Juice ~ Veggie ~ Milk

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Offer kisses in the form of a scrumptious dessert



Hugs and kisses are a large part of Valentine’s Day celebrations. While physical affection can help express lov-

ing sentiments, symbolic kisses — especially when they are made from tasty ingredients — can push displays of love

that much further.

The Hershey’s chocolate company may have originated the chocolate tear-drops that would go on to be called “kisses,” but this recipe for “Chocolate Meringue Kisses,” courtesy of the King Arthur Baking Company, is inspired by the well-known version. Made from airy meringue, these kisses are light and delicious, but also intensely chocolate.

- Chocolate Meringue Kisses**
Yields about 3 dozen meringues
- 2 large egg whites
 - 14 teaspoon cream of tartar
 - Pinch of salt
 - 12 cup Baker’s Special Sugar
 - 14 cup unsweetened cocoa, Dutch-process or natural, sifted
 - 2 cups Valrhona Dark Chocolate or other good-quality dark chocolate, tempered (see below), for dipping
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
 2. In a large bowl, combine the egg whites, cream of tartar and salt. Whip until soft peaks form.
 3. Gradually add the sugar, whipping until the mixture is stiff and glossy.
 4. Gently fold the sifted cocoa powder into the meringue until evenly incorporated.
 5. Fit a piping bag with a 12-inch or larger round tip and spoon the meringue into the bag.

6. Position the tip and bag directly over the prepared pan, and pipe the meringues onto the parchment, leaving 1 inch of space between the meringues.
 7. Place the meringues into the pre-heated oven, then turn the oven off.
 8. Let the meringues sit in the oven (keep the door closed) overnight, or until the oven is completely cool.
 9. Remove the meringues from the oven.
 10. To temper the chocolate, place 11/2 cups of chocolate in a temperer or in a double boiler and melt until completely smooth.
 11. Remove the melted chocolate from the heat and gradually stir in the remaining 12 cup chocolate.
 12. Keep stirring until the chocolate is fully melted and warm to the touch; it should be between 86 F and 88 F.
 13. To ensure that the chocolate is in temper, you can dip the tip of a knife into the bowl, and let it sit for 3 to 5 minutes. The chocolate should harden and become shiny.
 14. Dip half of each meringue into the chocolate, allowing the excess chocolate to drip, and return them to the parchment-lined baking sheet to set.
- Tip: If you don’t have access to piping bags and tips, you can drop the meringues by large teaspoonfuls onto the prepared pan.

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Showplace Cabinetry is made in America by employee-owners who take great pride in every cabinet they craft for you. Your creative choices are nearly unlimited, and it's all backed by the assurance of a lifetime warranty. Call us to learn more about what we can do for your dream.

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