



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, March 18, 2022

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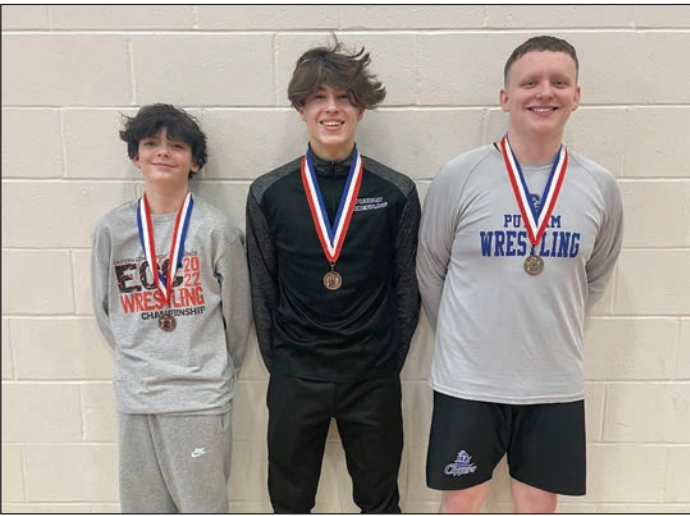
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‘Starting from scratch,’ coach Zach Ford helps Putnam wrestling team improve



Deven Lamothe (far right) of Putnam finished fifth at the Connecticut Class S Meet.

Photos Courtesy



Key wrestlers for Putnam High this year were (left-to-right): Jacob Olson (freshmen, 106-pound weight class), Deven Lamothe (freshman, 138-pound weight class), and junior captain Michael Ellis (220-pound weight class).

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — Begin at the beginning. That was the mindset Zach Ford, Putnam High’s first-year wrestling coach had when he took over the Clippers’ fledgling program prior to the 2021-2022 season. The team was created in 2019-2020, and like a lot of first-year programs, it struggled, finishing 0-10. Last year, because of COVID, there was no wrestling, only weightlifting and conditioning, which was followed by a change in coaches in the offseason. Along with the coaching change came

Please Read **WRESTLING**, page **A10**

Brooklyn church collects supplies for Ukrainian refugees

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY/BROOKLYN — The situation in Ukraine has become the latest crisis to dominate the international airwaves with Russia’s much-criticized invasion inspiring many to seek ways to support Ukraine in its time of need. On Sunday, March 6, countless citizens came together to do just that on the local level, collecting literal truckloads of goods to be shipped off to Poland to support refugees. The collection was sparked by a local woman named Cheryl, who requested her full name not be used for this story. She wanted the focus to be on the generosity she experienced over a single weekend after a news story inspired her to reach out to friends to start a collection to help Ukrainians in need. “As enthusiasm grew from these friends, they were just grateful that they were able to do something. Sitting by helplessly is just a really hard thing,” Cheryl said. “They were talking to their friends, and this started to grow bigger than I expected. One friend of mine called and said they had people with pickups in case we needed them and another friend from Trinity Church in Brooklyn had emailed all of the parishioners at the church telling them about the collection. We ended up filling three trucks to the max. You could not fit anything else, at least in my truck, so that’s how this happened.” Both Trinity Episcopal Church in Brooklyn and St. James Church in Killingly, where Cheryl is a member, played large roles in the collection, but countless citizens



Photo Courtesy

A selection of donations collected at Trinity Episcopal Church in Brooklyn to support refugees in Ukraine.

from outside of the church families also made donations as word quickly spread over social media. It was a truly inspiring outcome that Cheryl never expected. “People didn’t have any notice, but they responded. I was overwhelmed, and we were all very happy to do it. It was beautiful to watch it grow into this event that really brought a great deal of joy to everyone who participated. We were all really happy to be able to do something to help,” Cheryl said. “I had no idea what this was going to turn into, it was just a very small thing. All I did was invite a couple of people to help, but if you say yes to those little things, you just can’t imagine what they may turn out to be. I think that’s one of the best lessons for those of us who did this.” All of the donations, which

Please Read **UKRAINE**, page **A4**

Woodstock Planning Board Chair participates in affordable housing forum

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — Affordable housing has been a significant topic of discussion for towns across Connecticut in recent years, with lawmakers working

on legislation requiring communities to enact measures to improve affordable housing opportunities. Dubbed the “Fair Share” proposals by some, these laws would require doubling existing housing stock in many

towns. Affordable housing has also been prevalent in talks among planning and zoning officials throughout the Quiet Corner, especially in Woodstock, where longtime Planning & Zoning

Board Chair Jeffrey Gordon has familiarized himself with the issue on both the state and local level. His knowledge of the subject led him to represent Eastern Connecticut during a March 9 forum organized by

CT 169 Strong, an activist group fighting what they perceive as infringements on the powers of local zoning officials especially in regard to the long-standing state law 8-30g and the proposed House Bill 5429, both pertaining to affordable housing. This was the second year in a row that Gordon has been involved in the group’s forum which was designed to be a question-and-answer session where

Please Read **HOUSING**, page **A16**

Baribeau finally has state game — and shines — before Killingly loses in next round

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Yianni Baribeau made a seamless transition from the regular season to the postseason, scoring 29 points and grabbing 15 rebounds to lead the Killingly High School boys’ basketball team, the No. 14 seed, to a 56-41 victory over 19th-seeded Griswold High in the first round of the CIAC Division IV Tournament on Monday, March 7. For Baribeau, a junior, it was a state tournament game he waited two years to participate in. “We were supposed to have a first-round state playoff game when I was a freshman but it got cancelled because of COVID,” said Baribeau, who couldn’t stop smiling after the win over the Wolverines. “I’ve dreamed for years about playing in a game like

this.” Because he waited so long to actually play in a state tournament game, it’s not surprising that Baribeau was in the Killingly team room ready to go hours before the game. “I came in much earlier than everyone else,” Baribeau said. “I usually get here early; I’m usually the first guy here, but I got in the room really early before this game to get ready.” Killingly coach Jim Crabtree said he wasn’t surprised his leading scorer was focused and ready to go, and that he didn’t struggle early like some players do in a game that could bring with it stress, nervousness and tension. “Nothing bothers Yianni; he’s always ready to go,” Crabtree said. “Yianni showed up again for us, like he always does. I think he was the MVP for us tonight.”



Photos Jason McKay

Killingly’s Thomas Dreiholz leaps into the air for the rebound while a Griswold player attempts to snatch it away.

Killingly started strong — something they didn’t do with great regularity this season — leading 7-2, 10-5, 13-10 and 15-12, before finding itself

trailing, 17-15, as the teams headed to the second quarter. Killingly found its groove before halftime, scoring eight

Please Read **HOOPS**, page **A11**

Eastern’s ‘AccessAbility’ office enables learning with smart technology

WILLIMANTIC — Students with disabilities face a range of unique challenges in their quest for an education. In addition to physical and mental obstacles, they often lack mentors who understand their challenges. This is especially true with support for adequate reading and study skills, where often the best they get are student helpers assigned to take notes for them.

Eastern Connecticut State University’s Office of AccessAbility Services (OAS) is answering the call with new technologies to help students with disabilities flourish and graduate on time. The new technologies are also available to help other students succeed in their studies.

“SensusAccess” is one of the main technology tools that OAS Director Brooks Scavone and her team are using to support students with disabilities. SensusAccess is a software tool that converts files into alternative formats.

“SensusAccess is available to the entire Eastern community,” said Sandra Flores-Gonzales, OAS’s interim assistant director. “Anyone who has an Eastern email, including alumni, can use it. This is part of a broader initiative to create awareness about digital and print accessibility on our campus. It is our hope that ultimately, all students can transform documents to reinforce their learning styles.

“For example, a student may have an assigned reading in the form of a PDF. If that PDF

is well designed and constructed, it can be transformed into an audiotext file that students can listen to using a third-party app like Natural Reader, which is free.”

Scavone added, “What is most useful is to know that we are utilizing a variety of websites that offer resources that enable our office to fulfill technology-related accommodations, such as note-taking and audiotext book accommodations. For notetaking, students have an option of using a Smartpen that can record lectures while also recording their written notes. Students write their notes on special paper, which can then be organized afterwards.”

Another option offered is “Sonocent,” which also can record lectures while students type their notes.

“Both record in real-time and both allow students to organize their digital files of notes in a way that reinforces their learning preference,” said Flores-Gonzales. “For audiotext book requests, we use Bookshare.org, a Web site that allows us to assign audiobooks when it’s in their inventory. If not, we go through other processes to acquire a digital book file and make it accessible in an audiotext format.”

The office has also implemented a comprehensive platform system - Accommodate Symplicity - to manage its processes. Accommodate Symplicity also facilitates accommodation requests for students and faculty who can

engage with the testing center as appropriate. Faculty also can request training on the portal.

“(SensusAccess) has helped me to convert my course reading materials into formats that fit my studying and learning style,” said senior Taylor Wagner, a psychology major from Waterbury. “One thing I love is that I can convert pdfs of my course readings into an audio book or even into an eBook that I can upload onto my Kindle.”

Cici Sechrist ’23, a women’s and gender studies major and president of the Diversability Club, said OAS has resources available not only for students with disabilities but for any student who is struggling with a heavy workload. One of those resources is the OAS Student Support Program (OASSSP).

“The (OASSSP) has student interns who are available to help you with different skills that can help during college, such as social skills, time management skills, study skills and more,” said Sechrist. “They’re always available if you’d like to have a conversation with them, and they are all very friendly.”

Kaitlyn Bower ’22, a senior from Salem majoring in social work, says she has definitely benefited from the technology-related services offered by OAS. “

I receive audio textbooks and this accommodation really helped

me be successful in my classes. I have a processing disorder so listening to audio books while reading course textbooks really helps me understand the material fully,” she said.

Kai-li Davey ’23, an English major with a concentration in creative writing and a minor in psychology from Southbury, said she has benefited greatly from OAS’s technology services over the past three years.

“As a first-year student, I mainly utilized the SmartPen in my history classes. It allowed me to review the information on my own time and to study for exams outside of class. The audiotexts allowed me the ability to process the information. This helped me greatly, as I am both a visual and auditory learner. If I had a question for my professors, the SmartPen allowed me to write down the

information physically and listen to it through my computer. I would then connect with my professors individually if any questions about the material arose,” she said.

Scavone says the technology initiative “shows Eastern cares about the greater good and creating positive engagement experiences throughout our community for all students. Our office is promoting a campus culture of inclusivity and trying to create systems of support for the Eastern community to review, improve or remove possible barriers that impact our diverse student population, especially students with disabilities.”

For more information about technology services offered by OAS, contact accessability@easternct.edu.

Woodstock • Public • Schools

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

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

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Federal funding approved for future Small Business Center in Thompson

THOMPSON — On Thursday, March 10, the Senate passed a Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus spending bill that included Congressionally directed spending items. Included in that bill was a \$240,000 request for funds to undertake the full renovation of the town-owned building at 65 Main Street in North Grosvenordale. Last in use as the offices for TEEG, the building has been vacant since 2012. President Biden signed the bill into law on Friday and now the Executive Branch will begin the process of funding the project.

The house at 65 Main St. was purchased and donated to the Town in the early 1900’s by Harriet Tourtellotte, with the intent that it serve as a rental property for Thompson’s Superintendent of Schools. As times and conventions have changed, the house has since seen its use converted several times, serving for a time as the Public Library, then later as TEEG’s headquarters. Since 2019, a group of volunteers from Thompson’s Economic Development Commission, Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee and others has been forming a plan with the Director of Planning & Development to bring the house back to meaningful use for the community. The concept currently in play is to repurpose the renovated building as a small business support center, with a possible focus on small agricultural and food-system start-up businesses. To date, the highest hurdle has been the actual cost to renovate the building, which has fallen into disrepair during its vacancy. The federal award enables the Town to clear this hurdle, after which a public engagement process will be initiated to determine the best way to structure the future programming of the small business center.

The renovation and repurposing of the Superintendent’s house is meant to fulfill stated priorities expressed during community visioning workshops facilitated by NECCOG and Thompson’s Branding Implementation Subcommittee. Among the identified priorities,

preservation of historic landmarks was ranked important by a significant majority of the participants. Additionally, Thompson residents have expressed a strong desire to preserve and strengthen local agricultural traditions, while still pursuing economic growth. As one of a series of initiatives to revitalize Thompson’s historic

downtown, reclamation of the house at 65 Main St was identified as an ideal symbolic project, consistent with these articulated priorities. Rehabilitation of the former Superintendent’s house is consonant with the respect for local history and identity; and, in its hoped-for eventual role supporting local farm and food businesses, it will balance agricultural traditions with sustainable economic development.

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Follow the Fifty: Models of Heart Health reuniting 10 years later

BROOKLYN — In 2012, the Northeast District Department Health and its HealthQuest Northeast Connecticut public health coalition launched Follow the Fifty: Models of Heart Health (FTF), a women's heart health campaign that transformed the lives of program participants and rose to national prominence. This month they will reconvene former models, coaches, and community partners of the successful initiative for a 10-year anniversary “ReZOOMion,” a virtual online event meant to reconnect and re-inspire those to keep up their healthy lifestyles or take them up once again.

“A lot has happened in the past 10 years from personal triumphs and tragedies to a worldwide pandemic and now sadly, war in Ukraine,” said Linda Colangelo, former program manager of the FTF initiative. “These past couple of years have impacted all aspects of health on global, community, and profoundly personal levels. We know that the simple effort of reconnecting people to each other and happier, healthier times will be good for their hearts in so many ways.”

The ReZOOMion will include an FTF trip down memory lane and will connect participants to a current HealthQuest initiative called ConNECTicuTRAILS, a campaign aimed to encourage people to explore more than 500 miles of trails throughout The Last Green



Valley National Heritage Corridor. Participants will learn about the new Connecticut Trail Finder website, ctrailfinder.com, an initiative by the UCONN extension center; the Last Green Valley Spring Outdoors event; other opportunities for physical activity; and will get motivated to move with Monique Wolanin, Race Director for the Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation Tackle the Trail event.

“One of the simplest and most effective things you can do to reduce risk factors for heart disease and other chronic illnesses is to walk your way to wellness,” said Colangelo. “It starts by putting one foot in front of the other. We want this movement to grow organ-

ically and let the FTF sisterhood again step out as trailblazing role models of heart health.”

Eastern Connecticut State University senior and NDDH intern Madalyn Lowell is assisting with the campaign.

“I actually learned about Follow the Fifty a few years ago when a presentation was given at one of my classes at school and then we took a field trip to the NDDH office,” explained Lowell. “That experience stuck with me and was one of the things that inspired me to pursue a career in public health. It’s amazing to see the process of how health education and program implementation leads to inspiration and healthier lifestyles.”

HealthQuest partners have several physical activity events planned throughout the year which are open to the public.

“We hope that a strong showing of former Follow the Fifty participants at these events will inspire other community members to become role models of heart health for their own families and friends,” said Lowell.

If you were a former model, coach, or community partner of the 2012 Follow the Fifty campaign and would like to join either session of the ReZOOMion on March 29 or 31 from 6 to 8 p.m., send an email to icolangelo@nddh.org. To learn more, visit nddh.org and click on the HealthQuest icon.

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

ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

Adventure Park at Storrs announces Opening Day April 1



again for the season,” said Candie Fisher, President of The Adventure Park. “We’ve missed our adventure community and are excited to welcome them back to the Park.”

The nine trails at The Adventure Park consist of various challenges in the trees, including bridges, tightropes, ladders, and 26 ziplines. Participants wear harnesses with clips that connect to the trail’s safety system, ensuring that they are always locked on to the course until they reach the end. The main trails are designed for ages seven to adult, and an Adventure Playground provides a low-to-the-ground adventure experience for little climbers ages three to six.

In addition to the treetop zipline and climbing experience, The Adventure Park at Storrs boasts the area’s only outdoor axe throwing activity for ages 12 and up.

“Axe throwing continues to grow in popularity,” said Jesse Pasacreta, Park Manager, “and we love to see groups of friends, families and co-workers enjoy some friendly competition in our axe throwing lanes.”

Tickets for the Park’s activities are available on the Park’s Web site, myadventurepark.com/SAP. Participants may choose day or evening timeslots, including the popular “Glow in the Park” event on Saturday nights starting April 24. Glow in the Park is a themed event with music and glowing lights, creating a magical zipline and climbing experience.

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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Type of footwear

5. Studies a lot all at once

10. Adventure story

14. Hundred thousand

15. Former U.S. Vice President

16. Ruler

17. Indian city

18. Similar

19. Ship as cargo

20. Volcanic craters

22. Boxing's "GOAT"

23. Bullfighting maneuvers

24. London soccer team

27. Score perfectly

30. No (Scottish)

31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)

32. Woman (French)

35. Unwanted attic "decor"

37. Peter Griffin's daughter

38. Broad, shallow crater

39. Large instruments

40. Low bank or reef

41. ___ and Venzetti

42. Oil group

43. Father

44. Aggressive men

45. Pairs well with green

46. Travelers need it

47. Digital audiotape

48. Midway between northeast and east

49. Chemistry descriptor

52. S. China seaport

55. Sound unit

56. Heavy cavalry sword

60. Thick piece of something

61. Spa town in Austria

63. Boyfriend

64. Norse personification of old age

65. Type of box

66. Tie together

67. Fiber from the coconut

68. Chicago mayor

69. Old English letters

- CLUES DOWN
1. Type of sauce

2. Pattern of notes

3. Plant with long seedpods

4. Map out

5. Numbers cruncher

6. Make a mental connection

7. Italian tenor

8. N. America's highest mountain peak

9. Witness

10. Arabic given name

11. Music awards

12. "The Immoralist" author

13. Area units

21. Units of loudness

23. Political action committee

25. Bar bill

26. Witch

27. A theatrical performer

28. 2-door car

29. ___ and flowed

32. Paper-___, art medium

33. City in Georgia

34. Irregular

36. College sports conference

37. Angry

38. Partner to cheese

40. S. American mammal

41. Self-immolation by fire rituals

43. Split pulses

44. Disfigure

46. Cow noise

47. Erase

49. Chadic language

50. Reward for doing well

51. Paid TV

52. Millisecond

53. Other

54. Colombian city

57. Necklace part

58. Every one of two or more people

59. Regrets

61. They come after "A"

62. Horse noise

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 7: Woodcock, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Bald Eagle, Wood Duck, Mallard, Canada Geese, Flicker, Bluebird, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk. Visit ctaclubon.org/Pomfret-home.

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UKRAINE

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consisted of everything from food and personal care items to cloths, winter boots, and toys, were transported to St. Michaels Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven, one of two drop sites were countless vehicles lined up to donate goods on Monday, March 7. The donations were to be flows to Poland on March 12.

Insightful

There’s a right time for everything

It’s not an easy lesson to learn, but I’ve realized that there’s a right time for everything. As long as you keep believing, the time for realizing your dreams will come to pass. We don’t always know why things happen the way they do, and it’s sometimes hard to see the big picture.

I worked with my father and his publisher Ted for many years to turn their books into films. The first producer I approached was an Academy Award winner and produced the first film I starred in. He enthusiastically agreed to make my father’s first book, but it ended up falling through. What happened? It wasn’t the right time.

Soon after, I had meetings with the head of a production company owned by an Academy Award-winning producer of “Schindler’s List.” They optioned the book and contractually agreed to make the film. They hired me to co-write the screenplay, and when we finished the script, they paid casting directors, held auditions, and even scouted shooting locations in Vancouver. Suddenly, after we had almost finished pre-production, they decided to stop. What happened? It wasn’t the right time.

Shortly after that, I met with a six-time Oscar-nominated Irish director. He agreed to direct the film and re-write



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

the screenplay. When he finished the script, the project didn’t move forward. What happened? It wasn’t the right time.

Oddly enough, we found another Academy award-winning producer to write, produce and direct another of my father’s books. After writing the screenplay and making much headway, the project came to a halt. What happened? It wasn’t the right time.

Five years ago, I excitedly called my dad and Ted. I explained a new plan to get the books made into movies and simultaneously start what I thought would be a revolutionary business. We spent over a year developing and fine-tuning the concept.

We found an investor that believed in our idea and gave us the money to make it happen. We hired what we thought was an innovative and forward-thinking web developer to bring our concept to fruition.

He contractually agreed to build it within six months. During the six months, I worked tirelessly to do everything necessary to help him finish the job.

I promoted the platform heavily as we moved closer to launch based on his word. Towards the end of the six months, the platform seemed to work,

but something wasn’t right. To my horror, I discovered he only built a shell of what he was supposed to make, and it was only about 15 percent complete. I looked like a fool. Here I was promoting the platform to hundreds of people, and I was being lied to the whole time. He ran off with the money, and some said my dream, but I didn’t see it like that; if you believe in you genuinely believe in your dream, nobody can steal it from you.

For three long days, I prayed hard for a miracle, and on the fourth day, my brother-in-law, a military contractor whose job has always been top secret, told me he heard what happened and that he could help finish the platform. I had no idea he knew how to code.

It turned out to be a blessing in disguise that our previous developer was so deceitful. My brother-in-law explained

that the way he built the platform was so shoddy it would have broken down as soon as a dozen people logged in. It wasn’t the right time, and he wasn’t the right developer.

Determined never to let that happen again, I learned to write code by enrolling in UCLA Coding Boot Camp. Since graduation, my brother-in-law and I have put on some final touches before launching the next phase. I’ll say this; It’s starting to look like the right time.

This story is almost a little too personal for me to write about, but I decided to do it in the hopes of helping you overcome the hurdles in your own life and encouraging you to carry on. Things won’t always happen the way you want. Believe strongly in your dreams but be relaxed about how they occur. Things will happen when and how they should, and it’s not always what you expect.

Eastern student Noelle Ciccarelli of Thompson presents research on daughter-parent mate preference

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University psychology student Noelle Ciccarelli of Thompson presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) convention on Feb. 18. Ciccarelli’s project was titled “Similarities and Differences in Mate Preferences among Parents and their Daughters,” and focused on the ratings that daughters gave when seeking a male mate, compared to their parents’ ratings when seeking a mate for their daughters.

Ciccarelli partnered with Psychology Professors Madeleine Fugere and Alita Cousins on her research, and presented the findings virtually with Fugere.

Ciccarelli and Fugere used 91 daughter-parent pairs for the project, giving them surveys to determine their preferences.

“Prior research has found discrepancies in the self-reported mate preferences of women and their parents,” said Ciccarelli.

“Daughters placed a higher value on characteristics that indicate genetic quality and parents placed a higher value on personality characteristics. As hypothesized, women’s ratings of physical attractiveness had the strongest impact on their ratings of men’s dating desirability and daughters chose the more attractive man 69% of the time while parents chose the more attractive man 59 percent of the time,” said Ciccarelli. “Both parents and daughters chose the more attractive man more often than the man with the better personality, suggesting that physical attractiveness is important to both daughters and parents.”

Ciccarelli’s interest in this topic began in her first-year orientation. Curious about the science behind attraction and relationships, she chose to attend Fugere’s mock class titled “The Psychology of Attraction and Romantic Relationships.”

“I have been working on this research with Dr. Fugere for over two years and I’m currently working on a publication with her, which is far beyond my wildest research dreams. I am ecstatic to work with Dr. Fugere as she believes in my abilities to achieve anything I set my mind to, even when my own beliefs falter, and she pushes me to take on all the new and exciting experiences that come my way.”

Ciccarelli is currently involved in two internships where she works closely with children as a social worker and play therapist. After Eastern, Ciccarelli aspires to take her educational career to the doctorate level and work toward a Ph.D. in developmental psychology.

“I am not exactly sure where I will end up after completing graduate school,” she said. “With all of the opportunities I have had at Eastern that have pushed me out of my comfort zone, from being a research and teaching assistant to

taking on my own thesis project, to presenting at a conference, to working on a publication, I feel confident in my abilities to adjust to any situation that comes my way. It will definitely be interesting to see where I end up.”

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EASTCONN student earns CAACE Learner of the Year Award



Kadir Kuscil

WILLIMANTIC — The Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE) has named an EASTCONN Adult and Community

Programs student as one of its eight 2022 Learners of the Year.

The honoree, Kadir Kuscil, was acknowledged for his success and diligence in furthering his education during the CAACE Virtual Conference on March 11. Each year, CAACE selects students from among the state's adult education programs to receive the Learner of the Year award.

"We are so proud of Kadir's success," said Richard Tariff, Director of EASTCONN's Adult and Community Programs. "Kadir's motivation and commitment will serve as an inspiration for other students."

Kuscil, a Turkish immigrant who arrived in the U.S. in 2017, left behind a successful window installation business in his home country to start over in Connecticut. Since enrolling in EASTCONN's English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) program nearly 18 months ago, he has consistently proven himself as a leader in and out of the classroom.

During the pandemic, as students transitioned to remote learning, Kuscil

demonstrated determination and persistence, helping to create a more engaged and active class environment while helping to build a sense of community in the virtual space.

Kuscil was also selected to be a part of an initial cohort of adult students co-enrolling in Quinebaug Valley Community College, where he received top grades in both of his Fall 2021 semester classes. He currently attends both morning IELCivics classes at EASTCONN and evening classes at QVCC, impressing his college instructors enough to advocate for his continued co-enrollment.

"While Kadir is clearly working hard toward his own personal and professional goals, he does not lose sight of the needs of those around him," said Kristin Hempel, EASTCONN's Associate Director of Adult and Community Programs. "Whether it's his classmates or his community at large, Kadir is ready to lend a hand and is eager to see everyone access the resources they need and achieve their goals."

Elizabeth Acosta, ESL Program

Facilitator at EASTCONN, said that what impresses her most about Kuscil is his focus and dedication to his academic pursuits. "Starting over has its own set of challenges," she said. "However, Kadir has embraced the enormous task of learning a new culture and language with great enthusiasm and true grit."

Kuscil received the Aileen Halloran Memorial Scholarship, which includes a \$500 scholarship award, and is featured in a video profile on the CAACE website.

CAACE is a non-profit organization that provides leadership in advancing the concept of lifelong learning, offering numerous professional development conferences and activities. Learn more at www.caace.org.

EASTCONN is a public, non-profit, Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving the education needs of schools and communities in northeastern Connecticut since 1980. To learn more about EASTCONN and its Adult and Community Education Programs, visit www.eastconn.org.

Tourtellotte Student Spotlight: Allison Thebeau

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. The March Student Spotlight honoree is Junior Allison Thebeau.

Allison was nominated by classmates Kayla Botelho, Deidrea Hanshaw, and Zaria Pokropowicz.

Deidrea says, "Allison is one of the friendliest and kindest people you'll meet. She is a leader, and a hard worker."

Allison's friend Kayla says, "I am in awe every day of her outstanding confidence and determination. I've never known someone who has been able to take on so much responsibility and have a great attitude about it every day. Time management is just one of her strong suits; so are working, volunteering, taking two dance classes, performing in Beauty and the Beast, being in honors and AP classes, and working hard in every performing music ensemble our school offers."

Allison's friend Zaria continues saying, "Allison is one of the most amazing people I know. She is very caring, funny, hardworking, and genuine. She never fails to make me laugh and enjoy the classes we are in together or during any time we spend together."

Allison was also nominated by two teachers, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Jambard-Orn.

Allison's music teacher, Mrs. Kate Anderson, says, "Allison is a student who goes above and beyond in all that she puts her attention to. Drama President, Concert Choir assistant conductor, and Tri M member are some of the official titles Allison has added to her resume this year. These titles come to life each day with Allison's dedication, hard work, and humorous spirit."

Allison's English teacher, Mrs. Katie Jambard-Orn adds, "Allison is a joy to have in our AP English Language & Composition class. Even when things prove difficult, Allison never gives up. Allison also has an incredible energy about her. Even when stressed, she still manages to exude a positive attitude."

When asked what motivates her,

Allison says, "I am motivated by going to school and making my friends laugh every day in class. I am also motivated by the music department so I can try new things and succeed at creating beautiful music with my peers. There is nothing better than working hard on a song and having it pay off by performing it for all to hear."

Besides being an excellent student, Allison is a member of several student organizations including the Tri M Music Honor Society and the Tourtellotte Student Leadership Team. Allison is also the Drama Club President and the Choir Assistant student conductor; and she has a main role in the upcoming TMHS production of Beauty and the Beast. About her future, Allison plans "to continue performing no matter where I end up because that is my passion."

Finally, Allison's message to her school and community is, "The communities in this school have provided me with countless wonderful memories throughout my three years here. I've met so many amazing people that I genuinely love seeing every single day. This



Allison Thebeau

year I've had so much fun and I've never felt more loved and supported, and for that I thank you."

TOURTELLOTTE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

HONOR ROLL

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Tourtellotte Memorial High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year.

Grade 9

High Honors: Megan Nachtigall, Jackson Santos, Serena Smith, Sofia Thurber

Honors: Grace Akana, Aaron Bickelhaupt, Aiden Bourget, June Ferraro, Nicholas Ruggieri, Luke Senosk

Recognition: Ashley Birch, Gianna Brinson, Jinalyse Denham, Lucas Gillon, Olivia Martocci, Pavanny Phav, Angel Sherpa

Grade 10

High Honors: Kaylee Beck, Avery Butler, Jordyn Butler, Audrey Defilippo, James Julian, Eric Levesque, Melanie Noonan, Patricia Peterson, Richard Peyton

Honors: Landon Corriveau, Elizabeth Davis, Tara Heffernan, Madyson Kozia, Gabriella Lubomirski, Isabella Nieves, Connor Pederson, Jacob Perry

Recognition: Darryel Duquesnay, Maxine Hazard, Alianya Lopez-Guadalupe, Joel Majorowski, Louis Ochoa, Noel Racicot, Neveiah Richardson, Aleix Starr

Grade 11

High Honors: Evan Antonson, Kayla Botelho, Javier DeJesus, Deidrea Hanshaw, Hanna LeClaire, Chloe Manzo, Alexander Nachtigall, Allison Thebeau

Honors: Taylor Annis, Madelynn Copley, Dylan Johnson, Matthew Lavallee,

Recognition: Mateo Alvarez, Jaycee Castano, Shawn Gauthier, Taylor Morales

Grade 12

High Honors: Kyle Cournoyer, Alivia Dalpe, Leah Demers, Brooke Fettig, Kaylin Grigs, Kylee Smith

Honors: Zeynep Acun, Brayden Akana, Alysha Bugbee, Sarah Duquette, Kaylin Kochinskas, Ariel Kopas, Olivia Lubomirski, Zaria Pokropowicz, Jady Tretheway

Recognition: Kyle Busha, James DiNoia, Lemell Marshall, Mackenzie Minarik, Ysabella Rocca, Cheyann Tiffany, Michaela Vandi, Shane Yurkevicius

Editor's note: The Tourtellotte honor roll that appeared in our Feb. 25 edition was incorrectly formatted when submitted for publication. As a consequence, several students were listed under incorrect categories. The corrected version has been re-printed here as a courtesy to the school and to the students and their families.

Local Eastern students inducted into ODK leadership honor society

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University inducted 34 students into Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), the national honor society for collegiate leadership, on March 6.

Among the inductees are: Noelle Ciccarella of Thompson, a senior who majors in Psychology. Alex Rooney of North Grosvenordale,

a senior who majors in Accounting.

Founded in 1914, ODK is a national leadership honor society that recognizes juniors and seniors who demonstrate remarkable leadership responsibility in campus programs, clubs and extracurricular activities. As of today, more than 235 colleges and universities throughout the country have a chapter of the ODK honor society.

To be eligible, students must also have a minimum GPA of 3.77. Established at Eastern in 1994, the local ODK chapter has inducted more than 800 faculty, students and alumni into the society.



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Colette Emery Currier hired as Executive Director at Creamery Brook Village

BROOKLYN — PierceCare, a not-for-profit provider of supports and services for older adults, is pleased to announce Colette Currier as the new Executive Director of Creamery Brook Retirement Village. Located in Brooklyn, Conn., Creamery Brook Village provides independent living and assisted living services for nearly 100 residents.

Currier, of Waterford, brings more than 25 years of experience in senior living services to Creamery Brook Village's community. Most recently, she served as Director of Sales and Marketing for Benchmark Senior Living in Niantic. She also was charged with sales and marketing at Masonicare at Mystic, where she helped fuel the growth of the new facility. Currier also spent more than a decade in administration and business development at Utopia Home Care, Inc. Her career began at UConn Health's Geriatric Assessment Center.

"We are thrilled to have Colette join our team and to lead our Creamery Brook Village community," said PierceCare President and CEO Patty Morse. "Her experience, dedication, and advocacy for the sector we serve are highlighted by her passion for providing exemplary care and services for our residents. It was clear to us that Colette was the perfect fit for this role within our continuum."

Currier is a graduate of Montville High School and earned her Bachelor of

Science degree in Health Science from University of Hartford. She also is certified in Geriatric Health by University of Hartford.

"I have always loved working directly with older people while at the same time enjoyed the challenge of the business side of healthcare," said Currier. "I have more than 20 years of experience working with older individuals, from setting up geriatric assessments at UCONN Health Center to creating plans and engaging community services to set them up to succeed independently in their own homes. When that was no longer safe or possible, I worked with them and their families to find the right setting for their next transition in life. This new role as Executive Director allows me to draw from those experiences to work with our staff to provide the best possible experience for the residents at Creamery Brook Village."

Colette lives in Waterford with her husband Robert, their five children, and two Bernese mountain dogs.

About PierceCare

PierceCare is a faith based not-for-profit organization providing a compassionate continuum of care and services on the campus in Brooklyn that includes a 72 bed skilled nursing facility providing short term rehabilitation and long term care, memory support assisted living, independent retirement living and assisted living services.



Colette Currier

Since its founding in 1951, PierceCare has grown and expanded its services to provide the highest quality care for people of all faiths, most recently merging with Connecticut Baptist Homes, Inc. PierceCare continually challenges itself to be a forward-thinking organization in order to meet the ever-changing needs of future generations of

older adults in Northeast Connecticut. PierceCare is governed by a Board of Directors who are dedicated volunteers with strong loyalty to our mission. Certified by Medicare and Medicaid participation, PierceCare is licensed by the Connecticut Department of Health; members of Leading Age and Leading Age Connecticut.

Worcester County Sheriff's Office announces promotion of Killingly native



WEST BOYLSTON, Mass. — Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) are proud to announce the promotion of Officer Emanuel Grammatikakis to the rank of sergeant.

Effective immediately, Sgt. Grammatikakis will begin his supervisory role in the jail's Modular Compound. Grammatikakis started his career with the WCSO in June 2008 and is a member of the jail's Critical Incident Stress Management team. He holds certifications in the following: Assisting Individuals in Crisis, Group

Crisis Intervention, and From Trauma to Addiction.

"Promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office are based on merit," stated Evangelidis. "Sgt. Grammatikakis' leadership, work ethic, and dedication to duty embodies our department's mission and represents the best in the field of corrections."

Grammatikakis resides in Dayville with his wife, Jessica, and son, Zachary. To learn more about the Worcester County Sheriff's Office or about a career in corrections, please visit worcestercountysheriff.com.

Worcester County Sheriff's Office announces promotion of Thompson native



WEST BOYLSTON, Mass. — Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) are proud to announce the promotion of Officer Brian Paradis to the rank of sergeant.

Effective immediately, Sgt. Paradis will begin his supervisory role. Paradis started his career with the WCSO in March 2017 and has been of member of the Crisis Negotiations Team since September 2019. Paradis has completed FBI Crisis Negotiation Training in March 2021, Crisis Intervention Training in September 2019, and was awarded the Francis T. Foley award during his academy (BRTA #47) in recognition of his academic achievement.

"Promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office are based on merit," stated Evangelidis "Sgt. Paradis' leadership, work ethic, and dedication to duty embodies our department's mission and represents the best in the field of corrections."

Paradis graduated from Southern New Hampshire University in 2012 and holds a degree in justice studies and sociology.

To learn more about the Worcester County Sheriff's Office or about a career in corrections, please visit worcestercountysheriff.com.

Woodstock Recreation Spring Activities

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EDITOR

Strong women make history

International Women’s Day may seem like a new progressive holiday however it stems back to 1909 when planners organized a day for Women on Feb. 28 in New York. One year later, the International Socialist Woman’s Conference announced that a day for women be held each year.

Fast forward to 1917 in Russia, where, on March 8, women were given the right to vote. In 1975, the holiday was adopted by the United Nations.

The long and the short is that this day is a day to celebrate women past, present and future. With that said our staff chose to highlight the women that we feel have had a standout role in influencing how our world operates today. The list was endless, therefore naturally hard to choose, so in order to prevent a 200-page editorial we narrowed the list down to our favorites.

Social reformer Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women’s Social and Political Union in 1903 to campaign for the parliamentary vote for women in Edwardian Britain. ‘Deeds, not words’ being its motto. Pankhurst is described as a charismatic leader and powerful orator; Pankhurst rallied thousands of women to demand, rather than ask politely, for their democratic right in a mass movement that has been unparalleled in British history. The battle did not come without consequences, she endured 13 imprisonments, leading her name and cause becoming known throughout the globe.

At the age of 15, Claudette Colvin was arrested at the age of 15 in Montgomery, Alabama when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white woman. This event gave the famous Rosa Parks the courage to do the same. Colvin was one of five plaintiffs involved in the federal court case filed by civil rights attorney Fred Gray in 1956, in which they challenged bus segregation. The outcome was that a judge ordered that the local laws in regards to bus segregation were unconstitutional. To find Colvin’s name in a history book is rare. This in part because she was an unmarried teenager who apparently was with child. Colvin went on to become a nurse’s aid. In an interview in 2005, Colvin said, “I feel very, very proud of what I did. I do feel like what I did was a spark and it caught on.”

As for recognition, Colvin said, “I’m not disappointed. Let the people know Rosa Parks was the right person for the boycott. But also let them know that the attorneys took four other women to the Supreme Court to challenge the law that led to the end of segregation.”

Colvin’s family has been trying since 2016 to have her recognized and honored in the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Colvin was not invited officially to the opening of the museum in 2016.

Marie Curie is the next on our short list. Curie was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who was the first to delve into radioactivity. Curie who was born in 1867, was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the only person to win it two times. Collecting several firsts, Curie was the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris. In a time when most women spent their days in the home taking care of their children and husbands, Curie had to smash several ceilings for her own advancement. Curie was known for her honesty and moderate lifestyle. All of her prize money, she donated to scientific research and refused to copyright the radium-isolation process so that her fellow scientists could continue research unhindered. In 2011, Poland and France declared the year would be ‘The Year of Marie Curie.’ She became the first woman to be entombed on her own merits in the Pantheon in Paris in 1995.

In 1933, Eleanor Roosevelt turned the position of First Lady from benign symbol to an active and intellectually vigorous power center. Roosevelt served as the United States Delegate to the UN General Assembly from 1945 to 1952. Roosevelt was the topic of much controversy for her outspoken nature, especially in regard to civil rights for African-Americans. She was the first, First Lady to hold regular press conferences, host a weekly radio show and to speak at a national party convention. She was so bold to even disagree with her husband on certain policies. After her husband’s death, Roosevelt spent

Turn To **EDITORIAL** page **A12**

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A prayer for peace

To the Editor:
The Brooklyn-Killingly Interfaith Council is deeply shocked and saddened by the devastating human toll brought about by the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, and prays for an end to the conflict as quickly as possible.

We support the Ukrainian people and join all those around the world who are calling for an end to Russian aggression and human rights violations. Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine at this time - those fighting to protect their homeland and families and those, mostly women, children and the elderly, who have been rendered refugees seeking to escape with their lives.

We commend the world leaders who have acted quickly and decisively in hopes of expediting an end to this crisis, and we are

inspired by the continued bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people.

We applaud the actions of the peoples in neighboring countries, opening not just their borders to refugees but their hearts and homes as well to the millions in need. Such acts of love ring more loudly than the hated blasts of war.

We urge continued humanitarian efforts, and we encourage all who are able and willing to make a financial contribution, no matter how small, to the many humanitarian organizations that have stepped up to help.

We pray for the people of Ukraine and all who are affected by this madness. We pray for peace.

EARL MCWILLIAMS
DAYVILLE

Thompson is at a tipping point

To the Editor:
We are at an inflection point in Thompson. Instances of aggressive policy proposals, illegal quorums and voting in past Planning & Zoning meetings, seating of P & Z alternates inappropriately, and an “untidy” at best election day last November, when 150 voters were disenfranchised, along with other irregularities. All of this and more ought to stir and engage taxpayers. The Connecticut State Election Enforcement Commission is in the process of investigating.

Following on the heels of instances of weak and faulty administration of town government, and overreach of power, is a proposal by the Board of Selectmen in this year’s budget, to hire a Town Administrator, off-loading significant sworn duties of the 1st Selectman and Board. In essence the basic duties of infrastructure and day to day operations are delegated to this person. The board becomes figureheads and is relegated to superficial duties.

Should this be allowed to move forward, all its effects and costs will be buried in the now combined budget and if the budget is approved without this being eliminated, Thompson being governed by a Board of Selectmen will be a memory.

An unelected “professional” bureaucrat is apt to increasingly levy change on your hometown. Change that some residents say would not happen if left to a Board of Selectmen. That in itself is an indicator that most folks don’t want the type of change that would come via this method. In other

words, employing a manager/administrator is a “work-around” of we the people and the Board of Selectmen, open to the influence of professional organizations and special interests.

New England town government, when level-headed citizens of integrity and open intent are engaged as officials or in their role as 24/7 oversight as we all are charged to do, is a sound and proven method of governing that is the least vulnerable to ills that befall any level of government.

As electors, the qualified voters in town “select” fellow electors via a nomination and election process. The Selectmen in turn, “superintend” town operations on behalf of their fellow electors. It is meant to be a trusted exchange for a period of time.

Yes, an administrator would be accountable to and take direction from the Board – ideally, but in reality, we all know that the Board will morph into taking their lead from the administrator.

It would be a new layer of management that would come with monetary and other costs.

There are some things in our lives that need to be changed daily, and some things that need to be preserved. Changing selectmen periodically and preserving our citizen centered and accountable form of government must be safeguarded.

SARAH FOLGER (SALLY) WHITE
EAST THOMPSON

There can be no dollar value on a child’s life

To the Editor:
I have been in attendance at the last several Killingly Board of Education meetings.

Of particular interest currently is the option of a School Based Health Clinic within the high school to support our students struggling with mental health issues.

Many students have spoken up at informational sessions, and at the BOE meetings in support of the clinic. At this week’s meeting, four students spoke, though there were more who wanted to speak, but were not permitted to. The BOE has now decided to limit the amount of time that the public is permitted to speak because, as the Chair has stated numerous times on record, it is a “courtesy” that they are allowing the public to speak at all, and they are “not required” to do so. Further, she has stated that the meetings are taking too long, and they are having to be there too late when the public burdens them with their comments and concerns.

Let that sink in for a moment. The elected members of the BOE are burdened by having to listen to the concerns of the public that elected them.

The public that elected them to protect the best interests of our children. Our children that are asking, pleading really, for help. Reduced to a burden.

The students were eloquent and brave. They shared stories of their own psychiatric diagnoses, the struggles of their peers, the feeling that they are lucky to be here thanks to the mental health services they have received. They spoke of the shocking number of students currently struggling with their mental health.

If you haven’t seen the recent survey completed by almost half our Killingly high

school students (over 750 students), there was the sobering statistic that 24% of our kids have contemplated suicide, and more disturbingly, 14 percent had a plan for how they would do it.

One child would be disturbing. Fourteen percent is an emergency.

The comments that followed the students’ words at the meeting were hurtful. The only comment that should have been made to the students that spoke was “thank you.” Not “We hear you, but...” Those comments do not show the students they were heard. There is no “but.”

There is no room for error when it comes to the life of a child. We need to listen to these kids and do everything in our power to support these students, to show them that they are heard and to give them the help they are asking for.

Despite that, the mental health clinic proposed would be at no cost to the school, and this has been confirmed numerous times, the most common argument against the clinic is the potential cost to the taxpayers.

With over 100 students in our school system currently with a suicidal plan, action needs to taken, and should not be delayed any longer.

So, I ask you... If cost is the issue, how much money is worth paying to save the life of a child?

There can be no dollar value for a child’s life.

Please support the SBHC for Killingly Public Schools.

LACEY LUNEAU
KILLINGLY

We do what we can

Our conversation on the steps outside the post office was serious. I enjoy the random interactions I have with my neighbors in public places. A casual remark about the weather turned into sharing our thoughts about Ukraine, nuclear war, and the randomness of life. We were deep into sharing our anxiety. How best to live and go forward when we feel we have no control? How can we stay calm in the face of danger?

Years ago, my husband and I visited Japan. He asked our guide, a remarkable woman, what was the Buddhist secret to a good life. She told him it was accepting the impermanence of life, accepting suffering, practicing compassion for one’s self and others and remaining calm to embrace what is good. Perhaps she said more, but that’s all I remember, and it seems to be enough.

On Sunday, I went to



NANCY WEISS

c h u r c h , where, for the first time, we were not required to wear masks. The freedom of seeing each other’s smiles was refreshing. We had a visiting priest as we are looking for a permanent one and he gave a lively, pertinent sermon. He said we should not be anxious, but when we are, to imagine that we are walking with Jesus, first on one side of us and then on the other. The mental exercise could help focus the mind, depending I would think on how far one took it. I find walking settles my jumpy brain when I walk alone or with real people.

My father had a deep fear of fire. He worried when we stayed in hotels and, much to my embarrassment in front of hotel staff, would insist that I demonstrate how I would get out of my room in an emergency. If he could, he would book a room for me that had a window onto a porch. Nothing ever happened, but I picked up on his anxiety and scout out the exits when I’m in a public building.

I’ve read that in reality, most humans do nothing in the face of danger. We wait and believe it will pass or something will change. Perhaps we will be rescued or the marauding beast will attack someone else. Too much negative news about situations that are low-risk to us, but are compelling, lead to lots of stress. I think about my news-junky friends and wish they’d turn off the television and go outside.

The faces of Ukrainian mothers and children touch my heart. I brought baby supplies to a local church, where a convoy of volunteers from TEEG was adding to items being sent to Poland. The daughter of an old friend wrote that she was flying to help the refugees at the border, had rented a van and would welcome financial help. I didn’t send a check, and now I feel guilty.

Breathe deeply and say: “These thoughts do not serve me. These thoughts do not serve me,” three times, my husband says to reduce anxiety. Staying calm won’t stop a war. Prayer won’t. Meditation won’t. Each practice can help us embrace what is good, clear our brains, create a plan.

There was no flour at the grocery store. The price of gas is high. There’s talk of fallout shelters and stashing cash in the mattress. We’ve suffered from two years of isolation and loss, but now there is a new challenge and cloud over the future of our children and grandchildren.

What to do? The best we can. Be generous to ourselves and each other. Give. Talk. Smile. Embrace what is good. Pray, meditate and stay calm.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Board of Education is refusing to listen to Killingly Who is really responsible for inflation? students

To the Editor:
This is my message to the Killingly Board of Education. They are now limiting public comment to 20 minutes, so many of the students' voices were silenced at the March 9 meeting; the community needs to hear our voices!
Hello, I'm Alyssah Yater, and I'm a senior at KHS. When I first heard about the school based health center, I was super happy. Not only happy, but also relieved. The older I get, the more and more I see my peers struggling with poor mental health, and the thought of future students having access to professionals who can help them made me feel hopeful about our school for the first time in a while.
So you can imagine my disappointment when I heard that the idea was being shot down. Shot down over worst-case scenarios like, "What if the parents don't give consent," even after Generations said that they always reach out for consent and always receive it. Worst case scenarios like, "What if students are bullied for going to the health center?" which is clearly a question posed by people who don't spend much time at Killingly High School. As someone who does, I can inform you that people will not be bullied for struggling with mental health, because most of us are. And that's the problem.
When you say that a mental health clinic has no place in schools, you are refusing to support the students struggling the most. The students who are suffering with no help from home, and, in some cases, students who aren't allowed to get help at home. If students cannot receive a breakfast from home, the school provides them with one. If students cannot receive transportation from home, the school provides them with that. So if students cannot receive the support they need mentally from home, why must they suffer through it

on their own?
I've heard people against the school based health center state that school is for reading, writing, and arithmetic only. But what they don't seem to understand is that poor mental health hinders students' ability to learn these things. Kids struggling with mental health tend to have behavioral problems, which are undeniably on the rise this year at KHS, and distract from our learning. Students struggling with mental health also tend to miss assignments or, even worse, not come to school at all. The ones who receive outside help, like myself, have to leave school and miss class to attend appointments. And falling behind only makes them feel worse. Trust me, I know.
So it makes little sense that it is seen as bad or unjust to have professionals that can help with students mental health at school, but it is perfectly fine to have a school nurse who can help with students physical health. It makes one thing clear: many Board of Ed members don't think that mental health is as important.
But the people truly affected by the mental health crisis of our students see firsthand that mental health matters, and we are asking you to see that too. we are asking you to offer other solutions instead of just shooting down the ones provided for you. We are asking you to listen to the voices of the students and faculty and represent them first. That is your job. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in high school aged students, and the fact that people need to fight and rally for a school based mental health clinic tells me exactly why.
Thank you,

ALYSSAH YATER
KILLINGLY

To the Editor:
The Gerry Renaud piece was one of the best letters I've ever read here. Thank you for your open-mindedness in mentioning that all politicians lie, for basically saying that they put themselves first, pointing out the threat of a biased news media, but especially for speaking up for all the good that Donald Trump did - like his handling of the border - while he was president. The most beautiful part however was when you said: "I would love to hear any democrat for once, speak some evil about their beloved Biden, Obama and both Clintons." Mr. Renaud, I'll be totally surprised if you don't receive any flak from the Biden fan club here because had I written the same, they'd be hammering me to hell and back.
Who are we going to believe when they tell us whats causing inflation and high prices? According to the Biden administration, these are now "Putin's prices." What a convenient scapegoat Putin's become, but wasn't inflation at an all time high and prices were rising even before Russia invaded Ukraine? But of course, none of that has anything to do with the current administration's policies, right? President Biden's saying that he's sick of people blaming him; "It's all Putin's fault," he's claiming, but is it really? CNBC's Rick Santelli recently ripped the Biden administration's evolving excuses for inflation citing: "first it was transitory, then inflation is good, then we went to corporate greed, now we're at Putin." MSNBC economic analyst and former Obama advisor, Steven Rattner said: "This is Biden's inflation and he needs to own it." (And I suggest that you all check out the: "The Stossel Report - Bad Government Brings Bad Inflation." It's on You Tube.)
Fox News White House correspondent Peter Doocy called out Jen Psaki for blaming Putin for everything. "We

just heard you say again that you think inflation is going to be temporary. We've heard you say that it was going to be temporary since last spring. So how long do you guys think temporary is?" he asked. Psaki replied, "I think what we do is we rely on the assessments of the Federal Reserve and of outside economic analysts who give an assessment of how long it will last. The expectations and their assessment at this point continues to be that it will moderate by the end of the year." Form your own opinion, but that exchange suggests that they have no plan other than to just wait it out.
President Biden and his administration fluffers feed us one thing, and then we hear something else from the other side. There is no real plan, and there's no willingness from our politicians to work with the other side; it's all this continual finger pointing, playing the blame game, and political agenda nonsense, all while us «commoners» suffer and remain at each other's throats.
I congratulate Sandy Tosi on her energy independence success story. But then again wasn't this nation energy independent under President Trump and the cost of gas and heating oil much less of an issue? (No offense, but I had to throw that in.) I drive cars at work, and I got to drive a Tesla Model 3, from Worcester to Oxford. When I was handed these two credit card-like things that I was told were the keys, I thought they were playing a game with me, and I had to get somebody out from the dealership to show me how to start it. That car was quite the machine though and it had the most impressive acceleration. Anyhow, for the time being, I'm glad my Ford Focus is averaging 29 miles per gallon and that my daily round trip to and from work is only 24 miles.

ED DeLUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

The Board of Education is making poor decisions on behalf of our children

To the Editor:
I would like to address what has been witnessed regarding the school-based mental/behavioral health center (SBHC) at Killingly High. The Board of Education (BOE) must understand why parents and community members are outraged with certain BOE members, who have left people NO choice but to come together, and rally around this very important issue. We need to show our struggling students that there are adults who hear them and support them.
Ms. Hedgedus, you made a point "to make everyone aware" that only 477 students completed the survey out of 1,064 students That's 45 percent, a tremendous response rate, and more than valid in any professional setting. 14.8 percent of students that responded said they thought about suicide and actually had a suicide plan. That equals 70 students. There are likely more. In my opinion, one is too many. How many are too many for you?
Mr. Muscara, prior to hearing any testimony, you took a stance to oppose the SBHC, stating that school is only for learning. There is evidence-based data about the correlation of mental health on academic learning and suc-

cess. In layman's terms, a student is incapable of learning if they have an untreated mental health condition or crisis. It is both shocking and dangerous that a BOE member does not know this.
Ms. Jolly, as Board chair, you have the power to add things to the agenda for discussion. You abused that power on Feb. 9 when you added Leanne Ducat to the agenda as a guest speaker. Leanne is not a member of our community, nor one of the 11 surrounding communities that send students to KHS. Leanne has no credentials and her sources have not been validated. Propaganda and conspiracy theories put our students in danger and should have no place on our BOE agenda and/or decision-making.
The vote on the SBHC was tabled at that meeting. Two BOE meetings passed after that, without putting the SBHC back on the agenda. You could've asked more experts to speak on this issue to address any lingering concerns the BOE may have had. You put the Superintends updates, which included the SBHC information you claim you were waiting for as the last item on the agenda, and then rushed through it so you could get home.

Mr. Ferron, when Ms. Lannon mentioned that many students/parents had shown up in support at the Feb. 9 BOE meeting, you said, "We heard from 25 people, so let's not exaggerate." How do you think that made the students who spoke feel? I imagine unheard, alone, hopeless, etc. How many people do you need to hear from for you to support the mental health center? An online petition has over 1,180 signatures in support of the SBHC. On March 9, people came out in the cold and the snow to rally. They filled every seat in the meeting room.
Dale Duffy Dauphinais (State Rep. Anne Dauphinais' husband) actually attempted to organize a protest against the students who were out there, rallying for their own mental health needs. He provided testimony based upon personal opinion, extremist political agendas, scare tactics, and conspiracy theories, not backed by facts. The SBHC has existed in the Putnam Public School District for years with only positive results. There are no mandatory screenings, no «selling» or dispensing of drugs. There will be no fleecing the taxpayers. This isn't an «unwarranted government invention»
Lastly, Ms. Jolly, we are sorry you feel

hearing from students/parents/staff on matters before the BOE takes up too much time. We are sorry that this BOE thinks that they have to change policy to limit public comment and suppress the voice of our students & community members. We are sorry you feel that you don't have time to read our emails. You asked the community to put faith in you to make the right choices for our students, and now you tell us you don't have the time to do that?
We are asking the BOE to make decisions based upon thoughtful consideration of proven facts, research, and testimony from students, staff, mental health professionals & community members. DO NOT be misled by propaganda & conspiracy theories. If you are offended by anything written here, please remember, this is not about you. It is about the students with whom you should be acting in the best interest. Please exercise due diligence and the oath you were sworn to uphold. Accountability is with each of you and out of care & concern for our students, we will hold you to it.

DARELENE CHAPDELAINE
KILLINGLY

Magic in the Andes

BY DENNIS BLANCHETTE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious." Albert Einstein
We were waiting for Rory in the hotel in Cusco, Peru to finalize arrangements for the 6 day trek to Machu Picchu. It was Monday, the trek began on Thursday and Rory was a no show. The hotel concierge called the travel agency and they said he did not work there anymore. His cell phone was out of service and the travel agency website was down.

Peru is a land of mystery: the Nazca Lines, the Incas and especially Machu Picchu. Who built it, why was it abandoned and who discovered it? We flew into Cusco, elevation 11,000 feet and checked into the hotel. Halfway up the first flight of stairs we were gasping for breath like out of shape marathon runners. Later that day the headaches set in so we began chugging coca tea to ward them off. Luckily, there were 5 days to acclimate to the altitude before the trek, but now the adventure seemed in doubt.

On Tuesday morning, we walked to the travel agency office and the door was locked and chained as if marauders were expected at any minute. We stopped at other travel agents to see what could be arranged on short notice,

but they were all booked up. This was problematic because access to the Inca trail is limited, due to overcrowding, and permits are only issued to licensed guides. Wandering back to the travel agency around noon, we found the chains gone and their office open. They had our permits – the trek was on!
Thursday, we met our guide, Paul, picked up provisions and drove several hours down gravel roads to Mollepata and the first weird coincidence of this trip. A couple approached us and asked if they could ride with us to the trailhead. They spoke good English so we asked, "Where are you from?"
"A little state in the US, you probably never heard of it."
"What is its name?" we asked.
"Connecticut," they replied.
The plan was to hike the Salkantay Trail for the first three days to avoid the crowds on the Inca Trail. The first night we camped in the shadow of Mt Salkantay (20,486 feet) and it began to snow. The sky was as black as squid ink and the twinkling stars suspended from the inky blackness as if by invisible filaments, seemed close enough to touch, as if the whole sky had been turned into a planetarium.
Friday, we passed by the terminal moraine (scree field) of the Salkantay glacier on our way to the high point of the trek. It got windy and suddenly our guide was directing us to a

hut where two old men sat selling hats. He greeted them and we sat down to rest out of the wind. I was trying to decide if it was customary to buy something, when suddenly Paul got up and started walking. As we hiked away it struck me as odd that there should be such a place in the middle of nowhere but when I turned around to take a picture of it, it was not there. Further along we were hiking along one side of a valley several hundred feet deep when Paul spotted some people on the other side of the valley. He whistled at them and they waved. It seemed like less than a minute later when a man appeared out of the brush, walking up our side of the valley, and embraced Paul. There was no way he could have crossed from the other side in such a short time. These two events were unsettling and reminded me of Carlos Castaneda and his experiences with "nonordinary reality." I briefly wondered if Paul was somehow affecting my perceptions, but my brain convinced me it was only the altitude.
We crossed the highest pass of the trek, barely shuffling our feet and resting between each step. That night we encountered the first vestiges of the Incas, a canal built to carry water from the high mountain glaciers to their crop fields. Sunday, we arrived at the junction of the Inca and Salkantay trails. It was here, while waiting for the porters

to arrive, that we first talked to Val, a student and her mother Pat, an engineer. They were from Chile and were trekking alone, like us.
Due to its elevation changes, the Inca Trail passes through an astounding variety of ecosystems and microclimates: puna grasslands, polylepsis forests, and cloud forests. In the latter we saw dense masses of trees, smothered in lichens, bromeliads and orchids, and surrounded by tree ferns and bamboo. Kestrels and caracaras (types of falcons) floated overhead on the air currents as if weightless; hummingbirds of all kinds flitted about; llamas and alpacas were ubiquitous. And we kept seeing Val and Pat, leapfrogging them throughout the rest of the trek.
Monday, we headed for Phuyu Pata Marca, an impressive ruin with stone baths of possible religious significance. The work of the Incas was everywhere: tunnels and steps, carved into the solid rock; ruins of other settlements, way stations and religious sites. The overuse of the Inca Trail became evident. There was barely room to pitch a tent at the campsite and the toilets overflowed onto the concrete floor.
Tuesday, we arrived at the Sun Gate and beheld the verdant terraces of Machu Picchu below us, surrounded by hundreds of stone buildings and Huayna Picchu towering above everything like a sentinel

guarding the city. Wednesday, we toured the ruins and climbed Huayna Picchu, the stairs ascending almost vertically, for even more spectacular views. At the end of the day, we departed for the train station where we bumped into Val and Pat. They were taking the same three-hour train ride along the Urubamba River back to Poroy. It was a strange coincidence and we said goodbye a final time, assuming we would never see them again, as they were headed back to Chile.
Two days later we arrived at the Cusco Airport for the flight home. Janet proceeded to her seat and found Val and Pat sitting next to her. The synchronicity continued even after we left Peru. We were in Ecuador at the same time the following year and always vow that we will take a trip together some day.
Peru remains both magical and mysterious. Although there are many theories, most of the mysteries are still unsolved, except for who discovered Machu Picchu. The answer is that it was never lost. The Peruvian land owners knew about it all the time.

Dennis R. Blanchette is a semi-retired civil engineer and travel writer. Pictures of the Peru trip can be found at his travel blog: <https://dennis-blanchette.com>.

O'Putnam 5K Returns

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM – A local tradition finally returned in 2022 after a year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Courthouse O'Putnam 5K was held on Sunday, March 13 with a new route through Putnam's Main Street and downtown area challenging runners to a series of twists, turns and hills. Part of a series of O'race 5Ks presented

by Hartford Marathon Foundation in the month of March, all celebrating St. Patrick's Day, the O'Putnam 5K saw countless runners of all ages take on the second challenge in the race series ending their day on Main Street where the title sponsor, The Courthouse Bar & Grill, treated them to hot corned beef sandwiches and adult beverages on a chilled winter afternoon in the Quiet Corner.



A bagpiper sees the runners on their way adding to the Irish flair of the event.



Volunteers prepare to man the race route before the O'Putnam 5K gets underway.



Half-mile runners in the Wee Mile race stretch and prepare for their big event.



The Runnin' with My Gnomies team prepares for the big race.



Young runners take to the track for the quarter-mile segment of the Wee Mile race.



Runners sprint to the finish line on Main Street to conclude the O'Putnam 5K.



The Courthouse Bar a Grill once again sponsored the annual 5K race. Putnam Mayor Barney Seney, in a festive getup, greeted guests outside the popular eatery on Main Street.



Team 169, a group of runners who participate in every town in the state that holds a 5K, too to the streets of Putnam, come in festive costumes.



Runners take off commencing the 2022 O'Putnam 5K race.

WRESTLING

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a change in philosophy and a change in direction. "When I came in, I started from the very beginning on the first day of practice," said Ford, who wrestled for Flagler Palm Coast (Fla.) High School and then collegiately at Rhode Island College. "We did a little bit of conditioning and strength training, but as soon as we got on the mat we went right into working on techniques. "I was starting from scratch," Ford continued. "I only had four wrestlers with previous experience from the first year of the program. Because of that I figured I would start at the beginning because we were, essentially, a brand new team." The members of this year's team, especially the four hold-overs from the Clippers' inaugural wrestling season, noticed the differences between year one and year three right away.

"Things are astronomically different than they were two years ago," said junior tri-captain Michael Ellis, who wrestled this season in the 220-pound weight class. "Coach Ford brings a whole different approach to the table than we had before. I feel like it's more personal with him. It's not just a job; we're a family now. We relate well to coach Ford and he relates well to us." Ford's way of doing things has paid dividends. Putnam was expected by many in the wrestling world to struggle through another winless season, but the Clippers finished 5-11 during the regular season, which included two podium finishes in the Griswold Midseason Invitational Tournament, and three podium finishes at the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Tournament. Placing at the ECC Tournament, where the Clippers finished 13th, was Ellis, who finished sixth in the 220-pound weight class, and a pair of freshmen — Jacob

Olson (fourth at 106) and Deven Lamothe (fourth at 138). At the Griswold tournament Lamothe tied for fourth at 138 and another freshman, Edy Morente Mendez, tied for third at 145. The Clippers' five wins this season came against E.O. Smith High School, Marlborough (Mass.) High School and Providence's Mount Pleasant High School. Putnam finished 17th out of the 31 teams that competed in the Connecticut Class S Meet. "I think the season went really well for a program that was starting fresh," the 26-year-old Ford said. "We did a lot of growing. In the beginning we weren't doing so hot, but the kids stuck it out and worked hard and we progressed immensely throughout the season." There were three seniors, three juniors and 12 freshmen on the team this season. The seniors on the squad this year were Ethan Gardner (who wrestled at 152 or 160), Nicholas Vagnini (145 or 152),

and Nunzio Puzo (145 or 152). Serving as a captain along with Ellis were Gardner and Vagnini. "There was a big difference between this year and two years ago," said Gardner, who joined the team in 2019 because it was something new and different at the school. "Two years ago it was much harder, but it was all new to me back then. Having Mr. Ford coaching us this year has been great. He focuses on the fundamentals of wrestling, the techniques of the sport." Ford, who works at Putnam High as a media specialist in the library, said the Clippers fared well throughout the season in the 106-, 132-, 138-, 145-, 170-, and 220 pound weight classes. Olson wrestles at 106, freshman Anthony Cosentino at 132, Lamothe at 138, Morente Mendez at 145, freshman Lucas Benoit at 170, and Ellis at 220. "Those six guys have been the driving force of the team," Ford said. "They all bring something different to the way they lead and the way they

wrestle. They have their own individual style and moves they bring to the mat." The 5-foot-8 Lamothe decided to show up on the first day of practice because two of his friends who were on the team were frequently urging him to join them. "I never wrestled before; I didn't really know what it was all about," Lamothe said. "But Mr. Ford, he's been trying to get me to join the wrestling team since the day I walked into the school. He kept telling me he thought I would be a good wrestler. I denied it for a while, but the first day of practice I showed up and now here I am. "At the start it was definitely hard; my body was sore, but I got used to it pretty quickly," Lamothe said. Now it's a normal thing for me. It's part of my daily routine. I love being out here. After a few days of practice I got into a routine of doing the same things every day and that routine created muscle memory for me. Now it's something I want to do every day."

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Killingly wrestling team members honored for tremendous season

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School wrestling coach Rich Bowen and four members of this season’s team were honored by athletic director Kevin Marcoux at halftime of the boys’ basketball team’s playoff win over Griswold High on Monday, March 7.

Bowen, who has coached the team for 36 years, was recognized for his recent induction into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. During his time at Killingly, Bowen’s teams have won five state championships and 10 Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championships, and he has compiled a career record of 647-183-2.

Wrestlers honored were juniors Jack Richardson and Kaden Ware, freshman Brady Zadora, and sophomore Soren Rief.

Richardson, who finished 47-1 this season with 32 pins, won the New England Regional championship in the 145-pound weight class — the first Killingly wrestler to win a New England title since 1996. During his memorable run this season he also was crowned Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) and Connecticut Class S champion at 145 and was runner-up at 145 at the state open. Richardson’s two-year career record is 90-8.

Ware, who reached the 100-win plateau (career record 100-8) in just his second season as a varsity wrestler, won the ECC and Class S championships at 126 this season, was runner-up in the state open at 126 and fourth at New England’s in the same division. In 2019, as a freshman, Ware won ECC and Class S championships in the 106-pound weight class.

Zadora won the ECC championship at 106 pounds this year and finished as runner-up at 106 in the Class S championships. He finished the season with a 34-5 record, 29 of his wins coming via pins.

Rief, an All-ECC, All-State linebacker

and member of Killingly’s Class M state championship football team in the fall, was the ECC wrestling champion in the 182-pound weight class. At the Class S Tournament he moved up to the 195-pound class and finished second. Rief finished fourth at the state open. This season he compiled a 37-8 record, pinning 28 of this opponents.

As a team Killingly finished the season 22-3, won its fourth straight ECC championship, was the Class S runner-up, and finished seventh in the New England championship — the highest finish in school history.

Boys’ Ice Hockey

Woodstock Academy’s memorable season came to an end on Friday, March 11, the 10th-seeded Centaurs losing the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Division II quarter-final-round game against second-seeded Lyman Hall, 4-3, in overtime at Trinity College in Hartford.

Lyman Hall’s Jack Roberts won a faceoff and deposited the puck into the back of the WA net seven minutes, 40 seconds into the extra period.

Freshman Maxx Corradi started the scoring for the Centaurs (15-7), staking the team to a 1-0 first-period lead with his 15th goal of the season, off assists from sophomores Don Sousa and Noah Sampson. After Lyman Hall tied the game, 1-1, at the end of the first period, Sampson gave Woodstock Academy a 2-1 lead with his 19th goal of the season with 3:24 left in the second period.

Lyman Hall again erased the one-goal deficit, tying the game, 2-2, late in the second period. Senior Kyle Brennan’s goal in the seventh minute of the third period gave the Centaurs a 3-2 lead, but Lyman Hall scored a shorthanded goal 2-1/2 minutes later to tie the game, 3-3, and set the stage for Roberts’ OT heroics.

Woodstock Academy opened its Division II state tournament play on Tuesday, March 8, upsetting seventh-seeded Trumbull, 5-2, in a game



Photo Jason McKay

Members of the Killingly High wrestling program honored at halftime of the boys’ basketball game on Monday, March 7, included coach Rich Bowen, left, Jack Richardson, second from left, Brady Zadora (center), Kaden Ware (second from right) and Soren Rief.

played at the Rinks at Shelton.

The difference in the game, ultimately, was the Centaurs’ three-goal second period.

With the score tied, 1-1, Corradi put the Centaurs ahead, 2-1, off an assist from Sousa 7:47 into the second period. Just 2:15 later, sophomore Troy Daviau scored off classmate’s Jared Nielsen’s pass to make it 3-1, and 90 seconds after that, Sousa scored his 21st goal of the season off a Corradi assist to push the Woodstock Academy lead to 4-1.

Girls’ Basketball

The Killingly High girls’ basketball team’s run of Connecticut Class MM Tournament upsets came to an end Monday, March 7, against Daniel Hand High in Madison.

The third-seeded Tigers defeated Killingly, the No.22 seed, 59-33.

Killingly had provided the tournament a “Cinderella Story” subplot in the first week of state tournament games, defeating No. 11 seed Sheehan

(45-44 on Monday, Feb. 28), in the opening round and sixth-seeded RHAM (40-17, on Thursday, March 3) to get to its game against Hand.

But, as is usually the case — even for the most deserving of Cinderella teams — the clock finally struck midnight for Killingly. The high-octane Tigers started quickly, building first quarter leads of 14-3 and 20-5. Killingly’s second quarter was much better than the one that preceded it, Ella Lach, Molly Crabtree, Sophia Moore and Makayla Dube each draining 3-pointers. Despite the boost of offense, Killingly (12-12) still trailed by 15 points (34-19) at halftime. Hand (19-3) put the game away with a 10-3 run to open the third quarter, pushing its lead to 22 (44-22) with 2:30 left in the period. Lach finished with a team-high 12 points for Killingly, which was making its first appearance in a state quarterfinal game since 2000. Sophomore forward Hannah Grudzien scored seven points and grabbed six rebounds.

HOOPS

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straight points in one stretch to turn a 19-17 deficit into a 25-19 lead, en route to a 29-23 halftime advantage.

Crabtree credited much of his team’s first-half success to the zone defense it played in the first half, and especially the success the defense had in the second quarter.

“At first it didn’t work so great; they had an answer,” Crabtree said. “Then we went to man-to-man for a few minutes, just long enough to make a few adjustments to the zone defense and then we went back to it. When we were playing the zone in the first quarter we were getting sucked into the high post [because] they overloaded it, and then they kicked out to a shooter — and Griswold has got some shooters — and they took advantage of the opportunities we gave them.

“As soon as they slowed down [hitting outside shots], we took advantage; they didn’t score many points in the second quarter and that was the difference,” Crabtree said. “We focused on our defense. That’s what you have to do in the post-season. The postseason is all about defense.”

Griswold (9-12) turned seven of the 10 shots it took into points — including three 3-pointers — in the first quarter. In the second and third quarters the Wolverines were just 7-of-22 from the field. Not surprisingly, at the end of the third quarter Killingly led, 45-32.

Also scoring in double figures for Killingly was junior Tommy Dreiholz, who scored 13 points while finding time to pull down six rebounds.

“Tommy Dreiholz stepped



Yianni Baribeau of Killingly fades away and shoots the ball versus Griswold.



Jason Grzysiewicz of Killingly dribbles the ball while waiting for the play to develop.

up tonight. We’ve been on Tommy pretty hard about the fact that teams are going to focus more and more on Yianni and he has to step up,” Crabtree said. “Tommy can score. For a guy who was the quarterback on the state championship football team, he sometimes doesn’t have much confidence in himself. He’s pretty good, but he doesn’t really want to show it.”

Senior J.R. Simoneau finished with eight points, including a pair of clutch 3-pointers.

“J.R. was ready to shoot tonight,” Crabtree said. “That’s usually his problem; he’s not ready to go. He gets caught up watching the Yianni show and the ball gets kicked to him and he’s not ready to go because his feet aren’t set. We’ve been telling him for a long time now,

think shot. He can stroke it pretty nice. It’s very smooth and tight.”

Killingly, with its win over Griswold, advanced to the second round of the CIAC Division IV Tournament, where it went on the road and faced third-seeded Branford on Wednesday, March 9.

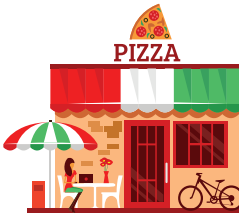
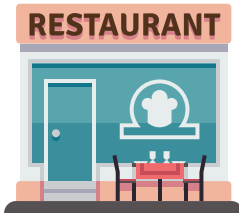
Baribeau led the way for Killingly with 17 points and 10 rebounds, but it wasn’t enough as 18-3 Branford prevailed in a hard-fought game, 51-47.

Senior Jay Grzysiewicz and freshman Johnny Kazantzis each scored nine points for Killingly (12-10) in the season-ending loss.

Killingly’s Trevin Russ attempts to move the ball closer to the basket.



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OBITUARIES

Paul R. Stanton, 97

Paul R. Stanton, 97, formerly of Woodstock, passed away peacefully March 6, 2022 at home in Preston, CT. Born to Frank B. and Mabel (Dempsey) Stanton, he graduated from Putnam High School in 1942. Drafted after his first semester in college, he was a WWII Army Mortar Gunner for K Company, 377th Regiment, 95th Division, serving in France, Holland, and Germany. After assisting with the defeat of the Germans, his unit provided food and aid to Polish work-camp survivors. He then returned to the US with orders to be trained for deployment to Japan, but the war ended and he was honorably discharged. Using the GI bill, Paul graduated from UConn with a degree in Engineering.

He became reacquainted with a former Putnam High classmate, Marjorie Seely. They married in 1956 and settled in Woodstock. Paul spent most of his career as a Mechanical Engineer at Belding Heminway Thread in Putnam, CT. He also worked as an engineer for the State of CT. Books, family activities, Golf, Bridge, Chess, and volunteer-

ing kept him busy. If an invitation to travel arose, he gladly accepted. His volunteer work included Woodstock Academy Trustees, Community Health & Home Care, Woodstock Housing Authority, the CT Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Woodstock Hill Congregational Church, of which he was a member for over 60 years. Paul was a descendant of Thomas Stanton of Stonington, CT and a member of the Stanton Society. His interest in genealogy also took him to Ireland, where he met some distant Irish cousins.

Paul was devoted to Marjorie, who died in 2005. In more recent years, he lived at Creamery Brook Village in Brooklyn, then spent his final months residing with his son and daughter-in-law in Preston, CT

Paul was predeceased by his parents, wife, brother Frank Stanton, and sister Mary Palmer. He will be lovingly remembered by daughters Pat (Brian) Taylor; Elaine (John) Polhemus, Meg (Wayne) Sawyer; son Matthew (Wendy) Stanton, grandchildren Ashley Taylor; Erik Taylor; Kate Polhemus, Karis (Quincy) Berglund, and Kristen Sawyer, as well as several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held in May. Arrangements are with Smith & Walker Funeral Home in Putnam, Smithandwalkerfh.com.

Sandra “Sandy” Hoover

Sandra “Sandy” Hoover passed away February 21st, 2022. Born and raised in Howell, MI, as a child and teen Sandy was an active participant in sports, especially shining as a pitcher with the local softball league. She was a graduate of Howell High School and Michigan State University where she majored in physical education. After college Sandy married Roger Parks, also of Howell, in 1960. Son Neal was born in 1962 and they moved to the Northeast in 1963. Son David came along in 1965 and the family eventually settled in Woodstock, CT, where Sandy was a beloved gym teacher and colleague at the Woodstock Elementary School from 1968 to 1992, when she retired. Sandy also had a great love for the arts, befriending and collecting works from numerous artists and craftspeople. In the early 1970s she was instrumental in organizing art classes for children at the Pulpit Rock Art Community in Woodstock, CT.

In 2000 Sandy moved to Northampton, MA, when she could often be spotted behind the wheel of her green VW Beetle, for which she got the moniker of “hipster granny.” She was, for many years, an active member of the Northampton First Churches, and a member of the Dorcas Society. Sandy’s final year was spent living in Amherst with her son Neal and his wife Leslie.

A gregarious soul, Sandy made friends everywhere she went on her many travels and remained a fast friend to the many she had known since childhood. Even though she spent most of her adult life living in New England, she never forgot the place of her birth, often returning to her hometown for family gatherings and never missed a high school reunion event. She remained an ardent fan of Michigan State Spartans Football and enjoyed Saturday afternoons each autumn tuning into televised college football.

Sandy leaves behind her son Neal Parks and daughter in-law Leslie Lauf of Amherst, MA, son David Parks and daughter in-law Diane Parks of Ashford, CT, grandchild Dunan Herman-Parks of Amherst, MA, former husband Roger Parks of Pomfret, CT, nieces Stephanie Abarbanel of NY and Karin Abarbanel of NJ, and nephew Peter Abarbanel of MN. She was predeceased by her parents, Coye and Margaret Hoover and her half-sister, Dorothy Abarbanel, and niece Judy Abarbanel.

Donations can be made in her honor to First Churches of Northampton and Cathedral In The Night.

Boost your garden’s harvest while reducing pest problems

Boost this year’s harvest and reduce pest problems with less effort, while being kind to the environment. Employ row covers, chicken wire cloches and crop cages to prevent damage without the aid of chemicals.

Floating row covers of spun-bonded or woven materials let air, light, and water through to the covered plantings. The warm air that is captured protects the plantings from frosty temperatures. The coverings also prevent birds from dining on newly planted seeds and eliminate damage by certain insects like flea beetles, onion maggots, seed corn maggots, and leafhoppers that may infect lettuce, celery, and carrots with aster yellows disease.

Cover susceptible seeds and transplants at planting to prevent the insects from reaching the plants. Insects like flea beetles and onion and seed corn maggots overwinter as adults in the soil near the previous season’s planting. Move susceptible plants to a different part of the garden to avoid trapping the insects under the row cover with their favorite food source.

Double the benefit with less effort by planting short season radishes with long season cole crops such as cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower. Harvest the radishes as the larger vegetable plants need the space. This will provide two harvests from one row. The row cover eliminates problems with root maggots on radishes, cabbage worms on cole crops, and rabbits from dining on them all.

Basil and beans are favorites of Japanese beetles. Cover these at plant-



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

ing and since they do not need pollination to enjoy the harvest, leave the fabric in place throughout the season. Just lift to harvest and replace.

Cover squash at planting to prevent birds from dining on newly planted seeds and to reduce the risk of squash vine borer and squash bugs. The fabric prevents these insects from accessing the plants. Remove the covers when flowering begins to allow pollinators access to the blossoms. Don’t use row covers when planting squash in the same location as the previous year. Since squash vine borer insects will overwinter in the soil near the squash plants, the row cover will trap the insects and provide easy access to the plants. Continue to monitor for these pests throughout the remainder of the season.

Loosely drape the row cover fabric over the planting and secure the edges with boards, pipes, stones, or landscape pins. Commercial setups like the 3-Season Plant Protection Tent include a framework and fabric covers, making it easy for gardeners to cover and access the plantings. Systems like this include two covers; one to protect plants from cold and a second lighter weight fabric for preventing insect damage during the warmer growing season. Reuse the fabrics as long as they remain intact.

Self-supporting mesh enclosures like Pest Control Pop-Ups (gardeners.com) are another option for protecting plantings from insects, birds, and animals. Look for products like this that are simple to install and fold flat for easy storage when not in use. Finer mesh



Photo Courtesy — Gardener’s Supply Co.

Plant protection tents protect plants from cold and wind, animals, and insect pests.

products keep out insect pests while larger mesh wire covers protect plantings from birds and animals, including hungry squirrels dining on greens and ripe tomatoes. Various sizes and designs provide coverage for individual plants, raised beds and berry bushes.

Make this the year to be proactive at preventing and minimizing pest damage throughout season without the use of chemicals. Your efforts will be rewarded with a bountiful harvest.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening* and *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition*. She hosts *The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything”* DVD series and the *Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Gardener’s Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY

The Audit Report of the Town of Killingly for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 as prepared by Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, is on file in Killingly Town Clerk’s Office, 172 Main Street, Killingly, CT, and is available for public inspection in accordance with Section 7-394 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Elizabeth M. Wilson
Killingly Town Clerk

March 18, 2022

TOWN OF THOMPSON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROCUREMENT NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL HVAC STUDY, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Town of Thompson will be accepting proposals from qualified individuals or firms to provide a complete HVAC Study, Overall Design and Construction Services cost estimate for Thompson Public Schools. Interested individuals and firms should obtain the complete RFP and related information from the Board of Education website at www.thompsonpublicschools.org or via the Town’s website at www.thompsonct.org. Proposals must be submitted to Me-

linda A. Smith, Superintendent of Schools, 785 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 no later than May 18, 2022 by 1:00pm. Bid opening begins at 1:00pm on May 18, 2022 in the Superintendent’s Office.

LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women /Disadvantaged Business Enterprises are encouraged to bid.
March 18, 2022

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

At the March 7, 2022 regular meeting of the Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agency, the following application was approved: 12-21-14- Hemlock Dr (MBLU:7272-34-0C68)-Morris Lewis-new home construction. Agent sign off: 03-22-10- 29 Olde Meadow Rd- Shaun Boynton- shed; 03-22-11- 32 Perrin Rd- Mark VanderVoort- replace old barn. Chair Mark Parker
March 18, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Earl F Burgess, Jr. (22-00084) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 4, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fidu-

ciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Danielle R Bakanowsky
c/o CHRISTIAN GEORGE SARANTOPOULOS, SARANTOPOULOS &, SARANTOPOULOS, LLC, 143 SCHOOL STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
March 18, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Beverly J Lemieux (22-00079) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 2, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

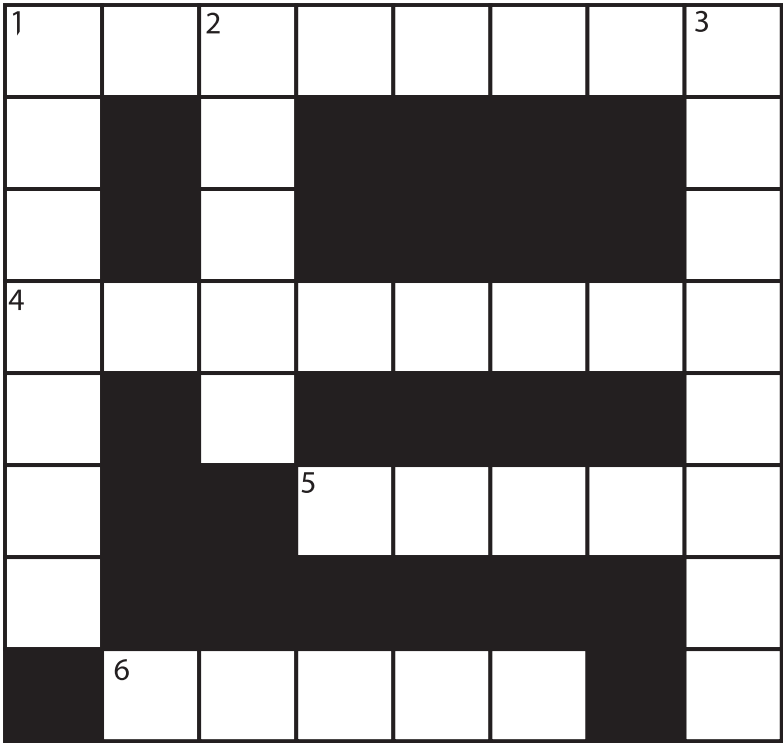
The fiduciary is:
Raymond Lemieux
c/o CHRISTIAN GEORGE SARANTOPOULOS, SARANTOPOULOS &, SARANTOPOULOS, LLC, 143 SCHOOL STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
March 18, 2022

PROPERTY AUCTION

The tax collector of the Town of Thompson has levied upon 327 Riverside Drive in Thompson owned by Joseph W. Janeczek and slated it for public auction to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges under C.G.S. § 12-157. The property is described at Volume 203 Page 243 and Volume 788 Page 153 of the Town’s land records, and owed \$146,097.28 through the end of last month. Additional taxes, interest, fees, and other charges authorized by law accruing after the last day of the month immediately preceding this notice are owed in addition to the amount indicated as due and owing in this notice. Unless paid, this property will be auctioned in “as is” condition at 10:00 a.m. on May 26, 2022 at the Thompson Town Hall at 815 Riverside Drive in North Grosvenordale. Bidders must present \$5,000 in certified funds payable to “Pullman & Comley, Trustee” on the day of the sale, and the winning bidder must pay the balance of the sale price within 5 days or forfeit that deposit. Absent a redemption, the purchaser will take title “free and clear” six months after the auction except for certain encumbrances. Details at www.cttaxsales.com.
March 18, 2022



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Wrapped items
- 4. State again as fact
- 5. Brief appearance
- 6. Having good fortune

DOWN

- 1. Irish patron saint
- 2. Inexpensive
- 3. Clover

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 45 B.C.: CAESAR WINS HIS LAST VICTORY OVER POMPEY'S ARMIES.
- 1917: TSAR NICHOLAS II ABDICATES THE RUSSIAN THRONE, ENDING THE ROMANOV DYNASTY AFTER MORE THAN 300 YEARS.
- 2019: ROUGHLY 1.4 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE GO ON STRIKE TO PROTEST CLIMATE CHANGE.



THIS CELEBRATION ORIGINATED IN IRELAND, BUT PARTIES NOW OCCUR ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

ANSWER: ST. PATRICK'S DAY



SLÁINTE

(to good) health in Irish

Down
1. Patrick 2. Cheap 3. Shamrock

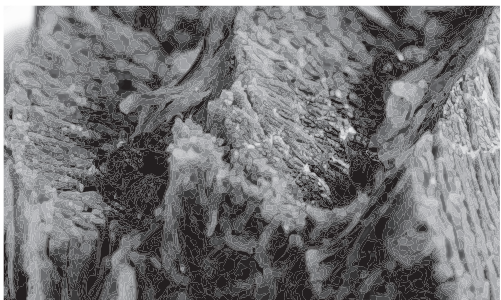
Across
1. Packages 4. Reaffirm 5. Cameo 6. Lucky

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH: Clover
- SPANISH: Trébol
- ITALIAN: Trifoglio
- FRENCH: Trèfle
- GERMAN: Klee



ACCORDING TO FOLKLORE, LEPRECHAUNS ARE A TYPE OF IRISH FAIRY. THEIR NAME MEANS "SMALL-BODIED FELLOW." LEPRECHAUNS ARE AS TALL AS A THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILD.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CORNED BEEF



Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to the Red Cross.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 18 = E)

A. 15 14 14 26 14 8

Clue: Help

B. 7 18 2 26 4 15 20

Clue: Having to do with medicine/health

C. 4 15 1 18

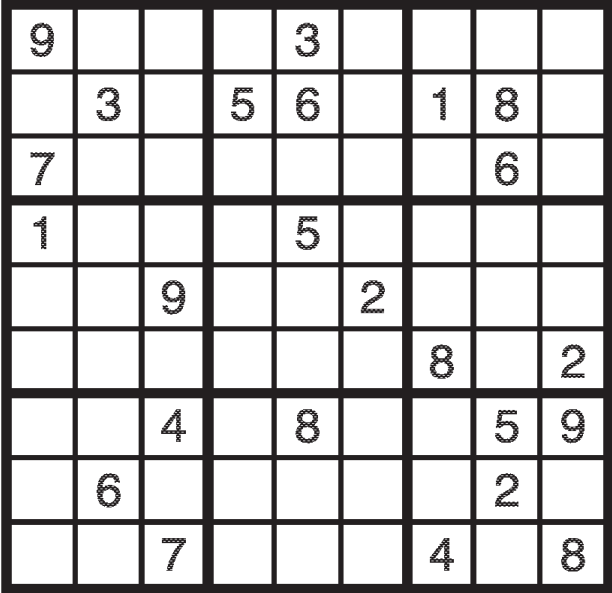
Clue: Look after

D. 18 7 18 1 24 18 25 4 6

Clue: Urgent matter

Answers: A. assist B. medical C. care D. emergency

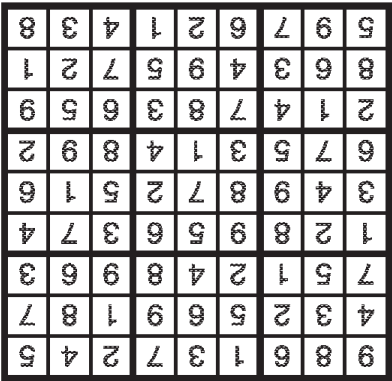
SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!





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Less than two weeks left!

Sale ends March 31st!

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on every window¹

SAVE \$825

on every patio door¹

★
★

EXTRA 3% Discount

when you pay for your whole project with cash or check¹

★
★

OR

NO NO NO

Money Down Payments Interest

for 1 year²



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- Our windows are built with a highly-engineered composite material called Fibrex®, which is **two times stronger than vinyl**.
- Because our windows are custom built, we **don't have to modify your home to fit our windows**. That means the installation goes smoother, too!

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959-456-0067



Nine Designer Window Colors

SANDTONE

CANVAS

TERRATONE®

WHITE

COCOA BEAN

DARK BRONZE

BLACK

FOREST GREEN

RED ROCK

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 3/31/22 with the purchase then occurring on or before 4/10/22. 3% cash discount for payment in full by cash or check applied at time of sale. ²No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under CT HIC.0634555, MA 173245, RI 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. Southern New England Windows LLC is the authorized representative of Renewal by Andersen and the registered Home Improvement Contractor. Renewal by Andersen does not hold this HIC number. All residents of islands including but not limited to Martha's Vineyard will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *Using U.S. and imported parts.

