

*"Life is like the seasons. After winter, comes the spring."  
- Cycles, as sung by Frank Sinatra.*

# THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, April 7, 2023

Serving Thompson since 2005

## TEEG honors Pickett for 35 years of service

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group, more prominently known as TEEG, honored one of its longest serving volunteers and board members on Friday, March 31 by naming the agency's community room after Barbara Pickett in honor of her 35-years of service.

The agency made the announcement during its annual Have a Heart action event surprising Pickett with a plaque and words of praise recognizing her commitment to the agency. Pickett was part of the group of local citizens and leaders that came together to create the earliest iteration of TEEG which today serves as a social service agency providing senior services, food security programs, youth mentoring and more to Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock.

"Barbara was part of the group of religious organization and members of the Thompson community who got



TEEG Executive Director Anne Miller and Board President Denise Baum present longtime board member Barbara Pickett with a plaque honoring her 35-years of service. TEEG's community room will be renamed in honor of Pickett.

Jason Bleau

together to take care of their neighbors. That's what TEEG does today and that's what Barbara has done for 35 years," said TEEG Executive Director Anne Miller calling Pickett a special part

of the TEEG community. "We are very thankful for everything she has done. It's an amazing thing to be a board member at TEEG. It's a working board and they support us so much in the work

we do."

Miller announced that the TEEG conference room will be renamed the Barbara Pickett Community Room. TEEG Board of Directors President Denise Baum

read the plaque aloud which will forever hang in TEEG's community room in Pickett's honor. Pickett was speechless after the honor, but later in the night spoke about how important TEEG has

been to her and the community at large for more than three decades.

"TEEG has just been my heart since Sister Suzanne started it. We started with home work helpers who were teaching moms how to cook and it evolved from there. We went from the Lutheran church to Main Street and now we have our big building (on Thatcher Road). It's been wonderful," Pickett said admitting she was blown away by the surprise dedication. "It's beautiful to see how far TEEG has come. We're just so proud. We used to struggle to make a \$5,000 and here we are with Have a Heart, and we can make that in one auction item. It's all because people in the community believed in this, came to work for the agency, and we're proud of all of them."

TEEG is always seeking volunteers for either its community programs or its Board of Directors. Those seeking a way to get involved can learn more about the agency at [www.teegonline.org](http://www.teegonline.org).

## Killingly adds Food Science to Agriculture Career Pathways

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School will offer a new program starting next year with the addition of three food science and biotechnology courses approved by the Board of Education on March 22.

The programs will add a new career pathway to the schools Agricultural Education Center, a longtime staple of the district that prepares students for a variety of agriculture-related careers including animal science, plant science, aquaculture, mechanics and more. The new Food Science & Biotechnology program will be led by Heather Lopez, who worked with Agriculture Center Director Courtney Cardinal to create the curriculum. Lopez appeared before the Board of Education after initially proposing the program to the district's Curriculum Committee earlier in the month.

"Our main goal is to really get going with this food science and biotechnology pathway that the Agriculture Program has been wanting to start for many years now simply because of the fact that the food science and biotechnology industries are probably one of the biggest, if not the biggest agricultural industries in the United States and also globally. It is where most of the students pursuing an agricultural career will find job opportunities after high school," Lopez said.

The program was celebrated by members of the Board of Education who saw it as a fitting addition to the lineup of offerings for students of the Agriculture Center, which serves as a gateway to career pathways for students of Killingly and other surrounding towns. Lopez said the center is already prepared to launch the program with no new equipment purchases necessary.

"We have all lab equipment required for any lab activities. We have the textbooks ready to go, full class set so it would not cost the ag program or the district any money to run these additional classes," she said.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the new program with three classes: Ag 2 Food Science and Biotechnology, Principles of Food Science, and Sustainable Food Production. As usual, students will need to complete their introductory agriculture class in their first year in the program, which explores all available programs at the center, as a prerequisite to any courses in the program.

Parents and students can learn more about the Killingly Agricultural Center at Killingly High School by visiting [www.killinglyschools.org](http://www.killinglyschools.org).

## Historic Woodstock Golf Course prepares for 128th season

WOODSTOCK — Martha Beckwith President of the Roseland Park and Golf Course Board of Trustees recently announced that the nine-hole course will officially open for its 128th season on Saturday, April 1. Unofficially, the course has been currently allowing play to a limited number of golfers on days that the weather permits.

"The Trustees of Roseland Park and Golf Course are thrilled to see an increased level of community engagement in both the park and the golf course. We are extremely grateful to the many volunteers and supporters who have stepped up to help transform the landmark into

an inviting and welcoming place that it is today," said Beckwith.

It was on a perfect day for golf, July 4, 1896 that Clarence W. Bowen, the fifth child of Roseland benefactor Henry Bowen, teed off at 10:30 a.m. with Judge George C. Holt for the first ever golf match at the historic Woodstock Golf Club. Since the initial match the course has under gone numerous improvements. Woodstock claims to be the third oldest course in Connecticut, behind Greenwich CC (1892) and Fenwick GC (home course of Katherine Hepburn) 1894.

As the 2023 season tees off, golfer will note a number of significant

improvements in the storied layout. Golfers will be greeted upon arrival by the course's Director of Golf Michael "Mike" Pizzetti. He brings a long career in golf course operation to Woodstock, following a 42-year run as Director of Golf at Quinnetis Golf Club in Thompson. Since coming over to Woodstock, Pizzetti has been busy making connections to offer a "family fun-oriented golf experience to the golfers enjoying play at the historic venue."

A large contingent of volunteers, including students from The Woodstock Academy, have been busy throughout the off-season clearing brush, widening fair-

ways and rebuilding a bridge in preparation for the 2023 season. Pizzetti also has a fleet of carts tuned up to accommodate riders, although walking the course remains an option. The irrigation system, though operational in the past, is now fully operational with plans to be upgraded. Plans are also on the drawing board to do much needed work on the greens and to improve or rebuild the tee areas. And the course and greens will be aerated and top dressed to bring them to acceptable condition. Much of the improvement work is being conducted in

Turn To **GOLF** page A10

## Magic's on-court wizardry keys undefeated season

POMFRET AND EASTFORD PLAYERS COME TOGETHER IN FROG ROCK BASKETBALL LEAGUE

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

POMFRET — The Magic, a youth basketball team comprised of fifth- and sixth-graders from Pomfret and Eastford had a — pun intended — magical season this year.

Not magical as in hocus-pocus or pulling a rabbit out of a hat, but magical in terms of layups, jump shots and victories every time the team took the court.

Competing in the Frog Rock Youth Basketball

League, the Magic, coached by Colleen Neely and Lenny Bunnell, finished its Division 2 regu-

lar season 8-0. Even after the regular season ended, the Magic kept on winning, capturing the Paul

Wentworth Tournament championship last month, going 3-0 after a first-round bye. The



Courtesy

Team Magic, which competed in the Frog Rock Youth Basketball League, stands under the scoreboard after defeating the Sixers, 35-28, to win the Paul Wentworth Tournament last month.

# Tourtellotte Student Spotlight: Hanna LeClaire

Each month, Tourtellotte Memorial High School's Student Spotlight program recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, character, leadership, attitude, and/or contributions to the school and community. April's Student Spotlight honoree is senior Hanna LeClaire.

Hanna was nominated by Maddie Copley, Chloe Manzo, Megan Nachtigall, Ms. Sobanski, and Mrs. Ouillette.

In Maddie's nomination, she states, "Hanna is very deserving of this award. She is very involved in the school as well as the community. She always has a smile on her face and makes sure others are alright. She takes on so much and does it all with a positive attitude. If something needs to get done, Hanna is always the first to volunteer. She never fails to put a smile on my face. She is one of the most caring people I have ever met. My life wouldn't be the same without her in it."

Chloe adds, "Hanna is always a ray of sunshine wherever she goes—on the field, in class, or even just passing in the halls. She is so kind and genuine. She constantly puts her best work into everything she does. Hanna is so involved in her community, and I'm so proud of her and all of her accomplishments."

Hanna's friend Megan also says, "Hanna is the hardest worker I've ever met. She steps forward to complete every task that is offered to her. She is always there for others and makes everybody's day just from getting a 'hi' from her in the hallway. She lights up every room she walks into and is extremely funny. Every day, I look forward to seeing her and being around her positive energy. Hanna impacted my life for the better without even realizing it."

Several of the staff also nominated Hanna.

Ms. Sobanski says, "Hanna is one of the most caring, patient, selfless, and hardworking individuals I have had the plea-



sure of getting to know these last few years. She is always willing to help out anyone who asks, and she will put in extra time and effort to something she wants to achieve. She is able to juggle so many responsibilities and always does so with joy and happiness. She is beyond deserving of this recognition."

Mrs. Ouillette adds, "I really appreciate how Hanna is always willing to contribute more than her fair share to the clubs and organizations with-

in which she serves her school community. Even more importantly, she is somebody that you can really count on to follow through with the responsibilities she willingly takes on. I would like to thank Hanna for all that she has done for TMHS students and staff—she will be remembered fondly when she soon graduates."

While consistently achieving high honors throughout high school, Hanna has taken a leading role in many

school organizations and athletics including as Vice President of the National Honor Society, Corresponding Secretary of the Tourtellotte Student Leadership Team, Senior Class Secretary, as well as the Captain of the Girls Soccer and the Indoor and Outdoor Track teams. Hanna is also a member of the Student Spirit Association, Student Council, and FBLA. In addition, Hanna enjoys volunteering with community organizations such as TEEG, the Weekend Warrior project, Dog Orphans, Teacher Education Association, and the MRFES PTO.

About her involvement in her school and community, Hanna says, "Each of these organizations has taught me many valuable lessons and I am very thankful for their generosity in the Thompson Community."

When asked what motivates her, Hanna says, "I am motivated by the progress that comes from hard work. In my eyes, there is nothing more

satisfying than seeing accomplishment come from dedication. On top of being motivated by progress, my friends and family truly push me to do my best and I am thankful for that every day."

Hanna plans to attend UConn to pursue a math or science related career; however, Hanna says, "I enjoy helping people, it's a passion of mine that I would like to explore more of and perhaps find a career in."

Finally, Hanna's message to her school and community is, "Thank you to the Tourtellotte community. I have created valuable bonds between students and faculty that I will always treasure. I am so lucky to be able to see so many smiling faces I love everyday here at school. I have been able to cherish numerous positive memories from my four years in 'Tourtellotte. I truly would not be where I am today without the school community that I have the pleasure of calling my family."

## Gerald (Jerry) Ferguson featured at Putnam Gallery

PUTNAM — An art show featuring the works of 95-year-old artist Gerald (Jerry) Ferguson will be on display at The Corridor Gallery at the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Putnam, from April 1 until June 30. The show, entitled "A 70-year Retrospective: The Works of Jerry Ferguson," is a visual journey through his long, varied career. Mediums will include oil painting, watercolor and pastel.

Ferguson says he is "inspired by nature, the scenery around him, his family and humanity." He is excited about sharing his work with an audience in his own town.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1928, his favorite hobby as a child and teenager was drawing and studying art along with his younger brother and sister. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School, and later graduated from Cooper Union in 1953. He began his first job as an illustrator for

Science and Technology magazine. He was also employed as an Art Director for the books division of Reader's Digest in New York City.

Jerry and Helen moved to Putnam 17 years ago, where he has enjoyed painting landscapes, still life and portraits, as well as some abstract interpretations. Photography is another of his passions as it can be spontaneous, capturing a moment in time. He has found oil painting to be fulfilling because of all the colors he achieved. He enjoys

watercolor because of their simplicity, but stresses you need to be committed to your color scheme, as it is more difficult to modify your choices compared to oils. As he grew older, he worked in pastels, as it is very direct and versatile.

The show is sponsored by the Putnam Arts Council. It will remain on display until June 30 during normal Municipal Complex operating hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



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 Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 27: Tree Swallow, Hermit Thrush, Hooded Merganser, American Woodcock, American Kestrel, Robin, Bluebird, Turkey Vulture, Flicker, Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Phoebe. Visit [ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home).

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## Lisa Anniello named Best Teacher at Ellis Tech

DANIELSON — Thursday, March 9, her students cheered when it was announced that Lisa Anniello, Instructor, Hairdressing and Cosmetology, received the honor of Best Teacher of 2023. This award was bestowed by her fellow teachers at Harvard H. Ellis Technical School in Danielson.

Domenick Zipoli, Department Head,



Hairdressing and Cosmetology, said "... it is Lisa's sense of humor, faithfulness and hard work that are the best things about working with Lisa." Jennifer Jarmon, Interim Principal, said "Ms. Anniello is definitely, and deserves to be, one of our stars."

Aiello had her own beauty shop, but started her journey at Ellis Tech in the cafeteria encouraged by one of her sons to apply for the job because his mom was such a great cook. Eventually, her supervisor encouraged her to return to school to so she could get the certifications necessary to be a teacher. She took classes at Central Connecticut State University and continued working evenings as the school's custodian.

An avid gardener, resident of Scotland, Anniello raised a blended family of six and was thrilled when the opening at EllisTech became available.

"I was so nervous that first day, but here I am. My greatest joy is when I hear from former students many who have graduated from UConn," she said.

## Eastern student Samantha Mowry helps win national college bowl for physical education

WILLIMANTIC — For the second year in a row and fourth year overall, Eastern physical education teacher candidates have won the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) America National College Bowl.

Among the students was Samantha Mowry of Woodstock Valley, a senior who majors in Physical Education. This year's College Bowl was held March 29 in Seattle, Wash., at the SHAPE America National Convention and Exposition. Nineteen teams from throughout the United States competed in a "Jeopardy" style competition with questions in the areas of motor behavior, exercise science, adapted physical education, health and wellness, dance, sport and games, and assessment.

The Eastern students prepped for the national competition by winning the 13th annual Connecticut Association for Health Physical Education and Dance (CTAHPERD) Dee Perilli College Bowl this past November.

"Eastern's physical education teacher candidates complete coursework in a variety of topics that encompass what well-rounded professionals need to know within their majors, concentrations and professional lives," said Darren Robert, department chair and professor of education. "Coupled with this instruction, teacher candidates receive numerous opportunities to put their knowledge to practice in real-world teaching experiences."

Robert thanked health/physical education faculty, the Education Department, cooperating teachers, the students' families and the Kalber family for their support. "Providing students/teacher candidates with experiences like this is what makes Eastern an awesome place to be!"

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# Friends of Learning in Killingly celebrates 25th anniversary of founding



Courtesy

The Killingly Robotics Team celebrates with a group photo after being declared World Champions in Engineering Design at the 2022 WORLD Robotics Championships in Dallas TX for the second year in a row. Teacher Robert Polselli's 2022 FOLK grant helped pay for the teams' uniforms. His 2023 FOLK grant will help pay registration fees that will permit more team members to participate in higher level Robotics competitions.

KILLINGLY — The year was 1998, and members of the Killingly High School Class of 1966 were all turning 50 years old. Led by their 1966 Class Historian, Janice Ahola-Sidaway, several dozen members and friends of their Class joined together by making financial donations in order to create a small educational endowment fund. The fund became a way to commemorate their birthday milestone by giving back to their original school community.

The group called themselves the Friends of Learning in Killingly, or FOLK for short, a coincidental nod to the popular musical genre that helped define their teen years of the 1960s. The endowment itself became known as the FOLK Fund; and its purpose was to help Killingly children and youth reach their full potential by enriching their schooling experience. The mission of the Fund was to inspire the love of learning in current and future Killingly students through mini-grants awarded to public school educators in support of innovative enriching initiatives.

To help ensure a promising future, the Fund was created through a legal partnership with the nearby and highly regarded Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF), a public charity 501(c)(3) organization. The FOLK endowment was tiny at first - just over \$10,000 - the minimum amount required to create the Fund.

"We began awarding grants to Killingly teachers in 2000. Our annual grant-making budget has always been four percent of the Fund's value, so you can imagine that the number and size of the grants in those early years were very limited," explained Ahola-Sidaway, longtime Chair of the FOLK Advisory Committee. "Considering where we started, the value of the Fund has increased significantly over the years thanks to the generosity of new and repeat donors from the Class of 1966, other alumni and friends, and local groups and businesses. As a result, we have been able to progressively increase the number and size of the annual grants. There are so many creative and dedicated teachers in Killingly; we feel so honored to be able to do our small part in supporting their efforts."

2020 also ushered in a new chapter of FOLK. Under the leadership of Ted Haveles, President of the KHS Class of 1969, members and friends of his Class joined together to create FOLK's first ever named grant: The KHS Class of 1969 FOLK Grant. Their Class raised over \$30,000 for FOLK, thereby ensuring that each year in perpetuity \$1,300 of FOLK's annual grants would be named in honor of the Class of 1969 (for more details about their initia-

tive see Page A3 of the Feb. 11, 2022 edition of the Killingly Villager archives that are available on the Stonebridge Press Web site).

The Fund has grown twenty-fold since its inception; and as of March 2023, FOLK has also awarded 200 mini-grants totaling nearly \$76,000 to more than 120 Killingly educators.

This year's Annual Awards Reception took place on March 8, to honor the 2023 and 2022 grant recipients (2022 grants had already been awarded, but no reception took place due to the pandemic) and to celebrate FOLK's 25th Founding Anniversary. Attendees were presented with tiny succulent plants donated by The Sunshine Shop in Dayville, as a memento of the Anniversary and recognition that something enduring can come from a modest beginning.

The Twelve 2023 grants, including two of them that were awarded in the name of the Class of 1969, total over

\$7,000. The proposed projects range from creative play initiatives, math literacy, service learning, visual arts, technology literacy, robotics, cultural studies, collaborative classroom tools, and sewing skills.

Goodyear Early Childhood Center Physiotherapist Tiffany O'Leary received a grant to purchase a child-sized electric car that will be modified by the Intermediate School's Robotics students, so physically disabled Goodyear students can actively participate in recess. Killingly Central School math interventionist Sara Sumner's grant will be used to purchase innovative teaching tools for use by all of the Grade K and Grade 1 teachers. Killingly Memorial School teachers Traci Roseman and Kimberley Vincent each received grants to provide alternative seating options for their classrooms.

At Killingly Intermediate School, Chrysalis teacher Jan McRobert received a KHS Class of 1969 FOLK Grant to create a special "creative play room"

At Killingly High school, a KHS Class of 1969 FOLK Grant was awarded to algebra teachers Anna Dalbec and Lisa Finkelman to make it possible for their students to participate in the popular highly regarded remote-learning program "Engineers Teaching Algebra." Teacher Jamie Carver's grant will help make it possible for her art students to attend a day-long art seminar at the Hartford School of Art that will be taught by university-level art professors. Teacher Joe Lewerk will use his grant for a fieldtrip to Hartford with his students who are enrolled in the inaugural offering at KHS of an elective course on African-American, Black, Puerto Rican, and Latino(a) studies. Technology teacher Jim Hutson's grant will help support students in the KHS Chapter of the Technology Student Association to compete in State and National competitions. Technology teacher Robert Polselli's grant will help with registration fees so more members of the Robotics team can participate in State, National, and International competitions.

For more information about FOLK contact Janice Ahola-Sidaway (asidaway@uottawa.ca) or Kelly Stimson (kstimson@greaterworcester.org), Director of Donor Services at Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF), FOLK's partner. GWCF manages the FOLK Fund and coordinates its grant cycle. All gifts to the FOLK Fund are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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**2023-2024**

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# Woodstock's Karen Warinsky to feature at April 20 poetry event

WEBSTER — Poets at Large continues its 2023 series of spoken word/poetry readings on Thursday, April 20 at The Rose Room Café, 4 East Main St., Webster, Mass. Featured readers will be Woodstock resident Karen Warinsky, Massachusetts Beat Poet Laureate (2021-2023) Tommy Twilite, and Worcester poet/funny man Joe Fusco, Jr. This event is free to the public (ages 14 and up) and will be held from 6-8 p.m. There will be an intermission and an open mic after the featured poets. Anyone wishing to participate in the open mic should email karen.warinsky@gmail.com. Open mic readers will get five minutes each.

Karen Warinsky has published in various anthologies and literary magazines including the 2019 Mizmor Anthology, Honoring

Nature and Ms. Aligned 4. She is the author of Gold in Autumn (2020), Sunrise Ruby (2022), and is a former finalist of the Montreal International Poetry Contest. Warinsky is the coordinator of Poets at Large, a group of regional poets who perform in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Poet and songwriter Tommy Twilite (aka Thomas Clark) is the founding co-director of the Florence Poets Society (2004-present), Executive Editor of Silkworm (2006-present), and host of the Twilite Poetry Pub on WXOJ-FM. He is a retired Fire Captain with more than 30 years of distinguished service. His poems have appeared in various publications, including: Equinox, Polarity, Meat for Tea, Naugatuck River Review and Nefarious Ballerina. Tommy was selected to serve as Beat

Poet Laureate of Massachusetts for 2021-2023 by the National Beat Poetry Foundation. Fifty Words for Rain is his first full length collection.

Joe Fusco, Jr. is a well-seasoned humorist/poet from Worcester, Massachusetts. Joe is a humor columnist for Worcester Magazine and was the Worcester Mega-Slam winner in 2017. He is the host of the Poetry Extravaganza at Redemption Rock Brewery. Fuso is also the Vice-President of Programming for the Worcester County Poetry Association.

This year's series at The Rose Room is sponsored in part by bankHometown, the Putnam Area Foundation, and Global Partners (Ashford Xtra Mart and Webster Honey Farms). Find the Poets at Large 2023 schedule on Facebook.



## Seeger singalong benefits community kitchens

WOODSTOCK — The Pete Seeger Tribute Concert held at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock on Saturday evening, April 1 was a huge success in every way.

This seventh annual Seeger Sing-Along—affectionately called For Pete's Sake—was hosted by former State Troubadour Sally Rogers and local folksinger Leslie Sweetnam, and featured a number of performers from the area including Howie Bursen, Donna Dufresne, Dan Lanier, Sandy Pliskin, Jeff Perkins, Marilyn Ravina, Carol Rossetti, and Claudia Schmidt.

Song lyrics were projected onto a screen at the front of the sanctuary and the large crowd joined in the singing old favorites such as Pete Seeger's "If I Had a Hammer" and "Turn, Turn, Turn" and Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land," as well as original compositions by several local artists.

Donations from the benefit concert totaled \$1,755, and will go to support Community Kitchen of Northeastern Connecticut, Inc.

"The concert was a win-win, as the community was able to raise their voices in song while simultaneously raising funds for this worthy organization," said Sally Rogers.

The evening opened with local singer-songwriter Jeff Perkins leading everyone in singing his original composition "Sing, Sing, Sing." Certainly, another highpoint of the concert was Claudia Schmidt's stellar rendition of Pete Seeger's "Old Devil Time."

"Pete understood that people love to sing together. Give folks a tune they know or can learn, and project the words where they can see them, and they'll be a happy chorus," said Leslie Sweetnam.

As one concert-goer remarked on her way out of the church, "I always leave these sing-alongs smiling."

# Putnam Rotary to honor students with Youth Service Award

NOMINATIONS OPEN APRIL 1 TO MAY 15

PUTNAM — In celebration of its 100th year, the Putnam Rotary Club will be honoring five local high school students with

the Robert P. Reardon Youth Service Award.

This one-time award is named after the club's first president. The club will award \$200 each to one student from each of the club's town service areas: Eastford, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock.

Club President Missy Meyers said, "The Putnam Rotary Club is very excited for this opportunity to recognize the exceptional youth in our area, who voluntarily commit their time and energy to community service. The motto for Rotary is Service Above Self, and we can't wait to see the nominations for the Reardon Youth Awards, to see the inspiring stories of how local high school students prioritize the same values."

To be eligible for this award, the student must be in grades 9 through 12, live in one of the club's five service towns and

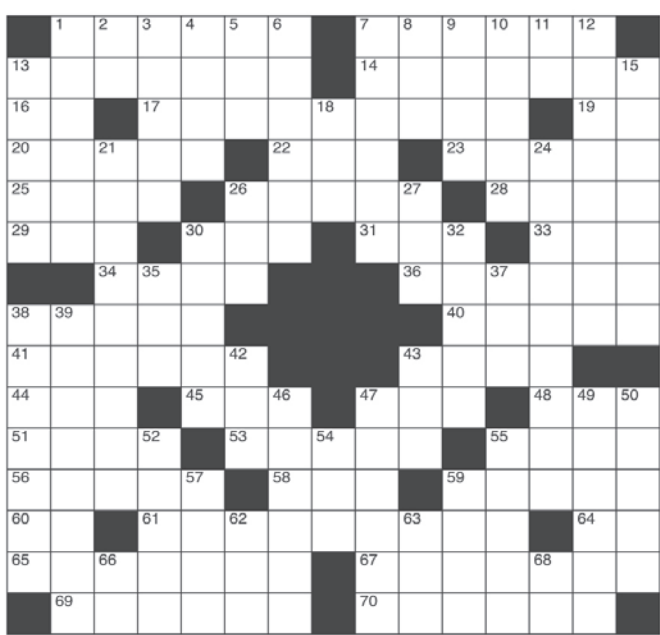
show that they exemplify Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." Community service as a volunteer is the keystone of this award and the student's daily conduct should incorporate the values of Rotary, as highlighted in Rotary's "4-Way Test" of service:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Students can be nominated by faculty, teachers, fellow students, friends or neighbors.

Nomination forms are available at: <https://form.jotform.com/230816599363163>.

The deadline is May 15. The awards will be presented at the Putnam Rotary Club Gala on June 3. For information or questions contact Rande Chmura at [rchmura20@gmail.com](mailto:rchmura20@gmail.com).

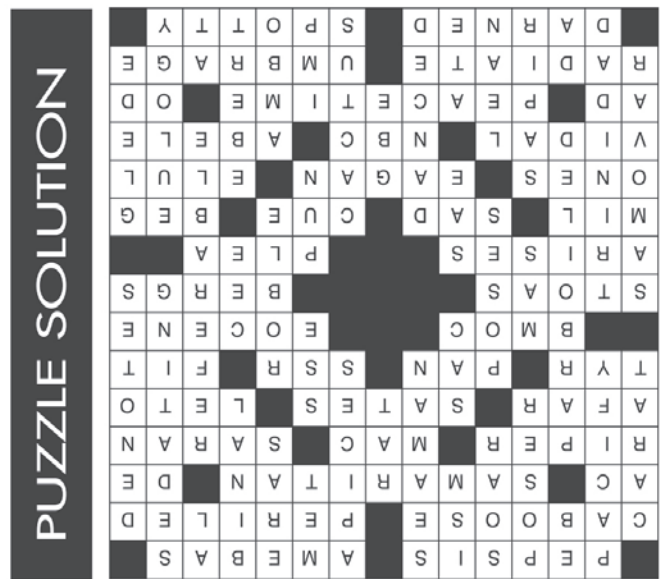


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Colas
- 7. Single-celled animals
- 13. The rear car of a train
- 14. Endangered
- 16. It cools your home
- 17. Helper
- 19. "The First State"
- 20. More aged
- 22. Partner to cheese
- 23. Type of wrap
- 25. From a distance
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
- 29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 30. Cooking utensil
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 33. Able to perform
- 34. Big man on campus
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- 38. Porticos
- 40. Alban and Peter are two
- 41. Gets up
- 43. Humble request for help
- 44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Hint or indication
- 48. A way to plead
- 51. Digits
- 53. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Jewish calendar month
- 56. Author Gore
- 58. Peacock network
- 59. White poplar
- 60. Promotional material
- 61. A period of calm
- 64. Take too much
- 65. Emit energy
- 67. Something you can take
- 69. Mended with yarn
- 70. Inconsistent

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Calm down
- 2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 3. One who pretends
- 4. Hang glide
- 5. Distinctive practice
- 6. Mariner
- 7. Peaks
- 8. Queens ballplayer
- 9. Geological times
- 10. Twofold
- 11. Atomic #13
- 12. Tranquillizing
- 13. Metric weight unit
- 15. Indicates
- 18. Unwanted rodent
- 21. Partly cooked with hot water
- 24. One who can be recommended
- 26. Resembles a bag or pouch
- 27. Midway between south and southeast
- 30. Sets up for a photo
- 32. California white oak
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. After B
- 38. Decorated tea urn
- 39. Island
- 42. Car mechanics group
- 43. Wordplay joke
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Prickly plant
- 49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
- 50. European buzzard
- 52. Influential linguist
- 54. West African languages
- 55. Siskel's partner
- 57. Skinny
- 59. Oblong pulpit
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Small, mischievous sprite
- 66. Powerful lawyer
- 68. Indicates position



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**VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS**  
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The Putnam Villager (025-154), The Thompson Villager (024-998) The Killingly Villager (025-004) and The Woodstock Villager (024-999) are published weekly by Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Woodstock, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

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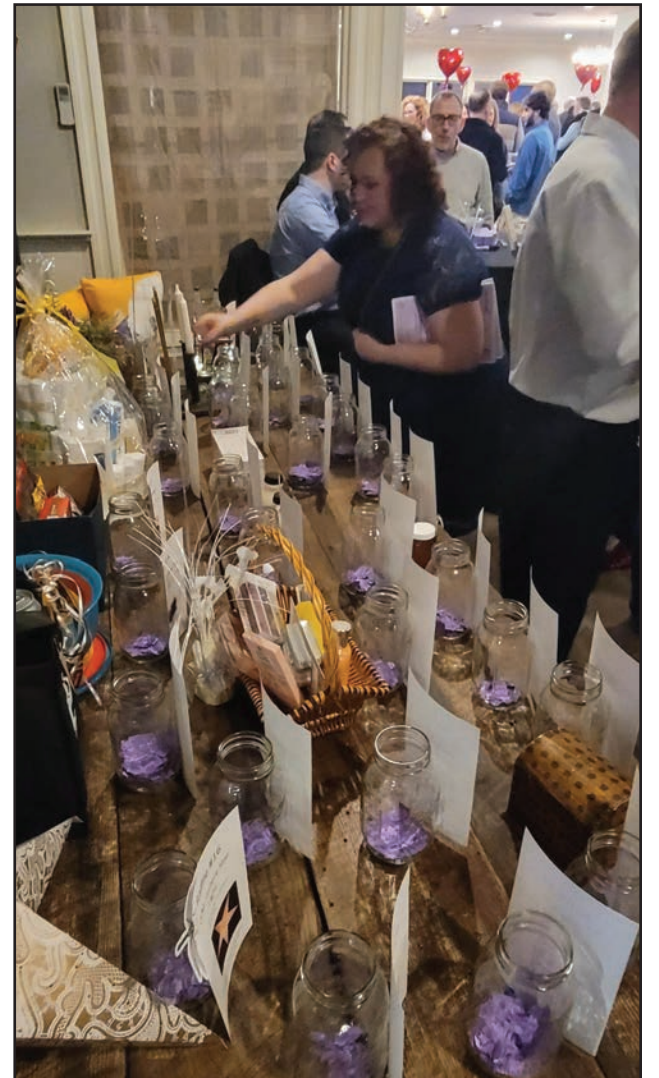
**We'd Love To Hear From You!**



Guests enjoyed a delicious catered meal that included snacks, macaroni and cheese, and delicious cakes and desserts.



Kathy and Stephen Herbert continued their reign as TEEG ambassadors by winning the annual auction item for another year, this time trying to outbid each other for the right to represent the agency at events.



While there were plenty of live and silent auction items, there was also a table full of raffle items where visitors could place their tickets in hopes of winning the prizes. This new game of chance was added to Have a Heart over the last few years.



Auctioneer Dick Loomis and TEEG Community Programs Manager Chelsea French acknowledge a bidder during the live auction.



The 2023 TEEG Have a Heart event featured a sell-out crowd as supporters filled the CT National Golf Club in Putnam.



Tables just like this contained numerous items ranging from gift baskets to local experiences and trips as well as signed or custom-made goods.



Bidders examine one of the most sought-after items of the night, a signed New England Patriots football. The table also included another popular item, a Generac portable generator.

## TEEG hosts annual Have a Heart fundraiser

PUTNAM — TEEG, a social service agency based in Thompson, hosted its 22nd annual Have a Heart fundraiser on March 31 at the Connecticut National Golf Club in Putnam. The event is the agency's biggest annual fundraiser and hit new heights in 2023 with a sell-out crowd during out to bid on a variety of items in either the live or silent auctions or take a chance on prizes in a raffle. Auctions items ranged from gift baskets and local experiences to sports memorabilia, household items, tech, and, in the live auction, a chance to be TEEG's ambassador for 2023 which was won, once again, by Kathy and Stephen Herbert of Thompson. The night was a massive success bringing the local community together for a worthy cause to help support TEEG's wide variety of community programs serving Thompson, Pomfret, and Woodstock.



TEEG Executive Director Anne Miller presents the first live auction item of the night, a Have a Heart themed Vermont Teddy Bear donated by Ted Reynolds.

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TEEG staff draw the winners of the raffle prizes as Have a Heart comes to a close.

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EDITOR

## Don't sweat the small stuff

Every day, we wake up with the best intentions — or at least, we like to think that most of us do. Each new day brings with it specific challenges. Many times, those challenges come by way of a misunderstanding or a shifted perspective. As journalists, we have come to realize that often, there is more to a story than we can see at its surface. Just being aware of that one simple fact, can change the way a situation is viewed. Oftentimes, it's easier said than done, however the more we choose to remain optimistic the better. What might seem catastrophic in the moment is usually nothing more than a small frustration that has an easy fix and will pass. A wise man once said, "Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all small stuff."

This isn't to negate the fact that larger issues do surface and take some time to sort out, however we need to remind ourselves that we are all surrounded by well intended, intelligent people. People who are willing to be helpful, generous, rational and kind through productive conversations will always find the pot of gold in any situation.

Remembering to check a knee jerk reaction before gathering all of the facts is crucial to your ability to remain optimistic. Again, this is not always easy, but once mastered can change everything.

Believe it or not, optimism is a choice and offers surprising benefits. Choosing to look on the bright side of life (Monty Python fans, we know you're singing) can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke while also extending your life.

One study revealed that individuals who spent five minutes a day thinking positive thoughts about their future, increased their ability to be optimistic in just two weeks. Before turning in at night, list five things that you are grateful for and five things that you are looking forward to. Every time you stop at a traffic light, tell yourself something that you like about yourself. This works especially well if you are in the middle of a sing along to your favorite tune, concert of one. Keeping pessimists in your life, at a distance is always a good idea.

When a negative thought does creep through your mind, that's OK. Recognize it, and decide how realistic it actually is. To offset those thoughts, try spreading positivity yourself. While at work, offer a co-worker an 'Atta boy' or 'Atta girl' for a job well done. If your child has been hard at work on a school project, tell them how proud you are. Send a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on your life. When you bestow positivity on others, it has a lasting effect on your own life.

One way to practice being more optimistic is to flip every negative thought with a positive one despite how creative you need to get. For example, if you're thinking 'I'm going to be late for dinner and I don't feel like cooking,' you can flip that by reminding yourself about the wonders of the microwave and take out. If a rainy day has you feeling groggy, remind yourself that those are the best days to read all day, catch up on Bridgerton season 2, and not feel guilty about missing all of that sunshine.

Here are five things we are grateful for and looking forward to. A solid group of co-workers who work hard every day, summer hikes with trail mix that includes M&M's, a community who works together, outside barbecues with ice cold lemonade and shrimp cocktail and road trips to the ocean on a sunny day.

A quote from Rodolfo Costa, "Learn to adapt. Things change, circumstances change. Adjust yourself and your efforts to what it is presented to you so you can respond accordingly. Never see change as a threat, because it can be an opportunity to learn, to grow, evolve and become a better person."

### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Budget season once again

To the Editor:  
This year, for the first time since 1979, Woodstock will go into budget season without the protection of Prop 46, and the spenders are planning to take full advantage.

Coming off their big victory on March 9 repealing Prop 46, the spenders are pulling out all stops. The proposed budgets, which are always more than a bit out of line, call for a roughly \$3.4 million increase in spending and another \$1.8 million in capital spending for the town alone; several hundred thousand more for WPS.

So, what does this mean to you, the taxpayer? With the use of roughly \$400,000 in excess revenue, it works out to just a bit over a 3 mil increase — or over a 15 percent tax increase.

Now normally, the budget would have gone through at least three Board of Finance reviews before going to a public hearing, but this year, with the Prop 46 referendum taking up one Tuesday and a huge two-inch snowstorm on March 14 forcing a cancellation of the BOF meeting planned for that evening, there has been only one meeting at which the town and BOE presented their proposals for the 2024 fiscal year, and at which they received no guidance from the BOF, as they normally would. This would have been the point where the limits (preliminary) under Prop 46 would have brought in a bit of reality — but not this year.

Just for the record, Prop 46 reportedly would have allowed an increase of up to \$1.3 million, which, with the same \$400,000 in excess revenue, would have been a roughly 5 percent tax increase. All this, of course, would be on top of the 5.8 percent tax increase we all, on average, enjoyed last year — some

got less some a lot more. On April 4, there will be a public hearing, which will have taken place by the time you read this, in which the spenders will be heavily represented — see the Shopper's Guide Ad, you can bet they will be putting intense pressure on the BOF to max-out spending — for them this is their Christmas (they hope) and what they have been working on for years. Then on April 11 the BOF will meet to finalize the budget that will be put forward at the annual town meeting and referendum to held in May. It will be interesting to watch as the BOF hasn't had to do any heavy lifting or decision making on budgets in decades. Can they handle it? We'll see.

The May referendum will be your last chance to say enough — though it may take more than one round to get the point across — either that or your tax bill will be a whopper. But hey, its for the kids right! Woodstock Public Schools are again claiming underfunding and in desperate need; the fact that they already spend more than \$1,500 per student more than Woodstock Academy not withstanding — and more spending will surely fix test scores that have been declining for the last ten years. Just more money will fix everything, never mind doing their jobs.

For the 65 percent who didn't bother to vote on March 9, this may be your last chance to put some restraint on the spenders who are sure to turn out at least the 1,100-plus they got on March 9. Good luck.

DAVE RICHARDSON  
WOODSTOCK

### Thanks for a successful fundraiser

To the Editor:

It was great to see everyone at the Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee Municipal Candidate Fundraiser on March 30. Thank you to State Rep. Pat Boyd and State Sen. Mae Flexer for speaking and for your untiring support of our Quiet Corner.

Thank you to Hank's Restaurant, the attendees, all who made donations and to the Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee volunteers who made this event successful. What an awesome team. Democrats are working hard for Connecticut. Together we are making a difference. To all the Quiet Corner residents, you are invited to help the Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee spread the word.

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The Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee is always looking for volunteers who share our concern for quality education, clean environment, health, and safety of our residents, preserving open space, a thriving economy, fair and equitable taxation, and a desire to preserve Brooklyn's quality of life. Feel free to join us every third Monday of the month via ZOOM. E-mail us for the ZOOM link or with any questions you may have: [brooklyndtc@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyndtc@gmail.com).

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN DEMOCRATIC TOWN  
COMMITTEE

## The alarm has been sounded on Social Security and Medicare

To the Editor:

There are several reports out there about the future solvency of Social Security and Medicare. Some suggest that by 2033, benefits will be reduced if something is not done to prevent that, and I'll mention two of them, and I suggest that you read them both, because doesn't this affect us all?

A Summary of the 2023 annual reports by the SS and Medicare Board of Trustees (which includes Janet Yellen) mentioned that "Lawmakers have many options for changes that would reduce or eliminate the long-term financing shortfalls. We urge Congress to consider such options for both Medicare and Social Security, like the proposal for Medicare in the President's FY24 Budget. With each year that lawmakers do not act, the public has less time to prepare for the changes."

NPR (on March 31) reported, "As part of its budget, the Biden administration proposed extending the life of the Medicare trust fund by 25 years, largely through higher taxes on wealthy individuals. The administration has not proposed similar fixes for Social Security. 'The only responsible thing to do is admit that we've got to make changes and we disagree about how to do it but let's sit down and try to figure those out,' said Maya Macguineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. 'If we wait until the last minute, they'll be much, much harder.'" Isn't it funny though that during the time of the 2022 midterm elections, the Democrats accused the Republicans of "coming for your Social Security," which morphed into they want to do away with it. Yes, that was a mistruth, and

the voters fell for it.

How many of you out there think that taxing the wealthy is the answer to this problem, or for any other for that matter? Whabs your mindset, that its fine as long as it's not me paying any more, but maybe we should be? So here's my suggestion for getting more money into the SS fund - raising the SS payroll tax amount that's paid by us and our employers by one dollar per week, and reducing our yearly COLA by \$10 per year. I don't know how much that would help, but I think we could absorb that amount to help aid its future viability, and if anybody out there has another idea, I'd like to hear it. Anyhow, we should all be thanking God for working, and contributing Americans.

Social security will no doubt become a campaign issue leading up to the 2024 elections. Its agreed that something has to be done, and the "last minute" (which I might not be around to see) may come sooner than we think and possibly before our politicians can agree on a solution. The NPR report also mentioned that "Unless changes are made before then to shore up the program, 66 million Social Security recipients would see their benefits cut by 23-25 percent." Think about that for a moment - the alarm has been sounded - and who are we going to blame if it happens, our politicians, or maybe we should blame ourselves if we sit idly by and do nothing to try and prevent it?

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

## Say yes to a better future in Thompson

To the Editor:

I have lived and worked in the Town of Thompson for over 50 years, and my career has been in education. I am writing to support the funding of our town and school budgets as submitted to the Board of Finance.

The town has spoken in the funding of the last referendum for the track project, security and HVAC project. We do not want more neglect due to insufficient funding!

The bottom line is meeting the needs of our townspeople, especially our school and children. (BOF, are you listening?)

Please, let's continue this effort to bring Thompson a better future. Vote yes on May 15. When we support each other, we all benefit!

KRISTINE DUROCHER  
THOMPSON

## Poetry Month begins



NANCY WEISS

It is Poetry Month. Since 2007, I've featured poetry in my columns in April with real focus beginning in 2021, when I began sharing the work of local poets, including award winners from QVCC and local high schools. When I open my computer and find new work from old friends or new work from poets I don't know, I am as pleased as if it were my birthday. One present, a new poem, appears after another. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do. The spacing of the lines is tightened to fit the newspaper:

MW Murphy writes fiction and poetry. She will be a "featured poet" at the Rose Room in Webster, Mass., in May. Here are her poems:

### The Dream

I love the smell  
of sheets  
that are fresh  
Sometimes  
when I'm not really  
awake  
I listen to you  
getting ready  
I think my dreams  
must be full  
of the noises you make  
when you leave  
in the morning  
I hope I can love you  
enough  
so I don't crowd you  
and that you won't  
encompass me.

### Birth Day — MW Murphy

The night I was born I was  
told  
it snowed  
my father left the hospital  
in the early hours  
of the morning  
the frozen flakes brushing  
against his face  
a second daughter  
my mother had asked him  
if he was disappointed  
it was another girl  
in a box of letters, I sorted  
in her apartment after she  
died  
I found a card from him  
where he had written  
beneath a tiny pink satin  
bow  
I'm glad it's another girl!

I haven't met Justin  
Margadonna yet, but I want  
to hear him read his work.  
Here is a piece from him that  
I like very much.

### Yellow Truck Man

He used to be a friend,  
a confidante, a reason for  
some serenity.  
He was not one to judge, to  
sneer, to foam.  
Until one day.  
He got down from his yellow  
truck, and that was the  
dawn of the end.  
Pulled me away and  
stretched his right arm like  
an elastic, like an arrow  
yanked  
backwards.  
The sounds were loud,  
speakers shedding bass and  
treble.  
She was in the back-  
ground, lost somewhere  
during these ten seconds of  
slow-motion  
fog.  
Then he left, and his revision  
completed the first  
draft a millennia ago.  
Once a beacon of friend-  
ship, family, and fun, all  
withered away in shock, yet  
constructed in distrust,  
scars.  
Some say he now resides  
on a hill, a hermit to most,  
except his audience.  
A new love has fixed her-  
self within his later-years (a  
picture confirms)  
The play is in its final act  
now, a hypocritical portray-  
al.

Karen Warinsky is a poet and an evangelist for poetry in our region. She is the coordinator of Poets at Large, a remarkable program of live readings at the Rose Room in Webster and Roseland Park in Woodstock. Her books, "Sunshine Ruby" and "Gold in Autumn,"

Turn To **NANCY** page **A8**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Decline or thrive? We decide

To the Editor:

I am a third generation Thompson resident, and I know I'm not alone when I say "I love our town." But there is a stark difference between simply loving your town and doing what's right for it. Doing what's right is usually harder: it takes work and sacrifice.

So, how did we get here? Unfortunately, due to underfunding of our town and school, we have not been doing what's right for Thompson; rather, we have been doing what's easiest and that is evident in the decline all around town. Perhaps you choose to look beyond it, but we all see the direct impacts of insufficient taxes: the conditions of our roads and bridges, the neglect of our town owned properties and buildings that are behind on maintenance, the rating and classification of our school system as an "opportunity" district putting us in the bottom 10 districts in the state, the age of our town-owned equipment to name a few. What is surprising is that we have done very little to stop what is happening to our beloved town. We've allowed our Board of Finance to cut budgets to the point our town and school are having difficulty simply operating. We've sat back while town assets deteriorate due to lack of funds. We have stood silent while our students access to quality education gets whittled down year after year. The good news is, we can get Thompson back on track but fixing things that are broken is often harder to do than if we had just maintained them along the way. While we all love low taxes, do we love them at the cost of our future?

There is also another factor at play in our town, and it is old fashioned small town politics. There are folks who love to stir the pot, continually claiming your hardworking elected (and primarily volunteer I might add) boards and town officials are out to get you. They insinuate that the town isn't giving you the real information, that our elected volunteers are biased, that the town just wants to take your rights and your money. The reality is – this can't be further from the truth. As far as I can see, this pot-stirring group seems to be mostly looking out for what personally benefits them: regardless of the needs of the rest of the town and particularly the needs of the school. They love to spin information to fit their needs. My favorite was that the board of education budget has not been "cut" in years past but rather has had their "requests reduced." I'm here to tell you that when the town denies full funding to the education budget that represents the needs of the school in order to maintain the same quality of education it offered the year before and it largely represents fixed costs (such as fuel, electricity, oil), federally mandated services in the millions for special education, and contractual obligations (such as health insurance, union contracts, and transportation contracts) all of which have increased year after year; it means that programs, classes, teachers, maintenance, supports, and security are CUT from the general edu-

cation budget. In fact, over \$3 million have been cut from the education budget over the past eight years. You can't spin that fact or twist that truth – that is a reality. This misinformed group has gone so far that it is now holding its own budget process information sessions on a budget that is two thirds education and as far as I know, not one of them has been to an education budget workshop this session. Folks, I'm going to state the obvious – if you want factual information, it is always best to get it from the horse's mouth. This group has its own ulterior motives and is not obligated to give you the facts – your town is. Read the meeting minutes, go to a board meeting, and if all else fails call the Selectwoman yourself if you have questions or concerns. The town is there to help you- this group not so much.

Another factor that has pushed our town into a deeper hole of neglect is we have seemingly forgotten that what makes a community great is, we are all in this together. What is often heard as of late is a "Me, me, me" mentality instead of a "we" mentality. People in town have started to adopt a mindset that if funds aren't used to directly benefit them, they aren't interested in funding it. This is often evident when budgets are discussed and we start to hear the "what about our senior population on fixed incomes." My reply is "What about our kids that deserve a quality education" and "what about all the folks that have invested their money into this town in the form of property who don't want to see the town run into the ground." Doesn't everybody matter? Our duty as citizens in a community in America is that every single property owner (regardless of age or income) pitches in to benefit ALL the members in the community and that means even the youngest members that don't have privilege to vote but often the most to lose. Some folks love to say they think education is important but apparently not "important enough" to fund. A strong community's backbone is the school: without supporting it we will never stand upright.

So, Thompson, we have hard work and sacrifice before us. Do you want to sit back and watch our town decline or roll up your sleeves and do what's right?

"Anything worth having is worth fighting for." — Susan Elizabeth Phillips.

I am here fighting because Thompson is worth it to me, and I hope it is worth it to you as well. If you are interested in learning more about the non-affiliated group of pro Thompson folks whose purpose is to promote initiatives that IMPROVE the Town of Thompson please check out the Facebook page "Citizens for the Future of Progress in Thompson" and most importantly, vote in support of your town and school budgets. Vote yes on May 15.

HEATHER SANTOS  
THOMPSON

## Thompson residents: Question the true intent

To the Editor:

I have been watching, reading articles, and reviewing comments posted on the Thompson "Transparency" Facebook page, as well as a few recent postings from Facebook pages that Mr. Warner manages, and I have to wonder "what is the real intent here?"

I see a variety of posts always focused on accusing the Town of Thompson, its officials, and the school of providing misleading information to our community. I want our Thompson Community to understand the town and school are required to inform you, the public, with accurate information, and should they not inform you properly it is their legal obligation to correct the data they published. To be clear, data is collected from the various boards and commissions, that data is then reviewed and analyzed by the Town's legal team, and lastly published to the community at large.

Unlike the town, these various

Facebook pages that claim "transparency" or "taxpayer" information have no such obligations. In this writer's opinion and observations, the "Transparency" Page is not that transparent at all. It quite often blocks and restricts Thompson residents, allows non-Thompson residents to comment, and does not follow their own publication standards. I am not going to speculate or try to convince our community on what the "Transparency" Page or Mr. Warner's Pages true intents are here, but what I am making the public aware of is that the town and school are required to produce accurate and truthful information, the "Transparency" Page and various pages Mr. Warner manages are not required to do the same. I know who I am following and trusting.

BRIAN SANTOS  
THOMPSON

## It's time, Thompson

To the Editor:

We have sat here for the last few weeks and watched quibbling over \$200 occur in a proposed budget of more than \$30 million.

We're coming to the largest part of the budget, the education side, and I would hope that the board actually spend time reviewing the line items before suggesting flat cuts with no reasoning.

There is a small vocal group who are under the impression that we spend more per pupil than surrounding towns. This is comparing apples to oranges. We must take into account that many of our surrounding towns do not have as high of a Special Education population. As of this month we have had another increase in special education enrollment and are up to almost 25 percent of our students are receiving IEPs and/or 504's. That's compared to a state average of 16.3 percent.

There's been statements that we are not in the bottom 10 of the state. That's categorically false, as we are a state listed opportunity district. District's are weighed by more than test scores. There's attendance, graduation rate, passage of college placement course testing, and other factors.

One only has to look at funding from years past to testing scores, graduation rates, etc and can see the real time effect large cuts to proposed budgets have caused to the detriment of our students. We've lost staff, programing, and academics over the years.

Speaking of proposed budgets, we've been living under the adage of the school always does well even when we cut the proposed budget. There is no where else to cut. This leaves us only with teachers. What learning is going to occur? Our elementary has only 4 teachers per grade level. My son's third grade class has 22 students in it

already. If we were to reduce each grade level a teacher, we're putting students in classrooms of 30. If you haven't ever tried to lead an activity with 30 children at one time, I can tell you from experience, it's impossible. We will have more students fall through the cracks, it will impact Special Education, and we will be back here again.

In regards to capital spending on equipment, it feels as though the board is contemplating a shell game.

It was suggested that the equipment (loader and plow truck) be purchased in a lease to own agreement, and giddily acknowledged that if done after July 1 that it wouldn't hit until the next fiscal year.

Lease to own has not served us well in the past. While it has kept the mill rate down, it costs us tens of thousands of dollars in additional interest.

We also seem to find ourselves when it's time for the equipment to be traded in, that we're unable to do so, as we've either extended lease terms or took out the longest repayment period possible.

That then loses the town trade in value and more expensive repairs down the line.

We need to stop with the trying to save a \$1 today, as it is costing us \$10 tomorrow.

It's time to get the roads done on a schedule that Public Works will commit to and its time they get the equipment they need and do so in a way that does not cause the taxpayers extra over time.

It's past time to provide the school breathing room to continue the work that has been put in place to bring our students back in line to where they should be and allow our students (all of them) to prosper.

JESSICA BOLTE  
THOMPSON

## Enjoy the many benefits of adding water features to the landscape

Boost the beauty and your enjoyment by adding a fountain, birdbath, or other water feature to your balcony, deck, or landscape. This one addition to your outdoor space provides many benefits.

The sound of moving water helps create a sense of peace and relaxation. It is a form of white noise that helps calm the mind and revive your spirit.

It also helps mask noise pollution. Combine water features with strategic screening to create a quiet and private space.

Water is also a great way to attract songbirds and pollinators to your gardens. A birdbath with gently sloping sides allows birds and insects to take a sip without getting all wet. Or add a few stones to your birdbath to accomplish the same results. Be sure to change the water often as providing fresh water is important for the health of your winged guests.

Bring in even more birds by adding some type of water agitator to your birdbath. Moving water is very appealing and helps attract more birds, especially during spring and fall migration.

No need to worry about mosquitoes taking residency in your water feature. Moving water is less appealing and adding Summit® Mosquito Dunks® (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) to water features prevents mosquitoes from breeding there. Just toss this



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

donut-shaped cake of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) into the water. This naturally occurring bacteria only kills the larvae of mosquitoes, black flies, and fungus gnats. It won't harm people, pets, fish, or wildlife.

With so many options you are sure to find one that fits the size and style of your outdoor space. A wall-mounted fountain provides calming sound to patios, porches, and spaces near your home without taking up any valuable floor space.

A small tabletop water garden or fountain can make a nice centerpiece when dining outside or entertaining guests. Then simply move your miniature water feature as needed to maximize your enjoyment.

A natural boulder-turned water fountain is the perfect addition for those with informal or natural spaces. Make it appealing to birds by selecting one with a flat area or small indentation to capture some of the water before it

flows over the edge.

Select a garden statue with a built-in water fountain for a different aesthetic. Animals and mystical figures add playfulness to the garden while stately figures fit nicely in more formal settings.

Convert one or several plant pots into a fountain. You'll find lots of ideas and step-by-step directions on the internet. Or purchase one ready to install in the garden. These, like other fountains, recirculate water which reduces water waste.

Freshen up any space in the landscape with one of these water features. As soon as it is in place, you'll enjoy the relaxing sounds of water and the songbirds, butterflies, and others it attracts to your gardens.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



Melinda Myers

A water feature and statue add interest and relaxation to the landscape.

[www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com](http://www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com)

# How to start investing: a financial literacy month primer for beginners

April is Financial Literacy Month, and at the same time, there's no question that the financial markets have certainly been in the news a lot lately. But although current market conditions are volatile, that also creates opportunities to make smart investments that could pay off in the short term when the markets normalize and potentially even more over the long term as those investments grow. So in honor of Financial Literacy Month, here are the basics of investing for anyone who's ready to start taking advantage of the benefits investments have the potential to bring.

If you've got the income available to invest but you're new to investing and aren't quite sure how to start, rest assured that you're not alone. But also realize that making smart and strategic investment decisions requires knowledge of how investments work, a clear idea of what your financial goals are and how long you have to achieve them, and a solid plan for how to get from here to there.

But before you do a deep dive into theories, past performances or principles, it's essential to first have a good handle on the following basics of investing and what you should know as you look to grow your financial knowledge.

## What is investing?

Many of us have heard the term "investments" used in many ways and it's a concept most of us are familiar with to some degree. But unless you've really taken an interest in the markets or set aside time to study them, you may not have a total understanding of what investing is, all that's involved with making investments, or what different types of investments are out there. So let's start by defining what exactly investing is.

In its simplest form, investing is the process of giving money to another entity (such as the government or a company) with the hope that they will return more money to you (a profit) at a later time. While it sounds simple enough, giving money to another with the expectation of gaining more in return introduces the idea of weighing risk versus reward.

Why do people choose to invest?

Due to inflation, the value of a dollar in your hand (or under the mattress) is continuously deteriorating - which is what makes investing an appealing choice for many. The idea is to put a certain amount of your dollars in a place where they're expected to earn more in the future (assuming a positive return is earned) than a

dollar left sitting in savings.

What types of investments are available?

There are a variety of different types of investments you can make. While there are more out there, here are a few of the most common types of investments and a brief explanation of what they are.

**Stocks:** Giving your money to a specific company, earning you a share or piece of the company in return.

**Bonds:** Lending your money to a government or other issuer; with the agreement that you will receive that amount back with interest at a later date.

**Mutual Funds:** Using a professional money manager, pooling your money together with other investors and purchasing a group of stocks, bonds or a mix of both in a single transaction.

**Index Funds:** A type of mutual fund that doesn't use the services of a professional manager; index funds aim to mirror the performance of the index they're tracking (such as the S&P 500).

**Exchange-traded Funds:** Index funds that



FINANCIAL  
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LEISL L.  
CORDING

can be traded on an exchange throughout the day, as the prices of stocks fluctuate.

**Real Estate:** Real estate investment is purchasing, owning, leasing and/or selling land with the intention of gaining a profit. Real estate investments typically fall into one of four categories: residential property, commercial property, industrial property, and land.

What is investment risk?

According to the Securities and Exchange Commission, risk refers to "the degree of uncertainty and/or potential financial loss inherent in an investment decision." How does this relate to investments? In general, the higher the risk of an investment, the greater the potential reward. Every investment vehicle and product comes with its own set of risks, from determining how quickly an investor will be able to access their money when they need it, to figuring out how fast their money will grow where it is.

Everyone's tolerance for risk is unique to them. A common determining factor may be a person's time horizon, such as how far away they are from retirement, or how

close they are to needing access to the money invested. Another factor could be considering how much money you're willing to risk losing without affecting your lifestyle or jeopardizing your needs.

Now for the next steps to get started with investing.

You now have a basic understanding of what investing is and how it can benefit you, some of the most common investment options that are available to you, and how to think about and weigh the risks involved with seeking investment returns.

The next step is to choose which investments, and in what combination, make up the best overall investment strategy for you. That can be a daunting and difficult task, especially for a beginner, so it's a wise idea to do more learning and research before moving ahead with actually making any investments.

Or you can opt to work with a financial advisor who acts as a fiduciary to help you create an investment strategy with the right balance of risk and potential reward for your goals and timeline.

Our team at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors act as fiduciary wealth managers. We can help you build an investment port-

folio that's tailored specifically for your needs and goals using our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process, and we'll be there to keep your strategy on-track toward your goals through all the market's ups and downs, so you can invest with much less worry. To get started, simply reach out to request a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com, or call us at (860) 928-2341.

Presented by Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor Leisl L. Cording CFP®, CDEA®, Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860.928.2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com> These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

1. <https://www.investor.gov/introduction-investing/basics/what-risk>

## The Quiet Corner's shipping magnates

*NOTE: THE KILLINGLY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, APRIL 7, HOLY SATURDAY. IT WILL REOPEN AS USUAL ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12. HAVE A BLESSED AND HAPPY PASSOVER AND EASTER.*

Do you like to go to the shore to walk on the beach? Perhaps you even have small boat that you sail. I don't think you equate 18th century residents of Northeastern Connecticut with ownership of sea-going vessels. Brooklyn resident Godfrey Malbone, who had come to Northeastern Connecticut in 1766 from Newport, R.I. following the death of his father, had been a wealthy merchant who owned a number of ships and profited greatly from the fruits of their journeys. Unfortunately Malbone was Tory, and according to Windham County historian Ellen D. Larned, "His ships had been taken by privateers." (Vo. II, p. 6, Swordsmith edition). By the time Malbone moved to this area, Godfrey Jr.'s financial situation was not nearly as promising

as it had been.

Ellen Larned also wrote of the firm of Larned & Mason (an ancestor perhaps?) who operated a profitable business in a northern part of Killingly that later became the southern neighborhood of Thompson when it was incorporated in 1785. "Produce was taken in from all the surrounding country, and even from neighboring States. Finding the transfer of so much merchandise in hired ships was costly and inconvenient, the firm decided to build a ship for themselves. A body of men was straightway dispatched to cut and hew timber in Thompson forests, and Quaddick saw mill engaged for the season. Captain Jonathan Nichols, an ingenious mechanic, had charge of the work, competent workmen were obtained, and in a few months a tight little brig or sloop met the eyes of the many spectators flocking to Quaddick to admire such a rare specimen of inland enterprise and architect-



KILLINGLY  
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MARGARET  
WEAVER

ture. After being taken in sections to Providence, it was carefully refitted and launched as the sloop Harmony amid much gratulation (sic) and rejoicing. It proved a valuable acquisition to its owners, conveying produce and goods back and forth between Providence and the West India Islands, and furnishing the good people of Thompson and its vicinity with abundant supplies of what were deemed most vital necessities." ("History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vo. II," p. 348).

Frances Manwaring Caulkins included a chapter on the West Indies trade in her "History of Norwich, Connecticut." It provides a good example of the types of items that Larned & Mason probably shipped in the Harmony. I was fascinated to see the variety of livestock (yes, live animals) being shipped in addition to cargo in barrels and bales. "Livestock, provisions, and lumber were the articles demanded

for the West India market. Even flour was then an article of export rather than import. Considerable wheat as raised in the eastern part of Connecticut, where it is now a very uncertain crop. The Norwich vessels seldom took in their live-stock from the wharves. Sheep and swine might however be received directly from the land, or from light craft as they lay in the stream; but horses, oxen and cows were driven to New London and there taken on board. (Imagine those animals on the deck of the small ship)!"

Caulkins gave the following table of the exports and imports of Norwich, from January 1, 1788 to March 4, 1789, "taken from the report of the naval officer: 549 horses; 203 mules; 205 horned cattle; 321 sheep; 566 hogs; 1,903 bbls. Beef; 1,774 bbls. Pork; 25,000 lbs. butter; 92,120 lbs. of cheese; 6,600 lbs. ham, 16,000 bu. grain; 175 M. hoops, 150 staves; (for barrels); 14,600 lbs. hayseed; 586 bbls. Potash; 25,000 yards homemade cloth; 631 hhds. Flaxseed; 276 tons pressed hay; 4 bbls. Gingerbread." (p. 476). I wonder if the gingerbread made it as far as the West Indies? (Keep in mind that during the 18th century Norwich was a bustling port just as was New London. The residents of Northeastern Connecticut, depending on where they lived, had a variety of options for shipping their wares to the West Indies.

Some of the residents of our area even chose the life of a seaman over that of a farmer. Last month I discovered that the Killingly Historical Center owns a book entitled Seamen's Protection Certificates from the Providence,

Rhode Island Custom District 1796-1870. It contains a number of individuals from Northeastern Connecticut including the following: Henry Abbe, May 1799, Windham; William F. Alexander, May 1867, Killingly; Wilber Ames, August 1826, Killingly; David Arnold, November 1807, Plainfield; Joseph Barritt, October 1820; Belia Bennett, September 1836, Sterling; Daniel Benton, August, 1822, Plainfield; Barney Bimton, September, 1843, Plainfield; John Bimton, November 1829; Patrick Bimton, November 1812; John C. Bowers, May 1823, Thompson; William Bowman, October 1804; William Jackson, Jr. October 1829, Killingly; Wilson Jacobs, Jr., December 1797, Killingly; Amos Malbone, December 1842, Brooklyn; Evan Malbone, May 1799, Pomfret; Evan Malbone, Jr., November 1803, Pomfret; William H. Mason, December 1800, Thompson; Ezra J. Mathewson, May 1855, Killingly; Jesse Nichols, May 1811, Woodstock; John Nichols, February 1807; Woodstock; John Nichols, March 1815, Woodstock; Robert Pearce, October 1799; Killingly. (There are others, but I didn't have room to extract all the local men). The book also contains brief descriptions of the men including coloring (light, dark, yellow, which was mulatto).

"Seamen's Protection Certificates were authorized by Congress in 1796 to identify American merchant seamen as citizens of the U.S. and as such entitled to protection against impressment by the British Navy, a major cause of the War of 1812.

Seamen's Protection Certificates were issued long after that conflict, in fact right up to the Civil War, and they constitute an important proof of citizenship for the highly mobile merchant seaman." (<https://genealogical.com/store/indexes-to-seamens-protection-certificate-applications-and-proofs-of-citizenship-ports-of-new-orleans-la-new-haven-ct-and-bath-me/>)

Pomfret Historical Society Program: THE SLAVES IN OUR BACKYARD  
April 15, 1:30-3:00  
Pomfret Community Center.

West Indies Trade and slavery in Pomfret? Who knew! Join Donna Dufresne as she shares what she has learned from her research for The Witness Stones Project in Northeast Connecticut and her journey through the "understory" of local history. The presentation includes Pomfret Historical Society updates and refreshments. Members and the general public are welcome! <https://pomfret-historical-society.org/>

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, April 2023. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or [www.killinglyhistorical.org](http://www.killinglyhistorical.org) or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety). Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

## NANCY

continued from page A1

grace my shelves. They can be bought on Amazon.

The French Club goes to Chicago

This is for Jim  
a 20-something waiter  
at the fancy French restaurant  
Miss Larkin took us into "the city"  
a busload of boisterous school girls  
feeling every bit of 16,  
bold after viewing Claire's Knee.

His funky round glasses  
framed an alert look,  
he knew the power of women,  
observed us warily as we flirted and  
sassed  
beyond Miss Larkin's reach,  
the other girls captured by her presence  
at the end of the table.

Poor Jim!

He offered us tangerines  
after the meal  
which we took like treasure  
Later, some girls threw them out the  
bus windows  
captive to an inexpressible wildness.

And this is for the business man I saw  
as he walked along Wacker Drive at  
5 p.m.,  
his work day done,  
the bus talking us back to our country  
town,  
our waiting parents.  
He looked up, adjusting his neck scarf  
our eyes met and I swear we had a  
moment,  
each wondering about the other's life,  
he, having no idea about Jim or Miss  
Larkin,  
and me, holding my orange  
like a tiny globe.

Write or read a poem whenever you  
can during April. If you have poems  
to share, especially shorter ones, please  
send them to me in care of this paper.

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# What's in a name? More than you think

Picture this: You've been granted an opportunity to travel back in time, and you find yourself face-to-face with none other than Napoleon Bonaparte, the legendary French emperor. As you stand in awe of him, you notice he's captivated by your name. He leans in, furrowing his brow, "Pardon, I didn't quite catch your name." You eagerly repeat it, and as you turn to leave, you catch a glimpse of him pulling out a notepad. He scribbles down your name, briefly describing your appearance and the intriguing subjects you discussed.

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
TOBY  
MOORE

of things, it seems impossible to remember every name that crosses our path. We may consider it trivial, believing it's just a tiny, inconsequential detail. But what if I told you that the key to unlocking your wildest dreams and aspirations might lie in remembering someone's name?

Dale Carnegie, author of the groundbreaking bestseller "How to Win Friends and Influence People," shares a captivating insight: "A person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language."

While writing his book, Carnegie sought the wisdom of Jim Farley, a man who, at age 46, had already been given honorary degrees from four universities, held the title of Chairman of the Democratic Committee, and served as the Postmaster General of the United States.

Intrigued by Farley's meteoric rise, Carnegie inquired, "What's the secret to your success?" Farley quipped, "Hard work!" Carnegie, unamused, retorts, "Don't be funny."

Turning the tables, Farley asked Carnegie for his take on the reason for his success. Carnegie ventures, "I understand you can call 10,000 people by their first names." Stunned by the underestimator, Farley corrects him: "No, you're wrong; I can call 50,000 people by their first names."

When Farley encountered a new face, he would commit their full name to memory and intimate details about their family, their line of work, and any other tidbits he could glean. He meticulously recorded these nuggets of information. Whether

it was months or years later, he could effortlessly reconnect with these individuals, asking after their families and reminiscing about their shared conversations. This uncanny ability left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Remembering someone's name is the ultimate demonstration of care and consideration. Carnegie says, "The average person is more interested in their name than in all the other names on Earth combined. Remember that name and call it easily; you've paid a subtle but very effective compliment. But forget it or misspell it, and you've placed yourself at a sharp disadvantage."

You may think I have a terrible memory. I could never do that! Well, Napoleon and Jim Farley had to take notes. Remembering names wasn't a natural talent. It was a skill they consciously developed.

By developing this skill, you'd instantly set yourself apart from the crowd, creating unforgettable impressions and nurturing lasting connections.

In a world where so many things compete for our attention, remembering a name can be a game-changer. It's an investment in building meaningful relationships and a testament to your genuine interest in others.

By harnessing the power of names, you unlock a world of possibilities and turn every encounter into an opportunity. So, take a stand against the sea of forgotten names, and become that rare individual who can captivate hearts and minds by always remembering the names of those you meet.

# Collecting guitars



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

I've discussed vintage musical instruments in past columns and today I will be focusing on collecting guitars. Just like all antiques and collectibles, everyone has their own reason why they collect guitars. Oftentimes, guitar collectors are musicians and they collect guitars that they like to play. Collectors may also seek out the model of a certain guitar played by their favorite musician. Or they may like the aesthetics and collect a guitar to display it in their home. Many collectors also collect guitars as investments.

There are various different types of guitars including classical, acoustic, electric, or a combination of these types.

Well-crafted vintage guitars can bring strong auction results. A Martin "Eric Clapton" model classical guitar sold for \$2,200 in May 2018. A boutique classical guitar by Darryl Perry Cedar also brought \$2,200 in November 2022. A 1949 Martin 000-28 acoustic guitar went for \$15,000 in November 2022. A 1931 Martin OM-18 Acoustic Guitar fetched \$17,500 in December 2021. As for electric guitars, a Gibson Les Paul model electric guitar sold for \$12,000 in November 2022. A Gibson SG electric guitar reached \$17,000 in November 2022.

Guitars created by master craftsman or those featuring connections to famous musicians can bring hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars. According to inside-guitar.com, a Herman Hauser I guitar set the auction record for a classical guitar in 2006. The guitar had a spruce top and the sides were rosewood. Hauser wrote his name inside the guitar marked MP, "an abbreviation for 'manu propria,' meaning the guitar was built exclusively 'by my own hand' without his assistants." The guitar had an auction estimate of \$50,000 to \$60,000 but far exceeded it, selling for \$179,000.

A Kurt Cobain-played guitar holds the auction record for electric guitars. The Fender 1969 Mustang was played by Cobain in his band's "Smells like Teen Spirit" video. It went for \$4.5 million and was sold to Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay last year.

Another Kurt Cobain guitar set a different auction record. A 1959 Martin D-18E guitar played by Cobain during



his 1993 MTV Unplugged performance hit a high note in November 2022 when it sold for over \$6 million, the highest price ever for a guitar.

A collection of over 60 guitars from a Boston estate will be sold in our upcoming online auction. Our seventh online auction of model railroad, diecast and promo cars, and antique and vintage toys ends on April 12. The auction of art, antiques, and household items from a finely furnished Beacon Street, Boston home runs until April 19. I'll be appraising items at the Charlton Senior Center on May 16, starting at 10 a.m. I also recently began writing the "What's selling on eBay?" monthly column for the Journal of Antiques and Collectibles journalofantiques.com. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111) [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com)

Fast forward a few years, and you're granted another chance to meet Napoleon. He recalls your name and every detail of your previous conversation. It's as if time stood still between your encounters, and the memory of your meeting has been etched into his mind.

How would you feel? Undoubtedly, you'd be left with an unforgettable impression of the man, his character, and his ability to connect. This connection results from Napoleon's intentional effort to remember your name and the details of your conversation.

Now picture this: You're at a party, surrounded by fascinating individuals from all walks of life. Amidst the laughter and clinking of glasses, you converse with a particularly intriguing guest. Time flies as you dive deep into thought-provoking topics, sharing stories and insights for over an hour. As you part ways, you suddenly realize you've completely forgotten their name!

In the grand scheme

## Borough of Danielson nominates candidates

DANIELSON — At the Borough of Danielson Caucus held Monday, March 27, the following candidates were nominated:

President: Heidi Clifford  
Council: Lynn LaBerge, Miguel Antunes, Tammy Wakefield, Thomas Soderberg, Scott Clifford, Amy Shatney. All are incumbents seeking reelection to the six-member Council.

Clerk/Treasurer: Susanne Allard, incumbent.  
In addition to the incumbents seeking reelection to the Borough Council, there were nominations made from the floor during the open call. Those candidates are Christy Bransfield, III, Rhiannon McCabe and Xavier Harrelle.

The Borough Council consists of six members and of the nine candidates running for a seat on the Council, the six candidates with the highest number of votes on election day will fill those seats. Those elected will serve a two year term.

Registered voters that are inhabitants of the Borough of Danielson are encouraged to come out and vote on Monday, May 1 at the Killingly Public Library from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

## Applications welcome for Killingly Board of Education scholarships

KILLINGLY — Killingly Public Schools announce the release of the 2023-24 Board of Education Scholarship applications starting April 1. Applicants must be graduates of Killingly High School and students must be pursuing their first degree or a bachelor's degree.

Applications can be accessed by going to the KPS district webpage, and clicking on the Community tab or by typing the following URL address.

<https://www.killinglyschools.org/community/2023-24-scholarship-application>  
Applications may be dropped-off or mailed but must be received and in Central Office (not postmarked) by 4 p.m., Friday, May 5. No emails please.

Applications will not be accepted after 4 p.m. on Friday, May 5, no exceptions.

If mailed, please mail to:  
Killingly Public Schools Central Office  
Attn: Scholarships  
79 Westfield Ave.  
Killingly, CT 06239

If you have any questions, please call Keely Doyle at 860 779-6603.



# Community Connection

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**FROG ROCK**

continued from page A1

Wentworth Tournament included teams from Frog Rock, Woodstock, Thompson and Putnam.

The Frog Rock Youth Basketball League, which just completed its 39th season of competition, is a co-ed instructional league for kids in grades 3-8 from the towns of Eastford and Pomfret. The league is named after Frog Rock, a landmark and Roadside Park off route 44 in Eastford.

According to Wikipedia, the landmark is a glacially-deposited rock that is painted green

with a white lip and eyes, and it has the appearance of a sad-looking frog. The rock was first painted and turned into an attraction in 1881 by state legislator Thomas Thurber, a republican from Putnam, who passed the rock frequently on trips to Hartford.

Playing for the Magic this year were fifth-graders Parker Bloom, Isaac Woods, Xander Pierce and Connor Nieminen, and sixth-graders Gavin Deasy, Ryder Manning, Ryan Turbesi, Brock Lyons, David Budd and Aiden Mitchell. Budd and Mitchell were the only Eastford residents on the team.

The Magic closed out its undefeated regular season with a 44-30 victory over Woodstock 1, one of three Woodstock Recreation Department teams in the league.

In the semifinal round of the Wentworth Tournament, which was held at Woodstock Middle School, the Magic squeaked by one of the two Putnam Recreation Department teams in the tournament, 31-30. In the Wentworth Tournament final, the Magic defeated the Sixers, the other Frog Rock League representative, 35-28, to take home the title.

The Magic were known for the fun and effective

drills they would run through in practice, and for being high-spirited.

"We were known as the 'loud team' in practice," Neely said with a laugh. "The kids were loud, but they were only loud because they were cheering each other on. Our drills were competitive, but we made them fun. The kids were great. They were very encouraging to one another."

The Magic were so loud and so encouraging that changes were made to the practice schedule to allow the team, and the Sixers, to have their own hour of practice time rather than splitting the gym in half and practicing at the same time.

"When we first started practicing, we would share the court with the Sixers," said Bunnell, who was a member of the Montville High School basketball team during his playing days. "Our kids got so into the drills we were running and cheering on their teammates that players from the Sixers were stopping and watching our drills from the other end of the court when they were supposed to be practicing."

"At that point a decision was made to separate the teams and have them practice at different times," Bunnell said. "We (the Magic and the

Sixers) originally both practiced from 6-7 p.m. We'd practice on one half of the court and the Sixers practiced on the other half. Because we were distracting players on the Sixers, the schedule was changed and we ended up practicing from 6-7 p.m., and the Sixers would practice from 7-8 p.m."

The drills that caused so much commotion included one for making layups under pressure, one for being more aggressive while pursuing a loose ball and one to improve the team's free throw shooting efficiency.

"For the drill to work on making layups, I split the team in half and one half was on one end of the court and the other half the team on the other end of the court," Bunnell explained. "One player, with the basketball, would head down the court to the basket and a player from the other group, playing defense, would chase him down. It was a way for the offensive player to feel the pressure of another player closing in on him, but he couldn't worry about that because he had to stay focused to make the layup."

Bunnell said he tried to come up with drills that would make the kids comfortable in game situations, like battling for a

loose ball.

"The kids were split into two groups and I would put a chair in the middle of the court. Then I would set the basketball on the chair and have a player on either side of the chair," Bunnell said. "I would say go and both kids would try to grab the ball. Whoever grabbed the ball first was on offense and the other player was on defense. The team liked that drill a lot. They got very aggressive during the drill, which helped us in some of the games."

Knockout, which is a free-throw shooting drill, was a team favorite as well.

"Knockout is a free throw shooting drill/game/challenge. All the kids line up at the free throw line and you have two basketballs. The first kid shoots, and if he makes it, the kid behind him has to make his shot. If he doesn't then he is 'knocked out' of the game. But if the first player misses, and the second kid makes it, the first player is 'knocked out. It was amazing; the kids would cheer for each other, even if it meant getting eliminated from the game."

**GOLF**

continued from page A1

consultation with former Quinnatisset Grounds Superintendent Michael Coty.

Pizzetti notes that the driving range is open for use with "new mats added for the convenience of golfers working on their game." John Malizia, a teaching pro is available for private lessons. Although the pro shop has limited supplies, golfers will be able to purchase balls, tees and gloves, and Pizzetti will work with individuals on special purchase requests.

The Woodstock Academy junior varsity boys' and girls' golf teams will use the course in the spring. Pizzetti is encouraging use of the facility for outings and tournaments. He also notes that there will be a lady's league on Tuesday morning and a league for senior golfers on Thursday. The course

is also proud to have an agreement with "First Tee," a program for junior golfers that integrates the game of golf with a life skills curriculum that builds self-confidence in kids.

"The course is perfect for women, older golfers and kids. We have an agreement with the Woodstock Recreation Department for youth clinics in July and August, and we're offering free golf to children 12 years or younger every day including weekends, as long as they're accompanied by a paying adult," said Pizzetti.

"We're looking forward to the upcoming season and working with all golfers regardless of age or ability. As one golfer from Killingly mentioned, 'this course is my baby, I love it!' This is the feeling we're promoting here at Roseland Park and Golf Course," noted Pizzetti proudly.

**Math Blocks**

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

9	0		14
		3	12
	7	4	13
12	15	12	

6	7	2
3	8	1
5	0	6

*Solution*

**Get Scrambled**

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

VRDEI SFLAYE

*Answer: Drive safely*

**THIS DAY IN...**



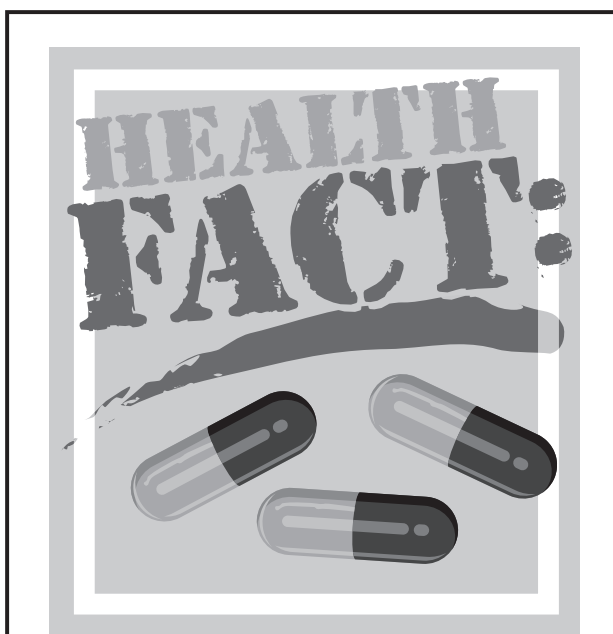
**HISTORY**

- **1141:** EMPRESS MATILDA BECOMES THE FIRST FEMALE RULER OF ENGLAND.
- **1805:** LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN PREMIERES HIS THIRD SYMPHONY AT THE THEATER AN DER WIEN IN VIENNA.
- **1906:** MOUNT VESUVIUS ERUPTS AND DEVASTATES NAPLES.

**New Word**

**ACCELERATE**

to begin to move more quickly



THESE DEVICES IN VEHICLES DO MUCH TO HELP PREVENT INJURIES AND SAVE LIVES.

*ANSWER: SEAT BELTS*

*How they SAY that in...*

**ENGLISH:** Drive

**SPANISH:** Conducir

**ITALIAN:** Guidare

**FRENCH:** Conduire

**GERMAN:** Auto fahren

**Did you know?**

EATING OR DRINKING WHILE DRIVING CAN BE A DISTRACTION ON THE ROAD. DRIVERS SHOULD DO WHAT THEY CAN TO AVOID DISTRACTIONS.

**GET THE PICTURE?**

**Can you guess what the bigger picture is?**

*ANSWER: MOTORCYCLE WHEEL*

# OBITUARIES

## Dorothy (Dot) Fazzina, 87



Dorothy (Dot) Fazzina, 87, passed away on April 1, 2023. Dorothy was predeceased by her loving husband of 44 years, Lucian (Lou) Fazzina, parents Doris (Bolger) and William Hartley, sister Doris Fiske,

sister and brother-in-laws Marion and Salvatore Cianci, and daughter-in-law Kristina Morgan wife of her son Scott. She is survived by her sons - Richard (Kerry) Fazzina of Columbus, Ohio, Mark (Christine Knepp) Fazzina, of Columbus, Ohio, Scott Fazzina, of Storrs, and Kevin (Katrina) Fazzina of Danielson. Grandchildren - Rachel, Camryn, Reilly, Ana, Will, and Jordin Fazzina, and Katie (Tyler) Tebo, Christian Fazzina, great grandson Bentley Tebo, niece Ann (Fiske) Salcedo, nephew Mikel Fiske, and several other cousins. Dorothy was born in North Adams, Massachusetts on October 31, 1935. She grew up in Danielson and graduated Killingly High School before attending the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing graduating with a nursing degree. She went on to work as a registered nurse for her entire career with brief tenures at Hartford Hospital, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Park Avenue Hospital, and was a dedicated nurse at Day Kimball Hospital for 38

years before retiring. Dorothy enjoyed camping, going to the beaches all over New England, and attending and cheering loudly at her boys' sporting events. In their retirement years Dorothy and Lou spent several years living part time in Port Richey Florida where they made several new friends many from Canada where they loved to visit. After losing Lou in 2002, Dorothy remained independent and grew close to her grandchildren, making trips whenever she could. Her great grandchild was also a gift to her. She also had her Day Kimball family and always looked forward to their annual trips to Maine, her annual Jerusalem Beach trip with her cousins, and Newport with Mark. Dorothy loved her home and gardens, watching the UCONN girls' basketball team, PBS mysteries, and Hallmark movies. She remained active serving on the Learning in Retirement Board Council at QVCC for many years, exercising and doing yoga, and working in the yard. The family thanks the medical staff at Day Kimball Hospital for their care of Dorothy, and also friends and neighbors who looked out for her after Lou's passing. Contributions can be made to the American Heart Association at heart.org/donate. Visitation will be held in Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main St. Danielson on Friday April 7, 2023, from 10-11:30 with a memorial service at 11:30. tillinghastfh.com

## Michelle Cruz, 56



Putnam - Michelle (Auger) Cruz, age 56, went home to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on March 30, 2023, at Harrington Care in Colchester, CT, surrounded by her loved ones after succumbing to illness.

She was born in Webster, MA, on February 15, 1967. Michelle grew up in Putnam and was part of the Putnam High School graduating class of 1985. Over the course of her life, Michelle worked in several fields, including many years as a server, a construction worker and a security guard for United Technologies at the Gold Building in Hartford.

To know Michelle was to know her passion for gardening and how she expressed her love of nature and appreciation for the beauty in life by tending to her flowers and watching the birds at their feeders. Michelle loved cooking new and creative meals, includ-

ing fresh meals everyday for her dog Coco. During the rest of her free time, Michelle was an avid reader and absolutely loved dotting on her precious Coco.

Michelle is survived by her husband, Luis Cruz of Putnam; her mother, Gayle (Kryger) Auger and her father, Ernest Auger, both of Putnam; a brother, Bob Auger of Danielson and by two nieces, Kayla Auger of Putnam and Kristin Auger of Danielson, as well as may cherished aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

All are welcome to attend a memorial service in remembrance and honor of Michelle on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 11:00AM in the Tri-State Baptist Church, 386 Quinebaug Road, North Grosvenordale, CT. If you would like to leave a condolence a guestbook is available online by visiting www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Gilman-Valade Funeral Homes & Crematory, 104 Church Street, Putnam, is handling arrangements.

## TOURTELLOTTA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

N O R T H		Grade 10	Bickelhaupt, Ayden
GROSVENORDALE		High Honors:	Brothers, Bradley
— Tourtellotta Memorial		Christopher Aubin,	Carlson, Aidan
High School has released		June Ferraro, Megan	DeFilippo, Benjamin
its honor roll for the third		Nachtigall, Jackson	Frenier, Tara Heffernan,
quarter of the 2022-2023		Santos, Luke Senosk,	Joel Majorowski, Connor
school year.		Angel Sherpa, Sofia	Pederson, Rhyann Santos
Grade 9		Thurber	Grade 12
High Honors: Bailey		Honors: Grace Akana,	High Honors: Evan
Benton, Darcy Billings,		Aiden Bourget, Joshua	Antonson, Taylor Annis,
Dylan Bryniarski, Alex		Carlson, Christopher	Kayla Botelho, Madelynn
Davis, Katherine Gates,		Holton, Nicholas Ruggieri	Copley, Deidrea Hanshaw,
Julia Lewis, Briana		Recognition: Ashley	Dylan Johnson, Corey
Martin, Caitlin Mercer,		Birch, Gianna Brinson,	Kostacopoulos, Hanna
Ember Merrill, Nathan		Lucas Gillon, Hanna	LeClaire, Alexander
Plaza, Jady Ward		Mead, Jack Perry,	Nachtigall, Tahia Smith,
Honors: Deanna		Pavanny Phav	Allison Thebeau, Paige
Burruss, Chloe Hebert,		Grade 11	Veilleux-Catlin
Cole Hopkins, Caitlyn		High Honors: Kaylee	Honors: Daniel Boutin,
L'Heureux, Sahara		Beck, Avery Butler,	Javier DeJesus, Dawson
Moore, Bill Mwithiga,		Jordyn Butler, Audrey	Larsson, Matthew
Alexis Phav, Makenna		DeFilippo, Eric Levesque,	Lavallee, Chloe Manzo,
Sheridan, Laci Sinni,		Melanie Noonan, Patricia	Melina Martello-Munoz,
Gaige Smith, Isabella		Peterson	Jonathan Poplawski,
Stewart, Joshua Tackson		Honors: James Julian,	Alicia Tiffany, Aidan
Recognition: Nicholas		Madyson Kozziak,	Zimmer
Cunningham-Ingram,		Zackary Minarik, Jacob	Recognition: Gabriel
Cristian DeJesus,		Perry, Peyton Richard,	Delage, Jaden DiPasquale,
Vivianna Hill, Tyler		Koby Rock	Shawn Gauthier, Taylor
Shead		Recognition: Aaron	Morales

## Eastern student Jonathan Lepire attends Geological Society of America meeting

WILLIMANTIC — Four Eastern Connecticut State University students and three faculty members from the Environmental Earth Science Department recently attended the Geological Society of America (GSA) Conference in Reston, VA. Professors of Environmental Earth Science Brian Oakley, James (Drew) Hyatt and Peter Drzewiecki accompanied the students.

Among the students was Jonathan Lepire of Dayville, a senior who majors in Environmental Earth Science.

Lepire, who presented his research, "Evolution of a dynamic backbarrier coastal lagoon," found the experience to be very impactful. "I was given the chance to talk to professionals who work in the field of geology and gain additional insight on what they thought of my project. This allowed me to reflect on my project and has given me new ideas on what to explore going forward in the project going into my senior year." He also found the presentations and talks given by others at the conference, "gave me knowledge and opened my eyes to other topics within my major that I had never considered before."

To present at the conference, students and faculty were asked to submit abstracts explaining their research. Once accepted, posters and presentations were prepared to be shown to academic peers.

"This (the GSA conference) was a good one to go to," said EES Professor Drew Hyatt. "It was a joint Northeast and Southeast meeting, so it was larger than normal, with a number of opportunities, meetings and lunches for students attending the conference."

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## LEGALS

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Eugene J. LaCoille (23-00110)

The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate, by decree dated March 31, 2023, 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:  
Tammy LaCoille, 12 Cote Drive, Brooklyn, CT06234  
April 7, 2023

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Mildred D. Wonoski (23-00093)

The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate, by decree dated March 28, 2023, 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:  
March F. Stoico, 1 Westside Drive, Unit 8, N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255  
April 7, 2023

### TOWN OF THOMPSON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 7:00

PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT, and via Zoom to hear the following application:

ZBA 23-01 Applicant Gary Rawson owner of Quaddick Lake Company Inc., 9 Logee Point Rd, Map 141 Block 17 Lots H & X, Zone Lake District, requesting a variance from Town of Thompson Regulations, Amended January 3, 2023, to create 3 building lots, Lot H, 5,000 sq ft, variance of 10,000 sq ft, Lot X, 1 lot 10,000 sq ft, variance of 5,000 sq ft and 1 lot, 5000 sq ft, variance of 10,000 sq ft according to Article 4G Lake District, Section 3-A-2 Dimensional Requirements File may be reviewed online, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals, or in the Zoning Office. Respectfully submitted, Kevin Beno, Chairman March 31, 2023 April 7, 2023

### Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission Legal Notice

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 7 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room, Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive North Grosvenordale, CT and via ZOOM, and took the following action to schedule a public hearing on April 24, 2023.

**PZC 23-07 Applicant Jason Lavallee,** 0 Riverside Rd (corner of Riverside Rd

and Azud Rd), Map 67, Block 53 Lot 1 H and 1G, Zone TCDD, owner Lavallee Construction, LLC, Rich Rd, North Grosvenordale, Ct, Special Permit request for construction of multi-family dwellings under Zoning Regulations Article 4E, Section 2-#30.

**PZC 23-08 – Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission** of 815 Riverside Drive, Amendment Zoning Regulations Format change, codification. Respectfully submitted Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman April 7, 2023

### Witches Wood Tax District, Woodstock, CT Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Witches Woods Tax District will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at Bungay Fire Brigade, 1256 Rte 171, Woodstock, CT April 7, 2023 April 14, 2023

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

At the December 20th, 2022 Special Meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals, a Variance application was approved to place a shed 10 feet from a property line where a 20 foot setback is required; #22-02 David Shaw, 1164 Route 198, (Map 5173, Block 012, Lot 10-1). Suzanne Woodward, Chair April 7, 2023

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

The Zoning Board of Appeals has scheduled a Public Hearing for April 17th, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169, lower level, conference room B, to hear the following application: Variance application to place a carport 7 feet from a property line where a 20-foot setback is required; #23-01 Erin Yasgar, 33 Hiawatha Heights, (Map 7272, Block 34, Lot 0D11). Martin Nieski, Chairman April 7, 2023 April 14, 2023

### TOWN OF KILLINGLY TAX COLLECTORS LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-4:30PM Tuesday 8-5:30PM Friday 8-11:30AM. The fourth quarter installment of taxes becomes due on April 1, 2023, and becomes delinquent on May 2, 2023 and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org Dated at Killingly this 16<sup>TH</sup> day of March, 2023 Patricia Monahan CCMC Revenue Collector for the Town of Killingly March 24, 2023 April 7, 2023 April 21, 2023

# Lily Tessmer '23 signs NLI with Ashland University

THOMPSON — Lily Tessmer, a senior from Lancaster, Mass., signed her National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field for Ashland University on Wednesday, March 29.

Since joining the Marianapolis track and field team in 2021, Tessmer, one of the team's captains, has focused on the pole vault, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay, and the 300 hurdles. She currently holds the school record for the pole vault at 11 feet and is a member of the 4x400 school record team.

Once aspiring to be a collegiate gymnast, Tessmer tried out the pole vault for the first time as a sophomore at Marianapolis and fell in love.

"I personally enjoy how it feels like flying," said Tessmer. "Since I was previously a gymnast, I am very thankful that I do have knowledge on where I am in the air and when my body should be inverting and twisting. Once I finish that inver-



Lily Tessmer (seated) with her mother Karen.

sion, and start riding the jump up, there's truly no better feeling, it's indescribable. I like challenging myself, pushing myself to the limits and

seeing my hard work pay off. Not every day is perfect in this event, but I have learned that you can improve a little bit each day, whether that's in

either speed, technique/form, or height."

"Lily is an incredibly focused and hard-working athlete," said

Marianapolis track and field head coach David DiCicco. "She makes an incredibly complex and challenging event look effortless which is a tes-

tament to the countless hours of work she has invested in her craft. She holds herself to a very high standard and, as a teammate and team captain, is very supportive of her peers. In this, and in so many ways, Lily has been a role model and leader for the team and within the Marianapolis community. We are so proud of her and excited to continue to cheer Lily on as she continues her career as a student-athlete at Ashland."

On signing with Ashland, Tessmer said, "I cannot wait to compete at Ashland! I am looking forward to competing at the college level. Ashland has great team spirit, and I can't wait to meet and get to know other athletes who share similar goals, interests, and inspirations as me!"

Ashland University, located in Ashland, Ohio, is a Division II school playing in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

Courtesy

## Knee-deep in arms

WOODSTOCK ACADEMY OPENS BASEBALL SEASON WITH PLENTY OF PITCHING DEPTH



Courtesy

The five seniors on the Woodstock Academy baseball team this year are, from left, Marcus McGregor, Carter Morissette, Kaden Murphy, Josh Hernandez and Jack Tyler.

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy baseball team entered the 2023 season looking to build on its 2022 success, when the Centaurs went 16-10, advanced

to the championship game of the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Tournament and the quarterfinal round of the Connecticut Class L Tournament.

"Our team goals never change; they're the same

this year as they are every year," Woodstock Academy coach Brian Murphy said. "We want to win our Division (ECC Division II) during the regular season, win the ECC tournament, and win states. We set the bar

high and hopefully we get there or we get pretty close trying to get there."

The Centaurs had eight seniors on last year's team — Hamilton Barnes, Brennan Blow, Ethan Davis, Jackson Goetz, Brendan Hill, Zach Roethlein, Jonathan Smith and Shawn Wallace — many of whom contributed significantly to Woodstock's success last season.

Smith batted .432 (35-for-81) with eight doubles and 17 RBI while Davis drove in 14 runs while going 31-for-79 (.392) with three triples and six doubles. Roethlein finished the 2022 campaign with a team-leading 21 RBI, seven doubles and two triples, while batting .337 (29-for-86). Goetz hit .290 (20-for-69) with 14 RBI, and Barnes drove in 16 runs and doubled six times while batting .284 (27-for-95).

This year's Centaurs' squad includes five seniors — Josh Hernandez, Marcus McGregor, Carter Morissette, Kaden Murphy (coach Murphy's son) and Jack Tyler.

McGregor hit .298 (14-for-47) last year, with three doubles, two triples and 10 RBI, while Morissette went 17-for-58 (.293), with a home run, a double and 11 RBI, and Kaden Murphy batted

.269 (14-of-52) with a double and 10 RBI.

On the mound last year Kaden Murphy was 5-3 with a 2.75 earned run average (ERA). He struck out 38 in 48-1/3 innings, walked 25, and allowed 42 hits while McGregor was 1-0 in 7-2/3 innings, allowing seven earned runs and 12 hits while striking out 12 and walking nine, and Morissette was 0-1 in 7-2/3 innings allowing seven earned runs on six hits while striking out seven and walking 14.

Junior Eric Mathewson and sophomores Brady Ericson and Maxx Corradi are also expected to play important roles on this year's Woodstock team.

Ericson batted .417 in a small sample size of at-bats last year — he was 5-for-12 at the plate — with an RBI, a home run, triple and double. Mathewson hit .296 (21-for-71) with 14 RBI and three doubles in 2022.

On the bump last season Ericson was 2-2 with a 2.46 ERA in 31-1/3 innings. He gave up 20 hits, struck out 44 and walked 33. Mathewson was 4-1 on the hill in 2022, finishing with a 2.76 ERA in 25-1/3 innings. He gave up 17 hits, struck out 17 and walked 13.

The Centaurs appear to be knee-deep in arms. In addition to Kaden

Murphy, McGregor, Morissette, Ericson and Mathewson, coach Murphy expects Tyler and juniors Riley O'Brien, Jack Sumner and Eli Smith to spend some time 60 feet, six inches from home plate.

"The fact of the matter is, if we're going to be successful, we not only need the starters, but we need the guys who are going to work in middle relief and the ones that are going to close games," coach Murphy said. "It's got to be a team effort. I feel we definitely have the potential to do well in the pitching department."

Coach Murphy expects Ericson, Kaden Murphy and O'Brien to make up Woodstock's starting rotation, with Mathewson, McGregor and Morissette to work in relief roles. Any of the three, coach Murphy said, could be called on to serve in the closer role.

Defensively, Corradi and Mathewson will anchor the middle infield as both can play at short or second. McGregor, when not pitching, will play third, while O'Brien and fellow junior Keon Lamarche will get the bulk of the work at first.

Ericson, Morissette, and Kaden Murphy — again, when not pitching — will all play outfield positions. Sharing the catching duties will be sophomore Tanner Graham and Caleb Simoneau, the only freshman on the varsity roster. Filling reserve roles will be Hernandez, Smith and Jack Sumner.

Serving as captains for the Centaurs will be Mathewson, Morissette and Kaden Murphy.

"We've got some players; we've got some athletes," coach Murphy said. "We've got some kids that play baseball year-round, or close to that. We feel we should be able to produce some runs if we put the ball in play and have good at-bats."

"We feel we're going to be competitive. But, even if you have the best team on paper, you still have to execute," Coach Murphy continued. "This group is focused, they're working together as a team, they understand their roles on the team, and they've all bought in to having a very successful season."

## Brooklyn Parks & Rec hosting fishing field trip

BROOKLYN — Brooklyn Parks and Recreation Department is proud to partner with the CT DEEP Fisheries Division - Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program to host a Fishing Field Trip at Pasture Pond, located in Quinebaug Valley State Fish Hatchery in Plainfield on April 22 from 8 a.m.-noon.

Come join expert fishing instructors and learn how to get started fishing safely, legally, and successfully! Make memories with your family and friends, enjoy the outdoors and maybe bring home dinner. The CARE program supplies all bait, tackle, and instruction. All participants ages 16 and above must have a valid 2022 inland fishing license. Anglers under 16 are encouraged to register for a free Youth Fishing Passport.

Participants should learn the basics of fishing by completing the CARE program's self-paced Let's Go Fishing / Vamos de Pescar online course prior to attending the Fishing Field Trip.

Pre-registration is required and opens now the CT DEEP Hunting and Fishing Education registration system (Filter by Event Type "Fishing Field Trip"). The event is offered free of charge but space is limited so early sign-up is encouraged. Minimum age to participate is 6 years old, and all children are required to have a parent/guardian participate alongside them.

- Helpful Links and Resources:  
 Purchase your CT Fishing License Online  
 Youth Fishing Passport  
 Register for a CARE Fishing Event  
 Take a fishing course: Let's Go Fishing! / ¡Vamos de Pescar! OR Introduction to Fishing Zoom Webinar  
 Let's Go Fishing Video Library  
 Fishing Regulations / Reglamentos de Pesca  
 Freshwater Fishing Guide  
 Saltwater Fishing Guide  
 Trout Stocking Maps  
 CT is Fishy (Interactive application)  
 Learn more about the CARE Program

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# Power and Pitching

THAT'S THE RECIPE KILLINGLY SOFTBALL PLANS TO USE TO MAKE A RUN AT ECC TITLE

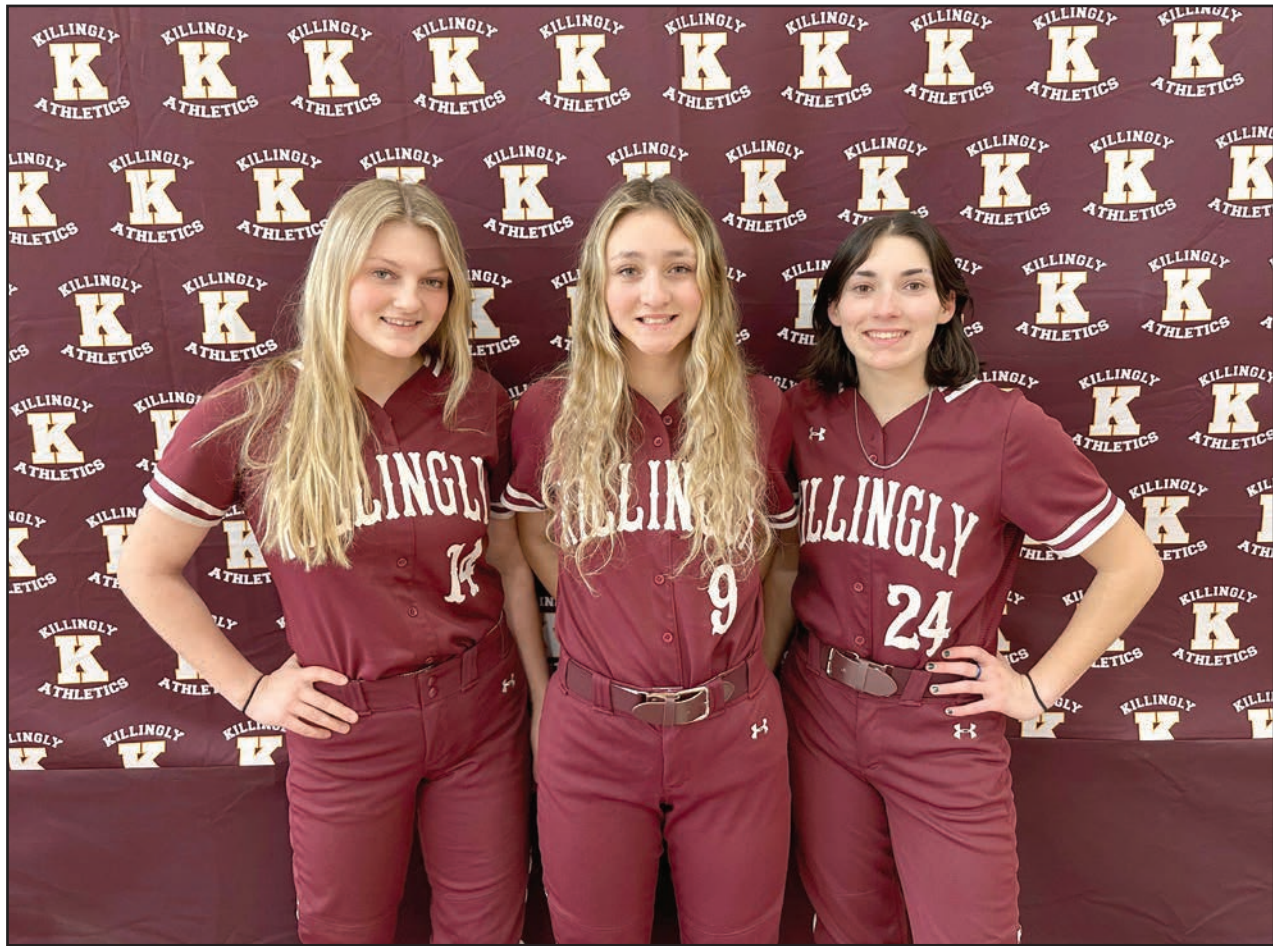
BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The return of three Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) All-Stars and the addition of three promising newcomers has Killingly High School softball coach Lance Leduc believing his team will be vastly improved in 2023.

The key returnees for Leduc are seniors Hannah Cozza and Lyana Cuevas-Bott, and junior Izabella “Izzy” Robbins. Cozza will be Killingly’s everyday third baseman this season while Cuevas-Bott will play centerfield and Robbins will see lots of time at both the shortstop and catcher positions.

Cozza, Cuevas-Bott, and Robbins — who were all named ECC Division II All-Stars last season — will serve as team captains.

The new-to-the-team trio that Leduc believes will make their presence felt early and often are freshmen Samantha “Sammy” Baker, Jayden Durand and Danielle “Dani” Veillette. Durand will play regularly at shortstop and catcher, while Baker and Veillette will join sophomore Grace Deslauriers in the pitching rotation. Baker and Veillette will also take regular turns playing second base.



The Killingly High 2023 softball team features three returning Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II All-Stars. They are, from left, Hannah Cozza, Lyana Cuevas-Bott and Izabella “Izzy” Robbins.

Deslauriers was a fixture in the circle for Killingly as a freshman, starting nearly every game, if not every game. When she isn’t pitching this season, she will play first base.

“I believe we’re a talented team; a team that, so far, is meshing really well,” Leduc said. “The

one position where we didn’t have a lot of depth last year was pitcher and we’ve picked up some depth at that position.”

Killingly (8-13 in 2022) ended last season by participating in the Connecticut Class L Tournament. Killingly, the No. 28 seed, lost to fifth-seeded Jonathan Law High School, 6-3, in Milford, in a first-round game.

“If we can be a playoff team with only one pitcher,” Leduc said in a reference to last year, “then I think having three legitimate start-

ers allows us to compete for the division and go from there into the ECC Conference Tournament and the state tournament. We’re excited about this year.”

Also returning for Killingly this season are senior Emma Girardin, juniors Emilee Pepin and Sophia Scandalito, and sophomore Addison “Addy” King. Girardin and Pepin will play outfield positions, King will see time at several infield positions and Scandalito will fill in where needed, when needed. Senior Skylar Anglin-Taylor, a first-year player for Leduc, will also play as

needed, where needed.

Leduc likes the makeup of his team, which he feels has a good mix of experienced players and players competing at the high school level for the first time.

“Some years you have a senior-heavy team where, in the preseason you’re just working on getting everyone reps to make sure all your players are sharp and ready to go. Other years there’s a lot of teaching going on because you have a lot of freshmen and sophomores,” Leduc said. “We have a really cool balance of both this year.”

While Leduc is excited

about all the players at all the positions, he is especially excited about the potential depth he now has at the pitching position.

“Grace’s forte is her ability to locate the ball and spot her changeup; that’s what really works for her, while Samantha has a decent fastball that she can throw by a lot of hitters, and she has a lot of movement,” Leduc said. “As for Danielle, I’ve never seen — and I’ve been coaching for a while — a bigger one-year improvement in a pitcher.”

“I saw Danielle pitch a lot last year as an eighth-grader,” Leduc continued. “She’s kicked up her fastball a good 10 miles per hour in one year and added a really good in-and-out movement with a screwball-curveball combination.”

Leduc believes Killingly’s key hits and RBIs this year will come from the top of his lineup — Robbins, Cuevas-Bott, Cozza, King and Durand. He sees the bottom part of the lineup — Girardin, Pepin, Veillette and Baker — as the table-setters, getting on base any way they can so they’re in a position to score runs when the heavy hitters come up.

“We’re really hoping the top of the lineup is going to drive the ball; we’ve got a lot of power,” Leduc said. “To the bottom part of the lineup, I’ve really been stressing to them the past couple of weeks that I need them to be troublemakers. I need them to get on base and figure out ways to cause problems on the base paths.”

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## Happy Endings Relay for Life benefit dinners return April 29

POMFRET — After three years waiting for COVID to ease up, the Happy Endings Relay for Life Team will be holding their 14th Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 29 at Pomfret Community School. Dinner includes Chicken Cordon Bleu, rice pilaf, glazed carrots, salad, roll, and chocolate sundae on a brownie. All of this for \$25/adults, \$10 children under 10, free for children four and under.

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