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Friday, April 19, 2024

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Woodstock community mourns passing of Jay Swan

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Town of Woodstock has announced the passing of First Selectman John “Jay” Swan resulting in countless tributes to a man who has been a long-time staple of his community and its leading elected official throughout the entirety of the 2020s.

According to an obituary posted by the Smith and Walker Funeral Home, Swan passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, April 10. He is survived by his wife

Susan “Sue” Swan, his two children Elizabeth M. Swan and Allison J. Swan and many other loved ones. Jay Swan’s career spanned many different professions as he worked for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Disabilities, and as a Case Worker, Special Education Teacher, and Adult Education Coordinator just to name a few of his titles. After retiring in 2003 he began working for the Town of Woodstock as a Constable, Sergeant, Deputy Chief,

and eventually First Selectman. He was an active supporter and leader in the Boy Scouts of America including as a Scoutmaster for Troop 22, Chair of the Indian Trails Council, a member of the Scouting for the Handicapped Committee, Director of the June Norcross Scout Reservation, and a District Commissioner for the Quinebaug District of the Indian Trails Council. He was also dedicated to environmentalism, conservation, and firearms safety.

Swan won his first term as First Selectman in 2019 and was reelected in 2021 and 2023 respectively. His death came as a clear shock to many in the community as trib-



Courtesy

First Selectman Jay Swan, who passed away last week, presents the trophy for the 2023 Woodstock Holiday Lights winner.

Turn To **SWAN** page A9

Heavy rains cause leak at Killingly Town Hall

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Hall sustained damage during the torrential downpours that struck the region on March 23 and 24, causing issues with the town’s IT network in the process.

Town Manager Mary Calorio provided an update to the Town Council on April 9 reporting around \$12,000 worth of damage after storm water leaked into the town hall through a second-floor ceiling tile. While the damage will likely be covered by insurance, the immediate concern at the time was the town’s IT network which was in the direct path of the leak and threatened to cause delays to several processes including budget presentations and early voting. Calorio said Novus, the town’s IT network contractor, immediately went to work to resolve the situation on Sunday, March 24.

“I contacted Novus to ask them if they could do an initial evaluation on the system. They were immediate in their response. They contacted me literally within minutes and said they would swing by the Town Hall. They stopped in within 15 minutes and responded that there was a significant water event that took place and that we had severe damage. They then immediately activated other members of the Novice team to start brainstorming how to get temporary equipment that might be able to be available to us because they recognized the potential impact to early voting,” said Calorio.

She added that the leak shut down the town’s internet connection preventing access to the server which also cut off access to budget documents and presented potential interruptions to time sensitive projects in numerous departments. However, thanks to Novus’s quick work, the town was able to formulate a plan.

“We didn’t have any server loss because our servers are all virtually hosted, but we had no way to get to them. It was pretty catastrophic for us. I applaud Novus for their immediate response. They had found alternative equipment to temporarily get us up,” Calorio said.

Before the end of the day on March 24, Novus had coordinated a plan to bring in equipment to get the town up and running again. Calorio said the company’s response helped minimize the disruption to the town, prevented impacts to early voting, and allowed town officials access to critical documents for town business.

The Town Hall has been running effectively since the incident while they await the details of their insurance claim and replace the damaged equipment. Calorio also credited the facility maintainer for helping identify the source of the leak.

Turn To **SWAN** page A9

Diarra credits success to time at Putnam Science Academy



Courtesy

Hassan Diarra snipping a souvenir strand of net following UConn’s national championship win.

BY STEPHEN NALBANDIAN
PUTNAM SCIENCE ACADEMY

PUTNAM — It’s been a loud, nearly nonstop, whirlwind blur for Hassan Diarra and his UConn teammates since they won their second straight NCAA championship on April 8.

But Diarra – Putnam Science Academy’s all-time leading scorer and a two-time national Prep champ with the Mustangs – will always remember the quiet moment that was shared in the locker room, away from all the noise and cameras and microphones once the game had ended.

“I’ll never forget the huddle we had in the locker

room,” Diarra said earlier this week. “It was just us, the players and coaches, and it was a bittersweet moment. When you have a team like this, you don’t want it to end. You know that all good things must come to an end, but that was a blessed moment for sure, one that I will always remember.”

Diarra will graduate from UConn in a few weeks with a degree in Sociology and has one more year of eligibility to use if he so chooses. As of Sunday night, he was undecided about what he was going to do and where he would play if he did, though UConn is absolutely an option for his grad season. He was named the Big East’s Sixth Man of the Year as the conference’s top reserve, and was one of the fiercest defenders on a team of fierce defenders. This after having a very limited role during his junior season at UConn, which was his first after transferring in from Texas A&M.

“When I talked with the coaching staff then, it was about a vision of competing for championships and continuing to get better and developing as a player,” he said. “That we’ve been able to manifest that has been amazing.”

“The first one last year felt good but to do it again, with this group, was like 1,000 times better. Obviously, I had more of a role on this team too. Last year’s felt amazing, don’t get me wrong. But this one is just on another level.”

Adding to that is the fact that Diarra’s older brother, Mamadou (who is seventh on PSA’s all-time scoring list and third on its all-time rebounding list), has also been part of UConn’s back-to-back titles as the team’s Director of Player Development.

“Having my brother by my side all the way through and to have this experience with him again is just a true blessing,” Hassan said. “I’m glad we were able to cross paths again and be together and experience this together.”

“On the court, he’s my coach. He corrects me on my mistakes, he encourages me, he helps me get better. Off the court, he’s just a big brother for me, and he’s done an amazing job at that. He’s not only helped me, but he’s also helped a lot of guys on this team, and I think that’s part of why we’re so successful.”

UConn became the first team to repeat as national champions since Florida did it in 2006 and 2007, and this year’s version is being talked about as one of col-

Turn To **DIARRA** page A8

Putnam Student Council sees record numbers for blood drive

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — For more

than a decade, the Putnam High School Student Council has led an effort to support the American

Red Cross through its biannual blood drives allowing the students a chance to give back to not

only their own community, but potentially be a part of life-saving efforts across the globe. While the drives have been a yearly staple every spring and fall for some time, the March 2024 drive was one of, if not the most successful event to date.

Shane Donahue, a Putnam educator and advisor for the Student Council, explained that this was the school’s 27th drive with events occurring every March and Thanksgiving to benefit the Red Cross. Last spring the district hit a new high of 29 units, but this year the event resulted in 30, which Donahue estimated was a new record for the school.

“We hit our signups and eventually collected 30 units over the course of the day, which was up from our last blood drive,” said Donahue. “Typically, we have the

school community, the staff, the parents, all sign up. Of our successful donors, many of them were staff and students but we also had plenty of members of the community come in including alumni and people from town that signed up for the drive. Putnam has proven to be a very supportive community so we’re fortunate.”

As with most blood drives, all the blood donated goes to helping the American Red Cross. The drive’s March 27 date coincided with the organization’s Giving Day celebration seeking to inspire donations from across the country. The blood will be utilized to help emergency responders and disaster relief.

Donahue said the blood drives have become a solid tradition at the schools and an important opportunity for members

of the Student Council to learn and share the values of giving back in a way that affects countless lives beyond their own community borders.

“It’s really great for the student council and the student body in general. It’s engaging them with a life-saving mission. It gives the students a sense of something beyond themselves. Blood isn’t necessarily something the average teenager sees as being a need. When we educate people on the impact that they have from their donation we do get good support from the kids,” said Donahue.

The American Red Cross is constantly seeking donations to help in their cause. Those interested in giving blood or making financial donations can learn more by visiting www.redcross.org.



Courtesy

The Putnam High School Student Council held its annual spring blood drive, the first of two yearly blood drives in the district, taking in 30 units of donated blood for the American Red Cross. Their next blood drive will be in November

Trustees of Roseland Park & Golf Course praise community for support of Legacy Campaign

WOODSTOCK — In September 2023, following more than two years of study, preparation, organization and diligent effort by the Roseland Park & Golf Course Board of Trustees and The Legacy Campaign leadership team, Trustee President Martha Beckwith indicated that the Capital Campaign is surpassing its original Phase I estimates.

the Board noted that work and materials cost to restore the property, which will celebrate its 150-year anniversary in 2026, would range between \$2 million to \$3million.

“When we embarked on the \$500,000 Phase I of the campaign, we faced many doubts and questions. Working together as a team and in close concert with our consultant we slowly began to see positive financial results. We are extremely thankful for the many gifts we’ve received, both large and small and appreciate the positive response from the donors we’ve contacted,” said Board President Martha Beckwith.

Since the campaign kickoff, gifts of cash and pledges have surpassed the original goal of \$500,000 and have reached approximately \$780,000. This early success has prompted a Board decision to extend the goal for Phase I to \$1 million.

“The decision to extend the Phase I goal came after the early success made us realize we could begin work on the project much sooner than anticipated. Tree clearing has begun at the golf course and in the area of the Little League fields. We’ve also began clearing the new entrance to the



Courtesy

The Roseland Park & Golf Course Legacy Campaign Leadership Team. Front row, left to right: Paul Kelly, Honorary Chairman; Martha Beckwith, Board President and Trustee Chairperson; John Rauh, General Chairman. Back row, left to right: Dr. Jonathan Gradie, Campaign Vice Chairman; Nancy Adams-Gradie, Campaign Coordinator; Pam Brown, Donor Relations Chairperson; Jeff Bond, Major Gifts co-Chairman. Absent when phot was taken, Patrick O’Brien, Corporate Chairman; Tony Listro, Major Gifts c-Chairman; Lynn Converse, Community Gifts Chairperson.

park. All this has been accomplished thanks to the generosity of the donors,” said Campaign Chairman John Rauh.

In addition to the work that’s already begun, the Board anticipates work to begin in the spring on roadways and walkways in the park making walking and driving safer for the thousands of visitors who utilize the facility annually. Extensive work is planned in the future for the greens and tee boxes at the golf course and renovations to the barn will include the construction of modern public facilities. All these plans are part of the over-


all long-term plans of the Board in conjunction with noted park architect Will Martin, a former Woodstock resident, whose Ground View corporate office is located in Boston.

“We ask that the users of the Park and Golf Course are understanding as we move forward with this restoration project. As they say with construction projects, ‘pardon our dust as we modernize our facilities.’ We want make our facility beautiful for future users and to honor the Park founder Henry Chandler Bowen,” said Chairman Rauh.

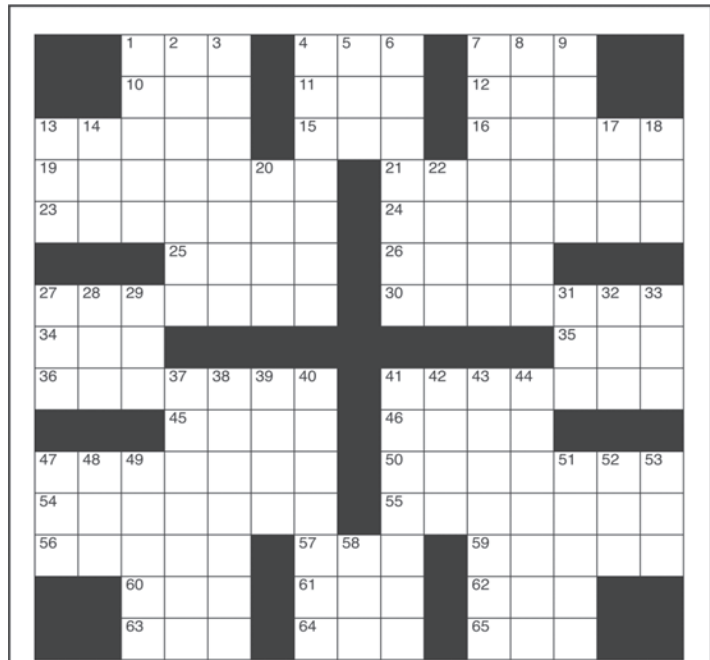
Working with Rauh, Gradie, Kelly and Beckwith are the Leadership team of Patrick O’Brien, Jeff Bond, Tony Listro, Lynn Converse, Pam Brown, Marc Cotnoir and Campaign Coordinator Nancy Adams.

“I’m thankful for the leadership team we’ve assembled. These are dedicated individuals who not only have provided financial support but have given hundreds of hours of personal time to ensure the success we’ve achieved,” said Rauh in closing.

In Loving Memory
2nd Anniversary



James “Joe” Thompson
June 16, 1961- April 23, 2022
Two years ago, we shared our last goodbye.
You’ve become the wind that whispers in our ears,
the sun that warms us,
and the moon that watches over our dreams.
Wherever you are, you will forever be in our hearts.
We miss you, always.
Michelle, Joseph & Emily
Anniversary Mass, Sunday, April 21st
10:00 am St. Joseph’s Church, North Grosvenordale, CT



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. For each
- 7. Airborne (abbr.)
- 10. Photographs
- 11. They ___
- 12. It’s important in respiration (abbr.)
- 13. Monetary unit
- 15. Cool!
- 16. A son of Jacob
- 19. Cut off
- 21. Devour
- 23. Agent of one’s downfall
- 24. Best
- 25. Network of nerves
- 26. Partner to “oohs”
- 27. Origins
- 30. Sewing utensil
- 34. Alias
- 35. Swiss river
- 36. Greek mythological figure
- 41. Type of whiskey
- 45. Lay to rest
- 46. “Rule, Britannia” composer
- 47. Select jury
- 50. Feeling
- 54. Action regarded as morally wrong
- 55. Makes angry
- 56. Act incorrectly
- 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
- 60. To what degree
- 61. Buzzing insect
- 62. The human foot
- 63. “The Leftovers” actress Dowd
- 64. A place to stay
- 65. Sun up in New York

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An involuntary muscular contraction
- 2. Earnest
- 3. Cuts out surgically
- 4. Can’t move
- 5. Baseball stat
- 6. British soldier
- 7. Traditional medicine plants
- 8. Political party controlled by managers
- 9. Hebrew prophet
- 13. Supporter
- 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 17. Liberty Mutual mascot
- 18. Georgia rockers
- 20. A place where building is done
- 22. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 27. Clothing retailer
- 28. Supplement with difficulty
- 29. Annoy constantly
- 31. Founder of Babism
- 32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
- 33. Sea eagle
- 37. Leave behind
- 38. Time of day
- 39. Colorless crystalline compound
- 40. They lay out course requirements
- 41. A diamond has three
- 42. Algerian coastal city
- 43. Remove cover
- 44. Rechristened
- 47. Distinctive practice
- 48. Defunct phone company
- 49. Turkish officer of high rank
- 51. Eliminate from the body
- 52. Witness
- 53. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 58. Founding Father Franklin

Voices raised in song at Pete Seeger tribute

WOODSTOCK — “Sing, sing, sing, Everybody, sing!” So began the opening song by local singer-songwriter

Jeff Perkins at the 8th annual “For Pete’s Sake” singalong held at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock on Sunday,

April 7. The audience joyfully complied.



Courtesy

Song leaders and audience join in singing “This Land Is Your Land” during the 8th annual Pete Seeger tribute on April 7 at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock.

The event was organized by Sally Rogers and Leslie Sweetnam, and featured fellow song leaders Howie Bursen, Sandy Pliskin, and Carol Rossetti in addition to Perkins.

The lyrics of the songs were projected onto a screen at the front of the church sanctuary so the audience could sing along. Song leaders accompanied themselves on banjos and guitars, autoharp and harmonica and piano.

Highlights included several beloved songs written by Pete Seeger himself such as “If I Had a Hammer,” “Golden Thread,” and “Precious Friend” as well as songs inspired by Seeger such as Sandy Pliskin’s “Thanks, Pete” to the tune of “She’ll be Comin’ Round the Mountain.” Seeger’s “My Get Up and Go has Got Up and Went” had everyone giggling between choruses. Carol Rossetti awed the audience with her gorgeous rendition of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.”

“What a pleasure it is to hear so many people raising their voices in song!” said Sally Rogers. She added, “Pete always said that it didn’t matter WHAT you sang, just that you sang together in community. This event is a fine example of how powerful our voices can be!”

The event raised \$1,304 for Community Kitchen of Northeastern Connecticut, Inc., a nonprofit that offers free noontime meals at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock on Mondays, Central Village Congregational Church on Tuesdays, United Methodist Church of Danielson on Wednesdays, Creation Church in Thompson on Thursdays, and United Methodist Church of Moosup on Fridays. All meals are free and everyone is welcome. For more information, see their Web site, community-kitchensnect.org.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Tourtellotte Student Spotlight: Gianna Brinson



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. The Student Spotlight for the month of March is Gianna Brinson!

Gianna was nominated by classmates Kali Carita, Caitlin Oleszewski, June Ferraro, Jinalyse Denham, Isabelle McGlynn, and Sofia Thurber.

Kali wrote, "Gianna is the kindest and funniest person I know. I've never been more thankful to have a friend/cousin like

her. She never fails to put a smile on anyone's face along with having amazing advice in any circumstance. I haven't had a class with Gianna since sixth grade, but when I found out I had English with her I was so happy. She participates in class and helps anyone if they need it. She always has a positive attitude and is beyond respectful and kind."

Caitlin says, "She is the friendliest."

June had this to say about Gianna: "I've known Gianna for a while now, and let me tell you, she has this incredible talent for brightening people's days. No matter the situation, she always manages to lighten the mood and make everyone burst out laughing. I can't even express how thrilled I am to have met such an amazing person like her and to call her my friend."

Gianna's friend Isabelle adds, "Gianna is truly amazing. We've been good friends for over a decade, and our bond has only grown stronger over the years. Whenever someone is having a tough time in school or feeling down, she's always there with a smile to lift their spirits. There are days when I don't feel like going to school, but just seeing her

infectious smile instantly brightens my mood. Gianna has this amazing ability to bring joy to everyone around her, and her smile truly lights up every room. She's just one of those people that everyone loves to be around."

Jinalyse continues, saying, "Gianna is an absolute sweetheart, and her positive energy is contagious. She has this incredible sense of humor that always brings a smile to my face, and being around her guarantees a good time. Her fun and childlike personality, combined with her genuine care for her friends, makes her truly deserving of this award. She's just an amazing person all around!"

Finally, Sofia says, "Gianna has been an incredible friend since day one. We actually met when her mom was my teacher, and we even took dance classes together. Her positive attitude and willingness to help others have always stood out. Whenever someone is feeling down, Gianna is there to lift them up and offer comfort. She has this amazing ability to brighten anyone's day without fail. She truly is a ray of sunshine in my life, and in many others."

Mrs. Steglitz shared, "I have had the privilege of

watching Gianna grow into the poised young lady she is today. As her friends have stated, she is a ray of sunshine everyday. Gianna brings positivity and an upbeat attitude to everything she does. Gianna goes about her day being responsible, respectful, approachable and kind. Congrats Gianna on receiving this recognition."

And according to Mr. Jan C. Duprey, Gianna is polite, dependable, and responsible - all qualities you hope to see in every student.

When asked what motivates her, Gianna says, "The constant support I get from my family and friends. Knowing that you have people standing behind you makes everything you do 10 times easier." Some of the ways she has contributed to her school and community

are "In school I help out my fellow classmates when they need help in classes. I am in the yearbook club, FBLA, and SSA. I have done homelessness awareness, Bedtime Stories, and Read Across America. Outside of school, I am a role model to the younger girls at my dance stu-

dio. I dance in the Holiday Dazzle light parade every year."

When asked about her plans for the future, Gianna said, "My dream plans for the future are to be famous and have my own late night talk show. But realistically the only plans I have for the future are to go to college and travel the world."

A few of Gianna's important accomplishments were "At a dance competition I received the

CDLS spirit award. It is an award given to one dancer at the Diva Dance Competitions, this award is given to a dancer who shows a love for the dance, joy in what they do, and someone who represents the positive spirit that the CDLS foundation looks for. I also just

recently won a dance scholarship at one of the competitions I went to. I also have received five- and 10-year awards for dancing that amount of years, and next year I will be receiving my 15 year award."

In closing, Gianna said, "Thank you for nominating me. It was very sweet."

Doughnuts will bring solar energy



PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club April 6 held its first ever Krispy Kreme fund-raiser. They raised \$1,760, and more donations are still coming in. Interact Club Advisor Roberta Rocchetti said the Interact Club's goal is to raise enough money to buy a Solar Suitcase kit (a small portable generator) to give the gift of power in a developing country's clinic or school. Once the \$3,000 cost is raised the club members will put it together and have it tested. Once it is approved, it will be sent to a clinic or school in a developing country. Interact members were

set up in front of WINY Radio, the Citgo in Pomfret, the Citgo in Putnam by Walmart and Runnings. Interact participants were; Sofia Thurber, Serena Smith, June Ferraro, Paige Perry, Gabriell Cerasiello, Amelia Haynes, Logan Casteen, Jordyn Butler and Eric Levesque. Rotaract members, Matt Gardiner and Nick Megas, helped. Rocchetti also thanked Rotarians and adult volunteers: Wayne and Dottie Durst, Jennifer Brytowski, Joseph Adiletta, Jonathan and Keri Tremblay, Mike and Roberta Rocchetti, Maureen Bender and Adrienne Casteen.

Courtesy

From left: Jordyn Butler, Joseph Adiletta, and Eric Levesque.

Northeast Flooring and Kitchens thanks sponsors of Quiet Corner Golf Classic

REGION — Northeast Flooring and Kitchens at 17 Kennedy Drive in Putnam will be hosting the Quiet Corner Golf Classic on Thursday, May 23. This 18 hole scramble style golf tournament at the Quinnetis Country Club benefits the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which supports veterans and first responders along with their families.

George Amenabar, owner of Northeast Flooring and Kitchens and a Marine veteran of the Iraqi War said, "There are so many veterans and their families who have given so much and feel forgotten. This golf tournament is one small way that we can remember, honor and support them for their sacrifices and service."

In 2023, the inaugural Golf Classic raised over \$17,000. This year the goal is to surpass \$20,000 and Northeast Flooring and Kitchens is well on their way thanks to generous sponsors and supporters, including: Silktown Roofing, Inc., Dunkin' of Thompson/Putnam/Killingly-The Moutoudis Group, The Woz Family, Express Medals, LLC, Square One/Homestead Construction, Matt Dorf/Interface/Nora, bankHometown, The Hilb Group/Gerardi Insurance, Vistra Energy, Shiman Partners, D.H. Copeland Builders, Inc., Woodstock Building Associates, Woodstock Creamery at Valleyside Farm, RM Borski & Son, Inc., Michael G. Pallein, CPA, Signature Limousine, Bachand, Long & Higgins, Archambault Insurance Associates, Gold Key Team of William Raveis-Tina Lajoie, Kelly & Jim Tourtellotte Global Design, Rawson Materials, Lynn & David Converse, Roy's Auto Glass, D&S Construction Services, Inc., Jewett City Savings Bank, Paulette & Bob Brewer, Danielson Surplus Sales, Inc., The Baker's Dozen, The Vanilla Bean Café, Inc., Cliff & Roberta Thompson, Putnam Vision Center-Dr. David B. Gaudreau.

It isn't too late to sponsor the Quiet Corner Golf Classic or to join in a day of golf. For information, please contact George Amenabar or Michele Woz at (860) 928-6111 or michele@nefk.com. To learn more about the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and their many programs go to T2T.org.

American Legion announces upcoming events

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — American Legion Post 67 will host a Trivia night Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m. \$5 per person, maximum of four players per team

Saturday, April 27, 8-11 a.m.: Breakfast to benefit Tri-Town Baseball, \$15 tickets at the door

Sunday, April 28, 8-11 a.m.: Breakfast to benefit the Weekend Warrior Food Bank, \$15 tickets at the door.

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TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE

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Rediscovering the lost art of manners

In an era characterized by hurried interactions and digital communication, it's not uncommon to hear lamentations about the decline of manners in modern society. Indeed, it often seems that the gracious etiquette of our ancestors has been relegated to the annals of history. Perhaps it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the timeless wisdom embodied by the manners of yesterday.

Our ancestors lived in a world where courtesy and respect were not mere niceties, but fundamental principles that governed social interactions. Whether it was a firm handshake, a heartfelt expression of gratitude, or a genteel gesture of chivalry, manners served as the currency of civility.

One need only look to the etiquette manuals of bygone eras to gain insight into the elaborate codes of conduct that governed everyday life. From the intricacies of formal dining to the protocols of courtship, these guides offered a blueprint for navigating the complexities of social interaction with grace and poise. Moreover, they underscored the importance of empathy and consideration for others.

In contrast, the frenetic pace of modern life has often led to a blurring of boundaries and a loss of interpersonal decorum. In our quest for efficiency and convenience, we risk sacrificing the human connection that lies at the heart of meaningful communication. The rise of digital communication, while undeniably convenient, has also eroded the nuances of face-to-face interaction, leading to a decline in empathy and understanding.

Furthermore, the erosion of traditional social structures has contributed to a sense of individualism that often prioritizes self-interest over communal harmony. In an increasingly atomized society, the concept of manners can seem antiquated, relegated to the realm of quaint nostalgia rather than a relevant guiding principle for modern life.

Just as the customs of our ancestors evolved in response to the challenges of their time, so too can we adapt and redefine the concept of manners for the 21st century. Rather than lamenting the loss of a bygone era, we can draw upon its timeless principles to cultivate a culture of respect, empathy, and civility in our interactions with others.

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

The hypocrisy is coming from the right

To the Editor:
 In his letter that you published on April 5, Michael Douglas labels those who continue to warn of the danger of proven rapist Donald Trump's assertion, to this day, that the 2020 election was stolen from him, i.e. the "Big Lie," as hypocrites. That's rich. In doing so, he relies on the Right's lies and a favorite defense I call what-about-ism, or false equivalency. Sounds like the true hypocrite.

In typical mob fashion, Trump and his minions refused to cooperate with the Mueller investigation and, as a result, Mueller could not definitively conclude Trump obstructed justice. But he also was not able to conclude that Trump didn't obstruct justice.

The Mueller report details numerous contacts between Russian operatives and the Trump campaign. It found no such contact between the Russians and the Hillary Clinton campaign. Trump famously asked Russia to hack Clinton's and the Democratic National Committee's computers. Russians immediately started working on it.

Trump's campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, secretly shared campaign information with a Russian spy. Myth? This is detailed in the GOP-lead Senate Intelligence Committee report issued in August 2020. Trump Jr., Manafort, and Jared Kushner met a Russian lawyer who promised dirt on Clinton in Trump Tower in 2016.

Mueller couldn't conclusively prove an illegal conspiracy, Collusion is not the same as conspiracy, no matter what the proven liars at Fox News tell the MAGA crowd. It's hard to believe that the false information

generated by the Russians, reposted by the Trump campaign on Facebook and Twitter, and believed by millions of Americans did not influence the 2016 election. Shame on those who couldn't tell, or didn't want to tell, the truth from Putin's and Trump's lies.

Mr. Douglas' disingenuous what-about-ism comparing the incalculable damage that Trump's Big Lie has wrought to Clinton's assertion that the Trump presidency was illegitimate, is laughable. Clinton called Trump almost immediately after the election and conceded defeat. Politifact found that Democrats did not refuse to acknowledge Trump's win in the Electoral College despite losing the popular vote. Trump still hasn't conceded and admitted that he lost fairly to President Biden. Clinton didn't incite an armed mob to lay siege on the Capitol, brutally beat police officers, and attempt to prevent the lawful transition of power. Trump did. Clinton didn't lead a conspiracy to illegally take over. Trump did. Clinton didn't receive help from Russia. Trump did and is still doing so today. Trump and the MAGA sycophants like Marjorie Taylor Greene and Gaetz are calling the insurrectionists who assaulted police officers, "heroes" and "political prisoners." Trump has pledged to pardon them. Some "Law and Order" party. Talk about myths, Mr. Douglas.

It's obvious by now that the MAGA cult and those who solely rely on the lying Fox "news" media don't know, or don't care to know, the facts. Hopefully, a majority of the electorate will know before voting begins this fall.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
 KILLINGLY

Trying to figure it out

To the Editor:

I have been working very hard to put my anger and disgust for Trump and his supporters aside for a brief moment and try to rationalize their thinking. To put myself in their minds and think as they do. All to find the answer to a simple question: Why? A bit scary, since this cannot be a positive experience.

The only scenario I could dream up (actually a nightmare) that would be comparable, the bleakest, most mind numbing, would be this: I am standing on a street corner with my mother, who, if you are a normal son, you would protect with your life. Suddenly a stranger approaches her and punches her to the gutter. I stand there for a brief moment wondering what I should do next. I then turn to her assailant and shake his hand. "Well done," I would say, and allow him to walk away scot free without a shred of accountability.

This is what Trump lovers chose to do to our "mother" country (no, not Russia). You would be allowing Trump another opportunity to kick The United States to the gutter, to shake his hand and say "Well done."

Michael Fanone, the injured Capital Police Officer, could become tragically prophetic when interviewed following Jan. 6. He said the following: "Trump is going to get away with it." Not a chance, right? This sentence should burn the ears of every loyal American. For millions incredibly, it's music. How can this be?

This splendid legal system we all enjoy is giving Trump every legal avenue of delay and escape: Lawyering tactics in the hush money/election interference case (11 times!); The New York State appeals court decision in the fraud case; The Supreme Court even considering this immunity nonsense. And then

I'm still not voting for Indie Seney

To the Editor:

I gave it some time for the dust to settle with the mayor leaving the Republican party, and I'm still just as skeptical as ever, especially with the Putnam Democrats saying nice things about the mayor now that he has gone Indie. (Unaffiliated, for those of you who like being plain like that.)

The mayor laid out his cards on the table that he'd still basically do things the same way despite the affiliation change. Assuming the mayor wasn't pulling a fast one on us, things staying the same means he should still mesh with conservatives pretty well, so it'll be interesting seeing if the Republicans will be shortsighted enough to actually run someone against him. We've already had a taste of their love of winning battles but losing the war with their recent proposal to have the town take a handout (but they didn't call it that of course) to not raise taxes this year. Now let's see if they'll run someone against their former candidate just to have someone with an R on the ballot.

there's the Trump appointee, Judge Cannon in the Florida documents case, acting like one of his defense attorneys. Can they be counted on to save us from sick Trump?

Trump is a hateful fascist with a fetish for foreign fascists. He is constitutionally illiterate and politically incapable. You all know it. We must take it upon ourselves in November to vote him out of our lives once and for all.

In reality, time is wasted on the congressional MAGA crowd who live in fear of Trump or the everyday man and woman who are emmeshed in his cult of personality. Jim Jones led a cult in Jonestown where 900 members drank poison at his behest. To follow a person like Trump, with all the wrong he has done and all the rot he promises to do, there must be an irrationality that is difficult to explain. Trump is surely indefensible.

Which brings us to our distinguished contributor from No. Grosvenordale who may very well welcome another Trump presidency. The last thing I want to do is engage in a (peeing) match with him since I'm sure he is surely more politically savvy than I am. I just despise Trump for what he is. Since he mentioned a line from one of my opinion pieces, that opens the door to ask him why he would think Trump's vision of America, which would mimic Russia, Hungary, etc., would be better than the democracy he has enjoyed in his lifetime. This includes the freedom we all have to criticize at will. Please, not a rehash of what about this or that, who did this or that, and certainly not Joe Biden leading us to doom. Just his honest feeling on why he would side with an avowed dictator bent on revenge. Convince us. If you can't do this, back to my first question: why?

RICK ROCHELEAU
 DANIELSON

Poetry sustains the better parts of us



NANCY WEISS

During the month of April, Poetry Month, when I feature original work by area poets in my weekly column, I am sometimes approached by readers who tell me they really don't like it.

They say they like my column, for which I am very grateful, but they don't understand, and don't like to read, poetry. I nod sympathetically. I don't like algebra, snakes, tripe or rude language, but I try keep an open mind.

I believe poetry survives and sustains the better parts of us. It touches the unique places in our hearts. I really like to read the poetry of award-winning poets from Connecticut State Community College-Quinebaug Valley, courtesy of Jonathan Andersen, Department Chair, Professor of English. The works featured here can be understood just by reading them and letting their meaning, from young people, wash over us.

"A Maritime Gothic"
 Dmitriy Dzyuba

An anxious breeze, a sun-bleached day,
 A grand ship exiting the bay;

Your face I see on paper gray
 While tar-drenched boards beneath me sway.

My hands upon a splintered rail,
 My mind never felt so frail;
 A biting gust, the swell of sails—
 The wind shrieks out my inner wail.

...How many days, or weeks, or hours
 Have been since then by tie devoured?

The sun is now obscured by clouds,
 Through which a sickly moon now glowers.

As the surrounding ocean starts
 To churn and set fear in my heart
 A peal of thunder now imparts
 A sense of dread that can't depart.

The heavens shift to shades of dark—
 A frenzied lightning throws its spark
 Onto the mast...a sudden crack,
 And I flung in waters black.

The waves collapse above my head,
 The waters 'round me — frigid lead;
 By wild sea-grasses ensnared
 I drift towards the dim seabed...

The bitter brine contaminates
 My lungs and all my inmost ends;
 The pressure me asphyxiates
 To put my tortured soul to rest.

I swallow the salt of my tears
 Along with that of the deep sea,
 And through the murky foam I see
 That you are no longer with me...

...When from delirium I awake,
 I see your face on paper gray.
 In contrast of my own dry state,
 It's drowned in salty ocean spray.

Dreams Hidden In A Stream
 Anna Ionkin

In a world filled with water, I am a small hidden stream
 While I could grow to be a raging river, I flow cautiously
 My dreams can rest safely at the bottom amongst soft algae,
 but comfortably resting, my dreams lose their shine in the dirt
 If only I was a river:

Despite the unwelcoming nature of a stagnant stream, some still manage to stumble into me,
 They poke me with stocks,
 Others search for rocks,

Additional Letters to the editor, page A-6

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Republican leaders should have the courage of their pro-life convictions

To the Editor:

The individual rights of women have been trampled upon since the dawn of mankind (as opposed to people kind). As societies became more civilized, so did organized religion which institutionalized the process. All over the world to various degrees women cannot own property, serve in clergy, request a divorce, go to school, drive, or show certain body parts including arms, legs, and faces. Many are forced into marriage as children. Too many are victims of abuse.

In America, as in other Western countries where the Bible rules, Eve is said to have doomed all womankind to the pain of childbirth because of the sin of being tricked by the snake/Satan and chomping on an apple from the Tree of Knowledge. Adam and his male descendants are spared save perhaps the odd prostate issue. But now the American government seems hellbent in denying its female citizens their personal freedom.

It took many years for women in the United States to be seen as equals to their male counterparts. The Founding Fathers were after all (white) men who created a document that failed to prohibit states from establishing gender-based restrictions on voting. As a result, women were not allowed to vote until 1920 when the 19th amendment was ratified. Jeannette Pickering Rankin was the first woman to hold a federal office when she was elected to the House as a representative from Montana in 1916. It was not until 1974 that a woman could have a credit card in her own name. And although the gender pay gap is closing, a woman still makes 22 percent less than a man for the same job.

All this colors the backdrop for the current abortion debate. The state of Arizona has decided to make all abortion illegal, and providers punished by jail. This comes as the Supreme Court ruled that abortion is a state, not a federal decision. The Court's interpretation though is not based on any legal statute found in the Constitution. Rather it was male doctors at the behest of the Catholic church who pushed for restrictions around the time of the Civil War. Before that abortion was regularly practiced in Colonial America.

Nor does the Bible prohibit the practice. But as part of its effort to restrict women's bodies, the Catholic Church passed doctrines prohibiting not only abortion but also birth control (as well as premarital sex in general). By 1910, abortion was banned by nationwide. It wasn't until the sexual revolution of the 1960's led to some states liberalizing their laws, ultimately culminating in Roe v Wade, the 1973 legal decision establishing the legal right to access an abortion. Still many non-Catholics adopted a similar philosophical canon that human life begins at conception which led to the Pro Choice/Pro Life debate. In fact, Jewish law provides that "a fetus attains the status of a living person only at birth" a detail that will allow Jewish women to skirt Indiana's abortion ban.

Which brings us to today. Donald Trump, as a presidential candidate in 2016, promised to stack the Supreme

court with justices who would eliminate abortions. Under the guise of making it a state decision, the Supreme court did just that. But state rights must be consistent with the Constitution, which calls for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. A young girl forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term embodies none of these. And to argue that states should decide these laws would be an argument that states may decide that gun ownership is limited to a "well-regulated Militia" and not an individual.

That said, we are the United States, not the separate states, and pivotal rules should be applied throughout the country. These include civil rights, environmental statutes, and consumer safety. Religious ideology does not belong in this realm. The Constitution makes it clear that there is a line to be drawn between government and religion. All religions are to be treated equally. Government forcing itself on a woman's body smacks of a less enlightened society. And pro-choice was never meant to be equated with pro-abortion. It is meant to be the failsafe should all other options fail.

The Republican Party has painted itself into a corner. Trump and his MAGA acolytes have called for an end to all abortion, even down to the level of the embryo. They now got their wish. It is disingenuous for Trump, Kari Lake and the like to pretend to be aghast. This has been a GOP plank since 1976 when, a few years after Roe was passed, they endorsed a "constitutional amendment to restore protection of the right to life for unborn children." This was the bait to entice Christian Evangelicals to their side.

There are many Americans who passionately believe that any and all abortions are wrong. Their elected officials should be man (or woman) enough to abide by this. Mike Pence is someone who I may disagree with, but admire because he is not changing his convictions based on poll numbers. All the others, including Mr. Trump, are showing that their opinions are not based on morality, but instead on how to gain votes. If you are genuinely pro-life, it should not matter whether the law is on federal or a state level.

Whether Congress decides on Constitutional support for abortion (such as what France just did) or against it will be based on whom America chooses in our next election. Mr. Trump is trying to have it both ways. He is using a technicality, just as he has done in the past after getting caught declaring that Covid could be cured by blasting our innards with bright lights or boasting about grabbing women by their privates. I support a woman's fundamental right to decide what is best for her. I do not believe that government should interfere with freedom of choice when it comes to one's own body. But for those who disagree with me, please have the decency to elect a candidate who shares your values, and not some flim flam man whose only goal is to exploit you and to assuage a vainglorious itch of Biblical proportions.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

Woodstock's students have been failed by leadership

To the Editor:

I sat through [Superintendent Viktor Toth's] presentation, which included your last four slides, which showed that Woodstock has the highest median income in Windham County, the lowest mil tax rate, and that we spend the least on education. So the message for the citizens of the town is that they can afford to pay whatever the school district wants to spend, so suck it up and pay the bill. You spoke to the adult citizens of Woodstock as if they were 13-year-old seventh graders who were called to the principal's office to be spoken to about their behavior.

The superintendent, who is an employee of the town of Woodstock, should never tell the citizens what they can afford or cannot afford. Lots of chutzpah, but not much intelligence on your part. The performance of your school is shown to be trending down by the data on the state website from 2015 to 2019 when they tested for the percentage of students at grade level and above in the K-8 system. After 2019 the pandemic hit and everybody knows that education did not do better after the pandemic.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
English	70.6	69.9	62.9	64.7	60.3
Math	47.5	51.3	41.6	48.8	45.6

The trend is going down for the percentage of students at grade level. Math is the worst and that carries over to the superintendent's office. The superintendent and his financial manager cannot even get to the end of the year knowing what they spent and knowing that they spent beyond what was authorized by the town to spend. They cannot add or subtract, just like the students they are graduating from K-8. Our school's system like the rest of the nation has declining enrollment but we continue to have more employees and more spending while graduating more children to the Academy who are not at grade level in English and Math. The leadership should go find a different line of work.

PRESTON SHULTZ
WOODSTOCK

A legacy of stepping up

To the Editor:

Last week, Woodstock lost a wonderful man, our First Selectman, Jay Swan. As Jay's family, friends, and neighbors gathered to mourn this profound loss, enumerating his many accomplishments and the impacts of his life so well lived, I can only think of Jay's most significant gift... he stepped up.

It is no easy task to be First Selectman. In 2019, when no one else was willing to serve, Jay stepped up. When he planned on retiring (once again) in 2023, no one was there to

take on the job. And so Jay stepped up again. The job was stressful and demanding but Jay brought his never-ending good humor to the work and never shrank from the challenges. He was gregarious, inquisitive, and thoughtful. Jay epitomized the term "public servant."

I hope that the inspiration of Jay's service will not fade and that Woodstockians will find a way to step up in his honor.

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER
WOODSTOCK

We're all in this high utility rate mess together

To the Editor:

If I may add something to Mr. Cassettari's comments about Eversource bills. As you folks may or may not already know, you have the option of choosing your electric supplier, along with a variety of offered length of term plans. I recently chose "Think Energy" for a nine month term, and their rate was like 0.09, where Eversource was something like 0.14. And if I figured correctly, choosing that Think Energy plan will save me like 50 bucks a month when running AC. Money is better in our pockets than in theirs, right? You can check out the available options by doing a search for «Connecticut energy suppliers,» and I hope this info was helpful.

A contributing factor to our high energy costs and the drain on our wallets is that since 2020 (and during the pandemic), our Governor mandated that the utility companies are unable to shut off energy to non paying cus-

tomers. These costs get socialized to all ratepayers, and (to my best knowledge) that moratorium is still in place. So, who did you think was going to get stuck with the tab? Did y'all think that the utility companies were going to just eat that cost? And yes Dave, I don't like paying other people's bills either however that's become all too common nowadays. Imagine that — other than being Italian, we have something in common, and if we can put our political views aside for the moment, let's realize that we're all in this (mess) together.

And yes, Mr. Etzel, I'm well aware of the Brian Pritchard voting incident, are you aware that I mentioned it the week before you did? I've also said that two wrongs don't make a right, and that both sides are to blame which is apparently something you're incapable of doing.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Forensics does not belong in our high schools

To the Editor:

In two short months, high school seniors will be graduating. Many of them, in northeast

Connecticut and around the country, will have forensic 'science' on their transcripts. Forensics is a common and popular elective in many high schools and students receive science credit for the course. There's just one problem, but it's a big one: forensics is most certainly not a science.

Much of the content in a forensics course involves identifying fingerprints, hairs, bite marks, bullet tracings, tire tracks, and other forms of evidence. For nearly all of this content there is exactly zero scientific basis. Judges and attorneys have been working successfully for years to eliminate this junk science from courtrooms. Why is it still in our classrooms?

Years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court established a standard for the use of scientific evidence in courtrooms. The Daubert standard, as it is known, placed significant constraints on how unscientific forensic techniques could be used as evidence in courtrooms. In 2009, the National Research Council published a 314-page report that systematically dismantled most forensic techniques. The report's main conclusion: forensics is highly subjective and much of it 'has no scientific support'. And yet, many schools continue to mislead students into believing that the forensic techniques they are learning have some real scientific validity.

In addition to being junk science (something that has the appearance of science but is not science at all), most of what high school students are doing in a forensics class has the cognitive challenge of a "Sesame Street" episode. You know that song, 'One of these things is not like the other...' where the TV show would display three people in striped shirts and one in a polka dot shirt and toddlers would have to identify the outlier. Which hair is not like the other? Which bite mark is not like the other? Which fingerprint is like this other fingerprint? That is forensics.

Treating forensics as if it were a real science has serious real-world consequences. Forensics has been weaponized against poor defendants and people of color. There are legal groups, like the Innocence Project, using actual science, in the form of biological DNA analysis, to get innocent people out of prison, people who were placed there with the help of bogus forensic evidence.

Some will argue in defense of forensics. They will claim that the course is fun, it's popular, it's engaging and 'hands-on.' Kids love it. Of course, none of these claims makes forensics a science. If a high school were to offer science electives such as Astrological Science, Bigfoot Studies, or the Biology of Unicorns, I have no doubt they would be fun and very, very popular. But a school would be paying for that popularity with its integrity.

I want to be very clear. While some forensic techniques have limited value, it is an objective fact that forensics is as much of a science as astrology. Any school that offers students science credit for forensic 'science' is misleading students and engaging in unethical educational practice. Forensics should be permanently removed from all high schools and replaced with a legitimate science elective.

While there are many alternative science courses to choose from, the best alternative, best in the sense of being both important and interesting for students to

learn, might be an elective course on Human Origins and Evolution. You may not realize it, but human evolution has been effectively removed from schools across the country. 49 out of 50 states (Florida is the exception) have science standards that do not mention human evolution or human origins and none of the widely used middle and high school curricula contain anything about human evolution. If there was some national ban on teaching human evolution, things would look pretty much as they do today.

Courses in human origins and evolution are taught in many colleges and there are several important reasons to teach human evolution as an elective course in high schools. First, human evolution is the story of our species, where we came from and why we are the way we are. In my experience in the classroom, many students find the topic deeply fascinating and a source of wonder. Secondly, research from UMass-Amherst has shown that understanding human evolution is associated with reductions in bias and prejudice. It is difficult to hold discriminatory ideas about other people when you understand that all humans are closely related and that we all share common ancestors who evolved in Africa.

Perhaps the most important reason all students should have the opportunity to learn human evolution is that knowledge of our evolutionary history can help kids lead healthier

lives. The story of human evolution begins several million years ago, and for almost all of that time, our relatives and ancestors spent their lives outside hunting and gathering. The lives we lead today are different in nearly every way from the lives of our ancestors. These radical lifestyle changes (being sedentary, spending all our time in house caves, school caves, work caves or mobile SUV caves, eating ultra-processed school lunches, etc.) have led to a plethora of mismatch diseases and disorders. We have inherited bodies that evolved in one environment but are 'mismatched' with our current environment. Many Americans today die from mismatch conditions but many of these are preventable. Understanding human evolution gives us a powerful tool to identify mismatches and

avoid them. Is there anything, in any class, more important to teach kids?

Finally, if kids are not taught the story of human origins and evolution in school, with a qualified science teacher, they will likely learn it, if they ever do, through memes, social media posts, blogs, and other, often wildly inaccurate, sources. And they will likely conclude that 'evolution says we came from monkeys,' something paleoanthropologists have never claimed.

Today, high school students are not enrolled in an elective course on human origins and evolution while many thousands are comparing hairs and footprints, deluded into believing that what they are doing is actually science. I am hopeful that one day this situation will be reversed, forensics courses will be remembered as an unscientific mistake and all students will have the opportunity to learn the true story of our species and benefit from that powerful knowledge.

I urge every parent, every school board member, administrator, and science educator, to fight to replace unscientific forensics with an elective course on human evolution.

JON DiPIPPA
BROOKLYN

NANCY

continued from page A4

But some dance playfully in the muck.

The water is moved by the actions of some filling the stream with lively commotion, and within the plumes of shifting dirt my dreams shine through.

I feel alive in the moment

but as everyone leaves, the dirt settles, the water becomes still, and my dreams rest, I return to my slow-paced existence.

If only I was a river. I would have the force to carve out my own path, a current to move any debris, and in the sun, my dreams would sparkle while traveling to new shores,

but if I am not strong enough to grow on my own, my dreams may never surface.

The 17th Annual Julius Sokenu Poetry Awards Celebration will feature Poet Ines P. Rivera Prosdocimi and student award winners on April 25 from 6-9 p.m. in Willimantic. Details at: qvcc.edu/poetryawards.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Earth - We're all just renters here!

To the Editor:

Think back for a moment to the year 1980. Recall how old you were and what you were doing in life back then. Perhaps, you weren't even born yet. According to a study conducted by Swiss scientist, Dr. Mathis Wackernagel of the Global Footprint Network, a sustainability organization, 1980 was the moment in time when humanity harvested the natural resources of the planet at a rate equal to its capacity to replenish them. By 1999, humanity was harvesting and polluting at a rate 25% faster than the Earth could replenish its fisheries, forests, topsoil and groundwater, and absorb humanity's waste. Ever since 1980, we have been running an "ecological deficit" or as sustainability scientists call it, "overshoot." It is estimated that today our rate of overshoot is 175 percent faster than replenishment. That means the Earth needs one year and eight months to regenerate what humanity strips from it in a year. Unless you've got a ticket to Mars or some other master plan, take a moment to stop and think about that. The image of a shrinking pool should come to mind.

With 220,000 new humans added to the planet every day, the overshoot will continue to swell with each passing year. By 2050, we will have added another two billion of us, pushing the human population to 10 billion. But the Earth will not have grown one bit. In fact, virtually everything we depend on from our planet will be less and less, including livable space as climate change shrinks our world with sea level rise. Are you starting to picture it - the future?

It may appear daunting, but we can turn back overshoot. It will require changing the way humanity lives, and some resist any notion of that, even many with children, whose lives will change the most. But the way we live today is not the way we lived for nearly all of human existence. The industrial revolution and modern technology have made things more plentiful, but at the same time subtracts from the natural world that sustains all life on Earth. It's a trade we've been making since man took over running the planet a few thousand years ago. But the natural storehouses we rely upon are getting low and our trash piles getting high.

The United States leads the entire world in consumption and waste production (4.5 pounds of solid waste per person per day). That works out to an unimaginable 550 trillion pounds of solid waste generated per year, in the US alone. And much of it ends up on our roadsides, parks, beaches, and oceans and now microplastics fall from the sky everywhere on the planet, and all of us now have it in our blood! This is not a sustainable lifestyle, and our children will pay the price. To counter nature's shrinking storehouses and humanity's increasing pollution, we need to start shrinking our own personal ecological overshoot and support green policies that preserve a healthy natural world.

It comes down to this; nobody really owns the Earth or has the right to ruin it. All of us, no matter how rich or poor, are really just "renters" here on the Earth and it's our responsibility to take care of it for those to come. As Woodstock resident and author Leila Philip says in her brilliant and highly acclaimed book *Beaverland*, which is about not just beavers, but the natural landscape here in Woodstock and surrounding towns: "You cannot ignore your obligations to other living things and expect to survive."

So, do something good for the Earth this year! Cleanup the roadside near you, stop buying bottled water, eat less red meat, educate yourself, reduce your own ecological overshoot, get rid of that gas guzzler in your driveway, and start thinking about going solar. Most importantly, talk about this with others. We need to make it ok for us to admit we're in trouble so that we can start fixing this problem, together. Oh, and one more thing: vote green! Happy Earth Day (April 22)!

If you are concerned about the health of our planet's natural systems and what that means for humanity's future, please take a look at my Web site at: earth21stcentury.com and join me for a presentation of *Earth 2024* on one of the posted dates. Also, please follow me on Instagram for information on our planet's health.

KEN WOLSLEGEL
WOODSTOCK

In the Studio



sampling?

Chocolena, formerly Pomfret Chocolate, is being relaunched in both the northeast Connecticut as well as West Hartford. Right now, we have a Pop-Up planned at Arts & Framing and Twigs & Pearls at 136 Main Street in Putnam for this Saturday, April 20 (11 a.m.-2 p.m.). We will be selling various hand-crafted barks and bon bons, utilizing high quality dark, milk, and white chocolate. We love serving our small batch chocolate to our customers. People love what we make, and we love that that experience makes them happy.

Thanks for your insights, Jim. I look forward to seeing you on the 20th ("International Day" in Putnam).

Word of the day

Macaron: Macarons and macaroons are different in their appearance, taste, and texture. A macaron is a meringue-based sandwich cookie that is tinted with food coloring. A macaroon is a drop cookie made with shredded coconut. The preparation for these two cookies is also very different. Macarons require multiple steps and painstaking precision, while a batch of coconut macaroons is very easy to prepare. [webrestaurantstore.com]

About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock) is a nationally recognized framework glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Significant projects include costume work for the Santa Fe Opera, and framework demonstrator at the Peabody Essex Museum. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

Hot chocolate (not quite as we know it today) dates back to ancient civiliza-



tions, correct?

Cacao (pronounced "ka-kow") is what chocolate is before it is edible. It dates back to Mesoamerica several thousand years ago. People drank it in ceremonies and it was so valuable, the beans were treated as money. The conquistadors exported it to Spain, and later chocolate makers turned the ground beans into bars. Chocolate is referred to as Theobroma-food of the Gods.

Speaking of events, your public presence takes the form of social media posts, podcasts, and pop-ups. Where will you be in the near future and what might you be

"In the Studio" features artists from the Quiet Corner-home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we'll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We'll also learn some "artspeak" terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those "artist words." In this interview, we're meeting with Pomfret chocolatier Jim Weiss, who partners with daughter Haley Rosen for their business "Chocolena."

Jim, I've learned that there is a big difference between a chocolate maker and a chocolatier! The latter creates and sells confections made from chocolate, correct?

Chocolate makers just melt chocolate and pour it into molds, normally. A chocolatier understands the nuances of tempering (heating and cooling chocolate to make it more stable) and is more creative, with truffles, bon bons and even chocolate sculpture. As well, chocolatiers work with infused ganache (a whipped filling of chocolate and crème), caramel, and various nut pastes to just name a few ingredients and flavorings.

You sold your financial services business, then studied at Ecole Chocolate in Vancouver and Valrhona in France. Was chocolatier a career you'd long wanted to pursue?

No. But I had gone to a cooking school in my forties and considered a change of careers in food. I grew up here in Putnam with a classic ethnic supermarket, where I worked summers.

Creating requires curiosity, diligence, patience, aesthetics...and a creative business demands additional skills. You've also got the aspect of working with food. What would you say have been some of the more challenging aspects in bringing Chocolena to fruition?

Learning to temper chocolate properly is very demanding, but I must say that local regulations, State fees, insurance premiums, licenses, labeling, permits and taxes are all part of how difficult it is for businesses in Connecticut.

In your events and workshops, you share a lot of information about history as well as how-to.



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Students, community members enjoy inspiring evening at QVCC Foundation's Visions in Leadership event

DANIELSON — On Wednesday, March 20, The QVCC Foundation welcomed Siri Lindley, former world champion triathlete, current #1 triathlon coach in the world, business performance coach, author, non-profit founder, and Cancer survivor, to Connecticut State Community College Quinebaug Valley for the 2024 Visions in Leadership program. Created in 2010, Visions in Leadership invites QV students, faculty, staff, and community members to listen to and learn from a speaker of national recognition.

Following a reception that included delicious food from The G Seven Catering Company, the speaking program saw Siri share her riveting story about overcoming obstacles and achieving the seemingly impossible. After years of training as a triathlete, Siri reached the height of her sport as the 2001 ITU World Champion. She won 13 World Cup races including the World Cup Series in 2001 and 2002, during which time she was ranked #1 triathlete in the world. Upon retirement, Siri made the switch to coaching, founding Sirius Coaching with the goal of helping her triathletes achieve their dreams. They

have gone on to win Olympic medals, World Championships, World Cup races, national championships, and No. 1 world rankings. Now as a business performance coach, Siri promotes the power of positive habits, a growth mindset, and shows individuals and organizations how, by adopting these tools, they can achieve success. She has published two books: "Surfacing: From the Depths of Self-Doubt to Winning Big and Living Fearlessly" (2016) and "Finding a Way: Taking the Impossible and Making it Possible" (2023). Last year, Siri was inducted into the World Triathlete Hall of Fame.

QVCC Foundation Donor Solicitation Chair Matt Desaulnier shared, "On behalf of the QVCC Foundation and the students we serve at Quinebaug Valley, we are honored and grateful to Siri Lindley for bringing her story of perseverance to our northeast Connecticut community. It was truly a night of inspiration. Not only was Siri engaging, but the energy and eternal optimism she brought was palpable. She captured the audience's attention, and it is no surprise why she is one of Tony Robbins' top 10 motiva-

tional speakers."

The 2024 event was made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsor Rebecca Harvey, as well as Foundation members, QV faculty & staff, and the many local businesses and individuals who donated goods and services to the silent auction. All event proceeds will support QV students and programs; each year the Foundation provides over \$300,000 in scholarships and block grants at the College. Of the 150 guests present, 20 were current QV students, nominated by faculty and staff for leadership qualities demonstrated both inside and outside of the classroom. All student attendees, including officers of QV's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the college's Student Government Association were presented with the opportunity to meet and speak with Siri.

The QVCC Foundation was established in 1971 as a 501c3 organization to help those who otherwise could not attend college due to financial constraints by involving area business and community members in fundraising efforts. Today's 25-member strong diverse group of community leaders continues to work tirelessly in support of the



Courtesy

Carolyn Norris was the assistant field hockey coach at Brown University when Hall of Fame Triathlete Siri Lindley, and Quinebaug Valley Director of Advancement Monique Wolanin were students in the late 1980s.

Foundation's mission...to raise funds so that all residents of Northeastern Connecticut are provided the opportunity to

attend QVCC regardless of income and to support educational excellence, technological advancement, and profession-

al development at the College and to serve as the Regional Advisory Council to the College.

Dauphinais visits Westview



Courtesy

State Rep. Anne Dauphinais and Westview Child Care Center Director Katy Holzer in a classroom at Westview Child Care Center.

D A Y V I L L E — Westview Health Care Center had a productive visit recently with the State of Connecticut's 44th District State House Rep. Anne Dauphinais.

Dauphinais met with Westview Administrator/Executive Vice President David T. Panteleakos to discuss myriad matters affecting the nursing home industry, the employment market, and to tour the brand-new Westview Child Care Center, located at 39 Thompson Pike, Dayville. Their conversational commentary included: an update on Westview's operations and programs, the unprecedented pandemic residual impact on Westview and its residents, increasing community need for child care, and the ever-grow-

ing need for the State of Connecticut to adequately fund the Medicaid program for all providers.

One of the key elements of the discussion was the growing juxtaposition of regulations and reimbursements. There are understandable and necessary increases in employment costs, but unimaginable increases in the costs of providing care have also joined the raising of rates. The aforementioned underfunded reimbursement rates to providers and unprecedented inflationary costs are not currently being fully reimbursed by the Medicaid program.

Describing the architectural landscape on the Westview campus is no small task—but that is for very valid reasons. Westview Health Care

Center is a 103-bed skilled nursing facility that also includes a wing for outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and aquatic therapy. In the structure of Westview Health Care Center, there is also a well-considered and well-created gym for sports medicine. Across the street from Westview Health Care Center is the 75-unit quaintly-appointed independent and assisted living facility: Country Living at Westview Commons. Adjacent to the main facility of Westview Health Care Center located across Ware Road is Westview Child Care Center, licensed for up to 76 students.

As part of its long-range plan to vertically integrate its operations, Westview Health

Care Center invested in Country Living at Westview Commons to create a caring and comfortable community of seniors to live their silver years to the fullest. Westview Health Care Center invested in Westview Child Care Center to address the ever-growing demand for child care and to attract and retain valuable staff members at all Westview entities. During the conversation between Representative Dauphinais and Westview Executive Vice President David T. Panteleakos, they offered remarks about the complexities and challenges that nursing homes and other health care facilities face amid rampant inflation without proper private and government funding. Everyone agrees in concept with higher pay rates for all health care workers, higher staffing levels, and enhanced operational regulations—paired with proper funding.

Katy Holzer, Westview Child Care Center Director, joined the chorus of collective praise for the visit from Representative Dauphinais, commenting "We were thrilled to showcase to Connecticut

State Representative Anne Dauphinais the success of Westview's model of employer-based childcare. We designed Westview Child Care Center to address employment challenges while fulfilling our commitment to serving our community's critical child care needs. Witnessing our bustling classrooms and growing waitlist, Representative Dauphinais echoed the pressing demand for quality child care in our area. With 42 eager families awaiting enrollment, we are excited to announce that we are expanding our impact by adding 8 much-needed seats to our infant-toddler program. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Anne Dauphinais for her visit and her continued support of Westview's mission to provide excellent care to an intergenerational family of clients."

"It is always wonderful to visit David, and his wonderful staff of care providers at Westview Health Care Center," said Dauphinais. "Along with the chorus of the new daycare center, which was fabulous, we also spoke of the many challenges that are facing health-care across Connecticut

and our country. As a member of the General Assembly's Public Health Committee, it is important to me to have as much information as possible when voting on important healthcare related matters."

David T. Panteleakos was highly appreciative of Dauphinais' visit. He commented on her focused attention to health care facilities during an era of continued challenges with expanding public health protocols and limited funding.

"I am truly grateful for Rep. Anne Dauphinais' visit to Westview's family of facilities," Panteleakos said. "I am always impressed when a political leader of our community takes the time to visit in the field with their respective constituents to learn more about what is actually happening on the ground. Our message about nursing home reimbursement is that proper funding is essential and needed in order to meet the very regulations promulgated by our government agencies. Thank you to Rep. Dauphinais for visiting and listening!"



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Yes, it's an election year – but markets don't play politics

Presidential election years always have unexpected twists and turns, with sharp-elbowed candidates proposing policies that can affect the economy. This year, it looks like policies affecting taxes, prescription drug prices, and immigration will figure prominently in candidates' stump speeches. Uncertainty about the future may result in increased stock market volatility.

We consider periods of market volatility an opportunity to buy stocks at a discount. We encourage investors to adopt a long-term view of investing and election years are no exception. History shows that the stock market is party-agnostic. On average, the stock market rises regardless of whether there's a Democrat or a Republican about to sit in the Oval Office.

The S&P 500 has only declined in two of the last 20 election years, according to research from Capital Group. And in those years, 2000 and 2008, the declines were attributed to bursting asset bubbles, not to the presidential election. In 2000 the technology

stocks tumbled and in 2008 the housing bubble deflated. Post-election stock market returns may have more to do with whether the stock market is over or undervalued at the start of the president's term and less to do with the president's party affiliation.

Long-term horizons. The good news is that even investors who started investing in the market when bubbles burst came out ahead if they remained invested for the next decade. Money invested at the beginning of each of the past 20 election years and held for the subsequent 10 years has always grown. Most impressively, in 18 of the 20 periods, investors have doubled their money by the end of the decade, according to Capital Group data.

The two decade-long periods with the best returns started under presidents of different parties. The 1976-1985 era, when \$10,000 grew to \$49,044, began with Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, as president. He served one term before losing the election to Ronald Regan, a

Republican. Regan was in office during the best performing decade, from 1980-1989 when a \$10,000 investment grew to \$53,508.

Before Republicans declare victory, consider that two of the worst decades occurred under Republican leadership as well. In 2000-2009, a \$10,000 investment only grew to \$13,025 under George W. Bush. Republican Richard Nixon was president from 1968-1977 when a \$10,000 investment grew to \$17,232. During his term, the country lived through the Vietnam War, Robert Kennedy's and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassinations, the OPEC oil embargo, and Watergate—and the market still was higher at the end of 10 years.

Market timers fall behind.

Investors tempted to move to the investment sidelines during the election season should consider the following three scenarios provided by Capital Group after looking back over the past 23 election cycles. In the first scenario, \$10,000 is invested in stocks in January of



FINANCIAL FOCUS
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INVESTMENT ADVISER

an election year and after four years the portfolio is worth \$15,860. In the second scenario, \$1,000 is invested every month for 10 months. That portfolio also grows over four years, but only to \$15,765. In our final example, the nervous investor holds off and invests the \$10,000 in the January after the presidential election. In the fourth year that investor has a portfolio worth \$14,867.

Analysts looking for market trends have discovered that stock market returns tend to be higher in the second half of presidential election years than they are in the first half. In presidential election years dating back to 1926, the stock market has returned 1.3 and 1.5 percent in the first and second quarters and 6.2 and 3.3 percent in the third and fourth quarters, according to

BlackRock research. But again, investors enjoyed gains in each of the quarters.

In the end, it's the amount of time spent invested in the market—not timing of the market—that's essential. A \$1,000 investment in the S&P 500 made at the start of Franklin D. Roosevelt's first term would have grown to more than \$21 million by the end of last year. History shows that investors who keep calm and carry on with their long-term investment plans during the political silly season are often rewarded for their stiff spines.

Successful investing is a long game, but one that also requires knowledge of historical data, experience, and a strong and customized strategy. That's what we offer to all of our clients through our personalized Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well.™ strategic process to help them gain confidence in their financial future and ultimately Live Well. Schedule a complimentary consultation on our website at whzwealth.com or by

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Harriet

There is a beautiful home on the east side of Cemetery Road on Woodstock Hill that commands a prominent view of the village and the surrounding hills. It is the George W. Partridge House, built in 1810, a Federal-period building with a hip roof and raised monitor. It was constructed on the site of the original powder house. The home served as a school for girls during the second half of the 19th century, operated by Emily Bowen. In the 1890s, it was called Elmlea and owned by the Sampson family.

George M. Sampson (1859-1931) and his wife Sarah S. Gordon Sampson (1857-1956) were a prominent couple, serving the Woodstock community in many capacities. In 1896, George served in the Connecticut General Assembly. He was master of the Putnam Lodge No. 46, A.F. & A.M. from 1889-1890, and chairman of the School Board in 1909 when there were 16 district schools in Woodstock. Later, he served on the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees from 1897-1926 and was president of the Bracken Memorial Library Association in 1913-14. As president of the Theft Detecting Society from 1914-16, he supported that community tradition, and he shepherded the Woodstock Agricultural Society from 1918-1920. Even a small rural town like Woodstock was affected by World War I. Sarah was the president of the Woodstock Red Cross Auxiliary organized in 1917, and chairman of the Committee on Relief for World War in 1918. She served as a member of the World War Memorial Committee in 1919. They were also parents to one daughter.

Harriet was born on June 17, 1898 to the civically-minded Sampson family. Fortunately, there remain illustrations of her early life. In 1903, Jessie Trumbull McClellan (1864-1918) painted a miniature of Harriet with her grandmother, Rosannah Campbell Gordon (1820-1904), capturing them reading together. The older woman is dressed in black with white lace at her throat, holding a picture book. Five-year-old Harriet is sitting on the arm of the chair, all dressed in white with large white bow in her red hair. In a photo from 1910, she is pictured among students from the Elmvale School. Harriet was also a member of the Pansy Band, a group of young ladies organized by Mrs. Julia Hibbard, the minister's wife, "to involve young women in mission and church work" ("Journey Through Woodstock"). [In the language of flowers so popular in the 19th and early 20th century, pansies represented thought or thoughtfulness.] Harriet graduated in the class of 1915 from Woodstock Academy and matriculated at Wellsley in 1920. Except for school, she lived in the same house on Cemetery Road all her life, caring for her parents as they aged, and playing an active part in the life of Woodstock.

About twenty-five years after she graduated from college, Harriet Sampson married Rev. Dr. David Alexander Pitt, an Irish clergyman, and 21 years her senior. David was born on March 14, 1877 in Tamlaght, Ireland. He attended the Rochester (N.Y.) Theological Seminary,

WOODSTOCK THROUGH THE YEARS

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



receiving a Bachelor's degree in 1905, and a Doctor of Divinity at Berkeley (Calif.) Baptist Division School in 1921. He was called to several churches in upstate New York until he served at the Central Church in Norwich, Connecticut in 1921 to 1942. The First Congregational Church of Woodstock was his post for the next three years; he left in 1945, the same year his first wife, Maud Hanna, died. He subsequently wed Harriet but their married life was brief. David passed away on Nov. 7, 1949 at 72 years of age.

In the early 20th century, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution finally granted women the right to vote. In 1924, Sara Crawford of Westport was the first woman to be elected to the General Assembly; in 1938 she was the first female Secretary of State. This paved the way for increased representation by women. In 1956, Harriet Sampson Pitt ran in the election for state representative to the General Assembly, following the path taken by her father 60 years earlier. She received 34 percent of the Woodstock vote: Republicans Harriet Sampson Pitt 1003 votes and Baruyr Peshmalyan 973; Democrats Alexander H. Rotival 537 and Charles W. Noren 437. Harriet was one of the first women in Connecticut to serve as a State Representative. She was intelligent, contemplative, and thorough.

Harriet was also an author, and a person who loved Woodstock and its history. She wrote two books: "Mrs. Dr. Bowen's Bustle and Apple Molasses" and "Samuel Sewell and the Town He Named Woodstock" (1976). She was tenacious in her research, running

down information and portraits from Sewall's own diary and his papers, the American Antiquarian Society, the Old Sturbridge Village Library, Massachusetts Historical Society, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Essex Institute and a direct descendant of Sewall. Both were published by the Woodstock Historical Society, of which she said, "...I wish to thank the Woodstock Historical Society at whose meetings I have told of my joy of research and which has been

good enough to sponsor this publication (Sewall book)." She had a close connection to the Bowen family and to Roseland Cottage, taking a special interest in its conversion to a house museum.

Harriet survived David by 49 years, dying herself on March 24, 1998 at age 99. She was buried in the Woodstock Hill Cemetery with her parents, her name and dates included as one of the three on the family headstone. David's resting place is not recorded.

There are very few peo-

ple left alive who remember Harriet Sampson Pitt. This author's memories include Mrs. Pitt's daily walks around the Woodstock Hill Common in her later years, or seeing her at church or afternoon social events. Age did not dull her interest in government and community. Her beautiful red hair faded but never gave over completely to gray or white. What would she think of the way Americans are handling the social and political issues of our time? Harriet would not approve.

WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK

APRIL

22-28

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at woodstockct.gov.)

Annual Budget Town Meeting
May 14th, 7 p.m.

2 p.m.
• Cupcake Decorating Class, Taylor Brooke Winery, 6 p.m.
• Author Series: Martin

- Monday the 22nd
• Conservation Commission, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday the 23rd
• TEEG Mobile Market, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
• Committee on Aging, 5 p.m.
• Water Pollution Control Authority, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday the 24th
• Housing Authority, 1 p.m.
• Historic District Commission, 6:30 p.m.

Podskoch, Bracken Memorial Library, 7 p.m.

Friday the 26th
• New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday the 27th
• Jay's Catering Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, noon to 6 p.m.
• Live Music – Nick Casey, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

Sunday the 28th
• "Woodstock Through the Camera's Eye" exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon
• Hungry Lion Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, noon to 6 p.m.
• Live Music – Fox and the Dragon, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each Weekday
• Stepping into Sobriety Meetings, South Woodstock Baptist Church.

Monday the 22nd
• Community Kitchen Free Lunch, First Congregational Church, noon.
• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6:30 p.m.
• Book Club, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 23rd
• The Bridge Young Adults, Evangelical Covenant Church
• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.

Wednesday the 24th
• Story Hour, West Woodstock Library.
• Knitting Group, Town Hall.
• Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
• Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church
• The Bridge (young adults), Evangelical Covenant Church
• Wine & Stitch Society, Taylor Brooke Winery, 6 p.m.
• Trivia Night, Woodstock Tavern, 6:30 p.m.
• Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS
May 3-4
• Addams Family Musical, Loos Center for the Arts.

May 11
• Almost Queen tribute, Loos Center for the Arts.

May 13
• Cat Kid Comic Club, grades 1-5, Loos Center for the Arts.

May 27
• 42nd Annual Memorial Day 10K Race, 9 a.m., register at Woodstock Recreation Dept.

June 21
• Twilight Concert – Souls on Fire, Roseland Cottage and Woodstock Recreation Dept., 6:30 p.m.

June 22
• Town Wide Yard Sale, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., register at Woodstock Recreation Dept. to get on map.

To submit calendar items: woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com.

DIARRA

continued from page A1

lege basketball's all-time teams.

"When the time was winding down and we started our celebration, it was like, 'Man, we were able to do it again.' It was kind of crazy. It was a surreal feeling," Diarra said.

"The fact that we were able to make history and be a part of one of the greatest teams to ever play college basketball, to write our own narrative...it's truly amazing. The number of teams that play college basketball, and to be one of the top teams of all-time, it's crazy to wrap your mind around."

Diarra said he can trace his success back to his days at 18 Maple St., when he was starring at Putnam Science Academy.

"I can look back and say that my winning pedigree and the will to win...I got that from PSA," he said. "Before I got there, I wasn't much of a winner. That changed when I went there. My mentality really changed for me. I'm forever blessed to have been a part of that."

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Remembering Lexington and Concord

Although Massachusetts celebrated Patriots' Day this past Monday, April 15, today, April 19, is the actual anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. In her "History of Windham County, Connecticut," Ellen D. Larned devoted many pages to the activities of the towns in Eastern Connecticut as they expressed their displeasure with the closing of the port of Boston in 1774 and prepared for possible conflict with the British. The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service During the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783 (ed. Henry P. Johnston, A.M. hereafter called Record of Service.) summarized the situation as it progressed. "The Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut ... (in January 1774) required the selectmen of the towns to provide a double quantity of 'powder, balls, and flint', and in January 1775 ordered the entire militia to muster and drill once a week during the three months following. (Soon thereafter the training field was purchased on Killingly Hill, now Putnam Heights).

"The crisis culminated on April 19, 1775. A detachment of British troops marching out from Boston to seize military stores alleged to have been collected at Concord for hostile purposes, was met upon the road by the Provincials and a bloody encounter took place. The since famous skirmishes of Lexington and Concord were fought, which precipitated the Revolutionary War. An 'Alarm' was immediately sent in every direction." (p.3).

Many are familiar with the story of Israel Putnam's swift actions when the news arrived. Others are not, so they're worth repeating. Larned wrote, "The 'recontre' between the king's troops and the provincials occurred on



KILLINGLY
AT 300
MARGARET
WEAVER

Wednesday morning, April 19. A post was dispatched from Watertown at 10 a.m., charged to alarm the people as far as the Connecticut line, "that the British have landed two brigades, have already killed six men and wounded four others, and are on their march into the country... A copy of this dispatch was forward by the town clerk of Worcester to Daniel Tyler, Jun., Brooklyn, who received it about 8 o'clock on Thursday morning... [Israel] Putnam, plowing in the pleasant April morning, heard the joyful summons, and 'loitered not' but left his young son, Daniel, 'the driver of his team, to unyoke it in the furrow,' and hurried off for consultation with town committees and military officers. A second express, via Woodstock, was brought to Colonel Ebenezer Williams, Pomfret, at 3 p.m. and forwarded at once to Colonel Obadiah Johnson of Canterbury... It would be expedient for every man to go who is fit and willing."

"Putnam, on returning from his consultative tour, found hundreds of men already assembled on Brooklyn Green, awaiting his orders. He bade them wait till regularly called out as militia, and march with their respective regiments... and [he] without rest or special refreshment started at sunset on his memorable night ride to Cambridge. There is some evidence that Killingly received the news at a still earlier hour on Thursday morning by a direct express from Boston, brought to the house of Mr. Hezekiah Cutler. He arose from his bed and

fired his gun three times to give the alarm, and before sunrise, with fifteen men, had started for the battle-field." (Hezekiah Cutler lived on Killingly Hill, now Putnam Heights, probably on the opposite side of Route 21 (now Liberty Highway) from the present Putnam Heights cemetery. In 1775 that road was part of a main north-south route from Massachusetts to Norwich. Cutler's home was not far from the meetinghouse in the middle society, which was located at the brow of the hill on the southerly side of present-day Aspinock Road)... "Killingly's stock of powder was stored in the meeting-house, under the charge of Hezekiah Cutler, who had left orders that each volunteer should be furnished with half a pound, and the house was thronged all day with squads of men coming from all parts of the town to claim their portion and march onward to Cambridge" (Vo. II, pp. 144-146).

Larned wrote that Windham County sent more than 1000 men in response to the Lexington Alarm. The Lexington Alarm List recorded that William Danielson was Major of Killingly's troops. According to the list in Records of Service... Killingly sent five companies to the Lexington Alarm (146 men). Keep in mind that Thompson was a church society but was not set off from Killingly as a separate town until 1785. Several of these Killingly companies were from that section of town. Joseph Elliot, captain, Pain Converse, ensign of his company; John Green captain, Obadiah Clough, lieutenant of his company, Daniel Larned, ensign of Green's company; Joseph Cady, captain, Elihu Lawrence, ensign of Cady's company; Ephraim Warren, captain, Daniel Waters, lieutenant of Warren's company, Josiah Robins, ensign of Warren's com-

pany; David Cady, Jr., captain, Comfort Day, ensign of D. Cady's company. A complete list appears on p. 14 of the Record of Service...

Woodstock sent 140 men under Captains Benjamin and Daniel Lyon, Ephraim Manning, Nathaniel Marcy and Lt. Mark Elwell, together with her portion of the troops of horse under Captain McClellan. Canterbury sent 70 men; Pomfret, 89 men; Captain Zebulon Ingalls. Plainfield, 54 men; Captain Andrew Backus. Brooklyn Parish sent Colonel Putnam; Canterbury-Lt.-Col. Obadiah Johnson (Vo. II, p. 147). [Land west of the Quinebaug River in present-day Putnam in 1775 was part of Pomfret; land east of the River; part of Killingly].

Ashford, under captain Thomas Knowlton, sent 79 men with physician Thomas Huntington following afterwards (Record of Service, p. 5). A number of the officers continued in service as the Revolution progressed and advanced in rank.

Next April will mark the 250th anniversary of this event. Following Plainfield's lead, I am beginning a project to find out where these Patriots are buried. If you are interested in genealogy and have a computer, consider volunteering to help look for these men on findagrave. You could do this from home. Many hands make light work. I know some are buried in Aspinwall Cemetery, which is now part of Putnam. Contact me at my email below or contact the Killingly Historical Center if you would be able to help. Thank you.

Killingly Grange 112 will sponsor another Fish Fry on Friday, April 19 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fried or Baked Fish with choice of Baked Potato or French Fries and cole slaw. \$16. Clam cakes 6-\$8; 12-\$14; Clam chowder-\$6 a bowl. Beverage & Dessert

also available. Dine-in or Take Out. Walk-ins welcome. Limited number of meals. Call 860-884-1813 or visit www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/. At the door pay by cash, credit card or check. The Grange is collecting non-perishable food for the local food pantries.

Pomfret Historical Society Program: Saturday, April 27, 2024: Israel Putnam-America's First Folk Hero by author Michael Westerfield. 1:30 p.m. meet & greet; 2:00 p.m. program. Pomfret Community Center. 207 Mashomoquet Road, Pomfret Center 06259. Call 860-465-7228 for more

information.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Town Historian. April 2024. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killingly-historical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at 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.

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

APRIL 22 - 26

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killingly.org)

Monday the 22nd
Solid Waste Subcommittee (Town Meeting Room) 6 p.m.
Republican Town Committee Meeting (Room 102) 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 23rd
Democratic Town Committee Meeting (Room 102) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 24th
Board of Education Meeting (Town Meeting Room) 7 p.m.

Thursday the 25th
Open Space Land Acquisition Meeting (Room 102) 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Monday the 22nd
Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Adult Sensory Story Time (Ages 18+) (Library) 1 to 2 p.m.

Tuesday the 23rd
Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Wednesday the 24th
Little Listeners (Ages 0-5) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Friday the 26th
Crafternoons (Ages 6-12) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.
Pop-In Projects (Ages 13-18) (Library) 3 to 4:30 p.m.

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION EVENTS COMING UP...

Boston on Your Own - Saturday, May 11
Register at the Killingly Parks and Recreation Department in-person or go online to www.killinglypr.recdesk.com

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killingly.org.

SWAN

continued from page A1

utes began pouring in throughout the 24-hours following his passing. A statement posted to the Town of Woodstock website on April 10 paid tribute to Swan and asked for respect for the family in their time of loss.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of First Selectman Jay Swan. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. Jay exemplified service to his town and community and will be greatly missed," the statement read.

Swan had been the only First Selectman in Woodstock for the duration of the pandemic years, making him an essential figure in the town's response and recovery during that time. He was complimented as a great leader, friend, and colleague by countless members of the community as tributes poured in over social media.

State Senator Jeffrey Gordon, who currently represents Woodstock in Hartford and served many years as Chair of the town's Planning & Zoning Committee, considered Swan to be a friend and recognized his uncompromising love for his community in a post on Facebook.

"I am very saddened and heartbroken to hear that my good friend Jay Swan, First Selectman of Woodstock, passed away. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Sue and to his family. Their

loss is certainly big. Our loss for the Woodstock community is big as well. I knew John for many years. In addition to our friendship, Jay and I worked together in town government during several years when I was Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission. Our work together continued when I was elected State Senator. Jay's community caring, hard work ethic, common sense thinking, and humor will be missed," said Gordon.

State Rep. Pat Boyd also shared his condolences on social media as he reflected on his friendship with Swan.

"Jay was a dedicated public servant whom I enjoyed working with during

the good times and some of the more challenging times. He and I shared a common background of Scouting, and he once held the Camp Director role that I now hold at June Norcross Webster SR in Ashford. Jay ran for office to give back, and he served the town well as the First Selectman and a Constable for many years. My condolences go out to Sue and his entire family," said Boyd.

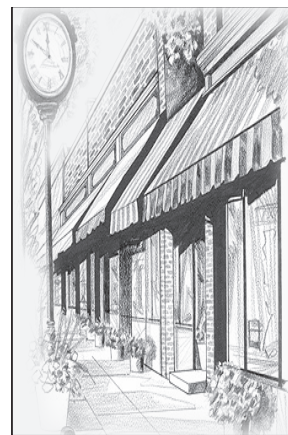
The June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation also acknowledged Swan's time as Camp Director from 1981 through 1983 and as Scoutmaster in Putnam in their own tribute on Facebook.

"He was a friendly face at nearly every Camp Alumni Day," wrote the

camp. "Jay was a good, dedicated public servant and lived the Scout Oath & Law. Our condolences go out to his wife, Sue, and his entire family."

Tributes were also posted by the Woodstock Recreation Department, Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association, and the Connecticut Republican Party all commending Swan for his service to his town.

Swan's family has asked those looking to honor Jay's memory to donate to the Friends of Webster June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation. The Villager Newspapers offers condolences to the Swan family and the Town of Woodstock for their loss.



Community Connection

Thompson Public Library to hold puzzle & game swap

THOMPSON — Thompson Public Library will hold a Puzzle & Board Game Swap Saturday, May 4, from 10:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Bring in gently used puzzles & board games Tuesday, April 30 through Friday, May 3, during regular Library hours. Join us on Saturday, May 4, between 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. to complete your swap.

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WOODSTOCK ACADEMY HONOR ROLL

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Academy has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade 12
High Honors: Ethan Adams, Nicole Apicelli, Claire Beck, Natalie Bell, Addison Bergin, Kerry Blais, Anthony Buckner, David Bunning, Charles Caggiano, Caitlin Chandler, Emily Cournoyer, Jasper Cox, Julia Coyle, Sydnee Dingwell, Riley Dupont, Hunter Eddy, Summer Espeseth, Aiden Finch, Joaquin Fraga, Campbell Fraser, Sean Gasperini, Alexander Gessner, Victoria Gonzalez, Gavin Grant, Allison Griswold, Leonardo Guidi, Alex Harris, Amelia Haynes, Thi Tuyet Mai Ho, Tyler Hudson, Cade Jones, Emma Kerr, Christopher Kirkconnell, Joel Koleszar, James Koproski, Aiden Kudla, Corinne LaMontagne, Taylor Lamothé, David Lee, Sten Lehmann, Phoenix MacRae, Emma Massey, Sarah McArthur, Kendall McCormack, Madison McMahan, Karley Medina, Kayleigh Murray, Rebecca Nazer, Cang Nguyen, Jared Nielsen, Mia Pannone, Dominic Pascale, Kyle Pazienza, Amber Pepper, Sophia Petrella, Evan Rhault, Piper Sabrowski, Carla Sagues Laguna, Olivia Saraidarian, Matthew Saunders, Nicholas Saunders, Zachary Shead, Ava Simoes, Isabella Siwko, Sawyer Stewart, Boyuan Su, Thea Sullivan, Sumi Tran, Talia Tremblay, Ryan Wallace, Madison Whitehouse, Madison Williams, Songxuan Wu, Alicia Wynkoop, Christian Zellweger, Mathew Zheng

Honors: Austin Adams, Jordan Aleksjuks, Kyle Anderson, Jaiden Banton, Eben Beauchene, Elizabeth Bishop-Klee, Amari Blanco, Thomas Blevins, Waylon Breault, Nathan Budd, Zachary Bunker, Danielle Cabassa, Nova Caissie, Lillian Conway, Daniel Covelli, Teodora Curcic, Kelvin Da Costa, Benjamin Da Silva, Leah Danis, Lucas De Pedro Sanchez, Kambryn Dexter, Ahir Dixon, Duy Do, Timothy Engstrume, Hayden Fontaine, Abigail Gagne, Frank Gaug, Nicholas Gohn, Nicolas Goncalves, Judd Green, Kathryn Guillot, Hannah Hart, Angelos Haveles, Hunter Haynes, Jada Hernandez, Saige Hibbard, Ava Hovestadt, Kobe Khounvichith, Dayeon Kim, Madyson Knox, Avery Kollbeck, Katelyn Kosior, Morgan Lambert, Hunter Larson, Ethan LeBouef, Kayla Leite, Samuel Lescault, Dylan Lewis, Kevin Lin, Eric Mathewson, Mason Matthews, Samantha McDowell, Cameron McNally, Hendrix Mota, Rayne Norman, Riley O'Brien, Timothy O'Sullivan, TJ Osborne, Kaylie Parmeter, Lillie Pendleton, Margaux Reck, Elizabeth Reynolds, Reegan Reynolds, Lillian Richardson, Ryan Rivera Cabrera, Apollo Ruoppo, Riley Russell, Noah Sampson, Jordan Sands, Deven Santa Cruz, Nicholas Sivertsen, Megan Smith, Kaelin Soukaloun, Simon Steendam, Maddox Stott, Jack Sumner, Lana Syriac, Lucas Theriaque, Addison Tymok, Josiah Vadeboncoeur, Marco Valdes Cosenza, Shaun Wall, Olivia Wardwell, Zoe Wiggin, Eric Wilson, Henry Wotton, Alessandro Zannoni

Recognition: Charlie Bourbeau, Clyde Jackson, Victoria Lanoue, Jasmine Martin, Aidan McNamara, Elliotte Nagy, Joshua Rilling, Apphia Schley, Antonio Therrien, Lucas Travinski

Grade 11
High Honors: Juliet Allard, Ajani Banton, Madison Bloom, Lucas Boynton, Madisen Braunstein,

Alexander Brouillard, Abigail Budd, Abigail Converse, Emma Costa, Benjamin Cross, Olivia Dahl, Luke Davis, Jacqueline Dearborn, Bella DiGregorio, Kaitlyn Erskine, Ella Gilchrist, Ava Golden, Kira Greene, Avery Hardacker, Jocelyn Kraus, Aribella LaFleche, Leo Larkin, Isabella Lefebvre, Matthew Letourneau, Kevin Lewis, Chyanne Machamer, Audrey MacPherson, Olivia Martocci, Isabella Mawson, Emily Mayne, Alvaro Medrano Lopez, Sophia Milardo, Xandar Miller, Dorisabel Mojica, Filip Nemcek, Bailey Nordman, Keira Notis, Lysette Parmentier, Katherine Ritzau, Teresa Rizo Gutierrez, Freya Robbie, Maya Rodriguez, Colton Sallum, Marco Sanchez, Austin Sebastian, Isabella Selmecki, Mia Sorrentino, Juliana Stacy, Eli Susi, Bailey Sweeney, Kevin Thomson, Mariia Ursal, Chauntel Vandal, Jack Wiggin, Jillian Wiggin

Honors: David Abbamonte, Ashley Abrams, Eli Apperson, Cody Austin, Addison Beausoleil, Kaitlyn Becker, Jay Beebe-Olivo, Nathan Billings, Bradley Blair, Logan Blow, Lilliana Bottone, Emma Brody, Om Brown, Maria Castaneda Banderas, Tyler Chamberlin, Ryder Chaput, Samuel Clark, Maxx Corradi, Emilia Costa, Leah Costa, Finley Couture, Grace Delsanto, Anthony Detoro, Richard Duncan, Jonathan Eddy, Abigail Elliott, Brady Ericson, Julian Escobar, Maizy Ferreira, Chandler Folkerts, Jayden Fuller, Livia Gerum, Gavin Gluck, Madison Goetz, Adyson Grether, Phoebe Griffin, Sophie Gronski, Brooke Hagerman, Mason Hayes, Matthew Hernandez, Rodrigo Herruzo Blazquez, Madeline Jezierski, Thomas Johnson, Emily Jurnovoy, Eli Laffert, Dominic LaFleur, Destiny LaMarre, Jaiden Lamson, Lilliana Latour-Gervais, Celine Leffingwell, Max Lim, Hong Luo, Marie Mairson, Christian Menounos, Kira Mesick, Aurora Moore, Timothy Mozzi, Shaun Mugagga, Nhu Nguyen, Kaya Nichols, Raiden Olsen, Kelsey Pabon, William Papineau, Jiwoong Park, George Perreault, Diana Petrova, Bryce Plouffe, Grace Pokorny, Erik Proctor, Darlyne Ramos Fernandez, Owen Rigney, Ava Salsich, Amir Sanchez, Sophia Sarkis, Molly Schall, Jack Shea, Nina Silva, Olivia Smith, Emily Smock, Michael Susi, Brock Swabby, Olivia Tappenden, Avery Thienel, Lauren Thomas, Harley Tolman, Kan Tran, Kaelyn Tremblay, Vincent Vandale, Alexis Vargas, William Wasko, Gwendolyn White, Evelyn Young, Orly Zachs

Recognition: Brayden Bardan, Gunnar Basak, Mikayla Bessette, Aiden Brailsford, Katelyn Bruce, William Bushey, Abdullah Choudhry, Thomas Coleman, Samantha Espeseth, Madelyn Frechette, Ela Gadoury, Brooke Goodell, Meadow Harnois, Abigale Houle, Enoch Joseph, Kason Kelly, Cassidy Ladd, Olivia Lefevre, Georgia Lukachie, Devlin Mansolf, Margaret McHugh, Eva Monahan, Brady O'Brien, Catherine O'Brien, Evan Quinn, Logan Rawson, Macy Rawson, Cameron Robida, Kristina Serrine, Lola Thomas, Carter Tosetti, Gabriele Trento, Haley Whitehouse

Grade 10
High Honors: Noemia Amaral, Bree Antaya, Aiden Bachand, Anthony Beaudreault, Vivian Bibeau, Kaylee Bundy, Adelyn Cournoyer, Edward Cygnarowicz, Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain, Avery Danis, Alexa Delmonaco, Audrey DeYoung, Abby Ditzel, Jackson Dorez, Clara Dowdle, Kiley Elliott, Kaydence Foster, Lilly Frechette, Cruz Garcia, David Genay, Maura Hart, Maddox Houston, Lilah Jafar-DeCesare, Aidan Jeon, Blair Jin, Soyul Jung, Julia Kerr, Jaelyn Knox, Andrew Landreville, Sujong Lee, Ivan Lin, Olivia Manbeck, Eli Manning, Spencer Mayo, Katelyn McArthur, Ivar McDonald, Camden Mercer, Jayzlyn Miller, Lilliana Moran, Lillian Morgis, Emily Mumford, Troy Myers, Alec Nunes, Aidan O'Connor, Diya Patel, Thatcher Paterson, Avery Plouffe, Lucas Quercia, Emma Quinney,

Nathan Rauls, Kerrigan Reynolds, Kyrialis Rivera Cabrera, Kaylee Saucier, Caleb Simoneau, Jocelynn Serrine, Mykhaile Smoliar, Abigael Stevens, Finnley Syphers, Michael Therrien, Olivia Tracy, Emma Weitknecht, Sadie Wood, Ryan Yang
Honors: Sidney Anderson, Benjamin Arters, Gabriel Bard, Aidan Botelho, Jack Buyers, Ryan Chabot, Maci Corradi, Nathaniel Couture, Avery Crescimanno, Tiernan Curran, Scarlet Delaney, Greysen Dery, Zeeshan Desai, Harrison Durand, Jackson Durand, Madilyne Ead, Anniemarie Fernandez, Emma Forcier, Judah Gagnon, Avery Gallagher, Karlie Gauthier, Ekin Gokcimen, Caydence Haley, Blake Hudock, Jiwan Kim, Elizabeth Ladzinski, Madison LaVallee, Kenzie Le, Philip Le, Payton Leite, Grace Lescault, Limin Lin, Colin MacNeil, Lilyanne Mercier, Gianna Musumeci, Emma Nagel, Akira Newall-Vuillemot, Han Nguyen, Avery Nielsen, Mariia Oliinyk, Gabriella Payne, Vayda Payne, Ozzie Pearman, Cotter Pierce, Kloe Pike, Connor Racine, Emma Raymond, Carlos Rodriguez Camacho, Ellary Sampson, Jacob Say, Siyuan Shen, Ella Simoes, Cameron Simpson, William St. John, David Sumner, Collin Teal, Helen Telford, Luke Thompson, Tyler Travinski, Oliver Trudeau, Aidan Tyler, Sean Veilleux, Thatcher Wood, Wynter Worth, Daniel Yang, Vivian Zelada Garcia

Recognition: Evan Anderson, Hannah Backofen, Logan DelFarno, Danielle Demers, Raven Dunn, Riley Faber, Nathan Faucher, Henry Forrest, Mark Lefebvre, Eva Lushignan, Sara Macri, Cayden Menor, Cadence Nichols, April Regis, Baylee Rosinski, Quantiwah Sangasy, Kayla St. Louis, Michael Wolchesky

Grade 9
High Honors: Maggie Beams, Sydney Betty, Brayden Bottone, Jorge Castellanos, Michelle Chan, Kaylyn Converse, Caroline Costa, Elise Coyle, Ronan Curran, Kady Danner, Ella Davies, Kathryn Dobosz, Bronson Eddy, Lorelai Fish, Maylie Ganas, Michael Gasperini, Gage Gawron, Sophia Giourelis, Brayden Graves, Samuel Greene, Avery Gregoire, Finley Hamilton, Cooper Harris, Brady Hebert, Jake Henderson, Anna Hernandez, Gabriel Hull, Nathan Jezierski, Matthew Johndrow, Halle Jolly, Maria Jordanoglou, Delilah Kesselman, Blake Kudzal, Kealyn Lamarche, Evony N'Chonon, Tyler Odorski, Rita Rawcliffe, Damien Redman, Alexeeya Richter-Lamarre, Brooke Roireau, Grace Sallar, Reagan Scheck, Tre Sotomayor, Bella Stillitano, Isabelle Tedisky, Kaitlyn Thiffault, Chloe Vogt, Heath White, Owen Williamson, Kiki Xu

Honors: Braden Andersen, John Andersen, Antonio Anderson, Tess Anderson, Mia Auger, Christian Bard, Ava Beauchemin-King, Izabella Bernstein, Connor Bessette, Drew Bundy, Kellen Coleman, Matthew Dearborn, Rhea DeSota, Olivia Elliott, Claire Ellsworth, Arianna Fox, Anthony Genna, Avery Grant, Brayden Grant, Tristan Hayden, Cora Hefner, Maxwell Kopp, Matthew Kruger, Winston Kvanli, Christian Ladero, Hayden Maloney, Kelsey McNeil, Alexander Milardo, Caylee Morrison, Landon Murdock, Abby Neeland, Jason Nelson, Jessica Palmerino, Rocco Pascale, Tatum Perez, Cameron Perreault, Riley Quinn-Perkins, David Rahall, Drew Rhault, Blake Robida, Aiden Sanchez, Avery Schaefer, Matias Solano Platero, Julia Tellier, Leah Thibodeau, Wyatt Voter, Gia Bao Vu, Cayden Worth, Qucheng Wu, Adelise Young

Recognition: Samuel Anderson, Olivia Beaulieu, Ella Brytowski, Madison Byer, Collin Charette, Joshua Couture, Brayden De Oliveira, Salem Elmhihi, Ethan Gilchrist, Kaiden Gross, Mitchell Mazzucco, Molly Mead, Karoline Noe, Anthony Nuccio, Maria Nunez Hermoso, Alexis Sansone, Jenna Saraidarian, Kieran Shepherd, Zachary Thibeault, Adrian Vargas

Jog with Judy 5K race set for May 4

WOODSTOCK — The Judy Nilan Foundation is holding its annual Jog with Judy 5K Road Race for the 17th time on Saturday, May 4.

This is a professionally timed and certified, family-friendly out and back 5K walk/run in honor of Judy Nilan, a social worker at the Woodstock Middle School, who had a tremendous impact on the lives of students and colleagues at the school and in the community. The race location is Roseland Park Road in Woodstock. The funds raised provide financial support for programs that benefit the Foundations mission of improving the social, emotional and behavior abilities for children in the Woodstock public schools to learn effectively. Registration is available online until April 19th by simply googling Jog with Judy. Or you can register the day of the race beginning at the site at 8 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Pomfret Board of Finance to host public hearing on proposed budgets

POMFRET — A public hearing to present the proposed 2024-2025 budgets to Pomfret residents will be held on Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. at Pomfret Community School.

The Board of Education and Board Selectmen presented their proposed budgets to the Board of Finance in March. The Education budget of \$11,443,727 was an increase of \$368,300 or 3.3 percent. The Government budget of \$3,383,096 showed an increase of \$47,023 or 1.41%. The combined total of \$14,826,823 was an increase of \$415,323 over the current FY 2024 budget. Without any reductions, the increase would raise the mill rate approximately 1.6 mills.

At its meeting on April 8, the Board of Finance reduced the Board of Education budget of \$11,443,727 by \$92,488, reflecting the decrease in high school tuition. The General Government budget of \$3,383,096 was approved as presented.

According to Board of Finance Chair Margie Huoppi, "The Board felt strongly that a decrease in the number of high school students should be reflected in the budget. With the \$92,488 cut, the potential mill rate increase is 1.42 mills."

Huoppi said her goal is to keep the mill rate increase at .5 mills or less.

"We need Pomfret residents to attend this public hearing and let us know if these budgets are acceptable," she said. "If necessary, we will make further adjustments before sending the budget to the Town Meeting in May."

Killingly baseball falls to Woodstock, bounces back against East Lyme

KILLINGLY — Brady Ericson led Woodstock (3-0) to victory over Killingly (2-2) with five innings pitched and 14k's on the mound.

Ashton Goodwin went 3 for 3 for Killingly at the plate with a double, while Landon Manzi pitched 4 innings allowing only 3 runs and striking out 7.

Later in the week, Dominik Kubera registered a complete game 5 hit performance without allowing an earned run to lead Killingly (3-2) to the win over East Lyme (1-2)!

Final score 2-1.

Brady Zadora drove in Hayden Larrow with an RBI single in the top of the 5th to take the lead!

Kubera set down 14 of the last 15 East Lyme batters he faced!

Connor Tukey had 2 hits for East Lyme. The week in sports at Woodstock Academy

LEGALS

Woodstock Historic District Commission Woodstock Hist Dist Comm public hearing April 24, 6:30 pm for Dawson 582 Rt 169 for run-in sheds and roofs. G. Usher, Chair. April 19, 2024

Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I, Shelly Boisvert, 11 O Hawkins Rd, Woodstock Valley, CT 06282
Have filed an application placarded 04/19/2024 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a MANUFACTURER BEER PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at Triple Raven Brewing LLC
27 Main St
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
The business will be owned by: Triple Raven Brewing LLC Entertainment will consist of:
Acoustics, disc jockeys, live bands, comedians karaoke, plays/shows, sporting events, magicians.
Objections must be filed by: 05-31-2024

Visit <https://oortal.ct.gov/remonstrance> for more information
Triple Raven Brewing LLC
April 19, 2024
April 26, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Richard Victor Whiddon, AKA Richard Whiddon (24-00130)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 21, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Richard F. Whiddon
c/o GLENN E KNIERIM, MORAN SHUSTER CARIGNAN & KNIERIM LLP, 111 SIMSBURY ROAD, SUITE 201, AVON, CT 06001
April 19, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Timothy L Bly (24-00150)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 9, 2024, order ed that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Matthew P Bly
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, 168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
April 19, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON

Planning and Zoning
LEGAL NOTICE
The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 22, 2024

at 7 pm in the Thompson Public Library, Room 2, 934 Riverside Dr. (Rte 12) and via Zoom to hear the following applications

PZC 24-03 Applicant Arthur Brunner, property Owner. Dudley Sand and Gravel, Adeline and William Healy of 0 Rachel Drive, Map 83, Block 57 Lot 5, Zone Common Residential District (CRD), .56 Acres, request a Special Permit for Multi-Family Dwellings of three of More Units in compliance with **Zoning Regulations Article 8, Section 275-8.2 #7.**

PZC Application #24-08 Robert Cassim, Property Owner Sea Realty LLC, 347 Riverside Drive, Map 85, Block 51, Lot 4, Zone TCDD, request Special Permit for a Used Car Dealership and Auto Repair Location according to **Zoning Regulations, Article 11. 275-11.2 #9 and Article 4, 275-4, A. B. and C.**

Respectfully /Submitted
Joe Parodi Brown, Chairman
April 12, 2024
April 19, 2024

OBITUARIES

Carol A. Kubik, 76



Carol A. Kubik went home to be with her Lord and Savior on April 6, 2024 at the age of 76. Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Carol grew up on a dairy farm. She went to Shellsburg High School where she was a member of the marching band and played the trombone. She graduated in 1966 and went to Taylor University to earn her B.A. and then went on to graduate school at the University of Iowa to become a physical therapist. After graduation she moved to Erie, Pa. to work as a staff physical therapist in the burn unit at Hamot Medical Center. She worked 4 years till she suffered an injury skiing in Switzerland which

ultimately left her paralyzed from a stroke. She had to retire early, moving to Woodstock to live with her sister. Though she was disabled she still drove her car, played her trombone one handed and many other things, not allowing her disability to stop her. Carol was an active member of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Woodstock for many years singing in the choir and helping wherever needed. She was predeceased by her parents Hester and Harold Kubik, an infant sister Patricia and her older sister Kathleen. She leaves several cousins behind as well. A Memorial Service is planned for 3 p.m. on April 27, 2024 at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Woodstock, Ct. Arrangements were facilitated by Smith and Walker Funeral Home of Putnam, CT.

David Lloyd Holke, 79



WOODSTOCK, CT – David Lloyd Holke, 79, of Woodstock, Connecticut, passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 6, 2024, with his wife Judy by his side. He died as he lived, proving incredible strength, love, and

determination.

Born on July 26, 1944, in Webster, Massachusetts, David was adored by his parents, Adolf & Alice Holke. While not a religious man, David proudly served as an altar boy throughout his youth. Upon graduating from Bartlett High School, he enlisted in the United States Air Force where he would serve four years working primarily as a hydraulic specialist. Thereafter, he would take a job as a truck driver that inherently laid the groundwork for a lifelong career in buying, selling, and playing with construction equipment. Through hard work, and determination, David would go on to found, own, and operate Thompson Tractor; a company that is revered in the world of big rigs and construction equipment specializing in Caterpillar, Hertz, and John Deere to name but a few.

David had an explosive, go big or go home personality. He loved to push the limit; as a bodybuilder, pyrotechnic engineer, outdoorsman. A lover of adrenaline and fast cars, you always knew when Holkie was near, you could hear the revving of his hotrod a mile away. Street racing, drag racing, ice racing; snowmobiles, motorcycles, boats, hot rods; on the land, the snow, the ice, or the water; he was a thrill seeker who had a love of speed and appreciation for fine craftsmanship.

David was selfless; he had the most generous, giving heart. He was loyal and dedicated to always doing the right thing and putting the needs of others before his own. If you called, he would always answer. "Okay." "Whatever you need." No matter the ask, he was there to make it happen.

As life came full-circle, becoming a father was a job David treasured second to none. The birth of his two beautiful daughters brought him a joy and inner peace that only a parent could understand. He showered them with love and affection never sheltering them from his electric life. With the birth of each grandson, you could see David's heart expand a little more. He had a yearning to share his love of tractors, excavators, and boyhood pranks with them. Nothing made him smile bigger, or those big blue eyes sparkle more, than spending time with his legacy.

In his twilight, David took time to slow down and take pleasure in the simpler

Linda Lamoureux 3/9/1954 – 4/8/2024

Putnam - Linda went to the arms of her loving Savior surrounded by her family after a long journey with cancer.

Linda's first love was her family. She devoted much of her time to caring for family members who had become ill themselves. She was born in Putnam, the daughter of Walter L. LeClair Sr. and Aurore (Langevin) LeClair. She married, and is survived by, her husband of 50 years, Michael Lamoureux. Together they had two sons, Michael Jr. and Daniel. She is also survived by a grandson Quinn and a loving daughter-in-law, Kristi, and her grand-dog Butterscotch. Linda and Mike followed their boys as they grew and volunteered in Boy Scouts, Little League, other sports and in their school activities.

Linda's family extended to her community with involvement in many non-profits and commitments to many groups who benefited by her grant writing abilities. She served on the Town of Putnam's Ethics Commission and also on the Putnam Commission on Aging for many years. Throughout her life her faith in God sustained her. In her parish community at St. Mary's Church of the Visitation she served many years as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, CCD Teacher, RCIA

and Visitation Ministry. One of her greatest joys was being invited to be an Associate of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit.

After college, she spent the next 32 years of her career working for individuals with disabilities at The Arc Quinebaug Valley in many administrative positions. In 2014 she was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow, the highest Rotary Honor for her efforts in the community.

She retired from The Arc and was offered the position of Director at the Quinebaug Valley Senior Center in Brooklyn. There she was able to continue to serve seniors in one of her favorite positions.

The family is very grateful for their loving support, prayers and love given to Linda during her illness. The family also wishes to thank Dr. Dinesh Kapur, Kristin Joly, A.P.R.N., Crystal M.A. and the ECHO medical team at the Backus Hospital.

In her spare time, Linda enjoyed painting, gardening, cake decorating (especially wedding cakes) and spending quality time with her family.

For full obituary please visit: <https://www.gilmanandvalade.com/obituaries/Linda-R-Lamoureux?obId=31154117>

Dale E. Wilson, 82



N. Grosvenordale – Dale E. (Kelley) Wilson, 82, of Denis Dr., died Saturday morning, April 6, 2024, at home with her family by her side. Born in Webster, MA, she was the daughter of the late John Kelley and Eileen (George) Kokocinski.

Mrs. Wilson worked for many years at United Services in Plainfield as a Case Worker.

Dale enjoyed being outdoors tending to her beautiful gardens.

She is survived by her husband, Henry B. Wilson; her daughters, Amy Wilson of Alexandria, VA and Caterina Gianelli of Topsfield, MA; her sisters, Carol Racicot of Thompson and Susan Horan of RI; and her grandchildren, Erik Larsen, Meaghan Shiffrin, Zoe Atienza, and Xavier Atienza, and her great grandchild, Alana Gianelli. She was predeceased by her daughters, Tracy Wilson and Kelly Anne Wilson.

Funeral services are private and have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

David R White, 73



Lehigh Acres, FL – David White, 73, long time resident of Putnam, CT died at his home in Florida on April 8 after his short battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his wife, Sonia and his two children.

was born July 30, 1951 in Connecticut. He loved his cars and he was always the life of any party. One of his favorite passions was coaching senior league baseball with his brother, George while he

resided in Connecticut in the early 80s. He is survived by his brother George of Putnam, CT, sisters Sharon Milhomme of Brooklyn, CT and Jeannette Knight of Danielson, CT. He was predeceased by his sister, Claire Walker. He also leaves his grandchildren as well as several nieces and nephews. David will always be known as a good-natured, fun-loving guy who always enjoyed being with his family.

A celebration of life will be held on April 20th at the Gendron Funeral Home in Lehigh Acres, Florida.

John (Jay) Vincent Swan Jr., 74



John (Jay) Vincent Swan Jr. of Woodstock, CT passed peacefully in his sleep (His last Irish goodbye) on Wednesday, April 10th 2024. He was 74 years old.

Born June 13th, 1949 in Worcester Mass. to Elizabeth (Rowe) Swan and John Vincent Swan Sr. He married Susan (Shaw) Swan on June 22nd, 1990 in Woodstock, CT after falling in love while working for the State of Connecticut in the Department of Disability Services. Soon after they welcomed two children, Elizabeth M. Swan and Allison J. Swan.

Jay was a huge advocate for education. He graduated Leicester High School in 1968 and later attended Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester Mass. gaining his Associate's Degree in 1971. He got his Bachelor's Degree in Social and Rehabilitation Services in 1973 from Assumption College in Worcester Mass. and later a Master's in Education from the University of Connecticut in 1984. Jay had many careers over his lifetime. He worked for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health in the Rutland Rehabilitation Center from 1969 until 1971. He worked for the State of Connecticut in the Department of Developmental Disabilities from 1973 until 2003. During this time he was a Case Worker; a Special Education Teacher; an Adult Education Coordinator; Director of Staff Development, and a Contract Manager. Always one to keep busy, he began to work for the Town of Woodstock after his retirement from the state in 2003. He was a Constable, Sergeant, Deputy Chief, and later the First Selectman of Woodstock, a title he was very proud and honored to have served from 2019 up until his passing.

Jay was also very active in the Boy Scouts of America (Scoutmaster Troop 22 1973-1983; Chair of the Indian Trails Council, Scouting for the Handicapped Committee 1978-1983; Director of the June Norcross Scout Reservation 1981-1983; District Commissioner, Quinebaug District, Indian Trails Council in the 1980s). Jay was dedicated to environmentalism and firearms safety. He was a Certified Instructor

in Conservation Education, Firearms Safety, and Advanced Bowhunting. He was a life member of the Pomfret Rod and Gun Club, the National Rifle Association, and Ducks Unlimited conservation group. He loved to have the windows down in his truck while blasting The Rolling Stones and The Who. "If it's too loud, you're old." He had a great, dry sense of humor and loved to quote Mel Brooks movies and Jim Morrison and The Doors, "People are Strange." He was constantly assisting others, giving advice and a listening ear to those who needed it. He left a legacy as a role model helping his community and people with disabilities. He was a leader who made people feel like they mattered. He loved telling stories that included his friends Marjorie Jones, Joe Dokes, and Joe Schmo.

He is survived by his wife Susan (Shaw) Swan; their daughters Elizabeth M. Swan (and her husband Shane W. Kegler) and Allison J. Swan (and her partner Ian Sullivan); his "third daughter" Lauren A. Johnson, his siblings Frederick Swan, Marybeth Bardot and her husband Doug Bardot, and Helen Harris and her husband Richard Harris. He is also survived by his mother-in-law Joyce Shaw, his sister and brother-in-law Lesley and Robert Goodrich and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and the Orlofskis, who are like family. He was predeceased by his mom, dad, and his beloved younger brother David W. Swan.

Calling hours were held on Monday, April 15th at Smith & Walker Funeral Home 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT from 2-4pm and 6-8pm. Funeral services were held April 16th at 11am at St. Mary's Church of the Visitation in Putnam, CT. Burial followed at Woodstock Central Cemetery on Center Cemetery Road in Woodstock, CT. A Celebration of Life was held at Grill 37 in Pomfret, CT at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Friends of Webster June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation at <https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/066/appeal/3451>.

For more information please visit <https://www.gotowebster.org/>. Share a memory at SmithandWalkerfh.com

Adrienne J. Cassettari, 80

Putnam – Adrienne J. Cassettari, 80, of Thurber Rd., formerly of Morin Ave., Danielson., died Friday afternoon, April 12, 2024, at Matulaitis Nursing Home. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of the late Leonello and Norma (Lucchesi) Cassettari.

Mrs. Cassettari worked for the flower shop at the John Dempsey Center and the ARC of Quinebaug Valley. Adrienne was an avid Boston Red Sox fan.

She is survived by her sister, Marian Smat of Pomfret Center; Her nephews and niece, Jeffrey Smat and his wife Karleen of Brunswick, ME, Peter A. Smat and his wife Nicole of Hampton, and Lana Trudo and her husband, Peter of Pomfret Center; her great nieces and nephews, Ryan Smat, Nicholas Smat,

Taylor Smat, Hannah Trudo, Sydney Trudo, Alan Smat, Petra Smat, and Cole Smat and her great grandniece Mia Smat. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother-in-law Alan Smat.


A private graveside service was held in St. Mary Cemetery.


Memorial donations in Adrienne's memory may be made to Opportunity Works CT, 45 West Main St., Vernon, CT 06066 Attn: Horticulture Program/Danielson.


Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.


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Woman's Board of Day Kimball raises \$100,000 toward da Vinci Surgical Robotic System pledge



Courtesy

Woman's Board of DKH President Valentine Iamartino (center left) presents a check for \$30,000 to DKH CEO Kyle Kramer (center right) as Woman's Board members look on.

PUTNAM — The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital (WBDKH) has now reached the \$100,000 mark of its \$250,000 pledge to support Day Kimball Hospital's da Vinci surgical robotic system. At its March quarterly meeting and luncheon, Woman's Board President Valentine Iamartino presented a check to Day Kimball Health (DKH) CEO, Kyle Kramer for \$30,000 toward the pledge. The commitment, which originated in April 2022, is supported by fundraising efforts through the gift shop at Day Kimball Hospital

and various WBDKH events including their recent Valentine's Day Dinner Dance. "The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital has demonstrated unwavering dedication to elevating healthcare in Northeast Connecticut," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Health. "With a legacy spanning 130 years, their invaluable support enables DKH to provide cutting-edge technology and exceptional care, positively impacting countless families in our community. This fundraiser is an example of that com-

mitment and I applaud everyone involved for their support." Since its inaugural case in August 2022, the da Vinci surgical system at DKH has facilitated 328 cases, with 70 completed since Jan. 1 of this year. DKH Surgeon Carlos Morales noted that the system has played a significant role in expanding our services bringing much-needed additional treatment options in the areas of colorectal, gynecologic, and general surgery. "We are immensely proud to reach this significant milestone, and we extend our deepest

gratitude to all Women's Board members, their families, friends, and partners within the greater Northeast Connecticut community," said Iamartino. "By supporting initiatives set forth by the Woman's Board, we can collectively serve the health and wellness needs of our community at Day Kimball Hospital." Through the efforts of the Woman's Board, along with the community's support, the mission of the Woman's Board is to raise funds to enhance the quality and services of Day Kimball Hospital. Since its inception in 1894, the Women's Board

has raised nearly \$2 million to support important and necessary medical equipment needs at the hospital, including the hospital's first ambulance in the early 1900s. For more information about the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital, visit daykimball.org/womansboard. To learn more about the da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot at Day Kimball Hospital, visit daykimball.org/da-vinci. About Day Kimball Healthcare Day Kimball Healthcare is a non-profit community healthcare system composed of Day

Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is daykimball.org.

THE WEEK IN SPORTS AT WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

Baseball Woodstock Academy 5 Killingly 1 DAYVILLE — Southpaw ace Brady Ericson finally got a start on the mound for the Centaurs and he didn't disappoint. The UConn-bound junior pitched only five innings but struck out the side on all but one occasion, finishing with 14 K's, and allowing just two hits to help Woodstock Academy improve to 3-0. "It's nice to be back," Ericson said of his first mound appearance in 2024. "Even in the basketball season, I was looking forward to the baseball season starting. To get my first start on a beautiful day like this, I was

looking forward to it for the last three days." Sunshine and temperatures in the 70's greeted players at Owen Bell Park. Ericson got immediate support as the Centaurs scored twice in the first with Maxx Corradi and Eric Mathewson drawing walks to start the game. Corradi stole third and scored on an error and Mathewson crossed the plate on a Keon Lamarche single. Noah Sampson added a run in the third when he singled, stole second and third and came home on a Matt Hernandez base hit. The last two runs came across in the fifth on a Mathewson double, a

Lamarche triple and an error. Ashton Goodwin had three hits for Killingly (2-2). Coventry 8 Woodstock Academy 7 (10) COVENTRY — Senior Evan Menzel singled in the bottom of the 10th inning, scoring Nathan Spear and ending the marathon game in the Patriots (2-0) favor. The Centaurs (3-1) led 3-0 early only to see host Coventry score seven times in the bottom of the fifth. Caleb Simoneau was hit by a pitch in the sixth inning and Riley O'Brien followed with a double, both came home on ground outs in the sixth to cut the Patriots lead to two. Woodstock Academy tied it in the top of the seventh when Maxx Corradi tripled and scored on a ground out and O'Brien later singled home the tying run to force the extra innings.

and drove in four runs. The senior's bat has been smoking as she is 7-for-7 with five RBIs in the last two games. Ellary Sampson was 3-for-3 at the plate for Woodstock Academy. Aleecia Helme had two hits and three RBIs for the Colonels. Brookfield 13 Woodstock Academy 3 WOODSTOCK — The two teams braved periods of heavy rain, wind and even small hail to get the contest in as the Bobcats weren't about to make the two-hour trek twice. The Centaurs (2-3) could muster just three hits off Sydney Miller who finished with 17 strikeouts for Brookfield (2-1). Grace Delsanto had one of those three hits and drove in a run for Woodstock Academy. Delaney Anderson and Madison Bloom scored on wild pitches. Miller had three hits and drove in three runs at the plate to help her own cause. Isabella Pontecorvo, Isabella Barreiro and Haylie Miller each drove in a pair of runs for Brookfield.

0-2 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) in the loss to the Wildcats (2-1, 1-1). Boys Lacrosse Woodstock Academy 10 Valley Regional 3 WOODSTOCK — Land outs of sharing turned out to be the key for the Centaurs as they improved to 3-2 with the win on their home turf at the Bentley Athletic Complex. The Centaurs dominated time of possession and, in doing so, dominated the first half as they broke out to an 8-1 lead and were never threatened. Senior Jared Neilsen netted five goals and had two assists while Henry Wooton added a goal and four assists. Gunnar Basak also scored two goals for the winners. Valley Regional had two goals from Michael Lelyo.

petition and found the going a bit rough. Farmington swept the three sets, 25-15, 25-18, 25-16. Brayden Bottone and Owen Budd had seven kills each in the loss for Woodstock Academy (4-3) while Hunter Larson had seven digs. Woodstock Academy 3 HMTCA 0 WOODSTOCK — Despite playing their third match in four days, the Centaurs were able to improve to 5-1 in the Connecticut Volleyball League and 5-3 overall with the shutout victory. Woodstock Academy had to hold off HMTCA in the first set, 26-24, but rolled to victory in the second, 25-13, and third, 25-12, sets. Senior Aiden Finch had eight kills, Jake Henderson added 15 assists and Nate Billings had six digs. Behind the service line, Brayden Bottone had 13 points and seven aces.



Courtesy

Akira Newall-Vuillemot, 17, from Woodstock qualified for the third year in a row for the Men's Eastern national Championships. This week, he placed third in Vault and 2nd in high bar at the Region 6 Gymnastics Championships. He attends Woodstock Academy and completes for Thames Valley Academy of Gymnastics.

Woodstock Academy 16 Tourtelotte 2 (5) N O R T H GROSVENORDALE — The Centaurs scored 10 runs in the third inning and put an early end to the contest. Brady Ericson (3 RBIs) drove in two with a double in the uprising as did Matt Hernandez with a single. Brady Lecuyer added an RBI single and was the recipient of one of the three bases-loaded walks in the third inning while Noah Sampson had a sacrifice fly. Riley O'Brien was the only Woodstock Academy player with a pair of hits in the game to back the pitching of Jack Sumner who struck out 10 in five innings. Luke Senosk knocked in both of the runs for the Tigers (0-5) with a double. Softball Ledyard 7 Woodstock Academy 6 LEDYARD — Three runs in the bottom of the sixth spoiled the Centaurs hopes for a road victory. Grace Delsanto had a tremendous day at the plate for Woodstock Academy (2-2) as she went 4-for-4 with a triple

and drove in four runs. The senior's bat has been smoking as she is 7-for-7 with five RBIs in the last two games. Ellary Sampson was 3-for-3 at the plate for Woodstock Academy. Aleecia Helme had two hits and three RBIs for the Colonels. Brookfield 13 Woodstock Academy 3 WOODSTOCK — The two teams braved periods of heavy rain, wind and even small hail to get the contest in as the Bobcats weren't about to make the two-hour trek twice. The Centaurs (2-3) could muster just three hits off Sydney Miller who finished with 17 strikeouts for Brookfield (2-1). Grace Delsanto had one of those three hits and drove in a run for Woodstock Academy. Delaney Anderson and Madison Bloom scored on wild pitches. Miller had three hits and drove in three runs at the plate to help her own cause. Isabella Pontecorvo, Isabella Barreiro and Haylie Miller each drove in a pair of runs for Brookfield. Girls Lacrosse East Catholic 17 Woodstock Academy 4 MANCHESTER — Caroline Harris had two goals and both Kaylee Saucier (1 assist) and Clara Dowdle also tallied but the Eagles had too much for the Centaurs (0-4). Montville 12 Woodstock Academy 3 WOODSTOCK — The Wolves (1-1) broke open a game that was close at the half, Montville leading 4-2, with four goals each in the third and fourth quarter for their first win of the season. Sophomore Kylie Spreng scored eight goals for Montville while Savannah Vichas added a hat trick. Abby Converse and Kaylee Saucier had a goal and an assist for the Centaurs (0-5) while Clara Dowdle and Alexa Delmanow also scored. NFA 19 Woodstock Academy 1 NORWICH — Kaelyn Tremblay had the only goal for the Centaurs (0-6,

Boys Volleyball Woodstock Academy 3 Norwich Tech 1 WOODSTOCK — Brayden Bottone was very effective behind the service line with 26 points and fellow freshman Jake Henderson was just as effective at setter with 23 assists to lead the Centaurs (3-2, 3-1 Connecticut Volleyball League) to the win. Woodstock Academy lost the first set to the Warriors (2-3, 2-3) 26-24 but rallied for victories of 25-18, 29-27, 25-17 over the next three sets. Senior Aiden Finch had 10 kills and freshman Owen Budd added nine for the Centaurs. Woodstock Academy 3 Computer Science Academy 0 ENFIELD — The Centaurs celebrated the beginning of spring break for the school with a Connecticut Volleyball League win on the road. Jake Henderson had 20 assists, many of those going to fellow freshman Brayden Bottone who had seven kills. Nate Billings added six digs for Woodstock Academy (4-2, 4-1 CVL). Farmington 3 Woodstock Academy 0 WOODSTOCK — The Centaurs stepped out of the Connecticut Volleyball League com-

Girls Golf Killingly/Ellis Tech 219 Woodstock Academy 228 PUTNAM — Kendra St. Marie was medalist with a 50 for the Killingly/Ellis Tech co-op (1-1, 1-1 Eastern Connecticut Conference) in the match at the Connecticut National Golf Club. Woodstock Academy, playing in its season-opening match, was led by Reagan Scheck and Isabel Mawson who were both just one stroke back of St. Marie. Boys Tennis St. Bernard-Wheeler 4 Woodstock Academy 1 UNCASVILLE — Centaurs coach Siana Green knew she would be missing players due to spring break and just hoped the same could be said of her opponents. That turned out to be the case as neither team could field a second and third doubles team on Monday. But the Saints (2-0) captured the victory as Wyatt Hayes, Sam Cunningham and Zach Kobyluck took the first three singles victories. Ryan Chabot posted the only victory for the Centaurs (2-1) as he won at fourth singles.