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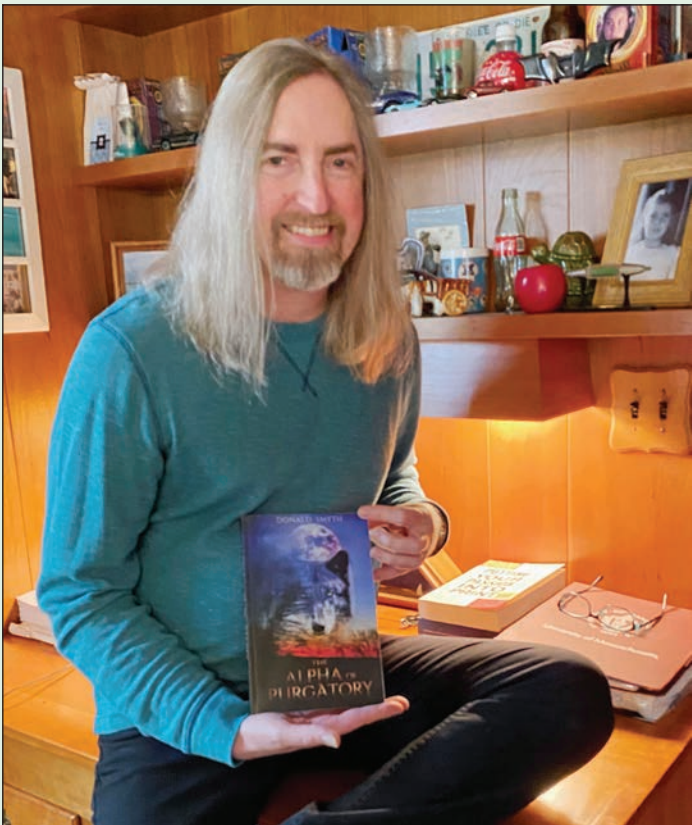
PUTNAM VILLAGER

Friday, May 13, 2022

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Thompson author publishes book 27 years in the making



Thompson author Donald Smythe released his first book, "The Alpha of Purgatory," last month.

THOMPSON – A local author's dream has come true after more than 27 years with the publishing of his first book in 2022. Donald Smythe of Thompson first conceived his debut novel, "The Alpha of Purgatory," nearly three decades ago, but it took until this year for him to finally see all that work come to

fruition. A historical fiction novel, the book revolves around a murder plot to sabotage the planned reintroduction of gray wolves into Yellowstone National Park. The story's inspiration goes all the way back to the '90s, when Smythe viewed a documentary chronically the near extinction of the animals in North America.

"I watched the ABC television program 'World of Discovery' about the wolves and the hot button topic of the time, whether the wolves should be returned to Yellowstone. There was a significant amount of opposition from ranchers in the area who feared predation of their herds. I was taken by the information in this program and how the wolf was once the most prominent land mammal on the North American continent prior to European immigration and the settlement of the Americas," Smythe said. "They went from the most populous mammal to virtually extinct. In modern times the number has dropped to about 50 gray wolves in the wild. The book goes into some of that background. I tried to tell a story from both sides of the perspective."

While the idea for the book was sparked in the '90s, it would take time for Smythe to see the creative process through. In 1995, he wrote the first paragraph, but after starting a family and embarking on a career, he was forced to set the book aside despite finishing ten chapters by 2001. It would be another 17 years before he would return to the story, rewriting much of the book and finally publishing the novel independently in April of 2022.

Please Read **SMYTHE**, page **A3**

Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission completes Affordable Housing Plan update

WOODSTOCK — Why is Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Jeffrey Gordon smiling?

Because on May 5, the Commission finished its current phase of work reviewing and an updating of the town's Affordable Housing Plan, meeting the state's deadline of June 1.

"The work done by the Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission is important," says Gordon. "It is not just about what can be done to help with affordable housing, but also what can be done to help with attainable housing so that people can find various types of housing if they want to move to town, raise families here, or downsize a home to stay in town. Housing also dovetails with quality of life for those who live in town, so issues such as public infrastructure and services, public education, environment, water and air quality, and the town's character all matter and are looked at by the Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission. Additionally, business and farms in town are looking for local workers, so how housing in Woodstock grows and develops is important for economic development."

Gordon noted that the Commission has worked for many years longitudinally on issues pertaining to affordable housing and that the



Commission's work on this issue will continue into the future to improve upon the plan and to keep it current. All of the Commission's work has been collaborative with members of the public, town staff, and others.

"It once again shows that good, proactive public policy can be done for people by working with people," Gordon said. "I appreciate the solid work done by my fellow Commissioners and Delia Fey (NECCOG Senior Regional Planner), as well as the input provided by many members of the public."

The Affordable Housing Plan update will be available on the Woodstock town government's Web site for the public to access.

Putnam Library celebrates six months in new home

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — May will mark six months since the official grand opening of Putnam's new municipal complex and one of its most popular features, the new Putnam Public Library.

Nestled in the back section of the ground floor of the complex, the new facility provides more space and amenities for the library and has become a beloved feature in town

helping bring new life to the Library's countless programs. Library Director Priscilla Colwell said the reaction from both newcomers and familiar patrons has been positive as many have complimented the increased space, design, and the improvement to the amenities.

"It's lovely being here with all of the space and the proximity to other town entities," Colwell said. "The response has been fantastic. People

come in and they can't believe that this actually happened. This has been a long time in the works. We've been able to expand our programming. Study rooms are used many times weekly. We're at the point where we've been allowing community groups to come in and use the program rooms which we did before COVID, so that's nice to see."

The new library provides a much larger variety of rooms than the previous facility in

Riverfront Commons. Along with a new aesthetic, the library features an expanded children's room, a teen room, more spacious meeting and private study rooms, and more. Whereas most of the programs took place in roughly the same room at the old building, each program now has its own designated space allowing for added privacy and less distractions for those visiting for activities or just to find a quiet place to read.

The architecture and design are also eye catching as visitors transition from the more professional build of the Town Municipal Complex to the library itself where creatively designed ceiling details, wall murals, and light fixtures provide a welcoming atmosphere that could take several visits to appreciate in full.

"The town hall portion is gorgeous, but it's very busi-

Please Read **LIBRARY**, page **A2**

Back to baseball diamond, Davis helps Woodstock Academy baseball team succeed

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Ethan Davis hasn't been a member of the Woodstock Academy baseball program since 2019, when he was a freshman on the junior varsity team. COVID-19 and the accompanying global pandemic canceled the 2020 campaign and last year, as a junior, he decided to focus on football in the spring with eye on a possible athletic scholarship to play the gridiron game in college.

Now, as a senior, with a scholarship to Southern Connecticut State University safely tucked in his pocket, Davis is back on the diamond and playing a key role for the 11-3 Centaurs, who won three games last week — 2-1 over visiting Lyman on Tuesday, May 3, 13-3 over visiting Ledyard on Thursday, May 5, and 13-9 on the road against New London on Friday, May 6.

Woodstock Academy, which had a five-game winning streak earlier in the season, has won four games in a row and six of its last seven.

"I've played baseball my whole life; it was the first sport I learned how to play," said Davis, who, despite two years of not playing the game competitively, didn't need a lot of time to get back in the groove. "I started playing the game when I was five or six years old, so it all came back pretty quick. I enjoy being back out here. I decided to play this year because I wanted to have some fun with my friends, and I am, because I've played with these guys forever."

The 6-foot-2, 185-pounder is the Centaurs' everyday right fielder and leadoff hitter. Through 14 games Davis is playing like he's trying to make up for lost time — even though he says



Photos Jason McKay

Woodstock Academy's Eric Mathewson is fired up while scoring a run for the Centaurs.

Please Read **BASEBALL**, page **A6**

Celebrating Fr. John J. O’Neill



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

By chance, do you have a woven, commemorative throw (small blanket) of churches and public buildings in Killingly with the gazebo at Davis Park -- Killingly Connecticut Inc. 1708 in the center? The Killingly Town Hall, Quinebaug Valley Community College, the Killingly Historical Center, Westfield Congregational Church, the Baptist Church of Danielson, St. James Church, St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, the United Methodist Church and Beth Israel Temple are also pictured. An interested Danielson resident stopped at the Killingly Historical Center recently and wondered if we had more information about it. Who had the throw produced? (Perhaps a church?) When and for what special event was it sold? Where were they made? Names of several churches and the Historical Center seem to place it in the 1990’s. Lynn LaBerge said that the Killingly Historical Society has a red one in its archives; I own a Wedgewood blue one; the one in question was a forest green. If you are able to answer any of the above questions, please email me or contact the Killingly Historical Center at

director@killinglyhistorical.org or leave a message on the answering machine (860-779-7250). It’s always nice to add identifying information to the materials in the archives. Do you know Father John O’Neill, pastor of St. James Church in Danielson? If you’re a parishioner or attend(ed) the school, of course the answer is, “Yes!” If not, you probably have seen him around, perhaps running, perhaps at the swimming pool at the Hale Y.M.C.A., perhaps while he was visiting someone in the hospital or a convalescent center. His smile welcomes everyone, Catholic or not. Can you imagine that he has been here in Danielson at St. James since 1991? He told this year’s First Communion Class that he made his own First Communion 80 years ago. (Many of us are not even that old!) This month marks the 60th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. In view of that fact, the O’Neill Family and Friends of LaSalette cordially invite you to celebrate the 60th Ordination Anniversary of Rev. John J. O’Neill, M.S. on Saturday, May 21 with Holy Mass at 12 Noon at St. James Church 12 Franklin Street with a reception to follow in the Fr. John J. O’Neill Gymnasium at St. James School. One of five children, Fr. John was born in Bridgeport Aug. 7, 1935, the second of five children of Eugene and Anne O’Neill: Gene, John, Mary, Peggy, and Ann. His sisters are all religious sisters. Fr. John attended Sacred Heart School in Bridgeport then went on

to the High School Seminary in Hartford. He also attended seminary in Altamont, N.Y., the LaSalette Novitiate in Bloomfield, and the LaSalette Seminary at Ipswich, MA where he was ordained to the priesthood May 26, 1962. He celebrated his first Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Bridgeport. Following his ordination, Fr. John attended Boston College for graduate studies. From 1963-1966 he was a Theology and Economics professor and Athletic Director at LaSalette Junior College Seminary in Altamont, N.Y. From 1966-1969, while ministering at Sacred Heart Parish in Wethersfield, he also served as Vocations Director of the LaSalette Missionaries at Hartford. He then became National Director for Church Vocations in Chicago, Ill. from 1969-1972 with a Ministry at St. Basil Parish, Chicago. From 1972-76 he served as Superior of the LaSalette Seminary at Cheshire; from 1976-1979, Vicar Provincial of the LaSalette Missionaries, Hartford; from 1979-1988 Provincial Superior of the LaSalette Missionaries at Hartford followed by Vocations Director for them from 1988-1991. During this time period (19972-1991) his priestly ministry was at St. Mary Parish, Meriden. June 27, 1991 Fr. John began his ministry as Pastor of St. James Parish here in Danielson. By 2004, he was the pastor of five area churches-- St. James, Our Lady of Peace in East Killingly, Our Lady of LaSalette in Brooklyn, Our

Lady of Lourdes in Hampton, and Most Holy Trinity Church in Pomfret although he no longer is in charge of all of those churches. As Superintendent of the school, he has worked closely with the principals of St. James School over the years and can often be seen there connecting with children, staff and parents. He serves as Father Superior to the Sisters of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and chaplain to the St. Jean de Baptiste Society and the St. James Craft Group. Those of us who have been around him on a regular basis, know Fr. John is an avid sports fan. Years ago, I remember thinking when he was sick with a bad cold one year during March Madness, what a blessing in disguise it was for him to be able to recuperate with all that college basketball. He said that as a child he began playing basketball at age four at the Y.M.C.A. in Bridgeport. Over the years, Fr. John has had the difficult and sad task of closing and selling a number the parishes with which he’s been associated. St. James has survived. He attributes this to the good people at St. James and lots of prayers. Fr. John came to Danielson while my younger son Gabe was a student at the school. On a personal note I have had ample opportunity to see how dedicated Fr. John is to the people of the parish. I always enjoy reading his Daydream columns in the parish bulletins and have grown to expect a joke to liven up a homily. Among the many lessons he

has taught me are two in particular, “If you do something and it helps just one person, it was worth doing,” and “Be kind!” Do try to attend his special 60th anniversary mass and reception on May 21 beginning at noon. Make it a very special celebration! May 14 is Spring Fest. The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will hold an Open House and Free Research Day on that Saturday during regular hours from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Stop and visit the museum, check out photos, postcards, and maps and research your family. There are family charts available at the Center that can help you get started. Staff will be glad to assist you. Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian May 2022. Special thanks to Rev. John J. O’Neill for biographical information. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or contact the Killingly Historical Society at www.killinglyhistorical.org. Leave messages for the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.



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LIBRARY

continued from page A1

ness-like,” Colwell said. “When you come into the library you see the unusual lighting fixtures and there’s a wooden wave ceiling on the adult side. That’s a very cool architectural element. We have a beautiful mural on the children’s end and the lights in there are ‘donut lights’ with a lot of fun colors making that side of the building a more up-to-date facility than the old building.” The library has also grown to provide a larger variety of social, learning, and person-

al growth programs spanning all age groups. The new children’s library, led by Children’s Librarian Tina Aubin, provides access to around 40 STEAM Kits each containing educational activities focusing on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Weekly and monthly teen programs such as craft and game nights offer something for the older children while new additions like fitness programs provide unique offerings for adults. All of these are just a small taste of what the library has been able to bring to Putnam since its grand opening and Colwell doesn’t see that growth slowing down anytime soon, especially as visitor numbers are returning to more consistent pre-pandemic levels. “We’re so happy that the citizens of Putnam and the surrounding communities are so

supportive and happy to see our new facility,” sand Colwell. “It’s really nice to see that we’re back to pre-COVID levels. The walk-in statistics are about three-quarters of the way back to where we once were. We had 1,100 people a week walking in before COVID and now we’re coming back into the low-700s. We’ve started investing in dipping our toes into the maker movement. We recently got a button maker and rentable cake pans so we’ll be cataloguing those. We’re keeping our arms wide open for groups that want to use the library.” The Putnam Public Library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturdays. The library provides activity calendars and program details on their Web site, as well as their social media accounts.



Photo Jason Bleau

The new Putnam Library opened six months ago, and has become one of the most popular elements in Putnam’s new municipal complex.



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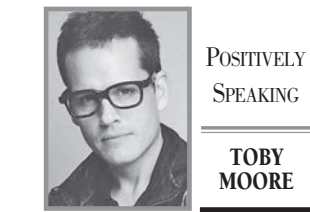
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The Irish dramatist George Bernard Shaw coined, “Youth is wasted on the young.” He later went on to say, “they’re brainless and don’t know what they have; they squander every opportunity of being young, on being young.”

I read that today, and immediately wondered why he said this. I interpreted that he was a little bitter about his own life, and possibly felt regretful that he had squandered the opportunities of his youth. I don’t know if he did or did not; although I learned about him in school, I am certainly not a George Bernard Shaw historian.

We’ve all made mistakes; we’ve all done things we wish we wouldn’t have. Some of us

Yesterday’s mistakes don’t define you

have failed to recognize an opportunity and squandered our resources, but life happens, and we aren’t perfect.

I’ve indeed spent many an hour wishing I would have done things differently when I was younger. I know many people wish they could go back and do it over. We think that if we could go back and do it again, we’d be much further along in life. We believe if we could’ve had a second chance, the relationship wouldn’t have ended; the business would’ve succeeded; we would’ve graduated from school, or we wouldn’t have said that hateful comment.

We’ve heard it said that we should live a life without regret, that’s a good maxim to live by, but I suspect every one of us has regrets. The problem with regret is that if we don’t process it the right way, we

can allow ourselves to become defined by our failures.

Regret can be helpful if it causes you to make a positive change so that it doesn’t happen again, allowing you to become a better person in the process. It’s good if the regret forces you to go back and make something right that went wrong.

Maybe it will cause you to go back and finish what you started.

It could cause you to apologize, ask forgiveness, or stop making unhealthy lifestyle choices that you became addicted to long ago.

If you can go back and finish what you started, that’s a huge blessing. Get started, and don’t waste time!

Sometimes it’s been too long; it’s too late, and the opportunity has passed. If positive change isn’t going to come from

your regret, you’re just beating yourself up. Is that helping you or harming you? If you beat yourself up for too long, you’re in danger of letting your mistakes define who you are.

“I messed up in my last relationship; I’m just bad at relationships,” “I failed in business; I guess I’m a terrible businessperson,” or “I’ve made such bad choices in life, and I guess that’s how I’ll always be.”

There comes the point when living in regret becomes unhealthy, and can lead us down the road of bitterness and resentment. The guilt and the shame that comes with regret can morph into depression and anger. If you allow yourself to feel that way for too long, you’ll start to believe that’s who you are, and there is no hope for change.

Living in bitterness causes

low self-confidence, and leaves you unable to have a healthy relationship. You won’t be able to see the good in others. You’ll only see the bad, and you might blame everyone for genuine or imagined grievances.

Another option is acceptance. Maybe it’s time to apologize for beating yourself up for so long. Forgive yourself for making the wrong decisions; stop being so hard on yourself. Just ‘cause you messed up in the past doesn’t mean that’s who you are. You’re only human, and your decisions yesterday don’t have to be your decisions today. Let it go, think about the future life you’d like to have, and make decisions that will lead you to that life. When you live like that, the darkness of the past will begin to recede, and the future will shine brighter and brighter.

Pomfret sets Annual Town Meeting for Thursday, May 19

POMFRET — The Pomfret Board of Selectmen has set the call of the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m. at Pomfret Community School. This is the meeting to ratify the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen’s budgets as approved by the Board of Finance. But there are other interesting questions on the call to consider as well.

Board of Finance has approved the use of assigned and unassigned funds to support a mill rate increase under .25 mills, which will ultimately be set by the board after the Annual Town Meeting votes on the budgets. Without the use of these funds the mill rate increase would be significantly higher.

to gage how Pomfret residents feel about growing and / or sale of cannabis in Pomfret. The P&Z Commission recently passed a six-month moratorium on the sale and processing of cannabis to give them time to get public opinion and decide how Pomfret should address the legalization of cannabis in the State.

2022-2023 budgets

The proposed 2022-2023 general government budget is \$3,160,260. This is \$181,258, or 6.08 percent, over the 2021-2022 budget. The proposed Board of Education budget is \$10,707,843, 3.3 percent or \$341,593 over the 2021-2022 budget. Together, the budgets total \$13,868,103, an increase of \$522,851, or 3.9 percent, over the current year’s spending. The

Non-binding questions on Cannabis

Other items to be voted on include the usual items of business regarding cemetery funds, highway funds, acceptance of sewer easements, and ordinances to appoint the town clerk and treasurer. There are also two non-binding questions on the growing and sale of cannabis in Town. Pomfret’s Planning and Zoning Commission recommended adding these questions

Get together and govern

Refreshments will be available, and your presence is encouraged. Our legislative body is the Annual Town Meeting made up of citizens of the town coming together to gather, discuss, and direct the affairs of the town for the coming year. Please mark your calendar and join your neighbors in governing your town.

Local Scout Troop hosting Family Night & flag retirement ceremony

PUTNAM — On Wednesday, May 25 at 7 p.m., Scout Troop 25 Putnam will be holding its Family Night Celebration and performing a flag retirement ceremony. Everyone is welcome to attend and observe.

To learn more about this event or the scouting program, please contact Corina Torrey, Scoutmaster, 860-245-1322 or email: BSATroop25Putnam@gmail.com.

Our Lady of LaSalette to hold Book and Bake Sale

BROOKLYN — Our Lady of LaSalette Church is holding a Book and Bake Sale Friday, May 20 from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m.-noon in the church basement, located on Route 6 near the intersection with Route 169.

The sale will feature an alphabetized fiction section including both hardcovers and paperbacks, along with lots of children’s books. A great opportunity for teachers to replenish their classroom bookshelves!

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SMYTHE

continued from page A1

“It’s an incredible feeling. I felt like for years, this was dead in the water,” Smythe said of the journey. “I had this idea, and I just couldn’t figure out how to proceed. I would think to myself, I just wanted to get it done but the last chapter seemed so far away for so many years. Now to see it and have a copy in my hands, it’s surreal. It’s a great feeling and I carry a copy of it with me everywhere.”

Smythe isn’t settling on completing just one novel. He has begun writing a science fiction novel and a prequel to “The Alpha of Purgatory.” Neither project has a set release date at this time. “The Alpha of Purgatory” is currently available on Amazon.

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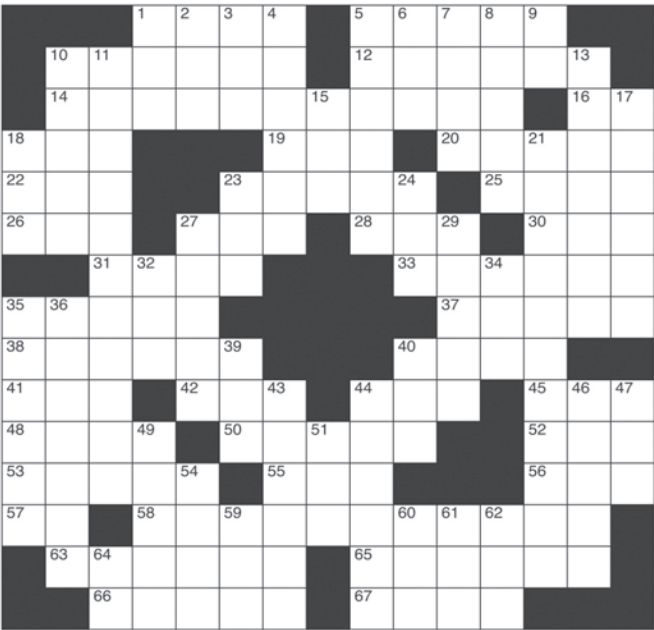
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PUTNAM
UNIFIED
BASKETBALL
TEAM OFF TO A
GREAT START

Photos Courtesy

The Putnam Unified Sports Team was established in February by students in the Putnam Middle School, high school and transition program to provide athletic and sporting opportunities. These Putnam student athletes began their season by practicing their basketball skills in the Putnam Middle School gymnasium. The hard work at practice was put to the test on April 6, when they had their first game with Killingly's Unified Sports which was fun for all! The team is off to a great start and is a resounding success thus far! These Putnam student athletes are experiencing sports teamwork and sportsmanship firsthand while developing their social and communication skills, all while having fun and being active! The Putnam Unified Sports Team Student Athletes were set to compete in their first-ever yard games event against Killingly on May 11 at Killingly High School.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Amounts of time
5. A ship's place at a wharf
10 Point a finger at
12 Large, burrowing rodent
14. Raises the stakes
16. Measure of illumination
18. Cast out
19. One who is staid
20. A word used for emphasis
22. Military missions
23. Wet with rain
25. Selling at specially reduced prices
26. Word element meaning ear
27. ___ student,
28. Blood relation
30. Make into leather
31. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
33. Containing salt
35. A seat
37. A type of fine pottery
38. You're caught red-__!
40. "Heat" director Michael
41. Expression of creative skill
42. Title of respect
44. Crony
45. Payroll experts
48. Actress Remini
50. Famed consumer advocate
52. Indigenous Thai person
53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
55. Cooking tool
56. Decorate a cake with frosting
57. The seventh note of a major scale
58. Transfer from private to state ownership
63. A set of five
65. Removes
66. Foolish persons
67. Lower parts of a wall

CLUES DOWN

1. Old EU money
2. Some put it on steak
3. Sign language
4. Sowed on the ground
5. Tags
6. Everyone has one
7. Arguments
8. N. African capital
9. Midgame (abbr.)
10. Change as needed
11. Functioning as a consonant
13. An island in the north Atlantic
15. Carpenter's tool
17. Small football player
18. Ghosts say it
21. Explain through logic
23. Having ten
24. Criticize
27. Arms of the sea
29. Belonging to a bottom layer
32. ___ Caesar, comedian
34. Licensed health care pro (abbr.)
35. Swiss cottage
36. Cleft lip
39. Loud, unpleasant noise
40. Disfigure
43. Kayakers traverse them
44. Authored
46. Small freshwater fishes
47. Macabre poet
49. Carthaginian statesman
51. Principle underlying the universe
54. Common Japanese surname
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Small constellation
61. Chap
62. Equal
64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)



VILLAGER ALMANAC
AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 2: Blue-winged Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Parula Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, American Redstart, Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Veery, Wood Thrush, Hummingbird, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, and Least Flycatcher. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home.

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USJ inducts new members,
honors seniors from Gamma
Sigma Epsilon, Chemistry
Honors Society

WEST HARTFORD — The USJ Chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon, the national Chemistry Honor Society, held an induction ceremony this week for three students on campus on May 4, 2022, and recognized the achievement of its five graduating seniors. Gamma Sigma Epsilon is an honor society in the field of Chemistry.

New members were inducted by Jerry Darling, USJ Professor of Physics and Chemistry. Darling had this to say about the event, “Our Tau Epsilon chapter of the Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chemistry Honor Society inducted three new members this week. These students have distinguished themselves by their outstanding academic achievement in chemistry. Membership in Gamma Sigma Epsilon is among the highest academic honors to be achieved in chemistry by undergraduate students.”

Gamma Sigma Epsilon Graduating Senior, Sam Majek of Brooklyn is a graduating double major in Chemistry and Biology who has been accepted into UConn’s Dental School.

The University of Saint Joseph is the premier private university in Connecticut for future in-demand professionals in health care and social services, education, digital media, and the sciences with its undergraduate and graduate degree programs designed for your goals! A USJ degree is a proven credential for undergraduates seeking a traditional New England college setting with exceptional NCAA Division III athletics and a strong sense of community. For graduate students ready to learn more and earn more, USJ offers online, hybrid, and on-ground masters and doctoral programs with innovative modular curricula that attract students from around the world.

Alex Chitwood presents at
Lasell University Connected
Learning Symposium

NEWTON, Mass. — Alex Chitwood, a Lasell University student from Dayville, presented at the institution’s annual Connected Learning Symposium.

Chitwood presented “Toxic Masculinity: A Societal Pandemic,” a summary of original interviews regarding men’s experiences toxic masculinity. The presentation included an emphasis on the longstanding effects of toxic masculinity on mental health, and shared ways to recognize those effects and cope with them. The presentation incorporated the NACE competency of equity and inclusion.

Since the inaugural event in 2002, the Connected Learning Symposium has, for the last 20 years, offered a community celebration of Lasell University’s intellectual and creative achievements. All student scholarship presented at Symposium aligns with National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) in-demand professional competencies.

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

Christina Ramsey named Westview Employee of the Month

DAYVILLE — Christina Ramsey, LPN, became the latest honoree at Westview Health Care Center upon receiving the April Employee of the Month award at the Dayville skilled nursing facility. Hired by Westview in January 2021, the professional skill she exhibits in her role is rooted in her desire to attend to the needs of others at all times. In some ways she feels like an extended family member for her patients and she infuses great devotion to that role. Whether it is providing customized nourishment, vital medication, or a simple, love-affirming hug, Christina's bond with her patients is devout.

In 2007, Ramsey graduated from Uxbridge High School in Uxbridge. Not long after that, she was working as a member of the kitchen staff in an assisted living facility. Her primary purpose in this position was to serve the meals: but it is the relationships that she took away which imprinted her vocational passion. Going from table to table and conversation to conversation, she witnessed how the nursing staff at her then employer also had those relationships—in addition to the added responsibilities of their care and more one-on-one time with each individual. She knew she wanted that. Following suit, she earned her CNA certificate, and during the six years performing that role she says she really fell in love with healthcare. This was one essential step up for her career growth, but her desire for even more patient accountability persisted. Striving to ascend higher, she enrolled at Assabet Valley Regional Technical School and spent an intensely studious year earning her degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 2014. Ramsey has especially enjoyed this position in her time at Westview Health Care Center and she looks forward to even more ways to evolve her professional responsibility.

Ramsey considers herself someone who wants to help others at any stage of life or tier of her career. Her choice to work in nursing care is affirmed every day that she works; finding it in the



Christina Ramsey

inspiration of the team that she works with at Westview and the tenderness of the patients for whom she cares. She loves seeing her colleagues work together; not only caring for patients, but putting smiles on their faces in the process. There is a special emphasis that she places on the word “team,” eschewing any individual claim to her success. In a setting such as Westview, she recognizes that the definition “team” reaches across all departments, all levels. Her respect for her coworkers is rooted in the belief that everyone comes together to make a major effort possible, and everyone brings a different aspect that others can count upon.

In her words, “I am grateful for being selected as Westview’s Employee of the Month, it’s a really good feeling. It makes me feel very appreciated for everything that I put in. I am so thankful to be working with such a great

team at Westview. Together, we are all better.”

Currently, Ramsey lives in Danielson following six recent years spent living and working in California. As a relatively new resident of Connecticut’s Quiet Corner since moving back to New England, she, her husband, her son Owen, and her daughter Riley share exploratory excitement as they discover new destinations, parks, and trails for hiking. In quieter moments, she loves to read, particularly enjoying the escapism that a good piece of written fiction can provide. To stimulate her own

creative output, she enjoys drawing and landscaping whenever possible.

When a staff member at Westview exhibits this level of compassion for helping people, it is noticed by all levels of the organization.

Westview Administrator David T. Panteleakos shares in celebrating Ramsey’s work ethic along with the rest of the facility by noting, “Christina brings a constant desire to help more patients in more ways each and every day that she is here at Westview. Christina is such a welcomed addition to our team of amazing nurses. Her commitment to working towards improving her own professional medical skills is mirrored in her commitment to improving the lives of our residents at Westview in any way possible. Congratulations to Christina on her well-deserved and well-earned distinction!”

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 14 years.

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ELLIS TECH STUDENTS GIVE SENIOR CENTER MOMS A TREAT IN HONOR OF MOTHER’S DAY!



Photo Courtesy

A special day at the Quinebaug Valley Senior Center in Brooklyn was had by over 30 ladies today. Students from Elle Salon at Harvard Ellis Technical High School in Danielson along with their teacher Mr. Zipoli gave free manicures to honor all the Moms. “Everyone really enjoyed having their nails done and other special treats that were provided. The students got the chance to interact with the seniors and the seniors with the students! It was a win, win said Kathy Fedor, organizer of the event. Elle Salon students at Ellis Tech also give haircuts and styling, chemical services, foils & highlighting, skin treatments, waxing and pedicures on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. – noon. Appointments may be made by calling: 860-412-7500, ext. 7602. Linda Lamoureux, Director of the Senior Center said, “This event was so successful and fun we are already planning it again for next year!”

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GOAL!!!
CHECK OUT THE
SPORTS ACTION!



The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) announced today that all public transit buses will be fare-free across Connecticut from April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. This includes all rides provided by the Northeastern Connecticut Transit District. Interstate bus services such as Greyhound and Peter Pan are also not included.

“With the recent rise in fuel prices and increased costs associated with owning and maintaining private vehicles, it is important to provide meaningful relief to the residents of our state,” stated CTDOT Commissioner Joseph Giulietti. “We are excited that people are returning to our services

again or are trying us out for the first time.”

Fare free buses were included in recent policy signed by Governor Lamont. Policy also includes a three-month waiver of .25 cents to the state's gasoline tax, and a sales-tax free week in mid-April on clothing and shoes under \$100.

Please go to nectd.org for ride schedules and details to enjoy your ride with NECTD. The Northeastern Connecticut Transit District is the public transportation provider for northeastern Connecticut, available for all residents and visitors to our region. We serve the towns of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Hampton, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson,

Eastford, Plainfield, Pomfret, Woodstock, and

Union. The District provides two types of service: deviated fixed route and dial-a-ride for elderly and disabled persons. The deviated fixed route service operates Monday - Sunday with various scheduled stops located throughout the service area. The elderly and disabled service, which provides door-to-door service, is also available seven days per week by reservation with NECTD.

For more information visit CTrides.com or call 1-877-CTrides (1-877-287-4331) or locally contact NECTD at 860-774-3902.



HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Centaurs' LaMontagne sets two records in seven days throwing the discus

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Two weeks, two records. That's been the story of Saturdays lately for Keenan LaMontagne, a senior on the Woodstock Academy boys' track and field team.

On May 7, at the Middletown Invitational, LaMontagne finished first in the discus competition with a school-record throw of 175 feet, 8 inches. On April 30, at the Dave Tetlow Relays in Ledyard, LaMontagne broke the discus record for the event – a mark that had been in place since 1989 – with a first-place throw of 156-1. Last year Lamontagne captured the Class MM state title in the discus with a throw of 149 feet, 4 inches.

The Centaurs' Jared Eaton also performed well at the Middletown Invitational; finishing fourth in the shot put with a personal-best throw of 45-feet.

On the girls' side of the Middletown Invitational, Bella Sorrentino finished fourth in the shot put competition. At the

Tetlow Relays the foursome of Linsey Arends, Julia Coyle, Leah Castle and Lauren Brule won the 4-by-1,600 meter relay, while the quartet of Sorrentino, Rebecca Nazer, Jill Edwards and Abby Morin finished second in the 4-by-100 meter hurdles relay.

Girls' Tennis

Woodstock Academy enjoyed a 3-0 week, improving to 6-1 on the season (4-0 in Division II play in the Eastern Connecticut Conference), defeating New London, 6-1, on Saturday, May 7, and Killingly twice – 7-0 on Thursday, May 5, and 6-1, on Tuesday, May 2.

In the win over New London, the Centaurs' fourth straight victory, the first singles battle between WA's Addy Smith and New London's Emily Fielding was the best of the day with Smith winning the pro-set match in a tiebreaker 10-9 (5).

In the May 5 win over Killingly Logan Reynolds filled in at fourth singles for the Centaurs and picked up her first

career high school singles victory 6-2, 6-1 over Killingly's Payton Cathell.

In the May 2 win over Killingly WA's Jackie Trudeau stepped in at No. 1 singles and set the tone with a 10-1 win (the team's played pro sets due to the threat of rain). Nicole Cicchetti picked up the lone point for Killingly (3-6), winning at No. 4 singles.

Boys' Tennis

Woodstock Academy improved to 6-3 overall and 3-2 in ECC Division II play with a pair of 7-0 wins over New London on Saturday, May 7, and Norwich Free Academy (NFA) on Tuesday, May 3.

In the win over New London the singles foursome of Evan Haskins, Gabriel Viau, Jai Abrams and Diego Rodriguez lost only one game between them in the pro-set matches. The Centaurs' No. 1 doubles team of Cormac Nielsen and Kyle Pazienza won their match 10-0. In the win over NFA Viau and Joe Zhou both posted 6-0, 6-0 shutout victories for WA.

Boys' Golf

Killingly High School extended its season-opening win streak to five matches, defeating Bacon Academy 161-173, on Thursday, May 5, at Chantclair Golf Club (par 35). Logan Gagnon (39) carded the low score of the day for Killingly (4-0 in ECC Division II action), followed by Ethan Lackner (40) and Cameron Seiffert and Matt Card (41).

Elsewhere:

Woodstock Academy swept at tri-match with Ellis Tech and Vinal Tech on Tuesday, May 3. The Centaurs finished with a score of 166, followed by the Golden Eagles (183) and the Hawks (217). Kyle Brennan paced WA (6-4) with a 1-over par 37, while Davis Simpson shot a 39. For Ellis Tech (9-2), Ayden Papuga and Jarrett Towne both fired a 42.

Girls' Golf

Turn To **NOTEBOOK** page **A7**



Woodstock Academy's Riley O'Brien winds up and readies himself to release a fast one toward Ledyard's batter.



Carter Morrisette of Woodstock Academy sprints toward home plate.

BASEBALL
continued from page A1

he's not — batting .500 (19-for-38) with 13 RBI, two doubles and two triples.

"I'm just trying to put the ball in play; just trying to get the bat on the ball, that's really all you can do," Davis said. "One thing that's helped me this year is we have a really good coaching staff. That helps me a lot because they'll tell you what you're doing wrong at the plate or what you need to fix in your swing. The advice I've been getting has really been paying off."

Woodstock Academy coach Brian Murphy said Davis' success is more a result of the hard work he puts in than it is because of anything he or his assistants may be telling him during hitting sessions in the cage or batting practice.

"First and foremost, Ethan's an athlete, and he's got a simple philosophy: see the ball, hit the ball," Murphy said. "He hits the ball where it's pitched; he doesn't try to do too much. He's got great hand-eye coordination and he's very good at breaking the game down to its simplest form."

In the win over Ledyard Davis got the Centaurs' offense going right away, leading off the bottom of the first inning with a double to left-center field.

With one out Jon Smith walked and Zach Roethlein then reached on a fielder's choice (on which Davis was cut down at third for the second out of the inning). Woodstock didn't squander the scoring opportunity, however, sophomore Eric Mathewson (single, double, three RBI) driving in both Smith and Roethlein with a sharp single to right-center field to put the Centaurs ahead, 2-0.

If Mathewson's name looks familiar it should; his great, great, great grandfather's cousin was Christy Mathewson, a pitcher for the New York Giants who was a member of the Major League Baseball (MLB) inaugural Hall of Fame induction class in 1936. Christy Mathewson, well-known in his own right, went into MLB's Hall of Fame with some pretty well-known players — Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner and Walter Johnson.

"I hope some of Christy Mathewson's genes got passed down to me through all the generations," Eric Mathewson said with a laugh when asked about the familial connection. "Maybe a little did. I pitch sometimes and I've done pretty well on the mound so far this year."

After Ledyard tied the game, 2-2, in the top of the second inning, Woodstock took the lead for good, 3-2, in the bottom



Zack Roethlein of Woodstock Academy swings at the incoming pitch.

of the frame. Brennan Blow got the run-scoring rally going with a leadoff infield single that was the quintessential hustle hit. The senior should have been out at first by two steps, but he sprinted all the way down the first base line and beat the throw by a half-step.

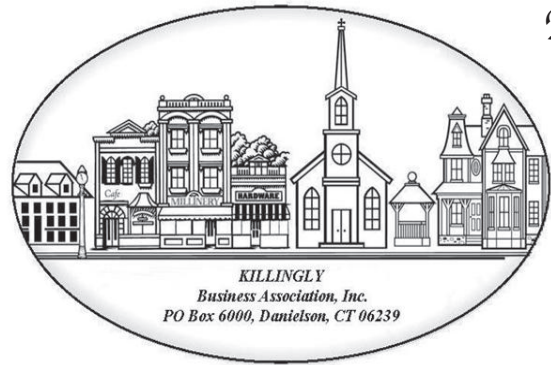
After getting on base Blow advanced to second on a wild pitch, to third on an infield single by Davis and scored on a fielder's choice off the bat of Hamilton Barnes (single, two RBI). The Centaurs extended their lead to 5-2 after three innings, thanks to RBI singles by Blow and Kaden Murphy, and broke the game open with a six-run fourth inning to push their lead to 11-2.

Key hits in the fourth inning were an RBI triple by Roethlein, an RBI dou-

ble by Mathewson, a two-RBI single by Carter Morrisette, a sacrifice fly by Davis and an RBI single by Barnes.

Ledyard scored a run in the top of the sixth inning to cut the Woodstock lead to 11-3, but the Centaurs scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the sixth — one on an RBI single by Smith, the other on a Ledyard error — and the game was halted due to the 10-run mercy rule after five innings.

"I feel good with where we're at right now," coach Murphy said, "but we've got a challenging part of the schedule coming up; we've got some divisional games ahead of us. This has been a good week, a positive week, and we just want to keep it going."



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NOTEBOOK

continued from page A6

Ella Musumeci carded a 49 and Jillian Marcotte was a stroke behind as Woodstock Academy defeated Suffield Academy, 225-252, on Thursday, May 5 at Airways Golf Club in Suffield. The Centaurs improved to 2-4 with the win.

Girls' Lacrosse
Killingly High School made school history when it defeated New London, 12-2 on Saturday, April 30. That victory allowed the team to clinch its first-ever ECC Division II title, and qualify for the state tournament. Makala Dube keyed the win with a four-goal performance while Emily Lamparelli added three goals and set up two others. Sage Lamparelli, Hailey Radtke, and Illy Malarkey all scored two goals.

Radtke scored six goals and Emily Lamparelli four on Wednesday, May 4, in Killingly's 18-3 win over Enfield. Sage Lamparelli added three goals while Dube also scored three goals and recorded four assists.

Killingly dropped to 8-5 overall with a pair of losses to end the week, 10-5 to Woodstock Academy on Thursday, May 5, and 16-4 to Norwich Free Academy on Saturday, May 7.

In Woodstock's win over

Killingly Shannon Gagnon scored four goals and assisted on three others. Goalie Sofia Murray was the defensive standout for the Centaurs (4-8) finishing with 14 saves. Dube scored three of Killingly's five goals in the game to push her season goal total to 40.

Baseball
Killingly finished the week strong, picking up victories over Windham (5-2, Saturday, May 7) and Stonington (10-0, Thursday, May 5), after starting the week with a 10-0 loss to Ledyard on Tuesday, May 3.

Dominik Kubera led 9-6 Killingly in its win over Windham with a seven-inning, complete-game performance, allowing one earned run on four hits while striking out 10. Ben Jax, Trevin Russ, and Nate Keefe (two hits each) paced the offense. Russ keyed the win over Stonington, driving in six runs in the game, three coming on a sixth-inning home run. Jay Grzysiewicz picked up the victory on the bump, striking out 11 while surrendering just three hits.

Softball
Woodstock Academy began and ended the week with wins – 11-10 over Griswold on Saturday, May 7, and 10-4 over St. Bernard on Monday, May 2. In between the Centaurs lost to Ledyard, 11-2, on Thursday,

May 5, and 8-4 to Stonington on Tuesday, May 3.

In the home win over Griswold, WA trailed, 9-1, as the game headed to the bottom of the fourth inning. The Centaurs (7-8, 4-2 ECC Division II) scored four in the bottom of the fourth, and four more in the sixth before winning it with two runs in the bottom of the seventh.

In the seventh, with two out, Griswold allowed Woodstock to load the bases. Emily Goodell then walked to tie the game and Ainsley Morse (2-for-2, 3 RBI) brought in the game-winner when she was hit by a pitch. Lexi Thompson and Jenna Bankowski each had two hits for the Centaurs.

In the win over visiting St. Bernard, Madison Martinez had a key base-loaded triple in the third inning that ignited a six-run rally for the Centaurs. Liz Morgis added a two-run single and winning pitcher Lexi Thompson (14 Ks) added an RBI single in the uprising. Sarah McArthur was 4-for-4 in the game for WA.

Elsewhere:

Killingly improved to 6-7 with an 8-6 road win over Bacon Academy on Thursday, May 6. Lyana Cuevas and Izzy Robbins led the offense – both went 2-for-4 with a triple and a home run. Grace Deslauriers picked up the complete-game win in the circle, striking out



The Killingly High girls' lacrosse team celebrates winning its first ever Eastern Connecticut Conference Division 3 title after defeating New London, 12-2, on Saturday, April 30.

nine. The game was tied, 6-6, after six innings. Back-to-back triples by Robbins and Cuevas gave Killingly a 7-6 lead and Addison King added a sacrifice fly to push the lead to 8-6.



Woodstock Academy's Keen LaMontagne, shown here competing in the shot put, set a school-record in the discus on May 7 at the Middletown Invitational.

Photos Courtesy

Thompson FY 2022-2023 Budget Referendum

How will Thompson's Proposed Budget affect you?

- Here are the facts:**
1. The proposed Budget Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023 are \$28,468,767
 2. The proposed New Mill Rate of 25.02 means your tax bill will increase by 0.28%
 - Average Homeowner will pay \$10.72 more annually
 - Average Vehicle owner will pay \$0.81 more annually
 3. Thompson is seeing growth and this growth affects the Grand List. Growth in the Grand List provides new tax income for the Town to operate and minimizes the tax impact on current residents. This growth is as a result of:
 - Higher motor vehicle values, primarily from new vehicles
 - The addition of new homes and home improvements
 - An increase in other new personal and business property in town

The above items have contributed to an increase of \$34,278,000 in the Grand List.

Budget Referendum/Vote
Monday, May 16, 2022 • 12:00 (noon) - 8:00 p.m.

Voting will be held at all regular polling stations.
The budget is posted on the Town website at www.thompsonct.org

Absentee Ballots: Available from the Town Clerk's Office. You may apply up to the opening of the polls at noon.

Voter Registration: Contact the Registrars of Voters at 860-923-9636 or the Town Clerk's Office at 860-923-9900

Questions? Contact the Town Clerk at 860-923-9900.

PHOTO REPRINTS AVAILABLE
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University of Saint Joseph
undergraduate awards
ceremony celebrates Sam
Majek's achievements

WEST HARTFORD — On Thursday, April 28, the University of Saint Joseph community gathered to celebrate the many students honored in the annual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony. USJ President Rhona Free was joined by students, their families, faculty, and staff to commemorate student achievements in areas including academics, leadership, service, scholarship, and scholar-athletes.

USJ Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D. presided over the event and said, "The undergraduate students honored this year excelled in the areas of academics, leadership, and service. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments both in and out of the classroom and we know they will go on to excel in their careers and serve their communities as leaders."

Sam Majek of Brooklyn earned the Biology Leadership Award, the American Institute of Chemists Foundation Award, and the Senior Scholar Athlete Award

The University of Saint Joseph is the premier private university in Connecticut for future in-demand professionals in health care and social services, education, digital media, and the sciences with its undergraduate and graduate degree programs designed for your goals! A USJ degree is a proven credential for undergraduates seeking a traditional New England college setting with exceptional NCAA Division III athletics and a strong sense of community. For graduate students ready to learn more and earn more, USJ offers online, hybrid, and on-ground masters and doctoral programs with innovative modular curricula that attract students from around the world.


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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Spring cleaning can improve your health

It's been a week mixed with sunshine and rain, which means that spending time inside organizing and cleaning (along with watching the Red Sox) has been top on our list. Spring cleaning, a chore that happens every year feels great when complete. Why is it that something so tedious and boring could be so good for us?

Did you know that cleaning actually supports your immune system? Cleaning is of huge benefit, especially to those with allergies. Getting rid of dust, pet dander, mildew and mold can trigger the immune system causing unnecessary illness. Those with cluttered homes tend to suffer the worst. To avoid indoor allergies, vacuum regularly, this to include your furniture.

Cleaning reduces stress. While cleaning, your brain is able to relax. This mindless activity can give you a chance to de-stress. Experts say that cleaning for as little as twenty minutes can reduce anxiety by up to 20 percent. It's a win/win. Sure, it's no day at the spa, but constructive relaxation is always good. Using products with scents said to induce relaxation such as lavender is also an expert tip.

Heart health can be improved by cleaning by way of exercise. Just a half an hour of vacuuming can burn up to 100 calories. It's a known fact that people who like to keep their homes clean tend to take more interest in their overall health and well being.

A tidy bedroom is said to help you sleep better. Individuals who make their beds are roughly 20 percent more likely to get a more restful night sleep. Seventy-five percent of people polled sleep better on clean sheets, in a room with less clutter.

When you are in a tidy area, your production increases. Less clutter, means less distraction which is said to clear up mental space. A study from 2011, from the Journal of Neuroscience, used MRI's to track the brain's response to cleanliness. More clutter, was found to significantly limit the brain's processing capability.

Checking off the cleaning to do list can make you feel more satisfied and can boost your mood. A clean, fresh house is said to naturally boost endorphins and boost energy levels which leads to a decrease in depression.

Cleaning and organization can have a domino effect in that it can lead to sprucing up other areas of your life. Interesting, was the one finding that stated when individuals were placed in a clean, well organized space they were more likely to choose healthier menu items.

In the wise words of William Morris, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to Brendan@villagernewspapers.com

Please include your place of residence and phone number for verification, not publication. Letters must be received by noon on Tuesdays.



www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A correction for the record

To the Editor:
Last week, you printed my letter concerning the Thompson special town meeting which resulted in the retention of our Planning & Zoning Commission by the smallest possible margin--a tie vote.
My letter emphasized the importance of facts in public discourse and decision-making. Since that time, I have been advised of an error in my letter which I want to correct for the record. I was either incorrectly informed or I misunderstood from a town employee

Not giving up on our kids

To the Editor:
I am writing in support of the School-Based Health Center (SBHC) being provided to the children attending Killingly High School. There is no additional cost to taxpayers for the SBHC, and plenty of parental involvement as required by state law. Right now, it can be scary for parents to send their kids to Killingly High School, since there are no resources for those needing mental health support. And for every family who decides against KHS, the school system loses \$16,000. Much more important, our kids' well-being is threatened without the SBHC.

Our beloved town is getting terrible press in local and national media. Families think twice about moving here. Businesses worry about attracting good employees, and choose

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Our beloved town is getting terrible press in local and national media. Families think twice about moving here. Businesses worry about attracting good employees, and choose

Minority party control threatens our democracy

To the Editor:
Let me ignore, for the time being, Ed DeLuca's most recent screeds that were full of lies, innuendo, false equivalencies, insults and distractions. Trying to equivocate President Biden's "lies" to the tens of thousands of Trump's that continue to this day is dishonest in the extreme. The stream of childish insults reveals the hatefulness and lack of integrity of the author.

We are in a period of history where a radical minority is intent on taking back the country to a time of white, male, so-called Christian dominance that subordinates women, real Christians, blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Muslims, gays, Jews, immigrants, etc. Under their rule, women aren't smart enough to control their own bodies. In spite of the fact that poll after poll shows that a large majority of Americans support Roe v. Wade, these radicals want to force your 13-year-old daughter or granddaughter to bear her rapist's offspring regardless of the psychological or physical harm.

Due to the slave era US Constitution that grants over-representation in the US Senate and Electoral College to small states, Republicans thwart the wishes of the majority of US citizens time after time and elect presidents with a minority of the vote, e.g. G.W. Bush and Trump. And when they controlled the Senate with a minority of the vote, Republicans blew up the sacrosanct filibuster to confirm extreme Supreme Court justices who are out of step with America. It's inconsistent with democracy that a President

Day Kimball - staying strong for our community

To the Editor:
Last week, the leadership teams of Day Kimball Healthcare and Covenant Health took an important next step in our affiliation process by filing formal Certificate of Need documents with the State of Connecticut. Over the next several months, this proposal will undergo review by a number of regulatory agencies to assure that this partnership is beneficial for our community.

We are excited and optimistic for the future as this process progresses. Like Day Kimball, Covenant Health shares a deep commitment to serving people of all faiths, backgrounds and incomes. In fact, our affiliation with Covenant will serve to deepen our commitment to serving our community and all patients. Our shared values and commitment to serving the community and all patients will provide a strong foundation for our future. Navigating the future, we look forward to the continued strong local input and guidance of the Day Kimball Healthcare community-led

that there were over 225 signatories to the petition that called for the town meeting.

To correct that, the actual petition that resulted in this meeting needed only 20 voter signatures; 30 signatures were on that petition.

I apologize for my error.
Respectfully,

CLAUDIA ALLEN THOMPSON

a different location. This critical need spirals throughout our whole town.

The SBHC is too important to give up on! Our kids, Killingly's future, have told us that they need this help. The SBC will make Killingly a stronger and better community for residents and businesses. Please write the Board of Education members and ask that SBHC discussion and possible action be added to the May 11 meeting agenda. Join our rally in support of the SBHC before that meeting. Tell the Board why the SBHC matters to you and your family. We can do this! Thank you.

ROBIN LOFQUIST DANIELSON

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Trump, who couldn't win a majority of the vote, appointed one-third of the justices to the Supreme Court.

Hopefully, Americans will wake up to the fact that this radical, right-wing minority of so-called "Christians" is poised to assert government control over their basic rights of privacy to control their own reproduction. Republicans are pandering to their anti-choice, white supremacist, evangelical, anti-democratic base that they have eagerly embraced In pursuit of power. As the Supreme Court grants states the right to criminalize abortion, we cannot give any credibility to the GOP, an authoritarian movement built on lies that doesn't represent the majority of Americans. We couldn't count on Republican Senators Murkowski and Collins who merely paid lip service to their constituents in pledging to preserve abortion rights. Nor could we trust Republican Supreme Court nominees Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Coney Barrett when they professed their allegiance to the principle of stare decisis

Every candidate this year, right down to the local level, has to assure me that they will protect our rights from those that would impose the will of an extreme minority on the rest of us. Elect a GOP governor and legislature and take the chance that Texas-like criminalization of women's reproductive rights come here? The choice is up to voters.

BILLY G. TAYLOR KILLINGLY

Seeing the South through fresh eyes

“ It ain't food if it ain't fried,” read the sign in a restaurant in Holly Springs, Miss. My brother and I were visiting the town to attend a family wedding. As we tucked into our plates, mounded with delicious bar-b-que brisket and pulled pork, I thought of the preconceptions I carry about the South. I have spent more time in France than below the Mason-Dixon Line. I wanted to look around with fresh eyes.

The drive from Arkansas, where my brother lives, to Mississippi was four hours of the most high speed truck traffic I have ever encountered. All the goods of America must move along I-40, and every trucker is hellbent to get to his destination. Huge double trailers careened along six lanes, moving in and out, passing and pulling back at a mind-boggling pace. The trucks are clean, new,



NANCY WEISS

aerodynamic and so powerful they could haul an apartment building. They are piloted by men with nerves of steel, the competence of airplane captains and impressive kidneys. One mistake and the entire caravan would explode in a tangled mess of stalled traffic and worse.

Along the roadside, littered with the treads of blown tires, are endless miles of green space. Much of the area between Hot Springs, Ark., where our journey began, and Mississippi is soggy, boggy land given over to the cultivation of rice. On a spring morning, the bright green rice shoots stretched for hundreds of miles, interrupted only by streams and the glimpse of a lonely farmhouse. The vast fields were still except for several inches of standing water moving slightly in the wind. Machines have replaced the human labor once pivotal to the crop.

Beyond the booming cities, much of the area is as empty as the rice fields. In Mississippi, we stopped at the restaurant with the sign that inextricably linked fried and food together. I thought the region would be dotted with political signs, but there were fewer than on backroads in our area. Some billboards promised the end of the world or redemption, but many exhibited a sense of humor. The restaurant made a joke of its own cuisine while turning out delicious food.

At the glorious wedding my brother and I attended of his grandson, my grand-nephew, we were treated graciously. While looking for the powder room, I opened a door, behind which was a massive gun safe. I slipped away quickly, but acknowledged that at least the firearms were safe from roaming visitors like me. The bride's father is a hunter and fisherman. The groom's mother told me that her daughter-in-law would call her Miss Marlene, her first name, as a sign of respect, often practiced in the South. I suppose addressing women in general as Ma'am, is similar. I imagine the roots of such courtesy are tangled, but it does make casual conversation and greetings seem more civil.

My impressions of the South were formed by Southern writers. I named a cat after Flannery O'Conner and read Eudora Welty, Wendell Berry, Bobbi Ann Mason, Ann Patchett, Harper Lee and Truman Capote among others. African-American writers generally moved elsewhere and wrote about what they left behind, giving me another perspective. Great writ-

Five college planning mistakes to avoid



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

LEISL L.
CORDING

As a parent, you know that time with your kids can go by in the blink of an eye. So whether you are preparing to send your child to Kindergarten or are dealing with teenagers, it's never too early (or too late) to start planning for their higher education. Not sure where to start? Here are some of the most common financial mistakes parents make when it comes to college planning.

Mistake #1: Procrastinating
Raising children is no easy task. You have so much to think about as they're growing up that college might not always be at the forefront of your mind. But the reality is, the earlier you get started on planning how to fund your child's education, the better off you (and they) will be when the time comes.

With the impact of compounding interest, even just a couple of years can make a difference in your savings. Take the first step by using the College Savings Plan calculator in the Resources section of our Web site at [whzwealth.com](http://www.whzwealth.com). It will help you to calculate the potential future cost and factor in how many years you have left to save so you'll know how much money

you need to save each month.

Mistake #2: Not researching account types
While it's good to have options when it comes to saving for your child's education, choosing the right savings account can be overwhelming. Take the time to research the types of accounts that can be used to cover educational expenses. Options could include:

- 529 plans
- Coverdell ESAs
- Roth IRAs
- UTMAs and UGMAs
- Joint and individual accounts
- Trusts

Consider how they differ and what aspects are most valuable to you. You'll also want to consider factors such as your risk tolerance and how much time you have left to save.

Mistake #3: Buying investments with high annual fees
You probably don't want to have to think about additional fees when you're trying to save for a huge expense such as college. However, excessive fees can make it much more difficult to reach your college planning goals. When choosing an investment vehicle or savings account for college planning, review any potential fees that could negate or diminish earnings.

Mistake #4: Relying on your retirement funds to pay for college
Depleting your retirement savings

in order to send your child to school is a common mistake that parents make. It's important to think ahead, because restarting your retirement savings in your 40s and 50s is going to make it difficult to actually retire when you want to. Instead of turning to your 401(k) or other retirement savings, look into student loans, scholarships, 529 plans and other college savings accounts.

Mistake #5: Failing to consider student loans
Taking out student loans does not mean that you don't make enough money. College is getting increasingly expensive every year, and there's no shame in taking out a loan for a little help. In fact, when it comes to federal student loans there are about 42.9 million borrowers each year.¹ Research different federal student loan programs and understand the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans to determine if taking out a loan would work for your situation.

Even if you don't plan on borrowing money, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov before sending your child off to school. It's a quick and easy way to potentially receive aid, and you don't have to take it even if it's offered. Additionally, research loan types, as federal loans may offer lower-interest rates than private lenders - but this may not always be the case.

Still stressed out by the thought of starting your college planning journey? Use these tips as a jumping off point and then get in touch to create a college savings strategy as well as a comprehensive financial strategy that will help you to achieve all the goals you have for your children and for yourself. Learn more about how we do this for our clients using our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process on our Web site at www.whzwealth.com, and contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com

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¹ <https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/portfolio>



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

Keep garden-fresh tomatoes close at hand this season. Grow one or more in containers on your patio, balcony, or front steps.

Any tomato can be grown in a pot, but determinate varieties are smaller and more compact, so they are a bit easier to manage in a container. They produce fruit in a relatively short period of time, making them great choices for preserving as well as using fresh. Look for a D or determinate on the plant tag, seed packet or in the catalog description.

Indeterminate tomatoes, often identified with an I, are large, sprawling plants. These are usually staked or grown in wire cages to save space, reduce pest problems and make harvesting easier. They continue to grow, flower, and produce fruit until the frost kills the plant. Indeterminate tomatoes usually produce more tomatoes, but the harvest is later in the season than determinate varieties. New containers with built-in trellises or creative gardeners crafting their own makes growing indeterminate tomatoes in pots an easier possibility.

Grow one tomato per con-

tainer for maximum productivity. Use a 5-gallon or bigger container for large varieties and at least a two to three gallon or similar size pot for smaller varieties. Some research suggests growing tomatoes in a pot that is at least 14 inches but preferably 20 inches wide will yield greater results. Adding flowers and herbs to the container boosts the beauty and diversity of your container garden but will reduce the number of tomatoes produced.

Growing tomatoes in containers also allows you to extend the season. Start earlier by moving the planter inside when the weather is harsh and back outside when the weather is warm and sunny. As the weather turns cold at the end of the growing season, cover the planter or move it into a frost-free location as needed. Some gardeners even move a pot or two inside to finish off the tomato season.

Grow tomatoes in a container with drainage holes or a self-watering pot that has a reservoir to hold water and extend the time between watering. Further reduce the need to water by adding an organic, sustainable soil amendment like Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) to the potting mix. Made from wool waste, this product reduces watering by up to 25 percent. Adding a low nitrogen, slow-re-

lease fertilizer at planting will eliminate the need to fertilize weekly. Just make a second application, if needed, midseason.

Plant tall tomato transplants a few inches deeper than they were growing in their container. Remove the lowest leaves that would otherwise be buried in the soil. Cover with soil and water. This is also a good time to install any stakes, trellises, or cages to support taller varieties.

Initially, check tomatoes growing in containers every day and water often enough to keep the developing root system moist. Reduce watering frequency as plants become established. Feel the top few inches of soil and water the established plants thoroughly whenever this is dry. Mulch the soil with evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic mulch to keep the soil consistently moist and suppress weeds. Consistent soil moisture encourages more flowering and fruiting, while reducing the risk of blossom end rot, cracking, and misshapen fruit.

Harvest tomatoes when fully colored or leave them on the plant a few more days for an even sweeter flavor. You'll enjoy the convenience of harvesting fresh tomatoes right outside your door for use in salads, sauces, and other favor-



Courtesy — All-America Selections

Terenzo is a productive red cherry determinate tumbler tomato excellent for hanging baskets.

ite recipes.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the

nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where has all the common sense gone?

To the Editor:

Just wondering where good common sense has gone. Seems that the country and world in general is upside down. Reproductive rights in the United States could match up with Iran if the SCOTUS leaked opinion is true. American women will have all the rights to their body as the Iranian government allows the women in their country. United States will become one of very few that will mandate what women can do or cannot do to their own body and reproductive rights, no rape or incest provision.

Did you know that after Roe v. Wade became the law of the land, the crime rate in most states went down. Some as much as 30 percent for the past many decades. No more women having to have unwanted children. It is a fact that you can Google and be amazed. Practically speaking, this affects mostly poor and women of color, without financial means to go to a state with abortion rights, or they will be forced to either have a back alley abortion or carry the unborn to term. What will those states, not allowing choice,

what will they do to help those children and mothers after the child is born? If the mother is young and poor, this will just add to the problems that will come about. Will this doom both mother and child? What does this mean to states and federal government budgets who will help pay in dealing with the problems that will eventually occur? Wait 10-15 years to find out? Will this lead to more women and young children dying? Will this lead to more young children needing help from strained state budgets? Will the answer be to build more prisons, America already puts more its' citizens in jail than most other countries.

Is this just the beginning of the culture wars that so many republicans are in favor of? What comes next, banning same sex marriages, denying them the same rights as others, denying them the same privileges as other Americans, denying them affordable Health Care, Housing and benefits that goes with heterosexual marriage allows? What books do you get to and do you work off an approved list, who approves the list

and more.? Do we go back to the old laws on women's right to vote (no vote) or a black mans' vote counts only as three fifths of a vote? Only people of wealth, white male republicans allowed to vote by mail? Seems that some Republicans cannot or do not want to come to the reality that the country is multi-cultured, multi-racial and multi-ethnic, an all inclusive America, which America has already become or trying to become. You cannot nor should we go to the 1950's of a white male dominated country.

Second thought is, what is going on with the Killingly Board of Ed? What is your goal about mental health? Ignoring it and hoping it goes away. Who are you exactly fighting for, the parents that show and want to try to get mental health help for their children or those parents who stay home and do not say anything in this paper, on the radio or anywhere else? What are you scared of? Helping children is what you are supposed to be doing. If there are as many children expressing need for help, then find them help, even if it is free. Find solutions do not

create roadblocks. Life for all people is tough at the moment, remember what it was like being a teenager. These are very difficult times we all live in, try to provide help, because they are under your control for 8 hours a day. Doing nothing means nothing gets done. Provide a lifeline to any student thinking about suicide or needs help with other mental issue is time well spent. Tring to find solutions is the right idea in this mans' opinion. Vinny, this one's for you, my friend.

To the gentleman in Thompson who continues to plague this paper with his negative and personal insults by name calling of mostly Democrats, please give it a rest; it is old, tiring and mostly boring. Give up trying to be like the man you adore. Biden may lie and stretch the truth, but he has never, ever tried to overthrow the government with his lies. Trump knows he lost and refuses to admit it.

DAVID CASSETTARI
EAST KILLINGLY

THURLOW

continued from page A8

ition for various reasons. Additionally, the global pandemic has highlighted our need to be part of a larger system. We have had extensive conversations with the leadership of Covenant Health and believe this affiliation will provide stability and the resources Day Kimball needs to continue to balance the many health care needs of our area residents.

Day Kimball is proud to be a top-ranked hospital and health system, and we are very proud to bring these recogni-

tions to our partnership with Covenant Health. Day Kimball has achieved the highest five-star quality rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Nationally, DKH ranks in the top 13 percent (one of just over 400) of eligible hospitals that have earned this distinction. Further, over the last two years, DKH has consistently earned an "A" grade from the Leapfrog Group's Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing DKH's achievements protecting patients from errors, injuries, accidents, and infections.

We are committed to keeping the community informed throughout the

affiliation process. We encourage those with additional questions to contact Kyle Kramer, DKH Chief Executive Officer, at 860-928-6541, extension 2218, or kkramer@daykimball.org.

JANICE THURLOW
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE

PETER DEARY
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE

WEISS

continued from page A8

ers can take us anywhere, but Southern writers draw me in with a sense of smalltown life, embracing eccentric people and remembering the past that aligns with my New England sensibilities.

Would I live in the South? Probably not, but there is no denying the energy of the commerce, the people and the land that is barreling along through the vastness like a six-lane interstate highway.

Northeast CT Community Orchestra announces 10th Anniversary Concert

BY JANE ANDERSON VERCELLI
NCCO PRESIDENT

ASHFORD — The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra will present our 10th Anniversary Concert on Friday, May 20 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 22 at 2 p.m. in the handicapped-accessible auditorium of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Route 44 in Ashford.

The church, which has ample parking, is located between the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and the Ashford Dairy Bar. The concert is free of charge. Donations are welcome. Masks are required.

Under the baton of the dynamic Dylan Lomangino, the orchestra will play selections from a decade of our favorite music by composers from Scott Joplin and George Gershwin to Led Zeppelin.

Our 10th Anniversary program includes a Ukrainian piece in tribute to our founding conductor, Yaroslav Tereshchenko, and his family, including his sister, pianist Yulia Federov who has performed in the past with our orchestra.

When I asked Tereshchenko which Ukrainian song we should play to honor Ukraine, he said that we should perform any piece by Ukrainian composer Dmitri Stepanovich Bortniansky (1752-1825) because his compositions are like musical prayers. We have chosen a contemplative piece titled “Hymn.”

Three generations of cellists perform Vivaldi’s “Concerto”

Cellists Sara Harkness of Woodstock, Jennifer Owen of Ashford and Ian Hoffman of Pomfret will be the soloists in a performance of Antonio Vivaldi’s “Concerto for two Cellos in G minor.”

The first movement will be played by Hoffman and Owen. The second and third movements will be played by Harkness and Owen.

The three cellists represent three generations, but they have in common that this will be the first time any of them has played the Vivaldi Double Concerto.

“Playing the cello, and being part of a larger ensemble of music-making, expresses a core aspect of my being. I’m grateful for the opportunity to experience this with our own local chamber orchestra,” said Dr. Harkness, who is director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Health and Human Development and professor of human

development and pediatrics at the University of Connecticut.

After playing with orchestras in other parts of the country, Jennifer Owen said she was happy to find our orchestra.

“Because it is a community orchestra with people who play for fun, I have had the great opportunity to play both violin and cello at different concerts. This coming concert, I will be performing Vivaldi’s Double Cello Concerto. This is the first time I have been able to perform such a work and I am blessed to perform it with such great musicians,” Owen said.

Ian Hoffman of Pomfret is playing first cello in the first movement of the Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto. A senior at Woodstock Academy, Hoffman is NCCO’s 2022 High School Soloist. He first played with the orchestra in our 2019 Christmas Concert. He started playing cello eight years ago following in the footsteps of his older brother who plays violin. His younger siblings play ukulele and piano.

“Playing cello is fun, and it’s a talent I can use to bring joy to other people and to make connections with other people,” Hoffman said.

After graduation, Hoffman plans to serve a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints before enrolling at Southern Virginia University.

This is the second year of NCCO’s new “tradition” of showcasing high school soloists in our concerts. In 2021 our first high school soloist was Adrienne Owen, a violist with NCCO since 2018. At our short July 2021 concert, which was our first live concert since 2019, she performed J.S. Bach’s Piano Concerto Op. 7, No. 5 in Eb.

In early 2012, Ukrainian virtuoso violinist Yaroslav Tereshchenko, who was living in Mansfield at the time, founded the orchestra, along with two of his adult students, the late James Bump and me. Soon, string players of all ages were joining from towns throughout northeast Connecticut.

In 2014, Tereshchenko invited Lomangino, a violist, to become our assistant conductor. Lomangino is a University of Connecticut alumnus and earned his graduate degree in music education at the University

of Bridgeport. He is currently the elementary strings teacher at Riverside Magnet School in East Hartford.

After Tereshchenko moved away at the end of 2016, Lomangino took over as both conductor and music director for 2017.

Our assistant conductor is Ellen Browne of Pomfret School, Pomfret, who is proficient at both conducting and playing violin, viola and cello. Browne holds a B.A. in Music from Boston University and a Master’s degree in Math Education. She is also a National Instructor for Texas Instruments. She has been teaching for 42 years, she taught music for 25 years, and she is currently teaching math which she started in 2003, and engineering which she started in 2015. She also teaches teachers how to teach high school engineering at the University of Texas in Austin.

During our first year of 2012, we rehearsed and performed two musical programs, one in early summer and one in the winter. Since then, we have continued that pattern except for the hiatus during the Covid 19 pandemic quarantine when we put our rehearsals on hold starting in March 2020.

In 2021, we were not sure whether we would be able to play a live concert for the Christmas season with the possibility of a Covid surge in the winter months. So, in June 2021 during a heat wave we videotaped “A Leroy Anderson Christmas” at the Finnish Hall in Canterbury to be broadcast the following December on WINY Radio and You Tube.

We performed our first live concert since 2019 with a short program in July 2021. All musicians were required to be fully vaccinated. Masks were required for both musicians and audience members.

In November 2021 we presented a concert titled “Bach and Blue” featuring guest violinists Michael Winer and Selah Kwak joining the orchestra for Bach’s Double Violin Concerto in D Minor.

During the pandemic, the Connecticut State Legislature designated monies for community - based organizations through the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development and through

the Connecticut Office of the Arts.

I am gratified that our string orchestra was the recipient of a Connecticut Humanities grant for \$5,500. This will allow us to continue to present live concerts in northeast Connecticut at no charge to our audiences. We want to publicly thank those responsible for this grant.

What’s it like to play a string instrument in a community orchestra?

Mark Gadarowski of North Windham, who plays both violin and guitar, said: “Everyone who participates brings a little more beauty to the world. As the saying goes, ‘The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.’”

Melissa Joyal of Pomfret, the orchestra’s vice president and music librarian, said she returned to playing violin after a hiatus of 45 years.

“I started by taking a fiddle class. Learning to play jigs, reels and other dance tunes was a challenge, as I’d only ever played in high school orchestra. Then I discovered the Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra in its inaugural year in 2012. I joined for the next semester, and with this group I learned to truly play well with others. It is in an orchestra where a musician learns to listen. While with fiddling the notes are only a suggestion, in an orchestra you learn the value of not only the notes but also the rests. In order to make beautiful music, we need to play together well. I’m always learning something whether it’s counting a measure properly or my limitations playing up on the finger board trying to reach high G. Being part of NCCO has brought much joy and meaning to my life.”

Eileen Geriak of Ashford said she was looking for a chance to play her violin with others and to grow as a musician.

“I was quite amazed, frankly, when I found out that a string orchestra held practices in my little town of Ashford. I found a wonderfully friendly group of people who share my love for making music and who are all about encouraging and helping one another in that endeavor,” Geriak said.

Anyone who would like to play music with us is welcome to attend rehearsals on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. in Ashford. Questions? Message me at janevercelli@gmail.com.

Sam Majek of Brooklyn among University of Saint Joseph Honors graduates

WEST HARTFORD — Last week the University of Saint Joseph held a Senior Medals Ceremony for 37 students who have completed the Honors Program and so will be graduating “in honors” this spring from the University. Over the four years, these students have completed at least 18 credits in the Honors Program, including independent study and service-learning courses. They have also presented their work at conferences, participated in Mercy serve opportunities, received extra funds for research opportunities, and maintained at least a 3.25 GPA-though this year’s class had an average GPA of over 3.8! The medals they received are to be worn during USJ’s graduation ceremony, signifying their achievement.

Following opening remarks at the event from the Honors Program Director, Professor of Religious Studies Benjamin Peters, and Provost Michelle

Kalis, two students made presentations. Jessenia Sterling presented “The Effect of the University’s Engagement on Hispanic Students’ Graduation Rate” and Jacob Wyse shared “The Importance of Pre-Participation Screening of Young Athletes for Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention.”

Professor Peters shared his thoughts about this year’s graduating Honors students. “This is a really great group of students who truly embody our Catholic and Mercy tradition here at USJ. Their level of scholarship and academic achievement-evidenced in their post-graduation plans-is impressive. Many of our graduates are also campus leaders and student-athletes.”

The culmination of the four years of honors study at the University includes students from diverse academic areas-accounting, chemistry, English, education, nursing, and social work, to

name a few.

Sam Majek of Brooklyn received an honor medal.

The University of Saint Joseph is the premier private university in Connecticut for future in-demand professionals in health care and social services, education, digital media, and the sciences with its undergraduate and graduate degree programs designed for your goals! A USJ degree is a proven credential for undergraduates seeking a traditional New England college setting with exceptional NCAA Division III athletics and a strong sense of community. For graduate students ready to learn more and earn more, USJ offers online, hybrid, and on-ground masters and doctoral programs with innovative modular curricula that attract students from around the world.

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OBITUARIES

Jeannette Corriveau, 94

N. Grosvenordale – Jeannette (Montpelier) Corriveau, 94, formerly of Fabyan Rd., died Monday evening, May 2, 2022, at Day Kimball Hospital. She was the wife of the late George W. Corriveau. Born in Thompson, she was the daughter of the late Ernest and Aurore (Desorey) Montpelier, Sr.

On October 12, 1946, in West Thompson she was united in marriage to George W. Corriveau who predeceased her on February 4, 1980.

Mrs. Corriveau worked for many years as a spinner in the textile field retiring from the former Stevens Linen in Dudley, MA.

Mrs. Corriveau enjoyed anything that has to do with nature. She was a member of St. Stephen Church in Quinebaug and the former Putnam Coin Club.



Jeanette is survived by her four sons, George A. Corriveau of PA, Alfred Corriveau of Willimantic, Roger Corriveau, and Richard Corriveau both of N. Grosvenordale; her brother, Raymond Montpelier of Dayville; and her many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son, Paul Corriveau; her two daughters, Doris Corriveau and Pauline Rock; and her sister, Yvonne Remillard.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Jeanette's family from 11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2022, in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255. Followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 1:00p.m. in St. Stephen Church, 130 Old Turnpike Rd., Quinebaug, CT 06262. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Lorraine J. Salvas, 85

Lorraine J. Salvas, 85, formerly of Five Mile River Road, died on Thursday, May 5, 2022, in Putnam, Connecticut. She was the loving wife of the late Warren G. Salvas for 58 years. Born in Putnam, CT, she was the daughter of the late Philip L. and Jeannette (Morin) Ducharme.

Lorraine was a devoted and loyal wife, mother, sister and friend. Her children were the center of her world. She had a strong passion and love for New England's quintessential and quaint nautical charm. She especially loved light-houses, which like mothers, are symbols of resilience, beacons of light, providing guidance, security and refuge. She enjoyed reading Yankee Magazine, watching birds at her birdfeeder in anticipation of spotting cardinals, and listening to her vast library of Barbara Streisand CDs, as well as one of her favorite songs, "Forever Young", by Rod Stewart.

She was a passionate and talented multidisciplinary creative at heart. She seamlessly navigated between the mediums of cooking, ceramics, painting, knitting, embroidery, tailoring, and complex quilts she sewed meticulously by hand.



Lorraine is survived by her children, Lois A. Salvas and her wife Ree, of Geelong, AU, Jocelyn M. O'Rourke and her husband Mark, of Wethersfield, CT, Wendy B. Roberts and husband Bill, of Beverly, MA, Warren B. Salvas and his wife Lisa, of Putnam, CT, and Jay P. Salvas of Brooklyn, NY; her grandchildren, Spencer, Stephen, Kelly, Kimberly, and Rebecca; her great grandchildren, Grace Kelly, Layton, Kaius, and Magnolia; and her sister, Diane R. Herlihy of Putnam, CT. She was predeceased by her infant son, Warren J. Salvas; her granddaughter Erika Lyn Salvas; her sister, Dorothy P. Jarvis; and her brother, Lucien E. Ducharme.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Lorraine's family on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. for a Funeral Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St. Putnam, CT. Burial will be private. A celebration of Lorraine's life will take place this summer at the Nubble Lighthouse in York, Maine.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Lorraine's memory to the preservation of Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, ME at 800.625.0321 or The National Audubon Society at 844.428.3826. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory. For memorial guestbook, visit www.GilmanAndValade.com



Quiet Corner Garden Club holds annual Plant Sale

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — The Quiet Corner Garden Club her its annual plant sale on Mother's Day weekend, officially welcoming spring to the region with a wide selection of plants from decorative to herbs and produce to fit the needs and styles of any kind of gardener.

The sale was held on May 7 at the Woodstock Fairgrounds, where lines of tables with plants of all shapes, sizes, and colors filled the ground's Agriculture Building, a fitting location for an event that helps celebrates the regions roots. Linda Kaplan, President of the Quiet Corner Garden Club, said the event helps the non-profit organization fund scholarships that allow them to support the next generation of gardeners in the local community.

"This year, we expanded our plant sale to include a hundred more perennials than we had last year. We doubled our herb and vegetable order this year for everybody and expanded our gift shop. We had a raffle this year

which we didn't have last year," Kaplan said. "The scholarships this event helps fund support high school and college students who are studying something to do with plant research, agriculture, horticulture, ecology, forestry, floriculture, anything involving plants. We've had scholarship winners who went into urban gardening and last year one of our scholarship winners is an artist who combined her artistry and ecology to make signs in parks explaining the wildlife. Anything that has to do with nature, plant life, and farming, if they're studying that in high school or college, we support that through the scholarship and we keep it in the Quiet Corner."

The money also helps support scholarships for Garden Club members seeking to become Master gardeners. The money also supports civic and educational programs the Club sponsors year-round. One of the more important underlying goals of the sale however is creating awareness of the Club and helping to encourage a passion for

growing especially at a time where the art of producing food and supporting plant life is even more essential due to the changing world around us.

"We're luckily living in an area where we have a lot of natural resources. We're really not at the mercy of major weather events that are destroying communities throughout the United States. However, with the climate change that's happening the ecology is changing and what's happening in the west is lakes and rivers are drying up and can't provide as much water to the states that provide the produce that comes to the east coast," said Kaplan.

"We're lucky that in this area we have farms and people growing food supplies and clean water. We need to support our farming community and we need to keep it here and teach people about gardening. The food supplies will become less and less and the people that know how to grow and prepare their own food will be very important."

The Quiet Corner Garden Club posts their activities and events on their Facebook page and other social media accounts. Interested gardeners can also learn more about the Club's programs and events by visiting 222.quietcorner-gardenclub.com.



Photo Courtesy

Plants are lined up for the Quiet Corner Garden Club's annual plant sale over Mother's Day weekend.

PAUL STANTON SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Paul R. Stanton, 97, formerly of Woodstock, passed away, March 6, 2022.

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 21, 2022 at 2:00 pm at the First Congregational of Woodstock, 543 CT-169, Woodstock, CT.

Arrangements are with Smith & Walker Funeral Home in Putnam, Smithandwalkerfh.com

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Janet and Lawrence Phaneuf's Graveside service will be Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 11:00AM at St. Mary Cemetery Putnam, CT. Janet died in 2020 and Lawrence died in 2006. A celebration of life will follow.

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Woodstock Recreation announces upcoming events



Photo Courtesy

The Little Big Band.

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Recreation is excited to announce the following events.

40TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY 10K

Monday, May 30 at 9 a.m. After a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19, Woodstock Recreation is bringing back the annual 10K race. The 2022 theme is “on the road again,” to cel-

ebate the return of a beloved community event. Race day registration from 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. at the Woodstock Academy Fieldhouse Gymnasium. \$35 registration fee after May 10 (a portion of proceeds will be donated to the Woodstock Fuel Assistance Program.) Male & female divisions: Child (12 & under), Junior (13-19), Intermediate (20-29), Senior (30-39), Masters (40-49),

Grand Master (50-59), Ultra Master (60-69) and Super Masters (70 & up) Awards: Medals for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place runners in each division. Participants can register online at <https://runsignup.com/race/ct/woodstock/woodstockmemorialday10k>

Little Big Band

Friday, June 10, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169, Woodstock. Free and open to the public. Rain date Friday, June 24, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Woodstock Recreation and Historic New England are thrilled to continue the tradition begun by Henry Bowen himself: open-air concerts on the grounds of Roseland Cottage. This summer will feature three free concerts featuring some familiar local talent offering a variety of musical styles. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket and a picnic supper, or purchase food from the Latin Flavor Food Truck and enjoy a beautiful, musical New England summer evening. Little Big Band is a dynamic 15-piece swing band with a repertoire including popular swing and big band music from traditional standards, through today’s contemporary swing sounds, with a little big band rock n’ roll and rhythm n’ blues added.

10th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale in Woodstock

Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m. – Afternoon Rain Date Sunday, June 12

Proceeds benefit the Woodstock Fuel Assistance Program

All Woodstock residents, businesses, and organizations may participate. A \$15 registration fee will place your location on the tag sale map which will be available for the public to purchase. Maps will be available for purchase outside the Town Hall on Thursday, June 9 from 6-8 p.m. Maps will also be available the morning of Saturday, June 11th (rain date June 12) at the Town Hall from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost to purchase a map is \$2. Sellers can register here: <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodstock-ct/catalog>.

2022 Indoor Volleyball Summer Camp at Pomfret School, Session 1: June 20, 22, 27, 29, July 11, 13, 18

Time: 5:30-7 p.m.

Cost per session: \$125

Who: Girls and Boys entering grades 4-12

Where: Gymnasium upstairs at Pomfret School’s Corzine Athletic Center. This camp is a great opportunity to learn and develop the proper fundamentals of the game from beginner to varsity level. Courts will be broken down by ability level, coached by High School coaches and Collegiate Players. Director & Coach: Jeff Boshka, Former Woodstock Academy Head Volleyball Coach, USA Coaches Accreditation Program Certified. Register here: <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodstock-ct/catalog> Please call 860-928-4074 for more information or contact Woodstock Recreation at erinlucas@woodstockct.gov.

Pecans give these cookies extra appeal



Pecans are tasty offerings that are ideal in both savory dishes and desserts. Like fruits of other members of the hickory genus of trees, pecans are not truly nuts, but drupes. A drupe is

a fruit with a single stone or pit surrounded by a husk. With pecans, the outer husk dries out and splits open, exposing the “nuts” inside.

Georgia, New Mexico and Texas are the leading domestic producers of pecans, but Mexico grows nearly half of the world’s pecans. Pecans are heart-healthy and rich in antioxidants, several vitamins and minerals, and a good source of healthy fat. In addition, one ounce of pecans provides 10 percent of the recommended daily fiber intake.

Cookies may never be considered “health food,” but there are ways to make them more nutritious. The addition of beneficial ingredients like pecans can do just that. This recipe for “Cowboy Cookies” from “Live Well, Bake Cookies” (Rock Point) by Danielle Rye includes oats, pecans and coconut in the mixture, adding flavor and nutritional appeal.

Cowboy Cookies

Makes 50 to 52 cookies

2	cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
1	teaspoon baking soda
1	teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2	teaspoon salt
2	cups old-fashioned rolled oats
1	cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
1	cup packed light brown sugar
2/3	cup granulated sugar
2	large eggs, at room temperature
2	teaspoons pure vanilla extract
1 1/2	cups semisweet chocolate chips
3/4	cup sweetened shredded coconut
1	cup chopped pecans (see baking tip)

1. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, ground cinnamon, and salt until well combined. Stir in the old-fashioned rolled oats and set aside.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or in a large mixing bowl using a handheld mixer, beat the butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar together for 1 to 2 minutes, or until well combined.
3. Mix in the eggs, one at a time, then mix in the vanilla extract until fully combined, making sure to stop and scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed.

4. Mix in the dry ingredients until just combined, then mix in the chocolate chips, shredded coconut and chopped pecans on low speed until fully incorporated.
 5. Cover tightly and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
 6. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats and set aside.
 7. Using a 1 1/2-tablespoon cookie scoop, scoop the cookie dough onto the prepared baking sheets, making sure to leave a little room between each one. Gently press each ball of cookie dough down to slightly flatten it.
 8. Bake for 10 to 13 minutes, or until the tops of the cookies are set and the edges are lightly browned. Remove from the oven, and allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheets for 5 to 10 minutes, then carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.
 9. Store the cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to one week.
- Baking tip: For even more flavor, try toasting the pecans. Just cool them completely before adding them to the cookie dough.

How to stay safe on DIY projects

Home improvement projects can be costly. Depending on the scope of the project, the choice of materials and the skill level involved to see the project through to successful completion, homeowners could be on the hook for thousands of dollars or even more when renovating their homes.

One popular way homeowners look to cut such costs is to do some, if not all, of the work themselves. Indeed, do-it-yourselfers can save a considerable amount of money. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Housing Survey indicate that homeowners can save anywhere from 50 to 80 percent on DIY projects compared to what they might pay for comparable work to be performed by a contractor. However, the key there is “comparable.” Cost overruns could derail DIY savings rath-

er quickly if homeowners have little renovating skill or experience. But homeowners’ wallets aren’t the only thing in jeopardy if a DIY project goes awry.

Renovation projects require attention to detail, and that includes an emphasis on safety. Homeowners who are injured on DIY projects may face costly medical bills, while projects that are completed without incident could later pose safety hazards that require work to be redone, which is both expensive and a threat to personal safety in the interim. DIYers need not be discouraged from taking projects on themselves, but they should heed these tips to stay safe when working on their homes.

- Make sure you choose the right ladder. DIYers may spend ample time shopping for drills and other electronic tools and gadgets that are fun to use.

But ample time also must be afforded to the type of ladder you intend to use on a project. Estimates from the West Bend Insurance Company indicate that roughly 90,000 people visit the emergency room due to ladder accidents each year. Never use a broken ladder or an aging ladder that’s uneven. In addition, do not use a ladder that forces you to reach far away. If you’re leaning while using a ladder, the ladder is either too short for your project or positioned too far away from the wall. The National Home Security Alliance advises DIYers to place their ladder one foot from the wall for every four feet it rises above the ground. Test your ladders for their sturdiness prior to beginning work so you aren’t tempted to use a subpar ladder.

- Be especially careful with power tools. Power tools can

do a lot and they’re fun to use. But it’s important that DIYers do not let fun distract them from safety. The Power Tool Institute urges power tool users to wear personal protective equipment, including eye and hearing protection and a dust mask, whenever using power tools. The PTI also advises users to make sure tools are powered down before plugging them in and to inspect the tool before using it. Inspections can confirm that all guards are in place and that tools are up to the task at hand. Much like it’s unsafe to overreach on a ladder, overreaching when using power tools increase the risk for mistakes, accidents and injuries.

- Avoid electrical work. Complicated electrical work is best left to the professionals. Estimates from the Electrical Safety Foundation

International indicate that electrical malfunctions cause more than 50,000 house fires each year. Such malfunctions can occur for myriad reasons, and a lack of experience working with electrical circuits and breakers could make homes vulnerable to malfunctions and fires. It’s also worth noting that homeowners’ insurance policies may not cover damage caused by DIY electrical work. So at the very least homeowners should contact their insurance providers to determine if any accidents or injuries caused by DIY electrical work would be covered by their policies.

DIY renovation projects can save homeowners a lot of money, but those savings aren’t worth compromising your safety and the safety of your loved ones.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

At the May 2, 2022, regular meeting of the Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agency, the following application was approved: 02-22-07- Francis & Lucy Jolie- Indian Spring Rd (MBLU:5787-34-144W)- new home construction. Chair Mark Parker May 13, 2022

TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 23, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Groves-nordale, CT on the following applications.

PZC #22-14 Applicant Hany Youssef

property owner at 292 Riverside Dr., Map 87, Block 95, Lot 39, Zone TCDD, 1.93 acres, request a Special Permit to operate an Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary, according to Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations, Article 4E, Thompson Corridor Development District, Section 2, Table of Permitted Use, #20, Article 5A C. Adult Use Cannabis and Article 3A. Section 4-A., B., and C.

PZC Application #22-15 Applicant Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc., dba Rawson Materials, 58 Pomfret Street, Putnam, CT 06260, Property Owner Christine M. Waldron, et. Al, 20 Wiltshire Drive, Worcester, MA 01609 requesting a Special Permit for gravel mining operation.

Files may be reviewed online, Town of Thompson website, Planning and Zoning Commission or in the Planning and Zoning Office. Written communication

will be accepted prior to the meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman
May 13, 2022
May 20, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joseph W. Poirier (22-00158) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 27, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Robert E. Poirier
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS -

168 MAIN ST., PO. BOX 528, PUT-NAM, CT 06260
May 13, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Steve Prassos (22-00171) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 29, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Mistie Latourette
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
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