

PUTNAM VILLAGER

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Friday, February 23, 2024

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NOW sees success with Sensory Saturdays

A young local plays in a sand box while their parent looks on during NOW's Sensory Saturday event on Feb. 17.

Jason Bleau

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — Northeast Opportunities for Wellness (NOW) has spent the early months of 2024 debuting new programs to help promote growth among the youngest members

of the community with the help of the Putnam Public Library. Their latest program, titled Sensory Saturdays, has been held every weekend

in February with plans to expand the program to other communities later this year. NOW Executive Director Taylor Sazhin

explained that Sensory Saturdays helps promote growth in significant areas of motor skills and sensory recognition tackling all five of the main senses, hearing, touch, taste, vision, and smell, through a variety of interactive activities. "We're teaching them fine and gross motor

development as well as color recognition, understanding different sounds and working with the different instruments we provide as well as collaborating with other kids by sharing all our toys. We have ball pits for them to explore. We're also building their imagination and creativity. It really is

an overall development program from ages zero to three," Sazhin said. The one-hour programs provide opportunities for children to understand more about the world around them as well as their own body's capabilities. Parents are welcomed to be part of

Turn To **NOW** page **A9**

Plainfield Recreation presents VFW, Legion with \$900 donation

PLAINFIELD — On Thursday, Feb. 1 at the Plainfield Veterans Coffee House, representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5446 of Plainfield and the American Legion Godreau-McMahon Post 91, Moosup, were each presented with a \$900 donation by Plainfield Recreation and Senior Center Director Mark Simmons.

According to Simmons, «The Plainfield Recreation and Senior Center is excited to be able to present these two deserving local veteran organizations \$900 each. We are humbled that these funds were raised entirely by participants and supporters of our annual Salute the Troops 5k and Fun Run that was held on Nov. 11, 2023. This annual 5k and Fun Run will become a great Plainfield tradition that will continue to give back to these important organizations for years to come. We are forever grateful to our veterans and active military and want to help them in any way that we can.»

«As Commander of Plainfield VFW Post 5446 it is my duty to try and guide our Post to help veterans. It is my belief that being a small part of the Plainfield community is a large way to help veterans. As a community we all need to help each other as we are able. There is joy in giving to our community and also a humbleness in receiving what is freely given. This is why I give my heartfelt thanks to the Plainfield Recreation and Senior Center for their donation," noted Gorenski.

Chris Stewart to seek 51st District seat



Courtesy

Chris Stewart with Rick Hayes.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — Only days after his father-in-law, Rick Hayes, announced he would not seek re-election, Republican Chris Stewart announced his candidacy for the 51st District State Representative seat.

Stewart is a relatively new name to local politics having most recently earned a seat on the Putnam Board of Education as reportedly the first black man to run for office in the town and, in effect, the first black man to be elected to a board or commission in Putnam. Only months later he now prepares for an even bigger election hoping to succeed his father-in-law to represent Putnam, Thompson, and Killingly in Hartford.

Stewart is well known as a local coach for several sports teams and has resided in Putnam for more than 16 years. He served as Rick Hayes's original campaign manager in 2018 and since then Stewart has had the itch to step into the political arena himself. He says his competitive spirit and urge to do what's best for those around him helped solidify his decision to seek the 51st District seat.

"Being a former athlete, I love being in that competi-

Turn To **STEWART** page **A9**

Holy Trinity offering monthly community meals



Jason Bleau

Volunteers serve a spaghetti and meatball lunch during February's Community Meal at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Danielson.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — In 2023, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church began a new tradition offering community meals every month for those in need of socialization or sustenance. The events have proven to be a popular addition to the church and have now become a highly anticipated event that brings people together to learn more about the church and to help keep warm and fed, especially in the chilly winter months.

The parish's priest, Father Andrew Giourelis, says the meal a way to welcome everyone into the church to be a part of their extended family while enjoying a fresh cooked meal from their volunteers. On Feb. 17, the church held the fourteenth edition of the meal, a delicious spaghetti and meatball lunch, and while the event is about making sure those in need have a place to

fill their stomachs, for Father Giourelis, it's so much more.

"It's letting everyone know there are people here that care and like to spend time with them. That's why we call it a 'community meal,'" said Giourelis. "We established this last year with funds from the Lilly Foundation which served as starter money, but within two or three months our community members started volunteering and offering their own money to fund this program. Our community is maintaining it and volunteering to offer this meal monthly. We know with the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry next door and working with them very closely that this would be a good way to open our kitchen and our hall to those who use the pantry or who need food to enjoy a warm meal."

The meals are prepared and served completely by volunteers like Christine Haveles who spent time welcoming guests into the building for the

meals. Haveles said the meal gives members of the church a way to connect with those they may not see in the service every weekend.

"It's important for us to help those in need, and it's just heartwarming to come in and know you spent time talking to someone or fed someone. Sometimes we give away hats and socks to meet their needs. It's just what we do as Christians," said Haveles.

The community meal takes place on the third Saturday of every month from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Community Center at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 80 Water St. in Danielson except for November, when the meal takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Pre-registration is not required, the meal is free, and you do not need to be a member of the church to attend. More information about the meals and the church itself can be found at www.holytrinity-danielson.com

SCORE to host free Webinar on “LinkedIn Branding: Shaping Your Online Identity to Attract Opportunities”

REGION — SCORE EasternCT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America's Small Businesses, presents a new free Small Business Webinar with Allie Bryant and Juliet Del Rio of the award-winning Miranda Creative content team, “LinkedIn Branding: Shaping Your Online Identity to Attract Opportunities,” Thursday, March 14 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

LinkedIn is becoming an increasingly popular platform, now with more than 900 million members and over 58 million registered companies. This webinar will explore how to use LinkedIn to create online identities, personal and brand, that attract opportunities. Starting with crafting a compelling LinkedIn bio, attendees will discover how to articulate their unique value proposition and tell a “Who Am I” story in a way that resonates with potential connections.

The second part of the webinar will help attendees determine what their brand’s presence should be and how to showcase it effectively on LinkedIn. Attendees will learn about the types of content that resonate with their audience and how to develop a consistent messaging strategy, how to harness the power of LinkedIn ads, best practices to leverage webinars to establish thought leadership, and ways to master the art of creating engaging posts that capture attention and generate meaningful interactions.

Whether you’re looking for new connections, seeking industry recognition, or simply aiming to enhance your professional reputation, this webinar will equip you with the knowledge and skills to transform your LinkedIn presence into a powerful tool for professional advancement.

Webinar Co-Presenter Allie Bryant, Social/Digital Media Brand Manager at Miranda Creative, holds a unique client-facing position that combines the roles of a social/digital strategist with the forward positioning skills of business brand management. Allie is responsible for ideating, strategizing, project managing, executing, and tracking comprehensive digital marketing strategies including organic/paid social media; budget management; and integrating dynamic digital production including email, SMS, and website development. With almost a decade of business experience, Allie is a valuable resource for strategic thinking, project management, trends, best practices, design applications, and emerging technologies; and holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Regent University. While at MC, Allie successfully grew a high-profile food vendor’s social media following by more than 500 people in less than 30 days with a strategic low-cost paid social strategy, launched MC’s TikTok advertising capabilities, and grew a CT state social media account more than 2,000 followers in less than 18 months. As a seasoned troubleshooter, Allie has implemented measurable growth strategies for clients in a range of industries, from non-profits to food and beverage, agriculture, tourism, state agencies, insurance, and more.

Webinar Co-Presenter Juliet Del Rio, Digital Community Manager at Miranda Creative, brings a combined passion for content creation and digital media to the Miranda Creative agency. Supporting the Digital Team, Juliet coordinates a full slate of digital solutions including email marketing, SEO content, social media, and digital advertising. She has nearly a decade of marketing experience in business-to-business and business-to-consumer environments and several years of experience in content creation for digital platforms. Before joining Miranda Creative, Juliet was an Adjunct Professor of composition and literature at Drexel University and the University of Delaware. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree as a double major in Television Screenwriting & Production and English Creative Writing & Literature from Hofstra University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from Drexel University.

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About SCORE
SCORE® is a nonprofit association that offers free and confidential advice on starting your own business or improving and growing your existing small business. Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million current and aspiring entrepreneurs. Each year, SCORE’s 10,000 volunteer business experts provide hundreds of thousands of free small business mentoring sessions, workshops, and educational services to clients in 300 chapters nationwide. In 2020/2021, SCORE helped people start 45,000 businesses, creating 74,500 additional non-owner jobs. All 40-plus counselors in Eastern Connecticut are volunteers, receive no compensation, and are working or retired business owners, executives, and managers. For more information on upcoming free workshops and how to schedule a free small business mentoring session with our counselors, visit <https://www.score.org/easternct>.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Feb. 12: Hooded Merganser, Barred Owl, Bluebird, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Junco, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, Robin, Mockingbird, Carolina Wren, Blue Jay. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Local students make Dean’s List at CCU

CONWAY, S.C. — More than 3,000 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students who make the Dean’s List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher (3.25 for freshmen) for the semester.

Shannon Gagnon of Pomfret Center
Hailey Toth of Danielson

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, located just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

CCU offers baccalaureate degrees in more than 100 major fields of study. Among the University’s graduate-level programs are 27 master’s degrees, one educational specialist degree, and the doctorates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs through Coastal Online.

More than 10,800 students from across the country and around the world interact with a world-class faculty, and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA I athletic program, an inspiring cultural calendar, and a tradition of community interaction that is fueled by more than 180 student clubs and organizations.

Visit coastal.edu for more information.

Local residents named to Clark University Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — The following local residents were named to Clark University’s Fall 2023 Dean’s List:

Collin D. Hamilton, of Pomfret Center was named to second honors.

Ricky R. Jessurun, of Pomfret Center was named to second honors.

Clayton W. Singleton, of Eastford was named to first honors.

Autumn R. Allard, of Putnam was named to first honors.

Katie A. Ben, of Brooklyn, was named to second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow’s most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. With more than 45 undergraduate majors and major tracks, more than 30 advanced degree programs, a growing number of professional certificate programs and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark University fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

BOSTON, Mass. — The following students are named to Emerson College’s Dean’s List for the Fall 2023 semester. The requirement to make Dean’s List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Natalie Bickelhaupt of North Grosvenordale is majoring in Creative Writing BFA and is a member of the Class of 2024.

Gabriel Waldron of North Grosvenordale is majoring in Media Studies and is a member of the Class of 2024.

Daphne Li of Pomfret Center is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2026.

About Emerson College
Based in Boston, Mass., opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 4,161 undergraduates and 554 graduate students from across the United States and nearly 70 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, DC, London, China, and the Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland, Mexico, Cuba, England, and South Africa. The College has an active network of 51,000+ alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.

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Call Tri-Valley to schedule an appointment that works for you!
508-949-6640 Information and Referral Department

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SCORE to host Webinar on “ChatGPT, AI, and How They Can Help Your Small Business”

REGION — SCORE Eastern CT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America's Small Businesses, presents a new free Small Business Webinar, “ChatGPT, AI, and How They Can Help Your Small Business” with SCORE mentor and technology expert Charlie Morris Tuesday, March 19 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Artificial Intelligence, and ChatGPT specifically, have rapidly become valuable tools to make small businesses more creative and efficient. In this free webinar, Charlie Morris will review the current state-of-the-art AI tools focusing on ChatGPT's capabilities. He will highlight specific use cases for ChatGPT in the small business environment.

Discussion will include:

- How ChatGPT works
- How ChatGPT can help a small business to be more creative and efficient
- ChatGPT's limitations and weaknesses
- Other emerging AI tools and what they will mean for small businesses

Webinar Presenter: Charlie Morris is a mentor with SCORE Bucks County and a retired software developer and technology executive with more than 40 years of experience. Charlie holds a Master's Degree in computer science with specialties in artificial intelligence and software engineering from Villanova University and a Bachelor's degree in experimental psychology with minors in computer science and mathematics from Moravian College. Charlie has worked in the Defense, Financial Services, Medical Device, and Clinical Trial software industries.

Federal Credit Union is a \$1 billion-plus financial institution that has been proudly serving eastern Connecticut since 1939. As eastern Connecticut's largest credit union and a leading financial institution in the state, they offer full financial services – banking, investments, insurance, and more. They are also a not-for-profit financial cooperative where each and every member is also an owner. They return their earnings to their members through lower rates and fees on loans and higher yields on their deposits. To learn more about Charter Oak, visit <https://charteroak.org/>.

About SCORE

SCORE® is a nonprofit association that offers free and confidential advice on starting your own business or improving and growing your existing small business. Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million current and aspiring entrepreneurs. Each year, SCORE's 10,000 volunteer business experts provide hundreds of thousands of free small business mentoring sessions, workshops, and educational services to clients in 300 chapters nationwide. In 2022, SCORE volunteers shared 4.65 million hours of expertise and advice with their clients, helping people start over 30,000 new businesses, and creating over 82,000 additional non-owner jobs. With 50+ workshops/webinars and special events each year, and advances in remote mentoring tools, SCORE Eastern CT helps small businesses across Southeastern and Northeastern CT. For more information on upcoming free workshops and how to schedule a free small business mentoring session with our counselors, visit <https://www.score.org/easternct>.

WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK

FEB. 26 – MARCH 3

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

Monday the 26th

- Agriculture Commission, 1 p.m.
- Zoning Board of Appeals, 6 p.m.
- Conservation Commission, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 27th

- TEEG Mobile Market, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Committee on Aging, 5 p.m.
- Water Pollution Control Authority, 7 p.m.
- Town Meeting, at Woodstock Middle School, 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 28th

- Historic District Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- Board of Finance, Special Meeting (tentative, check website), 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each Weekday

- Stepping into Sobriety Meetings, South Woodstock Baptist Church.

Monday the 26th

- Community Kitchen Free Lunch, First Congregational Church, noon.
- Grazing Board Fun, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6 p.m.
- Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6:30 p.m.
- Book Club, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 27th

- The Bridge Young Adults, Evangelical Covenant Church
- Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.

Wednesday the 28th

- Story Hour, West Woodstock Library.
- Knitting Group, Town Hall.
- Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
- Charcuterie Workshop, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6 p.m.
- Trivia Night, Woodstock Tavern, 6:30 p.m.
- Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church

Baptist Church

- The Bridge (young adults), Evangelical Covenant Church
- Earth 24, West Woodstock Library, 7 p.m.
- Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday the 29th

- Lady's Small Group and Men's Bible Study, South Woodstock Baptist Church
- Scrabble, West Woodstock Library, 2 p.m.
- Grief Share Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Indoor Cornhole League, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 5:30 p.m.
- American Chop Suey Dinner, Senexet Grange, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Friday the 1st

- No Coast Kitchen, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 3-8:30 p.m.
- New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday the 2nd

- Veggie Visions, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 12-7:30 p.m.

• Live Music – Katie Perkins, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

Sunday the 3rd

- “Woodstock Through the Camera's Eye” exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon
- Twin Beaks Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-6:30 p.m.
- Live Music – Joe Macey, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 9

- Italian Dinner, First Congregational Church of Woodstock, dine in 5 or 6:30, take out 4:30-6:30.

March 15, 7 p.m.

March 16, 2 p.m.

- Disney's Newsies, Jr. Loos Center for the Arts.

March 23

- Easter Egg Hunt, Roseland Cottage, 1 p.m.
- Souper Supper, WDTC, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 5-7 p.m.

March 28

- Azul String Quartet, Loos Center for the Arts, performances 9-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

To submit calendar items: woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com.



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What’s the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Man is wearing tie 2. Extra milk in cart 3. Price on sign is different 4. “Shop” missing from the back wall

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1815: NAPOLEON BONAPARTE ESCAPES FROM EXILE.
- 1919: PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON SIGNS AN ACT OF CONGRESS THAT ESTABLISHES THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK .
- 2008: THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC PERFORMS IN NORTH KOREA.



CHECKOUT

a point at which goods are paid for in a store

How they SAY that in...

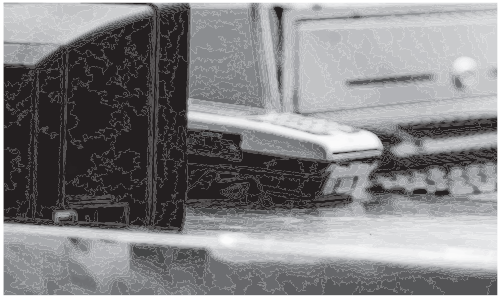
- ENGLISH: Aisle
- SPANISH: Pasillo
- ITALIAN: Corridoio
- FRENCH: Allée
- GERMAN: Gang

Did you know?



THE FOUR LARGEST GROCERY BRANDS IN NORTH AMERICA INCLUDE WALMART, AMAZON, KROGER, AND COSTCO.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHECKOUT COUNTER

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to time management. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = A)

- A. 11 13 9 4 22 14 17 4
Clue: Intended timelines
- B. 13 3 17 4 23 22 3 8
Clue: System of organizing days
- C. 5 17 3 23
Clue: Proposal to do something
- D. 22 7 11 2 8 3 13 2
Clue: Pull attention away

Answers: A. schedule B. calendar C. plan D. distract

SUDOKU

		5			2			
7	2		1			4	3	
	4			7	8	9	2	
		4	9	2				
	9					2		6
3	5					1		
	8						9	
		6		4		7		

Level: Advanced

Here’s How It Works:

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

3	8	7	5	2	4	6	9	1
2	9	6	3	1	5	7	8	4
4	6	1	8	7	2	5	3	9
6	4	2	7	1	8	3	9	5
7	5	8	3	2	9	4	6	1
9	1	3	4	6	5	8	7	2
5	2	9	7	3	8	6	4	1
8	3	4	6	1	5	9	2	7
1	7	2	9	4	6	5	8	3

ANSWER:

WOODSTOCK ACADEMY HONOR ROLL

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2023-24 school year:

Grade 12
High Honors: Ethan Adams, Kyle Anderson, Jaiden Banton, Claire Beck, Natalie Bell, David Bunning, Charles Caggiano, Caitlin Chandler, Jasper Cox, Julia Coyle, Leah Danis, Riley Dupont, Timothy Engstrume, Summer Espeseth, Campbell Fraser, Sean Gasperini, Frank Gaug, Alexander Gessner, Leonardo Guidi, Kathryn Guillot, Ava Hovestadt, Cade Jones, James Koproski, Aiden Kudla, Taylor Lamothe, Kayla Leite, Kevin Lin, Emma Massey, Kendall McCormack, Kayleigh Murray, Cang Nguyen, Timothy O'Sullivan, Kyle Pazienza, Amber Pepper, Sophia Petrella, Reagan Reynolds, Evan Rhault, Olivia Saraidarian, Matthew Saunders, Zachary Shead, Ava Simoes, Megan Smith, Sawyer Stewart, Maddox Stott, Thea Sullivan, Sumi Tran, Madison Williams, Songxuan Wu
Honors: Nicole Apicelli, Carleh Avery, Eben Beauchene, Peyton Bentley, Addison Bergin, Briana Botelho, Anthony Buckner, Danielle Cabassa, Nova Caissie, Teodora Curcic, Ahir Dixon, Hunter Eddy, Aiden Finch, Hayden Fontaine, Joaquin Fraga, Allison Griswold, Alex Harris, Angelos Haveles, Amelia Haynes, Hunter Haynes, Sophia Hernandez, Saige Hibbard, Tuyet

Mai Ho, Emma Kerr, Kobe Khounvichith, Christopher Kirkconnell, Morgan Lambert, Corinne LaMontagne, Hunter Larson, David Lee, Sten Lehmann, Phoenix MacRae, Eric Mathewson, Sarah McArthur, Samantha McDowell, Madison McMahon, Karley Medina, Hendrix Mota, Rebecca Nazer, Ryan Rivera Cabrera, Apollo Ruoppo, Piper Sabrowski, Jordan Sands, Nicholas Saunders, Gracie Scott, Isabella Siwko, Kaelin Soukaloun, Boyuan Su, Jack Sumner, Addison Tyimok, Josiah Vadeboncoeur, Alicia Wynkoop, Christian Zellweger
Recognition: Thomas Blevins, Waylon Breault, Lillian Conway, Emily Cournoyer, Dominic Dennett, Sydnee Dingwell, Jada Hernandez, Madyson Knox, Avery Kollbeck, Ethan LeBoeuf, Samuel Lescault, Maeve Lusignan, Zachary Majewski, Gavin Malbourn, Riley O'Brien, Mia Pannone, Jessie Phan, Elizabeth Reynolds, Riley Russell, Carla Sagues Laguna, Apphia Schley, Talia Tremblay, Lilly Verraneault, Henry Wotton

Grade 11
High Honors: David Abbamonte, Addison Beausoleil, Mikayla Bessette, Liliana Bottone, Lucas Boynton, Katelyn Bruce, Abigail Budd, Samuel Clark, Abigail Converse, Jacqueline Dearborn, Bella DiGregorio, Ava Golden, Kira Greene, Adyson Grether, Sophie Gronski, Madeline Jezierski, Emily Jurnovoy, Leo Larkin,

Audrey MacPherson, Olivia Martocci, Alvaro Medrano Lopez, Xandar Miller, Dorisabel Mojica, Filip Nemcek, Bailey Nordman, Angelica Oliveira, Grace Pokorny, Darlyne Ramos Fernandez, Macy Rawson, Freya Robbie, Maya Rodriguez, Colton Sallum, Molly Schall, Nina Silva, Lauren Thomas, Mariia Ursal, Jack Wiggan, Evelyn Young
Honors: Ashley Abrams, Juliet Allard, Ayden Angel-Ouimette, Cody Austin, Ajani Banton, Brandon Baron, Kaitlyn Becker, John Bennett, Madison Bloom, Alexander Brouillard, Om Brown, Maria Castaneda Banderas, Tyler Chamberlin, Maya Chojnicki, Maxx Corradi, Emma Costa, Shauna Daka, Gabriel DiPierdomenico, Abigail Elliott, Brady Ericson, Kaitlyn Erskine, Julian Escobar, Jude Essuman, Maizy Ferreira, Chandler Folkerts, Alyssa Gilbert, Gavin Gluck, Tanner Graham, Avery Hardacker, Duyen Hoang, Kason Kelly, Destiny LaMarre, Celine Leffingwell, Matthew Letourneau, Kevin Lewis, Hong Luo, Emma Manis, Devlin Mansolf, Isabella Mawson, Christian Menounos, Kira Mesick, Sophia Milardo, Ty Nichols, Keira Notis, Lydia Orlowski, Owen Rigney, Katherine Ritzau, Cameron Robida, Austin Sebastian, Jack Shea, Mia Sorrentino, Eli Susi, Avery Thienel, Kan Tran, Gabriele Trento, Jillian Wiggan, Seonung Yu
Recognition: Linnea Barlow, Logan Blow, William Bushey, Austin Byer, Leah Costa, Finley Couture, Olivia Dahl, Samantha Espeseth, Ela Gadoury, Livia Gerum, Phoebe Griffin, Rodrigo Herruzo, Blazquez,

Jocelyn Kraus, Cassidy Ladd, Aiden Lamp, Chyanne Machamer, Marie Mairson, Margaret Marshall, Emily Mayne, Margaret McHugh, Timothy Mozzi, Lysette Parmentier, Evan Quinn, Elizabeth Roberts, Isabella Selmecki, Dylan Shinkiewicz, Emily Smock, Juliana Stacy, Kevin Thomson, Kaelyn Tremblay, Gwendolyn White
Grade 10
High Honors: Anthony Beaudreault, Vivian Bibeau, Kaylee Bundy, Vaughn Buzak, Tiernan Curran, Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain, Scarlet Delaney, Logan Delfarno, Olivia DiGregorio, Clara Dowdle, Nathan Faucher, Philip Feanny Aleman, Lilly Frechette, David Genay, Ekin Gokcimen, Owen Hamilton, Lilah Jafar-DeCesare, Aidan Jeon, Blair Jin, Jaelyn Knox, Andrew Landreville, Kenzie Le, Philip Le, Sujong Lee, Ivan Lin, Olivia Manbeck, Eli Manning, Spencer Mayo, Ivar McDonald, Troy Myers, Han Nguyen, Alec Nunes, Diya Patel, Thatcher Paterson, Vayda Payne, Nathan Rauls, Kyrialis Rivera Cabrera, Kaylee Saucier, Siyuan Shen, Ella Simoes, Caleb Simoneau, Abigail Stevens, Finnley Syphers, Olivia Tracy, Emma Weitknecht, Sadie Wood
Honors: Noemia Amaral, Sidney Anderson, Aiden Bachand, Aidan Botelho, Kyree Bourassa, Jack Buyers, Allison Camara, Ryan Chabot, David Cho, Adelyn Cournoyer, Nathaniel Couture, Edward Cygnarowicz, Greysen Dery, Abby Ditzel, Madilyne Ead, Kiley Elliott, Anniemarie Fernandez, Layla Fogarty, Emma Forcier, Kaydence Foster, Avery Gallagher,

Collin Gaudette, Caydence Haley, Maura Hart, Maddox Houston, Soyul Jung, Jiwan Kim, Madison LaVallee, Payton Leite, Emma Long, Sara Macri, Katelyn McArthur, Camden Mercer, Lilyanne Mercier, Lillian Morgis, Emily Mumford, Giulia Musumeci, Emma Nagel, Akira Newall-Vuillemot, Avery Nielsen, Aidan O'Connor, Gabriella Payne, Ozzie Pearman, Kloe Pike, Lucas Quercia, Emma Quinney, Emma Raymond, Kerrigan Reynolds, Baylee Rosinski, Jocelynn Sirrine, Kayla St. Louis, Abby Thayer, Aidan Tyler, Wynter Worth, Daniel Yang, Ryan Yang, Vivian Zelada Garcia
Recognition: Evan Anderson, Bree Antaya, Benjamin Arters, Ella Balgenorth, Avery Danis, Alexa Delmonaco, Harrison Durand, Jackson Durand, Riley Faber, Sara Forcier, Kolbie Iacuele, Limin Lin, Cayden Menor, Nicolas Ochoa, Tianna Ortiz, Connor Racine, Sophia Rattray, Ellary Sampson, Jacob Say, Jeffrey Schaeffler, Jacob Swayze, Michael Wolchesky
Grade 9
High Honors: Izabella Bernstein, Brayden Bottone, Drew Bundy, Collin Charette, Kaylyn Converse, Caroline Costa, Elise Coyle, Ronan Curran, Kady Danner, Matthew Dearborn, Kathryn Dobosz, Bronson Eddy, Lorelai Fish, Arianna Fox, Sophia Giourelis, Brayden Graves, Avery Gregoire, Finley Hamilton, Cooper Harris, Brady Hebert, Halle Jolly, Maria Jordanoglou, Delilah Kesselman, Maxwell Kopp, Kealyn Lamarche, Kelsey McNeil, Evony N'Chonon, Tyler Odorski,

Jessica Palmerino, Rocco Pascale, Riley Quinn-Perkins, Damien Redman, Grace Sallar, Reagan Scheck, Tre Sotomayor, Bella Stillitano, Isabelle Tedisky, Kaitlyn Thiffeault, Heath White, Owen Williamson, Qucheng Wu, Kiki Xu
Honors: Samuel Anderson, Mia Auger, Maggie Beams, Ava Beauchemin-King, Olivia Beaulieu, Sydney Betty, Griffen Bloom, Pathy Boriboun, Jorge Castellanos, Michelle Chan, Kellen Coleman, Brayden De Oliveira, Miles Densmore, Rhea DeSota, Salem Elmhihi, Maylie Ganias, Gage Gawron, Anthony Genna, Avery Grant, Samuel Greene, Christian Hart, Jake Henderson, Anna Hernandez, Nathan Jezierski, Matthew Johndrow, Kiely Kindle, Matthew Kruger, Ammani Kuljancic, Winston Kvanli, Christian Ladero, Alexander Milardo, Caylee Morrison, Landon Murdock, David Rahall, Rita Rawcliffe, Drew Rhault, Blake Robida, Aiden Sanchez, Kieran Shepherd, Julia Tellier, Zachary Thibeault, Chloe Vogt, Gia Bao Vu, Cayden Worth
Recognition: Grace Berberian, Connor Bessette, Madison Boyd, Jonah Costa, Lyla Cowles, Mason Davis, Olivia Elliott, Ethan Gilchrist, Patrick Griswold, Tristan Hayden, Madelyn Haynes, Gabriel Hull, Callum Lusignan, Camden Marshall, Brooke Mayo, Mitchell Mazzucco, Carter Mydlarz, Abby Neeland, Anthony Nuccio, Natasha Oatley, Tatum Perez, Alexeeya Richter-Lamarre, Richard Sarpong, Avery Schaefer, Leah Thibodeau, Anthony Wolfe

Molly Landis named to College of the Holy Cross Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Molly Landis of Brooklyn was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2023 Dean's List.
A member of the Class of 2027, Landis was named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year.
To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.
About Holy Cross
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Elizabeth Marcoux named to President's List at Coastal Carolina University

CONWAY, S.C. — More than 1,300 students were named to the President's List at Coastal Carolina University for the Fall 2023 semester, including Elizabeth Marcoux, from Danielson. Students who made the President's List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average during the semester.
Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, located just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.
CCU offers baccalaureate degrees in more than 100 major fields of study. Among the University's graduate-level programs are 27 master's degrees, one educational specialist degree, and the doctorates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs through Coastal Online.
More than 10,800 students from across the country and around the world interact with a world-class faculty, and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA I athletic program, an inspiring cultural calendar, and a tradition of community interaction that is fueled by more than 180 student clubs and organizations.
Visit coastal.edu for more information.


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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Longer, lighter days have returned!

At last, we are on the cusp of a seasonal change which brings with it a shift in weather, more light and more health benefits! The arrival of longer, lighter days indicates a time of renewal and rejuvenation, offering a wealth of opportunities to enhance our physical and mental well-being.

One of the most notable advantages of longer, lighter days is the increased exposure to natural sunlight. As the sun lingers in the sky for more extended periods, our bodies have greater opportunities to soak in its healthful rays. Sunlight is a vital source of Vitamin D, which plays a crucial role in bone health, immune function, and mood regulation. By spending time outdoors during daylight hours, whether it be through walks, outdoor activities, or simply enjoying a cup of tea on the porch, we can replenish our Vitamin D stores and bolster our overall well-being.

The arrival of springtime brings with it a palpable sense of renewal and optimism. Research has shown that exposure to natural light can have profound effects on mood and mental health, helping to alleviate symptoms of depression, anxiety, and seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

As the days grow longer and temperatures begin to rise, we find ourselves naturally drawn outdoors. Whether it's going for a jog in the park, cycling along scenic trails, or practicing yoga in the backyard, the extended daylight hours of late winter and early spring provide ample opportunities for physical activity and exercise.

Our bodies are finely attuned to the rhythms of the natural world, and exposure to natural light plays a crucial role in regulating our internal clocks. The increased daylight hours of late winter and early spring help to synchronize our circadian rhythms, promoting healthy sleep patterns and enhancing overall sleep quality. By exposing ourselves to natural light during the day and limiting exposure to artificial light at night, we can optimize our sleep-wake cycles and enjoy more restful and rejuvenating sleep.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kind moments

To the Editor:

Surprisingly, I woke up humming the “Optimist” tune from the Rogers and Hammerstein classic “South Pacific” (Google it!) So...I thought I'd share a thought or two...

There are those who would prefer to be bitter or cynical about life, love, or the pursuit of happiness.

For the most part, life has proven to be more upbeat in my case... Challenges are part of the adventure, right? Then there are those who are not able to witness anything but a negative perspective. They seem to function without the level of oxygen needed to fuel the energy required to surpass what we may need to experience from time to time. Bottomline... as Cher says in the movie “Moonstruck,” “Snap out of it!” It's a choice, folks!

How about standing with Killingly Intermediate School (KIS) students involved in the Kindness initiative? A source of oxy-

gen that fuels the energy to see a new perspective. Creating awareness of the choice within ourselves spreads in our community! Readers may question the purpose in my writing, so let me be frank... I'm putting expectations on the table for your consideration. I'm proposing a shift in expectations, so that we choose to expect kindness, rather than be surprised by it!

A stranger at Stop and Shop gave me the last tray of dark fried chicken meat two days ago, when she saw me looking for one! It was in her cart and she begged me to take it! Kindness is alive and real. Quiet Corner neighbors come face to face with kindness during our day-to-day experiences. We need to recognize it, welcome it, and choose it. Share the oxygen in kindness, and let others know that kindness is in our DNA... we are a blessing to each other.

LYDIA RIVERA-ABRAMS
DAYVILLE

Electric cars are like Netflix on wheels

To the Editor:

I have to admire the ambition of an industry that finds ways to surprise nerds like me who keep an eye on promising developments in technology. This past week, the electric car industry surprised me yet again with the announcement that Walmart's looking to set up charging services at many of their stores – something I completely wasn't thinking about.

Elon Musk must've thrown me off with the Tesla Supercharger network and these competing services that are essentially setting up “electric gas stations” but why does there need to be an EV version of gas stations? Most of the reason we needed gas stations was to put big tanks in the ground because the fuel was liquid. Why not have charger vendors set up shop at places we're already going anyway, like Walmart and other stores?

Walmart already sells a lot of other stuff. Why not add power for an EV to the list, especially when some of their stores have previously dabbled in automotive services? This also gets the gears turning because I've gone around saying electric cars represent a ton of consumer freedom because power is generated rather than manufactured, but it also doesn't need to be transported either. Just send it over the wires and save the tanker

trucks for transporting something else. We just have to look into grid capacity, though there'll be less power being used if we're not manufacturing as much fuel at a refinery then having to use some of it to run trucks to distribute it. One of these days I'll hear about some of these details somewhere in the media when the news covers EVs.

A lot of this gear-turning stuff that gets one thinking with EVs and how they'll change things reminds me of Netflix versus Blockbuster all over again. If we second-guess or make fun of the disruptive technology that could radically change how we live we're simply setting ourselves up for embarrassment in the long run. A lot of what we're already used to, like going to a gas station, could be something we have to rethink when something new comes along and “get gas then go get groceries” gets condensed to me charging a car while I'm getting the groceries to begin with.

All this wild futuristic stuff we have these days is really fun to keep an eye on, and is the greatest reason to be open-minded about things.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Woodstock residents: Attend Town Meeting Feb. 27

To the Editor:

I write to encourage Woodstock citizens to attend the Town Meeting to be held Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Woodstock Middle School.

Several items will be on the agenda but of note will be a vote to APPROVE an ordinance to provide for an income-based Senior Tax Freeze in Woodstock.

This ordinance, already adopted and in place by a majority of Connecticut towns, will help to ensure that our seniors on limited budgets will be able to remain in their homes. The tax relief qualifying thresholds are set by the state of Connecticut and can only be offered to those over 65 years of

age. The impact for Woodstock taxpayers is de minimis, but for the approximately 82 senior Woodstock residents who currently meet income thresholds, the impact could be a significant factor in whether they can stay in their homes. Very few affordable housing options are offered in our region: wait lists for senior housing complexes in northeast Connecticut average three and a half years. The Senior Tax Freeze as proposed is a step in the right direction for our community. Please attend on Feb. 27.

Thank you.

LINDSAY PAUL
WOODSTOCK

Inform yourself about what's up for a vote in Woodstock

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m., there is an important Special Town Meeting at the Woodstock Middle School. That night, residents will vote on several items, and, in my opinion, two deserve the most attention.

The first is an ordinance concerning property tax relief for eligible elderly homeowners. More commonly referred to as the senior tax freeze, this concept was first discussed publicly in early 2023. Several boards have researched the topic over the ensuing months, and all concluded that it is a worthwhile endeavor. Just ask the majority of other towns in the state, including neighboring Pomfret. What it could look like in Woodstock is allowing roughly 80 residents who meet the state-established qualifying income threshold and who are older than 65 years to have their municipal taxes frozen. The impact would be minimal on the town's revenue but could be significant to

those residents and neighbors who qualify.

The second is an ordinance creating a Municipal economic Development Commission. Yes, the EDC already exists; approving a change to this ordinance would allow it to operate more efficiently. With only five members, meeting the quorum requirement can sometimes be challenging. This proposal asks residents to add three alternates to the commission, similar to the finance board and planning commission. Adding the alternate seats is crucial if Woodstock is going to actively and strategically work to add to its non-residential tax base.

More information on the Special Town Meeting proposals can be found on the town's Web site. Read the information, ask questions, and attend the meeting on Feb. 27.

Best,

MEGAN BARD MORSE
WOODSTOCK


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Sunshine can be good for the soul

In February, my disposition bottoms out. Every day brings more sunshine, but not fast enough. Canadian writer Margaret Atwood expresses it in her poem “February”:



February month of despair with a skewed heart in the center
I think dire thoughts, and lust for French fries with a splash of vinegar.

.....

NANCY WEISS

Instead of an order of fries, my husband booked our annual trip to Florida, a journey I approach with a mix of trepidation and pleasure.

Every vacation follows an arc. While my husband and our excellent travel agent do the planning, I worry about how I will fill the empty days that loom in my imagination. Stacks of books are placed near my suitcase, which has accompanied me on many trips. I like my luggage so much that when it gets too beaten up, I buy exactly the same bag again. The current trend for hard sided, four-wheel bags hasn't gotten to me, although they apparently come in handy for rolling small children through airports. I found myself casting admiring looks at the toddlers screaming in delight.

Our annual trip to Florida came at a time of icy days at home and looming snowstorms. The prospect of walking on a beach, gathering shells and feasting on fresh grouper felt compelling. We travel to the west coast, so the two-hour wait for our reserved Budget rental car was shared with very tall people from the mid-West, who had the same idea. Once I leave New England, I always wonder how in the world so many people grow so tall and so big. There must be something in the water of Minnesota or Michigan. Admittedly, they are also nicer. They tend to hold the door, say excuse me, please and thank you in lilting voices.

When the weight of the world gets to be too much and we begin to think our country is falling apart, it is time to que up with people from those so-called fly over states and enjoy their easy grace. Amish people vacation in the area. Seeing them peddling their bikes through the traffic, lace caps fluttering on the women and white bearded men carrying fishing poles is a breath of fresh air.

Once we arrive at our rental place, we feel hat the pillows are all wrong, the water smells chemically, the television is impossible to operate and the heat or the AC is too much. Soon we forget it all, overcoming the little annoyances. After all, part of going on vacation is adjusting to the new rather than moldering away. Being able to step outside at any time of day to take a walk has an ameliorating effect on living in a small footprint and the neighbors weren't any noisier than we.

I like a bit of adventure on vacation and although there were no mountains to climb or dolphins to swim with, we enjoyed a number of remarkable cultural offerings. There are so many retired “experts”, musicians, and the like that the area offered lectures, concerts, parties, book sales, art shows, operas and plays. We found an exercise class filled with people we enjoyed and a fine instructor. Restaurants were busy for early-birds, but nearly empty by 7:30 p.m.

After a few weeks, I am ready to return. Sunshine on snowy fields is as good for the soul as finding sea shells on the beach. The joys of family, old friends and the routines of real life are more grounding than drifting from one delicious meal of mahi-mahi to another. I can control my disposition and Deary's French fries are but a few months away.

How to pay less taxes while maximizing your investments

Benjamin Franklin famously wrote that nothing is certain but death and taxes. That still rings true today, but take heart – although both are indeed a certainty, you’re not powerless to minimize your taxes or to maximize your life. In fact, there are tax-advantaged accounts and investments that can help to reduce your tax liability so you can keep more of your money for the goals you have in life.

While taxes shouldn’t drive investment decisions, they should be one of many variables considered. Here are some ways to limit taxes while investing for the future.

Pay your future self instead of Uncle Same by taking full advantage of 401K or IRA contributions.

A traditional 401K plan is offered by employers to encourage employees to save for retirement. Employees can fund 401Ks with their gross income (income before taxes are deducted). Doing so reduces the employee’s gross income and the taxes paid on that income.

Here’s a very basic example: If Jane earns \$100,000 a year (gross income) and she pays 25% income tax on that amount, her tax bill will be \$25,000 and she will take home \$75,000 (net income). If Jane contributes \$20,000 to her 401K, it reduces her gross income to \$80,000 and she will pay only \$20,000 in taxes and take home \$60,000 of net income. By investing in a 401K, Jane has reduced her tax bill by \$5,000.

In some cases, companies make 401Ks even more attractive by offering to match some part of the employee’s 401K contribution. A company with a 5% matching program will contribute \$1,000 to Jane’s 401K. Free money!

Money invested in a 401K plan grows tax-free. Even dividends and interest income aren’t taxed while they remain in the 401K, giving Jane more money each year to reinvest. Income taxes are owed when funds are withdrawn from the account, typically upon retirement after age 59 and a half.

Some employers offer Roth 401Ks. The money invested in Roth 401Ks is taken from after-tax net income. There’s no tax savings on day one. But investments grow tax-free and when they are withdrawn at retirement, they aren’t taxed, which could result in substantial savings.

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs are taxed-advantaged methods of saving for retirement outside of work. A traditional IRA is funded from gross income and investments grow tax-free. When funds are withdrawn after retirement, they’re subject to income tax. Contributions to Roth IRAs are taken from after-tax net income, so there’s no tax benefit today. But funds grow tax-free and withdrawals at retirement are not taxed, so you’ll have the full benefit of your savings when you need it.

Squirrel away money for college.

Consider saving for college and reducing taxes by funding a 529 savings account. The accounts are funded with after-tax dollars, but their investments grow tax-free and withdrawals aren’t taxed if they are used for qualified education expenses. Some states offer an additional tax deduction for those contributing to 529 savings accounts.

Sell strategically.

It’s even more important to think about taxes when investing in an account that isn’t tax-advantaged, like a traditional brokerage account. Each year, investors must pay taxes on dividends, interest income, and gains on any securities sold at a profit.

One way to limit taxes is to sell strategically. Investments held for more than a year are taxed at a long-term capital rate of 0, 15, or 20 percent, based on an individual’s tax bracket. Investments held for less than a year are taxed at a short-term capital gains rate that’s equal to the investor’s income tax rate. If you’re thinking about selling a security that you’ve owned for less than a year, it’s worth considering the tax treatment. Holding onto it until you’ve reached the one year holding period may significantly lower the capital gains tax owed.

Harvest investment losses.

Another way to reduce capital gains taxes is by tax loss harvesting—selling a security at a loss. If you have capital gains, they can be offset by losses, and only the remaining gain is taxed. If the losses are greater than the gains, investors can deduct up to \$3,000 of the losses from their joint taxable income. If the net losses exceed \$3,000, they can be deducted from future tax returns. Note that under the “wash rule” investors cannot buy an investment that’s the same or “substantially similar” to the one that was sold at a loss. If you don’t wait 30 days before repurchasing the investment you sold at a loss, the loss is not valid.

Be smart when buying bonds.

Some bonds offer more tax advantages than others. Municipal bonds’ interest income isn’t taxed by the federal government and sometimes it’s exempt from local and state government taxes, too. Treasury and savings bonds’ interest income is exempt from state and local taxes, but not from federal taxes. The interest paid by corporate bonds is taxed by everyone: local, state, and federal governments. Because the interest paid by municipal, Treasury, and corporate bonds is taxed differently, it’s important to compare the interest rates offered by these bonds on an after-tax basis.

There are also mutual funds and exchange-traded funds that invest in municipal bonds and other tax-advantaged bonds. They offer both the tax advantages of the securities they own as well as diversification.

Talking with an investment advisor about tax strategy can be vitally important to your investment portfolio’s performance today and in the future. That’s why at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky our team considers the entire financial picture for each client as part of our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process. If you’d like help planning your strategy so you can put more of your money toward living well instead of paying more taxes, request a complimentary consultation on our website at [whzwealth.com](https://www.whzwealth.com) or call us at (860) 928-2341.

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<https://www.ssa.gov/history/lifeexpect.html>

Sojourner Truth’s visit to Connecticut

In case of inclement weather, listen to WINY or call the Killingly Historical Center a little after 10 to see if it is open. If you get the answering machine, leave a message. We are probably closed. Thank you.

Recently, Donna Dufresne passed on a genealogical request that had been forwarded to her. Did I know of places in Connecticut where the abolitionist Sojourner Truth might have appeared? I didn’t. In fact, I knew little about Sojourner Truth since last year, I was focusing mostly on abolitionists in our greater area. Nevertheless, I like a good challenge and was determined to learn about an individual who played an important part in Black History. Web sites always provide a wealthy of information.

I found the following on www.womenhistory.org/education-resources/bio: “A former slave, Sojourner

Truth became an outspoken advocate for abolition, temperance, and civil and women’s rights in the nineteenth century. Her Civil War work earned her an invitation to meet President Abraham Lincoln in 1864.

“Truth was born Isabella Bomfree, a slave in Dutch-speaking Ulster County, New York in 1797. She was bought and sold four times, and subjected to harsh physical labor and violent punishments. In her teens, she was united with another slave with whom she had five children, beginning in 1815. In 1827—a year before New York’s law freeing slaves was to take effect—Truth ran away with her infant Sophia to a nearby abolitionist family, the Van Wageners. The family bought her freedom for twenty dollars and helped Truth successfully sue

for the return of her five-year-old-son Peter, who was illegally sold into slavery in Alabama.

“Truth moved to New York City in 1828, where she worked for a local minister. By the early 1830s, she participated in the religious revivals that were sweeping the state and became a charismatic speaker. In 1843, she declared that the Spirit called on her to preach the truth, renaming herself Sojourner Truth.

As an itinerant preacher, Truth met abolitionists William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. Garrison’s anti-slavery organization encouraged Truth to give speeches about the evils of slavery. She never learned to read or write. In 1850, she dictated what would become her autobiography—The Narrative of Sojourner Truth—to Olive Gilbert, who assisted in its publication. Truth survived on sales of the book, which also brought her national recognition. She met women’s rights activists, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, as well as temperance advocates—both causes she quickly championed.

“In 1851, Truth began a lecture tour that included a women’s rights conference in Akron, Ohio, where she delivered her famous “Ain’t I a Woman?” speech. In it, she challenged prevailing notions of racial and gender inferiority and inequality by reminding listeners of her combined strength (Truth was nearly six feet tall) and female status. Truth ultimately split with Douglass, who believed suffrage for formerly enslaved men should come before women’s suffrage; she thought both should occur simultaneously.

“During the 1850’s, Truth settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, where three of her daughters lived. She continued speaking nationally and helped slaves escape to freedom. When the Civil War started, Truth urged young men to join the Union cause and organized supplies for black troops. After the war, she was honored with an invitation to the White House and became involved with the Freedmen’s Bureau, helping freed slaves find jobs and build new lives. While in Washington, DC, she lobbied against segregation, and in the mid 1860s, when a streetcar conductor tried to violently block her from riding, she ensured his arrest and won her subsequent case. In the late 1860s, she collected thousands of signatures on a petition to provide former slaves with land, though Congress never took action. Nearly blind and deaf towards the end of her life, Truth spent her final years in Michigan.” She died Nov. 26, 1883 in Battle Creek, MI.

Unfortunately, the above did not answer the question that prompted my search. However, Nell Irwin Painter’s “Sojourner Truth A Life, A Symbol,” which is part of Marcella Pasay’s Full Circle Collection at the Killingly Historical Center, did provide a reference to one Connecticut stop. In 1843 Sojourner spoke at a religious revival camp meeting in Stepney, Connecticut near Bridgeport. The main “Millerite” speaker so agitated the crowd that they even began shedding clothing. “Disgusted by the frenzy, Truth ‘mounted a stump and called out, Hear! Hear! ...she addressed the people as ‘children’ and asked why they were carrying on so...Like a mother speaking to her babies, she invited them to return to their tents, watch, and pray quietly. Taking the advice of the ‘good sister,’ the Millerites who heard her regained their composure.” (p. 84-5). I’ll keep reading to see if I find additional Connecticut stops.

By now, you know that I love to look at old newspapers. They reveal so much about the everyday lives of the people in addition to providing news on specific historic events. I was browsing through the Feb. 21, 1924 Windham County Transcript to see what was happening one hundred years ago. Page one had several very interesting ads. Did you ever use sealing wax? “Dennison Sealing Wax. Small Sticks. Large Sticks. All colors in stock. Dennison’s complete Washington and St. Patrick’s Day Line on Display. Dowe’s, established 1860.” A search of the internet revealed a few interesting tidbits. “Wax is used to verify that something such as a document is unopened, to verify the sender’s identity, for example with a seal stamps or signet ring, and as decoration. Sealing wax can also be used to take impressions of other seals. Wax was used to seal letters close and later, from about the 16th century, envelopes. Long before sealing wax was employed, the Romans used bitumen for this purpose. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sealing_wax#Refere)

“It was customary for men to use a red seal, and women would use a rose colour. If you were mourning or writing to someone in mourning, the letter would have a black seal. Varying shades of blue would express all the gradients of passion. A pink seal was appropriate when the sender was offering their congratulations. Nov. 9, 2022 (<https://jwl-ettering.com/blogs/blog-posts/wax->).

I’m old enough to remember when a hat was a necessity for church on Sunday. The Church Company in the Cyr Building advertised, “Spring Hats. Does your old hat show the effects of a hard winter? We are ready with new spring hats. Bright new colors fresh from the makers. Crowns a little fuller---brims are wider. In our new shape---brim is made to be pulled down over left eye. Pearl gray, mist gray, and brown.”

The ad for Weisberg’s in the Hyde Block on Main Street in Danielson showed a woman dressed in the hat of the day and a new spring dress. Their ad read, “Spring Dresses in Distinctive Models.” The dress shown reached almost to the floor, had a fairly straight skirt and a drop waist. Think the Flapper era!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, February 2024. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killingly-historicalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

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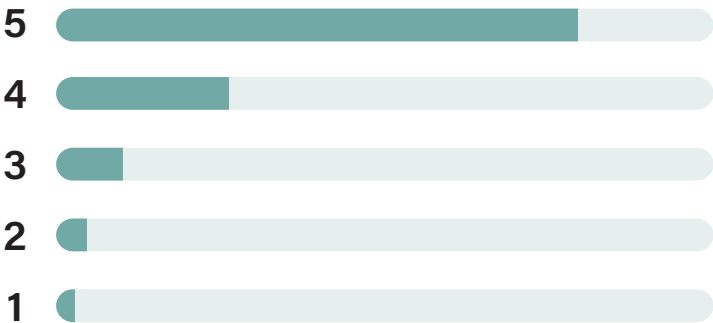




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NOW
continued from page A1

the experience as their children engaged with members of NOW and other local youth. Sazhin said the program has proven to be a popular one and may be one of the most important early learning opportunities the organization can provide. “This is the foundation they will build upon for the rest of their lives. I think that attending programs like this is prob-

ably one of the most important things you can do at a young age because it gets them sharing with other kids, learning, and exploring as soon as they’re born,” said Sazhin. NOW plans to expand the Sensory Saturday into other communities in the coming months after what Sazhin called a “super success” rollout in Putnam. Dates and locations for future Sensory Saturday’s will be made available on NOW’s Web site, www.nowinmotion.org.

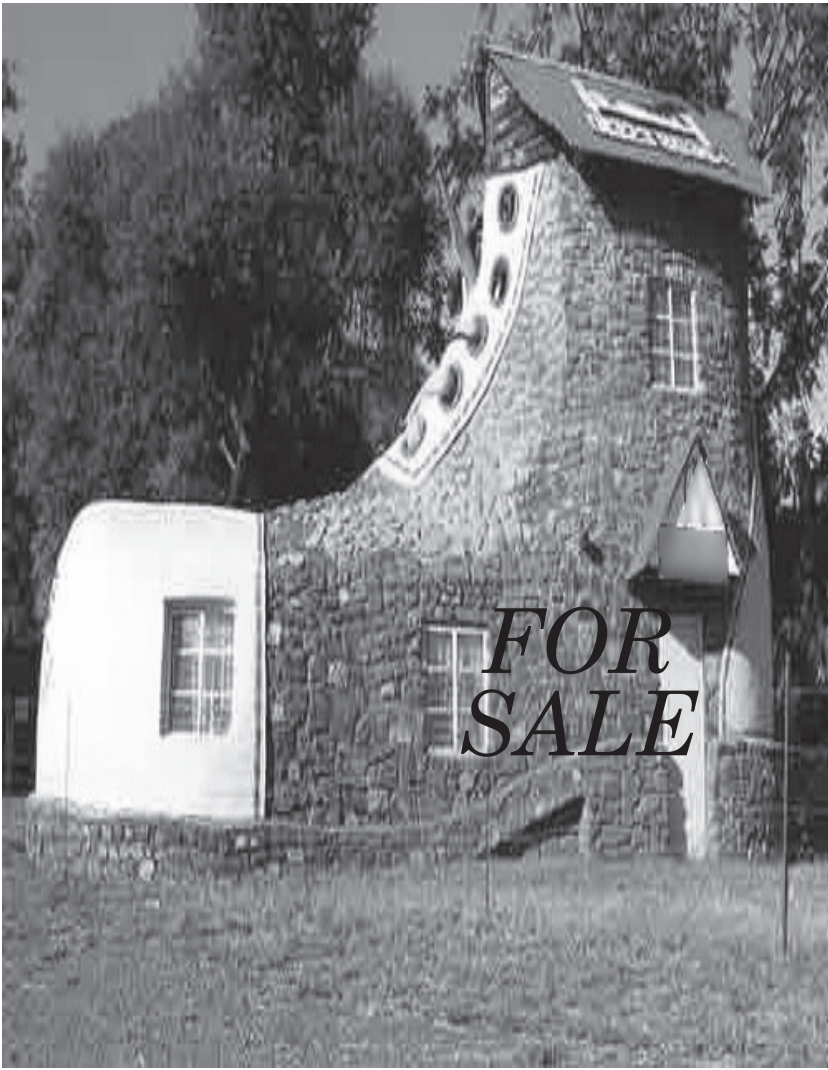
Local children play in a ball pit as part of NOW’s Sensory Saturdays in Putnam.



STEWART
continued from page A1

tive arena and I feel like politics is like that, a way for us to work together, Democrats and Republicans, to get the best outcome for the towns we serve,” said Stewart. “I think if you go into anything, if you’re called by the people and supporters around you to take a leadership role, you just want to go into the situation as a good listener. Don’t always be so quick and rush. I don’t want to go to the capital and say, ‘this is what I want’. Sit there and listen, give the people a strong voice to be heard. I’m in it for the best outcome possible. I want to observe. I don’t want to blaze fire through the trail and make my own mark right away. I want to learn from everyone around me and who came before me and make educated responses to things.” Stewart added that youth and education will be a priority for him, specifically helping enhance vocational opportunities and supporting students with different learning styles and career aspirations. “I want to make sure I invest my time and work on bills that empower our kids within our education system to be as fulfilled as possible. I think our school systems should bring in different avenues for kids at the high school level to help them decide that if the textbooks aren’t for them, they can work on vocational schools right there in their high school and have options. The great thing about America today is you can go to college any time so why not prepare our kids to go into that work sector straight out of senior year so that way they have skills they can fall into to get jobs,” he said. Stewart hopes that whoever his opponent may be the campaign is clean and civil as he believes that whoever runs for the position should have the best interest of the people in mind rather than their own agendas. “I think with politics there’s a shadow where we can’t ever work with each other and it’s completely my way or your way. That’s not how I am. I want to bring a fresh, energetic, and positive energy to the capital,” Stewart said. So far, as of this writing, no Democrat has announced their candidacy for the 51st District, and no Republican has stepped up to challenge Stewart in a primary.

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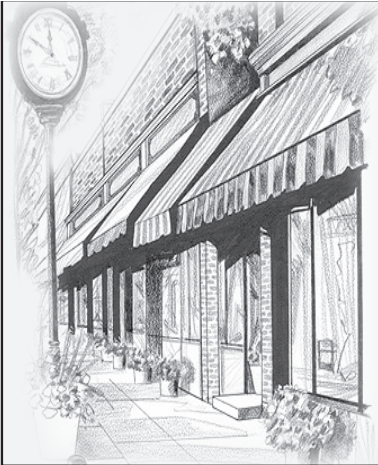
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The undertaking

In the early 19th century, Woodstockians had to rely on local craftsmen to provide goods for convenience and affordability. Many of those talented workers did not leave records or sign their work. However, there are a few very skilled individuals whose names and products have survived the years.

One such craftsmen was a woodworker named Cyrus Colden Davenport. Born in Pomfret on June 2, 1802, to parents Pardon and Comfort Davenport, he lived in Woodstock most of his adult life. He married Tryphena Kendall and together they welcomed six children. Davenport was noted for his cabinetry skills, and his products included rakes and cradles and other necessities. In the Tercentenary exhibit catalogue, one of Davenport's pieces was featured in the chapter

on artists and craftsmen. It is a rectangular box with a lid, made from maple birds-eye veneered over poplar. The box is simple, with a functional brass lock and butt hinges. A Davenport hat rack is part of the museum collection at Old Sturbridge Village. If other examples of his work remain, they are not identified.

Cyrus Davenport was also an active member of the Woodstock community. He is noted as a chorister (a person who sings or directs the singing) for the Hill Church in 1839 and subsequent years. In 1850, Cyrus was the holder of pew number four at the church, leading one to think he attended frequently and supported the society. Woodstock Academy was valued by him and when the school reopened in 1859 under the leadership of John Milton Manning,

WOODSTOCK THROUGH
THE YEARS
.....
CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



Davenport and others made a subscription to purchase “apparatus and diagrams for the school” (Bowen). In 1856, Cyrus became a member of the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees and he served as their chairman in 1859. Five years later, he was elected to the Woodstock Theft Detecting Society.

It is certain that in his lifetime of 81 years, Cyrus made many objects, including coffins. He was an undertaker. That term conjures up thoughts of 21st-century funerary practices but it had a different meaning in the early 19th century. Undertakers were the community's builders, joiners and carpenters

because they had the skills and tools to begin work immediately on the necessary burial container. Each was customized; coffins were rectangular; caskets were shaped and tapered at the head and foot.

It took skill to create a coffin. The undertaker would measure the deceased and expeditiously build an appropriately-sized wooden box. Although the container was usually sanded and polished hardwood, a great deal of time could not be expended on its creation. Sometimes the undertaker would seal it with wax or another substance to prevent leakage. One might assume that a forward-thinking undertaker would have a coffin or two of average size already completed and gracing the corner of

his workshop. While the family of the deceased would prepare the body, it would be the job of the undertaker to make the coffin, place the body in it, and take it to the cemetery. Sometimes, the undertaker would also dig the grave and place the marker. Overtime, the work of the undertaker expanded to provide additional services.

By the end of the 19th century, undertakers started to provide planning of the home funeral which was a major social event, as well as the funeral procession and the burial. The meaning of the word “undertaker” morphed from one who takes on the task of providing a coffin to one who provides all funerary objects, ceremonies and prepares bodies after death.

Perhaps Cyrus Davenport had already crafted his own coffin

and stored it in advance of his demise on Jan. 10, 1883, at the age of 81. He was interred in the Hill Cemetery, near the church and school he supported.

Books on Woodstock history available at any of the town's four libraries and the website for the Woodstock Historical Society (www.centerfor-woodstockhistory.com):

Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. History of Woodstock. Boston: James R. Osgood, 1882.
Larned, Ellen D. History of Windham County, Connecticut. 2 vols. Worcester, Massachusetts: Printed by Charles Hamilton, 1874.
Woodstock Tercentenary Committee. Heritage and Horizons, Woodstock Remembers 300 Years. Woodstock, CT, 1968.

Starting over

Starting all over again often feels like carrying the weight of an ending. It's challenging to move forward when your thoughts are tethered to the past, making each step into the unknown feel heavier with the memories and efforts that once defined your path.

These moments, usually fraught with dread and disbelief, carry the essence of beginning from square one and feeling like less than zero. It's hard to see that the seeds required to embrace a new start are sown within these moments of defeat. Consider the story of a love that once felt like destiny. Two souls intertwined, embarking on a journey that seemed certain to withstand the test of time. But as the chapters unfolded, the narrative shifted, leaving one in despair and forced to

enter the dating world again.

It reminds me of a quote by J.K. Rowling: “Rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life.”

Picture the entrepreneur who charted a path from a local franchisee to a high-flying executive at the national headquarters. This journey, marked by first-class travels and the trappings of success, comes to an abrupt halt with a dismissal that cuts deep. The aftermath was a maelstrom of emotions—anger, sadness, anxiety—confronting the harsh reality of sustaining a lifestyle without the security of a steady income and facing an unwelcome choice between giving up or reinvention.

C.S. Lewis: “You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”

Imagine the diligent student whose academic endeavors were fueled by the promise of a fulfilling career. Years of sacrifice and sleepless nights culminate in achieving a coveted degree, only to discover the chosen path is filled with dissatisfaction and the realization that one's true calling lies elsewhere. It is a terrifying dilemma.

F. Scott Fitzgerald said, “It's never too late to become who you want to be. I hope you live a life that you're proud of, and if you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start over.”

Consider the journey of an artist whose every performance was a testament to a life dedicated to the craft. Creating art that resonated with audiences far and wide. Yet, the unpredictability of the business, the constant

rejection, and the fleeting nature of fame began to erode the joy once found in the spotlight.

The emotional toll of years spent chasing the next opportunity left our artist feeling disillusioned. The passion that once fueled late-night rehearsals had dimmed, leaving behind a yearning for something more, something different. The decision to stay where it feels comfortable or to start all over doing something new is paralyzing.

“Fall forward. Every failed experiment is one step closer to success. You've got to take risks.” —Denzel Washington.

Life, in all its uncertainty, shows us that the comfort of security isn't truly secure. The tales of love lost, career dissatisfaction, and the quest for reinvention are chap-

ters in a story familiar to many of us. These narratives underscore the universal journey of starting anew.

No doubt you've been in similar situations, with no other option than to choose a relentless pursuit of a new beginning. Trudging forward after a significant setback. It's an awful feeling, but what's the alternative? Become bitter and resentful? No thanks.

Human beings may crave security, yet the truth is that everything carries a risk.

As Jim Rohn eloquently said, “Everything in life is risky; I'll tell you how risky life is... you're not going to get out of life alive.”

This acknowledgment can help us to face the unknown with an open mind. Your mindset can significantly influence

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
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TOBY
MOORE

whether the journey ahead leads to a positive transformation or becomes a hurdle too challenging to overcome.

Starting over again presents a unique chance to reevaluate our mental patterns and expectations, setting the stage for a shift that can either uplift or challenge us, depending on our perspective.

Within the realm of uncertainty, we uncover something truly extraordinary: the power to reshape our destiny. Here lies the potential for reinvention, for altering our paths, and for reconstructing our lives from the ground up. Learn to embrace your new beginnings and unlock the promise of tomorrow.

Latest antiques and collectibles news



It's been close to three months since my last update on antique and collectibles news. As you might expect, a lot has taken place since then. I'll focus on some major estate sale finds today.

In 2023, Jeanette Davies saw two antique teddy bears at a yard sale in South Wales. Teddy bears got their name when Teddy Roosevelt was hunting with (American bear hunter and sportsman) Holt Collier. Collier stunned and cornered a bear and Roosevelt wouldn't shoot it, believing it to be unsportsmanlike. Davies paid £130,

or around \$155 for both yard sale bears. One turned out to be a World War II era teddy worth between \$92 and \$142 USD. Davies correctly believed the other bear to be a Steiff bear. Steiff began producing high quality teddy bears three years after the incident with Roosevelt. The 1905 Steiff bear was auctioned with a \$5,100 minimum bid.

Across the country, a California man recently found an old tin box of baseball cards that his dad collected. The man identified only as John said his father Ed began collecting cards in the 1920s, according to Newsweek. Ed had shown John some cards occasionally, but John only saw the tin box with all the cards after Ed's passing. The collection includes 20 Babe Ruth cards, a Shoeless Joe Jackson, and many other Hall of Famers. The sale of the cards is expected to bring in the high six figures.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUISKULA

Also in California, a map dealer's keen eye and knowledge may have netted him millions. Alex Clausen was taking a virtual tour of oil heir Gordon Getty's estate sale and became focused on an old map, according to the Los Angeles Times. He spotted a map listed as a portolan chart and as being from 1500 to 1525. Portolan maps were hand drawn maps on animal skin created by navigators. According to the LA Times, they “often feature drawings of compass roses, flags, sea monsters and ships; unlike modern maps, interior details of land are not the key focus.” The \$100,000 to \$150,000 estimate seemed reasonable for a 16th century map, but some clues led Clausen to believe it could be older. Granada in Southwestern Spain had a different flag than other kingdoms in the Iberian Peninsula, making him think the map was at least from the 15th century before they would have adopted a new flag. After hundreds of hours of

research, researchers dated the map to 1360. The chart is the only 14th century portolan known to exist outside of Europe. The map is being sold in a gallery where it is on course to bring \$7.5 million.

We are currently cataloging our comic books, sports cards, and collectibles auction. We are still accepting consignments of gold jewelry, sterling silver serving ware, art, coins, and other antiques, and collectibles for our early summer auction. I'll be teaching my antiques and collectibles night class again on March 5 at the Bay Path Evening School in Charlton. I'll also be presenting at Learning in Retirement event in Danielson, Connecticut on May 6. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to other upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Starting plants from seeds indoors

Keep your green thumb in shape this winter while getting a jump on the growing season by starting your favorite or hard-to-find plants indoors. It's fun, simpler than you think, and can help stretch your plant budget.

Start with some clean containers that you purchase, recycle, or make from newspapers. Be sure to add drainage holes to any repurposed yogurt or similar containers you are using for starting seeds to avoid waterlogged soil. Always clean used pots by soaking them in a one-part bleach and nine-part water solution for ten minutes then rinse with clear water. This helps reduce the risk of disease.

Fill the containers with a moist well-drained potting mix or a sterile seed starting mix. Once the containers are filled,

check the back of your seed packets for planting directions. Most contain all the information you need for when and how to plant the seeds. Some seed companies now provide this information on their website instead of the seed packets.

Most seeds are planted about twice the seed diameter deep while smaller seeds are often set on the soil surface and gently watered in place. Once again, check the seed packet for the seeds you are growing. Plant two seeds per container just in case one of the seeds fails to sprout.

Once planted, move the containers to a warm location. Many gardeners use heating pads designed for germinating seeds to help speed sprouting. Covering the containers with a sheet



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

of plastic or one of the prefab domes will help conserve moisture so you will need to water less often.

Check the soil moisture daily and water often enough to keep the soil evenly moist but not soggy wet. Remove the plastic and move the containers to a sunny window or better yet, under artificial lights as soon as any green appears.

Regularly rotate plants that are growing in sunny windows to promote more even growth. Adjust artificial lights as

plants grow. Most seedlings benefit from keeping the lights four to six inches above the top of the seedlings. Leave the lights on for 14 but no more than 16 hours a day. Using a timer is an easy way to make sure the plants receive the right amount of light each day.

Once the seedlings develop two sets of true leaves (these will look like the leaves of the plants you are growing), it is time to do some thinning. Remove the weakest seedling in each pot so only one strong seedling remains. Trimming the weaker seedlings back to ground level instead of pulling avoids damage to the remaining seedling.

Once seedlings have been thinned and are actively growing, use a fertilizer labeled for this

use. Continue to water thoroughly and often enough to keep the planting mix slightly moist but not soggy wet.

Check the weather and seed packet to determine when it is safe to move your plants outdoors. You'll need to prepare them for their new home outdoors with a technique called hardening off. Start by moving the plants to a sheltered and shaded location after the danger of frost has passed. Stop fertilizing, and check soil moisture daily but allow it to dry just slightly before watering thoroughly.

Gradually increase the amount of sunlight the plants receive each day. Cover or move them indoors when frost is in the forecast. Your transplants are ready to move to their permanent loca-

tion after a week or two.

Start gathering your supplies and seeds now. And before you know it, you will be enjoying the beautiful blooms and tasty vegetables you started from seed yourself.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

“In the Studio” features artists from the Quiet Corner-home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we’ll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We’ll also learn some “artspeak” terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those “artist words.” In this interview, we’re meeting with Quiet Corner mosaic designer, Debora Aldo of Pietre Dure Design Studios.

Hello Deb. I found your work on the Artist Open Studios website and love the mosaics shown! Thanks for making time for us today. Tell us about “Sea Change Mandala,” and “Little Gems” shown here.

THANK YOU! One of my favorite things to make are mandalas, the Sea Change 8” (left) was an exercise in using left-over scraps from a job I’d just finished as well as a day at the beach, and my special finds as a color gradient. The piece on the right- “Little Gems” uses 24K colored gold in shades of cobalt, turquoise and purple as well as a thick glass called Dalle de Verre. This was playing with bright sparkling gem colors against a calm gray background, a dance of color and a pop of happiness. I started making mandalas a

In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI

dozen years ago at my favorite yoga studio in RI and at a class in Austin TX and then across the USA. I have taught people to make these small works as a contemplative piece, or to find a home for all the beach combing they have done over the years, as well as a petite piece that is just fun to put together. I also make them as commissions or for the Artists Open Studios in December. My larger works can be found at the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston on the east coast, and on the west coast at the University of California, Santa Barbara- a 12’ round mosaic at the entrance of the marine biology building, as well as many street ends in Florida and California.

You use natural and upcycled materials in your pieces. How do you organize materials in your studio?

My studio workspace has no materials, other than the project at hand. Much of the material is sorted by color, texture and purpose. There is a whole section of clear slab glass, Italian smalti [hand cut glass tiles] and gold, porcelain and recycled glass tile, as well as stone, pebbles, shells and boxes of metal treasures. All this material is sorted on shelves downstairs from my studio and in

my barn. When I was working on large scale installations, I had a stone yard in my backyard. This area has been drastically downsized.

I read that you are a landscape architect. In what way does that inform your work?

It was a vital set of skills when I was work-

architect helped with understanding how to create work from small drawings that were inches or feet across to building work that was over 200 feet long. Landscape architecture helped me envision how to use a site, how to add to it in a way that worked with the space, the flow of traffic and even how it feels to the humans who interact with the art.

walk. The center circle was six feet across. The piece was an inset that was 40 feet wide and 265 feet long. Many of the large paving pieces were 10 to 14 feet across. This type of work takes months to make and is very heavy. While I liked creating them, I did not love the installations or the travel schedule.

ly that is local- Artists Open Studios in Ashford at the Old Post office. I can be reached at deb.pietredure@gmail.com if you have questions or would like a mosaic for yourself or as a gift.

Word of the day
Pietre dure: Italian for “hard stone” as used in a particular technique of mosaics by the same name, usually depicting



Mosaics have such a long history. Is there a time period, maker, or technique which particularly intrigues you?

I love ancient Greek and Roman mosaics; the city of Ravenna Italy is one of the most amazing places to see mosaics from several overlapping eras and empires. I love the work that comes out of Spilimbergo, Italy as well. It is a totally different visual style than what is found in Ravenna. As to makers...too many to mention!

What have been some of your favorite commissions?

Some were from home owners who hired me to create water features, paving insets and interior works in kitchens and bathrooms. I did a kitchen for a family in Madison, and it was one of my favorites. Another project was for Tom Brady and Giselle Bunchen a number of years ago.

The largest installation I have created, built and installed was for a street end in Hollywood, Florida along the board-

How did you get started in making mosaics?

I was 17 years old when I saw my first mosaic in The Louvre, in Paris. I knew I would make them one day, and I did, for 25 years. It’s been a decades-long passion working with stone and glass and other materials. Mosaics still thrill me and likely always will.

Thanks for sharing your work with us today. Any closing thoughts? Upcoming events?

I am always happy to talk or teach a group about mosaics. I exhibit nationally by invitation. Please come to the one show that I do year-

nature. Always made of stone, with no visible joints.

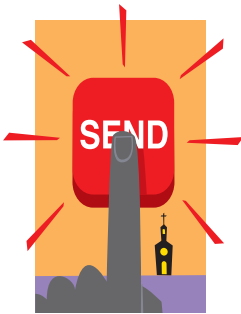
About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock) is a nationally recognized flame-work glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Significant projects include costume work for the Santa Fe Opera, and flamework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



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The rules about leap years

It's widely accepted that a year is 365 days long. However, that statement is not entirely accurate. In fact, it takes Earth a little more than 365 days (365.24223 days to be precise) to orbit the sun. A calendar cannot accommodate that small distinction every year. In order to ensure that seasons do not start drifting from the difference between the Earth's rotation and the time it takes to get around the sun, leap years were established to keep the calendar more consistent and working like clockwork. The first modern leap year took place in 1752.

Certain guidelines were established to determine which years would be leap years. A leap year typically arrives every four years. However, in terms of end-of-century years, they must be divisible by 400. That is why the year 2000 was a leap year but 1900 was not, according to Royal Museums Greenwich.

This approach is not an entirely foolproof plan since there still may be very small discrepancies in time. Leap seconds have been added to keep time ticking correctly at various points throughout the years. This occurred on December 31 in the years 2005, 2008 and 2012, and also on June 30, 2015.

In terms of adding a day to the calendar for the leap year, it is placed in February, which already is the shortest month. While February is typically 28 days, in leap years the month features 29 days. A leap year next occurs in February 2024, and then again in 2028, 2032 and 2036.

29 famous leaplings

Individuals who are born on February 29 are known as leaplings. The chances of being born on a Leap Day are slim, as estimates suggests there is a one in 1,461 chance of becoming a leapling.

Being born on Leap Day can be both entertaining and frustrating, as it means having to celebrate your birthday on a day that is not exactly the true anniversary of your birth. However, since February 29 comes around just once every four years, it may mean you can celebrate four times as much to make up for lost time.

Many notable individuals were born on February 29. Here's a look at 29 well-known individuals who were born on February 29.

1. Ja Rule: Hip-hop artist.
2. Tyrese Haliburton: Athletes
3. Ferrán Torres: Athlete
4. Joss Ackland: Actor
5. Tony Robbins: Motivational speaker
6. Pedro Sánchez: Spanish politician
7. Mark Foster: Rock singer
8. Jessie Usher: Actor
9. Peter Scanavino: Actor
10. Max Torina: Actor
11. Korede Bello: Pop singer
12. Khaled: Folk singer
13. Dinah Shore: Pop singer
14. Gioachino Rossini: Composer
15. Lena Gercke: Model
16. Jessica Long: Athlete
17. Majesty Rose: Pop singer
18. Antonio Sabato, Jr.: Actor
19. Bizzy: Rapper
20. Dennis Farina: Actor
21. Deelodoitall: Rapper
22. Joey Greco: Actor
23. Monte Kiffin: Football coach
24. Janvi Chheda: Television actress
25. Dave Williams: Singer
26. Lydia Jacoby: Athlete
27. Jimmy Dorsey: Jazz musician
28. Pepper Martin: Athlete
29. Masten Gregory: Race car driver

Leap into these Leap Year facts

Leap Year typically takes place every four years. The process of adding a day to the calendar every four years was designed to realign the clock and calendar more closely with how long it takes the Earth to rotate around the sun, which is slightly longer than the 365 days attributed to a year. If not for Leap Year, the seasons would slowly shift out of place.

There are many interesting facts to learn about Leap Year, and February 29 is the perfect time to explore them.

- It takes the Earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds to circle once around the sun, says Time and Date. Without leap years, we'd lose almost six hours every year. After a century, the calendar would be off by nearly 24 days.
- Despite 2100, the next turn of the century, being divisible by four, it will not be a leap year. That's because it is divisible by 100 but not 400, which means it will not be a leap year. This exception to the rule pertains to new century years.
- Forbes reports that it's likely the calendar will need to be changed again since the Earth's rotation rate, the axial tilt orientation and the Earth's orbital motion around the sun is not constant. Various effects, such as earthquakes and something called tidal braking, affect the passage of time.
- Legend states that on February 29 it is alright for a woman to propose to a man, a custom attributed to St. Bridget. Bridget complained to St. Patrick that some women had to wait too long for their suitors to pop the question. As the legend goes, Patrick supposedly provided women this day to propose to compensate.
- Some cultures view February 29 as an unlucky day. In Greece, couples are warned against planning weddings during leap years. In Italy, the phrase, "Anno biseto, anno funesto" ("leap year, doom year") is



- uttered.
- Individuals who are born on February 29th are known as leaplings or leapers.
- Leap Day is not considered a legal day. Those who are leaplings have to choose February 28 or March 1 for their official and legal birthdays.
- Individuals who are paid fixed monthly incomes often work for free on February 29th because their wages will not be calculated to include the extra day.
- Guinness World Records indicates the only family it could verify as producing three consecutive generations born on leap days belongs to the Keoghs. The elder Patrick Anthony Keogh was born in 1940, his son Peter Eric was born in 1964, and his granddaughter Bethany in 1996.

Fun ways to spend extra Leap Day hours



The sentiment that there aren't enough hours in the day may be true for busy families and individuals. However, once every four years, everyone is given an extra day on their calendars in February.

Although Leap Day is designed to move the clock and calendar more in line with the Earth's rotation around the sun, which takes slightly longer than 365 days, it also can be an exciting opportunity to relax and have some fun. The following are some ways to maximize that extra day of the year.

Learn about leaplings
A leapling is a person who was born on

February 29 during a leap year. Highlights magazine reports the odds of being a leapling is one in 1,461. Find out if anyone you know is a leapling or research celebrity leaplings.

Celebrate Leap Day
Even if Leap Day isn't an official holiday, it is worthy of celebration. Figure out a theme for your party, and then invite friends over for an extra day of revelry or relaxation.

Take the day off
Make the most of Leap Day by enjoying a mental health day and taking off from work or school, if possible. Spend the day engaged in hobbies or

other activities.

Leapin' lizards
Kids may enjoy reading up on or learning about the various animals that are good at leaping, which can include frogs or flying squirrels. Children and adults can take turns doing their own leaping long jumps to see who can leap the farthest.

Calculate your leap year age
Students can practice math and have fun in the process by dividing each person's age by four to determine what age they would be had they been born on a Leap Day.

Commemorate in fours
Do everything for the

day in fours. Enjoy four scoops of ice cream or commit to a four-hour hike. Go out to lunch or dinner with friends and spend four hours finding out everything that has been going on in the lives of others. Watch a movie marathon that adds up to four hours of fantastic cinema.

Leap into community service
Use the extra time for doing good. Figure out where you can volunteer your services and make Leap Day all about giving back.
Leap Day is an opportunity to engage in fun or relaxing activities everyone can enjoy.

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OBITUARIES

Ruth T. Bates, 90



Ruth T. Bates, 90, of Dayville, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 11th. Born in Putnam, Connecticut, she was the daughter of the late Tamy and Angela (Mila) Stilu.

Ruth grew up in the Manhasset Village section of Putnam, helping out at her father's store, Stilu's Market, which was eventually destroyed by the flood of 1955.

Ruth was a graduate of Putnam High School, class of 1951, where she was a cheerleader and basketball standout. She met her high school sweetheart, Bob, and they were married on July 1, 1951.

After raising her family and returning to the workforce, Ruth worked as a secretary at Putnam Grammar School. She later joined Rogers Corporation, where she was employed as a Marketing Coordinator for 21 years. While working at Rogers, she went on to earn her Associates Degree in Science at QVCC in 1982 and her BS in Business Administration from Nichols College in 1986.

After retiring, Ruth moved to Bonita Springs Florida, where she lived for over 20 years, returning to Connecticut

in 2020 and taking up residence at Westview Commons in Dayville.

Ruth enjoyed reading, going for walks, shopping, her Maxine Calendars, and spending time with her family and friends both here and in Bonita Springs. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her and will be remembered for her kindness, dedication, and the love she shared with her family.

Ruth is survived by her sons Michael and his wife, Denise of Putnam, Marc (Skip) and his wife, Tori of Brooklyn, and Alan and his wife, Janet of Putnam. Her beloved grandchildren Jody, Jason, Brittany, Ryan, Glenn, Alissa, Eric, and sixteen great-grandchildren. She also leaves many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband of 61 years, Robert (Bob) Bates, and her brothers Triani Stilu and Demetri "Jim" Stilu.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life Service at the Putnam Congregational Church at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Burial in West Thompson Cemetery will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a Memorial donation may be made to the Putnam Congregational Church in Ruth's memory.

For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Glen Holden



Glen Holden was born May 27th, 1970 as the first-born son to Charles and Lillian Holden. A native to Hardwick, Massachusetts, Glen grew up on the Quabbin Reservoir, where he took an interest in all things outdoors, including hunting, fishing, and athletics. Glen attended Quabbin High School and graduated with the class of 1988. After Quabbin, Glen attended Springfield Technical Community College where he received a degree in radiologic technology. He began his career in the medical field at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA, where he performed CT scan, Interventional Radiology, and Cardiac Cath Lab procedures. He became a Medical Sales Representative in his early 30s at Vascular Solutions where he was able to change countless lives with the products he provided. Recently, Glen took a position as an Executive Clinical Director with Reprise Biomedical and was able to spend the summer of 2023 with his daughter, Rachel, through her internship there, all while battling glioblastoma. He loved his job, the people he worked with, and especially helping others. Glen also owned his own company, Four Oaks Medical, which he named to represent the strength of his family.

In the early summer of 1992, Glen and Renee met and fell in love. They married in 1997 and together had a beautiful life with their two children, Ben and Rachel. Glen did everything he possibly could for his family. He created an environment of love, happiness, and always stressed the importance of

hard work. He was incredibly proud of both Ben and Rachel as he saw his life lessons of kindness, helping others, and work ethic through them. He never missed any of Ben's or Rachel's sporting or school events. Glen also made a positive impact on the community by coaching Frog Rock basketball and Pomfret-Eastford Little League. The impact he made on players, friends, and the community will be felt for years to come. Glen was a loving son, husband, father, brother, and friend, and his presence made everywhere a better place. His legacy will continue through his wife, children, siblings, and the community.

Glen was predeceased by his parents, Charles and Lillian Holden, and his friend, John Krokos. He leaves behind his wife, Renee Holden of Pomfret, CT, his children, Ben and Rachel Holden, also of Pomfret, his siblings Jay and his wife Donna Holden of Hardwick, MA, Josh Holden of Portland, ME, and Amber Mueller of Ludlow, MA. His parents-in-law, Raymond and Cecelia Bernier of Hanover, CT, brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Ramona Gray of Lisbon, CT, brother and sister-in-law, Raymond and Diane Bernier of Marlborough, CT, his nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Glen's family from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024 at the Gilman-Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial 11:30 am in Saint Mary's Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence Street, Putnam. Burial will take place in the spring, in Abington Cemetery. A memorial guestbook is available at www.gilmanandvalade.com.

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Kimberly Ann Tavallai-mola (24-00030)

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

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Massood Tavallai
c/o ERNEST J COTNOIR, MAHER AND COTNOIR,
163 PROVIDENCE STREET, P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260
February 23, 2024

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the following appli-

cation with conditions on 2/15/24: #SP565-07-05M Woodstock Academy – 150 Rt 169 (map 6395 block 64 lot 11) Special Permit Modification for construction of 4 tennis courts to replace soccer fields at WA South Campus. Chairman Jeffrey Marcotte. February 23, 2024

TOWN OF KILLINGLY
METERED USE
LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-4:30pm, Tuesday 8-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. By mail, online, or in our drop box.

The second installment of metered use is due March 1, 2024. If payment is not received on or before April 2, 2024 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per

month, or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org. April Lamothe, CCMC Revenue Collector Town of Killingly February 23, 2024 March 8, 2024 March 22, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
Town of Thompson

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm at Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT regarding the application by the Thompson Congregational Church for the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. The application mate-

rials are available for public inspection at the Town Clerk's Office in Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive North Grosvenordale, CT during regular business hours.

Dated at Thompson, Connecticut this 16th of February 2024.
February 23, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON

On February 13, 2024, the Wetlands Commission approved, with conditions: SUB24001, John & Cheryl Lowinski, 90 Thompson Road (Assessor's Map 87, Block 38, Lot 16), . Chairman George T. O'Neil, III February 23, 2024

On February 16, 2024, wetlands agent approval was issued for: WAA24006, Dave Citron, 0 Greene Island (Assessor's Map 43, Block 16, Lot 53),. Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent February 23, 2024

SPORTS

Defense fuels Ellis Tech girls' basketball past Prince Tech in CTC quarterfinals

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Ellis Tech girls' basketball, on the shoulders of stifling defense, propelled themselves into the semifinal round of the CTC tournament with a dominant 50-20 win over Prince Tech on Monday, Feb. 19.

"We hang our hat on defense," expressed Ellis Tech Head Coach John Murdock. "We just play smart, stay in front, slide their feet and the girls, their execution on defense today was probably the best I have seen all year long."

From start to finish the Golden Eagles played tough defense against the visiting Falcons. Both teams started slow offensively in the first quarter, but eventually, Ellis Tech was able to turn defense into offense and opened up the game in the second quarter.

Led by seven points from senior Kylie Damble in the second quarter Ellis Tech went into half-time with a 20-8 lead after outscoring Prince Tech 13-4 in the quarter.

"The first six or seven games we were putting up a lot of points, but defensively we were holding

teams to almost 22 points a game and that just says we are defensive-minded first and offense is going to come and we want it to come off of our defense," emphasized Murdock. "Kudos to the team and my seniors they're hungry, they want this banner and want to come back someday and say I did that."

Coming out of the half, Ellis Tech became more aggressive in getting the ball inside, finishing at the rim, or ultimately getting to the free throw line. Damble, who converted eight of her 10 first-half points from the free

throw line, continued her aggressive play in the second half.

Damble finished three layups in the second half and also converted four more points from the charity stripe. The senior forward finished with a game-high 20 points, hitting 12 of her 16 free throw attempts, while also pulling down seven rebounds, blocking two shots, and snagging three steals.

"Defense was strong on their (Prince) end so it was tough making layups, but free throws save games and I feel like that is where I

shined tonight," Damble expressed.

Despite a great game from Damble, Ellis Tech also had a ton of production from others. Sophomore Roselyn Lopez posted a double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds to go with two blocks. Junior Sadie Murray added 10 points and three steals and senior Brooke Montecalvo pulled down 6 rebounds from her guard spot and led the team with four steals.

Ellis Tech is on an incredible run and looking to get back to the CTC championship game they

lost last season. Most of the group is back from last year and led by a good group of seniors, the Golden Eagles are eager for a different result this season.

"We are playing with a chip on our shoulder," stated Murdock. "We made it to that championship last year and we were shell-shocked. This year we returned a lot of the team, we are still very young, but the girls are hungry. If you look around the gym there is not one girls' basketball banner to begin with and what they're doing this year is unbelievable."

Danielson Martial Arts Academy perform well at first tournament of year



Courtesy photo

Members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy recently attended the first Cheezic Tang Soo Do federation tournament of the year, and DMAA took home numerous medals.

On Feb. 11, members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy attended the first Cheezic Tang Soo Do federation tournament of the year. DMAA took home numerous medals in each division.

7-8 Year Olds: Girls: Serenity Robbins: (green) Autumn St. Jean (green) Ophelia Fredericks: (blue) Tori Dellagiovanna: (red) Liliana Huling: (purple) 9-10 Year Olds: Girls: Lila Turner (purple) Lillian Antunes (purple) Aurora Huling: (red) Boys Isaac Sawyer: (blue) 11-12 Year Olds: Girls: Sybella Fredericks: (red) Amya Fredericks: (green)	Olivia Mello: (green) Boys: Colby Densmore: (red) Orion Huling: (green) 13-17 Year Olds: Girls: Kyra Dionne: (green) Alina Turner: (purple) Kyree Bourassa: (purple) Claire Antunes: (purple) Under Blackbelt Seniors (35+) Women Dawn Dionne: (green)	1st Breaking Lorelai Tyler: (red) 1st Forms 1st Sparring 1st Breaking 1st Weapons 3rd Forms 3rd Sparring 3rd Breaking 1st Weapons 4th Forms 2nd Sparring 1st Forms 3rd Sparring 1st Breaking 2nd Weapons 2nd Forms 1st Sparring 1st Breaking 2nd Weapons 2nd Forms 1st Sparring 1st Breaking 2nd Sparring 3rd Breaking 1st Forms 2nd Sparring 3rd Breaking	Melinda Densmore: (red) 2nd Forms 3rd Sparring 2nd Breaking 4th Weapons Karissa Bourassa: (purple) 4th Forms 1st Sparring 4th Breaking Men: Daniel Schaefer: (green) 1st Forms 3rd Sparring 2nd Weapons Scott Gardiner: (green) 3rd Forms 1st Sparring 1st Breaking Nelson Rojas: (red) 2nd Forms 2nd Sparring 2nd Breaking 1st Weapons Junior Blackbelt 11-12 Year Olds: Girls: Dakota St. Jean Boys: Luke St. Jean 1st Forms 1st Sparring 2nd Breaking 1st Weapons Junior Blackbelt 13-14 Year Olds: Girls: Jaycee Adams 4th Forms 4th Sparring 5th Weapons Boys: Hunter St. Jean 1st Forms	3rd Sparring 1st Weapons 3rd Forms 2nd Sparring 2nd Weapons Junior Blackbelt 15-17 Year Olds: Girls: Caryssa Adams Boys: Luke Rojas 4th Forms 2nd Sparring 4th Breaking 4th Weapons Blackbelts (18+) Women: Elizabeth Walsh (competed with the seniors) 1st Forms 2nd Weapons Blackbelt Seniors (35+) Women: Melanie Branco 2nd Forms 2nd Sparring Tracy St. Jean 3rd Forms 3rd Sparring 1st Weapons Cathleen Anderson 4th Forms 1st Breaking Men: Brian Densmore 4th Sparring 3rd Weapons Gary Fredericks 4th Forms
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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL
NOTEBOOK

Killingly High School

Boys' Basketball
KILLINGLY — Killingly Basketball (9-9) led to victory on Wednesday, February 14th over Windham (7-11) behind 18 points and 10 rebounds from Johnny Kazantzis, while Quinn Summer added 17 points and 11 rebounds! Final Score 56-49 Quin Crowley added 12 points for Killingly, and Michael Fabiano had 6 points and 6 rebounds! Ashton Goodwin added 3 points, 4 rebounds, and 5 assists for Killingly!

COLCHESTER — Killingly basketball (10-9) took the win on the road over Bacon Academy (8-12) on Friday, February 16th, behind 17 points and 11 rebounds from Johnny Kazantzis, and 14 points from Quin Crowley! Final score 53-39! Killingly led by 1 at halftime before taking control in the 2nd half! Michael Fabiano had 7 points and 4 rebounds, while Quinn Summer had 6 points and 9 rebounds! Lincoln Waterman and Ashton Goodwin each added 4 points!

Girls' Basketball
The Killingly girls' basketball team lost their quarterfinal ECC playoff game against Bacon Academy, 50 to 37 on Thursday, February 15th. Killingly closed in on Bacon and got within four points with less than four minutes to play in the tough ECC matchup. Molly Crabtree, and Ariahna Headen lead killingly with 12 points apiece, and Sydney Crabtree chipped in with eight points.

Woodstock Academy

Boys' Hockey
February 14th
Woodstock Academy 9
Daniel Hand 1

POMFRET – The Centaurs skated off the cobwebs after a week off and easily posted the win at home at the Jahn Ice Rink at the Pomfret School against the Tigers.

Junior Maxx Corradi led the goal barrage for Woodstock Academy as he got the hat trick including a couple of special team goals on the power play in the first period and a shorthanded tally in the second. He also added two assists.

Noah Sampson had two goals and two assists for the Centaurs (8-9) with Brady Lecuyer (2 assists), Troy Daviau, Donny Sousa and Thomas Blevins also scoring. It was the first career goal for Blevins.

Owen Scarice had the only goal for the Tigers (1-14).

Girls' Basketball
February 15th
Eastern Connecticut Conference
Quarterfinal
(4) Fitch 46
(5) Woodstock Academy 36

GROTON – The Falcons (12-9) pulled away in the second quarter when they outscored the Centaurs, 20-9, and advanced to the league semifinals.

Eva Monahan paced Woodstock Academy (15-6) with 10 points.

Kaylee Saucier tossed in eight for the Centaurs and Sidney Anderson put down seven.

Boys' Basketball
February 14th
Woodstock Academy 61
Bacon Academy 51

COLCHESTER – Senior Hunter Larson scored 11 of his game-high 19 points in the second half as the Centaurs gradually pulled away for the win. Brady Ericson added 12 points for Woodstock Academy (9-10) while Garrett Bushey finished with 10 and Lucas Quercia, making his first varsity start, tossed in nine. Troy Johnson led the Bobcats (8-11) with 16 points and Theo Kantsofavas had 15.

February 16th
Windham 60
Woodstock Academy 49

WILLIMANTIC- The Whippets won the battle for the seventh seed in the upcoming Eastern Connecticut Conference tournament as they held off the Centaurs at home.

It means Woodstock Academy will be the eighth-seeded team in the field and will host No. 9 Ledyard on Wednesday in a play-in game for the right to play top-seeded St. Bernard on Thursday in a quarterfinal game.

Brady Ericson paced the Centaurs, who finished the regular season with a 9-11 record (2-4 ECC Division II), with 15 points while Hunter Larson added nine.

Anthony Green scored 13 of his game-high 25 points in the final quarter for the Whippets (8-11, 4-2) who not only took the seventh seed in the ECC tournament but also qualified for the state tournament and broke a seven-game losing streak.

Tahi Jones added 14 and Malcolm Hunter 12 for Windham.

Ellis Tech

Girls' Basketball
Ellis Tech beat Putnam 35-24 on Thursday, February 15th. Kylie Damble added 15 points, 8 rebounds, and 3 steals. Rose Lopez added 10 points, 8 rebounds and a block, Brooke Montecalvo added 5 steals and Sadie Murray added 8 rebounds, 2 steals and 5 assists.

Putnam Middle School sweeps
QVJC basketball tournament titles



Courtesy photos

The Putnam Middle School varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams both won QVJC Tournament titles back on Monday, Feb. 12.



Putnam Middle School's varsity basketball teams pulled off the doubleheader sweep Monday, Feb. 12, as both the girls and boys teams won their respective QVJC Tournament titles.

The girls' team, coached by Ashley Burke, defeated The Canterbury School 25-18 for its first championship since 2016. Peyton Rodriguez

scored seven points to lead the Wolfpack, which finished the season 10-2. Nyla Magalhaes, Ella Adams, and Mary Battersby scored six points apiece in the win.

Other members of the championship team include: Avery Meyette, Laura Coderre, Angelina Cardoso, Amber Johnson, Raegan Healey, Makaila Roy, and

Bethany Mayo.

The boys' team, meanwhile, cruised to a 75-47 victory over Parish Hill to finish the season undefeated at 14-0 and claim its first tourney championship in five years. TJ Espinosa scored a game-high 35 points and Camden Kell added 24 in the win. Other members of the Wolfpack, who are

coached by Derek Coderre, include: Marcus Riendeau, Theo Buzanoski, Caleb LaFrance, Griffin Fjellman, Sam Jackel, Owen LePage, Wesley Schulman, Liam Purdon, Joel Bennett, Noah Pelletier, Dominic Kostovski, and Bryce Espinosa.

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Tourtellotte Student Spotlight: Patricia Peterson



N O R T H G R O S V E N O R D A L E — Each month, Tourtellotte Memorial High School’s Student Spotlight program recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, character, leadership, attitude, and/or contributions to the school and community.

February’s Student Spotlight honoree is senior Patricia Peterson. While consistently achieving high honors throughout high school, Patricia has taken a leading role in many school organizations including the Student Spirit Association, National Honor Society, and FBLA. In addition, Patricia enjoys volunteering at Day Kimball Hospital during the summers, and bell ringing for the Salvation Army during the holiday season.

Patricia was nominated for this recognition by classmates Kaylee Beck, Avery Butler, Jordyn Butler, Eric Levesque, and Noel Raciot.

Kaylee says, “Patricia is a friendly face to the whole school. She is friends with so many people and has a fantastic sense of humor to brighten your day. She completely runs the publication of Tiger Times, the SSA Newsletter.”

Avery adds that her friend Patricia, “works incredibly hard at everything she does. Patricia is truly someone you can always rely on. Her kindness, personality, and sense of humor always brighten my day. I couldn’t ask for a better friend. I am very proud of all of her many accomplishments.”

Jordyn continues, saying that Patricia “never fails to brighten everyone’s day with her sarcastic jokes and contagious laughter. She gives and gives without ever asking for a single thing in return or an ounce of recognition. She will always listen and have the perfect responses to every single rant or conversation. Patricia perfectly embodies what it means to be a good person and I can say without a doubt that she is extremely deserving of this recognition.”

Eric comments about Patricia, “Patricia is one of the most considerate and thoughtful people I

know. She is always able to make light of a situation. With her light-hearted attitude and her ability to support others in their time of need, Patricia is the perfect person to seek help from when faced with an obstacle. We are all very lucky to be able to call Patricia a friend.”

Finally, Noel says, “Patricia is a hard worker, getting good grades and doing her best at the work she completes. She is a good friend, and takes the time to check in on you. Patricia is organized and manages her time well. She is caring and willing to help anyone who needs it, whether it be school work or someone in need.”

Patricia was also nominated by two teachers, Ms. Williams and Mrs. Ouillette.


Mrs. Williams says, “Patricia is very deserving of Spotlight recognition. She is kind, funny, intelligent, and dependable. She is a person who quietly goes about getting things done, and she is always willing to step up to help. For example, last year when the SSA decided to publish a monthly newsletter, Patricia willingly took on the role of editor-in-chief, and under her leadership, the group produced an excellent monthly newsletter. Patricia leads by example as she demonstrates how a strong work ethic and respect for her-

self and others produces excellent results.”

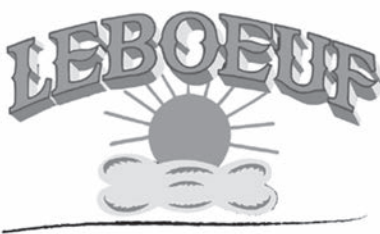
Mrs. Ouillette adds, “Patricia has demonstrated an excellent academic performance throughout her time here at Tourtellotte Memorial High School while contributing a great deal of her free time to making her school community a better place for others. Patricia has spent countless hours giving of herself in this way. It’s no big surprise that she was the first student in the Class of 2024 to be accepted to college.”

When asked what motivates her, Patricia says, “I would say that I am motivated by a combination of both my parents and goals that I have set for myself of what I hope to be able to accomplish one day. My parents have taught me to do my best in whatever I do. They have always pushed me to be the best that I can be, and encourage me throughout everything that I do.”

Patricia plans to go to college for nursing and she hopes to eventually become a nurse practitioner. Finally, Patricia’s message to her school and community is, “Always try to do things that are out of your comfort zone. You will begin to grow and become more confident, once you start doing things that you are afraid to do and are out of your comfort zone.”



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Berkery promoted to Assistant Branch Manager



Megan Berkery

THOMPSON — Megan Berkery has been promoted to assistant branch manager of bankHometown’s Riverside Dr. Thompson office.

Berkery, of Killingly, has four years of bank-

ing experience, and was previously senior personal banker of bankHometown’s Thompson office. She was hired in 2020 as a float personal banker. She is currently treasurer and a member of the Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club.

About bankHometown
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Mass. We have \$1.4 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. We’re proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individ-

ualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services, and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

PUTNAM HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

PUTNAM — Putnam High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

High Honors – Five eligible courses with all grades 80 and above and a 90 percent or better simple GPA for the quarter.

Honors – Five eligible courses with all grades 75 and above and an 85 percent or better simple GPA for the quarter.

Class of 2024
High Honors: Melodie Anderson, Ava Briere, Lucien Canova, CoraRose Desrosiers, Brady Devlin, Atiana Estes, Katelyn Fitzpatrick, Lily Goyette, Savannah Loiselle, Brandon Marcelonis, Pedro Ortiz III, Kaya Pernini, Jack Seiffert, Josephine Spalding, Isabel Vergoni
Honors: Lucas Carita, Aysaiah Chavez, Grace Collins, Robert Dion, Natalie Ferreira, Grant Hart, Sophia Ionkin, Draven Levesque, Colin Martin, Jonathan Racine, Noah Rudman, Moses Ryder, Adam Sekula, Jalcia Torres

Class of 2025
High Honors: Lucas Benoit, Sawyer Britt, Melanie Garcia, Madison Lamothe, Isabelle Magalhaes, Evan Mailloux, Nathaniel Pearsall, Isabel

Porter, Hailey Summers
Honors: Alex Bissonnette, Anthony Cosentino, Lillian Ennis, Diogo Gonzaga Andrade, Thiago Gonzaga Andrade, Logan LaFrance, Kaylee Mayo, Damien Shea, McKenna Williams

Class of 2026
High Honors: Leah Benzie, Audrina Buzanoski, Nicholas Devlin, Maeve Gabbard, Joselin Garcia Osorio, Benjamin Gustafson, Jayce Jodoin, Miguel Morente Uz, Kaydence Morris, Paige Perry, Kasyn Robillard, Kaylin Rodrigues, Esteban Suarez, Madison Thomas
Honors: Ella Carota, Liana Colon, Devin Fleck, Kenneth Goloski, Aidan Martin, Gavin Matte, Joseph Vergoni

Class of 2027
High Honors: Delanie Bernier, Danny Boriboun, Sean Brierley, Ayla Daniels, Sidra Jahangir, Aubrey Paquette, Jay Patel, Nathaniel Ramos, Rebekah Robbins Ferreira, Iyanah Ruiz, Rockford Snow, Jillian Spalding, Byron Vazquez Patino
Honors: Jordan Chrzanowski, Donovan DeAgazio, Sadie Lee Furtado, Avah Grimshaw, Elieana Ionkin, Thomas McCumber, Gavin Patterson, Mathen Shea, Savannah Zegarra

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