

KHS English teacher retiring after 50 years

Photo Jason Bleau

KHS teacher Richard Martin will retire after 50 years of teaching, 22 at Killingly High School, at the end of the school year. He is pictured with some his current journalism students during Killingly’s Spring Fest promoting the award-winning school newspaper, *The Redline*.

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY – After 50 years of teaching, longtime Killingly High School educator Richard Martin is retiring, leaving behind an impressive legacy that saw him transform the high school’s writing program and establish an award-winning student newspaper in the process.

Martin began his teaching career at 24-years old at Burrillville High School in Rhode Island. After initially completing his student teaching there, he was offered a job and pictured himself retiring from the school after spending 28 years teaching English. However, when the district found itself at odds with the teacher’s union, Martin sought a new opportunity which led him to Killingly for the remaining 22 years of his teaching career.

“I never thought I’d leave (Burrillville).

I anticipated retiring there. The year I left I had a friend who recommended I go to Connecticut. Our contract was up that year, so I knew we had a strike coming in the fall and the school was literally under renovation. Right after school let out, I got a call from Killingly. It was Mary Christian, who was the principal at the time, and she wanted me to come in for an interview. They were looking for someone to start a writing program. I had a round table interview, we went through the process, and Mary Christian called me and offered me the job. She talked me into it and so I came here to start the writing program and I’ve been here ever since,” Martin said in an interview.

Despite initially avoiding teaching as a career, Martin followed in his mother’s footsteps and found his home in the classroom. His journey to becoming an educator start-

Please Read **MARTIN**, page **A4**

Food pantry finds new home at Eastford Baptist

EASTFORD — The Eastford Food Pantry officially has a new home.

Effective immediately, the food pantry has relocated from the Town Office Building’s lower level to Eastford Baptist Church, located at 133 Union Rd. (Route 171), ushering in a new era of service for the town.

Rev. Timothy R. Howard, Jr., the pastor of EBC (as well as the church’s elders), was more than willing to open the doors of the church for the town’s food pantry to help those in need. Although now located in the church, the food pantry will continue to be run by the town.

“We are happy to be a help for our Eastford community,” Howard said. “It’s a privilege to come along side of [Eastford First Selectman] Deb Richards and [new food pantry director] Audrey Carabeau and open our doors for the people of Eastford.”

Carabeau takes over for Steve and Karen Broderick, who served the town as the pantry’s directors for nearly 20 years.

“I want to thank Karen and Steve Broderick for running the food pantry for so long,” Carabeau said. “They have worked hard to get the pantry to where it is today. Thank you to all the people who have generously donated food and/or money to keep the pantry shelves stocked.”

Carabeau spent her career as a registered dietitian, so when the opportunity came to be involved with the Eastford Food Pantry, she said she was “thrilled.” Additionally, Carabeau said her daughter, Sarah Sanderson, has offered to assist her in running the pantry.

“We are extremely fortunate to have a new home for the pantry at the Eastford Baptist Church,” she said. “Thank you to Pastor Howard for making this happen, and for being so enthusiastic about having us there.”

For Karen Broderick, looking back on the last 20 years, volunteering at the food pantry has been a great opportunity for personal growth and a chance to see Eastford residents at their best.

“Volunteering in this town has opened our eyes to what a generous community we live in,” Karen Broderick said. “We’ve made connections with the people we help. I feel like I’ve become more empathetic and always walk away from a hectic day of stocking shelves and making food deliveries feeling really good about what I’m doing. For me, this volunteer opportunity has allowed me to connect with some wonderful, generous folks in our community while we each contribute in our own way to making it a little bit better.”

Broderick admitted that after almost two decades, it was time to step aside and let a fresh pair of eyes take over and bring new

Please Read **FOOD PANTRY**, page **A4**

Woodstock Academy names Class of 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy is proud to announce the class of 2022 Valedictorian, Conor Stewart, and Salutatorian, Adeline Smith.

A resident of Woodstock, Stewart has been a student at The Woodstock Academy for four years. He is best known for his out-of-the-box thinking, authenticity, and high level of determination. He has achieved high honors every semester during his Academy tenure and continues to find ways to excel beyond his potential. Throughout his time as a Centaur, Stewart has been a member of the soccer team, Math Team, Student Council, Class Council, National Honor Society, and president of the Math Honor Society. After graduation, he plans to attend Columbia University in New York and is undecided on a major.

Smith, a dedicated student-athlete, commutes to school daily from her hometown of Charlton, Massachusetts. Very involved in several teams and clubs, Smith is captain of the soccer and tennis teams, president of both National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society, chair of tutoring for the Math Honor Society, and a member of the National English Honor Society, Scholar-Athlete Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, EarthSave, School Climate Activists, Math Team, Student Life Committee, Medical Club, Class Council, and Student Council. Also achieving high honors every semester at The Academy, she will be continuing her educational journey in biomedical engineering at the University of Connecticut’s Honors Program.

“I’m very proud of these two spectacular seniors! They represent everything that is good with high school students these days – they love learning, they lead within the school community, they give back to both The Academy and the greater community, and they live their lives with compassion and kindness for others. They will continue to represent WA very well as they launch into the next stage of their educational pursuits,” said Associate Head of School Holly Singleton.

Photo Courtesy

Killingly seniors who will continue to participate in athletics at the next level are (front row, left-to-right): Julianna Morrisette, Emma Carpenter, Kyndal Murowski, Makala Dube, Sophia Moore, and (back row, left-to-right) Justin Baker, Corbyn Adams, Jay Grzysiewicz, Trevin Russ, Jack Sharpe, Brady Waterman, Brandon Baker. Missing from photo, Nate Keefe.

Total of 13 student-athletes participate in Senior Signing Day at Killingly High

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — In what could easily be interpreted as the overall depth and strength of Killingly High School athletics, 13 upper-classmen recently participated in Senior Signing Day, revealing publicly where they will continue their academic and athletic careers.

Six of Killingly’s varsity sports were represented in the ceremony, held on Thursday, May 12 — baseball, girls’ basketball, football, girls’ lacrosse, girls’ soccer and softball.

All of the athletes are going on to compete in NCAA Division 3 programs, so the letters that were signed were a commitment letter, not a National Letter-of Intent, which athletes going on to compete in NCAA Division 1 and 2 programs are required to sign and submit.

Baseball led the way, with seven signees: Corbyn Adams (University of St. Joseph); Brandon Baker (UConn-Avery Point); Justin Baker (University of St. Joseph); Jay Grzysiewicz (Rhode Island College); Nate Keefe (UConn-Avery Point); Trevin Russ (University of St. Joseph); and Brady Waterman (Johnson and Wales).

Girls’ lacrosse had two signees, Makala Dube (Nichols College) and Julianna Morrisette (Elms College).

In addition, Emma Carpenter is headed to the University of St. Joseph, where she’ll be a member of the women’s basketball team, Jack Sharpe will continue his football career

Please Read **SIGNING**, page **A5**



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

Since this is Memorial Day weekend, an article about what was happening in Killingly at the beginning of the Civil War seems timely. “At a meeting held May 2, 1861, Horatio Webb was appointed moderator. The warning for the meeting read, “To see if the citizens will vote to raise money for the equipment of the troops now raised or to be raised in said town or connected with companies raised in said town for the serving of the United States, and also for the support of their families during said service.” It was voted that the committee consisting of Edwin Ely, Chauncey Chamberlain, and Charles Burton be and are hereby authorized to draw on the selectmen for the amount of the expense for the equipment of troops raised...during the term of three months. Voted that each volunteer as aforesaid shall be furnished with an India rubber blanket. Voted that Horatio Webb be and is hereby authorized to draw on the selectmen for the expense incurred in the support of Co. A, whilst remaining in this town. Voted that the selectmen pay to the wife of each volunteer of this town as aforesaid the sum of \$6 per month and to each child of said volunteer under 14 the sum of \$2 per month.” (Windham Country Transcript, photocopy at Killingly Historical Center with Sept. 1909 written on it).

That the selectmen would vote to furnish each volunteer with an India rubber blanket intrigued me. What exactly was this? Thank goodness for the ability to do an internet search. An article by Lawrence E. Babits entitled Rubber Poncho and Blankets from the Union

Killingly at the start of the Civil War

Transport Maple Leaf noted that eleven rubber blankets were among the artifacts recovered from this ship. Babits wrote that Europeans became aware of rubber in 1735 and soon began using it for waterproofing. Because it became brittle in low temperatures and sticky at higher temperatures, it wasn't until 1839 when Charles Goodyear perfected vulcanization that it became more profitable but there were still difficulties to overcome. “One of the first India rubber articles made for military use was a rubber knapsack...Goodyear later noted the knapsacks were found objectionable in consequence of their too great warmth, offensive odor, and imperfect manufacture.” At the beginning of the Civil War “the Quartermaster Department did not intend to supply troops with rubber blankets...by November 1861 the Secretary ordered all soldiers to be issued ‘waterproof blankets.’ The blanket proved to be multi-purpose, as one soldier’s writings note, ‘It’s mighty good ter spread on the ground under yer blanket when ye goes ter bed. Ye know wet won’t soak through Injy rubber, ‘n it’ll help prevent ye ketching the rumaticks. ‘Sides that, when ye have ter lie down ‘n the mud it keeps yer blanket clean. Then when ye’re march’ in the rain it beats ‘n umbreller all holler.” “Rubber blankets were painted with checkerboards and other game surfaces.” (www.libertyrifles.org/). I’m guessing one name for them today would be a groundcloth.

Memorial Day weekend also seems like an appropriate time to write about a Killingly American Legion Post. According to a photocopy of an undated newspaper article found in a stack of articles at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center, the Leo J. L’Homme Post 21 American Legion of Danielson was founded by a “group of World War I veterans from the Killingly area. The

first meeting was held August 26, 1919, in the State Armory with former Lt. Ira A. Warren presiding. Following his explanation and purpose of forming such a unit, Irving W. Davis further enlightened potential members of the need of an organization for veterans. At election of officers, Warren was chosen commander; Davis, vice commander; Lormier H Dixon, secretary; Henry L. Woisard, treasurer; Joseph Ferrigno and Norman F. Harvey, recruiting committee; and Emil Meunier, Harold F. Greene and Herbert E. Hopkins, entertainment committee... Among the first action voted was thanks to Frederick E. Cuneen, who offered to supply a flag for the new post. The matter of a name and a meeting place for the new group was deferred.” The group chose its name at the October 22 meeting, honoring Pvt. Leo J. L’Homme who was killed in action September 26, 1918 in France at the age of 25. “He was born September 21, 1893 in Attawaugan and before enlisting had been a mill hand and farmer. A member of Co. L, 316th Infantry, at the time of his death, he entered military service May 25, 1918, and was sent to Camp Upton, NY for training. From there he was transferred to Camp Meade, MD, and then overseas. He met his death on the first day he was on the battlefield.” “He was buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France.” According to his sister Elezia, in a separate article, he was fond of fishing and hunting. “His greatest indoor sport was boxing, and during the summer months the young men of the village would come over in the evening when he had no work to do on the farm, and they would practice boxing in an old shed which stood near the house. He got to be quite handy with his fists.” In 1915 his only brother, a carpenter who lived in Worcester, wanted Leo to learn the trade. After a few months, Leo decided that was

not for him and returned home, getting a job in the mill in Goodyear and working on the farm to help his father.

Charter members of Post 21 were Arthur Kimball, William Murdock, Uldric J. Paquin, Eugene Perreault, Deleon J. Ducharme, Leandrus Fortin, Francis A. Gagnon, Clifford Janes, Philip G. Phaneuf, Henry Poitras, Harold A. Roberts, William J. Smith, Nathan Blumenthal, Harry Caffrey, Bernard Casey, Arthur Cote, and Louis A. Woisard in addition to the officers.

“The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide” (<https://www.legion.org/history>).

If possible, attend a Memorial Day service honoring the veterans in your area. There are many in each town.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian May 2022. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or contact the Killingly Historical Society at www.killinglyhistorical.org. Leave messages for the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.



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Give optimism a chance

I’ve heard it said that pessimism is destructive, and optimism is boundless. What is the best way? I guess it all depends on what you want from life.

You can find plenty of people throughout time who promoted pessimism. George Bernard Shaw said, “The optimist invents the airplane, the pessimist the parachute.”

There have been plenty who have promoted optimism. Winston Churchill said, “The pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, the optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

Whatever you choose, realize that they are not just philosophies; they are also strategies for dealing with the issues of life.

What is Pessimism? One of the definitions of pessimism in the dictionary reads: “a tendency to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen; a lack of hope or confidence in the future.”

Coming from a background in acting, I’ve been around many dreamers. I’ve been around many people who have had big goals and ambitions and saw themselves as larger than life.

Some of these people succeed as optimists but then become jaded pessimists. Interestingly, those I have known who went from optimism to pessimism succeeded while they were optimists and failed when they were pessimists.

I was friends with a very optimistic actor. We met every evening and

rehearsed our auditions together. He went on to star in a successful television series. We lost touch, but I saw him at an audition years later, and he was different. I asked him how he was doing, and he only had negative things to say. He was sour and bitter. Something changed. Coincidentally, he wasn’t working anymore.

An article in Psychology Today suggests that most people don’t start as pessimists; instead, they become pessimists because of trauma they’ve experienced in their life. Pessimism is often a strategy to prepare for the worst. It’s a way for someone to set low expectations for their performance to protect against disappointment.

Pessimism takes a toll on one’s mental and physical health. Pessimism is associated with anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, hostility, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

Some will say that realism is the middle ground between pessimism and optimism. A realist might tell you that they are rational and only perceive things as they are, without any interpretation. Is that possible? Can you see life outside of the filter of your experience and beliefs? I tend to think that a realist usually falls into two categories, a pessimistic realist or an optimistic realist.

Walt Disney said, “I like to look at the optimistic side of life, but I am realistic enough to know that life is a complex matter.”

A lot of people tend to confuse optimism and idealism. They are not the same. One definition of idealism reads, “the practice of forming or pursuing ideals, especially unrealistically.”

I suppose I’ve been guilty of being an idealist in my younger years. I genuinely believed that I had a chance to be an Olympic swimmer. Even though I was very far from competing on that level, I thought I could do it if I believed and worked hard enough. In the end, I never came close. I learned that taking an honest assessment of one’s strengths and weaknesses is very important.

A successful optimist is realistic in their approach and hopeful and confident about the future. Often their optimism comes from their faith. Many studies have shown that being optimistic about the future predicts success. Those who are optimistic are overwhelmingly successful compared to those who are pessimistic.

A recent scientific study revealed that optimists live 11-15 percent longer than pessimists and are associated with better overall health.

My father, who started this column, was an optimist. I think about his life often and am amazed at his accomplishments. There is no way he could have done the things he did if he had a negative mindset. He remains an inspiration and a guiding light in my life.

Were you once optimistic, but became pessimistic? Have you always been a pessimist but are unhappy and want more from life? Change your thinking, have some faith, and give optimism a chance.

Spencer Fulone of Thompson inducted into Delta Mu Delta honor society

NEWTON, Mass. — Spencer Fulone, a Lasell University student from Thompson, was inducted into Delta Mu Delta, the international business honor society, at the end of the spring semester.

For more information contact:

Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

Pomfret Memorial Day parade begins at 10 a.m.

POMFRET — The Town of Pomfret will be holding its annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30 starting at 10 a.m.

This year’s parade kicks off at the Pomfret Congregational Church and proceeds down

Pomfret Street/Route 44 to the Town Green where a short ceremony will take place. Come early to get a good spot on the parade route for this family-fun annual event!

Woodstock Memorial Day schedule

WOODSTOCK — The town of Woodstock has announced the schedule for its Memorial Day ceremonies Monday, May 30.

9 a.m. — Road race kicks off from Woodstock Academy Field House

11 a.m. — Parade assembles in vicinity of Woodstock Inn and proceeds to town common

11:45 a.m. — Memorial services on the common

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

Special Town Meeting
May 31, 2022
7 p.m.
Woodstock Town Hall

Annual Budget Vote
June 7, 2022
Noon – 8 p.m.
Woodstock Town Hall

Absentee Ballots are available at the Office of the Town Clerk.

For more information check:

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Funding retirement versus your children’s college education

As many parents start ramping up their retirement planning efforts, their kids are also preparing for an important next step in life: higher education. It may seem overwhelming to manage both at once – especially if you’re still paying off your own student loans – but it’s important to make some hard decisions sooner rather than later so you can plan well for both goals.

If you’re thinking about tapping into your retirement accounts, ask yourself a few questions: Is this a sacrifice I can afford to make? Are there other ways to get the money we need? How much is my kid willing to contribute?

It’s no secret – college is very expensive, whether your kid attends a university close to home or in another state. According to the College Board, the average cost of tuition at four-year private universities is up to \$33,480. After room and board, you could possibly spend about \$45,000 a year or more. Although in-state universities may be cheaper, the expense is still great.

Putting a plan in place



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One of the first things to do after evaluating the costs of tuition is to consult with a financial planner. They will help you assess your goals, look at your current retirement plan, and provide objective, realistic advice on whether or not your finances can meet your expectations. Don’t feel embarrassed if there’s a shortfall – this is a very common financial challenge that I help clients with often.

Many families find it easy to consider tapping into retirement savings to fund their children’s higher education, but that may not be the best alternative. While evaluating your financial standing, you may realize your retirement savings can’t withstand such an expensive hit and you need to look at other options. Now is the time to draw your children into the conversation and make decisions as a family.

Avoiding the guilt trap
Parents always want the best for their children, and our modern society even shames parents that are not able to put their kids through

school, or willing to sacrifice their own retirement. As the cost of college continues to rise, your kids should take a vested interest in their education and be willing to contribute.

Think about this – what if you paid for a very expensive college and your child decided that’s not what they wanted to do anymore? You’ve wasted precious retirement dollars that you may not be able to replace.

Most financial advisors tell parents to prioritize retirement savings for good reason. You can borrow funds to pay for college, but nobody lends money for retirement.

Younger millennials and Generation Z have reshaped the notion of college and tend to make their own rules. Having a stake in their own future will be meaningful, helping to take some of the burden off of you. Being practical about the situation and empowering your child to make a commitment to their education teaches responsibility and guidance for the future.

Working with a financial planner can also help you and your children to set goals and offer solutions where everyone can have a vested interest

in paying for college, without compromising your retirement. In today’s economy, being strategic and attempting to avoid touching your retirement is very important.

If you’d like help creating a strategic financial plan that will best serve all of the important goals that you have for yourself and your family, our team at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors can help. We use our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process to help our clients do just that every day. Contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com to get started. In the meantime, you can find more tips and resources on funding retirement and college in the Advisors Blog in the resources section of our website at whzwealth.com.

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CORRECTION



KILLINGLY — Due to an error made in writing the caption, an individual pictured in a photo that accompanied last week’s article on the Walk for Women held in Killingly was incorrectly identified as Emily Hayden. The person appearing in the photo, which appeared on page A6, was, in fact, Cheryl Kapelner-Champ. The Villager deeply regrets any confusion that may have resulted from this unintentional error.

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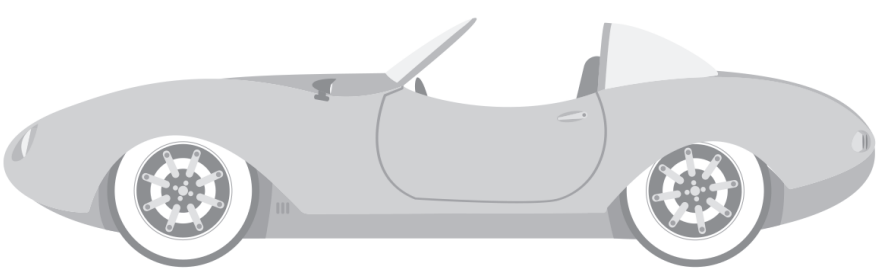
Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 16: Bobolink, American Kestrel, Mourning Warbler, Great-horned Owl, Blackpoll Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Veery, Wood Thrush, Parula Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Savannah Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home.



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Use rain barrels to capture rainwater

Put rainwater to use in your landscape with the help of rain barrels. This centuries old technique allows you to capture rainfall to use for watering ornamental gardens and containers.

Always start with a call to your local municipality. Some have restrictions on water harvesting, but most encourage this practice, and some even offer rebates or rain barrels at a discounted rate.

Purchase a rain barrel or make your own from a large, recycled food grade container. In either case, there are some features to consider when purchasing, creating, and adding a rain barrel to your landscape.

Make sure the top is covered to keep out bugs and debris. Some come equipped with a solid lid with an opening just big enough to accommodate the downspout. Others use a screen to keep out debris, while letting in the rain.

Don't worry about mosquitoes breeding inside your rain barrel. Just use an organic mosquito control like Mosquito Dunks and Mosquito Bits (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and other water features. Mosquito Bits quickly knock down the mosquito larval population,



GARDEN MOMENTS

• • • • •

MELINDA MYERS

fill watering cans or attach a hose for watering.

Include an overflow outlet near the top of the barrel to direct excess water away from the house or for connecting adjacent barrels. A downspout diverter is another way to manage rain barrel overflows. When the rain barrels are full, this device diverts the water back to the downspout where it is carried away from your home's foundation.

Elevate your rain barrel on cement blocks, decorative stands, or similar supports. This provides easier access to the spigot for filling containers and speeds water flow with the help of gravity. A water pump will boost water pressure for a nice steady flow of water.

Dress up your container with a bit of paint suited for outdoor use on plastic surfaces. And don't worry if you are not an artist, you can hide your rain barrels with some decorative screens or plantings or upright shrubs, perennials or ornamental grasses. Just make sure

while Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control. They are both safe for people, pets, fish, wildlife and beneficial insects.

Look for one with the spigot near the base of the barrel so water does not stagnate in the bottom. Use the spigot to



Photo Melinda Myers

Elevate your rain barrel for easier access to the spigot for filling containers and to speed water flow with the help of gravity.

you have easy access to the spout for retrieving water.

Start your conversion to rain barrels one downspout at a time. You can capture as much as 623 gallons of water from 1,000 square feet of roof in a one-inch rainfall. This can be a lot to manage when first adjusting to this change of habit. Disconnecting one downspout at a time allows you to successfully match the use of rain barrels and other rain harvesting techniques to your gardening style and schedule.

The choices are many, making it easy for you to conserve water and grow a

beautiful landscape.

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



Insightful

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67					68							69		

CLUES ACROSS

1. English river
5. Particular part of something
11. Cool!
14. Welsh for John
15. Given name meaning "great spirit"
16. Wrath
17. Social occasion
19. Mechanical belt
20. ___ de la ___
21. Commands
22. Body part
23. Caught sight of
25. Funeral car
27. Skin infection
31. Sometimes they "burn"
34. Russian river
35. Famed soap opera character Kane
38. Pie ___ mode
39. Endangered
41. Socially inept person
42. Romanian river
44. Swerve
45. Monetary unit of Samoa
46. A type of approach to please
49. Form of Hebrew name for God
51. "Carry On My Wayward Son" rockers
55. A team's best pitcher
56. A woody climbing plant
60. Long, edible marine fish
61. Human rights group in Africa (abbr.)
62. Data
64. Corporate bigwig
65. Climbs
66. Relating to the ear
67. Commercials
68. You need it to eat
69. Political extremists

CLUES DOWN

1. Reconnaissance (Brit. military)
2. Asserts to be the case
3. Starchy food made of dried orchid tubers
4. Foes
5. Rheumatoid arthritis score
6. Ruler of Iran
7. The top of the head
8. Lilly and Manning are two
9. Purchase attire for
10. Glittering with gold or silver
11. The bank of a body of water
12. Regions
13. Makes tractors
18. Adult beverage
24. Force unit
26. Swiss river
28. Cater to
29. Woody climbing plants
30. Seems less impressive
31. Consume
32. Boxing's GOAT
33. Southwestern farmers
36. Beverage holder
37. A way to deteriorate
39. Judge
40. Norse explorer ___ the Red
43. Farm resident
45. One who helps to govern
47. Plant-eating ground bug
48. History Finnish county
49. Conifer native to Jamaica
50. Longed
52. Small Japanese city
53. Arum family plant
54. Puts together in time
57. From a distance
58. ___ contendere: no contest plea
59. Region
63. Mountain Standard Time

PUZZLE SOLUTION	R	A	S	E		A	S	P	E	C	T		R	A	D
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	A	D	S			T	H	R	O	A	T		R	A	D



Photo Courtesy

From left, new Eastford Food Pantry Director Audrey Carabeau, Eastford Baptist Church Pastor Timothy R. Howard Jr., and outgoing food pantry Director Karen Broderick in the new location of the Eastford Food Pantry at EBC, which is located at 133 Union Rd.

MARTIN

continued from page A1

ed at the University of Rhode Island where he changed majors from psychology to English in his junior year with aspirations of being a writer. He decided on teaching as a way to make money until his writing career took off. Little did he know at the time that he had found his calling and eventually became the honors English teacher at KHS and advisor of The Redline, a student-operated newspaper that took first place in the Scholastic Journalism Awards in 2021. Bringing The Redline to prominence has become one

of Martin's most impressive achievements and was a primary charge when he was brought on board to teach writing at Killingly.

"That first group of students was awesome. We were really lucky," said Martin. "The district gave me everything I needed, and we went with it and as a result the students have been awesome. Many of them have gone on to work in journalism or other related businesses."

Among Martin's other accomplishments are two Teacher of the Year awards during his time at Burrillville High School, recognition by the Rhode Island National Education Association,

and Citizen of the Year in his hometown of Gloucester. Martin has also coached the girls' varsity basketball team and volleyball teams for Killingly winning two division titles and a Coach of the year award for girls' basketball. While he fully embraced his career as a teacher, he didn't forget his writing aspirations contributing to numerous publications including Providence Magazine and The Providence Journal, winning several writing awards and publishing two books, *Mae* and *Life and Liberty and the Pursuit of Sanity*.

As he prepares to complete his final year as a teacher, Martin looks back fondly on the experience and sees a bright future ahead for the students of Killingly High School.

"It is surreal. Someone asked me if I was excited, but to tell the truth I'm a little apprehensive. I love what I'm doing. I just don't want to stay too long and not go out on the top of my game. I first looked at it as an ending, but now I look at it like commencement. When people hear that they think graduation, but commencement actually means 'beginning' so I'm seeing this as a new beginning. One of my colleagues told me to look at it a different way. Now my new job is to take care of me," said Martin. "We have some excellent younger teachers, and you need teachers who are committed. It's not about the money. It's about making a difference in peoples' lives. It's about helping people and making a long-term impact on students. I've been overwhelmed by the number of students who responded to the press release, and I just never thought of it that way."

Martin plans to continue to embrace his love of writing in retirement as well as spend more time with his wife of 49 years, Dale, on their small farm in Rhode Island.

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK C. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@villagernewspapers.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
860-928-1818 x 323
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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Local students graduate from Assumption University

WORCESTER, Mass. — Nearly 400 graduates received a bachelor’s degree during Assumption University’s 105th Commencement exercises on Sunday, May 8, at the DCU Center in downtown Worcester. Larry Lucchino, Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer and chairman and principal owner of the Worcester Red Sox, delivered the commencement address, thanking the University for its partnership with the Worcester Red Sox and imparting upon the Class of 2022 advice gleaned over five decades in baseball and in law. Local students include:

Taylor Kent of Brooklyn
Taylor Torcoletti of Danielson
Samantha Morin of Thompson

“I am well aware that my presence here is a reflection of the close bond that has been quickly established between the Woo Sox and Assumption,” Lucchino said. “We share a commitment to serve this community and its people. We share a new ballpark where Assumption’s name is featured prominently. In fact, [Assumption’s] vision, your loyalty, and your early commitment helped pave the way for that ballpark and its extraordinary reception.”

Lucchino imparted that since his college graduation 55 years ago, he’s “learned a few things about what to do in life, and what not to do.” He admitted that as a baseball executive, he doesn’t have all the answers, but hoped his personal top ten list of life lessons amassed from over “four unexpected decades as a

baseball executive, and several decades of errors, missteps, and regrets,” might help someone along the way. The lessons included having fun; being bold; smiling; being strong enough to say, “I don’t know”; remembering that life is too hard to be lived alone; working at friendship; seeking balance; remembering Jackie Robinson and the “catalytic effect one person can have on a community, on a nation, on a compelling cause, or on a nagging injustice”; embracing and celebrating “the pluralism and diversity that are the essence or American life”; and being a positive force in one’s community.

“Life is not about warming yourself by the fire, it’s about building the fire,” said Lucchino, a three-time cancer survivor who has invested himself in cancer research and care. “The match that lights that fire is generosity. To consider yourself and to be considered capable is good. To consider yourself and be considered loving is even better. But best of all is to know yourself as generous. Generosity is its own reward. There is a Chinese proverb that applies and roughly it says if you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help your brothers and sisters in the community.”

In his last commencement address, President Emeritus Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., who retired on June 30, congratulated the graduates for earning their degrees “in the midst of extraordi-

nary circumstances.” He added that the pandemic provided them with “an education beyond what you could have learned in your coursework,” because the framework of the Catholic liberal education allowed students to use the pandemic as a learning experience.

“You learned that you have the ability to overcome adversity, to navigate the unexpected and to look for the positive in the midst of challenges,” he said. “You have shown yourself to be resilient despite the obstacles. You have learned the value of sacrificing one’s wants for the benefit of others, striving always for the common good. While you may not immediately perceive it, your characters are stronger, and you have become a better person because of what you have learned through the pandemic.”

In his valedictorian speech, Leominster native Nicholas Macchione ‘22 compared an Assumption education to a Swiss army knife. “If you only could have one tool to serve you for the rest of your life, wouldn’t you want it to be applicable to whatever you might encounter? The same sentiment rings true in education,” he shared. “An Assumption liberal arts education is similarly suited to a wide variety of careers and vocations.”

Macchione encouraged his classmates that “in the world of specialization that requires elaborate job titles, obtuse degrees, and the labeling of so-called experts, let us take time to unfold our Swiss army knives, recall the things that

have brought us to where we are today, and trust that they will continue to take us wherever we need to go.”

During the ceremony, honorary degrees were presented to Lucchino; Francesca “Paqui” Kelly, co-founder and board president of the Kelly Cares Foundation; and Wendy M. Wright, Ph.D., professor emerita of theology at Creighton University. The Board of Trustees also bestowed honorary degrees upon President Emeritus Cesareo and his wife, Filomena Cesareo, Esq., J.D., for their 15 years of service to Assumption.

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England’s premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

SIGNING

continued from page A1

at Bridgton Academy, Sophia Moore will be joining the women’s soccer team at Fitchburg State University, and Kyndal Murofski will take her softball talents to New England College.

“These athletes have been part of several ECC Championships as well as a state championship [football],” Killingly High athletic director Kevin Marcoux said during the mass signing. “They have thrived in the classroom and on our fields and courts and most notably, they have represented Killingly High School exactly how we want them to — with dedication, respect, commitment, hard work and a strong desire to compete at the highest level all while demonstrating sportsmanship and character.”

Killingly baseball coach Ben Desaulnier was thrilled so many of his players drew interest from so many colleges.

“Our program is in a really good spot right now so some college coaches have us on their radar. When you call a college coach and say, ‘hey, I got a guy interested in your school,’ they’re more apt to take your call when you’re a winning program,” Desaulnier said. “I’ve met a lot of college coaches through coaching AAU baseball, so I’ve got a lot of connections, which has been good for creating interest in our players.

“Every high school baseball player wants to play in college; that’s the dream,” Desaulnier continued. “For a lot of these kids getting to go and play in college next year is living out a dream for them and I couldn’t be happier for them.”

For Keefe, signing with UConn-Avery Point provided a chance to play for a coach he wanted to play for while at the same time figuring out what he wants to do with the rest of his life.

“Coach [Ian] Ratchford, he looked at me and I liked him immediately; he just seems like he’s a really good person,” Keefe said. “I didn’t really know what I wanted to do academically, I still don’t, so the [junior college] option appealed to me. Two years of undergraduate work is a smarter option for me, and a little cheaper, even. I might go on and play somewhere else. It all depends on where those two years take me.”

A two-way standout on Killingly’s state championship football team this year, Keefe said he didn’t consider more time on the gridiron at the next level.

“Definitely not; I wasn’t about football,” Keefe said. “I loved it here for the family feeling, but I talked to my coach [Chad Neal] and he was honest with me about what college football was like, about the work that was involved. After that conversation I decided I like baseball.”

Grzysiewicz also connected quickly with his future college baseball coach, Rhode Island College’s Frank Holbrook.

“I enjoyed the coach and I enjoyed the atmosphere he brought. He kind of reminds me of Ben [Desaulnier] and I love playing for Ben. Also, I got a good vibe when I visited the school. It’s a really good program. The baseball team broke the school record for wins in a season this year. I just can’t wait to get down there and contribute,” said Grzysiewicz.

Girls’ basketball coach Gina [Derosier] Lindberg was part of Carpenter’s process for selecting a school.

“Emma gave me a list of schools she was interested in, and I reached out to the coaches on the list, sent them some film on Emma and had Zoom meetings with some of them,” Lindberg said. “St. Joseph was interested in Emma from the start and she’s a loyal kid so it was an easy decision.”

So just what is St. Joseph getting in Carpenter, Killingly High’s Class of 2022 valedictorian?

“They’re getting a leader, an extension of the coach on the court. Emma’s just an all around awesome kid. She’s the kind of kid that you want on your basketball

team,” Lindberg said. “Emma is a kid you want to have on the court at all times to steady your ship. She’s the calm on the court, she’s the one that’s going to take over a game. If you fall behind, she’s going to put the team on her back. She’s going to set the tone on how the team should be playing.”

Killingly girls’ lacrosse coach Derek Ponciano said Dube ending up at Nichols College started with an email from Bison’s women’s lacrosse coach William Mraz.


“The coach emailed me asking if I had any players undecided about their future plans and I mentioned Makala,” Ponciano said. “He must have immediately looked up Makala’s stats [58 goals this season, 91 in the last two years] because he emailed me right back and said he would be in contact with her very soon. When he emailed me I knew it was the perfect fit; Makala wants to go into business and that’s a well-known business school. Plus there is a good culture and a good family environment there.”

PATRIOTIC PAINTER

Photo Courtesy

Annika LeBoeuf, a junior at Woodstock Academy, stands beside her painting of the symbolic American Bald Eagle flying above the United States flag at the dedication ceremony for the painting at the Pomfret Rod & Gun Club. The ceremony was held during the open house at PRGC celebrating the 70th anniversary of the club. The painting was commissioned by PRGC members, and will be on display at the skeet house. LeBoeuf also painted “Eagle Nest Rock” at the junction of Rocky Hill Road and Route 171 in Woodstock.





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SPORTS

Killingly defeats New London, finding its stride late in season

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Taking part of Senior Day, which often includes kids playing their final game on their home field, can lead to an overload of emotion. In some players that can lead to mistakes, which may lead to the team not playing as well as it can.

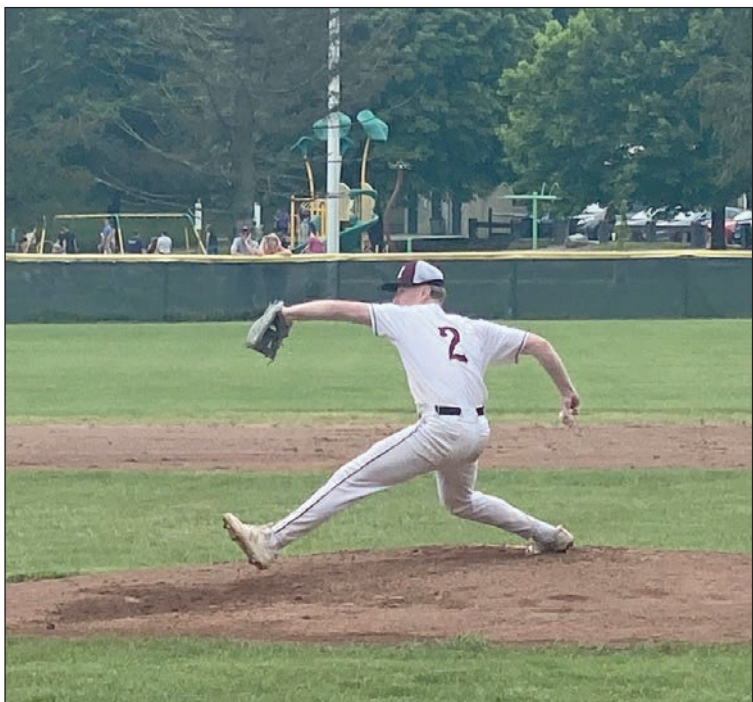
That was not the case for the Killingly High baseball team, which took time to before the game to honor its nine seniors — Corbyn Adams, Brandon Baker, Justin Baker, Jay Grzysiewicz, Nate Keefe, Cam Noury, Trevin Russ, Cole Veillette and Brady Waterman — and then went out and efficiently and commandingly defeated New London High, 6-0, on Saturday, May 21, on Owen Bell Park's Ben Desaulnier Field.

The win was the seventh straight and 13th in its last 15 games for Killingly (14-6). Last week, leading up to the victory over New London, Killingly defeated visiting Putnam, 10-0, on Thursday, May 19, and visiting Plainfield, 4-0, on Monday, May 16.

After five games this season, Killingly was 1-4.

"The biggest difference between where we are now and where we were at the beginning of the year — our pitching and hitting have been about the same — is that we're making plays," Killingly coach Ben Desaulnier, nephew of the man the field is named after, said. "The first five games of the season we booted the ball around a lot. The first time we played New London we made five errors and lost the game on a walk-off in extra innings. At the high school level multiple errors in a game, that's a killer."

Killingly rode a dominant performance by one of its seniors — Grzysiewicz — to the win. Grzysiewicz, who



Killingly senior Jay Grzysiewicz fires a pitch during his team's 6-0 win over New London on Saturday, May 21. Grzysiewicz went six innings allowing just three hits while striking out six and not walking a batter.

will continue his collegiate baseball career next year at Rhode Island College, went six innings, allowing just three singles while striking out six and not walking a batter. He threw 72 pitches in the outing.

"It was definitely an emotional day. It's one of the last times I'm going to play here, one of the last times I'm going to get to start here," Grzysiewicz said. "It was definitely good to pitch dominant in that first inning and set the tone."

Desaulnier said Grzysiewicz's low pitch count allowed him to start fourth-seeded Killingly's defense of its 2021 Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Tournament title in an opening-round game on Tuesday, May 24 at home against Tourtellotte, the No. 13 seed, which was played after press time.

"Jay pitched excellent; he was able to stay under 75 pitch-

es which was key because that will allow him to pitch our ECC Tournament opener," said Desaulnier, who used Adams in the seventh to nail down the shutout. "Seventy-two pitches in six innings, that's very efficient."

At the plate Killingly was efficient as well, making the most of seven hits, four walks, a hit batsman, two stolen bases, five wild pitches and a passed ball.

Junior Ben Jax led the way with two hits and three RBI. He put Killingly ahead for good, 2-0, with one out in the bottom of the first inning, launching an offering from New London starter Freilyn Guzman to center field for a home run. The ball landed about 370 feet from home plate. Grzysiewicz, who had drawn a one-out walk, scored in front of Jax.

"The count was 2-1 and he threw me a fastball up and a lit-



Nate Keefe takes an unsuccessful swing at a pitch during Killingly's 6-0 win over New London on Saturday, May 21. Keefe finished the game going 1-for-3 with a run scored.

tle outside," Jax said. "I saw it coming off his hand. From that moment I was getting ready for it and I was hoping I could do something with it."

Killingly increased its lead to 4-0 in the bottom on the third inning. Grzysiewicz and Jax both walked and came around to score on wild pitches. Freshman Ashton Goodwin pushed the Killingly lead to 5-0 in the bottom of the fourth, singling to start the frame and then scoring on a triple to right field by Waterman.

Keefe, headed to UConn-Avery Point in the fall, scored the final run of the game, in the bottom of the fifth inning, to extend the Killingly lead to 6-0. He led off with a sharp single to center field and then scored on Jax's second hit of the day, a single down the right field line.

The highlight of the first two Killingly victories last week was the complete-game, five-inning no-hitter turned in by Brandon Baker in the win over Putnam. Baker finished the game with 14 strikeouts.

"That was probably the best he's pitched all year," Desaulnier said. When Brandon's on his game, when

he's hitting his spots and he has his breaking stuff going, he's electric. He's as good as anybody out there. It'll be interesting to see what he does next year at Avery Point. I'm excited for him."

Grzysiewicz said he wasn't worried by his team's slow start. He feels Killingly has gotten better as the season has progressed.

"I feel like we're playing our best baseball now. I believe we're feeling confident and playing confident. Coming into the season, coming off last season, we had some big goals and some big shoes to fill," Grzysiewicz said. "We knew we were going to hit our stride at some point and I feel we have really hit that stride the last couple of weeks."

"I'm really proud of the younger guys. Most of them are 14-15 years old playing varsity baseball with guys who are 18-year-olds, some soon to be 19," Grzysiewicz added. "It's definitely a jump for them and I can't be more proud of them. We have a lot of younger guys who have contributed to our success this season."

Photos Courtesy

Kids have a great time at Rotary fishing derby

PUTNAM — More than 50 children came to the banks of the Quinebaug River and had a blast at the 48th annual Putnam Rotary Club Noe Poulin Fishing Derby. When you added the cheerleaders (parents) there were more than 100 people at the event. After registration, the kids lined the banks of the Quinebaug and started fishing. Awards in three age categories were made and then they were

treated to lunch. This year everyone was encouraged to release their fish after they were measured.

Awards went to:

Largest Fish – 13 – 15 years old – Trevor Bouchard – 13 inch yellow perch

Largest Fish – 10 -12 years old – Hailey Rourke – 6.5-inch bullhead

Largest Fish – 6 – 9 years old – Jenna Taylor – 29 inch carp

Largest Fish – 0 – 5 year olds – Savanna Burke – 22 inch carp

Most Fish caught – Bryce Plouffe – several sunfish

Smallest fish (4 inch sunfish) – Willow Les Chandler.

The most unique catch – snapping turtle – Izik Alfredo Santiago.

The carp that took off with one of the fishing poles didn't hang around for his "prize."

J. Scott Pempek, the Putnam Rotary Club president said: "It was a great event! I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, the kids fishing or the many Rotary volunteers watching the reactions of the kids when they got a bite

Jenna Taylor watches Rotarian Marc Allard measure the German carp she caught at the Putnam Rotary Club Noe Poulin Fishing Derby at Rotary Park May 14. Family friend Wayne Burke is holding the fish.

and were reeling the 'big one' in." Major sponsor: WIN Waste Innovations which provided the seven major prizes, gift cards to local merchants and 10 additional gift cards as raffle prizes. In addition: Runnings provided several additional gift cards; Rotarians Fred and Rande Chmura donated and cooked the food for the event; Marcy Dawley from Chase Graphics donated the photo shoot frame. Jenn Brytowski of Chase Graphics helped with the event flyers and with an updated banner for the event; Town of Putnam – use of the bandstand and sound system – closing of Bridge Street. Mayor of Putnam – Barney Seney and Selectman Scott Pempek (also president of the Putnam Rotary Club) opened up the event. More



than a dozen Rotarians were also there to help that day.

When the school closed in 2010, a dedicated group of parishioners and non-parishioners decided to continue this Family Fun Weekend, assisting St. Mary Church. When many area churches also held yearly events, the Circle of Fun became known as The Biggest Little Church Fair in Eastern Connecticut with activities for all ages and a large array of food and beverages for everyone, all at family friendly

prices.

Although most concession chairpersons have remained for a decade or more, there is a new General Chairperson this year. Her name is Suzanne Lazarou, a lifetime parishioner of St. Mary Church. Welcoming people from three states with free entertainment, great food, beverages, games and rides, the tradition is continuing for this Family Fun Weekend.

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**St. Mary Church announces
50th Circle of Fun**

PUTNAM — St. Mary Church, Putnam, will be holding its 50th Circle of Fun Sept. 16,17,18. The 49th was delayed by the pandemic but the volunteers of St. Mary Church are continuing the tradition enjoyed by generations. Started in 1972 to assist the school.

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Tourtellotte baseball gets hot, wins four games in five days



Photos Jason McKay

Tourtellotte's Mason Barber mid-swing clobber the ball during a recent victory.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Tourtellotte High baseball team headed to the ECC Tournament on a winning streak, having won four games in the final five days of the season to finish 11-9.

The Tigers started their run by defeating visiting Norwich Tech, 10-7, on Tuesday, May 17. Two days later they defeated visiting Windham, 12-7. On Friday Tourtellotte defeated visiting Grasso Tech, 4-3, and then on Saturday, May 21 went on the road to close out the regular season with a 17-6 victory over Parish Hill.

In the win over Windham, Tourtellotte trailed, 5-0, after a half inning but rallied to tie the game 5-5, with five runs of its own in the bottom of the first inning. The Tigers led, 7-5, after two innings and 8-7 after three. Tourtellotte held Windham scoreless the rest of the game, but added single runs in the fourth and sixth innings and two in the fifth to secure the victory and account for the 12-7 final score.

Senior Brayden Akana, who started the game on the mound for the Tigers and finished it behind the plate, was 3-for-5 with a triple and three RBI. Alex Grauer, who started the game as the catcher and finished on the bump, singled, doubled and drove in two runs.

The Tigers, the No. 13 seed, played its opening-round game of the ECC Tournament on Tuesday, May 24, at fourth-seeded Killingly, after press time.

Elsewhere:

Woodstock Academy struggled to the regular-season finish line, dropping all three games it played last week. The Centaurs started the week with a 7-4



In a recent win last week, Mateo Alvarez of Tourtellotte throws the ball back in after catching a popup.

loss to visiting Waterford on Tuesday, May 17, and then lost a pair on the road — at East Lyme (3-2, Friday, May 20) and at Ellington (12-5, Saturday, May 22). The fifth-seeded Centaurs (12-8) opened the ECC Tournament on Tuesday, May 24, at home, against Ledyard, the No. 12 seed, also after press time.

Boys' Golf

Killingly High School remained undefeated, improving to 12-0 with a pair of victories over Stonington (156-169 on Thursday, May 19, and 145-176 on Monday, May 16) a win over Woodstock Academy (159-177 on Tuesday, May 17) and a sweep of a quad-meet with Waterford, East Lyme, and Tourtellotte. The score of the quad-meet was Killingly 159, East Lyme 183, Waterford 191, and Tourtellotte 219.

The highlight of the week for Killingly came in its May 16 win over Stonington when junior Cameron Seiffert earned medalist honors by shooting a 4-under par 31, which is believed to be a school record. Seiffert started the round with three straight birdies and added birdies on Nos. 6 and 8.

Softball

Killingly finished with a flourish, playing five games between Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, May 21. The team finished on a high note, splitting a pair of games on Saturday, May 21, first defeating visiting Putnam High 16-2, before traveling to Fitch and dropping a 6-0 decision.

In the win over Putnam, Lyana Cuevas went 3-for-4, with a double, home run and four RBI. Hannah Cozza was also 3-for-4 with a double, triple three RBI. Kyndal Murawski was also 3-for-4 with three runs scored.

Killingly also lost during the week to Norwich Free Academy (6-2 on Tuesday,



Tourtellotte starter Brayden Akana winds up for a pitch versus Windham.

May 17), and Fitch (16-1 on Monday, May 16). The team began its five-game sprint with a victory, 11-6, over Griswold. In that win Grace Deslauriers picked up the win in the circle, going the distance and striking out five. At the plate she was 1-for-2 with a walk and two runs scored. Addison King provided some pop in the game, going 2-for-4 with two RBI and a walk.

Girls' Lacrosse

Makala Dube scored five five goals while sisters Emily and Sage Lamparelli scored four each to lead Killingly to a 17-3 win over Wheeler on Thursday, May 19.

Killingly is the No. 2 seed for the ECC Tournament. It received a bye to the semifinal round after finishing 8-0 in its division of the ECC and 8-2 in the ECC as a whole. The team's final regular season record is 10-6.

Killingly played the No. 3 seed Stonington High on Tuesday, May 24, in the semifinal round, in a game that was held at Montville High after press time.

Boys' Tennis

Woodstock defeated Killingly, 6-1, on Saturday, May 21, with the highlight of the match being the first singles match between the Centaurs' Evan Haskins and Killingly's Lucas Clayton. The match went to a tiebreak which Clayton won. Set scores of the match were 0-6, 7-6, 1-0 (10-4). The first doubles match also went to three sets with Cormac Nielsen and Kyle Pazienza posting a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 win for Woodstock (9-6).

Girls' Tennis

Woodstock Academy won all three of its matches last week — 6-1 over visiting Norwich Free Academy (NFA) on Saturday, May 21, 7-0 on the road against Ledyard on Friday, May 20, and 7-0 on the road against Windham-Windham Tech on Wednesday, May 18.

The victory over NFA enabled the

Centaurs to claim their second consecutive Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Division II title. WA improved to 11-4 overall and 7-0 in Division II play with the win over NFA (8-7, 5-3). Singles winners in the NFA match were Addy Smith, Jackie Trudeau and Sydney Schuler. The first doubles team of Ellie Bishop-Klee and Logan Reynolds sealed the win with its victory.

In the win over Ledyard, Addy Smith survived a tiebreaker battle to win at first singles, while the Centaurs' other singles players — Jackie Trudeau, Sydney Schuler and Alexa Fernandez — all won in straight sets. In the win over Windham-Windham Tech, Woodstock used the match to peer into its future as four doubles players, Ellie Bishop-Klee, Stella Atchinson, Emma Massey and Peyton Bentley, all scored singles victories.

Boys' Track

Senior Ian Hoffman inched even closer to the school record in the 800 meter run, currently held by Woodstock Academy girls' track coach Josh Welch during the Centaurs' 86-64 loss to Waterford on Wednesday, May 18. Hoffman pulled to within 2.1 seconds of Welch's mark by winning the event in a time of two minutes and two seconds. Hoffman also won the pole vault, clearing 10 feet, 6 inches.

Girls' Track

Bella Sorrentino, Magdalena Myslenski and Linsey Arends all recorded multiple first-place finishes in Woodstock Academy's 87-59 win over visiting Waterford on Wednesday, May 18. Sorrentino, a member of the winning 3,200-meter relay, took first in the 100m hurdles and the shot put. Myslenski won the pole vault, javelin and discus. Arends won the 800- and 1,600-meter runs and was also a member the 3,200-meter relay.

GHADA Foundation supports The Arc Eastern Connecticut's Micro-Enterprise

WOODSTOCK — The Connecticut Automotive Retailers Association and the GHADA Foundation awarded a \$1,000 grant to The Arc Eastern Connecticut to offset the cost of a walk-in refrigerator at the agency's new bakery micro-enterprise on Route 171 in Woodstock.

The bakery will be the permanent location of The Arc's successful cookie production facility, which provides people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the skills to prepare

for competitive jobs with area employers. Scheduled to open in June, it will be providing retail sales and wholesale distribution of The Arc's "Classic Crunch" chocolate chip cookies to more than 25 stores. The larger, permanent space will increase both production and employment and vocational training opportunities for people with IDD.

"The walk-in refrigerator was the last piece of equipment we needed," said Jennifer Ricci, Director of Community Enterprise. "The GHADA Foundation's donation not only helps us purchase it, but also demonstrates the generosity of the great organizations in Connecticut who support employment opportunities for people with IDD."

To learn more about The Arc Eastern Connecticut and its programs throughout the region, please visit TheArcECT.

org or contact Denise Tift at (860) 889-4435, ext. 116.

Eastford announces plans for Memorial Day parade

EASTFORD — Eastford's Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 30 and starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Eastford Elementary School. Eastford Color Guard and Veterans lead the parade. The East Woodstock Cornet Band provides the music. Community members are invited to participate and can create a float, decorate their bicycles or wagons, march with their family, pet, friends, church, or community organization. The Eastford Independent Fire Company and Fire Trucks will be

polished up and ready to shine!

Immediately following the parade, a Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at Eastford's Veteran's Memorial. The ceremony includes an invocation, the recognition of an Eastford Veteran, the laying of a memorial wreath, a Military Salute, and musical presentations by the Eastford Singers, the Woodstock Coronet Band, and Eastford Elementary School Students.

Preceding the parade, Memorial Day services will take place at the General Lyon Cemetery at 8:30 a.m. and the Grove Cemetery at 9 a.m. In the event of rain, the parade will be cancelled and the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the school. All are welcome to attend.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Honoring the fallen

When Memorial Day was first celebrated, it was known as Decoration Day following the Civil War. Youngsters would place flowers in cemeteries while they sang songs and honored those lost due to war. The Civil War that ended in 1865 took the lives of more people than any other war in the history of the United States, the estimate is roughly 620,000. The Union losing 365,000 and the Confederacy 260,000. History says that more than half of these losses came as the result of disease. As a result, the first national cemeteries were created.

In 1868, General John A. Logan, the leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day to honor fallen soldiers. General James Garfield gave a speech at Arlington National Cemetery on the first Decoration Day and the over 5,000 people in attendance decorated over 2,000 graves, both Union and Confederate.

The holiday as we all know is celebrated on the last Monday in May and became an official holiday in the year 1971. Parades across the country take place, and people visit cemeteries where family members who have served in the military have been laid to rest.

At 3 p.m. every year, a moment of silence takes place across the country. In December of 2008, President Bill Clinton signed the “National Moment of Remembrance Act” which designated the time be at 3:00 p.m. In 1966, the government marked Waterloo, New York as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. In Waterloo, every business in town would shut their doors and owners would venture out to decorate graves with flags as well as flowers.

Originally, Decoration Day was intended to honor those lost in just the Civil War. After WWI America felt the need, and rightfully so, to honor all those lost serving their country. In WWI 116,516 Americans died at war and 405,399 were lost during WWII. The Korean War took 36,574 lives and the Vietnam War cost 58,220 lives. 4,411 were lost in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 73 in Operation New Dawn, 2,346 as the result of Operation Enduring Freedom, 48 in Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and 61 in Operation Inherent Resolve.

An estimated 38 million people in America will travel over the holiday weekend, and 2.5 million travelers will board flights. Memorial Day is the fourth busiest travel day of the year.

In New York, Washington, D.C and Chicago you can find the largest parades in the country.

Because of the three day weekend, many Americans will throw parties and barbecues or head out of town for a mini getaway.



Photo Courtesy

SUPER SIBLINGS

Amanda and Kayla DeMaire, daughters of Kevin and Cindy DeMaire of Pomfret Center and alumni of Woodstock Academy, graduated on Saturday, May 14 from Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), both earning a Master’s in Early Childhood Education and Certification in Pre-K through K Special Education, meaning they are both certified to teach Pre-k through third grade. Both also graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Both Amanda and Kayla were asked to lead the procession as the Grand Student Marshals for the 2022 graduating ceremony! This is the first time that Eastern has had sister’s be the Grand Student Marshals at a graduating ceremony. They have both made lifelong friendships with other aspiring teachers and are so grateful to have gone through this educational journey with them.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A song of peace

To the Editor:
This Memorial Day, as we honor those who have served our nation, and as we watch Putin send young men to demolish Ukraine in the name of Russian nationalism, let’s sing The Song of Peace, by Sibelius:
This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace, for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating

Our students need help now

To the Editor:
I am a parent of a three-year-old and resident of Woodstock. I am in favor of a Generations School Based Health Center housed within Killingly High School. It is obvious that students are struggling with their mental health and need accessible help now.
It is not okay that 28.2 percent of children in grades 7-12 have had thoughts about hurting themselves...and you’ve done nothing to address it. It is not okay that 28.6 percent have felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more so that it stopped them from doing their usual activities...and you’ve done nothing to address it. It is not okay that 14.7 percent have made a suicide plan...and again, you’ve done nothing to address it. Their parents are asking for this resource and you are

Choose the right symbol

To the Editor:
Memorial Day originated as a tribute to the Civil War dead. It has expanded to honor the dead of all our wars, and even, for many, all of our forebears. It is perhaps our most solemn civic occasion.
I notice that many towns now line their main streets with American flags to mark the day. This is so fitting, as that flag is an unmistakable symbol of our national unity and devotion to freedom. Here in Connecticut, out of a population in 1860 of only about a half million people, about fifty thousand, or one or more from practically every family, fought under that flag. About five thousand of those died in the cause, and lie buried in the many cemeteries throughout the state.

The bottom line

To the Editor:
The debate over the School Based Mental Health Center in Killingly is incomprehensible. Here is why parents, students, and staff continue to fight. “Of the 477 students, grades 7-12, who responded to a November survey by the non-profit SERAC group, 28.2 percent said they had thoughts of hurting themselves and 14.7% admitted to having a suicide plan.” We are trying to save lives. Staff at the high school go to work every day hoping that all of their students will still be there. Please re-read that last sentence.
Parental rights go both ways. As parents we have the right to try to help our children. In an interview on WINY, Generations stated they had parental involvement on all but one counseling appointment in the eight years they have been in Putnam. And they had

What does our students’ mental health have to do with Marxism?

To the Editor:
It would have been helpful to Villager readers if Raymond Wood, in his Letter to the Editor published May 20 and entitled “Don’t let the American Marxist intimidate you,” had explained just what Marxism has to do with providing mental health counseling to teenagers. With his letter, the reader is presumably being led by a curious dog whistle to somehow associate mental health evaluation and treatment with Communism, a connection perhaps apparent to him but not to me and, I would venture, not to the majority of the paper’s readers. He also makes an eloquent paean to freedom: “Now to be fair, this is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue...the real issue is that of Americans vs Marxists...one is an ideology of liberty and the other an ideology of tyranny...those who look to oppress...are trying to cancel those who wish to live free... Killingly remains unwavering to its commitment to live free despite negative press.” Again, what all this has to do with setting up of a mental health clinic at the High School, something which the School, its’ students, and many of its’ parents want, is unclear to me. I wonder if he would consider a School

With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine

JOCK MCCLELLAN
WOODSTOCK

denying them their parental right to make their choice for their child(ren). How can you claim you are protecting parental rights and then take the parental rights away from the parents that are advocating for this?
Killingly Board of Education members, Norm Ferron, Kyle Napierata, Jason Muscara, Jennifer Hegedus & Lydia Rivera-Abrams...you’ve known about this mental health crisis since January and have done nothing to address the students’ urgent needs. Do something about this now. Show the students that their mental health matters to you. Put the school-based mental health clinic on the agenda and vote yes. Please, Step up for students or step down.

KELLY ROBBINS
WOODSTOCK

Flying the flag on this day (and any day) is a tribute to those courageous veterans, who gave their lives to the preservation of the Union and the abolition of slavery.
All too often, I see on someone’s porch or vehicle a replica of the Confederate flag. That’s the symbol under which a racist and violent minority fought while taking the lives of these Connecticut veterans and tens of thousands of other heroes. That odious flag is to symbols what the “N-word” is to speech. The heritage it marks is one of oppression and inhumanity, and it has no place here or anywhere else.

JOHN BOLAND
POMFRET CENTER

parental involvement at the second appointment. In other words, this is a nonissue and just another stalling tactic by the BOE.
The best way to help children in crisis is to have full involvement between the families, the student, and the counselor. We are trying to save the lives of teenagers who have their entire lives ahead of them.
This is not a debate over a frivolous addition to the high school. We are attempting to save children’s lives and the Killingly BOE does nothing.
70 students in Killingly Public Schools have a suicide plan. That is the final step in asking for help. That is the bottom line.

HEIDI DRISCOLL
KILLINGLY

Board that makes a decision going against all common sense, that ignores legions of students, teachers, professionals, mental health experts, as well as data showing the need and effectiveness of such a clinic to be an example of “freedom” or “tyranny?” Would he consider a School Board that refuses to fully explain its’ reasoning or to engage with the public that is begging for such a clinic an example of “freedom” or “tyranny?” Does he feel that the School Board should be able to make its’ decisions with absolutely no repercussions or accountability, and that ordinary citizens and the press have no right to question its decisions? I guess I’d consider a School Board immune to criticism, not accountable to the public in any way, including the press, to be a feature of a totalitarian government and the very antithesis of the “freedom” Mr. Wood so clearly cherishes. But again, what all this has to do with Marxism is anyone’s guess. Perhaps he can explain.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

Our graduates deserve to wear their gowns

There is a shortage of graduation gowns. Across the country, schools are frantically trying to get their hands on the iconic flowing black robes, peculiar flat hats, wispy tassels and various stripes, hoods and related paraphernalia that make up the uniforms expected to appear at ceremonies marking the passages of students through academic portals.
Once again, the pandemic, supply chains, whatever the source, is messing up traditions we have come to view as pivotal, nearly sacred. Think about those cheesy garments, too big, too long, or vice versa, worn briefly, but imbued with emotion. They made be odd holdovers from ancient times, but for a few hours they mean everything. The symbolism, the uniformity, the sweaty, artificial fabric cover the mistakes as uncomfortably as the triumphs of school years.
This year’s graduates have been through the wringer of zoom classes, unpredictable schedules, endless tests and diagnoses of diseases as well as studying for passing grades. There are moments when they will surely look back, but as with every graduate before them, they are intent on the future.
Through the years, I’ve been to some memorable graduations and a number of so-so offerings. To graduate from of the esteemed Humpty Dumpty Kindergarten, each of us recited a poem. I remember mine, the incomparable, “Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat, where have you been...” and the poems of most of the other children in the class. When our daughters graduated from Mother Goose Nursery School, they recited verse as well. Memorization may be deemed old-fashioned today, but it is ever so useful on dark nights when sleep won’t come.
My husband attended Northfield Mount Hermon, a boarding school in Massachusetts, for high school. He played football, made lifelong friends and continues to have an active role as an alumnus. He loved his graduation ceremony, which concluded with graduates standing in a large circle and passing around diplomas until you got your own. Then you stepped back. He practically tears up when he remembers.
Our daughters graduated from the same local private high school. The ceremonies were held outside. The girls wore white dresses and the boys wore dark suits. It was cool to wear flip-flops. Our younger daughter’s ceremony was moved inside and Chevy Chase, the comedian, was the speaker. He made very snide comments about the school and several about the popular head master. No one liked it. No one liked him.
At UConn graduations, I heard Bill Cosby, Mr. Rogers and Michael Bolton speak. Former Governor John Rowland talked about integrity just weeks before his misdeeds were revealed. No matter what they did in life, they gave good graduation speeches.
At Coast Guard Academy, I heard former President George W. Bush. I don’t remember what he said because I was fascinated by his Secret Service detail, but I do recall that he posed for a photo with every graduate. At the end, the cadets threw their hats into the air and for a moment everything was magical.
There are no graduation ceremonies on my calendar this year, but if I could wave a wand and guarantee the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let’s not lose Day Kimball Hospital

To the Editor:
Should healthcare be between patients and their physicians, or should we have a third party deciding for us? That question may soon be answered for us: because here in Windham County, we are facing a takeover of Day Kimball Hospital, our only hospital, by Covenant Health. I’ve heard it called a merger, but the Certificate filed with the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy calls it as it is, a transfer of ownership of Day Kimball Hospital.
Day Kimball Hospital proposes to allow itself to be taken over by Covenant Health, a religious organization that will be able to decide what services we will or will not be allowed.
As we have learned, there are a number of services and procedures that are prohibited by Covenant Health, including tubal ligation, vasectomies, IUDs and other contraceptive methods. Should our only local hospital come under the Catholic Church’s Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, (EDRs) which forbid such services?
Why would the Day Kimball Hospital community allow itself to be taken-over by a religious organization? On one side, physicians, nurses and advocacy

groups are pushing to protect patient and providers choice against Catholic health systems which are becoming the dominant or sole provider in many areas. They fear a growing number of patients have no convenient alternative to a Catholic provider, since nearly 1 in 6 hospital beds are now in Catholic facilities. Catholic hospitals are designated as sole community providers in more than 46 areas. Patients are often forced to travel long distances to find other facilities to meet their health care needs.
On the other hand, it may be that Day Kimball is financially unable to survive by itself. However, giving away our only community hospital to a Catholic organization which will place restrictions on our healthcare is certainly not in this community’s best interest: the Board needs to look at other alternatives.
The community should be outraged by this proposal, which the Board has already taken steps to finalize. Each of us should raise our voice in opposition, become advocates, write letters make phone calls, Keep Your Hospital.

ELIZABETH CANNING
POMFRET CENTER
860 928 7831

Republicans and evangelicals are reactionaries, not conservatives

To the Editor:
The problem with Biden is that he is not a carnival barker, a shill or a grand-standing idiot – unlike Trump. Biden doesn’t go in for bombast or “look at me” ranting. He doesn’t appeal to many voters simply because he refuses to shout, scream or put forth outrageous and lying claims. So many of the electorate have become enamored with showmanship instead of substance.
It is not in Biden’s makeup to delve into the idiotic. His presentation is calm and measured. To many, it is just dull in spite of being truthful and reasonable. And, of course, that is unacceptable. As a society, we have become brainwashed into accepting every crackpot idea that comes along without taking the least effort to find out if there is any truth at all. The Republicans and evangelicals, in particular, have bought into this world of conspiracy and unsubstantiated conversation.
For example, an “expert” is claiming that the power company in D.C. is using fetuses as fuel. Yes, fetuses may be cremated but it is done ethically in a mortuary. Like all the other crap we hear from Republicans, where is the proof? How is this claim supported except by wild conjecture? There is no proof. Isn’t it the height of stupidity to accept such an outrageous and off-the-wall claim without even checking it out? But that is exactly what the Republicans and evangelicals do every day. There may, indeed, be those of the right that see these things as being spurious but they are not coming forward to contradict or disabuse such stupidity.

ty. Why? Because they are rightfully afraid of backlash and condemnation.
Republicans and evangelicals are not conservatives. They are reactionaries looking to re-establish a vision of the past. They are hoping to go back to an earlier time and dredge up a vision of white power and ignoring the reality of hatred that was endemic of America. Time has moved on and they refuse to accept what the majority of Americans now believe. Through legal and judicial means, they have held onto “power.” This is a false and unconstitutional “power” because it is not supported by the electorate. While they continue to exact contortions to the democratic mode of governance, it is nonetheless corrupt and antithetical to sane and moderate thinking.
Almost daily, certainly weekly, we see yet another accusation against Trump, Republicans and conspiracy blowhards. It is inconceivable that none of these are true. There are too many of them. There are emails, books, texts, documents, recordings that prove that myriad crimes have been committed, especially by Trump. Oh yes, you Republicans are going to argue that none of these accusations have been proven in court and therefore are not valid. Bull. The flood of proof is out there in front of us all – everyday. To deny these accusations is just as lunatic as accepting all the conspiracy crap that is out there.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

A message to our political leaders

To the Editor:
I (again) totally agree with what Todd Patrie had to say in his last letter, and it’s odd that only he and I speak up about this issue. Yes, the blame game and finger pointing accomplishes nothing, and both parties are at fault here. Imagine if our politicians were to actually work together for the benefit of the American people, especially at this time when it’s needed most? Aren’t they supposed to be working for us? Remember when President Trump wanted to send out stimulus checks and Pelosi and her puppets (asking for more) fought it because Nanny didn’t want to put a “check” next to Trump’s name? Putting that example aside, it should not be about who’s going to take the credit, it should be about solving the many problems that plague this nation. Think about it, wouldn’t they all get credit if they put aside their party politics and worked together to get something accomplished? And what are the chances of that actually happening? I’m sure they all see the need

to do something, but then they most likely wouldn’t be able to agree on any course of action, or who has the better plan. And why won’t our politicians cooperate with the other side? Are they afraid of losing campaign funds, maybe they don’t want to irritate the likes of old Nanny or Donald Trump? Anyhow, I seem to remember that the last time both sides cooperated on an issue, it was to remove toxic chemicals from plastic baby bottles.
How do we the voters convey this message (about the lack of any cooperation and results) to our politicians? Maybe we should protest at their homes, maybe we should make them feel uneasy walking the streets? (That would at least get their attention.) And do you even think that «we the sheeple» would actually band together for our own common good? How can we blame our politicians for not doing anything if we’re content to do nothing ourselves?
So now I have proposed a letter that

Turn To **DELUCA** page **A12**

The bravery of being out of range

To the Editor:
Isn’t it interesting how, when someone doesn’t get the result they want in a vote they try to attack the voting process? Or when things don’t go their way they reach for baseless personal attacks? Or they twist facts to make people fearful because the truth isn’t that scary at all?
Is this another tired letter about our last President? About conservatives in general? No. I’m talking about Beverly and Bill Warner.
First Beverly writes a dire warning directed at a certain part of town where she feels she can gain sympathy. Never mind that part of town would be at significant risk for inappropriate development of the Warners had succeeded in their campaign to remove the PZC and, by extension, all of the zoning regula-

tions. But let’s give them the impression that this historic beautiful area is about to be overrun with commerce.
Then, separately, Bill writes his own letter because social media attacks aren’t enough. Because losing his motion in spite of bringing in out of towners to a town meeting and having his cohorts yell and lecture, failed to bully the result he wanted. Then to top it all off his stand against the budget was SOUNDLY defeated.
So Bill starts by making false claims about ads run in town. Ads that were run according to all guidelines, bipartisan ads. Ads for which I contributed a good part of the cost even though I am a Democrat and the First Selectman (for whom I didn’t vote but I support as long

Turn To **LOFFREDO** page **A15**

Our community, our hospital

To the Editor:
Recent letters to the Editor have raised concern and opposition to Day Kimball Healthcare’s (DKH) proposed affiliation with Covenant Health. As a member of the medical staff at DKH for 32 years and current President of the Medical Staff, I write to encourage our community to embrace this affiliation.
The reality is that small independent hospitals are struggling to survive, and can only do so by forming alliances. The cost of new technology is staggering, and a new electronic health record system costs tens of millions of dollars. How can any small hospital afford this when our bottom line is \$1 to \$2 million in the black in a good year? Without an affiliation, Day Kimball cannot afford to make the investments we need to stay current and eventually would have to close our doors. As the largest employer in Northeast Connecticut, this outcome would be devastating to the community economically as well as medically.
As a member of the DKH Board of Directors, I have been involved in many negotiations over years as we investigated possible affiliations. These have included large medical centers and for-profit systems, all of whom expected us to send all of our patients to their main center for care, and would close down most of our inpatient services including the intensive care unit, the medical-surgical unit and the birthing center. Had any of those negotiations come to fruition, Day Kimball would have become, in essence, an outpatient clinic.

Covenant is the first group we have worked with who has a similar philosophy of caring for all and keeping care local. Their system currently includes three small community hospitals. Each of those hospitals continue to form partnerships with larger tertiary care centers near them to provide patient care that they as community hospitals are not equipped to provide, such as neurosurgery and cardiac surgery. Similar partnerships that Day Kimball has in place will not change and patients will stay local whenever possible. Yes, there are some Catholic directives to work with, but the physicians I have spoken with at Covenant’s other facilities assure us that the physician-patient relationship is not affected, and the physician is free to recommend the care they feel is best for their patient.
This affiliation is the best option to keep DKH in the community as a fully functioning hospital with the important services upon which our community has come to rely. Covenant Health is an organization that understands and supports the goals of community hospitals, not one that simply wants to take all of our patients and staff. Again, there are some directives we will work with but in the end, we either work with them or face losing the whole system, making healthcare in Northeast Connecticut much harder to access. I believe the decision is clear.

MICHAEL BAUM, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF
DIRECTOR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE

Last week’s letters page merit a response

To the Editor:
I feel compelled to respond to some of the letters you published in the May 20 Villager newspapers.
Mr. DeLuca’s observations about widespread dissatisfaction with inflation, high prices, supply chain problems, etc. are hardly revelatory. It would be hard to find anyone who is not aware of these problems in everyday American life. The problem with people like Mr. DeLuca is twofold. First, they only complain and have no solutions. Furthermore, the Republican Party has no solutions. In fact, Republicans revel in the hardship experienced by their fellow citizens because they believe it will help them get elected. And they may be right.
Important as inflation and shortages of essential products are, the second problem is that attention is being diverted from truly existential problems. Will we have any semblance of democracy left if the collection of Republican election deniers, criminals and racist replacement theorists now in power and running for Congress, governorships and state legislatures take over state governments and Congress in November? Will voters obsess about fake issues such as critical race theory while carbon emissions make large areas of the world inarable and unliv-

able, spawning mass migrations and wars over essential resources?
Colum Lundt seems to be worried that the US government will take over the media’s decisions about what will and will not be published. Given the recent moves in red states to ban books and make it illegal to discuss topics in school that conservatives view as inconvenient or upsetting to certain children, I share his concern. But I’m equally concerned that disinformation (lies) is threatening to destroy the country. The government has an obligation to defend the country against these attacks from hostile governments, such as Russia, and extremists. Pointing out lies and discredited conspiracy theories does not deprive Mr. Lundt of his “voice.”
I strenuously disagree with Mr. Lundt that gratuitous insults are helpful or essential in facilitating a healthy, free exchange of ideas. Rather, they have the opposite effect.
Finally, Raymond Wood wrote a truly curious letter accusing people, who wanted Killingly High School to choose a new mascot and institute a mental health program, of intimidation. He finds the exercise of their right to disagree, and media’s right to report on it, to be

Turn To **TAYLOR** page **A12**

Bernie Madoff and the Woodstock BOF

To the Editor:
The Ponzi Scheme is alive and well in Woodstock. Bernie Madoff lives on in your Board of Finance. Over the past three years, they have allowed money to be given to the Board of Education that was over the amount authorized by the town in each of the three budget years. The money came from what they refer to as Account 51. Four years ago, the BOE stopped funding their health care and started buying the health care from the state. The money that was in excess was returned to the town. Account 51 should have disappeared, but it was left in the town’s general funds as account 51 health care. The money was no longer the BOEs but was the towns. They have spent about \$162,000 three times over the voted budget amount which they used for other uses since they had already paid for their health care and then were reimbursed for it. Account 51 seems that is very similar to Area 51 where the US Government has kept all their UFOs if you remember. So that is Ponzi Scheme number 1.

The next Ponzi Scheme by the BOF is to allow the BOE to capitalize the \$491 of the Woodstock Academy that is used for facility maintenance of the Academy’s properties. Just as a note the BOE spends \$891.00 on their faculties maintenance which is fewer students and less building square footage.
What our version of Bernie Madoff (Chairman of BOF) doesn’t tell you is that approving the Capital Budget is step one of moving this \$220,000 spending around Prop 46. Then there is the Town Meeting and Referendum to approve the spending. They don’t tell that this is not a building or equipment for the school, but it is a cash payment that will be used by the K-8 system to pay their tuition to the Academy. So whatever number the BOE budget is that you approved to spend it now going to be \$220,000 higher. So, this completes the end-run around prop 46. This is one of the reasons that the Town reserve fund has dropped by over a million

Turn To **SHULTZ** page **A12**

Woodstock Budget – Round 2

To the Editor:
On May 16, the Woodstock Board of Finance held a special meeting to address the failure of 2023 Woodstock budget to pass at referendum on May 10. There were approximately 30 people in attendance; a good turnout considering few knew of the meeting, and a bit ironic, as you’ll see.
The main meeting started with a Public Comment period – comments only, no questions and no answers. The comments centered almost entirely on the issues of communications and the lack thereof, and the opinion that the referendum didn’t reflect the will of the people – at least those who were notified of the meeting. It was suggested that the BOF reduce the budget proposal by \$1 and put the budget back to referendum. There was also

one suggestion that town officials need to do something about that darn Prop 46 – obviously the cause of all evil. Initially, the BOF went along with the idea of a minimal \$1 reduction until someone pointed out that such a meager reduction might be considered a slap in the face to the public and result in another failure. The “compromise” of a reduction of \$50,000 was agreed to and eventually was approved as the new proposed budget - \$10,000 in town government and \$40,000 for the BOE. This reduces what was to be a 6 percent tax increase to a mere 5.8% tax increase and a mil rate of 20.85 (.02085) – almost comical – as for per student spending at WPS, well that will cut the increase to only 6.3 percent from 6.5 percent, lead-

Turn To **RICHARDSON** page **A12**

“Blithe Spirit” opens at Bradley Playhouse June 3

PUTNAM — The Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut at the Bradley Playhouse is excited to present Noel Coward’s hilarious smash hit comedy, “Blithe Spirit,” which opens June 3 and runs for three weekends. It is the perfect light entertainment for warm, sunny days, or come to think of it, chilly, rainy ones too!

Performances are June 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and June 5, 12 and 18 at 2:00 pm. Please note that there are two performances on Saturday, June 18 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. There is no performance on Sunday, June 19. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$18 for seniors, students, veterans and first responders.

“Blithe Spirit” was written by Noel Coward, who also wrote “Private Lives, Present Laughter” and “Design for Living.” The English playwright, composer, director, actor and singer is one of the drollest writers the stage has ever produced. He is known for his ability to write intelligent, verbose, and witty characters.

In “Blithe Spirit,” novelist Charles Condomine invites the medium, Madame Arcati, to dinner and to conduct a séance, hoping to get material for his next book. The scheme backfires when he becomes haunted by the ghost of his first wife, Elvira, who attempts



Photo Courtesy
Front row: Sarah Oschmann (Elvira), Chris Erath (Charles), Barbara Schreier (Ruth), Nicholas Magrey (Director). Back row: Jane Ellis (Mrs. Bradman), Marion Kirkham-Barbour (Madam Arcati), Jim Douglas (Dr. Bradman), Tara Golson (Edith).

to disrupt his second marriage to Ruth. TNECT veteran Nicholas Magrey directs “Blithe Spirit,” with Hannah Viens serving as stage manager. Chris Erath stars as cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine. His wives, living

and dead, are Barbara Schreier as Ruth and Sarah Oschmann as Elvira. The medium, Madame Arcati, is played by Marion (Sunny) Kirkham-Barbour. The cast is completed by Jim Douglas as Dr. Bradman, Jane Ellis as Mrs. Bradman with Sheila Harrington-Hughes as the alternant for Mrs. Bradman, and Tara Golson appears as the maid, Edith.

Due to the recent upsurge of Covid cases in Eastern Connecticut, face masks remain optional but it is strongly recommended for all audience members to wear a face mask. We are no longer checking for proof of vaccinations or test results. These policies are based on current information and are subject to change.

For more detailed information, please view our full Covid Policy on our website or contact us at 860-928-7887.

The Bradley Playhouse is located at 30 Front St. (Route 44) in Putnam. All seats are reserved. Reservations may be made with a major credit card online at www.thebradleyplayhouse.org or by calling 860-928-7887. Tickets may be purchased at the theater box office, either before the performance, or at the door if available. Purchasing your tickets ahead of time is always a good idea.

It takes a village

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT REVIVES OLD ABINGTON BURIAL GROUND, BUILDS COMMUNITY

BY DONNA DUFRESNE
CORRESPONDENT

POMFRET — On April 29, a group of volunteers descended upon the Old Abington Burial Ground to support Owen Gratton’s Eagle Scout project. The goal was to clear brush, clean and repair gravestones, and honor the sixty plus Revolutionary War veterans buried there. Boy Scout Troop 92, parents, neighbors, history buffs and gravestone experts worked tirelessly to revive the long-neglected cemetery. Gratton, a sophomore at Killingly High School, lives in Abington near the burial ground. He and his family have helped place veteran flags for Memorial Day for several years, but many of the stones have become unreadable due to lichen or have succumbed to nearly three hundred years of New England Winters.

Like many small towns in Connecticut, there is no money available to maintain the colonial cemeteries, especially those which are no longer accepting burials. Although the town provides mowing, there is no budget for repairing, cleaning, and keeping the brush and invasives at bay. Veterans from the French Indian War, Revolution, and the War of 1812 have gone unrecognized due to the deterioration of their stones.

The Old Abington Burial Ground is significant as it holds the bones of many

of the first proprietors and settlers of Pomfret. To name a few, the Ingalls, who operated taverns and manufactured silk in one of their houses during the Revolution are one of the many prominent Abington families. The writer, Laura Ingalls Wilder is one of their descendants. Some of the infants of Captain and Elizabeth Cunningham are memorialized in marble stone. Elizabeth gave birth to many children but only two survived into adulthood. The Kimballs, Sharpes and Fays of the Jericho Section of Abington, as well as the Griggs, Osgood, and Grosvenor families hold their ground in stones that lean heavily toward the earth. Ebenezer Holbrook, Squire Sessions, and Nathaniel Ayers, who operated some of Pomfret’s early mills lie beneath the rugged ground. This sacred ground is a treasure trove of social history, a record of infant and maternal mortality, disease patterns such as smallpox, economic trends and military records.

Eagle Scout Projects are designed to benefit communities rather than individuals, and ultimately engender civic engagement. During the process, an Eagle Scout develops and demonstrates leadership and organizational skills and service that fulfills a community need. With the help of a diverse community, Owen has designed a project that will have a lasting effect on



Pomfret History. He was able to engage gravestone repair expert, Michael Carroll from Rediscovering History, who donated the new flagpole and flag; Ruthie Brown from the New England Gravestone Network, who cleaned several of the stones infested with lichen, and a posse of Boy Scouts who cleared brush along the stone wall. Owen’s father, David Gratton donated a granite stone which was engraved by Mercer Monuments of Plainfield as a donation.

The memorial stone recognizes the veterans in the Old Abington Burial Ground whose names we may not know, a reminder of stories forgotten and yet untold as we uncover and redis-

cover the past. But more importantly, the vision of one Eagle Scout has reminded us that it takes a village to preserve and keep history alive. The volunteers, including myself, came from diverse backgrounds, political and belief systems. Yet we became a mighty force, contributing our skillsets, expertise, and labor to meet the goals and objectives of an excellent Eagle Scout Project that will outlive our efforts. The revival and restoration of the Old Abington Burial Ground proves that Civic engagement, community, leadership, organization, and service can be accomplished with grace – an example of true American grit.

SNHU announces Winter 2022 President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2022 Presidents List.

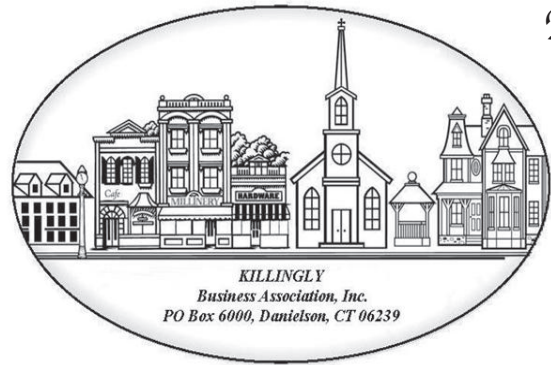
Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President’s List. Full-time

status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits over two consecutive terms (EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6).

Michelle Smith of Brooklyn
Nicole Everton of Danielson
Hannah Reid of Brooklyn
Christiana Filbert of Danielson
Anthony Jean of Brooklyn
Justin Soucy of Brooklyn
Brittany Ostiguy of Woodstock Valley
Amma Oforu of Danielson
Samantha Lynch of Danielson

Leah Jackson of Putnam
Paul Johnson of Putnam
Mary Jane Masztal-Verrette of Putnam
Gina Montemagni of Putnam
Mary Neal of Woodstock
Jacquiline Campbell of Pomfret Center
Spencer Kalafus of Pomfret Center
Lillian Mandeville of Woodstock
Shevaun Lamontagne of Woodstock
Brittany Ostiguy of Woodstock Valley
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with an 89-year his-

tory of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 165,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the «Most Innovative» regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.



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Swinging senior picnic a success

BY LINDA SM DOS SANTOS
CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — The sky was clear and sunny with a gentle warm breeze inviting seniors from Eastford, Pomfret, Woodstock, Brooklyn, Killingly, Putnam, Sterling, Plainfield, Thompson, and Canterbury to a Swing Picnic at Riverside Park in Brooklyn.

The event was hosted by the Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Citizens Center (QVSCC), which services the towns previously listed. Seniors arrived to the musical sounds of the 50's and 60's courtesy of CATS DJ. Canopy tent tops dotted the soft, grassy, sport's field. The seniors were encouraged to dress in outfits from the '50's and '60's, and a prize was given for the Best SWING 50's & 60's Outfit. Some wore tight capri pants, others wore pink tops, or Oxford shoes, headbands or scarves,

tyedied shirts, and embroidered bell-bottoms. All enjoyed a hearty lunch of either a ham, turkey, veggie, roast beef, or Italian wrap provided by The Deli and Market on Maple Street, 371 Maple Street, Danielson, Connecticut.

Are you near retirement? On Tuesday, June 21 at 4:30 p.m., Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage Plans, presented by QVSCC and Senior Resources. The Speaker, Laura Crew's, Director of Benefits Access, will explain the differences and which plan might be right for you. Register by calling 860-774-1243, as soon as possible.

The Eastford Senior Citizens (ESC) are planning a self-drive Event on TUESDAY, JUNE 14 at Oliver's Dairy Bar & Grill in North Windham. Call 860-538-8868 before noon on Friday, June 10, 2022 to register for a ESC (discounted) meal.



SNHU announces Winter 2022 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2022 Deans List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits over two consecutive terms (EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6).

Kelsey Jennings of Danielson

Christine Moran of Danielson
Anthony Menounos of Brooklyn
Amanda Bogoslofski of Thompson
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 165,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the «Most Innovative» regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.



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OBITUARIES

Dayla Duquette, 60

Pomfret Center – Dayle Duquette, 60, of Babbitt Hill Rd. formerly of California, died Thursday evening, May 19, 2022, at Hartford Hospital surrounded by her loving family. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of Joseph and Cecile (Duquette) Stoddard. Ms. Duquette was a self-employed fitness trainer and wellness coach, as well as an accomplished artist. Dayla enjoyed hiking in the California hills with her two adored Doberman pinchers, Arrow and Bella



and many other outdoor physical activities. Dayla is survived by her parents; her siblings, John Stoddard and his wife Ann of Pomfret Center, Lisa Stoddard and her partner Tom Tremont of West Hartford, Marla Booker and her husband Jason of Aldie, VA, and Tara Robinson and her husband Stephen of Auburn, CA; and her nieces and nephews, Zachary, Teagan, Crosby, Kyle, Evan, Liam, and Ally Funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 14 Church St., Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook visit [www. GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

William E. Berube, Sr., 66

N. Grosvenordale – William E. Berube, Sr., 66, died Wednesday evening, May 18, 2022, at UMASS Memorial Hospital surrounded by his loving and caring family. He was the beloved husband of 46 years to Debra (Carito) Berube. Born in Webster, MA, he was the son of the late Leo Berube and Stella (Paradis) Berube Brodeur. Mr. Berube worked for over 23 years at Boudreau Welding as a sheet metal fabricator and was a recently retired correction officer working at Brooklyn CL. Mr. Berube enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, vacationing, and his classic cars. Family and friends will remember Bill as a very caring and loving person who would give you the shirt off his back if you were in need as well as his story telling ability and quick wit . One of Bill’s proudest accomplishments was that he was confirmed in the Catholic Church at age 50 in keeping with a promise that he made to Fr. Ashe on his wedding day. Mr. Berube was a life member of the Valley Springs Sportsman Club, member and Past President of the Thompson Lions Club, and a member for over 40 years in the Knights of



Columbus, St. Bernard Council 2087 of N. Grosvenordale. Bill is survived by his wife, Debra (Carito) Berube of N. Grosvenordale; his children, William E. Berube, Jr. of N. Grosvenordale and his daughter Rebecca Reid and her companion Brian O’Leary of FL; and his siblings, Richard Berube and his wife Susan of Stafford Springs, Bertrand Berube and his wife Claire of Thompson, and Suzanne Rousseau and her husband Richard of Greene, ME, and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his siblings, Norman Berube and Nanette Berube. Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Bill’s family from 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. A gathering began in the funeral home on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 9:30a.m.followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00a.m. in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial donations in Bill’s name may be made to the Thompson Lions Club, P.O. Box 28, Thompson, CT 06277. For memorial guestbook visit [www. GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

Elizabeth (Betty) Collins Johnson

Elizabeth (Betty) Collins Johnson was born in Willimantic to the late J. Addison and Ruth Niles Jackson on December 23, 1928. She was adopted in 1930 and lovingly raised by Donald and Alma Manning Collins of Bloomfield, CT. Betty attended Bloomfield schools, Northfield Mount Hermon preparatory school in Massachusetts, and graduated from Windham High School, class of 1947. She was married to the late Hadley P. Johnson in Franklin in 1948. They shared nearly 57 years together before his passing in 2005. Together, they owned and operated 2 trucking businesses in Franklin and Windham, CT, from 1953 until 1980. Mrs. Johnson served on the executive boards of the New London County TB Association, the American Cancer Society, and the greater Willimantic Chamber of Commerce. She also served on the Franklin Board of Education, as the clerk of the North Franklin Post Office from 1958-1964 and wrote the Franklin news column for the Willimantic Chronicle and the Hartford Times. Long active in Democratic politics on local, county, and state levels, she was appointed to a number of positions. Named by then Governor John Dempsey to be the only layperson from eastern Connecticut on the State Clean Air Task Force, she also served on the Solid Waste subcommittee of that group, as well as the Task Forces’ speakers bureau. She later served as Secretary of the Interim Legislative subcommittee studying solid waste problems in Connecticut. As a member of the Franklin



Congregational Church, she taught Sunday School, and helped to raise the funding for the basement addition to the church. She enjoyed spectator sports of all kinds, particularly college basketball, and was an ardent crossword puzzle solver. In addition to her late husband Hadley, she was predeceased by her oldest son Donald, sister Mary Sylvia, and brother Fred Jackson. She leaves her sisters Ann Gozewski of Massachusetts, and Rebecca Paynter of Bermuda. Also left to miss her are her children, Carla Johnson (Bob Kimble) of Brooklyn CT, Colin Johnson (Ellen) of Havelock, NC, Marc Johnson (Cindy) of Plainfield, CT, Rebecca Collins (Michael) of Canterbury, CT, Pam Lewerenz (John) of Carolina Forest, SC, and her son Eric Johnson and wife Jennifer, with whom she made her home, and who cared for her so wonderfully. She leaves 17 grandchildren, Karin Hall, Hillary Watson, Aaron Johnson, Kristen Sullivan, Derek Johnson, Shannon Fontenot, Denae Abate, Brook Cresser, Kate Knoblauch, Maxwell Johnson, Lance Collins, Stacey Collins, Amanda Collins Benoit, Patrick Collins Jr., Nathaniel Conroy, John Lewerenz Jr, and Tyler Lewerenz. Also, 19 great grandchildren, and a host of friends, many from her childhood. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 10 AM at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT 06260. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Day Kimball Healthcare, Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeast Connecticut, or the Franklin Congregational Church. Share a memory at SmithandWalkerfh.com

Patricia P. Peterson, 94

Patricia P. Peterson, 94, of Pomfret Center, CT passed away Monday, May 9, 2022 at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, CT. She was born August 9, 1927 in Putnam, CT, daughter of the late Charles and Margaret (White) Page. Patricia was the beloved wife of David Peterson he died on December 8, 1998. Patricia worked for the phone company in Putnam, CT and then worked for the State of Connecticut in the Department of Developmental Services. Patricia was owner and operator of the Pomfret Livery Services for several years. She loved spending time

with her family and taking care of her home and yard. She leaves her two daughters Jane Camarco of Brooklyn, CT and Katrina Karadi of Mesa, AZ; her grandchildren Jacqueline Stratoudakis and her husband Douglas and Matthew Camarco; her great grandchildren Aidan Stratoudakis and Hailey Stratoudakis. Patricia was predeceased by all her siblings. A Private Graveside Service will be held at Quasset Cemetery, Woodstock, CT. Share a memory at SmithandWalkerfh.com and tired of the continual finger-pointing, the blame game, and the unwillingness by our representatives in Congress to cross party lines and work with the other side. When will you - and the rest of our representatives - put aside party politics, your personal agendas and decide to work together for the benefit of the American people? It’s time for you to become part of the solution, instead of remaining part of the problem.” Ed DeLUCA NORTH GROSVENORDALE

DELUCA continued from page A9

we could send to our politicians: «As a voter and concerned citizen, Id like to know when something is actually going to be done about the problems plaguing this nation? Problems like inflation and rising costs to name just a few. The number one reason why there hasn’t been any results is you politicians - on both sides of the aisle - who can’t agree on anything, never mind do what’s best for the American people. Isn’t it your job to run the country? I’m truly sick

TAYLOR continued from page A9

harassment, “tyranny” and “Marxist.” Surely, that’s a position that one who purports to believe in liberty should realize is incompatible with American values and the Constitution. Mr. Raymond’s belief that some Democrats agree with Republicans but remain silent due to fear of being “cancelled,” goes both ways. Just look at all

WEISS continued from page A8

delivery of boxes of caps and gowns to every school that needs them, I would. I believe in the enduring power of rituals and the sustaining energy of stories. Graduates need to line up with class-

of the Republicans who initially accused Donald Trump of inciting the attempt to violently overthrow the government but who were cowed into silence or into contradicting themselves. The “Big Lie” is a litmus test for GOP candidates this year along with the racist Republican replacement theory that mass shooters have been citing as motivation for their heinous acts. BILLY G. TAYLOR KILLINGLY

RICHARDSON continued from page A9

ing one BOF member to suggest that the cost to educate K-8 being more than high school students (the Academy) makes sense saying “it should cost more” and that the decline in test scores for WPS students means we need to spend even more. Government, and now education, may be among the only places where poor performance is expected to be rewarded by more and more money which has rarely, if ever, fixed anything. There is some hope however, near the end of the meeting, and after the motion to approved the new budget proposal was passed, one BOF member pointed out that the board needs to be aware of the seriousness of the current financial situation the town is facing that being the gap between spending and revenue

SHULTZ continued from page A9

dollars. The BOE and the BOF have set up the next 5 years to fund your high school education by capitalizing this part of the tuition and moving around the Prop 46 and the budget. The value of this is \$1,145,000. Bernie Madoff was once an honest man when he was Chairman of the NASDAQ, but he had a good story and greedy people could be taken advantage of by the control of information. Well, welcome to Bernie Madoff Land in the Town of Woodstock. They control the


that has been created over the last few years, a significant reduction in the town’s general fund (more than one millions dollars) and that a hefty tax increase is not going to be a one-time event. He is correct. I will add, even worse is that it has also created a higher floor for spending going forward assuring that tax increases of this magnitude can be expected for the next several years. Woodstock badly needs another “no” vote to both get town officials to actually do their jobs, and to avoid continuing the out of control spending. The date of the Town Meeting on this new budget and the referendum has not been set as of this writing. Stay alert and stay tuned. DAVE RICHARDSON WOODSTOCK

information, and they don’t necessarily lie; they just don’t tell you enough to understand what they are doing. Since the town has an attorney and an accounting firm which appears to be allowing this to happen. These outside firms appear to be more interested in keeping the Town of Woodstock as a client rather than making them follow the State Statutes and our Prop 46. Just remember these people are hired by your Town to protect the elected officials and not the town’s taxpayers. Vote no on the budget. PRESTON SHULTZ WOODSTOCK







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Camp Quinebaug holds first ever Boot Drive



Photos Jason Bleau

Supporters of Camp Quinebaug lined Memorial Bridge in Putnam collecting donations on an unseasonably hot morning to support Camp Q's employees and programs.

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM – Supporters of Camp Quinebaug came out in droves on the morning on Saturday, May 21 taking part in the first ever Helping Hands of Camp Q Boot Drive at WINY and the World War Memorial Bridge in Putnam. Members of the Helping Hands of Camp Quinebaug were stationed along the roadside collecting donations in boots and buckets to support the programs of the local non-profit located in Killingly. With the summer season



Camp Q supporters stationed at WINY greet commuters as they drive by.

quickly approaching, Steven Guilbault, President of the Helping Hands of Camp Quinebaug, said the money would help offset costs to pay for the employees who help run the camp every year. “Our responsibility as the board is to raise money to pay for the nine different group leader positions at Camp Quinebaug each summer. It costs us between \$40,000 or \$50,000 now. Our number one fundraiser is the Turkey Dip on Thanksgiving Day at Camp Quinebaug, but with the pandemic our fundraising opportunities have been much more limited. Gary O of WINY has been very supportive of us so we approached him about having a bucket drive and here we are,” Guilbault said. Some supporters dressed up in costumes to attract attention, namely Guilbault himself who sported a Captain America costume, and while not every commuter could stop to donate money there were countless horn honks showing support for the organization all the same. Guilbault offered his gratitude to

everyone who supported the organization throughout the morning. “We’re all really committed. Our children are committed. It’s a fantastic effort. We’re all part of a big family. The camp serves children with special needs who normally wouldn’t get the camp experience. We’ve been providing this experience for over 30 years. Seeing the people support us is awesome. Not a lot of people might know about us because we provide services to a very specific population of kids. We’re not as widely known as the YMCA or the 4H Camp so when people really come out to support us it’s something special. The Turkey Dip in November was overwhelming. It’s really amazing and speaks volumes about this area as a whole how people come out to support causes like Camp Quinebaug,” said Guilbault. When collections wrapped up around noon time \$900 had been collected for the camp with 100 percent of the proceeds going towards supporting the employees and programs.

THOMPSON VFW OFFERING “BUDDY” POPPIES



Photo Courtesy

Thompson Memorial Post 10088 Veterans of Foreign Wars and the VFW Auxiliary will conduct their annual “Buddy” Poppy Campaign May 25 to 29 in the town of Thompson, according to an announcement by Elmer Preston, VFW Commander and Virginia Livernoche Auxiliary President. The poppy has been recognized as the memorial flower and symbol of all who have given their lives in our nation’s wars. Since 1922, the VFW has conducted an annual distribution of “Buddy” Poppies to raise funds for its charitable programs on behalf of needy, disabled, hospitalized and active-duty veterans and their families. All funds raised are strictly accounted for and dedicated entirely to veterans’ welfare. When you are handed a “Buddy” Poppy please give generously. And when you wear your poppy, do it proudly. When you meet a veteran, thank them for their service. Please look for our dedicated volunteers at your local post office and Thompson transfer station.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On May 18, 2022, Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agent granted wetlands approval for application 05-22-17- Benjamin Marinelli- Rt 198 (MBLU: 5709-01-18-1A)- new home. Mark Parker, Chairman.
May 27, 2022

TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER ASSESSMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Sewer assessment bills are due June 1, 2022. If payment is not received on or before July 1st, 2022 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1/12 % per month or a fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$5.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Payments will be received by mail, 172 Main St. Killingly Ct 06239, in our drop box, rear of building near handicap ramp. Online at www.killingly.org or in the office Monday, Wednesday Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm, Tuesday 8:30am-5:30pm and Friday 8:30-11:30am. Patricia Monahan CCMC Revenue Collector for The Town of Killingly
May 27, 2022

TOWN OF THOMPSON

At the May 10, 2022 meeting of the Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission the following action was taken: Application #IWA22002 approved with conditions, Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc., 0 West Thompson Rd & 307 Reardon Rd (Assessor's Map 61, Block 101, Lot 9 & 6, respectively) - earthmoving associated with mining 1 million cubic yards of earth materials and grading for access road, portions of which are in the 100-foot upland review area.
George T. O'Neil, Chair
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF David G. Haines, AKA David Grover Haines (22-00152) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 11, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Diane L. Williams,
c/o KENNETH WILLIS BARBER, KENNETH BARBER AND ASSOCIATES, LLC,
29 WEST HIGH STREET, PO BOX 88, EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Donna M Jacques (22-00196) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lawrence R Jacques, Jr.
c/o WILLIAM J MONTY, LAW OFFICE W MONTY, 930 ROUTE 169, PO BOX 266, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Dolores B. Kingsbury (22-00193) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Bernard J, Jr.
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS - 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF James J. Saitas (22-00138) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Stephen Saitas, and Michael P. Saitas
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS - 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF David B Belleville (22-00200) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 18, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
MATTHEW-ALAN HERMAN,

LAW OFFICE OF ALAN SCOTT HERMAN, 16 SOUTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 663, PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Francis H Edwards, Jr. (22-00170) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 17, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Peter M Engh
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS - 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Thomas E. Reid (22-00188) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Cassandra L. Reid
c/o WILLIAM J MONTY, LAW OFFICE W MONTY, 930 ROUTE 169, PO BOX 266, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Myra W. Schrupp (22-00161) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Donald R. Schrupp and Nancy L. Baker aka Nancy S. Baker
c/o GABRIELLE LABONTE, LAW OFFICE OF GABRIELLE LABONTE, S VINA LANE, P.O. BOX 709, BROOKLYN, CT 06234
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF David Michael Teed (22-00172) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 16, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to

promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kathryn Teed,
c/o ALYSON R ALEMAN (attorney for Kathryn Teed), BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CBRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-2429,
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jeanne G Thomas (22-00192) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jodi A Thomas
c/o ALYSON R ALEMAN, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jean A. Woodward (22-00186) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Marjorie Woodward
c/o WILLIAM H ST ONGE, ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE: 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
May 27, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Maria I. Lucchesi (22-00203) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 17, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Laura L. Williams,
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS- 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-6549.
May 27, 2022

Putnam couple’s art featured at new Municipal Complex gallery

PUTNAM — An Art Show Reception featuring the unique, colorful and exciting works of Annie and Dave Joly will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Putnam.

Works include illustrations, photography, paintings, and animations. Guests will have a chance to meet the artists and learn about the wide variety of mediums they enjoy.

Dave Joly summed up their excitement for the show by saying, “This show has been a great way for Annie and I to look back over years of work, with each piece reminding us of the different life stages we’ve

been through together. As with most things practiced over a long time, it’s easy to lose sight of where you started and how far you’ve come. So it’s good to pause once in a while, see where you’ve been, and perhaps get a sense of where you’re headed. As illustrators, we’re both interested in storytelling, and looking over all this work gives us a sense of the story of our lives together.”

Annie and Dave Joly have been partners in both art and life for 37 years, making Putnam their home since 1987.

Annie, an artist, educator, illustrator and a passionate believer in the power of creative expression for every-

one, is originally from Great Neck, NY and a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. As an illustrator, she has created work for clients nationwide and has illustrated thirteen children’s books. As an educator, Annie was the Illustration Department Chair at both the University of Hartford and the Art Institute of Boston, as well as the Visual Arts Coordinator at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at QVCC where she teaches fine art, illustration and computer graphics.

Her personal works are a mix of dreams, experiences

and subconscious icons. She describes her creative process as both a journey and meditative practice, similar to poetry or dance.

Dave, an illustrator and animator, grew up in Danielson. After graduating from the Art Institute of Boston he began his career as a games animator at Atari in Sunnyvale, Calif. in the early 1980’s. A few years later, he moved on to become a freelance illustrator and animator, working for magazine, advertising and educational clients nationwide. Along the way he has pursued interests in photography and filmmaking, most recently during an artist residency at Trailwood,

the Connecticut Audubon Society property in Hampton. He has also taught drawing, 2D & 3D graphics and animation as an adjunct faculty member at QVCC since 1990. He feels fortunate that their work over so many years remains their avocation as well, and that it’s still exciting to create something new.

Guests will be treated to light refreshments. The event is sponsored by the Putnam Arts Council. The Joly display will continue to be on display until June 30. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Brooklyn resident Tom Nurse receives Bachelor’s degree at WPI’s 153rd Commencement

WORCESTER, Mass. — On Saturday, May 14, Tom Nurse of Brooklyn, who majored in Robotics Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering, was bestowed a bachelor’s degree at WPI’s 153rd Commencement. Nearly 1,200 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the university’s 153rd commencement ceremony. This undergraduate ceremony marked the first time the entire class and their family and friends were able to gather together for an in-person ceremony since 2019.

In her final commencement exercises before stepping down to become the Director of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, President Laurie Leshin presided over both celebrations, along with Board of Trustees Chairman William Fitzgerald ‘83. In her remarks, President Leshin celebrated the Class of 2022 and all they have accomplished during their time at WPI, including how they weathered the challenges of the pandemic. “While it would be unfair to describe the second half of your time

at WPI as anything short of extraordinarily challenging, as always, I am so heartened by how this community came together to meet every moment,” she said.

The keynote address was given by Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, who was awarded an honorary degree. She praised the members of the Class of 2022 for navigating the uncertainties of the pandemic and explored them to continue embracing the many shades of gray they first encountered due to COVID-19, and are likely to continue to face in their professional lives.

Honorary degrees were also bestowed upon State Senator Harriette Chandler, the first woman from Worcester to serve in the Massachusetts State Senate, a position she has held since 2001. Lesley Small Zorabedian ‘72 was honored with a Presidential Medal for her trailblaz-

ing efforts to help shape the university. She was one of the first women to be enrolled at WPI as an undergraduate in 1968 and in 1972, she became the first woman to receive an undergraduate degree from WPI.

The undergraduate class speaker, Nicole Conill, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, with a focus on cyber security. Conill is pursuing a master’s in Computer Science at WPI. Her speech was titled “Reflect on the Past. Celebrate the Present. Focus on the Future.” She concluded by telling her classmates to “follow your heart to wherever, whomever, or whatever it is that calls you. Use what you’ve learned from WPI, whether it’s academic or personal, to guide you on that journey.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effec-

tively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 17 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

WOODSTOCK BUILDING ASSOCIATES OPENS IN NEW LOCATION



Photo Courtesy

The Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce was pleased to celebrate the formal opening and ribbon cutting at the new location of Woodstock Building Associates. Now located at 3 Route 171 on the Woodstock/Thompson line, the new premier showroom is home to more than 5,000 square feet of designer kitchens, baths and new home builds for you to peruse. More than 100 guests, friends and colleagues turned out for the special event.

NORTHEASTERN CT CHAMBER PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS



Photo Courtesy

The Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce was honored to present two \$1,000 scholarship checks at the 30th Annual QVCC Foundation Scholarship Night at Quinebaug Valley Community College last week. Recipients of the scholarships include: Yasmin Garcia-Juarez of Willimantic and Nick Miller of Lebanon. More than \$142,000 was awarded to 96 deserving students. We offer both Yasmin and Nick our hearty congratulations.

Schad to run for re-election to Probate Court



Judge Leah Schad

Court, Leah has worked hard to create a professional workplace where the citizens of the district are treated with fairness and compassion. Her staff is courteous and always helpful.”

Upon her nomination, Schad said “I appreciate the overwhelming support of the delegates. It has been my honor to serve the people of the Northeast District over the last eleven years and I look forward to the opportunity to continue in my role. I have lived in the Quiet Corner for over 23 years, and was lucky enough to raise my three children here. This is a wonderful community and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many residents.”

The Northeast Probate District serves the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Eastford, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock. The regional court was established in 2011. The court handles estates, trusts, conservatorships, guardianships and psychiatric matters. Judge Schad also was appointed in 2013 as the Administrative Judge for the Northeast Regional Children’s Court. The Children’s Court helps families in crisis keep children safe.

Schad was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1995. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Connecticut and earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado School of Law. She was first elected as probate judge for the town of Pomfret in 2005. She resides in Pomfret with her three children, Caroline, Will and Julia

REGION — The Democratic nominating convention for Judge of the Northeast Probate Court unanimously and enthusiastically chose sitting Probate Judge Leah Schad to run for re-election in the upcoming general election on Nov. 8.

Convention Chairman Timothy McNally said, “We are thrilled to support Leah in her bid for re-election. Leah has served as our probate judge since 2011 and brings extensive expertise and commitment to the position. As the first elected judge for the Northeast

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Free poetry event June 5 at Roseland Park



WOODSTOCK — The first in this year’s summer spoken word/poetry readings at Roseland Park will be held on June 5 from 2-4 p.m. at 205 Roseland Park Rd., Woodstock. The event will be held in the outdoor amphitheater and will move to the Pavilion in case of extreme weather. Chairs are recommended.

Reading will be Susan Powers, Dennis Barone, Rebecca Olander and Steve Veilleux. There will also be an open mic segment after the intermission as time allows. Sign-ups are at the event and there is a 5-minute time limit. Susan Powers is a retired teacher and has published widely including a chapbook, *Break the Spell*. Her work has also appeared in a few online venues, primarily in *The Sixfold Magazine*. Dennis Barone has many writing credits and he is the author of seven books of short fiction, including “On the Bus:

Selected Stories,” two novellas and a collection of prose poems, “The Walls of Circumstance.” He has written numerous papers and essays and was awarded the inaugural Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Faculty Scholarship Award at the University of Saint Joseph in 2017, where he is a Professor Emeritus. His most recent work is *A Field Guide to the Rehearsal*, published by Blaze Vox Books. Rebecca Olander is a poet, teacher and editor based in Western Mass. She is the editor/director of *Perugia Press*. She has been winning poetry awards since 2009 and her most recent accomplishments include the Straw Dogs Writers Guild Writing Residency in 2019, a Pushcart Prize nomination also in 2019, being named a finalist in the Two Sylvias Press Chapbook Prize contest. Previously, she won first place in the Woman’s National Book Association Poetry Award in 2013 for

her poem “Late October Light.”

This year’s free word/poetry series is being held in conjunction with readings at the G.B. & Lexi Singh Performance Center, 60 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville, Mass.

All remaining readings in the series will be from 2-4 p.m. and will be on June 5 (Roseland), June 26 (Singh), July 17 (Roseland), Sept. 11 (Roseland), and Oct. 23 (Singh).

Sponsors of the Roseland Park readings include Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Linemaster Switch, Atty Mark Brouillard, Ashford Xtra Mart, CR Premier Properties, WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, Bank Hometown & EA Custom Millwork of Northbridge, MA. Sponsors of the Singh Center events include Webster First Bank, EA Custom Millwork and ValleyCast/Open Sky Community Services. Email karen.warinsky@gmail.com with questions.

Democrats nominate Lisa Thomas for 35th District Senate race



Thomas’ nomination.

“Lisa is a force of nature. She is driven to serve her community, and to fight for what she believes in, by a genuine concern for her neighbors and a deep-seated sense of justice. Lisa has worked her entire life to make a difference,” said Bornhorst.

State Rep. Pat Boyd of Pomfret attended the convention and praised Thomas’ nomination.

“Lisa is thoughtful, fair, and seeks to understand all aspects of the community before making a decision in her role as the Chair of the Coventry Town Council, and I look forward to her bringing those positive attributes to the Connecticut State Senate,” said Boyd.

Thomas said she will take her experience with bringing Republicans and Democrats together with her to Hartford.

“Connecticut’s 35th Senate District needs a leader in the state legislature who will stand up and advocate for each of us. We can’t build a future based on division between neighbors.

We must choose to build a future based on shared values and on understanding one another’s hopes and fears,” said Thomas. “Whether you live in Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Ellington, Hampton, Stafford, Thompson, Tolland, Willington, Woodstock, Union, or Vernon, I will not leave you behind. I won’t back down and I will always listen to your concerns with an open mind.”

Thomas has already met the qualifications to receive a Connecticut’s Citizens Election Program grant for her campaign. The 35th Senate District includes Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Ellington, Eastford, Hampton, Stafford Springs, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Vernon, Willington, and Woodstock.

Jill Wood Reviczky of Coventry nominated Thomas.

Reviczky said, “We found her to be a relentless, die-hard activist – women’s rights, teachers’ and students’ rights, conservation, and the protection of our natural resources.”

Nicole Bornhorst of Vernon seconded

POMFRET DEMOCRATS ATTEND STATE CONVENTION



Photo Courtesy

Tamara Harris, Ray Wishart, and Maureen Nicholson, all members of the Pomfret Democratic Town Committee (PDTC), recently attended the Connecticut Democratic Party’s convention in Hartford. The three delegates voted on the State Democratic Platform and endorsed candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, and comptroller, as well as one U.S. Senate seat. The PDTC meets in person on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Pomfret Community Center, 207 Mashamoquet Road. All registered Democrats are invited, encouraged, and welcome to attend. For more information, contact Ray Wishart: (860) 928-4999, raymondwishart@gmail.com. The PDTC is also online at www.facebook.com/PomfretDTC.

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

LOFFREDO

continued from page A9

as she does what’s right for Thompson) is a Republican. Hardly sounds like a campaign run by her does it? In fact most of the ad cost and flyer distribution was a fully bipartisan campaign that had no direction or influence from the selectmans’ office. Municipal funds? I didn’t know my checking account was part of the municipal budget. Silly me. However Bill gets to run all the ads he wants, the ‘rules’ only seem to apply to those with whom he disagrees.

He attacks G7 for catering the polls at the elections as if that’s a vote influencer (G7 is owned by our First Selectman’s husband and she works with him). G7 has provided this service long before the StOnge’s purchased it, and it was vetted as not being a conflict of interest. They provide this service as a public service and they basically get paid enough to cover their costs.

Then he makes it personal by attacking the town planner, casting doubt on her qualifications. Let me fill in a few facts. Tyra moved here the year after my family. We met at town meetings. I had become involved in Trails and a letter I wrote to the First Selectman at that time helped get me invited to join a new effort called the Branding and Marketing Committee. In conjunction with NECCOG, it had the purpose of looking for ways to improve Thompson’s Grand List to end the constant budget battles resulting from the tax base being excessively reliant on homeowners. One of the key recognized needs to advance Thompson’s future success was a revision of the outdated zoning regulations.

Tyra was part of that group, as a vol-

unteer, from its inception. It was a sub-committee of Economic Development which had an opening for an alternate. I was interested but after getting to know Tyra I was extremely impressed at her knowledge and vision. Even though I was still serving the final of my 20 years on the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, I stepped aside so she could get that appointment.

From the start she built networks and worked tirelessly to find ways to help her adopted town. When the Town Planner position became vacant, she applied and was chosen by the BOS after multiple rounds of applications. While this was her first professional appointment in planning and development, the Selectmen were aware of that and took a chance based on her commitment to Thompson.

Let me point out here that Bill is one of the loudest voices fighting the budget every year and resulting, among other things, in an inability to pay for people with the resumes that Bill claims he wants. Let me also point out that Bill continues to fight to remove PZC members with years of experience to replace them with people who have little to no experience, but who align with him ideologically.

See the contradictions in Bill’s logic? He attacks her qualifications but won’t support the town paying for more qualified personnel, and at the same time he would choose ‘his’ unqualified allies for important positions. Interesting.

Tyra was very clear in her recent letter to the Villager about decisions made in planning and zoning, yet he twists them and attacks. He claims she isn’t qualified yet in her short time in that position she has been instrumental in gaining millions, yes millions, in grants and funding for the town saving the

local taxpayers countless expenses. She has fought to save old buildings like 65 Main and the River Mill. She is instrumental in the execution of town events, Community Day, Maker Fair, Music on the Green, School and Children’s Programs. She is a resource for the groups who sponsor these programs and is on the ground executing the programs as a volunteer with those groups, Thompson Together and Thompson Recreation.

She has been an invaluable supporter of our outdoor recreation, specifically Trails, and wrote the grant that resulted in the National Park Service consulting on the Great East Thompson Train Wreck Park.

She has worked with both our First Selectmen, one from each party, and I think it’s fair to say they both see her as an asset. She has built relationships throughout the region including the 12 Town (Trail) Task Force and the Eastern Tourism District, the Eastern CT Land Bank, and more. She even was the driving force with Thompson Together to help support the changing of the nip bottle law statewide, through the grassroots Nip for Holiday Cheer program.

Much of this often occurring on her own personal volunteer time. In addition she regularly assists and attends several town volunteer commissions: agriculture, EDC, MSRAC, Trails, P&Z, and others when asked or needed. Basically she gets one night a week for herself and even gives that up for a cause she believes in.

In her role advising the PZC, she was an author of necessary new regulations. It was a collaborative process with the Commission, following initial guidance from NECCOG, followed through with public meetings and input from the

community and the Board of Selectmen.

You know who I don’t see involved in any of this? Bill and Beverly Warner. Where were they for the regulation rewrite process? Where are they for Board of Ed meetings? Where are they when constructive input from citizens is requested? Where are they when it comes to volunteering to make Thompson a better place? Are they cooking meals for our election workers? Where are they when it comes to picking up litter on their home street end to end like I do?

I’ll tell you. They are sitting at home looking for an after-the-fact reason to incite a small group of townspeople with fear mongering then, when they fail, they continue to attack some of the finest people this town could ever hope to have. Oh yes, be aware, they also report their neighbor’s for zoning issues while arguing about zoning freedoms. Apparently they miss the point that without regulations anyone can report or sue anybody, the PZC is attempting to protect property rights, fairly, for all. But yeah let’s make a mockery of it by using it as political retribution. Is this the type of people you want as community leaders?

There are two types of people that make or break a town. The first type gets involved, volunteers, and work tirelessly to improve the town for all, not just a few. The second type tries to tear things down and cause division. I know who I support.

BRIAN LOFFREDO
N. GROSVENORDALE

Thompson hosts Annual Maker Fair



Crystaleyezd wire designs provided a fun selection of crystal-based crafts as well as a collection of gems and stones to choose from.

Photos Jason Bleau



Joe Iamartino from the Thompson Historical Society interacts with customers as the Society's stationary store modeled after the old town hall near the Thompson town green.



Walt Fettig of Dudley brought a collection of homemade bird houses to the fair.



The staff of Misty Pines Leatherworking meets with customers during the Thompson Maker Fair.

THOMPSON — Riverside Park in Thompson was bustling with activity on Saturday, May 14 when the Thompson Maker Fair brought more than 85 craft vendors to town. Previously delayed due to weather, the Maker Fair finally came to life offering a wide variety of

décor, food, candles, and more locally grown and produced products for all to enjoys with vendors from throughout the tri-state area taking part in what is quickly becoming a wonderful tradition in the town of Thompson.



Simply Soaps provided a wide variety of scented creations for buyers to pick from to add to their morning and evening routines.



The Nomad's Garden offered a tasty selection of natural foods including drinks, trail mixes and more.



Vocalist Stephen George provided a fun selection of tunes to add to the atmosphere of the Maker Fair.



A collection of homemade wooden items all provided by Eastford native Dan Merlo.

Explore these budget-friendly destinations

Many people equate travel with high prices and some overindulgence. After all, for a lot of people, vacations come but once or twice per year. While it's true the "go big or go home" mantra is never far from the mind while on vacation, ensuring a fun a trip does not require emptying one's wallet. The world has plenty of affordable destinations for those willing to do their research and think outside of the box. Plus, even locales billed as expensive can be made more affordable with some smart travel tips.

North American national parks
National parks across North America are budget-friendly destinations. These parks boast incredibly scenic vistas and plenty of activities for outdoors enthusiasts. Most feature modest entrance fees and affordable adjacent lodging. The trip can be even more frugal by camping on park lands.

Chattanooga, TN
The draw of Nashville may be strong, but nearby Chattanooga also can be an entertaining place to enjoy some southern hospitality. Chattanooga is centrally located to many areas in the United States. Chattanooga hosts the Tennessee Aquarium, which has

a large freshwater aquarium and an opportunity to touch sturgeon, which is an ancient fish species.

South America
When seeking warmer climates and sandy beaches, many travelers immediately think of the Caribbean islands. But for the budget-conscious, countries like El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Costa Rica may be more affordable. These countries are home to rich jungles and ancient ruins as well.

St. Augustine, Florida
Theme parks may be a big part of Florida's tourist draw, but such parks can be expensive for families. Looking elsewhere in Florida for dream destinations that are easier on the pocketbook doesn't take a lot of work. St. Augustine in Northern Florida is America's oldest city and is packed with historical monuments, quaint shops and great dining. The city also sits a mere five miles northwest of St. Augustine Beach, which offers miles of shoreline to explore.

Portugal
Plenty of people flock to the relaxing shores of Spain or enjoy the culture and nightlife of France. Nestled nearby,



Portugal has its own beautiful beaches, delicious food, historic cities, and locally produced wines without the inflated prices of nearby countries.

Quebec City
Quebec City's rich history makes it a must-see Canadian destination. It is

particularly vibrant in winter, when the snowy landscape creates picture-perfect memories. Accommodations also are very affordable.

Traveling doesn't have to cost much when budget-friendly destinations are on the map.



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