

"Time waits for no one."
- Mick Jagger
and Keith Richards.

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Thompson Public Schools announces appointment of new Tourtellotte Principal

Community Engagement Committee touts successful first year in Killingly

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY - The Killingly School District's Community Engagement Committee has spent the last year working to showcase the achievements of the Killingly Public Schools and its students, helping facility new career growth opportunities and partnerships in the process.

The committee, a partnership between school officials, students, parents, businesses, and others from throughout the community, has spent its first year making presentations before numerous local entities including WINY radio, the Killingly Business Association, Killingly Alumni Association, and the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse to share the accomplishments and potential of Killingly's schools. Representatives of the committee met with the Board of Education in March providing an update on their mission and what the district can look forward to in 2024.

Committee members explained that the students have been heavily involved with the process from its early days and have fully embraced the opportunity to make an impact in their community and schools. The committee's efforts have helped create partnerships with led to the revitalization of the Killingly Intermediate School Courtyard, establish new job shadow opportunities for students, and provided growth to the internship program. Members touted the improved dialogue with community partners and the increased connections with local businesses and organizations to help students develop soft skills and earn professional experience to prepare them for the workforce even before graduation. Killingly Intermediate School Principal and Committee member Bryant Sheldon delved into how these programs have seen growth especially since the committee's formation.

"We started a CNA boot camp where students who are interested in the medical field are actually being able to go get their CNA certification through the partnerships that we've developed. We have some job shadows at Access Electric, BankHometown, in addition to a lot of the internships that we've had in place - We have two interns at Homestar Home Loans this year. We have some interns at Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, at St. James School helping out with some teaching opportunities, we have a partnership with our K-TV with Brunet and Company. We're just hoping to get some students out there into the workforce early so they have some career and work opportunities when

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Thomas Mellen

THOMPSON - Thompson Public Schools is proud to announce the appointment of Thomas Joseph "TJ" Mellen as the Principal of Tourtellotte Memorial High School (TMHS).

Mellen emerged as the top choice from a rigorous selection process that involved a twelve-member interview team and two student ambassadors from the junior class. These student ambassadors provided each candidate with a comprehensive tour of the school and a detailed explanation of the various programs, activities, and events held at TMHS. The district received a total of twenty-five applications for this position and carefully selected four strong candidates to meet with the team.

Mellen received a Master of Education in Administration from Providence College and a Bachelor of Science from Rhode Island College. He served as a Special Education Teacher in Lincoln Public Schools

for fourteen years before becoming Principal of Ricci Middle School in North Providence, R.I. in 2014. Mellen brings a wealth

of experience to assist with the school's mission of expanding pathways to provide students with opportunities to explore various careers while still

in high school. At Ricci Middle School, he was instrumental in developing several career pathways, including mechatronics, engineering,

medical, and STEM programs. His many years as a special educator will be instrumental in developing remedial programs at TMHS for struggling students.

Mellen met with the members of the Thompson Board of Education on Monday, April 8, and was formally introduced to the community during an open session at their regular Board meeting. He presented the BOE with a comprehensive one-hundred-day plan, outlining his vision to expand the curriculum, improve home/school relations, and enhance overall school spirit. His proactive approach and clear goals demonstrate his commitment to the school's progress.

Mellen will begin his tenure in Thompson on July 1. He plans to visit TMHS to meet students, faculty, and staff prior to the end of school.

Thompson Public Schools welcomes Mellen as a Tourtellotte Tiger, and is excited for his leadership!

Thompson School launching new classroom to assist dyslexic students

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON - The Thompson School District is rolling out a new classroom program specifically designed to bridge the barriers for students with dyslexia.

Starting in the fall of 2024, the district will offer the language-based classroom featuring two educators, one traditional and one trained specifically to support dyslexic students who may struggle to excel in traditional teaching environments. Superintendent Melinda Smith explained that the classrooms will launch in grades 2 and 3 at Mary R. Risher Elementary School with the goal of expanding to grades 1 and 4 in the coming years. In 2023, nine teachers received Orton Gillingham Level 1 Certifications where they engaged in a year-long in-depth study of how to remediate students with dyslexia. This year four more teachers will take part in the training while the previous nine teachers are earning certifications in advanced training and two of those educators are moving on to supervisory training. The sessions cost roughly \$3,000 per teacher and are being funded through federal Title Two Professional Development monies. Smith said this is all part of trying to build a successful strategy to bridge the learning gap for dyslexic students as they prepare for higher grades where making those adjustments would only become more difficult.

"What we're trying to build in the district is that we have a whole cohort of teachers that can work with students with dyslexia so that in the classroom in grades two and three there is going to be a regular

educator and then for half the day there will be an Orton-Gillingham certified teacher in the classroom as well. They will co-teach so that students with dyslexia will have direct support from a trained reading specialist," said Smith. "What we're finding is just pulling out students for a 45-minute period every day is great and giving them the extra reading, but when they go back into the classroom, they still require additional support so we're going to try this model hoping that it will support the students who struggle with dyslexia. There are specific criteria that will be used to select the students. Half of the students will be identified needing additional reading support, and the other half will be students that don't have any reading disability so it will be a blended classroom."

Smith explained that, sadly, many students with dyslexia go undiagnosed and are not provided the proper learning tools until they reach middle school where many of them find it even more difficult to adjust to the learning environment. While this program is a brand new addition to Thompson, Smith feels confident it will enhance the learning experience for all involved. "The important thing is to identify those students and make sure we provide an environment where they will be successful, and reading won't be the barrier to learning," said Smith. "That's why we're trying this model. We've never done this before, but we have good faith in our consultant who has used this model in other districts, and they've seen some significant improvement."

Research indicates that around one in five students have dyslexia, making it a rather large population of any stu-

dent body. The hope is that this new approach

will change the way these students are taught to

ensure they don't get left behind.

The Science of Sound delights Kindergarteners



WOODSTOCK - Thanks to Performing Arts of Northeast CT, area Kindergarten classes have enjoyed learning about science and music for the last seven years from talented musician and educator Sally Rogers. At Woodstock Elementary School in late March, one kindergarten class paid close attention for nearly a full hour to Rogers' interactive program exploring the nature and creation of sound and music. Students sang, played instruments, asked scientific questions, tested theories, learned concepts and vocabulary, and each child even got to conduct a tiny percussion performance by their classmates.

The Science of Sound in-class workshop supplements school music curricula by engaging children in inquiry-based learning and guided critical thinking. Through observation, hands-on activities, play, and song, students learn about vibration, compression and sound waves; get to ask and answer questions like a scientist; how percussion and stringed instruments work and more. According to Rogers, in the past up to 25 schools and 1,500 students have participated in a single year. For 2024, students from 18 different schools in northeast CT took part.

"Over eight years, we've probably served close to 8,000 students with this program," Rogers said.

Annie Seraphin has been a paraprofessional assisting teachers at Woodstock Elementary for more than 30 years and has seen Rogers' program several times.

"I think every school system should have Sally Rogers visit. She is amazing. Woodstock is fortunate to have her," Seraphin said.

The Science of Sound program is provided for free to area schools, supported by funds from non-profit Performing Arts of NECT. For more information, visit www.org/science-of-sound. To learn more about Sally Rogers, visit sallyrogers.com/.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of April 1: Green-winged Teal, Woodcock, Carolina Wren, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Mallard, Killdeer, Wild Turkey, Turkey Vulture, Great-Horned Owl, Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Robin, Junco, Great Blue Heron, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Woodstock • Public • Schools

Woodstock Elementary School

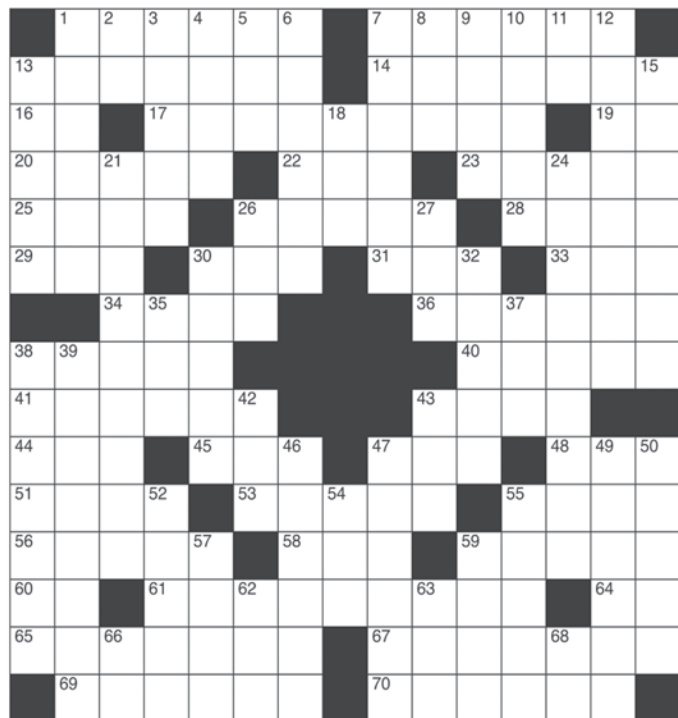


2024-2025

Children of Woodstock turning 5 on or before September 1, 2024 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Please contact the main office at 860-928-0471 or at wesoffice@woodstockschoos.net to add your child's name to our Kindergarten list and receive a registration packet.

For children turning 5 between September 2 and December 31st, families may request an assessment for early admission into Kindergarten. Please call or visit our website for more information.



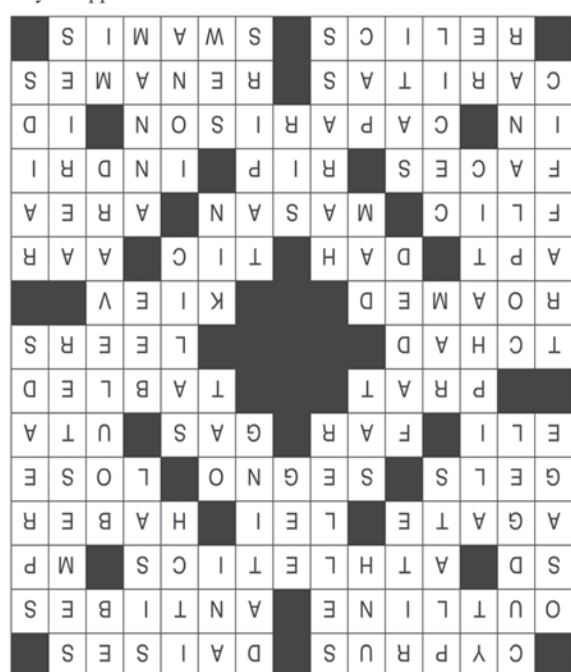
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Island nation
- 7. Platforms
- 13. Project plan
- 14. French fishing port
- 16. South Dakota
- 17. Oakland's baseball team
- 19. Military policeman
- 20. Ornamental stone
- 22. Garland
- 23. Process that produces ammonia
- 25. Mousses
- 26. Music notation "dal _"
- 28. Fail to win
- 29. Peyton's little brother
- 30. Not near
- 31. Some cars still need it
- 33. Lizard genus
- 34. An idiot (Brit.)
- 36. Postponed
- 38. African country
- 40. Gazes unpleasantly
- 41. In a way, traveled
- 43. Ukraine's capital
- 44. Appropriate
- 45. Dash
- 47. Twitch
- 48. Swiss river
- 51. Data file with computer animations
- 53. City in S. Korea
- 55. Particular region
- 56. They have eyes and noses
- 58. Tear
- 59. Large Madagascan lemur
- 60. Not out
- 61. Ornamental saddle covering
- 64. A driver's license is one
- 65. Latin term for charity
- 67. Rechristens
- 69. Objects from an earlier time
- 70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used as a weapon
- 2. Yukon Territory
- 3. Makes a map of
- 4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- 5. Unnilhexium
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Playing the field
- 8. Folk singer DiFranco
- 9. Something to scratch
- 10. Mexican agave
- 11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 12. Session
- 13. North American people
- 15. Ranches
- 18. Electroencephalograph
- 21. A type of compound
- 24. Avenue
- 26. High schoolers' test
- 27. A type of meal
- 30. Gradually disappeared
- 32. Ancient Frankish law code
- 35. Popular pickup truck
- 37. Buzzing insect
- 38. Deal illegally
- 39. Lying in the same plane
- 42. Obstruct
- 43. Related
- 46. Challenge aggressively
- 47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 49. Bird's nests
- 50. Forays
- 52. B. de Mille, filmmaker
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. One-time name of Vietnam
- 57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 59. Private school in New York
- 62. Political action committee
- 63. A way to fashion
- 66. Email reply
- 68. "The Great Lake State"

PUZZLE SOLUTION



SCORE presents two-part Webinar series on QuickBooks

REGION — SCORE Eastern CT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America's Small Businesses, will offer a free two-part webinar series for small business owners on QuickBooks Thursday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 7 from 5:30-7 p.m., presented by Intuit ProAdvisor Elizabeth Santaus. Attend one or both sessions. Pre-registration is required (after registering, you will receive confirmation emails with links to join the webinars). Attendees will receive a link to an on-demand video of the webinar as well as a pdf of the slide deck presentation.

Part 1: "Managing Your Business Finances with QuickBooks"

Thursday, May 2, 5:30-7 p.m. EDT

Sponsored by Guilford Savings Bank

If you have turned to QuickBooks™ for help as a new user, and find you need help setting up the program, this webinar is for you. It will explain the Chart of Accounts and its critical importance in the correct use of QuickBooks. There will be time for Q&A on any QuickBooks questions you have.

Part 2: "Choosing the Right QuickBooks After the Discontinuation of QuickBooks Pro, Premier, and Mac" Tuesday, May 7, 5:30-7 p.m. EDT

In this follow-up webinar, we will discuss Intuit's decision to discontinue its QuickBooks

Desktop Pro, Premier, and Mac products, and what options remain. We will compare QuickBooks Online versions, Intuit's remaining desktop software – QuickBooks Enterprise Solutions – and other possible accounting software platforms for small businesses. A detailed guide to migrating from the Mac/Pro/Premier QuickBooks versions to QuickBooks Online will be made available to participants. There will be time for Q&A.

Workshop Presenter Elizabeth Santaus has over twenty-eight years of experience in the financial accounting software and bookkeeping industry. With previous experience consulting and as CFO for three sister companies in Branford, Elizabeth knows how to help businesses prosper and grow. She has consulted, trained, and provided bookkeeping services for more than 300 small businesses in Connecticut and New York since launching Dressler Santaus LLC in 2006.

Guilford Savings Bank (GSB) has been serving the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses in Connecticut for over 148 years. Founded in 1875 by local business owners, it has proudly stood as a trusted institution in the communities it serves. Starting with a \$17,000 investment and one branch on the picturesque Guilford Town Green, GSB has grown to eight

branches with just over \$1+ billion in assets, offering digital and virtual banking services to customers throughout the state of Connecticut. Learn more at <https://mysgb.bank/>.

About SCORE

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

Regis students participate in Spring Break trip to Georgia, Alabama

WESTON, Mass. — Regis students traveled to Georgia and Alabama for the Civil Rights Pilgrimage during the 2024 Spring Break. Students visited the historic city of Atlanta, Ga., as well as Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Ala. Each of these cities were epicenters of the pivotal Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. Throughout this experience, Regis students had the opportunity to learn about the history of the Civil Rights Movement first-hand while actively engaging with contemporary, anti-racism efforts and activism.

The following students embarked on this Spring Break 2024 trip:

Salena Thongsouvanh, Class of 2027 from Danielson

Shannon Cunniff, Class of 2027 from Woodstock

During the trip, students explored important historical landmarks such as the King Center, Edmund Pettus Bridge, The 16th Street Baptist Church, The Legacy Museum and National Memorial, and The Center for Human and Civil Rights. Additionally, they visited Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King, Jr. once presided as pastor for several years.

"This trip to Alabama was such a great opportunity for our students to learn more about the origins of the Civil Rights Movement," said Ababa Abiem, Assistant Professor and Director of Field Placement of Social Work who accompanied students on this trip. "As a black African faculty member, I was hesitant to give a yes at first, but quickly recognized the significance my presence would offer our students. It is an honor and a privilege to watch our Regis students embark on these life-changing journeys that will continue to be passed along to the next generation. It is with great hope that the conversations had throughout the week will leave a resounding sound on Regis' campus."

Audubon presents "Bats: Winged Wonders"

POMFRET — Saturday, June 1 at 2 p.m. at the Center, 218 Day Rd. in Pomfret, join the Connecticut Audubon Society us for a presentation by Maureen Heidtmann, one of only three licensed wildlife rehabilitators in Connecticut specializing in caring for bats. Maureen will begin with an overview of bats of the world, with an emphasis on our local species. She will cover myths and misconceptions, roles they play in ensuring a healthy planet, perils they face as they struggle to survive and their amazing resilience.

Heidtmann has USDA permits to keep non-releasable bats and she'll bring an "ambassador" bat with her. No registration required. Fee: \$5 CAS members; \$10 non-members.

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Christ Church supports Access emergency shelter

POMFRET — Christ Church Pomfret presented a check to Kathleen Krider, Sr. Director of Community Engagement & Resource Management-Access Community Action Agency, for the Emergency Shelter in Danielson. The Church has been a long-time supporter of the Access

Agency. Over the past few years, they have donated more than \$12,500. Several years ago, Christ Church partnered with Access and many other local organizations to support the opening of a Cold Weather Overnight Shelter. This shelter is in the parish hall of the St.

Albans Church on Broad St in Danielson. During the coldest months of the year, the shelter is open seven nights a week from 8pm to 8am. An average of 15 individuals spends the night at the shelter which is staffed by Access. Homelessness prevention is not just about

the Emergency Shelter and the Cold Weather Overnight Shelter. Rhiannon McCabe and her team provide housing support in the form of Rapid Rehousing (finding safe, stable housing for those in shelters), diversion support services (keeping people out of

shelters to begin with), youth navigation services and case management for individuals and families seeking other resources. Access is currently looking to raise significant funds to renovate the newly purchased St. Albans campus. This will allow Access to better

serve all their customers with expanded food pantry programming, a partnership with the Killingly Community and to continue to serve those seeking shelter from the cold.



Courtesy

Pictured in front of the Cold Weather Overnight Shelter in Danielson
 Front Row: Kathleen Krider; Judy Miller, Christ Church. Second Row: Peter Mann, Christ Church; Rev Sandra Cosman, Priest-In-Charge Christ Church; Deb Boulet, Specialist of Homeless Prevention Outreach; Rhiannon McCabe, Director of Homeless Prevention Outreach. Third Row: Jim Goodwin, Christ Church.

Access awarded \$2,500 through Eversource

WILLIMANTIC —The Access Community Action Agency was recently awarded \$2,500 from Eversource for the Access Food Pantry Program. This support will play a crucial role in ensuring our pantry shelves are stocked and that the needs of our communities will be met year-round.

The Access Food Pantries, both site-based and mobile, are available to individuals and families in Windham and Tolland Counties who find themselves in an emergency situation where they are at risk of being without food. A crisis can happen to anyone at any time forcing them to have to choose between food and other necessities. Three-day food supplements are issued to those families/individuals experiencing a food crisis immediately but weekly or monthly appointments can be scheduled.

Access's Mobile Food Van picks up and distributes food to towns identified in Windham and Tolland Counties as food insecure. It increases access to nutritious food for families with little or no access to local food banks, grocery stores or soup kitchens. Information on SNAP benefits and other programs and services that may help them are also distributed.

Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://accessagency.org/>.

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EDITOR

The allure of outer space and eclipses

Humanity's fascination with outer space and celestial events like eclipses stretches back to the dawn of our existence. From ancient civilizations to modern-day space agencies, the allure of the cosmos has captured our imaginations and sparked a colossal sense of wonder and curiosity. But what is it about outer space and eclipses that continues to captivate us?

One of the most undeniable reasons is the utter scale and mystery of the universe. Outer space represents the ultimate frontier, a vast expanse of uncharted territory waiting to be explored. The unfathomable distances between stars and galaxies, the enigmatic nature of black holes, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life all contribute to a sense of awe and intrigue. The exploration of outer space offers us the chance to push the boundaries of our knowledge and understanding, to uncover the secrets of the cosmos, and to answer some of humanity's most weighty questions about our place in the universe.

Eclipses, in particular, hold a special place because they offer a tangible connection to the cosmos. These rare celestial events, where the sun, moon, and Earth align in perfect harmony, produce breathtaking displays of light and shadow that captivate millions of people around the world. Whether it's a solar eclipse, where the moon passes between the sun and Earth, casting a temporary shadow on our planet, or a lunar eclipse, where Earth's shadow falls across the surface of the moon, eclipses remind us of the beauty and grandeur of the universe.

Moreover, eclipses have played a significant role in shaping human history and culture. Ancient civilizations viewed eclipses as omens or portents, often interpreting them as signs from the gods. Today, eclipses continue to inspire awe and wonder, bringing people together to witness these rare cosmic events firsthand. Whether it's through scientific expeditions to observe and study eclipses or community gatherings to marvel at their beauty, eclipses have a way of uniting us in our shared sense of wonder and appreciation for the cosmos.

In addition to their aesthetic appeal, outer space and eclipses also hold immense scientific value. Studying the cosmos allows us to better understand the fundamental laws of nature, from the forces that govern the motion of celestial bodies to the origins of the universe itself. Eclipses provide scientists with unique opportunities to conduct experiments and observations that would be impossible under normal circumstances, offering valuable insights into everything from solar physics to the dynamics of Earth's atmosphere.

Furthermore, our fascination with outer space and eclipses speaks to something deeper within us – a primal instinct to explore, to seek out new frontiers, and to push the boundaries of what is possible.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pay your own bills

To the Editor:

Seems to me that a big problem has surfaced with electricity in the State of Connecticut that affects all of us paying customers. Due to Covid — yes, Covid — and electrical users not paying their own bills, the rest of us have to make up the difference. Since Eversource is a monopoly, no other competition, we are having money added to our bills for some not paying their electric bills. The excuse/reasoning is due to covid some cannot or will or do not have to pay their bills. So a percentage of the bill that we pay goes to cover those that do not pay. The power does not get shut off for nonpayment. When you do not pay your mortgage, car payment, Internet, phone, TV, streaming and other bills, you get shut off. Trying to get a reason why is not very easy, either with the state or Eversource. The CEO of Eversource, a monopoly, is getting around \$10 to \$12 million a year. Shareholders get their dividends and we get the bill. Town of Vernon among others are starting petitions to stop this. Here is the kicker: Eversource wants maybe as much as 38% increase, it goes to PURA, the regulatory commission that monitors Eversource.

How long is Covid going to be an excuse for this type of stuff? How much greed is bad for the average

person trying to make a living, when business can do this? This is just possibly one of many companies and corporations doing the "Pork thy fellow American"? This Eversource problem to me is bad due to the lack of any competition. What happen to paying your own bills or doing something about it like cutting back on other things, getting a second job, etc.? I know it sounds harsh but with electrical cost going up so will Everything associated with it. will go up.

Time for residents of Connecticut to speak up and out about this organized robbery.

History 101: GOP and Republicans are starting to sound like the German. Jewish and Italians in the 1920's and 30's ignoring what is right in front of them. It took a world war, the killing of 6 million Jews and many lives of Americans, French, English, Russian and other countries soldiers to overcome their oversight when it came to dealing with tyrants, dictators, authoritarians. They say History repeats itself and it can also rhyme. It was all about power and Control over others. So easy to see. Wake up before it is too late.

David Cassettari
Killingly

Trump bashers have spread their own "big lies"

To the Editor:

I liked the fact that last week's letter by Michael Douglas was first up, and also his references to those Trump-bashing letter writers. I read their letters, and what I get from them is that their TDS totally blinds them to the fact there are two sides to a coin. However, they'll just continue to parrot the same accusations and charges against Trump, repeat the words cult and "big lie," and jump on whatever anti-Trump bandwagon that comes available; but this is an "opinion" page and at least they're consistent. And what are they going to resort to next: hold a black mass, or perhaps voodoo rituals? (Maybe I shouldn't be giving them any ideas?) Anyhow, Mr. Douglas could have also mentioned that the Democrats' biased news media, including that MSDNC mouthpiece and puppet, Maddow, also belched their "big lie" (of Trump-Russia collusion) for years and she never apologized when that was proven to be "fake news." The Democrats and blabbermouths like Maddow also said that "the laptop" was a "nothing to see here" issue, which was another "big lie."

One of their constant moans is that Trump is a threat to our democracy. In a CNN interview, however, Presidential hopeful RFK Jr. spoke of what he perceived as a "grave threat to the very fabric of American democracy." His target was President Joe Biden, whom he accused of "wielding the power of federal agencies to censor political speech," a move Kennedy argued is far more dangerous than any actions attributed to former President Donald Trump. Kennedy's argument revolved around the alleged weaponization of federal agencies against political opponents. He claimed that under Biden's watch, agencies have been directed to exert pressure on social media platforms to censor content that challenges the administration's stance. According to Kennedy, Biden's administration has embarked on a path that no other president has dared to tread by "manipulating the levers of power to silence opposition and control the narrative." And if all that isn't an attack on our First Amendment right of free speech, and a threat to our democracy, I don't know what is! Additionally, Kennedy's VP pick recently said "Would you ever trust a government that's been lying to you?" (And I doubt that she was referring to Donald Trump when she said that.)

Last week, one of them mentioned that "lawlessness is a sickness." I totally agree, and the continual lawlessness in the streets of America that's being caused by the democrats soft on crime stance, them defunding the police, and by illegal aliens is a prime example. (But I repeat myself.) And isn't having a severe case of TDS also a sickness? Another comment was that the "legal system being equal for all has gone by the wayside." Again, I agree, but isn't Donald Trump a victim of the democrats double

standard of justice? Al Gore, Hillary Clinton and Stacy Abrams were all praised for questioning election results, but Donald Trump was indicted for doing the same. And if Hunter Biden even goes to trial, I doubt he'll receive the same punishment that any one of us would. Furthermore, if anyone of us had committed the same crimes that these illegals have, we'd now be writing our Villager editorials from a prison cell. But maybe we could get away with it if we had the money to hire a high-profile lawyer, the right connections, and if a Soros appointed judge was on the case? I'll never say it doesn't go both ways, or that Donald Trump is a saint, but there are two sides to a coin.

And to that guy that's always belching Trump is a "rapist" - A Facebook tidbit mentioned the names of 10 woman who have accused Joe Biden of "sexual assault," and one of them was his own daughter. It doesn't matter at this point what became of all that - just remember that coin.

Yes, the border mess is my bandwagon issue. In 2021, Biden reversed all of Trump's border policies, but now in 2024, because it's become a big re-election issue and the heat is now on him, he's now saying that the republicans need to help him secure the border. The other side of the coin there is that both sides are to blame and that "two wrongs don't make a right," but at least I can say it. Sorry about the length of this letter, but I have to include another installment of "illegals in the news" - in New York City, it's been reported that migrants are throwing away "tons" of free food (including prepared meals and sandwiches) that us taxpayers and working Americans are providing them. They don't want sandwiches, huh? The same food that's a daily staple of the American worker isn't good enough for these ungrateful SOB's! They're complaints are that the food is either cold, not healthy, not prepared to their liking, and is not acceptable. Imagine that, we're giving them three free meals a day and they complain about it. Our homeless population and the American citizens having trouble feeding their families would certainly love having that benefit.

An illegal alien from Mexico was recently arrested for aggravated murder in Ohio. The subject was charged with aggravated murder; using weapons while intoxicated, carrying concealed weapons, possession of drugs and obstructing official business. The county sheriff said the man has been deported 7 times, and he's been in our jail 11 times using 7 different names and 3 different dates of birth. He also said that his county has seen roughly 1,000 illegal aliens face state and local charges since President Joe Biden took office. And with all this madness continuing to happen, it's definitely going to be a long seven months until November.

Ed DeLuca
North Grosvenordale

How can a company be created out of nothing?

To the Editor:

Now, I don't know how these things work, but how can the NASDAQ allow the creation of a company and its stock out of whole cloth, out of thin air? How can something with no value all of a sudden be worth billions? These Meme stocks are a scam. Why does the financial community allow such rip-offs? Simple; it is inherently corrupt and greedy. It's an outrage that Trump can suddenly be given billions when he has done nothing to earn it or to create it except perhaps sign a few papers. And it is an outrage that none of us average people have access to sharing in these sham manipulations. We're not allowed to make-up money like these insiders do. I can only hope this Truth Social scam falls flat. But of course, such an outcome will have a real impact on the stock market that will hurt us all. And Trump will again walk away virtually untouched. On another type of corruption note, GOP'ers still rail that voter fraud is rampant and that draconian, undemocratic measures are needed to prevent such fraud. But there have been so many studies, election counts and recounts over the past 10 years that have proven not one election has been changed or materially affected due to voter fraud. Any voter inconsistencies that were detected were statistically insignificant. GOP'ers cite individual cases of fraud trying to prove their point. Well, how about the Georgia Republican Party's Vice Chairman,

Brian Pritchard, who voted illegally 9 times while on probation for a felony conviction? He claimed ignorance of the law but that's no excuse. Be careful of your glass houses.

And how come we never see any GOP'ers or Trump apologists defending Trump in any of his myriad legal trials? GOP'ers are completely silent on his innocence in the charges against him. Rather they spout diversionary arguments designed to confuse the issues and delay the outcomes. They attack the laws that have been broken, the judges, the prosecutors and even family members who have no involvement in any of the legal proceedings. They can't defend him because the evidence against him in every case is overwhelming and true. We've all seen the evidence including the redacted secret documents. We've heard the damning testimonies and the Georgia phone calls. We know he has been convicted of fraud. GOP'ers don't defend him because they can't.

And how come we have a horde of Republicans in legal trouble, civil and criminal, and we almost never hear of a Democrat breaking the law? I contend that the underlying mind-set in the Republican Party is "How much can we get away with" or "Winning by coercion or intimidation is acceptable." All I can say is - "Let's Go Jack Smith, Fani Willis, Alvin Bragg and Letitia James." Our hope is with you.

Stephen Etzel
Putnam

Comparing a tricycle to an 18-wheeler

To the Editor:

In last week's Villager, Michael Douglas tries to make the case that Democratic questioning of Trump's 2016 victory was essentially the same as Republican election denialism which occurred after the 2020 election (and continues to this day in a multitude of forms, from the litmus test being used to screen RNC staffers, to house signs throughout the country saying "Trump Won," to the many Republican candidates running on a platform stating that the 2020 election was illegitimate). We cannot forget the fact that 139 Republican House members and eight Republican senators objected to the certification of Biden's win, nor can we ignore the incredibly aggressive state efforts (fake electors, etc., etc.) supported

by 19 Republican attorneys general and coordinated with Trump's legal team and Trump himself to overturn the Electoral College vote in 2020. And... January 6? It is true that Hillary Clinton made comments along the line that the election was "stolen," but her comments were made in 2019, right after Robert Mueller's report was issued stating that although there was no evidence of "collusion" or a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia, there was in fact a vigorous and widespread Russian disinformation campaign in the U.S. designed to help Trump win. (Contrast Trump's behavior after the 2020 election with Clinton's after that of 2016 when only a few hours after the election was called she gave a gracious concession speech.)

Mr. Douglas would do well to read an article written by Cathy Young and published on Nov. 8, 2022 on the right-wing Cato Institute's website and entitled, "Yes, Democrats Have Called Some Elections Illegitimate. GOP Election Denialism is Far Worse." In it she carefully looks at "election denialism on 'both sides'" coming away with the conclusion that "the GOP's post-2020 election denialism is in an entirely different league. It is vastly more toxic. And it is uniquely dangerous." "In other words," she says, "comparing 'election results denial' in 2016 and 2020 is not just comparing apples and oranges, it's more like comparing a tricycle to an 18-wheeler."

John A. Day, Jr.
Woodstock Valley



NANCY WEISS

Spotlighting a pair of Poets Laureate

Two Poets Laureate will be featured this week, the second week of poetry month. The tradition of naming a poet laureate dates back in time and is named for the laurel crown that was placed on the head of the poet. When Christine Kalafus and I were named co-Poets Laureate of Pomfret, Christine had two crowns made. We popped them on our heads and smiled for the camera. The only requirement for the job is to read a poem on Memorial Day, a process similar wherever poets laureate turn up. We've tried to do much more.

Ada Limon is the US Poet Laureate. The Connecticut Poet Laureate is Antoinette Brim-Bell. Her body of work is impressive. Curator of the Putnam Library Author Series Brad Davis shared this: On April 20 at 1:30 p.m. at Putnam Public Library, Antoinette Brim-Bell will read her poems in celebration of National Poetry Month.

Lilah Jafar-DeCesare is the Poet Laureate of Woodstock Academy. She is a sophomore and her term is 2023-2024. Her poem was sent by Richard Telford, a remarkable teacher and advocate for poets and poetry.

A Timeless Encounter
By Lilah Jafar-DeCesare
Out on the misty docks of early morn,

There sits an ancient, weathered lamp post clock.

Throughout the pier, it cruelly laughs and scorns-

Forever now, its face will smile and mock.

But I know not the evils of the time,

Until the zephyrs blow out to the sea.

So I just listen to the steady chime-

Now never could you find a heart in me.

But could we find this city's endless ghosts?

For time could stop in skyscrapers and dust-

No more piers and indifferent clock's boasts.

But I fall in the water with a gust,

Reach out to get one desperate last view,

Of what could be, in some other world, you.

Steve Veilleux is the Poet Laureate of Thompson. He was appointed in September, 2023 for two years. On Monday, April 22 from 6-7:30 he and fellow poets will host an evening in conjunction with the April art show at Thompson Public Library entitled: Expanding Horizons Poetry Night: Exploring the Cosmos.

A Modest Proposal
(title borrowed from an essay by Jonathan Swift)

By Steve Veilleux

Let's pave the streets with Poets,

Let's make them welcome here.

Let's mix their tears with asphalt

And raise a glass for cheer:

Witches we burn at sunrise,

Heretics at noon,

Let's pave the street with poets,

Before the evening moon.

We'll mark their doors with Xs

We'll take them in the night,

Their words to bright will save us

The expense of electric light.

And when their heads are buried

In the roadways of our town,

We'll bind with rhyme the stone and sand,

With flesh and bone and meter

We'll mend our streets with poets,

And for their folly make amend.

Karen Durlach is an artist, a poet, an all-around creative person. I had to include her poem, which captures spring this year in the Quiet Corner.

Daffodil

By Karen Durlach

I shiver then bow my head, weighted,

stem bending, I kiss the chilly earth

as ice spit and snow shards pierce my fragile yellow petals.

April's violent change-surprise, but no surprise,

wind gusts sending broken branches flying.

I am resilient, persistent, perennial.

My brilliant golden presence

The anomaly this blustery spring morning.

On Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Great Hall at Christ Church, Pomfret,

"Women in Conversation" will feature poets Jaclyn Gilbert, Christine Kalafus, Rachael Workman, Melissa Wyse and me. The event is free.

Putnam Library turns 140

Help the Putnam Library celebrate its 140th birthday with tea and cookies. Come and tell about your experiences with the Putnam Public Library through the years. Chat with retired library staff. Thursday, April 25 from 3-5 p.m. Community Room, Putnam Municipal Complex.



KILLINGLY AT 300
MARGARET WEAVER

Putnam Library director Priscilla Colwell was most helpful in providing historical information about the library. The following is from the library Web site:

"The Putnam Public Library had its beginning in March of 1884, when Mr. R. S. Hillman, a representative of the Empire Library of New York, suggested to some of the citizens a plan to start a library in Putnam. The plan was to secure 200 members, who would subscribe \$1.50 each for a life membership thus obtaining a library of 200 volumes. The plan met with approval, and in a short time the necessary names were secured. The Citizen's Library Association was formally opened on April 25 with 270 books, and 140 members. The first home of the Library was in the jewelry store of the Wright Brothers, one of whom acted as librarian, assisted by W. B. Ferguson. (This first home of the library was located in the building that stood where the present Montgomery Ward Building is located). Later Ferguson was chosen librarian. At the meeting of the directors in March 1886 the librarian reported 500 volumes in the Library. Books were eagerly read and the supply did not equal the demand. Mr. Ferguson resigned as librarian, and Mr. J.R. Cogswell was appointed to fill the vacancy.

"In the spring of 1888 the directors made arrangements with the ladies of the W. C. T. U. to have the library located in their room in the Union Block. Miss Alice Johnson was appointed librarian. In March of 1889 the question of

placing the Citizen's Library Association under the proposed State Charter was discussed. It was voted that the Citizen's Library Association transfer all its property to the Putnam Library Association. At the town election in October of 1894 the vote to accept the library was successful and the Putnam Library Association became the Putnam Free Public Library. In September of 1898 the library was reopened after being re-cataloged in the Dewey-Cutter system with Miss Emma J. Kinney as librarian. The Library moved again in 1904 to the Court House Block. A reading room shared with the Putnam Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution added to the Library's services.

"For economic reasons the town voted in the fall of 1912 to change the location of the library from the Court House Block to the Municipal Building on Church Street. In a town meeting on October 7, 1912 after much discussion and by a close vote the motion was carried to appropriate \$1,000, the entire sum to be used in the municipal building, rent free. After many faithful years of service Miss Kinney retired in 1932, and Miss Abbie F. Scott was appointed librarian. In 1945 the Library began to make a more extensive use of the Inter-library Loan Service, borrowing frequently from Hartford, Boston and Providence Public Library and in 1950 the Putnam Library began its own Inter-library loan service, known as the "Swap-group" and exchanged books with many libraries in the area. Miss Scott received her degree in library science at Simmons College in 1947 and became Putnam's first trained librarian. In July of 1948 the Board approved the purchase of the Bosworth property for a new library.

On August 12 the Town Meeting voted the purchase. It was not until December 15, 1953 that an appropriation was made to building. Mr. Henry Schrab Kelly was engaged as architect and on September 1, 1954 the contract for the construction was signed with the Coleman Construction Company. It seemed to be a happy coincidence that the building was to be completed in 1955, the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the township of Putnam.

"The building suffered severe damage in the Flood in August of 1955. Fortunately the library materials had not been moved to the new building yet and so the dedication was delayed until December 2, 1956. Abbie Scott was the librarian from 1932 to 1962 and was succeeded by Millicent Beausoleil, who retired in 1979. A new Children's wing was dedicated on December 2, 1979 and coincided with the appointment of Mary Brumbaugh as Library Director. Priscilla Colwell took over as director in 2006 when Mary Brumbaugh retired after a long period of service to the library. The library moved into the (new) Putnam Municipal Complex in September of 2021." (Sources: Emma J. Kinney, Modern History of Windham County Connecticut, Allen B. Lincoln, editor, 1920, p. 796. History of the Putnam Free Library, 1931-June 1955, data compiled by Mrs. Maryott and Miss Keith, History of the Putnam Free Public Library, Miss Ellen Wheelock, read at Woman's Club, 1936).

An interest in libraries in Northeastern Connecticut dates back to its colonial days. In his "Modern History of Windham County," editor Allen B. Lincoln noted that the "'United English Library for the Propagation of Christian and Useful Knowledge' was established here (Pomfret) for the citizens of Woodstock, Mortlake, Killingly and the west part of Thompson (parish) joining with Pomfret to lay its foundation. The society numbered 34 members who subscribed various sums from ten to forty

pounds. The first books were obtained in 1740..." (Vol. 1, p. 790). According to Orrin P. Allen's book "Descendants of Nicholas Cady of Watertown, Mass. 1645-1910," Joseph Cady of Killingly, father of Damaris Cady Howe Brown about whom I recently wrote, was a "constituent member" of this library association.

In Killingly, a young men's library was started in 1854. Its name was later changed

and it was located in the Music Hall Building (now the Killingly Town Hall) (Lincoln, p. 793). If you are interested in the histories of libraries in Northeastern Connecticut, Lincoln (printed in 1920) is an excellent source. Library websites are another.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Town Historian. April 2024. Special thanks to Priscilla Colwell for the information on Putnam

information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

April 15-19

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

Monday the 15th

Council consideration of budget (if necessary) (Room 102) 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room) 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 16th

Housing Authority Meeting (Birchwood Terrace) 7 p.m.

Council consideration of budget (if necessary) (Town Meeting Room) 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday the 17th

Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting (Water Pollution Control Facility) 5 p.m.

Conservation Commission Meeting (Room 102) 7 p.m.

Council consideration of budget (if necessary) (Town Meeting Room) 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Thursday the 18th

Historic District Commission Meeting (Room 102) 7 p.m.

Council consideration of budget (if necessary) (Town Meeting Room) 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Community Events

Monday the 15th

Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Homeschool Club (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon

Adult Sensory Story Time (Ages 18+) (Library) 1 to 2 p.m.

Tuesday the 16th

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

Every Day is Earth Day (Ages 9-12) (Library) 1 to 2 p.m.

Block Party (Ages 6-12) (Library) 2:30 to 4 p.m.

The "Mind Reading" Show (Ages 18+) (Library) 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday the 17th

Taylor Swift Lovers Unite: It's a Taylor-Made Party! (Library) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday the 18th

Sensory Story Time (Ages 3-6) (Library) 10 to 11 a.m.

Friday the 19th

Senior Yoga (Ages 55-99) (Killingly Community Center) 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Stuffed Animal Dress Up Day and Fashion Show (Ages 4-7) (Library) 10 to 11 a.m.

Killingly Parks & Recreation Events Coming Up...

Boston on Your Own - Saturday, May 11

Register at the Killingly Parks and Recreation Department in-person or go online to www.killinglypr.recdesk.com

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules!

to the People's Library, Library. For additional 265, Danielson, CT 06329.s

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2024 tax planning tips for executives and business owners

As we approach the 2024 tax season, it's crucial for executives and business owners to proactively plan and strategize to minimize their tax liabilities. By implementing effective tax planning strategies, you can potentially save thousands of dollars and maximize your financial resources. In this blog post, we'll explore some of the top tax-saving tips that executives and business owners should consider for the upcoming tax year.

1. Maximize retirement contributions

One of the most effective ways to reduce your taxable income is to maximize contributions to tax-advantaged retirement plans. As an executive or business owner, you have access to various retirement savings options, including 401(k) plans, traditional IRAs, and defined benefit plans. These contributions are typically tax-deductible, lowering your overall taxable income for the year.

2. Leverage business deductions

Running a business comes with numerous expenses, many of which may be tax-deductible. Ensure you are taking advantage of all eligible deductions related to your business expenses, such as travel, meals and entertainment (subject to limitations), home office



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JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT ADVISER

expenses, vehicle expenses, and other business-related costs. Properly documenting and deducting these expenses can significantly reduce your tax burden.

3. Establish an accountable plan

Implementing an accountable plan for reimbursing employee business expenses can provide tax benefits for both you and your employees. Under an accountable plan, you can deduct these expenses as a business owner while keeping them tax-free for your employees, creating a win-win situation.

4. Explore tax credits

Various tax credits are available to businesses, such as the research and development (R&D) tax credit, the work opportunity tax credit, or industry-specific credits. These credits can directly reduce your tax liability, making it essential to understand and take advantage of any credits that apply to your business.

5. Time income and expenses strategically

Carefully timing the recognition of income and expenses can be a powerful tax planning strategy. By shifting income or expenses into a more favorable tax year, you may be able to capitalize on expected changes in income or tax rates, potentially reducing your overall tax liability.

6. Implement tax-efficient investment strategies

Work closely with a financial advisor to develop tax-efficient investment strategies tailored to your unique circumstances. Techniques such as tax-loss harvesting, maximizing qualified dividends and long-term capital gains, and utilizing tax-advantaged accounts like 529 plans or health savings accounts (HSAs) can help minimize your tax burden while growing your wealth.

7. Evaluate business structure

The structure of your business (e.g., sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation) can have significant tax implications. Consult with a tax professional to determine whether a different business structure could provide tax advantages based on your specific circumstances and goals.

8. Defer compensation

If you are an executive

Turn To **FINANCIAL** page **A9**

State Poet Laureate to read in Putnam

PUTNAM — On Saturday, April 20 at 1:30 p.m. at the Putnam Public Library, Antoinette Brim-Bell, Connecticut's Poet Laureate, will read her poems in celebration of National Poetry Month.

In 1985, the State of Connecticut established the honorary position of Connecticut Poet Laureate. As the state's representative poet, the Poet Laureate serves as an advocate for poetry and promotes the appreciation of — and participation in — poetry and literary arts activities among Connecticut citizens.

Antoinette Brim-Bell, the state's eighth laureate and a Cave Canem fellow, is a poet, printmaker, and author of "These Women You Gave Me," "Icarus in Love," and "Psalm of the Sunflower." Her work has been featured in various journals and magazines and has appeared in numerous anthologies including the "Whiskey of our Discontent," an anthology of essays commemorating poet Gwendolyn Brooks. Her greatest aspiration is for connections and collaborations between poets across the state, for diverse populations to come together to share their poetic stories, and for poets, visual artists, musicians, and stage performers to engage in poetic expression.

In addition to her literary accomplishments, Antoinette hosted a series of Black History Month television programs for the OneWorld Progressive Institute and is a former guest host of "Patrick Oliver's Literary Nation Talk Radio" (KABF 88.3, Little Rock) for which she interviewed a variety of entertainers, literary figures, political pundits and community develop-



Antoinette Brim-Bell

ers. Brim-Bell is a Professor of English at Capital Community College in downtown Hartford.

"May the 4th Be With You!" during Pomfret's 18th Annual Town Wide Tag Sale

POMFRET — Visit Pomfret for the 18th Annual Town Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, May 4. The Pomfret Proprietors Association established the region's first and best town wide sale, which draws visitors to the Quiet Corner for treasures galore with more than 50 locations throughout town. Many sales benefit local organizations and charities, so your bargains are meaningful to the community.

Starting at 7 a.m. on the 4th, purchase a printed map for \$2 at Pomfret Community School (20 Pomfret St.) or Christ Church Pomfret (521 Pomfret Street). Popular fundraising tag sales include The Friends of Pomfret Public Library Used Book Sale from 7 a.m. - noon at the Old Pomfret Townhouse. The Windham Tolland 4-H Camp hosts a huge indoor/outdoor sale from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on May 4 (early bird buy-in 9-10:30 a.m. for \$5/person) and May 5. Support CT Audubon by visiting their tag sale at the Center on Day Road. Please consider supporting TEEG by dropping off non-perishable food items at Pomfret Community Center (207 Mashamoquet Rd.) from 9 - 11 a.m. Plus, enjoy finding treasures at dozens of family sales throughout town, easy to locate with our print map. Each year, the Proprietors give back to the community with profits made from the map sales, business ads, and tag sale registrations.

There is plenty to do in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut, so spend the day! Hike or bike ride on many trails, including the Pomfret Airline Trail and Pomfret Forest Mountain Bike Trails. Grab farm fresh ice cream at We-Lik-It, have a cocktail at Watercure Farm Distillery or enjoy a meal at our local restaurants. Questions? Please contact Martha Emilio at 860-974-1583 or martha@majilly.com.





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- Basement: partial | Unfinished







MORE INFO:




Stephen Etzel — Courtesy



Reader Stephen Etzel happened upon the handiwork of some beavers along the River Walk downstream from the foot bridge in Putnam last week.



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Have a Heart returns for 23rd year



Spectators examine some of the items available for bidding in the silent auction.



In addition to the many silent and live auction items, TEEG continued a more recent tradition with raffle prizes including many donations from local businesses.



Have a Heart 2024 was a sold-out event filling the Connecticut National Golf Course facility with guests from throughout the Quiet Corner and beyond.



TEEG Have a Heart VIP's Stephen and Kathy Hebert had a front row seat for all the festivities throughout the night.



Representatives of TEEG show off one of the first items for the live auction, a prize pack celebrating the UConn basketball teams.



Among the many items available in the silent auction were prizes like a wine basket, a signed Patriots football, and a workshop package from Sawmill Pottery of Putnam.



Auctioneer Dick Loomis seeks a bidder for an item during the live auction.



PUTNAM – TEEG's annual Have a Heart event has long been one of, if not the biggest fundraiser of the year for the agency and that tradition continued for a 23rd year in 2024. The event was once again held at the Connecticut National Gold Course on April 5 with a silent action, raffle, and live auction serving as the main events of the night. The silent auction featured prizes ranging from local shop gift cards and family experiences to sports memorabilia and household goods. More valuable donations were reserved for the live auction where guests were also given the opportunity to donate to individual TEEG causes. Funds raised through the sold-out event will support camperships, homelessness assistance, food security and many other causes provided by the nonprofit.

At left: TEEG volunteers point out bidders who simply donated money to food programs, camperships, and other causes to help the agency in its mission.

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The curious Dexter Lot

Woodstock has always been a place that attracted visitors. They have been coming for centuries. Given its natural beauty and peacefulness, it is not surprising that many visitors return and some choose to live here. One such visitor was Samuel Dexter (1726-1810).

Born in Dedham, in Massachusetts Bay Colony, Dexter was the son of the minister of the First Church, descended from Irish immigrants. He was apprenticed at age 21 to Deacon Samuel Barrett, a merchant in Boston, and subsequently built his own shipping business. Dexter became quite wealthy and his success allowed him to move back to Dedham at age 36 and build a home that still survives.

Samuel Dexter's diary records his thoughts and day's events, but also the government positions he held. Dexter served as moderator, justice of the peace, five terms as selectman, and five years as town clerk. He represented Dedham in the General Court from 1764-1768, and then became a member of the Governor's Council

from 1768-1774. When Samuel voted against a directive from Britain to collect more taxes, he was "negatived" by Governor Gage. He supported the party of Samuel Adams, and hosted many patriots at his home, including George Washington, John Hancock, Jason Haven and Governor Thomas Hutchinson.

Samual continued to represent Dedham in the new Provincial Congress, the de facto government of the colony during the Revolution, presided over by John Hancock. Dexter served on the committee to defend the public. Although he was part of a group supporting the rebel army that besieged Boston from April 19, 1775 to March 17, 1776., he argued with his colleagues that it would be better to withdraw the rebels and train them properly to mount a more efficient operation at a later date. On April 19, 1775, when a messenger arrived at Dexter's house with the news of the Battle of Lexington, Samuel reportedly collapsed and had to be

WOODSTOCK THROUGH THE YEARS

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



helped back inside his house. He believed that it was suicidal for the Minute Men to face off against the better trained army of the British. His retirement from public life in 1775 gave rise to rumors that Dexter had lost his ardor for rebellion, fueled by Samuel's refusal to defend himself. "A haughty integrity cannot endure suspicion," he wrote his son, Samuel Dexter Jr. in 1775.

Public life was blamed for giving him poor health and a "nervous illness" (Bowen). Samuel Dexter moved his family to Woodstock in the spring of 1775. He lived on Woodstock Hill in the former residence of Rev. Abiel Leonard and was considered the "most striking character in town at this time" (Bowen). Samuel was out spoken. He bemoaned the pilfering of supplies coming into Woodstock; haulers were often taking commodities and

reselling them for profit elsewhere, meaning that the town frequently received only a fraction of what was order. He was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly in 1778 but he declined to go because of his health. He sold his farm to Rev. Eliphalet Lyman and returned to Dedham in 1785.

Samuel Dexter was man of great religious belief and he wrote a book: Thoughts upon several passages of Scriptures, both in the Old and New Testament, relative to Jacob and Esau, with incidental excursions. He was ostentatiously generous to charitable institutions, education and the poor (World Biographical Ency.). He bequeathed \$5,000 to Harvard College to study the Bible.

Samuel Dexter returned to Dedham and served in the General Court of the new Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1785. He wrote to Rev. Lyman, "I think I should prefer a private life in Woodstock to any public employment whatsoever"

(Bowen). He retired once again and moved to Weston where he lived until 1800, writing "I do not soon forget old neighborhood and friendship." He died on June 10, 1810, in Mendon.

In his handwritten will dated Dec. 12, 1799, Samuel Dexter specified he was to be buried in a field in Woodstock. "Those who watch over his body should receive 37 ½ cents per night; those who laid him out \$3.00; that the last man who shaved him should be paid \$2.00; that his body not be buried until 'some sign of putrefication be manifest;' that the coffin be of blackened pine boards without cloth covering or inscription; and that 12 poor men be pall bearers and be paid \$5.00 each. His body brought to Woodstock and buried in the center of a piece of land of three and one-half acres, fronting on Woodstock Street (Route 169) which he had reserved when he sold his farm" (Bowen, 187). It became known as the Dexter Lot and was given to the Church with the condition "it should not be used as a burying ground, that no tree or house should stand upon it, and that no stone

should mark his grave."

The Church assigned Esquire Amos Paine to handle the conditions of the bequeathed land. In 1811, he and a committee of 12 laid a wall around the lot. There was a request from Rev. Eliphalet Lyman in 1825 to use the Dexter Lot, as he was no longer the minister, but the Church denied it. In 1867, the Church granted a quick claim deed to Henry C. Bowen for \$800. The property was added to the lot containing Roseland Cottage. The Deacon Robert Dorrance House (c. 1820) was moved to the southern end of the Dexter Lot (yellow house, 550 Route 169) from the south lawn of Roseland Cottage.

The exact location of the Dexter Lot remains obscured in the mists of time but presumably includes a portion of the south lawn of Roseland Cottage and the land occupied by the Dorrance House, and perhaps more. Samuel Dexter lies in the town that provided him with eternal peace, the visitor who became a permanent resident.

WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK

April 15-21

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

Monday the 15th

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

Tuesday the 16th

- Board of Finance, 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 17th

- Arboretum Committee, 7 p.m.

Thursday the 18th

- Board of Selectmen, 6 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each Weekday

- Stepping into Sobriety Meetings, South Woodstock Baptist Church.

Monday the 15th

- Community Kitchen Free Lunch, First Congregational Church, noon.
- Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6:30 p.m.
- Quilting, Senexet Grange, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 16th

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

Wednesday the 17th

- Story Hour, West Woodstock Library.
- Knitting Group, Town Hall.
- Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
- Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church
- The Bridge (young adults), Evangelical Covenant Church
- Trivia Night, Woodstock Tavern, 6:30 p.m.
- Psychic Medium – Message from Heaven, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 7 p.m.
- Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday the 18th

- Lady's Small Group and Men's Bible Study, South Woodstock Baptist Church
- Quilting, Senexet Grange, 1 p.m.
- Senior Social – Bingo, First Congregational Church, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Cookie Decorating, Taylor Brooke Winery, 6 p.m.

Friday the 19th

- Story Time Hour, May Memorial Library, 10 a.m. – noon
- New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday the 20th

- Red Lion Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 12-6 p.m.
- Live Music – Divey, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

Sunday the 21st

- Let's Talk Menopause, Body By Design, 8 a.m.
- "Woodstock Through the Camera's Eye" exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon
- Earth Day Bug Hotels, Roseland Park, 1 p.m.
- Hungry Lion Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, noon-6 p.m.
- Live Music – Sister Funk, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.
- Book Club, May Memorial Library, 4 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22-May 13

- After School Nature Club (ages 4-8), Roseland Park Beach House, register at town recreation dept., 3:45-5:15 p.m.

April 26-28

- Spring Renewal – A Retreat for Women, Inn at Woodstock Hill.

Apr. 27-June 1

- Squirt Soccer (ages 3-4), Woodstock Common, register at town recreation dept.

May 3-4

- Addams Family Musical, Loos Center for the Arts.

May 11

- Almost Queen tribute, Loos Center for the Arts.

May 13

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

To submit calendar items: woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com.

Keep smiling

I waited tables for quite a while in my early acting days. It's a common choice for actors because you can work at night. That leaves your days free for auditions and acting gigs.

Even after I landed a lead role in Showtime's "A Separate Peace," a film produced by Oscar winners Dustin Hoffman & Michael Sugar and directed by Oscar nominee Peter Yates, I was back at the restaurant working shifts before and after filming.

It surprised a lot of folks. They thought a movie role meant you made it big, but acting jobs can be few and far between. Keeping a steady job, like waiting tables, helped me pay the bills.

Being a waiter is straightforward but challenging. You're always on your feet, rushing around. Customers are only sometimes lovely; some can be downright rude or impatient. And when you're juggling several tables, plus dealing with kitchen mix-ups, guess who customers blame? Yep, the waiter.

Waiting tables is a job packed with stress. There were days when it was written all over my face, days when anyone walking by the kitchen could hear me grumbling under my breath. I was short with the kitchen staff, snappy with my managers, and could have done better at keeping my cool.

Quitting crossed my mind more often than I'd like to admit. I fantasized about making a grand exit, throwing my apron down and shouting, "I QUIT!" for everyone to hear, then striding out the door with my head held high.

Then came the day my managers decided it was time for a chat. They understood that the job was stressful, but they also made it clear that stress comes with the territory in the restaurant world. They told me straight: no matter how tough things got, losing my cool wasn't an option. I was expected to handle it all with a smile, no exceptions.

I remember thinking, How am I supposed to keep smiling? What if a customer yells at me for their steak being overcooked when they asked for it well-done? It seemed impossible at the time. How could I grin and bear it when things were so obviously not my fault,

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

yet I had to act as if they were?

It didn't matter. Showing annoyance and anger towards a customer, no matter how much they might deserve it, wasn't an option. I was forced to choose.

After many nights of soul-searching, tossing, and turning, with thoughts racing through my head, I reached a decision. No matter what happened during my shifts, I had to keep smiling.

No matter how tempting it was to snap back, showing annoyance or anger towards a customer was off-limits. I had to make a choice, which was definitely challenging.

I found myself smiling at customers who sent back their meals because the soup was "too hot" or complained their ice cream was "too cold." It seemed absurd, but as I kept my cool and flashed a smile—even when everything in me wanted to do the opposite—something unexpected began to happen. The stress that used to weigh me down started to lift.

As I made smiling a practice, I realized it wasn't about giving in or pretending the stress didn't exist; it was about choosing how I reacted to it.

I realized that my smile wasn't just a courtesy; it was my shield, a powerful defense against the relentless negativity and chaos that threatened to engulf me. No matter how unreasonable the customers were, how baseless the complaints were, or how chaotic the kitchen became, I found something interesting.

I found that smiling, keeping calm, and not reacting to the negativity wasn't me being a fake person. It was changing how I felt on the inside. I started to feel happy and soon enough I didn't have to force it.

I also noticed that the customers found it hard to continue their negativity when confronted with unwavering positivity.

Next time you find yourself about to lose your cool, take a breath and force a smile. It might feel unnatural at first, but give it a moment. That smile will start to work wonders, not just on those around you, but on you as well.

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THE WEEK IN SPORTS AT WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

Boys Tennis

Woodstock Academy 7
NFA 0

POMFRET – Junior co-captains Owen Rigney and Tyler Chamberlin set the tone early as they recorded 6-0, 6-0 victories in the first two singles matches and the rest of the team followed suit with wins in the season opener at the Pomfret School indoor courts Monday night.

Ethan Staples and Cang Nguyen also recorded singles wins for the Centaurs.

Woodstock Academy 5
Killingly 2

POMFRET – The two teams avoided the inclement weather by playing inside at the Pomfret School courts and the Centaurs improved to 2-0 (2-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) with the victory.

Woodstock Academy guaranteed itself the win as Owen Rigney, Tyler Chamberlin, Ethan Staples and Cang Nguyen swept the singles. The first doubles team of Ryan Chabot and Steven Shen also won for the Centaurs.

Killingly's (0-1, 0-1) second doubles team, Jack Owens and Dante Adams, and third doubles team of Max Richardson and Bradey Jonasen, posted victories.

Girls Tennis
St. Bernard 4

Woodstock Academy 3
UNCASVILLE – It was a long, close battle as five of the seven matches were determined by tiebreakers in the opening match for both schools.

The second doubles team of Mia Gashi and Ava Little gave the Saints the victory as they defeated Kate McArthur and Delilah Kesselman 6-4, 5-7, (11-9).

Ellie Bishop-Klee won at first singles for the Centaurs but Blake Murray, Meri Kamboli and Zhuning Gao captured the other three singles matches for St. Bernard.

Woodstock Academy 7
Killingly 0

DANIELSON – The Centaurs evened their record at 1-1 and captured an Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II win in the process.

Wynter Worth, Emma Massey and Peyton Bentley all won their singles matches in straight sets. The Centaurs also captured all three doubles matches in straight sets.

Girls Lacrosse

Griswold/Norwich Tech 13

Woodstock Academy 6
WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs played their first match under new head coach Heather Miller at the Bentley Athletic Complex but could not catch up to the Wolverines.

Seniors Caroline Harris and Piper Sabrowski had three goals each in the opener for Woodstock Academy.

Killingly 16

Woodstock Academy 4
DANIELSON – Caroline Harris and Kaylee Saucier both had a pair of goals for the Centaurs (0-3) but Killingly (3-0) prevailed easily on their home turf.

Killingly 16

Woodstock Academy 4
DANIELSON – Caroline Harris and Kaylee Saucier both had a pair of goals for the Centaurs (0-3) but Killingly (3-0) prevailed easily on their home turf.

Boys Volleyball

Woodstock Academy 3
Bulkeley/SMSA 2
WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs rallied from two sets down to post their first-ever varsity win.

Senior Aiden Finch put down 12 kills as Woodstock Academy rallied from the 2-0 deficit with 25-21, 25-21, 15-12 victories in the last three sets.

Freshman Brayden Bottone had 18 assists and Nate Billings added 18 digs in the win.

Woodstock Academy 3

Newington 0
NEWINGTON – For a second match in a row, it was a pretty one-sided win for the upstart Centaurs (3-1).

Woodstock Academy downed the Nor'Easters 25-11, 25-13, 25-15 with Hunter Larson getting five kills, Aiden Finch added five digs and Brayden Bottone dished out six assists.

Newington 3

Woodstock Academy 0
NEWINGTON – The Centaurs found the going a bit rough against the Central Connecticut Conference school in a non-league match.

The Nor'Easters downed Woodstock Academy 25-11, 25-13, 25-15 for the shutout victory.

Hunter Larson had five kills for the Centaurs, Aiden Finch added five digs and Brayden Bottone dished out six assists.

Boys Lacrosse

Waterford 7

Woodstock Academy 6
WATERFORD – The host Lancers (1-1, 1-1 Eastern

Connecticut Conference Division I) scored with 11 seconds left in the third quarter to take the lead and that was it as the two teams played a scoreless fourth quarter.

Gunnar Basak and Lucas Theriaque both scored twice for the Centaurs (0-2, 0-2) with Dylan Phillips and Jared Nielsen getting the other tallies.

Woodstock Academy 16
Norwich Tech-Windham Tech 4

WOODSTOCK – Senior Jared Nielsen put home five goals to lead the Centaurs (1-2) to their first victory of the season.

Dylan Phillips, Gunnar Basak and Lucas Theriaque all added hat tricks for Woodstock Academy which dropped the Warriors to 1-2 on the season.

Woodstock Academy 16
Montville 4

MONTVILLE – For a second consecutive match, Jared Nielsen put five goals on the board and it helped the Centaurs (2-2) climb back to the .500 mark.

Nielsen, once again, also had plenty of help in the scoring department as Gunnar Basak had four goals and Dylan Phillips added three.

Woodstock Academy coach Jason Tata was also pleased with the defensive play of Jacob Lizotte, David Genay and Sam Lescault.

Softball

Woodstock Academy 10
Montville 7

MONTVILLE – Four runs in the first inning got the Centaurs off to a good start and they added a nice finish with five runs in the last three innings to post the win.

Senior Savannah Schley knocked in three runs with a pair of singles while Maci Corradi and Madison Bloom had two-run singles and Ellary Sampson added three hits and a pair of RBI in the Woodstock Academy (1-2) win.

The loss was the first of the season for the Wolves (2-1).

Woodstock Academy 10
Plainfield 2

CENTRAL VILLAGE – The game had to be moved to Plainfield's home field due to transportation issues but that didn't faze the Centaurs (2-1) who put together four runs each in the third and sixth innings to post the win.

Winning pitcher Grace DelSanto helped her own cause with three hits including a triple and a double and an RBI. Senior Delaney Anderson had two hits and drove in three and both Maci Corradi, on a pair of singles, and Madison Bloom, with a double, drove in two runs.

Briona Frappier had two hits and an RBI for the Panthers (1-3).

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Plainfield 2

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Baseball

Woodstock Academy 5
Montville 1

NEW LONDON – The Centaurs had to manufacture their runs against the Wolves to improve to 2-0 on the season.

Woodstock Academy got on the board courtesy of a double steal with Eric Mathewson stealing second, opening the door for Noah Sampson to score on a steal of home in the third inning.

The Centaurs scored the rest of their runs in the fifth inning on an error, a two-run double by Matt Hernandez and Brady Lecuyer taking one for the team, getting hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Riley O'Brien picked up the win on the mound as he allowed only three hits in six innings and struck out five.

Boys Golf

Woodstock Academy 5
Ellis Tech 2

WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs opened the season in their own town but not on their home course.

Woodstock Academy visited Ellis Tech at the Harrisville Golf Course and took a 5-2 victory over the Eagles (0-1).

Logan Rawson paced Woodstock Academy with a 40 with senior captain Donny Sousa one stroke back of him.

Jarrett Towne was medalist for the match with a 37 for Ellis Tech and Jacob Stone carded a 41.

Woodstock Academy 5
Ellis Tech 2

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FINANCIAL

continued from page A1

or highly compensated employee, exploring opportunities to defer a portion of your compensation to future tax years when you may be in a lower tax bracket can potentially result in substantial tax savings.

9. Make charitable contributions

Charitable contributions, whether in cash or appreciated assets, can provide valuable tax deductions while supporting causes you care about. Additionally, donating appreciated assets can help you avoid paying capital gains taxes on the appreciation.

10. Implement estate planning strategies

As an executive or business owner, it's essential to have a comprehensive estate plan in place. Implementing strategies such as trusts, gifting, or other techniques can help minimize potential estate and gift taxes, ensuring your wealth is preserved and transferred efficiently to your intended beneficiaries.

By proactively implementing these tax planning strategies, executives and business owners can potentially save thousands of dollars in taxes and better position themselves for long-term financial success. However, it's crucial to consult with qualified tax professionals and financial advisors to ensure compliance with all applicable tax laws and regulations and to develop a personalized tax plan tailored to your specific circumstances.

At WHZ, our experienced team of advisors leverages their collective expertise to craft a comprehensive tax planning strategy and overall financial plan tailored specifically to your unique circumstances and goals. Through our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ strategic process, we meticulously analyze your financial situation, identify tax-saving opportunities, and develop a personalized roadmap to help you minimize your tax liabilities and maximize your wealth.

If you're an executive or business owner seeking a dedicated team to help you Plan Well, Invest Well, and ultimately Live Well, contact us for a complimentary consultation or call us at (860) 928-2341.

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COMMITTEE

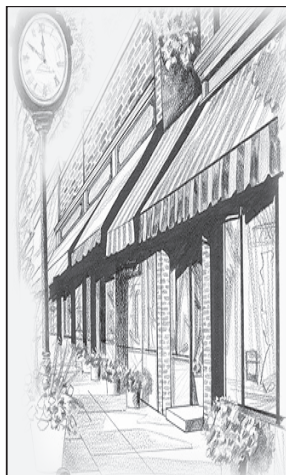
continued from page A1

they graduate from Killingly High School," said Sheldon.

While the committee has made great strides in its first year, their work is far from over and they have a big 2024 ahead of them. The group was scheduled to attend the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce's "Connecting Local Workforce to Our Future Generation" event on April 11 where each school was expected to be showcased in the hopes of creating even more community and business partnerships for the future. However, their big event comes on August 19 as the "Great Things Happen Here, Community Extravaganza" as detailed by Killingly High School Assistant Principal and committee member Michael Lafevre.

"It's going to be an opportunity for the community to come together. What we already have solidified are a bunch of food trucks to come out and be on campus for the community to enjoy. We're looking to bring in other things for the kids and the community. It's an opportunity for us to get together as the summer wraps up to have fun together as an extended family and get back onto the school campus and begin that mix and just have a great time," said Lafevre.

The committee closed their meeting with the Board of Education presenting a video shown at many of their meetings used to help showcase the accomplishments and culture that have made Killingly great. Future presentations are expected for the Killingly Rotary and Elks clubs, the Town Council, and the Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors. The committee also plans to increase collaborations with schools to help raise awareness of resources available through the Goodyear Family Resource Center and put a future focus on Killingly Public School Alumni success stories to further emphasize the potential of the district's student body.



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OBITUARIES

Kusti Murd, 82



Kusti Murd, 82, of Brooklyn passed away unexpectedly at his home on Monday March 25, 2024. Kusti was born on October 24, 1941, in Kuresaar, Estonia, the son of the late August and Ella (Ulkekutt) Murd. Kusti served in the Army from 1961-1964. In 1972 he married Mary Aline (Trudel) Murd, she passed away in 2022. Kusti is survived by his brother Ulo Murd of

Danielson. One niece Krista Lea Ricci and husband Derrick, nephews Karl Murd of Brooklyn and Jason Murd and wife Amanda. He is also survived by several grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Leo Murd. Funeral services will be private. Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main Street Danielson is in charge of arrangements. tillinghastfh.com



Theresa Alice Lambert, 94



Theresa Alice (Benjamin) Lambert, 94, of North Grosvenordale, CT died on Friday, April 5, 2024 at Westview Health Care Center. Born on February 2, 1930 to the late Fabien Benjamin and Eva (Choiniere) Benjamin, Theresa was raised in North Grosvenordale, CT and lived there her entire life. Growing up, she was an accomplished singer, dancer, and pianist. She sang and recorded songs for the local church and even sang on a Worcester radio show in the mid-1940s. She tried out for the Radio City Rockettes in New York City. Ultimately, she was not chosen due to her height being under five feet.

Although she had many musical aspirations, she gave it all up for the love of her life, the late Kenneth Lambert. Married on April 23, 1949, Theresa and Kenneth had seven children and were married until he died in 1994. Theresa stayed home to take care of her children for most of her life. Theresa will be remembered as a spitfire and feisty woman. She was never afraid to speak her mind, always had something to say, and never ran out of stories. She had a sharp mind as she was an avid

book reader reading a book a day and, up until her passing, had an excellent memory.

Theresa will be remembered as the matriarch of her family, including being a 5 generation family 4 times. She is survived by children Donna (Joseph) of Buckley, WA; Sandra (Joseph) of Dayville, CT; Kenneth Jr (Mary) of Putnam, CT; Michael (Sue) of Danielson, CT; and Tina of North Grosvenordale. She is predeceased by her children Linda (Lambert) and Mark (Marky). She is also survived by 13 grandchildren: Tammy, Angela, David, Heidi, Tyler, Roger, Randy, Jeremy, Stacy, Kelly, Ronnie, Jenny, and Abrielle. She was predeceased by another grandchild, Kevin Witkowski. She also leaves behind 19 great-grandchildren: Christopher, Alicia, Makayla, Emma, Rebecca, Mary-Beth, Brittney, Tyler, Marissa, Abrianna, Alesha, Alex, Vincent, Ryder, Avery, Jackson, Nyah, Emily, and Michael. And she had four great-great-grandchildren: Vanessa, Wyatt, Lyla, Tesibius.

She was also predeceased by all of her siblings: Ronald, Fabienne, Fabien (Pete), and Jeanne.

Shaw and Majercik Funeral Home of Webster, MA has been entrusted with arrangements. The family would like to extend the utmost gratitude to the staff at Westview Health Care Center for the exceptional care and love they gave Theresa during the end of her life.

Karen J. Dziadula, 62



Karen J. Dziadula, 62, of Woodstock died April 2, 2024 at Hartford Hospital. She was the beloved wife of David A. Sorel. She was born June 20, 1961 daughter of the late John and Laura (Lavoie) Dziadula.

She worked as a home healthcare aide for many years. Karen was a life member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 111 in Woodstock always helping when she could. She loved listening to music and you could always hear it playing and see her dancing. She was also an avid Gardner and loved flowers and always loved spending time with

her family and grandkids and friends.

Besides her husband David of Woodstock, she leaves her daughters, Shannon Bennett and her husband Peter of Woodstock, Joslyn Dipaola-Tromba and her husband John of Bolton, Angela Giorgi of Woodstock, a sister Donna Dziadula of Pomfret, four grandchildren Peter Bennett III, Abigail Bennett, Owen Dipaola-Tromba and Wesley Giorgi and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister, Denise Dziadula, a niece Tracey Moran-Wilson, and a great niece Britney Wilson.

Calling hours will be Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at Smith and Walker funeral home 148 Grove St., Putnam, CT. to share a memory with her family visit SmithandWalkerfh.com

Send all obituary notices to Villager Newspapers, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news

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LEGALS

Town of Woodstock LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list(s) of party-selected candidates for the Republican Party in the Town of Woodstock for participation as DELEGATES to the convention(s) of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 415 Route 169, Woodstock Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution: CONVENTION(S): Senate District 35, Assembly District 50 and 52, and 2024 State Convention.

Attest: Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk of Woodstock

Town of Woodstock LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list(s) of party-selected candidates for the Democratic Party in the Town of Woodstock for participation as DELEGATES to the convention(s) of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 415 Route 169, Woodstock Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution: CONVENTION(S): Senate District 35, Assembly District 50 and 52, and 2024 State Convention.

Attest: Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk of Woodstock
April 12, 2024

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On March 21, 2024, the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the following text amendment of the Subdivision Regulations, Ch. V – Application Review, Decision and Post Approval Process, Section 2.D (application notice requirements), effective April 29, 2024. Chairman Jeffrey Marcotte.
April 12, 2024

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

The Planning & Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for Thursday, April 18th, 2024, to begin at 7:45 p.m., at Woodstock Town Hall, Lower Level, Meeting Room 1, for applications: **#SP662-03-24 Mark Labonte, 122 Joy Road** (map 7278 block 32 lot 6) - Activity on a Scenic Road for driveway improvement. April 5th & April 12th, 2024, Jeffery Marcotte.
April 5, 2024
April 12, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON Planning and Zoning LEGAL NOTICE

At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 7 pm in the Merrill Seney Room, Thompson Town Hall 851 Riverside Drive, and via ZOOM the following action was taken:

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

Accept for a Public Hearing on Monday, April 22, 2024

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

Accept for a Public Hearing on Monday, April 22, 2024.

PZC Application #24-09 applicant Strategic-Commercial Realty, Inc. dba Rawson Materials Applicant, property owners Lynn Rawson Landry & Cheryl Jane Foshay, 0 Quaddick Town Farm Rd, Map 145, Block 14, Lot 14, Zone RRAD gravel operation renewal permit, Zoning Regulations 2012, **Article IX, Section 5, F-1.**

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Rebecca F Whiddon (24-00136)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 2, 2024, order ed that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:

Mark A. Gottlieb
c/o JAMIE DA VIS ALEMAN,
c/o LAWRENCE JAY KIEL,
MURPHY LAUDAT! KIEL & RATTIGAN,
4 EAST GRANBY ROAD,
PO BOX 93,
GRANBY, CT 06035
April 12, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON Planning and Zoning LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7 pm in the Thompson Public Library, Room 2, 934 Riverside Dr. (Rte 12) and via Zoom to hear the following applications

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

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

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

Town Of Killingly LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list(s) of party-endorsed candidates for the Democratic Party and Republican Party in the Town of Killingly for participation as DELEGATES to the convention(s) of said Party specified below are on file at our Town Clerk Office located at 172 Main Street Killingly, CT

Democratic Conventions: State, Congressional District 2, State Senate District 29, State Assembly District 44, State Assembly District 51.

Republican Conventions: Congressional District 2, State Senate District 29, State House District 44, State House District 51.

Dated this April 4, 2024
Elizabeth M. Wilson, MCTC
Killingly Town Clerk
April 12, 2024

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

The Annual Meeting of the Witches Woods Tax District will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at Bungay Fire Brigade, 1256 Rte 171, Woodstock, CT April 5, 2024
April 12, 2024

Town Of Thompson LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of party-endorsed candidates for the Republican Party and Democratic Party in the Town of Thompson for participation as DELEGATES to the convention(s) of said Party specified below are on file at our offices:

Thompson: 815 Riverside Dr., North Grosvenordale, CT
Democratic Conventions: State, Congressional District 2, State Senate District 29, State Senate District 35, State House District 51.
Republican Conventions: State, Congressional District 2, State Senate District 29, State Senate District 35, State House District 51.

Dated this April 12, 2024
Renee Waldron
Thompson Town Clerk
April 12, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Amy M Fadden (24-00113)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 2, 2024, order ed that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Harold A Fletcher
c/o JAMIE DA VIS ALEMAN,
LAW OFFICE OF JAMIE DAVIS ALEMAN, LLC, 33 BROAD STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
April 12, 2024



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²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. 12 month promotional period ("Promo Period") during which interest is billed but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before Promo Period expires. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Any unpaid balance and amounts owed after Promo Period will be paid over 84 monthly payments. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date and no payments are made during Promo Period, for every \$1,000 financed at a fixed interest rate of 24.99%, 12 monthly payments of \$0 followed by 84 monthly payments of \$28.29. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. Financing for the GreenSky® consumer loan program is provided by Equal Opportunity Lenders. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC, a subsidiary of Goldman Sachs Bank USA. NMLS #1416362. Loans originated by Goldman Sachs are issued by Goldman Sachs Bank USA, Salt Lake City Branch. NMLS #208156. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org.