



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, April 9, 2021

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HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

‘Grateful’ Centaurs enjoy abbreviated hockey season

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — What a long, strange trip it's been.

The Woodstock Academy girls' ice hockey team didn't exist when the Grateful Dead wrote that lyric as part of the song "Truckin'" in 1970. The lyric, however, does accurately describe the wildness and wackiness of the Centaurs' 2020-21 season.

In a game recap following the team's final game, a 3-1 loss to the Connecticut Northern Lights Girls' Hockey Program on Sunday, March 21, Woodstock Academy sports information director Marc Allard referred to the year as an "abbreviated, pandemic-protocol-interrupted season."

Centaurs' coach Maddie Millar said Allard's assess-

ment was right on the mark.

"This was my first year as a head coach, so I still don't even know what a typical season even looks like," said the 25-year-old Millar, who arrived in Woodstock in July from her hometown, which is located just north of Toronto, the capital city of the Canadian province of Ontario.

The Centaurs finished the season with a 1-2 record.

Because of the global coronavirus pandemic and all the protocols put in place as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, Millar's team, which competes in the Central Mass. Hockey League, was not allowed to play any games outside of Connecticut.



Photo Courtesy

The Woodstock Academy girls' ice hockey team celebrated senior night recently, honoring its upperclassmen, from left, Kileigh Gagnon, Ciara MacKinnon, Maddie Silbermann, Eliza Dutson, and Lizzie Silbermann. A sixth senior, Maria Santucci, was unavailable at the time the picture was taken.

Please Read **CENTAURS**, page A5

Woodstock Academy students serving the community

WOODSTOCK — It is important in today's education to go beyond the classroom. Fortunately at The Woodstock Academy, there are plenty of former students who are in positions to help the current students understand their world even better than from just a book.

Recently the B Club at The Woodstock Academy paid a virtual visit to Christopher's Haven, a home in Boston providing support and a sense of community for children and their families while they battle cancer. B Club students took a virtual tour of the facility and developed a greater understanding and compassion for the challenges these families face.

"From being in B Club, I have learned a lot about giving back to my community and being involved with people in it," Woodstock Academy junior Sydney Haskins said. "This will stay with me in my future, and I will always do what I can to help others."

After the talk and tour, the B club made a donation to Christopher's Haven.

Christopher's Haven is run by WA alumna Catie MacWilliams. MacWilliams first connected with B Club in 2016 at a difficult time when her son was battling a brain tumor. "The B club was generous enough and worked endlessly to make sure we had money to help us pay for medical bills. It was a blessing,"

she said.

Like so many who attend The Woodstock Academy, MacWilliams added that she started to understand the importance of community while in school and has since built on that sense of unity, bringing it with her to Christopher's Haven. It is just one example of the sense of caring that Woodstock Academy works diligently to instill in its student body.

The B Club is one of several school organizations that are designed to not only have a positive influence within The Woodstock Academy community but to also extend their reach beyond the hal-

Please Read **COMMUNITY**, page A10



Killingly among towns to host mobile vaccination unit

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY – Killingly is one of seventeen communities in Connecticut chosen to host one of FEMA's mobile vaccination units that debuted in March.

In a release from Gov. Ned Lamont's office on March 29 providing updates on Connecticut's continued fight against COVID-19, the full list of communities that will host the mobile vaccination units designed to help increase access to vaccines to fight the pandemic was revealed with Killingly as the sole participant in the Quiet Corner area. The two-trailer unit will be traveling across the state over the next two months.

"The partnership with FEMA and the federal government has been exceptional, providing support to our state during this critical time as we continue to move as fast as possible to vaccinate as many residents as we can," Governor Lamont said in a statement. "This first-in-the-nation mobile vaccination unit is a vital tool in our toolbox to reach communities across Connecticut which have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will continue to take every step possible, working with our network of vaccine providers, and with the support of our Congressional delegation to ensure our distribution is equitable and touching every corner of our state."

According to the Governor, the state is working with local partners to target high-risk and vulnerable populations to make them aware of the mobile vaccination unit and scheduling appointments. Medical staffing will be provided by UConn Health, Griffin Health, Hartford HealthCare, and Trinity Health of New England with the National Guard also expected to staff the unit with non-clinical personnel. The unit is expected to provide at least 250 vaccinations a day utilizing the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

As of April 5, Connecticut recorded 314,000 cases of COVID-19 and 7,904 deaths. Windham County recorded 9,941 cases with 188 cases to date. Statistics show that more than 23 percent of Connecticut residents have been fully vaccinated against the virus, while nearly 40 percent have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Woodstock school buses soon to have dash cams



Photo Courtesy

Pictured, left to right: Jen Beams, Leslie Holland, George McCoy, Jerilyn Dupuis and Dr. Jeff Gordon.

BY JEFFREY GORDON
WOODSTOCK SAFETY PATROL

AND GEORGE MCCOY
DATTCO TRANSPORTATION

WOODSTOCK — When a Woodstock school bus was passed on the passenger loading side last fall by an irate motorist, bus driver George McCoy made an offer to his supervisor, Dattco Transportation Woodstock Terminal Manager Jerilyn Dupuis, to have the Woodstock Safety Patrol shadow school

buses in an effort to catch motorists who unlawfully pass school buses during pick-ups and drop offs.

McCoy at that time was also president of the Woodstock Safety Patrol and quickly recruited local resident Leslie Holland for the task. It soon became apparent to Ms. Holland that following school buses might not be the most effective way to catch red light viola-

Please Read **DASH CAM**, page A6

News from Aprils past



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

I thought that I'd extract some tidbits of items in the news in Aprils past. I'm writing this version on April 2, a cold morning in the low thirties, with a few snow flakes. The following seems appropriate. "A storm that covered the ground with the 'beautiful snow' occurred Tuesday, April 4, followed by rain all day Wednesday. (Windham County Transcript, April 6, 1911). "A weather reporter writes: In 19 years there has not been such a cold April 1 and 2. The mercury has been below freezing both mornings. April 3rd it was only 16 degrees above zero at 6 o'clock a.m. " (WCT, April 6, 1911). (Well, my high for April 2, 2021 was only 37! Thank goodness it's sunny and warmer as I proofread this column).

Telephones are such a part of our everyday lives that we might forget that that was not the case in the early 1900's. "East Killingly – The new telephone line on the North Road is completed and the new numbers are: George S. Shippee, 24-4; Arnold P. Rich, 24-3; Harry E. Battey, 24-2; S. W. Anderson, 24-1."(WCT April 20, 1911). I'm sure many of you recall the old party lines.

If you have ever driven down Morin Avenue in the Danielson section of Killingly, you will have seen the beautiful stone complex referred to as "the Gables." I believe that is what this Norwich Bulletin article is referring to. Note the name before its completion. "At Connecticut Village, construction work is continuing on buildings that are partly completed. The Cloister, a 27-apartment house, will not be finished before summer, it is believed." (Norwich Bulletin, April 12, 1921, p. 6; newspapers.com). The Tudor Revival mill housing in that village of Connecticut Mills/later Powdrell and Alexander is considered very unique

for its time. If you have not seen it, take a drive some day. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

In 1921, as more families were purchasing and driving automobiles, much construction was being done to improve the roads of the State. "Attention is being given to the repair of the state highway between Danielson and Brooklyn, which has become a much traveled route and which will be a part of the main line to Willimantic as soon as the state road between Brooklyn and Hampton, now under construction, is completed." (Norwich Bulletin, April 14, 1921, p. 6; newspapers.com)

"Legislators paused in their work at Hartford Tuesday to pay a tribute to the late 'Souvenir' William Harrison Taylor of this city (Putnam) and Hartford, for years a familiar figure about the capitol and one of the most kindly and genial men that ever trod its marble halls. The house adopted a resolution, drawn by a special committee of which Representative Luther M. Keith of this city (Putnam) was a member, of respect to the memory of William Harrison Taylor. The resolution set forth that the members of the house expressed sorrow in the loss they have sustained being deprived of the genial companionship of William Harrison Taylor of Putnam, enjoyed through many sessions. Tokens of remembrance from him in commemoration of holidays and other memorial occasions found on the desk of every member gain him his name of 'Souvenir' and as 'Souvenir' Taylor he is affectionately known among members and former members of the legislature. The secretary of state was authorized and requested to forward a copy of the resolution to George H. Taylor and Grace A. Richards, father and daughter, respectively, of Mr. Taylor; and in further respect to his memory, the house voted to adjourn." (Norwich Bulletin, April 14, 1921, p. 6; newspapers.com). Harrison was known for his illustrated editions of Connecticut's Legislative leaders, such as Souvenir of the Capitol 1899-1900. Other volumes, including 1905 Taylor's Connecticut Legislative History and Souvenir, Vol. 6 (1907-1908), can be seen by making an internet search. According to the Hartford Courant Taylor died suddenly

on November 15, 1920 in Hartford. He was 58 years old. (Nov. 18, 1920, p. 18; newspapers.com). Taylor was interred in Grove Street Cemetery in Putnam. (findagrave;ancestry.com).

One hundred years ago the trains were frequent visitors to Killingly and Putnam. Most families did not yet have automobiles. "Manufacturing and business interests here were discussing Wednesday a tentative schedule for passenger train service on the New Haven road through this place to be inaugurated April 24. A few like it, but the great majority do not... As near as could be learned on Wednesday, and the following data is not represented as being official, Danielson's train service on and after April 24 and for the summer season is intended to be something like this: Northbound passenger trains, 6.47 a.m., 9.41 a.m., 4.10 p.m.; southbound trains, 10.25 a.m., 2.17 p.m., 7.47 p.m. If the foregoing is the intended schedule, or if it is approximately correct, it is certain to impose many and varied inconveniences on the local public. In the first place it eliminates both of the present early evening trains, one northbound the other southbound. The loss of the early evening southbound train will impose particularly severe hardships, inasmuch as this train is the mail and newspaper train, bringing in Boston, Providence, Worcester and Hartford papers as well as a heavy amount of mail matter. This train, too, has always been one of the most popular on the line for the traveling public, getting many home after a day's visit out of town or binging back those who are obliged to travel in connection with their work at the end of the day's labor. It will be replaced, it is said, by a 2.17 train--running in the middle of the afternoon--when few people are traveling and when mails are lighter than in the early evening. It isn't going to be very pleasant for a great many Danielson people to know that the boat train which will bring in the mails and newspapers, will not arrive here until 7.47 p.m., at which time, incidentally, the post office will be closed...People will appreciate having a northbound train at 4.10 p.m.... , but their appreciation will be more than counterbalanced by the loss of the early evening train, which brings in New

York evening papers...If Danielson doesn't want a summer during which passenger train service on the New Haven road will mean very little in the way of what is left of the service, it might be well to hold a few mass prayer meetings; apparently nothing else will help avert an arrangement that will be highly irritating in delaying mails, in depriving patrons of the road of the most popular trains and in otherwise upsetting what have come to be considered as normal conditions because New York, Providence and other cities are still monkeying with the daylight saving bugaboo." (Norwich Bulletin, April 14, 1921, p. 6; newspapers.com).

The same edition of the paper had the following: "Daylight saving will not figure much in the scheme of things in the town of Killingly this year. No manufacturing plant will pay any recognition at all to it and very few persons will of their own accord place themselves on that basis of recording the flight of time." Does that sound familiar? One hundred years later states are still debating the benefits and drawbacks of changing the clocks.

The mail and answering machine are being checked on a regular basis (usually Wednesday) although the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center is closed to the public. Please send an email to the director or leave a message on the answering machine if you would like to donate items or have research questions.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, April, 2021. Special thanks to Marilyn Labbe for Windham County Transcript extracts. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

Minority Health Conference looks at COVID-19, racial health disparities

WILLIMANTIC — In observance of National Minority Health Month, Eastern Connecticut State University will host a Minority Health Conference on April 5 and April 8 that examines COVID-19's disproportionate impact on people of color and racial/ethnic health disparities in general across Connecticut. The virtual conference will feature state and local health officials and is free and open to the public.

"The purpose of this conference is to engage students and the local community on issues that affect minority health based on social determinants of health," said Harley Webley, Eastern student and conference organizer. "Come hear expert knowledge on these issues and be part of engaging conversations that focus on health equity and the elimination of health disparities."

The April 5 session is titled "Debunking Myths: COVID-19 Vaccine" and goes from 3-4:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register at https://

tinyurl.com/MHConfDay1.

People from racial/ethnic groups are at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19, yet despite vaccination roll-out in Connecticut, research shows that these vulnerable communities are the least likely to be vaccinated due to inequitable distribution of information and vaccine availability.

This session will feature Keith Grant, senior system director of Infection Prevention at Hartford Healthcare. Sponsors include The Office of Governor Ned Lamont; Health Equity Solutions; and Premier Consultant Services (LLC).

The April 8 session is titled "Complex Realities: Minority Health Disparities in the United States" and goes from 1-2:30 p.m. on Webex. Register at https://tinyurl.com/MHConfEvents.

Description: Disparities in the United States appear across many intersecting identities. National Minority Health Month warrants

the need for a focused dialogue on racial and ethnic health disparities in Connecticut, and the work being done to improve our state health and prioritize health equity.

Speakers include Liany E. Arroyo, director of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services; Rosana Ferraro, policy and program officer for Universal Healthcare at the Foundation of Connecticut; Lacey Brown '20, COVID-19 contact tracing supervisor and Eastern alumna; and Erica Watson, biology lecturer at Eastern whose work concerns racial health disparities and anti-racist advocacy.

Eastern's first Minority Health Conference is inspired by student Harley Webley in collaboration with students Amy White, YOSHUA GONZAGA and Anayeli Arroyo. The initiative is sponsored by the Arthur L. Johnson Unity Wing and the Office of Equity & Diversity.

Eastern student Morgan Harriott of Danielson inducted into ODK leadership honor society

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University's chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), the national leadership honor society, inducted 34 students on March 7. Among the inductees was Morgan Harriott of Danielson, a senior majoring in

Health Sciences.

Founded at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., in 1913, ODK was the first honor society to recognize extracurricular participation and leadership. The goal of the society is to encourage campus citizenship as well as the versatility of college life. Across the United States, there are more

than 235 colleges and universities with ODK chapters, with members that include students, faculty and staff. Eastern created its ODK chapter in 1994, and has since inducted more than 800 alumni, students, faculty and honorary members.

Membership into ODK is usually awarded to students with junior or senior standing. Graduate students, faculty, administration and alumni may also be considered. Inductees are invited to join the society based on their service in campus life, leadership roles, strong character and exemplary scholarship. This year, the mean grade point average for Eastern's inductees was 3.83.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 29: Bald Eagle, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, American Woodcock, Tree Swallow, Wood Duck, Field Sparrow, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Duck, Killdeer, Flicker, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Junco, Wild Turkey. Visit ctaclubon.org/pomfret-home.

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2021 – 2022 Kindergarten Registration

Woodstock Elementary School invites all families with Kindergarten eligible students to register for the 2021-2022 school year. All students turning five years old before December 31, 2021 are eligible for entry into our full-day Kindergarten program.

Registration packets can be obtained by calling the main office at 860-928-0471 or by email at wesoffice@woodstockschools.net

Completed registration packets can be submitted in person at Woodstock Elementary School the week of May 24th between 8am and 4pm or mailed to: Woodstock Elementary School 24 Frog Pond Rd., Woodstock, CT 06281 Woodstock Public Schools

Woodstock • Public • Schools

Pre-K Lottery Selection

Woodstock Elementary School is accepting applications for our PreK lottery selection for the 2021-2022 school year. Applications are open to students turning four by December 31, 2021. These are due to the main office by May 3, 2021.

For an application please visit: <https://www.woodstockschools.net/o/elementary-school/page/pre-k-57>

Lottery selection to occur in June at a special Board of Education Academic Subcommittee meeting.



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Developmental Preschool Screenings

Woodstock Elementary School is seeking all Woodstock children born in 2017 to participate in a developmental preschool screening.

Screenings are held on Wednesday mornings.

Please call the Woodstock Elementary School office to schedule an appointment at 860-928-0471.

Preregistration is required.

Lawmakers seek adjustments to Farmers to Families Program

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION – Connecticut Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy along with U.S. Representative Joe Courtney have joined Representatives Rosa DeLauro, John Larson, Jim Himes and Jahana Hayes in authoring a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) seeking ways to improve the new food purchase and delivery program to better benefit small farmers.

In a March 31 letter submitted to Bruce Summers, Administrator of Agricultural Marketing Service at the USDA which administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers, the lawmakers provided suggestions they felt would benefit both farmers and organizations helping to manage hunger and food insecurity especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter addressed the Farmer to Family Food Program that has served numerous communities across Connecticut, including hundreds of families here in the Quiet Corner.

“While farmers in our state wanted to participate in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmer to Family Food Box Program, they struggled to gain access and secure contracts under the program’s requirements. A few Connecticut entities received contracts in the first funding solicitations of Farmer to Family Food Box, but the program changed in later rounds and farmers in our state were unable to participate,” the letter read.

The delegates made three recommendations to the USDA: first prioritizing small and mid-sized farmers, second having vendors commit to sourcing local produce especially from minority or women-owned business, and third to prioritize that vendors that had to lay off workers and make a commitment to rehiring workers if awarded contracts. The lawmakers also said the new USDA program should adjust program requirement to facilitate participation by food banks.


“The Farmer to Family Food Box program must be commended for rapidly responding to a food insecurity

crisis. As of January 2021, the program distributed 132.7 million boxes of food, which were a critical lifeline for millions of families across the country. However, the program had stringent requirements on box contents. Any new program should ensure food provided to those in need better aligns with consumer’s dietary and cultural preferences. In addition, the requirement that food be packaged in boxes was a challenge for food banks,” the letter continued. “The program could be further improved by requiring vendors to include bi-lingual information on how recipients can apply for other federal and state assistance programs.”

The letter concluded asking that contracts between the USDA and participating entities provide more time between when contracts are announced and when delivery periods begin allowing vendors time to properly source products.

The USDA Farmer to Families Food Box program is currently in its fifth cycle since May of 2020 when it was

established to help fight hunger during the pandemic. The current round has provided 20.8 million boxes nationwide and is currently slated to end on April 30. The USDA has said they planned to purchase up to \$1.5 billion in food for delivery from January of this year through the end of April.



ACCURACY WATCH

The *Villager Newspapers* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake call (860) 928-1818 or e-mail charlie@villager-newspapers.com.

Kate Pitts joins Weiss, Hale & Zahansky

POMFRET CENTER — Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors (WHZ) has welcomed Kate Pitts to the team as director of client experience and relationships.

Pitts, who holds a BS in Marketing from Quinnipiac University School of Business, brings over a decade of experience in the financial industry to WHZ, having spent the last ten years in various roles at State Street Global Advisors in Boston. She has served as an Investment Strategist and most recently as Vice President, Head of Participant Engagement in their Retirement business.

In her new role at WHZ, Pitts will oversee fulfillment of the firm’s mission to deliver the best wealth management experience for every client, every time. This will include management of WHZ’s client experience standards, as well as existing client relationships and onboarding of new clients. She will also oversee production of virtual and live financial education and other events, and serve as the firm’s point of contact for community engagement.

“We’re thrilled to have Kate as part of our team. She grew up in northeast Connecticut and will be moving back here to help ensure that we deliver an exceptional experience for our clients and build meaningful relationships in the broader community,” said Managing Partner James Zahansky, AWMA®.

“Our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ strategic process is built on our underlying mission to help people and businesses realize their goals and dreams through thoughtful, educated and strategic investments. Fulfilling that promise requires strong personal relationships and meaningful, ongoing communication with our clients. Kate’s expertise as well as her personable nature make her a perfect fit to help us carry out that mission,” Zahansky said.

“It’s exciting to be part of a team that helps people achieve their financial goals through thoughtful planning and investing. I’m intrinsically motivated by helping people with their financial

lives and I’m looking forward to being a part of that journey at WHZ,” Pitts shared.

For more information about Kate Pitts or Weiss, Hale and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, visit www.whzwealth.com.

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Office Assistant Position

Solair Recreation League in Woodstock CT has one or two hourly positions for an office assistant. This position involves greeting guests, accepting payments, scheduling reservations, working with our office manager to help with paperwork, mailings, etc. The successful candidate should be able to work with limited supervision, have a working knowledge of personal computers (Windows 10, familiar with MS Word), and good customer service skills. We will work with the successful candidate on a fixed schedule which will include weekends. Up to 38 hours per week are available. Training will be provided for our scheduling and reservations software. Weekend hours are required.

Please send your resume and wage (hourly rate) requirements to Jobs@SolaiRRL.com



Kate Pitts



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Preece officially enters Thompson Icebreaker 125

THOMPSON — One of the top Modified and stock car racers in the country is coming to Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park this weekend. Berlin's Ryan Preece has officially entered the Outlaw Open Modified Series Icebreaker 125 scheduled for Sunday, April 11 as part of the annual season-opening Icebreaker.

Preece, who is in his third full season of NASCAR Cup Series competition, will drive the familiar Eddie Partridge-owned #6CT Riverhead Raceway Tour-type Modified. He joins a list of more than 30 drivers aiming for the \$10,000 top prize in the Outlaw Open Modified Series debut.

The 30-year-old immediately becomes one of the favorites in the Icebreaker 125. Preece is a former Thompson Speedway Sunoco Modified Champion, NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Champion, and two-time NASCAR Xfinity Series winner. Most recently, he won the SMART Modified Tour event at Virginia's South Boston Speedway on April 3 and currently sits 18th in Cup Series points. Preece will run the same car at the Icebreaker that he used to win the South Boston event in dominating fashion.

The Thompson Speedway show is the finale of a busy weekend for Preece. He'll be running the NASCAR Whelen



Photo Courtesy

Ryan Preece celebrates winning a 2017 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park.

Modified event at Virginia's Martinsville Speedway on Thursday April 8 along with the Cup Series event there on Saturday, April 10. Preece will then travel to Connecticut on Sunday for practice, qualifying, and the 125-lap main event.

"It's because I like to try and win, and I obviously have Eddie and Connie Partridge as car owners that allow us to do it," Preece said. "You have these cars because you want to go race them and hopefully win the money. We want to go com-

pete. We aren't going to just let them sit on jack stands."

"I think we have a good chance (to win)," Preece added. "There are a bunch of different motor combinations and drivers, but we have strong race cars. We have the best you could ask for."

Preece joins a long list of accomplished Modified racers coming to Thompson Speedway this weekend. Fellow NASCAR champions Doug Coby, Ron Silk, and Bobby Santos III have entered the Icebreaker 125, as have many other Tour-type Modified champions and winners. The addition of Preece and North Easton, Mass.'s Rob Richardi, Jr. brings the official entry list to 31 drivers with more expected on Sunday.

The event will be 125 green flag laps, as opposed to 150 laps with cautions counting as in past Icebreaker events. Preece doesn't feel the green-flag lap strategy is going to be much different and says it will just come down to playing it out during the day.

"I think you just have to be aware of how the race is playing out with the strategy and just be there at the end of it," Preece said.

Wherever he finishes, Preece

gets to compete back home in front of the Connecticut race fans where he grew up. Preece was raised a little more than an hour from the track and was a fixture at the track before successfully making the jump to the NASCAR national touring series.

"It's really cool," Preece said. "I think it's awesome what Thompson is doing, having these open shows, and paying \$10,000 to win is great. We need more of these (events) in Modified racing. Being home in Connecticut, I've been racing locally for a long time. Going to Thompson, it's nice to see people you've been around for years and it's great being with those who support you."

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. Ten local and regional series go green at the two-day racing festival. Sunday's card features the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series. There's also a 40-lap ACT-type Late Model shootout plus the Limited Sportsman and SK Light Modifieds. Post time is 1:15 p.m.

Saturday's six-division card is highlighted by the Thompson

75 for the PASS North Super Late Models beginning at 1 p.m. They're joined by the Sunoco Modifieds, NEMA LITES Midgets, EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge, Mini Stocks, and an 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open. An optional Test N' Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 for all Icebreaker divisions.

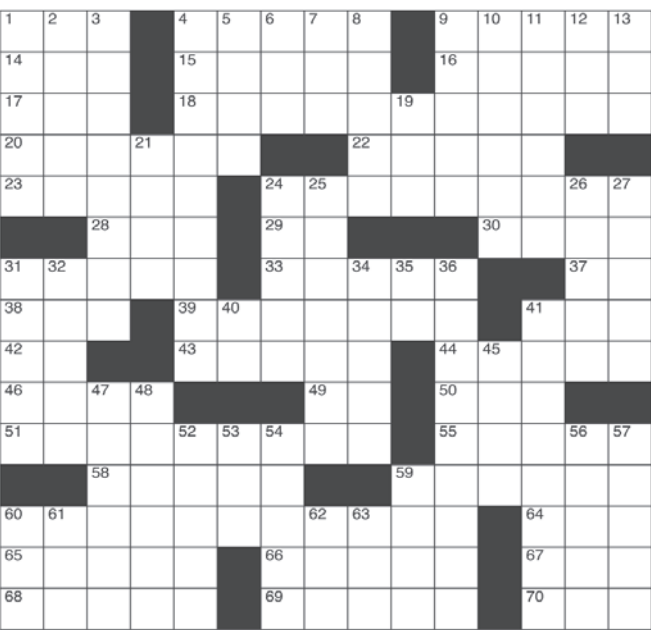
Adult general admission is \$30 for Saturday and \$35 for Sunday. Kids ages 12 and under are \$10 each day. Advance tickets are available at <https://happsnow.com/event/Thompson-Speedway-Motorsports-Park-YHPQ>. Grandstand attendance is limited to 50% of capacity per Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines. Pit passes will be sold at the track.

Speed51.TV is also offering a live pay-per-view broadcast for both days of the Icebreaker. PPV passes are \$29.99 for Saturday-only, \$34.99 for Sunday-only, and \$54.99 for both days. Sign up now at <https://www.speed51.tv/products/ppv-2021-icebreaker-weekend-pass-at-thompson>.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact pass-racing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries and camping reservations, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsonspeedway.com, or visit www.thompsonspeedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)

4. Ceramic jars

9. Monetary units

14. Alias

15. "Superman" actor

16. Britonic tribe

17. Shorten

18. LA Dodgers manager

20. Hoarded

22. Theatrically portray

23. Noah's grandson

24. Dependent

28. Peyton's little brother

29. Cools the house

30. Principle part of

31. Type of wrap

33. Peels

37. Commercial

38. Make an attempt

39. Arrange in steps
41. U. Utah athlete

42. Old English

43. Trade

44. Nostrils

46. Ticket seller __Hub

49. Of I

50. Institute legal proceedings against

51. Takes apart

55. Doorway

58. Long int'l river

59. Trailblazing athlete Gibson

60. Former CBS News host

64. Sign language

65. Badgerlike mammal

66. Thin strips of wood

67. Brooklyn hoopster

68. Portents of good or evil

69. Footwear

70. When you think you'll arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. Batflower genus

2. Predatory seabirds

3. Fish farm

4. Arrangements

5. Go in advance of others

6. Bulgarian monetary unit

7. " __ Maria"

8. W. African ethnoreligious group

9. Wild Asian oxen genus

10. Vinegary

11. To this

12. Explosive

13. Female sibling

19. Orlando museum (abbr.)

21. Type of hoop

24. About Holy Father

25. Academic environment

26. Extremely angry

27. Surrenders

31. Swiss mountain pass
32. Sharp mountain ridge

34. Erases

35. Spielberg's alien

36. Absurd

40. Dorm worker

41. Used to make pesticides

45. The sister of your father or mother

47. A way to let know

48. Can't produce much vegetation

52. Small streams

53. Folk singer DiFranco

54. Weights

56. Start over

57. Black Sea resort city

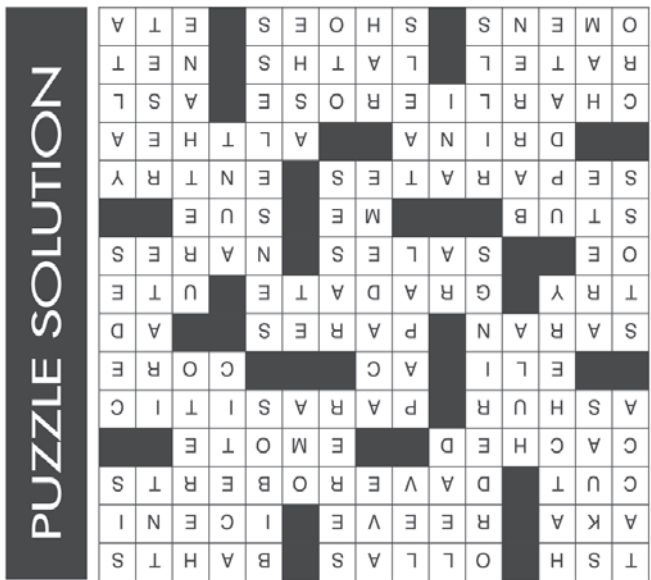
59. Wimbledon champ

60. Corporate executive (abbr.)

61. Unskilled actor who overacts

62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

63. Of or relating to ears



Thompson Maker Fair returns

THOMPSON — Do you, or does anybody you know, have an appreciation for artisanal and handcrafted products? Do you want to support local small businesses?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then join the Town of Thompson and Thompson Together in the second annual Maker Fair!

The Maker Fair is an event in which artists and craftsmen from many different backgrounds will have the opportunity to showcase their talents to the community. Last year, we had 60 vendors and more than 1,500 shoppers.

This year, the event has grown to more than 80 vendors. Products on sale will

range from vinyl creations, clay jewelry, embroidered goods, candles, leather handcrafted woodworks, and many more hand made goods. In addition to the many artists in attendance, there will also be food trucks that will be sure to satisfy your hunger while you browse the many shops set up at the Riverside Park. You are sure to find that special Mother's Day Gift, birthday gift, or even Christmas gift. The Maker Fair is an introduction to the 11th Village, an event put on by Thompson's Economic Development Commission in partnership with Thompson Recreation. Similarly to the Maker Fair, the 11th Village promotes small and local businesses. The village will have

custom built, mini retail shops and will be set up in Riverside Park for customers to explore. The 11th Village will be set up in two-to-four-week sessions in May through October. If you are interested in this small business opportunity, contact Thompson Recreation at www.thompsonrec.org or call 860-923-9440. The Fair will be taking place on May 1 at Riverside Park in Thompson from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., May 8th during the same hours if the event is rescheduled for any reason. COVID - 19 guidelines will be followed. You can check out the Town of Thompson or Thompson Recreation website or Facebook for more information regarding this exciting event!



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VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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The Putnam Villager (025-154), The Thompson Villager (024-998) The Killingly Villager (025-004) and The Woodstock Villager (024-999) are published weekly by Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Woodstock, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Low-cost rabies clinic planned in Danielson

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug V alley Veterinary Hospital, Route 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line, on April 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$15 cash per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please.

For information, registration and appointment contact Pet Pals at 860-317-1720.

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Thompson Icebreaker 125 just the start of Big Outlaw Open Season

THOMPSON — Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is just over a week away from the annual Icebreaker. The 82nd season opener on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11 is headlined by the Icebreaker 125 for the new Outlaw Open Modified Series, pitting the region's Tour-type Modified stars in a \$10,000-to-win showdown.

Noted open-wheel racers such as Doug Coby, Craig Lutz, Bobby Santos III, Jon McKennedy, and Matt Swanson are officially committed to the Icebreaker 125. The Sunday shootout is just the beginning, though. Six Outlaw Open Series events are planned for the 2021 season with big purses and even bigger action.

It culminates with the return of the Thompson 300. The \$20,000-to-win event is part of the World Series of Speedway Racing on Oct. 8-10. It's been 16 years since the late Ted Christopher won the last Thompson 300 in 2005. Not only is the Icebreaker 125 important in its own right, but it also starts preparations for an event that is hallowed in Modified lore.

"The Icebreaker is always the big opener in New England to get back going and get started racing again, so I'm definitely looking forward to that," two-time Modified Racing Series champion Chris Pasteryak said. "As for the season in general, the way I look at it is that the Thompson 300 is the biggest Modified race of the year. So the more laps we get at Thompson over the course of the year leading up to the 300, hopefully the better we can run in it."

In-between the Icebreaker 125 and the Thompson 300 are four \$5,000-to-win Wednesday night shows on June 16, July 7, Aug. 11, and Sept. 15. The Wednesday dates make it easy for teams to tackle the Thompson high banks without weekly or touring series conflicts.

In the meantime, all eyes are on the Icebreaker showdown. The event is 125 green-flag laps with teams allowed to use eight tires. Racers have to be fast and use the right strategy to stand in Victory Lane.

"I love it," Oakdale's Zachem said of the 125-lap distance. "It's a pit-stop race, so more or less, you are racing to halfway to figure out your pit stop situation. I'm looking forward to it. We've always run well over at Thompson."

It's definitely going to make a difference," Moosup's Pasteryak added. "When you're counting caution laps and you get to 50 or 60 laps to go, you normally only count on getting about 35 of them under green. Whereas now when you get to 50 or 60 to go, there's still potentially a pretty long race left. And then you know that, if you have some tires left in the pit stall, or you want to try a strategy where you hold



Photo Courtesy - Matthew Wiernasz

Two-time Modified Racing Series champion Chris Pasteryak (#75CT) is one of those drivers with his sights set on the season-ending Thompson 300.

off and pit a little bit later, you know you're going to have that many laps to actually try and race your way back to the front and not just ride around behind the pace car to finish the day."

A total of 29 drivers have pre-entered the event, including Keith Rocco, Mike Christopher Jr., Eric Goodale, Andrew Krause, Patrick Emerling, and Jeff Gallup. The current entry list alone accounts for dozens of championships and hundreds of race wins. Several other teams have indicated they'll be there, setting up a stacked field with many potential winners.

The Outlaw Open Modified Series is the brainchild of PASS's Tom Mayberry and ACT's Cris Michaud, who are co-promoting the Thompson Speedway oval track events this season. The duo put on two events at Thompson in 2020 and have banded together to carry on the track's storied tradition.

Thompson Speedway opened in 1940 and was long known as the "Indianapolis of the East", attracting every notable name in motorsports. Even today, the track is revered among the racing community. Drivers such as Ryan Preece, Harrison Burton, Bobby Santos III, and Derek Griffith have used Thompson victories as a springboard to national opportunities.

"What Cris Michaud and Tom Mayberry have done for Thompson

is huge," Zachem said. "Taking the chance last year to run the track, with everything going on with COVID...I started at the Little T Speedway in 2000 and everyone's dream is to run the big track one day and I made it there. It's really cool to see the track still going."

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. Ten local and regional series go green at the two-day racing festival. Sunday's card features the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series. There's also a 40-lap ACT-type Late Model shootout plus the Limited Sportsman and SK Light Modifieds. Post time is 1:15 p.m.

Saturday's six-division card is highlighted by the Thompson 75 for the PASS North Super Late Models beginning at 1:00pm. They're joined by the Sunoco Modifieds, NEMA LITES Midgits, EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge, Mini Stocks, and an 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open. An optional Test N' Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 for all Icebreaker divisions.

Adult general admission is \$30 for Saturday and \$35 for Sunday. Kids ages 12 and under are \$10 each day. Advance tickets are available at <https://happsnw.com/event/Thompson-Speedway-Motorsports-Park-YHPQ>.

Grandstand attendance is limited to 50% of capacity per Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines. Pit passes will be sold at the track.

Speed51.TV is also offering a live pay-per-view broadcast for both days of the Icebreaker. PPV passes are \$29.99 for Saturday-only, \$34.99 for Sunday-only, and \$54.99 for both days. Sign up now at <https://www.speed51.tv/products/ppv-2021-icebreaker-weekend-pass-at-thompson>.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries and camping reservations, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsonspeedway.com, or visit www.thompsonspeedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

CENTAURS

continued from page A1

"All of our competition, pretty much, went right out the door before our season even started," Millar said. "We reached out to teams in the CCC [Central Connecticut Conference] but they didn't want to play us either. So, we started reaching out to club teams, but a lot of them were in the same boat with regard to travel restrictions."

Woodstock Academy opened the season with a 5-3 loss to Connecticut Northern Lights Girls' Hockey Program before evening its record at 1-1 with a 6-2 win over the Shoreline Sharks, a club team from the Northford neighborhood of North Branford. The Centaurs were supposed to play the Shoreline Sharks a second time, but the game was cancelled because the Sharks didn't have enough skaters available on the day of the game.

In a season that was played in fits and starts, Millar couldn't have possible talked more positively about her team's resolve. "The girls inspired and encouraged me. They were so grateful to be on the ice. Especially the seniors; their attitude was great despite having such a crappy way to end their careers," said Millar, referring to upperclassmen Eliza Dutson, Kileigh Gagnon, Ciara MacKinnon, Maria Santucci, and twin sisters Maddie and Lizzie Silbermann. "They were all really, really great. They supported each other like crazy out there."

"We had a lot of middle school girls come out for the team. We had a really big roster this year because we didn't make any cuts," Millar continued. "All of the older girls welcomed the younger girls in with open arms. It was a really great culture. That was something I was most proud of them for."

Junior Bella Chaves finished the season with two goals and four assists, while Dutson, seventh-grader Julianna Buoniconti, and junior Sydney Haskins all finished with two goals apiece. Seventh-graders Alex Lee and Maci Corradi each scored a goal.

BOYS' PREP SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Woodstock Academy Gold team finished its season 5-5, going 2-3 over the final week of the season.

The Centaurs opened their final stretch of games with a 79-59 home win over St. George's School of Middletown, R.I., on Saturday, March 13, and a 71-45 home victory over the Darrow School of New Lebanon, N.Y., the following day. Woodstock Academy then suffered a 72-61 home loss to Upper Room Christian School of Dix Hills, N.Y., on Friday, March 19. The season ended with back-to-back road losses to the Upper Room Christian School on Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21 by scores of 72-61 and 55-54.

In the March 19 loss Jayden Beloti led WA with 18 points while Pipe Ajayi had a double-double, scoring 13 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. In the Centaurs' March 14 win over the Darrow School Tairi Ketner led the way with 15 points, Beloti added 14 and Ajayi 10. In the March 13 win over St. George's, Beloti finished with 19 points, Ajayi 16, and Isha Mohammed 13.

The Woodstock Academy Blue team

won its final four games of the season — in a seven-day span — to finish 8-4. The Centaurs defeated Army Prep, 72-69, on Friday March 19, and 62-50 on Thursday, March 18. Woodstock Academy defeated Bridgeport Prep, 96-74, on Sunday, March 14, and 76-71 on Saturday, March 13.

In the March 19 win at Army Prep, five Centaurs scored in double figures, led by Ethan Edwards, who poured in 17 points. Mark Heber added 14, while D'Amonte Johnson and Levi King scored 11 each and Kyle Alcy chipped in with 10. In the March 18 home victory, Johnson led the way with 22 points and Heber added 14, and Edwards 10. Johnson and Heber combined to connect on seven attempts from beyond the 3-point arc.

In the March 14 win over visiting Bridgeport Prep, Heber led the way, finishing with 24 points including four 3-pointers, while Jason Ofcarcik added 13, Edwards 12 Alcy 11, and King 10. In the March 13 victory, Alcy paced the Centaurs' attack with 23 points and King added 15.

VIETNAM VETERAN HONORS FALLEN COMRADES



Photo Courtesy

United States Army Vietnam veteran Victor J. Kratz (right) was honored to lay the memorial wreath at the Coventry "Vietnam War Veterans Day 2021" ceremony held on Monday, March 29. Kratz, who serves as Sgt.-at-Arms for the Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post #13 of Putnam and American Legion District #4, spent 15 months in Vietnam during the war. He's pictured with United States Marine Corps veteran Manuel "Manny" Rodrigues, Commander of American Legion Post #52 Coventry, which sponsored the program.

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Day Kimball Healthcare names Timothy Van Nort Employee of the Month

PUTNAM — Timothy Van Nort, administration coordinator to the chief executive officer, has been named employee of the month for March.

Van Nort began working at Day Kimball in 2013 as a UR/PCT and secretary in the behavioral health department before transitioning to administrative assistant for the director of critical services until 2018. In 2019, Van Nort returned to Day Kimball to fulfill his current role. As administration coordinator, he is responsible for providing assistance to the CEO and executive team, in addition to coordinating daily operations of the hospital.

According to Van Nort's supervisor, R. Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare, "Tim is the quintessential example of what servant leadership looks like. His unselfish generosity, kind spirit, and helpful attitude are but a few of the attributes that make Tim such a valuable team member here at Day Kimball. His quiet nature and quick wit can brighten any day, and we are extremely fortunate to have him as a colleague and friend."

In response to being named employee of the month, Van Nort said, "I am so grateful. There are so many eligible employees that contribute to the success of DKH." When asked what he likes most about his job, he shared, "I enjoy



Photo Courtesy

Day Kimball Healthcare's Employee of the Month for March 2021, Timothy Van Nort, administration coordinator to the chief executive officer at Day Kimball Healthcare.

being a resource to assist anyone who needs help. Day Kimball has a great culture and I'm proud to be part of this team."

Van Nort earned a Bachelor of

Science in Psychology from Worcester State College. He grew up in Webster, Mass., and currently resides in North Grosvenordale, Connecticut with his partner Gerry, their dog, three cats, ten

chickens, and mini pot belly pig.

Day Kimball Healthcare's employee of the month program is sponsored by Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut. "The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation and Foxwoods Resort Casino has been focused on taking care of the people that serve within our community, and we appreciate everything Day Kimball Healthcare does," said Foxwood's Director of Sponsorships and Partnerships Roy Colebut-Ingram. "Supporting meaningful employee recognition programs like that at DKH is just one way that we feel we can express our appreciation."

About Day Kimball Healthcare
Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

Eastern student works with Windham preschoolers through Jumpstart program

WILLIMANTIC — A group of Eastern Connecticut State University students is volunteering with the national early education organization known as Jumpstart. Among the student volunteers is Sarah Langlois of Quinebaug, a graduate who majors in Early Childhood Education. Langlois serves as a student leader.

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) at Eastern has partnered with Jumpstart to recruit, train and provide students a first-hand experience in working with preschool children while supporting the Windham Heights Preschool and Windham-Willimantic Program.

Eastern's Jumpstart program consists of 29 volunteers for the spring 2021 semester with seven of them serving as student leaders. Students of all majors are eligible to volunteer and are

given professional training in early education; volunteers do not need prior experience. Volunteers dedicate 10-12 hours a week and receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award after their service is complete.

The CCE provides resources to build a culture of civic responsibility and engaged learning at Eastern. The Center creates sustainable and effective relationships with community partners that benefit the local community, provide students with valuable life and employability skills and support faculty in developing high-impact curricular practices. Opportunities are available in tutoring and mentoring in area schools, juvenile and adult rehabilitation, programs focused on cultural awareness, hunger and homelessness, animal rehabilitation and health and wellness.

DASH CAM

continued from page A1

tors.

Holland suggested to McCoy that dash cams might be more effective and require less manpower than having volunteers spend hours following buses. Ms. Holland also offered to donate the first three cameras.

After getting the go ahead from Woodstock School Superintendent Viktor Toth and Dattco's corporate office the first two cameras were installed on two of the Woodstock school buses on Wednesday, March 24.

McCoy posted the news on the Woodstock Proud 2.0 Facebook page and within minutes town residents were offering to donate more cameras. McCoy contacted the new president of the Woodstock Safety Patrol, Dr. Jeffrey Gordon, as well as WSP Secretary Jen Beams to see if the WSP could help coordinate the receiving of donations as the WSP is now a 501(c)3 charitable not for profit and could give residents a receipt for tax deduction purposes.

"Jerilyn Dupuis and I were

overwhelmed at the fantastic amount of offers that were coming in. I realized we needed help coordinating the fund raising. Dattco cannot accept money and in fact, although they are readily installing the cameras on their buses, Ms. Dupuis made it clear the cameras belong to the Woodstock Schools, not Dattco," McCoy said.

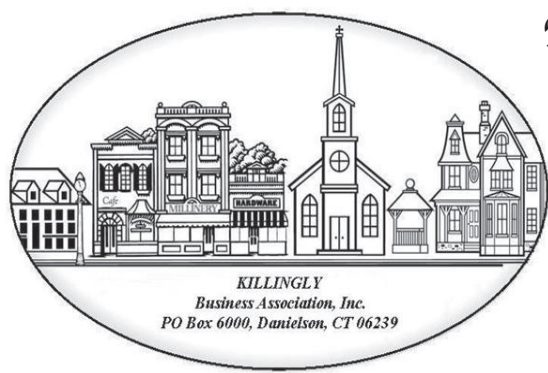
Thanks to some quick work by WSP Secretary Jen Beams, an online funding system was shared with town residents on Facebook and donations quickly began to come in. Some residents have even purchased cameras and are bringing them to the Dattco office.

According to Ms. Beams, as of Friday evening it appeared there might be enough cameras already purchased, combined with cash donations coming in, to outfit the town's 17 school buses. She will know in a few days once the tally is completed.

"This is another wonderful example of how people in our community quickly help out a good cause. Thank you to everyone who has donated to get the dash cams for the school buses. Thank you as

well to the members of the Woodstock Safety patrol who are doing their part to help keep Woodstock safe," said Jeff Gordon.

"A driver cannot react quickly enough to always get a license plate number. Our first priority is the safety of the students themselves. By the time we are certain that the students are secure and accounted for, the offending motorist is long gone. This is a serious problem in Woodstock, especially on my route which covers Connecticut-Route 197 and 169. High speed traffic is very dicey to deal with when making stops on these roads. Some people think they can just run the bus stop as they would a red light. What they fail to think about is that a child could be killed by their actions. In fact, a child was killed in town many years ago during a bus stop. We all want to prevent that. I think if people know the school district and Dattco with community support, are taking a pro-active, zero tolerance approach to this problem, they might be less inclined to do something foolish, illegal and potentially deadly," McCoy stated.



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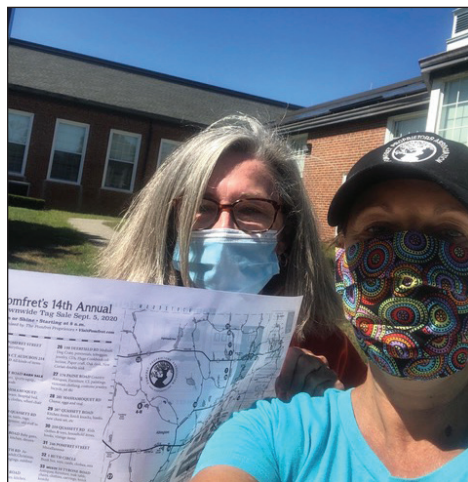
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Pomfret hosting Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale May 1



POMFRET — Pomfret celebrates a milestone with its 15th Annual Town Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, May 1. The all-volunteer Pomfret Proprietors Association created the region's first and best town wide sale, which draws

thousands of visitors to the Quiet Corner for great deals, supporting local organizations, and safe, socially distanced outdoor fun.

Starting at 7 a.m., purchase a map to guide you to dozens of participating residences, businesses and organizations throughout town. A Town Wide Tag Sale Map makes bargain hunting a breeze. Print maps will be sold for \$2 each at Pomfret Community School (20 Pomfret St., corner of Routes 169 & 101). Local businesses will offer 15th Anniversary Specials in coupons that will be handed out with the map. Participating businesses include The Vanilla Bean Café, Pizza 101, Baker's Dozen, Garden Gate Florist, Pomfret Spirit Shoppe, and Watercure Farm Distillery.

Popular annual group sales and fundraisers include The Friends of Pomfret Public Library's Used Book Sale, which will be held at the Old Pomfret

Townhouse, 11 Town House Drive, from 7 a.m. - noon. It will feature current fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and biographies. Prices range from 50 cents to \$1 plus a \$5 Bag Sale from 11 a.m. - noon. The Windham Tolland 4-H Camp will host a sale on April 30 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) and May 1 (8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) at the Horse Camp (326 Taft Pond Road). Preview their on-line auction items while you are at the in-person sale. The on-line auction runs from April 30 - May 8 at <https://www.biddingowl.com/WindhamCounty4HFoundation>.

The Pomfret Lions Club and Pomfret Horse & Trail Association will also host group sales in town. Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret will be raising funds for sanctuary and trail maintenance. They will have a wide variety of items for sale on 218 Day Rd. Consult your map for many more tag sale locations all over town.

Every year, the Pomfret Proprietors

Association gives back to the community with this event. For 2021, profits from map sales and registrations will be donated to the Pomfret Public Library's capital campaign for an expansion project.

Connecticut residents and visitors should continue taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Orders, the Pomfret Proprietors request that all Tag Sale visitors and hosts practice social distancing, wear a face mask while on people's private property and to please use hand-sanitizer before exiting your car.

While you're in Pomfret, please enjoy the sights, shops and restaurants of our lovely, historic town. Go to VisitPomfret.com or www.facebook.com/PomfretProprietorsAssoc/ for more information. Questions? Contact Martha Emilio (860) 974-1583 / Martha@majilly.com.

LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY TAX COLLECTORS LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-4PM Tuesday 9-5PM Friday 9-11AM.

The fourth quarter installment of taxes becomes due on April 1, 2021, and becomes delinquent on May 4, 2021 and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org. Dated at Killingly this 26TH day of March, 2021

Patricia Monahan CCMC
Revenue Collector for the
Town of Killingly
March 26, 2021
April 9, 2021
April 23, 2021

TOWN OF BROOKLYN LEGAL NOTICE

The **THIRD** installment of real estate and personal property tax of 28.92 mills on the dollar levied on the assessment of Oct 1, 2019 becomes due April 1, 2021. The **SECOND** installment of sewer also becomes due on April 1, 2021. Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills are due on April 1, 2021. Bills will become delinquent on April 2, 2021 and subject to interest from the due date of January 1, 2021 at 1.5% per month as prescribed in the General Statutes of the State of CT. Minimum interest penalty is \$2.00.

The **FOURTH** installment of real estate and personal property tax of 28.92 mills on the dollar levied on the assessment of Oct 1, 2019 becomes due April 1, 2021. Bills will become delinquent on May 3, 2021 and subject to interest from the due date at 1.5% per month as prescribed in the General Statutes of the State of CT. Minimum interest penalty is \$2.00. Please call 860-779-3411, opt. 5 to

find out the hours of the Tax Office. If you wish to pay by mail, enclose coupon of bill and address to: Revenue Collector, PO Box 253, Brooklyn, CT 06234. If a receipt is desired, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. You can also drop off a payment in the drop box located on the building at 4 Wolf Den Rd, Brooklyn. You can also pay via credit/debit card online or by phone. There is a processing fee of 2.50%. For more information, go to our town website www.brooklynct.org.

Jocelyne Ruffo, CCMC,
Revenue Collector
March 26, 2021
April 9, 2021
April 30, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Mary P. Larson Seney, AKA Mary Liu-son Seney (21-00089)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 1, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Edmond L. Seney,
c/o THOMAS A BORNER,
BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG
& CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-2429
April 9, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Mary Jean Vasileff, AKA Jean A. Vasileff (21- 00117)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 1, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Gregory A. Vasileff,
c/o WILLIAM H ST ONGE, ST ONGE
& BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281,
(860)928-0481
April 9, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Elaine P Anderson (21-00084)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 30, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kenneth Anderson,
55 Letters Street, Putnam, CT 06260
April 9, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Yvonne M Cote (21-00107)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 28, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Paul J Cote, 236 Quinebaug Ave,
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
Attorney: CHRISTIAN GEORGE
SARANTOPOULOS SARANTOPOULOS & SARANTOPOULOS, LLC
143 SCHOOL STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
April 9, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Arlene Lillian Froehlich, AKA Arlene Froehlich (21- 00062) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 26, 2021, ordered that all claims must be

presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Joanne E Jacobson,
4 Birchwood Drive, Webster, MA 01570
Attorney: WILLIAM J MONTY LAW
OFFICE W MONTY 930 ROUTE 169
PO BOX266
April 9, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Beverly J Hamel (20-00018)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Donna L Konicki., 2 Westgate Road,
Cumberland, RI 02864
Attorney: GAIL JESSEL
ROOKE-NORMAN ROOKE-NORMAN & ASSOC, 31 ACADEMY STREET
PO BOX 347, DANIELSON, CT 06239
April 9, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Emily U, Masiello (21-00072)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 23, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Carolyn A. Hart,
c/o ALYSON R ALEMAN,
BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-2429.
April 9, 2021

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The power of positivity

Every day, we wake up with the best intentions — or we like to think that most of us do. Each new day brings with it specific challenges. Many times, those challenges come by way of a misunderstanding or a shifted perspective. We have come to realize, long ago, that often there is more to a story than we can see at its surface. Just being aware of that one simple fact, can change the way a situation is viewed. Often times it’s easier said than done, however the more we choose to remain optimistic the better. What might seem catastrophic in the moment is usually nothing more than a small frustration that has an easy fix and will pass. A wise man once said, ‘Don’t sweat the small stuff, and it’s all small stuff.’

This isn’t to negate the fact that larger issues do surface and take some time to sort out, however we need to remind ourselves that we are all surrounded by well intended, intelligent people. People who are willing to be helpful, generous, rational and kind through productive conversations will always find the pot of gold in any situation.

Remembering to check a kneejerk reaction before gathering all of the facts is crucial to your ability to remain optimistic. Again, this is not always easy, but once mastered can change everything.

Believe it or not, optimism is a choice and offers surprising benefits. Choosing to look on the bright side of life can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke while also extending your life.

One study revealed that individuals who spent five minutes a day thinking positive thoughts about their future increased their ability to be optimistic in just two weeks. Before turning in at night, list five things that you are grateful for and five things that you are looking forward to. Every time you stop at a traffic light, tell yourself something that you like about yourself. Keeping pessimists in your life at a distance is always a good idea.

When a negative thought does creep through your mind, that’s ok. Recognize it, and decide how realistic it actually is. To offset those thoughts, try spreading positivity yourself. While at work, offer a co-worker an ‘atta boy’ or ‘atta girl’ for a job well done. If your child has been hard at work on a school project, tell them how proud you are. Send a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on your life. When you bestow positivity on others, it has a lasting effect on your own life.


One way to practice being more optimistic is to flip every negative thought with a positive one despite how creative you need to get. For example, if you’re thinking ‘I’m going to be late for dinner and I don’t feel like cooking’ you can flip that by reminding yourself about the wonders of the microwave and take out. If a rainy day has you feeling groggy, remind yourself that those are the best days to read all day, catch up on Netflix and not feel guilty about missing all of that sunshine.

A quote from Rodolfo Costa, “Learn to adapt. Things change, circumstances change. Adjust yourself and your efforts to what it is presented to you so you can respond accordingly. Never see change as a threat, because it can be an opportunity to learn, to grow, evolve and become a better person.”

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to Brendan@villagernewspapers.com
Please include your place of residence and phone number for verification, not publication. Letters must be received by noon on Tuesdays.

ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS



DON'T MISS A THING!

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stimulus bill should have been passed before Biden took office

To the Editor:

I certainly wasn't surprised to see Billy G. Taylor, “after a brief respite,” again return to the keyboard. And seeing that you mentioned it, I actually read your reply on April Fool’s Day (when it was published online), which was a most coincidental and suitable day for it, so I’d say your attempt at flippancy kind of backfired.

I will remind you, though, that my letter was pointed at Democrats still blaming Donald Trump. There is no doubt that the continual blame game also involves Republicans blaming Democrats, and I’ll add that “two wrongs don’t make a right.”

Yes, President Biden signed the stimulus bill, but I feel that’s no accomplishment because it should have been done while Donald Trump was still in office. Fact is that Pelosi and her mindless ilk prevented that from happening because (in her own words) she didn’t want to «put a check next to Trump’s name,» and I invite anybody to prove me wrong about that.

Anyhow, with the money now in hand, there

will be those people who will only remember - and give all the credit to - President Biden for passing the bill, but then again there are those that will remember Pelosi and her spineless minions for holding it up. The people who really needed that money were left to suffer and wait while Pelosi - with the aid of her boot-licking Connecticut puppets - delayed the passing of the bill, and hopefully, this will be considered come re-election time.

Ezekiel Emanuel wrote a controversial piece about the quality of life after age 75. His argument was that older Americans live too long in a diminished state, and he questioned the cost of their consumption and the worth of their contribution. You can form your own opinion about that, but if he was considering the likes of Pelosi, McConnell, Nadler and Waters (to name just a few), when he said this, I’d say that he hit the nail on the head. I’ll also say that what Mr. Emanuel wrote would make a solid argument for term limits.

Ed DeLuca
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Cutting of roadside trees in Brooklyn was mishandled

To the Editor:

Brooklyn, as well as other Northeast Connecticut towns, has many attractive country roads. One of these in Brooklyn, Bush Hill Road, connects Route 169 with Wolf Den Road at the intersection of Hillandale Farm and the Golden Lamb Restaurant. This one-mile road is a designated national historic district, as well as a town designated scenic road.

Recently, the town decided to cut 23 roadside trees on the mile long road. Of the 23 trees, only five showed any signs of rot, and none were dead or in danger of falling. Some of the trees cut were planted by the Booth Family, most recently by Jim Booth of Hillandale Farm, whose mother was instrumental in the naming of the area to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

The cutting of these trees was in direct violation of Connecticut law. The First Selectman of Brooklyn ordered this work. Connecticut General Statutes section 23-59 clearly states – the town Tree Warden has the care and control of all trees and shrubs in whole or part within the limits of and public

road except a state highway, or a public park. The law also states that unless the condition of a tree constitutes an immediate public hazard it must be posted with a notice of proposed removal for a ten-day period. A person may then appeal removal in writing to the tree warden.

As a former 12-year first selectman, I called the First Selectman to ask why the trees were cut in violation of the state law and scenic road ordinance. The response was some angry comments on his part and hanging up of the phone. Part of my telephone call was to suggest the town purchase some replacement trees, and I would find volunteers to plant them. The offer still stands.

All owners of property fronting on town roads in Connecticut should be protective of roadside trees and the laws covering them. If you see a roadside tree being cut or severely trimmed, call the Tree Warden or First Selectman and demand the state law be followed.

Sincerely,

DONALD FRANCIS
BROOKLYN

Credit card dos and don’ts

Establishing and maintaining good credit is one of the most important aspects of personal finance. Not only will a good credit score allow you to borrow for the larger ticket items when you need to – say, to purchase a home or a car – but it is increasingly used as a measure of your overall trustworthiness and reliability. Even some employers are running credit checks on prospective employees. That’s why it’s so important to build and maintain good credit, and using credit cards wisely is an essential piece of that puzzle.

Whether you’re just beginning to teach your teen the fundamentals of credit or you could use a few pointers yourself, the following credit card dos and don’ts are an excellent guide for how to use credit wisely so that you can build and maintain the healthy credit score you need to live well.

First, the basics: how credit cards work.

A credit card is a card issued by a financial company that gives the holder an option to borrow funds, usually at the point of purchase. Credit cards charge interest and are used primarily for short-term financing. Interest typically begins to be charged one month after a purchase is made, and borrowing limits are preset according to an individual’s credit rating.

To seek out new customers, credit card companies often send young adults and other prospects credit card applications in the mail. Typically, these mailings are unsolicited—you may have received a few yourself. But, before you sign on the dotted line and return that application, you should know a bit more about the dos and don’ts of credit cards.

Credit Card Dos:

Shop around. The credit card industry is very competitive, so compare interest rates, credit limits, grace periods, annual fees, terms, and conditions. NerdWallet is a good place to start to compare different cards.

Read the fine print. The application is a contract, so read it thoroughly before you sign it. Watch for terms such as introductory rate, and be sure you know when that introductory interest rate expires.

Pay your bill in full each month. Pay off your statement each month in full and on time; otherwise, you will begin paying interest charges and may be charged late fees. Paying off your bill each month can also help ensure that you stay out of debt.

Track your spending. Look closely at your credit card statements each month to be sure

that you actually approved the charges that appear. Mistakes and fraud can happen, and you don’t want to pay more than you agreed to.

Pay attention to changes in your credit agreement. Occasionally, the credit card company will send you updates on the contract you have with it. If you don’t pay attention, you could miss something important.

Credit Card Don’ts

Don’t spend money you don’t have. Buying things without sufficient funds in your bank account can lead you down a dangerous path. Before you know it, you could be in a lot of debt with no way to pay it off.

Don’t get too close to your maximum credit limit. Creditors want to see that you know how to use your card wisely. Keeping your balance low and making payments in full are good ways to do that. Just because the option to spend more is there doesn’t mean you should take advantage of it.

Don’t sign up for store credit cards just to receive a discount. Opening a credit line at a store to obtain a discount on a purchase then and there may not be a good idea. Remember that credit cards affect your credit score and that opening too many can actually hurt it. Plus, store credit cards tend to have much higher interest rates than those offered by financial institutions.

Don’t apply for additional credit cards if you have balances on others. Pay your balances on existing cards before opening new accounts. Getting in this habit will make you less likely to open too many accounts.

Don’t give your credit card to someone else. Whether you authorize it or not, giving your credit card to someone else to use is against the law.

Although credit cards are important in helping establish a credit history, they are often misused. A credit card can be a powerful tool in the hands of a responsible individual, but it can be destructive if used by someone who is unaware of its pitfalls. Keep these tips in mind before obtaining and using a credit card.

For more tips and resources on how to Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™, visit our Advisor’s Blog at whzwealth.com/advisor-blog.

Presented by Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor Leisl L. Cording, CFP®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial

Finding hope in haikus

How do we cope? The past year has brought unimaginable challenges to so many of us. Everyone has been touched in some way by fear, uncertainty and loneliness. I won’t equate what I have experienced with that of people on the front lines of health care or people who suffered from disease and loss, but I can share what several friends and I decided to do to express ourselves. As part of my tribute to area poets and poetry during the month of April, I will share haikus written during the past year by five women.

Haikus are short. They are generally three lines. The first is five syllables. The second is seven and the third is five. Often they are about nature and have a bit of a surprise at the end. The form originated in Japan and, the internet says, the most famous was written by the poet Basho (1644-1694). Here it is:

“Old pond
A frog
jumps in
The sound
of water.”

No matter how I count this on my fingers, it doesn’t follow the pattern.

So much for the orthodoxy of haiku. I’ll bet it works in Japanese. The form became the driving force for much creativity through the centuries.

About a year ago, Philippa Paquette suggested that we write a haiku a day and email it to each other. We are all writers of one type or another and through the years have sporadically shared our work. Twice we’ve gone on weekend retreats to Cape Cod to write, take a dip in the icy water and laugh. We knew there would be no trips to the beach, no face-to-face meetings. Laughter was fading too. And so we began.

In the spring of 2020, Christine Carter, wrote:

‘Working at my screens
Black dog basks then
looks at me.
Can I walk with you?’

“Winter’s branches float
Should I clean this clogged
up pond?
Peepers chirp and croon.”

Later she wrote:

“Sporting dappled leaves
Shy trout lily peeks up
from
Under her gold crown.”

Dogs and cats turned up in a number of haikus, but I became obsessed with a local fox, smells and birds.

“A hungry red fox,
On the margin of the field
Leaps for breakfast –
mouse!”

Or smells of spring:

“Soft, sweet spring blossoms
Scents wafting on morning air,
But no! Manure truck!”

“Failed to fill feeders.
Morning brought some
dirty looks.
Forgiveness from seeds.”

Mary Ellen Ellsworth is one of the most productive writers as well as an accomplished photographer. She often pairs a haiku with photos. A year ago she wrote about her Star Magnolia:

“Fragile blossoms first,
White, scalloped,
cream-colored eye.
Frost took out delight.”

At Easter this year, she wrote:

“Through the mist and fog
The fields have greened
now. Have I?
New growth? New promise?”

“Wind growls like a train!
Morning daffodils curl
tight.
Bright, beautiful, cold!”

Joan Dash takes remarkable photos of clouds and writes haikus that often have an amusing twist. Here are a few of hers:

“A shy naked maple
Bares its intricate etchings
On a blue canvas.”

“Grateful I’m human



NANCY WEISS

Sports cards are breaking records

SIn my last column, I reported on the Tom Brady rookie card that was nearing \$2 million in an online auction. The bidding ended on April 2, with the rare card selling for \$2.2 million. While there aren't many cards worth millions of dollars, auction prices for cards overall have skyrocketed during the pandemic. Many cards have more than doubled or tripled in value over the past year.

A February Chicago Tribune article cites multiple reasons for the current sports card boom. "Some industry analysts see pandemic stay-at-home boredom as fueling a resurgence of interest, as parents rediscover the hobby and share it with their children," according to the Tribune. They also report, "investors who saw big returns on the stock market last year also have begun to buy into trading cards as an alternative to equities, pumping up prices for the cardboard commodity."

Prices in almost every type of sports card and non-sports card category are seeing strong results. An unopened 1973 Topps wax pack of cards recently sold for \$780. A high grade 1976 Topps Walter Payton Rookie Card #148 went for \$800. An average grade tobacco card of Ty Cobb recently brought \$3,250. Despite being in altered condition, a 1951 Bowman Mickey Mantle Rookie still sold for \$7,100.

PSA (Professional Sports Authenticator) is the most popular card grading company. Their business has increased so much that they reported grading turnaround times were taking up to nine months. They recently put all submissions completely on hold until they can catch up on some of the

backlog. Polygon.com (a video game website) reports that Pokémon cards are partially responsible for the backlog at PSA. Believe it or not, rare 1990s Pokémon hologram cards in near perfect condition can bring six figure sums.

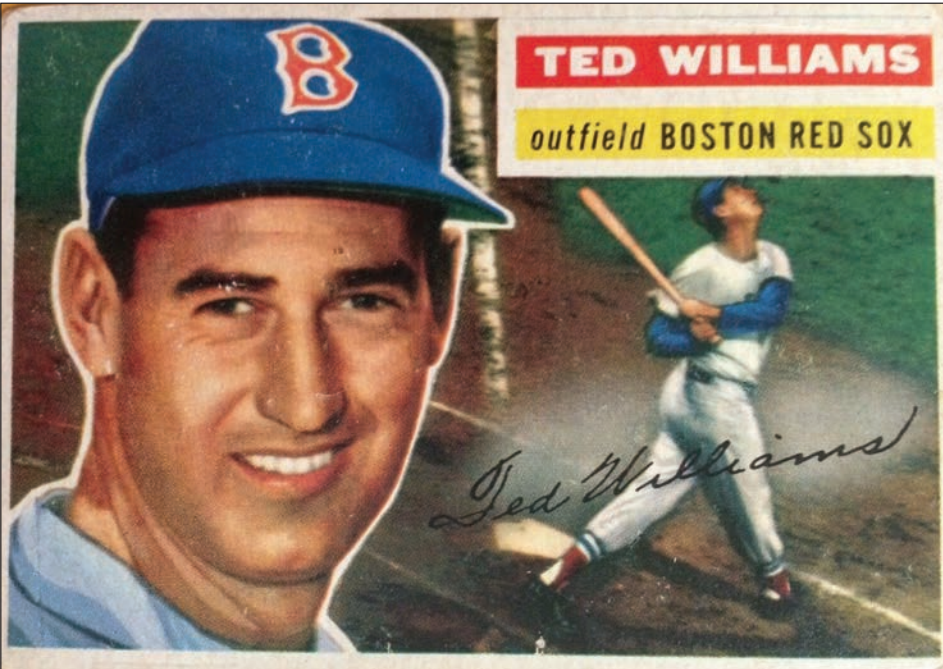
So, will card prices continue to increase? There is no way to say for sure, but the late 1980s and early 1990s saw a card boom similar to what we are experiencing today. To keep up with the demand during that time, companies such as Topps, Fleer and Upper Deck drastically increased production. The demand dried up in the early 1990s. Many people who bought those cards as an investment are still sitting on boxes of nearly worthless cards. It may be the right time to sell your cards now before values decline again.

We will soon be offering an online auction of a large collection of sports and non-sports cards from a Holliston, Mass. estate. Our next session of model railroad trains, die-cast cars, model kits and other toys will also soon be running online. Our multi-estate with jewelry, coins, paintings, more sports cards, and a wide variety of other items takes place in May. Keep watching www.centralmassauctions.com for details on all of these events or use the email signup form on our homepage to be notified of all upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com



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WAYNE TUISKULA



Grow stevia – nature’s sweetener

Sweeten your meals by growing your own sugar substitute in gardens or containers. Stevia is nature's own sweetener that can be snacked upon fresh or added to soups, sauces, or beverages.

Wait for warm nights and the danger of frost to pass before planting stevia outdoors. It is a perennial in USDA zones 8 and warmer, but those gardening in colder areas must grow stevia like an annual.

Start plants from seed, cuttings, or transplants. Seeds are difficult to find and even more difficult to sprout. Use this method if you like a gardening challenge.

Reduce your effort and increase success by starting with transplants. Check garden centers and mail order catalogs for plants. Place Stevia plants 12 inches apart in full sun or light shade with moist well-drained soils. You will get the best growth and most leaves during the long warm days of summer.

Incorporate a low nitrogen slow-release fertilizer in the soil or potting mix at planting. These provide small amounts of nutrients over a long period of time. Make a second application mid-season if needed.

Water new plantings often enough to keep the roots and surrounding soil slightly moist. Gradually extend the time between watering. Thoroughly water whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and slightly moist. Spread a layer of evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic matter over the soil surface. Mulching helps conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil, reducing your time weeding and watering.

Harvest leaves as needed for sweetening your dishes. Munching on a single leaf can help suppress a sweet craving. You may be able to pass on a candy bar and go for a healthier option.

Wait for cool short days at the end of the growing season when the sweetness is most intense to make large harvests for drying. You can dry in a microwave, dehydrator, or a warm dark location in your home. Cut, bundle, and hang stems upside down to air dry. Knock leaves off the stem and save the dried leaves in an airtight jar. Grind the leaves by hand or use a coffee grinder



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

to crush the leaves and release the sweetness. Dried leaves stored in an airtight jar will last for several years.

You can grow stevia indoors in a bright sunny window or under artificial lights. Purchase plants or start your own from cuttings. Check plants often and water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil is starting to dry. Fertilize with a dilute solution of any fertilizer labeled for use on indoor edible plants. Harvest the leaves as needed to sweeten your favorite dishes.

Growing stevia indoors or out can add flavor to your beverages and meals and fun to your gardening experience.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Photo Melinda Myers

Stevia, nature's own sweetener, can be grown indoors or out as long as the plants receive proper care.

Is it time to begin stepping into the light of normalcy?

What is your new normal? It's your choice.

I think my life is forever changed, even though I'm not sure what that means. I believe the pandemic has had a profound and maybe permanent impact on my life. Around the time this shut down began, I received a serious health diagnosis. This one-two punch was powerful.

In the beginning, we only left our home for doctor visits and groceries. For Christmas, our daughter signed us up for Instacart, a shopping home delivery service and I haven't been into a grocery store since Dec. 23.

I wear a mask out of the house always and when I visit the hospital for chemo/immunotherapy treatment, I add a face shield. I wash my hands and never pass a hand sanitizer opportunity. When the pizza man comes, he leaves it on the porch, rings the doorbell and leaves.

I realize my life has been reduced to an exceedingly small size. Partly out of necessity. Partly from following the alleged science that seems to change before our very eyes ... and partly ... maybe mostly ... out of fear. I think many Americans are frightened because the available info changes within the moment and we really do not know what the healthy and safe



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

protocols are.

"Masks don't work" ... wait ... "Masks do work and are mandatory" ... wait ... "one mask doesn't work, so wear two" ... "After vaccination, masks won't be required" ... wait ... "Masks should

be worn into 2022 and maybe beyond." Here's the real kicker ... "Follow the science!" ... wait ... But we've learned that we really have been ignoring the science when it comes to schools and the classroom. Instead, the teacher's unions are leading the way with no scientific basis at all.

Who do we listen to? Who do we believe? Who do we trust? No wonder so many are frightened.

I believe most health officials and politicians continue to act on the best information they have. I'm not a conspiracy theorist and refuse to buy into that brand of anguish. Has the virus been politicized? Of course. It's an unfortunate part of our democratic system. I think most can see through and past it. Are we safe? Will we be again? Were we ever?

I'm told that until we achieve eighty-percent herd immunity there are still risks, but again,

I'm tired of living my life waiting for the next health directive. Arlene and I are vaccinated. It was an easy

decision for us. Being vaccinated makes sense to us and we are happy with our choice. I don't know what to say to the anti-vaccination crowd. I have two friends who are dead from Covid. One died early in the pandemic and one in February. It's real. It's not going away soon. We all must make our choices based upon our personal research, beliefs and needs. I'll encourage all to be vaccinated but will also respect your choice regardless. Do your research and take the proper precautions to protect you and others.

The late, great Vince Lombardi said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all," and I think most of us are fatigued by this pandemic. Get out. Take a breath of fresh air. Do not be afraid.

I do believe it's time to step out of the darkness of fear and into the light.

For Arlene and me, it's time to take our lives back and we started by going grocery shopping and a visit to Staples. Small steps but positive steps towards normalcy.

I began by asking, "What is your new normal?"

It's our choice to make. I'll wear a mask, but I'm not putting on a second. I'll social distance but I'm going to start living my life outside of our home. I can go into the store and pick up my groceries. I can greet friends. Maybe I'll bump fists for a while rather than shaking hands. I'll be cautious.

WEISS

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With warmth, with shelter, with food I pray for lost cats."
"Hydrangea blossoms, they may look fragile in old Age, but they are strong."
Philippa Paquette is full of energy and overall joy at being alive. She is a prolific writer as well as being supportive of the rest of us. Her poems range widely. Here are just three:
"Fragile spring bulb tips Push through cold, rejecting earth. I want their power."
"I am the robin

treetop drinking the dawn light to fire my breast."
"Gold dawn light, like wine "Fresh. Crisp taste, full of promise". Roll it on my tongue."
Our haikus have helped us cope. They brought us personal insight and glimpses of what our friends were feeling. It took diligence to write every day. It took focus to count syllables as the world spun wildly.
It took a bit of courage, just as it does now, to share our 17 syllable thoughts with you.
During poetry month, please send your poems or haikus to: Brendan@villagernewspapers.com.

CORDING

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READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

OBITUARIES

Carrie Nicole McClure (Gunderson), 40

Carrie Nicole McClure (Gunderson), age 40, of Danielson, Connecticut passed away on Wednesday, February 17th, 2021. Carrie was born on April 19th, 1980 to Brenda J. Morin (Hubert, Gunderson) and the late Gregory K. Gunderson.

Carrie is survived by her loving sister, Ashley B. Gunderson, her two children, Robyn S. McClure and Christopher R. McClure, her step-father Emile R. Morin, and her step-sister Ashley A. Nicolosi (Morin), as well as many other family members and friends. She will also be missed a lot by her grandmother, Patricia Gunderson, who loved Carrie unconditionally, and whom Carrie loved dearly as well.

Carrie was a hard worker and was very attentive to the even the smallest



of details. She was quick to offer anyone help, whether she knew them or not. Carrie had many interests and talents, most notably her gift for writing poetry. Though not many were able to see her work, Carrie had mastered the written word and could make a reader truly feel what she was feeling. She loved animals and when she met someone's pet she was always their new best friend. She loved being outside and could always be found at Pulaski State Park or Mashamoquet during the summer, swimming and having cookouts with those she loved. Though Carrie had her struggles, she always maintained her kindness and ability to care for others. She was loved by many, and will be sorely missed by those who knew and loved her.

A celebration of life will be held at a time to be determined when Covid-19 is no longer a concern.

Fernand E. Phaneuf, Jr., 88

WOODSTOCK, CT - Entrepreneur, community leader, pilot, and avid fisherman, Fernand Edgar Phaneuf, Jr., 88, better known as Fern, passed away on March 29, 2021. His greatest joy in life was his family, and he was surrounded by them as he passed. Fern is survived by his loving wife of 65 years Lorraine (Riendeau) Phaneuf; his two children, Anne Falvey and Michael Phaneuf, and his husband John Moniz; his grandchildren, Christopher Syrek and his wife Tori, Gregory Syrek, Sean Falvey, Jessie Phaneuf-Moniz, and Anthony Phaneuf-Moniz, and his great granddaughter Grace Anne Syrek. In addition, he is survived by his nephew Jeff Cartier and his wife Alice, and his niece Judy (Cartier) Favreault and her husband Roland. He is preceded in death by his sister Jeanette (Phaneuf) Cartier, his brother-in-law John Cartier, Sr., his nephew, John Cartier, Jr., and his son in-law, Daniel Syrek.

Born and raised in Woodstock, CT to the late Fernand Phaneuf, Sr. and Edourdina (Garceau) Phaneuf, he attended Woodstock Academy and graduated with the class of 1951. He served in the United States Army in the Military Police Corp during the Korean Conflict. Upon his return, he attended and graduated from New England Institute of Technology (formerly known as New England Technical Institute). Shortly thereafter, he started one of his first entrepreneurial ventures, Fern's Radio & TV, later known



as Fern's Radio, as the successful sales and service distributor of Motorola Products. He also owned and opened Guardian Answering Service, In-Touch Communications, and Tower Sites, Inc.

Fern was also involved in his community. In his early years, he would be seen putting up Christmas lights for the Town of Putnam or serving as a volunteer with the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department. Fern could not just do it, he had to lead it. He served as President of the fire department for three years and also served as President of the Smithfield Figure Skating Club in Rhode Island, one of the skating clubs where his son Michael trained in the sport. However, he is most known for his involvement in the Woodstock Fair, or "Papa's Fair", as it is known to his daughter Anne and grandsons. He served first as the Superintendent of Grounds and then as General Manager for 27 years. He was known for bringing in record numbers of guests and turning the three day fair into the four day fair that it is today. In his spare time, Fern enjoyed being on his boat fishing, traveling with his wife Lorraine, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Services are private and a Celebration of Life will be held in the Fall. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St, Putnam, CT. Memorial donations may be made to the Woodstock Fair for a scholarship fund being created in Fern's memory by the Woodstock Agricultural Society and the Woodstock Fair. Send to Woodstock Fair, PO Box 1, S. Woodstock, CT 06287. Please earmark it for the Fern Phaneuf Scholarship. For memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanandValade.com.

Leon N. Gothreau, Jr., 91

PUTNAM – Leon "Bing" Gothreau, 91, of Fairmount St., passed away on Sunday, March 28, 2021 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester, MA. He was the loving husband of the late Claire L. (Petrin) Gothreau for 65 years. They were married on October 11, 1952 at Saint Mary Church of the Visitation. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Leon N. Gothreau, Sr. and Edna (LaDoux) Gothreau.

Mr. Gothreau was a graduate of St. Mary School and went on to graduate from Putnam High School in 1948. He was a member of the 1946 "undefeated" Putnam High School football team and part of their track team. He served his country during the Korean War. He worked as a journeyman millwright carpenter for Rogers Corp. from 1964 to 1992. He enjoyed



traveling and spending time with his family.

Leon is survived by his son, James Gothreau of Putnam; his daughter, Elaine Richmond and her husband Clark of Pomfret Center; his sister, Dolores Ziobrowski of Chandler, AZ; his grandchildren, Michele Norman, Clinton Richmond, Paisley Jaymes Gothreau, and Shai-Lin Gothreau; his great-grandchildren, Lorenzo Richmond, Luke Norman, Lydia Norman, and Francesca Richmond; and his daughter in-law, Ann-Marie Gothreau of Putnam.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Leon's family from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 in the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church St. Putnam, CT followed by a Mass of Christian Burial which begin at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT Burial in Saint Mary Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to PAWS animal shelter, 240 Route 171., Woodstock, CT 06281. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Yolande B. Rounds-Tichey, 92

Yolande B. (Lalumière) Rounds-Tichey, age 92 years young, of Fairfield, CT, peacefully passed into life everlasting with her daughter, Beverley, holding her hand on Good Friday, April 10, 2020. She was born into a large loving Catholic family (8th of 16 children) in Weedon, Quebec, Canada to Louis Clarence and Léonie M. (Lafond) Lalumière. Her family came to the United States in 1941 and settled in Danielson, CT. She became a United States citizen in 1949 and lived at her home in Lake Hills for 55 years. She was a retired employee of Harvey Hubbell Co., a faithful parishioner of St. Pius X Church, a fan of the Boston Red Sox and forever a true French Canadian at heart. Her greatest enjoyment during retirement was her passion for walking and to see the United States on the back of a motorcycle. Her love of Christmas was never celebrated without the true meaning. Always ready with a hug and many love taps, she will be remembered by her family as a loving daughter, sister, aunt, godmother, wife, mom, mother-in-law, Mémé and friend. She is sur-



vived by two additional children, her son, Jean and daughter, Anne-Marie; grandchildren, Michele, Erika, Nathan and Benjamin; great grandchildren, Victor, Daron and Tiani; great great grandson, Aiden; one brother, Gustave Lalumière and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her parents and sisters, Rosina Pouliot, Anna Tetreault, Cécil Brunet, Émilienne Ciborowski and Aline Deloge; brothers, Henri-Louis, René, Alfred Leopold, Gérard, Jean Marc, Normand, Jacques, Claude and Pierre. On the 1st anniversary of her death a funeral mass will be held at St. James Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT on April 10, 2021 at 10:00am. Immediately following the mass her ashes will be taken to Holy Cross Cemetery for burial with her family. Masks and social distancing rules will apply for those attending. In lieu of flowers, family and friends are invited to donate in her memory to: Society of the Little Flower – <https://www.littleflower.org>

Mom, You may have forgotten many things but the one thing you never forgot was how to say "I love you." You will be with us in our hearts forever until we see you again. Love, John, Annie and Bev

Jean Ann Burton (Terwilleger) passed away on the 18th of March, 2021, in Florida. A Connecticut native, Jean was born on September 17, 1942 in South Killingly as the only child of Henrietta Pichie and Robert (Sam) Terwilleger. She graduated from Killingly High School in 1960 and went on to attend Roger Williams University. After earning her nursing license in 1963, Jean worked as a registered nurse at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam for 36 years until her retirement in 2005. While at Day Kimball, Jean worked in the recovery room, the OR, and was the charge (supervisory) nurse of the ambulatory care unit when it opened. Jean cared deeply about her work and continued to volunteer at the hospital following her retirement. She is remembered by her colleagues as one of the most hardworking and dedicated RNs at Day Kimball during her 36-year tenure.

While Jean's career gave her much to be proud of, her greatest sense of pride came from being a mom, stepmom, and grandma. Jean raised her two daughters, Susan (Cooper) Theroux and Patty (Cooper) Bradbury, in Killingly. Jean passed on her strong work ethic and



love of reading, and was an endless source of support for her children until her final days. Jean (and her famous coffee cakes) will be greatly missed by her family.

Jean also leaves behind her loving husband of 35 years, Henry Burton. The pair met later in life and complemented each other in every way. Jean and Henry lived the kind of retirement many of us dream of: they split their time between Connecticut and Florida following good weather and golf seasons. They enjoyed the company of many close friends and neighbors in both places. Jean and Henry were long-time members of the Quinnetis Country Club in Thompson, CT and the New Smyrna Municipal Golf Club in New Smyrna Beach, FL.

Jean leaves behind her husband Henry Burton; her two daughters Susan (Cooper) Theroux (Paul) and Patty (Cooper) Bradbury; her stepchildren Debbie (Burton) Weld (Craig), Linda (Burton) Dube (Peter), Scott Burton (Christine); her nine grandchildren; as well as countless close friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, and her favorite Aunt, Alice Mott.

A celebration of life will be held in Brooklyn, CT in June. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Quinebaug Valley Senior Citizen Center, 69 South Main St., Brooklyn, CT. 06234.

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COMMUNITY

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lowed halls. Earthsave, Family Related Effective Solutions for Humanity (FRESH), Multicultural Club, and School Climate Activists all share the mission of serving the greater community.

"EarthSave club brings students together that are inspired to be change agents," said advisor Melany Gronski. "These students will not accept that the environmental problems of climate change, pollution, and food shortage are hopeless. They live in hope and want to act. They desire to be empowered and

they inspire me in the process."

While the B Club focuses on medical issues, EarthSave members grow food in a garden which is then shared with those who are food insecure. They volunteer to clean areas of trash and even come up with innovative ideas such as creating lip balm out of beeswax, provided to them by assistant head of school John Rigney and his family.

FRESH is a group that offers students many ways to lend a helping hand. It helped senior Eli Werstler realize there is more to school life than school sports. "I became involved in FRESH last year, though I wish now that I had joined earlier. I think that the club really does positive, important things,

which is generally rare in my opinion, especially seeing what we do in honor societies and things like that. I think it's very important to donate your time and energy towards certain selfless activities such as volunteering, usually involving helping other people, and FRESH is a great way to do just that," Werstler said.

FRESH also helps those dealing with food insecurity through a food pantry that supplies dozens of Woodstock Academy students' families with food on a weekly basis. The group also holds fundraisers for scholarship programs, sponsors a conference for middle school students who will be attending Woodstock Academy in the future, and

also helps younger students through a mentoring program in coordination with local elementary schools.

It's all a vital part of the learning process that exposes Woodstock Academy students to the true needs of the world around them and shows them that one person or a group of people can indeed make a large difference.

"There is great power in the smallest gesture of kindness, and when individuals understand that they have access to this kind of power to change society, it indicates that their educational experiences at The Academy have been successful," said Woodstock Academy associate head of school Holly Singleton.

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How to foster a love of music in children

Music enriches people's lives in myriad ways. Age is of no consideration when it comes to benefitting from and appreciating music, but it seems that young people in particular have a lot to gain from music education.

According to the New England Board of Higher Education, various studies have found that consistent music education can improve vocabulary and reading comprehension skills. In addition, the National Association for Music Education says that research has found a significant relationship between arts participation at school and academic success.

Parents who want their children to reap the benefits of being involved with music can try the following strategies aimed at fostering a love of music in young people.

- Turn the television off and turn music on. Exposing youngsters to music is one of the simplest and most effective ways to get them to embrace it. For example, in lieu of turning on the television while preparing meals, parents can play music instead. Let youngsters pick their own songs or mix it up by including some of mom and dad's favorites as well. Such exposure can be incredibly valuable for youngsters. In fact, a 2016 study from researchers at the University of Southern California found that musical experiences in childhood accelerate brain development. Music is especially effective at helping children in language acquisition and reading.
- Replay kids' favorite songs. Another way to build kids' enthusiasm for music is to replay some of their favorite songs. While mom and dad may cringe at the prospect of hearing "Baby Shark" several times in a row, they should take note of how enthusiastic their kids become when hearing a favorite song. And that enthusiasm can benefit their language skills as they listen closely to the lyrics in an effort to memorize the words. Youngsters may not be so receptive if they don't like what they're hearing.
- Dance to music. Kids are bundles of energy, and dancing is a fun way for them to expend some of that energy. Dancing also provides a great reason to play music. Physical activity set to music can help kids burn off some extra energy as they develop their brains, making dance sessions a win-win for both parents and children.
- Embrace opportunities to see live music. Kids are often captivated by seeing musicians perform in person. When possible, take youngsters to concerts, local music festivals and/or restaurants that showcase local musicians. Such excursions may prompt youngsters to want to learn how to play, which can provide a host of additional benefits, even for especially young children. In fact, a 1996 study published in *Nature* found that first grade students who took part in music classes during art study programs experienced marked improvement in reading and math proficiency.



Music enriches people's lives in various ways, and exposure to music at a young age can be especially valuable to children.

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Rain

SPANISH: Lluvia

ITALIAN: Pioggia

FRENCH: Pluie

GERMAN: Regen

Did You Know?

MAWSYNRAM, INDIA IS ONE OF THE WETTEST PLACES ON EARTH. THIS REGION RECEIVES THE HIGHEST RAINFALL IN INDIA. THE MAJORITY OF ITS RAIN FALLS DURING THE MONSOON SEASON.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RAIN BOOTS

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Easter. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 22 = U)

A. 6 16 9 12 15 6 22 14
Clue: Constant and steadfast

B. 21 10 13 10 22 17
Clue: Full of happiness

C. 2 16 17 12 2 26
Clue: Spring Christian holiday

D. 7 22 3 3 13
Clue: Hopping animal

Answers: A. faithful B. joyous C. Easter D. bunny

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

ANSWER:

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