



THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, December 11, 2020 Serving Thompson since 2005 Complimentary to homes by request

Putnam transitions to remote learning remainder of year

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM – Putnam Public Schools have joined the growing list of school districts shifting to remote learning for the remainder of 2020 and into early 2021.

Superintendent Daniel Sullivan released a letter to parents, guardians and staff on Dec. 4 announcing that Putnam Public Schools would shift grades two through 12 to remote learning effecting Thursday, Dec. 10. Kindergarten and Grade 1 student will transition later in the month on Dec. 21. The change remains in effect until at least Jan. 11 of 2021. Acknowledging the potentially divided reactions the decision would bring the Superintendent said he felt confident that the move was the right decision in wake of the increased number of COVID-19 cases being

reported statewide as a second wave of the pandemic takes hold of the country.

“Please know that every decision that we have made since the beginning of the pandemic last March, up to and including this one, has been about health and safety,” Superintendent Sullivan said. “Over the course of the last two weeks, I participated in multiple calls with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Northeast District Department of Public Health, and spoke personally with a Cardiologist at Day Kimball who works on the front lines of this pandemic. Additionally, I read multiple articles about the health and safety of schools, and predictions regarding the impact of COVID-19 on our region and the state itself. Based upon my conversations and analysis of available

information, a few things stand out. COVID-19 cases are likely to peak in Northeast Connecticut in the next four to six weeks. While the rate of in-school transmission remains low, we have had more students and staff out in recent weeks due to either testing positive or being an identified contact.”

The superintendent also acknowledged that more parents have opted for remote learning for their children as positive cases have increased in the region. The decision to transition to remote learning is also in line with CDC recommendations taking into account the number of new cases per 100,000 people over a 14-day period in Putnam. The superintendent’s letter also noted that the Northeast District Department of Health has indicated delays in

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Photo Courtesy

Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus Grand Knight John D. Ryan gave blood during a December 4 Red Cross blood drive, held at St. Mary Church of the Visitation in Putnam, Connecticut. This was the third and final blood drive sponsored by the Putnam council in 2020. The three events collected a combined total of 89 pints

Putnam Knights of Columbus sponsor successful blood drives

PUTNAM — Over the last five months, Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus, has collected 89 pints of blood for the Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross.

On Friday, Dec. 4, the Catholic family fraternal group sponsored its third and final blood drive of 2020. Red Cross blood donor teams went to work in the basement of St. Mary Church

of the Visitation on Providence Street in July, October and finally last Friday, screening donors from the public and taking their blood.

The blood drives were the brainchild of Cargill Council 64 Brother Knight David G. Lamontagne, Sr., who proposed the idea and went to work with Red Cross, church and K of C officials to put

the collection efforts together. Lamontagne, a Past Grand Knight, serves today as both Cargill Council’s Health Director and its District Deputy.

“Most of us know someone who has been a receiver of blood from a donor; we just may not know who that person is,” Lamontagne

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Photo Courtesy

High school gyms will remain empty due to the national Coronavirus pandemic. And in Connecticut, the start date for the winter season has been pushed back to Jan. 19, 2021.

Late start to winter season causes concern for local administration

TENTATIVE START DATE OF
JAN. 19 SET BY CIAC

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Last month’s decision by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) to postpone the start of the winter athletic season in the Nutmeg State to Jan. 19, 2021, was a cause for concern for local high school athletic directors.

“We had a Zoom meeting with the CIAC today [Dec. 3] and they didn’t say much other than Jan. 19 is the target date to start the winter season, if [the CIAC] is given the go ahead to start

from the [Connecticut Department of Public Health],” Killingly High athletic director Kevin Marcoux said in a phone interview last week. “They [the CIAC] haven’t moved it out further and haven’t cancelled anything. They’re hopeful they can have some sort of a winter season.”

Marcoux, like many of his fellow ADs, hoped for more information, but was pleased the announcement wasn’t of a more dire nature.

“Like a lot of people, I was expecting some kind of announcement

to either postpone the season further or cancel it altogether based on the [COVID-19] numbers in the state over the last few weeks,” Marcoux said.

On Nov. 17, the CIAC issued a statement which read, in part: “The CIAC Board of Control acted this morning to postpone all winter sports to January 19, 2021. The CIAC Board of Control will continue to collaborate with the DPH, Governor [Ned]

Turn To **SPORTS**, page **A2**

‘Find Your Way’ to Thompson

THOMPSON — Thompson’s Branding Strategy Implementation Committee, Economic Development Commission and Board of Selectmen are excited to announce the launch of a new municipal brand: Thompson, CT... Find Your Way!

In June of 2020, EDC contracted for the design and development of the Brand Package and Marketing Strategy with Sullivan and LeShane, Public Relations. Sullivan and LeShane facilitated an energetic focus group for members of the community, after which they assisted the Branding Committee in narrowing down three key marketing messages: Thompson is reachable, centrally located

and convenient to Boston, Providence, and Hartford; Thompson is a welcoming, green and growing community, brimming with opportunities to live, work, play and visit; and Thompson is committed to achieving growth in a way that is green, sustainable, and innovative.

A brand logo, themes and iconography for marketing materials were developed based on Thompson’s landmarks and natural features. The River Mill and our many Farms represent our past as well as future economic growth and development. The inclusion of trails, waterways, bicyclists and hikers in the logo are representative of the vast outdoor recreation opportunities

within reach right here in Thompson.

The third piece of the plan, a Media Relations Strategy, included the implementation of an online events calendar and strategies to generate positive publicity both within Thompson and for visitors.

Consistent, unified messages and images will identify Thompson as a business friendly town; as a destination for visitors to enjoy our many outdoor recreational activities; and as a small town with both a classic New England appeal and an innovative mindset. As our Town develops and grows, this logo will serve to invite new residents, visitors and more

Turn To **BRAND**, page **A4**

What makes a toy good?

EASTERN PREMIERES VIDEO ON “LESSONS LEARNED FROM 10 YEARS OF THE TIMPANI TOY STUDY”

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University released a short video on Dec. 3 describing the best toys for young children based on 10 years of research through the University’s renowned TIMPANI Toy Study. An acronym for “Toys that Inspire Mindful Play and Nurture Imagination,” TIMPANI is an annual study that investigates the quality of play elicited by different toys in natural settings. Due to precautions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Eastern cancelled its 2020 study, instead producing this short video summarizing the chief findings and lessons from the past decade.

Titled “What Makes a Toy Good? Lessons Learned from 10 Years of the TIMPANI Toy Study,” the six-minute video features new footage - filmed before the pandemic - of children interacting with some of the highest-scoring TIMPANI

toys. Staff members from Eastern’s on-campus preschool joined Professor Emeritus Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, the study’s principal investigator, to provide commentary and insight based on years of scientific study and classroom experience.

Researchers have found that no matter how much toys evolve technologically, simple is better.

“Some of the highest-scoring are good, old-fashioned toys that have been around forever,” said Trawick-Smith, mentioning such classics as wooden blocks, Tinkertoys and Legos. “Toys that have been used for generations are still very valuable for children’s development.”

Led by Eastern’s Center for Early Childhood Education (CECE), a different selection of toys is placed each year in preschool classrooms at the on-campus Child and Family Development Resource Center (CFDRC). Student researchers use hidden cameras to videotape children playing with the toys, then code the footage according to the study’s evaluation rubric, which assesses how well each toy inspires children’s problem-solving, cooperation with peers, creativity and use of language.

Trawick-Smith says that the two most powerful types of toys are construction toys and replica play toys - small people, animals and vehicles.

Using these toys, he said,

“Children play out elaborate scenarios, promoting symbolic thought, social interaction and verbalization.”

The TIMPANI study has found that the most powerful toys for early childhood development are simple, open ended, nonrealistic and feature multiple parts. Simple, open-ended toys promote creative uses. Nonrealistic toys are ambiguous and don’t suggest a particular use, which promotes language skills as the children need to explain their play scenarios. And toys with multiple parts promote cooperative play as children tend to share, negotiate and use teamwork while using them.

Heather Standish ‘15, a lead preschool teacher, pointed out

another characteristic of a powerful toy: “One that everyone can engage with,” regardless of language - toys that bridge language barriers during cooperative play.

Since its inception in 2010, 26 Eastern students, led by early childhood faculty researchers, have reviewed the quality of play stimulated by more than 100 toys, annually crowning those with the highest score as the TIMPANI Toy of the Year. Approximately 20 of the study’s highest-scoring toys were placed in five CFDRC classrooms for this new video.

Watch the video on the CECE’s website at <https://www.easternct.edu/center-for-early-childhood-education/timpani/what-makes-a-good-toy.html>. To learn more about TIMPANI, visit <https://www.easternct.edu/center-for-early-childhood-education/timpani/index.html>.

CREAMERY BROOK VILLAGE EMPLOYEES SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PANTRY



Photo Courtesy

Creamery Brook Village employees had some fun donating food, gift cards and monetary funds to Project Pin Food Pantry in Moosup. They had a competition between departments and the Dietary Department headed by Chef Tom blew it away! The dietary staff collected half the donations out of the four departments. The total amount collected was 20 boxes of food, weighing close to 400 pounds.

Anne Collelo, coordinator of the event said, “We were so happy to help Project PIN on their mission serving those in need.” Tim Kettle director of Project PIN food pantry was touched by the outpouring of aid by the various local organizations and community. “We were able to serve 410 families this year, up from the typical number of about 280.” Creamery Brook regularly participates in Social Accountability, and it feels good to give back! Pictured are the Dietary staff who won the competition. Top row L- R Lance Groh, cook , Tom Kampe, Chef , Gary Tetreault, kitchen staff, Emma Hunt, cook , Jamie Shaw, server. Bottom, L-R: Haven Renshaw, server , Larda Yottivong, server.

Weiss, Hale & Zahansky’s Leisl L. Cording graduates from CFEI Program

POMFRET CENTER — Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors’ Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor, Leisl L. Cording, CFP®, Graduates from the Certified Financial Education Instructor (CFEI) Program.

Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors has a mission focused on delivering the best wealth management experience to every client, every time. To deliver on this mission, a strong team focus on skill and competency growth is necessary. Recently, Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor, Leisl L. Cording, CFP®, has graduated from the Certified Financial Education Instructor (CFEI) program. Now having completed this rigorous program, Leisl may officially identify her-

self as a Certified Financial Education Instructor. Additionally, she was accepted in the Personal Finance Speakers Association and has the opportunity to conduct financial literacy presentations.

The concept of financial literacy is a passion for Leisl as she aims to help improve basic financial literacy skills for society.

“Leisl’s commitment to our clients and her personal growth has been tremendous. Improving financial literacy is a cause WHZ is pleased to help with and invest in,” states Managing Partner James Zahansky.

Cording joined our advisory team January 2019, with the focus to help our clients work toward achieving their life financial life goals utilizing our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process.

POLICE LOGS

Putnam police log

PUTNAM — The Putnam Police Department reports the following recent arrests.

Brian Lee Sautter, age 35, current address unknown, was arrested on Dec. 1 for Assault in the First Degree, Kidnapping in the First Degree, Cruelty to Persons, Threatening in the Second Degree, Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, Conspiracy To Assault in the First Degree, and Conspiracy to Kidnapping in the First Degree.

Tiffany E. Morong, age 32, of Putnam was arrested on Dec. 2 for Disorderly Conduct and Assault.

Kathy L. Peters, age 61, of Killingly was arrested on Dec. 3 for Larceny (Shoplifting).

John Carpenter, age 39, of Putnam was arrested on Dec. 3 for Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Sandra Carr, age 49, was arrested on Dec. 6 for Operating Under the Influence, Failure to Maintain Lane, and Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Villager Newspapers

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.



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Day Kimball Healthcare hosts Annual “Warmth & Wellness” Holiday Drive

PUTNAM—DayKimballHealthcare’s (DKH) Warmth & Wellness Holiday Drive is back. For a fourth consecutive year, DKH will be collecting personal care items, hats, gloves, blankets and more for those in need across Northeast Connecticut.

DKH invites its staff and the community to drop off donations at designated Warmth & Wellness holiday trees located at Day Kimball Hospital’s Main Entrance (Entrance A), or the Plainfield Healthcare Center Lobby through January 10, 2021. Donations

will then be distributed to those in need through TEEG, Interfaith Human Services’ Food Pantry, DKH Family Advocacy Center, and DKH Behavioral Health Outpatient Services.

The Warmth and Wellness Drive is seeking donations of the following items:

First aid items; toothbrushes, toothpaste and mouthwash; shampoo; bar soap, body wash, facecloths and hand towels; hand sanitizer and wet wipes; toilet paper and feminine products; hand warmers and foot powder; laun-

dry detergent; new blankets, throws or sleeping bags; new bed pillows and pillowcases; new socks for both children and adults; and new mittens and hats for both children and adults.

Day Kimball Healthcare thanks the community for its generosity this holiday season.

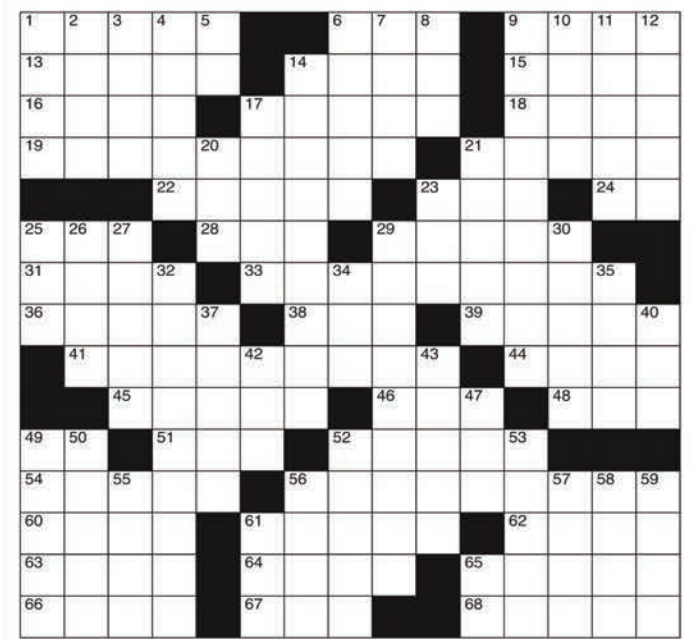
For more information call the Day Kimball Healthcare Development Office at 860-928-7141 or visit daykimball.org/holiday-drive.

About Day Kimball Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprof-

it 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.

READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Skateboarders love them
 - 6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
 - 9. Former Ohio State great Michael
 - 13. Not dirty
 - 14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
 - 15. A Spanish river
 - 16. Pig meat (French)
 - 17. Famed astronomer
 - 18. Floating ice
 - 19. Broadcast
 - 21. Aquatic mammals
 - 22. Some are bath
 - 23. Hip hop trio
 - 24. NY Giants’ #56
 - 25. Small European viper
 - 28. Neither
 - 29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
 - 31. Loud noise
 - 33. Second year high schooler
 - 36. “__ in comparison”
 - 38. Golf score
 - 39. Raise
 - 41. Pastas
 - 44. Easily manageable
 - 45. Fathered
 - 46. Pouch
 - 48. Institute legal proceedings against
 - 49. News organization
 - 51. Unruly group of people
 - 52. Fasten or secure
 - 54. Sheets of glass
 - 56. Doubled
 - 60. Foolish person
 - 61. Rooney and Kate are two
 - 62. Small, rich sponge cake
 - 63. Advice or counsel
 - 64. Large wading bird
 - 65. Famed British physicist
 - 66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
 - 67. Field force unit
 - 68. Lying face downward

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
 - 2. Soap ingredient
 - 3. Blackbird
 - 4. Single steps
 - 5. Tin
 - 6. Books have lots of them
 - 7. Made of fermented honey and water
 - 8. You can get it in a bed
 - 9. Room for communal meals
 - 10. Early Syrian kingdom
 - 11. Provokes dry amusement
 - 12. Use with “thou”
 - 14. Mollusk
 - 17. Grain storage units
 - 20. Not a car, not a truck
 - 21. Ooze
 - 23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
 - 25. Tennis pros group
 - 26. Something that’s not what it’s purported to be
 - 27. E. Indian trees
 - 29. Beloved December holiday
 - 30. Regions
 - 32. Metric unit of length
 - 34. Peter’s last name
 - 35. Beige
 - 37. 18-year period in astronomy
 - 40. Where golfers begin
 - 42. Basketball stat (abbr.)
 - 43. Frocks
 - 47. Soda comes in it
 - 49. On approval
 - 50. Trims by cutting
 - 52. Small finch
 - 53. Language Bura__
 - 55. Nothing
 - 56. Imbecile (British)
 - 57. Tropical Asian plant
 - 58. Abba __, Israeli politician
 - 59. Small freshwater fish
 - 61. Indicates position
 - 65. Data processing

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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C	L	E	A	N		G	A	E	A		E	B	R	O
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Registration open for 2021 Tri-Town American Legion Baseball season

REGION — American Legion Baseball is the premier amateur baseball program in America for young men 13-19 years old. It was established by the veterans of America’s armed service in 1925 to promote sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, leadership, personal fitness and baseball at its best for the young men of America. Players are expected to uphold the American Legion Code as determined by the American Legion Executive Committee.

Baseball offers competitive play to residents from Thompson, Woodstock, Putnam & Eastford. The 2021 teams will play in three age divisions (15U, 17U & 19U) and players can “play up” depending on their abilities and coaching needs.

Tri-Town American Legion Baseball prides itself with their experienced and successful coaching, offseason indoor training and practice or games six days a week during the season. We will also be sending our 19U & 17U teams to compete in

tournaments where they will be exposed to regional college coaches. At the conclusion of our season, we host a banquet with awards and one graduating high school senior will be the recipient of the Ronald & Donna Coderre Scholar Athlete Scholarship.

The 2021 Tri-Town American Legion Baseball registration is now open. Please see the ad in this week’s edition of The Villager for more details.

Local college student’s project gives back to community

KILLINGLY — Brian O’Dea, a local college student attending Manchester Community College, contacted Killingly Parks and Recreation department this past summer with a independent study project for his Exercise Science class.

Having spent many afternoons at Owen Bell Park he offered up the idea of adding a piece of outdoor exercise equipment to the landscape. After meeting with the parks and recreation director and park crew leader to pitch his idea

a plan was put together, a site selected and the project scheduled.

Part of O’Dea’s plan was to utilize a “Go Fund Me” campaign to defray the cost while also receiving a donation of materials from Quickrete, a local business. With the help of his father Michael and friend Tony DoMonte the equipment, which can be used for chin ups, incline push ups and more, has found a home near the track and the back trails of the park for all fitness enthusiast to take advantage of.



Photo Courtesy
Brian O’Dea is pictured here at work on the new addition to Owen Bell Park.

BRAND
continued from page A1

importantly businesses to “find their way” to Thompson.

Thompson is more than a message and logo, however. Town Departments, Boards,

Commissions, and Committees as well as partners on the regional, state and federal level have been working together as we strive to live up to the key messages outlined above. Newly adopted Planning & Zoning regulations will make the process of doing business in town much simpler; a new website and increased social media engagement continue to improve communication with residents and visitors alike; the development of a way-

finding plan that includes signs and markers for key visitor, historic, and business destinations will make it easier for folks to find their way around once they have found their way to town; and the ongoing development of the Train Wreck Park Plan, are just some of Thompson’s major achievements over the last two years.

Watch for the unveiling of the “Thompson, CT...Find Your Way” Brand over the next 30-60 days. Stay tuned!

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Grow your own herbal centerpiece for the holidays



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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MELINDA
MYERS

Dress up the table and your holiday meals with a centerpiece of fresh herbs. You and your family will enjoy snipping a few fresh sprigs to season your meal to your own taste. Purchase plants so they will be ready to harvest for the holidays. Many garden centers now carry herb plants year-round and some grocery stores sell herb plants in their produce department. Include herbs your family likes and those that complement your menu. Grow plants in individual containers or plant several in one larger decorative pot. Select a container with drainage holes and one that complements your table setting. Double pot plants when using a decorative contain-

er that lacks drainage holes. Plant herbs in a smaller pot with drainage holes. You can set several individual pots in a larger container. Place pebbles in the bottom of the decorative pot. These elevate the inner pots above any excess water that collects in the bottom of the decorative pot. Better for the plants and less work for you. Use a quality, well-drained potting mix when moving herbs into another container. Be sure to place a saucer or tray under the pot to protect your furniture. Set on a decorative placemat for added protection and add a few seasonal items to complete your display. Include some basil to dress up a pizza, salad, or soup with just a few leaves. Add some oregano for seasoning any tomato-based dishes such as pizza and pasta. Use fresh thyme to add flavor to cheeses, eggs, tomatoes, and lentil. Lemon thyme makes a nice tea. Chives' mild onion flavor is great on potatoes, but consider adding it to soups, dips, seafood dishes, and omelets. Just snip a few leaves and cut them into

smaller pieces before adding them to your dish. Parsley is high in vitamin C and often added to soups, pasta, salads, and dressings. Harvest a sprig at the end of the meal to freshen your breath. Always water plants thoroughly when the top inch of soil is starting to dry. Basil likes slightly moist soil but not soggy wet. Pour off excess water that collects in the saucer or elevate the pot on pebbles above any water that lingers in the saucer or tray. And don't forget the snips. Let everyone add their own favorite herbal seasonings to their meal. Encourage everyone to make the cut above a set of leaves. This keeps the plant looking good and the wound will close quickly. And don't be timid; regular harvesting encourages new growth for future harvests. When the herbal centerpiece is not dressing up the table, move the plants to a sunny window or under artificial lights. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air. Continue watering it thoroughly as needed. Everyone will appreciate the



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

An edible herbal centerpiece allows guests to snip herbs to season their meal.

fresh flavor and fun of flavoring their own meals right at the table during your holiday meal. Melinda Myers is the author of 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 a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Legal experts to speak at Veterans Coffeehouse

PUTNAM — The Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse is please to announce Frank G. Herzog and Kate Cerrone from the Putnam office of The Northeast Law Center will be the guest speakers on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Attorney Herzog concentrates his practice in elder law, including Title XIX planning, trust and will preparation, estate plan-

ning and trust administration, and probate litigation. He also handles real estate matters and corporate matters such as formation of corporate entities, and corporate succession planning. Attorney Cerrone is a civil litigator and business lawyer with twenty years of experience. Her practice is primarily comprised of civil litigation, business law, real estate and estate plan-

ning. She also handles various types of civil cases, including divorce, land use and employment discrimination. Cerrone also does transactional work for businesses such as business filings and entity formation. The Coffeehouse speaker presentation is open to all veterans, and is held at the Putnam Elks Lodge, Putnam, opening at 8:30 a.m.

Jimmy collecting for Tommy

BROOKLYN — Jimmy's Kids Foundation founder 74 year old Jim Phaiah, of Brooklyn, will once again be accepting donations of checks and new unwrapped toys for the Bulletin's Tommy Toy Fund. This is the 18th year Phaiah has been on the TT Fund Committee, and over the years has collected approximately \$100,000 for the areas children and families.

Once again, Brooklyn Market has agreed to be a collection site drop off located at 107 Hartford Road, Brooklyn. Checks can be mailed directly to Tommy Toy Fund c/o of the Bulletin, 10 Railroad Place, Norwich, CT, 06360, phone number 860-887-9211. For more/any information, contact Jim at 860-774-1720, or jimmyskidsfoundation@charter.net.

Winter Boot Drive to be held Saturday

WOODSTOCK — Due to the very rough weather last Saturday, the Winter Boot Drive presented by the Woodstock Democratic Town Committee and TEEG was postponed to Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Station #76 (next to Town Hall on Route 169). The Winter Boot Drive will benefit Woodstock's children and other children served by TEEG. Donors are requested to bring NEW, unwrapped children's winter boots (any size, either gender) to the boot drive on the 12th, or mail checks (payable to TEEG) to: WDTCC, Attn: Winter Boot Drive, PO Box 813, Woodstock, CT 06281. Cash donations will be used to purchase additional boots for area children.



Day Kimball Healthcare's Women's Health Team
Front Row: Amna Aziz, MD; Elena Poloukhine, MD; Robyn Martin, APRN; Lacey Luneau, PA-C; Regan Murchison, MD
Back Row: Andrew MacKenzie, MD; Julie Van Saun, PA-C; Devon Jacobson, MD; Erica Kesselman, MD

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Must-haves to achieve a holiday wonderland

The end of the year marks a period of heightened festivity. Come the holiday season, homes and businesses are decorated and everyone seems to have an extra spring in their step.

The sight of snowflakes, candy canes, evergreen wreaths, and Christmas trees can elicit nostalgia for happy holidays of the past, as well as excitement for what is yet to come. When it comes to decorating for the holidays, there are certain items that set the scene.

- Christmas trees: Germany is credited with starting the modern Christmas tree tradition. It dates back to the 16th century when devout Christians brought trees into their homes and decorated them. German settlers brought Christmas tree traditions to America upon their arrival in Pennsylvania in the 19th century.

- Mistletoe: Mistletoe is known as the “kissing plant” and it is customary for couples to kiss while standing beneath the plant, typically hung in doorways and arches. Mistletoe was once hung to drive off evil spirits and ensure fertility. Kissing under the mistletoe was first found associated with the Greek festival of Saturnalia and later with



primitive marriage rites.

- Lights: Lights are commonly seen during the holiday season. The custom of having holiday lights dates back to when Christmas trees were decorated

with candles, which symbolized Christ being the light of the world. These traditions evolved from pagan rituals that would celebrate the return of light of the sun as the days grow longer after

the winter solstice.

- Yule log: Many families burn a yule log in the fireplace and watch it burn while listening to Christmas carols. The familiar custom of burning the log dates back to solstice celebrations and the tradition of bonfires. The Christmas tradition called for burning a portion of the log each evening until Twelfth Night, also known as the Epiphany, which takes place on January 6.

- Poinsettias: Poinsettias are a tropical plant that originated in Mexico. Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first Ambassador from the United States to Mexico. He became enamored with the plants, and brought them back to his native South Carolina. An old Mexican legend suggests a poor girl had nothing to offer baby Jesus at Christmas Eve services, so she picked a handful of weeds and put them at the bottom of the nativity scene. These weeds burst into bright red flowers and became known as “Flores de Noche Buena,” or “Flowers of the Holy Night.”

Holiday decorations borrow traditions from all over the world to help establish a festive wonderland. HL20A32

Tradition a major component of Chanukah celebrations



ecrating the Jewish Temple. Opposition to Antiochus grew, and a group led by Mattathias the Hasmonean and his son, Judah Maccabee, took on the Syrian army. They were successful in their efforts to combat religious oppression, and the Temple was subsequently rededicated. The Talmud states that, at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Greeks. This posed a problem because oil was needed to burn the Temple menorah throughout the night every night. However, there was only enough left for one night’s illumination. Miraculously, that oil burned for eight nights, leading to the development of an eight-day festival to commemorate this miracle.

Because Chanukah is about the miracle of the oil and the lasting flame, oil and candles factor heavily in the holiday. A nine-armed menorah called the hanukiah is lit, and one candle is lit on each of the eight nights of the celebration. The last branch of the candelabra holds the shamash (servant) candle. The organization Reform Judaism says the traditional song “Ma’oz Tzur (Rock of Ages)” is sung after the lighting of the candles each night and at other times throughout the holiday. Foods fried in oil, including latkes and jelly doughnuts, are consumed as well.

Celebrants play games with a dreidel, a German-based spinning top, and giving to charity is encouraged. Chanukah is one of the few times of the year when rabbis permit games of chance. The letters atop the dreidel stand for the first letter of each word in the Hebrew

statement “Neis gadol hayah sham,” which translates to “A great miracle happened there,”

and refers to the defeat of the Syrian army and the rededication of the Temple.

Tradition is a major component of the Jewish faith, so it’s no surprise that tradition plays such a central role during the celebration of Chanukah.

Although some are quick to note Chanukah is not one of the major Jewish holidays, Chanukah is celebrated in a very public fashion. Chanukah celebrants make the holiday more high profile by displaying their menorahs in prominent locations and participating in holiday meals.

Like other Jewish holidays, Chanukah is shrouded in tradition. Chanukah means “dedication” or “induction” in

Hebrew. The holiday begins on the 25th of Kislev and can occur in either November or December. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Chanukah includes menorah displays, traditional foods and games and songs.

Chanukah rose to prominence thanks in part to the story of faith and miracle behind its inception. Antiochus IV was a Greek sovereign in control of the region of Syria, Egypt and Palestine, where many Jews resided. Antiochus began to oppress the Jews, prohibiting the practice of the Jewish religion and des-

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The struggle against Old Man Winter

The first big nor’easter of the season has come and gone, leaving us with anywhere from three to nine inches of snow (or more in some cases), depending on where you live. As with most things, we like to think about how our ancestors handled certain situations. It was during a snowy drive last winter that we became more grateful for studied snow tires and heat, after thinking about how those before us dealt with travel during snowstorms.

During the winter of 1717, a storm dumped four feet of snow, creating snowdrifts of up to 25 feet. Passing through the snow covered roads was too much for a postman who traded his horse for a pair of snowshoes. Objects similar to skis were attached to carriages as a means of winter transportation.

Streets had to be passable for wood and food deliveries. When the roads were not passable townspeople would gather together in large groups and dig out a path. The snow was placed into the back of a horse-drawn cart by gangs of men and driven to the closest river to be dumped. Salt was also used on streets, but many people complained because it ruined their shoes and clothes.

Fast forward to 1840, when the first snow plow patent came to be. It wasn’t until 1862 that the first snowplow was put into use. The plow was attached to a cart and pulled by a team of horses. Soon after, many cities began to use the horse-drawn snowplow.

Typically the use of the horse-drawn plow was only used to clear main streets, leaving side streets and sidewalks snowed in by large piles often blocking entrances to businesses. Many business owners actually brought lawsuits against the plowing companies as a result because their customers could not gain access to the storefronts.

The solution to that conundrum, was the hiring of snow shovelers to accompany the plow. The blizzard of 1888, however, was too much for the “modernized” plow, leaving many people trapped inside their homes. This emergency was the catalyst cities needed to begin coming up with a better plan for snow removal. One idea was to stay on top of the storm as it started, instead of waiting for it to end. Different men driving the plows were assigned to certain neighborhoods as well.

The invention of the automobile brought with it a crutch and a new possibility as far as snow removal went. The crutch being that an entirely new method needed to be engineered and put into use. In New York in 1913, a dump truck could be seen on city streets. Seven years later the first snow loader, came on to the scene. It had a big scoop with a conveyor belt. The snow would go into the scoop via the belt, then dumped into the back of the truck. From there, off to the river it went.

It wasn’t until 1959 when the weather was able to be predicted more accurately, allowing towns and cities to better prepare for any incoming storms.

Reading old diaries of our New England ancestors gives the perfect window as to what it was like to experience a bitter cold winter, prior to modern practices.

As literary critic Van Wyck Brooks wrote in “The Flowering of New England, 1815-1865,” “All praise to winter, then, was Henry’s feeling. Let others have their sultry luxuries. How full of creative genius was the air in which these snow-crystals were generated. He could hardly have marveled more if real stars had fallen and lodged on his coat. What a world to live in, where myriads of these little discs, so beautiful to the most prying eye, were whirled down on every traveler’s coat, on the restless squirrel’s fur and on the far-stretching fields and forests, the wooded dells and mountain-tops,—these glorious spangles, the sweepings of heaven’s floor.”

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.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shop local this season

To the Editor:
I wanted to take a minute and encourage everyone to shop local this Holiday season. Our local businesses are going above and beyond to make it safe to go and shop, dine. With their constant restrictions that are required to make it safe to enter the business and have an enjoyable visit. We have a lot to offer in this quiet corner. Please get out and enjoy what we have. Most of these businesses depend on a good Holiday shopping season. This year more than ever, they have had a struggling year. All of them have had to spend money to provide safeguards as required by the state, and have had much less traffic in them.

Let’s do what we can this season to help and support our small businesses. These businesses owners are your neighbors. They supply a need to our communities and if they

We can do this together

To the Editor:
It sounds like we are all in for a difficult, maybe tragic, winter because of the worldwide pandemic. Here are a couple of thoughts that I hope your readers may find useful as we humans try to live through an inhuman situation.

Not being able to hug or touch people is very hard on us. We seem to be wired for that kind of contact, but sharing such affection outside of our household members risks passing COVID-19 to someone we love.

It is important to remember that having no symptoms does not mean that you do not have the virus. You can pass it to others even if you feel just fine. I have found it most useful to live as though I do have COVID, to keep on alert.

Also, it helps if someone kindly or humorously points out if I forget to keep six feet apart or to pull up my face covering. I always thank

don’t survive thru these times, it’s a fair chance they could possibly close. Once that happens, they might not reopen. They put their hopes and dreams along with blood and sweat to build and keep open and provide us with a convenience, a product we can use, a service we need.

So this season, I will be going and visiting local businesses looking for that special gift. Enjoying a bite to eat while I’m out. Get out there this year. It can be done safely, and have fun doing it. Let’s try and make the best of the situation. We have been doing this since March, it’s not new. We all know how to be safe by now.

Hope to see you out there.

KEVIN KERTTULA
KILLINGLY

any person who reminds me. Remember, this does not come naturally to us!

Missing people is really hard, and we need to stay strong and support each other to not cheat!

Finally, it makes sense to support our local businesses as much as we can. We can even send checks to credit toward our next purchase or visit if we know we won’t be visiting a local merchant any time soon. That is not «welfare», only an investment toward future business.

Food banks, non-profits, people struggling to pay rent or medical bills—all are ways we can donate to express our caring at this time of year when love and giving are traditional.

We can do this together. What ideas do you have to add to mine?

CLAUDIA ALLEN
THOMPSON

Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra cancels Christmas concert

To the Editor:
With regret, the officers and conductor of the Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra have decided to cancel our virtual Christmas concert due to the rise of Covid-19 cases in northeast Connecticut.

Several months ago, when we embraced the concept of videotaping a virtual concert and broadcasting it on radio station WINY, we assumed that the Age of Coronavirus would be diminishing or at least holding steady through year’s end.

Wearing masks and social distancing was always mandatory in the plan for videotaping “A Leroy Anderson Christmas” at the spacious 4-H Lodge in Pomfret.

But now, the time frame for the pandemic has extended into 2021 and the number of people diagnosed with Covid-19 in northeast Connecticut is increasing at a much faster rate than earlier this year.

We are mindful that we have yet to see the effects of Thanksgiving family and social gatherings in the numbers of people diag-

nosed and hospitalized with the illness.

In debating whether we should cancel the virtual concert, we asked our treasurer, Dr. Saul Ahola, to make the final call.

Dr. Ahola, whose family practice in northeast Connecticut, spanned 35 years, was a medical student at Cornell when he crossed paths with a fellow Cornell medical student, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984.

After visiting the 4-H Lodge with an engineer friend to assess the ventilation system in the context of the pandemic, Dr. Ahola said he asked himself one question, “What would Fauci do?” His answer? “Let’s cancel.”

On behalf of all our orchestra musicians, I look forward to the spring/summer concert in 2021 and to a longer version of “A Leroy Anderson Christmas” concert in December 2021.

JANE ANDERSON VERCELLI
PRESIDENT, NCCO

A long road ahead for Biden

To the Editor:
The Biden administration has a lot of hard repair work ahead. A severely divided nation is only one of the many “gifts” Trump and his flunkies are leaving behind. Our country has always been divided to some extent, but Donald Trump’s lies and rhetoric continue to ramp up the national divisions to dangerous levels. Although they argued and debated every aspect of the “building blocks” of our nation, I don’t think the Founding Fathers would be pleased with the level of animosity that currently exists.

Both political parties share the blame for our current state --- in my opinion, the Mitch McConnells and Nancy Pelosis of our government are more about the problem than the solution. They’re certainly not the only ones --- too many members of congress have forgotten who and why they were elected to serve. I hope strict term limits are somewhere in the future.

As always, the extremists (from both sides)

LEARNING

continued from page A1

access to testing which can impact contact tracing making any potential outbreak in the schools or elsewhere in the community difficult to manage.

“The goal of a four week pause on in-person learning is to keep students and staff safe and ultimately benefit the Putnam community,” Superintendent Sullivan

explained. “Please know that we considered a shorter closing with the possibility of extensions and determined that definitive action provides more consistency for teaching and learning and allows parents to better plan. While schools are closed it is important for all members of our community to continue to follow mitigation strategies including mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing. Failure to

do so will only lead to more cases in our community and will jeopardize our ability to return to in person learning in January.”

In order to maintain student participation, the school system has set specific login times and schedule for students to follow for their classes. Principals were also tasked with directly communicating with families about any other specifics concerning their schools.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Taking comfort in traditions

As we celebrate the quietest Christmas season I’ve ever experienced, it helps to remember the things that were special and uplifting. What really matters in the traditions we embrace and what do we miss the most? I like the early darkness and the cold that fosters a melancholy feeling that something isn’t quite

right. This year, things are in disarray, which makes strings of lights and pop up lawn ornaments seem especially cheerful. It’s a good year to reflect.

Holidays decorations remind me of Whipple’s Winter Wonderland in Killingly, an extravaganza on a rural road, that for more than three decades welcomed visitors, free of charge, to see an amazing display of more than 40,000 lights and 350 animal displays. I reread some articles about the place, which drew more than 50,000 visitors during its heyday as my memory was hazy. Mervin Whipple, “Mr. Christmas,” greeted everyone with his red jacket, rosy cheeks and hearty manner until 2002. The displays were sold two years later. In 2010, Mr. Whipple died at age 81. He loved what he did and he gave people an enormous amount of pleasure.

When appeals arrive in the mail from local charities, I think of my father’s story of Louis Lorillard, who lived in Pomfret during the Depression. Lorillard was a wealthy man, who knew the community well. At Christmas time every year he would pay the grocery bills for a number of the larger families. His charity would help save the three general stores as well keep food and pride on many tables. His gifts were anonymous, although given the nature of small towns, I am certain people knew. His son and daughter-in-law and George Wein started the Newport Jazz Festival, but that is another story.

My husband went to Northfield Mount Hermon School for high school. It has a long tradition of choral singing. We often go to Boston to Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Newbury Street at this time of year to hear a hundred or so young people sing new and traditional songs. At least once during the concert I feel tears spring to my eyes because of the beauty of it all. Often the same thing happens at Pomfret School chapel, which offers a holiday concert every year to the community. Those teenagers sing like angels.

Adults have been raising their voices in the Northeast Concert Choir since 1959. The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra, formed in 2012, has added to the musical atmosphere. I miss their performances and can’t wait to see what they will do next year. The hiatus must leave the musicians longing for the joy of working together and rehearsing for the big night. I love seeing my friends and neighbors standing on stage or in a beautiful church performing with all their hearts.

Every town green boasts a colorful tree, but there are special trees, part of the Hospice Tree of Life, that support the hospice and palliative care program at Day Kimball Hospital. Lights are purchased in honor of loved ones who have passed away. The tree lighting ceremony is touching and creates a momentary bond among the people assembled as it focuses on light instead of sadness.

Only my husband, the cat, Alexa, and I hear the holiday music that wafts through our house. Everything else is virtual even Christmas parties. The spirit of the season persists, however, in the bouncing inflatables, strings of lights, acts of charity both public and anonymous, songs sung alone and kisses blown at a distance to friends. Let’s forget this holiday season and value our traditions more next year.



NANCY WEISS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Practice fire safety for the holidays to Keep the Wreath Red!

To the Editor:
The Bungay Fire Brigade, Muddy Brook Fire Department and Woodstock Volunteers along with the Woodstock Fire Marshal join forces to help keep Woodstock safe this holiday season. It's impossible to drive down any street this time of year without seeing holiday lights, inflatable Santas

and wreaths adorning the houses and businesses of our community. As you drive past the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Station #76 located at 399 Route 169, you will see the white holiday lights outlining the front of the building and a wreath decorated with red bulbs. This year, we are taking part in the "Keep the Wreath Red" campaign.

Where did this idea come from?
The "Keep the Wreath Red" campaign was established in 1954 by an Illinois Firefighter, Paul Boecker. What does it mean to 'Keep The Wreath Red'?

The campaign is a visual reminder for all of us to take safety precautions during the holiday season and to make it a safe one for our families and loved ones. "Keep the Wreath Red" is to alert residents of fires caused by holiday decorations, candle burning and other preventable fires during the holiday season and promote prevention through awareness. All of the wreath bulbs are initially red; if a residential fire is directly caused by holiday mishap between Thanksgiving and Jan. 2, 2021, one red bulb will be changed to a white one.

So...how do we keep the wreath red this year? When decorating your home, pay attention to the instructions on your decorations. Lights have specific overload limits that must be adhered to, and are labeled to let you know how many strings you can safely string together. Make sure extension cords are good quality, can take the amperage load of the circuit, tagged with a UL listed label, are not placed in footpaths or areas where they could become damaged and do not place under rugs or rug runners where they can create a fire hazard.

Christmas trees account for more than 250 fires annually, resulting in deaths, injuries and millions of dollars in property damage. Failures of various types of decorative electrical lights and open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. Dry and neglected trees can be, so

water your holiday tree daily and keep it away from open flames and space heaters.

Remember, when lighting candles they need to be extinguished at the end of the festivities. Check your candle holders to see that they can handle the heat and aren't just for decorative purposes. Position candles so children and pets cannot get near them.

Remember to change your smoke detector batteries if you haven't already done so. Properly working smoke detectors that provide us with early warning of a fire is critical in saving lives. Practice with your family the various ways to exit your home and agree to a designated family meeting place for everyone if you must escape a house fire.

The colder weather is now upon us and getting your chimney cleaned and inspected is a good start in keeping your house safe from fire. Don't forget to clean your wood or pellet stove and vent pipe.

That wreath in the front of our firehouse represents the Woodstock Community and is a testament to your safety and care, so "Let's Keep The Wreath Red" this year!

All three fire departments in Woodstock and the Fire Marshal hope this effort creates a visible symbol for residents to have a positive and proactive conversation around fire safety and prevention.

RUSS DOWNER
PRESIDENT
WOODSTOCK VOLUNTEER
FIRE ASSOCIATION

To the Editor:
It was kind of surprising to hear that G.L. Sweetnam is a registered Republican. It may also come as a surprise to some to know that I'm a registered Democrat. However, I feel the opposite and wish there was a democrat that I could vote for, but I can't totally say that because I did vote for Aileen Witkowski who is a longtime friend.

Being a registered Democrat has proven interesting. Before the election, I received a letter from Barack Obama, of course, asking me to support the democrats, and I'll give the man credit because in that letter he never mentioned Donald Trump. But in the pathetic, cry baby rant I got from Pelosi, she mentioned Trump's name more times than there was punctuation, which was nothing more than what I'd expect from her.

Have any of you ever contacted our state reps with a question? I contacted Richard Blumenthal, Chris Murphy and Joe Courtney (before the presidential election) and basically asked them the following question: Are you mere Pelosi puppets, and why don't you help force her to get another Covid relief bill passed? Blumenthal did not reply. I got

some lame response from Murphy's office saying that on Fridays he looks into this stuff and that he'll get back to me which he never did. Courtney did reply, but with a letter pointing blame at Donald Trump. And these are the democrats that I'm supposed to vote for, and do you blame me for calling them puppets? Kind of reminds me of that old saying, if you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem. (I did forget to contact Mae Flexer, but I can no doubt guess where that would have gone.)

Pelosi is now being (somewhat) cooperative in getting a new relief package passed, but this only happened after the election - and in her own words - «now that Joe Biden is going to be President.» Nice stall move, you obstructionist idiot; you've managed to keep good Americans suffering - and again - only for the sake of your own personal crusade. Pelosi, the day for you to get knocked off of your high horse is well overdue, and for me it won't come soon enough.

ED DeLUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Are these key planning dates marked on your calendar for 2021?

What we know is that 2020 has taught us that we should over prepare when it comes to your finances, as events have happened that are out of our control. To help you manage your finances in 2021, we've put together a list of important financial planning dates. You can enter them into your calendar, where you can also set up reminders to keep you on track when it comes to working towards achieving your financial life goals.

January
Fourth-quarter (prior-year) estimated tax payment: If you are self-employed or have other fourth-quarter income that requires you to pay quarterly estimated taxes, the payment must be postmarked by Jan. 15, or the next business day if Jan. 15 is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.
Credit report: You're entitled to one free credit report per year from each of the three credit reporting agencies: TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. Reports can be obtained from www.annualcreditreport.com.

Employee benefits: If you have a health savings account or a flexible spending account through your employer, forecast your expected expenses for the current year and look at your actual expenses from the previous year. Because these are "use it or lose it" plans, try not to contribute more than what you expect to be reimbursed.

February
Nonfederal financial aid: The priority deadlines for most college scholarship and financial aid programs fall in January to mid-February. To receive more consideration for aid, college-bound students should plan to submit the CSS/Financial Aid Profile application (https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org) by these dates.

March
Corporate tax return: The filing deadline for S corporation and partnership returns is March 16, or the next business day if March 16 is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, unless you file for a six-month extension.

April
IRA required minimum distributions

(RMDs): If you turned 72 during the year, you have until April 1 of the following year to take that year's RMD. (Note that you will also have to take your RMD for the current year by Dec. 31.)

Individual tax return/extension: E-file or postmark your individual tax return by midnight on April 15. If you need more time to prepare your tax return, file your request for an extension by April 15 to push your deadline back to Oct. 15.

Federal gift tax return/extension: This return is required for gifts made between January 1 and December 31 of the previous year. Postmark your return, or file for a six-month extension if you need more time, by April 15.

Federal estate and trust income tax return/extension: Postmark your return, or file for a five-month extension if you need more time, by April 15.

First-quarter estimated tax payment: If you are self-employed or have other first-quarter income that requires you to pay quarterly estimated taxes, complete and postmark Form 1040-ES by April 15.

Prior-year IRA contribution: Fund your retirement account for the prior year by April 15. That's the deadline for contributions to traditional IRAs (deductible or not) and Roth IRAs. If you have a SEP IRA, however, and you get a filing extension to Oct. 15, you can wait until then to put prior-year dollars into those accounts.

May
Nonprofit informational return: The filing deadline is May 15 for calendar year nonprofits, but you can request two 90-day extensions to file. The extension deadlines are Aug. 15 and Nov. 15.

June
Second-quarter estimated tax payment: If you are self-employed or have other second-quarter income that requires you to pay quarterly estimated taxes, be sure your payment is postmarked by June 15.



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Extended corporate, trust, estate, and partnership income tax returns: If you filed for an extension, your return needs to be completed and postmarked by Sept. 15.

October
Extended individual tax return: If you applied for an extension, your return needs to be completed and postmarked by Oct. 15.

Extended gift tax return: If you filed for an extension, your return needs to be completed and postmarked by Oct. 15.

Medicare enrollment: October is open enrollment for Medicare Advantage plans and Part D prescription drug coverage plans.

Employee benefit plan enrollment: Open enrollment season begins in October for certain employee benefit plans. Take time to consider how much to contribute to a flexible spending account.

SIMPLE IRA: Oct. 1 is the deadline to establish a SIMPLE IRA. A notice to employees is due 60 days prior to the October 1 establishment date.

Federal financial aid: For students entering college in September, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available beginning Oct. 1. Families should complete the FAFSA form as soon as possible after Oct. 1.

Student Aid Report (SAR): The SAR should be available online or in hard copy two to four weeks after you submit the FAFSA. If there are any errors on the SAR, make corrections and mail it back immediately.

Early decision/early action deadlines for nonfederal financial aid: The CSS/Financial Aid Profile application is available beginning October 1 for early decision and early action applicants who are applying for nonfederal financial aid

(most deadlines are early to mid-February). Search the CSS Profile Web site (https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org) to see which institutions require you to submit the Profile form for financial aid consideration, and research their priority filing dates.

November
Student loans: The grace period for May graduates is coming to an end. Recent graduates still looking for employment may want to investigate their options for deferring payments.

December
Reporting a loss on the sale of stock: A trade to sell a long position must be executed by the close of the last trading date of the current year. A short position closing trade must be executed so that the trade settles by the final trading day of the current year.

To help ensure that you stay on track, be sure to speak with us about deadlines that are most relevant to your personal financial situation. We strive to help empower those in our community to live well. If you need more information regarding these key dates, feel free to reach out to our office 860-928-2341 or send us an email at info@whzwealth.com.

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POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
GARY W.
MOORE

I'm not a very athletic guy. I've mentioned this before, but we used to be a skiing family. We'd head north to the slopes several times a year and occasionally out west to the Rockies. I never really enjoyed skiing, but Arlene and the kids did, so off we'd go.

I think much about life can be learned staring down a hill from eight-thousand feet while standing on two skis. The first thing that comes to mind is

that it was unnatural. I don't think we were meant to slide down a hill with two planks strapped to our feet.

The next and most prominent thought was that it was dangerous. On Vail Mountain one afternoon, I counted eleven skiers being towed down on sleds by the ski patrol. Later in the same day, I watched a teenager fall off a ski lift.

Why would I submit my family to such risk? I guess the answer is that they loved it ... and you can't live life in a protective bubble. Other than damage to my self-esteem and

confidence, we never suffered a major ski injury.

I did learn a valuable life lesson while on skis. As I said, I never felt comfortable. I could be skiing perfectly down the slopes, then get a sudden sense of fear, believing I was going to fall and inflict serious injury. When that happened, and it always did, I'd purposely fall. I realized I was doing it. My oldest son asked, why are you falling so much? I shrugged it off, but his question stuck in my head and I pondered it the rest of the day. Then in the dark of night, I realized what I was doing.

As I said, I could be coming perfectly down the hill, get a sudden stroke of fear and purposely fall. I believe my lack of comfortability and confidence told me I was going to fall and harm myself, so instead, I decided to plan my fall because it was something I could control. I was sabotaging my own success on skis. Rather than planning to succeed, I did the opposite.

I'm preparing to speak to my local chamber of commerce this month. In my thoughts about why businesses and individuals succeed and fail, I think about my purposeful

failure on the slopes. I didn't envision making it to the bottom of the hill without falling. Unconsciously, I planned, executed, and succeeded at my own failure.

I wonder how many people, organizations and businesses do the same thing. How many marriages begin and end the same way? Or how many students flunk out of college because they can't picture themselves graduating? I think the true numbers would shock us all. I believe most failure is subconsciously

The origins of popular winter sports

Many people spend winter huddled indoors. For winter sports enthusiasts, however, the arrival of snow and chilly temperatures means the start of a season of outdoor fun. Those who see winter as a time to embrace their love of sport may appreciate learning more about some of the sports that are most popular during the colder months of the year.

Ice hockey

Hockey is one of the most popular winter sports. In 1994, Parliament passed the Canada’s National Sport Act, which declared hockey the official national winter sport of Canada. The origins of ice hockey are somewhat uncertain, though some historians claim the first set of rules to govern the sport were written by students at Montreal’s McGill University in the 1870s.

Downhill (Alpine) skiing

SnowSports Industries America indicates that, in the 2014-2015 season, more than nine million American Alpine skiers took to the slopes, and the sport continues to attract new devotees each year. Historians state that skiing evolved as a method to cross the landscape in



the winter when marshlands froze over. Cave drawings suggest that man used skis during the last Ice Age in the Palaeolithic period. Yet the birth of modern downhill skiing is often traced to the 1850s when Norwegian legend Sondre Norheim popularized skis with

curved sides and made skiing a sport instead of just a mode of transport. Skiing ultimately became quite popular in Russia, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. Today there are various types of downhill skiing, including mountain skiing, extreme cat skiing and heli ski-

ing.

Curling

Curling may now be seen as a largely Canadian sport, but it is widely believed to be one of the world’s oldest team sports, tracing its origins to Great Britain. The World Curling Federation states paintings by the 16th Century Flemish artist Pieter Bruegel portrayed an activity similar to curling being played on Scotland’s frozen ponds. The earliest known curling stones came from the Scottish regions of Stirling and Perth, dating all the way back to 1511.

Ice skating

Speed skating and figure skating are derivatives of early ice skating, which is believed to have started in Finland more than 3,000 years ago. Skates were sharpened, flattened bone strapped to the bottom of a shoe and glided on top of the ice. The Dutch added edges to steel blades around the 13th or 14th centuries. Eventually, skating was brought to England from the Netherlands. Winter sports draw millions of participants each year, giving people a reason to leave the house even when temperatures dip below freezing.

Holiday cookies the whole family will love

Many people enjoy baking come the holiday season, and perhaps no dish is more synonymous with holiday baking than cookies. Children leave cookies out for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, while adults may indulge and enjoy an extra cookie or two at family gatherings or holiday office parties. Cookies come in all shapes and sizes, so bakers have an array of options at their disposal when planning their holiday menus. Chocolate chip cookies may be among the most popular types of cookies, and bakers who want to capitalize on that popularity while giving loved ones something a little different may want to try the following recipe for “Double Chocolate Chip Cookies” from Maxine Clark’s “Chocolate: Deliciously Indulgent Recipes for Chocolate Lovers” (Ryland, Peters & Small).

Double Chocolate Chip Cookies
Makes about 12 large cookies

- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 5 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 5 tablespoons light brown sugar, sifted
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 12 teaspoon pure vanilla essence or chocolate extract (see note)
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons self-rising

- flour
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup (or more) dark and white (or milk) chocolate chips (or roughly chopped chocolate)

A heavy, nonstick baking sheet

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugars together until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg and vanilla essence. Sift the flour with the cocoa and salt in a small bowl. Fold into the egg mixture with the chocolate chips. Place 4 heaping tablespoonsfuls of the mixture on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them well apart. Press down and spread out to about 1/4-inch thick with the back of a wet spoon or with dampened fingers (you may like to scatter some more chocolate chips over the top). Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool on the baking sheet for 1 minute, then transfer to a wire rack. When cool, store in an airtight container. Repeat with the remaining mixture. Note: Chocolate extract is a fat-free flavoring ingredient made from a blend of roasted cacao beans, water and alcohol.



LEGALS

**TOWN OF THOMPSON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 14, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM via Zoom. ZBA Application #20-07- David R. Blake of 29 South Shore Rd, property owner of 31 South Shore Road, Map 133, Block 1, Lot 48, Zone RRAD (formerly R20), request for a Variance, 20 foot front setback, to build a residential dwelling. File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals. Written communication will be accepted prior to the meeting. Respectfully submitted, Kevin Beno, Chairman December 4, 2020 December 11, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Maria Posiadala, AKA Mary Posiadala (20-00406) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, December 1, 2020 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: Wayne T. Logee, 102 Gorman Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234 December 11, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Rose M. Squatriglia (20-00387) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, November 24, 2020 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: Mary Noonan, 533 Chaffeeville Road, Storrs, CT 06268 December 11, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF THOMPSON
ORDINANCES**

At a special Town Meeting held November 24th the following three (3) ordinances were adopted or amended: 1) Garbage, rubbish, refuse and recycling ordinance 2) Veteran’s Tax Exemption ordinance 3) Driveway ordinance Copies of the ordinances are available for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk during normal businesses hours and at www.thompsonct.org. This notice is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This notice does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Thompson for any purpose. Renee Waldron Town Clerk December 11, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Charles J. Woytik (20-00370) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, November 18, 2020 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: MICHELE ANN PALULIS, ATTORNEY MICHELE ANN PALULIS, LLC, 158 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2, P. O. BOX 616, PUTNAM, CT 06260 December 11, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Rene F. Gatineau (20-00346) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, December 1, 2020 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.

Bronda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Joanne V. Gatineau c/o NICHOLAS A. LONGO, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS • 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260 December 11, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Catherine Musial (20-00369) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, November 17, 2020 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: Jon Frost, c/o KATHLEEN MARY CERRONE, BORNER, SMITH, ALEMAN, HERZOG & CERRONE, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-2429. December 11, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Robert Richard Reichel (20-00396) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, November 18, 2020 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: Joann Lynn Delp and Christine Lynn Collins, c/o MARK R. BROUILLARD (attorney for Christine Lynn Collins and Joann Lynn Delp), ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281, (860)928-0481. December 11, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Anita M. Rukakoski (20-00373) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, October 27, 2020 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: Anne R. Roser, c/o ALLISON THERESA POIRIER (attorney for Anne R. Roser), KAHAN KERENSKY & CAPOSSELA, LLP, 45 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, PO BOX 3811, VERNON, CT 06066, (860)812-0433 December 11, 2020

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