

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 information, a few things 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 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

Turn To LEARNING, page A8





Photo Courtesv

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

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 (CIAC) Conference 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**

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 K of C officials to put

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 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 Turn To XXX, page A10

'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 locat-

ed 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 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

140 Main Street/New York Fruit Store



While doing research this past week, I came across the following interesting tidbits in the Windham County Transcripts. "Moving buildings has now become a very common operation. Mr. E. Chamberlin has just been moving a two-story house with chimneys, doors and windows intact, a distance of more than half a mile. The house, a part of which is one story, is 56 feet in length. It is placed near the top of the highest hill in the village, fairly beyond the limits of the Borough, no more to be vexed by its taxes. The road, a part of the way, was so narrow as to require the removal of the side of the wall. Our narrow highways are a great drawback to the pleasantness and convenience of our village." (WCT 7/26/1877). "Mr. Henry Butts is moving his house, situated on Main St., some eight or ten feet farther north, and at the same time elevating it two feet, which will make that building and the one south of it have a less crowded and pleasanter appearance." (WCT Aug. 9, 1877). That would much more difficult today with all the overhead wires in place.

The Dec. 16, 1896 Windham County Transcript had the following. Note the different items that were taxable in this era before the automobile. "Killingly Grand List. The total grand list of Killingly for 1896 is \$2,242,478.00 as follows: 1193 houses, 2,557 quarter acres of land, 99 mills and stores, 917 horses, 1131 neat cattle, sheep, 821 carriages and bicycles, farming tools, time-pieces, musical instruments, household furniture, band & insurance stock, City bonds, merchandise and trade, mechanical and manufacturing.

My biggest research project right now is the history of the vacant Phenix Building/Tighe Building at 140 Main St. in Danielson. I'm sure many of you remember a number of the stores that were located in this block---Lord's

Shoe Store, Henry McEwen's Jewelry Store, Alan Clothes, Sherwin Williams, A. E. Meech Hardware, and The New York Fruit Store to mention just a few. Dentists, doctors, and lawyers also had offices on the premises throughout the building's history.

The two-story brick building was erected in 1896 on a lot that formerly had been occupied by the smaller Olive Branch Hotel for a number of years. Merchants in downtown were desirous of erecting larger, modern brick buildings in the downtown, and in this location not far from the railroad station. An 1885 Transcript article spared no words. "The Olive Branch hotel property, the store adjoining, and tenement house in the rear, is now in the hands of John Spaulding. Funds to pay Lorin Bates' mortgage (\$7,500) were furnished by A. M. Paine of E. Killingly. It is a great misfortune to this village that a good block cannot take the place of the cheap-looking buildings that cover the best lot for business in this village. (WCT Nov. 4, 1885).

One of the first occupants of the building (which was often called the Phoenix Block in the Transcripts) was a bank. "New Banking House for the First National. They have leased of the Phoenix Building Co. the south suite of rooms in their new building now going up for their banking rooms and will remove to them as soon as finished, having the first floor of that end. They will have admirable front and side light in all their rooms. The bank have appointed Directors H. N. Clemons, John A. Paine and F. A. Jacobs a special committee to arrange the rooms, vault, fixtures, and finish, and it is their purpose to have one of the most attractive and convenient set of banking rooms in eastern Connecticut." (WCT April 22, 1896). They opened their new rooms on Nov. 2, 1896. Unfortunately, the bank had financial difficulties and voted to liquidate as of April 11, 1898. The Windham County National Bank then took over their premises.

Another early occupant was the library. "The Free Public Library and Reading room will be in the center room in the new Phoenix block, Saturday." (WCT Dec. 23, 1896). The present Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center building gave the library a permanent home several years later when it opened in 1903.

Henry C. Warren's music store also opened in the building in December, 1896 selling sewing machines in addition to pianos and organs. (WCT Dec. 9, 1896, March 17, 1897 & Jan. 5, 1898).

Attornev Harry E. Back. Sr. also had offices in the new building for a few years. "A new lawyer. The announcement is made that Harry E. Back, Esq., a Republican Representative in the present Legislature from the town of Union has decided to locate in Danielson, and has leased rooms for an office in the Phoenix block." (WCT, March 31, 1897).

A number of the occupants stayed in the building a few years but then moved to other locations or even left Killingly. The New York Fruit Store arrived in 1897 and remained a fixture for decades. Some of you have fond memories of stopping in the store after school (when the high school was in the present Community Center). Bernie Mitchell reminisced about the glasstopped tables and wrought iron chairs in the ice cream section and "Louie." (Conversation, Dec. 2).

I learned that in May 1897 it became one of the original occupants of the Phenix building. "Mancelli & Noceti proprietors, have opened a wholesale and retail fruit and confectionery store in the Phoenix building. 39 Main Street." (WCT May 5, 1897). The Killingly Business Encyclopedia included a brief history by Joseph Louis Bertorelli which was written in 1953 for Danielson's Centennial. "The founders were Manuchelli and Bertorelli, both from Bardy, Italy. The New York Fruit Store was the first concern to make candy and ice cream on the premises in Danielson... When the New York Fruit Store opened, fruit and produce were shipped directly from New York City by barge to New London. There it was transferred to freight cars and shipped to Danielson. There was an expression, years ago, 'Just like New York.' Many people from foreign lands came to find better living in America, the great land of promise. At one time or another these people passed through the great portals of New York City. To them it was the essence of the very best. Thus the expression, 'Just like New York' came to mean the very best. So the title New

Along with concern

be more focused when it comes to their academ-

of coaching I noticed that

student-athletes tended to

York Fruit Store originated. It was first named the New York Fruit Store and Candy Kitchen.

"During many weeks in advance of the Christmas season, clerks (at the New York Fruit Store) were kept busy making candy canes, ribbon candy, etc. for the holidays. There was a ritual which for years was kept almost as a sacred observance. While in the process of candy making for the Christmas season, the management always made a practice of making a huge candy cane weighing about 15 pounds. This was presented to the Sisters of St. James Parish. It was called 'St. Nicholas Staff'. Our name from Santa Claus comes from St. Nicholas, a Catholic Bishop of Myra in Lycia, Asia Minor. Symbolic of his office was his staff or crozier ... "It's too bad that there isn't a photo of this amazing creation! (Is it a co-incidence that I'm proof-reading this article on December 6th, the Feast of St. Nicholas? I don't think so).

If you have photos or memories of The New York Fruit Store or other buildings in the Phenix Block, please share them by emailing me. Thank you.

(Photos of the building appear on p. 33 of "Images of America Killingly' by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer and on p. 52 of "Images of America Killingly Revisited" by Natalie Coolidge).

The mail and answering machine are being checked although the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center is closed.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, December, 2020. Special thanks to Marilyn Labbe for extracting Windham County Transcript summaries when director of the Killingly Historical Center. 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, Connecticut 06329





SPORTS

tices.'

continued from page A1

Lamont's office, and the CSMS [Committee on the Medical Aspects of Sports] Sports Medicine Committee in the weeks leading up to the January 19th start of winter prac-

ics and their athletics, especially during the season," said Senecal, who coached basketball at the collegiate level for more than 30 years. "Playing a sport and being a part of a team — and all that comes with it makes the student-athlete learn to structure their time. They must learn to be disciplined. Athletics, I feel, plays a big role in the development of these young students, these young adults. It certainly did for me." Woodstock Academy athletic director Sean Saucier believes participation in scholastic athletics helps student-athletes keep their head in the game, so to speak, not only in the gymnasium or the ice rink, but in the classroom as well. "Certainly, from just an overall athletic point of view, it's disappointing," Saucier said of the announcement of the postponement of the winter season. "But it's also disappointing from the point of view of keeping

kids engaged and active.

"Our mission since July 6, when we were allowed to start small cohort conditioning groups, has been to get kids here physically, get them active, and get them exercising," Saucier said. "Those cohort conditioning groups also allowed them to be able to see their friends and team mates — in a safe environment. It also allowed us to see them and address their emotional and mental health. Saucier called the fall season, from that perspective, a success. We were very successful doing that, starting July 6, all through the fall season, and we're very proud of that," Saucier said. "So, from an athletic standpoint, to kind of be back to the spring, in some ways — in terms of not being able to engage students — it's certainly disappointing. We're hoping for the best for the end of January, but obviously that's very much up in the air."

and TEEG am-1pm Please bring new pairs of children's winter boots to the Woodstock Vol. **Fire Station** 399 Rte. 169, S. Woodstock

If you'd prefer to make a donation, please make checks payable to TEEG & mail to: WDTC % Kathleen Barach, Treasurer PO Box 813, Woodstock, CT 06281

that the season was being pushed back came disappointment from the athletic directors for their student-athletes and coaches.

"I'm very disappointed for our student-athletes,' Putnam High athletic director Glenn Senecal said. "Some of our kids haven't been able to participate in athletics if they didn't play soccer or run cross country in the fall. Now to have the winter season postponed to January, it's concerning, and it makes you wonder if, going forward, we will have winter athletics."

Senecal said he is worried that some of his student-athletes, without athletics playing a role in their everyday life, may lose their way.

"Throughout my years



TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD: MIKAELA VICTOR

RETAIL ADVERTISING 860-928-1818 ext. 313 nikaela@villagernewspapers.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: KERRI PETERSON 860-928-1818, ext. 303 kerri@stonebridgepress.news

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD: 800-536-5836 Classifieds@stonebridgepress.news

TO PRINT AN OBITUARY: E-MAIL obits@stonebridgepress.news

CALL: 860-928-4215 OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT A LETTER

TO THE EDITOR: E-MAIL: brendan@villagernewspapers.com OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS: E-MAIL: paula@stonebridgepress.news

OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

VISIT US ONLINE:

www.villagernewspapers.com

TO FAX THE VILLAGER: DIAL 860-928-5946

VILLAGER STAFF DIRECTORY

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

ADVERTISING MIKAELA VICTOR Advertising Representative 860-928-1818, Ext. 313 mikaela@ villagernewspapers.com

FOR ALL OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT KERRI PETERSON 860-928-1818 Ext. 303 kerri@stonebridgepress.news

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS ARE PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER FRANK G. CHILINSKI 860-928-1818 ext. 103 frank@villagernewspapers.com

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

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

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

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

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30am-4:30pm

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS PHOTO POLICY

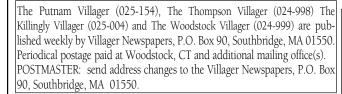
nunity oriented family of newspapers, Villager Newspapers welcomes As a comn photos from readers, business owners, and other outside sources for publication in any of its titles. Any photos submitted for publication become the property of Villager Newspapers, and may be displayed in our newspapers, as well as on our Web site. They may also be made available for resale, with any proceeds going to Villager Newspapers and/or the photo re-print vendor.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Dec. 1: Cooper's Hawk, American Tree Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Bluebird, Flicker, Hooded Merganser, Canada Geese, Common Snipe, Mockingbird, Junco, Goldfinch. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.





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

What makes a toy good?

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

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-agood-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

Weiss, Hale & Zabansky's Leisl L. Cording graduates from CFEI Program

POMFRET CENTER Weiss, Hale Strategic & Zahansky 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 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.

Associate or, Leisl L. has grade Certified Education I) program. npleted this ram, Leisl

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.

Financial Education Instructor (CFEI) program. Now having completed this rigorous program, Leisl may officially identify her-

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 Kidnappying in the First Degree.

Kidnappying 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.



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@villagernewspapers.com.





Fly the coop.

Dust off the coupé.

Ready to make your passion project your retirement gig?

Before you make the big leap, make sure it's the right time. Our *Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well* process can help you take the next step with confidence. So you can pull the cover off the ol' dusty dream car and get to work.



STRATEGIC WEALTH ADVISORS

Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™

whzwealth.com | (860) 928-2341 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network,[®] Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.

Day Kimball Healthcare bosts Annual "Warmth & Wellness" Holiday Drive

PUTNAM—Day Kimball Healthcare'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:

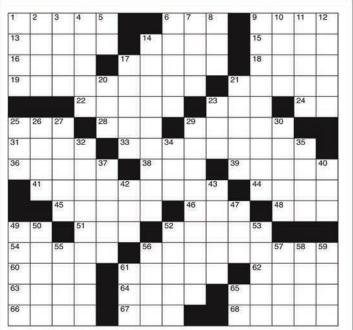
First aid items; toothbrushes, toothpaste and mouthwash; shampoo; bar soap, body wash, facecloths and hand towels; hand sanitizer and wet wipes; toilet paper and feminine products; hand warmers and foot powder; laundry detergent; new blankets, throws or sleeping bags; new bed pillows and pillowcases; 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 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.





38. Golf score

44. Easily manageable

49. News organization

52. Fasten or secure

54. Sheets of glass

60. Foolish person

63. Advice or counsel

64. Large wading bird

67. Field force unit

30. Regions

56. Doubled

51. Unruly group of people

61. Rooney and Kate are two

62. Small, rich sponge cake

65. Famed British physicist

68. Lying face downward

32. Metric unit of length

66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)

29. Beloved December holiday

48. Institute legal proceedings against

39. Raise

41. Pastas

45. Fathered

46. Pouch

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"

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.

Tri-Town American Legion

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

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.



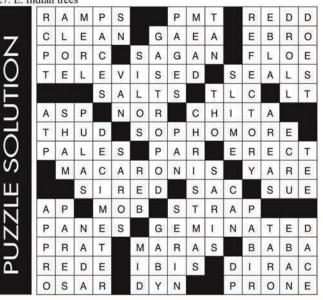
CLUES DOWN

1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)

- 2. Soap ingredient
- 3. Blackbird
- 4. Single steps
- 4. Singi
- 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"
- 12. Use with
- 14. Mollusk
- Grain storage units
 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

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



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

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 wayfinding 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!



300 Colors To Choose From Please call for appointment 508-523-3769

508-842-9800 • shrewsburymarbleandgranite.com 620 Boston Turnpike (Rte 9 E), Shrewsbury, MA (1/4 mi. east of Home Depot – Big Blue Bldg) Mon-Thurs 8-5, Fri & Sat & 9-4





The Big Picture Photo Reprints Available

Options & Prices Digital Copy (emailed) \$5.00 4" x 6" Glossy Print \$5.00 8.5" x 11" Glossy Print \$10.00 (please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery by mail) Call or or Email Stonebridge Press for details Call or email Stonebridge Press today 508-764-4325 or photos@ stonebridgepress.com You can also download

your photo reprint form at www.StonebridgePress.com

Grow your own herbal centerpiece for the holidays



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.

MYERS

Purchase plants so they will be ready to harvest for the holidays. Many garden centers now carry herb plants yearround 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. Theses 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 vou.

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 Coffeebouse

PUTNAM — The Danielson Coffeehouse is Veterans 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 planning 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 planning. 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 Tov Fund.

This is the 18th year Phaiah has been on the TT Fund Committee, and over the vears 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: WDTC, Attn: Winter Boot Drive, PO Box 813, Woodstock, CT 06281. Cash donations will be used to purchase additional boots for area children.



Need a **FRESH IDEA** for your advertising? 508-909-4126 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

When you and your baby are ready, so are we.

When it comes to having your baby, you want to know you're in the best of hands. Day Kimball's team of OB/GYN doctors, nurses, and specialists are some of the most skilled, dedicated, and compassionate experts in their fields. Most important, we're here for you and your family now... and we always have been.

Call one of our OB/GYN locations to book your appointment today.

Putnam	
320 Pomfret Street	
Putnam, CT	
(860) 963-6699	

Plainfield 12 Lathrop Road Plainfield, CT (860) 457-9200

Your hospital. Revolutionizing care.



DKH DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE

A community partner of YaleNewHavenHealth

daykimball.org/obgyn

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com





The Connecticut Villager Newspapers

Killingly Villager | Putnam Villager | Thompson Villager | Woodstock Villager | www.860Local.com • 860-928-1818





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 spirts 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

nent 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.

Tradition is a major compo- 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-

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) candie. 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.



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

NEW LOCATION:

1009 Lebanon Hill Rd., Southbridge 508-764-0555

N A NN A NN A NN A NN A NN A NN A NN

Mikaela Victor 508-909-4126 mikaela@ stonebridgepress.news

BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250

Located at CVS Plaza



(860) 315-1212 • Thompson, CT • Ecoastvideo.com All processing performed locally ~ Operating since 1997

Villager Newspapers

P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818 FAX: (860) 928-5946 WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

> 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 studded 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 "modOpinion 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

Christmas concert

cases in northeast Connecticut.

To the Editor:

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.

nosed and hospitalized with the illness.

Saul Ahola, to make the final call.

Diseases since 1984.

2021.

In debating whether we should cancel the

Dr. Ahola, whose family practice in north-

east Connecticut, spanned 35 years, was a

medical student at Cornell when he crossed

paths with a fellow Cornell medical stu-

dent, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious

After visiting the 4-H Lodge with an engi-

neer friend to assess the ventilation system

in the context of the pandemic, Dr. Ahola said

he asked himself one question. "What would

look forward to the spring/summer concert

in 2021 and to a longer version of "A Leroy

Anderson Christmas" concert in December

make the most noise and get most of the

attention, but I don't believe they represent

the majority of Americans. I think your aver-

age person (myself included) ends up some-

where in the middle of all issues. That's why

I've never registered with either political

party; there's not much in life that fits neatly

with the labels of "liberal" or "conservative."

If you have a functioning brain, you can

listen to both sides of any debate and decide

where you stand. Anyone who doesn't want

opposing views openly discussed, obviously

I've been "around the block" too many

times to believe that during the next four

years, our country will magically transform

into what it could (and should) be. But hope-

fully, we can (at least) get headed back in the

JANE ANDERSON VERCELLI

PRESIDENT, NCCO

On behalf of all our orchestra musicians, I

Fauci do?" His answer? "Let's cancel."

virtual concert, we asked our treasurer, Dr.

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

Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra cancels

CLAUDIA ALLEN THOMPSON

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



NANCY WEISS

right. This year, things are in disarwhich ray, makes strings of lights and pop up lawn ornaments seem especially cheerful. It's a good year to reflect. Holiday

decorations remind me Winter of Whipple's 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 daughterin-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 TODD PATRIE Kimball Hospital. Lights are POMFRET CENTER 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.

ernized" 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 win-ter, 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 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.

we assumed that the Age of Coronavirus would be diminishing or at least holding steady through year's end.

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

the concept of videotaping a virtual concert

and broadcasting it on radio station WINY,

Several months ago, when we embraced

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-

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

www.860Local.com

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.

has their own agenda.

right direction.

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.

Part of the solution or part of the problem?

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

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

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 (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.)

Índividual 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.



AL Third-quarter estimated tax payment: If you are self-employed or have other third-quarter income that requires you to
T pay quarterly estimated taxes, be sure your payment is postmarked by Sept. 15.

September

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. (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:

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



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 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

was unnatural. I don't think

we were meant to slide down a

hill with two planks strapped

The next and most promi-

nent 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

ily 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

Why would I submit my fam-

teenager fall off a ski lift.

that it

to our feet.

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.

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 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.

Presented by Principal/Managing Partner, Laurence Hale, AAMS, CRPS®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259, 860-928-2341. http://www.whzwealth. com.

 $^{\odot}$ 2020 Commonwealth Financial Network $^{\mathbb{R}}$

confidence, we never suffered a major ski injury.

Life in balance

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

Turn To MOORE page A10

OBITUARIES

Aldea Delphine Boucher, 94

Aldea Delphine (Dufresne) Boucher, 94, passed away peacefully and went to be with God at Bayberry Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation under



Hospice Care in Pascoag, RI on November 23, 2020. She was the wife of her late divorced husband Alfred L. Boucher Sr who died in 1997.

Born October 31, 1926 in Smithfield. RI, Aldea was the

daughter of the late Emile and Eva M. (Jolin) Dufresne. On March 22, 1943, she married Alfred L. Boucher Sr. at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Harrisville, RI. Aldea attended Smithfield Grammar School & Burrillville High School. She worked her adult career as a Textile Mill Spinner in facilities located in Forestdale, RI, Woonsocket, RI, Ballouville, CT, Putnam, CT, & East Killingly, CT. Aldea was known for her personal qualities of energetic, compassionate, sociable, and dedicative. She liked to play cards, Bingo, (especially at the VFW in Putnam), do gardening, read books, & enjoyed helping with cooking for family get-togethers. She was at her happiest when spending time with family and friends and doing for others.

Aldea helped in delivering Meals-on-Wheels to seniors and did volunteering at Bayberry Commons Nursing Home, Chepachet, RI; Westview Health Care Center, East Killingly, CT; & Matulaitis Nursing Home, Putnam, CT. She was a member of the Saint Eugene's Catholic Church in Chepachet, RI. Aldea was a life member of the Albert J. Breault VFW Auxiliary Post 1523 located in Putnam, CT.

She is survived by two sons and their spouses and a daughter and her spouse: Alfred L. Boucher Jr. and Diana, of Dade City, FL; David A. Boucher and Patricia of Putnam, CT; and Carol A. (Boucher) Gleason; longtime partner Ronald Grace of Putnam, CT; and a stepson Jack Young and spouse Grace. Ten Grandchildren & 14 Great-Grandchildren.

Brown Funeral Homes, Inc. of Oakland, RI, will be handling the funeral arrangements. There will not be any calling hours. Following her cremation, a scheduled graveside service for family and friends will be announced, contingent on Covid conditions. The services will be conducted at the Saint Patrick's Catholic Cemetery in Pascoag, RI at burial site of her parents.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the America Cancer Society.

Alice Irene Drobiak, 98

Alice Irene Drobiak of Killingly a long time resident of Brooklyn, past away peacefully on Thursday Nov. 12th at 98 years of age. She was born in Ballouville, Ct. on Dec. 19, 1921, the daughter of William and Mary Smith. Alice went to work early in life to help her family during the great depression. She retired from Rogers Corporation after 35 years of service. She was predeceased by her parents, her sisters Leona and Gladys, her brother Fred, and her two husbands Bronac Stachura, and Frederick Drobiak Sr.

She leaves behind four sons Bronac Stachura and his wife Marilyn of Danielson, Michael Stachura and

his wife Fran of Brooklyn, Frederick Drobiak Jr. of Brooklyn, William Drobiak and his partner Kathy Thayer of Willington. She also leaves behind several grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews. Whenever any of them dropped over, she always had a smile on her face.

We'd like to thank Elizabeth Koomson Alice's personal care assistant, who made it possible for Alice to live in her home for the last six years.

There will be no services or celebration of life at this time. You may send donations to the VFW Lady's Auxiliary.

Howard A. Smith, 84, of Brooklyn passed away Wednesday December 2, 2020 at Day Kimball Hospital Putnam. He was born August 30, 1936 son of the late Howard C. and Dorothy (Ryder) Howard Smith. worked for Jarvis Realty and for the

KNIGHTS

Howard A. Smith, 84,

was an avid gardener and loved fishing. He is survived by his children Timothy A. Smith and wife Amy of Willington. Howard E. Smith of Brooklyn and Sherri Smith of Mansfield, and a sister Florence Wilcox of New Hartford. 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his companion Marsha Lagerberg. Funeral services will be private. tillinghastfh.com

to www.redcrossblood.org to sign up part of conducting literally dozens of McGivney was declared "Blessed" by

Patricia Jeanne Bodreau, 76

Patricia Jeanne Bodreau, age 76, of Quinebaug, CT died Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at Day Kimball Hospital after a battle with cancer.. Mrs. Bodreau was



is the daughter of Alfred Eugene and Gerturde Marcella (Hamel) Menard. She is survived by

one daughter: Justine Gendreau (William)

of Quinebaug, CT and one son: Steven T. Bodreau of Quinebaug, CT; Grandchildren Ryan (Lucy) Gendreau; Ashley Gendreau; Michael Bodreau; Jillian Bodreau; Madison Bodreau; Spencer Bodreau; Dalton Bodreau; nieces and nephews.; sister-in-law, Doris Julian of Charlton, Ma. Pat was employed as a 911 Dispatcher with QVEC for 20 years in Danielson.

A member of the Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department for 44 years with 30 years of service as an EMT. She owned GPG Ceramic Studio for 30 years with her mom and daughter. Member of St. Stephen's Parish, Thompson Senior Citizens Center and VFW 10088.

Despite all of these roles, being a grandmother was her favorite. She was the designated babysitter and relished taking her young grandchildren on excursions exploring old cemeteries and museums. The children affectionately referred to her as "Mother Nature".

Predeceased by Her Husband Bruce Bodreau and her Son, Scott A Bodreau..

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the size of her family, a private Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at St. Stephens Church, Quinebaug .Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, North Grosvenordale

In lieu of flowers donations to QVFD PO Box 144 Quinebaug Ct. 06262 Bartel Funeral Home and Chapel 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is directing arrangements.

wwwbartelfuneralhome.com for her guestbook and her tribute.

Kathleen Gibson, 77

FISKDALE- Kathleen" Kathy " Gibson, 77 of Sturbridge MA, passed away on Saturday, Dec 5th, after a short illness

> She is survived by her three children, Laurie Johnson and her husband Paul of Boylston MA, her daughter, best friend and devoted caregiver Susan McDowell of Woodstock, CT and her son

Steven Gibson and his wife Kara of Nantucket Massachusetts. Kathy also leaves behind her grandchildren Erin McDowell, Brianna Krushefsky, Aidan McDowell and Tyler Gibson who she loved dearly. She is survived by her sister Arlene Kingston Stanton of Charlton Massachusetts. She is pre-deceased by her parents Wilfred and Mary Casey, her sister Mary Mosher and niece Dawn Mosher. She is also survived by five nephews and nieces.

Kathy was blessed in her life with State of Connecticut for many years. He many friends who were more like family. Her children are thankful for each of them and the gift of their friendship that brought her great joy. Her children are especially grateful to Leslie Mallon and Ellen Rigatti for giving her the gift of true friendship for decades.

Kathy was born and raised in Charlton Massachusetts. A resident of Sturbridge Massachusetts for the past 50+ vears where she raised her chil-

positive, local programs and events. Highlights include raising over \$5,000 for the local needy as part of the council's annual "Joe Bousquet Christmas Giving Appeal," a year-round program for the widows of deceased council members, financial and moral support for a Norwich diocesan seminarian studying for the priesthood, holding a large food drive for the local poor, providing free winter coats for needy local children and families, as well as holding an annual council golf tournament and continuing work to end abortion and assisted suicide and to otherwise support the "Culture of Life." Worldwide, K of C councils provide members and their families with volunteer opportunities to serve the Catholic Church, their communities, their families and young people. In 2019, the almost two million members of the Knights of Columbus donated 187.6 million dollars and 77 million hours of service to charitable causes. The Knights of Columbus was founded in New Haven, Connecticut, on March 29, 1882, by a parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney. Earlier this year, Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing a child's cure from a deadly case of fetal hydrops while still in his mother's womb as a miracle attributed to McGivney's intercession. This means

dren with her former husband William Gibson of Southbridge. She was a hairdresser for several years in several salons, but her greatest joy was being a Mom

Her children want to extend their appreciation to VNA care network and Tri-Valley Elder Services for their compassionate care and dedication to their Mom. Additionally, to the outstanding doctors nurses and PCA's at 6 ICU and the 7th floor of UMASS University for taking such wonderful care of her and her children in her final days.

If you would like to honor her memory, her children ask that you do a random act of kindness for someone in need this holiday season as Kathy would have loved that. Her children learned the magic of giving through watching her kindness, generosity and caring acts for friends when they were ill or in need.

York Beach Maine was her favorite place and where some of her best family memories were made; her children will honor her with a memoriam at Nubble light house.

Funeral arrangements will be private in light of the COVID pandemic. A celebration of life with her large circle of friends and her family will be held at a future date.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

the Roman Catholic Church at an Oct 31 ceremony at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford. A second miracle attributed to his intercession would be needed in order for him to be declared a saint. If he is eventually canonized, McGivney would become Connecticut's first Catholic saint and the first American parish priest to be so honored. Looking at the problems being suffered by immigrant Catholics in and around New Haven in the last quarter of the 19th century, the priest founded the Knights of Columbus so that Catholic men could continue to practice their faith while supporting each other religiously, morally, socially and financially. Since then, the organization has grown to become the world's largest Catholic lay organization, a worldwide fraternal benefit society operating in North America, Central America, the Caribbean, Asia and Europe. In 2005, the Knights of Columbus opened the first councils in Poland. In 2008, after a half-century of persecution, Knights began operating again in Communist Cuba. In 2013, the Knights continued their expansion, moving into Ukraine and Lithuania. The following year the first local councils were founded in South Korea.

continued from page A1

said. "As a person who has needed blood in the past and have had close family that has needed blood, this is an important cause to me and I am thrilled that people have helped so much, especially in these times we are currently in.'

By hosting blood drives, Cargill Council is carrying on a tradition started by the worldwide Knights of Columbus organization more than 80 years ago. In 1938, the K of C was the first national organization to sponsor a blood donor program, working with local hospitals to organize blood drives in centers set up by Knights.

The program quickly caught on. By the end of 1939, more than 400 local councils had blood donor groups. During World War II, councils ramped up blood drives, joining the Red Cross campaign for 100,000 blood donations to benefit soldiers and air raid victims. Today, Knights of Columbus blood drives collect an average of more than 400,000 pints of blood annually.

Now that the Putnam program has proven successful, Cargill Council has committed to hosting at least four blood drives at St. Mary's in 2021. The next one will be held on Friday, Feb. 19. Go

MOORE

continued from page A9

planned and executed.

The question then is, why don't we picture ourselves making it to the bottodav

Lamontagne understands that blood donors are critical to saving lives and protecting health.

"If one of these blood donations helps save a life, then we all have done our part. I cannot thank everyone enough, from the donors, to my fellow Brother Knights for their help and the Red Cross for all their hard work," he said.

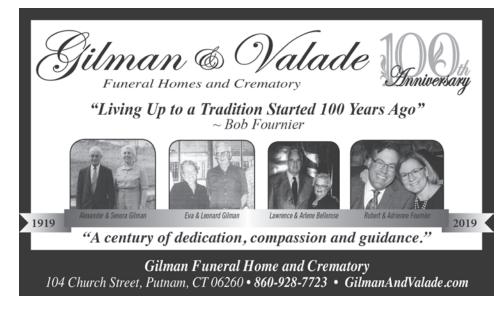
Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus, is made up of more than 200 local Catholic men and their families. The council serves Putnam, Pomfret, Thompson and Woodstock and the immediately surrounding areas served by St. Mary's, Most Holy Trinity Church in Pomfret, St. Joseph Church in North Grosvenordale and St. Stephen Church in Quinebaug. It's one of 178 active local councils in Connecticut.

In addition to support for its members and their families, Cargill Council maintains a dedicated, strong, ongoing commitment to its four churches and the local community. Led by current Grand Knight John D. Ryan, the council's elected officers run the organization. The Knights do their own fund-raising, using the net proceeds to pay for their programs.

Among its many activities, Cargill Council raised and donated thousands of dollars locally in the last year, as

tom of the slope unharmed and still upright on our skis?

I think the answer is obvious, and it's because we haven't planned to do so. We push off the top of the mountain with a hope and prayer of making it. We don't have a plan to make it to the bot-



tom while still upright because our fear causes us to protect ourselves against the inevitable failure. No success plan, no positive image of succeeding ... is maybe why so many skiers end up on sleds and why so many businesses, marriages and life plans fail.

If I had spent more time planning to stay upright rather than planning to hit the ground, I bet I may have found the success and enjoyment that others do on the slopes. I may have learned to enjoy skiing!

Is this a story about a winter sport? Certainly, skiing is the example, but it's more about our balance in life. Does your lack of an optimistic belief in your success sabotage your plans in any or every activity?

Before we begin any endeavor, do you plan your success, envision your accomplishment, and believe you'll make it to your goal on your feet?

In short, get your ducks in a row, have a positive plan, have fun, live more, and worry less.

Believe in and imagine your success before it happens. Create a plan with a successful ending. Execute your plan and make it to the bottom of the slope on your feet.

Believe you can and will.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.



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

 $\boldsymbol{5}$ tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

5 tablespoons granulated sugar 5 tablespoons light brown sugar, sifted

1 large egg, beaten

1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla essence or chocolate extract (see note)

flour

3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa 1⁄4 teaspoon salt

23 cup (or more) dark and white (or milk) chocolate chips (or roughly chopped chocolate)

A heavy, nonstick baking sheet

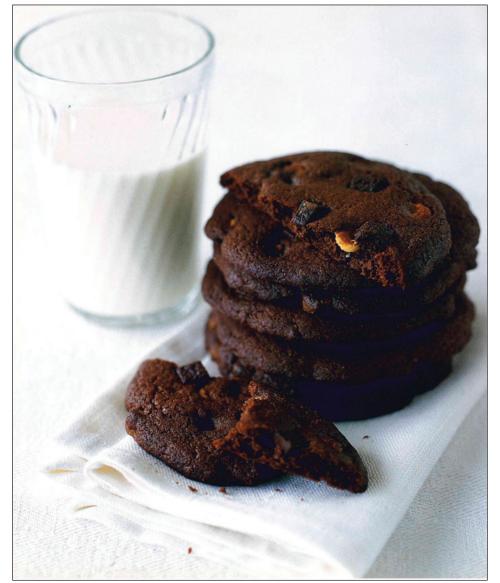
Preheat the oven to 350 F.

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. Squatrigha (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 Chaffeevile 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, refuge and recycling ordinance

2) Veteran's Tax Exemption ordinance3) Driveway ordinance

Copies of the ordinances are available for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk during normal businesses hours and at <u>www.thompsonct.org</u>. 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 & CAPOSSE-LA, LLP, 45 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, PO BOX 3811, VERNON, CT 06066, (860)812-0433 December 11, 2020

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com



THE CHANUKAH MIRACLE.

ANSWER: OIL



.ISH: Miracle

SPANISH: Milagro

Creative Coloring

Celebrate Chanukah. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.





WHEN SHOPPING FOR GIFTS FOR CHILDREN, IT IS WISE TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE SUGGESTED AGES ON THE PRODUCT PACKAGING. THIS HELPS ENSURE SAFETY.



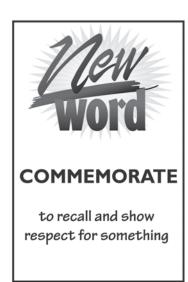
THE SHAMASH IS THE ATTENDANT CANDLE THAT IS USED TO LIGHT



• 1817: MISSISSIPPI BECOMES THE 20TH U.S. STATE.

 1901: THE FIRST NOBEL PRIZES ARE AWARDED IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN IN THE FIELDS OF PHYSICS, MEDICINE, CHEMISTRY, LITERATURE, AND PEACE.

 2004: A UNITED STATES PASSENGER JET LANDS IN VIETNAM. IT IS THE FIRST TO DO SO SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR ENDED.





ITALIAN: Miracolo

FRENCH: Miracle

GERMAN: Wunder

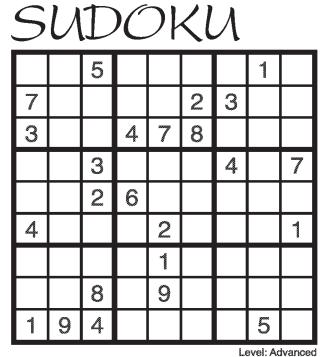


THE OTHER CANDLES ON THE MENORAH. TRADITIONALLY IT SITS HIGHER OR LOWER THAN THE REST.

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: POTATO LATKES





Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

8	G	2	9	£	L	7	6	ounda	
9	L	m	4	6	S	8	£	G	
ε	\mathbf{r}	6	ç		8	9	L	S	
muk	6	9	3	2	ç	L	8	7	
G	ε	8	L	4	9	S	manda	6	
L	S	7	nnah	8	6	З	G	9	
6	9	ç	8	٢	Þ	m	S	3	
⊅	8	З	S	ç	manda	6	9	L	
Σ	www	٢	6	9	3	S	t	8	
:Aawen									

Windows & Doors Triple Savings Event



Until Dec. 31st, we're discounting our most popular products



Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, the window company that homeowners trust.

Now offering virtual appointments, too!

Certified Master Installers:

When it comes to installations, experience matters. Our crews have installed thousands of windows and must pass our certification program. And we've adjusted our operations to serve you in the safest way possible.

Superior Material:

Our composite Fibrex[®] window material is 2X stronger than vinyl, which is why our windows will last for years.**

Call for your Free Window and Door Diagnosis











¹Offer not available in all areas. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and **applies to purchase of 3 or more windows and/or entry or patio doors.** Cannot be combined with other offers. Initial contact for a free Window and Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 12/31/20, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. All residents of islands including but not limited to Martha's Vineyard will be subject to an island surcharge. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, *d/b/a* Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. Southern New England Windows LLC is the authorized representative of Renewal by Andersen and the registered Home Improvement Contractor. Renewal by Andersen does not hold this HIC number. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *Using U.S. and imported parts. **See limited warranty for details at https://www.renewalbyandersen.com/homeowner-help/warranty. **All sales, marketing and installation of windows is conducted by Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England, an independently owned and operated affiliate operating in RI, CT and Cape Cod, MA**.



We know that giving back moves our



community forward.

Since 1889, we've upheld a tradition of helping our neighbors. Over the last five years, we've donated nearly \$1.3 million to community organizations and our employees have contributed thousands of volunteer hours to help those in need.

Unlock your potential



Learn more at bankHometown.com/community

