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Friday, February 9, 2024

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Hayes chooses not to seek re-election

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — After three terms serving the

51st District in the House of Representatives in Hartford, Rick Hayes has announced he will not seek reelection this fall as

he takes time to be with his family after decades of services to his local community as a police official and politician.



51st District State Rep. Rick Hayes has announced he will not seek reelection in November after three terms in Hartford.

FAA releases preliminary findings in fatal plane crash

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

LEYDON, Mass. — The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) have released their preliminary report concerning a plane crash that killed three people, including a Woodstock man, on Jan. 14. The report provided new insight including detailed witness accounts of the accident.

The crash occurred at around 11:25 a.m. in Leydon, Mass., not long after the Beechcraft Baron 55, tail number N7345R, owned by Fly Lugu Flight School took off from runway 20 at Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport. According to the preliminary report issued by the NTSB, after departing at 11:06 a.m. the aircraft made a 180-degree left turn and climbed to between 3,000 and 3,300 feet before making four alternating 360-degree turns and continuing northbound. The airplane climbed to 4,000 feet before entering a rapid descent. The report confirmed that the aircraft was not receiving air traffic control services during the flight and there were no recorded radio communications. The craft impacted terrain in the Leydon Wildlife Management Area, coming to rest in a clearing. The three passengers, 53-year-old instructor Fredrika Ballard of Southwick, Mass., 68-year-old William Hampton of Indian Orchard, Mass., who owned Fly Lugu Flight School, and 29-year-old Chad Davidson of Woodstock lost their lives in the crash.

According to a description of the crash site provided in the NTSB report, the plane was located with all major components and no post impact fire damage. Both wings and their respective engines were still attached to the fuselage. The fuselage itself was compressed and crushed downward. Damage was recorded on the right wing consistent with impacting a tree. The tail section was partially separated but remained intact via control cables. Investigators reported the wreckage was consistent with the airplane landing relatively flat with little forward movement. Icing was recorded on the wings and horizontal stabilizers, engine nacelles, rudder, the front face of one of the left engine's propeller blades, and on the navigation antenna. There were two active AITMET warnings at the time of the accident including one for moderate icing. Reports from Orange Municipal Airport recorded winds gusting at 23 knots, broken clouds at 4,600 feet, and temperatures of around 35-degree Fahrenheit at the time of the crash. There were also reports of occasional severe turbulence between 3,000 and 16,000 feet due to strong low-level winds. Investigators did not indicate whether these factors were the direct or indirect causes of the crash.

The report also included new witness reports from the scene. Initially it was reported that two witnesses walking their dog alerted authorities of the incident. The NTSB report clarified that these individuals did not see the plane itself but were alerted by the sound of the engine which they

described as “really loud and clunky.” The witnesses said the engine “shut off before it re-started” and was much quieter. Another witness reported hearing the RPMs of the engine “fluctuate drastically” while a third witness said they heard and saw the plane flying “somewhat erratically” and turned its nose downward before it “spiroled out of site.” The report described another more detailed account of the accident from a fourth witness.

“One eyewitness was walking his dog when he first heard the airplane's engines and looked up. He said the airplane was ‘trying to gain altitude,’ ‘then stopped’ before the nose of the airplane dropped and ‘made a straight line’ toward the ground,” the NTSB wrote in their report. “The airplane ‘corkscrewed’ straight down and went out of view. The witness described that the airplane did not appear to make any movements that would indicate it was going to exit the spinning descent. The witness said the airplane, which he estimated was about [three quarter of a mile] away from him, descended ‘fast.’ From the time he first observed the airplane until it went out of site was about eight seconds. The witness described the weather conditions as very windy (and cold), but it was not snowing, and the visibility was good.”

The wreckage of the plane was recovered and transported to a secure facility for further examination. No exact cause for the crash has been determined as of this writing and the incident remains under investigation.

Hayes, a Republican, was first elected in 2018 and subsequently reelected in 2020 and 2022 to represent Putnam, Thompson, and parts of Killingly. He said talks of his retirement from Hartford have been ongoing with his family since the middle of last year and he finally decided that it was time.

“I did 31 years with the police department, and prior to that, I did the fire department and volunteer EMS. I've been very involved in the community, but being in the department for those many years, I missed a lot with my boys and daughters, a lot of Christmases and birthdays, sporting events and family parties. We all knew it was part of the job and just tolerated it, but now we have nine grandchildren who have reached the age of school events and sports. I just turned 65-years-old, so I'm not going to miss that stuff again,” said Hayes.

While Hayes admitted it was difficult being part of the minority party in the state capital, he believes his time as State Representative was productive. While he promised to “hit the ground running” when he was first elected, like many freshman candidates, he said he quickly realized it takes time to learn the process and form relationships to help get things done. As

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Thompson debuts concept plans for full 65 Main project

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Last month, the Town of Thompson held the fourth of 12 informational sessions discussing the planned Food Forest and Small Business Development Center set to be placed at 65 Main St. in the coming years. The Jan. 24 session primarily focused on the plans for the Food Forest which will be located on the back portion of the property.

The town owned property at 65 Main St. once housed the Superintendent of Tourtellotte Memorial High School and is the former home of TEEG. The town has sought new uses for the property for years, eventually seeing an opportunity to help facilitate business growth with a special emphasis on agriculture. The January informational session welcomed Wayne Weiseman of the Permaculture Project who presented his first draft of the concept for the planned Food Forest as well as an additional 3.2 acres along Riverside Park.

The conceptual plans showed the Food Forest which would be located behind the existing 65 Main facility. It also showcased plans for the larger area along the French River incorporating outside learning areas, forest restoration, a firepit, outdoor seats, and more. The renovated building on the property would serve as the central small business support center where the town would promote opportunities for local business owners to learn and enhance their growth, especially small agricultural and food system start-ups.

Thompson Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek said the session delved into details about soil testing and the use of runoff stormwater from the 65 Main building as an added source of irrigation. Members of the public also presented questions about the potential expansion of the community garden program and the implementation and construction plans for the project.

Penn-Desek explained that public input has been essential to help guide officials on how to direct

Turn To **65 MAIN** page **A10**

Scramble the Duck, Connecticut's own weather predictor, forecasts early spring weather



Courtesy

On the morning of Feb. 1, Scramble the Duck, Connecticut's accurate weather-predicting groundhog alternative, predicted an early spring. Photo courtesy of the Scramble the Duck Facebook page.

EASTFORD — On the morning of Feb. 1, Scramble the Duck, Connecticut's accurate weather-predicting groundhog alternative, predicted an early spring. In what promises to be another accurate prediction, Scramble revealed his forecast through a speech read by Aaron Minor: “An early spring—a gift to you. No shadow!”

Benjamin Torcellini, in an opening speech, reminded the audience of New England weather's quirkiness with words from Mark Twain: “The weather is always doing something there; always attending strictly to business; always getting up new designs and trying them on the people to see how they will go.”

He pointed out that Scramble, in contrast to the fallibility of groundhogs, has never once made an inaccurate prediction. Once Scramble was introduced, he walked down the red carpet rolled out from the door of his house.

Scramble then was placed on a clean, white table to allow him to search for a shadow. After careful investigation and communication to his handlers, he chose the scroll he wished for his handlers to read. Aaron Minor read Scramble's scroll announcing an early spring prediction.

The scroll mentioned that Scramble was dedicated to an accurate prediction. In addition, Minor mentioned the faults of Scramble's alter-

native, Punxsutawney Phil. The scroll remarked, “No groundhog could prophesy these declarations and forewarnings.” After establishing Scramble's credentials for better weather predicting, the scroll declared Scramble's prediction: “Warmth is on the way. An early spring—a gift to you!” Fans were ecstatic at the announcement.

Scramble the Duck is an accurate alternative to groundhogs like Punxsutawney Phil, Connecticut Chuckles, and others. Unlike any groundhog, Scramble guarantees perfect accuracy record regardless of the outcome. Videos and pictures of the event may be found on his Web site, scrambletheduck.org.

Day Kimball forms expands cardiology services with formation of “The Heart Group”

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) is expanding its cardiology services with the formation of the Heart Group and the addition of Cardiologist Richard Soucier, M.D. With a dedication to patient-centered care and a collaborative approach, the Heart Group focuses on the heart health of patients providing comprehensive cardiovascular services from preventative care to advanced cardiac procedures.

Joining DKH from Trinity Health of New England, Dr. Soucier brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Heart Group, along with DKH’s cardiologists John Modica, M.D., Tracy Cormier, APRN, and Andrea Meyer, PA-C. Dr. Soucier is board-certified in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology. Earning his medical degree at Dartmouth

Medical School, he completed a residency and fellowship in cardiovascular diseases and a second residency in internal medicine at the University of Connecticut, where he also served as a post-doctoral fellow in cardiovascular medicine. Dr. Soucier also served as an assistant professor and director of heart failure population health at Yale School of Medicine.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Soucier to our cardiology team. His skills, commitment to excellence, and clinical leadership perfectly align with the caliber of cardiovascular care that we provide to the community, and his experience will be invaluable as we expand cardiovascular services in Northeast Connecticut,” said R. Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Health. “The introduction of the Heart Group

reflects our ongoing commitment to meet the evolving needs of this community, recognizes heart disease as a leading cause of death within our region and beyond, and underscores the importance of DKH in providing access to critical healthcare and ‘heart care’ in our region.”

“I am thrilled to be part of the remarkable developments in cardiology services at Day Kimball Health. Working with a seasoned and collaborative care team committed to cardiovascular excellence is my passion,” said Dr. Soucier. “As we introduce the Heart Group, our goal is to grow and enhance heart health services in Northeast Connecticut while maintaining the level of exceptional care patients here are accustomed to.”

According to the CDC, heart disease is a leading cause of adult mortality in the United States. Nationally, it accounts for one out of every five deaths, annually. In 2019, heart



Courtesy
Day Kimball Health announces expansion of cardiology services with the introduction of the Heart Group (l to r): Tracy Cormier, APRN, John Modica, M.D., Richard Soucier, M.D., FACC, and Andrea Meyer, PA-C.

disease was the leading cause of death among Connecticut residents, accounting for nearly 23 percent of all deaths.

“In Northeast Connecticut, DKH’s Heart Group is committed to tackling this issue head-on by building on the work already

being done in our cardiology department,” Kramer said. “Through heightened awareness, increased preventative measures, and advanced treatments, we strive to reshape cardiovascular health in our community.”

The comprehensive

cardiology services offered at Day Kimball Health encompass a wide range of diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic interventions. For more information about the Heart Group and our cardiology services, visit daykimball.org/cardiology.

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Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — A total of 2,299 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI’s fall 2023 Deans List. The criteria for the WPI Deans List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

“WPI’s academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real” said Professor Arthur C. Heinricher. “Some of this nation’s best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean’s List have

excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students.”

The following students were named to the fall 2023 Dean’s List: Vicente Bastura, from Pomfret Center, class of 2027, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Connor Dunkley, from Pomfret Center, class of 2027, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology

Connor Quinn, from Woodstock, class of 2025, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of

Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

Regis College announces Dean’s List

WESTON, Mass. — Regis College proudly announces the university’s Fall 2023 Dean’s List recognizing their outstanding academic achievements.

“Being named to the Dean’s List is a recognition of a students’ semester-long unwavering commitment to their academic program,” said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD. “Regis is committed to building students’ character and confidence as they are intellectually prepared for a life and career of meaning through an inclusive and innovative environment. Our students steadfast commitment to academic excellence is reflected in being named to the Dean’s List.”

To earn a spot on the Dean’s List, Regis sophomores, juniors, seniors, and professional stud-

ies students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additional criteria can be found in Regis’ Academic Catalog.

Shannon Cunniff of Woodstock

Salena Thongsouvanh of Danielson

Ashley Morin of Thompson

Regis College is a coed university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston nearly a century ago. With over 3,200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. In line

with Regis’ mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor’s completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university’s 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Regis challenges, inspires, and supports students who are driven by passion, purpose, and a pursuit to positively impact the world within a learning community that embraces inclusivity and innovation and builds strong character, confidence, and careers. Visit regiscollege.edu to learn more.

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Day Kimball names Jim Perry Employee of the Month



Courtesy

Day Kimball Health's Employee of the Month for December 2023, Jim Perry, RN, BSN charge nurse in the Emergency Department at Day Kimball Hospital.

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) has named Jim Perry, RN, BSN, charge nurse for DKH's Emergency Department employee of the month for December 2023.

"Jim's dedication and leadership in our Emergency Department sets a high standard for excellence," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Health. "His commitment to compassionate care is evident in his reputation as a devoted nurse, a sentiment echoed by both colleagues and patients. With more than 23 years of

service at DKH, Jim's positive impact is widespread. I am proud to have Jim as a member of Day Kimball, and I commend his significant efforts in supporting our patients and community."

Born in Detroit, Mich., Perry grew up in Putnam since the age of four. He currently resides in Sterling with his wife Deb, who is also a nurse at DKH, along with their three cats Salem, M, and Luna.

Day Kimball Health's employee of the month program is sponsored by Foxwoods Resort Casino and the Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation in appreciation of healthcare workers and all they do for the community.

Paws Cat Shelter hosting fundraising pasta dinner

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is hosting a pasta dinner fundraiser at Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Meal includes pasta, meatballs, sausage, garlic bread and salad. Eat in or take out.

Tickets are \$15 each and are available at the Paws Cat Shelter in Woodstock, Knights of Columbus in Putnam and Joseph Jewelers in Putnam.

For more information, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

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Local students named to URI Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Fall 2023 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. They include:

- Linsey Arends of Brooklyn
- Julia Beausoleil of Danielson
- Allison Faist of Danielson
- Riley Hardacker of Brooklyn
- Lily Hayes of Danielson
- Emma Korsu of Brooklyn
- Meaghan O'Brien of Brooklyn
- Abigail Owens of Dayville
- Emma Russell of Brooklyn
- Kelsey Tichenor of Dayville
- Zoe Hetrick of Putnam
- Julia Beausoleil of Danielson
- Avery Collin of Pomfret Center
- Allison Faist of Danielson
- David Fleck of Woodstock
- Lily Hayes of Danielson
- Brian Jameson of Woodstock
- Elias Newall-Vuillemot of Woodstock
- Katie Papp of Eastford
- Aubrey Rumrill of Eastford
- Ashley Smith of Woodstock

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

About the University of Rhode Island
The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers its undergraduate, graduate, and professional students distinctive educational opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow.

Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students. The core of its Kingston Campus was named to the National Register of Historic Places, and the University's Narragansett Bay Campus is home to highly acclaimed oceanography and ocean engineering programs, providing unparalleled opportunities for students and researchers. As a land-, sea-, and space-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state and New England region.

Discover more at www.uri.edu.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Leading with purpose: Prioritizing local issues over the culture war

At a time when communities far and wide face pressing challenges like homelessness, substance misuse, and the need for unity, it is essential that our local leaders redirect their focus towards the issues that truly matter. Rather than engaging in divisive cultural battles, true leadership demands a dedication to improving the daily lives of residents by addressing local concerns.

One of the most pressing issues in many communities today is homelessness. Our woods and streets are home to many individuals who are struggling to find shelter and support. This issue should take precedence over divisive cultural debates, as it directly impacts the well-being and safety of our very own community members.

Similarly, the challenge of substance misuse is a significant concern that requires our leaders' full attention. Addiction affects not only the individuals grappling with it but also their families and communities. Local leaders should work collaboratively to establish effective rehabilitation and support programs that address this issue head-on, instead of allowing it to be overshadowed by polarizing cultural discussions.

A true leader understands the importance of bridging gaps rather than creating divisions. In an era marked by increasing polarization, it is incumbent upon our local leaders to strive for unity. Their role should be to bring residents together, encouraging dialogue and understanding among diverse groups. Creating a sense of community and solidarity should be a top priority, as it helps build a stronger, more resilient society.

It is crucial to recognize that small, symbolic issues like the presence of a two-inch pride sticker on a public building's door should not distract us from the substantial problems at hand. A leader's duty is to prioritize actions that will improve the daily lives of everyone in the community. While diverse perspectives are important, focusing on such symbolic issues detracts from the time and resources that could be better allocated to address actual challenges.

Furthermore, thriving businesses are an integral part of a flourishing community. Local leaders should work tirelessly to create an environment where businesses can thrive. A prosperous economy enables residents to access better opportunities and services, thus improving their quality of life.

Effective local leadership necessitates a clear focus on the issues that directly impact our community's well-being, such as homelessness, substance misuse, and unity. Divisive cultural debates, while important in their own right, should not overshadow these pressing concerns. A true leader, one with courage, prioritizes the needs of their constituents, brings people together, and strives to build a stronger, more resilient community. By doing so, they ensure that businesses thrive, basic needs are met, and everyone can enjoy a higher quality of life.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Republicans hold the record for disfunction

To the Editor:
This past year, the 118th Congress passed 26 bills into law. This is the least productive Congress in 90 years.

The make-up of the House of Representatives is 221 Republicans, and 213 Democrats. The Senate has 49 Republicans, 48 Democrats, and 3 Independents. Republicans hold the majority in Congress.

Last year, the 117th Congress passed 365

laws, the 116th Congress passed 344, and 443 were passed by the 115th Congress.

In January 2023, the new Republican House majority voted 15 times, the most needed to name a speaker in 100 years.

Time for the nation to vote responsibility for representatives that will drain the now stagnant swamp.

RAY WISHART
POMFRET DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

The Great Dark Light

To the Editor:
We, the most powerful Democrats, were so excited to have a gathering to share our foolish lives and how we became the followers of the Great Dark Light. As they gathered together, the many, Nancy Pelosi, Barack Obama, Joe Biden (the big guy), Adam Schiff, Jerry Nadler, Jim Comey, John Brennan, James Clapper, and several others who were there to praise each other for their unpatriotic service. They were all laughing, dancing, patting each other on the backs, with plenty of hugs and kisses as Nancy served them drinks. Then all of a sudden, a Great Dark Light appeared and they all fell on their faces with joy, knowing that help had now arrived.

Of course, as usual, Adam Schiff stood first and spoke. "Oh Great Dark Light, we would really like to cancel the filibuster with the Republicans. We don't want to debate," and they all agreed with praise, and the Great Dark Light said, "Well, then the people would never know the whole truth, and then either party would abuse the minority."

Then Jerry Nadler said, "We don't care, Great Dark Light. We did a great job making sure that all the social media platforms would never allow any conservatives, especially Trump supporters, to express their opinion in the 2016 and the 2020 elections, and that worked perfectly." So the Great Dark Light said, "I will think about it."

Then Nancy Pelosi stood ready to speak without her mask and messy hair as someone shouted, "Nancy, where's your mask?" She shouted back and said that Gavin Newsom didn't have his, and then Gavin yelled back "You have to blame me?" Then the Great Dark Light said "All right, hypocrites, calm down." Finally, Nancy got her composure and spoke. "Oh Great Dark Light, remember when Trump called me and wanted me to send hundreds more National Guard to the Capitol before Jan. 6 and I never responded back?" As she was laughing, she said, "We got him. We had all the support we needed from the FBI and DOJ head Merrick Garland. He got hundreds of those who never went into the Capitol and just stood around hundreds of yards away, who were not involved at all but were arrested anyway and put in jail for many, many months for trespassing."

Then all the Democrats applauded with praise. Someone yelled, "Where's Liz Cheney?" Then another one yelled out, laughing, saying "Hey, remember how proud we were when we gave full support to BLM and allowed hundreds of businesses to be destroyed, burnt down or looted, and many policemen and women who were shot and killed or wounded while several of our party members were calling for Defund the Police while we allowed Antifa and BLM to run up billions of dollars in damage?" Then someone said, "Remember when they took over a whole block in Seattle, burnt down a church, a police department building, and remember when Kamala helped bail anyone out who was arrested in that summer of love? Kamala was so proud."

Then Barrack Obama stood up and faced the Great Dark Light and asked, "We all here agreed to do away with the Electoral College, as you have seen that we won the public vote but lost the presidency. Think of it, Great Dark Light; then we would only need a couple of states to win the big office." They all shook their heads in agreement. The Great Dark Light said, "Then what about all the other states?" Then Jerry Nadler yelled out "Who cares about them? I'm from New York!"

Adam Schiff stood and said, "How about you allow us to stack the courts, and then we could control all legal matters?" Shouts of praise filled the air – "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

Then Jon Brennan said, "Remember, Great Dark Light, how me and James Clapper knew ahead of time about the Russian Collusion story and how it was a complete lie, and we were able to pull the rug out from most of the country's feet except Fox News" – everyone booed – "and how we lied continually to the American people with the help of ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, CNN, and all the social media platforms so we would have complete control of the media?" Then you could hear someone saying in the background, "I hate Fox News." Then Ji Comey yelled out, "I wrote up the fake dossier; hey, I was in that too."

Then all of a sudden appeared, like a ghost, Harry Reid, whispering "Remember I lied about Mitt Romney paying taxes?" laughing, "I got away with that one."

Now the Great Dark Light looked around and said, "Wow, you all have done a great job by yourselves. Then why do you need me?" Then Chuck Schumer said, "Well, because of my threat to Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch, someone almost killed Kavanaugh and Republican Sen. Rand Paul got his ribs broken. We need your help in many other ways."

Then Maxine Waters said, "Look how many people who supported Trump were faced by my constituents when we shouted mean words at them, broke up their lunch gatherings and dinners, and we ran them out of town." They all laughed and said, "Great job, Maxine."

Then, in a very quiet voice, Republican George Santos said, "Remember me?" They were all startled. Who let him in? They all looked at each other, raising their shoulders. Then Hillary Clinton stood up and looked at the Great Dark Light and said, "Thank you, Great Dark Light, for giving me the idea of how to bleach bit thousands of e-mails. Whew! I got away with that one. They only found 20,000 wedding pictures." Then Bill cried out, "You forgot to bleach bit that picture with me and that young girl!" "Shut up, Bill," said Hillary.

Finally, the Great Dark Light said "Enough. I heard you all very clear. I am somewhat mystified. Yes, you are great liars; yes, complete control freaks; yes, total domination freaks; and even asking for a dictatorship party, but seeing I am the Great Dark Light, promise me that we can't say anymore America voters who vote Republican are white supremacists. It's a little embarrassing, as there are millions of us white Democrats also." You could hear Biden crying as they all surrounded him. "It's OK, Joe, you still get the 10 percent." Then a smile appeared on his face when Hunter said, "I'll make sure of that." Then someone shouted in a very loud voice, "Does anyone need gold?" They all looked around, and it was Democrat Sen. Bob Menendez with a smile as Biden was raising his hand. The Great Dark Light was trying to control the crowd when Rashida Talib, waving the Palestinian flag, screaming "From the River to the Sea!" and then there were many others trying to crash the gathering, yelling "What about me, what about me?" Then all of a sudden, poof! The Great Dark Light disappeared. You could hear in the far distance "Wow, what a bunch of deplorables."

KEVIN W. MACK
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Hats off to Thompson's Highway Department

To the Editor:
Wherever you live, you can always find a government department to complain about. That's in any state. I complain as much as the next guy about town government not doing their job, or I'm not receiving the services my outrageously high Connecticut taxes are paying for. You know what I'm talking about. Paying in Thompson over \$3,000 yearly in home taxes when the same size house and property in Arizona cost me \$800. That with police service, something Thompson doesn't have unless you call the state. Or paying yearly vehicle taxes of \$700 when in Arizona, you pay \$0. You get the idea.

On occasion, when something happens that's worth sharing and is positive, I'm like a lot of others in the area. I don't. This time, I want to share with you the outstanding job the Thompson Highway Department did. During the last three storms, leaves blocked a drain on Pasay Road. Water backed up and froze, covering 50 percent of the road. This forced traffic going downhill into a blind cor-

ner, over the center line. Just a matter of time before a major head-on crash.

In addition to this, we have a mini school bus stopping twice daily just past the ice patch, on a hill and a corner.

I sent an e-mail to the town hall and highway department on this issue. Twice, they showed up with a plow and sander to scrape it down. Then, they came back with a plow and sander and front-end loader. They did a great job! Area completely cleared. Thank you, Thompson highway crew!

For those who live on streets that need improvement and don't feel the same way I do about that department, call your selectmen. Tell them your issue and ask them to increase the highway budget. Allow more staff, a new ten-wheel sander and more funds for repaving streets like Spicer Road in Thompson.

Hats off to Joe and his crew; keep up the good work.

JOE BLANCHARD
THOMPSON

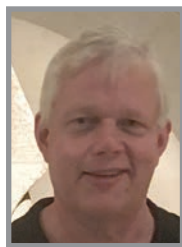
Aircraft memorabilia

Fascination with flight dates back centuries. English cleric Roger Bacon wrote about mechanical flight around 1250 A.D., according to the Library of Congress. Leonardo da Vinci designed flying machines and a parachute from 1485 to 1500. The first aerial voyage took place in 1783 when Jean François Pilâtre de Rozier and Marquis d'Arlandes took flight in a Montgolfier hot-air balloon. Two years later in 1785, Jean-Pierre Blanchard and John Jeffries crossed the English Channel by balloon. DaVinci's parachute design was put to use in 1797, when André Jacques Garnerin made the first human parachute descent from a balloon.



Both powered flight and winged flight were being considered in 1843 when aeronautical engineering pioneer George Cayley published a biplane design. Henri Giffard used a steam engine to propel a cigar shaped aircraft in 1852. In 1891, Otto Lilienthal began successful gliding experiments and in 1895 he began flying his biplanes. Hu used split willow framed wings covered with cotton, resembling bird wings. His biplane was considered the most influential winged aircraft prior to the Wright Brothers.

On Dec. 17, 1903, two brothers who owned a bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio made the first airplane flight. Wilbur a n d Orville Wright flew a 12-horsepower gasoline engine powered aircraft for 12 seconds above the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, N.C.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

Later in the 1900s, record-breaking pilots were considered heroes. Charles A. Lindbergh completed the first solo, nonstop trans-Atlantic flight in 1927. In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly a solo non-stop trans-Atlantic flight. Later in 1947, Charles E. Yeager's Bell X-1 became the first aircraft to exceed the speed of sound in level flight.

As you might expect, there are collectors who appreciate the history of flight or have fond memories of airlines and collect airplane related memorabilia.

Locally, the "Worcester" Airport opened in North Grafton in 1927. Over 30,000 people witnessed stunt flyers, parachuters, and military pilots when the airport opened. We sold a program, ticket, and first day cover from the event for \$150 in our December 2022 auction. Some other early aviation medals sold well in our last auction this past January. A sterling silver 1919 New York Aeronautical Expedition commemorative medal sold for \$140 and a bronze medal commemorating Admiral Byrd's Flights over the Arctic and Antarctica sold for \$550.

As for more recent history, Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) was founded in 1927. It was considered to be the leading international carrier after World War II. In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt needed a plane to fly to a conference in Morocco and chose a Pan Am Boeing 314 Clipper. Other presidents including Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Richard Nixon also flew on Pan Am flights staffed by some of their finest employees. We auctioned memorabilia from the estate of a stewardess

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some thoughts on the immigration problem

To the Editor:

Here are a few of my thoughts and observations concerning the recent turmoil surrounding U.S. immigration legislation/executive action scenarios being presented by the news media and with what facts and laws I could find on-line. I agree with House of Representatives Speaker Johnson in his statement that this is a very complex situation; however, it is the function of Congress—not me as a member of the voting public—to pass laws and appropriate funds. Unraveling the complexity needs to fall to professional law-makers, I would think.

There have been such confusing differences about who exactly is responsible for making necessary changes about quotas, enforcement, who-gets-in-and-who-is-rejected-all mixed in with fears, racism, fentanyl, human trafficking—eek! All I can see thus far (as of Jan. 31) is that government officials who should be cooperating during a “border emergency” to find areas of agreement or compromise: are not.

It looks like back in November, when funding for military assistance to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan was on the brink of being submitted for congressional action, enough lawmakers stated that the “border crisis” was of equal importance and needed to be included in any such appropriations, that members of the Senate took that seriously and began bipartisan negotiations among members of that body to formulate such a law.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives passed the “Secure the Border Act,” containing what many Senators described as extreme measures that they could not support. I don’t believe that they ever took that up, instead formulating their bipartisan Senate version which as of this date has not been released for the public to find out about. Because it was a bipartisan effort—neither position winning everything they wanted—one would expect it has/had a good chance of winning passage.

As of today, House Speaker Johnson just stated from the House floor that it is not the responsibility of Congress to fix the border mess, but that the executive branch can legally close the border. Well, is this true? In trying to fact-check that, and following a press conference by former President Trump, I researched the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1980, which he referenced in his remarks.

This act was passed during President Carter’s administration and apparently set a 50,000-refugee ceiling cap. The act makes provision for exceeding that number, which President George H.W. Bush did under emergency authorization, maybe during the influx of Cuban refugees? He increased the admissions per year during his term to almost 120,000 per year. I could not find evidence that this Immigration and Nationality Act provided for lowering the number of refugees lawfully allowed, and Mr. Trump was apparently the only president to lower the refugee ceiling number. I guess this lowering of the number of refugees was never challenged (?), so that may be the basis for his insistence that the executive branch has the authority to “shut down the border.”

According to my online research, the last time comprehensive immigration law was passed by Congress—not by the executive branch—was with the Immigration Act of 1990, which capped

It shouldn’t be weird to get involved in a democracy

To the Editor:

I’m obviously too much of an eccentric nerd in my old age. Chalk that up to years of being bullied, picked on, and largely being a lone wolf just trying to make something of myself, plus being a long time science and technology guy who’s been into computers for decades. However, somewhere in my nerdy introverted complete lack of social skills I played a little catchup and heard that apparently in Putnam if you show up to a selectmen or board/commission meeting your representatives get nervous because they’re wondering why you’re there, especially if you don’t say anything.

If that’s really how it works and not just an opinion floating around, we’re doing it wrong.

If you live in a town, pay taxes, drive to work on roads the town should be maintaining, etc., you have a stake in the game. It’s perfectly reasonable and logical to want to know what’s going on in your town and where your money’s going, but if so few people show up besides the “regulars” that an unfamiliar face in the crowd immediately gets someone thinking, “Why are they here?” then what exactly are we doing?

We’ve lost something as a constitutional republic if citizens speaking up and giving a darn about what’s going on in their communities is an instant recipe for things to get completely awkward.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAMJ

the number of immigrants at 700,000 annually and set standards for immigration. In 2001, undoubtedly in response to the 9/11 attacks, the Real ID Act restricted who could apply for asylum and the Secure Fence Act of 2006 brought the process of building a fence across the Mexico-U.S. border.

Now, I must pause here to wonder why the fence had to be at the southern border when it was the Canadian border that was crossed by the mostly Saudi terrorists who attacked us. This is why I think racism cannot be separated from these attempts at immigration/asylum legislation.

Former President Obama’s administration in 2013 attempted to have comprehensive immigration reform enacted including provisions for creating a “road” to U.S. citizenship, reforms to labor laws, and securing of U.S. sovereignty, among other changes and updates. The legislation passed in the Senate but was not taken up in the House of Representatives, so President Biden is still governing under laws that are decades old.

So can this be solved by impeaching Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas? While his successful removal appears unlikely with a two-thirds majority vote of the House required and a Democratic majority in the Senate, if he were removed, why would a different DHS Secretary change the situation we are in right now?

Sorry, but this appears to be an attempt at distraction by a group of congresspeople who are not willing—or capable?—of rolling up their sleeves and engaging in a bipartisan effort to improve the situation instead of “winning” or “losing.” I think most of us have enough to be concerned about in our daily lives without hearing threats of “illegal aliens” invading northeast Connecticut and all the frightening stories that go with it.

Finally, it is almost a cliché, but almost everyone I know—and including myself and my beloved family—are here because our ancestors were immigrants. The only exceptions I know of are indigenous people and those Black people whose ancestors were kidnapped from Africa and forced into slavery here. Can we not empathize at least in Christian love with families and individuals who are seeking asylum or trying for a better life here in this country that we love? Being fortunate enough to be born here is no cause for individual superiority, just gratitude for our good fortune.

This is a very difficult letter to send because almost no one will agree with

what I am writing. I am not asking for agreement, but only that readers use their own minds (and maybe hearts as well) to think, rather than swallowing someone else’s point of view—especially

when that view brings a selfish reward to that person.

Respectfully,
Claudia Allen
Thompson

Dead on arrival

To the Editor:

House Speaker Johnson says it’s “dead on arrival.” The bi-partisan immigration bill - which Dems and Reps toiled over for months, and which promised that Congress would finally make headway in crafting more reasonable legislation to regulate immigration - is “dead on arrival.” All because Mr. Trump wants to make immigration a hot button political issue and campaign on it. He doesn’t want it solved, because he wants the credit for solving it. Wow.

Put our border states -- and the immigrants fleeing to a safe country -- at risk for Trump’s campaign strategy.

Legislation like this hasn’t been tackled for some fifty years, and Congress is finally about to make headway. But, due to Trump’s stranglehold on the Republican legislators, it is dead on arrival. Never mind the fact that we are betraying our Ukrainian friends and encouraging Putin to continue his bloody aggression.

I hope this signals to voters that Trump’s bid for the presidential nomination is also dead on arrival.

KAREN RYKER
WOODSTOCK

Biden’s blind support for Israel my cost him re-election

To the Editor:

President Biden compares himself to President Franklin Roosevelt, but in reality, he is more like President Lyndon Johnson. Biden’s blind support for Israel matches Johnson’s fervor for that foreign nation. And Biden’s support for Israel’s longtime goal of ethnically cleansing Palestine of Palestinians, including the use of genocide, is making the Middle East and the world less safe for Americans.

South Africa’s successful case against Israel in the ICJ implicates the United States with aiding and abetting Israel’s plausible genocide against Palestinians. With suspending funds to UNRWA, the United States is now directly participating in the genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, who are on the brink of famine. Since the United States and Western Europe helped install the state of Israel upon the indigenous population in Palestine, we and they have a moral responsibility to help the displaced Palestinians.

Our troops in the Middle East are under near constant attacks from an inflamed population that is witnessing the genocide of Gazans. Israel and its fascist government is the source of this violence. Netanyahu is using a “wag the dog” strategy to keep himself in power so he can avoid prison on corruption charges. He is not only wagging Israel; he is also wagging the United States.

And Bibi wants to expand the war into neighboring countries. Will President Biden follow Bibi’s lead and risk more American lives?

This year, the Summer Olympics will be held in Paris, France. Not only will Israeli athletes and fans be under constant threats, but so will Americans.

Later this year, the DNC will hold their convention in Chicago, Ill. I was seven years old when Democrats held their 1968 convention in the same city. I remember the violence outside the convention halls. It was not a good look for Democrats. The Democrats lost the White House that year, largely due to President Johnson’s support for the Vietnam War.

Will the conflict in Gaza and his support for genocide in Gaza destroy Biden’s chances for re-election?

Arab and Muslim Americans, who helped Biden win the swing states of Michigan, Georgia, Arizona and Pennsylvania, have initiated an “Abandon Biden” strategy. According to recent polls, Biden is losing all or most of the swing states. Winning the state of Connecticut will be a pyrrhic victory if President Biden loses all or most of those swing states.

TERSA M. BARTON
DAYVILLE

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SPORTS

Killingly hangs on against East Lyme to inch closer to playoff berth



Killingly's Laura Farquhar takes a 3-pointer from the side of the court while an East Lyme coach tries to manage his team behind her.

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School girls' basketball held a slight 29-27 lead over visiting East Lyme High School, when senior Sydney Crabtree buried a mid-range jump shot to put Killingly up two possessions with a minute and eighteen seconds left in regulation.

The shot was all that Killingly needed momentum-wise to close the game out and they were able to shut out East Lyme for the last minute

of the game with great defense to hold onto a 32-27 win for their seventh win of the season, one win away from a playoff spot on Thursday, Feb. 1.

"Absolutely, East Lyme put up a truly gutsy performance," stated Killingly Head Coach Gina Lindberg. "We were able to pull it out. We worked hard and pulled it out. Close games prepare you as you move forward, but it is huge for us because now we are playing a game every other day now for the rest of the season and to get one

under our belt it gives us some momentum moving onto Saturday."

After a 7-7 first quarter, Killingly outscored East Lyme 10-3 in the second quarter to give some cushion going into halftime, 17-10. This was huge on a night when things were not coming easily on the offensive end. Killingly was able to build the lead and held it for the duration of the contest.

"It is always nice to put that separation in between the two especially going into halftime," stated Lindberg.



Molly Crabtree of Killingly pushes her way through the East Lyme defense, attempting to make it toward the hoop.

"We have trouble putting together a full game, so when you get momentum going into halftime, get a chance to regroup and come back at it. It is big for us."

There were times that East Lyme would put together a run and cut into the deficit, but ultimately great defense and clutch scoring from Laura Farquhar kept Killingly ahead.

"You're absolutely right, it felt like we were stuck in a rut offensively tonight, but we persevered with our defense," Lindberg expressed.

"Our defense is fantastic and it is every game, so I don't expect anything less at this point, so when we are in a little funk you have to turn the pressure up on defense and we preach that we have to turn the pressure up if we are not performing on the other end."

Farquhar was a bright spot offensively for Killingly on a night when defense was the strength. The senior guard buried five 3-pointers and ended the game with a game-high 17 points in the contest. She scored 11 of her 17 points in the second

quarter and buried two 3's in the 10-point quarter.

"Laura has certainly come into her own," praised Lindberg. "She has always been top-notch, but I feel like her game has elevated this year and she gets better every game. So, we are pleased with how she is performing right now."

Killingly lost to Bacon Academy (48-35) on Saturday, Feb. 3 to remain a game away from automatic postseason inclusion as of press time.

Redmen battle until the end against Stonington before falling just short



Killingly's Quin Crowley leaps into the air for a layup while the Bears' defense tries to come from behind too late for a block.



Killingly's Johnny Kazantzis bumps into a Stonington defender, attempting to gain momentum while sprinting down the court.

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly boys' varsity basketball team (6-9) battled until the very end against visiting Stonington High School (12-4) on Friday, Feb. 2. With under two minutes left in regulation, sophomore Quinn Sumner hit one of two free throws to tie the contest at 52-52. Unfortunately for the Redmen, the Bears

were able to capitalize on a couple of offensive miscues and scored a couple of quick baskets to take a four-point lead, which forced Killingly to intentionally foul.

Stonington was able to extend the lead late from the charity stripe and Killingly was unable to score for the last two minutes of the fourth quarter and were defeated 58-52 in a back-and-forth battle

from start to finish.

From the beginning of the contest, it was clear it was going to be a good one. Both teams were doing the little things to contribute to winning basketball, such as chasing down loose balls, taking charges and crashing the glass for offensive rebounds. Ashton Goodwin was a huge contributor tallying 6 steals in the contest to go along with his 8 points.

It was clear that Stonington wanted to get the ball down low to their big man Alexander Nowak and it was Killingly's game plan to deny him the ball close to the basket on the defensive end and to attack the big man offensively. Nowak finished with 10 points, but Sumner matched his offensive production with 10 points of his own and also was the primary defender on Nowak for the majority of the contest and did an excellent job.

Every quarter was back and forth in the contest except for the second quarter going into halftime. Killingly trailed 16-14 after the first quarter, but exploded early on in the second quarter. The Redmen on the shoulders of 7 points from freshman Quin Crowley began the second quarter on a 9-0 run



Michael Fabiano of Killingly attempts to back down a Stonington defender in order to make it for a layup.

and outscored Stonington 16-11 in the quarter to jump out to their biggest lead, 30-25 going into the halftime break. Crowley scored all 10 of his points in the quarter.

Throughout the whole contest, Johnny Kazantzis was consistent and scored a game-high 19 points. The

skilled junior finished at the hoop, hit free throws, scored from behind the arc, and also facilitated with some dazzling passes.

Killingly lost this contest, but showed they can hang with a team that has already clinched a playoff spot and will

hold a high seed in the postseason. The Redmen need two wins in their next five games to clinch a spot of their own, but they showed in this one that they are capable of an upset if they see each other again.

CUPCAKE WARS!

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SPORTS

High School Notebook

Killingly High School

Wrestling
Killingly defeated ECC Division II rival New London 63-6 on Wednesday, January 31st. The Redmen finished the dual meet season at 30-0 and extended their win streak to a school record 60. Pinning tonight were Max Richardson, Mason Connetti, Aiden Mantia, Giovanni Sanchez, Exael Padilla, Soren Rief and Anthony Oates. Brady Zadora scored a tech fall and Bradey Jonasch won by major decision. Also capturing hard fought decisions were Ian Cathel, Amani Samuel, Jared Hansen and Ryan Barretta.

On Sunday, February 4th, Killingly ranked #7 finished second today to #2 Newtown in the Bacon Invitational Tournament. We did score a season high 231 points and placed nine wrestlers in the finals. Pinning in the finals were Soren Rief and Brady Zadora while Bradey Jonasch won a tight 3-2 decision. Finishing in second place were Max Richardson, Ian Cathell, Mason Connetti, Giovanni Sanchez, Exael Padilla and Anthony Oates. In 3rd was Donald Ross, the twins Darin



The Killingly wrestling team finished second to Newtown in the Bacon Invitational Tournament on Sunday, Feb. 4.

and Devin Exarhoulias while Alex Murdock took fourth. This was our last competition of the regular season. Next up: We will be hosting the ECC Tournament this Saturday.

Indoor Track
On Saturday, February 3rd, the Killingly Indoor Track team competed at The Coast Guard in the ECCs! Competition is

certainly never lacking when we get into the playoffs and have a 12- team battle royal to see who medals!

As always, ladies first: Shanaya Brown continued her dominance throughout the season in the season in the 55-meter dash finishing 4th and medaling! Emma Seide continues to chuck her Shotput and threw for an incredible 17 feet 9 inches and put in work for the ladies. Melody Hutchinson got a Season Record in the 1000-meter dash, an incredible way to finish the season! Emerson Joly also got a Personal Record in the 600- meter dash, way to finish off the season with your best! Addyson Larkin, Marley Cusson and Zoe Labonte fought hard in the 300- meter dash to finish the season strong, Marley Cusson even finished with a Personal Record for all these amazing ladies to finish strong in the ECCs!

Onto the gentlemen: Everton Brown continues his dominance never finishing below 1st this ENTIRE season for the 55- meter dash and medaled 1st! Preston Suprenant, Jahiem Card and Casey Hamilton also fought hard in the event! Everton Brown also finished 6th in the 300- meter dash to medal with Casey Hamilton fighting hard in the event as well! Zeke Benoit and Calvin Vandale chucked their Shot Puts to compete hard- and put-up points for the team! Calvin Vandale also fought hard in the 1600-meter and 3200- meter! Isaiah Benoit launched himself 7 feet 6 inches in Pole Vault to put up points for the team! Zeke Benoit, Isaiah Benoit, Phillip Purcell and Tomas Gutierrez all fought hard in the 600- meter dash and put in work to end the season strong! Caydan Jonasch finished the season strong, fighting hard as always in the 1000- meter dash! And lastly, however rarely finishing last, Jeremiah Smith flew in the High Jump to medal and finish 6th, he soared in the Long Jump finishing 2nd and medaling and finished 1st in the 55- meter hurdles for a medal and put up the most amount of points for Killingly!

Gymnastics
Tuesday, January 31st Killingly and Woodstock were on the road. Killingly remains undefeated with an 8-0 record!

Teams (KHS & Woodstock did not compete against each other)
Killingly High School 137.9 (8-0)
Stonington High School 131.25
Woodstock Academy 129.25 (3-5)
Vault
Ella Pereira Killingly 8.9
Jessie William Killingly 8.8
Mary Lord Stonington 8.5
Bars
Ella Pereira Killingly 9.45
Brenna Johnson Plainfield 9.1
Ava Pereira Ellis Tech 9.0
Beam
Jessie Williams Killingly 9.3
Brenna Johnson Plainfield 9.2
Ella Pereira Killingly 9.1
Floor
Brenna Johnson Plainfield 9.6
Kiley Voland Fitch 9.0
Ella Pereira Killingly 8.9
All Around
Ella Pereira Killingly 36.35
Brenna Johnson Plainfield 35.9
Jessie Williams Killingly 35.7
Killingly 137.5
Woodstock Academy 127. 1
DANIELSON – Killingly finished the Eastern Connecticut

Conference regular season undefeated (8-0 ECC, 9-0 overall) with the win over their gym partners at Deary's Gymnastics on Monday, Feb. 5.
Ella Pereira led Killingly with a 36.95 total to finish second in the All-Around behind Plainfield's team-of-one Brenna Johnson (37.25). Jessie Williams of Killingly finished third (34.9).
Livia Gerum paced the Centaurs (3-6, 2-6 ECC) with a 33.25 All-Around total.

Woodstock Academy

Boys' Hockey
The boys' hockey team took on the No. 1 ranked team in Rhode Island, Bishop Hendricken, at the Jahn Wednesday, January 31st. The Centaurs came up just short as Hendricken scored the game-winning goal with 59 seconds left in regulation for the 4-3 victory. Noah Sampson, Troy Daviau and Maxx Corradi all scored for the Centaurs. Donny Sousa had two assists for Woodstock Academy (5-8).
For a third straight game, the Centaurs (6-8) fell behind in the first period. This time, they were able to rebound from a 3-0 deficit to post the 6-5 win over Fairfield Warde-Ludlowe on Saturday, February 3rd.

It took a pair of shorthanded goals to do so. Noah Sampson completed his hat trick 49 seconds into the third period to tie the game at four for Woodstock Academy. But things looked like they could go awry when the Centaurs were saddled with a five-minute major penalty just moments later. If anything, the infraction seemed to focus on Woodstock Academy. Donny Sousa got the puck to Troy Daviau on a breakaway with 12 minutes, 10 seconds left in regulation to give the Centaurs the lead for good. It was another Sousa pass, this time to Maxx Corradi, that gave Woodstock Academy a two-goal lead just 2 ½ minutes later and negated a late goal by the Mustangs (10-5-1).

Suffield-Granby-Windsor Locks 4
Woodstock Academy 1
POMFRET – The Wildcats scored three goals in the final 3 minutes, 40 seconds to post the win at the Jahn Ice Rink at Pomfret School.

Austin Renggli scored a first period goal for the Wildcats (11-4) and goalie Noah Boyd (31 saves) held that up until early in the third period.
That's when senior Donny Sousa took a pass from Maxx Corradi and rifled a power-play goal in just 41 seconds into the final 15 minutes to tie the game for the Centaurs (6-9).
The Wildcats were not going to be denied, however, as Ben Wasko scored with 3:40 left in regulation and just 1:09 later, Renggli poked in his second tally of the night. Ryan Hughes got an empty-netter to account for the final.

Girls' Hockey

The Centaurs battled back from a 3-0 deficit going into the third period to post a 4-3 victory over the Fairfield Warde/Ludlowe Co-Op at the Jahn Ice Rink Wednesday, January 31st. Avery Nielsen's first career goal turned out to be a big one as she scored what proved to be the game-winner with 3 minutes, 32 seconds to play. Maci Corradi added two third-period goals and Sophia Gouveia also scored for the Centaurs while Mia Williamson added two assists. The win broken an 11-game losing streak for the Centaurs (3-12).

The winning streak for the Centaurs (3-14) was short-lived. After a win earlier in the week against Fairfield Ludlowe-Warde, the Centaurs have suffered two setbacks. On Saturday, February 3rd, Avon-Southington scored two goals each in the first and second periods and three more in the third to scuttle the Woodstock Academy hopes 7-1. Stella Morrison had the only goal for the Centaurs. Late on Friday, the Mercy-Northwest Catholic-East Hampton Co-Op scored the game-winner just 1:27 into overtime to post a 3-2 victory. Sophia Gouveia had a goal and an assist and Mia Williamson also scored for the Centaurs.
Woodstock Academy Co-Op 4 Greenwich 1
GREENWICH – Wheeler's Sophia Gouveia scored her ninth and 10th goals of the season to help lift the Centaurs

(4-14) to the win at the Dorothy Hamill Rink.
Juliette Hammer from Ledyard and Riley Faber also scored.
East Lyme's Mia Williamson had two assists with Ledyard's Stella Morrison and NFA's Ireland Wilford getting one each for the Centaurs.

Girls' Basketball
Woodstock Academy 61
Ledyard 45

The Centaurs got a balanced effort to easily pull out the win away from home and better their record to 14-4 with a 61-45 win over Ledyard on Thursday, February 1st.
Sophomore guard Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain hit a trio of 3-pointers and finished with 17 to lead Woodstock Academy. Fellow guard Kaylee Saucier added 11 and three members of the frontcourt, Eva Monahan, Vivian Bibeau and Sidney Anderson all finished with 10 points.

Boys' Basketball
Brady Ericson finished with 18 points for the Centaurs who just could not keep up with the high-powered Saints (13-2) who posted their ninth straight win. St. Bernard defeated Woodstock Academy 67-42 on Wednesday, January 31st.
The Centaurs' hopes of clinching a Division IV state tournament berth could not be realized thanks to the Spartans' defense and the offense of Troy Maia who finished with 25 points including all 11 first-quarter points for Somers. Woodstock was defeated by Somers 47-38 on Thursday, February 1st. Brady Ericson led the Centaurs (7-9) sparse offense with nine points.

Wrestling
Wednesday, 1.31
East Lyme/Norwich Tech 53
Woodstock Academy 18

The Centaurs (0-7, 0-3 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) were on the home mats at the Alumni Fieldhouse and picked up a couple of victories in the loss to East Lyme/Norwich Tech. Aidan Soukaloun and Ayden Angel-Ouimette both recorded pins for the Centaurs.

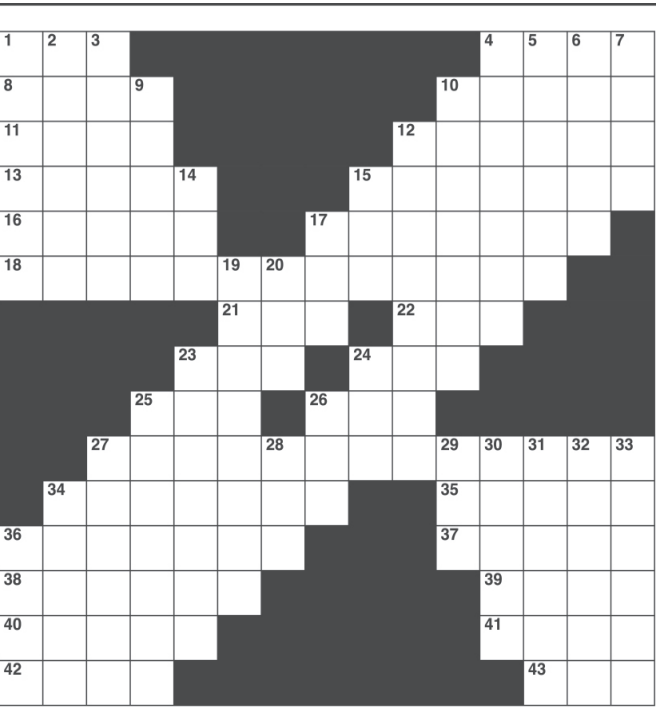
Indoor Track
Centaurs place third

NEW LONDON – The numbers just weren't in Woodstock Academy's favor as Norwich Free Academy strode away with the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I girls indoor track championship at the Coast Guard Academy in New London.
The Wildcats, thanks to their talent and big roster numbers, finished with 147 points, bettering East Lyme (101) and the Centaurs (85).

Juliet Allard had a fine day for Woodstock Academy as she placed first in the 300 meter, was a member of the winning 4x400m relay team with Julia Coyle, Emma Weitknecht and Talia Tremblay and placed second in the 55m hurdles.
Jillian Edwards cleared 4-feet, 10-inches to place first in the high jump; Avery Plouffe was second in the shotput (32-feet, 4-inches); Coyle took second in 1600m with Olivia Tracy in third and Tremblay was third in the 600m.
On the boys' side, Woodstock Academy placed fifth with 23 points.
Colton Sallum had a personal best in the 1600m (4:30.58) and placed third. Christian Menounos also had a third-place finish in the 1000m for the Centaurs.

Ellis Tech

Girls' Basketball
Ellis Tech won against Vinal Tech 39-11 on Tuesday, January 30th and improved to 13-3 on the season. Brooke Montecalvo added 4 steals, Kylie Damble added 4 blocks, Rose Lopez added 8 rebounds and Sadie Murray added 4 assists. Brooke Montecalvo led all scorers with 10 points.
Ellis Tech beat Norwich Tech 56-35 on Friday, February 2nd. Rose Lopez added 14 rebounds, 3 blocks, 2 steals, Kylie Damble added 6 rebounds, and 2 steals, Kiara Cartier added 5 steals, Sadie Murray added 9 rebounds 1 steal and 4 assists and Brooke Montecalvo added 2 steals and 2 assists.



CLUES ACROSS

1. One point south of due east
4. Coagulated blood
8. Fortifying ditch
10. Devotee of Hinduism
11. Trunk of a tree
12. Bank note
13. Capital of Guam
15. Study again
16. Covered with hoarfrost
17. Opening
18. Legendary Rolling Stone
21. Stray
22. Computer storing system
23. Signal
24. Pitching statistic
25. Human being
26. Malaysian isthmus
27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
34. A gland
35. Bluish greens
36. Endangered
37. Three-dimensional
38. In a way, precipitated
39. God associated with dissolution
40. Blemished
41. Flow or leak slowly
42. Disco legends The Bee ____
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to board
2. Get down
3. Highly seasoned sausage
4. First day of month
5. Eurasian shrubs
6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
7. Small lake
9. Belief
10. Sunrooms
12. Metric weight unit
14. Vasopressin
15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
17. One-time family room staple
19. Got back together
20. Anger
23. Sang merrily
24. Sea eagle
25. Military men
26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
27. Found in the sea
28. Protects from weather
29. Type of medicine
30. City along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away
34. Lack of disunity
36. One-time European Commission officer



PUZZLE SOLUTION

A brief history of chocolate

In case of inclement weather, listen to WINY or call the Killingly Historical Center a little after 10 a.m. to see if it is open. If you get the answering machine, leave a message. We are probably closed. Thank you



**KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER**

It's almost Valentine's Day! Having you been buying fancy chocolates for your special someone? Do you know anything about the history of chocolate and giving chocolate candy for that Day? I thought I'd do an internet search since food is very much a part of our history.

"The history of chocolate, and its creation from the beans of the cacao tree, can be traced to the ancient Maya, and even earlier to the ancient Olmecs of southern Mexico. The word 'chocolate' may conjure up images of sweet candy bars and luscious truffles, but the confections of today bears little resemblance to the chocolate of the past: Throughout much of its history, chocolate was a bitter beverage, not a sweet, rich-tasting treat. But after it became popular in the courts of Europe and the streets of colonial America, chocolate soon evolved into the universally loved commodity it is today.

"Chocolate is made from the fruit of cacao trees, which are native to Central and South America. The fruits are called pods and each pod contains around 40 cacao beans. The beans are dried and roasted to create cocoa beans."

"There are conflicting reports about when chocolate arrived in Europe, although it's agreed it first arrived in Spain.

One story says Christopher Columbus discovered cacao beans after intercepting a trade ship on a journey to America and brought the beans back to Spain with him in 1502.

Another tale states Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes was introduced to chocolate by the Aztecs of Montezuma's court. After returning to Spain, cacao beans in tow, he supposedly kept his chocolate knowledge a well-guarded secret. A third story claims that friars who presented Guatemalan Mayans to Philip II of Spain in 1544 also brought cacao beans along as a gift.

No matter how chocolate got to Spain, by the late 1500s it was a much-loved indulgence by the Spanish court, and Spain began importing chocolate in 1585. As other European countries such as Italy and France visited parts of Central America, they also learned about cacao and brought chocolate back to their respective countries.

"Chocolate arrived in Florida on a Spanish ship in 1641, and it's thought the first American chocolate house opened in Boston in 1682. By 1773, cocoa beans were a major American colony import and chocolate was enjoyed by people of all classes. During the Revolutionary War, chocolate was provided to the military as rations and sometimes given to soldiers as payment instead of money. (Chocolate was also provided as rations to soldiers during World War II.) For much of the 19th century, chocolate was enjoyed as a beverage; milk was often added instead of water.

"In 1847, British chocolatier J.S. Fry and Sons created the first chocolate bar molded from a paste made of sugar, chocolate liquor and cocoa butter. I'll write more about chocolate bars and chocolate candy in next week's column. (history.com/topics/ancient-americas/

history-of-chocolate).

Did you know that there were "hot chocolate/cocoa sets" similar to tea sets? Visit the Killingly Historical Center and see the blue and white set which was donated by Barbara (Whipple) Murray. It was given to her on her 16th birthday by Dr. and Mrs. Fred Page.

In honor of Black History Month, last week I wrote about Frederick Douglass. In his travels Douglass was actually helped by an African-American abolitionist who had grown up in Norwich, Connecticut--David Ruggles.

"David Ruggles was an African-American abolitionist, writer, publisher and hydropathic practitioner who was a courageous voice of black freedom. He assisted hundreds escaping slavery, and mentored future abolitionist luminaries Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and William Cooper Nell.

"David Ruggles was born in Norwich, Connecticut in 1810, the eldest of seven children, to free black parents. His father, David Sr., was a blacksmith. His mother, Nancy, was a noted caterer and a founding member of the local Methodist church. Ruggles was educated at religious charity schools in Norwich.

Anti-Slavery and Racial Equity Activism in New York. By 1827, Ruggles was in New York working as a mariner. In 1828 he opened a grocery shop. By the early 1830s, Ruggles became involved in the growing anti-slavery movement...

Ruggle's (sic) grocery shop at One Cortlandt Street was also a circulating library and reading room for African Americans who were denied access to New York's public libraries. His was the nation's first black-owned bookstore, and there Ruggles sold anti-slavery publications until it was destroyed by a mob. In 1833, The Emancipator, an abolitionist weekly, appointed him as an agent to canvas for sub-

scribers throughout the mid-Atlantic states. By 1834, now on Lispenard Street, Ruggles was also writing regularly, publishing dozens of articles and pamphlets for newspapers throughout the Northeast. Between 1838 and 1841 he wrote, printed and published the first journal edited by an African-American, The Mirror of Liberty.

"David Ruggles was a visible 'conductor' on the Underground Railroad, and helped at least 600 enslaved people to freedom, including Frederick Douglass. Ruggles was also a founder of the New York Committee of Vigilance which fought against the practice of kidnapping free Blacks in New York, as well as fugitive African Americans, and illegally selling them into slavery in the South. Ruggles would openly confront 'kidnapper' slave catchers, and the Vigilance Committee offered their victims legal assistance. Ruggles himself experienced at least one such attempted kidnapping.

"His brazen and courageous anti-slavery activities made Ruggles one of the most hated abolitionists in New York. In addition to his attempted kidnapping and several efforts to lynch him, his store was burned down, and he was physically assaulted multiple times. Even some other Black abolitionists criticized his tactics as too extreme and subject to scandal. All this took its toll on Ruggles' health, leaving him weak, ill and nearly blind.

"In 1842, in failing health, Ruggles moved to what is now Florence, Massachusetts; his name being put before the membership committee of the Northampton Association of Education and Industry, a 'utopian' community established by abolitionists. As he settled in Florence, Ruggles found much needed companionship and rest. He soon organized a rally of Black citizens to support imprisoned Massachusetts abo-

litionists Charles Torrey and Jonathan Walker.

"Treating himself with the techniques of "Watercure," then in vogue, David Ruggles recovered some of his sight and much of his health. In 1847, he erected the first building in the nation dedicated exclusively to hydropathy. Perhaps his most famous patient was William Lloyd Garrison, but he also treated luminaries Lucy Stone, Mary Brown-John Brown's wife-, and Catherine Beecher, as well as Sojourner Truth. (Hydropathy, or the water cure, was a 19th-century health reform movement and treatment popular in Europe and the United States. Patients soaked in cold or hot baths, took showers, were wrapped in wet compresses, sheets, belts, or special wet dresses, and also drank vast amounts of water." Oxford Languages Dictionary).

"Ruggles continually suffered from poor health, the result of injuries incurred by his anti-slavery activism in New York. Tragically, at the young age of 39, his ailments flared up again, and on the 16th of December, 1849, David Ruggles died in Florence, Massachusetts." (https://davidrugglescenter.org/david-ruggles/)

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, February 2024. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

The May Diary

Woodstock has been blessed with people who keep records – scrapbooks, papers of every kind, family records, account books, and diaries. One of the most significant is the diary that John May, Jr., kept from 1708 to 1766.

John May was born in Roxbury. His birth was recorded on Nov. 23, 1686, the year the first 13 Goers left to begin life in Woodstock. His father was Deacon John May III and his mother Prudence May; he was one of 12 children. [It is curious that John was designated a "junior" when his father was a "third."] How the younger May came to Woodstock is not specifically noted but he was a farmer as were most in those days, and he was active in all aspects of the community's life. He married Elizabeth Child of Brooklyn on Dec. 18, 1717 and they had seven children. After a long life of 83 years, John May, Jr. died on March 1, 1770 and is buried in the Hill Cemetery near the First Congregational Church. His diary captured the details of 58 years of life in Woodstock.

In the early 18th century, diaries were mostly kept by men. The contents included planting calendars, busi-

ness transactions, records of when livestock were purchased or born, and, often, the weather. They were important records of work sharing and illustrated how important that practice was to a successful community.

The first men to farm in Woodstock, aside from the indigenous people, used the infield-outfield system of land management. Each settler was given a home lot, usually 15 to 30 acres – their infield. This was where houses were built, some land was cultivated, orchards were planted, and, eventually where outbuildings like barns and fences appeared. The outfields were located outside the home sites and were used for pasture, mowing, and woodlots. In the early decades, there was an emphasis on raising livestock because the animals could walk themselves to the markets. The records of 1718 list 100 households which combined raised 80 swine, 240 cattle, 100 oxen, 440 sheep and 100 horses.

The population in Woodstock was low in relation to the number of workers needed to raise crops and livestock, build necessary structures, har-

vest wood, move stone and provide skills. A system of sharing work was a logical solution to the lack of manpower. Sharing work also established major social links and shared interests, binding together neighbors who might eventually become relatives. John May, Jr.'s diary provides page after page illustrating such transactions. In December 1710, John entered in his diary that he helped a neighbor named Child at logging, and several days later that neighbor helped dig May's cellar; the following day Joseph Lyon, Jr. "fetched a load of stone for the walls." Bowen's History of Woodstock (4-5) excerpted a portion of 1716-1717 from the diary:

1716. Feb. 1. Was our lecture day.
April 12. Uncle Perrin's raising.
15. I carried my malt to mill.
21. Was our training day.
30. Training day and election.
June 15. I shaved 900 shingles.
Aug. 25. Was a general Thanksgiving.
Nov. 5. Made a mantil

tree for John Morse.

6. I laid hearth for Uncle Child.
22. I built an oven for Cousin Lyon.
30. I framed a bedstead.
1717. Jan. 9. I went to Indian harvest.
21. Was the great storm.
Mar. 4. Town meeting.
6. Was Pomfret lecture.
11. Was town meeting.

The May diary is interspersed with astrological symbols related to the moon and its phases, star constellations and other sky observations. Agricultural astrology is perhaps the oldest form of astrology, dating back thousands of years to the Nile and Euphrates River Valleys and it is still used today. It ties celestial movements and events to calendars, predicting the best days to plant and to husband livestock. While users claim great success in following

this pattern, there is a lack of scientific evidence proving its effectiveness. The present-day Old Farmer's Almanac still provides a gardening by the moon calendar:

The John May, Jr. Diary captured daily life in Woodstock for a period of 58 years. Thankfully, it was gifted to the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester where it has been preserved.

Books on Woodstock history available at any of the town's four libraries and the website for the Woodstock Historical

WOODSTOCK THROUGH
THE YEARS
CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



Society (www.centerforwoodstock-history.com):

Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. History of Woodstock. Boston: James R. Osgood, 1882.
Larned, Ellen D. History of Windham County, Connecticut. 2 vols. Worcester, Massachusetts: Printed by Charles Hamilton, 1874.
Woodstock Tercentenary Committee. Heritage and Horizons, Woodstock Remembers 300 Years. Woodstock, CT, 1968.

Local students named to Dean's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN, Mass. — Dean College is pleased to announce that Olivia Haynes of Brooklyn and Delaney Canty of Pomfret have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin, Mass., 45 minutes from Boston and Providence, R.I. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Local students named to University of Hartford Dean's Lists

WEST HARTFORD — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2023.

Maralex Ramirez of Danielson
Jordyn Brousseau of Woodstock
Nicholas Halloran of Woodstock
Javier Dejesus of North Grosvenordale
Ella Lach of Pomfret Center
MacKenzie Oleszewski of Thompson
Gracen Van Der Swaagh of Putnam

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,100

undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students representing 48 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impact change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit hartford.edu to learn more.

Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,100 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students representing 48 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impact change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit hartford.edu to learn more.

Local students named to University of Hartford President's List

WEST HARTFORD — The University of Hartford congratulates the students who have been named to the President's List for Fall 2023.

The President's List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester.

Nicholas Halloran of Woodstock
Jordyn Brousseau of Woodstock
Javier Dejesus of North Grosvenordale
Maralex Ramirez of Danielson
Gracen Van Der Swaagh of Putnam

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for more than six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside

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“In the Studio” features artists from the Quiet Corner-home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we’ll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We’ll also learn some “artspeak” terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those “artist words”. In this interview, we’re meeting with water color artist, Terry Cardinal. Terry is from Chaplin, and is a self-taught painter.

Hello, Terry. Thanks for making time for our interview! I’m really interested in hearing about how you learned to paint.

Thank you for the opportunity. I drew as soon as I could hold a pencil through elementary and high school. I did not go on to study art after that, except for a couple of semesters of graphic design at Manchester Community College. When I was about 26, I had to drop out to raise my daughter after the loss of my husband. I am a self-taught watercolor artist. Watercolor for me was a rather random choice. I decided to start creating art again after 27 years. I began to dabble in abstract small

In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI

pattern art [repeated shapes/designs] and creating mandalas [typically circular geometric designs often for use in meditation and spiritual practices]. I also rediscovered calligraphy and lettering as well.

In 2016 I wanted to sign up for a class at MCC, which had six-week adult education classes at night. I work full time as a dental hygienist, and the only thing that fit my schedule was a watercolor class. At the time, I was using pen and ink, graphite, colored pencils, and markers to create my art. After that class I began using watercolor in my abstracts or mandalas. I felt I wasn’t being challenged enough with the pattern art and started exploring other forms of watercolor painting. I read books and watched free online tutorials., YouTube became my teacher. I studied and painted in my spare time. I took my first in-person plein air workshop with master artist Andy Evanson in 2022. Last year I took another workshop with master artist, Michael Solovyev. I spent 2023 honing my skills to create my own style.



This painting is a 5 x 7 study. I do small studies to work out problems before I do my final painting. I actually did three of these small studies. The final was an 11 x 14 watercolor on paper I created as a Christmas gift for my husband, titled “A Place of Warmth.” I framed the small studies as well and named them as part of the series.

Your Web site, <https://terry-cardinal.pixels.com/>, has so many beautiful images of yours, and ways to enjoy your work (prints, cards, totes, tees, commissions, framed pieces). What aspects of selling on-line do you like most?

Selling my art online as prints and gifts allows for people who might not want to invest in an original painting be able to enjoy my work in a way that meets their needs. The original painting, when available, can also be requested through my website. It is a way to grow my name, and business.

Living in the Quiet Corner has inspired so many of your paintings. Do you work plein air?

We live in such a beautiful area. I see a possible painting around every corner. This year I spent as much time as I could

painting outdoors. For me, painting in the environment brings emotions into the piece more so than painting from a photo. I feel and see so much more when I’m outside, even if it’s from my car. Painting plein air is often overwhelming and was downright discouraging at first, but it’s proving to be invaluable. Painting on site has contributed so much to my overall progress and skills. I don’t often walk away with a finished piece; sometimes I use those paintings as references for a final studio painting.

“Horse Barn Hill” an 8x10 watercolor on paper created in my studio from multiple photos I took of the historic barn at the University of Connecticut. The original painting sold (prints are available on my website).

What would you consider indispensable tools for painting?

High quality 100 percent cotton/rag watercolor paper. I like to use 140 pound rough paper. I use artist quality watercolor paints, and have multiple palettes with different hues. Quality brushes. I have bought so many brushes used by my online mentors. I am finding I like to use my Chinese hake and calligraphy brushes, and liner brushes most. The most essential item, of course, for watercolor painting is



water!

“Serenity” 11 x 14 watercolor on paper. This is a scene of a pond on our back property in Chaplin. I did the original sketch plein air and used it to paint the final piece.

I know you exhibited recently in Putnam; do you have upcoming shows scheduled?

Yes, the “Artful Elements” [as in Earth’s elements] show is opening on Feb. 17 at the Silver Circle Gallery on Main Street in Putnam. It is a small picture show. I have six pieces entered, included the studies for “A Place of Warmth.” Five of the six pieces were painted plein air—a perfect fit for the theme. I invite you all to see the show.

Any advice for new painters?

My advice is to not only paint but draw. I believe in order for any painting to be a success, in most instances it should start with a strong foundation for drawing. Understand perspective; creating a painting that isn’t flat and has depth requires perspective. Examine composition; a well-executed painting needs strong composition to pull the viewer in and make them want to stay a while. Keep a sketchbook. Practice painting techniques, like wash-

es and brush marks. In watercolor less is more, so avoid overworking and try to keep it simple—see the big shapes. Waste paper; you can’t learn watercolor without a lot of failed attempts. Pick one thing that was successful in a painting even if the overall painting wasn’t a success. Learn from your mistakes. Show up every day and practice with purpose.

Word of the day
Liner brush: Liner brushes resemble round brushes except much finer, usually with longer hair. The longer hair allows the brush to carry more pigment, creating long and flowing lines—whether its oil, acrylic, ink or watercolor. (jacksonsart.com)

About the writer:
Cynthia Saari (Woodstock, CT) is a nationally recognized flamework glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Significant projects include costume work for the Santa Fe Opera, and flamework demonstrator at the Peabody Essex Museum. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

HAYES

continued from page A1

a result, he has created friendships that cross the political isle and learned plenty about the process in Hartford which he said takes a lot of dedication. As for his personal accomplishments, Hayes feels he helped fix some “bad bills” and is particularly proud of his efforts to support first responders in their battles with PTSD.

“I think personally I had a lot to do with the PTSD bill for police officers and firefighters. I’ve been working since that passage two years ago to include EMS in that, and I plan on doing that through my last session. I think that was a big one. Personally, I think that’s my best, but I was involved in a lot of other

bills as well,” Hayes explained.

While Hayes is walking away from state politics, he will still be a very present figure, especially in Putnam where he just entered his fourth term on the Board of Selectmen. Looking back on all his success, both as a Police Chief and a politician, Hayes said he has plenty of people to thank for their support.

“I would start by thanking the close-knit group that I have, the people who came to me six years ago and asked if I would consider doing it and thought I was the right person to do it and of course that took a lot of conversation with my family as well. I’m a hundred percent glad that I did that. I’m very thankful for that. More importantly, I’ve had so much support from all three

towns. There’s nothing easy about a campaign or election but that support gives you a boost and the energy to keep going. I’m very thankful to all my constituents, my friends, and everybody in the three towns for that support. It was an honor to represent those people in Hartford. I’m thankful for the support I’ve gotten from my family and, most importantly, my wife who has been by my side for 33 years now. She’s supported everything I’ve done, and I couldn’t do it without her,” said Hayes.

As of this writing no candidates from either party have stepped forward to announce their candidacy to replace Hayes in the 51st District. Elections for the position will be held this November in conjunction with the United State Presidential Election.

65 MAIN

continued from page A1

the project and keep everyone better informed as it starts to take shape.

“The workshops have been extremely valuable thus far. Each of the sessions has had roughly 30 participants from the community, with some attending all four sessions, and some new faces every month. As a year-long planning project funded by the USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production grants program, the public workshops have been organized into three-month units. The first three months were dedicated to setting the broad priorities for the final use of the building and introducing the stakeholders to the idea of permaculture and how it would apply to the site design. The January through March 2024 workshops concentrate on the site design, after which the consultant will deliver a final plan for that portion of the master project,” Penn-Gesek said.

Workshops being planned for April, May and June will concentrate on connecting the future use of the facility to the career paths at Tourtellotte Memorial High School and sessions for

July, August, and September will focus on how the renovated facility at 65 Main can best serve Thompson’s small business community. The workshops will conclude this fall with the project’s five organizational partners consisting of the Thompson’s Director of Planning & Development, Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development, the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, TEEG, and Tyche Planning and Policy Group taking all collected information into consideration for a final master plan that is expected to be completed by March 2025.

As for the status of the project to date, Penn-Gesek explained that the town is continuing its planning process while renovation of the building has been put on hold for the winter. Interior and exterior demolition work, hazmat abatement, and the installation of a new roof have all been completed. Basement and foundation work is expected to begin this spring. The town also continues to seek grant funding with the most recent application under the Connecticut Department of Economic Development Community Investment Fund.

The next public workshop is scheduled for Feb. 28 as a hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting at the Thompson Town Hall. This session will focus on the second draft of the site design once again presented by Wayne Weisman. Interested parties can contact Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek at planner@thompsonct.org to RSVP or for more information.



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Courtesy

A conceptual drawing shows the draft plans for 65 Main and adjacent woodlands as presented at the public session on Jan. 24.

www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

CT State Quinebaug Valley holds February events

REGION — The community is invited to the following events, performances and exhibits at CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley's campuses at 742 Upper Maple St. in Danielson and 729 Main St. in Willimantic, as noted. All events are free. Visit Quinebaug Valley's website for the latest updates related to weather delays and closing at www.qvcc.edu.

• Feb. 7-March 8, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

G a l l e r y Exhibition: "Trajectory 1974 – 2024," a retrospective by Ann C. Rosebrooks, is currently on display in the Spirol Art Gallery at Quinebaug's main campus in Danielson. "Trajectory" is a celebration of Rosebrooks' long career as an artist in her community and around the country. Among the exhibition's many pieces are two that are part of the gallery's permanent collection. For more information, contact Jessica Porzuczek, professor of visual arts and Spirol Gallery director

at jporzuczek@qvcc.com or mnet.edu.

• Feb. 13, 12:30-3:10 p.m.

Guest Lecture: "Local Black History with Dr. Stacey Close and Donna Dufresne," in the Fireside Lounge at Quinebaug's main campus, Danielson. Close will focus on "African Americans and the Vote," while Dufresne will present on "Slaves in Our Backyard." The program is part of campus celebrations of Black History Month. Beverages and light food will be served. The event will be rescheduled to Feb. 20 at the same time if there is an inclement weather closing.

A native of Georgia, Close has worked in higher education as a professor and administrative leader for more than 25 years. He currently serves as a professor of African American history at Eastern Connecticut State University and is completing a study on the Black Hartford Freedom Struggle from 1915-70.

Close was named one of 100 Most Influential Black People by the Connecticut NAACP. He has been a guest on NPR's "Where We Live," and a panelist on the Smithsonian Channel. He has presented nationally, and his work has been appeared widely in publications.

Dufresne is an educator, writer, and historian who is involved in several historical research projects to educate students and adults about the rich and diverse understory of local history. Her research and writing have helped to shed light on the soldiers of the CT 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers in Windham County, who were of African and Nipmuc descent, and some of their ancestors who were enslaved in the region during the 18th century. Dufresne has worked with the Wyndham Land Trust to install a memorial stone for enslaved Africans buried in the Randall/Higginbotham Cemetery in Pomfret and is writing a book about how to interpret American history

through a local lens.

For more information, contact Philhemina Boone, pboone@qvcc.edu, 860.932.4176, or Jon Andersen, jandersen@qvcc.edu, 860.932.4054.

• Feb. 26, 7-8:30 p.m.

P o e t r y Reading: "African Americans and the Arts: Poetry with Frederick Douglass Knowles and Rhonda Ward" will be held at Quinebaug Valley's Willimantic campus. Light snacks and refreshments will be available. The event will be rescheduled to Feb. 28 if there is an inclement weather closing.

Educator, poet, and literary activist Frederick Douglass Knowles II is a professor of English at CT State Three Rivers in his native city of Norwich and the inaugural Poet Laureate of the city of Hartford. Knowles was the 2020 Connecticut of the Arts Fellow in Artist Excellence for Poetry/Creative Non-Fiction and a recipient of the 2019

Nutmeg Poetry Award. Known for his dynamic and moving readings, he is a Pushcart Prize nominee and the author of "BlackRoseCity."

Rhonda Ward served as the inaugural Poet Laureate for the City of New London from 2017 to 2021. Her poems have appeared in print and online publications, such as Poetry, Connecticut Woodlands, Cape Cod Quarterly, the nature anthology "Waking Up to the Earth," edited by Connecticut Poet Laureate emerita Margaret Gibson, and the Academy of American Poets' Poem-A-Day Project online. Ward has read her poetry internationally.

For more information, contact Jon Andersen, professor of English, jandersen@qvcc.edu, phone: 860.932.4054.

About CT State

With the merger of the 12 Connecticut community colleges in July 2023, CT State Community College is now the largest community college in New

England, enrolling more than 70,000 students each year, and approximately 25 percent of college students in Connecticut. As the most affordable college in CT, CT State is dedicated to making quality education accessible to all in a supportive and inclusive learning environment. CT State students benefit from a streamlined financial aid process and apply once to take classes at any campus. The campuses—Asnuntuck (Enfield), Capital (Hartford), Gateway (New Haven and North Haven), Housatonic (Bridgeport), Manchester, Middlesex (Middletown and Meriden), Naugatuck Valley (Waterbury and Danbury), Northwestern (Winsted), Norwalk, Quinebaug Valley (Danielson and Willimantic), Three Rivers (Norwich), and Tuxis (Farmington and Bristol)—form a network that empowers students to tailor their educational journey to their needs.

Susan Prest earns Westview's Employee of the Month Award



Susan Prest

DAYVILLE — Susan Prest, Housekeeping Supervisor, garnered recognition as Westview's

January 2024 Employee of the Month.

Prest is a highly esteemed member of the Westview family; having worked at the Dayville, CT skilled nursing facility since 2021. As part of the highly dedicated housekeeping team that maintains the cleanliness, courtesy, and collegiality of the whole building, Susan has a keen eye and she maintains constant curation of her responsibilities—and those of all who surround her. She offers a great deal of praise to her colleagues humbly stating that they are the reason for her success. Nonetheless: Susan is an amazing contributor in her own regard.

When you walk into the

building of Westview Health Care Center, you will notice that there is a meticulously manicured message presented by the visage of the indoor aesthetics. In addition to the delightfully designed architecture, exterior environmental fixtures, and aptly appointed accessories, the green-room welcome at Westview is because Susan and her colleagues in the Support Services Department pertain to a particularly precious path of performance in the upkeep of the floors, walls, ceilings, carpets, cementing, and carpentry of the Dayville facility. In this effort, she takes great pride.

She declared during the discussion of this recent Employee of the Month distinction: "I love what I do! It is my pride and joy to be a part of the team that takes care of this amazing place."

Prest is one of eight siblings, and she greatly appreciates the bonds

shared between herself and her brothers and sisters. She is quite close to her father—literally and figuratively. He resides at Country Living at Westview Commons, which is a sister facility to Westview Health Care Center. She credits her earnest, determined, and kind work ethic from his inspiration. After graduating from Killingly High School, Susan attended Southeastern Academy in Kissimmee, Florida. Susan thoroughly enjoys spending time with her husband Vail and with her father "Morrie" at Westview Commons. One of her favorite things to do is to go out to lunch with them at local dining destinations.

Upon receiving this award, Prest was highly appreciative and outwardly obliged towards the Westview family.

"I'm really honored and grateful to earn the recognition as one of Westview's Employees of

the Month," she said.

She went on to praise her teammates: "I thank all of my colleagues for their guidance, kindness, and generosity as we learn, earn, and yearn together."

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 15 years.

WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK FEB. 12-18

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

Tuesday the 13th
• Committee on Aging, 5 p.m.
• Board of Finance, 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 14th
• Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m.

Thursday the 15th
• Open Space & Farmland Acquisition Committee, 7 p.m.
• Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

C O M M U N I T Y EVENTS

Each Weekday
• Stepping into Sobriety Meetings, South Woodstock Baptist Church.

Monday the 12th
• Mind, Music & Movement (ages six and under), Woodstock Town Hall, 10 a.m.
• Community Kitchen Free Lunch, First Congregational Church, noon.

• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 13th
• The Bridge Young Adults, Evangelical Covenant Church
• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.

Wednesday the 14th
• Story Hour, West Woodstock Library.

• Knitting Group, Town Hall.

• Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.

• Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church

• The Bridge (young adults), Evangelical Covenant Church

• Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday the 15th
• Lady's Small Group and Men's Bible Study, South Woodstock Baptist Church

• Scrabble, West Woodstock Library, 2 p.m.
• Indoor Cornhole League, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 5:30 p.m.

• Bunco Game Night, West Woodstock Library, 6:30, adults only, limit 12, sign up at librarian@westwoodstocklibrary.org.

• Disney's Newsies Jr., Loos Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

Friday the 16th
• Story Time Hour, May Memorial Library, 10 a.m. – noon.

• Disney's Newsies Jr., Loos Center for the Arts, 2 p.m.

• Valentine's Day Dinner, Inn at Woodstock Hill, 6-9 p.m.

• New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday the 17th
• Book Club, Bracken Memorial Library, 10:30.

• Cousins Main Lobster

Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 12-7:30 p.m.

• Live Music – Dwayne Higgins, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

Sunday the 18th
• "Woodstock Through the Camera's Eye" exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon

• 30 for 30 Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-6 p.m.

• Live Music – Nick Bosse, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 22
• Bee True to You – A Modern Anti-Bullying Fairytale, Loos Center for the Arts, performances 9-10 a.m., and 11 a.m. to noon

Feb. 29
• American Chop Suey Dinner, Senexet Grange.

March 28
• Azul String Quartet, Loos Center for the Arts, performances 9-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-noon

March 29
• Chicken Pot Pie Dinner, Senexet Grange.

May 3 & 4
• The Addams Family, musical comedy production by Woodstock Academy, Loos Center for the Arts.

To submit calendar items: woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com.



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