

WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

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Friday, May 17, 2024

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Turning the Putnam Clipper Softball ship around – S-L-O-W-L-Y



Courtesy

Putnam High School Softball tri-captains (l to r) Lily Goyette, Kaya Pernini and Melodie Anderson proudly display The French River Cup, which they captured following a pair of wins over the Tourtellotte Tigers.

PUTNAM — The Putnam High School softball team has a new look this season. It began with a new coach, a buy-in from the players and a belief in the fact that the team can compete with other teams in the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division IV.

This newfound energy and excitement doesn't necessarily mean that the team will go from 0-19 (last year's record) to a State Championship overnight. Turning this Clipper Softball Ship around is more like turning the RMS Queen Mary 2 around on a dime in the middle of a blustery ocean. Or it's much like

the query, "How do you eat an elephant?" Answer – "One bite at a time."

That's the philosophy that Coach David Coderre and his team of 13 enthusiastic young ladies have bought in to. The results, though not yet at a championship level, are beginning to occur. As of this date the Clipper Softballers sport an overall record of 5-10 and 5-1 in the ECC Division IV.

"We set out some simple goals when we first met. We wanted to work toward teaching skills and providing support to help the players realize they belonged on the field with other teams and to recognize they



Putnam HIGH School Softball tri-captain Lilly Goyette like "Mighty Casey" at the bat.



Putnam High School Softball freshman pitcher Aubrey Paquette delivers a pitch in a recent game.

importance of academics and finally translating those qualities to solid softball players on the

diamond," said Coderre. The proof that the new philosophy is work-

Pernini and center fielder Melodie Anderson. The trio has embraced the leadership role and it's translated into a spirit of respect for each other, for opponents, officials and a

few victories.

Goyette, who is headed to UCONN in September, is a four-year starter whose been a rock behind the plate, at the bat and on the bases. She's the team's leading hitter with more than 20 runs-batted-in and she's demonstrating the same tenacity in the classroom where she was recently selected Putnam's CIAC Scholar Athlete.

Third baseman Pernini, who is headed to the University of Rhode Island, selflessly volunteered to take over the hot corner duties, where she's progressed steadily game-to-game. She's also a solid hitter at the plate.

The speedy Anderson, who is headed to the University of Connecticut, has been a terror on the base paths and covers center field like a blanket.

Joining the tri-captains are juniors Hailey Summers a strong-armed shortstop who is the team's defensive leader. Left fielder Olivia Hetrick, who teams well with center fielder Anderson. The other junior is key reserve outfielder Ava Wolinski. This trio should provide leadership next year and influence others to come out for the team.

With five freshman and two sophomores filling out the roster, the future looks bright for the Clippers. Freshman Aubrey Paquette is the team's pitcher. She's

Turn To **SOFTBSLL** page **A10**

Witkowski, Reddy announce candidacies for Senate seat

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Two Republicans have announced their intention to seek the 29th District State Senate seat setting up a contest in the state primary election later this year.

Suzanne Witkowski of Thompson and Chris Reddy of Scotland both announced their candidacies in April, each seeking to claim a seat in the Senate that has long been a Democrat stronghold. The seat has been held since 2015 by Democrat Mae Flexer, who succeeded fellow Democrat Donald Williams who served the district for over two decades. Both Republican candidates bring significant resumes to the table as they seek support from their party to challenge for the seat.

Witkowski is currently serving her third term as selectman in Thompson and previously challenged Flexer for the 29th District seat in 2022. She has also served on the town's Board of Finance and Housing Authority Commission. In her professional life Witkowski served as a Certified Resident Service Coordinator for low-income elderly housing and a Case Manager and Elder Care Advisor in the nonprofit sector. She currently serves adults with disabilities as a case manager. Witkowski helped form the Thompson Parents for Quality Education, described as a grassroots movement that received the Connecticut Education Association's "Salutes Award" for its commitment to public education. Witkowski also helped organize ARCHES, a local group that empowers and educates parents of special needs students.

Reddy's path to public service includes a long career in the emergency medical field. He became a certified EMT in 1989 serving as Ambulance and Rescue Lieutenant for the Redding Volunteer Fire Department. He worked for the Bridgeport division of the Danbury/Nelson Ambulance where he trained as a

Turn To **SEAT** page **A10**

Putnam approves FY2025 budgets at Town Meeting

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — With budget season in full swing in Northeastern Connecticut, Putnam became the first to officially approve a new spending plan for Fiscal Year 2025 during the annual town meeting on May 8.

Despite debate among town officials earlier this year regarding utilizing surplus funds to negate any mil rate increase for Fiscal Year 2025, Putnam voters easily approved a spending plan that imple-

ments a much smaller use of surplus money and still imposes a mil increase to the local property tax rate.

The annual town meeting took less than half an hour with around 60 citizens in attendance to vote on the proposals. The first budget on the agenda was the \$9,583,941 general government spending plan, an increase of \$221,480 or just under 2.4 percent. The article also included the library budget of \$435,550, EMS budget of \$297,052, and funding of the school resource and safety offi-

cers in the amount of \$295,000, all increases over the 2024 Fiscal Year. When combined with the government budget, the spending proposal totaled \$10,611,543. A paper ballot vote revealed a 47 to 10 decision in favor of the general government proposal.

The second part of the budget was the education spending plan totaling \$20,957,907 for Fiscal Year 2025. That budget is an increase of a little under 3 percent and passed with a slightly more decisive 49 to 8 vote, also by paper ballot, officially putting

in place the new spending plan for Putnam starting July 1. The combined spending plans will initiate the use of \$500,000 in surplus funds resulting in a 1.35 mil increase to the town's tax rate.

The annual town meeting also voted to allow the Board of Selectmen to act as agents of Putnam to apply for and receive state and federal grants, which is an annual piece of housekeeping, approved \$1.3 million for capital projects, and solidified Putnam's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan through June 2029.

Boy Scout troop holds May the 4th Pancake Breakfast

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — Boy Scouts of America Troop 33 of Killingly held a special pancake breakfast on May 4 embracing the day's annual "Star Wars" theme while raising money for an upcoming trip out of state.

The breakfast, which included an assortment of food items and drinks prepared by the Scouts and their Troop advisors and leaders, was the Troop's first ever event of its kind which Scout Master Amy Ferland said was meant to help pay for a trip to Lake George, which itself will be the kids' first ever trip out of state. The excursion will include a hike, boating, and other activities to help the scouts earn their merit badges.

"One is Citizen of the Nation so they're going to learn about some



Jason Bleau

Boy Scouts Troop 33 of Killingly held a "Star Wars"-themed pancake breakfast on May the 4th to raise money for an upcoming trip to Lake George.

of the history of the Revolutionary War and some of the colonial history," said Ferland. "The Scouts have lots of outdoor activities as well and they're supposed to be conservation-minded and physically fit, so they'll be hiking, learn

to take care of nature and to nurture the nature around them."

The breakfast featured a "Star Wars" theme due to May 4th's annual connection to the popular franchise as a play on the quote "May to force be with you." The Scouts

and leaders dressed up in "Star Wars"-themed cloths and decorated the hall of Westfield Congregational Church while also encouraging visitors to dress as their favorite characters.

Turn To **BREAKFAST** page **A10**

bankHometown promotes Dimopoulos, Ostberg and Roberts to Vice President, Branch Officer in Woodstock, Athol, and Putnam

REGION — bankHometown, with 16 branches across central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut, recently promoted George Dimopoulos to vice president, branch officer of its Route 171, Woodstock, Conn. office; Marc Ostberg to vice president, branch officer of its Exchange Street, Athol office; and Nancy Roberts to vice president, branch officer of its Main Street, Putnam, Conn. office.

branch officer at The Citizens National Bank. He has served as president of the Woodstock Business Association since 2021, and treasurer of the Woodstock Education Foundation since 2021. Dimopoulos earned a certificate in mortgage and consumer lending from the Center for Financial Training and is currently enrolled in the New England School for Financial Studies through the Massachusetts Bankers Association.

leadership positions at both Sovereign Bank (now Santander Bank), and TD Bank. Ostberg studied accounting at Nichols College and business administration and finance at Worcester State University. He is currently enrolled in the New England School for Financial Studies through the Massachusetts Bankers

Association. Ostberg is on the committee of the North Quabbin Food-A-Thon, and previously served as chairman of the board of directors for both the Town of Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation and the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce.

Roberts, of Killingly,

has 35 years of experience in banking and joined bankHometown in 2018 as assistant vice president, branch officer in Putnam. Before that, she was vice president at Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank. Roberts has an associate degree in business administration from Queensborough Community College. She currently serves on the

board of directors for Dyer Manor Fire District and previously was president of the board of directors for both Thames Family Services and the Martin House. She is a member of the Putnam Business Association, and regularly attends Northeast Connecticut Chamber of Commerce events.

Dimopoulos, of Thompson, has 14 years of banking experience. He joined bankHometown in 2016 as branch officer of the Woodstock office and subsequently was promoted to assistant vice president, branch officer. Prior to joining bankHometown, he was

Ostberg, of Orange, has nearly 30 years of experience in banking. He joined bankHometown in 2013, most recently serving as assistant vice president, branch officer in Athol. Before that, he was vice president, store manager at TD Bank and held various retail

13 doctors on Day Kimball staff named "Top Docs" by Connecticut Magazine

PUTNAM — Thirteen physicians on the medical staff of Day Kimball Health (DKH) across a variety of specialties have been named to Connecticut Magazine's recently published "Top Doctors" list for 2024.

The doctors affiliated with DKH included on this year's list are:

Michael Baum, MD, general surgeon with Day Kimball Medical Group

Joseph Botta, MD, internal medicine with Botta & Associates, and medical staff member at Day Kimball Hospital

David Candow, MD, family medicine with Botta & Associates, and medical staff member at Day Kimball Hospital

Marc B. Cerrone, MD, pediatrician and director of pediatrics at Day Kimball Medical Group

David Chaletsky, MD, gastroenterologist with CT GI & Medical Associates, PC, and medical staff member at Day Kimball Hospital

Christopher Charon, MD, ear, nose, and throat (ENT) with ENT Associates of Worcester, Inc., and medical staff member at Day Kimball Hospital

Timothy E. Cooper, MD, family medicine with Putnam Medical Associates, and medical staff member at Day Kimball Hospital

Michael Golioto, MD, gastroenterologist with CT GI & Medical Associates, PC, and medical staff member at Day Kimball Hospital

Anne F. Josephs, MD, pediatrician with Day Kimball Medical Group

John Modica, MD, cardiologist and director of cardiology services and intensive care at Day Kimball Hospital

Elena Poloukhine, MD, FACOG, gynecologist and medical director of obstetrics and gynecology at Day Kimball Medical Group

Meryl Reichman, MD, endocrinologist with Day Kimball Medical Group

Stephen F. Schiff, MD, FACS, urologist and vice chairman of surgery at Day Kimball Hospital, and clinical professor of urology at Yale University School of Medicine

"Day Kimball Health takes immense pride in the recognition of numerous physicians as top doctors by Connecticut Magazine, many of whom have been recognized multiple times," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Health. "What's truly remarkable is that these accolades stem from peer nominations, highlighting dedication within their field. It is truly a testament to the commitment they have to delivering compassionate, high-quality care, ultimately improving the health and well-being of our Northeast Connecticut community."

Connecticut Magazine partners with Castle Connolly, a national research firm, to administer surveys to all licensed practicing physicians in the state. Rankings are based on a regional peer-review survey, where physicians nominate specialists they would recommend to family and friends for treatment. Castle Connolly's research team evaluates each physician's qualifications, education, hospital and faculty appointments, research leadership, professional reputation, disciplinary history, and, when available, outcomes data. Interpersonal skills such as effective communication, empathy, and trust-building are also factored into the review process. Those who receive the highest rankings are recognized as top doctors, representing excellence in their specialties.

The annual list of Top Doctors can be found in Connecticut Magazine's May 2024 issue.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Geological time
- 4. Ooze
- 9. A set of eight
- 14. Obstruction
- 15. Swiss mathematician
- 16. Philosophy
- 17. The night before
- 18. A timid person
- 20. Unifies
- 22. Gangs
- 23. Alternative name
- 24. Acumen
- 28. Cathode-ray tube
- 29. Tantalum
- 30. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 31. Humiliate
- 33. Earthy pigment
- 37. Air Force
- 38. Adult males
- 39. Stiff untanned leather
- 41. Before
- 42. Atomic #18
- 43. Beer mug
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Type of chef
- 49. Midway between north and east
- 50. They —
- 51. Splits
- 55. Walk in a timid manner
- 58. Preserved animal skin with hair
- 59. Popular donut shop item
- 60. You smear it on bagels
- 64. Don't know when yet
- 65. Equal to 10 amperes
- 66. Synthetic acrylic fiber
- 67. One point south of due east
- 68. Of mixed ancestry
- 69. Home of the Pyramids
- 70. A way to change color

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 2. Untangle
- 3. One from the U.S.
- 4. Academic terms
- 5. San ___ Obispo, in California
- 6. Not healthy
- 7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)
- 8. Arugula genus
- 9. VIII
- 10. Makes a monarch
- 11. Tormentor
- 12. Commercials
- 13. Sprinkle
- 19. Make a mistake
- 21. Freshwater fishes
- 24. Vermont town
- 25. Man-made device
- 26. Entrap
- 27. Places to store important things
- 31. Accumulate
- 32. Greek mythological nymph
- 34. Gregory __, American dancer
- 35. Denotes past
- 36. Becoming popular again
- 40. Indicates position
- 41. Came before
- 45. An extra seed-covering
- 47. Cheerful
- 48. Deli sandwich staple
- 52. Skateboarders love them
- 53. Mandela's party
- 54. Sierra lake
- 56. Nickname for Elizabeth
- 57. Remove from record
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 60. Former NFLer Newton
- 61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 62. Work unit
- 63. Town in Cambridgeshire

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Flexer, Boyd welcome \$2 million for Day Kimball

PUTNAM — State Sen. Mae Flexer and state Rep. Pat Boyd today announced that they have secured an additional \$2 million in the new state spending bill for Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, bringing the two-year package of total state aid for the hospital to \$17 million.

The funding was secured in House Bill 5523, which was debated and passed today by the House of Representatives and the Senate and which allocates the unexpended American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that President Biden and Congressional Democrats approved in 2021.

Day Kimball Hospital is a 104-bed acute care community hospital that has served Northeast Connecticut since 1894.

"It's nearly impossible for

independent hospitals to survive in this health care climate, and I have made it my mission to save Day Kimball Hospital. The effect of hospital closures on patients and communities has been devastating. We can't let that happen in our Quiet Corner," Flexer said. "Connecticut was just ranked fourth in the country for the most at-risk states in America for the closure of rural hospitals. I am committed to doing everything in my power to seeing Day Kimball survive, thrive, and continue serving residents in northeastern Connecticut for decades to come. Day Kimball Healthcare is critical to our region. Financially supporting the hospital is in the best interest of the state. Not only is Day Kimball a major employer but it is a key compo-

nent to our area's emergency medical system. I look forward to working with the Hospital to ensure its long-term stability. I am thankful to Gov. Lamont, Sen. Flexer, and Speaker Ritter for collaborating on this allocation."

Last June, in the bipartisan state budget, Day Kimball received \$10 million to help maintain essential health services, including 24-hour emergency services, obstetrics, behavioral health, and relevant specialty care and primary care. Day-Kimball also received \$5 million in 2022 and was awarded another \$616,000 from the state Office of Early Childhood in 2019.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 6: Parula Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Hummingbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Martin, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Palm Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Dean College announces Spring 2024 honor society inductees

FRANKLIN, Mass. — Dean College is pleased to announce that Olivia Haynes of Brooklyn has been inducted into the following honor societies for their academic achievements: Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Mass., 45 minutes from Boston, Mass., and Providence, Rhode Island. 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.

Kurt Lavimoniere graduates from Cumberlands

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. — All members of the University of the Cumberlands family wish to congratulate Kurt Lavimoniere of Brooklyn on their graduation from the university. Well done, Patriot!

University of the Cumberlands is one of the largest and most affordable private universities in Kentucky. Located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, Cumberlands is an institution of regional distinction offering quality undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and online degree programs. Learn more at ucumberlands.edu.



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

Training skilled tradesmen with work based learning program



Courtesy

Ellis Technical High School work-based learning students employed by Woodstock Building Associates and A. Reynolds Electric gather with their employer mentors and Congressman Joe Courtney to discuss the career opportunities made available through the work-based learning program.

WOODSTOCK — On April 25, Congressman Joe Courtney visited Woodstock Building Associates office/showroom to meet with Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School students participating in the Work Based Learning Program with WBA and Danielson-based A. Reynolds Electric. During his visit, Courtney explained his role helping secure funding for workplace training programs and listened to students about their experience in the pro-

grams. In the WBL Program, students work with local businesses on current projects and job sites while being mentored by professionals. This training is an invaluable addition their classroom education and to the community's future workforce.

"We are proud and thankful to have eight trade school graduates on our current WBA team," says WBA Managing Partner Doug Porter. "They allow us to have traded professionals on our remod-

eling projects from start to finish." He says the success of WBA depends directly on having skilled labor. We will support anything we can do to help foster that future supply."

Porter appreciates Congressman Courtney's strong backing of work-based training programs as well as Ellis Tech teachers and administrators for instructing future building professionals.

"Currently, WBA has four students getting real work experience in their chosen careers under the direction of our skilled tradespeople," says Porter. "Two students from Ellis Tech's architectural program work with our designers. Our plumbing/HVAC team are training a future plumber, and our carpentry team has taken an apprentice carpenter under their wings."

Porter adds that A. Reynolds has two students from Ellis Tech's electrical shop working with their staff and their entire team, including owner Adam Reynolds, are Ellis Tech graduates.

"The purpose of the Work Based Learning Program is to match our semi-skilled and motivated student workers with area businesses to gain valuable trade experience and knowledge in the 'real world,'" explains Kim Pascone, Dean of Students and Work-Based Learning Coordinator at H.H. Ellis Technical High School. "Our students thrive under the tutelage of their mentors, but the program's success is due to the wonderful relationships that

develop between our students and their mentors. We are very grateful to the local businesses willing to invest in our students by participating in the WBL Program and passing on their trade knowledge."

"The Work Based Learning Program between Ellis Tech and Woodstock Building Associates, along with other local businesses, is exactly what our workers, businesses, and economy need at a time when our job market is booming and Connecticut has tens of thousands of job openings," says Congressman Courtney (D-CT). "It was a pleasure to hear from Ellis Tech students and graduates on the valuable skills the program provides, setting them up for a rewarding career. Thank you to Doug Porter and his great team for having me and leading the way to build up a talented workforce in the Quiet Corner."

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SCORE presents "Making Connections: A SCORE Summer Social"

MIDDLEFIELD — The Eastern CT and Greater Hartford Chapters of SCORE, Mentors to America's Small Businesses, present "Making Connections: A SCORE Summer Social," a free evening of networking and professional enrichment at Lyman Orchards Golf Course in Middlefield, Thursday, June 13 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Join us for this exceptional opportunity to:

Meet fellow entrepreneurs, SCORE mentors, and Subject Matter Experts

Hear the ups and downs of starting a business with a panel of local business owners

Participate in networking activities and a drawing

Enjoy delicious food and beverages under the tent in a gorgeous setting.

This year's event features local entrepreneurs representing distinct industries who will participate in a moderated panel, with time for questions. Marguerite Alpert of The Flowered Press in Wethersfield (<https://www.thefloweredpress.com/>), Tom Larson of Just Dump It in Old Lyme (<https://www.justdumpit.com/>), and Annmarie & Michael Francis of One Patient at a Time in Middletown (<https://opaatct.com/>) will tell their stories and share insights from their business journeys.

The event is free but registration is required. **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER** (if you are bringing any guests, please register

them individually). Please register by June 5.

About the panelists
Marguerite Alpert of The Flowered Press is a lifelong gardener. She studied horticulture, farming, landscaping, community gardening, writing, and teaching, each of which led her to take a closer look at nature. She has been making art out of pressed plants for 30 years; her collection features plants that she has grown from seed, harvested from friends' gardens, and collected roadside throughout New England. Marguerite's prints and cards are available in several stores in the northeast region, including the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum Store and the New York Botanical Garden Shop. Three of her pieces were selected for national juried art shows at the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts and NorthWind Fine Arts Gallery in 2023.

Tom Larson got his start as a college freshman sharing his strong back and handy pickup with his uncle. Word got out, and soon friends and neighbors were keeping him busy hauling clutter out of their lives. A Central Connecticut State University entrepreneurship major at the time, Tom launched a successful business. Just Dump It has been providing exceptional junk removal services since 2008. Tom also gives back to his community by donating his time, crew, and

truck to worthy causes such as Autism Speaks and Habitat for Humanity fundraisers.

One Patient at a Time is a Connecticut-based, family-owned agency that focuses on providing affordable and reliable non-medical home care solutions. Husband and wife team Mike & Annemarie Francis, after working in the Healthcare field for over twenty years and the Service industry for about forty years, saw the overwhelming need for quality home care services for seniors and patients within their communities. One Patient at a Time aims to provide extraordinary services with compassion, empathy, and dignity.

About SCORE
SCORE® is a nonprofit association that offers free and confidential advice on starting your own business or improving and growing your existing small business. Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million current and aspiring entrepreneurs. Each year, SCORE's 10,000 volunteer business experts provide hundreds of thousands of free small business mentoring sessions, workshops, and educational services to clients in 300 chapters nationwide. Visit <https://www.score.org/> to find resources, mentors, workshops, and more.

MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER!

Rectory School offers two summer programs to meet your child's needs. We have a traditional day camp for ages 3-13, and we have an academic program for 5th-8th graders. For information and to register, use the QR code or visit rectoryschool.org/summer.

Local author to present this year's St. King Memorial Lecture

EASTFORD — Best-selling local (Woodstock) author, Lelia Philip, will give a talk about her new book "Beaverland" at the Eastford Elementary School, 12 Westford Rd., on Tuesday, May 21 at 6 p.m. The talk is this year's Joseph St. King Memorial Lecture, which is given each year in remembrance of a former Eastford first selectman, Joseph St. King.

Philip will discuss the beaver's profound influence on our nation's early economy and westward expansion, including the creation of the country's first corporations and multi-millionaires. She will talk about her experiences with trappers, fur auctioneers, wildlife managers, scientists, engineers and beaver believers. She will tell the story of an animal once trapped to the point of extinction in North America who has returned to the landscape with a growing new appreciation as a creator of a vibrant and healthy ecosystem.

Philip is a professor at Holy Cross College and the author of several books including "The Road Through Miyama" and "A Family Place: A Hudson Valley Farm, Three Centuries, Five Wars, One Family." All interest persons are invited to attend this interesting talk.

Woodstock Legion to host open house

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites the public to our free open house and breakfast on May 18 from 8-10 a.m. Come to our post located at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, to see what we do for our veterans and the community and see our newly renovated post home.

We are always looking for new members and due to the Legion Act of 2019 all veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941 are eligible to join.

Woodstock announces Memorial Day events

WOODSTOCK — The town of Woodstock announces its schedule of events for Memorial Day Monday, May 27.

The Road Race kicks off at 9 a.m. from the Woodstock Academy Field House. At 11 a.m., the parade assembles in the vicinity of the Woodstock Inn and proceeds to the town common, followed by memorial services on the common at 11:45 a.m.

PROPERTIES FOR RENT
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Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor
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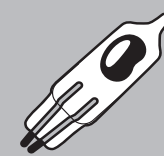
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BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Truth, please

To the Editor:

Do not like to double dip on editorials, but to the person who penned “Trump’s role in the Jan. 6 Capitol attack,” I just read the letter and found that I had to reply to a couple of things.

No Republicans on the Committee is an oversight, or in Trump tradition, a lie — the names Liz Cheney (R-Wyoming) and Adam Kinzinger (R-Illinois and a veteran) both served on the committee and Ms Cheney was Vice Chair. No other Republican stepped up to join the committee, they say” they wanted to but no, they, like most GOP, do not want to endure the wrath of the cult leader.

Second point is, you may want to check as to who can move the National Guard into service, it is not the Mayor of D.C. or the Speaker of the House. I believe it is the Secretary of the Army or Joint chief of Staff. Since they serve at the behest of the president, he actually can send the National Guard in. Remember, back in 2020 Cult Leader walking down to a church to display a bible (upside down) after the National Guard cleared demonstrators out of the way. I stopped reading after those two points. Fake news. Real truth.

DAVID CASSETTARI
 KILLINGLY

What makes a good Commencement speech?

Commencement celebrations are being canceled at many colleges and universities this spring due to concern about protests. Recalling the many graduation speeches and programs I’ve attended led me to think about the components of a good speech, and what sparks memories.

At a time when few traditions remain, putting on a billowing rented gown and a funny cap to walk down an aisle, listen to a long-winded elder pontificate, and finally hear one’s name read, or at least appear in the program, is an experience most of us would say is important even if almost completely forgettable.



NANCY WEISS

But, let me share a memory from my eighth grade graduation from Pomfret Community School. It was long ago. Kids were required to stay in school until they were 16 years old although there were few programs for special needs. One boy, Phillip, a very tall, big boy was expected to squeeze into little desks with the rest of us until he turned 16. The principal, Bob Glenn, created a position for him of “Junior” janitor. He assisted, Mr. Pelletier, the custodian. He was very proud of the job he did. On graduation night, Mr. Glenn recognized Phillip with a special award for his work and Phillip burst into tears. Kindness was the unforgettable message of that graduation.

Graduations from UConn were an exercise in stamina. My father refused to even walk to the arena where I graduated with casts of thousands and instead retreated to my sorority where he shared a drink with our housemother. I looked it up and the speaker was Sidney Marland, from Hampton, whom Nixon made U.S. Commissioner of Education. When our older daughter graduated, John Rowland, then the Governor with a promising future, spoke. His world soon fell apart.

When I worked at UConn, the favorite graduation speakers were Fred Rogers from the children’s TV show, Bill Cosby, before his reputation bit the dust, and Kenny G, a saxophonist, whom then president Harry Harley liked. They were great entertainers. Graduates bounced beach balls throughout the ceremonies in celebration.

When our younger daughter graduated from a local private school, Chevy Chase was the speaker. He was connected to a member of the graduating class. The weather was iffy and the ceremony was moved inside the field house. Chase arrived late and took the podium. Everyone was ready to laugh and enjoy a comedic performance, but instead it came off, as I recall, as rather snarky and

condescending. He made an awkward joke about the headmaster and when it didn’t go over well, he quickly wrapped it up.

The most memorable graduation speaker I ever witness was Martin Luther King, who spoke at my older brother’s law school, Boston University. I was quite young, and my parents, jammed in the balcony at Boston Garden, were curious to see and hear him. They talked about King’s words and powerful delivery all the way home. As I sat in the backseat of our car, engulfed in their cigarette smoke, I like to think I knew that I had seen and heard someone of real importance.

Doris Kearnes Goodwin’s remarkable new book, “An Unfinished Love Story,” chronicles the work of her late husband, Richard Goodwin, a formidable speechwriter during the 1960’s. He wrote groundbreaking material for

John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy. It was an era when campuses were shut down and graduations cancelled. It was a time of turmoil as it is now.

Today’s graduates have been through challenging times. Perhaps some well-chosen words will launch them into the next phase of life with kindness and wisdom.

Embracing nature’s flourish: The case for No Mow May

As we wind down the month of May, a rare opportunity has presented itself, with a chance to change our relationship with our lawns and embrace the beauty of nature’s unruly charm. “No Mow May” is a movement that encourages homeowners and communities to refrain from mowing their lawns for the entire month. While it may initially sound unconventional, this initiative carries several benefits for both our environment and our well-being.

No Mow May supports biodiversity. By allowing our lawns to grow freely, we create habitats and food sources for a variety of insects, birds, and small mammals. Native wildflowers, clovers, and grasses flourish, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies that are crucial to our ecosystem’s health. Through this simple act of not mowing our lawns, we actively contribute to the preservation of local flora and fauna, helping to restore balance to our landscapes.

No Mow May presents an opportunity for us to reconnect with nature and foster a sense of wonder in our surroundings. As we witness the transformation of our lawns into vibrant meadows, we are reminded of the cyclical nature of life and the beauty found in untamed spaces. Stepping outside and immersing ourselves in these naturally evolving environments can be a source of inspiration, relaxation, and a respite from the demands of our daily lives.

Further, No Mow May holds significant environmental benefits. By refraining from mowing, we reduce our carbon footprint and conserve valuable resources.

Critics may argue that unkempt lawns present a sense of neglect or an invitation for pests. However, it is important to distinguish between neglect and intentional cultivation of natural spaces. No Mow May encourages us to redefine our perception of what a “perfect” lawn looks like, allowing for a shift in aesthetics that prioritizes the health of our ecosystems over conforming to conventional norms.

Let your lawn be a canvas for nature’s masterpiece, even if just for a few weeks!

Let others cast their own votes

To the Editor:

I’ve been reading this paper for a long time, and I never write in, but I’m tired of reading about Donald J. Trump. You may not like him, but he is what we need.

Everybody who can’t wait but knock down Donald trump should find somewhere else to get their lies. I think you are all jealous of the man. Either that or you’re one who wants all

the drugs and criminals coming here every day.

Vote for who you want, but let the rest of us make up our own minds. You’ve got one vote, so use it wisely, but don’t tell the rest of us what to do.

BRENDA BURDICK
 WOODSTOCK

Why the hate?

To the Editor:

I’m black, I’m red, I’m yellow, I’m white, I’m brown. I’m Palestinian, Egyptian, Afgan, Iranian, Canadian, Portuguese, Israeli, American, Mexican, Asian, Haitian, Irish, English. I’m gay, straight, female, trans, cis, male, pan, asexual. I’m Buddhist, Hindi, Jewish, Mormon, Christian, Wiccan Catholic, Protestant, Muslim. I eat meat, I’m vegan, I have celiac, I’m lactose intolerant, I’m gluten free. My hair is long, short, black, curly, blond, straight, missing. I’m a Democrat, Republican, Independent, unenrolled, Libertarian. I have an advanced degree, I’m

a high school dropout, I’m an honors student, I have a GED, I graduated at the top of my class, I graduated at the bottom of my class. I have dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger’s, anorexia, bulimia, acne, clear skin, normal dietary function, good attention span. I own my own home, rent an apartment, live in a tent.

My DNA is almost identical to yours. I can give you my blood, skin, liver, kidneys, heart and lungs to save your life. So, why do you hate me?

DAVE CLARK
 THOMPSON

Thank you, Tourtellotte

To the Editor:

As the school year is wrapping up, I figured this was as good a time as any to thank everyone for my two-plus years as the principal at Tourtellotte Memorial High School. I will always look back at these years as some of my favorite in my professional career. The community of Thompson is a warm, inviting group whose backing I am extremely thankful for. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed the welcome conversations that I had going around town and the unbelievable support I felt from all of you. Thank you so much! To the staff at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, I am so lucky to have been able to work with such a caring and supportive group of people. In my over twenty-four years in education, I will remember you as some of my favorite colleagues. Your care and concern for the students of Tourtellotte motivated me each day to be the best that I could be. You exude Tiger Pride, and it is because of all of you that Tourtellotte is more than a school, but a family.

To the families that kept their child at Tourtellotte Memorial High School over the last two plus years, thank you. I was able to work with some of the best young men and women around. Thank you too for your continual support. I know at times some of the changes that I spearheaded were not the most popular, but I do appreciate you allowing them to grow and holding your reservations.

To the students, past and present, thank you so much for sharing your lives with me. Your impact on my life cannot adequately be put into words. You are special people that are either out in the world right now doing amazing things or will be out in the world shortly. I am so proud of all of you and there is no ceiling for what you all can accomplish. To the seniors, I am so sorry that I will not be there for graduation. Please know that just because I am not there to shake your hand or give you your diploma does not mean I am any less proud of you. I am tremendously proud of all of you. You have accomplished amazing things, whether in the classroom, on the court, field, track, course, or within art, music, or drama, you have made Tourtellotte better just by your efforts. Thank you. It is not the accomplishments that I miss the most though, it’s the people you are. You are tremendously caring, compassionate, self-reflective, and hardworking. I know you will

do great things because of the people you are and the people that raised you. Be proud of who you are and where you come from. Do great things and remember to continue to be compassionate, it is what I admire most about you all.

Lastly, I want to thank the Board of Education. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated your support over the last two plus years. I came in with a vocational background and a belief that college is an amazing path for those wishing to take it, but there needed to be another path that would assure success for those that did not see themselves walking the college path. I spoke about the need for certifications and the ability those certifications would give our students to be successful post-secondary (and hopefully land a career that would financially support them and a future family). When I drove culinary, allied health (CNA) (thank you QVCC and Day Kimble for their role in creating this program), or wanted to expand the Fire Science pathway (thank you Mr. Seney for your hard work in seeing this happen), you all supported me without hesitation (a special thank you to Mr. Mike Joyce, Mr. Bill Birch, Mr. Sean Senosk, and Mr. Dave Kwiecinski, whose efforts really made all these opportunities possible). You all work tremendously hard for the betterment of the students of Thompson without receiving a single dime. The job that you are doing is admirable and I would be remiss without recognizing the impact that your support has had on me. Thank you all!

I wish Thompson Public Schools the absolute best going forward. I hope the next principal keeps these paths going forward at Tourtellotte Memorial High School. I would love to see the Veterinary Tech and Cosmetology programs up and running (when I left veterinary tech was in the infancy stage and we were looking for outside funding to start cosmetology). I think the more opportunities for the students of Thompson the better off the community is as a whole. Thank you all again for your support and care over the last two years. I will never forget each one of you. God Bless.

Sincerely,
 Nathaniel Mayo, Ed.D.
 Newington

Additional Letters To The Editor, See Page A8

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

brendan@villagernewspapers.com



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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DeLuca is the liar that fascists love

To the Editor:

I bet that Ed DeLuca can't write a letter without lying, making an unsubstantiated charge, or employing a gratuitous insult, thereby emulating his hero, proven rapist Donald Trump. Poor Mr. DeLuca labors under the impression that critics of Trump have some obligation to criticize President Biden just because he occasionally writes something complimentary of a Democrat. He seems to believe it's okay to insult and lie constantly, Trump-like. Isn't it curious that Mr. DeLuca rarely, or never, defends himself when called out for his lies?

In the May 10 Killingly Villager, he calls me a "little pawn" and "servant" of the Democratic Party without justification or proof. Your loyal readers cannot be surprised. A pawn is someone controlled by others and used to their advantage. I am not controlled by anyone, and I'm not employed by anyone or any party.

I find Trump to be the most dangerous and despicable presidential candidate in U.S. history and am deeply concerned that he'll further the demise of democracy if not outright destroy it. That's why I'm a Trump critic, pointing out his hateful, racist rhetoric, his cruelty, his encouragement and incitement of political violence, his narcissism, and his sociopathy. No one is perfect, but Biden does not use hateful, racist speech, advocate vengeance on his opponents, lie about the outcome of elections (and nearly everything else), incite political violence, or belittle disabled people and military veterans who were wounded or killed in service to our nation.

In his ignorance and arrogance, Mr. DeLuca bets that I think that President Biden and Democrats can do no wrong. He loses that bet. In particular, I'm disappointed in aspects of Biden's Middle East policy and inability to do more on climate change, affordable daycare, and housing.

Then he falsely accused me of griping about him calling some immigrants "ungrateful" because of wasted food. I didn't. I objected to Mr. DeLuca calling them "SOB's [sic]". He seems very confused or he just believes in telling lies like Trump. He is critical of my "Billy-ache"ing. My compliments to the 10-year-old mind that came up with that one.

One of Mr. DeLuca's perverse anti-American sentiments neatly sums up the MAGA GOP's surrender to Trump's lawlessness and immorality. Regarding wrongdoing, he wrote, "...the bottom line is who is able to get away with it." Trump, and his supporters, no longer share traditional American values including respect for the law and the Constitution.

Ed DeLuca also completely misrepresents my comments on immigrant crime. Is anyone surprised? I merely wrote the fact that immigrant crime rates are lower than that of native-born citizens. I never claimed that immigrants commit no crimes or that all immigrants are law-abiding. I do object to the way he, Trump, and others fear-monger, always blaming "others" for society's ills. "Others" are people who don't look like us, or who don't worship like us, or whose native language isn't English. If immigration couldn't include a risk that some might commit crimes, there would be no immigration. Neither Mr. DeLuca nor I would be here. I'll bet that's something the approximately ten percent of indigenous peoples who survived the genocide inflicted by the colonists from Europe could get behind.

If anyone is blind to reality, it's Mr. DeLuca. The only other rational explanation for all of his constant lying and misrepresentation is deliberate mendacity.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Seeking your vote for State Rep

To the Editor:

I'm Renee LaPalme-Waldron, and I am running for State Representative of the 51st District, representing Thompson, Putnam, and Killingly. Many of you may know me from my 30-plus years working for the Town of Thompson, but for those of you to whom I am a new face, I am excited to hear from you.

I have lived and worked in northeastern Connecticut my whole life. I raised both of my sons here. I just welcomed my fourth grandchild. This is why I understand the challenges faced by the hard working families of northeastern Connecticut. I have seen first-hand how our young families and senior citizens are being priced out of our area. I am running for State Representative because I believe we deserve the same opportunities that people across the state have: good paying jobs, affordable childcare, affordable places to live for recent graduates, young families and senior citizens, and quality local health care services.

My entire career has been in public service. As Recreation Director for the town of

Thompson for 27 years I served residents of all ages, from Thompson and surrounding towns. I developed the first before-school and after-school child care programs in town. I established Summer Adventure Camp, ensuring that working families would have a high quality, affordable option for their children during the long school break. I also developed a robust offering of senior citizen programming. All of these programs continue to this day, and are highly valued by residents across our region.

I was first elected as Town Clerk in 2015 and I am honored that both Democrats and

Republicans have endorsed me. I am proud to serve the people of Thompson. In my role as Town Clerk I deal with folks when they are facing some of the most important and emotional times in their lives buying a house, getting married, having children, grieving the loss of a loved one. Very often, residents in difficult situations reach out to me and I do what it takes to help them find solutions.

My commitment to our community has never been limited to office hours; I have a long history of volunteering in the community. I am currently Chair of the Recreation Commission, where I direct and advise the Recreation Department on its programming. For the past 23 years, I have been on the Board of Directors of Thompson Together Inc., working alongside fellow citizens on grassroots initiatives to improve our quality of life, including Thompson Community Day, April Roadside Cleanup, and restoration of our historic cemeteries. I am currently a member of the Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee and I have also served on Thompson's Economic Development Commission and Chair of the Branding Implementation Subcommittee, which worked to develop Thompson's municipal branding and marketing campaigns.

It is a privilege to have been raised here and to raise my family here. I love living and working in a community where we know and help our neighbors. As your State Representative, I will work to ensure that those of us who call Northeastern CT home have every opportunity to thrive no matter what stage of life they are in. Our region has so much to offer: rich histo-

ry, beautiful farms and green spaces, opportunity for entrepreneurship and, most importantly, honest, hard-working people. I am running to help find the balance that protects these important assets while improving economic opportunities for the next generation.

On Nov. 5, please vote for me, Renee LaPalme-Waldron, to be your State Representative.

RENEE LAPALME-WALDRON
THOMPSON

Why bother?

To the Editor:

Unless you watch Trump News, you've probably seen this great political add where a guy goes to a mall looking for employment. The kicker is that every store he goes to, he begins by reciting some of Trump's deeds to the receptionist- as his own! "I'm guilty of sexual assault; I have 91 felony counts against me; I stole government documents," and on and on. As you may expect, he was basically shown the door. Moral of this story: Trump couldn't even get a job at a mall and you would give this clown another chance to have his hands on the nuclear codes?

He keeps saying at his New York trial «This is a bad day for America». Funny, I might have said the same thing to his parents nine months before his birth.

The idea that Trump and company can perpetually lie to their voters, that they believe there is no scheme or grift they can pull non their voters, that there is no limit to how much lying Trump can get away with is a very real threat to our precious democracy and the future of free and fair elections going forward. It is also an insult to those who would vote Republican. Once again they count on you to be unaware they consider you to be, sad to say, stupid. Remember, this is about who we choose to be our leader...and how that person is viewed by the rest of the world. Our allies are holding their breath.

This «stable genius» says he needs to break the law and violate his oath to be an effective president. This is tantamount to a man saying he needs to be an adulterer in order to be a good husband!! This guy needs to be put to bed. Even Nixon, during Watergate, knew what he was doing was illegal. Why do you think he accepted Ford's pardon rather than prosecution?

Imagine the GOP uproar if President Biden made such a claim? A man doing his best to make life better for

times looks like he's unsuccessful. Do you really think he is out to destroy our country?

Why then would dozens of Trump's former advisors and high ranking officials sound the warning against his return to office? They saw him in action every day and would rue his re-election.

Get your nose out of Fox or Breitbart or Newsmax and clear your mind.

Whoever flies a Trump 2024 flag is more than free to do so. Then again, why would anyone display so little class by proudly waving one that says F*** Biden? Obviously shame is lacking in your make-up. The apple does not fall far from the Trump tree.

It would be bad enough that 1,000 people voted for this moron. To think 10's of millions would do so is shocking. Trump is endorsed by the Evangelical Christian "sect." A religious group supporting a person out for revenge and retribution. Christ Himself found the idea of vengeance abhorrent. He also preached that there were consequences for breaking the laws of man.

Read the latest interview of Trump in TIME Magazine and behold your future. I gave up half way through, afraid I would lose my breakfast. The only thing missing from the cover photo was a dunce cap.

To those who still believe the 2020 election was stolen, listen clearly: There is virtually no election fraud in this country. 60 courts have said so. Even the Trump endorsed Heritage Foundation's data proved that, to their embarrassment. You are being lied to by the biggest fraudster of them all. He was even overheard saying of Biden "Can you believe I lost to this guy?" A rare moment of honesty and clarity that quickly found its way to the gutter.

Try to accept this fact. It takes an adult to admit to being misled.

Why do I keep this up, knowing it probably won't sway the hardcore base stuck in the mud? Why bother?

What bother?
And stop watching Fox!

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

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QVCC Foundation awards more than \$183,000 to local students at 32nd Annual Scholarship Night

DAYVILLE — On Wednesday, May 1, The Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation held its 32nd Annual Scholarship Night at the Killingly Intermediate School in Dayville. The ceremony celebrated both current and incoming students attending Connecticut State Community College Quinebaug Valley, with families, Foundation members and donors in attendance. In total, 117 scholarships at over \$183,000 were awarded to 112 local students. Foundation scholarships support direct educational expenses including tuition, books, fees, technology, and other course requirements.

2024 Scholarship Chair, Eddie Graff '13, offered his best wishes to the recipients, stating "On behalf of the scholarship committee and the entire QVCC Foundation, it's my honor to congratulate our 2024 Scholarship winners who have earned this honor because of your stellar academic achievements."

Graff, who is a Quinebaug Valley graduate, also shared his pride as an alumnus, former scholarship winner, and member of the QVCC Foundation, commenting "When I was a QV student, Foundation scholarships changed my life and provided opportunities I could never have imagined. It gives me such pride to serve as a Foundation board member and as Scholarship Chair. I truly hope that the 2024 recipients will be inspired to one day help others achieve their educational dreams."

There were several highlights of the event; Steven '23 and Marjolaine '87, '88 Townsend, both alumni and long supporters of the QVCC Foundation, celebrated their 25th year of scholarships. At this year's ceremony, the Townsends presented \$53,000 in funds to 20 students. Another QV alumnus and donor, Sean B. Doyle '98, '00, was recognized as one of the Foundation's newest emeritus honorees for his outstanding dedication to

the organization. Sean's time with the Foundation began when he was a student in the 1990s, serving as a QV Student Government Association representative. Since 2009 Sean has presented annual Foundation scholarships to local students in memory of his late brother, Ryan S. Doyle.

The QVCC Foundation extends sincere appreciation to Killingly Intermediate School administration and staff for providing their auditorium as a rain site for the ceremony. In addition, Scholarship Night was supported by several local businesses, including Sugarz Bakery, Chase Graphics, and Ginger Photography, owned by QV alumna Mikayla Gagnon '12.

The QVCC Foundation was established in 1971 as a 501c3 organization to help those who otherwise could not attend college due to financial constraints by involving area business and community members in fundraising efforts. Today's 25-member



Courtesy

Recipients of the Helena B. Witkowski Memorial Scholarship pose with presenter Colleen Strandson (center).

strong diverse group of community leaders continues to work tirelessly in support of the Foundation's mission...to raise funds so that all residents of Northeastern Connecticut are provided the opportunity to

attend QVCC regardless of income and to support educational excellence, technological advancement, and professional development at the College and to serve as the Regional Advisory Council to the College.

For more information about the QVCC Foundation, please contact Monique Wolanin, director of Institutional Advancement at 860-932-4174 or mwolanin@qvcc.edu.



Putnam's Abby St. Martin inducted into National College Athlete Honor Society

PUTNAM — Putnam resident Abby St. Martin was recognized earlier this month for her efforts on and off the playing field as she was inducted into the Worcester State University 2024 class of Chi Alpha Sigma, the National College Athlete Honor Society.

St. Martin, a junior forward on the women's basketball team, is a Public Health major (with a minor in Psychology) with a 3.5 overall GPA. She averaged 7.8 points and 5.2 rebounds this past season while starting 25 of 26 games for the Lancers.

Chi Alpha Sigma recognizes student-athletes who are juniors or seniors in academic standing and maintaining at least a 3.4 GPA.

"They shine not only on the field, court, track and ice, but also in the classroom," Worcester State Director of Athletics Michael Mudd said in a statement of St. Martin and the 32 other student-athletes so honored. "They are true role models on our campus."

St. Martin has also been accepted into a

study abroad program at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, for the summer of 2024, which she is eagerly anticipating.

"Since high school, I have had the mindset that I would like to experience participating in a study abroad program," said St. Martin, who is also going to play basketball while she's there. "This will allow me to expand my education in the health field, learn about different culture's techniques with regards to their

health system, give me the chance to meet other international students that are pursuing their education globally, receive the possibility to experience different excursions that allow me to dive deeper into the culture that is offered in Australia, and possibly bring back some innovated ideas to my faculty and peers. I am excited to have this opportunity to gain a new perspective and educational experience."

Windham Region Chamber of Commerce welcomes Steph MacGillivray as Chief Development Officer



Steph MacGillivray

WILLIMANTIC — The Windham Region Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the appointment of Steph MacGillivray as its new Chief Development Officer.

With a strong background in nonprofit management, education, and public relations, MacGillivray brings a wealth of experience and a passion for community development to the chamber.

"I am excited to join the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce and to help lead our local businesses into a new era of growth and success," said MacGillivray. "Having spent years working in various sectors, I understand the challenges businesses face today, and I am committed to leveraging my experience to support our members."

MacGillivray earned her Master of Science in Communications and Information Management from Bay Path University in 2019, and holds a Bachelor's degree in communications from Central

Connecticut State University. She also advocates for the arts and culture and serves as co-chair of the Enfield Culture and Arts Commission in Enfield.

In her previous roles, MacGillivray has demonstrated a commitment to fostering strong relationships within the business community. During her tenure at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, she served as co-executive producer of a seven-part podcast series titled "Disinvested: Building a Stronger Community from the Ground Up." This series showcased more than 80 interviews with individuals from Greater Hartford and beyond, including residents, journalists, elected officials, and nonprofit leaders. Each episode examined specific topics, such as Economic and Community Development, Community Safety, Workforce Development, Basic Human Needs, and Education, exploring the challenges facing the region while offering inspiring stories from those working to overcome them. Through these conversations, MacGillivray highlighted the importance of listening and collaboration in effecting meaningful change.

MacGillivray's approach to membership engagement reflects a deep understanding of the unique needs and challenges of businesses in the Windham region. She plans to reengage current members and introduce new programming to benefit existing and prospective members, including online businesses, freelancers, nonprofits, and social enterprises.

Please join us in welcoming Steph to the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce.

Woodstock's Orion Newall-Vuillemot receives Mimi Findlay Award

WOODSTOCK — Orion Newall-Vuillemot, 23, of Woodstock received the 2024 Mimi Findlay Award from Connecticut Preservation. This award is for individuals age 35 or younger, or groups whose members are 35 or younger, who have demonstrated interest, involvement, and achievement or potential achievement in the restoration, maintenance, preservation or adaptive use of historic buildings, structures, complexes, neighborhoods, cultural landscapes or landscape features in Connecticut.

Preserving Connecticut's historic railroads is a passion for Orion Newall-Vuillemot. At age 15, he brought an abandoned boxcar built in 1930 for one dollar and spent five years restoring it in his family's back yard (in Woodstock), recruiting volunteer helpers, raising funds, and attracting donations of tools and materials. The completed boxcar is now on lease to the Danbury Railroad Museum. Since graduation from Woodstock Academy, Orion has worked at the Naugatuck Valley Railroad, which operates on the historic tracks between Waterbury and Torrington, where he organizes excursion trains for the Railroad Museum of New England.



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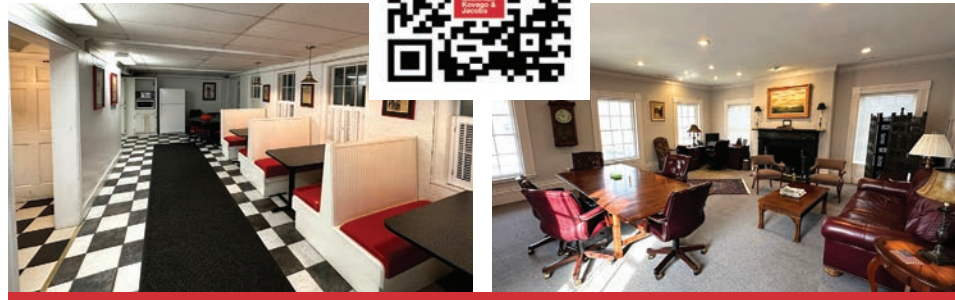
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THE WEEK IN SPORTS AT WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

Softball

Woodstock Academy 16 Lyman 5
LEBANON – The Centaur bats awakened as they unloaded a 24-hit attack against the Bulldogs to post the win. Sarah McArthur had four hits, including a bases-clearing triple in a five-run seventh inning, and drove in six runs to pace Woodstock Academy (5-11) from the lead-off spot in the order. Campbell Favreau and Mia Pannone also contributed four hits each for the Centaurs while Savannah Schley had three hits and drove in three runs. Loretta Svedarsky had a three-run homer for Lyman Memorial (3-10).

Woodstock Academy 7 West Haven 3
WEST HAVEN – The Centaurs rallied from a two-run deficit to tie the game in the sixth inning on a two-run Delaney Anderson triple. After West Haven took a 1-run lead in the bottom of the inning, Woodstock Academy (6-11) exploded for five in the top of the seventh. A bases-loaded double by Sarah McArthur accounted for three of the runs, Ellary Sampson added an RBI single and an Anderson ground out was responsible for the final tally.

Killingly 6 Woodstock Academy 3
WOODSTOCK – Killingly broke a 3-3 tie with two outs in the top of the seventh when Jayden Durand doubled and scored on an Addison King single. Izabella Robbins singled and a walk loaded the bases for Grace Deslauriers who doubled two home for the victorious Killingly (9-9) squad. Sarah McArthur had three hits and an RBI and Maci Corradi added two hits for Woodstock Academy (6-12).

Baseball

Woodstock Academy 4 Lyman 0
WOODSTOCK – Keon Lamarche accomplished something that few have. He put a baseball over the fence at the Bentley Athletic Complex. Lamarche hit a blast close to 400 feet over the left field fence, his second homer of the season and first career at his home park for the senior, to give winning pitcher Eric Mathewson a little larger cushion. Mathewson threw six innings, allowed just two hits and struck out nine for Woodstock Academy (13-1). Brady Lecuyer gave Mathewson the early lead with a two-run double. The sophomore now has 12 runs batted in but has only been to the plate, officially, 17 times. Alex Ortiz, Alex Zimnoch and Dom Pontbriant had the only hits for the Bulldogs (10-4).

Woodstock Academy 7 Maloney 1
WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs went out-of-league for their Senior

Day game and won for the 14th time in 15 outings. Riley O'Brien picked up the win on the hill. Maxx Corradi had a pair of doubles, driving in a run in the fourth and scoring a run in the first. Matt Hernandez added a pair of RBI singles.

Woodstock Academy 2 East Lyme 0
EAST LYME – The Centaurs claimed the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I baseball regular season title with the hard-fought victory. Brady Ericson pitched a two-hitter with eight strikeouts but had to wait until the top of the seventh for some offensive support. Maxx Corradi singled, was sacrificed to second and scored on a Keon Lamarche single and an error. Pinchrunner David Bunning added a little insurance when he came around on a Riley O'Brien single for Woodstock Academy (15-1, 6-0 ECC Division I) which won its 12th straight game. Garrison Biggs and Chris Cambi had the hits for the Vikings (12-5, 5-2).

North Branford 9 Woodstock Academy 8 (10)
WEST HARTFORD – All good things must come to an end as the Centaurs saw their 12-game win streak come to an end in a contest at St. Joseph's University in West Hartford. A four-run fourth inning put the Centaurs (15-2) up by a run, 7-6. The Thunderbirds tied it in the top of the sixth and the two teams battled through three scoreless innings before North Branford put two across in the top of the 10th. They needed both as Eric Mathewson singled and scored in the bottom of the inning for Woodstock Academy but the tying run was stranded at second. Keon Lamarche and Brady Ericson each had three hits and two runs batted in for the Centaurs.

Woodstock Academy 3 Woodstock Academy 10 (10)
WOODSTOCK – The early morning match didn't bother the Centaurs who improved to 5-6 with the win, their third straight, by shutout over the Wolves (6-8) at the Pomfret School indoor courts. Emma Massey won in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0 at third singles, Peyton Bentley took fourth singles, 6-1, 6-1 and the second doubles team of Delilah Kesselman and Kate McArthur also posted a 6-1, 6-1 victory.

Stonington 7 Woodstock Academy 0
STONINGTON – Catherine Trudeau and Delilah Kesselman were the only ones to win more than one set for the Centaurs (5-8) against a dominant Bears squad, falling 3-6, 1-6. The singles players for Stonington (16-0) surrendered only two games in the eight sets played.

Boys Golf

Woodstock Academy 7 Fitch 0
GROTON – The 18-hole effort at the Wildcat Invitational did little to slow down the Centaurs. Logan Rawson and Donny Sousa shared medalist honors with four-over par 39 totals and Brady Hebert added a 44 as Woodstock Academy (8-2, 1-2 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) downed the Falcons easily at the Shennecossett Golf Club. Charlie Bergendahl led Fitch (1-7, 0-3) with a 44.

Woodstock Academy 6 Bacon Academy 1
THOMPSON – The Bobcats' (5-4) top pair of Alex Gallardo and John Ceruti both finished under par and could only get a half-point for their efforts. The Centaurs' Logan Rawson shot a 3-under 33 and Donny Sousa tied Ceruti with a 35 while Abdullah Choudhry card-

ed a 41 at the Quinnetis Country Club to lead Woodstock Academy (9-2) to the win.

Girls Golf

Woodstock Academy 221 Suffield 241
WOODSTOCK – Centaurs coach Earl Semmelrock is hoping a week's worth of practice will be helpful for his inexperienced team as it won its only match of the week. Reagan Scheck carded a 48 while Bella Mawson put in a 54 total and Lily Moran was one stroke beyond that at the Quinnetis Country Club for Woodstock Academy (2-6).

Girls Tennis

Woodstock Academy 7 Lyman 0
POMFRET – Ellie Bishop-Klee, Wynter Worth, Emma Massey and Peyton Bentley guaranteed the Centaurs (3-6) victory by sweeping the singles matches over the Bulldogs (1-9) at the Pomfret School indoor courts.

Woodstock Academy 7 Montville 0
POMFRET – The early morning match didn't bother the Centaurs who improved to 5-6 with the win, their third straight, by shutout over the Wolves (6-8) at the Pomfret School indoor courts. Emma Massey won in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0 at third singles, Peyton Bentley took fourth singles, 6-1, 6-1 and the second doubles team of Delilah Kesselman and Kate McArthur also posted a 6-1, 6-1 victory.

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STONINGTON – Catherine Trudeau and Delilah Kesselman were the only ones to win more than one set for the Centaurs (5-8) against a dominant Bears squad, falling 3-6, 1-6. The singles players for Stonington (16-0) surrendered only two games in the eight sets played.

Boys Tennis

East Lyme 7 Woodstock Academy 0
EAST LYME – Jiauri Peng, Ajay Rana and Kenny Zheng won the three singles matches that were played in straight-set shutouts to lead the Vikings (9-3) to the win over the Centaurs (5-8).

Boys Lacrosse

Waterford 7 Woodstock Academy 6 (OT)
WOODSTOCK – Ben Dubick fired the ball into the net with 2 minutes, 3 seconds left in overtime to lift the Lancers (5-8, 3-4 ECC Division I) to the win. The Centaurs (4-7, 0-6) tied the match at five with 3:02 to play on a Seamus Coleman tally and Jared Neilsen put Woodstock Academy into the lead with 1:54 to play. But Waterford forced the overtime when Griffin Neal scored with 1:29 left. Dylan Phillips had a hat

trick in the loss for the Centaurs.

Woodstock Academy 14 Ledyard-Griswold 3
LEDYARD – Jared Neilsen scored six goals and Lucas Theriaque added four to lead the Centaurs (5-7) to the win on the road. Dylan Phillips chipped in with a pair of tallies for Woodstock Academy.

Somers 14 Woodstock Academy 3
WOODSTOCK – The Spartans had the jump from the start as they led 5-0 at the end of the first quarter and 9-1 at the half. Dylan Phillips scored twice in the non-league match for the Centaurs (5-8) while Jared Neilsen added the other tally.

Girls Lacrosse

Wheeler 19 Woodstock Academy 6
NORTH STONINGTON – Caroline Harris scored four goals for the Centaurs (1-12) while Maggie Marshall and Piper Sabrowski added tallies. Kaylee Saucier had an assist for Woodstock Academy.

Bacon Academy 11 Woodstock Academy 4
WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs jumped out to an early 3-2 lead at the end of the first quarter on a pair of goals by Caroline Harris and a Piper Sabrowski tally. But only Kaelyn Tremblay would find the net the rest of the way for the Centaurs (1-13) in the loss to the Bobcats (2-10).

Fitch 22 Woodstock Academy 0
WOODSTOCK – The Falcons finished the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I schedule with a 5-1 mark and are now 11-3 overall after the shutout victory over the Centaurs (1-14, 0-4).

Boys Volleyball

Rockville 3 Woodstock Academy 0
WOODSTOCK – Brayden Bottone had nine kills and Aiden Finch added six but the Centaurs (9-8) lost to the

Rams in three hard-fought sets, 25-16, 28-26, 25-19.

Christian Hart had 12 digs for Woodstock Academy.

Putnam 3 Woodstock Academy 2
PUTNAM – It was a back-and-forth affair with Putnam winning the first set 25-22 only to see the Centaurs rally for wins of 25-16 and 25-22 in the second and third sets. The Clippers (11-8) forced a fifth set by holding off the Centaurs 25-23 and then won it, 15-12. Aiden Finch led Woodstock Academy (9-9) with 15 kills while Brayden Bottone six kills and 12 aces.

Boys Tennis

Ledyard 6 Woodstock Academy 1
LEDYARD – The Colonels (9-5, 5-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference) guaranteed themselves the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II title with the win. Sebastian Fieldsen, Malloch Allison and Ben Wolford won their singles matches for Ledyard which also swept doubles. Cang Nguyen picked up the only win for the Centaurs (4-6, 3-2) at third singles.

Ledyard 5 Woodstock Academy 2
LEDYARD – For the second time in a week, the two teams met and the result was another Colonels victory. Sebastiao Fieldsen and Malloch Allison got things started in the right direction for Ledyard (10-5, 6-0 ECC Division II) with wins at first and second singles. Ethan Staples stopped the flow a bit as he posted a win at third singles for Woodstock Academy (5-7, 3-3). Tyler Chamberlin and Ryan Chabot had the other victory at first doubles for Woodstock Academy.

Girls Track

Woodstock Academy 88 NFA 62
NORWICH – For a second consecutive year, the Centaurs claimed the Eastern Connecticut

Conference Division I championship.

Juliet Allard and Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain both had fantastic performances, each figuring in four 1st-place finishes for Woodstock Academy (3-0, 3-0 ECC Division I).

Allard joined Ella Lidonde, Elise Coyle and Emma Weitknecht to win the 4x100m relay and shattered the Woodstock Academy school record in the process. The quartet crossed the line in 50.3 seconds. The previous record, set in 1999, was 50.91 seconds.

Allard also placed first in the 100m, 200m (where she tied her own school record) and 300m hurdles. D'Alleva-Bochain was first in the 800m and javelin and was a member of the winning 4x800m and 4x400m relays.

Julia Coyle was also a part of the 4x800m team and also won the 1600 and 3200m races.

Weitknecht was also first in the 100m hurdles and second in the 300m hurdles.

Olivia Tracy was also a member of the winning 4x800m relay team and was second in the 800, 1600 and 3200m races.

Boys Track

NFA 111.5 Woodstock Academy 38.5
WOODSTOCK – Christian Menounos came away with a pair of victories for the Centaurs (0-3, 0-3 ECC Division I). Menounos won the 800m and joined Colton Sallum, Charlie Caggiano, and Joel Koleszar in winning the 4x800m relay. Sallum also captured a first-place finish in the 1600m and Thatcher Paterson was best in the triple jump.

Anthony Beaudreault (300m hurdles); Gavin Grant (100m hurdles) and Koleszar (3200m) all had second-place finishes for Woodstock Academy. Reese Newson won the 200m and pole vault, Chris Amy took the shotput and discus and Fernando Flores was best in the 110m and 300m hurdles for the Wildcats (2-2, 1-2).



Courtesy

On Sunday, May 5, the Danielson Martial Arts Academy hosted the Cheezic Tang Soo Do Federation's black Belt grading. Among the 15 students that graded, there were 5 representatives from DMAA. Aiden McKenna promoted from 2nd Dan to 3rd Dan Black Belt, Madison Lamont from Apprentice to 1st Dan, Cole Lamont from Apprentice to 1st Dan, Tracy St. Jean from Apprentice to 1st Dan & Eli Petrarca from Apprentice to 1st Dan. For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699 or visit their Web site at danielsonmartialarts.com.

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Benefit concert at The Vanilla Bean to honor Carol Davidge

POMFRET — Join friends and family of Eastford resident Carol Davidge on Saturday, June 1 at the Vanilla Bean Café for an evening of music by local talent Sally Rogers, plus companionship and a celebration of Carol's life and her passion for democracy.

Last summer, Northeast Connecticut lost a dear friend, Carol Davidge, who had become an important leader for Quiet Corner Shouts! a grassroots community group that supports democracy, women's rights, social justice, and other issues. To honor Carol's memory, we are contributing to Laura & Scott Moorehead's "Make Your Mark" scholarship, administered by Northeast Connecticut Women & Girls Fund and the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (CFECT). This annual scholarship supports women from Woodstock, Eastford, Putnam, Thompson, Pomfret, Hampton, Brooklyn, Killingly, Canterbury, Plainfield, and Sterling.

Sally Rogers will perform at 7 p.m. Come early and enjoy a meal and beverage at the Bean. Admission is a suggested donation of \$25, 100 percent of which will benefit the scholarship fund. Donations from this fundraising event will be noted to the Make Your Mark scholarship recipients as made in honor of Carol. Additional donations are welcome. If you cannot attend in person, please show your support and learn more about the scholarship at <https://cfect.org/story/make-your-mark-scholarship-fund>.

Quiet Corner Shouts! meets about once a month in person, usually in Putnam or Pomfret. New members always welcome. Email qcsouts@gmail.com for more information.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taylor's statistics don't change things

To the Editor:
 Thanks, Mr. Taylor, for researching California's crime stats, and I'll give you that you got me on one detail, but does it really change things much? And with all your other so-called "drivel" in my letter, like people in this country yelling death to America, the proof of voter fraud, and democrats joking about the crime rate they helped cause — why was that detail the only thing you chose to comment on? (But I've already mentioned the reason.) Anyhow, you must have been bouncing off the walls when you read and took issue with some other writers, and of course mine was yet another reason for you to again bellow "stop the lies."
 After again sobbing his usual, Mr. Canning no doubt knew that I was talking about Harris as our VP. I could care less about her resume and what she's done in the past, but in her current position I feel she is an ineffective dimwit and I'm certainly not alone in believing that. And how did her checked boxes and that resume help in her failed run for President? Maybe you and Mr. Taylor can research what the American voters now think about her. I don't know what their education level is either Mr. Canning but at least their eyes are open. And if Harris is still considered to be our «border czar;» it's no wonder why Mayorakis was impeached. What I find laughable Mr. Canning is that Donald Trump being called whatever apparently sits well with you, but then you get all wimpy and moan whenever I refer to Harris as "cackala," an "ineffective dimwit," or to Pelosi as "Nanny." (Maybe the next time I'll call her "Duncy?") Isn't it time to get over it and grow a backbone? And if Donald Trump is considered to be fair game for whatever form of slander - then Harris, Pelosi and President Biden should be as well.
 And with Trump's court cases recently taking a turn in his favor, the river of tears has begun; time to stock up on tissues? If following this soap opera has become the number one focus of your daily life - and before you become totally unhinged and those guys in the white coats show up at your door - just remember that until the final gavel comes down that there isn't a damn thing that any of us can do about it.
 In what will become the next soap opera (or perhaps another go-nowhere waste of our tax dollars), Republican lawmakers have initiated drafting articles of impeachment against President Biden. A statement was released accusing him of engaging in a quid-pro-quo arrangement, similar to the charges that led to the first impeachment of Donald Trump.

ED DeLUCA
 NORTH GROSVENORDALE

I will not be surprised if Tesla collapses

To the Editor:

Once again, electric cars are all over the news. WINY and the AP finally got around to talking about the BYD Seagull, a.k.a. China's electric car answer what our Ford Model T was with gas cars. This is not news to nerds like me who follow this technology but it's great for the media to finally be catching up to the car doing to electric cars what we already saw with gas cars where cars transitioned from being rich people toys to something regular folks could finally afford and put to good use.
 On the other side of electric vehicle news, however, is problem after problem after problem at Tesla. The Cybertruck is less of a truck and more of a money sinking easily rusting appliance on wheels, there have been rounds and rounds of layoffs, and then there's the Supercharger network, where Tesla laid off the entire team then changed their mind and hired a bunch of them back and pledged to invest more capital into infrastructure. This is the weirdest move considering Tesla just won the format war for electric car charger ports which should help with infrastructure now that there's a standardized port to charge with.
 The Tesla that exists today, however, I don't think will continue to exist. It'll either go away or become something else bearing the same name.
 I'm sure this is a weird thing to say with all the Model 3s I've been seeing on our roads over the past few years, but Tesla's history as the brand that made electric cars cool also comes with several drawbacks. It was cool when the Tesla Roadster introduced a sporty Lotus Elise style car into a market where electric cars were dopey little egmobiles with bad range, no style, and other assorted headaches. Nowadays though I'm starting to see the same ego problems in Tesla that I see in Apple. When you're a tail-wag-the-dog kind of company, what do you do when the rest of the dog smartens up?
 One of the biggest complaints with electric cars is expensive battery replacements if something happens to the battery. The numbers are shocking until you consider if you blew out the engine and transmission in a gas car you would be looking at similar sticker shock. However much to the chagrin of the bots, trolls, and sock puppets ha-ha'ing every electric car story on Facebook, necessity is the mother of invention, and the industry is actually trying to address people's concerns about what they're selling. Some of Tesla's competitors have been slowly moving towards more modular battery arrays that can be replaced at a much lower cost instead of needing to swap out the entire battery if something goes wrong.
 This one tech development is why if you put a gun to my head and went all Mr. T on me and were like, "I'm buyin' you a EV, now drive it sucka!" I'd pick a Hyundai Ioniq over anything from Tesla. We'll have to see if Tesla ever goes in this direction, but the current state of the company has me thinking Elon Musk wants it to be a boutique brand like Apple, so maybe we're a few years away from electric cars getting like iOS versus Android on smartphones.

The other thing to consider is that having won the format war for electric car charging ports, Tesla may have to look at whether their charging network will start bringing in more money than the cars and how many car SKUs they really need, turning Tesla into something resembling the Sega Dreamcast of electric cars.

I don't think the Tesla of today has a future. The real question is what the Tesla of tomorrow looks like.

JAY GERHART
 PUTNAM

Alexander's Lake



KILLINGLY
 AT
 300
 MARGARET
 WEAVER

On May 11, the Killingly Historical Society was privileged to have a program on the history of carousels presented by Cate Mahoney from the New England Carousel Museum at 95 Riverside AvEe. in Bristol.
 Dating to the second half of the 19th century, the early carousels, like the one at Wildwood Park were "track machines." The site https://loweryantiques.com had an antique track machine horse for sale and provided a simple explanation of how the track machine worked. "The carousel figure is a track machine horse, before the up & down carousel...The carousel horse was fastened on the end of a beam similar to construction to the spokes of a wagon wheel with a circular platform raised above the internal construction. The horse was structurally connected with metal fasteners that pivoted allowing the horse to rock back and forth as they traveled in a circle." Cate noted that the early carousels were very fast and were meant for adults, not children. Horses were hollow, and parts were connected with dowels, not nails. The presentation was fascinating. You might want to visit the museum, or even book a special birthday party. If so, contact 860.585.5411 or visit www.TheCarouselMuseum.org.

I thought it would be interesting to go back through my files and to check online newspaper archives to see what interesting tidbits I could find about Alexander's Lake recreation and Wildwood Park in particular. First, a comment about the lake's name. By 1720, a Scottish immigrant named Nell Elicksaunders had purchased extensive tracts of land around the lake. As happened in many cases, over the years the name became Alexander. Note, however, in my second newspaper extract that the lake was also still called Saunder's Pond.

The first references I found to the shores of the lake being used for recreational purposes came in the mid 1800's when Frank Madden owned the property. "Maddin's Grove! This delightful place is located on the banks of Alexander's Lake, near Dayville. The undersigned would inform the Ladies and Gentleman of Windham County that he is now prepared to entertain parties coming to his Grove. The Grove is fitted up with Swings, Tables, etc., and is acknowledged the most beautiful place in Eastern Connecticut. I have Six Boats in good order for sailing parties. I am ready to let the Grove for the Fourth of July for a Clam Bake and Dancing Party." Frank Maddin,

Killingly, June 3rd, 1865" (Windham County Transcript June 8, 1865).

"Fourth of July! Grand Celebration and Clam Bake! To be given at Saunders' Pond! Madden's Grove, near the Norwich & Worcester Railroad...The Whitestone Brass Band will be in attendance. T.W. Kies, leader. G. Cady's Quadrille Band will also give a social Dance in the large and spacious hall lately erected on the grounds for that purpose. Music, Four Pieces, violin, Clarinet and Basso. G.W. Cady, Prompter. J.A. & A. W. Battey, Killingly, June 13, 1867" (Windham County Transcript, June 20, 1867).

Unfortunately, Madden had died that year and the property was advertised for sale. 1867 "Valuable Property For Sale All the real estate lately owned by Francis Madden, deceased, situated on the east side of Alexander's Lake, and on the line of the Norwich & Worcester Railroad about one mile from the flourishing village of Dayville, in the town of Killingly, and consisting of about ten acres of land, with a Dwelling House, Barn, Ice House, Boat House, & thereon standing, all in good repair. Said premises include Madden's Grove, long and favorably known as a popular and delightful summer resort, unsurpassed by anything of the kind in Eastern Connecticut. Up on the grounds of the Grove is a spacious and airy Hall for the accommodation of Sabbath School Festivals, Picnic, Fishing and other parties, with all the appliances for convenience, comfort and amusement. Also will be sold with above, six splendid Boats in good condition, with sails, oars, &c. complete. Terms CASH. Enquire of the subscriber Eliza Madden. Killingly Feb. 20, 1867." (WCT Feb. 21, 1867).

Over the years the lake was used by many different groups; not all were from Northeastern Connecticut. "George Hosmer of Boston and James Ten Eyck of Worcester, who are to figure in a boat race for a purse of \$250 and the championship of New England on the shores of Alexander's Lake, at Wildwood Park Thursday afternoon, arrived at the place yesterday afternoon. Both are in the pin (?) of condition. It is expected that thousands will witness the race. Hosmer is slightly the favorite in the betting. The race will begin at 2 p.m. and at 3 p.m. there will be a double scull working-boat race open to all amateur scullers of Worcester for a gold medal." (The New Haven Evening Register,

Tuesday, August 7, 1894, p. 1; genealogybank.com).

There also were many baseball games played on the shores of Alexander's Lake. "On Saturday, July 17th, at the Park, our ball nine plays the Grosvenordale's at 4 p.m. As we succeeded in beating them before by a score of 7 to 4, a good game may be expected. Dancing after the ball game Admission 10 cents. Ladies, free." (WCT July 21, 1886). "The Wildwood Park team will play the Willimantics on the fair grounds (Willimantic) here this Saturday afternoon. This team plays its home games at the new park on the Putnam-Danielson trolley line and they have been defeated but once this season." (The Willimantic Journal, Friday, June 15, 1900, p. 5; genealogybank.com).

Notice the mention of the trolley. The line ran right near the park and made frequent stops during the season. In fact, the trolley was what fostered the growth and popularity of Wildwood Park.

Much more daring than baseball at the park was an attempted parachute jump from a balloon. To the horror of the spectators, the jump did not go well. "Fell One Thousand Feet. Marvelous Escape of Mary Stafford, Parachute Jumper. Falling like a shot one thousand feet with a parachute that didn't work right, smashing a limb off a big tree in which she struck, and plunging down through the tree into the arms of horror-stricken men who stood beneath, Miss Mary Stafford completed her first attempt a balloon ascension Sunday afternoon at Wildwood Park, Danielson Conn., and a few minutes afterward was walking about with her usual nerve and composure. Miss Stafford screamed as she reached the ground, and admits that she came near fainting in midair while shooting toward the earth. A large crowd gathered at the park to witness a dou-

ble ascension and parachute drop. Professor Stafford and his sister, Mary Stafford, after the customary preparations, made an ascension together. They got up safely about one thousand feet, when at his direction, the woman jumped out with his parachute, leaving him to follow. (He made it safely with no difficulties)." (The Daily Morning Journal and Courier, Tuesday, Aug. 19, 1902, New Haven, p. 4, from The Providence Journal;genealogybank.com).

There were so many more articles available that I could go on and on. Nicely, that gives me something for another column on Alexander's Lake.

Do you have pictures of events that were held at Alexander's Lake/Wildwood Park? We have only one photo of the carousel and have been unable to locate any others. Please think about bringing photos to the Killingly Historical Center to be scanned/copied. Thank you so much in advance. For photos of Wildwood Park/Alexander's Lake, see "Images of America Killingly" by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer, p. 91-94. The carousel is on p. 93. Copies of the book are still available at the Killingly Historical Center for \$20 if you do not have one.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2024. Special thanks to Cate Mahoney. 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.

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

MAY 20 – MAY 25

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killingly.org)
 Monday the 20th
 Board of Recreation Special Meeting (Killingly Community Center) 6:00pm
 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
 Tuesday the 21st
 Housing Authority Meeting (Maple Courts II) 7 p.m.
 Republican Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
 Wednesday the 22nd
 Board of Education Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
 Thursday the 23rd
 Open Space Land Acquisition (Room 102 – Town Hall) 6:30 p.m.

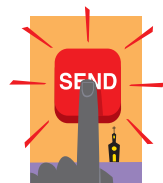
COMMUNITY EVENTS
 Monday the 20th
 Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
 Homeschool Club (All Ages) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon
 Book to Big Screen (Ages 18+) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.
 Tuesday the 21st
 Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
 Wednesday the 23rd
 Little Listeners (Ages 0-5) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.
 Thursday the 24th
 Blooming B-I-N-G-O (Ages 8-12) (Library) 10 to 11 a.m.
 Saturday the 25th
 Lil' Chefs (Ages 4-6) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/ EVENTS COMING UP...
 Big Red Basketball – June 24 through June 27 (Grades 3-8) (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)
 A Night at the Fennton (Ages 18+) – May 17, and May 18
 Outdoor Pound with Chris – Session 1 – June 11 through July 9 (Killingly Community Center) (Tuesdays)
 Camp Wallaby – starting July 1 for Grades 1-8
 Register at the Killingly Parks and Recreation Department in-person or go online at www.killinglypr.recdesk.com
 Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!
 For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killingly.org.

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Is it better to save or invest when interest rates are high?

Savers have been in the driver's seat this year with interest rates on bank savings accounts and money market mutual funds fluctuating around 5 percent. While these short-term investments offer safety and liquidity, they do have some often overlooked risks. Interest rates on bank accounts and mutual funds can fall just as quickly as they can rise. So, investors with a long-term investing horizon may want to consider locking in today's interest rates by purchasing longer-term bonds.



FINANCIAL FOCUS
LEISL L. LANGEVIN

Funds. Savings accounts and money market funds can be the perfect places to stash cash earmarked for an emergency or a large expense expected within the next few years. Both accounts are extremely liquid, with money typically available on demand or overnight. They're also considered extremely safe, with most money market funds investing in short-term securities and most bank savings accounts insured by the FDIC for up to \$250,000.

In addition, returns on bank accounts and money market funds have historically lagged the historical, long-term returns stocks have generated. Over a period of years, that can have a major impact on portfolios.

When Floating Rates Sink.

Let's compare some of the pros and cons of investing in savings accounts and money market funds versus longer-term investments.

Money market mutual funds and bank savings accounts may not be the right investment vehicles for long-term investors, however. The interest rate they offer today is not guaranteed and can change rapidly.

Great For Rainy Day

Short-term interest rates typically take their cue from the Federal Reserve. For example, in 2020 and 2021 during the Covid pandemic, the Federal Reserve lowered the Fed funds rate to practically zero to boost economic growth. The interest rates on money markets and bank accounts fell in lockstep — leaving savers in these instruments earning next to nothing.

As the economy recovered and inflation rose, the Federal Reserve raised the Federal funds rate until it hit 5.3 percent in August 2023. Interest rates on money markets and bank accounts rose in tandem and savers were happy once again.

The Federal funds rate has remained at 5.3 percent since August, but most market forecasters expect the Federal Reserve will start to slowly lower interest rates again. We believe the Federal Reserve will keep rates higher for longer. However, we do expect to see small rate cuts in the second half of 2024.

Lock In Today's Rates. If the Federal Reserve is about to start a rate cutting cycle, now may be the right time to lock in interest rates by buying longer-term debt, like Treasury, corporate or municipal bonds. Here's why. If the Federal Reserve cuts interest

rates by one percentage point over the next two years, the yield on short-term bank products could fall from 5 to 4 percent. That's less than is currently offered on many Treasury bonds. In early May, Treasury bonds that mature anywhere from three to 20 years from now are yielding 4.6 to 4.8 percent.

Locking in a slightly lower interest rate today on a 10-year bond may be more beneficial over the next decade than investing in a money market fund that pays a high interest rate today if that rate is about to fall over the next year or two. Bonds are subject to availability and market conditions; some have call features that may affect income. Bond prices and yields are inversely related: when the price goes up, the yield goes down, and vice versa. Market risk is a consideration if sold or redeemed prior to maturity.

Considering Opportunity Cost

Long-term investors sitting in money market funds or bank savings accounts should also understand what they may miss out on by not

investing in stocks. While stock markets can rise and fall sharply, over the long term they've historically outperformed the return on bonds and short-term bank investments.

The S&P 500 has gained 10.7 percent on average annually since its introduction in 1957, a September 18 Business Insider article reported. The potential for higher returns is something long-term investors willing to accept the risk and volatility involved with stocks should consider before investing in money market funds and bank savings accounts.

We pride ourselves on helping clients understand the pros and cons of their investment options as we develop a strong and customized strategy for them. We use our personalized Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well.™ strategic process to help clients gain confidence in their financial future, and we stay with them every step of the way to fulfill our ultimate goal of providing Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life. Schedule a complimentary consultation on our website at

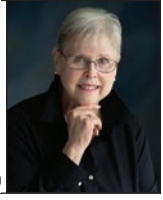
whzwealth.com or by calling (860) 928-2341.

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Bog iron

Woodstock's history includes records of business enterprises going back to its original settlement. The first were sawmills and grist mills, followed by mills associated with textile production and other items. One such venture was the New Roxbury Iron Works established in 1757 by Ebenezer Lyon to extract and process bog iron.

WOODSTOCK THROUGH THE YEARS
CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



Bog iron is an impure iron, a sedimentary deposit of rock. It is found in swamps and bogs, and produced by a biochemical reaction over time. Iron-rich ground water seeps up in springs or outlets. As it reaches the surface, it mixes with oxygen to form ferric hydroxide, with the help of iron-oxidizing bacteria that derives energy from dissolved iron. The oxidation of the iron hap-

pened while the element is in solution. The product is called iron oxyhydroxide or goethite. As the goethite is sedimented within the bog or swamp, it combines with limonite, magnetite and vugs (a stained quartz). The resulting bog iron is attracted to heavy metals, readily collecting molecules of another elements. It becomes a very porous, rust-colored, sedimentary rock that is cheap and easy to extract. It is also a renewable resource, as it continues to redeposit and can be extracted again in 20 years. Bog iron is predominately found in the northern latitudes.

been extracted, it was smelted to produce pig iron. Smelting was an operation to separate the useable metal from the oxidized ore taken from the bogs. The furnace was fired with charcoal, another readily available resource. The process had to regulate the ore, fuel, air, flux and cooling cycle to be successful. The liquid iron that had been separated from the ore was transported from a larger trench into a smaller one — like a sow feeding her piglets, hence the name "pig iron." Once smelted, the iron was graded as gray, white or mottled, and checked by fracturing it to view the cross-section.

As early as 2000 BC, bog iron ore had been processed by the Hittites of Anatolia. Its production spread to Europe, reach-

ing Poland, Scandinavia and the British Isles by 200 BC. There are traceable links between Viking settlements in Europe and North America where bog iron deposits were exploited. This type of metal was commonly used through 1300 AD.

Highly sought after in the colonies, it was actively prospected. In Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Saugus Iron Works opened in 1646 and rapidly depleted the bog iron near settled areas. The owners sent out search teams to surrounding areas to locate additional deposits. Bog iron was exhausted in Massachusetts Bay Colony by 1694, and the lands originally containing the ore were sold off as farmland.

When Britain ran out of wood to make charcoal, after basically deforesting most of the country, the importa-

tion of colonial iron was essential. British iron and steel manufacturers became resentful of the lower prices that the colonial smelters could offer. As a result, the Iron Act of 1750 eliminated the import duty on colonial pig iron, and barred the manufacture of "steel or iron plate" in the colonies. But by 1776, the new United States was the third highest producer of iron after Russia and Sweden. There were 80 furnaces operating in the country, producing 30,000 tons of pig iron per year.

The New Roxbury Iron Works began in 1757 by architect Ebenezer Lyons. It was located near the outlet of Black Pond that had been dammed in 1740 by his slaves. Investors were Benjamin and Asahel Marcy, Manasseh Hosmer, Hezekiah Smith and Jonathan Bugbee. In addition to a smelting furnace, the complex

included a trip hammer, designed to pound and crush ore into smaller pieces to smelt. The Iron Works operated from 1760, selling iron bars to "blacksmiths and nail makers." When the forges ceased to operate, ore was taken by oxen to nearby Stafford. That trade continued until the 1820s (Bowen). By the 19th century, New Roxbury Iron Works was one of only two extraction and smelting operations remaining in business in New England.

John S. Lester's 1883 map of Woodstock, with historic notes by George Clinton William, identifies Ebenezer Lyon's meadow with a date of 1716. It lies along Bungee Brook. The remnants of the Slave Dam, as it has become known, can still be seen on Camp Road. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We're all "built differently"

Whenever we see individuals excelling in their fields, people who are highly skilled—whether in athletics, business, stock trading, acting, writing, culinary arts, scientific research, medicine, education, or trades—we often dismiss their success with a wave of the hand and a remark: "Well, they're just built differently."

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

Of course, in certain cases, that might hold some truth. For instance, I once had the privilege of getting to know an Olympic Gold Medal-winning swimmer, the fastest man in the world at the time. I assumed his success mainly stemmed from his meticulous diet, rigorous supplement regimen, and relentless training routine.

I was surprised to learn I was only partially correct. Indeed, he was built differently in many ways, possessing the physical and mental attributes that few can claim.

While it's good to recognize the greatness in others and to admire their natural advantages, the core of their success often lies in relentless perseverance and an unwavering commitment to their goals.

Consider how there may have been others with the raw talent of Tom Brady, but without his extraordinary work ethic and dedication, they never reached similar heights.

that sometimes, when people remark, "They're just built differently," they are perilously close to crafting excuses for their lack of success. This mindset undermines their potential and creates a barrier to personal achievement by attributing success solely to inherent qualities rather than effort and determination.

If, by "built differently," you mean athletes who meticulously analyze game footage to improve their tactics, who spend extra hours practicing beyond team sessions, and who focus on both mental and physical conditioning, then yes, they're built differently.

If it refers to

a businessperson who relentlessly networks and fosters relationships, always the first to arrive and the last to leave the office, continuously scouting new market trends and innovations to stay ahead—yes, they're built differently.

If you're talking about artists or writers who commit to daily practice, constantly seek feedback, find new inspirations, and balance their intuitive gifts with a rigorous work ethic to hone their craft—indeed, they're built differently.

Or perhaps you mean the entrepreneur who is a perpetual learner, not deterred by failure but using it as a stepping stone, managing to keep their passion ignited, driving innovation, and inspiring others. Then, absolutely, they are built

differently. Sometimes, people are simply willing to do whatever it takes to reach the next level. They're what you might call go-getters. Many times, their only natural gifts are drive and desire and their will-

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page A10

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SOFTBALL

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started every game in the circle and also provides a solid bat at the dish. Frosh Iyanah Ruiz is steady at first base and is coming into her own as a hitter. A third freshman Ayla Daniels completes the outfield, patrolling right field. Rounding

out the freshman contingent are outfielder Gabi Cantuaria and outfielder first baseman Avah Grimshaw. Sophomore Madalyn Parquette is the starting second baseman and soph outfielder Brynn Dignam also fills the role of designated player.

“Coach Coderre is teaching these young ladies how to play the

game and instilling pride. The girls appear to be very happy as they learn and see progress almost daily,” said a parent of one of the players.

“In addition to seeing growth on the field, I’m pleased that the majority of our players are honor roll students and involved in community and school activities. They form a solid core of

the student body as they appear everywhere that positive things are happening,” said Coderre.

Tourtellotte softball coach Greg Guillot instituted The French River Cup this year, a prize that his Tigers and Coderre’s Clippers vied for twice this season with Putnam coming out on top in both contests.

“I hope the cup gives

the young ladies on both teams something special to compete for annually,” said Guillot.

Meanwhile in Putnam, Coach Coderre and his assistant Aislin Tracey, a former lacrosse player at Eastern Connecticut State University and currently a grad student at the University of New England, come out every day and practice and pre-

pare the girls, not only for the next game but for the next step in their journey of life.

“We row the boat every day with these hard-working young ladies. They understand that they are an integral piece of turning this ocean liner around,” said Tracey and Coderre.

SEAT

continued from page A1

paramedic. Reddy served as Didactic and Clinical Program Coordinator for UConn Health Center/ Med-Ed Systems helping coordinate paramedic programs, EMT Basic programs, and CPR/ First Aid and Babysitter Safety classes. He was an Affiliate Faculty Member of the American Heart Association from 1992 through 1994 and received the Connecticut Hospital Association Healthcare Hero Award. He is also a

small business owner in Mansfield and Windham. This is his first foray into state politics.

Both candidates have received support from their town’s respective Republican Town Committees and will face off in a Republican primary scheduled for Aug. 13. The winner will earn the party’s endorsement for the November election. As of this writing, the Connecticut Democrats have yet to make any official announcement concerning their intention for the seat.

POSITIVELY

continued from page A9

ingness to put their ego aside and continue to learn.

But does that mean they’re built differently because they possess the drive that others lack?

Perhaps, but it’s not always so clear-cut.

Many behaviors, choices, addictions, and habits can severely undermine motivation. I’m sure we’ve all experienced this in our way. While I gen-

erally consider myself a motivated go-getting, I’ve learned that engaging in certain behaviors zaps my willpower.

These actions trigger what feels like a chemical imbalance that leaves me struggling to get out of bed, moping around with a bitter attitude, and wondering what the point of it all is.

For me, specific behaviors can devastatingly impact my motivation, plunge me into depression, and rob me of the desire to engage with life.

It’s easy to make excuses, succumb to bitterness, feel tired, angry, or depressed, and convince yourself that you don’t have what it takes, but at the end of the day, being ‘built differently’ can be a choice.

The fundamental difference between someone who is seen as ‘built differently’ and someone who is caught up making excuses often lies in their mentality.

Ultimately, being ‘built different’ means choosing to be different.

It means choosing the harder path, the one less traveled, and the one that leads to genuine, hard-earned success.

The next time you admire someone who seems effortlessly successful, remember that we all possess unique capabilities. Each of us has the potential to excel in ways that are distinctly our own. We’re all built differently, and embracing that fact allows us to unlock our own paths to greatness.

Latest antiques and collectibles auction news



Before I discuss the latest auction news, I’d like to thank Dotti Durst and everyone from the Learning in Retirement group who attended my presentation on downsizing hosted at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, Conn. last week.

Now diving into recent auctions news, a piece of history from over 100 years ago recently set an auction record. John Jacob Astor IV was the great grandson of John Astor, the fur trader that founded the family fortune, according to Britannica. Astor IV was on the board of several corporations and founded several restaurants including the Astoria, which later became the Waldorf Astoria. He was the wealthiest man aboard the Titanic when the ill-fated ship sank in 1912. Astor IV perished when the ship hit an iceberg. When his body was recovered, he had a Waltham 14-karat gold “pocket watch, diamond ring, gold and diamond cufflinks, 225 pounds in English notes, and \$2,440,” according to CBS. Astor IV was in his 40s and had married an 18-year-old woman in 1911. The couple went on an extended honeymoon in Europe and Egypt while waiting for gossip about their marriage to die down. They were on their way back to New York when the Titanic sank. Astor IV reportedly asked if he could join his wife on a lifeboat because of her “delicate condition.” When he was told that he needed to wait for women and children first, he is said to have thrown his gloves to his wife and lit a cigarette while the ship sank. Astor IV’s watch sold for \$1.46 million last month, an auction record for any object from the Titanic.

ing to Fox News. A wide variety of collectibles are already reaching impressive figures with three weeks of bidding remaining. A 1986 Nintendo NES Entertainment System unopened in the box is at \$17,000. An engraved silver and gold-plated belt buckle worn by Harry Houdini has already reached \$27,000. A painting by Bob Ross, who taught painting on his “Joy of Painting” television show, has a current bid of \$45,000.

Other pieces from that sale are expected to bring even more. In 1953, Marilyn Monroe appeared on the cover of the first issue of Playboy magazine. The highest graded copy at a 9.6 out of 10 is expected to sell for half a million dollars. A jersey that Mickey Mantle wore during his 1957 MVP season is expected to bring in the millions. A high-grade Michael Jordan rookie card sold for over \$1 million in 2022. A newer but rarer Michael Jordan card surpassed that mark. Only one 2003-2004 Upper Deck Logoman (NBA logo) patch card with a Michael Jordan signature was ever printed. It’s expected to sell for between \$3 million and \$5 million. It’s been over 20 years since Michael Joran played in the NBA and he’s still setting records.

Our sports memorabilia, sports cards, and comic books online auction begins soon. There is still time to consign coins, art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, historical items, advertising signs, and other antiques for our summer online auction. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Some rare collectibles are now being offered in an online auction that ends on June 1st, accord-

Gardening helps grow healthy, happy kids

Gardeners know and research is proving that gardening, even viewing a garden, as well as spending time in nature is good for the mind, body, and spirit. It improves strength and flexibility, lowers blood pressure, and elevates our moods.

This is also true for the youngsters in our lives. Recent studies found that school-aged children who participate in outdoor activities have better vision than those who spend most of their time indoors. Children who engage in nature and gardening are more focused, score better on exams, and are less likely to develop or exhibit symptoms of ADHD. And kids who play outside and get a bit dirty also have stronger immune systems.

Help get the kids in your life involved in gardening. There are a variety of ways to get youngsters involved no matter how much space or time you have.

Consider giving each child their own garden space or a container garden to design, plant, and tend. Containers are a great option when planting space and time are limited. And just about anything can be grown in a pot. An old 5-gallon bucket or washtub with holes drilled into the bottom, recycled nursery pots, or a colorful raised planter make great gardens.

Provide them with some kid-sized tools and equipment. The tools’ smaller scale will be easier for them to handle and having their own tools that match yours makes gardening even more special. Consider investing in a set of kids’ gardening tools including hand tools, long-handled tools, and even a wheelbarrow like those at Corona Tools USA (coronatools.com).

Keep in mind the goal

BREAKFAST

continued from page A1

While the day was all about fun and fundraising, Ferland also acknowledged it as a learning opportunity for the kids allowing them to get directly involved with supporting their Troop and their activities.

“A big part of being a scout is being a leader and that means being responsible for things,” said Ferland. “This is a good way to introduce them to those responsi-



is for kids to have fun and develop an interest in gardening. You may need to bite your tongue when their combinations are rather unique, or plants are spaced improperly. Provide some guidance but be prepared to let them experiment and learn from their failures as well as successes.

Kids like to water even at an early age. The biggest challenge is getting the water to the plant but that will come with time, practice, and a few water-soaked outfits. Your efforts will be rewarded when your child takes over watering your container gardens.

You may notice kids often find bugs and worms more interesting than plants. Use this as a gateway into gardening. Get kids involved in worm composting or hunting for earthworms in the compost pile. They will have fun on the worm hunt while helping you turn your compost pile.

Use the “Pluck, Drop and Stomp” method to manage garden pests. Point out the bad guys and the damage they do. Be sure they know to watch for the good guys and leave them be to help the garden grow. Then have the children pluck the bad bugs off the plant, drop them to the ground, and stomp on them. This eco-friendly pest management strategy also burns some of that excess energy.

Include lots of color in the garden and containers. Michigan State University surveyed kids before creating their chil-

bilities and help encourage and teach them to fund their own activities. As they get older, we hope they’ll take on more and more responsibilities and understand what it will take for them to do their Eagle project in the future.”

Troop 33 is always seeking new supporters and scouts. Those interested can learn more by visiting the Killingly Scouts BSA Troop 43 page on Facebook or by visiting beascout.scouting.org and putting in a zip code to find a troop near you.

Give the gift of life in Danielson May 24

DAYVILLE — Danielson American Legion Post 21 will host an American Red Cross blood drive Friday, May 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Dayville Fire Company 63, 465 Hartford Pike, Dayville.

dren’s garden. They found kids were much more excited and likely to participate when a garden is filled with color.

And as the flowers are maturing and your family is overrun with vegetables, consider sharing the harvest and a few bouquets of flowers. Giving helps children grow into caring, well-rounded adults. And food pantries in your community are always in need of fresh produce. Most of the food-insecure people in our communities are kids and seniors who greatly benefit from fresh nutritious vegetables.

Be sure to end the growing season with a harvest party. Use your home-grown produce to prepare a picnic or fancy dinner

for family and friends. Then use some of those beautiful flowers you grew to decorate the table.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything”* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio* program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Corona Tools* for her expertise in writing this article. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Corona Tools — Courtesy

Research has shown that gardening and spending time in nature is beneficial to kids, including but not limited to better vision, increased focus, and a stronger immune system.

The Three C’s presents “Cat Kid Comic Club”

WOODSTOCK — Students from schools in Northeast Connecticut will join us when The Community Cultural Committee, d.b.a. The Three C’s, presents Theatretworks’ production of *Cat Kid Comic Club...the Musical*, based on the Pilkey’s irreverently hilarious book series.

The one hour performance will be Tuesday, May 28 at 10 a.m. at the Loos Center for the Arts in Woodstock.

Tickets are \$4 per person for groups of ten or more.

Visit our Web site at www.theThreeCs.org for information, or to access the order form.

Celebrating their 37th Season of Performing Arts for kids, the Three C’s volunteers have welcomed 214,089 students who have participated in these programs, including Sandra Ahola, Lynn Bourque, BettyHale, Pat Hedenberg, ElizabethLake, Philippa Paquette, Melissa Zahansky and Eric Davidson.

Watch for details of future shows like “Charlotte’s Web” on June 5.

OBITUARIES

Janet E. Bryer, 80



Janet E. Bryer, 80, of Danielson, passed away with her family by her side, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester, MA on Tuesday May 7, 2024. She was born in Brownville, Maine on September 21, 1943, daughter of the late LeRoy and Margaret (Bagley) Burgoyne. Janet was the wife of Sheldon Bryer for 60 years. He passed away in 2022. Janet worked for many years as a deli clerk at Stop & Shop in Putnam. In her younger years she was an interior designer, wall paperer and painter. Janet was a devout Catholic and a communicant of Our Lady of La Salette in Brooklyn, where she also participated in adoration. Janet's hobbies included counted cross stitch. She expertly created beautiful birth announcements, baby quilts, wedding photos and countless pictures and gifts. She was an avid card player and enjoyed playing poker with family every Saturday night and pitch with friends on leagues. She loved going to local racetracks with her family and traveled annually to Nascar races in PA with friends Marsha and Ed. Janet was a member of the F.A.T. Club (Fun And Travel) for many, many years with special friends Nancy, Chrissy and Judy.

Janet was also a Den Mother with her son's Cub Scout Pack. On Saturday nights you knew where to find Janet and Sheldon- Look for their favorite country western band and they would be on the dance floor.

Janet is survived by her children Tammy Herrick and husband Patrick of South Killingly, Roy Bryer and wife Melissa of Danielson, and Michael Bryer and wife Cheryl of Dayville. Siblings Margaret (Peggy) Witham of Brownville, ME and Olivia Bell and husband James of Dexter, ME. She enjoyed her grandchildren Patrick, Megan, Nicole, Alisha, Hunter, Savannah, Alexandra, Joshua and Victoria. She also was a GiGi to Wyatt, Mason, Theo, Brooke and Charles (Buddy). Janet took great pride in how she and Sheldon raised their family. They were known as the "Waltons", extremely close and the envy of many.

Besides her husband, Janet was predeceased by her sister Lorraine Thibault and brother in law Douglas Bryer.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will take place at Our Lady of LaSalette Church in Brooklyn on Friday May 17, 2024, at 10 AM. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery in Danielson. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Janet's memory to a charity of your choice. tillinghastfh.com

Ellen Mary St. Jean, 69



Woodstock - Ellen (Blanchette) St. Jean, 69, of Tripp Road, Woodstock, passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2024, in the comfort of her home with her family. She was the loving wife of Bruce St. Jean. Born in Hartford, CT, she was the daughter of the late Wilbert and Mary Nora (Comeau) Blanchette.

Ellen graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1972 and went on to hold many positions during her professional career, including 15 years at Aetna, as well as many years at Hometown Properties as a Real Estate agent. In her

spare time, Ellen enjoyed traveling, visiting the beaches of Newport, watching the Red Sox, and spending time with her family and friends around the backyard campfire.

Ellen is survived by her daughter, Megan St. Jean of Woodstock, CT; brother Paul Blanchette and his wife Jo Anne of Horseheads, New York; and her best friend of 40 years Nancy Carpenter of Clinton, CT.

A celebration of life in Ellen's honor will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

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



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brendan@villagernewspapers.com



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LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

At the May 6th, 2024 meeting of the Woodstock Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency, the Agency approved, with conditions: application 03-24-10, Paine Road (MBL 5165-8-04-7 & MBL 5165-8-04-4) Town of Woodstock, construction of sediment basin and relocation of barway and culvert, permit to include maintenance of existing culverts. Bill Rewinski, Chairman

On May 7th, 2024, the Woodstock Wetlands Agent granted agent approval, with conditions for the following applications proposing activities with the Upland Review Area: 04-24-11, 7 Pond View Drive (MBL 5707-03-18-8) Steven Jacobsen for Barry Sprague, addition; 04-24-12, 23 Crooked Trail Extension (MBL 7272-34-172WS) Woodstock Building Associates for William Breslau, deck expansion; 04-24-15, 168 West Quasset Road (MBL 6393-65-226-9) Marty Weiss, repair of lake wall; 04-24-17, 197 Crystal Pond Road (MBL 6385-39-39A) United We Stand, LLC for Michael & Carla Charrette, addition. Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent
May 17, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Viola Frances Langevin (24-00101)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 6, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Toni Eck
c/o NICHOLAS SEAN MAZZARELLA, KAPLAN AND BRENNAN, LLP, 643 NORWICH ROAD, PLAINFIELD, CT 06374
May 17, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Alan A. Sheldon (24-00121)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 19, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Angela M. Sheldon
c/o ALYSON R ALEMAN, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CER-RONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260
Jeffrey A. Sheldon
c/o ALYSON R ALEMAN, BORNER

SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CER-RONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 17, 2024

Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission Notice of Public Hearing

The Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission will hold a public hearing on amendments to the Thompson Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Map on May 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Merrill Seney Community Room, Thompson Town Hall, 812 Riverside Drive (Route 12), Thompson. Proposed regulation amendments involve every section of the current regulations, including but not limited, to adding new definitions, deleting and modifying definitions, the elimination of applications for conceptual subdivisions, revising the requirements for application requests resulting in a restructuring of application request forms for jurisdictional rulings, wetlands agent approvals and permits, modifying the authorized actions of the wetlands agent, a new fee schedule, revising bonding requirements, amendments to comply with statutory changes since 2009 and the correction of Scribner errors and structural inconsistencies. The proposed regulation amendments and map are available for public inspection in the Once of the Thompson Town Clerk and are posted online in the Inland Wetlands Commission webpage at <https://www.thompsonct.org/inland-wetlands-commission>. Citizens may attend and other comments on the proposed amendments.

Christopher Dustin, Chair
May 10, 2024
May 17, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Elizabeth A. Ponak (24-00004)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated January 23, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lisa A. Ponak,
101 Dusinger Road,
Gardiner, NY 12525
May 17, 2024

Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I, Nitil Patel, 73 Perry Street Unit 159, Putnam, CT 06260
Have filed an application placarded

05/13/2024 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a PACKAGE STORE LIQUOR PERMIT PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at MELDI MAALLC
May 17, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON Planning and Zoning LEGAL NOTICE

At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on April 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and via ZOOM, the following action was taken. **PZC #24-11 APPLICANT Ishwara Sharma**, 1 Rattan Road Realty Trust, owner of 1410 Thompson Rd, Map 114, Block 27, Lot 21, Zone RRAD, 49.53 acres, Special Permit for Multi-Housing 16 single family homes, 4 duplexes, community building according to The Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations, **Article 7, 275-7.2 #14 and Article 4, 275-4, A. B. and C ACCEPTED FOR A PUBLIC HEARING** - At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on May 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and on ZOOM
Respectfully submitted.

Joe Parodi-Brown, Chairman
Files may be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Office
May 10, 2024
May 17, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Leon Yaun (24-00145)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 7, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Amy Greika,
Greater Hartford Conservators, PO Box 218,
Eastford, CT 06242
May 17, 2024

Orient Heights Fire District Notice of Annual Meeting

The inhabitants of the Orient Heights Fire District who are legally entitled to vote therein are hereby earned to meet at the Danielson Fire Station located on 47 Academy Street on Wednesday May 29, 2024 at 7:00 PM daylight savings time. (Rescheduled from May 13, 2024) This being the annual meeting to be held for the following purposes.
1: To hear and act upon the budget

of expense for fiscal tax year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 as prepared by the Board of Directors and to make the necessary appropriations.
2: To Levy a tax sufficient to meet the requirements of the District for running expenses.
3: To authorize the Board of Directors to enter into a contract with the Borough of Danielson to provide fire protection for this district.
4: To elect a President, Vice-President, Board of Directors and Clerk/Treasurer.
5: To authorize the Board of Directors to fill any vacancies that may occur during this year.
6: To transact any other business proper to come before such annual meeting.

7: To waive any property tax in and amount less than \$5.00.

8: To authorize the Board of Directors to exempt motor vehicles from being taxed by the district as provided in Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-328b.

Cheryl Lukowski, Clerk/Treasurer
May 17, 2024
May 24, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Arline R. Scheibeler (24-00134)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 8, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Theresa Madonna
c/o THERESA IMPERATO
MADONNA, LAW OFFICE OF
THERESA I. MADONNA, LLC,
110 MAIN STREET,
JEWETT CITY, CT 06351
May 17, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Paula C. Migneault (24-00142)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 10, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Peter Migneault & Melissa D. Dupont
c/o ELLIN ARIEL MAGZAMEN
GRENGER,
GREN GER LAW OFFICES,
12 ROOSEVELT A VE., PACKER
BLDG OFFICE SUITE,
MYSTIC, CT 06355
May 17, 2024

E.O. Smith students, veterans and community prepare graves for Memorial Day in Willimantic

WILLIMANTIC — On Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11, E.O. Smith High School students, veterans from the Eastern CT Veterans Community Center and community members joined forces with the support of the Last Green Valley and Windham Public Works to clean up the New Willimantic Cemetery including cleaning the dirt and grass off the flat stones of veteran graves. This is in preparation of Memorial Day where the Eastern CT Veterans Center volunteers will place a flag on the grave of every veteran on Wednesday, May 22, and a wreath at every cemetery, to honor our veterans and show appreciation for their service to our country.

“We have been intermittently cleaning these stones over the past several years but this was the first year that we coordinated a group to make sure we cleaned off every one of them in the New Willimantic Cemetery. There are close to 350 veterans buried there so it took two days to complete,” said Pastor Roger Bolduk, Director of the Veterans

Center. “It was a really great experience to work with the young adults on this project so they could gain some perspective on the importance of the Memorial Day national holiday.”

The Last Green Valley through their clean up grant supplied the garden tools and some refreshments for the volunteers. Students and teachers from E. O. Smith High School volunteered and learned about the importance of Memorial Day and the real purpose of the holiday from historian Bev York.

“I have been working with the Veterans at the Center for a couple of years now and one thing that really bothers them is when someone says, ‘Happy Memorial Day’ or talks about a day off from work or barbecues. Memorial Day is one of the most important holidays veterans observe by remembering their friends who lost their lives in battle or years later as the result of their service. It is a solemn occasion, not a party, and young people need to understand that,” said Bev York.

Veterans from the Eastern CT Veterans Community Center were

the motivation for this project as they noticed the condition of the stones last December during Wreaths Across America.

“This year, there was no snow so we could place the wreaths on the flat military stones instead of leaning them on their headstones. It was so sad to see that the majority were covered and you could not read the name of the veteran. These soldiers were ready to give their life for us. The least we can do is make sure their name can be read on their graves,” said Michelle Garabedian, President of the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of their Veterans Council. “So many no longer have family capable of keeping up with the maintenance of the stones—it was an honor to help them remember their loved ones. And we are so fortunate to have Public Works who takes really good care of the grounds. We will never forget!”

The Eastern CT Veterans Community Center will be placing a memorial wreath at each cemetery and will place flags on the graves of each veteran

on Wednesday, May 22. They will be at the New Willimantic and the Old Willimantic Cemeteries at about 11:30 a.m. If you would like to help honor our veterans please join us. And if you would like to help clean the graves in the Old Willimantic Cemetery across from Stop & Shop, please email us at EasternCTVeteransCenter@gmail.com.

The Eastern CT Veterans Community Center is a 501c3 charitable organization that operates under the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce Foundation. If you would like more information on our “Remember Our Veterans” program, please contact us at 860-423-6389 or EasternCTVeteransCenter@gmail.com. Donations for Wreaths Across America can be sent to 47 Crescent St., Willimantic, CT 06226. The Veterans Center would like to reach their goal of placing a wreath at every veteran’s grave this year, which would be about 1,000 wreaths.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER, Mass. — At Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university’s 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of

people’s lives—and make a difference before they graduate.

“The WPI project-based curriculum’s focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems,” said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. “Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat—all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today’s global marketplace. They also learn the meaning

and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.”

The following students were part of a team that completed an intensive project:

John Steglitz, class of 2025 majoring in Biomedical Engineering, from Thompson, was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Using The Severn & Worcester Cathedral to Urge Green Living.

John Peabody, class of 2025, majoring in Biomedical Engineering from Woodstock, was

part of a project titled Aguanile: Harvesting Rainwater for Community Gardens

Eliza Dutson, class of 2025, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology from Woodstock, was part of a project titled Showcasing the Effects of Extreme Heat in Melbourne

Connor Quinn, class of 2025, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Woodstock, was part of a project titled Audio Guide Development & Visitor Research at Brunel Museum

Harold Wotton, class of 2024, majoring in Mechanical Engineering from Woodstock, recently completed Design of a Internal Fixation Device for French Bulldogs

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 educa-

tion 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

Town of Woodstock seeks a Poet Laureate

WOODSTOCK — This summer, the town will appoint an official town poet laureate, a two-year position “to encourage the appreciation, writing, reading and performance of poetry within the town.”

Duties include providing public readings, workshops and composing poetry that speaks to and of Woodstock. The Poet Laureate should also foster a youth poetry initiative for young poets to present their works at town locations and events.

Candidates must be 18 or older and town resident, with a history of publication, recognitions and local presentations.

Application deadline is June 14. Submission requirements and guidelines can be had from the committee at towpoetlaureate@gmail.com. Applications should be available soon at the town Web site: <https://www.woodstockct.gov/poet-laureate-committee>.

Pomfret Memorial Day parade kicks off at 10 a.m.

POMFRET — The Town of Pomfret will be holding its annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27 starting at 10 a.m.

The parade kicks off at the Pomfret Congregational Church and proceeds down Pomfret Street/Route 44 to the Town Green where a short ceremony will take place. Come early to get a good spot on the parade route for this family-fun annual event!

Woodstock Tavern to host celebrity bartender fundraiser

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Tavern, located at 35 Route 171 in Woodstock, is hosting a Celebrity Bartender Fundraiser to support Paws Cat Shelter of Putnam.

Come join the event on Thursday, May 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. for food, drinks and fun. Six teams of local known community members, including WINY’s very own Gary Osbrey, will be serving drinks and welcoming your conversation.

Visit www.woodstockcats.org for the list of teams or call 860-315-1228 for more information.

Worcester State salutes local graduates

WORCESTER — Worcester State University congratulates the following graduates on receiving degrees in August and December of 2023 and May of 2024.

Bachelor of Arts
Putnam: Emily M. Angelo
Bachelor of Science
Danielson: Ryley J. Meyers (M)
North Grosvenordale: Brianna J. Loffredo, Lauren M. Ramos (M)
Putnam: Jillian R. Gray
Woodstock: Rebecca L. Jarvis (M)
Master of Public Administration & Policy
Danielson: Sarah R. Gates-Williams
Master of Science
Dayville: Kenneth W. McCormack

Students recognized at Regis’ annual Student Leadership Awards ceremony

purpose in the world,” said President Antoinette Hays, PhD, RN. “A Regis education is truly invaluable, thanks to the faculty and staff who prioritize fostering character and confidence in our students in preparation for a successful career and life of meaning.”

The Student Leadership Awards ceremony is hosted annually by the Center for Student Engagement. Among several categories, there are awards for campus life, departmental recognition, and student employee of the year.

Salena Thongsouvanh, 2027, of Danielson received the Rising Star Award

Shannon Cunniff, 2027,

of Woodstock received the Rising Star Award

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.

SCORE to host new free Webinar on “Leveraging Your Social Media Content as a Powerful Public Relations Tool”

REGION — SCORE Eastern CT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America’s Small Businesses, presents a new free Small Business Webinar Thursday, June 6 from noon to 1:30 p.m. with Kevin Aherne, Director of Communications at award-winning Miranda Creative, on “Leveraging Your Social Media Content as a Powerful Public Relations Tool.”

Ready to ditch the crickets and build a community that’s buzzing with excitement? Join us for the ultimate guide to transforming your audience from indifferent to enthusiastically engaged.

In this insightful webinar, you’ll learn:

Best practices for growing your social media audience and better engaging your existing audience – turning passive followers into active leads.

The value of podcasting to build a deeper connection through the magic of spoken word.

Establishing yourself as a subject matter expert



and reliable source of information in your industry

The value of rich media such as micro-videos – short, punchy clips that offer quick tips, insights, and behind-the-scenes glimpses that will leave your followers wanting more (and how to create them).

Attendees will be given actionable takeaways and leave with a concrete plan to implement these strategies and ignite their community. Plus, get your questions answered by our expert panelists!

Don’t just have followers, create fans! From targeted content to irresist-

ible lead magnets, we’ll unlock the secrets and strategies of engagement tactics that will attract the right audience and turn your platform into a vibrant hub of discussion.

Director of Communications Kevin Aherne brings a unique combination of professional experience built upon nearly a decade of experience in journalism as a reporter and editor. He also served as Director of Communications for the City of Providence before joining Miranda Creative. Having worked on all sides of the public relations process —

journalist, spokesperson, and brand strategist — Kevin understands how to develop messaging that is not only representative of an organization’s communications priorities, but also presents the content in formats that appeal to media partners. He understands the most effective approaches to information delivery to media professionals and outlets, anticipates and mitigates potential exposures, and strategically communicates prioritized messaging.

Sponsor M&T Bank offers straightforward products that are easy to understand. M&T works with local businesses to offer responsible lending options, always thoughtful and transparent with their shareholders’ capital. They listen and work together to provide solutions to meet their clients’ needs. Whether you have a large or small business, M&T offers services the complement your business banking accounts. Learn more at <https://www3.mtb.com/business>.