Our most dangerous tendency is to expect too little of ourselves.

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Putnam Science Academy sends off Class of 2024

PUTNAM — The cloudy skies and threat of rain may have changed the setting for Putnam Science Academy's graduation ceremony, but it did not dampen the mood.

Surrounded by family and friends, 56 students representing 18 countries from around the world were presented their diplomas on May 18 with all the thrills and frills. Originally slated to be held outside at Rotary Park, the ceremony was instead moved inside to the on-campus gym because of the inclement weather.

"With student speakers from Denmark and Brazil who each spoke about the value of making friendships across the globe," said PSA Dean of Academics Joanne Fuller, "graduation was an apt celebration of the spirit the class of 2024."

Tyler Hansen, a native of Denmark and member of PSA's Elite basketball team, was the class valedictorian. Christian Chu of China was the salutatorian. The ceremony also included a beautiful cello performance by senior Xinyi Jiao, the initial member of PSA's budding music program.

The following awards were presented as well: Outstanding Artist (Skylar Steele); Outstanding Author (Lachie Quate); Most Improved Student-Athlete (Vlad Vetrov); Integrity Ward, given to the student who personifies high ethics, the good practices of friendship and responsibilities, and overall outstanding moral character (Vuki Jere); Ace Award, given to the student who has shown consistency in attitude towards athletics and school, a cooperative spirit and excellence in effort (Helin Yoztyurk); Young Leader Award, given to the student who has shown commitment toward helping foster a positive atmosphere at Putnam Science Academy by being a role model for peers (Jerry Da); Diversity Award, given to the student who sets the tone for an inclusive environment for all students. (Oswin Erhunmwunse); and the distinguished Head of School Award, given to the student who is recognized as a well-rounded individual in the areas of academic achievement, character traits, passion for learning, and the pursuit of excellence. (Leandro Romagnoli).

Jeff Jacobs, a former and well-decorated newspaper columnist whose son attended PSA in 2016-17, was the Keynote Speaker.

65 Main workshop provides insight into curriculum development

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Town of Thompson held the eighth workshop focusing on the proposed small business development center and food forest in May, once again focusing on the educational elements that will be incorporated into the project.

The workshop was the second in the series to discuss the proposed career pathways elements of the initiative, which Thompson Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek said is in its infancy. With the 65 Main project geared towards supporting economic development and food security in the town, it only makes sense to get local students involved to help them along in their own career paths. Penn-Gesek confirmed that right now Tourtellotte Memorial High School is examining two short-term paths to incrementally incorporate curriculum that will allow local students to be directly involved with the project upon its completion. These will include creating a "capstone" project for seniors and partnering with Eric Francis, the guest speaker at the May workshop and a representative of hydroponic and farm to school specialists Trifecta and Farm 2X, to apply for a USDA grant that would fund projects that "adopt or develop curriculum and activities to cultivate interest and competencies in STEM and in food and agricultural sciences supported by the six Farm Bill Priority areas of AFRI (Agriculture and Food Research Initiative)". That money would allow the district a four-year window to develop new curriculum in relation to the project.

"One of my main challenges is trying to align the timing of the master project with the annual timelines of the school district," said Penn-Gesek. "Continuing guidance from Superintendent Melinda Smith and the Board of Education members who have been participating in the workshops will be crucial."

Penn-Gesek said members of the public have remained heavily involved in the workshops as well, a trend she hopes continues. After seeing great turnouts for the first series of workshops focusing on the project's design, that input has not slowed down as project coordinators look toward implementing an educational element to 65 Main.

"One of the great things about this public workshop process has been the high quality of the input from the participants. In every meeting, we get good suggestions, many of which are actionable. For example, in this past session, conversation between Eric Francis, Superintendent Melida Smith and the workshop attendees produced the suggestion to outline the 'capstone' pilot project for the spring semester in 2025. While I can't provide any details on what that might look like until after a follow up meeting with Eric and Melinda, workshop members were particularly interested in the idea of having students in the business & marketing career paths document and publicize the project's progress through drone footage, video, and interactive VR apps."

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Friends of Assisi responds to lawnmower theft

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Organizers at the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry are embracing gratitude following the outpouring of community support after a lawn mower was stolen from the agency in mid-May.

The theft was reported on Monday, May 20 after pantry volunteers and a group of Marianapolis Preparatory School students arrived to perform lawn and property maintenance only to find the mower missing from its shed. Pantry Director Jean Cyr confirmed that unfortunately this is not the first time the pantry has experienced theft. Two previous lawnmowers had been stolen, but this most recent one was donated several years ago by a member of the Knight of Columbus along with a shed and lock to keep it secured. Distraught by the theft, Cyr shared the situation on social media and, as has become the norm for the Quiet Corner, the community turned out in droves to ask how they could help. While offers were made, Cyr said they have decided not to accept donations for a new mower.

"The outpouring was very comforting. You know people in that neighborhood care. It just makes you feel so much better after someone stole from us. Everyone knows we're there on that corner. We decided it wouldn't make sense for someone to donate or buy us a mower with our track record," said Cyr.

Instead, the pantry is employing a lawn care company for June and Cyr's husband has decided to donate his time to mow the lawn after his retirement later this year. As for the May 20 lawn care day, Kyle Morrissey of the Community Workbench Podcast stepped up to donate his lawn mower which was later returned to him.

While the theft angered many and caused frustration for the supporters of Friends of Assisi, Cyr said many also saw it as an opportunity to embrace understanding and forgiveness. As of this story no suspects had been arrested in connection with the theft, but Cyr said she has chosen to move on.

"People were very appalled, but in the end, people came forward, and we knew it was a wonderful neighborhood with very good people. The positivity on Facebook was some people said you have to know that people struggle and have addictions. You just have to pray for them and let these things go. It just had a really nice ending with a nice message because it turned people around," Cyr said. "No matter what the challenges are, I think people's hearts are greater."

Friends of Assisi has been a staple of the community for more than 30 years providing food security and other services to the local community with most of their food and manpower donated by volunteers and supporters. Those looking to join the cause can contact Cyr at directorfoodpantry@gmail.com or 860-774-2310.

Tickets still available for Second Annual Flying Free Gala

WOODSTOCK — Flying Free Therapeutic Riding Center will hold its Second Annual fundraising gala Sunday, June 9 from 4:30-9 p.m. at Roseland Park.

Tickets, priced at $125 per person, include a semi-formal dinner catered by Renee's Bistro & Catering Service and two drinks accompanied by a live DJ and dancing. There will also be a raffle and silent auction, with proceeds to benefit the nonprofit's efforts to support children and adults with special needs through interaction with horses. Please consider buying a ticket and joining them for a fun night! Email flyingfreetrc@gmail.com for more info or purchase tickets on our Web site,

http://flyingfreetherapeuticriding.org/.

Quinebaug Middle College community brings eclipse to life for visually impaired student

DANIELSON — On Monday, April 8, a solar eclipse darkened the skies over Connecticut, wowing viewers who observed the moon's shadow swallowing up 90 percent of the visible sun.

But for Darby, a 14-year-old visually impaired student at Quinebaug Middle College in Danielson, experiencing the celestial event seemed like an unlikely dream – until innovative thinkers in her community sprang into action.

A week before the eclipse, Robin Miller – a Braille specialist and

Turn To ECLIPSE page A8

Courtesy

QMC students David Palmisciano (right) and Darby (left) experience the solar eclipse in Danielson.

Northeastern CT Chamber holds 2024 Awards Gala

WOODSTOCK — On Thursday, May 30, the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce hosted their 2024 Awards Gala at The Mansion at Bald Hill, gathering 240 guests in a sold-out celebration of community leadership and achievement.

The evening started with a warm welcome from Chamber Executive Director Elle-Jordyn Sherman, who highlighted the Chamber's mission and the importance of honoring local leaders who make a significant impact in the community. She welcomed a surprise distinguished guest, US Sen. Richard Blumenthal. Blumenthal presented United States citations to each of the honorees for their contributions to Connecticut. The Senator expressed immense admiration for the work and public service the honorees contribute to the Northeast CT community.

The evening was emceed by Gene Michael Deary, the NECT Chamber of Commerce Award Nomination Committee Chair. The first award presented was Business Leader of the Year Award, presented by Ann Tatro to Robin Deary, owner of Deary's Gymnastics, recognizing her outstanding business leadership and community involvement.

David Wollner of Willimantic Brewing Company then presented the Civic Achievement Award to the Willimantic Downtown Neighborhood Association, accepted by President Chris McNaboe. This award highlighted the organization's significant contributions to downtown Willimantic and their support in the revitalization of the area.

Susie Bernado, owner of Hope Lodge Venue and Chamber Board Member, took the stage to present the Community Champion Award to Elizabeth Anderson, founder of Mission Moosup, for her behind-the-scenes contributions to Moosup/Plainfield that have profoundly influenced the community.

The inaugural Emerging Leader of the Year Award was presented by Elle-Jordyn Sherman and Allan Rawson to Tayler Sazhin of Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, honoring her innovative spirit and commitment to shaping a prosperous future for Northeastern Connecticut.

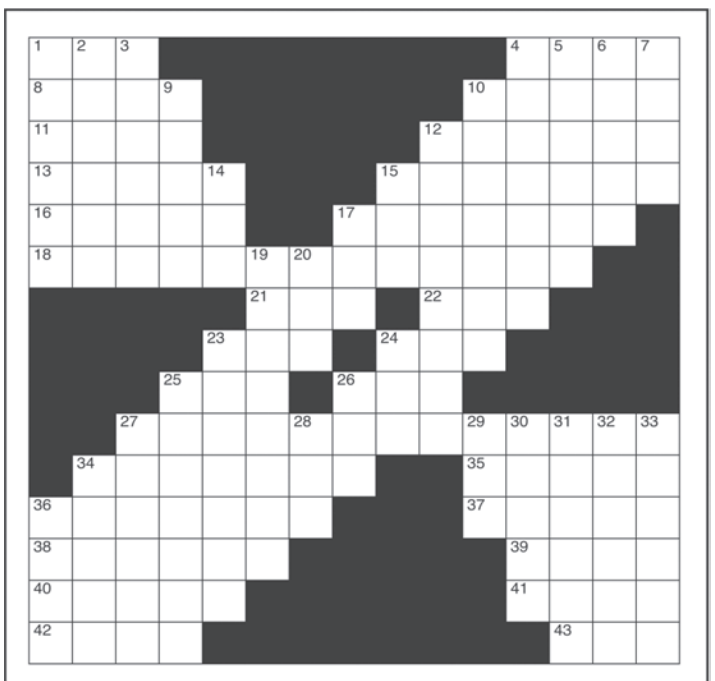
The George Racine Sr. Humanitarian Award, presented by Jo-Ann Chenail of TEEG and Chamber Board Member, was awarded to Jill Bourbeau for her dedication to promoting human welfare and youth advocacy at TEEG.

Matt Desaulnier of Gerardi/Hilb Group Insurance, a past Chamber Board President, presented the Gold Key Award to James Zahansky of Weiss, Hale, Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, celebrating his exceptional service to the Chamber.

Lastly, the Non-Profit of the Year Award was presented by Amy Brunet of Brunet Real Estate and Chamber Board Member was given to Northeast Placement Services, with Executive Director Timothy Kettle accepting the honor. This inaugural award celebrates the organization's exceptional service and impact across the 23 towns served by the Chamber.

Photographs of the evening, captured by Collin Hamilton Photography, more will be made available of the Chamber's social media platforms.

For more information about the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and upcoming events, please visit nectchamber.com or contact the Chamber office at 860-774-8001.



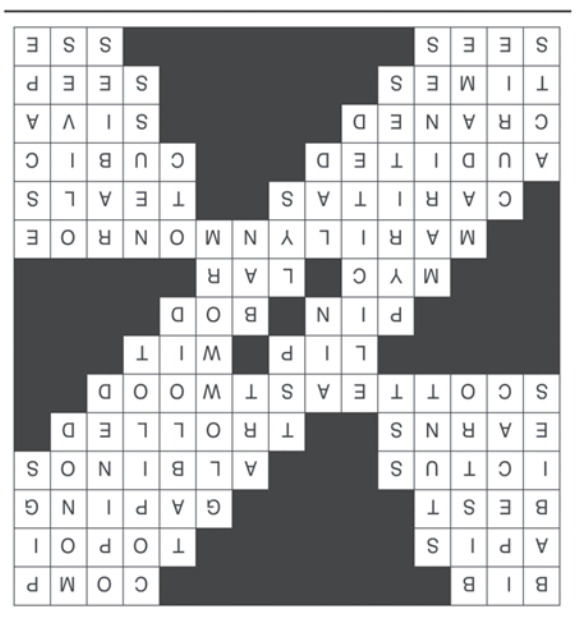
CLUES ACROSS

1. Baby's dining accessory
4. Something free
8. Ancient Egyptian deity
10. Set-like mathematical categories
11. Top-quality
12. Expansive
13. Seizure
15. People with congenital absence of pigment
16. Gains
17. Mocked online
18. Clint's son
21. Body part
22. Humor
23. Code number
24. Your physique
25. Family of regulator genes
26. LA football player (abbr.)
27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
34. Charity
35. Bluish greens
36. Examined closely
37. A type of equation
38. Stretched uncomfortably
39. Indian religious god
40. Clocks
41. Slowly leak through
42. Witnesses
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Nestlings
2. Induces vomiting
3. A place to eat
4. Partner in the air
5. Offered one's take
6. Nobel-winning French biologist
7. Farm animals
9. Prevent from growing
10. Sensationalist periodical
12. Soft-bodied beetle
14. Very fast airplane
15. Imaginative creation
17. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
19. Evoked a response
20. French river
23. Shiny yellow minerals
24. Make illegal
25. U.S. military branch
26. River in France and Belgium
27. A woman of refinement
28. Male child
29. Type of medication
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Mediterranean dietary staple
33. Sneak out
34. Radioactivity unit
36. Performs on stage

PUZZLE SOLUTION



bankHometown awards $28,000 in scholarships to local students

Courtesy

Pictured are 11 of 14 bankHometown Scholarship recipients with bankHometown Senior Vice President, Retail Banking Sharon Mahlert.

REGION — bankHometown recently awarded $28,000 in scholarships to 14 local students through the Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) Foundation, whose mission is to raise funds so all residents of northeastern Connecticut are provided the opportunity to attend school regardless of income. This Foundation helps support educational excellence, technological advancement, and professional development at the college, and serves as the regional advisory council.

Earlier this month the QVCC Foundation held its 32nd Annual Scholarship Night at the Killingly Intermediate School in Dayville, Conn. bankHometown Senior Vice President, Retail Banking, Sharon Mahlert, awarded these scholarships to returning and transferring students within the bank's Connecticut footprint.

"What an amazing opportunity to recognize these deserving students," said Mahlert. "bankHometown is thrilled to provide these students with financial support on their journey to unlocking their potential."

Nearly 120 scholarships totaling more than $183,000 were awarded to 112 local students. These scholarships support direct educational expenses including tuition, books, fees, technology, and other course requirements.

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Local students earn degrees from Anna Maria College

WORCESTER – On May 13, Anna Maria College celebrated its 2024 Commencement Ceremony at the DCU Center in Worcester. 319 degrees were conferred for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. Dr. Eric W. Dickson, President & CEO of UMass Memorial Health, delivered the commencement address. More photos are available at: https://annamaria.edu/commencement-highlights/

Connecticut

Brandon Michael Andexler
Master of Health Emergency Mgmt
Danielson

About Anna Maria College

Founded in 1946 and located in Paxton, Mass., Anna Maria College is a private, co-educational institution inspired by the ideals of the Sisters of Saint Anne. We prepare our students to become ethical leaders by combining a values-based, service-focused education with strong functional knowledge and the skills necessary to address the rapidly changing needs of their world. Anna Maria delivers undergraduate- and graduate degrees along with certificate programs on campus and online. For more information, visit www.annamaria.edu.

Brooklyn's Molly Johnson earns degree from Charter Oak College

BROOKLYN — Molly Johnson of Brooklyn has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, magna cum laude from Charter Oak College, and will graduate June 13 at the Bushnell Theater in Hartford.

Molly is the daughter of Gavin and Melissa Johnson of Brooklyn, and the granddaughter of Connie and Dick Diani of Danielson and Sheila Johnson of Brooklyn.

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Killingly High School hosts career pathway celebration

KILLINGLY — Last week, 90 Killingly High School Seniors were recognized for completing 127 Career Pathways in six career clusters at the 20th Annual Pathway Celebration. Pathway completers and their guests were treated to breakfast at the high school, followed by the ceremony in which they received plaques and certificates.

At graduation, pathway completers will also receive a pin to wear on their gown to signify their pathway(s). The six Career Clusters include Agricultural Education, Arts and Communication, Business and Finance, Construction and Industrial Design, Government and Public Administration, and Education. Lila Fortin, earned 4 different advanced pathways in Accounting, Business Management, Criminal Justice, and Legal Services. Each pathway completer is also required to complete a job shadow in their pathway during their junior or senior year. The Career Center at Killingly High School has partnered with many businesses and organizations, including members of the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and Killingly Business Association, to provide this opportunity.

Keynote speaker and Learning for Life founder, Michael Herklots, addressed the audience and praised this years completers. Mr. Herklots first message to students was "remember that on graduation day when you wake up, you wake-up as a senior of the class of 2024, but when you go to bed that night after having crossed that stage, you are now the freshmen class of the Town of Killingly's community. That goes with a whole new set of responsibilities that last a lifetime." Mr. Herklots second message was that we are being "lead by social media virtual reality algorithms, but all the achievements we are celebrating today are due to the human algorithm." In 2005, along with longtime Career Center Director Bob Brennan, they created the Killingly High School Learning for Life Fund. This fund, generated through annual birthday fundraisers and gifts from generous friends and colleagues, has raised nearly half a million dollars to support Career Education at Killingly High School. Herklots also presented six $300.00 scholarships to students attending CT State Community College, Quinebaug Valley. The Adriaan R.J. Herklots Scholarship recipients were Kaylee Baker, Alaina Salkiewicz, Annina Desabota, Amani Samuel, Calleigh O'Brien, and Jordan Curran.

Mrs. Kies (Orr) LaVack was inducted into the Killingly High School Career Pathway Hall of Fame. A 2012 graduate, Kies was an Agricultural Education Pathway Completer in Plant Science. She was also the Class Vice President and competed in both cross country and track and field. After High School, Kies earned her associates degree from SUNY Cobleskill and majored in Ag-Business with a focus on dairy production, with the goal to come home and take over the family dairy farm, Fort Hill Farms in Thompson. Kies met her husband Jared at college and knew right away that they would make a great team. Kies and her husband own and operate the farm with Kies's mother, Kristin Orr. Between the three of them they share a common interest in keeping the farm going and looking towards the future of sustainability! Over the last couple years, the farm has put in an Anaerobic Digester to produce electricity from food waste and cow manure. They are first one in Connecticut to sell electricity back to the grid. Recently, they installed a new robotic barn where the cows can walk into an area and an arm comes under to milk them. The cows are in a "Taj Mahal barn." This eliminates Kies having to get up at midnight to milk the cows. This also gives more time to get stuff done on the farm and for Kies and Jared to enjoy their 14-month-old daughter, Adelaide. The farm also has a corn maze, lavender, and nature walks that you can enjoy throughout the year. The farm ships milk to Cabot Cheese and The Farmer's Cow to make milk products to sell to the stores.

Killingly Public Schools and the Career Center are proud to recognize these great achievements of our students and alumni.

Hailey Johnson of Thompson named to Lasell University Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — Hailey Johnson, a Lasell University student from Thompson was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the Spring 2024 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Putnam to host Second Annual Arts and Crafts Festival

PUTNAM — The Putnam Arts Council (PAC) is pleased to announce it will be hosting the Putnam Fine Arts and Crafts Festival on June 22 and 23. The PAC is excited this event is becoming another major art attraction for which Putnam is known. It will bring local communities together for a day of art, music, and fun as well as being close to the wonderful restaurants and businesses in the downtown area.

The festival will take place at the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Putnam, and will feature approximately 70 artists from throughout New England, live demonstrations by area artists, and more. Attendees can expect to select from a variety of mediums including paintings, pottery, photography, and others. Additionally, there will be live music throughout the day.

"We are thrilled to once again bring a fine arts and crafts festival to Putnam and to showcase the incredible talent in our area and beyond," said Beth Johnston, one of the festival's organizers. "Our Arts Council is excited to welcome everyone to experience the joy and creativity that the arts can bring, while supporting local artists, and finding the next amazing piece for your own home."

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, rain or shine. Parking and admission are free.

For more information, visit www.putnamctartscouncil.com or follow Putnam Arts Council on social media.

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On Woodstock Commons
For tickets and info go to: www.quietcornergardenclub.com
The Quiet Corner Garden Club is a 501 (c)3 non-profit affiliated with Federated Garden Clubs of CT & National Garden Clubs. This fundraiser event supports our annual scholarships to high school and college students living in the Quiet Corner and for our many local civic projects.

Installation of
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OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

Supporting family and friends: A pillar of well-being

The importance of supporting family and friends cannot be overstated. Family and friends serve as our emotional anchors, grounding us during times of turmoil and lifting us during moments of triumph. The presence of a supportive network can make a significant difference in how we cope with life's challenges. For example, the comforting words of a parent or the encouragement from a friend can transform a daunting situation into a manageable one. This emotional support helps build resilience, allowing us to navigate life's ups and downs with greater ease.

Actively supporting our loved ones not only benefits them but also strengthens the bond you have with them. When we invest time and energy in the well-being of our family and friends, we create a reciprocal relationship built on trust and mutual respect. This investment pays off in the form of deeper, more meaningful connections. Celebrating successes, offering a shoulder to cry on, or simply being present during life's mundane moments can all contribute to a stronger, more cohesive network of relationships. When we model supportive behavior, we set a standard for others to follow.

Supporting family and friends can take many forms, from grand gestures to small, everyday acts of kindness. Here are a few practical ways to show support:

Active Listening: Sometimes, the most valuable thing we can offer is our attention. Truly listening to someone's concerns or joys shows that we care about their feelings and experiences.

Acts of Service: Helping with tasks, whether it's running an errand or lending a hand with a project, demonstrates a willingness to share the load and make life easier for others.

Words of Encouragement: Simple words of encouragement can boost someone's confidence and morale. Letting others know we believe in them can have a powerful impact on their outlook.

Quality Time: Spending quality time together, free from distractions, reinforces the importance of the relationship and provides opportunities to deepen connections.

Being There: Sometimes, just being there in times of need, whether in person or virtually, provides immense comfort and reassurance.

It's important to recognize that supporting family and friends is not a one-way street. The act of giving support often brings about a sense of fulfillment and purpose. Knowing that we have made a positive difference in someone's life can enhance our own sense of well-being.

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

34 times

To the Editor:

I will admit, I was wrong, something somebody never does. I thought it would be a hung jury, but, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty, Guilty,, Guilty and Guilty…

"Chump" will now maybe be held accountable maybe, for the first time in his life. It is a start. Why did he not testify? Cross examination would have been epic!

Billy Taylor, keep up the good work.

As I have learned the best thing about banging your head against a thick brick wall is when you stop! Facts are meaningless, truth is a waste of time, if your ears are closed and your eyes see what it wants to, efforts to present truth/facts are wasted. I am with you in spirit. Boy, does the Cult Leader lose often.

DAVID CASSETTARI
KILLINGLY

Troubling signs for our democracy

To the Editor:

Two fundamental Constitutional bedrocks that support American democracy are its election and legal systems. The latter guarantees that all are treated equally under the law. These principles not only ensure a jury of one's peers in criminal matters, they also outline the rules for everything from contracts to wills to divorces and to business. Indeed, our society is run on a system that tries to maintain an even playing field for all its citizens. The former secures an equal vote no matter one's sex, gender, background or age (once one reaches 18 at least).

Are they both infallible? Of course not. Laws at times can seem capricious, can differ state to state and are always subject to interpretation by a judge. In addition, the poor are oft times victims while the rich who can hire expensive lawyers frequently seem to skirt what is their just due.

Our election system is perhaps the most stringent one in the world. Registration, collection and counting are undertaken by multiple individuals with layers of fail safes built in. The very conservative Heritage Foundation, who collects voter fraud data, found a mere 1513 instances of malfeasance dating back to 1982. This during a period when billions of votes would have been placed.

It therefore is troubling that both of these public institutions are increasingly being called into question. That the questions are being raised due to a single individual, Donald Trump, is not only of grave concern, but also equally perplexing.

Here we have a convicted felon, a known sexual predator, a recursive adulterer and if one fact checks him, a serial liar. He has, without a shred of evidence, skewered the American voting system in claiming he unfairly lost the 2020 election. To believe this is to believe that thousands of ordinary people conspired to deprive him of votes involving multiple states at multiple polling locations, leaving not a single iota of proof behind. And it involves him and him alone. No other candidate from the town to the state to the federal level. Only Donald Trump.

Now, after being found guilty (again), he has ramped up accusations that our legal system is a scam. He has blamed the DOJ and President Biden for scheming to prevent him from running for office again. But in truth his recent trial was on the state and not the federal level. He is blaming Democrats. Could Mr. Bragg the DA have pursued this case to get political points? Sure. But that does not make Mr. Trump any less guilty. Nor does the party affiliation of the prosecution or judge matter. The legal system is based on the law and the evidence. We do not get to pick a prosecutor, judge or jury based on who is a Democrat or Republican. Those who are appointed and the majority of those who are elected are one or the other. To argue otherwise would be a call for a legal system which is made up solely of Independent voters. Mr. Trump's claims are also not unique. Visit any prison be it local, state, or federal and inmates will tell you that they are innocent.

But in this day and age of rampant social media, anyone can say anything. Even the most inane remarks are parroted and spread. We know that Russian bots attempt daily flooding of mistruths in an effort to undermine our country. With all the conspiracy theories out there, I'd propose one where Vladamir Putin, a former KGB foreign intelligence officer, is trying to re-create a new Soviet Union. By suffusing chaos in America, he also shatters his closer opponents namely Europe. If one takes the fans outside of Trump rallies seriously, it appears that many prefer Mr Putin to Mr Biden. How low have we sunk to believe that a brutal dictator should be the leader of the free world?

Mr. Trump in his own words wrote (or at least his ghost writer did) in his book The Art of the Deal, "The final key to the way I promote is bravado. I play to people's fantasies. People may not always think big themselves, but they can get very excited by those who do. That is why a little hyperbole never hurts. People want to believe that something is the biggest, the greatest and the most spectacular." His father was a dubious landlord arrested for code violations. His mentor, Roy Cohn was a political hitman who assisted Sen. Joseph McCarthy's bona fide "witch hunt" committee whose mission was to root out phantom Communists. It is ironic that his prodigy is playing right into the hands of the very people Mr Cohn sought to expose.

Between now and November, there will be abundant chatter. Much of it will be based on opinion, not fact. Some of it will be fabricated in order to confuse a gullible American public. When George Washington became our first President, he made it clear that Presidents are not kings. Nor did the Founding Fathers expect to see their newfound Republic crumble as it did in Rome. The United States does not need an Emperor. The former President has forged a political party beholden only to him, and many of his supporters seem open to the idea of him mimicking a Putin, Xi or Kim. Let's hope, then, that Mr. Trump does not become the last elected President of America.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

Woodstock - a good laugh

To the Editor:

About now, we can all use a good laugh. I have written many times about the incompetence of the Woodstock BOF, BOS and BOE when it comes to financial management. Tracking simple things like revenue, expenses and budgets just seem to be out of reach. Earlier this year, I wrote about the town audit once again showing three accounting discrepancies for failure to maintain adequate/proper records and overspending budgets – the school administration of course. This was a violation of state statute, again, and, again, required corrective action reports to the State OPM which obviously didn't do any good the previous year. The BOF/BOS then went on to compound the issue by transferring funds from the town budget to cover the shortfall without the prerequisite special town meeting and referendum as was required by state statute and town ordinance.

Well, don't worry, the jokes on us. After passing another budget increase this year which was reported as a 5.72 percent increase for the BOE/School Administration but was actually a 9.2 percent increase for the WPS portion (k-8), as Woodstock Academy tuition for this coming year is down $720,000, the BOS/BOF/BOE is coming back with a special town meeting June 4, before you even see this, and then a referendum on June 11 to approve an additional $589,825 for WPS to cover increases in spending this year, yes 2024 ending June 30, money that has already been spent. Money will come from the general fund and of course will have to eventually be replaced by… You guess it, tax dollars. This is all incredible. During the May 21 BOF meeting, Mr. Toth graciously took full responsibility for all this – but I haven't seen notice of him having tendered his resignation. He shouldn't be the only one resigning.

Until the voters wake up and start saying no to all this foolishness it will continue. Of course, it would help if the voters actually knew about it ahead of time… But that is part of the communications scheme. So, when you get your tax bill just smile and have a great summer.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

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The trials and tribulations of traveling

NANCY WEISS

Memorial Day weekend is not the best time to fly, but a death in my family made it a necessity. Off I went from Bradley Field, an airport that gets better with each passing upgrade. From the beginning it was clear that stormy weather was going to create challenges. A week before, terrible turbulence on a Singapore airline flight left passengers hurting and worse. Staying buckled up throughout the trip is good advice, but just the kind that makes me immediately think about wanting to use the restroom. Surely my trip wouldn't be too difficult.

I like to travel, and I don't mind being alone when I do. I get into a little world of my own where I choose what I will and won't eat or drink, read or listen to and whether I speak to or ignore my fellow seatmates, who freely treat me the same way. I'm too short to reach the luggage bins in planes, so I always check my bag. I don't think it is correct to rely on a taller person or a flight attendant to heft my luggage up and down. I noticed that many passengers tried to stuff large, wheeled bags into the overhead. This led to backups in boarding. People were fussing.

Google reported that 2.95 million people flew on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend this year. It was a new world record for the most people screened in one day. I flew the day before, and the crowds were intense. As I gazed over the assembly of people in T-shirts, flip flops and very casual clothes, I recalled when people got dressed up to fly. Those days are gone, but if a person can afford to travel, can't they wear an outfit that doesn't look as if they just jumped off the lawn mower to catch a flight?

The turbulence on the way down was persistent, but not terrifying. Few drinks or snacks were served, the restroom light was off, but it wasn't awful. The return flight on Memorial Day was another matter. From Dallas to Hartford, our plane circled and circled. There was bad weather in the northeast and the west was brimming with tornadoes. Our pilot told us we were going to land in Philadelphia as the plane was running out of gas. Also, we had to change pilots. The cabin felt hot, stuffy and people were anxious.

Once we were allowed off the plane into a crowded waiting area, passengers reacted. Some insisted on answers to the unanswerable. An employee of the airline took control of the group and with humor turned the mood around. She cajoled. She laughed. She was a professional mix of earnestness, warmth and advice. She didn't really have any answers, after all, the problem was weather related, but she had leadership skills in abundance.

Back on the plane, a young man talked drivel, laced with obscenities, on his phone for all to hear for an hour. Another banged on his tray table incessantly. The guy in the endless phone call had no regard for the rest of us. We were seated "cheek by jowl," and beyond indifferent, he was unaware that Economy Class surrounded him. The tray banging person pulled up a hoodie and pounded for undetermined reasons. No one spoke or gestured. Everyone was annoyed, but also afraid.

Unstable weather will characterize this summer. Like the pilgrims in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, we will be tossed into random groups where the unexpected may happen. We can tell stories, listen to our seatmates, ignore the obnoxious and stay seated, seatbelt buckled.

Retirement planning looks different for LGBTQ+ couples. Here's why.

Financial Focus

MICHAEL BAUM INVESTMENT ADVISER

Every couple, regardless of identity, has a distinct story, and couples' experiences often shape their financial landscapes. For LGBTQ+ couples, their stories include exceptional resilience.

From fighting for marriage equality to navigating different legal scenarios, these experiences have instilled a sense of resourcefulness and adaptability in LGBTQ+ couples that can be a strength in planning their financial futures. Let's think about why retirement planning for LGBTQ+ couples looks different and offer advice to help this community succeed.

Retirement income planning is vital

Until recently, legal recognition for same-sex marriages was not universal, making it challenging for LGBTQ+ couples to access some financial benefits. The good news is that, as of 2015, all 50 states in the U.S. legally recognize same-sex marriages, enabling LGBTQ+ couples to access financial opportunities, such as shared Social Security benefits and spousal individual retirement accounts (IRAs).1

They lean on their chosen family

According to the United States Census Bureau, only 15 percent of same-sex couples have children in their household.2 Because children are often the primary caregivers for aging parents, this presents a unique consideration as LGBTQ+ couples plan for their long-term care in retirement.

Many LGBTQ+ individuals have built support networks outside their biological families. This has led to a broader definition of "family," which often includes chosen families or close-knit friend groups. Unlike the traditional focus on biological relatives, the focus for LGBTQ+ couples may be on extended networks, which could play a significant role in their retirement plans.

They have unique healthcare needs

Retirement planning for LGBTQ+ couples also requires a keen focus on healthcare considerations. LGBTQ+ individuals often face health disparities linked to societal stigma and discrimination. However, with the ongoing expansion of LGBTQ+ healthcare rights and an increasing number of providers that are becoming more inclusive and knowledgeable, these gaps are gradually closing. Still, this gap emphasizes the need for thorough long-term health planning for LGBTQ+ couples.

They need a comprehensive estate plan

Estate planning can differ for LGBTQ+ couples compared with heterosexual couples because of their unique familial and social structures. Additionally, while legal strides have been made regarding marriage equality, not all LGBTQ+ couples choose to marry, nor do they have access to the same marriage rights globally. This may impact the automatic inheritance rights typically provided to a legal spouse.

Having a comprehensive and articulated estate plan is vital for LGBTQ+ couples to ensure that their assets are distributed according to their wishes, covering their partners, friends, biological family, or chosen family.

While the retirement planning journey for LGBTQ+ couples may look different, these differences need not be perceived as disadvantages. Instead, they are opportunities to engage with retirement planning from a more comprehensive and inclusive perspective.

Our team of advisors at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors understands the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ couples when it comes to retirement planning. From navigating complex legal and financial considerations to ensuring your hard-earned savings are protected, we're here to help guide you through our distinctive people-first wealth management experience to fulfill our ultimate goal of providing Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life. Schedule a complimentary consultation on our Web site or call us at (860) 928-2341.

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https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/06/26/417717613/supreme-court-rules-all-states-must-allow-same-sex-marriages

https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/09/fifteen-percent-of-same-sex-couples-have-children-in-their-household.html

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spare me the tech park peacocking

To the Editor:

It's nice to finally see the town of Putnam finally doing something with the tech park when they've sold out of plots in the industrial park and want to try to get out of either having to fix one bridge or build another. Take notes, folks. That's what it takes to actually do something over there after years and years of "steady progress under Republican leadership" or whatever this administration wants to call it these days.

"The Q Tech Park's continual goal is to really develop that area and make it be a taxable area for private development." Sure. When? It has been over half a decade, interest rates are up, and capital is more expensive. Who's going to want to move in? There certainly is plenty of money drifting around a little north of us that could come down the highway and take Putnam's new Frontier fiber service for a spin with all the benefits of synchronous broadband, but does this administration really want that? What if it brings more STEM-ocrats to town and turns us bluer?

Putnam is past the point of empty words and no results when it comes to the tech park. We have fiber now. The right individuals and companies could easily want to move here if we marketed things correctly. It may take some cooling of inflation and the Fed cutting rates to bring the cost of capital back down so that folks would be interested in making the switch, but the Putnam of the 2020s is very different from the Putnam of the 2010s, especially with fiber internet taking over from cable.

Like I said before and will say however many times I need to, never fight the future – you will lose.

Jay Gerhart
Putnam

Justice served

To the Editor:

Rapist and felon Donald J. Trump finally said something we should all be able to agree with in his despicable, destructive, lie-filled reaction to his conviction by a unanimous jury in New York last week- "If they can do this to me, they can do this to anyone."

Hooray! Isn't that precisely how the criminal justice system is supposed to work? That if you or I committed a crime and prosecutors had sufficient evidence to gain a guilty verdict, we would be held accountable? That no one, rich or poor, or powerful or powerless, is above the law?

Of course, Trump, and his parade of reprehensible marionettes, couldn't leave it at that. They had to spew a series of completely unfounded lies about the judge, jury, and even "President Biden's Justice Department." But anyone with an even elementary understanding of our federal system understands that Biden and his Justice Department had nothing to do with Trump's prosecution on state charges in New York. Even Trump's puppets know that Biden's Justice Department declined to indict Trump for his interference in the 2016 election.

It turns out that Republicans were right to be concerned that an election was stolen. The problem is that it was convicted felon Trump who would commit 34 felonies to illegally influence the 2016 election.

Billy G. Taylor
Killingly

Trump is a drama queen

To the Editor:

Donald Trump is a "drama queen" — a 78 year old man who acts like a whiny little boy. Never taking ownership of his mistakes and failures is a life-long legacy. Bankruptcies, lost elections, multiple indictments, etc. — it's always someone else's fault. "They cheated," "It's a Witch Hunt." Trump's extreme narcissism, combined with a very fragile ego, makes him dangerous in any position of power.

Todd Patrie
Pomfret Center

The irony of "no one is above the law"

To the Editor:

Last Thursday, former President Donald Trump was found guilty by a jury in New York. And as I said I would do if that happened, I'll admit that he is now a convicted criminal. I'm obviously not happy about the verdict, and I no doubt expect comments from the usuals.

So, what did I do on the day after that verdict? I attended a birthday party at Evviva Trattoria in Hanover, Mass.; however, it wasn't just any birthday party. It was conservative talk show host Grace Curley's (from WRKO 680 AM) Birthday Bash, along with a live (remote) broadcast of her weekly show, and joining her there for his show was the legendary Howie Carr. The mood there was positive and undaunted by the guilty verdict. The place was packed with likeminded people, and wearing my "Let's Go Brandon" T-shirt; people there even wanted to have their picture taken with me. It was also announced on air that we had people here from Connecticut. Grace personally introduced me to her parents, and I got a signed copy of Howie Carr's book "Paperboy" and a Trump mug shot T-shirt that I also proudly wore. It was a great and memorable time spent with my heroes and new friends, and I guess that sometimes you have to get out there instead of just voicing an opinion from behind a keyboard.

During the broadcast, Trump›s 2024 Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt, called in and mentioned that after the guilty verdict, Donald Trump remained determined, and that his donation Web site had crashed due to a high volume of donations which raised 34.8 million dollars from small donors. (And is it true that the traditionally left-leaning, Silicon Valley venture capitalists have turned against President Biden and are now supporting Donald Trump?)

I don›t listen to Fox News - Curley and Carr, as well as Chris Plante (on WMAL), are my go to guys. They often criticize the republicans for their disunity, for being gutless, and they've also admitted when making an occasional error. Pretty refreshing, isn't it?

Alvin Bragg is another one of those guys again belching that «no one is above the law.» That›s strange because in his jurisdiction, thousands of violent criminals are not only above the law - they laugh at the law. Bragg dismisses about 15 percent of cases brought to him by the police and he pleads down 60 percent of felonies to misdemeanors where the bad guys usually walk. As a result of his dereliction of duty, thousands of innocent people have been harmed, some killed. But pay no attention to any of that, and I suppose there are people who now consider him and Merchan to be their heroes; however, my opinion is that Bragg is just another one of those name-seeking puppets that the Democrats and Soros rely on to do their bidding.

Ed DeLuca
North Grosvenordale

Stay with your dream

Positively Speaking

TOBY MOORE

Achieving a dream can take a long time. Some dreams are so big that, over time, you might start to question if you truly want it. Maybe you've gotten used to life as it is, and transitioning into that dream life, even though you've worked and believed in it for many years, feels like stepping out of your comfort zone. You've settled into your current routine and wonder if you really want things to change. Spending years working on something without it becoming your main source of income is enough to make anyone consider giving up.

But when you think about giving up, you feel a bit lost and without purpose. At the same time, so many years have passed that your dream might need some adjustments. If that's the case, many people feel like they failed, but history shows us that sometimes, those with big dreams had to modify them.

Walt Disney comes to mind. In the beginning, his passion was animation, a new technology that hit the silver screens and changed cinema forever. It was such a new form of media that only a few people were doing it. Walt started his journey in Kansas City, running a small animation studio called Laugh-O-Gram Studio.

However, the studio struggled and eventually failed. Walt desperately wanted to make it work in Kansas City, but he realized he had to modify his dream to succeed.

Instead of giving up, he moved west to Hollywood, where he believed more opportunities existed. In Hollywood, he continued to pursue animation but with a new vision that evolved even further, leading to the creation of feature-length animated films and, eventually, Disneyland, transforming him from an animator to a pioneer in the entertainment industry.

Walt's story shows how modifying a dream can lead to even greater success.

Or consider Ernest Shackleton. This explorer's dream was to be the first to reach the South Pole and return home with all of his men. He made several attempts, each filled with challenges and setbacks. His last attempt, the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, found him and his crew stuck in the ice on their ship, Endurance, in conditions you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy.

Shackleton was forced to modify his dream. Instead of reaching the South Pole, his new goal was getting his men back home alive. Despite the harrowing conditions and incredible odds, Shackleton led his crew to safety, living out one of the greatest adventure stories ever. His story shows that modifying a dream can lead to an achievement as great, if not greater, than the original goal.

What about George Washington? Washington's dream was to retake New York City after the British conquered it in the summer of 1776. This goal became Washington's obsession. He believed that recapturing New York was crucial for the American cause. However, as years passed and circumstances changed, he realized that directly retaking New York wasn't the best strategic choice. Washington had to modify his dream.

Instead of focusing on New York, he decided to strike the British in Virginia. In 1781, he led a decisive campaign in Yorktown, Va., where his forces, along with French allies, besieged the British.

This led to the surrender of British General Cornwallis and effectively ended the Revolutionary War. Although Washington had to change his original vision, he still accomplished his overall objective of defeating the British and securing American independence. In many ways, this strategic shift allowed him to fulfill his dream in a way that ensured long-term success for the new nation.

Sometimes, the original vision needs to be modified, and that's okay.

I heard somewhere: "Stay strong with your dream and be okay with how it unfolds." Your dream can often look a little different than you had originally planned.

The next time you feel like giving up or settling for what you have, I hope this inspires you to stay strong, keep going, and remain flexible about how it happens.

Stay the course, adapt as needed, and trust that you are still on the path to achieving something great. Your journey might have twists and turns, but every step brings you closer to your goal.

Courtesy

On May 25, 7th Dan black belt, Master Daryl Laperle traveled to Costa Mesa, Calif. to be inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame, where he received the Golden Life Award. While at the Hall of Fame, Master Daryl Laperle was able to meet with dozens of other martial artist from around the world and attend seminars in other forms of martial arts. This Hall of Fame induction marks the 2nd for Master Laperle. Back in 2008, he was inducted into the Action Martial Arts Magazine Hall of Fame in Atlantic City, N.J. Danielson Martial Arts Academy, which Laperle has owned and operated since 1994, is celebrating 50 years in business this year. The school is a proud member of the Cheezic Tang Soo Do Federation, an international organization that has its roots dating back to 1960 Korea. For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.

THE WEEK IN SPORTS AT WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

Girls Track

Centaurs place 3rd in Class MM state championship

NEW BRITAIN- The Centaurs got as close as nine points late but a win in the triple jump clinched the victory for Hillhouse which finished with 73 points, Mercy was second with 60 followed by the Centaurs with 55 at Willow Brook Park.

The throwers had the highlights for Woodstock Academy as Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain placed first in the javelin with a personal best throw of 117-feet, 8-inches. Lily Morgis had a second-place finish in discus as she had a 111-7 throw and Avery Plouffe was fourth in the shotput (34-7).

The track athletes contributed their share for the Centaurs.

The 4x800m team of D'Alleva-Bochain, Julia Coyle, Talia Tremblay and Olivia Tracy finished third as did Juliet Allard in the 300m hurdles.

Emma Weitknecht was fourth best in the 100m hurdles while Allard was fifth in the 200m.

Jillian Edwards also had a fifth in the high jump.

Baseball

Class L state tournament
First round
(1) Woodstock Academy 5
(32) Branford 3

WOODSTOCK – Eric Mathewson pitched for a third time in less than a week, but the senior was solid as he allowed only two earned runs and six hits while striking out 14 to lead the Centaurs (22-2) to the win.

Woodstock Academy trailed 2-0 on a pair of Anthony Fusco RBI singles in the first and third innings for the Hornets (7-14).

But the Centaurs forged ahead when Noah Sampson had a two-out triple in the third, Maxx Corradi and Mathewson drew walks and Keon Lamarche drove all three runners home with a double to left-center.

Brady Ericson later added an RBI single for the Centaurs who will host No. 16 Berlin, a 7-6 winner Tuesday in 10 innings over North Haven, on Wednesday at the Bentley Athletic Complex.

Class L state tournament
(1)Woodstock Academy 11
(16) Berlin 2

WOODSTOCK – After three difficult, pressure-packed games in a row, the Centaurs (23-2) had it a little easier on their home field against the Redcoats.

Woodstock Academy scored a run in the first, three in the second and broke it open with five more between the third and fourth innings.

The Centaurs were solid throughout the lineup with Matt Hernandez, batting seventh, providing three base hits and four runs batted in.

Eric Mathewson had four hits, drove in two runs and successfully stole home on a double steal by the Centaurs.

Brady Ericson started for the Centaurs, gave up five hits and struck out six in picking up the win on the mound.

Top-seeded Woodstock Academy takes on ninth-seeded Guilford in a quarterfinal game on Saturday.

Class L state tournament
Quarterfinal
(1)Woodstock Academy 7
(9) Guilford 1

WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs had just taken a 2-0 lead on a wild pitch and an RBI single by senior starting pitcher and team catalyst Eric Mathewson in the third inning.

Mathewson, however, attempted to steal second and was indecisive as to whether to slide or not.

When he finally decided he should slide, his foot caught the bag and he rolled his ankle.

Mathewson had to be helped from the field but his teammates made sure he may be able to make another appearance in the future.

Keon Lamarche walked and with two runners on and junior Brady Ericson slammed a three-run homer just inside the right field foul pole to put Woodstock Academy (24-2) up, 5-0.

Caleb Simoneau followed with a single and came home on Riley O'Brien's triple to left to finish the six-run rally.

Ericson finished the Centaurs scoring in the fifth with a stratospheric solo shot that went deep into the right field woods.

Logan Coutu came on to pitch three innings in relief of Mathewson and O'Brien finished up on the hill in the seventh.

Woodstock Academy will meet its old nemesis, 13th-seeded East Lyme, in a Class L semifinal on Tuesday at a site and time to be determined.

Girls Golf

Killingly/Ellis Tech 201
Woodstock Academy 216

THOMPSON–Centaurs' freshman Reagan Scheck was the medalist with a 43 but Killingly prevailed and clinched the Eastern Connecticut Conference regular season championship.

Bella Mawson added a 54 for Woodstock Academy (5-11, 2-8 Eastern Connecticut Conference).

Sophomore Mackenzie Pothier led Killingly (9-3, 8-2) with a 48 in the match played at the Quinnatisset Country Club while Kendra St. Marie added a 49.

Scheck finishes 2nd at ECC Championship

THOMPSON – Woodstock Academy freshman Reagan Scheck finished as runner-up in the Eastern Connecticut Conference girls golf championship as she carded a 43 at the Quinnatisset Country Club.

Lily Moran added a 51 and senior Isabella Siwko had a career-best 54 in her final high school match for the Centaurs.

Caroline Goderre was medalist in the event as the Norwich Free Academy sophomore led the Wildcats to their second championship in three years with a four-over par 40.

NFA downed regular season champion, Killingly/Ellis Tech, by six strokes 192-198.

Sadie Murray led Killingly/Ellis Tech with a 44, good for third individually.

Stonington (199), East Lyme (203) and Woodstock Academy (204) rounded out the top five.

Boys Golf

Woodstock Academy 7
Plainfield 0

FOSTER, R.I. – Senior Donny Sousa enjoyed his trip over state lines as he finished with a three-under par 33 at the Foster Country Club to lead the Centaurs (12-4) to the win over the Panthers.

Teammate Logan Rawson added a 38 while Troy Daviau shot a 42 as the Centaurs finished with a 156 total.

Brayden Marquis paced Plainfield (4-9, 2-4 ECC Division IV) with a 41.

The Panthers did pick up a victory over Putnam (1-9, 0-6) which could not field a full team with three golfers.

Rawson named POY; Centaurs finish 4th

NEW LONDON – Woodstock Academy junior Logan Rawson was named the Eastern Connecticut Conference boys golf Player of the Year following the ECC boys golf championship tournament at the Great Neck Golf Club.

The Centaurs finished fourth as a team in the tournament with a 343 total behind East Lyme (315), Wheeler (328) and Waterford (335).

Senior Donny Sousa tied for 4th for Woodstock Academy with a 78 while Rawson tied for 9th with an 80.

Boys Lacrosse

Class L state tournament
Second Round
(3) East Lyme 16
(14) Woodstock Academy 1

EAST LYME – The Centaurs got the unfortunate honor of playing the Vikings (13-6) in both their first and last matches of the season.

Seamus Coleman scored the only goal for Woodstock Academy (7-10) off an assist from Sam Desmond in the fourth quarter.

Boys Volleyball

Class M state tournament
First round
(6) Newtown 3
(11) Woodstock Academy 0

NEWTOWN – The Centaurs saw their inaugural season come to a close with a 10-12 record.

The hosts downed Woodstock Academy in the three sets, 25-16,25-9 and 26-24.

Christian Hart had 10 digs for the Centaurs while T.J. Osborne had three kills and Owen Budd added three blocks.

WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK

Tuesday, June 11th
Referendum
Noon – 8:00 p.m.
Town hall

June 10-16

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

Wednesday the 12th
• Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m.

Thursday the 13th
• Open Space & Farmland Acquisition Committee, 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Monday the 10th
• Community Kitchen Free Lunch, First Congregational Church, noon.
• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 11th
• The Bridge Young Adults, Evangelical Covenant Church
• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.

Wednesday the 12th
• Story Hour, West Woodstock Library
• Knitting Group, Town Hall
• Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
• Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church, 6-8 p.m.
• The Bridge (young adults), Evangelical Covenant Church
• Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday the 13th
• Lady's Small Group and Men's Bible Study, South Woodstock Baptist Church
• Scrabble, West Woodstock Library, 2 p.m.
• Woodstock Sustainable Kitchen, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 3-7:30 p.m.
• Canvas Painting Modern Bouquet, Taylor Brooke Winery, 6 p.m.

Friday the 14th
• Woodstock Sustainable Kitchen, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 3-7:30 p.m.
• New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday the 15th
• Book Club, Bracken Memorial Library, 10:30 a.m.
• Jayy's Catering Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 1-7 p.m.
• Live Music – Nolan Leite, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.
• Chasing Light, Loos Center for the Arts, 3 and 7 p.m. (Pre-show gallery exhibits 1 hr. prior to performances.)

Sunday the 16th
• "Woodstock Through the Camera's Eye" exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
• Saults Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 12-5 p.m.
• Angeles Mexican Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 12:30-6 p.m.
• Live Music – JT Horne, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 21
•Twilight Concert – Souls on Fire, Roseland Cottage and Woodstock Recreation Dept., 6:30 p.m.

June 22
• Town Wide Yard Sale, register at Woodstock Rec. Dept. to get on map.

June 25-28
• Child Passenger Safety Technician Training, Woodstock Volunteer Fire Dept.

June 29
• Town Beach Party, Town Beach at Pond Factory, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

June 30
• Brunch at Echo Farm, Echo Farm, 11 a.m.
• Honesty, Honor and Pall Mall: Croquet at Roseland Cottage, 1 p.m.

July 26
• Twilight Concert – Flamingo (all female big band), Roseland Cottage, 6:30 p.m.

To submit calendar items:
woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com.

WOODSTOCK WORKING

May 2024

BY CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER

Report of the work of the 22 Boards, Commissions and Committees listed on the Town of Woodstock website, woodstockct.gov. Information is taken from the official minutes of these groups, citing the date the action was taken, and including no opinion or analysis. Routine motions to approve minutes, adjourn, etc. are not included.

Agriculture Commission

May 20 – Motion that compensation for employees paid under the AFT Soil Health Stewards grant may be determined by Rebecca Hyde as administrator of the grant. Passed unanimously.

Board of Finance

May 21 - Motion to accept .63 mill increase and set mill rate to 23.04 for the Fiscal Year of 2024-2025. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve spending of ARPA funds as presented on recommendation of the Board of Selectmen excluding the interest funds allocations. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve payment of the remaining administrative fees for the ARPA program to be allocated from interest monies earned from ARPA funds. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the additional appropriation in the amount of $589,825 as requested by the Board of Education and recommend that the Board of Selectmen to call a Special Town Meeting to address the appropriation. Passed unanimously.

Board of Selectmen

May 2 - Motion to earmark (AARP) funds as mentioned above by Karen Fitzpatrick. Passed unanimously.

Motion to allow the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association to purchase the ambulance upon delivery with their funds allowing ARPA to pay towards the tanker purchase in place of ambulance. This would mean that $321,189 be reallocated to WVFA towards purchase of new tanker. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Appointment of John Hart as Burning Official for the term of May 2, 2024 through January 31, 2026. Passed unanimously.

May 16 - Motion to approve the Appointment of Chris Mayhew as a member of the Board of Selectmen for the term of May 20, 2024 through November 18, 2025. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Reappointment of Timothy Rainville as a Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the term of June 20, 2024 through June 19, 2029. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Reappointment of John Cimochowski as a Member of the Crystal Pond Park Commission for the term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the membership application of the Committee on Aging to AARP as requested. Passed unanimously.

Motion to accept all aggregate bids for use by highway foreman at his discretion. Passed unanimously.

Motion to award catch basin cleaning to Truax Corporation. Passed unanimously.

Motion to accept all equipment rental bids for use by highway foreman at his discretion. Passed unanimously.

Motion to award guardrail installation to Guide Rite LLC. Passed unanimously.

Motion to award Facilities General Maintenance and Repair to Paul Johnson Electric. Passed unanimously.

May 23 - Motion to approve warning of the Special Town Meeting as presented and read. Passed unanimously.

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

May 6 – Motion to approve application 03-24-10 – Paine Road - Town of Woodstock/Construction of Sediment Basin with discharge to Peckham Brook. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 04-24-11 – 7 Pond View Road - Steven Jacobsen for Barry Sprague/Single Family Home addition in the Upland Review Area as a Wetlands Agent approval. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 04-24-12 – 23 Crooked Trail Extension /Woodstock Building Associates for William Breslau/Deck Expansion in the Upland Review Area as a Wetlands Agent approval. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 04-24-13 – 25 Route 197, Meadowside of Woodstock/as a Non-regulated Use (Conservation of Soil and Water) to install a cross-culvert on the accessway for diversion of runoff as shown on the application. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 04-24-14 for 399 Roseland Park Road- Philip & Michael Grenier/Request for Use Permitted-As-Of Right/Maintenance and Enjoyment of a Residential Home, for the creation of a berm in the Upland Review Area, with the placement of the additional fill on the north side of the existing berm (which is located 60-70 ft south of the existing home), the fill to be installed at a grade no greater than that of the present septic system which is located east of the home, with fill prohibited in wetlands south of the existing berm except as authorized at the October 2023 IWWA meeting. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 04-24-15 – 168 West Quasset Road - Martin & Susan Weiss/Repair and replace sections of lake wall within the Upland Review Area as a Wetlands Agent approval, after submission of a cross section drawing to scale of the wall construction, demonstrating that relief of hydrated earth's pressure has been adequately designed. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 04-24-15 – 168 West Quasset Road - Martin & Susan Weiss/Repair and replace sections of lake wall within the Upland Review Area as a Wetlands Agent approval, contingent on submission of a cross-section drawing to scale of the wall construction, demonstrating that relief of hydrated earth's pressure has been adequately designed, as well as Erosion and Sediment Control measures along the water's edge. Passed unanimously.

Motion to table 04-24-16 – 120 Beaver Dam Road - Jose Macho/Request for Use Permitted-As-A-Right for repair of eroded shoreline until the next meeting, giving the applicant time to provide a cross-section of the proposed wall work, the scale of the work, and the planned volume of stone and soil needed in the work area. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve 04-24-17 – 197 Crystal Pond Road / United We Stand LLC for Mike & Carla Charette for an 18x16 Addition within the Upland Review Area as a Wetlands Agent approval. Passed unanimously.

Motion to accept 04-24-18 – 72 Lake View Drive, Karl Acimovic for Fitzpatrick & Rogala/Drainage upgrade to Lake View Drive for consideration at next month's meeting. Passed unanimously.

Poet Laureate Committee

May 8 - Motion to approve the (poet laureate) nomination form. Passed Unanimously.

Zoning Board of Appeals

May 20 - Motion to enter Executive Session with Town Attorney to discuss a legal matter- Proto v. ZBA settlement. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the stipulated judgement and authorize Attorney Richard Roberts to sign the stipulation on behalf of the ZBA. Passed unanimously.

Relay for Life returns to Putnam

PUTNAM — For the second year Putnam hosted the Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut in a new location at the Saint Marie-Greenhalgh Sports Complex. The Relay moved to Putnam High School in 2023 after being impacted by smoke from the Canadian wildfires and made Putnam it's new permanent home for 2024 after spending previous years at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds and Roseland Park. The 2024 event featured a new theme as well, "Hollywood Nights" challenging teams to embrace the spirit of different films or Hollywood in general in their displays. Relay was blessed with beautiful weather throughout its 24-hour campaign to raise money and awareness to help with cancer research and to find a cure.

Jason Bleau

Live Strong at the Hale YMCA themed their space after the popular sci-fi comedy "Ghostbusters."

While most walked the track, some tested their endurance by running or racing each other like these Relay participants.

Silver team TMHS NHS & Tri-M embraced the Pixar film "Inside Out" in their display.

The Patty's Angels team poses for a photo at their booth.

The KHS Spirit team, comprised of students from Killingly High School, take a break all dressed in pink to capture the spirit of their film of choice, 2023's huge hit "Barbie."

Cappy's Crew, one of several Rising Star teams in 2024, relax during Relay 2024.

Putnam High School, a 2024 Bronze Team, embraced the "Jurassic Park" and Jurassic World" series for their cinematic display.

Team JCSBeats Cancer captured the spirit of the popular film "Miracle" about the 1980 Winter Olympics champion men's USA hockey team.

The team from Jewett City Savings Bank beat the heat during Relay 2024.

Interact Club starts new — probably just as busy — year

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Interact Club inducted three new officers May 28, kicking off a new year full of service.

Amanda Kelly, the Putnam Rotary Club president, inducted June Ferraro and Sofia Thurber as Interact co-presidents.

Interact Advisor Roberta Rocchetti inducted Kaelyn Tremblay as the new Interact historian and archivist.

Jordyn Butler and Eric Levesque, outgoing co-presidents and seniors from Tourtellotte Memorial High School, gave an overview of all the Interact Club's achievements from the past year. It was a year full of hard work.

Levesque said the club secured a $1,000 District Rotary grant to help with fencing around the TEEG Community Garden. They also worked hard on revitalizing the garden that had fallen victim to vandals and varmints.

The club also raised $3,000 to purchase a solar suitcase to power a small school in a developing country. Butler talked about the Rotary World Seminar that she attended last June and how we can do little things like repurpose our clothing and avoid wasteful shopping on fad fashions that end up in the landfill.

Sofia Thurber and June Ferraro, juniors from Tourtellotte, spoke about their upcoming year as co-presidents and their focus on children with needs. They would like the Interact Club to get involved with the Special Olympics, Camp Quinebaug, the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and other organizations that address children's needs.

Rocchetti gave gifts and certificates to Interactors including, from Woodstock Academy: Ava Hovestadt, Emma Kerr, Kira Greene, Jacqueline Dearborn, Kaelyn and Talia Tremblay, Logan Casteen and Amelia Haynes; Putnam High: Gabriell Cerasiello and Paige Perry; Tourtellotte: Eoin and Caitlin Mercer, Melanie Noonan, Serena Smith, June Ferraro, Sofia Thurber, Jordyn Butler and Eric Levesque.

The Interact Club is a regional Rotary-sponsored youth group for ages 12 -18, they meet at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at the Putnam Public Library from September through May. For more information, email: robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Springfield College has named Aurissa Boardman from Brooklyn to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

Boardman has a primary major of Integrative Studies.

Springfield College has named Carah Bruce from Woodstock Valley to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

Bruce has a primary major of Psychology.

ECLIPSE

continued from page A1

Darby's paraprofessional since preschool – started looking for ways to make the event accessible.

"I was looking around the internet, and I had no idea what I was going to find," she said.

Eventually, Miller discovered LightSound, a Harvard University-developed, open-source device that translates light fluctuations into audible sound waves. Roughly the size of a mobile phone, the 3D-printed gadget detects fluctuations in light levels and uses "sonification" to translate that data into an audible range of tones and pitches.

Miller shared the idea with QMC principal Ted Keleher, educational specialist Kristin Stryker, EASTCONN CTO Andrew DePalma and others, launching what would become a hurried, collaborative mission.

"Things started happening," Miller said. "Everything just kind of came together."

David Palmisciano, a tech-savvy junior at Quinebaug Middle College, immediately volunteered to build the LightSound. Although the device's components were in high demand ahead of the eclipse, David managed to secure the necessary parts through various suppliers. He 3D-printed a purple casing and quickly assembled the device, soldering a nine-volt battery onto the unit for power while stashing loose, protruding wires under its lid.

"I didn't know anybody else who had the electronics skills, the soldering skills and the coding skills to make this work, so I agreed to help," David said. "We got so down to the wire that, even though we finished assembling everything, we didn't quite glue everything down."

On the morning of the eclipse, David needed an experienced hand to bring it all together. QMC math teacher Robyn Incera contacted Will McManus, a seasoned manufacturing instructor at CT State College, Quinebaug Valley, a community college with an excellent manufacturing program that shares its campus with QMC.

McManus dropped everything and mentored David through the final stages of assembly. With soldering complete, the team raced to prepare the device as the eclipse's path overtook New England. Software issues emerged in the final hour before the eclipse, but with McManus reassuring him, David stayed focused.

"We kept looking at the clock and saying, 'Can we hold up the eclipse?'" McManus said. "For the students, it's a lesson learned: there's always someone out there who can help. All you have to do is ask, and good people are going to respond."

With the device functional, and with little time to spare, David attached headphones and offered them to Darby. As the sky darkened over Danielson, the sound coming through her headphones got lower and lower.

"I could really tell what everybody else was seeing," Darby said. "I could understand it in a different way, which I thought was really cool."

David, who had never built electronics at such an advanced level, felt an immense sense of achievement.

"I'm proud that it works," he said.

McManus, who finally met Darby a few weeks after the eclipse, shared that feeling of reward. "When it's really successful, when you can help somebody, that's what it's all about," he said. "If you truly want to help somebody, you'll find a way."

David's can-do spirit, Miller said, embodies the collaborative ethos that made the vision a reality at QMC.

"This is an amazing school," Miller said. "Everybody just joined together and made it happen. Unfortunately, I know that in other places I would have been told no, it's a waste of time. Here, it was like, yeah, let's see what we can do… It's nice to feel included; that's something [Darby] has struggled with before. But she's so resilient."

By bridging the disciplines of coding, electronics and manufacturing through teamwork, QMC found an innovative way to eclipse barriers. For Darby, it was an unforgettable opportunity to engage with a celestial phenomenon she never imagined experiencing.

"I told my dad about it and he was just super excited," Darby said. "It was amazing that a bunch of people came together and wanted to do this for me."

65 MAIN

continued from page A1

While the workshop kept its focus on the career pathways initiatives, there were numerous other project updates that came from the meeting. Penn-Gesek revealed that four applications are "in play" for the 65 Main Project not including the USDA grants for the educational component. These include applications to the Kubota Hometown Pride program to install a small portion of the landscaping designed by Wayne Weiseman of the Permaculture Project, the Lowes Charitable Foundation to complete the building renovations, an appropriations request through Congressman Joe Courtney's office for funding to complete the building renovations and initiate the sitework for the entire permaculture park, and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development grant program for which Thompson is a qualifying community due to its status as an Alliance District and funds capital projects that have significant potential for community revitalization and economic development. All of these funding requests were still pending as of the May Workshop.

Thompson plans to continue the 65 Main workshops through hybrid meeting for the rest of the year with the next session scheduled for June 26 to continue discussing the educational component of the project. This session will be held at the Thompson Public Library and will feature three guest speakers invited by Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development, one of the town's partners in the project. Those speakers will be Patricia "Patty" Smith, General Manager of Willimantic Food Co-Op, Mike Mowry, Director of Member Success at small business incubator Hope & Main, and farmer Allyson Angelini of Full Heart Farm in Ledyard CT who will be sharing the challenges and successes of starting she faced when starting her own farm.

Recordings of prior workshops have been released through the Town of Thompson CT YouTube Channel and information on the 65 Main project is also available on the Town of Thompson Web site.

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Killingly Monthly Review: Key Highlights from May

May was a busy month for Killingly, with several important meetings and decisions. Here were the key events:

Annual Town Meeting: May 6

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Killingly High School Auditorium. The Town Council and the Board of Education presented their budgets. Residents asked questions and made changes to the operating budget. The meeting was adjourned to the machine vote on May 14.

Special Town Council Meeting: May 7

The next day, candidates for new appointments and reappointments for town boards and commissions were interviewed. Updates from the Agriculture Commission and the Housing Authority were provided.

Regular Town Council Meeting: May 14

On May 14th, the Council voted on the board and commission appointments. Proclamations were made for supporting law enforcement, Military Appreciation Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and Bicycle Safety Month. Paul Williamson presented the Key Capture Energy Battery Storage Project. The Council discussed forming a Vision Committee and approved a multi-jurisdictional shelter agreement.

Residents voted against the proposed budgets at the all-day town-wide machine vote.

Courtesy

The Woodstock Theft Detecting Society since 1793 had two of their nine Horse Thieving Pursuers marching in this year's Memorial Day parade.

Budget Deliberations: May 21 & May 23

The Town Council met on May 21 to deliberate on the Operating Budgets further and set new numbers for town consideration. On May 23, they confirmed the revised education budget. The Council approved the budgets as follows:

General Government $23,918,246 (6 percent decrease)

Education $47,383,839 (1.2 percent increase)

Total $71,302,085

This would result in a proposed mill rate of 20.32.

The revised budgets will be available for discussion only at the Reconvened Town Meeting on June 3 at the Killingly Intermediate School Auditorium at 7:00pm, with a machine vote on Tuesday, June 11 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Personnel Subcommittee Meeting: May 30

The Personnel Subcommittee met on May 30 to discuss the Town Hall Employees' Union tentative agreement.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the upcoming meetings:

Board of Recreation Special Meeting (June 3, KPRD, 6 p.m.)

Reconvened Annual Town Meeting (June 3, KIS Auditorium, 7 p.m.)

Special Town Council Meeting (June 4, Town Meeting Room – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Killingly Community Gardens (June 5, Westfield Ave., 5 p.m.)

Planning & Zoning Special Workshop (June 5, Room 102 – Town Hall, 5:30 to 7 p.m.)

Permanent Building Commission Meeting (June 5, Town Meeting Room – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Town-wide, all-day machine vote on budget (June 11, Westfield Ave and KHS polling locations, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Regular Town Council Meeting (June 11, Town Meeting Room – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Board of Education Meeting (June 12, Town Meeting Room – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Agriculture Commission Meeting (June 12, Room 102 – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting (June 13, Town Meeting Room – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (June 17, Town Meeting Room – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Housing Authority Meeting (June 18, Maple Courts II, 7 p.m.)

Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting (June 19, WPCF, 5 p.m.)

Killingly Conservation Commission Meeting (June 19, Room 102 – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Historic District Commission Meeting (June 20, Room 102 - Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Republican Town Committee Meeting (June 24, Room 102 – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Democratic Town Committee Meeting (June 25, Room 102 – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Board of Education Meeting (June 26, Town Meeting Room – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Open Space Land Acquisition Meeting (June 27, Room 102 – Town Hall, 7 p.m.)

Emily Dickson graduates from Des Moines University

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — Emily Dickson of North Grosvenordale completed the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at Des Moines University. The university's commencement ceremony took place on May 24.

Dickson will begin a pediatrics residency at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School in Worcester.

Located in West Des Moines, part of Iowa's capital metro, Des Moines University offers 10 graduate-level professional degree programs in anatomy, biomedical sciences, health care administration, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, podiatric medicine and public health. Founded in 1898, the institution offers superior academics in a collaborative environment. DMU students' scores on national examinations, pass rates on board certifications and match rates for medical residency programs are consistently higher than national averages and rates at peer institutions.

Pet Pals to hold low cost rabies clinic

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospita l, Route 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line on June 15 from 2 to 3 p.m. Cost is $15 cash per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please. For information, registration and appointment contact Pet Pals at 860-317-1720. This is the last clinic until October.

Community Connection

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts
Stock up now!
Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!
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The plants our forefathers grew

Killingly at 300

MARGARET WEAVER

Have you been shopping for vegetable seeds and plants or flowers for your flowerbeds or containers? I have. Oh, a garden center is food for the soul! Such beauty So many choices! I purchased some of my old favorites---begonias, impatiens, dusty miller, euphorbia, petunias, marigolds, and more. Much to my delight, I've been eating the tops of my scallions (they will continue to grow after I pinch them) and leaf lettuce.

Needless to say, the historian in me made me wonder about the plants our forefathers grew. I've seen the gardens at Old Sturbridge Village many, many times, and I know some vegetables that we frequently eat were not in 18th and even early 19th century gardens. Some were even considered poisonous. Many herbs, which we now often consider "weeds," were in great use.

The site https://www.motherearthliving.com/gardening/herbs-for-the-colonial-garden/ provided some background about essentials in the early kitchen herb garden, the one that was right outside a door in a sunny location. Five herbs were considered crucial: parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, and lavender. "In Colonial times, cooks seasoned food with parsley and prized the herb as a health tonic. Viancour (Laura Viancour, Colonial Williamsburg's manager of garden programs) also believes parsley was used as a dye, producing a green color." "**Sage** enhances the flavor of game meats and stews, two staples of the era. Sage was also used historically as a medicinal herb." "Sage has known antimicrobial properties and it is anti-inflammatory," says Keri Marshall, N.D., medical director at Gaia Herbs. Marshall says a controlled clinical study using a placebo, double-blind methodology indicated a commercial throat spray made with sage was effective in treating acute viral pharyngitis, thus giving an intriguing glimpse into research that backs up Colonial belief… It is not recommended that home gardeners harvest and use sage for medicinal purposes." "**Rosemary** provided a tasty accent to lamb, game, and stew dishes and was grown as a culinary herb. As the herb of remembrance, rosemary was added to wedding cakes or puddings." "**Thyme**, as well as lemon thyme, adorned the Colonial garden. Thyme flavored foods and added another herb to the Colonial family's medicine chest." "**Lavender.** In an age when strong and unpleasant odors were common, sweetly scented herbs were prized. Lavender was often used to scent clothing. Dried lavender would be tucked among stored clothes to refresh them by infusing the garments with their scent." If you are interested in herbs, be sure to visit the herb garden at Old Sturbridge Village, which represents the late 1830's time period. Culinary and medicinal herbs have special markers.

"Bee balm (Monarda didyma) also played an important part in Colonial history, serving as a tea substitute after the Boston Tea Party, when black tea imported from England was difficult or impossible to obtain." **Tansy** was grown for its pleasing scent and yellow hue for dying. **Mint** was grown for its refreshing scent and culinary purposes; mint tea remains a popular herbal beverage today. The humble woodland **violet** not only graced the garden with cheerful flowers, it added a sweet scent to water used for washing. "

Are you busy planting or nurturing tomato plants? You would not have seen them in early Killingly gardens. However, they were native to the Americas. According to https://historycooperative.org/origin-of-tomatoes the origin of tomatoes can be traced back to ancient Mesoamerica and the region of modern-day Mexico where it was first cultivated by indigenous peoples living here, such as the Aztecs and Mayans..who began cultivating them as early as 700A.D. Tomatoes were often used in religious ceremonies and offerings to deities. (Of varied colors) they were considered sacred fruit and held a special place in the cultural and culinary traditions of the indigenous peoples."

"When Spanish explorers arrived in America in the 16th century, they encountered tomatoes for the first time. The explorers were intrigued by this new fruit and brought tomato seeds by to Europe. Initially tomatoes were primarily grown as ornamental plants in European gardens due to their vibrant colors."

"The initial perceptions of tomatoes in Europe were shaped by their association with other plants in the nightshade family, some of which are toxic. This led to a belief that tomatoes might be harmful if ingested. As a result, tomatoes were primarily grown as decorative plants in European gardens rather than being used in cooking. Over time, as the misconceptions about tomato toxicity began to fade, people started exploring the culinary uses of tomatoes. In Italy, the introduction of tomatoes into Italian cuisine revolutionized traditional dishes."

Did you enjoy corn on the cob over the Memorial Day weekend? I'm sure many of you realize that corn was also a staple of the Native peoples who inhabited the Americas. The site https://historycooperative.org/origin-of-corn/ noted, "The origin of corn can be traced back to ancient Mesoamerica, specifically to an area that includes present-day Mexico and Central America. Corn… was domesticated by indigenous peoples in this region thousands of years ago… Teosinte, a wild grass native to Mesoamerica, is considered the ancestor of modern corn. It differs significantly from corn in appearance, with small ears and a tough outer covering… The introduction of corn to Europe can be traced back to the late 15th century when Christopher Columbus encountered corn during his voyages to the Americas. It is believed that Columbus first came across corn in the Caribbean islands, and from there, its cultivation and distribution quickly spread throughout Europe."

Corn was one of the staples of the Native Americans in this area when the Europenas arrived. "For thousands of years Indigenous Americans have honed an agricultural technique whereby corn, beans, and winter squash are planted in close proximity to one another. The corn, beans and squash, also known as 'the Three Sisters,' rely on one another for their development and growth. Traditionally, Indigenous women made mounds in the ground and planted the three seeds in carefully arranged proximity, setting off a series of reciprocal relationships between humans, plants, bacteria and other microorganisms, and the soil… The corn supports the bean plant, which needs something to wrap around, and the wide squash leaves protect the earth from the sun, preserving moisture and preventing the growth of weeds…. The corn's roots are shallow, and are first to capture moisture from rain or irrigation, but the bean plant captures water that sinks below the reach of the corn. Meanwhile the squash plant is able to extend roots opportunistically from its stem as it rests on the earth's surface, feeding on moisture from both the corn and the bean roots. The bean plant provides an additional service with its roots: the roots accommodate a bacterium needed to produce the nitrogen fertilizer essential for all three of the plants' growth. " (https://resilientpalisades.org/the-three-sisters/).

We owe much to the original inhabitants of the Americas for some of our favorite summer foods. Enjoy! If you don't have your own garden, the farmers' markets are now open so you can even have wonderful, locally grown produce. It won't be long before corn and tomatoes are in season.

Killingly Grange #112: Support one of Killingly's Historic Properties. The Killingly Grange will hold a Roast Pork Dinner Friday, June 14 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Roast pork, green beans, carrots, mashed potatoes and dessert. $15 per meal. One toss at cornhole for one free dinner. Dine-in or Take Out. Limited number of meals. To reserve dinner call 860-884-1813 or visit www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/. At the door pay by cash, credit card or check. Also---strawberry rhubarb pies $16 each.

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

The origin of tomatoes can be traced back to the ancient Mesoamerican civilizations, particularly in the region that is now modern-day Mexico. The indigenous peoples of this area, such as the Aztecs and Mayans, were among the first to cultivate and consume tomatoes [5].

Tomatoes belong to the Solanaceae family, which includes other plants like potatoes, peppers, and eggplants [2]. Wild tomatoes, known as Solanum pimpinellifolium, are believed to have originated in the coastal regions of western South America, specifically in present-day Peru and Ecuador. These wild tomatoes were small and round, with a yellow or red color [4].

The early domestication and cultivation of tomatoes by ancient Mesoamerican civilizations played a significant role in shaping their development. The indigenous peoples selectively bred tomatoes, leading to the emergence of larger and more varied tomato varieties. They cultivated different types, including red, yellow, and even purple tomatoes [4].

Tomatoes played a crucial role in the culinary traditions and religious practices of these ancient civilizations. They were used in various dishes, including sauces, stews, and soups [2]. Tomatoes were also offered as sacrifices to deities and used in rituals.

When Spanish explorers arrived in the Americas in the 16th century, they encountered tomatoes for the first time. The explorers were intrigued by this new fruit and brought tomato seeds back to Europe. Initially, tomatoes were primarily grown as ornamental plants in European gardens due to their vibrant colors [5].

READ MORE: Who Discovered America: The First People Who Reached the Americas

However, it took some time for tomatoes to gain acceptance as a food source in Europe; the European gardeners grew tomatoes as ornamental plants due to their vibrant colors. There were misconceptions and concerns about their potential toxicity. It wasn't until the 18th century that tomatoes began to be widely consumed in Europe, especially in Mediterranean countries like Italy.

The popularity of tomatoes grew over time, and they eventually made their way to other parts of the world through colonization and trade routes. Today, tomatoes are cultivated in diverse climates and are a staple ingredient in countless cuisines worldwide [3]. They are used in a wide range of dishes, such as salads, pasta sauces, salsas, and even in beverages like tomato juice.

Examples of tomato varieties that have gained popularity include the beefsteak tomato, known for its large size and meaty texture, the Roma tomato, commonly used for sauces and canning, and cherry tomatoes, which are small and often used in salads or as a snack [2].

Which Country Found Tomatoes First? Early History and Discovery

The country that first discovered tomatoes is attributed to the ancient Mesoamerican civilizations, particularly the Aztecs and Mayans, in what is now present-day Mexico. These ancient civilizations were among the earliest cultivators and consumers of tomatoes. They recognized the potential of this fruit and began selectively breeding and cultivating different varieties [4].

The native peoples of Mesoamerica had diverse names for tomatoes in their respective languages. For example, the Aztecs referred to them as "xitomatl," while the Mayans called them "tomatl." These early cultivated tomatoes were smaller in size compared to modern varieties and had a wide range of colors, including red, yellow, and purple [5].

READ MORE: The Aztec Empire: The Rapid Rise and Fall of the Mexica

Are Tomatoes Native to America?

While tomatoes were first discovered and cultivated in Mesoamerica, they are not native to the entire American continent. Wild tomatoes, known as Solanum pimpinellifolium, originated in the coastal regions of western South America, specifically in present-day Peru and Ecuador. These wild varieties had small fruits with a yellow or red color [5].

The cultivation and domestication of tomatoes by Mesoamerican civilizations played a crucial role in transforming them into the fruit we recognize today. Through selective breeding, ancient farmers gradually developed larger and more diverse tomato varieties. These cultivated tomatoes spread throughout the Americas and became an essential part of the indigenous culinary traditions [3].

It is important to note that tomatoes were not known in Europe or other parts of the world until the arrival of Christopher Columbus and other Spanish explorers in the Americas. When the explorers encountered tomatoes for the first time, they were intrigued by their unique appearance and brought tomato seeds back to Europe [4].

Cristopher Columbus

Where Were Tomatoes First Grown? Cultivation and Spread

Tomatoes were first grown in the region of modern-day Mexico and Central America, which was inhabited by ancient Mesoamerican civilizations. The fertile lands of this area provided an ideal environment for tomato cultivation. The indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica, such as the Aztecs and Mayans, recognized the potential of tomatoes and began cultivating them as early as 700 AD [4].

Killingly Chronicles

June 10 – 15

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killingly.org)

Tuesday the 11th

Town-wide all-day machine vote on Budget (Westfield Ave or Killingly High School) 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Regular Town Council Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 12th

Board of Education Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Agriculture Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Thursday the 13th

Northeast District Department of Health Board Meeting (NDDH) 3 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday the 10th

Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Tuesday the 11th

Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Irish Genealogy (Library) 4 to 5 p.m.

Wednesday the 12th

Little Listeners (Ages 0-5) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday the 15th

Design The Library Card for Killingly Public Library

Summer Reading Kick-Off (All Ages) (Library) 10 a.m. to noon

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS COMING UP…

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 to www.killinglypr.recdesk.com

Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing – July 1 through July 15 (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays)

Field Hockey Summer Camp – July 29 through Aug. 2

Girls Open Play Volleyball Grades 6-12 – June 19 through Aug. 15 (Killingly Community Center) (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Killingly River Trail Fun Runners Series – July 11 through Aug. 15 (Thursdays)

Thursday Indoor Summer Yoga Session 1 – July 11 through Aug. 1 (Killingly Community Center) (Thursdays)

Virtual High Five 2024 (Killingly Community Center) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Group Guitar with Killingly School of Music – July 1 through July 29 (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays)

Group Violin with Killingly School of Music – July 1 through July 29 (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays)

Wickford – Aug. 15

KPRD Jeep Invasion – July 3

Killingly Football Camp – July 15 through July 18 (Grades 3-9)

Killingly Golf Camp – July 22 through July 26 (Grades 4-9)

Senior Yoga (9 and 10:30 a.m.) – June – June 7 through June 21 (Fridays)

Cross Sound Ferry Lighthouse Cruise – July 17

Let's Get Moving June – June 4 through June 18 (Tuesdays) (Ages 50-55)

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.

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

OBITUARIES

Peter Michael Curry, Sr., 87

Peter Michael Curry, Sr., 87 of Killingly, CT, husband of Dawn (Verleger) Curry, died on May 24, 2024. He was born April 8, 1937 in Windham, CT, son of the late Arthur B. Curry and Anna (Friese) Curry. He leaves two sons: Peter M. Curry, Jr. and his wife Suzanna of Lakeville, MN and Patrick M. Curry and his wife Christine of Glastonbury; five grandchildren: Jonathan and Andrew Curry of Lakeville, MN and Erin, Alexander and Mitchell Curry of Glastonbury. A graduate of Killingly High School in the class of 1955 and Central Connecticut State University in 1959, he later attended the University of Connecticut for graduate work in Public Administration. Pete was grateful for a successful and rewarding 47-year career in public service which began in Bloomfield, CT as Assistant to Town Manager Preston C. King – a special mentor – for six years. He served as Town Manager of Westerly, RI for a brief period and then returned to Connecticut to be Town Manager of Newington for 14 years from 1971 to 1985. Thereafter, he was Assistant District Manager of the Metropolitan District (MDC) for 13 years until his retirement in 1998. In post-retirement, he was Administrative Officer of Darien, CT for four years before returning "home" ready to live in a full retirement mode in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner". Public management called again, however, and he was successively interim Town Manager of Killingly and Temporary Town Manager of Tolland. Pete was a Life Member of the International City/County Management Association and dedicated to that organization's standards of ethics and professionalism. He was also a long-time member and a past-President of the Connecticut Town and City Management Association and he served on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) for eight years. After the conclusion of his public employments, he was in private practice as a municipal management consultant for a period of several years part of which was in affiliation with CCM. In still later years, he volunteered as a member of the District Committee and as Clerk of the Wauregan Fire District in which role he continued to apply his extensive practitioner's knowledge about government. Even in eras when participation in government was widely undervalued and even denigrated, Pete remained steadfast regarding his belief in the worth of democratic government and the importance of conscientiously managing governmental affairs honestly and equitably in the best interest of citizens -- his calling. In addition, throughout his life he was proud of his heritage as a descendent of eastern Connecticut textile mill workers on both his mother's and father's sides. The history of their struggle seemed his touchstone. In his leisure time, he loved hiking especially with his wife, Dawn. Hiking trips in North America and Europe provided many cherished memories. Ireland was his favorite place to visit which he did on a number of occasions usually in the company of a special band of hiking friends. He cherished his relationships with his cousins, including Suzon Jacobi and her husband John and his lifelong pal Avery Tillnghast. In the past few years, he enjoyed friendships with the residents and staff of Westview Commons. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Atwood Hose Fire Station 24 CT-205 Wauregan, CT 06387 on June 21, 2024, from 2-4 PM. tillinghastfh.com

Edna Lavallee

On May 26, 2024, we lost our beloved mother and grandmother Edna Lavallee. She passed away in her home of 70 plus years. She was with her grandson and caregiver, Michael.

Edna was born in Ware, MA to Anna and Frank Szmist, immigrants from Poland in 1921, She and her seven siblings were first generation Americans.

The family moved to Danielson when Edna was only ten years old. She attended the Killingly Elementary School where she had to learn to speak English. She graduated from Killingly High School. She taught her parents to speak enough English for them to become naturalized citizens.

In Edna's young years, she and family faced the great economic depression that ended at the beginning of WWII. She grew up to be a wonderful woman who made the world a better place. The love she gave to her family, friends, God, & country was unconditional. She was kind-hearted and would do anything for anyone. She loved to garden, bake, sew, knit, and continued to read the paper everyday up until the day she died.

Edna was a parishioner of St. James Church and practiced her faith for over 95 years. She found much in her life offensive but would never offend anyone. She was one of the few remaining of the "Greatest Generation" of Americans and deserves remembrance and honor.

Edna worked and retired after 40 years from Arrow Hart Electrical Co.

In 1943 Edna married Joseph Lavallee, who at the time was a medic in the Army/Air Force. They were married at St. James in Danielson and lived together for 52 years. She was predeceased by her husband Joe, her son Jeffrey, along with all of her siblings John, Theodore, Mary, Irene, Henrietta, Caroline, and Evelyn.

Edna is survived by her daughter Carolyn and Dennis Hopkins. Granddaughter Suzanne and Eric Johnson, grandson Michael (Kira) Warren, great granddaughter Hannah Johnson, great grandson Thomas Johnson and five God children.

Visitation was held in Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main Street Danielson, CT 06239 on Saturday June 1, 2024, from 9-10:30 AM followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. James Church at 11 AM. Burial took place following the Mass in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson. tillinghastfh.com

Harold Francis "Buster" Davis, Jr., 69

Harold Francis "Buster" Davis, Jr., age 69, of Webster died suddenly Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Hubbard Regional Hospital of Webster after being stricken ill at his home. Mr. Davis was born September 22, 1954 in New London, CT. He is the son of the late Harold F.Davis Sr. and the late Josephine (Denardis) Davis.

He is survived by his two sons: Seth P. Davis and his partner Samantha Faber of Thompson, CT and Chase E. Davis and his wife Ashley of Thompson CT. Buster also leaves behind his life partner and fiancé of 27 years , Laurie A. Bowman of Webster. Harold has three sisters: Josephine Davis and her husband Bob Banks, Elizabeth Beaudry and her husband Richard, and Kathleen Mayotte and her husband Jeff. Harold is also survived by one brother, Thomas Davis and his partner Andrea Bach.

Buster also leaves behind four grandchildren, Jacob Davis, Henry Davis, Olivia Davis, and Luke Davis and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife Deborah O'Donnell Davis and his sister, Norma DeFilippo.

He was employed as a carpenter, doing construction all of his life, most recently working construction with his son Seth.

Buster enjoyed hunting and fishing all his life but more recently enjoyed his time gardening since retiring. Buster was a lifetime member of the Thompson Rod & Gun Club. He was looking forward to spending time with his family, friends, and especially his grandchildren. Buster was also looking forward to spending more time with his true love Laurie in their next chapter together.

Calling hours were Friday, May 31 from 4-7 pm at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA

The funeral will be held privately on Saturday, June 1 at 10 am at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA.

Lucienne "Lucy" B. Bergeron, 101

N. Grosvenordale – Lucienne "Lucy" B. Bergeron, 101, formerly of Riverside Dr., passed away on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Colonial Healthcare. She was the beloved wife of the late Ovide T. Bergeron. Born in N. Grosvenordale, she was the daughter of the late Leo and Aurore (Lajoie) Lamoureux.

Lucienne was a clerk for American Optical. She was member of the Ladies Aux VFW post 10008 in Quinebaug, a member of the Daughter's of St. Anne and a volunteer for over thirty years at St. Joseph Thrift Shop.

Lucienne is survived by her son, Leonard Bergeron and his wife Cindy of Tariffville, her brother, Adrien Lamoureux of Southbridge, MA; her grandchildren, Becky Bergeron, Cheryl Edwards and her husband Bill and Kevin Bergeron and his wife Pam; her great-grandchildren, Jill Kaiser, Maxwell Kaiser, Jeremy Bergeron and Peyton Edwards; her great great grandson, Carter Bergeron and her goddaughter, Patricia Boutin. She is predeceased by her son, Raymond Bergeron and her sisters, Florence Tercjak, Doris Farnham, Cecile Boutin, Jeannette LeBlanc, Laura Jolly and Olive Marino.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Lucienne's family on Friday, June 7, 2024, from 9:00AM to 11:00AM in the Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30AM in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Lucy's memory to St. Jude Children Research Hospital, Tribute Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

John Andrew LaPointe, 59

John Andrew LaPointe, age 59, passed away unexpectedly at home on May 22, 2024. John's love, compassion and generosity touched the lives of everyone who knew him. John's endless curiosity and playfulness were contagious and inspiring to those around him.

Born on October 14, 1964, in Putnam where lived his entire life. After attending Putnam High School, he went to work at various manufacturing companies including Kochek and J. M. Dean. He also volunteered numerous hours at the American Legion in Putnam.

John was always happy to share and invite others in his passions for life whether cycling, skiing, listening to music, attending air shows, taking photos, driving down a country road or simply watching a race.

John is survived by his son Dustin Curtis and his two sons (Elijah and Phoenix) and his brother Stephen (wife Donna). He is also survived by his loving partner in life Edna (Pipkin) LaPointe and her children Tommy, Todd, Tamika and Tralona whom he loved as his own, as well as sixteen grandchildren.

John was predeceased by his parents Gerald and Roberta LaPointe and his brother Michael.

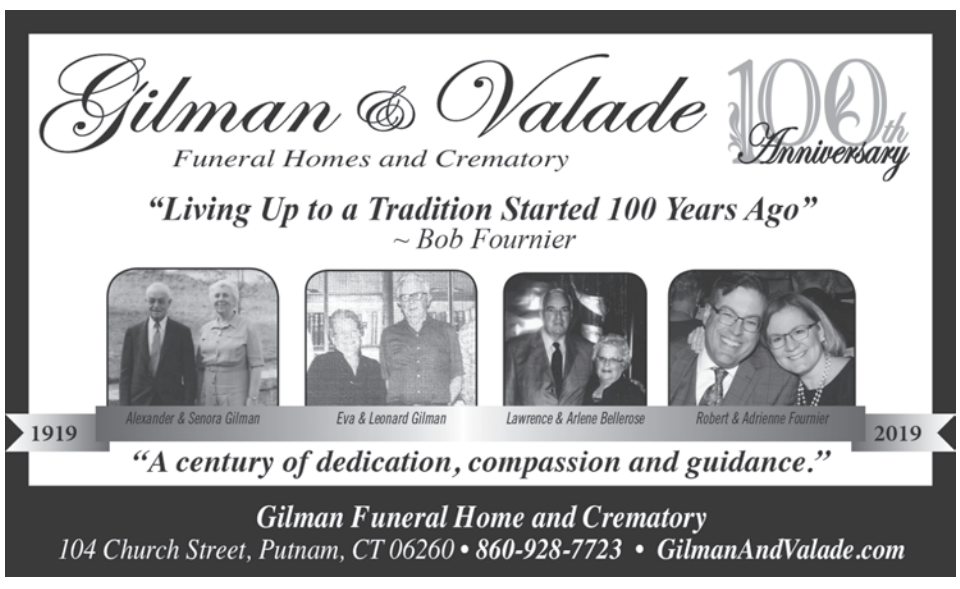
Calling hours will be Friday, June 14, 2024 at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Share a memory at Smithandwalkerfh.com

Wallace V. Peabody, 98

Wallace V. Peabody, 98, of Ligonier, PA passed away peacefully on Sunday April 28, 2024, at Independence Health in Latrobe, PA. Wally was born in East Killingly, Ct. on November 7, 1925, son of the late Verdi and Augusta (Steuckle) Peabody. He was the husband of the late Lorraine B. (Hubert) Peabody. Wally graduated from Killingly High School in 1944, and served in the Navy from 1944 -1946. He was stationed in the Asiatic Pacific Theater, and earned the American Theater Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal and the WWII Victory Medal. Wally was employed at Spirol International Corp. from 1960 until his retirement in 1990. He loved music, and he had a popular dance band called Wally's Harmoneers that played at weddings and local clubs. He was awarded the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal. Wally enjoyed attending the Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce Summer Band Concerts, and building elaborate puzzles and models. Most recently, he was known for his amazing paint-by-number creations of which he sold to many who knew him. Wally is survived by his daughter, Debra Ann Sarault and husband David of Ligonier, PA, grandson Jeffrey David Sarault, niece Karen Peabody and nephew Matthew Peabody. He was predeceased by his brothers Frederick and Paul Peabody. Wally's family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Concordia at Ligonier Gardens for their excellent care while a resident there for the past five years.

A graveside service will be held June 10, 2024 at 11AM at High Street Cemetery, Dayville, CT.

Donations in Wally's memory may be made to Concordia at Bethlen Activity Fund in memory of Wally Peabody, 66 Carey School Rd, Ligonier, Pa 15658… Attention Letitia Berkey or Ligonier Valley Railroad Association, 3032 Idlewild Hill Lane, Ligonier, Pa 15658. tillinghastfh.com



Killingly retailers compliant during unannounced Tobacco and e-cigarette inspection

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Youth Substance Prevention Coalition and the Killingly Police Department working with the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program (TPEP) conducted unannounced compliance inspections of establishments that sell tobacco products and/or electronic cigarettes in Killingly on May 23. The inspections were performed in an effort to determine compliance with state laws concerning the prohibition of the sale of e-cigarettes and/or tobacco products to youth under the age of 21.

Retailers are required by state law to inspect the photo ID of anyone who appears under the age of 30 before selling a tobacco product or electronic cigarette. Free online training is available to anyone who would like to learn more at: cttobaccotraining.com

A total of nine unannounced compliance inspections were conducted. Of this total, no establishments were found non-compliant with Connecticut General Statutes Section 53-344 (Sale of tobacco to a person under 21) or Section 53-344b (Sale of an e-cigarette to a person under 21).

Tobacco retailers are licensed by the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS). Non-compliant compliant inspection results are referred to DRS for possible administrative action.

The following retailers were found to be compliant:

Vapetek Inc.; 156 Main St.

Sunny Farms; 5 Commerce Ave.

Sunnyside Farms Convenience Store; 609 N Main St.

Haris & Ayesha Food Mart; 439 Hartford Pike

Cumberland Farms; 567 Wauregan Rd.

Fresh Farms Convenience Smoke and Tobacco; 729 Hartford Pike

Gulf/Smokers Discount World; 1094 N Main St.

Travelers Shell; 695 N Main St.

Mobil/Chucky's; 599 Hartford Pike

The Killingly Youth Substance Prevention Coalition's mission is to promote a healthy Killingly community with partners and coalition members through education, awareness, and advocacy for youth substance prevention. The coalition is a program of United Services, Inc. and is funded through the Prevention in Connecticut Communities (PCC) grant through DMHAS. For more information on the coalition or to join visit, https://www.unitedservicesct.org/our-services/business-community/kyspc/ or find us on Instagram at killinglyct_coalition

Family partners with Wyndham Land Trust to protect Pomfret property

POMFRET CENTER—A remarkable collaboration concluded in May when the Wyndham Land Trust protected 227-acres of Townshend family land off Ragged Hill Road in Pomfret. The partnership started in 2000 with the family donating 2.6 acres to the Land Trust. The final result, 24 years later, is protection by the Land Trust of 1018 acres of valuable habitat for plants and animals, including extensive wetlands. The property also contains miles of hiking trails for the community to enjoy.

In the late 1950s, Henry "Harry" Townshend was looking for a place where he could enjoy his passion for hunting and fishing, and he and his wife Deb accrued the Pomfret land. The property soon became a cornerstone of their family, where their five children spent many happy hours exploring the woods. The family kept horses and rode on the extensive trail system that was created to support dog field-trials.

"Dad loved the outdoors and his hobbies of hunting, fishing, and field-trials," said Nancy Townshend-Vess speaking on behalf of the family. "But I think the biggest reason he liked the outdoors was the solitude it brought him. The properties he bought in Pomfret were all places of solitude.

"The Townshend family is very pleased with all of our transactions with the Wyndham Land Trust over the past few years. Land manager Andy Rzeznikiewicz eased us over the process and took the time to thoroughly explain our options. The family feels that their land has passed over into good hands and will be meaningfully sustained for the community for generations.

"I'm glad we were able to fulfill, not only Wyndham's Land Trust's goal, but also our family's wish to memorialize our parents. Our parents loved nature and history, both of which are bountiful on this property. Every person walking along the trails, taking in the beauty and grace of the fern-covered forest and babbling brooks, is paying homage to Harry and Deb Townshend who so loved their land.

Residents of the Town of Pomfret also appreciated the value of the new parcel to the community and voted to provide funding towards its protection.

"The Town of Pomfret is fortunate to partner with the Wyndham Land Trust for the acquisition and preservation of our open space," said first-selectman Maureen Nicholson. "Together we have, and can continue to make, significant progress in keeping Pomfret green, beautiful, and a great place to live. Maintaining the quality of life and our exceptional dedication to preserving the natural environment for generations to come is best accomplished collaborating with the great stewards at Wyndham Land Trust."

The Townshend family supported equestrian events on their property, and the Land Trust will continue that tradition. Treasurer Penny Foisey is organizing the second annual Ride for Open Space on July 21, and the seven-mile ride will weave its way along existing trails in the Nightingale Forest.

"The protection of the final piece is a culmination of one of the Land Trust's long-range plans," said Foisey. "It's a great accomplishment we are all very proud of, and we're extremely grateful to the Townshend family. You'll find a vast network of trails that will delight those who venture out on foot or horseback."

The acquisition was made possible by generous donations from Land Trust members and by grants from the State of Connecticut DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA), the Bafflin Foundation, the Summerhill Foundation, the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) and the Town of Pomfret.

Courtesy

A rider enjoys one of the many trails on the new Wyndham Land Trust preserve.

Thompson's Hailey Johnson named to Lasell University Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — Hailey Johnson of Thompson, a freshman studying Data Analysis at Lasell University, was named to the Spring semester Dean's List. In order to qualify for dean's list a student must maintain, at least, a 3.5 GPA. In addition, she was a member of the Lasell women's basketball team. Hailey is the daughter of Brendan and Kirsten Johnson. Hailey graduated as saluatorian from Putnam Science Academy in 2023.

Lasell University is a private university in Newton, Mass. It was founded in 1851 and became a university proper in 2019. The campus spans 54 acres and is located in the village of Auburndale and offers undergradate and graduate programs.

Olivia Mcosker of Brooklyn named to Lasell University Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — Olivia Mcosker, a Lasell University student from Brooklyn, was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the Spring 2024 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

For more information contact: Ian Meropol, Chief Communications Officer, at 617-243-2150, or imeropol@lasell.edu.

LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER ASSESSMENT LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
Sewer assessment bills are due June 1, 2024. Ifpayment is not received on or before July 1, 2024 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1/1/2 % per month or a fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of $5.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment.
Payments will be received in the Revenue Office; 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239 as follows:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Tuesday 8:00 AM to 5:30PM
Friday 8:00 AM to 11 :30AM
After hours use our drop box, rear of the building, near the handicap entrance.
Please make checks payable to Town of Killingly Mail to 172 Main St Killingly CT 06239
Online at www.Killimdv.org by eCheck, credit card, debit card, G Pay, Pay Pal, or text Service
fees apply.
Dated at Killingly this 22nd of May 2024
April Lamothe CCMC Revenue Collector for The Town of Killingly
May 31, 2024
June 7, 2024
June 28, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT, and via Zoom to hear the following applications:

ZBA 24-01 Robert Cassim, Property Owner Sea Realty LLC, 347 Riverside Drive, Map 85, Block 51, Lot 4, Zone TCDD application of Certificate of Operation pursuant to Conn. General Statute Section 14-54 for Used Car Sales, Auto Body Repair and towing according to Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations, Article 3, 275-3.8.

ZBA 24-02 Wesley Monson, property owner of 130 Jezierski Rd, Map 38, Block 68, Lot 10, Zone RRAD, request a 10'side yard variance to install new construction garage, according to Zoning Regulations Article 7, Section 273.3.

F*ile may be reviewed online, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals, or in the Zoning Office.*
Respectfully submitted,
Kurby Cunha, Chairman
May 31, 2024
June 7, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF THOMPSON

Notice is hereby given that the audit report for the Town of Thompson for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, as audited by King, King & Associates, Certified Public Accountants of Winsted, Connecticut, is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT.
Dated at Thompson this 7th of June 2024
Renee Waldron
Town Clerk
June 7, 2024

Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission
Notice of Decision
on Regulations & Map

At the May 22, 2024 special meeting of the Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission, immediately following the close of its public hearing on proposed (1) revisions to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for the Town of Thompson and (2) a new Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map dated revised October 2020, the Commission discussed and voted to adopt the proposed regulation revisions with a number of minor amendments as well as the new Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map, with an effective date of July 1, 2024. Said proposed revisions and map were placed on file with the Thompson Town Clerk for public review and comment on April 23, 2024.
Christopher Dustin, Chair
June 7, 2024
June 14, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Thompson for election as Registrar of Voters will be on file with the Office of the Secretary of the State, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, and copies thereof will be available for public distribution.
A Primary will be held August 13, 2024 if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on June 11, 2024. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:
Francis J. McGarry, Registrar of Voters, Republican Party
Thompson Town Hall
815 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
Renee Waldron
Thompson, Town Clerk
June 7, 2024

RFP

Proposals for Subsurface Investigations associated with State Project No. 0141-0158 will be received by GM2 Associates, Inc. no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, June 28, 2024. The complete Request for Proposals, which includes the bid invitation and instructions, bid forms, and contract must be requested. Please contact Mary Caouette at MCaouette@gm2inc.com to receive the complete RFP.

General Work Description

The project consists of replacing Bridge No. 03474 carrying Route 200 (Thompson Hill Road) over I-395 in Thompson, CT. The work includes drilling test borings in soil and bedrock; securing samples; and other incidental work including traffic control. Six (6) test borings are required; four (4) will be located immediately adjacent to or within the Route 200 travel lanes and two (2) will be within the median for I-395. Borings located in the Route 200 roadway will require establishing an alternating one-way traffic pattern. Borings within the I-395 median will require a lane closure for mobilization and demobilization to the boring locations. Additional information is provided in the RFP.
Proposals shall be delivered by email to MCaouette@gm2inc.com or by mail to:
TO: GM2 Associates, Inc.
Attn: Mary Caouette, PE
200 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
June 7, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Thompson for election as Registrar of Voters will be on file with the Office of the Secretary of the State, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, and copies thereof will be available for public distribution.
A Primary will be held August 13, 2024 if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on June 11, 2024. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from
A. Aileen Witkowski Registrar of Voters, Democratic Party
Thompson Town Hall
815 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
Renee Waldron
Thompson, Town Clerk
June 7, 2024

TOWN OF KILLINGLY
LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of **Democratic** and **Republican** party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Killingly for election as Justice of Peace be on file in my Office at 172 Main Street, Killingly, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution.
A certified list of Democratic and Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Killingly for election, including Registrar of Voters, State Representative, State Senate will be on file with the Office of the Secretary of the State, 30 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution.
A Primary will be held August 13, 2024 if the required primary petition for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on June 11, 2024. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:
Janice Thurlow, (Democratic), and Pamela Greenhalgh, (Republican) Registrar of Voters, 172 Main Street, Killingly, CT.
Elizabeth M. Wilson, CMC
Municipal Clerk of Killingly
June 7, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON

On May 23, 2024 the Thompson Inland Wetlands Agent took the following action: Application # WAA24018, Walter Hicks, 36 Tuft Hill Rd., (Assessor's Map 36, Block 71, Lot10C) – 15-ft. swimming pool with attached deck in the upland review area.
On May 14, 2024 the Thompson Inland Wetlands Agent took the following action:
Application #WAA24008, Ishwara Sharma, 1410 Thompson Rd., (Assessor's Map 114, Block 27, Lot 21) – 16 single-family and 4 duplex condominiums, community building, road, septic systems, drainage and grading in the upland review area.
Margaret Washburn, Duly Authorized Wetlands Agent.
May 31, 2024
June 7, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Carol A. Lusby (24-00218)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 29, 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:
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN,
ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD,
50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
June 7, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR RECORDS DESTRUCTION

School Administrative Unit 24
(Henniker, John Stark and Weare School Districts)
Notice to all persons born in or prior to 1997 who attended John Stark Regional High School, Weare School District or Henniker Community School, and was identified as a Special Education student or received special education services or was identified as a 504 student, or to their parents/guardians:
The John Stark School District may have special education records and 504 records in its possession for those students and will destroy such records after August 1, 2024. If you would like to have these records rather than having them destroyed, please contact the main office secretary at 618 N. Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281, 603-529-7675 or email at Kathryn.cyr@sau24.org prior to July 31, 2024, to make arrangements for obtaining these records.
*The school district shall maintain, permanently, a record of a student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed. *
5/20/2024
June 6, 2024
June 7, 2024

Danielson Martial Arts Academy announces newest round of students at grading

DANIELSON — On Thursday, May 16, 7th Dan Master Daryl Laperle of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy announced promotion of 30 students in the schools most recent grading.

Melinda Densmore	1	Gup	Red
Tori Dellagiovanna	1	Gup	Red
Nestor Dellagiovanna	1	Gup	Red
Nelson Rojas	2	Gup	Red
Kyra Dionne	3	Gup	Red
Daniel Schaefer	3	Gup	Red
Autumn St. Jean	3	Gup	Red
Olivia Mello	3	Gup	Red
Leslie LaPorte	4	Gup	Green
Scott Gardiner	4	Gup	Green
Liam Stebbins	4.5	Gup	Green
Jase Pingitore	4.5	Gup	Green
Sam Richardson	4.5	Gup	Green
Lyanah Chin	5	Gup	Green
Rebeca Castro-Sandoval	5.5	Gup	Purple
Liliana Huling	5.5	Gup	Purple
Lillian Antunes	5.5	Gup	Purple
Isaac Sawyer	6	Gup	Purple
Aiden Messier	6	Gup	Purple
Lexi Proulx	6	Gup	Purple
Ophelia Fredericks	6.5	Gup	Purple
Joseph Caron	8	Gup	Blue
Raymond Ferland	8	Gup	Blue

Nova Stiles	8	Gup	Blue
Madelyn Markley	8	Gup	Blue
Brenden Womack	9	Gup	Orange
Keegan Jones	9	Gup	Orange
Chloe Markley	9	Gup	Orange
Casey Gierhart	9	Gup	Orange
Liberty Harty	9	Gup	Orange

For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.

Day Kimball names Dennis Gaffney Employee of the Month

Dennis Gaffney

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Hospital Lead Public Safety Officer Dennis Gaffney has been named employee of the month for April by Day Kimball Health (DKH).

Having joined DKH in 2014, Gaffney will celebrate his 10th Anniversary this July. As the lead public safety officer, he plays a key role in the department's day-to-day operations with duties including managing employee schedules and overseeing management tasks during absences.

"We are thrilled to recognize Dennis as our April Employee of the Month," said Kyle Kramer, DKH chief executive officer. "This is Dennis' second time receiving this recognition since he joined us in 2014; a true testament to the impact he has had on our organization. Dennis is an outstanding team member who generously gives his time, talent, and efforts. His dedication and commitment to excellence make DKH a better and safer place. His proactive approach and willingness to assist others set a profound example for his colleagues, and we are incredibly fortunate to have him on our team and look forward to his continued contributions to our success."

Born in Warwick, R.I., Gaffney currently resides in North Scituate, R.I. with his wife Karen. They have two adult sons Justin and Jason, a daughter-in-law Andrea, and two grandchildren, Rosalie and Henry. Outside of work, Dennis is a volunteer firefighter with the Chopmist Hill Fire Department where he is also the former Fire Chief. He is a life member of the RI Association of Fire Chiefs.

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

About Day Kimball Health

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

Quiet Corner Garden Club tour set for July 13

WOODSTOCK — Quiet Corner Gardens, a self-guided tour of eight gardens in Pomfret, Putnam and Woodstock on July 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., is the Quiet Corner Garden Club's latest offering to the community. Come, be inspired.

Start at the Woodstock Town Green (Route 169, across from Roseland Cottage) where you can purchase tickets or pick up prepaid tickets at the will-call table. You will then receive a map with garden descriptions and locations. Tickets are $25 the day of the sale or $20 when purchased in advance at the Quiet Corner Garden Club's website, quietcornergardenclub.com.

The tour includes homes where owners have created gardens reflecting their unique vision; a family's self-sustaining property with orchards, vegetables, flowers and more; an organic farm; a historic inn, where in addition to the gardens, a luncheon buffet is available from noon to 2 p.m. (reservations required, $35); and municipal gardens maintained by the Club.

A garden-inspired Arts & Crafts fair, located adjacent to the registration tables, will offer gift items for sale including baskets, ceramics for home and garden, hand made soaps and lotions, bird houses, jewelry and more.

Proceeds from the Garden Tour are used to fund scholarships for area students studying horticulture-related fields, for civic projects such as children's gardens in schools and libraries, plantings at senior housing facilities, and memorial sites throughout the region.

The Quiet Corner Garden Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization affiliated with The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and is a member of the National Garden Clubs.

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- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished

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