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Woodstock Fair to have a different look in 2024

WOODSTOCK — The 163rd annual Woodstock Fair, Always Labor Day Weekend, is in the process of receiving a facelift.

The Woodstock Agricultural Society, sponsors of the Woodstock Fair which will take place from Aug. 30 through Sept. 2, recently agreed to move the Main Stage on the Fairgrounds to the site on the grounds that has been the location of the Fiesta Shows' Kiddieland rides for the past several years.

"I'm pleased that the board of directors of the Woodstock Fair are in favor of bringing noticeable changes to the fairgrounds without changing the heart of the long-time Agricultural fair. The barns, animals, exhibits and the majority of the carnival rides will stay in their long-time spots and yet we have succeeded in changing some of the feel for those who have been attending for years," said Society president Jeff Sandness.

The reason for moving things around is two-pronged. First, it will enlarge the area that the Woodstock Fair Main Stage occupies.

"This will allow for more people to view the shows on the stage. It will also allow a different variety of entertainment to be presented in the Main Stage area as it has much more space to be utilized," said Woodstock Fair general manager and entertainment director Marc Allard.

Those two factors will come into play immediately as the Fair is currently in the process of finalizing the Main Stage lineup, including four nationally known performing acts.

The move will also bring much more to the center portion of the Fairgrounds which had been occupied by tour buses and accommodation for those performing on the Main Stage.

Now, it will be an active, vibrant area.

The former Main Stage area will now be designated Center Stage, sponsored by Jewett City Savings Bank, and will feature local and regional bands, some long-time Woodstock Fair staples such as the East Woodstock Cornet Band and the Old Time Fiddlers Club of Rhode Island, and several variety acts.

On Monday, Sept. 2, Center Stage will host a brand-new attraction as the Woodstock Fair will present its first Championship Cornhole Tournament with a \$3000 first-place prize to the winning two-person team.

More details will be announced about the tournament and entry forms will be available soon on the Woodstock Fair website (woodstockfair.com).

The Fiesta Shows' Kiddieland will be moved to the center of the Fairgrounds where fairgoers will also find a great selection of vendors and a wonderful variety of food.

In addition, the Woodstock Fair will now have additional...
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Wyndham Land Trust launches fundraising drive to protect its birthplace



Hillendale Woods viewed from Bush Hill Road in Brooklyn.

BROOKLYN — In 1975, Virginia "Jimmie" Booth, the owner of Hillendale Farm and the Golden Lamb restaurant in Brooklyn, looked across the iconic stone walls and hay fields of her farm to the woods that lined the property. She was struck by the beauty of the landscape and thought to herself: "We should start a land trust."
 Today, the Wyndham

Land Trust has an extraordinary opportunity to protect much of the woods that inspired Booth almost 50 years ago. In April of this year The Conservation Fund, based in Arlington, Va., acquired 320 acres of woodlands on the old

Hillendale Farm. The Conservation Fund has given the Land Trust until March 2025 to purchase the property from them.

In response to this challenge, the Land Trust is kicking off a 10-month fundraising drive to raise

\$635,000 to acquire what it has christened "The Hillendale Woods."

"The property sits at the historic core of the Wyndham Land Trust," said President Mike St Lawrence, "and we

Turn To **TRUST** page **A11**

Courtney visits Day Kimball Health, sees new federally funded Fluoroscopy machine



Courtesy

DKH CEO Kyle Kramer, Congressman Joe Courtney of Connecticut's Second District, and Randy Paquette, Director of BioMed, Diagnostic Imaging, and Non-Invasive Cardiology Services at DKH mark the significant advancement in healthcare technology at DKH with a tour of the new fluoroscopy machine.

P U T N A M
 — Congressman Joe Courtney of Connecticut's Second District recently visited Day Kimball Health (DKH) to witness first-hand the impact of a newly installed Siemens Agile Max Machine. Allocated funds for the imaging system were secured by Congressman Courtney through the House Appropriations Committee as a fiscal year 2022 community funding request.

The Siemens Agile Max Machine combines fluoroscopy and digital

radiography capabilities to perform high-quality diagnostic imaging on patients not previously available at the hospital. This integrated technology improves efficiency by displaying digital images instantly.

During his visit, Congressman Courtney toured the facility, learning how the new machine has allowed patients to receive more procedures keeping them local. He also engaged with healthcare professionals and administrators to understand additional areas where resources are need-

ed to further improve healthcare access in the region.

"We are exceedingly grateful to Congressman Courtney and the House Appropriations Committee for their support which has enabled us to expand our diagnostic capabilities," said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health. "Before the acquisition of the machine, we were limited in our abilities to perform fluoroscopy procedures essential for diagnosing a range of health conditions. We now offer a wide
 Turn To **COURTNEY** page **A10**

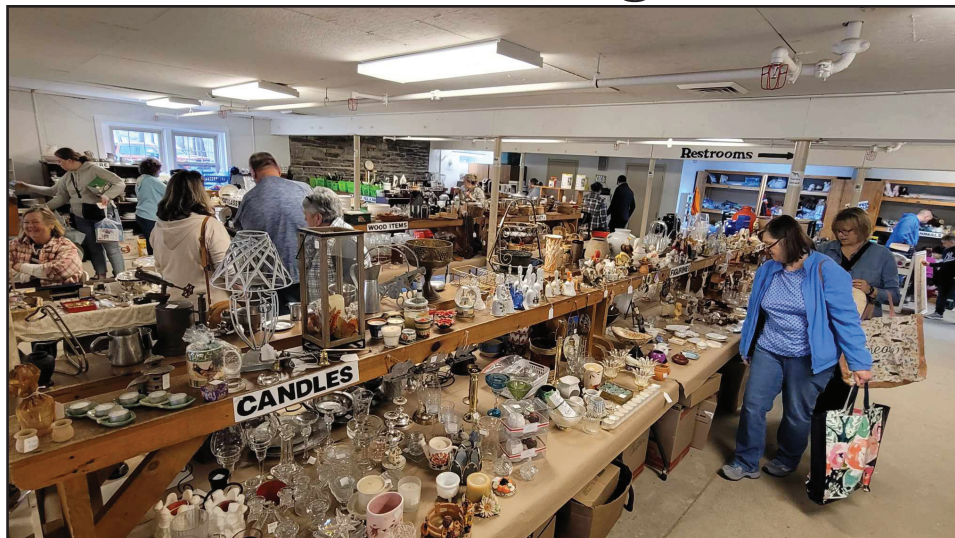
Quiet Corner Garden Club holding Plant Sale Saturday

WOODSTOCK — The Quiet Corner Garden Club invites the community to buy a plant, start a garden, or fill a pot this Mother's Day weekend at its Plant Sale Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Woodstock Fairgrounds.

Browse a wide selection of annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, herbs, shrubs, vegetables, and native pollinators, including the Flower of the Year, *Paniculata Jeana Phlox*. Your gardening questions can be answered by our Master Gardeners and our partners: ECCD, The Last Green Valley, and the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program.

Proceeds from this sale fund scholarships for area students our Quiet Corner civic projects.

4-H Camp hosts 70th Annual Auction and Tag Sale



Jason Bleau

Visitors sift through a room filled with donated goods during the Windham Tolland 4-H Camp's annual tag sale.

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

POMFRET — The Windham Tolland 4-H Camp held its annual auction and tag sale over the first weekend of May, continuing a tradition as old as the camp itself.

For 70 years, the camp has held an auction to support its programs and initiatives and over time

incorporated a popular tag sale into the mix that later became the basis of Pomfret's annual tag sale weekend. The Camp continued the tradition on May 3 and 4 as part of its year-long celebration of seven decades of providing campership opportunities to the community. Camp Director Heather Logee explained that the tag sale and auc-

tion together help fund a variety of operational and campership expenses.

"Most of the funds help keep the camp prices low and program prices low for Ragged Hill Woods. We do somewhere between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year on this sale, so that really helps keep everything

Turn To **4-H** page **A11**

SCORE Eastern CT to host new free Webinar on “Revenue Resilience: Maximize Recurring Revenue and Diversify Your Customer Base”

REGION — SCORE Eastern CT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America’s Small Businesses, presents a free Small Business webinar, “Revenue Resilience: Maximize Recurring Revenue and Diversify Your Customer Base,” with Aaron Friedman, CEO/Founder at Guideposts, Tuesday, June 4 from 5:30-7 p.m.

This new webinar is targeted toward entrepreneurs and business lead- ers who want to establish a secure financial future by creating reliable recurring revenue streams and expanding their customer base. During the session, participants will learn about strategic methods to enhance their recurring revenue models and diversify their clientele. This will help them to mitigate risks and tap into new market segments. The workshop will provide a comprehensive approach to achieving sustainable

growth and resilience in today’s competitive marketplace. Key focus areas include: Building Reliable Recurring Revenue Diversifying Your Customer Base Integrating Revenue and Customer Strategies Action Planning

Attendees of this workshop will acquire critical insights and tools needed to expand their recurring revenue streams and diversify their customer base effectively. They will leave with practical strategies and a clear action plan tailored to their specific business needs, ready to implement changes that drive revenue growth and

enhance market reach. This workshop is essential for any business aiming to build a more robust and resilient financial platform. Workshop Presenter Aaron Friedman is a seasoned business leader with over two decades of experience in operational transformation to boost performance through increased revenue, lowered operating costs, improved customer satisfaction, and workforce productivity. His track record includes strategically guiding companies of all sizes through mergers, acquisitions, and exit planning. Aaron has sought to deliver results through his expertise in due diligence, industry assessment, and strategic planning.

About SCORE: SCORE® is a nonprofit association that offers free and confidential advice on starting your own business or improving and growing your existing small business. Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million current and aspiring entrepreneurs. Each year, SCORE’s 10,000 volunteer business experts provide hundreds of thousands of free small business mentoring sessions, workshops, and educational services to clients in 300 chapters nationwide. In 2022, SCORE volunteers shared 4.65 million hours of expertise and advice with their clients, helping people start over 30,000 new businesses, and creating over 82,000 addition-

al non-owner jobs. With 50+ workshops/webinars and special events each year, and advances in remote mentoring tools, SCORE Eastern CT helps small businesses across Southeastern and Northeastern CT. For more information on upcoming free workshops and how to schedule a free small business mentoring session with our counselors, visit <https://www.score.org/easternct>. Would You Like To Become A SCORE Volunteer? Your business knowledge and experience can help others start or grow a small business. Learn more about becoming a SCORE volunteer at: <https://www.score.org/page/volunteer-score>.



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

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. It takes you up
 - 6. A place to sleep
 - 9. Czech village
 - 13. Appetizer
 - 14. African country
 - 15. Dark brown or black
 - 16. Parent-teacher groups
 - 17. Saturates
 - 18. ESPN personality Kimes
 - 19. Songs to a lover
 - 21. Cavalry-sword
 - 22. Begat
 - 23. Patriotic women
 - 24. Famed Princess
 - 25. One who does not conform
 - 28. Neither
 - 29. Nigerian monetary unit
 - 31. Body parts
 - 33. Hit Dave Matthews Band song
 - 36. Depicts with pencil
 - 38. Make into leather without tannin
 - 39. Plants grow from them
 - 41. Alias
 - 44. Fingers do it
 - 45. More dried-up
 - 46. Clod
 - 48. Senior officer
 - 49. A way to listen to music
 - 51. The bill in a restaurant
 - 52. Historic center of Artois region
 - 54. Cyprinid fishes
 - 56. Poisonous perennial plant
 - 60. Scottish Loch
 - 61. Heads
 - 62. Extra seed-covering
 - 63. Wings
 - 64. Britpop band
 - 65. Forearm bones
 - 66. Small immature herring
 - 67. Female sibling
 - 68. Hymn

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Vipers
 - 2. Not on time
 - 3. Resembling a wing or wings
 - 4. Tears down
 - 5. Professional designation
 - 6. Noise a sheep made
 - 7. Type of lodge
 - 8. Speak poorly of
 - 9. Ties the knot again
 - 10. Apron
 - 11. Studied intensively
 - 12. City in Finland
 - 14. One who monitors
 - 17. 18-year astronomical period
 - 20. Trent Reznor’s band
 - 21. Takes to the sea
 - 23. Split pulses
 - 25. Valentine’s Day color
 - 26. Wyatt
 - 27. Type of rail
 - 29. One from the Big Apple
 - 30. Asteroids
 - 32. Made more sugary
 - 34. Change in skin pigment
 - 35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
 - 37. Koran chapters
 - 40. A place to relax
 - 42. Young woman ready for society life
 - 43. Female horses
 - 47. Half of Milli Vanilli
 - 49. Icelandic poems
 - 50. Indiana town
 - 52. Golden peas
 - 53. Closes tightly
 - 55. It’s mined in mountains
 - 56. Cliff (Hawaii)
 - 57. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
 - 58. Monetary unit
 - 59. Primordial matter
 - 61. TV station
 - 65. Rise

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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SCORE to host free Webinar on “Starting and Running a Service Business”

REGION — SCORE Eastern CT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America’s Small Businesses, presents a free Small Business Webinar, “Starting and Running a Service Business,” with SCORE mentor Eric Munro Thursday, May 30 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Many processes and strategies apply equally to those businesses that sell products versus those that sell services. However, for a service-based small business, the intangible product is that provided by the owner. In other words, “you” are the product, so you are selling or providing what you do (not a product that you manufacture or distribute).

This webinar will focus on identifying the key activities you need to develop to run your service-based business profitably. Topics will include:

- Finding and targeting your client base;
 - Building strong relationships with clients;
 - Defining the potential value of the service you offer;
 - The pricing model;
 - Providing high-quality service
- If you’d like to learn about Branding for Impact: Small Business Success in Service Industries, join our webinar Thursday, May 23, noon-1:30 p.m. EDT with Lyn Chamberlin. Click

on the title for more information and to register.

Workshop presenter Eric Munro is a product management, sales and marketing executive with experience in high-technology businesses, both domestically and internationally. Prior to retiring, Eric was Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for a telecommunications equipment manufacturer based in Meriden, Connecticut. His career also includes consulting in business management for a division of DeVry University as well as teaching graduate MBA classes where he provided his expertise on project and strategic management.

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Would You Like To Become A SCORE Volunteer? Your business knowledge and experience can help others start or grow a small business. Learn more about becoming a SCORE volunteer at: <https://www.score.org/page/volunteer-score>.



Take-Note! concert in Pomfret a rousing success

POMFRET — The Mansfield-based cappella ensemble “Take Note!” performed a concert at Christ Church in Pomfret on April 21 to benefit Partners in Development, and it was a wonderful success. The Church was packed to capacity and over \$2,000 was donated to the cause.

Linda Tracy, founder and artistic director of “Take Note!” remarked how much the group appreciated getting a full house for this performance and feeling the love from the attentive audience.

Mitzi Davis, M.D. provided a power point presentation about Partners in Development and their work in Guatemala. Tali Marcelin, president of P.I.D. was also in attendance to enjoy the concert and provide information to those interested.

It was stressed that one of the best ways to support the work done by Partners in Development is to sponsor a child. For information about child sponsorships please go to <https://www.pidonline.org/be-a-sponsor> and learn more about Partners in Development and the work they do.

To learn more about “Take-Note!” their music and how you can support a concert, go to www.take-note.org.

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Woodstock Building Associates opens new workshop in Putnam



PUTNAM — On April 24, Woodstock Building Associates, LLC, officially opened their second location in northeast Connecticut at 60 Woodstock Ave. in Putnam. Members of WBA, the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce, Putnam town leaders, and representatives of the Putnam Business Association

were present to celebrate with a ribbon cutting. In restoring the circa 1938 building, WBA has transformed the derelict former home of the Putnam Candy Company into a large, airy carpentry workshop for the benefit of WBA's clients, their tradespeople and the neighborhood. The site brings a fresh look and positive econom-

ic growth to Woodstock Avenue. According to a Chamber announcement, "A theme of the event was Woodstock Building Associates dedication to community and reliable craftsmanship. WBA has been a pillar of the Northeastern Connecticut community for years. Guests enjoyed tours of the facility, shar-

ing stories of the great work WBA does, and networking with the team." Joe Carlone, President of NECT Chamber of Commerce, opened the ceremony, announcing "Doug Porter and Woodstock Building Associates have always had a stellar reputation. This is a continuation of that and what you provide to our community. The Chamber welcomes you to another location." Gary Osbrey, owner of WINY Radio and past president of the Putnam Business Association, said the refurbished building was a delight to see. "Last time in this building, I was picking up a case of Atomic fireballs," he said, laughing. "There's a lot of history here. It's nice to see Doug Porter and WBA turn it around and beautify the neighborhood. They did it with Village Plaza in Woodstock and now the same thing here in Putnam on Woodstock Avenue. They do a great job

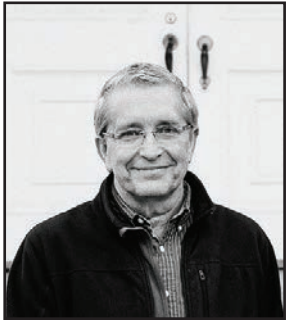
beautifying Northeast Connecticut one property at a time. On behalf of over 200 members of the Putnam Business Association, we thank you for landing in Putnam." WBA founding partner Doug Porter explained the new location will help WBA enhance their current services with dedicated workshop space. He personally thanked his WBA colleagues and expressed gratitude for the support of the community. "I've been part of this team for 44 years. The next generation is taking over. We are a team and that makes a difference. The

Woodstock Village location is our showroom. This shop now allows us to do the remodeling work here, so we don't interrupt our clients in their homes," Porter said. Mayor Barney Senev also expressed appreciation to Porter and WBA on behalf of the town, commenting "They have always supported Northeast CT and Putnam. They always give back to the community and that means a lot."

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Local author to debut new book at Putnam Library



Brad Davis

PUTNAM — Award-winning poet Brad Davis (coordinator for the Putnam Library Author Series) has just had his tenth collection of poems, "On the Way to Putnam: New, Selected, & Early Poems," published by Grayson Books, a poetry publisher in Hartford. He will be celebrating

the book's release with an Author Series reading at the Putnam Public Library on Saturday, May 25 at 1 p.m. The book looks back on five-decades of living with poetry, including poems from his previous collections, as well as poems written since moving to Putnam in 2019. Davis and his spouse moved to Putnam after a thirty-year career of teaching high school students in Pomfret, Connecticut and Stony Brook, New York. He also taught creative writing as an adjunct professor at Eastern Connecticut State University and the College of the Holy Cross. Davis earned his

Master of Fine Arts in writing poetry from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Individual poems have appeared in some of America's leading journals, including The Paris Review, Poetry magazine, Journal of the American Medical Association, Image, and Connecticut Review. He was the winner of the Sunken Garden Poetry Prize and editor of the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival's 20th anniversary anthology that was published by Wesleyan University Press. The event is free, and Davis' new book will be available for purchase and signing at the reading

Three C's brings "Cat Kid Comic Club" to the stage

WOODSTOCK — Students from schools in Northeast Connecticut will join us when the Community Cultural Committee, also known as The Three C's, presents Theatreworks' production of "Cat Kid Comic Club the Musical," based on Dave Pilkey's irreverently hilarious book series. The one hour performance will be Tuesday, May 28 at 10 a.m. at the Loos Center for the Arts in Woodstock.

Tickets are \$4 per person for groups of ten or more. Visit our Web site at www.thethreecs.org (<http://www.thethreecs.org/>) for information, or to access the order form. No tickets are sold at the door.

Celebrating their 37th Season of Performing Arts for kids, the Three C's volunteers have welcomed 214,089 students who have participated in these programs. Current volunteers include Sandra Ahola, Lynn Bourque, Betty Hale, Pat Hedenberg, Elizabeth Lake, Philippa Paquette, Melissa Zahansky and Eric Davidson. Watch for details of our next show, "Charlotte's Web," on June 5.

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VILLAGER ALMANAC AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of April 29: Eastern Meadowlark, Parula Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Bobwhite, Lincoln's Sparrow, Hummingbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Martin, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Palm Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Fashion flashbacks — The timeless appeal of retro trends

In the ever-evolving world of fashion, one thing remains constant: the cyclical nature of trends. From bell-bottoms to neon windbreakers, retro styles from past decades have made a triumphant return to the forefront of fashion, appealing to a new generation of style enthusiasts.

What is it about retro fashion that continues to captivate our imagination? Perhaps it's the allure of bygone eras, where style was synonymous with individuality and self-expression. From the glamorous silhouettes of the 1950s to the rebellious spirit of the 1990s, each decade offers its own unique aesthetic, ripe for reinterpretation in the modern age.

Social media has played a significant role in the resurgence of retro trends, providing a platform for fashion enthusiasts to share their love of vintage-inspired looks and connect with like-minded individuals around the globe.

Beyond the allure of aesthetics lies a deeper appreciation for the sustainability aspect of embracing retro fashion. As the fashion industry grapples with issues of environmental impact and overconsumption, repurposing and reimagining clothing from past decades offers a more eco-conscious alternative to fast fashion. By breathing new life into vintage pieces through upcycling and thrifting, we not only reduce waste but also celebrate the craftsmanship and history of fashion.

The resurgence of retro trends has sparked a renewed sense of creativity and individuality in the way we approach style. From mixing and matching vintage finds with contemporary pieces to putting a modern twist on classic looks, the possibilities are endless. Retro fashion allows us to express our personalities and tell our own unique stories through the clothes we wear, bridging the gap between past and present with each outfit choice.

Whether you're channeling the glamour of Old Hollywood or the laid-back vibes of the '90s grunge scene, remember that style knows no bounds and creativity knows no limits. So, dig into your grandmother's closet, scour thrift stores for hidden gems, and embark on your own fashion flashback journey. The past is calling, and it's time to make it your own.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thompson's students have lost enough

To the Editor:

[Thompson's] budget process is lengthy and cumbersome, and sometimes inconvenient when meetings are held.

This year, the district Superintendent and staff completed a budget that just fits the needs of our students. Yes, the needs. There are no wants in this budget. Before it even came to the Board of Education, the Superintendent removed \$2.1 million. The Board of Education spent multiple meetings reviewing the budget line by line, and reduced it further. In the final Board of Finance hearing, the Education budget was reduced again.

Every year, we have the same discussion. Eighty-five percent of the budget is required expenses. These are salary, benefits, transportation, fuel, oil, electricity. The only place we can make removals from is the remaining 15 percent. This is classroom supplies, field trips, athletic programs, late bus, maintenance and repairs, extracurricular programming.

Our students have already had to "make due"

with a devastating repercussion of \$1,050,000 being removed from the budget request last year. With that reduction, we lost valuable paraeducators, reading interventionists, custodian, part time secretary, part time cafeteria staff, summer school, part time technology technician, no replacement of library books, no replacement of ChromeBooks or laptops, and no board of education sponsored field trips.

Our students cannot afford to lose more.

Further, our town has also put off necessary roadwork and maintenance into town facilities.

Based on the report from the engineering firm that reviewed the roads, we are supposed to be committing \$1.2 million for road work. We are currently only committing \$600,000. We will never get to where we need to be if we do not invest.

Please vote Yes on May 20 in the Town Referendum.

JESSICA BOLTE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Woodstock finances

To the Editor:

This has certainly been an interesting year on all levels, federal, state and local. And while all levels can be frustrating, it is the local level where each of us can have the greatest impact in the shortest order.

Woodstock has seen some wild times; the repeal of Prop 46, record tax increases over the last two years, failures to account for spending leading to audit discrepancies "repeatedly", losing track of revenues by hundreds of thousands of dollars, and now record budgets and more tax increases. This year, the Board of Finance did one smart thing, not actually managing the budgeting process itself (not the smart part) but simply recognizing there's a limit to what they might be able to sell and setting the total budget accordingly – a roughly 2.8 percent tax increase after, or on top of, a 7.48 percent last year and a 5.8 percent the year before; that's 16.9 percent over three years. Looking under the hood is where it gets more interesting.

First, the actual increase in spending is 5.4 percent, or \$1.48 million. Almost half of his comes from increases in revenue from the Grand List, State funding, and interest income, but remember this is the new base going forward – in government spending only goes up never down. For the Town budget, the BOF gave the town exactly what they asked for – \$6,432,672, a 3.4 percent increase. Reasoning on the part of the BOF was that the town deserved it as they have been having to cover for the School District for the last several years, including again this year, as the school administration has been unable to keep track of spending, and their budget, earning half a dozen discrepancy reports and having to file corrective action reports with state OPM – which of course are pretty much meaningless in terms of actual actions as there are no consequences. Now the town has historically run 300-400-thousand-dollar surpluses year after year, though claiming tight barebones budgets. In reality, those surpluses are part of the unstated and unwritten plan to fund the CNR (capital non-recurring) account – less visibility and fuss than having to request

funds in public meetings and it's all tax money anyway, right. And, what the public doesn't know won't hurt them.

Where things get really cute is on the BOE/School Admin side. The school had requested a 9.5 percent increase, a little over \$2 million. To get to a tax increase they believe can be sold, the BOF cut the request by \$782,302 but lamented that they were sorry it couldn't be more as the school has historically been underfunded especially during the Prop 46 days – not even meeting inflation. You might smell some of this being spread on the fields in spring in Woodstock if you pass through with your windows open. Here's a couple things they didn't talk about – or worse know: Woodstock Academy Tuition is down some \$720,000 year over year – enrollment is down, a lot – so in reality the WPS is actually getting a 9.2 percent increase making up for almost the entire "cut"; some quick calculations and checking on national statistics reveals over the last ten years the rate of increases in WPS spending is more than 1.4 times the rate of inflation, and that is on top of reductions in enrollment of more than 12 percent – costs thousands more to educate a second grader than a high school student! Apparently some BOF, and school admin folks, are in that part of the class that didn't quite make it to grade level in math... But then Mr. Toth told those attending his budget presentation that Woodstock residents can afford it, so what to heck. If you are fortunate enough to enjoy a six or seven figure income it really doesn't matter financially, more or less an annoyance; though many might consider it a matter of principle to continuing funding an underperforming school system – WPS. If you're in the lower 30-40 percent range it is a whole different problem, but one you can do something about, all of you. Show up and vote May 21. There will be at least 700-800 votes who will always show up to spend more money, and believe more money is the solution to everything. Going to get more and more interesting as this all piles up as it inevitably does.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

Thompson, please find the time to vote yes on May 20

To the Editor:

Friends, I get it. We are all busy. I myself have two teenagers with a stacked schedule of sports, music lessons, and tutoring, not to mention my own evening obligations. I can hardly find time to make dinner, let alone sit to eat it. Yet, one thing I always make time for is to vote for budget referendums and I'm hoping you will too on May 20.

Voting in Thompson is as easy as it gets. We have 4 polling locations to make it convenient to vote regardless of where you live in town. It literally takes me a total of 15 minutes to drive to my polling place, cast my vote, and drive home. There is never a line. This 15-minute task can literally be the difference between the ability of our town and school to run effectively or not. Each time we have a budget vote it costs the taxpayers approximately \$8,000. So that means every time a budget fails we taxpayers are paying \$8,000 for each additional vote until it passes. When budgets are as tight as ours, that's money that could have been used to improve our town and school and will likely mean something is going to be cut to pay for the cost of the additional referendums.

While voting is easy, creating and reviewing budgets is a painstaking task. Our town and school budgets have been vetted through countless volunteer hours in meetings open to the public by the school administration, Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, and finally the Board of Finance to ensure that what is put forth to the town for vote is exactly what the town and school needs to operate effectively. These groups take this task very seriously and look at each line item with a fiscally responsible eye. When the budget is as tight as ours and it fails it can only mean one thing – important items are going to be cut. Contractual obligations must be maintained so the only place left to go are things that aren't contractually binding- like road paving, facility maintenance of town properties, teacher positions, extracurricular programs like field trips, athletics, free summer school, reading specialists and paraprofessionals to name a

few. Things that could improve our town and ensure positive outcomes for our town's students are put on the line. Did you know our school education budget was cut by over 1 million dollars last year because it didn't pass on the first try? What happens next is people come out in droves outraged by the drastic cuts and what it will mean to the educational opportunities for their kids, but the reality is they are too late. The moral of the story is – don't wait for cuts to be made, don't wait to be outraged – just find the time to vote YES on the first round and the town and school will get the funds they need to run effectively. If you don't, they won't; it's that plain and simple.

I also have learned something over the years while standing at the polls. Hardly any young people show up to cast their vote. I can almost count on a few hands at a given polling place the number of teens and 20-year-olds, some 30-year-olds and a bit more 40-year-olds but mostly it's folks much older. Why you say? Well, I think it goes back to being busy and simply not making it a priority. I also find it interesting that when attending a school sporting or music event the stands and auditorium can sometimes be filled. While I think that is fantastic, I find it ironic. These performances and events were made a priority. Parents want to support their children and be involved in their educational experience. But parents and family members: if you don't give voting for the budget referendum the same level of support and priority, the reality is those same events could be on the chopping block next year. I would go so far to say that taking the 15 mins to vote quite literally should be the first step in being actively involved in your child's education. Without your support at the polls – the other becomes diluted.

So that brings me back to where we came from. I get it. We are all busy, but you know how the saying goes "People always make time for what is important to them." I'm hoping we all find the time on May 20 and make our town and school a priority by voting yes.

HEATHER SANTOS
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Complain, complain, complain



NANCY WEISS

Complain, complain. I hear a litany of complaints wherever I turn, especially if I use any of the many devices I have in my home, venture out into the world, or occasionally — not often — look across the dinner table. I come from a culture that does not value complaining, at least on my mother's side. Her Puritan ancestors were not enthusiastic about excess in any form, including expressing negative attitudes, although they were probably better at preaching than practicing.

Life is full of annoyances, mistakes we make ourselves and those made by others.

My mother's inbred reticence was balanced by my father's facility with language. He could turn a complaint into a monologue, a dissertation or an inditement. He complained about FRD and the New Deal long into the middle of the 20th century, although he would admit that a number of the programs saved the country and the people he loved. My mother listened to his diatribes about the general stupidity of the world and made him feel better by doing so.

Most of us have the same split personalities when it comes to our complaints or listening to those of others. During the pandemic when we floundered helplessly, it felt good to complain. Everyone was in the same boat and zoom meetings or outdoor walks included several rounds of complaints as a way to bond over the full-blown anxiety that was rife in the world. I think this form of complaint falls in the "misery loves company" category.

Mother-in-law stories often hold a kernel of complaint, but my own M-I-L was world class when it came to the practice. When she was very old and in a nursing home she would begin every visit with a litany of dissatisfactions. Everything was wrong from the temperature of her coffee to the way the coat hangers were aligned in her closet. Once she completed her monologue, she was fine. She just needed to vent. She actually liked people on the staff and felt well care for.

The workplace always has a few key complainers, who can become quite powerful. It seems they have inside information or are skilled at observing others and drawing conclusions that might affect the rest of the organization. Sometimes they share secrets in a kind of conspiratorial complaining. Others listen as it seems irresponsible not to be in the know. In the hierarchy of the job world, the folks at the top are the targets of complaints, but anyone is fair game. That's why it's called office politics. I think the same can be called school politics or non-profit world politics.

Complaining helps us bond. Complaining about the weather is a life skill. It is a topic that we can share with strangers and pass the time waiting in a line. We can feel a brief kinship over a mutual annoyance about bad drivers or the cost of things. Grouchy people seem to complain all the time perhaps from bad moods or personality traits. It may be that complaining becomes their favorite way to communicate. It is ego reinforcement. A big insult is when a complainer finishes and the listener jumps in to share something they insist is even worse.

I've added laments about technology to my weather complaints. I can't do anything about either, and technology makes me feel stupid and often helpless. It's okay to complain about poor quality in goods or services, although often nothing comes of it. Politics and politicians are natural targets of complaints.

You tell me your complaints, and I'll try not to tell you mine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A time to celebrate America's spirit

To the Editor:

Memorial Day, May 27, is a time to celebrate our American spirit. One only needs to lose one's freedom once to understand its meaning. Freedom doesn't come free, and it is worth fighting for. In my opinion our best weapon to change the world for the better is education. There are still places that are very tribal and have fought each other for centuries. Education could change this if only allowed in all places in the world.

The fragility of life was awakened in me during a Temporary Duty Tour in Vietnam. We must continue to recognize those of courage who have sacrificed their lives for their extraordinary deeds. They should be honored for their

contributions in making America the great country it is. Young people can learn from this, and older people will never forget

Today, let's just reflect on the debt we owe our service men and women from all branches of the military, especially those who died protecting the homeland they loved, including my cousin from Canada, Theodore Garth Stevenson, killed in action in World War II. It is never too late to remember those who gave so much. Freedom and democracy are worth the blood shed on battlefields. Never take this sentiment for granted for it was hard won.

G. TOD STEVENSON
WOODSTOCK

The verdict is in

To the Editor:

Hush money trial going on in New York, the verdict is in; hung jury. That will mean another trial?

There is one juror who will hold out regardless of testimony. The cult leader "Drowsy Don," the cult leader, liar in chief, will come out and do his usual "I am innocent," "witch hunt" and state that he was not guilty, which will be a lie again, after all he is good at spinning BS. My guess, or Vegas odds, it will be one and a half days before this juror appears on the Fox news and other cult leader news stations, looking for fame, fortune and hoping that cult leader will make him into a star. Sad part is that the MAGA crowd will think that a hung jury means he is innocent. The people testifying are all Trumps' people involved in his little fiefdom that he used to run with impunity. Nothing ever happened at Trump's business without his knowledge, direction and consent. He follows the lead of Roy Cohn — Google him — who told him never admit your wrong, wrong or admit a mistake, double down, triple down. He WILL not

testify, hard to remember when you lie all the time, what is truth and what is a lie. Also, you cannot testify for your defense and take the 5th on cross.

Does it seem everybody is after him, or is just his paranoia? He does most of this to himself, because like a child, he cannot help himself. Why do many people go to jail and he is still shooting his mouth off that he is the victim. Ask the people in jail over Jan. 6. who charged the Capitol if they sit in jail that HE is the victim. Repeat and rinse and repeat.

I just wonder how his wife feels about the fact that he has so many affairs with women while she sits home with their son. Do they all lie and he is the only one telling the truth? Please. How can Christian leaders and people follow a man of such low (maybe no) character. Lastly, where are all his children, none seem to be at the trial.

Glad to see all local residents, minus one who drinks the Kool Aid daily, speaking with insightful truthful editorials on this subject. Keep them coming.

DASVID CASSETTARI
KILLINGLY

Tourtellotte needs your support

To the Editor:

I am Maddison Carlson, a Tourtellotte freshman who loves her school and wants to spread the word about voting on the budget to help the student body.

As a Tourtellotte freshman, I see the urge for a great turnout this year in the budget vote. For that to happen, I want to spread the word about why people should vote to pass the budget. My reasons start with the school community. In the high school, in recent years, we have expanded upon our rigorous courses to offer many career pathways to the student body in order to prepare and educate those who want to go into fields that are in high demand, including culinary, CNA, fire science, manufacturing, and more. These pathways are helping our students learn and grow in ways our community has not seen before. However, funding must be provided to sustain these pathways that were largely initiated through grants. No one wants to see these pathways get taken away if we can't fund them properly. Without the support of funding, the children of your town could get the message that their future goals aren't worthy of being supported, which I know the citizens of my town would not want. Vote for the budget and you are voting to support students on these career pathways.

A vote for the budget is also a vote for students like me who dream of going to college and work extremely hard to build a successful future. At Tourtellotte, students have the ability to be in more structured classes to fit all levels of their education. This is not only a benefit for those who need that step up, to work at a faster pace, but also for those who need assistance. This correlates to the budget because as we have seen in previous years, budget cuts have resulted in teacher cuts as well. Any further cuts to staffing could lead to losing the ability to offer classes that meet the individual needs of the students. I'm very passionate about this topic, as someone who not only needs that faster pace, but also someone who cares about their classmates and can recognize others needing more support.

As some may say, I am determined and work extremely hard to improve my education and work towards my future. Through this, I need a school with many offerings to guide me through achieving those future goals I want to accomplish. For the future, I see myself being a teacher possibly in the elementary education field. At Tourtellotte, I take a

course called Tiger Pals. Tiger Pals is an internship for students to get the opportunity to help a cooperating teacher in grades Pre-K-12. I intern in a kindergarten class and it allows me to see the school setting with a different perspective as an assistant teacher, not a student. For someone who wants to go into the teaching education environment, this opportunity helps me narrow down if that is still something I want to do or even to just build bonds with younger students. With the budget passing as a YES, it would be a vote towards supporting students' future and providing those who don't plan on college with an opportunity to view different pathways and possibly change their future.

Along with opportunities in high school, Tourtellotte also offers college-credit opportunities. These offerings range from high school classes to virtual high school, and even classes cooperating with local colleges. I so far have been able to gain 3 college credits through one class, Financial Accounting 1. This class is a business class that is taught in person. With an in-person class, especially one that can be challenging, I can ask clear questions as well as get that chance for my teacher to go over questions I have. This is just the start to my future and for me as a freshman to have the opportunity to take this course, should be able to show what our school truly has that makes it special. Along those lines, as an upcoming sophomore, I can start to take Advanced Placement classes that also offer college credits. In just 3 short years I will be entering the outside life. This is the time when I will be deciding if I will attend college, if so where I will go, and even just where my life will take me beyond that. With the ability for my high school to offer classes to those who would like to get started early, or even just explore before making a final, expensive decision, Tourtellotte fulfills that role.

With all of these offerings comes the need for your support. You have a great opportunity to show your support for students like me at the polls on May 20. On this day, Thompson citizens can vote to support our school, the student body, and generations to come. Through all of this, I hope you learned how special, valuable, and commendable our school truly is and why we deserve a vote of yes for the current proposed budget at the May 20 Referendum. Thank you.

MADDISON CARLSON
THOMPSON

School budget cuts have had an impact

To the Editor:

Thompson voters, we are writing to you as the Kindergarten teacher team at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School to shed light on the profound impact that the recent school budget cuts have had on our students, staff, and community.

Last year, when the school budget did not pass, our grade was deeply affected. One of the most significant losses we experienced was the reduction in full-time para-educators. Previously, these dedicated professionals provided invaluable support to our students throughout the day. However, due to budget constraints, we now only have para-educators for portions of the day, leaving us with a significant gap in support.

The absence of full-time para-educators has had far-reaching consequences. Tasks such as attending to toileting needs, accompanying students on nurse trips, and providing additional educational support have become increasingly challenging. Without consistent support, us teachers are stretched thin, trying to meet the diverse needs of our students while maintaining a safe and nurturing learning environment.

This year, we have observed a notable increase in behavioral concerns and safety issues within our grade. With fewer para-educators available to assist, managing the classroom and ensuring

the well-being of every student has become a daunting task. The impact of these challenges extends beyond the classroom, affecting the overall morale and sense of security within our school community.

As we approach another budget voting cycle, we urge our community members to consider the effects of how important their vote is. Approving the school budget is not just about allocating funds; it is about investing in the future of our children and the vitality of our community. Restoring full-time para-educators in kindergarten is essential to providing our students with the support and resources they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Together we implore our fellow community members to stand with us in advocating for our students and supporting our schools. Together, we can ensure that every child receives the quality education and support they deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we sincerely hope that this letter serves as a call to action for our community.

Sincerely,

AMANDA JEZERSKI
FOR THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER
TEAM AT MARY R FISHER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Our vice president is far from dimwitted

To the Editor:

One writer of an article in last week's newspaper perhaps believes using insulting and derogatory name-calling gives the writing more forcefulness. Or perhaps it is a belief that insults are required when referring to elected officials you don't approve of. Or maybe it is simply the writer trying to copy the insulting speech being used by the writer's favorite politician. The writer certainly knows that an explanation is far more effective than an insult.

Without any explanation, the writer referred to the U.S. Vice President as a dimwit, which is a term generally defined as stupid. I note that the writer quite often uses denigrating terms when referring to women in positions of power, but that may be just to draw the admiration of those who are of like mind as to powerful women.

Just to see how the term might apply to the Vice President, I looked at her background and found that she has both an enviable educational background

and an impressive career in public service.

While attending Howard University she chaired the economics society and earned her degree in political science and economics. In her Master's studies at UCLA Berkley, she majored in nutrition and endocrinology eventually earning a PhD. Finally at UC Hastings Law School she graduated with her Juris Doctor degree.

In public service, she was elected District Attorney of San Francisco, then California Attorney General and finally United States Senator, before becoming Vice President.

Of course, I have no idea of the background or education of any of the writers whose articles grace these pages, but perhaps there are those who, from their lofty heights, can look down on the Vice President's accomplishments, considering them meager and uneducated and refer to her as a dimwit.

RAMON CANNING
POMFRET

Last week's letters merit a response

To the Editor:

The letters published in the May 3 Killingly Villager prompt several reactions, only some of which I'll share.

First, Ed Clement observes that the various left- and right-leaning media tailor their content to validate their viewers' biases. But, significantly, he fails to note that much of the right-wing media, particularly Fox News, repeats what it knows to be lies. Fox has already agreed to pay Dominion \$787 million as a result of its lies with a potential liability of billions more.

Readers may have been misled by your headline over (State) Sen. Jeff Gordon's letter which declares that "... high inflation is the fault of government..." I suppose it wasn't surprising that a member of the minority party would blame "government." What was disappointing was that Sen. Gordon failed to mention a single example of government action that increased the current inflationary trend. I guess it was also government's fault that the US recovered from the pandemic's high inflation and unemployment better than almost any other nation in the world.

Jay Gerhart asserts that banning TikTok is contrary to the First Amendment. He's right. It's hard to imagine such a ban would stand up, even in the current activist Supreme Court. But the foreign ownership of a social

medium that could harvest personal data from tens of millions of Americans and hand it over to Communist China could not have been anticipated by the Founders.

It's inexplicable that Wendy Fusco can still doubt that Donald Trump incited the 6 January Capitol riot. Does she really believe, contrary to all evidence, the Republican and Fox News lies? Her letter parrots too many to address. But examples are that Nancy Pelosi refused help from the National Guard, that there were no Republicans on the 6 January Committee (Liz Cheney, Adam Kinzinger), and that rioters arrested were not even registered to vote (only a small number weren't).

Finally, it seems a week can't go by without Ed DeLuca's lies. This week, he cited San Francisco's "soaring crime" rate when, in fact, San Francisco's homicide and violent crime rates compare favorably with cities its size. Cities with higher violent crime rates include Houston and Columbus, Ohio. The San Francisco Examiner in December found that rates of most crimes, including the property crime suffered by Representative Schiff, declined in 2023. A decline is the opposite of "soaring," Mr. DeLuca.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

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THE WEEK IN SPORTS AT WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

Boys Tennis

Killingly 4
Woodstock Academy 3
DAYVILLE – Killingly celebrated Senior Day with a close victory over the Centaurs.

Killingly (2-9, 2-3 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) broke a five-match losing streak as it got victories from Phillip Purcell and Sai Patel at second and fourth singles and picked up the win by taking second and third doubles.

Owen Rigney and Cang Nguyen, at first and third singles, took straight-set wins for Woodstock Academy (4-3, 3-1) while Tyler Chamberlin and Ryan Chabot posted a victory at first doubles.

Montville 5
Woodstock Academy 2
POMFRET – The Centaurs have been famous for marathon matches this season and they lived up to the billing on Saturday at the Pomfret School.

Woodstock Academy junior Owen Rigney matched up with Benny Wu of the Wolves and battled for almost three hours before Rigney 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 6-0.

The Centaurs (4-4) also took second singles as Tyler Chamberlin posted a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Ryan Yang.

But it was all Montville (9-4) after that. Nathan Dhillon and Danny Zhong won the last two singles matches for the Wolves and they also swept doubles with no team losing more than two games in a set.

Stonington 7
Woodstock Academy 0
STONINGTON – Cang Nguyen was the only Centaur player to win multiple games in a set against the undefeated Bears (14-0).

Nguyen battled Peter Schoeneker at fourth singles for Woodstock Academy (4-5) and fell

short, 3-6, 1-6.

Boys Volleyball

Rockville 3
Woodstock Academy 0
ROCKVILLE – The Centaurs slipped to 9-3 in the Connecticut Volleyball League and 9-6 overall as host Rockville swept past them, 25-20, 27-25, 25-15.

Aiden Finch had nine kills and Brayden Bottone added five while Jake Henderson had 27 assists.

Norwich Tech 3
Woodstock Academy 1
NORWICH – The last time the Centaurs played more than a three-set match was back on April 10 and it came against the Warriors.

The two teams had to go four sets again in this meeting, only this time the outcome was reversed as Norwich Tech (6-6) captured the victory on its home court.

Aiden Finch had nine kills and three aces while Brayden Bottone, Owen Budd and T.J. Osborne each had eight kills for Woodstock Academy (9-7). Christian Hart added 18 digs.

Girls Lacrosse

Griswold-Norwich Tech 14

Woodstock Academy 8
JEWETT CITY – The winning streak didn't last for long for the Centaurs (1-10) who were coming off their first win of the season as the Wolverines (3-6) posted the home win. Clara Dowdle paced Woodstock Academy with a hat trick while Abby Converse and Maggie Marshall had two goals each and Kaylee Saucier had a goal and an assist.

NFA 21
Woodstock Academy 4
WOODSTOCK – Kaylee Saucier and Piper Sabrowski both had a pair of goals for the Centaurs (1-11, 0-3

Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) but the Wildcats (7-4) just had too much offense.

Boys Lacrosse

St. Bernard-Wheeler 17
Woodstock Academy 5
UNCASVILLE – Jared Neilsen scored four times in the match and Gunnar Basak added a tally.

Unfortunately, the Centaurs (4-6) needed much more than that in the loss to the Saints (8-3) who have now won three straight.

Boys Golf

East Lyme 6
Woodstock Academy 1
OLD LYME – Logan Rawson shot a five-over par 40 and both Donny Sousa and Aidan O'Connor were just four shots behind him for the Centaurs (3-2, 0-2 ECC Division I) but the Vikings still prevailed at the Old Lyme Country Club.

Jack Bucko took medalist honors for the match as he finished with a 39 for undefeated East Lyme (8-0, 3-0). Sebby DeCosta carded a 41 to back Bucko's effort.

Woodstock Academy 4 ½

Killingly 2 ½
THOMPSON – Freshman Brady Hebert posted a 39 and sophomore Aidan O'Connor carded a 42 to win their matches, Donny Sousa added a 44 to tie his and the Centaurs (5-2) finished with five less strokes, 166-171, to take the 2-point aggregate and win the match.

Harrison Allard of Killingly (4-2) fired a 39 to tie Hebert for medalist honors for the match.

Centaurs take 2
STONINGTON – Woodstock Academy probably wouldn't mind playing at the Stonington Country Club just a few more times this season.

Both senior Donny Sousa (36) and junior Logan Rawson had their best outings of the season and led the Centaurs (7-2) to a pair of 6-1 victories over both Bacon Academy and host Stonington.

Both Aidan O'Connor and Brady O'Brien shot 44 for Woodstock Academy.

The Bobcats (4-3, 2-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) were led by Alex Gallardo and John Ceruti who were both just a stroke back of Sousa, the medalist for the match.

Ethan Torres finished with a 39 for the Bears (4-5, 1-2).

Sousa finishes 2nd; Centaurs 6th as a team at Wildcat

NORWICH – The first 18-hole event of the season for high school boys golf teams, the Wildcat Invitational at the Norwich Golf Course, didn't faze the Woodstock Academy team.

Senior Donny Sousa finished tied for second overall with a 2-over par 74 for the Centaurs and junior Logan Rawson tied for fifth with a 76.

Cameron St. Pierre of Shelton was the individual winner with an even par 72.

Sousa and Rawson led Woodstock Academy to a sixth-place finish as a team, tied with RHAM at 334. Portland came out on top with a 312 total.

Girls Golf

Stonington 216
Woodstock Academy 224

STONINGTON – The Centaurs girls, like their male counterparts, were at a golf course in Stonington, just a different one as the girls played at Elmridge.

Freshman Reagan Scheck finished best for Woodstock Academy (1-6, 1-5 Eastern Connecticut Conference) with a 47 while Isabella Mawson added a 52.

Adeline Risley was best for the Bears (2-4, 2-4) and medalist for the match

with a 46 while Rory Ridley was next best for Stonington with a 54.

Baseball

Woodstock Academy 7
NFA 0

WOODSTOCK – The pitching staff continued to be dominant for the Centaurs (12-1, 5-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) as Brady Ericson went six innings, allowed only four hits and struck out 12.

Woodstock Academy gave Ericson all the help he needed with a pair of three-run innings in the third and fourth.

Eric Mathewson (2-for-3, 2 RBIs) had an RBI triple in the third, scored on an error and Ericson later added an RBI single. Riley O'Brien, who also had two hits, knocked in a run with a single in the fourth.

The Wildcats slipped to 6-7 overall and 1-5 in Division I with the loss.

Softball

NFA 14
Woodstock Academy 2 (5)

NORWICH – The Wildcats left little doubt about this one early as they scored 10 runs in the first inning and coasted to the victory.

Madison Waltke had a pair of hits, including a home run, and drove in four runs for NFA (7-4, 4-1 ECC Division I) while Amelia Driscoll also homered and drove in a pair.

Sarah McArthur singled and scored on an error and Avery Hardacker came home on a wild pitch, both in the third inning to account for the runs for the Centaurs (3-8, 0-4).

St. Bernard 5
Woodstock Academy 4
UNCASVILLE – Aubree Nygaard had a two-run homer and Kaitlyn Scribner hit a solo shot for the Saints (5-6) in the third inning to give the hosts a three-run

lead and it stood up. The Centaurs (4-9) got close as Savannah Schley had an RBI single in the fourth and reached again on an error in the sixth that allowed pinchrunner Avery Hardacker to score.

Nygaard and Madison Scribner each had two hits for St. Bernard while Mia Pannone had a pair for Woodstock Academy.

The two will not have to wait long to see each other again as they play in Woodstock on Saturday.

St. Bernard 7
Woodstock Academy 2
WOODSTOCK – For the second time in two days, the Saints dialed up the Centaurs number and crawled back to the .500 mark at 6-6 with the back-to-back victories over Woodstock Academy.

This time it was on the Centaurs home field as the Saints took an early 2-0 lead in the first and then expanded that to six with a four-run fifth inning.

Angelica Tompkins was responsible for the majority of that as she hit a three-run homer for St. Bernard, it's third roundtripper in two games.

Mia Pannone knocked in a run in the seventh for Woodstock Academy (4-10) with a groundout, the other run scored on an error.

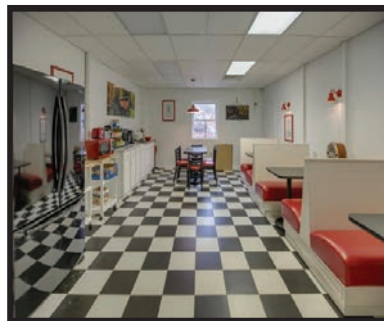
Coventry 20
Woodstock Academy 1 (4 ½)

COVENTRY – Sarah McArthur doubled and scored on an error in the fourth inning but it was the only highlight on an otherwise long day for the Centaurs (4-11).

The Patriots hit six homers with Brooke Blouin (4 RBIs) and Elizabeth Mitchell (5 RBIs) each getting two.

Sarah Miller added a double and a homer and drove in six runs in the win.

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Four Poets At Large members receive recognition at National Baseball Poetry Festival

WORCESTER — Four members of Woodstock-based Poets at Large received recognition in the adult category for their poems related to the "national pastime" of baseball on May 3 in Worcester, Mass. The honors were given to a total of 20 poets out of 100 entries from across the United States at the National Baseball Poetry Festival held May 3-5. The National Baseball Poetry Festival is a creation of Biondolillo Associates, and the poems are now published on BaseballBard.com, created by entrepreneur Mark Sickman. This is the second time the festival has been held.

Honored at the DCU Lounge at Polar Park in Worcester were poets Tom Clark, Tom Driscoll, Tom Lagasse and Woodstock resident and coordinator of Poets at Large, Karen Warinsky. The National Baseball Poetry Festival is a celebration of poetry (and other short written and spoken-word pieces) whose themes focus on baseball, and can be written about almost anything connected to the game from hotdogs to the smell of fresh cut grass to a favorite coach. There were also Little League and Youth categories. The Festival punctuated National Poetry Month, during which the entire nation pays homage to the world's oldest and, arguably, most powerful art form!

Find Poets at Large on Facebook where it now has more than 460 members. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts.

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Jason Bleau

The Putnam High School Clipper Acapella Group serenades the audience during a performance at Quiet Corner Pride.



Rotary Park was filled with guests throughout Quiet Corner Pride as an estimated 2,000-plus attended the event.

Putnam celebrates first ever Quiet Corner Pride Day



Westfield Church was one of several churches who showed their support to the LGBTQIA+ community during Quiet Corner Pride.



Students of Pomfret School set up a booth to show their support and offer prizes with a spin wheel game.



Heart in Tune, a women and LGBT+ owned business, shared their love of music as a form of unity and therapy.



Guests had a chance to be a part of a special art piece coordinated by Lisa Andrews of TEEG, a local social service agency and non-profit.

PUTNAM — Putnam's Rotary Park played host to over 2000 guests on May 4 as the community and region celebrated the first ever Quiet Corner Pride Day. The event served as a way to support the LGBTQIA+ with non-profits, local businesses, schools, and churches coming together for a day of celebration for anyone of any sexual or gender identity. The event also included music and inspirational speeches as people young and old shared their stories and experiences for all to embrace. Judging by its success, Quiet Corner Pride promises to be a new growing tradition for years to come.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Apologies to the readers

To the Editor:
 Recently, I wrote a piece entitled "Trump's Role in the January 6th, 2021, Capitol Attack." In it, I wrote that the committee did not include any Republicans. I was wrong. I apologize to the readers for that. There were two Republicans on the committee: Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger.
 My premise was that I felt there was limited diversity of viewpoints to adequately investigate the capital attack of Jan. 6, 2021, wanting to pursue all angles of possibilities regarding President Trump's degree of involvement in that attack. Questions arose regarding the rally. One question was, "Were there previous warnings to the mayor's office in Washinton, D.C. that there would possibly be an attack during the rally?" A second question was, "Did Trump, hearing the warning of a possible attack before the rally, then ask for the National Guard presence to be at the rally?" "Was Trump's request denied, and by whom?"

And lastly, "Why did Trump's way of handling agitators in his previous rallies, which was to quickly remove the agitators from the rallies, directly oppose how it was handled on Jan. 6?"
 Two Republicans in support of Trump, Jim Jordan of Ohio and Jim Banks of Indiana, requested to be on the committee but were denied by Democrat House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In taking a closer view, the two Republicans who were accepted on the committee to investigate what happened leading up to the capital attack and details of the attack itself did not tend to support Trump and seem to me to be anti-Trump Republicans. Liz Cheney had verbally expressed her opposition to Trump. After office, Adam Kinzinger became a senior political commentator on CNN, a media station that tends to hold liberal viewpoints not in favor of Trump. Both these Republicans were considered by others as being anti-Trump, which is their legal right. My concern is that the two Republicans who

were chosen for this committee shared anti-Trump sentiments and most likely did not do due diligence to asking and investigating the difficult questions that I mentioned above.
 I wish Pelosi had allowed Jordan and Banks to be additional Republican members on the committee; this would have truly represented various viewpoints so that every stone would have been unturned in the investigation from both sides. That way, I feel the outcome of the committee would have a much better chance of yielding an accurate conclusion. If there had been more diversity in the viewpoints of the committee members, I would feel better about their findings: whether they would have come up with the same results or different ones. At least I wouldn't be concerned that the questions I raised earlier in this editorial might have been swept under the rug.

WENDY FUSCO
KILLINGLY

Earth To NDDH – stop platforming antivaxxers

To the Editor:
 There are some people in our world who are dreamers who dream of a better world. Maybe some of them can start dreaming of a world where a health department doesn't waste money on soliciting the redundant opinions of people who hate modern medicine.
 Barely a few months out of their last round of controversy, the Northeast District Department of Health, supposedly about "preventing illness, promoting wellness, and protecting public health since 1973," decided to purchase a sponsored post on Facebook to inquire about why people choose to get vaccinated or not. They even had a link to a survey site to take the survey.
 Congratulations, NDDH, on getting yourself ratioed and dogpiled on Facebook, and your survey becoming a cesspool of junk data. Knowing how NDDH is funded, I'm nothing short of disgusted that local tax dollars changed hands a few times then ultimately were wasted on something like this.

Both-sides-ism has no place in discussions about public health. Hey, NDDH, these people hate you. Number one – government organization. Number two – public health organization. That's two strikes against you right off the bat. Strike three is NDDH leadership finding out the hard way how this hysterical internet nonsense works and why something like this is always a complete waste of time.

Hysterical Internet disinformation is the real psychological mind virus. Hosting something like this on the Internet just invites a flood of slacktivists, sock puppets, professional trolls from troll farms, and in today's social media world, AI and bots, to skew the heck out of the survey results. Not that I don't think people who are that hysterical live in the Quiet Corner – they do. However, there are organized activist sites that launch campaigns to flood votes in their favor with something like this, so the survey now probably has about as much unvetted junk data as VAERS. A few mouseovers or profile clicks on Facebook can verify this with the generic-looking profiles, profiles of people not from around here, or profiles that look like compromised accounts. If the intent was to solicit Quiet Corner opinions on vaccination, this post was set up to fail right from the start. Then of course on top of all of this we have the Quiet Corner residents who go by pseudonyms so they'll blend right in with the junk data and be easily missed.

Then there's the technical side of things. I took the survey once, but copying the link into other browsers would have allowed me to take it as many times as I had browsers. I'm sure the activist groups wanting to skew the results probably passed that to their members, and that's before VPNs get involved that can make your computer or phone look like it's coming from multiple locations. Not just personal VPNs either. Public WiFi's can have a similar effect as VPNs so an activist who knows how to clear cache on their phone over and over could simply visit several large stores and use the store WiFi's to flood the results as well. Bottom line – good luck doing anything constructive with what this survey generates.

You can't change abusive people. They have to choose to change themselves. Somehow this slipped the minds of NDDH leadership. The people they're platforming with this sponsored post and its associated comments section are the same types of people whose disinformation made healthcare workers' jobs a nightmare during the Covid pandemic, plus the mental abuse of public health workers that made national news as these people aggressively made public health workers into their own personal Dr. Faucis. When the NDDH complained about staffing challenges in the last round of controversies I believed them having known private sector health care workers who were sick of all the extra work they were doing because of loudmouths on the internet – never mind on the government side.

The job of a health department is to promote health. If people don't want to be healthy, that's their problem. We've seen it with smoking, we've seen it with drinking, we've seen it with obesity and "fat acceptance," we've seen it with TikTok challenges, we've seen it with Covid, and we'll see it again with H5N1 bird flu when the strain the World Health Organization is keeping a close eye on finishes its mammalian adaptation and mutates to be able to spread person to person.
 At least this time, with a new bird flu, we won't be starting from scratch with vaccines, but there's that V-word again. I'm sure it'll be the same thing again, with needless sickness and deaths, but there's only so much a person, an influencer, a doctor, a hospital, or even a health department can do to protect people from willful militant ignorance.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Taylor is the pawn that Democrats hope for

To the Editor:
 Pelosi, while on MSDNC, said that Donald Trump was the worst president for job losses, and when called out by host Katy Tur about it being due to the pandemic, Pelosi got her little feathers ruffled and accused Tur of being an "apologist" for Trump. However, she's always been a thin-skinned party puppet, and goes on the offensive whenever anybody calls her out, and when did MSDNC ever become an apologist for Trump you moron? She then went on to call Biden a job creator – okay, but how many of those jobs just came back when the pandemic ended? Now Pelosi has called for the Israeli prime minister to resign. Now that's a good one coming from the number one poster child for term limits. However, Pelosi will most likely hang in there until the grim reaper pays her a visit which is probably the only form of term limits that we'll ever see. (And I'm going to save the story about how "lumberjack" Ned Lamont compares to her for another time.)
 While visiting Puerto Rico, our clueless VP was grooving along while people were singing a song that was actually mocking her. And when the

(smirking) translator told her what they were saying, Harris's face turned quite a few shades of embarrassment. More recently, and in what can be described as an episode of dimwits-are-us, liberal talk show host Drew Barrymore told Harris that "we need you to be the 'mamala' of the country" and Harris cackled and agreed. Barrymore was attempting to join the words mom and Kamala together, but in doing so, she called Harris "Mámala," which in Spanish, means - well you look it up.
 So, now to address our resident poster child for TDS, Billy G Taylor. Mr. Taylor, have you ever noticed that I occasionally write letters that aren't Biden-bashing, and at times I've given him and the democrats the nod, and how many times have I said that our Congress isn't working together to solve the problems facing us today? If you haven't noticed that, maybe the "open-minded" readers you appeal to have? In addition to the usual "Orange Man Bad," what I got from your May 3 letter was again that you're thin-skinned, totally one-sided, and you remain blind to reality, but most of all, you're that good little servant that the Democrats want you to be. And I'd

be willing to bet that you actually believe that Joe Biden and the Democrats can do no wrong.

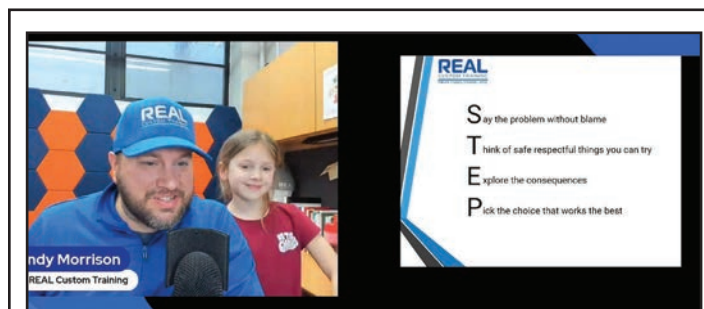
A feeling expressed here was that whatever Trump's done is of epic severity, and anything Biden's done was minor in comparison. Okay, but it still doesn't make two wrongs a right, and the bottom line is who is able to get away with it. And Mr. Taylor, I'll admit that Trump is guilty of charged crimes when and if that verdict is delivered. But until then, regurgitating Trump's legal woes can remain your forte.

Then you again Billy-ache about me referring to migrants as "illegals." Did you actually read my "illegals in the news" segments where I've shown that multiple law enforcement agencies have proven that they were indeed in this country illegally? But what do they know, right? Nobody has any idea how many people are in this country illegally, and do you really think that the criminals who were let out of prisons, whose own country of origin won't take back, and those who've been deported multiple times and have snuck back into the US are all a great bunch of fellows just looking for a better life here? If you believe that Mr. Taylor, why don't you see about having them reside on your street? (But my bet is that you, like the democrats you mindlessly worship, would prefer they remain in Texas.) And why the gripe about me calling certain migrants "ungrateful SOB's," was it because they're complaining about and throwing away the food that you and I are providing them? Do you find that acceptable, or maybe we have different definitions of "ungrateful?" How about you cooking dinner for them? Fact is that illegals are committing crimes and harming American citizens, but you say nothing about that, and why? (But haven't I already mentioned the reason?)

In the last sentence of that letter, you said that I blame the Democrats for lawlessness, and I agree with you because they are indeed contributors. And if you disagree with that, please tell me how they are not? (I'll wait.)

In a most interesting piece last week, it was mentioned how the left is profiting off of Donald Trump. Yes, the money flows both ways, but if the lefties weren't talking about Trump, what else would they have to talk about? Do you think they're going to mention Biden's low polling numbers, that he's losing the support of certain voters, about how rising costs have been draining our wallets ever since he's been in office, or about the border disaster and the fact that illegals are harming American citizens? Yes, if it wasn't for Donald Trump, the lefties and their little pawns like Billy G. Taylor would have nothing to say.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE



Courtesy

In a very special episode of **Better Workdays**, host Andy Morrison (left) was joined by his daughter Haley Morrison to review the STEP problem-solving method as taught to Haley at Putnam Elementary School.

REAL Custom Training launches free resource for local companies

PUTNAM — REAL Custom Training, LLC, the leading provider of professional development workshops in Northeastern Connecticut, is proud to announce the launch of its new weekly podcast, "Better Workdays."

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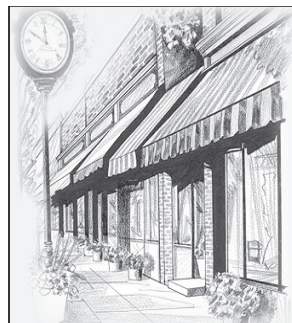
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Five tips for analyzing company financial statements

Analyzing company financial statements is a crucial skill for investors, analysts, and business managers. Beyond just the numbers, financial statements provide insights into a company's performance, efficiency, risk profile, and future growth potential. However, navigating through the complex data and disclosures can be daunting.

By following some key tips and watching for potential red flags, you can develop a deeper understanding of a company's financial health and identify opportunities amidst the risks.

Tip #1: Closely review the income statement

The income statement provides a comprehensive view of a company's revenues, expenses, and ultimately profitability over a period. Pay close attention to revenue trends - is growth consistent or erratic? Examine gross and operating profit margins - are they expanding or contracting year-over-year? Watch for unsustainable drivers like one-time gains or accounting adjustments artificially inflating earnings. A well-managed company should exhibit steady revenue growth complemented

by healthy, expanding profit margins.

Tip #2: Scrutinize the balance sheet

The balance sheet offers a snapshot of what a company owns (assets) and owes (liabilities), with the difference representing shareholders' equity. Liquidity is vital, so analyze current and quick ratios to ensure the company can cover short-term obligations. High debt levels are a red flag, constraining financial flexibility. However, manageable debt alongside ample cash reserves could provide opportunities for strategic investments. Examine the composition of assets and look for any ballooning accounts that may signal operational inefficiencies.

Tip #3: Study the cash flow statement

While accrual accounting drives the income statement, the cash flow statement shows the actual cash generated and consumed by a company's operations, investments, and financing activities. Consistent positive operating cash flow is ideal, coupled with capital expenditures that generate future growth. Free cash flow (operating cash



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JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT ADVISER

flow minus capital expenditures) represents the surplus available to service debt, pay dividends, make acquisitions or buy back stock. Negative free cash flow over multiple periods raises doubts about self-funding future growth.

Tip #4: Compute and analyze key financial ratios

Ratios can provide powerful insights by relating different components of financial statements. Calculate and trend ratios like gross margins, operating margins, returns on assets/equity, inventory turnover days, receivables collection periods and more. Compare them against industry benchmarks and peers to identify relative strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Deteriorating ratios could signify emerging problems, while improving ratios coupled with solid growth could highlight investment poten-

tial.

Tip #5: Read the footnotes thoroughly

Financial statements have extensive footnotes and disclosures that should not be overlooked. These notes provide details on accounting policies, assumptions, estimates, contingencies, legal proceedings, off-balance sheet items and other factors significantly impacting the company's financial results and risk profile. Complex, frequent changes in accounting methods or a revolving door of auditors could signal underlying issues warranting further investigation.

Beyond the fundamental analytical tips above, look for signs in the financial statements that indicate potential growth opportunities ahead:

Rising revenue, income, and operating cash flow, outpacing peers

Increasing market share and penetration of high-growth markets

Expanding margins through cost efficiencies or premium pricing power

Strong balance sheet with ample cash reserves to fund acquisitions

Management remarks on growth initiatives like

new geographies, products etc.

Acquisitions that could drive revenue synergies or economies of scale

Conversely, watch for yellow or red flags like persistently negative cash flows, escalating debt levels, inventory buildup disproportionate to sales trends, unaddressed legal/regulatory risks, and evidence of accounting issues or auditor turnover. Addressing such red flags promptly reduces investment risk.

In essence, a thorough financial statement analysis requires understanding the numbers in proper context, relating different components, benchmarking performance, assessing risk factors, and identifying potential growth catalysts. With practice, investors and corporate managers can develop keen skills to navigate financial data, make informed decisions, and drive long-term value creation.

At WHZ, our team of seasoned financial advisors leverage their deep expertise to provide comprehensive company financial statement analysis. Whether you need insights for investment decisions, M&A evaluation, strategic planning

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Prowling the past for patriots

Mark your calendars: Did you know Wildwood Park at Alexander's Lake once had a carousel? The annual meeting of the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will be Saturday, May 11 at the Killingly Historical Center, 196 Main St., Danielson. The program, at 1:30 p.m., presented by the New England Carousel Museum, will be on the origins, devel-

opment and art of those wonderful rides. There will be a brief business meeting at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

On April 27, I had the pleasure of attending author Michael Westerfield's presentation at the Pomfret Historical Society on "Israel Putnam: America's First Hero."

Did you know that Putnam, of Pomfret and Brooklyn, was not only at Lexington and Bunker Hill, New York and Philadelphia, but also fought in the French and Indian War (where he was captured and tied to a tree with the expectation of being burned), served in the Pontiac Rebellion, and fought in Havana? Westerfield's book, "Israel Putnam, America's First Folk Hero: A Biography and Travel Guide," is currently available at the Mill Museum in Willimantic, the Willimantic Food Coop, and on Amazon and Etsy. The travel guide portion of the book contains a number of Putnam's sites in Northeastern Connecticut including markers for his original house site in Pomfret and the General Wolfe Tavern in Brooklyn. Other points of interest include his second home on Spalding Road, Wolf Den, Putnam's original resting place in the South Cemetery in Brooklyn, the Equestrian Statue and Tomb on Route 169 in Brooklyn, and the Putnam Elms. Purchase a book and you're all set to tour these sites and many more within a day's drive in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

After the meeting, I spoke with Mary Ellen Tomeo about Revolutionary patriots, where they were buried, etc. She had sent me Patriot lists, which the Plainfield DAR and the Thompson Historical Society have been compiling. Of course, Thompson was part of Killingly at the time of the Revolution. I did not know that the Thompson Historical Society had compiled a cemetery brochure. She kindly dropped a number off at the Killingly Historical Society, the Last Green Valley, and

The Killingly Public Library. Entitled "A Guide to Burying Grounds in Thompson, Connecticut," it contains a map denoting 23 cemeteries with short descriptions and interesting facts on each one. Brochures are also available at the Thompson Historical Society, the Thompson Library, and the Thompson Town Hall.

Mary Ellen also provided the link for the Old Plainfield Cemetery (oldplainfieldcemetery.org), which has an interactive map. I had good fun "playing" with it and nav-

igating around. Both are great resources. Both give me ideas for future projects for Killingly.

I have had a nice response to my request for assistance in compiling lists of Patriots who fought in the Revolution for Killingly (or are buried in Killingly cemeteries). In addition to Thompson materials Mary Ellen sent very nice photo of the entrance to Aspinwall Cemetery in Putnam, which she had in her files. Pat Hedenberg of the Aspinock Historical Society is working on that cemetery. A number of Killingly residents are buried there. Killingly Historical Society board member Linden Whipple was already aware of a number of Revolutionary War veterans and where they were buried in Killingly from his research on ancestors so has gone through the Killingly cemeteries compiling a list. It is my hope to begin letting you know some of the names around Memorial Day. Perhaps you have an ancestor who fought in the Revolution! Prepare to celebrate the 250th signing of the Declaration. The anniversary of the Lexington Alarm will be next April. Then 2026 is not far away.

I thought I would see what tidbits I could find from Killingly on my genealogybank.com newspaper site which has older papers than the Windham County Transcripts. When I entered "Danielson", these are some of the oldest articles which I found. "Town Taxes in the hands of the subscribers to collect, with incident charges, viz. Richmond Talbot, Ebenezer Brown, Willard and Ward, Richard Ellis, William West, Laben Bates, David Joy, Danielson Ray, Noah Sabin, Benjamin Converse, Joseph Coit, non-residents, of the towns of Killingly & Thompson, on the 25th and 26th days of November next and Oliver Bates, Isaac Cutter, David Paul, widow Deborah Davis, on the 27 and 28th days of November next, and if not sold (?) then continued by adjournment until the whole is sold or



KILLINGLY

AT

300

• • • • •
MARGARET WEAVER

settled. Zadock Spalding, Silas Hutchins, James Danielson-collectors, Killingly, Sept. 13, 1788." (Norwich Packet or The Country Journal, Thursday, Oct. 2, 1788, p.3).

"Brigade Orders. Asa Bacon, jun. Esq. is appointed Brigade Major and inspector of the fifth Brigade of Connecticut Militia, and is to be respected and obeyed accordingly. James Danielson, Brig. Gen. Killingly, August 2" (1805) (Connecticut Courant 8-14-1805).

"The Creditors to the estate of James Easton, late of Killingly, deceased, represented insolvent, are hereby notified that six months from the 9th day of January instant, are allowed them by the Hon. Court of Probate for the District of Plainfield, to exhibit their claims properly attested(?) to the subscribers, Commissioners on said estate; and that we will attend to said business at the dwelling-house of David Cady, in said Killingly, on the third Monday of March, and the third Monday of April next; at one o'clock in the afternoon, on each of said days. Those who neglect will be debarred a recovery. James Danielson, Anthony Brown, John Ashcraft, Comm'rs. Killingly, Jan. 9, 1809" (The Courier, Wednesday, March 15, 1809, Norwich, CT, p. 3).

Did you realize that a person had to petition the Connecticut assembly to erect a dam across the Quinebaug River in the early 1800's? "This is to give notice to all whom it may concern, that Zadock Spalding of Killingly, in the County of Windham and others, shall prefer a Petition to the Honorable General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, to be holden* at New-Haven on the 2d Thursday in October next, praying for liberty to erect a dam across Quinebaug River, between the towns of Brooklyn and Killingly, at a place called Danielson's Falls, for the purpose of erecting a Cotton Factory and other waterworks. All persons concerned are hereby notified to appear before said Assembly if they see cause, and shew* reasons if they

have, why the prayer of said Petition should not be granted. Dated at Killingly the 26th day of July, A.D. 1809, John Parish, Attorney to the Petitioners." Windham Herald, Thursday, August 24, 1809). *I love the old spellings. (Did you notice that the Connecticut Assembly was meeting part of the year at New Haven?)

General James Danielson, son of Colonel William & Sarah Danielson was born Jan. 18, 1761 and died Oct. 25, 1827. (findagrave). His original cotton factory commenced operations in 1810, one of the earliest in Killingly, and was located across from the present Danielson Post Office on Water Street. By 1819 there were two small cotton mills on the site.

Mother's Day Brunch: Killingly Grange #112 (801 Hartford Turnpike--Route 101). Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. A plant will be given to each mother. Limited number of meals. To reserve a meal call 860-884-1813. Visit the Grange at www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/.

Brooklyn Historical Society Meeting: "Visit" The Town of Iron Toys: the Mechanical Banks of the J. & E. Stevens Company. Richard F. Donahue, Town Historian of Cromwell, CT will present an illustrated Talk and Interactive Demonstration on Thursday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Church Parish Hall, 7 Providence Road (Route 6) Brooklyn. The public is invited. Refreshments served.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2024. Special thanks to Richard Westerfield and Mary Ellen Tomeo, 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.killingly-historical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

May 13 – May 17

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

Tuesday the 14th

Town-wide, all-day machine vote on budget 6:00am to 8:00pm (Please call the Town Hall if you are not sure where your voting location is or need more information regarding the voting process)

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

Wednesday the 15th

WPCA Meeting (Water Pollution Control Facility) 5 p.m.

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

Thursday the 16th

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday the 13th

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

Tuesday the 14th

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

Bingo (Ages 18+) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.

Wednesday the 15th

Little Listeners (Ages 0-5) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Adult Coloring & Greeting Cards (Ages 18+) (Library) 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Let's Get Crafting (Ages 13-18) (Library) 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Friday the 16th

Crafternoons (Ages 6-12) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.
Pop-In Projects (Ages 13-18) (Library) 3 to 4:30 p.m.

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/ EVENTS COMING UP...

The Enlightened Path - Session 5 – April 30 through June 4 (Killingly Community Center) (Tuesdays)

Big Red Basketball – June 24 through June 27 (Grades 3-8) (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Girls Open Play Volleyball – June 19 through Aug. 15 (Grades 6-8) (Killingly Community Center) (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Girls Open Play Volleyball - June 19 through Aug. 15 (Grades 9-12) (Killingly Community Center) (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

A Night at the Fennton (Ages 18+) – May 9, May 10, May 11, May 16, May 17, and May 18

Senior Yoga in May – 9 and 10:30 a.m. – May 3 through May 31 (Killingly Community Center) (Fridays)

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.

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.

The famous bowling alley

The beauty of Roseland Cottage is at its peak in the spring, as each bed in the parterre garden brings forth new blossoms. The house has always been known locally as The Pink House, despite its important title as a National Historic Landmark. It was built in 1846 to serve as the summer home of Henry and Lucy Bowen, and their young family. The

WOODSTOCK THROUGH THE YEARS
 CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



Washington mentions the game in "Rip Van Winkle" published in 1819. Derived from the German game of Kegelspiel or Kegeling, the American version used nine pins in a diamond formation. The first indoor bowling alley was Knickerbocker's in New York City, built around 1840. Henry Bowen and his acquaintances had their businesses in New York, and he was most certainly aware of the game, its popularity, and what infrastructure it required. By the mid-1800s, bowling was being played widely, even in the Midwest.

The bowling alley at Roseland Cottage is located in a one-story wing attached to the right of the carriage house. It is a long wooden hall, with a decorative arch halfway. The wooden walls are painted ochre and the ceiling, also wooden, is a vivid blue. The hallway is divided lengthwise, with the alley occupying the right side. Raised at the far end, the gutter to the right is designed for automatic ball returns; the left gutter simply to befuddle the player with gutter balls. At the very end of the alley is a large pillow-like device attached to the far wall, serving as a bumper. Long windows line both side walls, bringing light and the outdoors into the space. To play a game, there would need to be a person stationed at the end of the alley to reset the pins.

Roseland's bowling alley has a collection of wooden pins and balls of various sizes because there were several kinds of bowling games that one could play. Ten Pin used the largest and heaviest pins and large balls with holes. Candlepin was for the tall, thin pins and the smallest and lightest balls. The short, squat pins were duckpins, also were knocked over with small balls. And then there was Nine Pin, using small balls and larger pins.

Henry and Lucy Bowen invited many dignitaries to their lovely sum-

mer home, notably four present and future presidents of the U.S., senators, congressmen, cabinet secretaries, the Queen of Romania, and important business people and writers of the day. The newspaper accounts of Bowen's Fourth of July events were quite detailed, and his son Clarence pasted each into scrapbooks that have been preserved.

From them it is known that Lucy served pink lemonade, chicken salad and strawberries at the Garden Party the night before the Fourth of July events. Many of these celebrations coincided with the Gilded Age from 1870-1890. By then, bowling had been elevated to a gentlemen's sport.

During one particular visit, President Ulysses S. Grant tried bowling at

the Roseland alley. He reportedly got a strike on his first ball and then proposed to celebrate with a cigar. However, Henry Bowen did not hold with drinking, smoking or cursing on his property. After some negotiation, Henry agreed to let President Grant smoke in the field. It is said that the Bowen children gathered at an upstairs window to watch.

COURTNEY

continued from page A1

array of advanced procedures enhancing patient care and outcomes."

The installation of the Siemens Agile Max Machine marks a significant milestone for DKH. The imaging system has not only opened the doors for these new procedures, but the advanced technology of the machine also minimizes radiation exposure for both patients and staff, ensuring safer and more efficient care.

"With continued support from elected officials, DKH remains dedicated to advancing healthcare accessibility for Northeast Connecticut," Kramer said.

For more information about diagnostic imaging at DKH visit daykimball.org/diagnostics.

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Healthcare 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 Healthcare's comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is daykimball.org.

house was designed by Joseph Collin Wells, an English architect who had studied the aesthetics of Andrew Jackson Downing and the Gothic Revival style. As colorful as it is on the outside, the interiors of Roseland are embellished with fashionable wallcoverings, beautiful carpets, and windows made of elaborately patterned stained glass. The entire property includes the house, a parterre garden, an ice house, aviary, carriage house, barn, and the oldest extant indoor bowling alley in the country.

Bowling is an ancient game, going back to 3200 B.C. and the Egyptians, Romans and Germans cultures. In Egyptian tombs, archaeologists have found primitive pins and balls. In 50 A.D., Roman legionnaires played a similar game using small rocks as pins. Germans in the third century used bowling as a religious practice, hitting pins or kegels to symbolize the destruction of one's sins.

Everyone knows how the game works...throw a ball down a lane and knock over the pins. Take all the pins with one ball and it is a strike; or knock down the remaining pins with a second ball for a spare. The concept is centuries old. In the U.S., bowling was considered a most democratic pastime, leveling the differences between socio-economic classes: it was affordable, fit all skill levels and genders. It was a game that promoted comradery and developed friendships, which evolved into teams and leagues of players.

Bowling was established in the American colonies by the English, German and Dutch. The English bowls or lawn bowling had been exclusive to the gentry, played on perfectly manicured bowling lawns. In America, skittles (not the candy) was the early 19th-century forerunner of modern bowling.

WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK

May 13-19

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

Monday the 13th
 • Beautification Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 14th
 • Committee on Aging, 5 p.m.

Wednesday the 15th
 • Quasset School Advisory Committee, 4 p.m.

Thursday the 16th
 • Board of Selectmen, 6 p.m.
 • Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Monday the 13th
 • Community Kitchen Free Lunch, First Congregational Church, noon.
 • Cat Kid Comic Club, grades 1-5, Loos Center for the Arts.
 • Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6:30 p.m.
 • Quilting, Senexet Grange, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 14th
 • The Bridge Young Adults, Evangelical Covenant Church
 • Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
 • Evening with the Author - Angie Kim, Mansion at Bald Hill, 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 15th
 • Story Hour, West Woodstock Library.
 • Knitting Group, Town Hall.
 • Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
 • Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church
 • The Bridge (young adults), Evangelical Covenant Church
 • Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday the 16th
 • Cabbage Hill Bird Walk - register with Pomfret Audubon, 8 a.m.
 • Lady's Small Group and Men's Bible Study, South Woodstock Baptist Church
 • Quilting, Senexet Grange, 1 p.m.
 • PAWS Celebrity Bartender Fundraiser, Woodstock Tavern, 5-8 p.m.

Friday the 17th
 • Story Time Hour, May Memorial Library, 10 a.m. - noon
 • New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 • Granny Square Night, Senexet Grange, 7 p.m.

Saturday the 18th
 • Art Festival with Guild Northeast, Taylor Brooke Brewery.
 • Hungry Lion Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 12-6 p.m.
 • Craft for a Cause, South Woodstock Baptist Church, 1-3 p.m.
 Live Music - Vudu Sister, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

Sunday the 19th
 • "Woodstock Through

Annual Budget Town Meeting
 May 14th, 7 p.m. WMS

the Camera's Eye" exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. - noon
 • Go Wild with Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue, Roseland Park, noon-4 p.m.
 • Cousins Maine Lobster Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.
 • Live Music - Joe Macey, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.
 • Book Club, May Memorial Library, 4 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 27
 • 42nd Annual Memorial Day 10K Race, 9 a.m., register at Woodstock Recreation Dept.
 • Memorial Day Parade, Woodstock Hill, step off at 11:30 a.m.

June 1
 • Craft Show and Luncheon, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 5
 Charlotte's Web, grades K-5, Loos Center for the Arts.

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.

To submit calendar items:
woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

LEGALS

TOWN OF THOMPSON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 13, 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 application:

ZBA Application #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. File may be reviewed online, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals, or in the Zoning Office. Respectfully submitted, Curby Cunha, Chairman May 03, 2024 May 10, 2024

Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission

Notice of Public Hearing
 The Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission will hold a public hearing on amendments to the Thompson Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Map on May 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Merrill Seney Community Room, Thompson Town Hall, 812 Riverside Drive (Route 12), Thompson. Proposed regulation amendments involve every section of the current regulations, including but not limited, to adding new definitions, deleting and modifying definitions, the elimination of applications for conceptual subdivisions, revising the requirements for application requests resulting in a restructuring of application request forms for jurisdictional rulings, wetlands agent approvals and permits, modifying the authorized actions of the wetlands agent, a

new fee schedule, revising bonding requirements, amendments to comply with statutory changes since 2009 and the correction of Scribner errors and structural inconsistencies. The proposed regulation amendments and map are available for public inspection in the Once of the Thompson Town Clerk and are posted online in the Inland Wetlands Commission webpage at <https://www.thompsonct.org/inland-wetlands-commission>. Citizens may attend and other comments on the proposed amendments. Christopher Dustin, Chair May 10, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Lee John Minutelli (24-00149)

The Hon. John J. McGrath, Jr., Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 26, 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:
 Thomas Minutelli, 8 Stardust Drive, Granby, CT 06035
 May 10, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON Planning and Zoning LEGAL NOTICE

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

Regulations, Article 7, 275-7.2 #14 and Article 4, 275-4, A. B. and C ACCEPTED FOR A PUBLIC HEARING - At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on May 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and on ZOOM

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Pamela Cole Peaslee Hunter, AKA Pamela C Peaslee Hunter, AKA Pamela P Hunter (24-00156)

The Hon. John J. McGrath, Jr., Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 3 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:
 George Bartlett Peaslee, 1607 Kalanika Way, Honolulu, HI 96821
 Merryly Peaslee Rees
 c/o LISA V COURSER, KEARNS & KEARNS, 1121 NEWBRITAIN AVE, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110
 May 10, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Frances M. Mayo (17-00410)

The Hon. John J. McGrath, Jr., Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 1, 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.

The fiduciary is:
 ERNEST J COTNOIR, MAHER AND COTNOIR, 163 PROVIDENCE STREET, P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260
 May 10, 2024

Orient Heights Fire District Notice of Annual Meeting

The citizens of Orient Heights Fire District are hereby invited to the annual meeting set for Monday, May 13th 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Danielson Fire Station, 47 Academy Street, Danielson. The agenda is as follows:
 To review and accept last year's annual meeting minutes
 To review, comment on and forward for a vote a set of bi-laws consistent with Connecticut Statutes
 To review last year budget expenditures to date and those projected thru June 30, 2024
 To review, comment on, and forward for a vote a District budget for Fiscal tax year 2025 (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025).
 To recommend and forward for a vote, a property tax sufficient to meet the requirement of the proposed District budget for FY25
 To recommend and forward for a vote to exempt taxation of motor vehicles as otherwise authorized by Connecticut Statutes, Section 7-328b
 To recommend and forward for a vote to waive property tax in the amount less than \$10
 To solicit and forward for a vote candidates willing to fill 8 Board of Director positions to serve for FY25.
 To conduct a public vote on the aforementioned line items (2,4, 5, 6, 7, 8).
 The newly Elected Board of Directors will vote amongst themselves for who will serve as President, Vice President and Clerk/Treasurer.
 Cheryl Lukowski, Clerk/Treasurer
 Orient Heights Fire District
 May 10, 2024

OBITUARIES

Carol Ann Socquet, 79



Carol Ann Socquet peacefully passed away at the age of 79 after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease on April 23, 2024. Born in San Francisco, CA on July 1, 1944 to Alphonse and Julia (Giambattista) Boudreau; Carol was raised in Danielson, CT and graduated from Killingly High School in 1962. She then moved to CA where she worked as a switchboard operator. In 1967 Carol married her beloved husband, William Socquet. They bought a house in Brooklyn, CT where they resided happily for many years. It was in this home that family holidays took place, friends gathered and children were taken in with open arms. After 9 yrs of hairdressing, Carol became a representative for the company, Home Interiors & Gifts. With a knack for decorating and an artist's eye she brought much delight as she held parties in people's homes. This was her passion for twenty years. Real estate was Carol's next venture until 1993 when she opened her business Monogramit. For the next 17 years she would serve the public personalizing their clothing, blankets or whatever was needed. Country music concerts, shopping and looking fabulous described Carol. She had a flare for fashion and love for pretty things. Her greatest joy was spending time at the beach and on the ocean. She

and Bill loved their boat and spent many hours with family and friends entertaining. Traveling the interstate coastal was one of her fondest memories. Though Carol had no children of her own, she took great pleasure in showering her nieces, nephews, and neighborhood kids with love, affection, time and gifts. Her heart was as big as her beautiful smile and generosity poured forth freely. Her later years were spent serving the needy at Friends of Assisi food pantry. She was predeceased by her husband, Bill in 1998, her parents and nephew Scott Socquet. Carol leaves behind her brothers-in-law: Cliff (Arlene) Socquet, Alex (Iva Abramowski) Socquet, sister-in-law: Maureen Gavitt, nieces: Barbara (Roger) Horn, Susan Gavitt and Jennifer (Paul) Christian, Jessica Socquet, nephews: Billy (Cheryl) Socquet, Neil (Christian) Socquet and John Gavitt Jr., 9 great nieces and nephews, two "psuedo" daughters, Tammy Stachura and Brenda Bernier, her cousins, close friend Yvette Zahansky and many more dear friends. Many thanks to the staff and residents of Matulaitis Nursing Home for Carol's care as well as the amazing support Brenda and Tammy received during her last week of life. A celebration of life will be held on June 7th at Hank's Restaurant 416 Providence Rd. Brooklyn, CT from 12:30-3:30. Please stop by any time to share a memory in honor of our dearly loved and missed Carol Ann.

Theresa M. Deslauriers, 86



N. Grosvenordale - Theresa (Wetherbee) Deslauriers, 86, of Rachel Dr., died Saturday evening, May 4, 2024, at Davis Place. She was the loving wife of the late Clarence F. Deslauriers who passed away in 2011. Born in Webster, MA, she was the daughter of the late Walter and Mary (Sak) Wetherbee, Sr. Mrs. Deslauriers was a 1955 graduate of Barlett High School in Webster, MA. She was a Special Education teacher's aide for Tourtellotte Memorial High School for twenty-five years. She also worked for Colts Plastics and along with her husband, Clarence owned and operated Wings & Things Pet Store. She was a member of the Thompson Little League Auxiliary and enjoyed watching birds especially hummingbirds in her back yard with her husband, building puzzles and doing crafts. But, above all she cherished the quality time that she spent with her extended family and friends attending the Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival in Queensbury, New York.

Norman Deslauriers and his wife Lynn of N. Grosvenordale, Bernard Deslauriers and his wife Elaine of Thompson, and Thomas Deslauriers, Sr. and his wife Alicia of Putnam; seven grandchildren, Kevin, Katlyn, Elizabeth, Holly, Nicole, Thomas, Jr., and Sherry; and four great grandchildren, Everest, Revere, Tyler, and Nora. She was predeceased by her siblings, Mary Holawaty and Walter Wetherbee, Jr. Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Theresa's family from 5:00PM to 7:00PM on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, in the Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. A gathering began in the funeral home on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 9:00AM followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00AM in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Day Kimball Homemakers, 320 Pomfret St., Putnam, CT 06260. Theresa's family would like to extend their heart felt thank you to Theresa's home healthcare workers Ann Marie and Jody and the staff at Davis Place for the care they showed to their mother. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

4-H continued from page A1

else lower. There are different pieces. We have our Director's Challenge going on as part of our 70th birthday so at the

FAIR continued from page A1

tional attractions in the front of the grounds located adjacent to the service gate including tethered balloon rides during the Fair, weather permitting.

More information on this area will be available soon on the Woodstock Fair website and in future announcements.

The former South Stage will now become the Fabulous Family Fun area with games and activities for all ages.

All of the changes are detailed in a video on woodstockfair.com and more announcements will be coming shortly including the 2024 Woodstock Fair Main Stage lineup.

auction we have special items that go to special funds," said Logee.

The Director's Challenge sees five different eras of the Windham Tolland 4-H Camp competing in a friendly contest to see who can raise more money, with all the proceeds supporting at least one element or project of the camp. These causes include endowments,

TRUST continued from page A1

knew we wanted to protect it from development. However, we already have two big projects moving forward in 2024, and we just didn't have the financial resources to close the deal this year.

"We are grateful to The Conservation Fund for stepping in and providing us this opportunity to acquire the property. Unfortunately, we have a relatively short timeline to raise the necessary funds. This substantial

cabin rehabilitation, nurse station rehabilitation, the camp's dam maintenance, and camperships.

Every item featured in the tag sale and auction was donated to the cause. Among the available items were antiques, sports memorabilia and experiences, gift cards from local businesses, exclusive art pieces, and

property is ideally suited for high-end housing development, and The Conservation Fund's mission does not include long-term ownership and management of property.

"We're working hard to raise the money. Because State and Federal grant programs take more than one year to complete, we're applying for grants from a number of private foundations. However, we will need the financial support of the people in the Quiet Corner to reach our goal." "It's an ecological-

Marcus E. Johnson, Jr. 68



Marcus E. Johnson, Jr. 68 of Plainfield, formerly of Woodstock, CT died April 27, 2024 at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. He was born September 25, 1955 in Providence, RI, son of Marcus E. Sr. and Claire (Olsen) Johnson. Marcus was a police officer with the Danielson Police Department, as well as the Jewett City Police Department. After serving nearly 20 years as a police officer, he opened and operated Senexet Landscape for many years. In his spare time, Marcus was an avid snowmobiler

and was known by many as "Snow King."

He is survived by his daughter Kristina Cullen and her husband Patrick Cullen of West Newbury, MA, his sister Candace Puglise of Waterbury, VT, his former spouse Deborah Johnson of Putnam, CT, three nieces, and many great-nieces and nephews, as well as great-great nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 2:00 PM at Elmvalle Cemetery in Woodstock, CT. In lieu of flowers send donations to Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Share a memory with his family at SmithandWalkerfh.com

Shawn M. Lepire, 52



Dayville - Shawn M. Lepire, 52, of Country Club Rd., died Thursday morning, May 2, 2024, at UMASS University Hospital after a brief illness. He was the loving husband of the late Jessica (Pratte) Lepire. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Robert and Madeleine (LaBonte) Lepire. Mr. Lepire was a graduate of the New England Institute in Warwick, RI, where he received an associate's degree in Computer Programming.

On August 23, 2003, he was united in marriage to the former Jessica Pratte.

Mr. Lepire worked for the Centerville Bank in their IT department as a Systems Administrator.

Shawn enjoyed collecting vintage comic books and his frequent trips to Walt Disney World in Orlando with his

wife, Jessica.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Jessica Lepire; his children, Cassandra Brennan and her husband Thomas of Killingly and Jonathan Lepire of Dayville; his uncle, Richard Labonte of Costa Rica; his aunt Pauline Menoche; Jessica's parents, Gary and Myra Pratte of Woodstock; his sister-in-law Shannon Federer and her husband Patrick of Putnam; his beloved Yellow Labrador Ivy, and numerous cousins, and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Shawn's family from 5:00PM to 7:00PM on Friday, May 10, 2024, in the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam CT 06255. Memorial donations in Shawn's memory may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Rita M. Levola. 101

Rita M. Levola. 101 of Danielson, passed away peacefully in her home on Wednesday April 24, 2024. She was born in North Hatley, Canada on June 3, 1922. She was the daughter of the late Nazaire and Mary (Collins) Carrier. Rita was the wife of the late Carlo Levola who passed away in 1995. Rita is survived by her son Timothy K. Levola of Jamacia Plain, MA., her brothers Joseph Carrier and Francis Carrier both of Killingly, and grandchildren Peter and Christy Levola, Christine

Farrell and Nancy Levola. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her siblings, Napoleon Carrier, Agnes Carrier, Rose Eagan, Henry Carrier, Theresa Bachand, Albert Carrier and Yvonne Allen. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday May 11, 2024, at 12:00PM at St. James Church, Danielson.

tillinghastfh.com

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



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Thompson kicks off farm-to-table workshops for 65 Main project

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — After spending the last several months discussing the design of the 65 Main project in Thompson which will convert the town owned building into a small business center and public food farm, project organizers moved to a new topic for their latest informational session on April 29. Over the next several sessions the public will have the opportunity to learn about the “Farm-to-Fork” career path that will be incorporated into the initiative through Tourtellotte Memorial High School.

The April 29 workshop served as an introduction to the career pathway where Superintendent of Thompson Schools

Melinda Smith discussed the formation of new career paths to allow students the chance to enhance their knowledge of food security, production, and culinary arts while helping their local community grow. Thompson Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek explained that project organizers had always planned to incorporate an educational component into the 65 Main initiative.

“The planning game session from November made it very clear that the future function of 65 Main must have some connection to TMHS, and the idea of a ‘Farm-to-Fork’ pathway that directly connects the new facility to the existing culinary arts program had strong support. This is further bolstered by efforts to

connect TMHS culinary students with food service internships at local farm market New Boston Beef. Other points of connection that were suggested were additions to the current botany curriculum, especially as related to the development of the ‘permaculture park’, creating work-study or internship opportunities with local businesses for TMHS students, and opportunities for adult education in conservation and agriculture,” Penn Gesek said.

Officials are Tourtellotte Memorial High School have worked closely with the public to determine how the 65 Main project fits into their career pathways. Penn-Gesek said the perspective from stakeholders like Superintendent Melinda Smith, the educators, and

the teachers themselves is invaluable to exploring the full potential of the project.

“From my perspective, it is about taking the expressed priorities of the community, such as valuing Thompson’s history and its long-standing agricultural traditions and recognizing the need for economic development that is compatible with those historic and agricultural assets, and applying them as broadly as possible. The administration at TMHS has been equally responsive to the community in developing their many career pathways over the past few years. The TMHS student leadership team also had the opportunity to participate in one of the planning game sessions, and their priorities and respons-

es very closely mirrored the responses from the November workshop,” said Penn-Gesek.

The April 29 workshop was just the start of the “Farm-to-Fork” discussions with several more sessions planned for the summer and numerous special guests expected to take part. Penn-Gesek confirmed that they have invited the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to their May meeting to discuss the State’s “Farm-to-School” priorities and possible funding mechanisms to create the high school curriculum. That workshop is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday May 22 from 6 to 8 p.m., pending availability of school officials and the Department of Agriculture. The June workshop will feature proj-

ect partner Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development including Farmer Allyson from Full Heart Farm in Ledyard, who will share insights into establishing a farming business. That session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26 from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library. Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development is also working on a regional farm survey expected to go live next year. Details concerning all workshops are being made available on the Town of Thompson Facebook page and town website. A recording of the April 29 meeting and all previous and subsequent 65 Main workshops are being made available on the Town of Thompson CT YouTube channel.

WOODSTOCK WORKING

April 2024

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

April 15 – Motion to purchase up to 25 18x25 corrugated plastic signs, spending up to \$300. Signs will say “This is a private Farm. Please respect our animals and property. No Trespassing.” Passed unanimously.

Board of Selectmen
April 4 - Motion to approve going out to Bid for Aggregate, Catch Basin Cleaning, Equipment Rental, Guardrail Installation, Facilities General Maintenance and Repair. Passed unanimously.

“I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change” opens May 10 at Bradley Playhouse

PUTNAM — Are you ready for an irreverent and satirical look at the mating game? The Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut at the Bradley Playhouse presents the musical comedy “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change,” which opens May 10.

Performances are May 10, 11, 17, and 18 at 7:30 pm and May 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$27 for adults and \$24 for seniors, students, veterans and first responders. This show runs for two weekends. Please note, “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change” includes mature content and explicit language.

“I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change” has book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro and music by

April 10 - Motion to authorize Karen Fitzpatrick and Treasurer Barry Shead to sign all checks for the Town of Woodstock. Passed unanimously.

Motion to appoint Chandler Paquette as the temporary Chief of Police. Passed unanimously.

April 18 - Motion to approve the lowest bidder of Bureau Veritatus Technical Assessments LLC for \$18,000 pending the bid meets specs and contractor is properly insured. Passed unanimously.

Committee on Aging

April 9 - Motion to recommend to the BOS that the town begin steps to apply for participation in AARP Network of Age-friendly Communities. Passed unanimously.

Motion to advance the Ordinance, as modified following today’s meeting, to create a Woodstock Commission on the Aging to the BOS for their consideration. Passed unanimously.

Crystal Pond Park Commission

April 10 - Motion to revise the CPPC Ordinance to redefine a meeting quorum

as consisting of six Commission members, with at least two representing Woodstock and at least two representing Eastford with approval from both towns. Passed unanimously.

Motion that the Commission purchase 6 portable disc golf baskets (cost not to exceed \$1,000) to loan to the Woodstock Middle School and Eastford Elementary School on a rotating basis to support their athletic programs. Passed unanimously.

Economic Development Commission

April 10 - Motion to approve Logo Option # 12 For use to represent the Woodstock Economic Development Commission. Passed unanimously.

Motion to have the Woodstock Economic Development Commission join membership of the Northeast CT Chamber of Commerce. Passed unanimously.

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

April 1 - Motion to approve modification of the permit issued 12-2-02 for parcel MBL 5783-47-

Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change,” with E. Justin Simone as music director and Kat MacInnes as choreographer. All the roles in this show are performed by four actors, each playing many different characters – Preston Arnold, Heather Crabbe, Paula Guilbault, and Joshua Raymond.

The Bradley Playhouse is located at 30 Front St. (Route 44) in Putnam. All seats are reserved. Reservations may be made with a major credit card online at www.thebradley-playhouse.org or by calling 860-928-7887. Tickets may be purchased at the theater box office, either before the performance, or at the door if available. Purchasing your tickets ahead of time is always a good idea.

Northeast CT Community Orchestra presents spring concert

BY JANE ANDERSON VERCELLI
NCCO PRESIDENT

POMFRET — The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra is excited to present our spring concert, “Classic to Contemporary,” playing an eclectic mix of music by composers from Handel to Abba, on Friday, May 31 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 2 at 2 p.m. Both concerts will be at Clark Memorial Chapel, Pomfret School, Pomfret. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

Under the baton of NCCO conductor Linda Tracy, the string orchestra will open with Libertango by Astor Piazzolla followed by the Impromptu for Strings by Jean Sibelius. Gabriel’s Oboe by Ennio Morricone will feature Vanessa Pentz who dou-

ble majored at Juilliard School of Music in oboe and piano and who now is a member of the NCCO cello section.

Our featured performers are former NCCO conductor Dylan Lomangino who will play viola with violinist Dustin Rood in the Passacaglia by Johan Halvorsen on a theme by Handel. Dylan joined NCCO in 2014 as assistant conductor while he was a viola student at the University of Connecticut. He became conductor in 2016, leading the orchestra through our winter 2023 concert.

The spring concert will close with the rousing sea shanty, “Wellerman,” selections from Mama Mia by Abba and Freedom by Jon Batiste.

Our conductor, Linda

Tracy, is a NCCO violinist who was a choral music teacher for 34 years in the Windham and Tolland public schools. She earned a B.S. in Music Education with a concentration in voice from the University of Connecticut and an M.S. in Music Education from Central Connecticut State University.

She is the creator and artistic director of the a cappella choral ensemble, Take Note!, which is based in Mansfield Center. Performing benefit concerts for the past 20 years, Take Note! has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for those in need in eastern Connecticut.

Questions? Call NCCO president Jane Vercelli at 860 428-4633 or write janevercelli@gmail.com.

04E on Rocky Hill Road Transfer from Shane Pollock to Timothy and Wendy Osborn. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 03-24-08 – Barlow Cemetery Rd (MBL 6387-41-02) - M. Bartlett-Hull for JR Woodlot, LLC/ Timber Harvest as a Use Permitted as of Right (Agriculture). Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 03-24-09 Old Turnpike Rd (MBL 5124-19-17) C. Lemery - Hull for Douglas Builders/ Timber Harvest as a Use Permitted as of Right (Agriculture). Passed unanimously.

Motion to accept application 03-24-10

04E on Rocky Hill Road Transfer from Shane Pollock to Timothy and Wendy Osborn. Passed unanimously.

Poets At Large presents new show at Vanilla Bean Café May 25

POMFRET — The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret, and Poets at Large will host an evening of spoken word and poetry on Saturday night, May 25. This performance will be from 7-9 p.m. Admission is \$15, and includes a give-away. Poets at Large is a regional group of poets who read in Connecticut and Massachusetts, now in its fifth year. Featured poets will be authors Wendy Haller and Catherine DeNunzio.

Haller, a resident of Canton, Conn., just released her first book, “Kiss You Love, Goodbye - a poetic journey through life.”

She says, “It took me 30 years to publish this book. It only came to fruition because of a promise I made to my son. Before he left for college, he made me promise to write every day. Fear was holding me back. Nine months later, my poetic memoir has been released.”

She is currently working on her second book, Ache, and has a children’s book in the illustration phase.

Catherine DeNunzio lives in Ledyard, Conn., and is the author of “Enough Like Bone to Build On” (Antrim House 2022). Her poems have appeared in “The Breath of Parted Lips: Voices from The Robert Frost Place,” Connecticut Literary Anthology,” Delmarva Review Connecticut River Review, Italian Americana, Marin Poetry Center Anthology, Scapegoat Review, and “Waking Up to the Earth: Connecticut Poets in a Time of Global Climate Crisis.” She has poems forthcoming in Delmarva Review.

Contact Poets at Large coordinator Karen Warinsky if you are interested in reading in the open mic at karen.warinsky@gmail.com. There is a five-minute limit for open mic readers and these events are recommended for ages 14 and up.

Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. This series is sponsored in part by bankHometown, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors.

- Paine Rd (MBL 516 5-8-04-7) J. Blanchette/J&D Engineering -Town of Woodstock for Construction of Sediment Basin for consideration at the next IWWA Meeting. Passed unanimously.

Planning & Zoning Commission

April 4 - Motion to approve permit for 1011 Route 169 – new business – Dexter’s Best Liberty Safe & Vault with conditions that no more than 25 percent percent of square footage be used for retail space and the remaining 75 percent or more to be used as warehouse space. Passed with one recusal.

Motion to approve and accept application Woodstock Highway Garage, Paine Rd Sediment Basin – proposed for open space in previously approved Subdivision (#489- 04-06 Norma Butts, John Healey). Passed unanimously.

Motion to set effective date of April 29 for Proposed Text Amendment: Subdivision Regulations, Ch. V – Application Review, Decision and Post Approval Process, Section 2.D (application notice requirements).

Passed unanimously. Motion to acknowledge that the findings are consistent with the POCD. Passed unanimously.

April 18- Motion to close public hearing #SP662-03-24 Mark Labonte, 122 Joy Rd (map 7278 block 32 lot 06) – Activity on a Scenic Rd for driveway improvement to existing barway. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve #SP662-03-24 Mark Labonte, 122 Joy Rd (map 7278 block 32 lot 06) – Activity on a Scenic Rd for driveway improvement to existing barway with condition that the highway foreman suggestions from March 7th memo are met and the amendment of setting 16 feet for the flare noted in that memo as requested by the chair. Passed unanimously.

Zoning Board of Appeals

April 15 - Motion to seat Dotti Durst as a full voting member. Passed unanimously.

Motion to accept and approve the new revised ZBA application form with all incorporated edits discussed to create final document. Passed unanimously.

New Principal named at Putnam Middle School

PUTNAM — The Putnam Board of Education is thrilled to announce the appointment of Greg Keith as the new principal of Putnam Middle School (PMS), effective July 1.

With a wealth of experience and a genuine student-centered approach, Mr. Keith is poised to lead PMS to new heights of success.

Superintendent Rioux expressed confidence in Keith’s ability to excel in his new role, stating, “Mr. Keith’s experiences and genuine student-centered approach make him a perfect fit for Putnam Middle School. We are excited to welcome him to our educational leadership team.”

Board Chairman Jamie Purdon shared the enthusiasm of the Board in welcoming Mr. Keith, stating, “We are thrilled to have Mr. Keith on board as the new leader for Putnam Middle School. His expertise and dedication to student success make him an ideal choice for this important position.”

Keith brings a strong educational background, including a Superintendent Certificate, an Educational Leadership Certificate, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Sacred Heart University. He also earned a bachelor’s degree in organizational communications from Fairfield University.

With diverse professional experiences, including roles as a superintendent, principal, and classroom teacher, Mr. Keith has honed his expertise in shared leadership, district performance data, strategic planning, community involvement, budget preparation, and more. His leadership roles at various educational institutions, including his tenure as a middle school principal in Franklin, Ledyard, and Mystic communities, have equipped him with the skills necessary to lead Putnam Middle School effectively.

The Putnam Board of Education looks forward to Mr. Keith’s positive impact on the students, staff, and community of Putnam Middle School.

Pet Pals sponsors 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 Hospital, Route 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line on May 18 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.



Greg Keith