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65 Main project sees minor changes as concept takes shape

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The town of Thompson held the fifth of its ongoing series of informational workshop sessions concerning the 65 Main Project on Feb. 28 which is slated to bring a new Small Business Development Center and Food Forest to the town. The session was the penultimate discussion concerning the conceptual design of the project before the focus turns to other aspects of the plans in April.

After citizens got their first major look at the project's design in January, some minor changes were presented at the February workshop including removing two firepits in response to public safety concerns, reducing plantings around the parking area, adding two above-ground cisterns to capture roof runoff from the main building and an underground cistern for water storage, and updating the suggested plant species recommended for the site. Those present for the workshop also suggested more changes including further scaling back some plantings to allow for better emergency vehicle access, making the proposed amphitheater and outdoor service kitchen more movable rather than fixed, adding educational and interpretive signage, creating a designated area of recreational fishing, and considering the potential future addition of a footbridge across the French River. These recommendations and more will be considered as the project designers work to finalize one more presentation set to take place at the end of March.

Thompson Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek said the town has appreciated the public's input so far and they are excited to see the final plan in full.

"The consultants from The Permaculture Project will deliver their final concept plan and report ahead of the March workshop. In addition to the final adjustments to the concept plans, the report will include cost estimates, suggested phasing for construction and planting, and strategies for both fundraising and long-term maintenance. The working group is expected to start discussing those strategic elements during workshop #6, which will lead into the 'Educational Unit' planned for the April through June workshops, connecting the career paths at TMHS to the facility," said Penn-Gesek.

Those future sessions will explore how the students of Tourtellotte Memorial High School will be able to play a role in the future of the 65 Main project. Over several workshop sessions locals will have the opportunity to explore the project's proposed connection to career pathways with the Board of Education, faculty, and students expected to be a part of the conversation.

"The goal has always been to make sure the operation of the future facility will serve the real needs of the community, specifically Thompson's public school

Turn To **65 MAIN** page **A9**

Woodstock welcomes first working gas station in 50 years



Courtesy

Cutting the ribbon for the Grand Opening of the Woodstock Valley Country Store (left to right) were: Bill Brower, Jeff Gordon, Jay Swan, Joe Carlone, Kate McDonald, Maharski and Mancy Swadia, and members of the Swadia family.

BY CHARLENE PERKINS
CUTLER
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — For the first time in 50 years, Woodstock has a working gas station.

The long-anticipated opening of the Woodstock Valley Country Store took place on March 7. Despite delays for permits and inspections, the Swadia family business opened to the great relief of neighbors. The lack of service in the time between the tear down of the old store and the construction of the new facility has been frustrating.

The official Grand Opening was organized by the Town of

Woodstock and the Northeast Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. Chamber president Joe Carlone noted "this is the second gas station to be in Woodstock. The first station closed over 50 years ago." Carlone presented the Swadias with a vintage gas can, c. 1940, with an inscription commemorating the grand opening. The Chamber also distributed tee shirts to the staff with "The Best Gas Station in Woodstock/ The Only Gas Station in Woodstock." Those attending enjoyed cider, cookies and donuts from Woodstock Orchards courtesy of the Chamber. There was a drawing for

a bottle of Taylor Brooke Wine and a gift card for \$100 to the Mansion at Bald Hill. At least 75 people were on hand for the event.

State Sen. Jeff Gordon presented Maharshi and Mancy Swadia with a state citation. Gordon was formerly the chairman of the town's Planning & Zoning Commission, and, therefore, was very familiar with this project. The Woodstock Board of Selectmen and the Economic Development Commission also celebrated the Grand Opening with certificates of welcome and appreciation.

Located at 1484 Route

171 in Woodstock Valley, the building has a low profile, in with scale with the neighborhood. Post and beam details support the covered walkway across the front of the building. It is an attractive addition to Woodstock.

The Woodstock Valley Country Store offers self-serve gas at four pumps, a convenience store including beer, a deli/café, as well as an outlet for the Lottery. The deli menu includes breakfast sandwiches, appetizers, sandwiches, pizza, and salads. The business is opened Sundays from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Mondays through Saturdays, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Painted Baker Café Supporting local veterans



Courtesy

Woodstock resident Barry Shead (L) and Ron Coderre (back R) of Putnam purchase the first veteran bracelets from Monique Maldonado of the Painted Baker Café.

PUTNAM — Monique Maldonado owner of the Painted Baker Café on Main Street in Putnam has a long line of veterans in her family. Her grandfather served in World War I and her father was a Navy veteran of World War II. Most recently, two of her sons have served or are currently serving in the military.

Her son, Nicholas Arsenault, a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard, recently returned from a one-year deployment in the Middle East. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Arsenault is a

helicopter pilot who was deployed to Iraq, Syria and Jordan. Her eldest son, Chris Hiestand served in the Army as a Cavalry Scout from 1999 to 2003.

Her appreciation of veterans and their service to our country has spurred her to do something to give back to veterans in need.

On a recent trip to Cape Cod, Mass., Maldonado journeyed into a gift shop where the owner was selling handcrafted bracelets in support of veterans. She was impressed with the product. Thus, was spawned Maldonado's story of assisting local vet-

erans in need.

"With my family history of veterans who have served our country I immediately began to think how I could support veterans from Putnam and surrounding communities. I'm very appreciative of the service rendered by my family to our country along with all the other men and women who have served and continue to serve. I'm also thankful that my son Nick returned safely from the Middle East. I want to assist others who may be less fortunate and are facing hardship," said Maldonado.

Maldonado is selling the bracelets at the Painted Baker Café for \$10 apiece. Her plan is to donate \$6 of each sale to a local veteran's organization or to support a veteran in need. The elasticized bracelet is made of individual wooden tiles representing each branch of the military, POW/MIA, patriotic symbols and the American flag. There are two versions of the bracelet suitable for wear by both males and females.

Maldonado's plan is to get in front of local veteran's organizations and share the story of the bracelet in the hopes of encouraging people to purchase them, for themselves or to give as a gift to a veteran.

"Assisting veterans in need can take many forms. I think of homeless or displaced veterans, veterans in wheelchairs or confined to a bed either at home or in a healthcare facility or veterans suffering with mental health issues. If I can get local veteran organizations to join the cause, there's no telling how many vets we can assist," said Maldonado.

Bracelets are available now at the Painted Baker Café on Main Street in Putnam. It is an ongoing fundraiser.

For more information, contact Maldonado at paintedbakercafe@gmail.com.

New book features art by Killingly youth

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — A new book has been made available showcasing the art of over sixty young children and their parents in Killingly after the local library welcomed The Giant Room to town in October.

The Giant Room is a program operated out of New York City that offers children age five to 12 opportunities to learn about STEM subjects and art through interactive workshops. The program travels across the country visiting qualifying libraries, and in 2023, Killingly was lucky enough to procure their services on the same day as the town's Spooktacular Halloween celebration. The timing was fitting as the children were tasked with facing their fears head-on, but in a family-friendly and artistic manner.

Killingly Town Manager Mary Calorio recalled the program with the Town Council during a meeting in February where she revealed that the work of the children at the Killingly Public Library will forever be remembered thanks to a new book released through The Giant Program based on the theme of that day.

"Their theme was 'I Used to be Afraid,' and the kids created what they used to be afraid of and they made a whole book based on it," said Calorio. "You have ghosts and bats and all sorts of things, and they colored it. Every participant, child or adult, is all listed in the back of the book."

The creations were turned into 3D images that are presented in the book in a "find it" format. Among the creatures and images in the pages are potions, spiders, haunted houses, skeletons, monsters and more, all featuring the individual creative touches of the many young artists that took part that day. Calorio said the program was a huge success and a wonderful way to encourage local youngsters to embrace art and to face their fears.

"We didn't have to pay for this program. It was amazing. We had about 60 participants and their coordinating to come back which is awesome. I think this is great. It's just so really cool to have our kids make something in their library and then see it published in an actual book," said Calorio.

"I Used to Be Afraid" has been made available on The Giant Program's website as a hardcover 8.5 by

Turn To **BOOK** page **A9**

Anti-bullying performance a hit with students

WOODSTOCK — On Feb. 22, students from six area schools enjoyed an inspiring and fun interactive experience at the Loos Center for the Arts. “Bee True to You,” an award-winning rock/pop musical for children, was sponsored by Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut, which provided free admis-

sion to student groups. Participating schools included The Learning Clinic (Brooklyn); Pomfret Community School; Natchaug School (Windham); and Union, Chaplin, and Eastford elementary schools. “Bee True To You” featured high-energy music, dancing, audience input and an appealing storyline. The narrative

addressed bullying, social media, friendship, problem solving, and finding confidence in yourself and your own special talents (your “zing”). TOBI (played by show creator and performing artist Ashley Tobias) and her best friend BTTY THE BEE (Matthew Hooper) had students clapping, dancing and comfortably sharing their thoughts as the performers moved through the audience with microphones.

Leslibella from Natchaug School was impressed by BTTY’s onstage backflip and proud to share her “zing” (crochet-ing) with the audi-ence.

A student from Eastford Elementary said, “The show taught

me a lesson that in hard times if you care about people, they will care about you.” Natchaug School teacher Lauren Jara called the musical engaging and relevant, adding “A lot of our students have faced social media issues. It was nice for them to see it onstage and get ideas on how to handle situa-tions.” The show’s mes-sag-es fit well with the social-emotional curricu-lum at Jara’s school. “We’ve been talking about the power of being unique, learning to be kind, and respecting what makes others spe-cial,” she said. On the bus before the show, she asked stu-dents to raise a hand if they’d ever seen a play or musical; only three did. Jara appreciates that Performing Arts of NECT offers access



to entertainment that her students might not see outside of their pro-grams. “Bee True to You” was designed to inspire kids “to rise above bul-lying and embrace the power of compassion and self-acceptance.” For more information,

see www.beetrue toyou.org/. Teachers, adminis-trators and parents can learn about future educa-tional shows by signing up for The Loos Center’s email list at <https://www.theloos.org/daytime-edu-shows> and following their social media.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 4: Killdeer; Northern Harrier; American Woodcock; Mallard; Hooded Merganser; Bluebird; Red-winged Blackbird; Great Blue Heron; Ring-necked Duck; Turkey Vulture; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Goldfinch; Song Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Developmental Preschool Screenings

Woodstock Elementary School is accepting appointments for Woodstock children ages three and four for developmental preschool screenings. These screenings are intended to screen age appropriate development skills, address questions/concerns about growth, development and speech, and identify children who may need further evaluation for special services.

Screenings are held on Friday mornings.

Please call the Woodstock Elementary School office to schedule an appointment at 860-928-0471. **Preregistration is required.**




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Courtesy

A LESSON IN NUTRITION

Pomfret Community School students were treated to a talk about healthy eating habits by Hannah Butcka, R.N., C.N.S. this past week. Seen here, she is speaking to the positive effects of different colored foods and the importance of eating the rainbow. Butcka has her own private practice in nutrition, and works as a nurse in home health in Southeastern Connecticut.



Courtesy

PASSING THE GAVEL

A thumb drive containing 15 years of Woodstock Democratic Town Committee official records was passed from outgoing DTC chair Charlie Super to incoming DTC chair Charlene Perkins Cutler (center left) at the DTC’s meeting on March 6. Super led the DTC for 15 years. Perkins Cutler, a former selectman and Board of Finance member, was elected to serve as DTC chair for the committee’s 2024-2026 term. Kathleen Barach (far left) was reelected DTC treasurer, and Sara Bridgman (far right) was elected to her first term as the DTC’s new secretary. Jessica Weaver Boose (not pictured) was reelected vice chair. She serves as Woodstock’s Democratic Registrar of Voters.

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508-949-6640 Information and Referral Department



Putnam Elementary library awarded prestigious grant

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The Putnam Elementary School Library has been named one of 465 libraries across the United States to participate in Round 2 of the Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) grant programs organized by the American Library Association. The LTC program has offered more than \$7 million over two rounds of grants to small and rural libraries throughout the nation to increase accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities. The Putnam Elementary School Library is one of eleven

libraries in Connecticut to receive funds in either round of grant funding and the only library in the Quiet Corner on that list. The \$10,000 grant will fund furniture and other improvements to help make the library more accessible for students and older patrons with any type of disability. When asked about the grant, Putnam Elementary School Assistant Principal Meaghan Wakely explained the funding is designed to help increase accessibility for students with disabilities but will ultimately help all students in the long run. “You often help more people than you intend with programs like this. It will benefit all stu-

dents,” Wakely said, adding that the school feels blessed to be a part of the LTC program. “It’s really exciting for us. We’re thankful for the opportunity. The grant targets rural communities and this will definitely help our school offer more to all of our students.” Wakely said the early plans for the funding include sensory swings, new shelving units, more flexible seating arrangements and workspaces and other enhancement designed to make the library a more welcoming and user-friendly environment for patrons regardless of any type of disability. However, she made sure to note the exact details are still being finalized.

A requirement of the grant is to conduct community input-gathering sessions to assure the work aligns with local needs. Part of this process is determining what primary audiences the library will be trying to reach the most and how the improvements can best serve those individuals. Wakely said the school plans to consult with guidance counselors, special education teachers, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and, of course, the

students themselves to finalize how they will use the money. Libraries can begin the public input process as early as April of this year.



ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF THE BOROUGH OF DANIELSON MARK THESE UPCOMING DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

- 3/20/24 – Regular Monthly Meeting – 7:00pm
(Budget approved by Council)
- 4/08/24 – Annual Budget Meeting – 7:00pm
(Taxpayers vote on the Council’s budget)
- 4/17/24 – Regular Monthly Meeting – 7:00pm
- 5/15/24 – Regular Monthly Meeting – 7:00pm
- 6/19/24 – Regular Monthly Meeting – 7:00pm

All meetings are held at the Danielson Fire Department, 2nd floor meeting room, 47 Academy Street, Danielson.

Get in on the fun with Travelers Championship Birdies for Charity program and help Access

WILLIMANTIC — From now until June 27, 2024, Access Community Action Agency is teaming up with the 2024 Travelers Championship Birdies for Charity program to raise funds, and guess what? For every dollar you donate, we’ll get a 15 percent bonus!

Birdies for Charity is all about using the buzz around the Travelers Championship to support nonprofits like us. Thanks to Webster Bank, every dollar you give through Birdies for Charity gets a 15 percent boost for Access and other 501(c)(3) organizations.

The Travelers Championship is a PGA TOUR event that gives back big time. Since 1952, they’ve donated more than \$48 million to the community. In 2023 alone, they raised over \$3 million for 180 charities! And when you donate through Birdies for Charity, 100 percent of your contribution goes to us.

This isn’t just about golf—it’s about giving back. The PGA Tour is all about building a community that cares, from players to sponsors to fans like you. And when you donate, you’re helping us empower individuals and families in need to achieve economic stability.

Ready to chip in? Head over to our donation page through the Travelers Championship Birdies for Charity: https://partnerhq.com/public/events/2024-travelers-championship-birdies-for-charity/organization_partnerships/3538. Have questions? Reach out to Sherry Perkins, our Fund Development Specialist, at 860-450-7400, ext. 7459 or sherry.perkins@accessagency.org.

At Access Community Action Agency, we’re on a mission to fight poverty in northeast Connecticut. We provide food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and more to help families and individuals thrive. Learn more about us at <https://accessagency.org/>.

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TEA presents Bedtime Stories

THOMPSON — Please join the Thompson Education Association (TEA) for our annual Bedtime Stories program March 28 from 5-7 p.m. at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

This event provides an opportunity for our community to come together in literacy as we hear stories, sing, snack, and enjoy each other’s company.

Parents are required to stay at the event and join in the fun with their family. We hope you join us!

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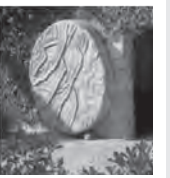





brendan@villagernewspapers.com



WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Palm Sunday	The Conquering King	March 24	10:30am
Good Friday	The Suffering Servant	March 29	7:00pm
Sunrise Service	The Perfect High Priest	March 31	6:30am
	<small>Booth Family Farm 549 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn</small>		
Easter Worship	The Lamb on the Throne	March 31	10:30am



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Poets at Large 2024 Spring Season

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March 23 featuring Worcester poets Tony Brown, John Hodgen & Karen E. Sharpe

April 27 featuring Candace Curran & Janet MacFayden’s Volta “Rocking the Boat” and Roger Mbianda

May 25 featuring Wendy Haller and Catherine DeNunzio

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A total eclipse of... the sun

In just a few weeks, on April 8, those who travel to Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine will have the extraordinary opportunity to witness a total solar eclipse. This celestial phenomenon, where the moon completely obscures the sun, casting a shadow on the Earth, is a moment of wonder.

For New Englanders, this upcoming eclipse holds particular importance, as the region has not experienced such a spectacle in over a century. The anticipation is palpable, with communities buzzing with excitement and preparations underway to ensure a memorable viewing experience for all.

The corona is a region of super-heated gas extending millions of kilometers into space, but it's normally obscured by the sun's intense brightness. During a total solar eclipse, however, when the moon perfectly aligns with the sun, the corona's ethereal glow emerges, creating a spectacle unlike anything else in nature. For those fortunate enough to be in the path of totality, the sky darkens, stars emerge, and the sun's corona—the outermost layer of its atmosphere—becomes visible.

Beyond the scientific implications, a total solar eclipse holds profound cultural and spiritual significance for many. Throughout history, these celestial events have been interpreted as omens, symbols of renewal, or moments of cosmic alignment.

It is essential to prioritize safety when viewing the eclipse. Directly observing the sun, even during an eclipse, can cause permanent damage to the eyes. Therefore, it is crucial to use certified eclipse glasses or other safe viewing methods to protect our vision.

The influx of traffic and people into small towns have caused local safety departments, and even state departments of transportation, to collaborate alongside local hospitals and businesses on how best to prepare.

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.

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OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A small self correction

To the Editor:
I am writing with a correction to one word in my last week's letter to Editor involving the recent vote of the U.S. Senate on the Immigration Reform Bill. I mis-stated that the legislation had been "recently passed" in the Senate. It should have read

that the bill had been "recently rejected" in the Senate.
I apologize for the error and any resulting confusion by your readers.
Respectfully,

CLAUDIA ALLEN
THOMPSON

The GOP has placed power above dignity

To the Editor:
Will anyone from the GOP speak out against Trump? Nikki Haley did, and good for her; she got better as she went after Trump for all his warts. There are a lot of them.
Not so much for Sen. Mitch McConnell, retiring Senate Majority Leader, who has endorsed Trump again — power over dignity. Trump demeaned, insulted and racially attacked McConnells wife after she resigned from her position in the Trump Cabinet after the Jan. 6 insurrection. Way to stand up, Mitch, for your wife — power over dignity.
This power over dignity theme prevails over the GOP. They will swallow their integrity over power that comes from the Cult Leader. Hail the leader, regardless how that shows you personal dignity. This was the party of Reagan, McCain and Lincoln, not anymore. Many of the soulful Republicans would rather not serve and have to deal with the Cult fallout.
GOP has become the anti-democratic, pro-Russian party. Anti-liberal, hating them more than what then anything else. Anti-

woman, racists and authoritarian to make Americans do what they want them do, fall in line with their restrictive policies. Very sad and problematical to the future of the country. This country needs at least a 2 party or more system. Compromise is part of government. Like negotiating a border deal that was progress but because one person wants to use the issue kills the compromise that was that.
GOP led by their leader hates the military. Look at what he said about Nikki Haley's husband, his thoughts on McCain and how that shows his disdain those who serve the country They serve this country so he can molest women, commit fraud and other crimes and file for bankruptcy (three times). Do not ask what you can do for your country, but the cult leader likes what the country did for him.
This is a big election for Democracy and keeping the country safe, most countries see us as a beacon of light at the top of the hill, not whatever the Cult leader is pushing. Hope over hate.

DAVID CASSETTARI
KILLINGLY

A case of Déjà Vu

To the Editor:
Looks like a disappointing case of Déjà Vu for our choices in November. Both candidates for president are too old for such a demanding and stressful job. Joe Biden is a career politician with all the typical baggage that goes with it, but he's always seemed like a decent and intelligent person. He surrounds himself with cabinet members picked for their proven job performance. His presidency has been a mix of good and bad decisions, but he did manage to pass some beneficial legislation.
Then there's Donald Trump. A career businessman with a history of being corrupt and

only caring about himself. He's dishonest and dangerously dumb. He surrounds himself with "yes men" (and women) who eventually get fired or quit when they've had enough. His presidency was a four year ego trip, filled with drama and broken promises that ended with an insurrection.
So, the choice is to vote for Biden and hope for the best, or vote for Trump and prepare for the worst. For me, it's a "no-brainer," but as a nation of over 300 million people, I think we should have better options

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Culture war

To the Editor:
As a bi-cultural, bilingual, Army brat, daring enough to move from one zip code to another in search of a better quality of life for my children and self, I can categorically claim an ability for spotting a cultural war when I see one!
I offer the examples of the '40s vs. the '50s... vs. the '60s... vs. the '80s... and so on. One generation hopefully learns from the other and grows in the process, even though "growth" has been interpreted differently at times. We could discuss the impact that texting has had on spelling any day! Regardless, perceptions can become reality, creating violent misunderstandings which could require intervention and mediation. The Killingly mascot issue may be one of those.
As a member of our BOE five years ago, I was part of the effort to correct what I understood then and now, to be a disrespectful tradition born out of misinformation and misplaced historical context.
With that in mind, I support the conscientious review of the Redman reference or description label on Killingly students. It is considered demeaning and disrespectful by the indigenous people of this State who served as the models for our athletes. Recovering the \$95,000 funding grant is an incentive for the review, but should not distract anyone from responsible analysis. The most significant motivation to resolve this issue once and for all, is that it is ... The Right Thing To Do. It reflects the moral evolution of a community. It elevates the awareness of enlightened spiritual and intellectual growth, as we affirm respect for others, as we know it to be today.

LYDIA RIVERA-ABRAMS
DAYVILLE

Republicans are leading us into darkness

To the Editor:
A couple of events this past week starkly illustrated the Republican Party's total domination by, and descent into, lies and hatred, and, as Carl Sagan feared, into superstition and darkness.
First, Sen. Katie Britt used a story of sex trafficking from 20 years ago to criticize President Biden in her over-acted response to the State of the Union address. Her clear implication was that Biden's policies were responsible for the woman's horrific abuse in Mexico. But George W. Bush was president at the time.
Then, rapist and former President Trump mocked Biden for his stuttering disability, continuing his long history of making fun

of the disabled. Previously, Trump also said he didn't want to be seen in the presence of military amputees and refused to go to a US military cemetery in France because, "it's filled with losers." Trump demonstrates the hatred he accuses his opponents of. He calls human beings, "vermin."
The lies and hatred lead us down into the darkness of authoritarianism, as Sagan feared. Hopefully, the three-quarters of Republicans who still believe the Big Lie and, astonishingly, the quarter of Americans who believe QAnon and conservative "conspiracy theories," will see the wisdom of truth and reject hatred before November.
BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Ruminations on relocation

After I saw the movie "Oppenheimer," I began to think about my high school friend, Beth McNeill, and her father, Steven, who had worked at Oak Ridge, Tenn. during WWII. He moved his family to Thompson because he was hired by American Optical Company in Southbridge, once one of the most innovative companies in the country.
A quick look at the Web site for American Optical Company is a glimpse into

the dynamic nature of manufacturing in the last century. As part of the war effort, "AO delivered 10 million goggle frames, 6 and a half million eyeglass frames and 5 million pairs of sunglasses to the US military." No wonder the largely vacant campus that trails along a waterway in Southbridge was once so impressive. How sad that changing times and probably competition sapped the giant's strength.

The McNeills were among a number of other families that moved to our region, bringing with them physicists, scientists, inventors and managers. Thousands of others were attracted, often from Quebec and Eastern Europe, to manufacture the goods the company sold to average consumers as well as the US military and the space program. One company had a big impact, but there were many others.
Which brings me to thinking about why people move to our region now. There are many manufacturing jobs, just not located in one place like AO. Local plants are smaller, but area industrial parks are full. We have four high schools and a pre-prep school that enroll boarders. The schools provide plenty of employment at a variety of levels and welcome day students, giving local families more school choice. Our public schools are relatively small and everyone knows your name.

Location, location, location, is always important. Years ago, I was asked to meet with the wives of young doctors the hospital was trying to recruit. Always the question – where do you shop? would come up. I'd say – we don't shop, (these were the years when our wonderful small shops had closed) but if you drive about an hour, you can buy anything you want. Location was pivotal in moving manufacturer's reps, delivery people and commuters to the area as well.

The pandemic made people understand the importance of family more. People moved to be nearer elderly parents or find a place where one's aging or single parent could move in or live nearby. When I was a little girl, many families had an elderly relative, generally a grannie, tucked in a warm spot in the kitchen. Perhaps everyone was miserable, but it didn't seem it. Often couples move to Florida or South Carolina when they retire and come back when they are old and sick. For my in-laws life near Tampa was their reward and they loved the climate. As a young couple, my husband and I moved back to my hometown because my father was dying. We stayed and commuted to our jobs for decades. We don't regret what we chose.

Lifestyle is a fine reason to settle in. People move here and stay because they can raise chickens and ride mountain bikes. If an individual wants to give back, there are countless volunteer groups that welcome newcomers with open arms. The Y offers activities for everyone where the only complaint is that the parking lot is full.

I meet people who like to move. *They enjoy the excitement of redoing a house, creating a new life and then moving on. Like many who come to AO, they bring skills and stories. There are plenty of reasons to move but even more to stay.*



NANCY WEISS

Owe taxes? Do this before you file and save

It's that time of year again - tax season. For many Americans, doing their taxes often means owing money to the IRS. If you find yourself in this situation, you may be scrambling to figure out how to pay your tax bill before the filing deadline on April 15th. But before you whip out your checkbook, there is one smart financial move you should consider first: making a qualified retirement plan contribution.

As a financial advisor, I always recommend maximizing your retirement contributions, if possible.

But this strategy is especially prudent if you owe taxes.

What are qualified retirement plan contributions?

It's a contribution to certain tax-advantaged accounts like 401(k)s, 403(b)s, and Traditional IRAs. The key benefit is that contributions are made pre-tax, which reduces your taxable income for the year, or in the case of a Traditional IRA, potentially receiving a tax deduction. For example, if you make a \$5,000 Traditional IRA contribution, your taxable income



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may be lowered by \$5,000. At a 24 percent tax rate, that saves you \$1,200 in taxes owed (\$5,000 x 24 percent).

This strategy, takes advantage of pre-tax contributions to reduce your tax bill. The money gets redirected into your retirement savings, allowing you to get a jumpstart

on funding your nest egg while also decreasing taxes due. It's a win-win.

Who benefits most from this retirement contribution strategy?

People who expect to owe taxes due to extra income or underpaying estimated quarterly taxes are prime candidates. Self-employed individuals and small business owners also tend to have fluctuating incomes year-to-year, so they frequently utilize these strategies.

Important tips for making pre-tax retirement contributions

Make sure you're eligible - you must have enough earned income to contribute to an IRA or have access to an employer retirement plan like a 401(k) to make pre-tax contributions.

Mind the deadlines - IRA contributions can typically be made up until the tax filing deadline in April, while 401(k) contributions must be done by December 31st.

Don't overdo it - contribute as much as you can but be aware of the annual limits, as excess contributions can incur penalties.

Consider other retire-

ment accounts - Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and SEP IRAs allow larger pre-tax contributions than traditional IRAs.

The key takeaway

Owing taxes is never fun. But strategic retirement planning can make April 15th a little less scary. Consult with a financial advisor or tax professional to run the numbers and see if maximizing your qualified plan contributions makes sense as part of your overall tax planning approach. With the right moves, you can take the sting out of tax season this year.

You can get started by using the resources, tips, and tools in our online Tax Resource Center at bit.ly/WHZTaxCenter.

Use the tax calculator there to come up with an estimate of what you're likely to owe in taxes this year, and then adjust the figures to see what would happen if you contributed more to your retirement instead. There are a wealth of other resources in the Tax Center to help you as well.

Our team of advisors at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors is also always available to help you develop a custom-

ized strategy to maximize your retirement contributions, reduce your tax bill, and help you reach your big financial goals, through our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process. Schedule a complimentary consultation at www.whzwealth.com or call us at (860) 928-2341.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why is the use of “illegal” suddenly a problem for Pelosi?

To the Editor:

We can argue which 2024 presidential candidate is competent enough to lead this nation from now until November; but maybe Nikki Haley had the right idea when she suggested mandatory mental competency testing for politicians upon reaching age 75? (Her obvious targets there were both Biden and Trump.) However, such a proposal would have the same chance of passing in Congress as a term limits bill would.

A previous jump on the bandwagon issue associated with Donald Trump is that «the Russians are coming.» But when Tucker Carlson did his interview with Putin, it seemed that the Russian president was not a fan of Mr. Trump. Another moan is that Trump is going to seek revenge against his rivals. Newsweek recently reported that the Democrats are now eyeing a new way to get Trump off of the ballot even after the Supreme Court's ruling, but of course, the Democrats doing that can't be considered as revenge, now can it? And whatever happened to Trump being the only threat to our democracy? According to Hunter Biden, the real threat to our democracy hinges on him remaining sober and drug free, and he said that's being tested by those evil Republicans who are investigating him.

Didn't our VP visit some Latin American countries to address the «root cause» of the immigration problem, and what became of that? I've also heard that Venezuela said that we can deport them (their people), but that they won't take them back, and that crime in that country has significantly dropped since. Three of the dirt-bag criminals that Venezuela certainly doesn't want back are the (accused) murderer of Laken Riley, Jose Ibarra and his brothers, Argeinis and Diego. Do your own research and you'll learn of the numerous current charges they're facing, how many times they've been deported and have slipped back into the country, and about the crimes they've committed. According to a variety of news sources, the one thing they all have in common is that they entered this country “unlawfully” or “illegally” - so wouldn't it be proper to call them “illegals?” (And according to Webster, the definition of unlawful also includes the word illegal.) During his SOTU speech President Biden said: “How many more times are we going to hear about illegals killing our citizens?” Congrats, Mr. President, and that should have had the entire chamber on their feet applauding in agreement. (Did it?) Fact is that our Congress was a captive audience at that

moment, but were they listening?

After the SOTU address, and while on CNN, Pelosi took issue with Mr. Biden referring to the likes of Ibarra as «illegal» instead of «undocumented.» Pelosi's remarks sparked a backlash on social media, with many condemning her for focusing on language rather than the crime itself. Back in 2009, Schumer said that people illegally in the U.S. are «illegal aliens,» not «undocumented.» He also made the admission that the border is “far more secure” thanks to thousands of new border agents added from 2005 to 2009 as well as 630 miles of border fence constructed along the U.S. southern border which he said created “a significant barrier to illegal immigration.” President Obama once said: «I strongly believe that we should take on, once and for all, the issue of illegal immigration.» Did Pelosi say anything back then?

Maybe you don't like the actions the State of Texas has taken to counter illegal immigration, maybe you think the use of razor wire is inhumane, but something they're doing is working because these migrants are now preferring to enter the US via Arizona and California. It's been reported that 4,000 criminals have broken out of prisons in Haiti, and where do you think their next destination might be?

File this one under «far left city collapses under its own insanity» - On Super Tuesday, voters in San Francisco approved ballot measures that severely weakened the influence of the left by requiring drug testing for welfare beneficiaries and increasing police powers. Great move! The voters there responded to the surge in criminal activity and attacks on law enforcement that have also seen retailers leaving the city in large numbers as a result of the crime epidemic. Wow, it appears that the people of California have finally woken up, and I hope it leads to the ousting of Schiff, Pelosi and Waters. The Democrats will tell you that crime is down in this country, and on the other hand, they're calling in the National Guard to help combat crime in the New York City subway system. Wasn't their plan at one time to use social workers?

I did not listen to the Presidents State of the Union address; however, I did watch the pomp preceding it and after seeing some of the members of our Congress, it made me wonder if it was a scene from a nursing home picnic or the set of “The Walking Dead.”

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Spring approaches and Woodstock will green up and blossom over all its 63 square miles. While the natural landscape is ancient and delivers quality views year after year, townspeople are also the beneficiaries of intentional plantings that have endured for more than a century.

Roseland Cottage's historic parterre garden was laid out in 1850. It is easily viewed as one goes past the Pink House, full of color in the summer and accented by an astonishing thread leaf maple in the fall. The outline of its more than 20 flower beds by 300 yards of dwarf boxwood is remarkable - even more so as it reaches its 174th birthday this year. Add to that the many significant trees and shrubs planted on the Woodstock Hill Common by Henry C. Bowen in the 1860s-70s. Some still exist. The century-old landscape at Roseland Park is another treasure enjoyed by Woodstockians every year.

But what little country town can boast an arboretum - a collection of botanical specimens noted for their special characteristics? Woodstock can! The wonderful Palmer Arboretum - a positively magical place if one is a plant enthusiast.

Palmer Arboretum is located on Woodstock Hill, just behind the Palmer Memorial Hall (the yellow brick structure). It was founded in 1914 by Minnie Palmer Dean. Between 1914-1916 an array of trees and shrubs were planted, each selected for their special qualities. Mrs. Dean passed away in 1925 and left the Arboretum to the Town of Woodstock in her will. Originally five acres, the park presently occupies only two. It is managed by an Arboretum Committee, supported by experts from UConn and other organizations, Master gardener Linda Kaplan, and others. The town provides a small budget for materials and occasional help from the Highway Department with heavy projects. While there were years when the Arboretum was neglected, it has now been brought back to life.

tion on a hot summer day. A natural spring bubbles up in a swale among the trees. It is not just the plants but their placement that makes the Arboretum special.

The variety of shrubs and trees include azaleas, mountain laurel, Royal Star Magnolia, Paper Bark Maple, a large Ginkgo biloba, a significant Purple Beech, a grove of Sawara Cypress (Chamaecyparis pisifera), Chinese Witch Hazel (Hamamelis mollis), and Devil's Claw (Araliaceae). Many of the species are imports: the Devil's Claw is native to the Pacific Northwest, the Chinese Witch Hazel is from central and eastern China, and the Purple Beech is a European variety. To have this collection of plants survive and now thrive for over 110 years is remarkable.

According to a former member of the Arboretum Committee, Bill Brower, “Three really special things about the Arboretum that I love are: 1. the grove of false cypresses Chamaecyperis as you enter the south entrance to the park. An evergreen specialist from UConn said it was the most impressive collection of those trees he had ever seen. 2. The Devil's Club Araliaceae which is covered everywhere with thorns but flowers beautifully in the fall. 3. There is also a Chinese witch hazel Hamamelis Mollis, which flowers in late January.”

Only in Woodstock can you see those distinctive yellow witch hazel blossoms against a backdrop of snow!

There have been improvements as well as reclamation projects at the Arboretum. The rain garden at the edge of the parking area is designed to absorb runoff and prevent erosion. The site is planted with mostly native species: inkberry, winterberry, sweet pepperbush, blue flag iris, purple cone flower and St. Johnswort.

Palmer Arboretum is for the education, enjoyment and enlightenment of the public. It is a location for reflection and inspiration. While one can see it from the parking lot, this treasure is best explored by a leisurely meander. It is enjoyed by artists, horticulturalists, and nature enthusiasts. The Arboretum's dynamic landscape provides reasons to visit all year long and it is open every day from dawn to dusk.

Books on Woodstock history available at any of the town's four libraries and the website for the Woodstock Historical Society (www.centerforwoodstockhistory.com):

Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. History of Woodstock. Boston: James R. Osgood, 1882.

Larned, Ellen D. History of Windham County, Connecticut. 2 vols. Worcester, Massachusetts: Printed by Charles Hamilton, 1874.

Woodstock Tercentenary Committee. Heritage and Horizons, Woodstock Remembers 300 Years. Woodstock, CT, 1968.

WOODSTOCK THROUGH THE YEARS CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



Incredible season by Tourtellotte boys' basketball team

To the Editor:

Heather and I are writing to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the incredible Tourtellotte High School boys basketball team on their remarkable season! Their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment have truly paid off, and we are thrilled to see such success. It's evident that their achievements are not just a result of talents on the court, but also the guidance of a tremendous coaching staff led by Coach Gino Manzi and Assistant Coach Chris Creamer, who have mentored and nurtured the boy's skills throughout the season. Their commitment to team growth and development has undoubtedly played a pivotal role in their success and we applaud and thank them both for their tremendous efforts.

Moreover, witnessing the unwavering support from the families and fans has truly been inspiring this season. Their encouragement and enthusiasm undoubtedly provided the team with the motivation and strength to overcome any challenges faced along the way. We were particularly moved by the unity

and camaraderie demonstrated by the team. It was by no coincidence that the team chose the word “FAMILY” on the back of their warmup shirts. It was this sense of family that guided the team through the ups and downs of the season and was evident in their team bond shared both on and off the court.

Now that the season has come to a close, we just wanted to take a moment to celebrate your accomplishments and an incredible season. Your success is not just measured by wins and losses, but by the growth, resilience, and unity you've exhibited as a team, and if you ask us, you won. Remember to cherish these memories you've created together and the invaluable lessons you've learned along the way. Once again, congratulations on a phenomenal season and know you have made your school and Thompson community incredibly proud to be a Tourtellotte Tiger. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors both on and off the court.

BRIAN AND HEATHER SANTOS
THOMPSON

First time early voting in Connecticut

To the Editor:

Making history, this election season will be our state's launch of early voting... joining the majority of states (46 as of 2023!) whose taxpayer-funded legislators got their bills passed, as did ours. Thank you!

I can already see some obvious benefits. A big one is that more days to vote will undoubtedly lead to more voters,

which is more votes. Please use your vote in this process.

Early voting will be on March 26, 27, 28 and 30.

Check the locations and times in your town.

In Brooklyn, it will be at the Brooklyn Town Hall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TAMI JO WYKES
BROOKLYN



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SPORTS

Huge second quarter helps Tigers defeat Plainfield in State Tournament opener

TOURTELLOTTE THEN CAN'T GET PAST SOMERS IN SECOND ROUND



Tourtellotte's Deonte Snow, surrounded by Plainfield defenders, attempts to leap for a layup.



BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — On the shoulders of an offensive explosion from senior Deonte Snow and great defense, the Tourtellotte boys' varsity basketball team used a big second quarter to take control and coast to a 75-57 win over Plainfield on Tuesday, March 5 in the first round of the Division V State Tournament.

"Huge, Deonte made some huge shots, played

Koby Rock of Tourtellotte attempts to maneuver his way through the Plainfield defense for a layup.

awesome tonight," stated Tourtellotte Head Coach Gino Manzi when asked about his team's second quarter. "One of his best games of the year. He made some big 3's. They came out strong, I knew it was going to be a tough game. We pride ourselves on defense. We stepped it up defensively in the second quarter and we were able to get the lead a little bit. That quarter was big for us."

Tourtellotte started fast out of the gates beginning the game on a 9-0 run, but Plainfield fought back following a timeout and cut the lead to just one, 9-8, but Snow and Co. negated the pushback from the visiting Panthers. The senior scored his team's last 11 points in the quarter to go into the second period with a 22-17 lead. Snow finished with a game-high 24 points and was lethal behind the 3-point line hitting four from behind the arc.

Normally Tourtellotte's offense runs through

three main guys in Jake Patterson, Snow, and Joshua Carlson, but in the second quarter against Plainfield, they brought a balanced attack. Junior Jackson Santos scored 10 points and stood out in the quarter. The balanced offensive output along with great defense led to a healthy lead going into halftime, 42-25. The Tigers outscored the Panthers 20-8 in the quarter.

"Jackson Santos was unbelievable and made some shots," expressed Manzi. "When they are open, we encourage the kids to take the shot when you're open because you have to get some confidence right. He (Jackson) had that tonight and he made some big shots and took the ball to the basket. He got fouled and played really good defense. Jack, off the bench, played very good defense. It was a total team effort and I am really proud of the kids."

The little things from the team as a whole have been a big reason for

their success this year. Tracking loose balls, crashing the offensive glass, and taking charges to name a few. A huge contributor that stood out in this area against Plainfield was senior Nicolas Kostacopoulos.

"It is big, he is pretty aggressive to the offensive board, you wouldn't think he would be getting them," expressed Manzi. "He is not a big kid, but he is aggressive and he works really hard. I am proud of him, I am proud of the team. At this point in the season, it is one and done. Nobody wants to go home, they don't want to go home."

Patterson also contributed 20 points in the contest and also showed out on the defensive end, coming up with big play after big play.

Unfortunately for Tourtellotte, their state playoff run came to a halt in the second round against Somers. They were defeated in a hard-fought battle, 60-50

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HIGH SCHOOL
NOTEBOOK

Killingly High School Boys' Basketball
FAIRFIELD — 19 Seed Killingly (10-12) fell on the road in the 1st Round of the DIII State Tournament to Fairfield Ludlowe (13-8) out of the FCIAC conference by a final score of 58-52.

Johnny Kazantzis had 18 points and 12 rebounds, while Quin Crowley led all scorers with 19 points. Ashton Goodwin added 10 points and 4 rebounds for Killingly.



Courtesy photos

Indoor Track and Field
On Saturday, March 9, the best of the best in America met in Massachusetts to compete at Nationals for Indoor Track. The Track is legendary at the Reggie Lewis Track Center. The achievement of making Nationals is an incredible feat and was only accomplished by two athletes in Killingly Sports.

Jeremiah Smith finished off an incredible indoor season and looks to keep his national title run continuing through outdoor track, which starts next week. Jeremiah flew in the 60- meter Hurdles, finishing 213th out of 237 athletes. Great job representing Killingly as one of the few, elite, Sophomores at Nationals!

Everton Brown finished off an incredible indoor season as well and looks to continue his dominance in the outdoor season. He competed in the 60-meter dash and raced his way to finish 165th out of 270 athletes. Great job representing Killingly and looking forward to another dominant outdoor season!

Woodstock Academy Boys' Basketball
Division IV State Tournament
First Round
(7) Weaver 49
(26) Woodstock Academy 38
HARTFORD — The Centaurs hung tough but could never take the lead and some long-distance shooting by the Beavers pushed them over the top in the win on their home floor.

Brady Ericson paced Woodstock Academy (10-13) with 14 points while Garrett Bushey added seven, all in the first half.

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SPORTS

Woodstock Academy ice hockey advances to State Semifinals



Photo courtesy Woodstock Academy Athletics

The Woodstock Academy ice hockey team is off to the Division II State Tournament semifinals.

The Woodstock Academy boys' hockey team is on its way back to the CIAC Division II state tournament semifinals. The Centaurs (12-10) advanced to the final four with a 7-2 win on Friday over North Branford in a quarterfinal at Trinity College.

The victory means third-seeded Woodstock Academy will play No. 15 East Haven on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Quinnipiac University (after press time) for the right to play in the Division II championship on Monday, March 18.

"If you look at where (East Haven) was all year, you know that if you want to win a state title, you have to go through this team," Woodstock Academy coach Mark Smolak said of the Centaurs' opponents.

The Yellowjackets (7-15) were only seeded 15th because they were found to have used, very late in the season, an ineligible player which cost them 14 wins and dropped them from top seed to almost cellar dwellers.

It was no surprise to Smolak that the Centaurs would eventually see the Yellowjackets.

"If we're able to win this thing, we're going to have to beat two No. 1 seeds potentially so it's something that we have to adjust to, something we have to understand, these are extremely good teams and we cannot take a shift off," Smolak said.

Top-seeded Cheshire is in the other semifinal on Tuesday, it plays fifth-seeded Amity.

East Haven began the tournament with a 6-1 victory over West Haven and then downed Guilford 5-2 on Friday in a quarterfinal.

"(East Haven) is a very fast team with a deadly power play. They are similar to us on the penalty kill where they are very aggressive. They have threats to score a lot of short-handed goals and move the puck extremely well. The one difference between them and (North Branford) is their speed but we have played teams with speed before and it doesn't change our game plan at all."

Maxx Corradi was the sharpshooter against North Branford on Friday as he put together a five-point effort.

"Every single game, if it's not Maxx, it's Noah (Sampson) and if it's not those two, it's Donny (Sousa). To have that three-headed monster where you know that at any moment that one of those three or all three can go off and just dom-

inate games is a real valuable weapon to have and no one else in the state has it," Smolak said.

The junior scored in the first period and then added two more goals to salt the game away in the third period.

He also added a pair of assists to raise his totals to 22 goals and 21 assists on the season.

Brady Lecuyer was the one who got things started for Woodstock Academy with two goals in the first 8 minutes, 45 seconds of the contest.

"In the middle of the year, it seemed like we were just unable to get a good start and were always playing from behind. It's good to see us in the last two games really jumping out to the early lead and have been able to use that as padding and play our game more consistently with a little less hesitancy," Smolak said.

Lecuyer finished with four points as he also had a pair of assists.

"We've been pushing for scoring depth all year and have been challenging our second line to start putting up some points. The blue line dominates and we will get one from gold. To get three from gold (in the game) and four from blue, that's the depth that we need," Smolak said.

Troy Daviau and Sousa also scored in the win for the Centaurs.

Sampson had a pair of assists.

"I think that is the best three periods collectively that I've seen this team play since last year," Smolak said. "North Branford was not able to muster anything. We played 43 minutes of some of the best hockey I've seen and the two minutes where we allowed the two goals. But North Branford just could not get out of its own zone. We just kept dumping the puck in, forcing them to carry the puck the full length of the ice. We trapped them effectively, our gaps were tight so they couldn't generate any speed into the offensive zone. In terms of our ability to dictate play, use our physicality, use our speed and create havoc in front of the net was everything that I've been hoping for all year."

The Centaurs started the first week of the tournament last Tuesday.

Getting to the state tournament is a great achievement for any high school team. But it also has to bring an awareness especially for the seniors in a program.

"There are a lot of kids who will not be

on the team next year. You look around and say 'You guys have to understand all roads lead to men's hockey and men's league and for some of you, this could be your last game, last shift, last time together as a team. No matter what happens, when this is over, you are not going to be a team anymore. You are not going to be together. You have to be sure that you are playing for each other and that you are willing to go the extra step for the victory,'" Smolak said.

Sobering words.

But one every team contemplates as it takes the ice at this time of the season.

Such was the case on Tuesday as the third-seeded Centaurs began their quest for a second straight Division II state tournament championship appearance with a first-round game at home against No. 14 Glastonbury.

The Guardians didn't go away easily and Woodstock Academy was happy to skate away with a 2-1 victory in their final home game of the season at the Jahn Ice Rink.

"It felt amazing. I'm so grateful for Woodstock hockey. It's just a great community around us," Daviau said of playing his final game on his home ice.

Woodstock Academy got on the scoreboard first but it had to play a little over 17 minutes to do so.

After a scoreless first period, Sampson and Corradi connected on a goal just 2:14 into the second period.

It was a goal that Smolak thought belonged to Corradi.

Had he chosen to take the shot.

"I told him that he could have landed a jumbo jet in that net and he deferred through traffic. It worked out in our favor, but he's our sniper. When you have a wide-open net as a sniper, you need to shoot the puck," the Woodstock Academy coach said.

The goal was the 23rd of the season for the Centaurs' senior captain while Corradi notched the assist.

What turned out to be the clincher came just 8 1/2 minutes later as Daviau celebrated his final game on the home ice in style with the game-winning goal.

"(Jayden) Fuller did a great job going down low, winning the puck on a 50-50 battle. He was able to get it to me. I shot it, went to the net, and crashed the rebound as (Woodstock Academy assistant) Coach Bob (Donahue) says to do," Daviau said with a smile.

Smolak liked what Fuller did to make the goal happen.

"He did not quit on the puck, did not quit on the play. He went into the corner; he got the puck, kept moving his feet, kept plowing through checks and he was working well with Troy on give-and-goes. He was patient with the puck, he waited for Troy to get into the slot and then he fed him," Smolak described. "The second thing I liked about the goal, Troy's first shot gets blocked and his first step is not to watch the shot, but instead he went to the puck on the rebound, moved around a defender and got the shot off clearly."

But what Smolak did not like happened with just 1:13 to play in the second period.

The Centaurs suffered a pair of penalties with one player getting called for a trip and an unsportsmanlike call for a four-minute total penalty and then, just 1:10 later, a second Centaur found himself in the penalty box thanks to an unsportsmanlike call.

"It is what it is, we were down two guys for a very long period of time," Smolak said.

That time got lessened a bit as Glastonbury (8-12-1) scored 1:25 into the period when Michael Rodriguez put the only puck past Woodstock Academy goalie Devlin Mansolf (30 saves) thanks, in part, to the 5-on-3 advantage.

Fortunately, the Centaurs weathered the remainder of the Glastonbury power play without another goal.

"Sometimes, things just don't go your way and you have to battle through, you just have to kill (the penalties) as much as you can. They got one but we dug deep, we know what we can do, and got the job done," Daviau said.

The biggest thing.

The first state tournament game is over.

"I had butterflies coming into this game. I hadn't played in a while. We had (the Nutmeg Conference championship) last year and didn't have that (the school did not belong to the league this year). There are always the first game jitters so this was a good win," Daviau said.

WOODSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2023-2024 school year:

Grade 6

High Honors: Addison Antaya, Amy Beausoleil, Sophia Benoit, Thomas Converse, Delaney Cross, Luciana Drake, Kellan Frazier, Grace Hebert, Julia Huynh, Ella Keser, Antoinette Madden, Samantha Mills, Madelyn Morin, Katie Record, Carter Rhodus, Hazel Rigney, Kaden Romanik, Adriana Turner, Sofia Wolslegel, Liam Yank

Honors: Jack Antkowiak, Quinn Boies, Gavin Bottone, Henry Boucher, Isla Brady, Alexander Cassell, Tucker Chamberlin, Lydia Dorez, Coby Gagnon, Gregory Hart, Oliver Hayden, Braylon Hill, Elizabeth Joliff, Mimi Magee, William Magee, Charles Murphy, Audrey Neeland, Lana Powell, Audrey Puchalski, Maggie Salvias, Isabella Sandholm, Jayden Sargent, Grace Syse, Maizey Syzdlo, Claire Elizabeth Vinal, Ezekiel Walen, Killian Wamback

Recognition: Avery Andrews, Cameron Bennett, Zachary Bernier-Garland, Colin Bickoff, Joshua Bolduc, Aubrie Chenevert, Addison Covello, Cameron Crowley, Mason Fish, Alison Foley, Calianne Joy, Mackenzie Maldonado, Kristopher Morrisette, Lorena Silva, Mattingly Vogt, Natalie Wamback, Arden Whitley

Grade 7

High Honors: Kestrel Brousseau, Kalena Fortner, Alexa Heersink, Marina Jennings, Jenson Knight, Kenzie Porter, Jude Sargent, Benjamin Shamp

Honors: Noah Damaso, Autumn Gatchell, Lillian Gregorzek, Liam Hewson, Avery Manbeck, Archie McDonald, Georgia Myers, Aylin Stevens

Recognition: Parker Bessette, Owen Brackett, Alexander Cournoyer, Grayson De Oliveira, Hayden Ferguson, Autumn Fogarty, Ryleigh Hitchcock, Jacob Hull, Piper Jagodzinski, Jessica Leach, William Leonard, Brook Marshall, Autumn Maturi, Cooper O'Brien, Dawson Pinter, Rachel Reno, Brooklyn Sherman-Wessell, Eliana Smith, Tristan Sparks, Emma Stacey

Grade 8

High Honors: Carolina Ahearn, Grace Audet, Georgia Cross, Colby Deary, Nathaniel Drake, Ava Eaton, Jax Golden, Emma Johnson, Abigail Keser, Kaitlyn McQuiston

Honors: Alexander DeCarli, Colton Haase, Haven Magnan, Stella Puchalski, Patrick Raftery, Abel Rigney, Erin Russell, Kaitlyn Teal, Caroline Walen

Recognition: Drake Abdulloviski, Isabella Amlaw, Rhys Asikainen, Zoe Cloutier, Scarlett Hogarty, Phoebe Houston, Hailee James, Daniel Jameson, Kaitlyn LaBonte, Kaylee Letourneau, Tristen Maloney, Abigail Manning, James McHugh, Owen Murdock, Colbie O'Connor, Lauren Young, Muhammad Zameer



Community Connection

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Free literary event hosted by Pomfret Poets Laureate

POMFRET — Pomfret Poets Laureate Christine Kalafus and Nancy P. Weiss present “Women in Conversation,” a free literary event Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. to noon in the Great Hall at Christ Church, 527 Pomfret St., Pomfret.

Featured readers are Jaclyn Gilbert, Christine Kalafus, Nancy P. Weiss, Rachael Workman, and Melissa Wyse.

Jaclyn Gilbert is the author of the novel “Late Air” and the founder of Driftless Literary Agency.

Christine Kalafus is the author of the upcoming memoir “Flood: A Memoir of Cancer, Colic, and Water in the Basement.”

Nancy P. Weiss is a poet and essayist with a long-running column in the Woodstock Villager.

Rachael Workman is a published essayist and currently an MFA candidate at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

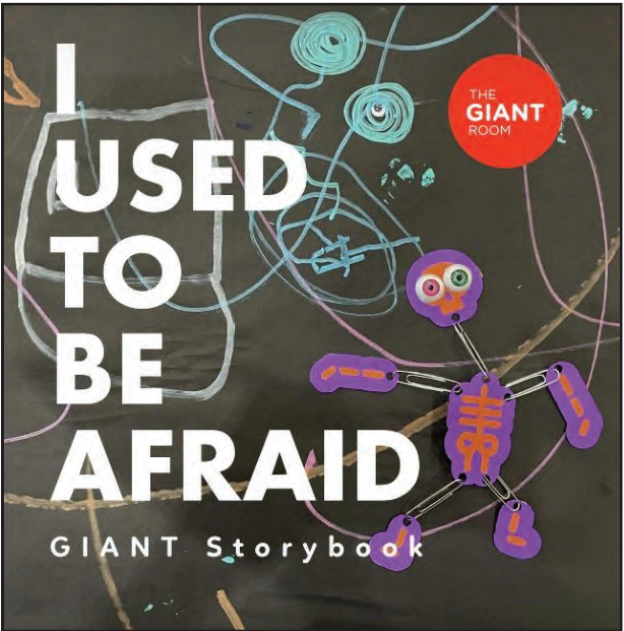
Melissa Wyse is the author of “Artists in Residence: Seventeen Artists and Their Living Spaces from Giverny to Casa Azul.”

Christine Kalafus can be reached via her Web site: <https://christinekalafus.com/contact/>.

BOOK

continued from page A1

8.5 inch professionally printed book. It is also available as an E-book. Calorio has purchased numerous copies to share among the town departments. The local artists listed on The Giant Room website who took part in the program, with some last names redacted for privacy, include Bethany Collins, Thea Collins, Sarah Grant, Stella Grant, Marlon Grant, Casey Barrette, Alister Barrette, Amelia Barrette, Lori Kerttula, Hunter Kerttula, Hudson Kerttula, Katrina Wilbur, Gianna Wilbur, Delilah Wilbur, Jin-Xin Lamb, Anna Licciardo, Lillian Licciardo, Allyson Proppe, Kylie Proppe, Kayden Proppe, Enc Coporale, Viola Coporale, Bob Enilesem, Jack Enly, Chris Pereira, Dwayne Gonsalves, Lucille Garcia, Judith Garcia, Jaecob Garcia, Ernie Lamothe, Mackenzie Lamothe, Taylor Sarty, Bentley Sarty, Maverick



The new book “I Used to Be Afraid” features art produced by local children during The Giant Program’s visit to the Killingly Public Library in October.

Sarty, Jessica Smith, Jacob Smith, Emily Smith, Rebecca Levesae, Keira Levesae, Marione Roach, Remi Roach, Tami Blauluhum, Charles, Noah, Brandy, Kadence, Ben, Wesley, Terry Pazul, Adyson Desmarais, Gracelyn Desmarais, Sarah Wolfburg, William Wolfburg, Jane Bachand, Ollie Bachand, Elina van der Berg, Jake Cooper Pontius, Katie Bogert, Koda Bogert, Noah Bogert, Erica Barnes, JJ Regan, Sarah Barnes, Madeline Barnes, Hannah Barnes, Elaine Wakefield, Dustin Wakefield, Caitlin Bogert, Henry Bogert, and George Bogert.

65 MAIN

continued from page A1



An updated design of the 65 Main Project as presented during the February workshop.

system and the town’s existing and future small business owners,” Penn-Gesek said of the upcoming sessions. “Up to this point, direct participation from TMHS students has come from a planning game session with the TMHS Student Leadership team in November 2023. Moving forward, we hope to incorporate more of those student voices. The interest of the working group thus far seems to be in creating farm-to-fork links from the food gardens planned for the site with the new culinary program.”

The final concept plan workshop will be held on March 27 with the educational unit workshops beginning at the end of April. These workshops are open to anyone interested in learning more about the 65 Main Project and are available in-person or through Zoom. Penn-Gesek recommended anyone interested in the workshops contact her office by emailing planner@thompsonct.org. So far roughly 50 participants have been a part of at least one of the workshop sessions with around half participating in every session. All comments related to the project will be collected into a rolling summary to inform the final Master Plan that will eventually be used to support further grant applications to see the project through.

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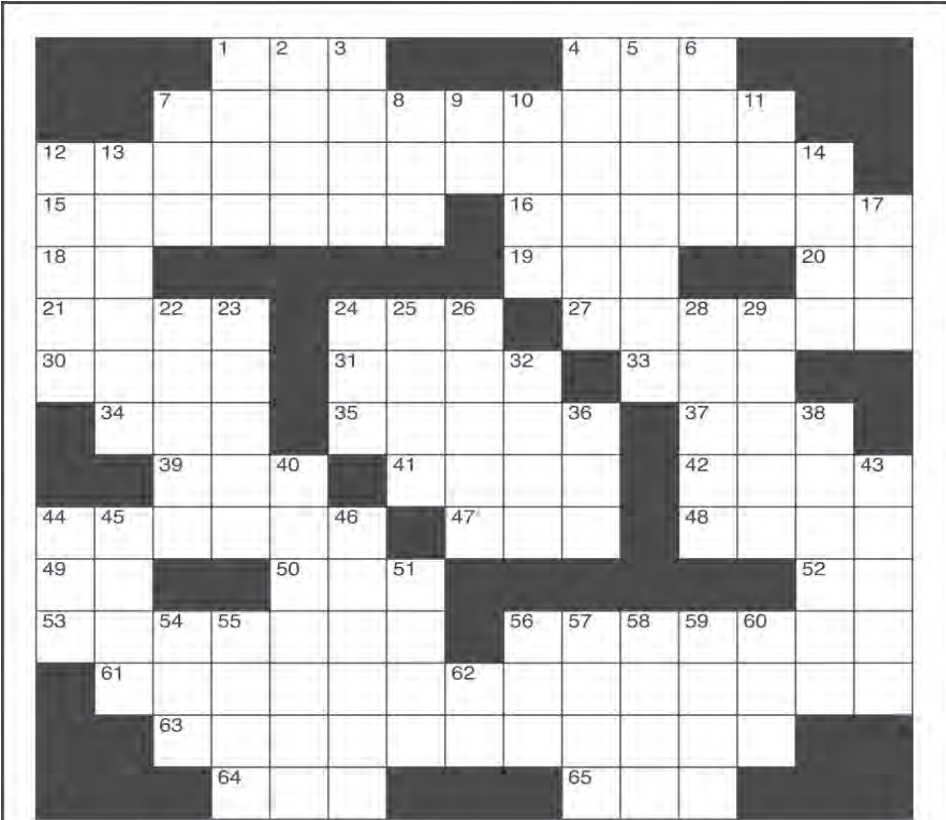
Pomfret Historical Society hosts Native American program

POMFRET — Pomfret Historical Society will begin its monthly programs with a presentation and discussion by Native American genealogist and author, Vicki Welch. The presentation, “Old Ashford Village: An interaction sphere of Native Americans and African Americans,” will begin with a discussion about the Praying Villages in Northeast Connecticut and continue to examine the history of Nipmuc and African American families who settled in Northeast Connecticut from 1720 to 1850.

Ms. Welch is author of the book, “And They Were Related Too: A Study of Eleven Generations of One Family” (2006). She is a professional genealogist specializing in people of color and Native New England, has worked for several tribes seeking federal recognition and is a member and recognized elder in local tribal culture. Her current work examines the sphere of local Native American families and the descendants of enslaved Africans as they navigated the structural changes and social pressures of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Pomfret Historical Society provides monthly educational programs about local and regional history from March to June and September to December. Programs and events are open to the public. Join us for light refreshments at 1:30 p.m. and meet & greet. Program begins at 2 p.m. Donations are welcome.

Donations are welcome to support our programs. For more information, call 860-465-7228 or visit our Web site, pomfret-historical-society.org or our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/PomfretCTHistory>.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Helps little firms

4. Political action committee

7. Allowed

12. Olivia Colman played one

15. Open

16. He had a notable lamp

18. Promotional material

19. Domesticated animal

20. Larry and Curly’s buddy

21. The best ever

24. TV network

27. Checked for

30. Dry or withered

31. Expression of annoyance

33. Dash

34. Fifth note of a major scale

35. A secret clique
37. Partner to cheese

39. ___ school: where to learn healing

41. City in ancient Syria

42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

44. Established practice

47. Thanksgiving side dish

48. District in Peru

49. It’s becoming more prevalent

50. State in India

52. Measure of illumination

53. Raised platform

56. Japanese warrior

61. R.L. Stevenson novel

63. Transitory

64. Advanced degree

65. Fiddler crabs

CLUES DOWN

1. Prevent from seeing

2. Czech city

3. ___ and Andy, TV show

4. A young pig

5. Removed surgically

6. Covered with

7. Chest muscle (slang)

8. Nigerian City

9. Midway between south and east

10. A way to shut

11. Stop playing

12. Marshy places

13. Takes apart

14. Ten cents

17. A gesture of assent

22. Scent

23. Teletypewriter

24. General’s assistant (abbr.)

25. Hillside
26. Taxi driver

28. Semitic Sun god

29. Town in India

32. Traditional rhythmic pattern

36. Fugitives are on the ___

38. Type of dance

40. Two letters, one sound

43. Having a strong, pleasant taste

44. Golf score

45. Mayhem

46. Drenched

51. River in northeastern Asia

54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)

55. Part-time employee

56. A very large body of water

57. Aboriginal people of Japan

58. Millisecond

59. Forearm bone

60. Subway dweller

62. Royal Mail

PUZZLE SOLUTION

			A	C	U				D	H	P	
			T	N	E	N	A	M	R	E	P	M
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		D	N	A	L	G	N	E	F	O	N	E
		E	L	B	I	S	S	I	M	R	E	P
			C	A	P				A	B	S	

Spring garden cleanup with pollinators in mind

Spring cleaning, indoors and out, is a long-standing tradition for many households. But as we learn more about the important pollinators, insect-eating toads, songbirds, and beneficial insects, the more we realize we need to adjust some of our timing and methods.

It is safe to remove winter protection, such as mulch, when the temperatures begin hovering around freezing or your plants are beginning to sprout. Keep some frost protection handy just in case you need to protect any tender plants from a hard freeze.

Always check for frost heaving. When cold winters are interrupted by warm spells, bare soil may thaw and then refreeze. This temperature fluctuation can cause the soil to shift and push spring flowering bulbs, coral bells, daylilies, and other perennials out of the soil. Just gently push them back in



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

place or reset in the soil making sure the roots are covered.

Wait for temperatures to be consistently above 50 degrees to start cutting back perennials that were left standing. This allows any beneficial insects overwintering in the hollow stems time to emerge and find a summer home.

Cut some of the stems to the ground and some back to 18 to 24 inches on each plant. These old stems provide summer homes for some of our native bees. As new growth emerges in spring, it will mask the older stems so your garden will look as beautiful as ever.

If you can't wait, stack the stems out of sight until temperatures warm and pollinators have a chance to emerge. Then chop and compost the debris in mid-summer.

Tie or bungy cord tall ornamental grass plants before cutting them back to make cleanup easier. Then use a hand pruner for small jobs or a string trimmer or hedge clipper for larger plantings. Wait for new growth to fill in shorter grasses and simply comb your fingers through the plant removing the old brown leaves.

Leave fall leaves on the soil surrounding the plants to serve as mulch, suppressing weeds and conserving moisture. As the leaves break down, they add organic matter and nutrients to the soil. They also provide homes for beneficial insects and insulate the soil for plants, toads, and more.

Mark the location of perennials like butterfly weed and hardy hibiscus that emerge later than most plants in spring. This helps to avoid accidentally weeding them out. Leave a few stems standing, use plant markers, or next fall plant some spring flowering bulbs near the plants to serve as a colorful placeholder.

Consider leaving some sunny spots bare for ground-nesting bees. Avoid areas like entryways and gathering spots where people and the bees may collide. Although the bees are docile and not likely to sting, people are often fearful leading to their elimination. Setting aside some out-of-the-way spaces for ground-nesting bees allows everyone to coexist more happily.

This is also a good time to tidy up garden beds and lawn edges. You'll slow the invasion of weeds and grass into garden beds and lawn encroaching onto walks.



Melinda Myers

Adjusting your spring cleanup schedule will help pollinators like this bee on an allium flower.

Remove weeds as they appear. The smaller weeds are easier to remove and eliminating them before they flower and set seed means fewer weeds you'll need to pull in the future.

Take advantage of the delay in spring cleaning by cleaning and sharpening your tools. When the temperatures are right, with tools in hand, you will be ready to get busy in the garden.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
The Planning & Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for Thursday, March 21, 2024. Public Hearings start at 7:45 p.m. to be held at the Woodstock Town office, 415 Route 169, Lower level, Meeting Room 1, to amend the Woodstock Subdivision Regulations: Subdivision Regulations, Ch. V Application Review, Decision and Post Approval Process, Subsection 2. Application Submission and Review, Subsection D. Application Submission and Review. Jeffrey Marcotte, PZC Chairman
March 8, 2024
March 15, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, with the primary being held on April 2, 2024, in each town. Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:
Democrats
Name and Address:
Marianne Williamson, Washington, D.C.
Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN.
Cenk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA.
Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA.
Uncommitted
Republicans
Name and Address:
Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL.
Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC.
Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA.
Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX.
Uncommitted
The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:
Hours of Voting:
March 26, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 27, 2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 28, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 30, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
Primary Day- 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location of Polling Place
Voting District
District No. 1 — Thompson Library/Community Center, 934 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale
District No. 2 — Town Office Building, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale
District No. 3 — Quinebaug Fire Department, 720 Quinebaug Road, Quinebaug
District No. 4 — East Thompson Fire Department, 530 East Thompson Road, Thompson
Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: Second Floor Conference room, Town Office Building, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT.
Dated at Thompson, Connecticut, this

15th day of March 2024.
Town Clerk, Renee Waldron
Town of Thompson
March 15, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Sarah Jane Johnson (24-00060)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 6, 2024,, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Glenn B Johnson,
7 Fielding Drive,
Uncasville, CT 06382
March 15, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON
Planning and Zoning
LEGAL NOTICE
At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on February 26, 2023 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 24-02 Applicant John and Cheryl Lowinski property owner of 90 Thompson Rd Map 87, Block 38, Lot 16 Zone Rural Residential Agricultural District (RRAD) request a 3-lot subdivision, in compliance with 2023 Amended Sub-division Regulations **Article III and Article IV, APPROVED**
PZC 24-03 Applicant Arthur Brunner, property Owner. Dudley Sand and Gravel, Adelina and William Healy of 0 Rachel Drive, Map 83, Block 57 Lot 5, Zone Common Residential District (CRD), .56 Acres, request a Special Permit for Multi-Family Dwellings of three of More Units in compliance **with Zoning Regulations Article 8, Section 275-8.2 #7.**
ACCEPTED FOR A PUBLIC HEARING
PZC 24-04 Applicant Johnathan Kantorski owner of Lake Shore Properties and property of 11 Market Lane, Map 169, Block 93, Lot 4, Zone DMRD request to increase existing Multi-Housing from 8 apartments to 12 apartments (increase of 4 Apartments) Zoning Permit with Site Plan Review by Commission, according to the Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations Article 12, 274-12.2 #21 and Article 4. 275-4.4 A. and B.
APPROVED
PZC 23-05 Dorothy Whitehead owner of 30 Main Street, Map 169 Lot 94 Block 1 Zone DMRD request a third apartment on top floor of 2 family dwelling (increase of 1 apartment) Zoning Permit with site plan review by Commission according to the Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations Article 12, 274-12.2 #21 and Article 4. 275-4.4 A. and B.
APPROVED
PZC 23-06 Toudis, LLC, Dimitros Moutoudis, owner of 693 Riverside Drive Map 63 Block 58. Lot 15 A Zone DMRD request use for a restaurant, Zoning Permit with site plan review by Commission according to the Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations Article 12, 274-12.2 #13 and Article 4. 275-4.4 A. and B.
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Respectfully submitted.
Joe Parodi-Brown, Chairman
Files may be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Office
March 15, 2024

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
On March 5th, Wetlands Agent Approval was issued, with conditions, for the following activities within Upland Review Area:
02-24-02, William Breslau, 23 Crooked Trail Extension, (MBL 7272-34-172WS), 12x22 shed.
02-24-05, Bill Chaput, 19 North Gate Road, (MBL 5779-63-04A), 10x12 shed.
02-24-06, Mike Cammilleri, 186 Bungay Hill Road, (MBL 7272-34-0F25), remove and replace deck.
02-24-07, Robert Page, 429 Child Road, (MBL 5171-17-02-1), 36x24 garage.
Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent
March 15, 2024

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK, CT
LEGAL NOTICE
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY
APRIL 2, 2024
Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, with the primary being held on April 2, 2024, in each town. Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:
•Democrats
Name and Address:
Marianne Williamson, Washington, D.C.
Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN.
Cenk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA.
Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA.
Uncommitted
Republicans
Name and Address:
•Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL.
Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC.
Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA.
Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX.
•Uncommitted
Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st Day of March, 2024.
Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State
The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:
Location of Early Voting, All Voting Districts: 415 Route 169, Woodstock Town Hall, Lower Level Room A, Rear Entrance, Woodstock CT
Hours of Early Voting:
March 26, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 27, 2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 28, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 30, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

Primary Day- 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Primary Day Location Of Voting: 147 B Route 169, Woodstock Middle School
Voting District: District 50 (1) and District 52 (2)
Absentee Ballots will be available at the Office of the Town Clerk beginning March 12, 2024.
Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: 415 Route 169, Woodstock Town Hall, Lower Level.
Dated at Woodstock, Connecticut, this 4th day of March, 2024.
Attest: Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk of Woodstock CT
March 15, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Richard W. Lamothe (24-00099)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 6, 2024,, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Christine M. Lamothe
c/o ERNEST J COTNOIR, MAHER AND COTNOIR,
163 PROVIDENCE STREET,
P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260
March 15, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Sidney E Organ, Jr. (24-00105)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 8, 2024,, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Elizabeth Organ
c/o DENNIS R POITRAS, LAW OFFICE OF DENNIS R. POITRAS, 266 MANSFIELD ROAD, PO BOX 275, ASHFORD, CT 06278
March 15, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON
Planning and Zoning
LEGAL NOTICE
At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on February 26, 2023 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 24-03 Applicant Arthur Brunner, property Owner. Dudley Sand and Gravel, Adelina and William Healy of 0 Rachel Drive, Map 83, Block 57 Lot 5, Zone Common Residential District (CRD), .56 Acres, request a Special Permit for Multi-Family Dwellings of three of More Units in compliance **with Zoning Regulations Article 8, Section 275-8.2 #7.**
ACCEPTED FOR A PUBLIC HEARING
Respectfully submitted.
Joe Parodi-Brown, Chairman
Files may be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Office
March 15, 2024
March 22, 204

OBITUARIES

Teresa M. Hanlon, 56



Pomfret Center - After a two-and-a-half-year battle with ampullary cancer, Teresa (McDermott) Hanlon, 56, of Pomfret, CT, passed away on March 8th, 2024. She fought as fiercely as she lived, and spent her final days and moments surrounded with love and family.

Teresa was born May 24th, 1967 to George and Margaret "Rita" (Hearns) McDermott in Dublin, Ireland where she spent her childhood. Teresa's fiery passion and competitive nature were apparent from a young age, especially as she devoted herself to basketball, becoming captain of both the U15 and U17 Irish National teams. Her basketball talents brought her to the United States through a full-ride scholarship to play for Central Connecticut on their Division I Lady Devils team.

Teresa found her soulmate and best friend in Brian Hanlon; they quickly fell in love before marrying in 1991. Moving to Pomfret in 1999, they built a beautiful life centered around their children and community. Together, they dedicated countless hours to coaching sports, Teresa's favorite being Pomfret-Eastford "Frog Rock" Basketball, where they were recognized for their work through the 2011 SSG Joseph E. Phaneuf II Memorial Award for Dedication. Her passion for the game and her innate ability to connect with others allowed her to bring out the best in every player. Her dedication to helping others extended into her professional life as well; she worked as a Civil Engineer for the City of Norwich for over 15 years but found additional fulfillment advocating for others as Union President of AFSCME Local 2422.

A truly radiant woman, Teresa illuminated the lives of all who knew her. Her zest for life was contagious, and served as a beacon that drew others to her vibrant energy. A social butterfly, Teresa's ability to connect with others was extraordinary. She effortlessly created deep friendships that transcended age, time, and distance. Whether it was a heartfelt conversation, shared laugh, handmade gift, or comforting presence, she had a way of making everyone feel valued and loved.

Even after her cancer diagnosis, Teresa's spirit remained bright and resilient. She viewed life as a celebra-

tion to be lived to the fullest, and made the most of every moment she spent with family and friends. In her final years she delighted in time with her grandchildren, quilting, traveling with her husband, and spending her summers swimming in the brisk Irish sea while camping at Morriscastle Strand Holiday Park in Wexford, Ireland. In March 2023, Teresa renewed her vows with her husband Brian in a touching ceremony, surrounded by their family and friends, reaffirming their love and commitment to each other.

Teresa is survived by her devoted husband of 32 years, Brian Hanlon; daughter Aideen Whittaker and husband Justin of Wethersfield, CT; daughter Ciara Hanlon and partner Cameron Saracina of Springfield, MA; and her son, Conor Hanlon of San Diego, CA. She also leaves behind her mother; Rita McDermott; sisters Colette Colley, Monica McDermott, and Clare Browne of Dublin, Ireland; and sister Angela McDermott-Knox and husband John Knox of Rocky River, Ohio, along with many beloved nieces and nephews. Additionally, Teresa is survived by her best friends Mike and Sally Tyler of Eastford, CT, and "fourth child" Henry and wife Rebecca Li of Long Island City, NY. She lives on in the laughter of her grandchildren, Gillian and Colin Whittaker. Teresa is reunited in spirit with her father, George McDermott, who undoubtedly greeted her with a welcoming grin and open arms.

In Teresa's honor, we welcome anyone who was lucky enough to have shared a laugh with her to join us in celebrating her remarkable life. A visitation will be held at Gilman Funeral Home 104 Church St., Putnam, CT on Friday, March 22nd from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Her funeral mass will take place at St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 23rd, followed by a celebration of life at the Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock, CT. Your presence and happy stories of Teresa are cherished and welcomed, and we invite you to wear bright colors to the celebration of life, in memory of her shining spirit.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Day Kimball Healthcare's Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, P.O. Box 62, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Raymond Duval



Raymond Duval of Wauregan entered into the kingdom of heaven on March 8, 2024, after a brief illness, which he faced with dignity and bravery. Born on July 19, 1938, in Wauregan, CT, he was the son of the late Romeo and Evelyn (Goven) Duval. He grew up in Wauregan surrounded by friends, many of whom would become lifelong friends.

While growing up in Wauregan, he met the love of his life and wife of 61 years, Eileen (Gelinus) Duval. They married on October 13, 1962, and the two settled down and started a family, of which he was so proud. They had three beloved boys, Robert, Matthew, and Andrew. Immediately after graduating from Plainfield High School in 1957, he went to work at Field Concrete Pipe where he remained for 43 years until his retirement in 2000.

Besides his family, his true passion lay in the Atwood Hose Fire Company, where he was a life member and served as Chief from 1980-1990. He was so proud that his three boys followed his footsteps and joined the fire company and spent their lives serving others as first responders.

Raymond also was a faithful member and Eucharistic Minister of Sacred

Heart Catholic Church in Wauregan, and in his later years St. James Catholic Church in Killingly.

He leaves behind his loving family: his wife Eileen; sons Robert (and his wife Donna) of Wauregan, Matthew (his wife Rebecca) of Manchester, and Andrew (his wife Bethany) of Wauregan; grandchildren Sarah (her husband Brandon), Nathaniel (his fiancé Kayla), Andrew Jr, Caleb, Madelyn, Lea, and Amelia; great-granddaughter Maya, and his sister Margaret. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents Romeo and Evelyn, his siblings Romeo Jr, Cecile, and Eileen.

Above all, Raymond will be remembered as a loving family man. He was always at his kids and grandkids school concerts, recitals, plays and major life events. He loved his family with his whole heart and his loss will be deeply felt by them.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in Raymond's name to The Atwood Hose Fire Company PO Box 14 Wauregan, CT 06387

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 11:00 AM at St. James Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT, burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery Wauregan, CT. Share a memory at GagnonandCostellofh.com

Telepathy is reading others' intentions

Telepathy is the ability to communicate thoughts directly from one mind to another without the use of words, gestures, or any conventional forms of interaction. The idea of telepathy has intrigued humanity for centuries. Its origins are steeped in ancient lore and psychic traditions, often portrayed as a mystical bridge connecting human consciousness.

An example of telepathy in modern fiction can be seen in the character of Professor Charles Xavier, also known as Professor X, from the "X-Men" series. With his telepathic powers, Professor X can not only read minds but also project his thoughts onto others.

But does such a profound ability exist outside the realms of fiction? The question leads us to people like Uri Geller, a performer who claimed to possess psychic abilities, including mind reading. Geller's demonstrations of spoon bending and telepathy captivated audiences worldwide, suggesting a glimmer of reality to the powers depicted in tales and comics.

Much skepticism surrounds Geller's claims, with critics pointing to sleight of hand and psychological tricks rather than genuine psychic phenomena.

While the allure of telepathy remains potent in our collective imagination, the jury is still out on whether a human being has truly harnessed this extraordinary ability. Recent advances in artificial intelligence and neuroscience have led to the development of AI systems capable of decoding human brain waves into speech. This groundbreaking technology

bridges the gap between thought and communication, allowing for telepathy mediated by machines. While I'm sure there are benefits to this technology, it's also terrifying.

Terrence McKenna was an ethnobotanist and author known for his controversial theories on psychedelics, consciousness, and culture.

If you've ever listened to one of his lectures, you'd find that he had a different definition of telepathy than the one portrayed in popular media.

In one lecture, he states, "If you're like me, you think telepathy is hearing other people's thoughts. It isn't that; it's seeing what other people mean."

Consider when a friend texted you, "We need to talk." The immediate sense of dread, the assumption of an impending argument, only to discover they simply wanted advice. The text, devoid of tone and context, became a breeding ground for misunderstanding, showcasing a moment where telepathic clarity — understanding the true intent behind the words — could have spared you the stress.

Or picture this: two travelers, one speaking only Italian and the other only Japanese, trying to find their way in a crowded international airport. Their attempts to communicate through gestures and broken English spiral into confusion. Misinterpreting each other's actions, they become increasingly frustrated and offended, convinced the other is being rude. The situation escalates, as neither can grasp the true intention behind the other's gestures.

A bystander who happens to speak both lan-

guages steps in to mediate. The translator breaks down the language barrier and quickly resolves the misunderstanding. The tension dissolves into laughter and gratitude as they finally understand what each other means.

Misunderstandings involve more than language differences. Even when we speak the same language, we often end up confused and in conflict because of misinterpreting what's meant by what's said.

If we could truly understand the intentions and emotions behind other's words and actions, many misunderstandings that lead to conflict could be avoided.

This is easier said than done, but what if?

What if we just took a breath and tried to understand rather than reacting with a knee-jerk reaction and getting upset? Could we reduce social divisions, understand that we are all human, and accept that we are all different?

The world is filled with miscommunication; what if we could become a more collaborative and innovative planet by truly looking past what is said and trying to understand what is meant.

Relationships could flourish free from the constraints of misinterpretation, with partners, friends, and family members trying to understand rather than assuming that they know.

Telepathy, as defined by the late Terrence McKenna, could be the key to unlocking a new era of human understanding and cooperation.

Is this possible? I don't know, but I suppose if we stopped jumping to conclusions and practiced more patience, we might be headed in the right direction.

Life Long Learning for Seniors presents Fall Prevention in the Quiet Corner

THOMPSON — Thompson Recreation Department is delighted to offer a free program entitled "Fall Prevention in our Quiet Corner!" on Tuesday, April 9 at 12:30 p.m.

This program is designed to not only be informative but also interactive and will be given by a Day Kimball Healthcare at Home certified Fall Prevention Specialist. An educational booklet will be provided to help each participant identify their own "personal" fall risk factors and learn how to implement specific strategies to decrease one's fall risk. Falls don't just happen because you trip, there could also be other reasons causing them! Come

and learn more about it with Thompson Recreation!

"Fall Prevention in our Quiet Corner" is supported by the Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act. The mission of the program is to prevent falls as well as maximize safety and independence for our senior population.

Registration is required. To register please contact Amanda Jean Lincoln at 860-923-9440 or by emailing recreation@thompsonct.org.

Additional Life Long Learning with Thompson Recreation opportunities are available online at www.thompsonrec.org.

Quiet Corner Garden Club announces scholarship program

REGION — The Quiet Corner Garden Club awards scholarships annually to students in the Club's service area of Northeastern Connecticut and South Central Massachusetts. Students wishing to apply must be accepted to a college if in high school or be currently enrolled in college.

Scholarships are awarded to students wishing to study horticulture-related fields such as Agronomy, Botany, City Planning, Conservation, Environmental Studies, Floriculture, Forestry, Horticulture, Land Management, Landscape Design, Plant Pathology, Aquaponics, Natural Resources and/or related subjects. Awards are

based on a combination of academic achievement, leadership qualities, community service, letters of recommendation and personal statement essay. Applications are available at all area high school guidance offices or at the Quiet Corner Garden Clubs's Web site: Quiet Corner Garden Club. Applications must be received no later than April 10. Email the completed application and required attachments to: QCgardenclub@gmail.com, Subject: Scholarship Application. Or submit by mail to: Quiet Corner Garden Club, c/o Scholarship Application, PO Box 1004, Woodstock, CT 06281. For additional information or questions, please email

QCgardenclub@gmail.com with Scholarship Application in the subject line. The Quiet Corner Garden Club, powered by its members, is known for its annual Plant Sale (always the Saturday before Mother's Day), biannual Garden Tour (this year on July 13) and programs on all things gardening. Proceeds from the Plant Sale and Garden Tour are used to fund these scholarships and for civic projects at senior living sites, elementary school gardens, library and memorial gardens throughout the Quiet Corner. New members are always welcome. For more information see our Facebook page or Quiet Corner Garden Club.

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# St. Patrick’s Day traditions

Isn't it wonderful to see signs of spring? I love looking at my snowdrops and yellow crocus that have already opened. It felt so wonderful to be outside raking off flowerbeds one sunny afternoon. As I proofread, more rain is headed our way.

Unfortunately, there are some in Northeastern Connecticut who are outside most of the time, even when it is ugly. I mean our homeless population. Would you like to camp out in this cold, rainy, weather? How about in the snow? Some of our homeless live in tents. Before you say, "Not in Northeastern Connecticut," be assured I speak about this not as an historian, but as the secretary for the Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council. One of our ministries is to support/raise funds for the private Danielson Methodist Fuel

Fund, which also cares for the homeless.

In the colonial years of Killingly, the town made provisions for their needy. Town meeting records note sums paid after each year for housing, clothing, etc. for a number of individuals. Eventually, the town established workhouses for those unable to care for/support themselves. Did you know that in the 20th Century Owen Bell Park and the site of the present Killingly Town Garage were part of the Killingly Town Farm?

Today, agencies such as ACCESS, Community Kitchens, Friends of Assisi, Interfaith Human Services of Putnam, which includes Daily Bread, the NU2U Clothing closet with free clothes, and the Diaper Bank. TEEG in Thompson, the Danielson Methodist Fuel Fund, the Veterans Food Share,

and Mainly Clothes, run by the Moosup Methodist Church (which provides free clothes), all do what they can to assist those in need. The Living Faith UMC, formerly Putnam UMC, has recently started a program on Monday from 10:00-2:00 for use of their new showers, food, warmth, and case management. The Salvation Army also serves this area. At Christmastime so many local residents contribute to these organizations. It's almost Easter (then Passover). Help a neighbor in need and make a contribution to one of these local organizations. Every donation helps. We are a caring community.

It's almost St. Patrick's Day. I think that's a day when many of us have a wee touch of Irish in us. I always think of most of the Irish coming to America due to the potato famine in the 1840's.

In reading "A History of the Irish As Told By Their Food" by Leslie and Dan Landrigan, I learned that a number were here in the Colonies and United States much earlier. "In 1650 a steady stream of Boston-bound ships began to leave Ireland filled with redemptioners, many of them Irish Catholic. As indentured servants, they had agreed to near-slavery for seven years in exchange for passage, food, shelter, and clothing. They sailed from Dublin, Cork, and Waterford to Boston, Providence, Marblehead, Massachusetts and Piscataquis County, Maine. Some came from Galway via Newfoundland. Amos Richardson, an early settler of Stonington, Connecticut, in 1653 wrote that a ship bringing Irish servants to the American colonies arrived in Boston. He bought four." (p. 55).

There are so many interesting traditions associated with St. Patrick's Day. Did you know that Green was not the original color for St. Patrick? "The earliest images of St. Patrick show him wearing blue, and this probably dates back to early Irish mythology when the sovereignty of Ireland – 'Flaitheas Éireann' – was typically symbolised by a woman dressed in a blue robe. Green represents the Catholic side of the Irish flag, and it's also seen as symbolic of other icons of Ireland, such as the shamrock and the emerald isle." If you were in Ireland, you might see something strange (to us). "Not everyone wears green on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland and elsewhere! The colour orange is symbolic of the Protestant community and their heritage, and may be something they wish to showcase on St. Patrick's Day. It derives from Protestant William of Orange defeating Catholic James II at the Battle of the Boyne and is often seen around Protestant Ireland." (www.theirish-roadtrip.com).

"The first recorded parade honoring the Catholic feast day of St. Patrick in the New World was held in St. Augustine. Records show that a parade was held on March 17, 1601, in the Spanish colony, which was under the direction of the colony's Irish vicar, Ricardo Artur." "Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade dates back to March 17,

1737, when the city's Irish immigrants inaugurated the event as a way to show solidarity in their new home, honor their birthplace, and pay respect to the Patron Saint of Ireland." (news4jax.com).

I was also curious about what the Irish were doing to celebrate St. Patrick's Day here in Northeastern Connecticut. I found a number of articles in back issues of Eastern Connecticut newspapers. According to the Norwich Bulletin, "In observance of St. Patrick's day a whist party was given in St. James' hall Thursday evening, there being a large number present." (Friday, March 18, 1910, p. 10; chroniclingamerica.com).

"The social held by Orient lodge, K.of P. in their hall, Monday evening, was attended by about 100 people, who were well pleased with A. G. Bill's illustrated lecture on 'Ireland'. After the lecture the remainder of the evening was devoted to dancing. Gurdon Cady furnishing the music and prompting. As a whole, it was an enjoyable time for all who were present." (Windham County Transcript, March 14, 1894, p. 2).

I even found an ad honoring St. Patrick's Day in the Thursday, March 9, 1905 Windham County Transcript, p. 2. "St. Patrick's Day. Great Event in Putnam. It is the day that Chas. Seder will have his grand 1905 spring opening at his gent's clothing store in Putnam, opposite of the Congregational Church."

1892 was a Leap Year and apparently the women of Moosup decided to take advantage of the fact. "St. Patrick's night, the 17th, will be one of music and mirth, when the Moosup young ladies propose to give a leap year basket social in Milner's hall. The local base ball club will benefit from the proceeds." (WCT, March 9, 1892, p. 3).

I borrowed the March/April 2024 issue of familytree Magazine from Killingly Public Library and found the article on Irish genealogy most enlightening. It may help in your research if you have Irish ancestors. Entitled May the Road



KILLINGLY  
AT  
300  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

Rise to Meet You, the article noted, "Most families (in Ireland) adhered to the traditional Irish naming pattern. Names had personal, often familial relevance and weren't as seemingly random as they often are today: The first son was named after the father's father; the second son after the mother's father; the third son after the father; the fourth son after the father's eldest brother; the fifth son after the father's second eldest brother; and so on down the line. Daughters were named in an order of similar pattern: after the mother's mother; father's mother; mother's eldest sister...With that in mind you should prioritize knowing the birth order of all children, both living and deceased (When a child died, his or her name was often used again for the next-born son or daughter). You should never rely solely on naming pattern to create your family tree--it merely offers clues...(p.43). The magazine includes like a book so you might want to read the entire article if you're searching for Irish ancestors. I will have returned the magazine before you read this.

Fish Fridays: Support one of Killingly's Historic Properties, Killingly Grange #112, the former Killingly Center School. The Killingly Grange will hold fish fries Friday March 15, 22, and 29, 2024 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fried or Baked Fish with choice of Baked Potato or French Fries and cole slaw. \$16. Beverage & Dessert also available. Dine-in or Take Out. Limited number of meals. Call 860-884-1813 or visit www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/. At the door pay by cash, credit card or check. The Grange is also collecting non-perishable food for local food pantries. Watch the website for other upcoming events.

Pomfret Historical Society will host a Native American program.

March 16, 2024, Pomfret Community Center, 207 Mashomoquet Rd., Pomfret. Meet & Greet and light refreshments at 1:30 p.m. Program begins at 2 p.m. For additional information call 860-465-7228. Pomfret Historical Society will begin its monthly programs with a presentation and discussion by Native American genealogist and author, Vicki Welch. The presentation, Old Ashford Village: An interaction sphere of Native Americans and African Americans will begin with a discussion about the Praying Villages in Northeast Connecticut and continue to examine the history of Nipmuc and African American families who settled in Northeast Connecticut from 1720 to 1850.

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



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