

Kevin Marcoux resigns from Killingly High School

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR ACCEPTS POSITION AT EAST LYME HIGH

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — It's the end of an era at Killingly High School.

Kevin Marcoux, best known in the community as the athletic director and boys' golf coach at the school, was appointed athletic director of East Lyme High at the school's Monday, May 22 Board of Education (BOE) meeting. The 52-year-old Marcoux will finish out the school year at Killingly before starting at East Lyme on Saturday, July 1.

Marcoux has been at Killingly for 21 years. His Killingly career began as a physical education and health teacher, before moving into the guidance department the following year. For 12 years he served the Killingly school district as the director of school counseling. The last five years he has split his time

between being the athletic director and working in guidance.

"This was a very difficult decision for me," Marcoux said in a phone interview on Thursday, May 25. "There were lots of discussions with my family, specifically, as well as analyzing everything I've accomplished at Killingly and thinking about starting over somewhere else and the challenges that come with that."

"But, at the same time, I'm pretty excited about facing those new challenges in a different district," said Marcoux, who has also served as Killingly's boys' golf coach for the last 12 years. "Change is hard for anybody, but when you factor in 21 years of service it makes making a decision like this that much harder."

While negotiating a new contract this year,

Marcoux said was seeking to make his athletic director post a full-time position, something the Killingly BOE rejected. After receiving the offer from the East Lyme BOE, Marcoux said he again met with the Killingly BOE, telling them he would stay at Killingly if they made his athletic director position full time. Again, they declined to do so.

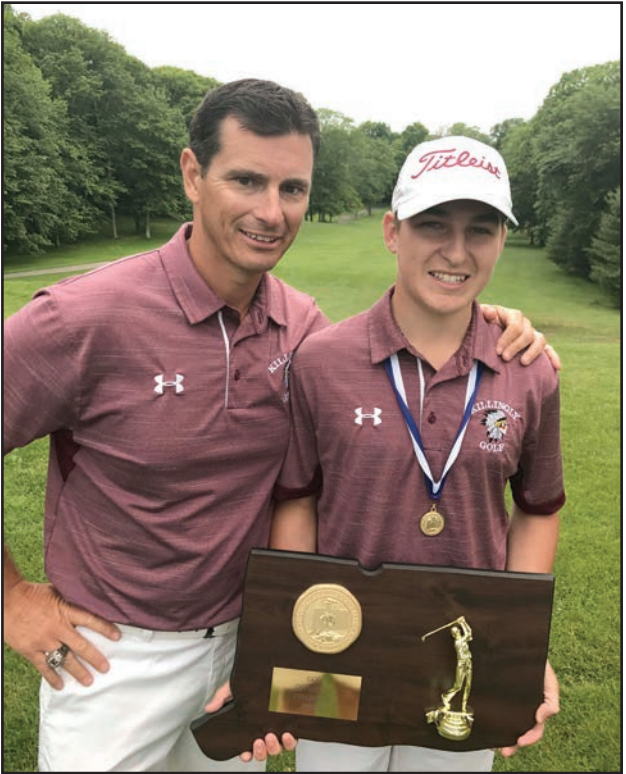
"My contract the last five years was split between working in guidance and as athletic director. In those five years I have been asked to do more and more in guidance and given the amount of responsibilities as the athletic director it got to a point where I could not sustain that anymore," Marcoux said. "I asked that my athletic director position become full-time and for them to assign my guidance duties to another person."

It was a request on my part that they rejected.

"I wanted to stay. I certainly love it here. Anyone who has watched me run an event at the high school knows the passion and the love that I have for the school," said Marcoux, who was chosen for the East Lyme job from a pool of 52 applicants. "In the end, my philosophies and priorities no longer aligned with the leadership of the district and it became clear that a professional change was needed."

Jim Lackner, currently the varsity coach at Killingly for the girls' soccer and girls' golf teams, as well as the junior varsity coach for the girls' basketball team, said he was disappointed when he heard Marcoux was going to East Lyme. Lackner called Marcoux's leaving a huge loss.

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Courtesy
Kevin Marcoux, shown here with his son Nolan after the Killingly High School boys' golf team won the Connecticut Division III Tournament championship in 2018, will become athletic director at East Lyme High School beginning Saturday, July 1.

Killingly approves town budget after second vote

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The town of Killingly finally has a new budget in place following a divided vote in early May that approved the school budget but sent the general government back to the Town Council for revisions.

The town initially put forth a \$46.8 million school budget and a \$25.5 million general government spending plan during the budget vote on May 9. The school plan proposed a 3.94 percent increase while the general government proposed a jump of 28.79 percent. All told, the combined spending plan proposed a 1.79 mil increase to the property tax rate. However, the result was a tale of two different results with the school

budget approved in a close 455 to 426 decision while the general government budget failed by a vote of 458 to 422. Taxpayers who voted against the spending plans were also given the option to select why they didn't agree with the budget with the vast majority saying they felt the budget was too high.

The budget season has been a very active one for Killingly including several town meetings where students and staff protested the possible cut of Latin programs to the school district. Initially, the Killingly High School Latin program was cut from the budget, but after a public movement resulted in petitions and a successful motion to reinstate the program during a town meeting, it was effectively kept intact with the approval of the school

spending plan. However, with the failure of the general government budget the Town Council was forced to make additional cuts to the general government budget to prepare it for a second ballot vote on May 23. The Council removed \$67,230 from the budget costing the town a pending constable position for the Killingly Police Department. The decrease brought the general government budget to \$25.4 million and, when combined with the approved school budget, would result in a 1.74 mil increase to the tax rate.

This proved to be a more agreeable number for taxpayers. While fewer voters turned out for the second vote, the result was a 335 to 253 decision in favor of the new proposal solidifying the now town budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

Town Meeting approves Brooklyn budget, capital projects

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — The town of Brooklyn hosted its 2023 annual town meeting on May 24, addressing the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024 as well as the capital funding program for the next year.

The general government budget proposal was \$6.6 million, a \$248,999 or 3.9 percent increase over the current year. The spending plan brought notable debate tied to an ongoing controversy between local business The Ice Box and the Brooklyn Fire District and East Brooklyn Fire Department. A legal dispute between the parties led to a motion to reduce the East Brooklyn Fire Department line item but

was defeated, opening the door for the budget to be approved as presented in the meeting warrant. The general government budget passed easily and was followed by the education budget. The education spending plan featured an increase of \$1.094 million, or 5.33 percent, over the current year totaling \$21.6 million and receive overwhelming support from voters. The total combined spending plan brings a 1.12 mil increase to Brooklyn.

Taxpayers present also approved the \$213,121 2023-2024 Capital Funding Program which includes five projects between five different departments. The school district will see a sidewalk project behind the grades 3 and 4 wing of the middle school and crosswalk work for \$16,000. The

town project will improve network infrastructure at the Community Center for \$30,000. The public works project will spend \$113,121 on several new installations such as a new fuel tank, generator, automated gate, and dump truck. Another \$10,000 will be allocated to the Parks & Recreation Department for repairing bathrooms at Prince Hill. Finally, the Mortlake Fire Department will see septic and sewer work and blacktop repair for \$36,000.

Taxpayers closed the meeting by authorizing the Board of Selectmen to utilize up to \$110,000 in LOCIP funds to install a generator for the Brooklyn Senior Center and Clifford B. Green Building with additional help from a STEAP grant.

Eastford turns out for Memorial Day

BY CAROL DAVIDGE
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

EASTFORD — Eastford's Memorial Day brought out 200 people to honor the fallen

with a parade and ceremony at its Veterans Memorial. Families in colorful attire, folks driving vintage tractors and classic cars, and Eastford Independent Fire Co.

No. 1 formed the parade. Children sang patriotic songs and laid a wreath at the Veterans monument.

Each year, an Eastford veteran who has served

the community is honored. This year, American Legion Post 203 Commander David Olsen was recognized by former First Selectman and USAF Veteran Arthur Brodeur.

"David enlisted in

the U.S. Army at age 17 during the Vietnam conflict, assigned to the 619th Support Group in Germany," Brodeur said of Olsen. "He took advantage of his veteran's benefits and attended trade school where he learned

the fine carpentry skills which would shape his life's career. He came to Eastford in 1975, and since then has been selfless in his advocacy and care for veterans, personally lead-

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Adam Minor
Eastford's Memorial Day Parade was led by a Color Guard with American Legion Post 203 Commander & U.S. Army Veteran David Olsen (left), who also received the 2023 Eastford Veteran's Award to honor his extensive services for veterans.



American Legion Post 203 Cdr. and U.S. Army Veteran David Olsen (r) received Eastford's 2023 Veteran's Award to honor his extensive service for veterans, presented by former First Selectman and USAF Veteran Arthur Brodeur (left).

Putnam's Garrett McMerriman receives Bachelor's degree at WPI's 154th commencement

WORCESTER, Mass. — On Saturday, May 13, Garrett McMerriman, who majored in Data Science, was bestowed a bachelor's degree at WPI's 154th Commencement. Nearly 1,100 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

President Grace Wang and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the 154th Commencement exercises Saturday morning, marking the first time for both in their respective positions. In her remarks, President Wang, who officially joined WPI in early April, applauded the graduates for their dedication, persistence, passion for their field of study, and achievements. "You have earned your place among generations of exceptional WPI alumni. I hope you will take the opportunity, as they did, to push boundaries, explore unknowns, and deliver a tangible and profound impact to the world."

In his commencement address to undergraduates titled, "Don't Switch Off Your Conscience," Congressman James P. McGovern, who represents the Massachusetts second congressional district, urged graduates not to forget about the moral and ethical consequences of their work. "I ask you to stay true to yourself and the values you have learned at WPI. As citizens of the world, you have a responsibility to the greater good. To ask yourself not only what is profitable, but what is just. To ask yourself not only what is efficient, but what is equitable. And to ask yourself not only what is innovative, but what is honorable."

McGovern received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at the event. Honorary degrees were also bestowed upon Shankar Balasubramanian, the Herchel Smith Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Cambridge University, and John T. Mollen, former chair of WPI's Board of Trustees.

The undergraduate student speaker was Susanna Oppong, biology and biotechnology, who led the graduates in a resounding cheer, "I am here because I am resilient!" Recalling the unprecedented times the Class of 2023 has faced, Oppong said "They say resilience is born through experience and I truly believe that the resilience of our generation has come from the situations we have endured as students and how we have gathered as a community to advocate for them. We have broken through the stereotypes given to our generation and created the definition of our destiny."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber; data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

Putnam resident Garrett McMerriman completes intensive research project

WORCESTER, Mass. — Garrett McMerriman, a member of the class of 2023 majoring in Data Science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), recently completed a senior thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university's distinctive project-based educational experience. The project, VisNLP 2.0: Teaching Neural Network-Based NLP Analytics, was Garrett's Major Qualifying Project (MQP), one that is usually team-based and often focuses on very specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the student's work.

"It's inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research," says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "Their experience managing a major project like this—including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months—sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers."

A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, project-based learning offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives—an experience that changes the student and their world.

In addition to providing tangible work experience that proves valuable to employers, MQPs often lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and products for their corporate sponsors.

Prior to their MQP, students complete an Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), usually in their junior year, with a team of other students across disciplines; the projects may or may not relate to the students' fields of study and are sponsored by organizations across the globe to give students real-world experience addressing problems that lie at the intersection of science and society. Approximately 85% of WPI students complete a project at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

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VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 22: Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, Red-shouldered Hawk, Purple Martin, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Scarlet Tanager, Warbling Vireo, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Pine Warbler, Indigo Bunting. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home.

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Witness stone to be placed in Woodstock



WOODSTOCK — On June 6 at 12:30 p.m., the Woodstock Middle School seventh grade will install a Witness Stone for Cuff Fellows (1762 – 1848),

who spent half of his life enslaved in Woodstock. The installation and ceremony will take place at The First Congregational Church, 543 Route 169,

Woodstock, Connecticut 06281.

The students, who participated in The Witness Stones Program this spring, will share excerpts of their biographies about Cuff, and poetry based on what they derived by studying primary documents pertaining to Cuff Fellows.

The Witness Stones Project™ is an educational initiative whose mission is to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities. The Project provides

local archival research, professional teacher development, a classroom curriculum, and public programming to help students discover and chronicle the local history of slavery. The final component of the work in each community is the placement of Witness Stone Memorials™ that honor enslaved individuals where they lived, worked, or worshiped.

Cuff Fellows was brought to Woodstock “as a rickety babe” after Isaac Fellows bought him for a pistareen (less than half a Spanish Silver Dollar) in Bellingham, Mass. He lived and

worked in the household of Isaac Fellows and his wife, Leah Paine Fellows, until he was manumitted by Leah Fellows in 1798. The Fellows lived on what was known as The Dyer Farm, and Cuff along with an older enslaved couple, Old Cuff and Dinah, labored on the farm and in the house.

Cuff later married an enslaved woman from the Malbone household in the old Trinity Church in Brooklyn. Coincidentally, her name was also Dinah, making them one of many enslaved couples in Woodstock, Pomfret, and Brooklyn named Cuff & Dinah in the late 18th

century. Leah Fellows and her children were baptized in the church, and some are buried in the cemetery next to the church. Dinah Fellows and their children were baptized in the First Church of Woodstock in 1810. We have not yet identified where they are buried.

The installation ceremony will take place in the sanctuary of The First Church of Woodstock with guest speakers and student readings. The Witness Stone for Cuff Fellows will be placed next to the Peace Pole in front of the church.

Assumption students named to University’s Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University’s Dean’s List for the spring 2023 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

“Earning the right to be named to the Assumption University’s Dean’s List is an extraordinary accomplishment and we congratulate those students who demonstrated exemplary academic excellence this semester,” said Assumption University President Greg Weiner, Ph.D. “These students have demonstrated a deep commitment to the pursuit of truth in the

company of friends that lies at the heart of the Catholic liberal education Assumption provides.”

Alison Blair of Woodstock, Class of 2024
Eric Preston of Woodstock, Class of 2023
Samuel Roy of Thompson, Class of 2023
Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New

England’s premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who

possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and pro-

fessional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

QCC announces spring semester Dean and Merit Lists

WORCESTER, Mass. — Quinsigamond Community College has released its Spring 2023 Semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 439 students were named to the college’s Dean’s List and 826 students were named to the Merit List.

QCC’s Dean’s List Spring 2023
Students who meet the criteria below and have earned 12 or more credits in a given semester are named to the Dean’s List:

All grades must be “C” or higher. (No

grades of “I” or “X” are permitted).
Semester Quality Point Average (QPA) must be 3.50 or higher; and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher.

All courses must be college level
Dayville: Anthony Gianfriddo
Thompson: Elizabeth Gates
QCC’s Merit List Spring 2023
Students who meet the criteria below and have earned six or more credits in a given semester, but fewer than 12 credits, are named to the Merit List:

All grades must be “C” or higher. (No

grades of “I” or “X” are permitted).
Semester Quality Point Average (QPA) must be 3.50 or higher; and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher.

All courses must be college level
Brooklyn: Kathleen Billington
Danielson: Stephanie Lameira
Pomfret Center: Abigail Kruger
Putnam: Zachary Belleville, Brittany Young
Woodstock: Alexa Fernandez

Alexander Boligan of Thompson recognized by Assumption for exceptional service and leadership

WORCESTER, Mass. — In recognition of their commitment to service, 21 members of the Class of 2023, including Alexander Boligan, of Thompson, have been awarded the prestigious Crown & Shield Award, which honors students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and service during their four years at Assumption. Students were honored during a ceremony on May 5, two days before the University held its 106th Commencement exercises at the DCU Center in downtown Worcester.

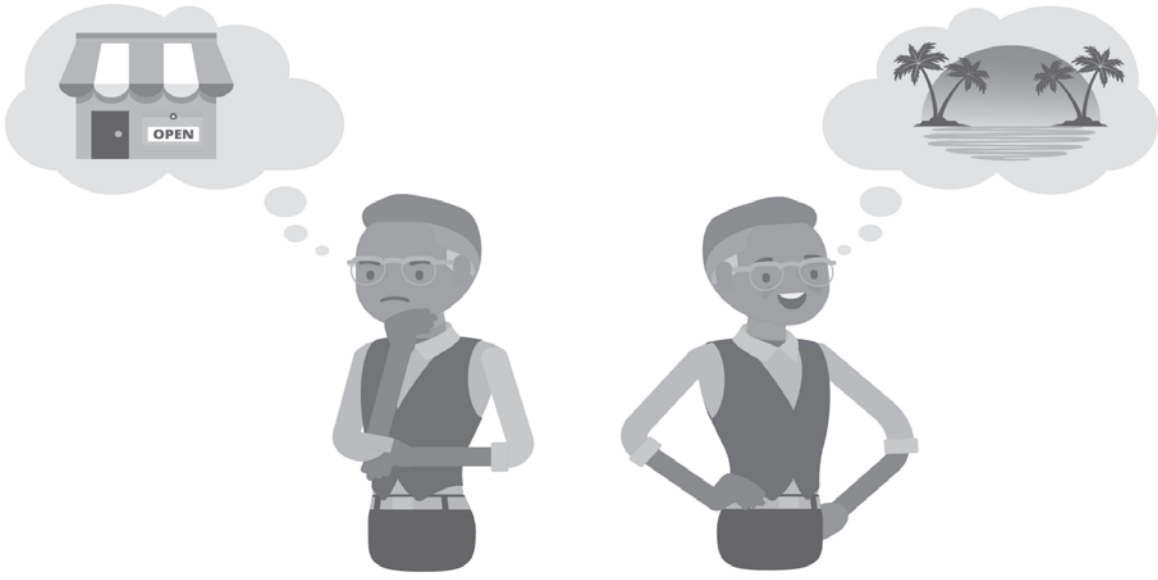
“Crown and Shield recipients are the students who have exemplified the mission of Assumption University during their time on campus,” said Laura Pena Pantano, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs. “These students help to plan events, serve as ambassadors for Admissions and Orientation, build community in the residence halls, represent the student voice in SGA, tutor and support their peers, compete athletically, spread the mission of the University through Campus Ministry and much more. We are deeply grateful to our students for the role they play in creating a culture of service and for helping us build a strong community that inspires the students who will follow.”

Crown & Shield Award recipients are nominated by faculty, staff and administration for their exemplary service and leadership.

The crown and shield are two key elements of the Assumption University seal and the award, which has been given since 1952, recognizes graduating seniors who have protected (shield) and furthered (crown) in the interest of the student body and the University community.

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England University for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption’s graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and dedication to the common good. Located in Worcester, Massachusetts, Assumption has undergone a series of major advancements since transitioning to a university, including new academic buildings, degree programs, and athletic facilities for our NCAA Division II student athlete population. The University offers 38 majors and 50 minors in the liberal

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High School Notebook

Woodstock Academy baseball team bested in ECC Tournament Final

CENTAURS HEAD TO CONNECTICUT CLASS L TOURNAMENT WITH 19-4 RECORD

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

For the second straight year the Woodstock Academy baseball team played its way to the final of the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Baseball Tournament, and, for the second straight year, the Centaurs were denied the chance of hoisting the championship hardware.

Top-seeded Woodstock (19-4) lost to second-seeded East Lyme, 9-3, in the championship game, Friday, May 26, at Dodd Stadium in Norwich.

East Lyme (20-3) jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the top of the first inning on the strength of a three-run triple by Owen Elmer, an RBI double by Blake Biggs and an RBI single by Quinn Killoy.

Eric Mathewson (three hits) had an RBI single in the bottom of the first for the Centaurs, while Brady Ericson added an RBI fielder's choice in the third and Caleb Simoneau had a pinch-hit RBI single in the seventh. Maxx Corradi recorded a pair of hits for Woodstock.

The Centaurs played their way into a second straight championship game appearance by defeating 13th-seeded Fitch, 7-6, in a semifinal round game, Thursday, May 25, and eighth-seeded Bacon Academy, 5-1, Wednesday, May 24.

In the win over 13-10 Fitch, Marcus McGregor knocked in three runs for the Centaurs while Riley O'Brien (two hits) and Keon Lamarche drove in two runs each. Eric Mathewson and Brady

Ericson both had two hits each for Woodstock, which finished the game with 10 hits. Ericson, the Centaurs' starting pitcher, earned the win while Mathewson picked up a save.

In the win over 12-10 Bacon Academy, Kaden Murphy improved to 7-1 on the mound this season, allowing just one run and four hits while striking out six in six innings of work. Woodstock finished the game with just four hits, but the Centaurs took advantage of several of the eight errors Bacon committed in the game.

Corradi scored on one of the Bacon errors in the first inning and Ericson scored on a wild pitch to give Woodstock a 2-0 first-inning lead. O'Brien and Carter Morissette delivered RBI singles in the fifth inning.

BOYS' GOLF

The Killingly High School boys' golf team had a busy week, going 4-0-1 to improve to 16-0-1 overall and 6-0 in ECC Division II matches.

The marquee matchup for Killingly was with RHAM and the teams, ranked No. 1 and 2 in the state, respectively, entering the Wednesday, May 24 contest at Connecticut National Golf Club in Putnam, finished in a 149-149 tie.

Killingly was led by Harrison Giambattista, who tied for medalist honors with RHAM's Conner Rabbitt by shooting and even-par 35. Cameron Seiffert finished two shots behind Giambattista while Ethan Lackner carded a 38 and Logan Gagnon finished with a 39. Finishing behind Rabbitt for RHAM was Holden Sullivan (36), Carson Wadell (38) and Jack Luby (40).

The match with RHAM was actually a tri-match with Woodstock Academy. Both Killingly and RHAM defeated the 7-8 Centaurs, who were led by Davis Simpson and Logan Rawson, who each shot 42, and Don Sousa (46).

Other victories posted by Killingly came over Bacon Academy (148-166, Thursday, May 25), Plainfield (146-218, Tuesday, May 23) and Fitch (152-208, Monday May 22). Seiffert (1-under-par 34) was the medalist in the match against Bacon Academy while



Courtesy

The Woodstock Academy girls' track and field team captured its first-ever Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championship, defeating host East Lyme, 129-118, Monday, May 22.

Lackner was medalist in the Plainfield and Fitch matches, shooting a 1-over-par 36 in both.

GIRLS' GOLF

Woodstock Academy won a pair of matches last week, defeating visiting Bacon Academy (205-250, Wednesday, May 24) and Stonington (222-232, Monday May 22). Centaurs' senior Maya Orbegozo was medalist in both matches carding a 41 against Bacon and a 49 against Stonington. Lily Bottone carded a 52 for Woodstock Academy (11-3, 9-2 in ECC play) in the win over Bacon while Ella Musumeci shot 55 in the win over Stonington.

BOYS' LACROSSE

Woodstock Academy, the No. 19 seed in the Connecticut Class M Boys' Lacrosse Tournament, lost to 14th-seeded North Haven in a qualifying-round game on Friday, May 26. During the game Centaurs' junior Jared Nielsen scored the 100th point of his career. Zach Gessner scored a goal and had two assists in the loss for Woodstock Academy (7-10) while classmate Lucas Theriaque added a goal and an assist.

TENNIS

It was a difficult week for the Woodstock Academy girls' and boys' tennis teams.

The three Woodstock Academy entries in the girls' and boys' ECC individual tournaments all suffered first-round losses on Monday, May 22. In the girls' tournament the Centaurs' first

doubles team of Stella Atchinson and Paige Owens were defeated by the Fitch duo of Ada Ellis and Izzy Ash, while Ellie Bishop-Klee lost to Stonington's Grace Duggan in singles play.

In the boys' tournament, Cormac Nielsen lost his first-round tournament match. The girls' tournament was held at Stonington High School while the boys' tournament was held at East Lyme High School.

Inteamplaythe 10th-seeded Woodstock girls' team lost their Connecticut Class L Girls' Tennis Tournament qualifying round match to East Lyme, the No. 23 seed, 7-0, at the Pomfret School, Friday, May 26. The Centaurs finished the season 8-6. In a first-round match in the Connecticut Class M Boys' Tennis Tournament, 12th-seeded Woodstock (11-3) lost at East Lyme, 7-0, on Friday, May 26.

GIRLS' TRACK

Woodstock Academy captured its first-ever ECC girls' track and field championship, defeating host East Lyme, 129-118, Monday, May 22.

Juliet Allard led the Centaurs with three personals bests and came home with two first-place finishes and a second. The sophomore was best in the 200-meter race and 300-meter hurdles and was second in the 100-meter race. Magdalena Myslenski was first in the javelin, second in the discus and fifth in the pole vault while Bella Sorrentino placed second in shot put and third in the 100m hurdles.

Also, Emma Wietknecht finished second in the 300-meter hurdles and Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain was second in the 800-meter run while Julia Coyle finished third in the 1,600-meter run and sixth in the 3,200-meter run. In addition, Reagan Reynolds was third in triple jump and fourth in the long jump, and Sophia Quinn was third in the discus.

BOYS' TRACK

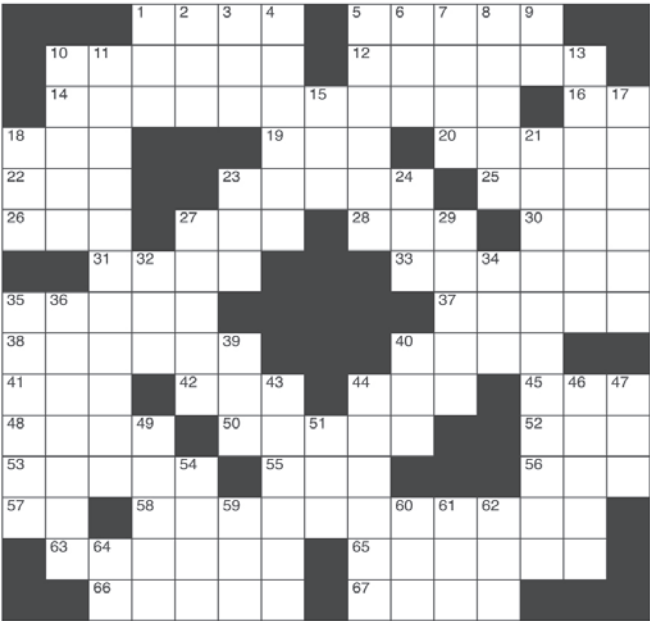
Woodstock Academy senior Jared Eaton won two events at the ECC boys' track and field championship, held at East Lyme High School on Monday, May 22. Eaton won the shot put with a throw of 52 feet, 7 inches and followed that up by hurling the discus 142-9 for another first-place finish. He also took third in the javelin. Christian Menounos bettered his own school record in the 800-meter as he won the event in 1 minute, 57.73 seconds. Senior Carter Saracina brought home the other first-place finish for the Centaurs, who finished sixth overall as a team, with an 11.19 second finish in the 100-meter dash. Saracina was also third in the 200-meter dash.

KHSAAA Hall of Fame meeting scheduled for June 8

KILLINGLY — The Killingly High School Alumni Athletic Association (KHSAAA) Hall of Fame is holding their annual meeting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday June 8, in the KHS Library.

The agenda will include, but not limited to, the nomination of the association Executive Committee — president, two vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer and three at-large members.

Alumni, coaches past and present, and all friends of Killingly Athletics are invited to attend.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Sloping position

5. Descendant of a notable family

10. Following accepted norms

12. Root vegetable

14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air

16. Integrated circuit

18. Records electric currents of the heart

19. Used to anoint

20. Japanese city

22. After B

23. Muffles

25. Pass over

26. Vase

27. Soft touch

28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

30. Patti Hearst's captors

31. Israeli politician

33. Degrade
35. Type of wrap

37. Polyurethane fabric

38. Avoids capture

40. Vegetarians avoid it

41. Decay

42. Soviet Socialist Republic

44. Vessel to bathe in

45. Inches per minute (abbr.)

48. Frosts

50. Dipped into

52. Controversial replay system in soccer

53. Comforts

55. Needed for yoga

56. Ands/___

57. South Dakota

58. Printing system

63. Dramatic works set to music

65. Highest points

66. Social division

67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

CLUES DOWN

1. Hill or rocky peak

2. Initial public offering

3. Type of light

4. Test

5. Flaky coverings

6. Former NFLer Newton

7. Part of the eye

8. Roman god of the underworld

9. Negative

10. Indiana pro basketball player

11. Replaces lost tissue

13. Denotes one from whom title is taken

15. Historic college hoops tournament

17. Hut by a swimming pool

18. Defunct European monetary unit

21. Feeds on insects

23. Adult male

24. Melancholic
27. Sheets of glass

29. Slang for famous person

32. Not good

34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer

35. The "World" is one

36. Used to make guacamole

39. Midway between south and southwest

40. Wet dirt

43. Ancient Egyptian name

44. Set of four

46. Strips

47. Wife

49. More dried-up

51. Socially inept person

54. Clusters on fern fronds

59. Bar bill

60. Prefix indicating "away from"

61. Very important person

62. Fiddler crabs

64. Special therapy

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PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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

Extra work by Morgis leads to extra runs for Woodstock Academy

CENTAURS DEFEAT LEDYARD IN ECC SOFTBALL QUARTERFINAL, THEN BOW OUT IN SEMIFINAL

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — What may have appeared to the untrained eye as an unnecessary final round of batting practice paid hefty dividends for the fourth-seeded Woodstock Academy softball team in its 6-2 victory over fifth-seeded Ledyard High in a quarterfinal-round game of the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) tournament, played Tuesday, May 23, at Evelyn and Arthur Weimann Field.

With the win the Centaurs advanced to the semifinal round of the tournament, where it lost to top-seeded Waterford High, 11-1, Wednesday, May 24, at Griswold High.

In the win over Ledyard Elizabeth Morgis, Woodstock's senior sec-

ond baseman, drove in four runs with a pair of solid singles. Asked about her 2-for-3 day at the plate after the victory, the No. 5 hitter in coach Jason Gerum's lineup credited the last round of batting cage swings she and teammate Aubrey Rumrill squeezed in just before the game with the Colonels.

"I felt a little off during regular batting practice, so right at the end of BP Aubrey and I decided to take a few extra swings," Morgis explained. So, I took a few swings and I said, 'OK. I feel good.' I think those extra swings really got me ready for the game."

Woodstock (15-7) jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Sarah McArthur (3-for-3), the Centaurs' leadoff

hitter, got things started with a single to left field, and advanced to second base on an infield single by Madie Martinez. McArthur advanced to third base while Maci Corradi, running for Martinez, moved to second on a fly out to center-field by Lexi Thompson. Up next for Woodstock was Delaney Anderson. During Anderson's at-bat, which ended in a walk, McArthur scored on a wild pitch, giving the Centaurs a 1-0 lead.

Morgis was up next and, after fouling off several two-strike pitches, she drove the ball into left field, scoring Corradi and Anderson to push the Woodstock lead to 3-0.

"I was swinging a little bit early during that at-bat," Morgis said. "But, thanks to the fact that we've been taking a

lot of BP lately, I was able to get my swing strong."

The Centaurs increased their lead to 4-1 in the bottom of the third inning. With one out Mia Pannone walked, stole second, advanced to third on a groundout by Ainsley Morse and then scored on a single to right field by Avery Collin.

In the bottom of the fourth inning Morgis pushed the Woodstock lead to 6-1 with a two-out RBI single to left field that scored pinch runner Campbell Favreau and Anderson.

"I was pretty happy," Morgis said when asked about her four-RBI game. "I just needed to stay level on the pitcher, both of them actually. I just needed to watch the ball come in and watch the ball go out."

Gerum said after the

game he was not surprised by Morgis' production at the plate.

"Liz is a textbook overachiever who is over focused and determined to not be stopped," Gerum said. "That's not only with her softball but with the books in school, too. She's always coming to practice saying, 'I had another AP exam, I have another AP this, and another AP that.' She's just a great all-around student and player."

"You want to talk about someone who reaps the benefits of putting in the work, it's Liz," Gerum continued. "She's always thinking about everything she's doing. Liz always wants to get better. Liz is always trying to get extra at-bats, always trying to sneak into the cage after everybody is gone. More important-

ly, Liz is always focusing and working on her swing. She's always talking about it, always trying to make adjustments. It's her mentality. She's always working on her swing."

Thompson got the win in the circle for the Centaurs, allowing two runs on seven hits while striking out four and walking six.

"That's kind of how Lexi's games go," Gerum said. "The first two innings is getting rolling and then she gets into a groove. Now that we're starting to play teams the second time around it's getting a little easier to get into that groove. She got into her groove in the third and pitched pretty well from that point on, but seemed to get a little tired at the end."

Local students named to Goodwin University's President's List

EAST HARTFORD — Nicole Lefebvre of Woodstock and Melissa Choquette of Brooklyn earned a place on Goodwin University's President's List for the Spring 2023 Session. The Spring 2023 President's List includes 270 students, all of whom scored a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Goodwin University in East Hartford, Connecticut, is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit www.goodwin.edu.

Goodwin University announces spring 2023 Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD — Goodwin University announces 652 students achieved Dean's List status for the Spring 2023 session, including:

Kelsie Boulet-Briere of Dayville
Melissa Choquette of Brooklyn
Sean Sullivan of Danielson
Jennifer Arnold of Putnam
Chelsea Menard of Putnam
Natasha Aleszczyk of Eastford
Nicole Lefebvre of Woodstock
Jeremie Messier of Pomfret Center

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Danielson launches new municipal Web site

DANIELSON — The Borough of Danielson is pleased to announce the launch of its new Web site at www.boroughofdanielson.org.

The launch of the Web site is a step forward for the Borough that will allow the Council to better communicate with its residents. It will act as a source of information for all, including those who may not be familiar with the Borough.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted the lack of technology, and the Council realized the need for the Web site, as municipal Web sites serve as the single most important tool for residents to find information quickly and accurately. Utilizing ARPA funds, the Council contracted with Civic Plus, a well-known government website developer to create the site. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of former council member, Miguel Antunes, the site is easy to navigate, and residents should be able to find what they need with only a few clicks. There is information on the history of the Borough, the Council's meeting schedule, and soon to be posted will be meeting agendas and minutes. Residents can sign up for email alerts that will notify them when something new has been posted to the website or report a sidewalk concern. They will also find links to other local sites that may be of interest.

The new Web site is part of our five-year Strategic Plan and is just one step forward in the development of the Borough's technology infrastructure. Next steps are a Facebook page, a You Tube channel and livestreaming of the monthly Council meetings. We are improving our connectivity and communications, with the commitment to providing residents the tools needed to access their local government.



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Annabelle Bastura of Pomfret Center named to Springfield College Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Springfield College has named Annabelle Bastura from Pomfret Center to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2023 spring semester.

Bastura has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PT.

The criteria for selection to the Dean’s List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Dinallo named to BSC President’s Honor Roll

BISMARCK, N.D. — Chelsea Dinallo, Pomfret Center has been named to the Bismarck State College President’s Honor Roll for the Spring 2023 semester.

“President Theodore Roosevelt said, ‘Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.’ We’re so proud of our BSC students who have demonstrated that their academic studies are ‘worth doing.’ Their accomplishments at BSC will serve them well into their future, wherever that takes them,” says BSC President Douglas J. Jensen.

Students must maintain at least a 3.50 grade point on a 4.00 scale while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of classes to qualify for the BSC President’s Honor Roll.

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ANIMAL FACT:



THE NOTION THAT THIS ANIMAL HAS NINE LIVES PROBABLY COMES FROM ITS ABILITY TO ESCAPE DANGER.

ANSWER: CAT

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Whiskers (Cat)

SPANISH: Bigotes

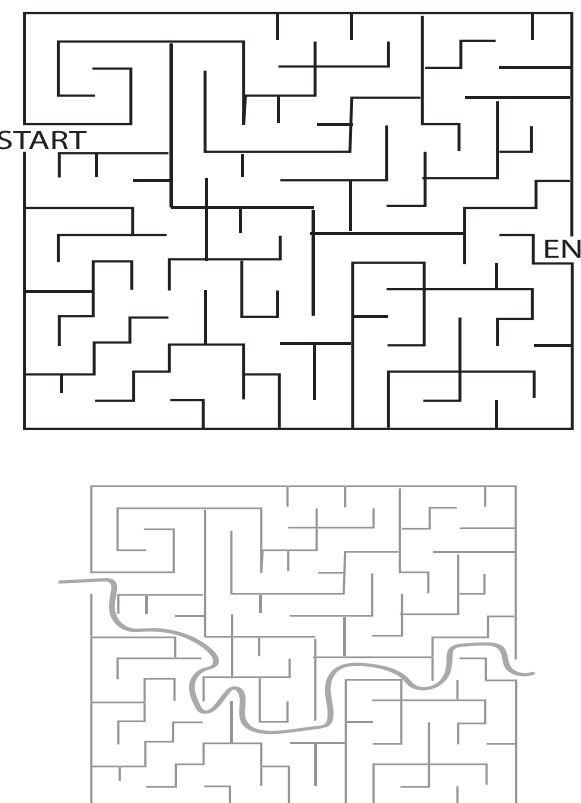
ITALIAN: Vibrissa

FRENCH: Moustaches

GERMAN: Schnurrhaar

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THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

• 1790: RHODE ISLAND RATIFIES THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, THE LAST OF THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES TO DO SO.

• 1886: THE FIRST ADVERTISEMENT FOR COCA-COLA APPEARS.

• 2015: ONE WORLD OBSERVATORY AT ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER OPENS.

New Word

MANGE

a skin condition caused by parasitic mites

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to salad. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = E)

A. 5 11 15 25 25 6 4 10
Clue: Salad topping

B. 9 15 13 13 2 18 15
Clue: Leafy greens

C. 13 8 7 1 13 8
Clue: Red, seeded food

D. 18 17 8 22 22 15 5
Clue: Cut up

Answers: A. dressing B. lettuce C. tomato D. chopped

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Fun By The Numbers

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Level: Advanced

ANSWER:



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Never forget the price of our freedoms

We wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to our readers, family and friends who have served or who are currently serving in our armed forces. We all should take the time to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, while you were relaxing, enjoying some barbeque and a big plate of pasta salad, we hope that all of you out there took a moment to pause, even if it was undetected, and ruminate about the individuals who were brave enough to afford to us this freedom. Pick a battle and try to imagine, if you can, what it would be like if you were on the front lines. Those of us who have never served can't possibly imagine what this would feel like, however we can appreciate, recognize and commend the courage of those who are no longer with us and those who continue to serve.

When Memorial Day was first celebrated, it was known as Decoration Day following the Civil War. Youngsters would place flowers in cemeteries while they sang songs and honored those lost due to war. The Civil War that ended in 1865 took the lives of more people than any other war in the history of the United States, the estimate is roughly 620,000, the Union losing 365,000 and the Confederacy 260,000. History says that more than half of these losses came as the result of disease. As a result, the first national cemeteries were created.

In 1868, General John A. Logan, the leader of an organization for Northern Civil War Veterans, called for a nationwide day to honor fallen soldiers. General James Garfield gave a speech at Arlington National Cemetery on the first Decoration Day and the more than 5,000 people in attendance decorated over 2,000 graves, both Union and Confederate.

The holiday as we all know is celebrated on the last Monday in May, and became an official holiday in the year 1971. Parades across the country take place, and people visit cemeteries where family members who have served in the military have been laid to rest.

At 3 p.m. every year, a moment of silence takes place across the country. In December of 2008, President Bill Clinton signed the "National Moment of Remembrance Act" which designated the time be at 3 p.m. In 1966, the government marked Waterloo, New York as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. In Waterloo, every business in town would shut their doors and owners would venture out to decorate graves with flags as well as flowers.

Originally, Decoration Day was intended to honor those lost in just the Civil War. After the First World War, America felt the need, and rightfully so, to honor all those lost serving their country. In WWI, a total of 116,516 Americans died on the battlefield, and 405,399 were lost during WWII. The Korean War took 36,574 lives and the Vietnam War cost 58,220 lives. 4,411 were lost in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 73 in Operation New Dawn, 2,346 as the result of Operation Enduring Freedom, 48 in Operation Freedom's Sentinel and 61 in Operation Inherent Resolve.

An estimated 38 million people in America traveled over the holiday weekend, and 2.5 million travelers boarded flights, making Memorial Day is the fourth busiest travel day of the year.

In New York, Washington, D.C and Chicago, you can find the largest parades in the country. Because of the three day weekend, many Americans threw parties and barbecues or headed out of town for a mini getaway, but we should never forget the reason for it all.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One more chance to support Thompson's budget

To the Editor:

Thompson residents have another opportunity to vote on the budget at referendum on June 13. I encourage every Thompson taxpayer to come out and exercise your right to vote, and to please vote yes.

When we developed the first budget, we were responding to input we had from recent referenda and survey results, telling us that the people of Thompson were ready to move past years of underfunding. The results of the first budget referendum, however, were clear: the amount needed to properly fund the town's operations was too much at once. I honored the voices of the voters and made suggestions to reduce the budget to a level more consistent with past practices. The current Budget proposal represents a 3.13 percent increase over last year, which is a reduction of over 60 percent from the prior

proposal. Unfortunately, many of our fixed costs have been impacted by inflation; therefore, the new cuts have been made predominantly from infrastructure and equipment needs. There were no other areas in the budget that were not contractual obligations or fixed costs ineligible for reduction. The budget that will be presented to voters on June 13 reflects one million dollars in cuts to paving, infrastructure, building repairs and heavy equipment replacement. The voters have made themselves clear that they prefer to fund most basic needs of the Town and nothing more, and we have responded accordingly. I ask again for Thompson to come out in support of this budget on June 13.

AMY ST. ONGE
FIRST SELECTMAN
THOMPSON

State inquiry into Killingly BOE's actions has been delayed long enough

To the Editor:

This past month, two bad things happened which deeply affected the students at Killingly High School. On May 1, an 18-year-old senior at the school was killed in a single-car crash on Interstate 395 in Plainfield. The medical examiner ruled the death a suicide, according to Channel 3.

Then, on May 22, Kevin Marcoux, a much-loved and respected School Counselor and Athletic Director, announced he was leaving Killingly High School following a contract dispute with the Killingly Board of Education. Marcoux has taken a job at East Lyme High School after 21 years at Killingly, where he coached the school's golf team to a 209-24-3 record, 10 straight ECC Division Championships, and two State championships. Under Marcoux's leadership, Killingly sports teams have been outstanding, as any regular reader of this newspaper knows. The school's teams have won multiple state championships in football and wrestling, in addition to numerous league and local championships in other sports.

According to articles in the Norwich Bulletin, Marcoux had been performing two part-time jobs (Athletic Department Chair and School Counselor), and had been working to have his jobs incorporated as a single job since 2018. The Killingly School Board's response to Marcoux's resignation was to accuse him of "bullying" by demanding a decision about his job "within a matter of days," despite the fact that this was a long-simmering issue dating back at least four years. In addition, and almost certainly related, the Killingly board had previously implied without evidence that Marcoux was responsible for a scoring table flashing images of the short-lived "Red Hawks" logo which had replaced the "Redmen" mascot. (Apparently, the scoring table had been flashing those images for three years, which might tell you just how much interest the objecting members of the Killingly Board have in school activities.)

It is significant that these events took place in the midst of a year-and-a-half pitched battle to obtain mental health support for students, support which still has not been established, and support which many in the community feel will never actually be initiated. It was a battle focused almost solely on politics, and not on the needs of students. It was a battle which included board references to critical race theory, Hillary Clinton, abortion, gender identity, and sexual orientation. It was a battle which featured the official censure of a board member, board members lying about why a contract was rejected by a provider, the launching of an official inquiry by the state (scheduled to start in January, but still pending), and a blistering report on the board's actions by the state Department of Education. But, in the midst of all this, there was virtually no board discussion of students' needs or how best to meet them.

In late April, under obvious pressure but to

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.

Becoming an informed collector



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

With summer unofficially underway, you might be heading out to more estate sales, yard sales, flea markets, and antique shows. Here are some tips to help you make that next great find and avoid buying something you might regret later.

Knowledge is power when it comes to antiques and collectibles. The more you know about what you're collecting, and the more you know about antiques in general, the more likely you are to find a great piece. Antique dealers used to have libraries with reference books and price guides, but now you easily look up selling prices on online auction sites or pay for auction results on websites like worthpoint.com. You can also find a lot of information for free. For example, on our website, centralmassauctions.com, we offer advice about items that are selling well and tips for evaluating paintings.

If you're more inclined to learn in-person, many places also offer live antique courses. Old Sturbridge Village has previously offered live antique courses. Historic Eastfield Village (which is located between Pittsfield, Mass. and Albany, N.Y.) is offering classes this summer on 19th century printing and weaving in the rural Northeast, among other topics.

Attending live auctions is also a good way to learn more about antiques and collectibles. When I first started learning about antiques, I attended an average of three auctions a week. Attending in-person offers the opportunity to view items and even handle them. The auction staff may also be available to answer any questions. If you attend auctions on a regular basis, you may see people who also attend regularly. Making connections with other bidders can be helpful when you are buying or selling. Some experienced bidders may be willing to offer advice. Be careful when listening to people during the preview though because an auction is a competitive situation. People may not want to share what they know about items, and may intentionally mislead you on a piece that they are also interested in.

Dealers at antique shows are often happy to share information about items they are selling because, the more they describe the items, the better chance they have of finding a buyer. Many dealers specialize in an area that interests them. You can find dealers specializing in a wide variety of items from Shaker furniture to antique phonographs. When I used to sell at Brimfield, I spoke with other dealers during slow times. Many are also collectors of the items they're selling and are passionate about their items. I learned a lot from those conversations.

Happy antique hunting this summer! Feel free to email me if you make that great find.

Our online auction of antique and vintage toys, baseball cards, sports memorabilia, guitars, and pop culture collectibles is currently underway

Turn To **ANTIQUES** page **A9**

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Estate planning as an LGBTQ+ couple: Six considerations to make

The LGBTQ+ community faces many challenges to estate planning. Family issues and differing laws between states can make the process of planning more complicated. In an effort to protect assets, members of the LGBTQ+ community must go through extra steps to establish an estate plan. Consider the following to make sure your wishes are followed. Keep in mind, while the tips below are recommendations, the complexities of estate planning should always be discussed with an advisor or other financial professional.

Consideration #1: States and the benefits of marriage

The supreme court case Obergefell vs. Hodges legalized marriage between LGBTQ+ couples at a federal level in 2015.¹ However, couples may be affected by state laws set in place prior to, or in response to, this law.

Beyond the cultural and celebratory factors of marriage, there are other logistical benefits to it that can vary by state. Those benefits that can impact estate planning include:²

Filing joint or separate status: This can create possible tax breaks which can help couples accumulate wealth over time.

Access to unlimited marital deduction: which allows married couples to make unlimited interspousal transfers of property without incurring a tax, either during their

lifetimes or after their deaths.

Consideration #2: Establishing a will and distributing assets

Studies suggest that individuals within the LGBTQ+ community are less likely to have a will when compared to non-LGBTQ+ individuals.³ This may be due to the added complexity of estate planning. The importance of a will to protect assets cannot be understated. There are a few options to protect your will against being challenged. The option you select will depend on your circumstances, and it is always best to consult with a financial professional before deciding.

Two potential options for protecting your will include:⁴

Establish a no-contest clause: A no-contest clause is a clear statement that explains the wishes of the deceased and their reasons for setting up their estate in the manner that they did.

Establish a trust: Trusts can provide more protection than a standard will to ensure your wishes are protected.

Consideration #3: Ensure custody protection

At times, the custody of minor children may be challenged. A will should be established to protect against this. But as added protection, non-biological parents should file for legal adoption. This not only provides a level of custody protection but



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also makes the process of receiving an inheritance easier if the non-biological parent were to pass.⁴

Consideration #4: End-of-life care

For LGBTQ+ couples, handling your end-of-life issues may be very important, especially if you aren't married. Making decisions for a spouse or partner in a time of need can be difficult and complicated, and; even more so for unmarried couples, who may not automatically be the legally recognized decision-maker. Documenting your preferences for care may make a huge difference. A will is a great starting point but is by no means the only documentation that may help ensure that your end-of-life wishes are respected.⁴

There are several types of documents that may help with your estate strategy:⁴

Durable financial power of attorney: A durable financial power of attorney designates someone (your spouse or partner) to make financial decisions on your behalf should you be unable to do so.

Health care power of

attorney (or health care proxy): If you are in a domestic partnership and unmarried, a health care power of attorney may be used to designate your partner or spouse as being able to make medical decisions on your behalf.

HIPAA privacy authorization form: This form allows doctors and other medical staff to communicate with your partner about your medical condition. Your power of attorney and/or trustee will also need this information as proof of your medical condition.

Health care directive: This outlines what types of health care measures you would like if you are unable to speak for yourself.

Consideration #5: Protecting real estate

Property ownership is often a large portion of estate planning. There are a few options for LGBTQ+ couples to ensure vested property rights for both individuals in the event of one passing.

Such options include:⁵

Joint tenancy with the right of survivorship

Tenants in common

Tenancy by the entirety

Community property

The availability of each of these options for LGBTQ+ couples varies depending on your state. Be sure to consult a real estate professional and financial advisor before moving forward.⁵

Consideration #6: Previous relationships

The fluctuating nature of LGBTQ+ marriage laws over time has resulted in confusion. Changing state laws may have redefined the legal definition of a couple's relationship, converting their marriage to either a civil union or domestic partnership.

In addition, prior relationships could affect individuals. For example, if a married individual split from their partner, then moved to a state that does not recognize LGBTQ+ marriage, their union would still be deemed legal. Both of these situations can cause estate planning challenges.

The complexity of estate planning for many LGBTQ+ couples can make the process challenging and stressful. A financial advisor or other financial professional can help ensure the process is clear and provide the information and actions needed to establish proper planning. If you'd like help creating a strategic financial plan to help meet the estate, financial and life goals that you and your partner share, our team at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors can help. We use our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process to help our clients create a financial plan that's tailored just for them. Contact us at (860) 928-2341 or schedule a complimentary consul-

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https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-556_3204.pdf

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/answers-to-frequently-asked-questions-for-same-sex-married-couples>

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Rufus Malbone and Dolly

I recently had the pleasure of attending Maureen Herrera's presentation on Rufus Malbone and Dolly for the Aspinock Historical Society. I have been mentoring her since fall, showing her how to use land records, guiding her in looking for valuable genealogical information on the internet, etc. She caught on very quickly. It has been wonderful to see her enthusiasm and progress. One of us would find a new "clue", would share it with the other, and away we'd go on another search. It's like a disease!

Rufus Malbone of Putnam is an intriguing individual for a number of reasons. Probably the most unusual fact about this free non-white was that his horse Dolly was buried with him. The Putnam cemetery containing both graves is past Day Kimball Hospital almost to the Pomfret town line. Maureen's family is caretaker for this cemetery. Find-a-Grave



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gives the death date for Rufus as Oct. 12, 1884. Dolly died Oct. 25 ("Legendary Connecticut" by David E. Phillips, p. 97). A large obelisk at the Malbone Cemetery marks both graves. How many horses have a grave marker?

Rufus was born about 1824 according to census and death records. We're still working on who his parents were. He was drayman, what we would call a teamster, and was back and forth between Northeastern Connecticut and Providence, RI with his faithful friend Dolly the horse. David Phillips wrote that people told stories of Rufus' incredible strength. "It is said, for example, that he could lift a whole barrel of cider off the ground, pull out the bung, take a long drink from the bung-hole and replace the stopper before gently setting the barrel on the ground again." However, reliance on this strength may have led to his death. Phillips

continued, "In early October of 1884 Rufus and Dolly were driving to the Bartholomew farm with a full load of cider apples, when a wheel came off the old wagon. The 60-year old man lay down beneath the cart, so they say, jacked up the heavy vehicle with his legs and feet and, while thus employed, somehow managed to reattach the loose wheel to the axel. Unfortunately, the exertion was too much for the aging Negro: he burst a blood vessel in his forehead and fell unconscious. Two men who had been following Rufus with their own wagon load of goods came upon the stricken man, carried him to his little house, and put him to bed. Although he regained consciousness from time to time, he never recovered from the accident and died ten days afterward, on October 12, 1884. " On his deathbed he worried about Dolly and what would happen to her. He told the neighbors that he also wanted Dolly buried with him--and that is what happened. No one could control the horse after Rufus passed, and finally on October 25, the grave was enlarged; Dolly was called to the edge of

the opening and was shot. According to Phillips it is reported that a much larger crowd assembled for Dolly's funeral than had attended the one for Rufus. (pp. 95-97).

No evidence of a marriage or children has been found for Rufus. He was listed as single on his death certificate. A little about his life can, however, be gleaned from land records, census records, and city directories. Rufus appeared in the 1880 Federal Census for Putnam, Connecticut. His age was listed about 56, giving him a birth date of approximately 1824. His birthplace was given as Connecticut. Both his parents' birthplaces were listed as Connecticut. Interestingly, he was listed as white in the summary. I checked the original where he was listed as Black. If you are working with non-whites, do check original copies whenever possible. There are often errors in transcription including spellings of names.

The first census to list individual household members by name was in 1850. In that year Rufus possibly was living in Pomfret in the household of Jedediah Pereine (Perrin), indexed under the spelling Mallon. At that time Rufus Mallon was listed as 26--right age. (A John Mallon, 22, was living in the same household). The occupation for Rufus was laborer, industry not given. His birthplace was given as Connecticut. On the summary both Rufus and John were listed as white. However, the copy of the original listed B (black) for both. An Othello Malbone and family were listed next to Perrin in the census records. It made me wonder if there was a connection. Indeed, there was!

October 28, 1852 Othello Malbone of Pomfret sold Rufus Malbone of Pomfret one acre of land with a dwelling on the road from Pomfret Street to Pomfret

Depot. (Pmf LR Vo. 17, p. 433). Unfortunately, no relationship was given. Was Othello the father of Rufus? Othello's death was recorded the following year on Nov. 24, 1853 (black, widower) in the Pomfret Vital Records but no will was found. I'm pursuing all possible leads. The following year Rufus Malbone of Pomfret *mortgaged the property to Abraham Perrin of Pomfret. Rufus signed the document, indicating that he was at least partly literate. (Pmf LR Vo. 18, p. 418, 8 September 1853). *Remember; Putnam was not incorporated until 1855.

R. Malbone appeared in that location on the 1855 Woodford map of Putnam, adjacent to Perrin. (He was also on the 1869 map of Putnam in Gray's Atlas of Tolland and Windham Counties).

I have been unable to locate Rufus in the 1860 census. (Rufus might have rented out this plot of land and small dwelling that he acquired from Othello. There is a Samuel Ockney (shoemaker) and family adjacent to Abraham Perrin of Putnam in the 1860 census. The Ockneys (various spellings) could be relatives by marriage. A Roby K. Ockley is the mother of Julia F. Jackson, one of the heirs of Rufus Malbone, and is listed as the spouse of a Nelson G. Malborn. (Massachusetts Death Records, 1841-1915, Ancestry.com). Is Nelson a brother of Rufus Malbone? He was at least a very close relative for his children to be listed as heirs of Rufus. Nelson died prior to August 11, 1858 when Roby K. Malbone married John Moody. (RI Marriage Index, Ancestry.com). Nelson was listed as a drayman in the 1854 Providence Directory. Did Rufus help with his business after Nelson's death?

Othello had a

Seaman's Protection Certificate. (Ancestry.com; Pasay, Marcella, Full Circle A Directory of Native and African Americans in Windham County, CT and Vicinity, 1650, 1900.) I wonder if Rufus went to sea? He doesn't seem to show up in local records for over ten years.

Rufus appeared in the Providence, RI Directories beginning with the year 1864 where he was listed as a teamster boarding at Potter's Ave. A John Malbone had the same occupation and residence. The last entry for Rufus in Providence directories was in 1872. Rufus Malbone showed up in a number of tax lists for Providence and was taxed on a "dray" (Ancestry.com).

In the early 1870's, Rufus Malbone, a resident of Providence, RI, had begun to acquire more land in Putnam. (Putnam LR, Vo. 7, p. 25, 270). Later deeds indicate that he has moved to Putnam. He lived on his small farm until his death in 1884, plying his same trade. His unusual deathbed request to be buried with his horse Dolly will fix his place in Putnam legend and lore for many years to come. Rufus, rest in peace!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2023. Special thanks to Maureen Herrera. For additional information email me at margaret-mweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

ANTIQUES

continued from page A8

and ends on June 21st. We are also running an estate sale of a home in Chicopee packed full of antiques, collectibles, dolls, and thousands of other items on June 23, June 24, and June 25. We

will have another online auction later this month starting with jewelry, sterling silver, nautical paintings and memorabilia, other art, pocket watches, stoneware, duck decoys, antique firearms, and a wide variety of other items. It will end in late July. Please visit our Website, [https://central-](https://centralmassauctions.com)

centralmassauctions.com, for links to upcoming events.

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



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In the Studio



“In the Studio” features artists from the Quiet Corner-home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we’ll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns.

In this interview, we’re meeting with Woodstock musician Sarah Jo Burke. You may have seen Sarah Jo performing at the East Woodstock Jamboree, in church, or at a private function. Her vocals, guitar, and flute music encompass a range of original and established songs.

Thanks for joining us, Sarah Jo! You’ve written a book “Don’t Think It Hasn’t Been Fun; the Story of the Burke Family Singers” about performing with your family as a youth. In a few sentences, what were

the Burke Family Singers about?

My parents were proud Irish-Catholic Americans. Mother read books on the Lives of the Saints and sincerely hoped to give birth to one (...“the jury has reconvened, however, and it doesn’t look good....”) When my father discovered that we could all sing, both my parents saw it as a “force for good” - and that mattered to them. (And Dad, a church organist, probably hoped that we could make some money doing it!) We loved to sing... how could we not?!... getting out of school for a month in the fall and again in the spring and getting to “see the USA in our Chevrolets” (station wagons, two)...we smiled, signed the autograph books and sang our little hearts out!

We toured in the South during the Civil Rights struggle. Actually, we had a 2,000-seat sold-out house in Montgomery, Ala., the day after the march from Selma in ‘65.



You could cut the tension with a knife. There were grey Alabama state trooper cars everywhere... eighteen cars staying at our motel alone. About 400 people came to our concert that night. Dad asked the audience to move up front and “imagine you’re in our living room”. After the concert, a woman walked up to my Mother and thanked us for coming. Then she said, “Oh, what must you think of us?! We aren’t all like this!”...and she started to cry. Mum put her arms around the woman and said, “I know deeah,” and just let her cry. These days, It’s hard not to think that we’re right back there in the 60’s... fighting for basic civil rights.

Did you plan to continue performing in your adult life?

Oh Lord, I didn’t plan on anything in my life! I’ve been swept away by circumstances! Ninth of ten kids in a singing family for 12 years, and playing flute, then learning guitar to back my voice, then seven years playing concerts, coffee houses, and 4-hour bar gigs with Lisa Pastille. And always there was church music....weddings and funerals, too.

From earliest childhood, as soon as I could hold pitches, I sang. Singing chills me right

out. It soothes my soul and I’ve reached a point in my life when I realize there’s nothing more important than using my music to soothe. It’s how I combat hate.

What have been some of your most rewarding experiences as a musician?

Singing with Maria von Trapp around her table at the lodge in Stowe, Vt. in 1964. We were there for a CBS special with the von Trapps called “The Sound of Christmas”. She sat in between Gemma and me because she was an alto. Her son, Johannes, sang with the basses and Rosemarie von Trapp sang with our sopranos. We sang “Silent Night” in German, and the room nearly crackled from the energy around that table.

About 10 years ago, I joined the “Wings of Song” [singing group centered in Sturbridge, Mass.]. I love choral singing and Nym Cooke, our brilliant director, has stretched my singing range...I sing higher now than I ever thought I could! It’s a great group of about 60 people.

Does living in the Quiet Corner have an impact on your music?

I live in beauty and that affects everything....

Do you have a favorite genre of music or favorite musicians?

My taste is pretty eclectic and I sing different types of music...In the last few years, I have enjoyed creating an atmosphere by playing song after song after song...just to create a warm musical background in a room or in a garden.

When you are not performing, what keeps you busy?

There’s always a song to prep for next week’s church service. Then there’s the house and grounds to take care of...

we have three acres with five gardens and 24 mostly old trees that are

always dropping something! It’s my “bend-and-grunt” diet...and the thing is, you can’t mow until you pick those sticks up...! Keeps me in shape...sort of.

You’ve written a book, and produced CD’s. Any projects in the works?

Yes! I want to get the word out about the audiobook version of “Don’t Think It Hasn’t Been Fun” You can get it on Amazon, Audible or Downpour. The book is good, but the audiobook is even better. You can actually hear the Burke Family Singers - there are 36 clips all through it and I narrate it. [Copies are also available at Arts & Framing in downtown Putnam.]

Your Web site, www.sarahjoburke.com, has samples of your music on it (I really enjoyed listening to “Florrie’s Song”). And the East Woodstock

Congregational Church’s Facebook page has videos.

Where can we hear your music live?

I have a concert coming up at Seely Brown. I play music at East Woodstock Congregational Church [220 Woodstock Rd. in Woodstock], and I’ll be playing at the EWCC July 4 jamboree from 10:15-11 a.m. Additionally, I will be performing at the Southbridge Library [Jacob Edwards Library at 236 Main St. in Southbridge, Mass.] for their Pride Event on Thursday, June 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. As with the EWCC, the public is welcome to the library concert.

Thank you so much for your time, Sarah Jo. I do hope our readers will catch your performances!

Word of the day:

Maria von Trapp, Vienna born scholar and postulate at the Nonnberg Abbey in Salzburg, Maria (Kutschera) von Trapp became baroness, step-mother and matriarch of the Trapp Family Singers. Her story eventually inspired the 1965 film version of “The Sound of Music”. The Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe VT was the late Von Trapp’s final home where the family ran a music camp when not performing or touring.

About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock) is a nationally recognized flame-work glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 25 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. She offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner & is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

Keep plants thriving despite the heat of summer

Last year’s record-high temperatures across much of the country took a toll on gardens and landscapes. Once again, above-normal summer temperatures are in the forecast for many regions of the country. Adjusting how you manage your gardens and landscape can help plants thrive as temperatures rise.

Water plants thoroughly to promote deep drought-tolerant roots that help boost the plants’ pest resistance. Wait until the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist before watering most plants. Newly planted perennials, trees, and shrubs need more attention and water than drought-tolerant plants or established ones with more robust root systems that are better able to absorb more moisture. During extended dry periods, even drought-tolerant and established plants may need supplemental water.

Water early in the day to reduce water lost to evaporation. Avoid late evening watering that leaves foliage wet at night, increasing the risk of disease.

Apply water directly to the soil above the plant roots using soaker hoses or drip irrigation whenever possible. Water is applied where needed and the slow, steady flow of water is better able to infiltrate the soil and moisten the roots with less runoff.

Check soil moisture daily in container gardens and several times a week for raised beds. Both dry out more quickly than in-ground gardens and need to be watered



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more often. Save time and water by incorporating Wild Valley Farms’ wool pellets into the growing mixes. This sustainable product is made from wool waste. University research found it reduced watering by up to 25% and increased air space in the soil, promoting healthy plant growth.

Further conserve water by spreading a

two- to three-inch layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or shredded bark mulch over the soil in garden beds and around trees and shrubs. Mulching conserves moisture, keeps roots cooler and moist, and suppresses weeds. As the organic mulch decomposes, it adds nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Just pull the mulch away from tree trunks, shrub stems, and the crowns of other plants to avoid rot.

Include plants that are more tolerant of the weather conditions in your area. Those that tolerate both heat and cold extremes will thrive with less care once established.

Incorporate organic matter like compost into the soil. It helps the soil accept and retain water so you will need to water less often. It also adds nutrients to the soil so over time you will need to fertilize less often.

Use a low-nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer if your garden plants need a nutrient boost. These types of fertilizers release small amounts of nutrients over an extended period. The low level

of nitrogen reduces the risk of damaging heat-stressed plants.

Remove weeds from garden beds and borders as soon as they appear. These “plants out of place” steal water and nutrients from your desirable garden plants. Plus, many harbor insects and diseases that are harmful to your garden plants.

Provide stressed plants with a bit of shade from the hot afternoon sun. Container gardens can be moved to a more suitable spot during heat waves. Add a bit of temporary shade to garden plants that are struggling to survive in the blazing hot sun. A strategically placed chair, lattice, or umbrella may be all that is needed. As temperatures drop, you can move plants back in place and remove the temporary shade.

Your garden will greatly benefit from these changes to your summer garden care.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small*



Melinda Myers

Provide heat-stressed plants in containers relief by moving them into the shade during heat waves.

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 and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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Putnam hosts annual Memorial Day parade



Jason Bleau

Putnam town officials greeted citizens and visitors as the parade made its way through town.



Rolland "Rollie" Johnson, a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Korean War in the 1950s, served as the Parade Marshall for the 2023 event.



The WPTP Hawks Football and Cheerleading program fully embraced their place as part of the annual Memorial Day Parade in Putnam having plenty of fun on their float.



The American Legion Poppy Queen, Emily St. Martin, and VFW Poppy Queen Rilynne Mae Sargent greet spectators as they make their way down the parade route.



The Putnam Elks had plenty of representation during the parade, showing their patriotism in full by waving the United States flag.



A member of the VFW Auxiliary salutes spectators along the parade route.




The Putnam Middle School marching band provided a mix of patriotic tunes during the Memorial Day parade.



Members of the National Guard marched through Putnam to honor those who served before them and lost their lives for their country.



One of several musical acts that rode aboard town of Putnam vehicles playing patriotic songs.



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PUTNAM — The town of Putnam was a busy place on May 29 as the town hosted its annual Memorial Day Parade honoring those who fought and gave their lives to protect the freedom of the United States. The parade featured representation for numerous groups and organizations in town paying their respects as well as plenty of representation of both veterans and active service members with a special ceremony in Rotary Park.

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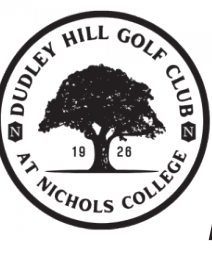
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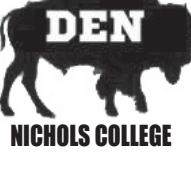
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