



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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Friday, May 3, 2024

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Paquette appointed as Woodstock's First Selectman

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Following the passing of First Selectman Jay Swan, the Woodstock Board of Selectmen were tasked with choosing a new leader to fill out Swan's term. At a special meeting on April 23, the two remaining selectmen agreed that Swan's longtime running mate Chandler Paquette would be promoted to the seat.

After the announcement of Swan's passing earlier in April, the remaining selectmen, Republican Chandler Paquette and Democrat Kate McDonald, had 30 days to fill the vacancy. A lifelong Woodstock resident, Paquette has served 17 years and nine consecutive terms as a selectman running alongside Swan in 2019, 2021, and 2023.

In a statement released by the town, Paquette called his promotion bittersweet after the loss of Swan.

"Jay was a tremendous member of the community and always worked to make Woodstock a better place. He loved this town, and it was an honor to call him a friend," Paquette said, promising to continue Swan's legacy of "doing what's best for Woodstock."

Paquette's fellow select-



Chandler Paquette, a longtime and current selectman, is sworn in as First Selectman to succeed Jay Swan, who passed away in April.

man Kate McDonald said she fully supports Paquette's promotion in a statement also released by the town.

"I strongly believe that (Paquette's) years of service on the Board of Selectmen for the town has provided him with

the knowledge and experience he will need to lead Woodstock in this new role. Chandler and I have worked well together over the last year and a half, and I look forward to continuing our commitment to serve the citizens of Woodstock,"

McDonald said.

Paquette brings an extensive list of accomplishments and credits to the position of First Selectman having been an active member of feasibility and building committees for a new Public Works Department

building and several school roofs projects. He has also been active in the Republican Town Committee and the Board of Selectmen's representative on the Open Space Land Acquisition & Preservation Committee. Along with Swan, he was the only selectman to serve the entirety of the pandemic years to date on the board and as such helped guide the town through recovery and management efforts in that time. Paquette said he is looking forward to the new challenge and continuing to help Woodstock progress.

"I have worked hard to be in touch with the concerns and needs of the citizens of Woodstock" stated Paquette. "My number one priority always has been and will continue to be public safety. I look forward to serving the town in my new position and will continue to strive to complete the work started by my friend and colleague Jay Swan."

Paquette was officially sworn in on April 24, less than a day after he was selected for the position. The Board of Selectmen have 30 days from his appointment to fill his vacancy on the board. Paquette will serve the remainder of Swan's term and will be up for re-election in November of 2025.

Arrests announced in connection to Eastford church fire

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

EASTFORD — A year has passed since a fire destroyed the Congregational Church of Eastford and not only is the church thriving, but the community has received some closure as State Police announced arrests in connection to the incident.

In a press release, the State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad revealed that two young suspects, a juvenile male and female whose identities have been withheld due to their age, were arrested in September in connection to the fire which took place on April 23, 2023. Although the cause of the blaze was initially suspected to be lightning due to storms occurring that night, the Eastern District Major Crime Squad teamed with the Connecticut State Police Fire & Explosives Investigation Unit, Violent Crimes Task Force, South Windsor Police Department, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to determine what actually took place that night. Eventually authorities connected the Eastford fire with another incident in South Windsor and a later incident at Camp Nahaco in Woodstock along with other church break-ins in the area. Authorities were able to apprehend the unnamed suspects during the April 30, 2023 incident at Camp Nahaco, where they attempted to set fire to a lodge. Both suspects confessed to the crimes and were charged with arson, burglary, criminal mischief, and reckless endangerment.

While the arrests bring closure to a year of recovery for the Congregational Church of Eastford, Pastor Michael Moran said there is no animosity towards the culprits. He said he and his church practice the forgiveness and kindness expressed through their faith and that extends to the young individuals as well.

"The idea of arson, somebody intentionally doing it, does give you a catch in your spirit. We did talk and pray about this, about what if it was arson, and we as Christ followers believe that he died for our sins that we might be forgiven. We've all done a lot of stuff that's not okay and we feel that as far as our relationship with God that slate has been cleaned by one who loves us so much, he'd give his life for us. So, we have to offer our unconditional love and forgiveness for these two young people. That's our heart. We forgive you. We acknowledge there are consequences when people do things like this and we are entrusting that with the authorities, but our heart is forgiveness," said Moran.

As for the church itself, the congregation has only grown in the year
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Killingly allocates ARPA funds for Senior Center projects

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council has allocated extra ARPA monies to help support seniors in town as well as neighboring Brooklyn.

The money was provided through a state act to provide extra ARPA funds specifically designated for senior centers and related services. Each community received a base amount of \$5,000 with additional money determined through an equity formula. Killingly received \$36,674 in total

with guidance from the State Department of Aging on how to properly allocate the funds to qualified projects.

On April 9, the Town Council allocated the full allotment of senior center ARPA money between two projects that expressed interest through communication with Town Manager Mary Calorio's office. The town's fiscal subcommittee examined both requests but sent them to the Town Council with no specific recommendations. The first application was for the Quinebaug Valley

Senior Center, owned by and located in the town of Brooklyn, for replacing a heat exchanger for their HVAC as supporting a roof replacement. The second was from Killingly's own Recreation Department to purchase a new projector and a larger screen for use with senior movies and other functions. While there was debate over how much should be allocated to each project, Calorio stated she felt it was essential to provide at least some money to the Quinebaug Valley Senior Center.

"I think that there would be some concern at the state level if the town did not allocate any funds to our QV Senior Center given that the town has funded and subsidized that as a senior center for decades," Calorio said.

With that in mind, several Town Council members stressed the importance of keeping much of the money in town and supporting the Recreation Department's request first. The state has confirmed that the town of Brooklyn allocated the entirety of its senior center ARPA monies to the

Quinebaug Valley Senior Center while Eastford provided a quarter of its funds to the center.

A motion was made to allocate \$6,674 of Killingly's money to Brooklyn, roughly 20 percent, and keep \$30,000, or roughly 80 percent, for the town. That motion was later amended to allocate \$9,000, or 25 percent, to Brooklyn and \$27,674, or 75 percent, for the new projector and screen. The amended motion was approved unanimously by the Council members present.

Ringling with laughter ... and now music

POMFRET — The playground at the Pomfret Community School rings with children's laughter — and now it will ring with music.

Some members of the Putnam Rotary Club last week installed two musical instruments at the playground area used by students and the public. No one told the students the instruments were going to be installed.

Principal Susan Inschwiler said, "The instruments were a big hit today at recess!"

The instruments installed after school last Friday included a Metallaphone (simi-

lar to a xylophone) and a trio of Bongo Drums.

The Music Garden at Pomfret Community School was funded through a Rotary Foundation District 7890 grant of \$2,375 plus \$1,200 from the Putnam Rotary Club. The concrete work was donated by J.B. Concrete Products.

District Grant Committee Chair Karen Osbrey said there are 350 children enrolled in Pomfret Community School but the playground serves as a public playground during non-school hours.

The Putnam Rotary Club has five service towns: Putnam, Woodstock,

Eastford, Thompson and Pomfret. A larger musical instrument installation is already delighting people on the River Trail in Putnam. Osbrey said the club hopes to install

instruments in all five of its service towns. She added that Thompson is building a playground and so a Rotary touch of music for that playground is likely the

next one on the list.

Helping Osbrey install the instruments were Rotarians Doug Porter and Wayne "Woody" Durst.



The Putnam Rotary Club installed some musical instruments at the Pomfret Community School and these kids, at the playground after hours, gave them a try.

Please complete and mail the card in today's paper.

Experience Eastford Festival returns May 11

EASTFORD — After a four-year hiatus, a long-time Eastford tradition is resuming. “Experience Eastford” celebrates Eastford’s past, present and future. Originally conceived as “Heritage Day” at the time of America’s bi-centennial celebration, the event has

been a staple of Eastford warm season life for many decades. Covid-19 interrupted the event – but now it is back – and happening Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The event is centered at the Eastford School, 12 Westford Rd., and includes exhibits and

vendors, displays of local crafts and agencies like the CT Forest/Park Association and the DEEP Fisheries Division. There will be a book sale to benefit the Eastford Public Library, kids’ games and a bounce house, the popular “Hula Hoop Lady,” a pie eating contest, food truck, and concerts by the Ashford Babcock Band and “B-Side,” a talented local band.

Nearby, the Eastford Independent Fire Company will hold an open house, and there will be a car show at Bowen’s Garage.

To kick off the day there will be 5K Run, “The Heart of Eastford”, which



will be raising funds for the Eastford Food Pantry as well as a local citizen with a serious health problem. The 5K run starts at 9 a.m. (registration at 8:30). For info and pre-registration, go to <https://runscore.runsignup.com/Race/CT/Eastford/HeartOfEastford5k>.

“We are really excited to be bringing this event back,” said Paige Brown, Eastford Recreation Commission chair. “Experience Eastford

is such a great way to bring our community together – and the need for community is huge in our culture today,” added Laura Barlow of Eastford.

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Contact Gail at 508 340-5723 or e-mail wootownbullies@gmail.com

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Lions do it
 - In favor of
 - Rest here please (abbr.)
 - Pulps
 - Leisure activity
 - Fertility god
 - Financial obligations
 - When you anticipate getting somewhere
 - Spanish river
 - Sporting events
 - Type of tree
 - Ceased to be
 - Persons
 - Synthetic resin
 - Relates to photochemical reactions
 - Father
 - Former Cowboys coach
 - City in Finland
 - Run batted in
 - Got through
 - They darken skin
 - In a harmful way
 - Form of weaving
 - City of Angels hoopster
 - Caucasian language
 - Syngman __, Korean president
 - Sun up in New York
 - Paddled
 - Fishes
 - Affirmative
 - Nimble
 - Doctor of Education
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - A small island

- CLUES DOWN**
- Cool!
 - Hebrew unit of measure
 - Swedish rock group
 - College army
 - Favor over another
 - Called it a career
 - Egg-shaped wind instrument
 - Israeli statesman
 - Hurries
 - Slog
 - Midway between south and southeast
 - Benedictine monk
 - Self-immolation by fire ritual
 - Family of regulator genes
 - Surrendering
 - Political action committee
 - S. American plant
 - Long-term memory
 - Bark
 - Breathes in
 - Take hold of
 - Everyone has one
 - Valentine’s Day color
 - Drivers’ licenses and passports
 - Outer walls of castles
 - Enters with force
 - One thousandth of an inch
 - Deceased Chinese politician
 - Sugary secretion of plants
 - Expressed pleasure
 - Shelter
 - Utilizes
 - Forest resident
 - Fashion accessory
 - A sharply directional antenna
 - __ Kristofferson, actor
 - A bad place to end up
 - MLBer Gordon

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Go wild with Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue at Roseland Park’s Family Fun Day

WOODSTOCK — Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue is excited to announce this year’s family day will be held at Roseland Park (205 Roseland Park in Woodstock) on Sunday, May 19, from noon to 4 p.m. Go Wild with Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue will be a fun and educational afternoon of learning about wildlife. A donation of \$10 per person over age 13 is suggested. Pam and Bill Lefferts and their educational ambassador opossums will welcome you and their other guests to the party. You will learn about the opossums that live in your backyard and meet the opossums that reside at Ferncroft – Wendi, Sherman, and Bob. All three opossums are non-releasable, with injuries that keep them from surviving in the wild. You will also see tiny, orphaned baby opossums (joeys) that will be cared for at Ferncroft until they are ready to be released, which is always the hoped for outcome with wildlife rehabilitation.

- The doors open at noon and the schedule of events is as follows:
- 12:15 p.m. Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue Welcome
 - 12:30 p.m. Meet the Ferncroft opossums: Wendi, Bob, and Sherman
 - 1:15 p.m. Meet crows and owls from Horizon Wings (Ashford)
 - 2 p.m. Learn about black bears from Paul Colburn, a DEEP Master Wildlife Conservationist
 - 2:45 p.m. Meet lizards, snakes, and more from Riverside Reptiles (Enfield)
 - 3:30 p.m. Wrap Up

Also, attending will be Pugsley, a bat ambassador from WingHand Wildlife Rehab (East Hampton); Danny, a mini horse from Cherry Ledge Farm (Woodstock); the Connecticut Audubon Society (Pomfret and Hampton); and The Last Green Valley.

Grace Gourmet, 30for30food, and Main St. Gelato food trucks will be on site. Ferncroft’s Possum Punch, served in a commemorative cup, will be available as well. Of course, you can bring your own lunch and snacks. There are picnic tables in the park.

Party “games” include crafts for kids, face painting, and cornhole.



Pam’s children’s book, “From Pouch to Couch: Why Lavender the Opossum Lives in a House” will be available for a donation to the rescue. Lavender was Ferncroft’s first educational ambassador and had over 10,000 followers on Facebook. Please leave your pets at home for this event. Pam explains “The animals see dogs as predators. Thank you in advance for your understanding.” More information about Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue, GO WILD, and upcoming programs can be found on Ferncroft’s Facebook page or its Web site, <https://ferncroftwildlife.com>.

Celebrating the life of a five-foot-five giant

THOMPSON — On Saturday, May 4 at 10:30 a.m., many friends and family members will be gathering at Acts II Ministries in Thompson to celebrate the life of a giant. Rev. Terry L. Hardt was likely five feet, five inches tall when he passed away on April 23, but he was a giant to those who knew him. Dictionary.com describes a giant like this: “a person or thing of unusually great size, power, importance, etc.; major figure; legend”, and Terry Hardt fits that description well.

He was a man on a mission to let the world know about the love of Jesus, and he was effective. As a young man, after three years of Bible College, he and his wife Dorothy took their first pastorate. Over the next 11 years, they would serve as pastor in five churches in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. They also assisted in Washington.

In 1971, he moved his wife and three boys to New England with plans to plant a church in the Boston area. It was new territory for his organization, and he did at great personal sacrifice. He served as the pastor of churches in Worcester MA, Brockton MA and Torrington before planting a church in Quinebaug in 1976. The church began in Rev. Hardt’s home and was called Quinebaug Valley United Pentecostal Church. The name was later changed to Acts II Ministries. Over the years the members of the congregation built a building at 1366 Riverside Dr. in Thompson. Terry oversaw the first two phases of the building project and gathered a strong group of people to help him love New England.

In 1996, at the age of 58, Rev. Hardt transferred the leadership of the church to Bishop John Hanson and planted yet another church in Euclid, Ohio. Terry and his wife, Dorothy, returned to Acts II Ministries in 2018 and continued to lead a neighborhood prayer group until March of 2024. They enjoyed watching the fruit of their ministry spread through the congregation of Acts II Ministries and the ministries the church has helped to establish in West Hartford, Worcester and Storrs.

More history is available at www.ActsII.org/history.

Woodstock • Public • Schools

Woodstock Elementary School

Kindergarten Registration

2024-2025

Children of Woodstock turning 5 on or before September 1, 2024 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Please contact the main office at 860-928-0471 or at wesoffice@woodstockschools.net to add your child’s name to our Kindergarten list and receive a registration packet. For children turning 5 between September 2 and December 31st, families may request an assessment for early admission into Kindergarten. Please call or visit our website for more information.

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Thompson VFW and Auxiliary recognizes professionals, students and volunteers

THOMPSON — Community Recognition Night sponsored by the Thompson Memorial VFW Auxiliary to Post 10088 was held on Monday, April 15 at the Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department according to an announcement from Commander Elmer Preston, President Virginia Livernoche and Program Chairman Linda Szyrka. The annual event is held to honor volunteers and citizens in the Town of Thompson who distinguish themselves in service to others.

Since 1990, the Auxiliary has been recognizing the five Fire Departments in Thompson with the "Unpaid Professional" Award. Each department is asked to nominate one of their own for this award. Honored this year were:

- Kelli Langer - Thompson Fire Engine Co. Inc.
 - Peter Faucher - Community Fire Co. Inc.
 - Sarah Duquette - East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department
 - Robert Chalinor - West Thompson Fire Department
 - Lorne Lee - Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department
- The "Youth Volunteer of the Year" goes to an adult who volunteers with youth or to a youth who volunteers in the community. Melissa Ericson was the recipient of this year's award for her work with and promoting the Scouting Program in Thompson. "Citizen of the Year" Award

went to Sr. Janine Blanchard for volunteering and overseeing the St. Joseph Food Pantry for many years and making sure anyone in need gets help not only at the holidays but throughout the year.

The VFW and Auxiliary sponsor several contests in the Thompson School System. Auxiliary Scholarship Chairman, Carol Preston recognized Thompson Middle School Students who participated in the Patriot's Pen Youth Essay contest. This contest encourages young minds to examine America's history along with their own experiences in modern American society by expressing their views based on a patriotic theme. Winners were: Braeden Carlson, 1st place; Drew Marquette, 2nd place; Logan Wedda, 3rd place.

Tourtellotte Memorial High School students participating in the Voice of Democracy audio essay contest were: Eric Levesque, 1st place; Maddison Carlson, 2nd place; Jordyn Butler, 3rd place. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest also sponsored for high school students recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. 1st place winner was Eric Levesque.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Teacher Program. Nominated for this award and recognized by the local VFW were: Grade K-5, Jessie Duquette; Grade 6-8,

Judy Perkins; Grade 9-12, Cindy Ouillette. A special Teacher recognition award was presented to Erica Groh for the tremendous effort she puts into encouraging her students in honoring Veterans at the annual Veterans Day program in the Thompson Middle School.

A new contest introduced in the school this year was the Illustrating America Art Contest for Grades K-8 which encourages and recognizes young artists with patriotism through art. Winners in Grade K-2 were: Nolan Seney, 1st place; Katie Rivers, 2nd place; Arielle Delicata, 3rd place. Winners in Grade 3-5 were: Austin Grace Auger, 1st place; Jacob Racine and Henry Rivers, 2nd place; Jack Violette, 3rd place.

Sponsored for the second year was the VFW Auxiliary National Singing contest "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue" which is a video solo vocal performance of the Star-Spangled Banner. Winners of this contest were students from Grade K-8: Carly Smith, 1st place; Elizabeth Lemay, 2nd place; June Bardellini, 3rd place. Grade 9-12: Jinalyse Denham, 1st place; Elizabeth Davis, 2nd place; Cassie McKeen Densy, 3rd place.

The Officers and members of Thompson Memorial VFW Post 10088 and Auxiliary Congratulate and Thank all of our Community Volunteers who keep us safe, educate our youth and work to make Thompson a better place to live. Well done!!! You make us proud.

VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of April 22: Blue-headed Vireo, Greater Yellowlegs, Black and White Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ruby crowned Kinglet, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Bobwhite Quail, Kestrel, Hummingbird, House Wren, Hermit Thrush, Chipping Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Finance Director (24-30 hours per week)

Must have Bookkeeping/Accounting credentials and experience with accounting software. Preferably the candidate will have experience with not-for-profit organizations, especially in light of a religious congregation. Must have a "collaborative" personality who works well with others. The candidate will be responsible for planning and participating in the "ordinary" work of the Finance Department.

Send resumes to:
treadhs@gmail.com

Christ Church of Pomfret donates to Access Shelters

POMFRET — Christ Church of Pomfret recently presented a check to Access Community Action Agency, for the Emergency Shelter in Danielson. Christ Church has been a long-time supporter of Access. Over the past few years, they have donated more than \$12,500.

Several years ago, Christ Church partnered with Access and many other local organizations to support the opening of a Cold Weather Overnight Shelter. This shelter is located in the parish hall of the St. Albans Church on Broad St in Danielson. During the coldest months of the year, the shelter is open seven nights

a week from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. An average of 15 individuals spends the night at the shelter which is staffed by Access.

Homelessness prevention is not just about the Emergency Shelter and the Cold Weather Overnight Shelter. Rhiannon McCabe and her team provide housing support in the form of Rapid Rehousing (finding safe, stable housing for those in shelters), diversion support services (keeping people out of shelters to begin with), youth navigation services and case management for individuals and families seeking other resources.

Access is currently looking to raise significant funds to renovate the newly purchased St. Albans

campus. This will allow Access to better serve all of their customers with expanded food pantry programming, a partnership with the Killingly Community and to continue to serve those seeking shelter from the cold.

Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://accessagency.org>.



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

PUTNAM HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

PUTNAM — Putnam High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

High Honors - Five eligible courses with all grades 80 and above and a 90 percent or better simple GPA for the quarter.

Honors - Five eligible courses with all grades 75 and above and an 85 percent or better simple GPA for the quarter.

Class of 2024
High Honors: Melodie Anderson, Lucien Canova, Lucas Carita, CoraRose Desrosiers, Brady Devlin, Robert Dion, Atiana Estes, Lily Goyette, Savannah Loisel, Brandon Marcelonis,

Pedro Ortiz III, Kaya Pernini, Jonathan Racine, Noah Rudman, Josephine Spalding

Honors: Ava Briere, Aysaiah Chavez, Travis Fredette, Grant Hart, Kylie Howe-Barnett, Sophia Ionkin, Gianni LaPorte, Draven Levesque, Colin Martin, Kai Rosé Raymond, Jack Seiffert, Adam Sekula, Delta Wagner

Class of 2025
High Honors: Anthony Cosentino, Melanie Garcia, Caden Gluck, Logan LaFrance, Madison Lamothe, Isabelle Magalhaes, Evan Mailloux, Kaylee Mayo, Isabel Porter, Hailey Summers

Honors: Sawyer Britt, Brooke Champagne, Aaliyah Daughenbaugh, Lillian Ennis, Antonio Furtado, Olivia Hetrick, Ava Morrison, Emily Olecki, Clara Souza

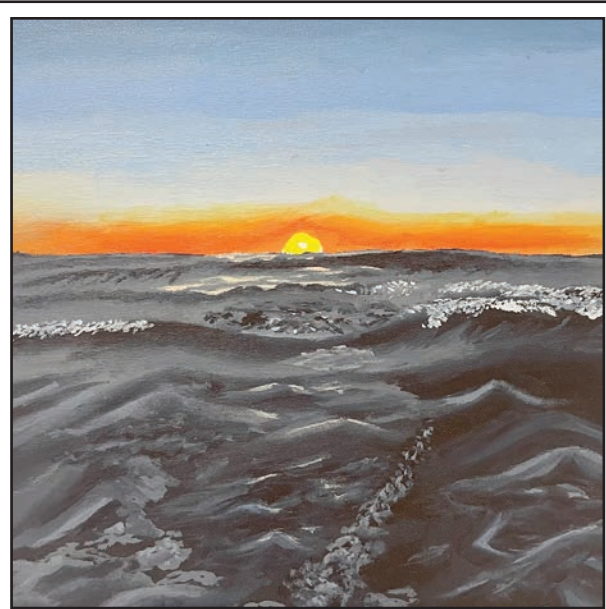
Class of 2026
High Honors: Leah Benzie, Audrina Buzanoski, Nicholas Devlin, Maeve Gabbard, Joselin Garcia Osorio, Evan Garvey, Benjamin Gustafson, Jayce Jodoin, Gavin Matte, Cali McCaughey, Miguel Morente Uz, Kaydence Morris, Paige Perry, Kasyn Robillard, Kaylin Rodrigues, Esteban Suarez, Madison Thomas

Honors: Kaylee Borders, Ella Carota, Gabriell Cerasiello, Brynn Dignam, Aidan Membreno,

Ana Carolina Oliveira, Madalyn Parquette, Joseph Vergoni

Class of 2027
High Honors: Delanie Bernier, Danny Boriboun, Victoria Cancel, Mia Cosentino, Ayla Daniels, Avah Grimshaw, Elieana Ionkin, Sidra Jahangir, Aubrey Paquette, Jay Patel, Nathaniel Ramos, Rebekah Robbins Ferreira, Iyanah Ruiz, Jillian Spalding

Honors: Sydney Barber, Sadie Lee Furtado, Rae Neal, Rockford Snow, Calvin Wormley, Savannah Zegarra



Courtesy

Thompson Public Library's Art @ the Library & Display Case is proud to display the annual Thompson Public Schools Art Showcase, exhibiting the artwork from the students of Tourtellotte Memorial High School and Thompson Middle School, on view May 2-22.

Please join us for the reception on Monday, May 13, 5:30-7 p.m. to celebrate our amazing student artists! Program generously supported by the Friends of the Library

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 PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enough of the lies

To the Editor:
 Your readers were subjected to another massive pile of drivel from Ed DeLuca in your April 12 Villager. I'm sure your open-minded readers can see through his feeble excuses for Donald Trump's outrageous, illegal behavior and, therefore, my letters are solely for my therapy.

But Mr. DeLuca tries to defend Trump against assertions (belches) by "that guy" that serial liar Donald Trump raped E. Jean Carroll by citing accusations that President Biden sexually assaulted a Senate staffer in 1993 and inappropriately touched several other women. Maybe by "that guy," Mr. DeLuca is referring to U.S. District Court Judge Lewis A. Kaplan. Judge Kaplan wrote, in a July 19, 2023 ruling, that the jury unanimously found that Trump raped Ms. Carroll. Biden's case has never been litigated but if he is guilty, does that somehow justify or excuse Trump's conduct in Mr. DeLuca's mind? Those sorts of excuses are used by children when caught doing something wrong. Not by responsible adults.

Mr. DeLuca refuses to acknowledge that rapist Trump's Big Lie is of any consequence, saying that his critics don't recognize that there "are two sides to a coin." John A. Day, Jr. buries that nonsense in his succinct letter. Maybe Mr. DeLuca thinks there are "two sides" to whether assaulting Capitol police officers by Trump's mob is right or wrong. Maybe he can't wait for Trump to be elected so that those police beaters, whom Trump calls "heroes," can be pardoned.

Buffoonish presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is Mr. DeLuca's latest expert which he uses to cite a supposed threat to democracy by the Biden Administration.

Blood on whose hands?

To the Editor:
 Ukraine is dying - being destroyed - because they don't have enough anti-aircraft to stop all the Russian missiles bombing their infrastructure and their people. House Speaker Johnson is holding up the bill that would send those missiles. GOP Reps claim they will not pass the bill unless our border problem is tackled first. But they would not pass

Allegedly, they are the first to ever censor political speech because they asked media companies to remove demonstrably false content from their sites. That's just another Trumpian lie. Perhaps he conveniently forgot that the New York Times suppressed, at the request of the George W. Bush Administration, a series exposing the warrantless wiretapping of American citizens. There are countless other examples of administrations that have done similar things.

Administrations, federal, state, and local, have always pushed back on the media when they felt there was unfair coverage or incorrect facts. Every government that I ever worked for squawked when they disagreed with the media. It's Trump, like Hitler, Mussolini, and Putin before him, not Biden, who repeatedly calls the press, specifically protected by the First Amendment, "enemies of the people."

Finally, why does Mr. DeLuca continue to denigrate immigrants as criminals? Trump calls these human beings "vermin" and "animals." Some Christian. Mr. DeLuca calls them "sons of bitches." He cites an immigrant accused of murder, clearly implying that immigrants commit more crimes than "real Americans." The actual data shows that immigrants commit crimes at a lower rate than American citizens. Why doesn't he call Americans criminals? Although the rate of serious crime spiked during the Trump Administration and has been steadily going down since 2021 and is now at its lowest point in decades, Mr. DeLuca constantly bemoans lawlessness, fanning the flames of fear, and blames it on Democrats. Really? Enough of the lies!

BILLY G. TAYLOR
 KILLINGLY

The business of Trump

To the Editor:
 Professor asks: "Why are CNN, MSNBC and Fox News in business?" Student answers: "To deliver news and opinion to their viewers." Professor: "No ... they are in business to make money." Student: "O h . . ." Making money is the mission for all organizations in the broadcast/cable - news/opinion business. (yes, including PBS) And it is true that Donald Trump is an important money maker for liberal AND conservative networks. Liberal viewers love to hear about all the court cases and a hoped for demise of Trump. Conservatives love to hear about "draining the swamp" and how great it was under President Trump with cheap groceries and gas. If I am hearing about Trump on Fox News, I can switch to MSNBC or CNN where their talking heads are spinning Trump too. These networks are all raking in the eyeballs and bucks with Trump talk. So, to maximize their profits and assure the flow of dollars going forward they con-

stantly tweak their reporting to please their target audience(s). What is the point of all this pretty obvious stuff? I am simply saying, we (as viewers and consumers of news / opinion) are being fed content that caters to our political selves. We are getting controlled messages that are intended to please and entertain us. To keep us. Fox News' viewership is vastly larger than any other cable network. Is Fox doing the best job of crafting content for their audience and therefore winning the eyeballs race? Do they have a remarkably large viewership because there are few conservative outlets ... no real competition? Or perhaps liberal networks have relatively small viewerships because they cater to audiences that love "Dump Trump" talk but there are many of them competing for the same pool of viewers. Who knows? But at the end of the day ... Trump talk pays, and the networks are actually in the profitable business of entertaining you.

KAREN RYKER
 WOODSTOCK

ED CLEMENT
 THOMPSON

Stubbornly high inflation is the fault of government, not grocery stores

To the Editor:
 Inflation remains as a continued scourge in Connecticut. Families don't need studies or data to remind them of this. They are struggling each day at the grocery store, the pump, or even at the mailbox when their latest utility bill arrives. As the Democrat majority continues its efforts to convince families otherwise, here are the facts.

The recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) 'core' data report shows that the cost of goods and services is up 3.8 percent from one year ago. So too are the costs of food, electricity, gas, day care, clothing, home repairs, and more. The Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index (PCE), which is another gauge of inflation, is up 2.5 percent from one year ago.

People throughout Connecticut know the hardships caused by high inflation. They feel it every day. At the same time, high tax burdens take money from them before they can use it to buy what they need for their families and for themselves.

In response, Democrats in the legislature held a press conference recently that put grocery store owners and operators in the crosshairs for alleged price-gouging. Not on anything else. This is a distraction, and the people of Connecticut know it. It is a distraction from Democrats' bad policy decisions that have contributed to the high cost of living in Connecticut.

To my friends and neighbors in the 35th District: I am busy working to try to make Connecticut more affordable for more people. I worked to help enact a historic income tax

cut for low- and middle-income households. I helped get passed additional tax exemptions on seniors' pensions and retirement accounts.

I fought against last year's planned cuts to public education funding, and I won. I pushed for reductions in sales and gas taxes when inflation spiked very high.

I have been supporting local businesses and opposing unfunded mandates that burden our towns.

My ongoing efforts aim to let people keep more of their hard-earned savings upfront, which, when spent on necessities, stimulates the economy, and enhances tax revenue—that is what could keep taxes at bay.

At the same time, state government needs to be a good steward of tax money. We must not outright disregard the unanimous, bipartisan-approved spending cap and fiscal guardrails. We cannot go back to the 'bad old days' of reckless spending that made Connecticut one of the top states for public debt and pension liability it owes. This would drain needed resources from such things as public education, safety, infrastructure work, and municipal aid. By being fiscally responsible and careful, Connecticut has paid down close to \$8 billion of its \$88 billion debt. How does this help? The interest payments saved have been used to help fund core government services without tax hikes. This is the responsible approach. This is the commonsense approach that puts the interests of the people of Connecticut first.

Sen. Jeff Gordon
 Woodstock

A farewell to Poetry Month

As April melts into May, I offer up the last week of poems. I want to thank the poets who have allowed me to share their work and to encourage other writers to turn up at one of the many poetry readings, especially when there is an open mic, to read their work. Although it is nerve-wracking, it is also invigorating and makes one feel part of a community of people who share their love for poetry.



Irregular Sanders
 NANCY WEISS

Here is a poem I wrote recently after being inspired by a visit to a local hardware store.

Nothing better than a hardware store the earthy smell of grass seed edging cans of paint. The welcoming buzz at the entrance calling workers to the customers who need them.

Dressed in the simple uniforms They turn, ready to address the vexing problems of real people with quarter-inch plywood or 10 penny nails.

Hands twitch in anticipation of grabbing a Phillip's head.

At the hardware store, nothing is ephemeral or trivial.

Fix it. Improve it. Mend the insults hurled by time.

Guerilla Glue, a coil of rope, a duplicate key to his place.

The space is small and seasonal, the birdseed gone too soon.

Piled in a purple bucket lies an aberration that disrupts.

Hand-lettered on a random piece of cardboard are the words:

Irregular Sanders - On Sale
 It simply doesn't fit.

The wads of bumpy paper made to smooth the edges off are neither regular or random. They are measured by their grit.

The crystals on the surface are fine, or course or extra-fine.

One can tear old paint off, another may finish antiques.

What about a sander can be irregular, one asks.

Isn't all of life erosion, filing, wearing down?

The daily grind of repetition, notches on the edges, Anomalies of history, abrasions from a fall.

Irregular sanders must be made for this:

the unexpected, the unwanted, the seemingly unfixable

the moments when we cannot solve the problems on our own.

Seek the kindness of the hardware store where all may be repaired.

Karen Houle sent in a poem from her book, "Ellipses and Eclipses," available on Amazon.

Ashford Oak

This beautiful oak tree, Is so very special to me.

It's stunningly resilient And incredibly brilliant.

I always support the tree from afar

Even if it means long trips in a car.

But with much closer inspection?

Still, my eyes only see perfection.

Never will I cause undue stress, Just sit down quietly and play chess.

Someday, it'll return to its former glory

Because this is not the end of the story.

And though the limbs offer little shade,

My love for this oak tree will never fade.

Turn To NANCY page A5

There is no "One size fits all"

In a world filled with variety and complexity, it's essential to recognize and appreciate the wide spectrum of human capabilities and nuances. Yet, there are those among us who, due to various factors such as limited education or closed-mindedness, struggle to grasp the richness and depth of human nature. These individuals often cling to traditional beliefs and narrow perspectives, unable or unwilling to acknowledge the scientific discoveries and advancements that shed light on the intricacies of human behavior.

It's time to address the misconception that intelligence is solely determined by academic achievement or adherence to conventional wisdom. In reality, true intelligence encompasses the ability to understand and appreciate the complexity of the human experience, including its many facets and dimensions. This requires an open mind and a willingness to explore new ideas, even if they challenge long-held beliefs or societal norms.

It's important to emphasize that intelligence is not a fixed trait but rather a dynamic and multifaceted quality that can be cultivated and expanded over time. Those with so-called "simple minds" or limited education should not be dismissed or marginalized. Instead, they should be encouraged to broaden their horizons.

Scientific research has revealed countless fascinating insights into human behavior, from the intricacies of our cognitive processes to the complexities of our emotions and social interactions. These discoveries have expanded our understanding of what it means to be human and have challenged many preconceived notions about human nature.

For example, studies in psychology have shown that human behavior is influenced by a multitude of factors, including genetics, environment, and personal experiences. This means that there is no one-size-fits-all explanation for why people think, feel, or act the way they do. Each individual is unique, shaped by a complex interplay of biological, psychological, and social forces.

Furthermore, advances in neuroscience have revealed the remarkable plasticity of the human brain, demonstrating its capacity for growth and change throughout life. This highlights the potential for individuals to learn, adapt, and evolve, regardless of their starting point or background.

In light of these scientific findings, it's clear that a narrow-minded and simplistic view of human nature is not only outdated but also detrimental to our collective progress and understanding. We must look to cultivate a culture of intellectual curiosity.

Letter submission policy

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

To the Editor:

We want to thank the anonymous angel who has been plowing our driveway this winter.

We don't know who you are, but we want to express our gratitude for your generosity and kindness.

To the Editor:

I just recently was able to watch, via YouTube, the most recent Killingly Board of Education, 10 4b complaint hearing with former Mental Health Director Kathy Cote on the stand. I was pretty surprised to see how she changed her tune. I personally saw her report in the Sept. 13, 2023 Board of Education Meeting and she raved on and on about how happy she was with the Killingly School System's progress on mental health issues. This was still while the former BOE was in office. At that time, she personally thanked the Board of Education for all of their support.

Here was Cote speaking at the Sept. 13 BOE meeting: "So...This partnership has been wonderful so far. So the good work is continuing and I would be remiss if I didn't also mention that our high school is fully staffed now in the school counseling department..... So we are doing great things to support kids, mental health and wellness...I appreciate your support of mental health. You know, It's been, it's an honor to be here and speaking on behalf of the great things that are happening. So, I just, I feel like we are in a really great position, and we're really going in such a great direction. So, I appreciate the support. Thank you".

Cote at the State 10 4b hearing, March 26: "People of the Board of Education when I started in the district, behaved in a certain way that I found appalling, personally even though I've had respect and support from that board.. and the current board, so it wasn't ever directed at me, I was a witness to it. ..Like that Board at the time, it just felt so contentious and not safe...Like I said, I think

We are the elderly couple who live on Killingly Ave.

Words cannot express how much we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Thank you.

DOTTI AND RON DENARO
PUTNAM

Which is it?

it started at the top. I felt like watching it felt unsafe."

OK. Which is it? Was she happy with the Board of Education and their cooperation, or was she frightened and unsafe and appalled? Truthfully, I am disheartened by the inconsistencies of her different testimonies. I also feel that there is something off about a Director of Mental Health needing to be in a "safe space" while watching debates around the mental health clinic. Why so fragile? Where is the leadership strength? Where is the authenticity, now that we know she found our people "appalling."

I guess I'm just giving voice here to my own disappointment in the instability of the modern day mental health profession, and how it has become so intertwined with the school systems. This is not directed towards all mental health professionals in general. I see a direct correlation between Cote's flip flopping unsteady voice, wavering between leadership and abandon ship, and the CT State Board of Education and their judgment. Speaking as a layman, a regular working stiff, I ask you: When are "We the People" going to become "appalled" at the fact that the people leading the CT State Board of Education believe tampons should be in boys' bathrooms? Is there anything further we need to know about this leadership? Why would we ever entrust our children's mental health to leaders with such strange ideologies or think that they would be able to carry out a fair and balanced 10 4b investigation on the topic of mental health?

Michelle Murphy
Dayville

Read it and weep

To the Editor:

As of this writing (April 16), Trump's long awaited criminal trial before a jury has finally, finally begun. What was the biggest takeaway from day one? Trump nodding off during jury selection! Did you see the courtroom sketch of "Drowsy Don?" Put that on a t shirt and I'll buy one.

Trump has been insulting President Biden for months with the moniker «Sleepy Joe». Now look at him falling asleep at his own trial. Karma is a wonderful thing!

Could it be he was dreaming of all the promises he failed to deliver as President? How about the infrastructure plan that never materialized? Maybe the Health Care Plan or the tax cut for the middle class; the promise of record jobs. Nothing. He bragged, "You'll get tired of winning." Yeah, I'm beat.

These failures expose how full of it he was as a politician. Whatever he promises in this latest wreck of a campaign should be a warning that he will never deliver. Except chaos. That's a fact. Wake up! Trump is desperate to avoid being fitted for a jumpsuit that matches the color of his face.

In court, he has to keep his mouth shut. Outside the courtroom it's more of the same complaining: "This is a sham and a witch hunt amounting to election interference." Sort of like when a President running for re-election tries to overturn the election results or stop or the electoral certification in Congress? I don't know, maybe when a President backs a Texas lawsuit trying to invalidate the results in four states or threatens to impose martial law to seize voting machines? Could it be when a President calls Georgia State Officials to find votes that don't exist? You mean that kind of election interference?

President Biden has been crisscrossing the country and you question his stamina? His campaign message has been one of honesty and that decency matters. His accomplishments and vision for America are plain to see. Biden believes in democracy, Trump does not. Biden has been on a trail, Trump has been in a trial. Biden has conviction, Trump deserves one. Who are you voting for?

Trump can't even speak the truth in a place where a premium is placed on truth. A request was made of Judge Marchan to see if Trump could attend his son's graduation. He was told they would have to see how the trial was moving along. So, what did Father of the Year tell reporters outside the courtroom? A blatant lie, saying the judge

flatly denied the request. Always the victim. His lawyer standing dutifully by his side knew the truth of it, but what did he care.

Recently at a stumble bumble in Pennsylvania, Trump said that the Battle of Gettysburg was, and I quote, «beautiful." The slaughter of 50,000 men was beautiful? Why in the world would some American people elect a person who is incoherent and not in command of his faculties that says such things? Trump is a buffoon who could not care less about civic virtue or American ideals. Again, he uses projection as a weapon. He is absolutely corrupt and so he attacks honest men. Whatever Trump says of Biden and others who oppose him is true of himself. So then the Trump propaganda channel, Fox, is more than happy to peddle his dirt by airing this trash. His followers eat it up.

Lincoln, our greatest Commander-in-Chief, would speak of his desire to "Bind up the wounds of the Nation". Trump, our worst, looks to re-open the wounds of our divided country, and to create more. Joe Biden asks us

to come together for the good of the Nation.

The hard truth is that «Drowsy Don" and his Republican lap dogs think their constituents are dumb, to put it mildly. For instance the Republican Oversight Committee, for 15 long months now, has been wasting tax payer dollars desperately trying to find dirt on the President. So far not a thing. Why haven't they called for an impeachment vote? Why are they continuing to make fools of themselves? It's to cultivate the suspicion of wrong doing. Their childish attempt to even the score with their master's twice rightful impeachments. You know what? The Trump public will probably fall for it because, well, see above, again.

Now lets all play the "What about Hunter, what about Hunter?" game. All right, "What about Kushner, what about Kushner?" This guy walks away from The White House with \$2 Billion from the Saudis and you don't hear a peep from Comer or Jordan. Do you think they'll want some sort of payback if daddy-in-law somehow finds himself back in the Presidency? This corruption makes the Hunter Biden accusation look like peanut vendor stuff.

Finally, what does Melania think of dear hubby saying immigrants are «poisoning the blood of America?" Doesn't bode well for poor Baron either.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

DiPippo is off base on forensics

To the Editor:

I'm writing in regards to Jon DePippo's letter in the April 19 edition of the Thompson Villager.

Mr. DePippo's comments about forensics not being a science are off base, and his arguments have many flaws. I do not know Mr. DePippo's background or credentials, but let me state mine upfront. I am a retired Science Teacher from Massachusetts. I hold a Master's degree in Science Education and before retiring had licenses in Earth Science, General Science and Biology.

Forensics is a science. In fact, the definition of Forensics includes "relating to or dealing with the application of scientific knowledge to legal problems. The entire field of Forensics includes not only Biology, Physics and Chemistry, but also Anthropology, Computer Science and Technology. The application of the Scientific Method, and lab skills in Biology, Physics and Chemistry (the Big 3) are used constantly throughout a forensics course. Chemical analysis of drugs, or blood samples. The collection and replication of DNA and the reading of DNA samples. Ballistics, which requires a foundation in Physics. It is not just a course in comparing items, or as Mr. DePippo puts it "Sesame Street One of these things is not like the other."

I could not find the 2009 National Research Council report Mr. DePippo referred to, but found many studies done since that time that strongly support forensic science and show its strengths and weaknesses. Most of the weaknesses revolve around collection and chain of evidence mistakes, or false lab reports. Interesting that Mr. DePippo cites DNA evidence as being valid when DNA evidence is under the umbrella of forensics.

His claim that forensics is as much of a science as astrology is totally off base. Astrology has zero basis in science, where forensics utilizes all the techniques and knowledge across virtually every category of science. It is not simply comparing one fingerprint to another, but also includes detailed methods of collecting and preserving fingerprints from a variety of surfaces.

Forensics courses taught in High School are accepted as science courses at most colleges and universities because they incorporate all the other sciences. There are internships in forensics labs that high school students can take advantage of as well.

The First Amendment matters more than banning TikTok

To the Editor:

The House of Representatives recently passed a foreign aid bill that President Biden has already said he would sign if it makes it through the Senate that includes something that requires TikTok's Chinese parent company ByteDance to sell it. If TikTok doesn't end up under new management it can be banned in the United States.

The most valid concern with this move is that certain Chinese laws could pose a threat to national security with TikTok serving as the intermediary here. At the same time, TikTok is so massive and would be such a high-priced acquisition that the few companies that could pull it off would set off an antitrust firestorm if they bought the platform.

Regardless of what happens, though, banning TikTok is not the answer.

First, we're not China, and we're not Russia. Government doesn't need to go on a big censoring spree just because something personally offended someone in the bureaucracy. We have a First Amendment for a reason. Period.

Second, we'd accomplish nothing but watering down American freedom by banning TikTok. TikTok is known for stupid challenges and dumb videos, but the internet has had this sort of thing

Mr. DePippo goes on to say that Human Evolution is a course that should be taught, and he claims that a course on "Human Origins and Evolution" should be taught. He claims, without evidence, that human evolution has been effectively removed from schools across the country in 49 out of 50 states, with Florida being the exception. Florida is one of 17 states that teaches Creationism, or "Intelligent Design" alongside evolution. ID is not a scientific theory, and has never passed any legal challenge brought by its proponents.

Evolution is the very core of modern biology and it is taught as part of the biology curriculum in every state in the U.S. Most school systems follow the Next Generation Science Standards that state evolution, including human evolution, is part of the biology curriculum. Now there are pockets of exceptions. I have spoken with other Biology teachers who had principals that forbade the teaching of evolution, especially human evolution, but these are rare exceptions.

Most of what Mr. DePippo discusses in his imagined Human Evolution course falls under the category of Anthropology, and not Biology. But I do agree with him that an understanding that we all originated from Africa from a common non-hominid ancestor is an important concept, and though it can lead to a greater understanding, it can also lead to greater division. A misunderstanding of the evolutionary process has given rise to racism, where one race is perceived to be more "evolved" than another. This was the whole premise of Hitler's "Super Race" and eugenics ideas that lead to the Holocaust. I hear these claims spouted by White Supremacists in this country today. I put it under the category that a "little knowledge" is a dangerous thing.

Forensic science is indeed a science, and should not be dropped from High School curriculums. A student that might not be planning to go to college could get work in a lab having good grades in such a course. But an even more important course that needs to be included in High School curricula is Earth Science. Our planet is changing at a faster rate than at any other time in human history, and gaining an understanding of why, and how to deal with it is critical to our future.

DAVE CLARK
THOMPSON

for years. TikTok had its ancestors that paraded mindless fluff around online, and it will have its successors.

What has changed in the past generation is people losing their skepticism of the internet, and in the case of youngsters growing up with it for the first time ever, never having that skepticism in the first place. AI and deepfakes might be a good boot in the rear to get people second-guessing what they see online again, but for the most part if the problems we have due to stupid stuff on the internet weren't happening because of the internet they'd be happening because of something else, like TV and movies. A great example of this is how phone numbers have to always be 555 or something in movies and TV shows because people in the audience are dumb enough to try calling them, as anyone with 867-5309 has been finding out for over 40 years. Ban TikTok and something else will easily and quickly take its place.

Free speech and the First Amendment are far more important than whether some dumb thing that goes viral sucks people who are naive enough to fall for it. Banning TikTok is absolutely not the way to go.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

NANCY
continued from page A4

light note with a haiku from a student at CT State Community College-Quinebaug Valley

Evan Odorski

Protons, electrons, Tiny particles in play, Chemical ballet.

It is good to end on a

Chemistry Haiku

Janet McDonald featured at Putnam Gallery

PUTNAM — An Art Exhibit and Opening Reception featuring the works of photographer Janet McDonald is being held at The Corridor Gallery in the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School Street, Putnam. The show, entitled "Natural Vision" will be running until June 30. The Opening Reception is on May 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with free refreshments and a chance to speak with the artist.

An artist, a creator, and a nature lover, McDonald received a BFA from UMass Dartmouth and later earned a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Eastern Connecticut State University.

She summarizes her work by saying, "I often find wonder and beauty in the world around me. Whether I'm walking through the woods or even spending time in my own neighborhood, I always see magic in the ordinary."

The show and the Opening Reception, sponsored by the Putnam Arts Council, are free and open to the public. For hours and more information please visit PutnamArtsCouncil.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol attack

To the Editor:
 Many people believe that former President Donald Trump was behind the Jan. 6, 2021, US capitol attack. I am not so sure. I have questions that cause me to pause. Why was the committee that investigated the events of that day not made up of a mixture of democrats, independents, and republicans? There were no republicans on that committee. Yet I remember that some republicans wanted to be on the investigating committee but weren't selected. Why was that? It causes me concern. Having different points of view helps all of us keep ourselves in check. Committee members from various perspectives would have brought up a myriad of possibilities and would have wanted every concern and piece of information thoroughly checked out—whether democrat, republican, or independent.

Another question I have is that it was announced that prior to the Jan. 6 gathering, Mayor Muriel Bowser of the District of Columbia and her office had received information that there could be possible outside agitators at the rally. In addition, news media reported that President Trump had learned of it and was concerned as well. News media also reported that a member of Trump's staff called the mayor's office and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to state that concern; this happened prior to the rally. This concern of Trump was covered by some news media but not others. Not once did I hear that the

investigating committee had investigated the claim of Nancy Pelosi and the mayor's office having prior knowledge to find out if the claim was true or false. Could it be that the committee did not even investigate it? In addition, I had heard on news media that prior to the rally, Trump's staff had asked the mayor and Nancy Pelosi to bring in the National Guard for safety reasons. But this did not happen.

A further thing that brings doubt that Trump was behind the tragedy was that the people who were violent at the rally and were captured were not registered to vote. If memory serves me correctly, none of them were. Isn't it curious that the agitators that supposedly were staunch Trump supporters wouldn't value our right as citizens to be registered to vote? Some speculation mentioned was that Trump hired thugs to agitate the crowd. But that is not Trump's mode of operandi (his MO) to create violent insurgencies in his rallies. In previous rallies of Trump, when people had created disturbances, they were immediately removed from the rallies. His past and consistent procedures regarding disruptive people included having security personnel to remove them safely and quickly from the premises. Trump asking for the National Guard to be present at the Jan. 6 rally is consistent with his past actions. Perhaps if they were thugs, someone else hired them to put the blame on Trump. Either possibility

could be true. There isn't enough proof with speculation alone that Trump was behind it. More investigation of the other points mentioned above from a committee of people who represented various political viewpoints would have been helpful.

I am concerned that our news media stifles important, critical information for us viewers to gather to make informed decisions of our own. I encourage all of us to search various media sources of various viewpoints to

broaden our understanding and assist us in asking thought-provoking questions. I encourage all of us to welcome and value different viewpoints so that we can learn from each other and be balanced as individuals, as a community, and as a country. If we consistently consider only one point of view, we run the risk of not working toward discovering the truth.

WENDY FUSCO
 KILLINGLY

Please support the Education budget!

To the Editor:

As you may speculate, I have been learning my way through the budget process over the last few years.

This year, the district Superintendent and Administrative team worked tirelessly to present a budget that was fair to both the taxpayers and the school system. They budget process was "reinvented" from the ground up. The district leadership team and department leaders, per the direction of the Superintendent, started with a 0-based budget - meaning line by line, building administrators and department leaders were asked to justify every expense while linking the need to the Board of Education's Profile of a Graduate. Once this was presented to the Superintendent, building administrators and department leaders were asked to reduce their budgets even more - and they did.

After weeks of budget deliberation meetings with the Board of Education, Dr. Nash presented her recommended budget to the Board of Education. Careful consideration was given to many scenarios and ultimately, the budget was reduced and approved unanimously by the Board of Education: (I'm going to say this again!)...all nine members of the Board of Education support the budget presented to the Town Council.

At the Town Council meeting for budget deliberations in April 2024, the Town Council reduced the budget related to the Killingly Public Schools by \$703,722.22. It is important for the taxpayers to know that the vast majority of the Board of Education budget was contractual (salaries and benefits). Again: the budget presented to the town council was voted unanimously by the Board of Education supporting it because it was reasonable and supported, as each item had been reviewed, reduced and linked to KPS goals. Of note, the mill rate impact moved with the Town Council reduction from .78 to .39 percent.

Following the Town Council's decision to reduce the budget further, the Superintendent and her administrative team, again, worked tirelessly for a resolution.

With this, comes many options: Positions could be cut, programming - athletics and other - could be cut; and class sizes could be increased. It is noted that there will be "natural" reductions in the budget due to 1) hiring at lower steps, 2) benefits not taken, 3) reduction / adjustment of unfilled positions, 4) elimination of positions, 5) other funding sources, 6) increase in estimated percent of Excess Cost Reimbursement and 7) use of the non-lapsing fund for potential special education tuition overages.

Ultimately, it did not feel ethical or fair to the students, staff and community to commit to cuts that effect the student body and experience - so - the decision was made to "take a risk", knowing that monies will be saved in the process of hiring / refilling posi-

tions for employees that leave or retire (1, 2, 3 above), but, not enough to make up for the cut in the budget.

The budget cut by the Town Council will very likely cause the need to rely on the non-lapsing fund (#7) in the future. The risk is proceeding with the understanding the Superintendent may need to make a request to move monies from the non-lapsing fund at the end of the budget year.

I feel it's important to give the history of the non-lapsing fund (and additional information).

The non-lapsing fund was created in June of 2016 with a cap of \$1 million.

In May 2019, the Town Council approved the increase to the cap to \$1.75 million.

In May 2020, the Town Council approved an increase to the annual allowable contribution to the fund to 2 percent. Additionally, the cap was increased to \$2 million.

On April 9, the Town Council did not approve the Board of Education's request to contribute \$411,463 to bring the Non-Lapsing account to the \$2 million cap. Rather, they approved to send this matter to a Public Hearing / Special Town Meeting (June 4!) to add \$161,463 to the Non-Lapsing account. This will only refill the balance to \$1.75 million (not to the cap and it is not the requested amount).

I urge residents of Killingly to consider attending both Town Meetings / Hearings on Monday, May 6 and Tuesday, June 4.

On Monday, May 6, residents in attendance have the opportunity to question the Town Council on their adopted budget and also, perhaps more impactful, residents can make motions and vote on line item changes - including (but not limited to) making changes to the education line - possibly adding in the \$703,722.22!

On Tuesday June 4, residents have the opportunity to voice opinions on the reduction of funds being added back into the Non-lapsing fund; possibly allowing the transfer of \$411,463 to bring the cap to the allowed \$2 million.

To quote the Superintendent in her most recent (educational) budget-related presentation, "We are proud of the experiences our students receive in the Killingly Public Schools. Those experiences are made possible by our dedicated staff - ALL staff play a role in this experience. We will not impact our students' superior experiences..."

Killingly, please have your voices heard regarding the Education Budget. While Dr. Nash has produced a plan - with, in her words, "risk" - to operate under the Town Council proposed budget, it does not mean the risk is necessary, or, that it is the right thing to do.

Education is an investment, not a burden of expense.

Our children are watching.

In partnership,

SUSAN LANNON
 KILLINGLY

If you don't like it here, take "Death to America" somewhere else

To the Editor:

I have to give Biden's Press Secretary, KJP, some credit because when asked about a recent incident in Michigan, she said that this administration will not tolerate people yelling "death to America"; however, Rashida "the rash" Tlalib (when questioned) only replied that she doesn't talk to Fox News. But of course, the likes of Maddow or Reid would never even ask her that question. My advice to those people shouting "death to America" would be if you don't like it here, go somewhere else and take the rash with you.

If I could give our President some advice, it would be: don't bring up your (supposed) personal experiences while talking about disasters like what happened to the bridge in Baltimore because making false and questionable claims will only lead to ridicule and it certainly doesn't help with those competency concerns - and don't the idiots associated with him know this? (And if I have to elaborate, he said that he rode in a train across that bridge, which in fact never had any railroad tracks on it, and I won't even go into the "Uncle Bosie" incident.)

In a dose of karma, Adam "Shifty" Schiff became another victim of soaring crime in San Francisco, California when his car was vandalized and his luggage was stolen before attending a fundraising event. Shifty didn't file a police report probably because he didn't want yet another "stat" on the books. And when he heard about it, one of the democrats there said: "Welcome to San Francisco." Imagine that - these morons are joking about the situation they helped create.

I sincerely doubt that the results of the 2024 presidential election will at all be influenced by Villager editorials. Furthermore, this is Connecticut, where Satan himself would get the state's electoral votes if he was running as a Democrat, but of course, the same applies if Satan was running as a republican in those red voting states. But I live in Connecticut, where my vote for

Donald Trump won't matter much, and to answer the "Why?" question - my answer is that even though he has more baggage than Amtrak, I'll be voting for Trump because I don't want an ineffective dimwit like Kamala Harris to ever become our President. Furthermore, do you really think that Joe Biden is even running the country? Yes he has advisors, but also "influencers," and in addition to Barack Obama, one of them is George Soros's son Alexander, who's visited the White House "at least" 17 times since Biden's taken office and reports say that he has "easy access to White House honchos." (In 2023, George Soros handed over the leadership of the foundation to his son, who soon announced layoffs of 40 percent of staff. (No doubt more money for him and the Democrats.)

For those of you who think that voter fraud is a non-issue, that it doesn't exist, or that it hasn't happened here in Connecticut, I suggest that you check the voter fraud database at: heritage.org/voterfraud. It will be well worth your time.

I'll forego "Illegals in the News" this week, and instead present my winners of the TDS award - I occasionally drive by this guy's house who has about 20 signs all over his front lawn, and most of them say: "Trump for prison in 2024." In the ultimate case, one person had the words: "I wish I had lived long enough to see Trump in prison" carved on his headstone. Yes, TDS is a sickness, but taking it with you to your grave is something else. (And I'll bet you thought I'd be mentioning some names?) But then there's those people showing profanity laced anti-Biben stuff. (Again, the coin.) And what derangement did that clown who lit himself on fire outside of a Trump trial have? Before the incident, he held up a sign that said "Trump is with Biden and they're about to fascist coup us."

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Courtesy
 Akira Newall-Vuillemot, 17, of Woodstock competed in the USA Eastern National Gymnastics Championship April 28 in Cleveland, Ohio. He won the vault competition and placed 7th in high bar. He trains with Thames Valley Gymnastics Academy and is the first team member to win an event at Eastern Nationals.

How to pay down student debt faster

Paying off student loans can feel like an insurmountable challenge, with outstanding student debt in the U.S. totaling over \$1.48 trillion.¹ However, with some smart strategies, you can pay down your student debt faster and more efficiently. Here are some tips to help tackle your student loans:

1. Don't Throw All Your Cash at Your Debt

While it's tempting to put every spare penny towards your student loans, it's important to maintain an emergency fund with 3-6 months' worth of living expenses. This prevents you from having to take on more expensive forms of debt like credit cards if unexpected costs arise. It's also wise to keep some cash on hand for other goals like buying a home or getting married.

2. Consider Income-Driven Repayment Plans

Income-driven repayment plans like Pay As You Earn can be helpful early in your career when

cash flow is tight. These plans cap your monthly federal student loan payments at around 10% of your discretionary income. The interest that accrues is also capped while you're enrolled. You can always make additional payments when you're able.

3. Use Caution When Refinancing

You'll likely get bombarded with offers to refinance your federal student loans with private lenders at a lower rate. While tempting, you'll lose valuable federal protections like income-driven repayment, loan forgiveness programs, and options for deferment or forbearance during hardship. Only refinance if you can secure a considerably lower rate and don't anticipate needing any of those federal benefits.

4. Avoid Lifestyle Inflation

As your income grows after graduation, resist the urge to drastically

increase your spending habits and cost of living. Instead, continue living modestly and use your raises and bonuses to build savings, max out retirement accounts, and make extra student loan payments. A little forced frugality now can pay off immensely later.

5. Make a Budget and Prioritize

Create a budget based on your fixed salary, and treat things like signing bonuses and overtime pay as unexpected windfalls that can be applied straight to your loans. Systematically pay off higher-interest student loans first, as this will save you more money long-term. Specify which loan you want any extra payments applied to.

6. Build Good Credit Habits

For many graduates, repaying student loans will be their first foray into building credit. Prioritize making full,

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HOLLY C. WAGNER INVESTMENT ADVISER

on-time payments as missed or late payments can severely impact your credit score.² Federal loan servicers report payment activity to the major credit bureaus. Consider getting a credit card and using it responsibly to further build your credit history.

7. Tackle High-Interest Debt First

While you don't want to neglect making minimum student loan payments, it can make sense to prioritize repaying other debts with much higher interest rates first – like credit cards or personal loans. High-interest debt accumulates interest charges rapidly, so eliminating it first is advisable before aggressively paying down relatively low-interest student loans.

Strategically paying down student debt while

building an emergency fund, maintaining good credit, and avoiding costlier forms of debt can put you on the fast track to becoming student loan debt-free. Consistently putting any windfalls towards your principal balance will also accelerate your repayment timeline.

At WHZ, our strategic "Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™" financial planning process looks at your full financial life - from managing debt, reducing taxes, and investing for retirement - to help you achieve your goals and Live Well. Wondering if you're on track to paying down student debt? Call (860) 928-2341 or book a complementary consultation on our website at www.whzwealth.com.

Authored by Associate Vice President, Wealth Advisor Holly C. Wanegar, CFP®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth

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https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/interactives/household-credit/data/pdf/hhd-c_2019q2.pdf

<https://wallethub.com/edu/cc/credit-card-statistics-for-college-students/25535>

Looking back to May 1934

Mark your calendars: Did you know Wildwood Park at Alexander's Lake once had a carousel? The annual meeting of the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will be Saturday, May 11 at the Killingly Historical Center, 196 Main St., Danielson. The program, at 1:30 p.m., presented by the New England Carousel Museum, will be on the origins, development and art of those wonderful rides. There will be a brief business meeting at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. ALL ARE WELCOME!

I thought I'd browse through some early May Windham County Transcripts for interesting tidbits for this week's column. In fact, I ended up getting carried away and went through each page of the May 3, 1934 paper. All businesses, etc. are from this same edition.

This small headline on the first page quickly caught my eye, "First Lady of the Land is Guest at Pineville." Although very few people have been aware of the fact, this community is entertaining the First lady of the Land, Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who has been a guest yesterday and today at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Baldwin in Pineville. Mrs. Roosevelt was in Danielson Wednesday afternoon on a shopping tour with Mrs. Baldwin.

Perhaps some of you recall Hillshire Downs Cosmetics, which were manufactured by

Mrs. Marion Baldwin at Hillshire Farms on the southern section of North Road in northern Killingly, just before Five Mile River. There are a number of entries concerning the business in the Killingly Business Encyclopedia by Natalie Coolidge. Mrs. Baldwin brought a herd of Toggenburg and Nubian goats from Switzerland to the United States and used them to produce beauty creams, lotions, and goats' milk. Entries continue from the 1930's through the 1960's. She later became the wife of Frank Brunel. According to (the late) Ted Sabourin, Joe Fleury had dug numerous trenches for pipes so that bottled spring water could be collected at the farm; it was then sent to New York City. He also recalled people telling him that they were able to sit on the hill and listen to Gene Autry when he came to the farm (Conversation, Feb. 7, 2010). In World War I she served as a nurse with the 43rd division, and she was also a member of Harmony Court, O of A." She died August 5, 1972 in Phoenix, Arizona at the age of 74 and was buried in Westfield Cemetery, Danielson (Obituary, Windham County Transcript, Aug. 10, 1972).

The beginning of May 1934, the Alumni Players had presented a Trio of One-Act Plays at the Orpheum Theatre "before Audience of 400 people. Variety is The Spice of Well acted Stage Program. Something new for Danielson in the way of dramatic entertainment was presented

Monday evening by the Killingly High School Alumni Players, who produced three one-act plays, each covering an entirely different phase of the histrionic field...First on the program was Helen Husband, a satire by Philip Moeller, coached by Earl F. Wood, in which modern ideas and practices were held up to ridicule in a setting of ancient Sparta, based on the well known story of Helen and Paris. The second play, Drums of Oude, by Austin Strong, also directed by Mr. Wood, was filled with the tense action of a small British garrison during an uprising in India, mingled with an undercurrent of romance...The final play was a light comedy of modern married life, So's Your Old Antique, written by Clare Kummer. If you have more information about the Alumni Players, please send an email.

In 1934, the situation over Communism was a tense one. I was surprised to read, "No Communist Meeting Found. State Police Follow up Soviet Propaganda, Fail to Locate Revolutionary Session. 'Defend the Soviet Union--Fatherland of the Workers and Farmers.' Such was the message of a circular passed in mail boxes in East Brooklyn Monday, inviting one and all to attend a May Day celebration in the



KILLINGLY AT 300

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MARGARET WEAVER

ers. (WCT 5-3-1934)

"2500 People at Auto Show. V.F. W. Hopes to Clear Up Indebtedness on World War Memorial. The automobile show held by Merrill C. Smith Post V. E.W. in the State Armory Friday and Saturday was a distinct success in every way. The post hopes to be able to retire all indebtedness on the World War monument at Davis Park from the profits. There were twenty-two new models of motor cars on display on the floor. (WCT, May 3, 1934).

Following are extracts from a number of ads from that same Windham County Transcript. "Goodyear Heights Homes For Rent. There are available for immediate occupancy a few homes with modern improvements ranging in price from \$3 to \$4.50 per week, to responsible people. Powdrell Associates, Inc.

Have you heard of a "Sunshine sundae"? An ad for Fro-Joy Ice Cream pictured a large one. It was made of vanilla ice cream "crowned with

golden crushed pineapple." (No store was given in the ad. WCT, May 3, 1934).

The A & P Food Store advertised a type of gelatin that I'd never heard of... "Sparkle Gelatin Dessert 6 pkgs for 25 cents, except coffee. I've never had coffee gelatin, either.

The Casino Spanish Garden in Danielson advertised "Modern Restaurant Service. Business Man's Dinner 45 cents. Special Floor show and orchestra Thurs, Fri., Sat. Nita & Merno---Rhumba, Apache, and Waltz Dancers. Bob Witt---One Man Band. Arthur Dern-Dancer and Singer." (WCT May 3, 1934).

Dowe's was advertising Mother's Day Cards and Candy and added, "Maybaskets are ready." Burrough's & Hopkins on Center Street also was advertising Mother's Day Greeting Cards--5 cents, 10 cents, 15 cents, & 25 cents.

Do you remember the Ideal Meat Market? Bouaine's (Campbell's Soup 3 cans for 25 cents)? First National Stores? (Veal legs 18 cents per pound). Boston Meat Market? The American Fruit Store? The New York Fruit Store? The Smart Shoppe? Alice Eleanor? Rosen Bros. Department Store? The W. C. Bacon Furniture Store? The Darbie Furniture Company? Del Pesco's Shoes? The Boston Store? E. H. Keach Company? The Windham County National Bank? The Danielson Inn? Sunny Lunch on Center Street? The Bon Marche Store? Love's Memorial Shop (Center Street)? Varney Beauty Salon (Try the new Vapor Permanent for \$8). There are photos of a number of these businesses in Images of Killingly and Killingly Revisited., which can be purchased at the Killingly Historical Center.

I chuckled when I read The Kennedy Corporation? (Stove coal \$14.50 per ton). My maternal grandmother had a kitchen stove that was a combination coal/gas stove. She could put her ironstone cup of tea on the back of the coal stove and keep it nice and

warm all day long. I also remember that stove with a grimace, because I got too close in a new red synthetic sweater set, when synthetics were just coming into style, and melted my new sweater. Oops!

I'll end on a lighter note. "The Quaker Maid suggests the following (Sunday dinner) menus. Low Cost Dinner: Boiled Smoked Shoulder; creamed potatoes, cabbage salad, bread and butter; rhubarb and banana scallop, tea or coffee, milk. Medium cost dinner: chicken potpie; parsley potatoes, chopped spinach, bread and butter, baked caramel custard, coffee, milk. Very special dinner: Stuffed celery, broiled steak, baked potatoes, baked stuffed tomatoes, green salad, Olive dressing, rolls and butter; strawberry sherbet, coffee, milk. "Which one would you choose? I never heard of rhubarb and banana scallop? If you have, please let me know.

Please feel free to share your memories about any of the above mentioned places by emailing me. They are always welcome.

Correction: The Aspinock Historical Society will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m. at the Putnam Municipal Complex on School Street. Following the business meeting, Putnam Town Historian Bill Pearsall will present a program on Tommy Taylor who served on the ironclad the Monitor during the Civil War and is buried in Putnam. All are welcome.

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

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES-MAY 6 – MAY 11

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

Monday the 6th Annual Town Meeting (Killingly High School Auditorium) 7 p.m.

Inlands, Wetlands, and Water Courses Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 7th Economic Development Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 5 p.m.

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

Wednesday the 8th Agriculture Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

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

Thursday the 9th Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Monday the 6th Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Tuesday the 7th

Craft & Chat (Ages 18+) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon
Wednesday the 8th

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

Chess Club (All Ages) (Library) 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday the 9th Homeschool Crafting (Ages 6-12) (Library) 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon Book Club (Ages 18+) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.

Friday the 10th Drop-In Book Discussion (Ages 13-18) (Library) 4 to 5 p.m.

Saturday the 11th Magnificent Moms (Ages 6-10) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon

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

Boston On Your Own – May 11
The Enlightened Path - Session 5 – April 30 through June 4 (Killingly Community Center) (Tuesdays)
Tuesday Pound for Adults with Chris – Session 5 – April 23 through June 4 (Killingly Community Center) (Tuesdays)
Thursday Pound with Chris – Session 5 – April 25 through June 6 (Killingly Community Center) (Thursdays)

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

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

Let's Get Moving May – May 7 through May 28 (Killingly Community Center) (Tuesdays)

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

Outdoor Pound with Chris – Session 1 – June 11 through July 9 (Killingly Community Center) (Tuesdays)

Camp Wallaby – starting July 1 for Grades 1-8

Register at the Killingly Parks and Recreation Department in-person or go online to www.killingly-pr.recdesck.com

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly website at www.killingly.org.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@villagernewspapers.com



Barber's view of Woodstock



Perhaps one of the earliest images of Woodstock is an engraved print of Woodstock Hill Common. It has been reprinted in many publications, even used many years ago by the Woodstock Historical Society for notecards. The image was drawn by John Warner Barber (1798-1885), a prolific artist, engraver, historian and traveler, a man considered to be one of Connecticut's best known 19th-century illustrators and historians.

Barber was not a Woodstockian. He was born in East Windsor. He learned his craft as an apprentice to Abner Reed, a print maker working in the town. John's father died when he was 14 and he had to support his mother and five siblings. In 1823, at the age of 21, he opened a business in New Haven, where he

produced religious and historical books, illustrated with his own wood and steel engravings.

Fascinated by the history of New England communities, especially those in Connecticut, Barber traveled about and drew images of everyday life, landscapes, churches, harbors, buildings, and bridges. Occasionally, the artist himself was part of a drawing, depicted in his top hat with sketch pad in hand. His illustrations captured not only the appearance but the character of the places he visited. As he traveled and drew his sketches, he also collected local history. John enjoyed talking with the people who lived in the local environs, and they gladly shared documents and stories. In 1825, Barber printed "Views of New Haven and Its Vicinity; With a

Particular Description of Each View."

Barber amassed an astounding number of drawings with historical and anecdotes. In 1836, he produced a book of his work entitled: "Connecticut Historical Collections: Containing A General Collecting of Interesting Facts, Traditions, Biographical Sketches, Anecdotes, Etc. Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every Town in Connecticut with Geographical Descriptions." It was commonly called "Connecticut Historical Collections."

This huge book began with his pencil sketches made during his visits. He added more details and shading at his leisure. The drawings were then engraved onto wood or steel plates. His collection of images and information was so extensive that "Connecticut Historical Collections" was 560 pages long. Barber's book was very popular, selling 7,000 copies in its first year of print at a cost of \$3 each. (That was a week's wage for most people.) He reprinted the work 12 years later due to demand. Although this work is perhaps his best-known endeavor, it was not his only work. He was prolific.

In 1840, John Warner Barber printed "A History of the Amistad Captives: Being a Circumstantial Account of the Capture of the Spanish Schooner Amistad, by the Africans on Board; Their Voyage, and Capture Near Long Island, New York; with Biographical Sketches of Each of the Surviving Africans; also, an Account of the Trials had on Their case, Before the District and Circuit Courts of the United States, for the District of Connecticut." John's illustrations accompanied biographical sketches of each of those captives. He was greatly opposed to slavery. In 1831, he voted to establish a black college in New Haven but the referendum was not successful.

John Barber also did a history of the states of New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, similar in style and scope to that of Connecticut. He captured "Interesting Events in the History of the United States"...in another volume.

Woodstock was one of the towns that John Barber visited sometime between 1823 and 1836. On page 449-50 of Connecticut Historical Collections, one finds a view of the

Woodstock Hill Common, followed by the text:

The above is a south view of the Congregational church in the old society of Woodstock; the Academy is seen in the distance in the central part of the engraving. This spot is elevated ground, rising considerably above the valley of the Quinnebaug.

Barber goes on to say that from the hill, one can see the villages on Thompson Hill, Dudley Hill and North Killingly. He lists the distances Woodstock lies from Hartford, Norwich, Providence and others cities. He goes on to say:

The village of Muddy Brook, or North Woodstock, is about three miles distant, situated in a beautiful valley through which Muddy Brook a fine mill streams passes. The village is in two parts, in each of which is a Congregational church, upwards of one mile distant from each other. The houses in this village are more clustered than in any other part of the town, and viewed from the surrounding hills, present an uncommonly beautiful appearance.

The west part is called "village corner."

Barber goes on to describe the land, the number of factories (four wool and cotton), and mention that that there are "900 persons engaged in the shoe making business principally in the western part of town." In his opinion, Woodstock is one of the richest agricultural towns in the northeast corner of the state.

John Warner Barber's drawing is probably the first illustration of Woodstock. If one looks carefully, immediately past the church is the 1810 George W. Partridge House with its monitored roof. To the left of the Academy, is the Brick Store. The common appears much larger than present, and two cows are grazing there. Evergreen trees take up most of the left side with a hint of a fence. Even though there are differences when compared to present day, it is remarkable how little Woodstock has changed in the interim 200 years.

Local students inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Odena LaFreniere of Thompson and Audriauna Greeno of Putnam were recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. LaFreniere was initiated at Sacred Heart University.

The two are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

More About Phi Kappa Phi

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1.3 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org.

Marinahill 50th reunion planned!

REGION — It is time to play "remember when" at our Marianhill Class of 1974 50th Reunion in September 2024 and the organizing committee is in high gear! To be sure that everyone from our class is invited, we could use assistance. Please be sure we have your recent contact information. We especially could use contact information for the following classmates: Mark Lloyd, Donna Cloutier-Leblanc, Anne Rearick-Nabors, and Denise Dupel-Lafleche. Please send an email to marianhill74@gmail.com to offer updated contact information. A weekend of connection and fun is in the planning stages, and we want to include our entire class.

WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK MAY 5

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

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

Monday the 6th
• Beautification Committee, 4:30 p.m.
• Inland-Wetland Commission, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 7th
• Economic Development Commission, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday the 8th
• Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m.

Thursday the 9th
• Open Space and Farmland Acquisition Committee, 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

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

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 7th
• The Bridge Young Adults, Evangelical Covenant Church

• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.

Wednesday the 8th
• Story Hour, West Woodstock Library
• Knitting Group, Town Hall.

• Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.

• Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church
• The Bridge (young adults), Evangelical Covenant Church
• Book Club, Taylor Brooke Winery, 7 p.m.
• Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday the 9th
• Lady's Small Group and Men's Bible Study, South Woodstock Baptist Church
• Scrabble, West Woodstock Library, 2 p.m.
• Terrarium Globe Workshop, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6 p.m.

Friday the 10th

• No Coast Kitchen, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 3-8:30 p.m.
• New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday the 11th
• Quiet Corner Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Woodstock Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

• Red Lion Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 12-7 p.m.
• Live Music – Sean Magwire, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.
• Almost Queen tribute, Loos Center for the Arts.

Sunday the 12th – Mother's Day
• "Woodstock Through the Camera's Eye" exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon
• Jay's Catering Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 1-6 p.m.
• Live Music – Turas, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13
• Cat Kid Comic Club, grades 1-5, Loos Center for the Arts.

May 14

• Evening with the Author, Mansion at Bald Hill.

May 18
• Art Festival with Guild Northeast, Taylor Brooke Brewery.

May 19
• Go Wild with Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue, Roseland Park, noon-4 p.m.

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

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

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

June 22
• Town Wide Yard Sale, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., register at Woodstock Recreation Dept. to get on map.

To submit calendar items: woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com

Community Connection

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Thompson Public Schools pilot Snappy Speech® to help support student outcomes

THOMPSON — The Thompson Public Schools has been piloting the Snappy Speech® program, a research-based intervention program created by American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) certified speech-language pathologists (SLP) and co-owners of Achieve Speech & Language Services, LLC Woodstock, Mindy Hudon and Rachele Mauer.

“Snappy Speech® is an online course that provides comprehensive training for the SLPs and Extenders to implement the program with confidence to improve student outcomes,” says Mauer.

“Snappy Speech® assists school-based SLPs servicing students with mild to moderate articulation disorders. Snappy Speech® provides more intervention with less SLP time, which ultimately improves student outcomes and allows time for the SLP to utilize Top of the License professional practice,” says Hudon.

Superintendent Melinda Smith was interested in piloting the Snappy Speech® program

due to its foundational research that revealed improved student outcomes.

“The Snappy Speech® program approach provides children with articulation needs the ability to receive daily practice by a trained ‘extender’ with the oversight of a certified speech language pathologist. This has reduced the time a child is in speech therapy,” said Smith.

Hudon and Mauer have 30 years combined experience as school-based clinicians and know firsthand the challenges faced by SLPs in the school setting.

“Many school-based SLPs across the country are juggling large workloads with reduced staff to support the growing student needs,” says Hudon. “Not only is there a national shortage of SLPs, ASHA reported that SLPs nationally ‘have experienced an increase in referrals for concerns about hearing, speech, and language delays or disorders over the past two years—a time marked by pandemic-related transforma-

tions in the lives of many young children.”

Through no fault of their own, school districts are struggling to maintain certified SLP staff to provide much needed speech and language services. SLPs are highly trained professionals and have significant educational requirements that demonstrate competency providing services for all communication disorders to all populations across the life span.

“Current research suggests that there is an unprecedented SLP burnout nationally. The perception of SLP’s workload manageability was a significant predictor of stress and burnout levels,” discussed Mauer.

“We created the Snappy Speech® program to assist SLPs to support students with mild to moderate speech sound disorders by improving student outcomes, reducing student referrals, and decreasing administration of the intensive special education evaluation process. Thus efficiently meeting the needs of all students, including those in the RTI/SRBI process,

that require intervention right now,” Hudon stated. “Snappy Speech® is articulation intervention in a snap!”

Lauren Wissekerke, speech-language pathologist, Thompson Public Schools piloted the Snappy Speech® program with a cohort of (23) students that met the criteria for this type of intervention during the 23/24 school year.

“As a busy school-based SLP, Snappy Speech® provided me with ample flexibility and increased time to complete necessary work-related tasks through the use of a highly-trained extender,” says Wissekerke. “This program gave me the confidence and reassurance that not only are students being seen, but most importantly, they are making progress.”

Wisserkerke reported that of the 23 students that participated in the Snappy Speech® program, nine students were dismissed because they mastered their articulation skills.

“The articulation needs of students in PreK through 3rd grade, who

were included in this sample, decreased by 39 percent,” Wissekerke said. “Not only that, the remaining students progressed through 4-11 targeted levels closing the gap to mastering their goals.”

Wissekerke stated that teachers reported that they have seen a noticeable difference in their student’s speech sound productions “much quicker than in years past. Several teachers have expressed their preference with Snappy Speech®, as it gives them the two things they want: students making progress and students not missing class time.”

Smith added, “The positive outcome is that speech delays are remediated in a shorter period which is the goal of implementing the Snappy Speech® program in Thompson Public Schools. An additional benefit is that the district has exited students out of therapy which reduces a speech therapist’s caseload allowing them more time to provide therapy to students requiring more intensive speech ther-

apy.”

Hudon and Mauer are excited to share Snappy Speech® with school districts that may be struggling to manage high speech and language student caseloads.

“Ultimately, we created Snappy Speech® to meet the needs of students requiring articulation intervention,” Hudon says. Mauer added, “Snappy Speech® isn’t just a tool; it’s a game-changer for schools dealing with speech and language caseload challenges. Together, our mission is clear: empower students, lift up our SLP colleagues, and redefine what success means in articulation intervention. And the best part? It works! We’re passionate about it, so if you’re curious, don’t hesitate to reach out. Let’s chat to see how Snappy Speech® could transform your school.”

To learn more about Snappy Speech® please contact us at our Web site: www.AchieveCTSLP.com/snappy-speech.

THE WEEK IN SPORTS AT WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

Baseball

Woodstock Academy 3
Waterford 0

WOODSTOCK – After a less than spectacular pitching effort against Ellis Tech the week before, Centaurs junior Brady Ericson returned to the pitching mound in style on Tuesday.

The lefthander was masterful as he held the Lancers (6-2, 1-2 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) without a hit and struck out 14 in the victory. Only an error separated Ericson from a perfect game as he did not walk a batter.

Brady Lecuyer had a pinch-hit RBI single and later scored on an error in the fifth inning.

Eric Mathewson, who had two hits for Woodstock Academy (7-1, 2-0), scored the first run for the Centaurs in the first inning on an error.

Woodstock Academy 6
Fitch 5

WOODSTOCK – It was a tough three games in four days, but the Centaurs survived the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I gauntlet with wins over East Lyme and Waterford and finally, the Falcons, on Thursday at the Bentley Athletic Complex.

Matt Hernandez and Eric Mathewson each had a two-run single for Woodstock Academy (8-1, 3-0 ECC Division I) while Maxx Corradi added a run-scoring single to back the pitching of Riley O’Brien.

The Falcons (3-6, 0-4), who had only three hits, scored on a trio of ground outs, an error, and a wild pitch.

Woodstock Academy 7
Stonington 3

STONINGTON – A four-run third inning carried the Centaurs (9-1) to their sixth straight win.

Brady Lecuyer, who has eight RBIs in just 13 at-bats, knocked home a run with a single, Maxx Corradi had a sacrifice fly, Caleb Simoneau scored on a wild pitch and another scored on an error in the uprising.

Keon Lamarche had given the Centaurs the early lead with an RBI single in the first inning. Corradi added two more RBIs in the top of the seventh with a double.

Wyatt Verbridge had the only RBI for the Bears (6-5).

Woodstock Academy 7
NFA 1

NORWICH – Eric Mathewson provided all the help he needed.

The righthander threw just 78 pitches, allowed just four hits and struck out seven as he went the distance to pick up the win for the Centaurs (10-1, 4-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I).

He also knocked in two runs with a third-inning homer and another with a

ground out.

Brady Lecuyer continues to be an RBI machine as he knocked in two with a single. Maxx Corradi added a pair of hits in the win for Woodstock Academy.

Ryan Cleary had a fourth-inning solo homer for the Wildcats (5-6, 1-3).

Boys Lacrosse

NFA 10

Woodstock Academy 9
WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs led 9-7 with 2 ½ minutes to play after Jared Nielsen scored his third goal of the game off the third assist of the contest from fellow senior Henry Wotton.

But Logan Jenkins scored his sixth goal of the game for the Wildcats (4-6, 2-3 ECC Division I) a minute later to cut the deficit to one.

Cortlan Beetle tied it with 20 seconds left in regulation and Gavin Jenkins won it with a goal with just prior to the final horn.

Lucas Theriaque and Gunnar Basak had two goals each for Woodstock Academy (3-4, 0-4).

Woodstock Academy 13
Norwich Tech-
Windham Tech 7

NORWICH – Senior Jared Neilsen almost had as many goals as the Warriors as he tallied six times for the Centaurs (4-4).

Gunnar Basak added a hat trick in the win for Woodstock Academy.

Boys Golf

NFA 5

Woodstock Academy 2
THOMPSON- Logan Rawson finished with a 43 and Don Sousa added a 44 for the Centaurs (2-1, 0-1 ECC Division I) at the Quinnetis Country Club but it wasn’t enough as all five of the Wildcat players finished in the 40’s.

The No. 4 player for NFA (4-0, 2-0) was the medalist of the match as Marcelo Raposo osted a 41 while Tyler Hollis carded a 43.

Woodstock Academy 6
Montville 1

NORWICH – It was close throughout the match as all of the first four individual matches were decided by three strokes or less.

Logan Rawson and Donny Sousa shared medalist honors for the Centaurs (3-1) with a three-over par 39.

Ben Godburn was just a stroke back for the Wolves (3-2) in the match at the Norwich Golf Course.

Girls Golf

East Lyme 248

Woodstock Academy 259

OLD LYME – Scoring was at a premium down by the shoreline as no player on either team broke 50.

Morgan Dube was medalist for the Vikings (3-1, 3-1 ECC) with a 56 while teammate and Woodstock

Academy co-op hockey player Mia Williamson was two strokes back.

Reagan Scheck was best for the Centaurs (0-2,0-2) with a 63.

Woodstock Academy 230

Bacon Academy 238
THOMPSON – A little home cooking did the trick for the Centaurs (1-2, 1-2 ECC) who picked up their first victory of the season in their home opener at the Quinnetis Country Club.

Isabella Mawson was the medalist in the match with a 53 while Reagan Scheck and Liliana Moran both carded 56 totals.

Olivia Tellar was best for Bacon Academy (0-3,0-3) with a 60.

Stonington 216

Woodstock Academy 229

THOMPSON – Liliana Moran (49) and Reagan Scheck (51) posted two of the best scores that the Centaurs (1-3, 1-3 ECC) have seen this season.

But the visiting Bears (1-3,1-3) were up to the task at the Quinnetis Country Club as four of their golfers finished in the 50’s led by Maizy Alu who carded a 50.

Coventry 199

Woodstock Academy 225

THOMPSON- The Patriots had only four players but three scored in the 40’s at the Quinnetis Country Club to lead Coventry to the road victory.

Mazie Cox led the Patriots with a 47 while both Nicole Sierakowski and Aly Stetz carded 49’s.

The Centaurs (1-4) were lead by freshman Reagan Scheck who shared medalist honors for the match with a 47.

Girls Track

Woodstock Academy 105

East Lyme 44

EAST LYME – The Centaurs started their dual season off in impressive fashion as they took first in every event in the meet at East Lyme except three.

Juliet Allard was first in the 100-meter (12.9 seconds) and 300m hurdles and was also a member of the winning 4x100m relay with Elise Coyle, Ella Lidonde and Emma Weiteknecht.

Reegan Reynolds was also a triple winner in the long and triple jumps and was a winner alongside Talia Tremblay, Greysen Dery and Weiteknecht in the 4x400m relay.

Tremblay also took first in the 400m and was a member of the 4x800m relay team along with Julia Coyle who also finished first in both the 1600 and 3200m races.

Boys Track

East Lyme 117.7

Woodstock Academy

32.3

EAST LYME – Christian Menounos won both the 200 and 400m races and qualified for the state championship meet in both events for the Centaurs in their first dual meet of the season.

Colton Sallum also qualified for state championship competition and won the 1600m.

Boys Tennis

Woodstock Academy 6

NFA 1

NORWICH – Owen Rigney and Tyler Chamberlin got things started in the right way as both won the first two singles matches 6-0, 6-0.

It led to a singles sweep for the Centaurs (4-1, 3-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) as Ethan Staples and Cang Nguyen also posted victories.

Lidwrig Jacquet and Luis Ruiz-Perez posted the only win for the Wildcats (0-8,0-4) at third doubles.

Waterford 6

Woodstock Academy 1

WATERFORD – Cang Nguyen had to fight for almost three hours to do it but he came away with the only victory for the Centaurs (4-2) with a 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5) decision over Alistair Waglund at fourth singles.

The Lancers won the remainder of the matches to improve to 7-2 on the season.

Girls Tennis

Ledyard 6

Woodstock Academy 1
LEDYARD – Gianna Musumeci and Kerrigan Reynolds scored the only victory for the Centaurs (1-3, 1-1 ECC Division II) at first doubles.

Ledyard (1-3, 1-0) captured the victory when Claire Fenaughty, Sarah Banach, Cassie Rice and Rachel Kulterman swept the singles competitions.

Fitch 5

Woodstock Academy 2

GROTON – The first doubles team of Gianna Musumeci and Kerrigan Reynolds continued their undefeated ways for the Centaurs with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Ava Kennedy and Katie Virtue of the Falcons (4-1).

Wynter Worth picked up the other win for Woodstock Academy (1-4) as she outlasted Charlotte Beaulieu 0-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a battle that took 2 ½ hours at second singles.

Boys Volleyball

NFA 3

Woodstock Academy 0
NORWICH – The Centaurs hopes to qualify for the state tournament were dashed until another day by the Wildcats.

NFA (10-1, 10-1 Connecticut Volleyball League) by sweeping the three sets 25-14, 25-15, and 25-19.

Aiden Finch had eight

kills and Brayden Bottone added six while Christian Hart had 14 digs for the Centaurs (7-5, 7-2).

Woodstock Academy 3
Cheney Tech 0

WOODSTOCK – After being denied by Newington and Norwich Free Academy, the Centaurs (8-5) finally reached their inaugural season goal of qualifying for the CIAC state tournament with the win over the Beavers.

Brayden Bottone had six kills and six aces as Woodstock Academy swept the three sets, 25-18, 25-12 and 25-14.

Christian Hart added 16 digs and Jake Henderson had 15 assists.

Woodstock Academy 3
Putnam 0

WOODSTOCK – The wins keep coming for the first-year program as the Centaurs improved to 9-5 with the victory over their next-door neighbor.

Woodstock Academy won the first two sets handily, 25-17 and 25-16 but had to hold off the Clippers in the third, 25-23.

Brayden Bottone had 12 kills and three aces while Jake Henderson added 24 assists and Christian Hart helped with 17 digs.

Softball

Woodstock Academy 13
Norwich Tech 1 (5)

WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs ended a five-game losing streak by posting the win on their home field.

Delaney Anderson, who finished with three hits, began an eight-run third inning rally for Woodstock Academy (3-6) with the first homer of the season for the Centaurs.

Ellary Sampson later added a three-run triple in the rally.

Savannah Schley and Kaylee Ziarko also had two hits and two RBIs.

Autumn Hanks drove in the only run for Norwich Tech (2-8).

Stonington 14

Woodstock Academy 0 (6)

WOODSTOCK – Lindsey Houle pitched a one-hitter in the win for the undefeated Bears (10-0).

Arianna Scavello had four hits and drove in five runs for Stonington and Camerin Brown had two hits and drove in two.

Campbell Favreau had the only hit for the Centaurs (3-7).

Girls Lacrosse

Killingly 14

Woodstock Academy 0
WOODSTOCK – The visitors jumped out to a 10-0 first half lead and cruised to the victory.

Molly Crabtree paced Killingly (5-3) with four goals while Morgan Blanchard added three.

Riley Ritchothe added two goals and three assists in the win over the

Centaurs (0-9).

Woodstock Academy 14
New London-St.

Bernard 12

WOODSTOCK –

Sophomore Kaylee Saucier scored three goals and had an assist to lead the Centaurs (1-9) to their first win of the season.

Kaelyn Tremblay Abby Elliott, Caroline Harris, and Clara Dowdle all had two goals each in the balanced scoring attack for Woodstock Academy which built a 12-4 lead early in the third quarter but had to withstand a Whalers comeback attempt.

Track

3 Woodstock Academy

school records fall

LEDYARD – The Tetlow Relays at Ledyard High School offer up a chance for athletes to participate in different combinations of events.

Sometimes, those can result in some pretty memorable performances which is what happened to the Woodstock Academy boys track team as it took down three school records on Saturday.

Owen Williamson, Gavin Grant, Eli Manning, and Gabriel Hull set a school standard in the Shuttle Hurdle Relay, finishing in 1 minute, 23.5 seconds.

The distance medley relay team of Bronson Eddy, Charlie Caggiano, Colton Sallum and Jackson Durand also now owns a Woodstock Academy school record as they finished in third overall at the event in 11:59.2.

And the 4x1600-meter relay team of Sallum, Joel Koleszar, Christian Menounos and Caggiano placed second in the competition and now own the school mark after a 19:03 finish.

Menounos and Caggiano also competed in the co-ed 4x400m relay with Juliet Allard and Talia Tremblay and qualified for the Nike Championship Nationals in a winning time of 3:46.

Senior Jillian Edwards qualified for the Nike Emerging Elite Nationals with a first-place in the high jump as she cleared 5-feet.

Two other girls relay teams qualified for the Emerging Elite Nationals with a pair of first-place finishes.

Elise Coyle, Allard, Tremblay and Reegan Reynolds won the 4x400m in 4:11.9 and the 4x800m relay quartet of Isabel D’Allevo-Bochain, Tremblay, Julia Coyle and Olivia Tracy won their event in 10:11.2.

Emma Weiteknecht was second in the 300m hurdles; Avery Shoutuff was second in the ploutup (32-8.5) and Elise Coyle was second in the long jump (15-7.5)

Stop & Shop Floral Bouquet Program to benefit Access Food Pantries

PUTNAM — Fight hunger with a simple purchase of a floral bouquet! Access Community Action Agency has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting hunger organization in the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program for the month of May at the Stop and Shop location in Putnam!

The Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, which launched in February 2021, is an

easy way for shoppers to give back as part of the regular shopping routine. Every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker sold supports a hunger organization local to the Stop & Shop in which it was purchased. According to Feeding America, every \$1 donation to a local hunger organization can provide 10 or more meals to someone in need.

As part of this ongoing program, every month at

every Stop & Shop location a different local hunger organization is selected to benefit from the sale of the Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet. Access was selected as the May beneficiary by local store leadership at the Stop & Shop located at 60 Providence Turnpike, Putnam CT. Access will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet purchased in May. All the funds raised will go directly to the Access

Food Pantries located in Danielson, Willimantic, and the Mobile Food Pantry to help families in need this year.

“What a beautiful way to give back, help to fight hunger in our local community, and make a room, or home even brighter,” said Kathleen Krider, Senior Director of Community Engagement and Resource Management of Access. “Now they can

fight hunger too! We are thrilled to be chosen to benefit from this unique and impactful Stop & Shop Program, as the demands of those in need are higher than ever this year.”

The Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job

readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://accessagency.org/>.

For more information about the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, please visit stopandshop.bloomin4good.com.

Local residents inducted into Honor Society for first-year success

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Local Saint Anselm College student Aidan Babbitt of Putnam was accepted into Alpha Lambda Delta, a national scholastic honor society for first-year success, for the 2023-2024 academic year.

To be eligible for invitation, students must be enrolled full-time at an institution with an active chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta and have a 3.5 grade point average or higher in their first semester or first year of study.

Alpha Lambda Delta

was founded in 1924 by Maria Leonard, the Dean of Women at the University of Illinois, to recognize academic excellence among freshman women. One year prior, Dean Thomas Arkle Clark had founded Phi Eta Sigma, an honor society to recognize academic excellence among freshman men. Both groups became coeducational in 1976 in response to Title IX. Alpha Lambda Delta has grown to 280 chapters and has initiated over one million students.

Founded in 1889, Saint

Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

Killingly Chronicles April Highlights

April was a month packed with important happenings in our town. Here's a recap of the highlights:

Special Town Council Meeting - April 2: At this meeting, the Board of Education presented their budget to the Town Council, setting the stage for discussions on education funding.

Regular Town Council Meeting - April 9: The council recognized Alcohol Awareness Month, Autism Awareness Month, and Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Various budget presentations and updates on town matters were discussed, including storm damage and a new officer being added to the Killingly Police Department.

Public Informational Meeting - April 4: Residents gathered at Killingly High

School to learn about the proposed battery storage project by Windham Energy Center/Vitis.

Budget Meetings and Deliberations: Throughout April, the Town Council worked on budget reviews, culminating in public hearings and deliberations. The proposed mill rate is 21.18. The Town Council passed a resolution setting the General Government budget at \$24,535,618 and the Board of Education budget at \$72,044,457 for submission to the Annual Town Meeting. The Annual Meeting is on Monday, May 6th at 7:00pm at the Killingly High School Auditorium. The town-wide budget referendum is from 6:00am to 8:00pm on Tuesday, May 14 at the respective polling locations.

Special Town Council Meeting - April 25: Discussions were held regarding communication with Vitis Energy about the proposed Windham Battery storage energy project.

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Richard P. Prince (24-00116)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 24, 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:

Paul Prince
c/o CURRAN R MEAD,
LAW OFFICE OF BRIAN S. MEAN,
148 OLD TURNPIKE RD.,
P.O. BOX 508, QUINEBAUG, CT 06262
May 3, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Judith Tedeschi (24-00129)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 19, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Dominic Tedeschi, 76 Blossom Drive,
Pomfret Center, CT 06259
May 03, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT, and via Zoom to hear the following application:

ZBA Application #24-01 Robert Cassim, Property Owner Sea Realty LLC, 347 Riverside Drive, Map 85, Block 51, Lot 4, Zone TCDD application of Certificate of Operation pursuant to Conn. General Statute Section 14-54 for Used Car Sales, Auto Body Repair and towing according to Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations, Article 3, 275-3.8. File may be reviewed online, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals, or in the Zoning Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Curby Cunha, Chairman
May 04, 2024
May 11, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON Planning and Zoning LEGAL NOTICE

At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on April 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and via ZOOM, the following action was taken.

PZC 24-03 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 DENIED PZC #24-08 Applicant Robert Cassin, Property Owner Sea Realty LLC, 347 Riverside Drive, Map 85, Block 51, Lot 4, Zone TCDD, request Special Permit for a Used Car Dealership and Auto Repair Location according to Zoning Regulations, Article 11. 275-11.2 #9 and Article 4, 275-4, A. B. and C. ACCEPTED WITH CONDITIONS

PZC #24-11 APPLICANT Ishwara Sharma, 1 Rattan Road Realty Trust, owner of 1410 Thompson Rd, Map 114, Block 27, Lot 21, Zone RRAD, 49.53 acres, Special Permit for Multi-Housing 16 single family homes, 4 duplexes, community building according to The Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations, Article 7, 275-7.2 #14 and Article 4, 275-4, A. B. and C. ACCEPTED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Respectfully submitted. Joe Parodi-Brown, Chairman Files may be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Office May 03, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Steven Karl Thomas (24-00167)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 19, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Jarrett W. Thomas
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN, ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
May 03, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Donn E Keele (24-00171)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 24, 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:

Carol D Keele
c/o MICHELE ANN P ALULIS, ATTORNEY MICHELE ANN PALULIS, LLC, 158 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2, P. O. BOX 616, PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 03, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Keith J Kalemba, AKA Kalemba John Keith (24-00169)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 23, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Kevin Kalemba
c/o NANCY W TONUCCI, BROWN P AINDIRIS & SCOTT LLP, 2252 MAIN STREET, GLASTONBURY, CT 06033
May 03, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Alfred J. Migneault (24-00143)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 23, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Nancy D. Migneault
c/o ELLIN ARIEL MAGZAMEN GRENGER, GRENGER LAW OFFICES, 12 ROOSEVELT AVE., PACKER BLDG OFFICE SUITE, MYSTIC, CT 06355
May 03, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Nancy M Sheldon (24-00160)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 19, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Marjorie S. Roy,
77 Underwood Road,
Woodstock, Ct 06281
May 3, 2024

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF WOODSTOCK May 14, 2024 7:00pm

The Annual Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Woodstock, Connecticut, will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Woodstock Middle School, 147B Route 169 in Woodstock. The Meeting will be held to consider the following actions and to vote on the following resolutions:

- 1) To elect a Moderator;
- 2) To approve the proposed budget of the Town of Woodstock for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$29,146,498.00 as has been recommended by the Board of Finance and to appropriate said sum to meet the recommended expenditures;
- 3) To adopt a Capital Improvement Plan for a five-year period ending 2028-2029 as has been recommended by the Board of Finance; RESOLVED, that the Town of Woodstock's local capital improvement projects of \$14,483,952.00 and capital improvement plan as defined in Section 7-535 through 7-538, a copy of which plan is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and available for public inspection during normal business hours.
- 4) To consider the following Resolution: "RESOLVED, that the Town of Woodstock approve the expenditure in the amount of \$60,000 from the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund as has been recommended by the Board of Finance from the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund for the new roof installation at the Muddy Brook Fire Department. This is STEAP Grant pending."
- 5) To transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting; and
- 6) To adjourn.

Please Note: Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Woodstock Board of Selectmen have on their own initiative removed the foregoing Item #2 for submission to the voters of the Town of Woodstock by referendum to be held on May 21, 2024, from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM at the Woodstock Town Hall. Voters approving the questions will vote "Yes" and those opposing the questions will vote "No." Absentee ballots will be available at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Woodstock, Connecticut, this 25 day of April 2024.

/s/Chandler L. Paquette, First Selectman

/s/Kate MacDonald, Selectman

/s/ Attest: Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FY 2025

RECEIPTS	ESTIMATED	PROPOSED
2023-2024	2024-2025	
Cash Available for Appropriation	\$509,923	\$651,570
Prior Taxes, Interest & Leins, MVS	\$515,000	\$465,000
State Grants:		
Education	\$4,876,707	\$4,990,532
Other State Money	\$110,093	\$254,043
Other Income	\$653,500	\$877,050
Total Cash Balances & Receipts	\$6,665,223	\$7,238,195
EXPENDITURES		
Ordinary Expenditures:		
General Government	\$2,176,753	\$2,360,179
Public Safety	\$1,264,081	\$1,365,017
Highways	\$1,530,737	\$1,497,646
Health, Recreation & Welfare	\$614,217	\$620,139
Contingency	\$60,000	\$70,000
Redemption of Debt	\$574,163	\$519,691
Board of Education Budget	\$21,485,846	\$22,713,826
Total Expenditures	\$27,705,797	\$29,146,498
Less Cash Balances & Receipts	\$6,665,223	\$7,238,195
TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION	* \$21,040,574	* \$21,908,303
*SUBJECT TO CHANGE		
* 2024-2025	Proposed Mill Rate	23.04
2023-2024	Current Mill Rate	22.41
	Proposed Mill Increase	0.63

May 03, 2024

OBITUARIES

Theresa E. Mathurin, 91

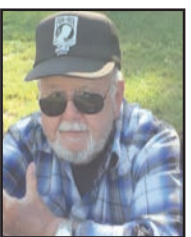


Theresa E. Mathurin, 91, of Brooklyn passed away on Wednesday April 24, 2024, at Hartford Hospital. She was born in Putnam on October 10, 1932, daughter of the late Adolphe and Yvonne (Benoit) DesJardins. She graduated from Putnam Catholic Academy. Theresa worked at American Optical Co., Spedcorp Industries, worked in the cafeteria at Horace W. Porter School, W.T. Grant and Phaneuf Collection Agency throughout her working years until her retirement. Theresa was an avid collector of cookbooks, loving to cook and make relishes. She refinished kitchen cabinets and loved to groom and care for her Boston terriers. She loved to make floral wreaths, knit, crochet, wallpaper and paint her homes. She enjoyed reading and doing crossword

puzzles and tag sales. Theresa kept up with politics and current events. She was a member and Past Regent of the Daughters of Isabella as well as financial secretary. She is survived by her two daughters Michelle Julian of Danielson and Elaine Julian Marino and husband Jeffrey of Cromwell, and granddaughter Juliann Marino. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husbands Marcel O. Julian and Maurice J. Mathurin, her son Richard Paul Julian (in infancy) and her brother Leonard DesJardins.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday May 4, 2024, from 11:30AM-1:00PM at Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main Street Danielson, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 1:30PM at Our Lady of LaSalette Church Brooklyn. Burial will be held on Monday May 6, 2024, at 11:00AM at New Notre Dame Cemetery, Southbridge, MA. tillinghastfh.com

Raymond K. Williams, 96



Raymond K. Williams, 96, - After a long, full life Ray's spirit peacefully released to heaven Saturday April 20, 2024. Whether you knew him as Ray, Dad, Gramps, Grampy, Great Grampy, or Pop, Ray will be remembered as a man that loved his family, his country, having a good time, king of "one-liners", and being a "straight shooter". Ray loved Summers with his family at Alexander's Lake, 4th of July, his birthday celebrations, baseball, football, Jeopardy, WWE Smackdown, and the Moosup VJ Parade. Ray was born in New Britain, July 6, 1927, son of the late Charles C. Williams Sr. and Florence M. (Herre) Williams. Ray served WWII 5th Air Force, Occupation forces 1945 - 1947. Ray was honorably discharged reaching rank of Sergeant receiving Army of Occupation, Japan WWII Victory, Asian-Pacific Campaign, American Campaign and Good Conduct medals. At the time of his passing, Ray was the 2nd to the last surviving WWII veteran from Woodstock. Returning from the service Ray worked at various manufacturing facilities retiring in 1988. Ray was a life member of the American Legion, served as Post #21 commander for 12 terms and inducted into the Connecticut American Legion Hall of Fame. He served 4 years on the CT American Legion Executive Committee. First to serve two terms

as commander of American Legion 4th district. Ray was the last surviving original member of American Legion #91 VJ Day Parade Committee and a continuous American Legion member since 1948. Life member of AMVets #45, life member of VFW #4908 and a member of Putnam Elks Lodge #574. Ray will be deeply missed by his loving children, daughter Nadine L. (John) Edwards where he shared a home in Thompson, his 6 sons; Gary (Angela) Williams of Harrellsville NC, Ronald (Brenda) Williams of Woodstock, Steven Williams of Thompson, Raymond S. (Christine) Williams of Thompson, Timothy (Tina) Williams of Pomfret and chosen son Kenneth (Jennifer Delaney) Bennett of Canterbury. Step-Children, Helen Birkbeck of Mississippi and William Birkbeck of Willimantic. Ray is survived by 22 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren, one loving niece, two great nieces and one great nephew. Ray is also survived by his special friend of 70+ years Lorraine Breton. Ray was predeceased by his wife Patricia Williams, two brothers Eugene Williams and Charles Williams Jr. and his great grandson Dyllan Troiano. Funeral services will be held at a time and date to be announced. tillinghastfh.com.



Allan K. Harris

April 24, 1958 – April 4, 2024



Allan K. Harris passed away suddenly, on April 4, 2024, from a brief illness. Born in Attleboro, MA, growing up, first in Plainville, MA, and later in Putnam, CT, he was a graduate from Putnam High School and Worcester State University.

Developing a love for travel, after serving in the US Navy, he lived life to the fullest, enjoying worldwide travel, living abroad in Prague, as a teacher, author, poet and musician. His passion for playing music, saxophone & harmonica, earned him the nickname "Harpo"! To his family and friends, he will be remembered for his sense of humor, stories of adventure, amazing skills on blues harmonica, and beautiful

soul as a human being.

Allan is survived by his parents, Robert, Sr. & Lois Harris, Putnam, CT, brothers, Robert Harris, Jr.; Dan Harris, Sr. (Meryl); Don Harris; Randall Harris, (Laurie) and sister, Beverly (Harris)Teague (Don) and many nieces & nephews.

Allan leaves behind many friends from Prague! He will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held, for family and friends, on May 6, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 64 Edmond St, Putnam, CT 06260. The burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to TAPS: taps.org.



Richard "Dick" James Schad, 77



Richard "Dick" James Schad, 77, of Pomfret, Connecticut embarked on his final road trip on April 17th, 2024. Richard, Son of Leo Charles Schad and Arlene (Kennedy) Schad was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut.

A graduate of Hartford High School, he did not attend college but led a life defined by an insatiable pursuit of knowledge and new experiences. Always engaged in a book with at least several more patiently waiting in reserve, a deep love and respect for the arts also led him to visit countless museums when he wasn't expressing himself through his own paintings, and in his later life he took immense joy in sharing his dedication and love for that particular craft with his grandchildren.

His constant desire for new experiences frequently led him out West, where in the late 1990s he discovered a small California desert town that he would go on to fall in love with and live part-time for many years. It was here, just outside Death Valley, that he spent many months taking in the vast desert landscape, hiking, creating art, and soaking in the natural mineral baths of the Mojave Desert. Rather than flying cross-country to California, he always preferred to drive and embrace the spontaneity that road-trips brought, almost always opting for the road-less taken.

A lifelong baseball fan, he would begin actively counting down the days until Spring Training at the conclusion of every MLB season. His travels and minimalist lifestyle often left him without access to internet or television, but that never stopped him from keeping updated on his beloved New York Mets.

Even as his health began to fail, he still made sure to watch Opening Day of the team's 2024 season from the comfort of his hospital bed with a Mets cap proudly atop his head.

While fiercely independent in nature, any mention of Richard would not be complete without his copilot and loyal companion, 14-year-old Chihuahua, Jose, whom he loved dearly. He was first drawn to Jose due to his small size, which would allow them to fly cross country together with ease, making trips out West easier as he aged. However, unsurprisingly to those who knew him, Richard couldn't bring himself to fly with Jose, partly out of the concern of the stress that it might cause his trusty companion, but primarily because the two of them could never turn down a road trip. The inseparable pair spent countless days on the road together, keeping each other company as they traveled from state to state, looking for their next adventure.

Richard James Schad will be deeply missed by his children, daughter Lisa (Schad) Beupre and husband Douglas Beupre, and son Richard Schad Jr. and his partner Kate. He leaves behind six grandchildren, Drew, Austin, Caroline, Will James, Noah and Julia, whom he cherished. He is also survived by his three siblings, brother Timothy Schad and wife Katherine, brother Chuck Schad, and sister Sallie Adams.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 10:00am at Most Holy Trinity Church, 568 Pomfret Street, Pomfret, CT. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260.

In lieu of sending flowers, please consider making a donation to a favorite local charity in Richard's name. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Rev. Terry Hardt, 85



N. Grosvenordale - Rev. Terry L. Hardt, 85, of Riverside Dr., died Tuesday afternoon, April 23, 2024, at Wm. W. Backus Hospital. He was the loving husband of 65 years to Dorothy M. (Olson) Hardt. Born

in Menomonie, WI, he was the son of the late Gustav and Adelaide (Becker) Hardt.

Rev. Hardt was a minister of the United Pentecostal Church (UPC) for 65 years. Along with his wife, Dorothy, he pastored churches in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. They also founded new churches in Montana, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Ohio, including Quinebaug Valley UPC (now called Acts II Ministries) in N. Grosvenordale. After pastoring in Euclid, Ohio they retired to N. Grosvenordale where he served as a church elder until his passing.

Terry enjoyed playing his guitar with his neighbors and friends, building

muzzle loaders, and was an avid reader, especially of westerns.

He is survived by his wife, his three sons, Nathaniel Hardt and his wife Doniece of N. Grosvenordale, Samuel Hardt of Puyallup, WA, and Daniel Hardt and his wife Pamela of Hampton, GA; his six grandchildren, Ashley, Nathan, Stephen, Emily, Logan, and Caleb, and his great grandson, Jack. He was predeceased by his parents, a brother, Gustav Hardt, his daughters in law, Nancy Hardt and Joyce Hardt, and his two grandchildren, Adam and Rachel.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a memorial service on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Acts II Ministries, 1366 Riverside Dr., N. Grosvenordale, CT at 10:30AM. Donations given in memory of Rev. Hardt may be given to Acts II Ministries for ministerial education in Eastern Europe. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

ARRESTS

continued from page A1

following the fire. The Church continues to hold services out of Eastford Elementary School and Pastor Moran said the support they received in the immediate aftermath of the fire and in the months that followed was a great blessing.

"We have a whole bunch of new members who have all joined in the wake of the fire. The church has held strong and been healthy and growing. God's blessing has just been enormous. Area churches have really helped us out. Early on, knowing we were displaced, they helped us find supplies like audio visual equipment and

books from their own libraries. There has just been so much kindness and generosity that has come our way," said Moran.

Moran said the Church recently received clarity from their insurance company as to how much they will receive as a payout for their rebuild. While he did not provide exact numbers, he did say it gives the church a clear starting point of what they can afford which will allow them to move forward with a new building over the next year.

"We know how much money we will have to work with. We're able to do the practical things associated with rebuilding," Moran said. "We lost the church completely so the Lord gave us the

gift of a clean piece of paper. We're giving other sites consideration. We haven't made a decision yet. We have a beautiful site on top of the hill that was contained as far as outside space and long term ability to grow, so looking in other spots is a reasonable approach but if we moved we'd give up that beautiful location, so right now it's a wide open discussion."

If all goes well, Moran said they may be able to move into their new building by Christmas of 2025. For now, the church will continue to provide a growing slate of programs for its members and continue to welcome new guests to their services as they look forward to a positive future that lies ahead.

Courtesy

John Rauh, General Chairman of The Legacy Campaign "150 Years and Beyond," discusses improvements to the Roseland Park Woodstock Golf Course driving range with Campaign Honorary Chairman Paul Kelly. The driving range has seven stations currently open to golfers during the improvement construction. The planned improvement are expected to be completed by mid-May and will boast of 16 newly matted stations, new practice golf ball and automatic golf ball dispensers. The facility will comfortably allow golfers to drives balls beyond 350 yards. The Legacy Campaign is a fundraising effort to raise \$1 Million in Phase I for renovations and improvements to the Park and Golf Course. Total costs of the work to the park and golf course are estimated at between \$2 and \$3 million. Rauh reports that Phase I of the Campaign has currently realized \$825,000.



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Two heroic home caregivers selected for annual Healthcare Warrior Award

PUTNAM — Two exceptional home caregivers with Assisted Living Services, Inc. (ALS) earned the prestigious Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual Healthcare Warrior Award. Phillis Fumme and Kimberly Woods-Amato both of Bristol were among the 17 honorees from the healthcare field, including doctors, nurses, homecare aides, and support staff from health agencies, as well as Hamden fire and police. The ceremony was held on April 11, 2024 at Cascade Fine Catering in Hamden with host Kathryn Hauser of WTNH Channel 8 News.

"We congratulate Phillis and Kimberly for this recognition and are grateful for their unwavering dedication to their elderly clients," said Mario D'Aquila, MBA and Chief Operating Officer of the family-owned homecare agency with offices in Cheshire, Putnam and Westport. "Each day, home caregivers make the decision to show up and be there for people who often don't have anyone else."

The Hamden mayor, fire

and police chiefs were among the more than 150 people who attended the breakfast. The honorees were nominated by their peers and their stories were read to the audience. Each Warrior received a framed certificate and heart shaped award.

D'Aquila shares a summary of Fumme's nomination: "Phillis has been with ALS as a live-in caregiver since 2020 and with her client for two years. The family of her client wrote a letter to us expressing gratitude for Phillis after her swift action led to her recognizing a severe health problem with her client, went to the ER with her and keep her calm all night."

Woods-Amato's nomination was also shared by D'Aquila; "Kimberly is an hourly caregiver with ALS and has an extremely difficult client who has been thru numerous caregivers. Kim stays with her because 'she needs me.' Kim even brought her Thanksgiving dinner on her day off and spent her own money on holiday decorations for the client's home. She helped get the client on Medicaid (not an easy task) so that she can continue to have

homecare services."

The Hamden Chamber of Commerce created the Healthcare Warrior award in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic to "celebrate and shine a light on our local healthcare and essential workers in our community." The event was held virtually the first year.

"We are thrilled that our valued employees were bestowed with this high-profile award," said D'Aquila. "Each month, ALS selects five caregivers for our own \$1,000 Platinum Caregiver Award because the service they provide is invaluable. External recognition further validates their commitment to excellence."

About Assisted Living Services, Inc.

Since 1996, award-winning home care agency Assisted Living Services, Inc. (ALS) in Cheshire, Putnam and Westport has provided quality care to residents across Connecticut. Its unique CarePlus program blends personal care by over 700 employees and caregivers with technological safety and monitoring devices from sister company Assisted Living Technologies,



Courtesy

Two home caregivers with Assisted Living Services (ALS) were honored at the prestigious Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual Healthcare Warrior Award ceremony on April 11 at Cascade Fine Catering in Hamden CT. From left: Nick D'Aquila-ALS Chief Information Officer, Lynne Talbot-ALS Director of Hourly Services & Marketing, award winners Phillis Fumme and Kimberly Woods-Amato of Bristol, Kristin Mercadante-ALS Live-in Service Coordinator and Ingrid Narvaez-ALS Hourly Services Coordinator.

Inc. ALS was ranked on the 2020 Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing companies and recognized by Home Care Pulse® as

a "Best of Home Care Leader in Excellence", a designation given to the best home care providers in the nation. Learn more

by visiting www.assistedlivingct.com or calling 203.634.8668.

Weiss, Hale & Zahansky launches new tagline and campaign focused on impact of People-First wealth management



Courtesy

The WHZ advisory team meets at one of the firm's offices, in Tolland.

POMFRET CENTER/TOLLAND — Money is typically the immediate focus when people think about financial planning and wealth management firms but a refreshed brand and new advertising campaign launched today by Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors (WHZ) is challenging that "money first" mentality.

Instead, WHZ is keying in on what it says is the ultimate goal that

is common to everyone when it comes to financial planning and wealth management: absolute confidence that they have an unwavering partner who is working to ensure their finances are on the best possible track toward what they want in life, no matter what life brings.

"Our strategic Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™ process is the approach we use to help our clients get where they want to be, and that's

what our firm has been well-known for up until this point," said James Zahansky, Managing Partner and Chief Goals Strategist. "But after years of working with and talking to clients and continually enhancing that process, we realized that it has evolved into so much more. So now it's time to put the focus not on just the process, but on what that process is designed to ultimately deliver: Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life."

And that's how our new tagline was born," Zahansky says.

"These phrases reflect the experience and outcomes that our clients repeatedly communicated to us that they value, and the ultimate outcome that we have always strived to achieve with our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process," said WHZ Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer Laurence Hale, AAMS®, CRPS®. "Now they will officially serve as the focus of our firm's brand, and we hope their power resonates with our clients and the community as strongly as it does with us."

WHZ's new multi-channel campaign focuses on the stories of real clients who share in their own words how the experience of working with the firm has shaped their finances and, by extension, their lives.

WHZ Associate Vice President of Client Experience and Relationships Kate Pitts says WHZ asks its clients about their experience with the firm, and what they want and don't want as part of their wealth management experience

in general, in both informal and formal ways all the time.

"It's something that's addressed in nearly every conversation and meeting we have with our clients. We also work with an objective third party to conduct an anonymous client satisfaction and preferences survey to ensure we're always keeping up with our clients' changing needs and preferences. We're really proud of our people-first approach," Pitts says.

Zahansky says that intense focus on people and relationships, along with a holistic approach to wealth management that considers each client's unique goals and personal circumstances as opposed to just their portfolio, is what sets WHZ apart from its competitors both big and small.

"The way we look at it, having the experience and skill to manage and invest wealth is just the price of admission for wealth management firms. It's the minimum requirement, and we are always aiming to go above and beyond," Zahansky says.

"And apart from that, we are keenly aware that wealth management isn't just about protecting and building wealth, it's actually much more about the very personal and often emotional dreams and goals people have for themselves and their loved ones that require money to achieve. The money is just a tool. Our job is to partner with our clients to build a roadmap that will leverage that tool as much as possible in order to get them where they want to be, and we're on that journey with them every step of the way."

WHZ was founded in Pomfret, Connecticut in 2006, and opened a second office in Tolland, Connecticut in 2023. The independent investment firm acts as a fiduciary in offering wealth management and customized financial planning services to individuals, families, business owners and executives, and not-for-profit institutions in 25 states, and is a partner of Commonwealth Financial Network®. To learn more, visit www.whzwealth.com.

Northeastern CT Chamber announces 2024 award recipients

WOODSTOCK — The Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the 2024 Annual Awards Recipients. The honorees will be recognized at the NECT Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Gala on Thursday, May 30 at 5:30 p.m. at the Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock.

The NECT Chamber Awards committee was overwhelmed by the number of remarkable nominations they received, each highlighting incredible achievements across our 23 towns the Chamber proudly serve. Each of the following award recipients have displayed immense dedication and passion for our community, making NECT a better place for all to live, work, and play. This year's recipients include:

Business Leader of the Year Award – Robin Deary Owner of Deary's

Gymnastics Civic Achievement Award – Willimantic Downtown Neighborhood Association on behalf of President, Chris McNaboe

Community Champion Award – Bethany Anderson Founder of Mission Moosup

Emerging Leader of the Year Award (NEW) – Tayler Sahzin of Northeast Opportunities for Wellness

George Racine Sr, Humanitarian Award – Jill Bourbeau of TEEG Gold Key Award – James Zahansky of Weiss, Hale, Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors

Non-Profit of the Year Award (NEW) – Northeast Placement Services, Executive Director Timothy Kettle

Business Leader of the Year Award – The Business Leader of the Year Award is presented to an individual for out-

standing business leadership and active participation in community organizations.

Civic Achievement Award – is presented to a person whose commitment and abilities have made a significant difference in the life of an individual or the community. The nominee should exemplify qualities of honesty, integrity, community service and an established broad-based involvement with clubs, civic groups, charities, etc. within the Northeastern Connecticut region.

Community Champion Award – is presented to an individual, couple or organization that has made a substantive yet unrecognized contribution to our community. The award recognizes recipients who have influenced our community from behind the scenes with a positive attitude, a willingness to help in a

variety of capacities, and a commitment to excellence.

Emerging Leader of the Year Award – is presented to a dynamic and visionary leader making a significant impact in Northeastern CT. Open to local leaders under the age of 40, the Emerging Leader of the Year award celebrates a young leader in our community for their innovation, professional achievements, and commitment to shaping a prosperous future for Northeastern CT.

George Racine, Sr. Humanitarian Award – is presented to a person in recognition of their dedicated involvement with a specific cause or activity; that which promotes concern for human welfare.

Gold Key Award – is presented to an individual or business for outstanding service to the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

organizations and 4. The use of creative or innovative approaches to achieve success.

Non-Profit of the Year Award – is presented to an outstanding local non-profit organization that has demonstrated exceptional service, dedication, and impact within the 23 towns we serve. This award celebrates a non-profits commitment to making a difference in enriching our community. The nominee for this award should be a local non-profit dedicated to

creating positive change, addressing community needs, and improving the quality of life for residents in Northeastern CT.

Award recipients will be formally recognized at the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala on Thursday, May 30 from 5:30 – 9 p.m. at the Mansion at Bald Hill. To register for this event, visit nectchamber.com/awards-gala.

Cub Scouts selling flowers and chocolate May 4

PUTNAM — Putnam's Cub Scout Pack 21 will be selling flowers and chocolate on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a. m. until 2 p. m., at the Putnam Farmers' Market on Kennedy Drive, next to the Putnam Dog Park. Please come and get something for mom for this Mothers' Day. Proceeds benefit Pack 21 and its Cub Scout awards program.

For information, call (860) 928-7241.