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# KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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## Killingly budget proposal calls for \$1.11 million increase

**BY JASON BLEAU**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY – The town of Killingly is looking at a potential budget increase of \$1,110,000 going into the next fiscal year, pending approval from the voters in May.

Over the course of several meetings, including a public hearing on April 8, Town Manager Mary Calorio, the Town Council and the Board of Education have presented their proposals which includes an \$18.3 million general government spending plan and a \$45 million education spending plan, increasing the budgets by \$2.3 million and \$882,524 respectively. That comes out to a near 15 percent increase in the general government budget and a 2 percent increase for education, culminating in a \$1.11 million increase for taxpayers.

Breaking down the increases, the general government costs include increases in contractual salaries, the replacement of a truck for highway operations, the addition of a new constable including a new vehicle for the employee, investment in a speed enforcement trailer, and use of \$600,000 from the town's fund balance for capital projects like road repairs among other expenses.

On the education side, salary increases are the bulk of the new cost making up 1.77 percent of the 2 percent increase.

Killingly's spending plans received much discussion in March on route to the April 8 town meeting where details were made available for public input. Unlike in 2020 when the pandemic impacted public involvement in the budget process, voters are being invited to an in-person town meeting on May 3 where the final numbers will be discussed. That meeting will adjourn to a referendum on May 11. Details on both spending plans can be found on the Killingly town Web site.

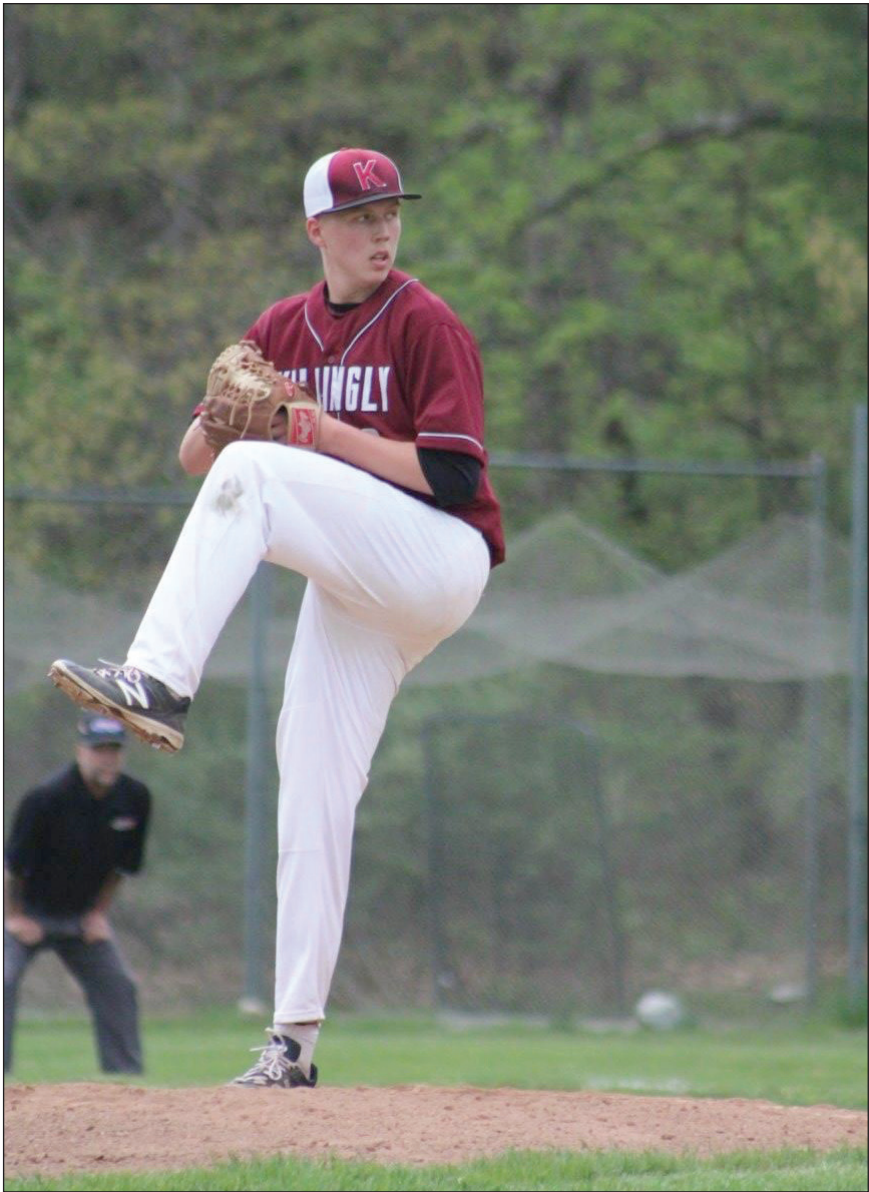


Photo Courtesy

Drew Daley, Killingly High Class of 2016, has been named pitching coach at his alma mater. Daley, a 2020 graduate of New London's Mitchell College, finished his career with the Mariners with a 7-3 record. Daley made 16 career starts for Mitchell and appeared in a total of 23 games.

## Full circle opportunity for Drew Daley of Killingly

FORMER BASEBALL STAR  
NAMED SCHOOL'S PITCHING COACH

**BY KEN POWERS**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — For Drew Daley, the silver lining to the global pandemic brought about by the COVID-19 virus — if there can be a silver lining to something that prematurely ended his senior season as a collegiate baseball player — is that it served as an opportunity for Daley to officially begin his coaching career.

When the Mitchell College baseball season was cancelled after eight games, it marked the official end of Daley's playing career. Shortly thereafter Ben Desaulnier, Daley's best friend since childhood, reached out to his former teammate with an idea he thought might ease the transition into the category of former player.

"After our season at Mitchell was cancelled after just eight games, Ben came to me and asked me to be the pitching coach for his AAU Team [the Connecticut Huskies 17U team]," explained the 22-year-old Daley, a 6-foot-3, right-handed starting pitcher. "I thought about it for a couple of days and finally said, 'what the heck, let's do it.' I ended up falling in love with it. It was something I looked forward to all week because we

Turn To **DALEY**, page **A7**



Photo Daniel Holben — Courtesy

Norwalk's Ronnie Williams emerges from his Modified after winning the Icebreaker 125 at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park.

## Silk pounces late to win Thompson Icebreaker 125

THOMPSON — Norwalk's Ron Silk took advantage of a late caution flag to snag the \$10,000 top prize in the Icebreaker 125 at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Saturday, April 10. Silk took the lead from Berlin's Keith Rocco with 12 laps remaining and was the inaugural winner of the new Outlaw Open Modified Series at the Icebreaker nightcap.

It was the first-ever Tour-type Modified victory for Haydt Yannone Racing and came at the end of a night where Silk went up and down the running order like a yo-yo. The former NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Champion kept fighting, though, and triumphed at the Icebreaker for the first time since 2012.

Rocco started on the pole and lead the first seven laps before Enfield, CT's Ronnie Williams took over. Williams paced the field until a mandatory fuel stop at lap 30. During that stop, Silk's team was penalized for unauthorized use of equipment. Silk was sent to rear and pitted again for adjustments before the field went back to green.

"My car really wasn't too good at that point," Silk said of the penalty. "I was too free anyway, so it might have been a little bit of a blessing. I was kind of hanging onto third at that point, so it was good to come in and get a little bit of an adjustment and figure out that we still needed to go for more when we put (the new) tires on at the end."

At the front, Williams surrendered

the lead back to Rocco on lap 42 before Chelmsford, MA's Jon McKennedy took the point 10 circuits later. When the sixth yellow flew at lap 55 for Artie Pedersen's spin, many of the leaders pitted for fresh tires and/or adjustments, leaving McKennedy and Rocco as the only drivers who hadn't made at least one non-fuel stop.

Riverhead, N.Y.'s Eric Goodale, the recent Martinsville Speedway winner, snatched the lead from McKennedy on lap 58 with Silk not far behind. Williams was flying through the field, though, and went to the front again with 67 laps in the books.

The next trio of cautions greatly changed the event's cousin. A debris caution on lap 73 led to McKennedy, Rocco, Goodale, and others heading to the pits. But one lap after the restart, the filed got stacked up entering turn one. McKennedy, Goodale, and Chris Pasteryak ended up piling into the wall to bring out the red flag.

Williams and Sam Rameau then pulled away before the ninth yellow on lap 89 when Anthony Sesely and Andrew Krause tangled in turn two. Another en masse visit to the pits followed, with Rocco leading the herd onto the track in fourth. Meanwhile, Williams and Silk took the green in 10th and 11th, respectively.

Rocco made short work on the restart to take the lead from J.B. Fortin on lap 91. Craig Lutz and Williams navigated their way through the field,

Turn To **ICEBREAKER**, page **A7**

## Westview...alive with the sound of music

DAYVILLE — Westview will soon be alive with the "The Sound of Music!"

Elisabeth von Trapp, granddaughter of Maria and Baron von Trapp, is scheduled to bring her talents to Country Living at Westview Commons on Friday, May 7 for a special private concert among the residents of the brand new independent and assisted living facility located at 117 Ware Rd. in Dayville.

Her arrival at this pivotal point in our lives is certain to inspire all who hear her stories and songs. Many will recognize her family name from the Broadway musical and Academy Award-winning film "The Sound of Music," a melodic account based upon the



Elisabeth von Trapp

journey by her grandparents and their children away from war-torn Europe. As we all begin to emerge from the extraordinary challenge brought by a global pandemic, she has many encouraging melodies to impart. For over a year, the themes of distance and being

away from our loved ones have dominated our airwaves. Elisabeth's performances provide a much sweeter offering for the atmosphere; reminding her audiences about the power of music to bring us closer.

The space for this private concert is the Great Room at the center of Country Living at Westview Commons. In addition to Elisabeth's live performance in front of Westview Commons residents, the concert will be simulcast to the nursing home residents at Westview Health Care Center. This neighboring skilled nursing facility has a closed-circuit hospitality channel to relay the show to patient rooms on

Turn To **VON TRAPP**, page **A7**



In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI



“In the Studio” is a newer feature for the Villager Newspapers. The Quiet Corner is home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this semi-weekly series, we’ll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We’ll also learn some “artspeak” terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those “artist words”.



Today we’re talking with Brett Laffert. A multi-talented artist, Brett works in numerous mediums and is a trained chef. You may know him as the owner of Coriander Cafe in Eastford (now closed).  
Brett, I’d like to focus on your stained glass windows. A post by Ann Chuk (Artists in the Country sponsor) caught my attention. Some of our readers may be familiar with your installation at the Vanilla Bean restaurant in Pomfret, or other commissions. Your composition and style contain so much movement and voice.

**How did your glass work evolve?**  
I began to work in stained glass from a need to find a hobby while surviving the long winters living on Nantucket. A friend had given me his stained glass kit and so I dabbled in making sun catchers as most fledgling glass artists do; it’s evolved from there.

**You use old window frames to hold your pieces which, I imagine, adds another layer of effort to your pieces, yes?**  
It does. The windows are my canvas to lay the glass onto and create the artwork. They often need to be fully restored with new glass, glazing and I always strip them down to natural wood.

**Do you think that there is a relationship between working with food and the art you create?**  
I do. I think that I’ve always been trying to find a way to express myself and both are good mediums to exercise that part of my brain. I think there must be a connection on the creative level working with composition and color. Being able to have the time in 2020 to get back into art after Coriander has been positive and welcome activity.

**What are you working on right now?**  
I’m sketching a window about a school of fish with sunlight penetrating

## Killingly library hosting Zoom program

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Public Library will present a Zoom program, “Mindfulness for the Stressed and Depressed,” hosted by Stephen Cuddy, on April 28 at 5:30 p.m.  
Registration is required for this program in advance in order to receive your Zoom link, and can be obtained by visiting the library’s Web site, [www.killinglypl.org](http://www.killinglypl.org).



Villager Newspapers

ACCURACY WATCH

The Villager Newspapers is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake call (860) 928-1818 or e-mail [charlie@villager-newspapers.com](mailto:charlie@villager-newspapers.com).



the surface of the water—we’ll see if I can pull it off!

**What kind of research or preparation do you do before starting a project?**  
Typically, if I’m working on any object, I will research the subject- for instance, on the bird windows I’ve been doing lately I’ll research things for imagery, color, movement etc.  
After I’ve looked at many images, I’ll generally sketch out the piece and scale to size then use some of the drawings I’ve made as templates for the glass.

**Describe your workspace in 10 words or less.**  
My work space is small, but efficient, with good lighting.  
But I alternate between working outside on my back porch which overlooks a river so that’s nice.

**If you could give your younger self one piece of career advice, what would it be?**  
Stay focused. Try and improve. Continue to strive to do pieces outside of your comfort zone. It’s important, especially these days, to network and take advantage of social media for marketing and don’t be afraid to be confident and sell yourself.

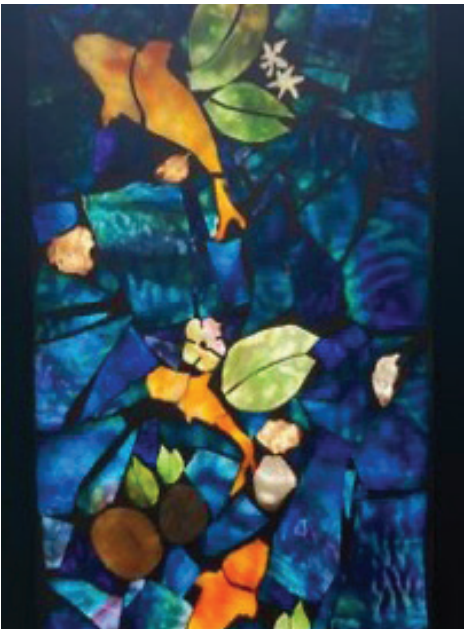
**Which of your windows has the most meaning for you?**  
I think lately it would be a four-panel transom window with four crows: one sitting still and the other three in flight. I have become kind of obsessed with crows lately-how intelligent and mischievous they can be.

**Why do you think our geographic area is home to many artists?**  
I think the Quiet Corner is a good place because it’s a beautiful place to live and you can get inspiration from your surroundings.

**Where are your favorite “art scenes”?**  
I’m interpreting this question to mean what geographic areas ...  
I’m very much attracted to Asheville, North Carolina which I recently had the opportunity to visit and was blown away by the artist community and caliber of artists.  
This area has a bunch of great artists many of whom I can call friends but



The crow is a pen and ink drawing that eventually became that transom window.



The next one shows a koi pond; one subject I’m totally drawn to, this piece incorporates tumbled river rock which adds further texture and interest.



Window with chickadee and flowers on a light blue ground

her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

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# American Legion District #4 veterans walking for kids

PUTNAM — An important part of the American Legion mission is service to children and youth. Every year in the spring, the Legionnaires of District #4, which encompasses all of Windham and Tolland counties, join in the “Family Kids’ Walk” in support of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

Ronald P. Coderre, District #4 Commander recently announced the appointment of Chas MacKenzie of the Mayotte-Viens Post #13 of Putnam and Frank Poirier of Buck-Dubiel Post #101 of Somers as co-chairmen of this year’s event. Poirier’s nine-year-old daughter Addison is serving the Walk Ambassador.

MacKenzie, who served as a corpsman in the United States Navy, is a veteran of the Lebanon-Grenada conflicts era. He’s been a member of Post #13 for six years. The Putnam resident serves as Post #13 Adjutant and Historian.



Chas MacKenzie

Poirier served in the Army National Guard from 2006 to 2011 as a military policeman. A four-year member of Post #101, he’s the Post Adjutant and adjutant of the Sons of American Legion unit in Somers. Poirier’s daughter Addison is a third grader at Somers Elementary School.

“Addison is excited to serve as the Kids’ Ambassador for the walk. She’s encouraging



Frank Poirier

Legionnaires, family members, veterans and community individuals to participate in



Addison Poirier

the ‘Family Kids’ Walk,” said co-chairman Poirier.

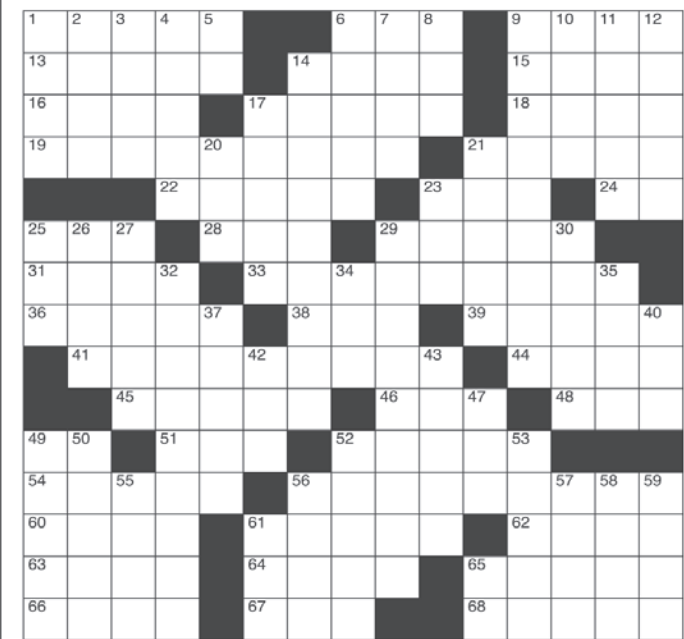
“The American Legion is honored to be involved in this walk every year. The Connecticut Children’s Medical Center is a vital resource in the care of our young children with serious medical problems. Every penny of our walk goes directly

to the Center in support of its work,” concluded Poirier.

The ‘Family Kids’ Walk’ is scheduled for Saturday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to noon at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Rd., Coventry. Registration begins at 9 a.m. In the event of rain, the walk will be held on Sunday, May 2.

“We’re hoping for a good turnout from throughout the District. Anyone wishing to support the event should contact a Legionnaire in their area. I’m thankful for our veterans who have worked hard to make the event a success,” said Ronald P. Coderre, District #4 Commander.

District #4 is composed of 13 Posts, located in Woodstock, Thompson, Eastford, Putnam, Danielson, Moosup, Somers, Stafford Springs, Ellington, Rockville, Coventry, Hebron and Willimantic. Anyone wishing to participate in or support the ‘Family Kids’ Walk’ should contact the local Post.

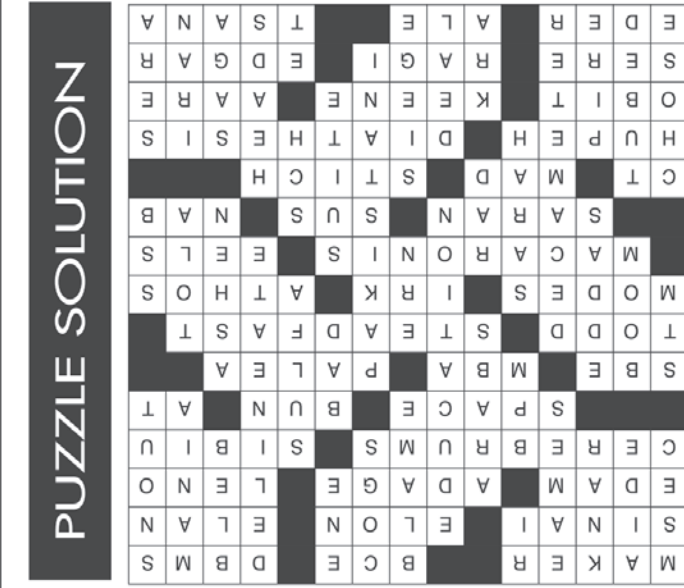


- CLUES ACROSS**

  - 1. One who manufactures
  - 6. Science degree
  - 9. Database management system
  - 13. Desert
  - 14. Inventor Musk
  - 15. Welsh valley
  - 16. Round Dutch cheese
  - 17. Saying
  - 18. Comedian and TV host
  - 19. Uppermost portions of brain
  - 21. City in Transylvania
  - 22. Where astronauts go
  - 23. Men’s hairstyle
  - 24. Indicates position
  - 25. One point east of due south
  - 28. Businessmen may have one
  - 29. Grass part
  - 31. Running back Gurley
  - 33. Unwavering
  - 36. Options
  - 38. Annoy
- 39. Greek mountain
  - 41. Pastas
  - 44. Fishes
  - 45. Wrap
  - 46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
  - 48. Seize
  - 49. The Constitution State
  - 51. Upset
  - 52. 1991 men’s Wimbledon champ
  - 54. Central Chinese province
  - 56. Predisposition
  - 60. A notice of someone’s death
  - 61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
  - 62. Swiss river
  - 63. Dried-up
  - 64. Finger millet
  - 65. \_\_ Allan Poe
  - 66. German river
  - 67. Brew
  - 68. Kenyan river

- CLUES DOWN**

  - 1. Millisecond
  - 2. Acts as military assistant
  - 3. Knot in a tree
  - 4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
  - 5. The Ocean State
  - 6. Point the finger at
  - 7. Parts in a machine
  - 8. Midway between northeast and east
  - 9. Portray precisely
  - 10. Blister
  - 11. Mental illness
  - 12. Nose of an animal
  - 14. What students receive
  - 17. Semitic peoples
  - 20. Beats per minute
  - 21. Family of drugs
  - 23. Atrocious
  - 25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
  - 26. \_\_ or bust
  - 27. Icelandic poems
- 29. A citizen of Pakistan
  - 30. Very pale
  - 32. Metric linear unit
  - 34. Sea eagle
  - 35. Biblical judge of Israel
  - 37. Isaac’s mother (Bib.)
  - 40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
  - 42. Cool!
  - 43. Large hotel room
  - 47. Type of boat (abbr.)
  - 49. Picked
  - 50. Type of hookah
  - 52. Attack
  - 53. Directs
  - 55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
  - 56. Finished negotiation
  - 57. Heroic tale
  - 58. Middle Eastern country
  - 59. Protein-rich liquids
  - 61. Malaysian Isthmus
  - 65. Spielberg’s alien



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## EASTER BASKET DRIVE A SUCCESS



Photo Courtesy

On behalf of the Daughters of Isabella in Putnam, we’d like to thank the local community for making our Easter basket and Food Drive a huge success. Your generous contributions and goodwill benefited many needy families and we’re grateful for your outstanding service!

## Woodstock Legion hosting open house breakfast April 24

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites all veterans and their families to our free open house breakfast on April 24 from 8-10 a.m. Come to our post, located at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, to see what we do for our community. We are always looking for new members, and due to the Legion Act of 2019, all veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941 are eligible to join.

Our points of contact are Glenn Boies, Commander, 860-234-5525 or Chuck Jones, Adjutant, 860-983-3759.

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## KHS ATHLETES SUPPORT LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER



Emma Carpenter, Sophia Moore, Makala Dube, Ella Lach and Hannah Grudzien, student athletes and members of the ECC North Champion Killingly High Girls Basketball team, are regular members and train at Windham County Strength. Prior to the 2021 basketball season, professional trainer Mike Behrle challenged his pupils to elevate their games and committed to donate \$3 to a local charity for every three point basket they made during the season. The KHS girls had a very successful season and registered 55 three-point shots during the season. To fill his commitment to the girls, Behrle personally donated his \$165 to meet his commitment to them. He also extended the invitation to his network of members and associates and the network of the girls to increase the generosity. With some communication and the generosity of his and the girls’ networks, they were able to increase the Charitable gift to \$800. As a group, they decided to make the donation to the Animal Shelter in Dayville to help them with their noble and compassionate work.

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# Creation Church launches new missions evening series

THOMPSON — Creation Church is pleased to announce the launching of a brand-new missions evening called Acts 1:8, based on Jesus’s encouragement to His disciples in Acts 1 when He said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

The evening will have a three-fold purpose of incorporating worship, prayer and missions, and will take place at 6:30 p.m. every other Wednesday night through the Spring. The inaugural event took place on April 7 with special guest speaker, Julia Budd, a missionary to the Czech Republic with the ministry

known as Josiah Venture. The mission of Josiah Venture is to equip and train young leaders throughout Central and Eastern Europe in fulfilling Christ’s commission through the local church.

This coming Wednesday evening, April 21, Sarah Brady of Hope For Tomorrow Guatemala will be the guest speaker. The Mission Teams for Hope For Tomorrow spend time in mountain villages, local schools, and in the community providing nutrition and medical outreach, Vacation Bible School activities, and participating in construction projects. Hope For Tomorrow is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to building the kingdom of God. Their mission is to feed the

hungry, heal the sick, and bring hope to the hopeless.

On May 5, Russ and Diane Kraines of TeachBeyond will be the guest speakers followed by Marissa Fagerquist of Your Options Medical in Sturbridge, Mass. on May 12. Chap Bettis of The Apollos Project will be the guest speaker on June 2nd followed by Jeremy Bradley of Caring Families on June 16.

Creation Church is a non-denominational, Christian church located at 47 West Thompson Rd. in Thompson. Its

mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by creating environments where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue a loving relationship with God, experience community within, and a life-giving influence without. Their Worship Service hours are 9 and 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning. A children’s program called Creation Kids is offered during the 10:30 a.m. service. For more information about the church, please go to [www.creationchurch.org](http://www.creationchurch.org).

## Register now for pring and fall at QVCC

DANIELSON — Registration is open for Summer and Fall 2021! Summer College at QVCC is the perfect way to catch up or get ahead with three sessions designed to fit into your schedule:

- Session I (10 weeks, June 7 – Aug. 13)
- Session II (5 weeks, June 7 – July 11)
- Session III (5 weeks, July 12 – Aug. 13)

These summer sessions are taken in an accelerated format, allowing students to earn necessary credits in a reduced timeframe. Course types include on-ground, online, hybrid, and LRON\*. Summer 2021 courses include Anatomy & Physiology, Art History, General Biology, General Psychology, Intro to Mass Communications, Intro to Nutrition, Medical Terminology, Microbiology, Precalculus, Principles of Macro & Microeconomics, Principles of Statistics, U.S. History, and more.

Students who were awarded a scholarship through the QVCC Foundation for the 2021-2022 academic year can use it towards a summer course.

The Fall 2021 semester begins on August 26; Register now to secure your class schedule early! Late Start and Half

Term sessions are also available during the Fall 2021 semester:

- Full Term (Aug. 26 – Dec. 15)
- Late Start Term (10 weeks, Sept. 27 – Dec. 15)
- Half Term I (1st 7 weeks, Aug. 26 – Oct. 17)
- Half Term II (2nd 7 weeks, Oct. 18 – Dec. 15)

Fall courses will be offered in a variety of formats, including on-ground, online, hybrid, LRON, and FLEX\*. Academic advising is available for any student planning for Summer and/or Fall 2021. Visit [QVCC.edu/advising](http://QVCC.edu/advising) for more information and to book a virtual advising session via Bookings.

To see the complete list of Summer and Fall 2021 course offerings: Visit [my.commet.net](http://my.commet.net)

Select: Search for Course Offerings  
Select Term: Summer 2021 or Fall 2021

Select College: Quinebaug Valley CC  
Select (O)pen or (C)losed: Click Open  
Select Course Level: Check Credit  
View the full Academic Calendar on QVCC’s Web site.

# Thompson Middle School honor roll

THOMPSON — Thompson Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

**Grade 5**  
High Honors: Ashley Boudreau, Evelyn Dos Santos, Parker Leveille, Chloe McDonald, Parker Ring, Gabriella Santos, Adrianna Statkiewicz, Ryan Szarkowicz

Honors: Graciella Baublitz, Danika Beliveau, Lily Bogoslofski, Adam Boss, Payton Butler, Braedan Delaney, Camdyn Foster, Jeremi Helwig, Max Kinsella, James McHugh, Rafaelle Mondarte, Jon Palmer, Ayden Perry, Aiden Rafferty, Kora Mae Reynolds, Stanley Ten Eyck, Aleck Thurber, Brody Vincent

Recognition: Xavier Bilodeau, Madison Fitzgerald, Christian Freeman, Ayden Lapensee, Landon Perry, Madison Perry, Jaydin Sevigne, Noelle Smith, Ryan Walsh, Nevaeh Yousef

**Grade 6**

High Honors: Julyanna Barrows, Gabriel Bourget, Maddison Carlson, Andrew DiCicco, Estela Freitas, Samuel Hachgian, Cooper Harris, Brighton Keegan, Calleigh Levesque, Kennedy McCooey, Mabel Perreault, Noah Pillsbury, Samantha Podgorni, Nina Poplawski, Kaydyn Racca, Ella Sousa, Christian Tremblay

Honors: Graham Barber, Aubri Bonin, Christopher Boss, Ryan Freudenthal, Madison McHugh, Ellah Monahan, Riley Nolin, Jordyn Poplawski, Matthew Rybacki

Recognition: Dylan Axtell, Jordan Burns, Trinity Eldridge, Emalynn Kwiatkowski, Jade McCarthy, Alexia Munsch, Gregory Racicot, Anthony Reed, Chyanne Rock, Amaya Sagastivelza-Muniz, Sophia St. Germain

**Grade 7**  
High Honors: Dylan Bryniarski, Amelia Duquette, Kaydence Foster, Katherine Gates, Sam Giroux, Lacie

Keegan, Ember Merrill, Lily Pekcham

Honors: Alex Davis, Conner Dawe, Gia DiPasquale, Ava McClure, Sahara Moore, Alexis Phav, Connor Racine, Grace Read, Tyler Shead, Joshua Tackson, Kevin Vescera

Recognition: Bailey Benton, Hailey Collins, Cristian DeJesus, Vivianna Hill, Makenna Sheridan, Gaige Smith, Sophia Tomany

**Grade 8**  
High Honors: June Ferraro, Justin Griffiths-Lam, Megan Nachtigall, Nicholas Ruggieri, Jackson Santos, Luke Senosk, Serena Smith, Lucy St. Germain, Sofia Thurber

Honors: Maja Bobinska, Margaret McHugh, Benjamin Munson, Carter Rafferty, Jose Rivera, Travis Ryley

Recognition: Grace Akana, Noah Brousseau, Sage Bukowski, Lucas Gillon, Christopher Holton, Olivia Martocci, Hannah Mead, Pavanny Phav, Georgi Sezenias

# Tourtellotte High School honor roll

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Tourtellotte Memorial High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

**Grade 9**  
High Honors: Kaylee Beck, Avery Butler, Jordyn Butler, Audrey Defilippo, James Julian, Eric Levesque, Sadie Pedersen, Jacob Perry, Patricia Peterson

Honors: Elizabeth Davis, Aidan Defilippo, Alex Harris, Brad Herlihy, Madyson Koziak, Morgan LaPalme, Cassandra McKeon-Deorsey, Connor Pederson,

Noel Racicot, Peyton Richard

Recognition: Tara Heffernan, Gabriella Lubomirski, Isabella Nieves

**Grade 10**  
High Honors: Taylor Annis, Evan Antonson, Saydie Cooper, Madelynn Copley, Javier DeJesus, Deidrea Hanshaw, Hailey Johnson, Hanna LeClaire, Alexander Nachtigall

Honors: Kayla Botelho, Daniel Boutin, Dylan Johnson, Colin McAllister, Chloe Manzo, Allison Thebeau, Aidan Zimmer

Recognition: Branden Nystrom, Jonathan Poplawski, Tahlia Smith,

Alicia Tiffany

**Grade 11**  
High Honors: Zeynep Acun, Kyle Cournoyer, Alivia Dalpe, Leah Demers, James DiNoia, Brooke Fettig, Kaylin Griggs, Michaela Waldrop

Honors: Kyle Busha, Serena Cappello, Katelyn Forcier, Kaylin Kochinskas, Mackenzie Minarik, Kiera O’Brien, Zaria Pokropowicz, Kylee Smith, Shane Yurkevicius

Recognition: Brayden Akana, Michaela Vandi

**Grade 12**  
High Honors: Cole Coderre, Carter

Cooper, Brayden Cutler, Kaylyn Daigneault, Alexis Elkinson, Daniel Heffernan, Lindsey Houghton, Kaitlyn Lamontagne, John Steglitz, Nicholas Sturtevant, Kaylee Tackson, Makayla Tackson, Gracen vanderSwaagh, Branson Waldrop

Honors: John Embair, Chase Fonatine, Matthew Fraser, Elizabeth Gates, Brady Monahan, Emma Parmentier, Christian Smith, Lindsey Worster, Samantha Worster, Madison Yost

Recognition: Emily Carita, Jack Smalarz, Patrick Sturtevant, Marc Yost

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ICEBREAKER

continued from page A1

and with laps winding down, it looked like a three-car shootout for the win. Lutz had gotten up to fourth well back of the lead trio.

But on the 113th circuit, Bobby Santos III spun to bring out the 10th and final caution. Silk saw his opportunity and went for it, jumping from fourth to second on the restart and then diving beneath Rocco in turn three one lap later, with Rocco making an unsuccessful crossover attempt. Silk kept the field at bay from there, leading the final 12 laps for the Icebreaker win.

“It’s cool to say you won the first Open race in this new structure here, and 10 Grand is always great,” Silk said. “(This team has) put a lot of effort and money into this, so it’s good to get them some results.”

Rocco finished second after winning the Sunoco Modified feature earlier in the day. Santos put on fresh tires after his spin and tore through the field to take third. Lutz, Williams, Rameau, Matt Swanson, Sesely, Mike Christopher Jr., and Patrick Emerling completed the top-10.

Warwick, Mass.’s Tom Carey III pulled away late to win the 40-lap Late Model feature. Carey started sixth and was challenging N. Dartmouth, Mass.’s Derek Gluchacki when the third caution flew on lap eight for Paul Heard’s front

stretch spin. It was part of a calamitous start that also Jason Larivee, Jr. and Donald Macrino scale the turn-three wall in an earlier incident.

Carey put the nose out front on the third restart just before another yellow for Kevin Bowe. This time, when the green flew, Carey and Gluchacki spent multiple laps swapping paint before Carey finally gained the upper hand. Once the field finally got a long green-flag run, Carey’s Chevrolet truly came to life as he steadily extended the margin.

The fifth and final yellow for a turn-two spin by Charles H. Bailey IV set up a seven-lap dash for cash. On the restart, North Franklin’s Ryan Morgan wound it up on the outside and went from fourth to second. Gluchacki then tried to get back at Morgan, which gave Carey the cushion he needed to take the victory and a \$1,200 payday. It was Carey’s second straight Late Model Icebreaker win.

“I’m lucky enough to have two of these (Icebreaker wins) now,” Carey said after the event. “It’s huge, man. This event has always been a stable to kick off the season in New England. I’m just honored, really, to win at a historic track like Thompson — a track that I really love and always have since I was a little kid.”

Morgan held on for the runner-up spot. Gluchacki completed the podium followed by Woody Pitkat and Rick Gentes. Matthew Lowinski-Loh, Corey Fanning, Charles H. Bailey III, Nicolas Johnson, and Mark Jenison rounded out the top-

DALEY

continued from page A1

played on the weekends.”

Truth be told, it wasn’t Daley’s first foray into coaching. Following his freshman year at Mitchell, after his playing eligibility had expired, Daley was a member of the coaching staff of the Danielson Post 21 American Legion baseball team, the squad he played for during his Killingly High days.

Coaching with Desaulnier last summer was different, however. He didn’t expect to have the impact he had on a group of 16- and 17-year-old players.

“That was the biggest thing; I was able to really relate to these kids and make these kids feel comfortable,” Daley said. “I told them, ‘I was in your shoes four or five years ago.’ Ben and I, we’re not that much older than these guys.”

Heading into the recently-started high school season, Desaulnier asked Daley to come on board as his pitching coach at their alma mater.

“When Ben asked if I wanted to help out, it was a no-brainer,” Daley said. “It’s a good feeling to be a part of this.”

Desaulnier was hired as Killingly High varsity baseball coach prior to the 2020 season, but that season was cancelled due to COVID-19. The 2021 season is officially his second leading the team, but the first actually playing games.

“Drew’s ability to connect with the players last summer and earn high levels of respect from them makes me very confident that he will be an excellent coach in our program here at Killingly High,” Desaulnier said. “I’m looking forward to seeing Drew help develop the young pitchers on our staff while at the same time helping to cultivate a culture of hard work and positivity.”

Daley, a member of the Killingly High Class of 2016, graduated from Mitchell in 2020. He finished his career with the Mariners with a 7-3 record. Daley made 16 career starts — two during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season — and appeared in a total of 23 games for the New London school.

Desaulnier was asked to explain Daley’s relatability to Killingly’s current baseball team members.

“First of all, by being someone who was in their shoes pretty recently; he was our star pitcher when we played at Killingly, and then he had a lot of success playing in college,” Desaulnier said. “His coaches at Mitchell [Travis Beausoleil and Scott Heath] were very good coaches. He’s bringing a lot of the knowledge he picked up at Mitchell to our program.”

As excited as he is to be coaching the game he loves, Daley said it’s even more special to be doing so at his alma mater.

“When you decide you want to be a coach, you’re happy to hop on any coaching opportunity that comes your way. But, finding a position in your hometown, while it’s a little far-fetched for most guys, is a big deal for me,” Daley said. “But, the opportunity presented itself, a spot needed to be filled. It just so happens I’m lucky enough to be close friends with Ben for the past 10-12 years, so he asked me to coach with him.

“I’m pumped about it. It’s something that doesn’t happen to everybody and that’s what makes it so special,” Daley said. “I feel truly blessed. I’m happy to be giving back to my high school. Two of the biggest things I learned at Mitchell were to create community leaders and give back to the program. Giving back is the biggest thing for me; that’s why this is so special.”

10.

Moosup’s Larry Barnett found his way to Thompson’s Victory Lane for the first time since 2017 in the 25-lap Limited Sportsmen feature. Barnett was running fourth on lap seven when Kyle Gero and Ryan Waterman tangled in turn two racing for lead. Troy Waterman had nowhere to go and piled into Gero, severely damaging both cars.

Corey Fanning and Barnett inherited the front row for the restart, with Barnett getting the jump on the restart. Barnett, Fanning, and Brent Gleason then broke away from the pack before Gleason went to work on Fanning for second, allowing Barnett to stretch his lead out.

One more caution on lap 20 for Jeffrey VanPelt’s spin re-racked the field for a sprint to the finish. Barnett took charge again and rolled to another victory on the Thompson high banks.

Fanning held off Gleason by a few feet to finish second. Ryan Waterman recovered from the lap-7 incident to finish fourth. Scott Sundeen, Douglas Curry, Nicholas Hovey, Michael Malbourn, Tommy Shea, and Aaron Plemons completed the top-10.

Newtown’s Anthony Bello saved his best for last to capture the SK Light Modified feature by a whisker. Bello spent most of the 25-lap event stalking Danbury’s George Bessette Jr., who had led from the outside pole. As many as six cars raced under a blanket with a minor spin on lap three being the only thing to slow them down.

Bello looked to Bessette’s inside midway through the race, but nothing was doing. Coming into turn three for the final time, though, Bello swept by Bessette on the inside. Bessette pulled the crossover move off turn four and the

two drag-raced to the finish line. At the checkered flag, Bello was ahead by just 0.023 seconds to claim victory.

Bessette settled for a heartbreaking second followed by Albert Ouellette in third. Wayne Burroughs, Jr., Steven Chapman, Shawn Thibeault, Nathan Pytho, Josh Carey, Paul Charette, and John O’Sullivan III came home fourth through 10th.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park resumes its 2021 oval track season on Wednesday, June 16. The Outlaw Open Modified Series races for \$5,000 to win in the Nutmeg State 75. The Sunoco Modifieds, Thompson Late Models, Limited Sportsmen, SK Light Modifieds, and Mini Stocks join them on the card. Post time, pricing, and other information will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

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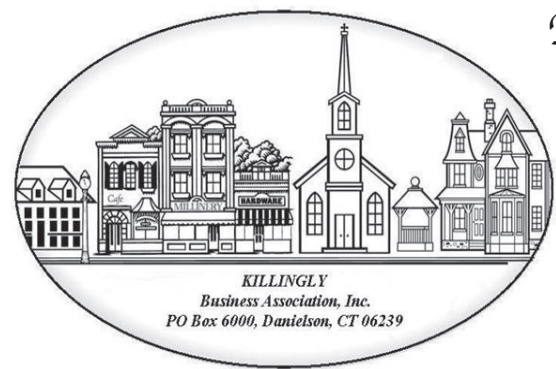
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Westview Channel 2. Elisabeth and her musical themes will resonate across Westview and Westview Commons’ inter-generational audience. She is world-renowned for her voice being as clear as her messaging; singing about things lost, things found, and all of the journeys in-between.

Born and raised in Vermont, Elisabeth’s signature sound is a result of her own life as well as that of her family. She learned about classical and symphonic compositions from her parents and music teachers while also discovering contemporary American singers and songwriters through her own explorations. Her father, Werner von Trapp (second-oldest son of the Trapp Family Singers), maintained a lifelong love of playing guitar and singing, and Elisabeth continues his legacy in these arts. The range of songs that she is able to perform adds to her impact. Listeners at Westview Commons and Westview Health Care Center may hear familiar tunes in addition to songs they have never heard before—but all of the pieces performed are uniquely vocalized by Elisabeth. Due to pandemic precautions, the typically frequent concerts at Westview Health Care Center and Country Living at Westview Commons have not occurred for over a year. Elisabeth von Trapp heralds a harmonious return to normality for the patients and residents.

Broadway Live Productions, LLC, a local live performance production company located in Woodstock Valley, is producing the event and owner of Broadway Live Productions David T. Panteleakos is delighted to know that world-class performer Elisabeth von Trapp sounds the return of high-quality talent provided to the people residing in this quiet corner of Connecticut.

“After the year we have all endured, there is such a longing for a return to normalcy for all of us and this event is a perfect transition back to live performance,” stated Mr. Panteleakos. “Elisabeth’s own experience and stories that she inherited through her family provide a perfect symbolic connection for overcoming a dark and challenging time. We are all so very excited to hear Elisabeth perform and look forward to many more concerts and productions in the near future in Northeastern Connecticut.”



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EDITOR

# A Revolutionary legacy

April 19, 1775, next week, 246 years ago, was the start of the Revolutionary War after the battles of Lexington and Concord. The big debate still remains as to whether or not ‘The Shot Heard Round’ the World’ took place in Concord, or in neighboring Lexington.

This time in our history, while brutal and necessary brings with it much intrigue for many. The tenacity and bravery of those who fought for our independence is beyond admirable. The events that took place during the Revolutionary War, read like a novel in modern times and have been brought to life through such works as Howard Fast’s “April Morning,” where we need to be reminded that this story is not fiction.

On that spring morning, more than 700 British soldiers who were given a secret tip on the whereabouts of colonial military supplies in Concord, marched towards town to confiscate the lot. The Patriots who had developed a top-notch intelligence network, largely the work of George Washington’s Culper Ring, and the Sons of Liberty, had received notice weeks in advance and were able to move the supplies to safety.

Paul Revere and William Dawes had plans to ride ahead of the British troops to warn other Patriots. Knowing the task was risky, Revere secured the help of about 30 other men to make sure word reached Lexington and Concord if the two were captured. Revere told militia leaders to look at the steeple of the Old North Church each night for a signal. One lit lantern meant the Regulars would come by land through the Boston Neck. Two lanterns meant the British would come via the Charles River on row boats into Cambridge, “One if by land, two if by sea.”

The night before the famous battle, Dr. Joseph Warren sent Dawes to Lexington where he was joined with Revere to warn Sam Adams and John Hancock that the British were coming.

It was midnight in Lexington when Revere and Dawes were joined by a third rider, Dr. Samuel Prescott. Prescott had been courting a woman in Lexington and met Dawes and Revere by chance. Because he believed in the cause, Prescott joined the men. The three riders were stopped by a British patrol not long after. Dawes was able to escape by reversing his direction. Prescott jumped a stone wall and fled using a short cut only locals knew about. The doctor was the only rider to reach Concord. Revere who was now captured, was surrounded by six Regulars and was searched and interrogated. “An officer clapped his pistol to my head, called me by name and told me he was going to ask me some questions, and if I did not give him true answers, he would blow my brains out.” Revere wrote in his diary. The Regulars were spooked by the sound of gunfire in the distance, and let Revere go after asking him for an alternative route to town. Revere made his way back to Lexington where he regrouped with Hancock and Adams, who planned an escape to Woburn.

Throughout the night, the ‘Rebels’ gathered to intercept the British. When the red coats were seen marching onto the Lexington green, the local minutemen knew they were outnumbered. Out of the dawn a shot was fired, and no one knows to this day which side was responsible for it. After the scuttle on the green, eight minutemen and one British soldier were killed. There were accusations from both sides laying blame on one another.

William Sutherland, a British soldier, is on record saying, “I heard Major Pitcairn’s voice call out. ‘Soldiers, don’t fire, keep your ranks, form and surround them.’ Instantly some of the villains who got over the hedge fired at us which our men for the first time returned.”

Sylvanus Wood, a minute man had recalled something different: “He swung his sword, and said, ‘Lay down your arms, you damned rebels, or you are all dead men – fire!’ Some guns were fired by the British at us from the first platoon, but no person was killed or hurt, being probably charged only with gunpowder. The company immediately dispersed; and while the company was dispersing and leaping over the wall, the second platoon of the British fired, and killed some of our men. There was not a gun fired by any

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It’s time for the lies to stop

To the Editor:

In his April 9 letter to you (“Stimulus bill should have been passed before Biden took office”), Ed DeLuca deals in pure fantasy, i.e. fake news, “alternative facts” or lies. Whether he comes by his version of how the stimulus bill was enacted through an honest misunderstanding of how legislation is enacted or is deliberately disingenuous, I’ll leave that judgement to others. But it seems obvious that dealing in facts instead of gratuitous name calling (“mindless ilk, boot-licking puppets”) would facilitate honest debate.

I’m sure that most of your readers know that a bill must be passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and be signed by the President to become law. The exception is when a bill is vetoed by the President, but the veto is overridden by two-thirds votes of both houses. Your readers will no doubt remember that, prior to January, Republicans were in the majority in the Senate, Democrats were in control of the House and a Republican was President.

Those who deal in facts, not fantasy, will recall that before the last session of Congress ended and President Biden was inaugurated, the House, led by Democrat Nancy Pelosi, passed legislation to increase the \$600 checks to Americans previously enacted into law to

\$2,000 after President Trump championed the idea. The Senate, led by Republican Mitch McConnell, blocked it.

Does that sound like Speaker “Pelosi and her mindless ilk” held it up because they didn’t want Trump to get credit as Mr. DeLuca states? Or does it sound like the Republican Senate held it up? To paraphrase Mr. DeLuca, hopefully that will be considered come re-election time.

Lies, such as those still being repeated by former President Trump and many Republicans, are jeopardizing the future of the “American Experiment” by sowing hate and division. Witness the recent deplorable racist rant espousing “white replacement theory” by Fox News host Tucker Carlson. And recall the white supremacists in Charlottesville whom Trump praised as fine people chanting, “Jews will not replace us.”

It’s long past time for the lies, and the racist, anti-Semitic and conspiratorial theories to stop. The future of the Republic may well depend on it.

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY

Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to  
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

Please include your place of residence and phone number for verification, not publication. Letters must be received by noon on Tuesdays.

## Little boy, scared ...

Are there some things in life worth believing in ... whether they are true or not?

Like most of my generation, I was raised by a veteran of the Second World War. Tom Brokaw labeled them “The Greatest Generation” and as I’ve mentioned before, I agree. At a moment’s notice, they left their homes for the local recruiting station and into a life and death struggle against the Fascism of Hitler and Mussolini, and the treachery of imperialist Japan. Were they perfect? Of course not. We are all flawed, but they answered the call and saved the free world as we know it.



POSITIVELY  
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As such, my Dad expected from an early age that I stand up straight, respect the flag and fight for what’s right. He also told me never to be afraid to defend myself. He’d say, “Never start the fight but never run away and swing as hard as you can to win it.” My dad wasn’t encouraging me to fight but to stand up and defend myself.

The first movie I ever viewed in a theater wasn’t a Disney cartoon. My dad took me to see an almost four-hour epic starring John Wayne. I sat as a five-year-old, riveted to the screen, as I watched Davy Crockett fighting like a tiger against overwhelming odds, giving his life for his cause. The impact of “The Alamo” shaped my life. Later, Errol Flynn as George Armstrong Custer in the highly fictionalized “They Died with Their Boots On,” and others ... all epic struggles of fighting with courage on both sides of the battle. I absorbed these stories and they’ve become part of my DNA, understanding they are more fiction than fact. The point is they are stories of perseverance and courage.

In my teens I became almost obsessed with learning of heroic acts of bravery against insurmountable odds. A common prayer was “Dear God, when I grow up let me fight in ‘the battle for my life’ and overcome.” Be careful what you wish for. Yesterday, that prayer came to mind with regret as the impact of my chemo ravaged my body and mind and I felt as though my prayer had unfortunately come true, as I am fighting for my life. My enemy, as most of you know is stage 4 gastric cancer.

Fatigue does make cowards of us all and yesterday morning was my moment in the darkness. For those of you who follow me on social media, I’m sorry if I alarmed you with my posts. I awoke yesterday morning as a frightened little boy, clinging to my store-bought-faux-fur coonskin cap wishing I were as brave as Davy ... but was not.

Today is different. My Crockett cap is firmly

upon my head. The frightened little boy cowering yesterday in a cancer-ridden sixty-six-year-old body, today feels strong, confident, and unafraid. I believe I can and will beat this cancer. I’m enthused by the challenge and the fight is back on.

Where does this fight come from? The books, stories and movies of my youth that encourage me still, play in my head. Heroic speeches ring in my ears. The belief that there are things worth fighting for ... especially your life, against an indiscriminate, unfair disease. I know that someday, somewhere, someone is going to beat this cancer. Why not here and now? Why not me?

There is a song I played for my kids; it’s titled “Give it all you’ve got!” It began with the lyrics ... “Hero’s come in all shapes and sizes, different colors too. Yes, it’s true, yes, you know it’s true. But a fact of all different hero’s, they give it their best shot. Every time win or not, they give it all they’ve got.” I think it encouraged them, as it still does me. I sing this song in my head in my weakest moments.

The examples, stories or fables of others inspire us. They give us courage and often the ability to fight when we’d rather run. They strengthen us to stand back up when we get knocked down. And I wonder ... why is there a move to remove and tear down our traditional heroes at a time they are needed most? (A subject for another time) Scan the records of history and show me anything positive that has ever begun by banning books, erasing history, or trying to change culture by force.

Let me leave you with this little speech from a fun movie and is delivered by Robert Duvall in “Secondhand Lions”:

“Sometimes the things that may or may not be true are the things that a man needs to believe in the most. That people are basically good. That honor, courage and virtues mean everything. That power and money, money and power mean nothing; that Good always triumphs over Evil; and I want you to remember this: That Love, true Love never dies. Doesn’t matter if any of this is true or not. You see a man should believe in these things because these are the things worth believing in.”

I always look for and believe the best. What do look for and believe?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at [www.garywmoore.com](http://www.garywmoore.com).

## Poets in partnership

No matter what I am doing, I always think I should be doing something else, be somewhere else. As life swirls around me, I want to capture certain moments and examine them carefully, sure that I will remember every aspect, only to forget, often in minutes. The capacity to pay attention, listen and feel things needs to be nurtured by whatever means possible. One way for me is through reading and writing poetry. During the month of April, I am sharing the work of local poets.



NANCY WEISS

Writing anything is hard work. Writing poetry is even harder. People who write often can’t help themselves. Images and words come together, and until they land on the page or are read out loud, the writer feels an itch like poison ivy under the skin. It has to be scratched, but the results can be raw and revelatory. Being part of a group can help.

Quiet Corner Poets, led by Christine Kalafus, meet eight times a year at the Pomfret Public Library. Kalafus is a remarkable teacher, an insightful editor and a fine, published writer. Her warmth, humor, style and experiences combine to create a place where we feel at ease sharing our work, discussing each other’s efforts and developing skills and confidence.

Here are some poems from members of Quiet Corner Poets.

Unbridled  
Christine Kalafus

*Riding over the Mason-Dixon Line  
In my mother’s Plymouth Valiant  
My North takes a detour  
We leave it grazing off Interstate 95.*

*My South begins in Latin  
from an over-saddled professor who fires  
Agricola! Agricola!  
Agricolam!  
and pastry crust from the corners of his mouth.*

*Madame advances French from her barre –  
Grand Jete  
My legs split mid-air, head back, smile high  
Plie! Releve!*

*Down, up—as if I am cantering on a horse  
like the girls who wear pearls  
while they much out the stalls  
the closest I will come to them.*

*I fail on pie. It’s pah-kahn not pee-can  
They say giggling, coveting magazines exploding  
with white dresses—talking of a perfect man. Nah.  
I’ve seen my parents’ marriage close up  
so I’ll settle for one good enough.*

*Our Virginia neighbor is a survivalist  
Her garden an acre wide.  
Next to the Beltway, she feeds me rebellion*

and carrots.

My North spit down a girl.

My south shot up a woman.

Here is a poem from Mother Lightning, an activist artist and poet. She is known to her family, neighbors and friends as Cheryl Kapelner Champ.

There’s No Crying in Writing

*The way I see it  
mind’s the cause  
of wanders to past years-  
I’m living now and here I know  
and letting go of fears  
Am ever watchful one may creep  
an obstacle to smash*



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# Hiking in the Spanish Pyrenees

*“Travel is the best way we have of rescuing the humanity of places and saving them from abstraction and ideology.”*  
– Pico Iyer

Barcelona was epic. The works of Gaudi, Joan Miro and Pablo Picasso did not disappointment. But it was over-touristed in the extreme and the forests and mountains were calling.

We drove north to Torla, the gateway to Ordesa National Park which is considered to have some of the best hiking in the Spanish Pyrenees. October is not considered high season, even though temperatures were in the 60s and low 70s and the foliage was turning brilliant shades of color. It was as good as anything we experience in New England, yet the medieval cobblestone streets were deserted. So deserted in fact that we had trouble finding a place to eat. The first day we did any easy 10 mile hike up the Ordesa Valley, along the Arazas River. More of a walk than a hike and the trail was full of families enjoying the weather.

The next day, we hiked six miles on the Faja Racon trail. It began with a 1,700-foot ascent and then the narrow trail wound in and out of several valleys, with the mountains rising precipitously on one side and sheer drop offs on the other. We saw only four or five other hikers on this trail. The pointed rock peak of Tozal del Malo (hill of the bad guy) jutted heavenward like one of Gaudi’s spires.

The third day, we decided to hike around the Otal River Valley. It wasn’t in any of our guidebooks but our host had left a sketch of the route on the coffee table. “It’s a gorgeous place to hike,” she said,” but the road to get there is very bad.” The gravel road was rutted and narrow, but not treacherous. We had driven on worse. The

goal was a loop hike and we started north up the GR-11 along the Rio Ara.

The GR (Grand Randonnée or Gran Recorrido) is a series of long-distance trails in Europe. GR-10 and GR-11 run along the Pyrenees from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean Ocean. As we were pondering this, we almost missed the sign (a hardly visible stone in the ground) for the cut off to Burguil. The trail immediately led to a suspension foot bridge that swayed dramatically under our weight. The topographic map showed an un-named trail heading south to the Otal Valley but it was not well marked and eventually died out. We backtracked until we picked up a trail marked by cairns. It seemed to go in the direction we wanted but after a dozen switchbacks, we could no longer tell in what direction we were going. The compass, that we carry everywhere but never need on the well-marked trails in New England, finally came in handy. We discovered we were on an un-mapped trail heading west toward a city far from where we had parked. We turned around again, followed the compass south and eventually picked up the correct trail (and then lost it several more times) before finally arriving at the Otal River with gorgeous views up the Otal Valley. We followed the river down to the road where we encountered the first people we had seen since we had left the GR 11 earlier in the day.

Girona  
The racket of our wheeled suitcases on the cobblestones of La Rambla de la Libertat, past street cafes and crowded shops, made it feel like every single person was staring at us. I went in search of the bar where someone had the key

DENNIS  
BLANCHETTE  
.....  
NORTH  
GROSVENORDALE

to our Airbnb apartment, which was over a cigar store somewhere close by. It was easier than it sounds and when we arrived, the apartment was like no place we had ever stayed before. The front window looked out on La Rambla and the rear window looked out over the River Onyar and the gorgeously colored buildings lining it. Wandering around the streets we noticed signs of the Catalanian Separatist movement - protest signs and demonstrators wearing flag capes. On one side street we saw the following banner hung across the road: “Dear visitors, be aware: every tourist apartment is a home taken away from the local people.” That night small groups of demonstrators milled about the plaza below the apartment beating on drums.

On Monday, we hired a guide for the day. She had a wicked sense of humor and spoke English well, but even so, I could tell I was only picking up part of what she was putting down. She toured an Irish couple and us around the city for about 2 hours, taking us to the Arab Baths, the Basilica of Sant Feliu and Sant Pere de Galligants, a 12th century Benedictine monastery, showing us things we would have never discovered on our own. She pointed out the various places that Game of Thrones scenes had been filmed. Some were not immediately recognizable because they were shot with green screen background. But once she pointed them out and showed pictures of how they actually looked in the show, they came to life. She claimed to be certified to give Game of Thrones tours, along with a slight smirk, and I couldn’t tell if she was serious or not.

I questioned her on the banner we had seen regarding tourist apartments and the general feeling towards tourists. Her response was that the unrest was caused by a small group that could not remember the past. According to her, Girona was a dying town until the tourists came and brought it back to life. Now that it has been rejuvenated a selfish group of people want it all for themselves. “Always be sure,” she said, “tourists are welcome.”

On Monday night, the demonstrations ramped up considerably in anticipation of the Tuesday sentencings of the Catalanian Separatists. The entire plaza was filled with demonstrators banging drums and chanting. One by one, windows of the apartments on both sides of La Rambla opened and the residents began chanting and banging drums in support of the demonstrators.

The verdicts read on Tuesday found most of those on trial guilty of sedition and they were given nine- to 13-year prison sentences. The protests increased day by day as we made our way through Costa Brava back toward Barcelona. A general strike was announced for Friday, the day of our departure. The separatists planned to block highways in and out of Barcelona and threatened to close the airport. We glanced at each other in dismay. On our last international trip, the incompetence of Delta Airlines had left us stranded in Ecuador and turned a routine 6 hour trip into a three-day nightmare. We plugged “Barcelona Airport” into Google Maps and like Jack Reacher, “hoped for best and prepared for the worst.” We arrived at the airport ahead of schedule without encountering any blockades. I was simultaneously grateful that Google got us there and unnerved that they could.


## Four steps to a winning short-term savings strategy

Saving money for emergencies and short-term goals is of course a critical component to financial wellbeing. But when it comes to creating a short-term savings strategy, many people don’t think beyond the traditional savings account – and some may not be saving at all. Here’s a four-step process to get you on the road to successful short-term saving so that you can plan well to be prepared for the unexpected, and have the funds to afford those larger purchases and experiences that’ll help you to live well in the next several years ahead.

First, understand the difference between short-term and long-term saving.

Short-term saving is intended to provide you with the funds you need in case of a financial emergency, and to fund short-term goals you have set for yourself in the next three to five years, like buying a car or checking that dream vacation off of your bucket list.

This is different than long-term savings such as college savings plans or retirement savings. Long-term and short-term savings require different strategies, so it’s important to understand that you can’t apply a one-size-fits-all approach to both. It’s also important to remember not to prioritize your short-term “saving to



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spend” over your long-term “saving to invest.”

Next, determine how much you can save.

In order for you to build up short-term savings successfully, you first need to determine how much you can realistically save while also paying your bills, meeting your everyday needs and maintaining your long-term investment strategy. This is where

having a solid budget comes into play. A good rule of thumb is to follow the 50/30/20 rule. Take your monthly income after taxes and earmark 50 percent of it to cover your bills and basic needs; allow 30 percent for spending on every day non-essentials; and dedicate 20 percent to savings. Just remember, though, to then further divide up that 20 percent earmarked for savings between your short-term savings and your long-term investments.

Choose the right savings vehicles.

For short-term savings, you’ll want to stay away from higher-risk investments like stocks, because there’s not enough time to recover your losses if there’s a dip in the market. Instead, opt for a lower-risk option like savings accounts, bonds, or CDs. Keep in mind that even among these products there are differences in risk, though and that, in general, products with higher risk also provide a higher return. You must also consider whether your deposits will be

liquid, meaning that you can withdraw your funds at any time without penalties or loss of principal. Some savings vehicles, for example CDs, require that your deposit remain in the account for a certain amount of time.

Depending on your overall savings goals, it may be a good idea to set up a combination of accounts. A low risk, high-liquidity account is ideal for an emergency fund, while a slightly higher-risk, less liquid investment may be the better option to maximize savings for a particular purchase or goal that is several years away

Here are some good short-term savings options to consider:

Savings or money market accounts – These accounts carry the least risk and are highly liquid. They’re best for saving funds that you may want to access within a year or less. Interest rates on savings and money market accounts are low in general right now but some accounts do still offer a greater interest rate than others, so it pays to shop around. A savings account with an online bank will typically offer a slightly higher annual percentage yield (APY) than a traditional bank, since it doesn’t have the same overhead costs. And a high-yield savings account or money market account will likely provide greater returns than a traditional savings account – currently anywhere from about .4 to .6 percent APY. A little online research can go

a long way toward finding an account with the best return – Bankrate.com is a great place to start.

Short-term corporate or U.S. government bond funds and U.S. Treasury’s – Short-term bonds are issued by corporations to fund their investments, and by the U.S. government to cover its investments. Treasuries are specific securities you can purchase from the government in the form of T-bonds, T-bills or T-notes. All are low-risk and highly liquid – they can be bought and sold on any day that the stock market is open. They pay out a higher interest rate than savings accounts – about 1 percent, on average – but you’ll need to leave your money in longer to see those gains. This is a good option for saving money that you don’t intend to access for two to five years.

Certificate of Deposit (CD) – A CD offers higher interest rates than either savings accounts or money market accounts, but you are required to leave your money in them for a specified amount of time. This can range from weeks to years. The longer you agree to leave your money in the CD, the higher the rate the bank will pay. Currently, a three-month CD pays 0.4 percent APY, while a five-year CD can pay out up to 1.25 percent APY. If you plan to use a CD, consider aligning the maturity of the CD with when you will need the money.

Lastly, remove temptation to stray from your saving strategy

by making it automatic.

Automating the saving process is a great way to avoid the temptation to divert your savings into your pocket for spending cash. Set up an automatic transfer to occur on each pay day, so that the funds you’ve earmarked to save go from your checking account to your savings account without you even having to think about it. If you have direct deposit from your employer, you may even be able to set up the direct deposit so that your paycheck is split between your checking and savings accounts.

For more tips and resources on how to Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™, visit our Advisor’s Blog at whzwealth.com/advisor-blog.

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### EDITORIAL

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of Captain Parker’s company, within my knowledge.”

While the British soldiers continued to search for supplies, the colonial militia was able to regroup in Concord where they later met the red coats at the North Bridge. The British were outnumbered this time and retreated to South Boston after losing several soldiers.

Some say the Shot Heard Round the World happened on the bridge in Concord, while residents in Lexington have long said the first shot to kick off the revolution took place on their green.

The phrase ‘Shot Heard Round the World’ was coined by author Ralph Waldo Emerson 62 years after the battle. His poem titled “Concord Hymn” was about the Battle of Concord.

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,

Their flag to April’s breeze unfurled,

Here once the embattled farmers stood,

And fired the shot heard ’round the world

Some historians say that because the Battle of Concord was the first real American victory in the Revolutionary War, that shot, should be considered the one heard ‘round the world’. Other historians say that because the first shot took place in Lexington, that should be the famous “shot heard ‘round the world.”

In his diary, Paul Revere wrote about the battle, “I heard the report, turned my head, and saw the smoke in front of the British troops, they immediately gave a great shout, ran a few paces, and then the whole fired. I could first distinguish irregular firing, which I suppose was the advance guard, and then platoons. At the time I could not see our Militia, for they were covered from me, by a house at the bottom of the street.”

In Concord, British Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith in a report to General

Thomas Gage said that the British were the first to fire in Concord, stating “While at Concord we saw vast numbers assembling in many parts; at one of the bridges they marched down, with a very considerable body, on the light infantry posted there. On their coming pretty near, one of our men fired on them, which they returned.”

The debate has continued between the towns of Concord and Lexington, as to which is the birth place of American Liberty. Even though the first shots took place in Lexington, Emerson’s ‘Shot’ was fired in Concord.

In 1875, President Ulysses S. Grant wanted to forgo attending the centennial to avoid conflict between the two towns. In 1894, the Lexington Historical Society sought to name April 19, ‘Lexington Day’ to the outright objections of Concord citizens. To ease both towns, a compromise was made where April 19 is now referred to as Patriot’s Day.

## Greater Putnam Interfaith Council encourages personal Earth Day projects

PUTNAM — The Greater Putnam Interfaith Council has cancelled their annual Earth Day activities due to Covid concern. But they would like to encourage area residents to participate in projects that support the protection and betterment of our environment for all people.

One such project is Putnam Beautification Day, the annual town cleanup, on April 24 (rain date May 1) from 8:30 to 11 a.m., starting at the Rotary Park bandstand.

Concurrent with the United Nations Mother Earth Day on April 22, Earth

Day has been a day to promote environmental issues since 1970.

The 2021 theme is Restore Our Earth. To find suggested Earth Day projects and participate in a live digital event, visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org).

GPIC is an organization that represents the diversity of faiths in the community of Putnam and surrounding towns. Stewards and advocates for justice, it promotes programs on faithfulness and mutual understanding and respect among all faith communities.





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