

The Complex continues to push the boundaries of art education



The Complex modern dance company.

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM—The Complex Performing and Creative Arts Centre on Main Street, Putnam, has been pushing the boundaries of the creative arts for 15 years.

Founded in 2005 by Nichola Johnson, owner and MFA-holder, The Complex seeks to provide children, teens, and young adults a creative arts education in the areas of dance, theatre, music, and creative/visual arts.

According to Johnson, the mission of The Complex is “to offer the highest level of arts education to the community, create an innovative hub for performance and education, open a space for students to grow and flourish through creative critical thinking, and ignite a life-time love of the arts for all students.”

Johnson began dancing at the age of three and spent her childhood and adolescence in a dance studio where she studied ballet, jazz, modern, and tap. Influenced by the typical competitive, trophy-centered mindset of the studio, Johnson didn’t realize at first how little she knew about the history of dance or the elements of choreography until she graduated from high school. During her undergrad, she had the privilege to study the movements of the great modern dance pioneers Martha Graham, Katherine Dunham, Jose Limon, and Lester Horton. She also began to explore elements of theatre, acting methodologies, and stage design, realizing how big and incredible the world of the arts truly is.

The more she learned, the more she grew to love the arts and the more she wished

Please Read **COMPLEX**, page A7

Savor the magic of childhood at Sadie’s Sweet Shop

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM—Sweet shops are magical places. No matter how old you are, their nostalgic scent of chocolates, caramels, and freshly baked pastries will always captivate your attention and leave your mouth watering. As children, we stood at the counter on tiptoes, blinking our bright eyes at a myriad of colorful treats displayed beneath glass covers, taking minutes to choose which to carry home with us in our brown paper bags. As the sugary, sticky coating melted on our fingers and lips, we’d imagine what life would be like to live in a candy shop surrounded by delicious treats every day.

For Jenna Perez, this thought wasn’t merely an imagination—it was her goal.

Perez grew up watching her older sister experiment in the kitchen, creating delicious baked desserts and treats to share with the family. The more she watched her sister, the more she felt inspired to follow her own dream of owning a sweet shop.

“I have always had a passion for owning a sweet shop,” she said. “There was nothing like it in our area.”

Perez began to do her own experiments with sugar and syrup. As she pursued to learn the ins and outs of candy making, her family stuck behind her the entire time.

“My family is my biggest supporter,” she said.

She also mentioned a college professor who had helped to guide her in the right direction. Finally, in November of 2017,



Photos Rebecca Ramsey

A sampling of the delectable delights available at Sadie's Sweet Shop in Putnam.

Sadie’s Sweet Shop was opened at 12 Pomfret St., Putnam. The shop was named after Perez’s mother who her father nicknamed “Sweet Sadie” when they were 15. The business grew in popularity quickly, and they were able to expand their selection of treats and services. In addition to candy, they now offer catering, parties, pastries, classes, and much more.

According to Perez, their

Please Read **SADIE’S**, page A7

St. Joseph School closes after 138 years

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — St. Joseph School in North Grosvenordale has been offering outstanding Catholic education since 1882. Unfortunately, due to low enrollment and lack of funding, the school has chosen to close its doors at the end of the 2020 school year.

Rev. David P. Choquette, Pastor of

St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, informed the members of the St. Joseph School’s closure through a letter released on June 1.

“I have witnessed the tremendous dedication of so many of you as well as the great love that you have for this school,” he wrote. “However, despite all of the hard effort by so many over the years, the school has fallen into serious financial difficulty stemming primarily

from a significant decline in enrollment.”

Principal David Sizemore shared some kind words for members of the school in a video he posted to the school’s Facebook page several days later. In the video, he discussed the history of the school and thanked the students, parents, and teachers for their love and support.

Speaking to the students, he said, “In my two years as principal, you

were an absolute blessing and joy to work with. You put a big smile on my face each and every day.”

The history of the school is enormous, having been opened four years before the Statue of Liberty was placed into New York City’s harbor and 29 years before the Titanic set sail. Through its 138 years, St. Joseph’s School has been in continuous service to the greater northeastern Connecticut region.

To bid farewell to the school that has been a huge influence on thousands of students for three decades, the school hosted a special Farewell Mass on Tuesday, June 30, in the school’s parking lot. Attendants were limited to 150 people to fit within COVID-19 regulations. Those who couldn’t attend in person were able to watch or listen to the mass on Facebook Live via WINY Radio.

During the Farewell

Mass, Choquette prayed for the church and read from the second book of Samuel and the Gospel of Matthew. He compared the school to Joseph, Mary’s husband, who trusted God and performed his role as stepfather to Jesus.

“Joseph was faithful to his call,” said Choquette. “Through these past 138 years, St. Joseph’s School has been faithful to its call.”

Please Read **ST. JOSEPH**, page A7

Rebecca Hague named 2020 Wood Scholar



Photo Courtesy

The 2020 Wood Scholar presentation to Rebecca Hague at Patrick Wood’s memorial tree, Clark Chapel, Pomfret School. From the left Pat’s sister-in-law Jennifer Wood, brother Colin Wood, mother Lisette Rimer, father Bob Wood with Pat’s niece Addison, Rebecca, and her parents Hank and Jen Hague.

POMFRET — Rebecca Hague of Pomfret is the 2020 winner of the Patrick David Wood ‘01 Memorial Prize. The award is given to a high-achieving local student entering Pomfret School in the fall.

Hague distinguished herself at Pomfret Community School with outstanding scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. She was the eighth-grade class president and president of the National Junior Honor Society. She received the Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Leader Award and the Excellence in Art Award.

Hague was presented with a silver bowl by Patrick’s family at Pat’s memorial tree near the chapel at Pomfret School.

“I was honored to receive this award,” she said. “It was special to meet and spend some time with Patrick’s family, especially to be handed the cup by his niece, Addy.”

Patrick graduated from Pomfret School as valedictorian in 2001. He was a Merit Scholar, earned perfect SAT scores, and won the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship given to highest-achieving

high school graduates. He graduated from Stanford University in 2005 with distinction in math.

“Pat was a pure learner,” his mother, Lisette Rimer, said. “He was disciplined, and he had insatiable curiosity. When he got home from school in the eighth grade, he would type his notes from his English class so that he could remember grammar lessons. Most importantly,” Rimer said, “his true gift was character. He was humble and gracious, and I can see that Rebecca has those same qualities. She works hard, and she is a caring, compassionate young lady.”

Rimer said that the award evolved from the “multitude of donations, which poured in after his death and which we decided should support like-minded students.” The award is given on the basis of merit, similar to the full-tuition Peck Scholarship Pat received when he attended Pomfret School in 1997. Hague is the 16th winner since the award was established in memory of Patrick, who died in 2006 at age 23.

QVR Rotaract Club awards annual scholarships

REGION — Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, the Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club continued their commitment to local graduating high school seniors through the awarding of five \$1,000 scholarships and hand-delivery of a special dinner for each of the families to share on Wednesday, June 24.

The recipients of QVR Rotaract Club's 2020 Scholarships are Alyssa Arends and Nathan Craig of the Woodstock Academy; Keeley Cerbo and Soudalath Souvanhnaphan of Killingly High School; and Justin St. Martin of Putnam High School.

"We are always amazed to see how successful the young people in our communities are and all that they've accomplished," said outgoing President, Emily

Barnes.

The proceeds of the club's annual trivia night contribute to their scholarship funds.

"I am truly honored to receive this award from an organization as dedicated to helping the community as the QVR Rotaract Club," wrote recipient Nathan Craig.

This year's recipients are moving forward to even more impressive feats; Nathan Craig plans to study at Brown University in the fall, Alyssa Arends at Quinnipiac University, Soudalath Souvanhnaphan at the University of Connecticut, Keeley Cerbo at Nichols College, and Justin St. Martin at Landmark College.

"We felt these students rose above the rest in demonstrating their commitment to their com-

munity and the ideal of 'service above self,'" wrote Scholarship Committee Co-chair, Jessica Fontaine, when describing the competitive pool of applicants this year.

In an effort to provide a special experience during this period of physical distancing, QVR Rotaract Club partnered with local Thompson restaurant, ANYA, to provide a full course meal for the families, delivered to their doorsteps by members of the club. The club also enlisted the help of recipients' references to make a virtual ceremony video hosted on their Facebook page.

"One of our favorite aspects of the scholarship process is meeting recipients at our annual Awards Night where their accomplishments can be celebrated amongst their families,

our community partners, and local leaders," said Scholarship Committee Co-chair and incoming President, Kevin Davis.

"We know this delivery option was a bit unconventional – and we would have much preferred to offer the full Award Night experience – however we hope this might still capture the spirit of celebrating their great achievements," added Scholarship Committee Co-chair, Jessica Fontaine.

About QVR Rotaract Club

The Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club is a community service and professional networking organization for young professionals between the ages of 18 and 35 living and working in Northeastern Connecticut. QVR Rotaract Club is co-spon-

sored by the Putnam and Killingly-Brooklyn Rotary Clubs, and committed to the motto "Service Above Self." Since the club's revival in 2012, QVR Rotaract Club has spent over 850 hours volunteering and fundraising, providing over \$40,000 toward local scholarships, initiatives, and non-profit organizations.

If you are interested in joining or supporting the QVR Rotaract Club, please contact us on facebook.com/QVRRotaractClub, by email at putnamrotaract@gmail.com, or make a donation using Venmo to @QVR-Rotaract.

For more information or photos, please contact Kevin Davis at putnamrotaract@gmail.com.

POLICE LOGS

Putnam police log

PUTNAM — The Putnam Police Department reported the following arrests over the past week.

Elissa Lynn Smith, age 40, of Dayville was arrested on June 22 for Disorderly Conduct.

Christopher M. Johnson, age 37, of Putnam was arrested on June 27 for Disorderly Conduct (Domestic) and Interfering with an Officer.

Sean Patrick Giorgi, age 26, of Worcester, Mass. was arrested on June 27 for Breach of Peace.

Michael Rosario, age 18, of Putnam was arrested on June 28 for Use of a Motor Vehicle Without Permission and Larceny.



Eastern named a 2020-21 ‘College of Distinction’

WILLIMANTIC — Colleges of Distinction has recognized Eastern Connecticut State University for a variety of distinctions in its 2020-21 rankings, including badges of distinction for Public Colleges, Connecticut Colleges, Business and Education Programs, Career Development, Equity and Inclusion, and Military Support. Colleges of Distinction is a guide for college-bound students that recognizes undergraduate institutions that prioritize a well-rounded and individualized education.

The organization is a trusted resource for guidance counselors, parents and students, focusing on the four criteria of Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Communities and Successful Outcomes to help prospective students find the best-fit college for them.

Schools awarded the Career Development badge have shown that they are well equipped to help their students graduate with confidence for the workplace. The badge recognizes schools with comprehensive four-year plans, advising, internship opportunities, professional networking and career-readiness workshops.

"The Career Development recognition goes beyond a job board and résumé writing," said Tyson Schritter, chief operating officer at Colleges of Distinction. "Eastern has shown inventiveness in connecting with students throughout their academic careers and beyond."

In recognizing schools for Military Support, Colleges of Distinction notes that veterans can be some of the most dedicated and capable students on a college campus, but that the unique challenges they face can impede success. Eastern has been named a stand-out institution for veteran and active-military students due to the efforts of its VETS Center.

"Schools like Eastern ensure that military students are supported through comprehensive education benefits, a committed military/veterans' affairs team, flexible options, trained faculty and dedicated campus activities and community support," wrote Colleges of Distinction in a press release.

Colleges of Distinction also notes that Eastern distinguishes itself as a community dedicated to equal opportunity for all students, faculty and staff. With a dedicated Office of Equity and Diversity and a variety of clubs and campus organizations aimed at fostering intercultural awareness, Eastern ensures that students of all ethnic, gender and religious backgrounds have equal opportunity to thrive academically and personally.

Students of color make up 28 percent of the total student body, up from 17 percent in 2009. In addition, Eastern has the highest percentage of minority faculty of any college or university in Connecticut, including Yale, Wesleyan and the University of Connecticut.

Programs of note that support diversity on campus include the Women's Center, Pride Center and Intercultural Center. Among Eastern's nearly 100 student organizations are those for the campus's Caribbean, African American, Asian, Latin American and religious student communities.

"Eastern has created a welcoming environment for underserved students," said Schritter. "It's a tremendous opportunity to highlight the noteworthy support offered for students who might not otherwise study and thrive on a college campus."

To view Eastern's profile on the Colleges of Distinction website and to find more about the services and experiences it offers, visit <https://collegesofdistinction.com/school/eastern-connecticut-state-university/>.

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VILLAGER STAFF DIRECTORY

NEWS EDITOR, BRENDAN BERUBE 860-928-1818 x 323 brendan@villagernewspapers.com	ADVERTISING MIKAELA VICTOR ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE 860-928-1818, EXT. 313 mikaela@villagernewspapers.com
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FOR ALL OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
KERRI PETERSON
860-928-1818 EXT. 303
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS ARE PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER FRANK G. CHILINSKI 860-928-1818 EXT. 103 frank@villagernewspapers.com	EDITOR BRENDAN BERUBE 860-928-1818 x 323 brendan@villagernewspapers.com
BUSINESS MANAGER RYAN CORNEAU 860-928-1818 EXT. 102 ryan@salmonpress.news	PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE 860-928-1818, EXT. 305 julie@villagernewspapers.com
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JIM DINICOLA 508-764-6102 jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com	

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Reading the morning newspaper is the realist's morning prayer.

George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

Buck’s reaches out to help Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp

WOODSTOCK — Some businesses become iconic over time, others are born that way. One of the latter is Buck’s Soft Serve, LLC. Friends Judy Buell and Emilie Hebert and their families opened the serving windows to the public on May 25, 2018, and the rest is history. It is tucked away in a tiny corner of Woodstock Valley, on the farm originally owned by Harvey Buck, grandfather to Judy’s husband Ben.

In pre-Covid times, visits to the goat pen, bunny cages, and chicken coops, playing corn hole and hula hoops by the tables under the shade tree made it a wonderful family destination. They offer 52 hand mixed individual flavors and their famous Nor’Easters and sundaes, with hard dips, candies and sauces galore, all at a reasonable prices. The loyalty of their fans was demonstrated in October of 2019, when a Planning and Zoning meeting in Woodstock to discuss the permit they had been issued to be held at the Bates Auditorium at Woodstock Academy in order to hold all those who wanted to attend to support them.

Like all businesses, Buck’s had to adapt to the constraints necessary to



control exposure to the virus for their customers and staff this year. They switched to a curbside service that maximizes every inch of space in the former parking area. As you pull up to the ordering tent, you get a chance to see the goats, you place your order and a car hop brings it to your car window.

A quick exit is required to keep the traffic flowing.

Both Buell and Hebert were 4-H club members and attended camp when they were kids. Emilie was born and raised on a dairy farm and went to camp throughout her childhood, “making memories and friends that

I cherish to this day.” She has been leading cow camp since 2016 and also does Farm Camp. Judy and her children also grew up as 4-Hers and attended camp. Judy became a club leader and also served on the advisory group to the Windham County 4-H Fair Board, working with kids in all aspects of running the fair.

Buell said “The friendships I formed and skills I learned from my 4-H experiences are life long.”

Despite the temporary change to their business model, they were concerned enough about the virus induced problems the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp was experiencing, that they set up a donation bucket at their check out and on their Web site. Camp Director Heather Logee and some of her administrative staff have also been on site on the week-ends to sell water to customers and help with traffic management. Since the beginning of May, more than \$4,500 has been raised at Buck’s for the 4-H Camp! We cannot thank them enough for reaching out to help us as we struggle with the financial shortfalls caused by this year of no in- person camps.

Day-Kimball Healthcare to consolidate diagnostic imaging services to Plainfield and Putnam

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) has announced that it will consolidate its diagnostic imaging services, currently located at its Healthcare Center in Danielson, to its other locations offering those services at both the Day Kimball Healthcare Center in Plainfield, and Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam.

The last day of operation for diagnostic imaging services in Danielson is Tuesday, June 30. Beginning Wednesday, July 1, the diagnostic imaging site in Plainfield will resume to normal business hours: Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and every other Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon.

The healthcare system temporarily suspended diagnostic imaging services at the Plainfield Healthcare Center in April in response to significant drops in patient volume resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

“As we safely and carefully resume services that have been delayed due to COVID-19, we have been strategically examining our operations across our system,” said Joseph Adiletta, DKH interim president.

“We recognized an opportunity to improve productivity and efficiency by combining our three imaging services locations to two sites,” he explained.

“Day Kimball’s diagnostic imaging sites at our Plainfield and Putnam locations ensure we’re providing access to diagnostic care for patients across our entire service area,” Adiletta continued. “And, both of these sites offer the latest in cutting-edge technology, including state-of-the-art 3-D technology for mammograms.”

Adiletta explained that the change in locations offering diagnostic imaging services does not result in any eliminations of staffing.

“Only a small handful of employees have been impacted by the consolidation. Those few have either been reassigned to one of our other diagnostic imaging locations, or they have been extended an offer to apply for open diagnostic imaging positions at the main hospital campus,” Adiletta said.

Patients can also access all diagnostic imaging services, including x-rays, CT scans, ultrasounds, nuclear medicine studies, MRI, PET scans, and mammography, at Day Kimball Hospital located at 320 Pomfret Street in Putnam. Please see the website for service hours of

operation.

For more information about diagnostic services at Day Kimball Healthcare, including imaging, blood draw, and laboratory services, visit daykimball.org/diagnostics. For more about guidelines for returning to care at Day Kimball Healthcare, visit daykimball.org/return-to-care.

About Day Kimball Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare’s comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

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

LEGION Act opens door to all area veterans

WINDHAM — Since a brief period following World War I and following the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, veterans who served a minimum of one day on active duty during a period of war have been eligible for membership in The American Legion. Due to gaps between periods of hostility many veterans were ineligible for membership in the organization. Those requirements changed abruptly on July 30, 2019, when the LEGION Act was signed into law.

The signing of the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) opened the door to more than six million veterans to join the world largest veterans organization. The American Legion, which boasts a membership of two million veterans, has been responsible for the initiation of many veteran services, most notably the G.I. Bill of Rights. The G.I. Bill enacted after World War II and the Post-9/11 Bill opened the door for thousands of veterans to pursue not only a college education but also other post-secondary opportunities leading to careers in a broad range of areas. The American Legion has also brought into existence dozens of health care benefits for veterans.

The American Legion, with National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., works every day on behalf of all veterans and U.S. servicemen and women. The organization is based on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children & Youth.

According to Ronald P. Coderre, Commander of District #4, which covers Windham and Tolland counties, there are local American Legion Posts waiting to enroll and assist veterans who have served their country from World War II through the War on Terrorism. American Legion Posts in Northeastern Connecticut are located in Woodstock – Post #111; North Grosvenordale – Post #67; Putnam – Post #13; Danielson – Post #21; Eastford - #203; and Moosup – Post #91. All of these Posts are involved in a variety of veteran related activities and patriotic ceremonies in their respective communities.

“The passage of the LEGION Act opened the way for thousands of local veterans to avail themselves of the opportunities offered by The American Legion. The organization, through its local Posts, cares for veterans of all ages, as well as their family members especially the young people of the community. The mission of the Legion can only continue through the willingness of veterans to step forward and become members. I urge local veterans to seek out the opportunity to join a local Post,” said District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to join a local Post is urged to contact any member of area Posts. These men and women Legionnaires are active throughout their communities. Coderre is available at rpcasociates@snet.net or at 860-942-7243.

Photo Courtesy

World War II veteran and member of American Legion Post #13 Raymond Williams (right) and District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre share a patriotic moment together at the recent Flag Day ceremony held in Putnam on Sunday, June 14.



Husson University announces Spring 2020 President’s List

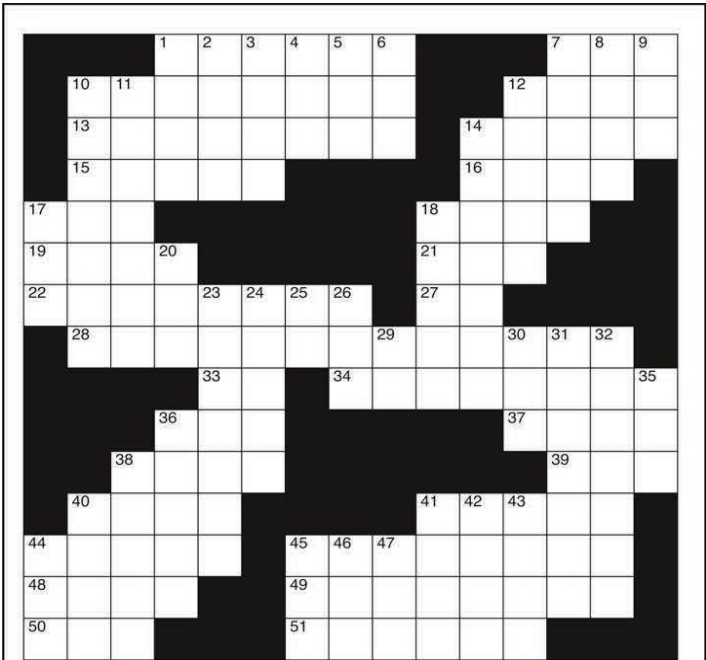
BANGOR, Maine — The following students have been named to the Spring 2020 Presidents List at Husson University. Students who make the President’s List must carry at least 12 graded credit hours during the semester and earn a grade point average of 3.80 to 4.0 during the period.

Rori M. Johnson of Thompson is a first-year student who is currently enrolled in Husson’s Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and Public Health/Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program.

Breanna Rice of Thompson is a senior who is currently enrolled in Husson’s Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Studies/Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program.

Kyle Jonathan Derosier of Danielson is a junior who is currently enrolled in Husson’s Bachelor of Science in Accounting/Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.

For more than 100 years, Husson University has prepared future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has come to represent superior value in higher education. Our Bangor campus and off-campus satellite education centers in Southern Maine, Wells and Northern Maine provide advanced knowledge in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; as well as communication. In addition, Husson University has a robust adult learning program. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.



CLUES ACROSS

1. African nation
7. ___ fi (slang)
10. Not arranged according to size
12. A demand for a show of hands in a card game
13. Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors
14. Panama has one
15. Taking legal action
16. Top of the body
17. Part of (abbr.)
18. Soul and calypso song
19. Murres
21. Irish river
22. Accepts as true
27. The Bay State
28. 1950s Hollywood icon
33. Blood type
34. In a way, became lost
36. Large primate
37. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast
38. Mama ___, folk singer
39. Visual metaphor (computers)
40. Trim by cutting
41. Small group of people
44. Pulitzer-winning scientist
45. Unique S. American mammal
48. Energy, style and enthusiasm
49. One who works for you
50. Snake-like fish
51. Consumers

CLUES DOWN

1. Cylindrical sacs
2. Extinct North Germanic language
3. Late rocker Allman
4. Word element meaning ear
5. Amino acid (abbr.)
6. Promotions
7. Actress Lathan
8. Clothed
9. Unwell
10. Loosen
11. Cephalopod mollusks
12. ___ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull
14. Musical composition
17. Irish bar
18. Greek island
20. Afflict
23. Goes by
24. Ambience
25. Video game manufacturer
26. Surplus Marketing Administration
29. Football position
30. Electronic musical style (abbr.)
31. Furniture with open shelves
32. Clouds of gas in outer space
35. Indian midwife
36. Packers’ signal caller
38. Secret political clique
40. Cry weakly
41. Gomer ___, marine
42. Academic Bill of Rights
43. Negatives
44. Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___
45. Soul singer ___ Lo
46. Doctors’ group
47. Parts per thousand (abbr.)



Photo Courtesy

In response to the Covid-19, First Selectman Amy St. Onge selected Larry Groh, Jr., former First Selectman of Thompson, and Jill St. Cyr, Information Technology Senior Manager at MAPRE, to chair Thompson’s Re-open Thompson Committee. Besides co-chairs Larry Groh and Jill St. Cyr, the committee includes First Selectman Amy St. Onge, as well as volunteers, Michael Darcy, Charlene Langlois, Steve Benoit, Leslie Munshower, Anne Miller and Deb Flanigan. The committee has been busy developing safety measures, as well as updating Thompson’s Disaster Recovery plans for future situations that may arise.

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Econn Motorsports, Thompson Speedway announce 2020 Oval Track plans

THOMPSON — Econn Motorsports and Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park announced today an agreement that will enable oval track racing to continue on the famed five eighths of a mile at Thompson. A tentative 2020 schedule has been developed with the first event being an open practice on Wednesday, July 8.

Plans currently call for Econn Motorsports to also host an open practice on Wednesday, Aug. 5. Racing is set to resume with the Bud 150 on Wednesday, Aug. 19 and the Sunoco World

Series on Oct. 9-11. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is expected to headline both race dates. The parties are exploring the possibility of additional race meets during 2020.

Econn Motorsports is a newly formed race promotion and consulting firm headed by Terry Eames, former General Manager of Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park.

“The COVID-19 pandemic put oval track racing at Thompson in 2020 at risk. We are proud to announce that the Hoenig family and Econn have found a way

for oval track racing to continue during the track’s 80th year and beyond,” Eames said.

Specific details of next week’s practice will be available over the next several days at EconnMotorsports.com. Tickets will only be available online and in advance in keeping with the policies set forth by the State of Connecticut designed to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Econn Motorsports can be reached via EconnMotorsports.com or by voice and text at (860) 327-5544.

Local residents named to RIT Dean’s List for spring semester

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The following local residents made the Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 Spring Semester. Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean’s List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of “Incomplete”, “D” or “F”; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Chris Cheney of Woodstock, who is in the computing security program.

Shane McCarthy of Woodstock, who is in the physics program.

Ian Cook of Pomfret Center, who is in the computer science program.

Andrew Simmons of Putnam, who is in the computer engineering program.

Rochester Institute of

Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,000 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

The university is internationally recognized and ranked for academic leadership in business, computing, engineering, imaging science, liberal arts, sustainability, and fine and applied arts. RIT also offers unparalleled support services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The cooperative education program is one of the oldest and largest in the nation. Global partnerships include campuses in China, Croatia, Dubai and Kosovo.

For news, photos and videos, go to www.rit.edu/news.

Anna Grace Murphy named to Dean’s List at Elon University

ELON, N.C. — Anna Grace Murphy has been named to the Dean’s List for the 2020 spring semester at Elon University.

The Dean’s List is composed of students with no grade below a B-minus and a grade point average of at least 3.50 in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Murphy is the daughter of Mr. Raymond F. Murphy III and of Putnam and Ms. Emily J. Murphy and of East Woodstock.

Elon University has built a national reputation as the premier student-centered environment for experiential learning, with an emphasis on strong personal relationships between students and their faculty and staff mentors.

Elon’s 6,277 undergraduate and 811

graduate students come from 48 states and 47 other countries. Elon’s rigorous curriculum is grounded in the arts and sciences and complemented by nationally accredited professional programs.

Elon is ranked among the top-100 National Universities by U.S. News & World Report, with a #2 ranking for excellence in undergraduate teaching and #11 for innovation. Elon is the only university in the nation recognized by U.S. News for excellence in all eight academic programs “Focused on Student Success.”

Included are #1 rankings for study abroad and learning communities and #2 rankings for first-year experiences and service learning.

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Woodstock Legion to hold ‘rolling’ Independence Day parade

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugal Post 111 American Legion, Inc. is celebrating Independence Day a little differently this year. We are holding a rolling parade this year.

We will start at our Post at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., and will drive to the East Woodstock green and from there to the green near the Woodstock Academy. Please decorate your vehicle in a patriotic manner that will stay on as you are driving (we don’t want litter in our beautiful town).

We will start to line up on Stone Bridge Road at 10:30 a.m.

The route of march is:
Right onto Roseland Park Road
Bear left onto Dugg Hill Road (2.2 miles)
Turn left onto Woodstock Road (3.2 miles)
Turn right onto Prospect Street (3.7 miles)
Turn left onto Dr. Pike Road (3.9 miles)
Go around the green
Turn left back onto Woodstock Road (4.0 miles)
Turn right onto Dugg Hill Road (4.6 miles)
Turn right onto Child Hill Road (5.9 miles)
Turn left onto Academy Road (7.1 miles)
End at the Town green (7.4 miles)
Park onto the green for a short ceremony (please stay in/near your car).



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More about Elliott’s Station

I’ve received still more feedback about Elliott’s Station in Pomfret so will pass along the interesting tidbits. John Carter, past president of Pomfret’s Historical Society, called and clarified that the building that is still standing and is now a residence was the freight station, not the passenger station, which was tiny. This freight station building at one time also served as a store and the local post office. John commented that Mr. Elliott would only let the railroad cross though his land if they put in a station. (Conversation June 27).

This weekend our country celebrates the anniversary of its Independence, tomorrow being the 4th of July. I thought it would be timely to branch out from Killingly and write about two signers of the Declaration of Independence who were from Eastern Connecticut, William Williams and Samuel Huntington.

“A Congregational pastor’s son, (William) Williams was born in 1731 at Lebanon, Conn., his lifelong home. After graduating from Harvard in 1751, he began studying for the ministry under his father. Four years later, during the French and Indian War (1754-63), he accompanied a British expedition to Lake George, in northeastern New York, that won a victory. Back home, he became a merchant. In 1771 he married a daughter of Jonathan Trumbull, Royal Governor of Connecticut; they had three children.

“During his long political career, Williams held a myriad of local, provincial, and State offices: town clerk (1752-96) and selectman (1760-85); member, clerk, and speaker of the lower house of the colonial legislature (1755-76); State legislator (1781-84); member of the Governor’s council (1784-1803); judge of the Windham County court (1776-1805); and probate judge for the Windham district (1775-1809). He also represented Connecticut at various New England meetings, and attended the 1788 convention that ratified the Federal Constitution, of which he approved.

“Upon the outbreak of the Revolution,

Williams threw his weight behind the cause. Besides writing tracts for the press expressing the colonial viewpoint, he prepared Revolutionary state papers for Governor Trumbull. Williams also raised money for and personally contributed to the war effort. Between 1773 and 1776 he held a colonelcy in the Connecticut militia and served on the provincial council of safety. In Congress (1776-78 and 1783-84), he sat on the Board of War and helped frame the Articles of Confederation, though he did not sign them. During the winter of 1780-81, while a French regiment was stationed in Lebanon, he moved out of his home and turned it over to the officers. Williams died at the age of 80 in 1811. His grave is in the Trumbull Cemetery, about a mile northeast of town.” (www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/declaration/bio52.htm)

You may be more familiar with Samuel Huntington, who resided in Norwich. I found many Web sites that included information on him, but chose this one from his homestead since it was a local one (http://huntingtonhomestead.org/about_samuel.html.). The homestead in Scotland, CT is not that far if you would like to visit when we are out of Pandemic mode.

“Samuel Huntington was born on July 16, 1731*, the fourth of ten children of Nathaniel and Mehetabel (Thurston) Huntington. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Huntingtons were a large and prominent family in this region. Samuel’s great-grandfather Simon was among the original settlers of Norwich in 1660, his grandfather Joseph was one of the founders of Windham and his father Nathaniel helped to establish the Scotland area as a separate parish of Windham. Nathaniel was a prosperous and influential farmer who owned a 180-acre farm bordering Merrick’s Brook in Scotland Parish.



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

The house where Samuel Huntington was born and raised was built for his father about 1723. It was two stories in height with one room on each floor. In the present house, the east front room on the ground floor and the chamber above it are Nathaniel Huntington’s original house. In form and construction, this house reflected a conservative approach to building that was rooted deep in the seventeenth century. The house was enlarged and remodelled to its present appearance in several phases over the next 120 years.

“Nathaniel Huntington sent three sons to Yale where they trained for careers in the ministry, but Samuel was not one of them. On his own, the young man pursued the study of law in the library of Reverend Ebenezer Devotion, and under the instruction of several lawyers. In 1754 Samuel received permission to practice law in the Connecticut colony. In 1760, he moved to the river port town of Norwich where greater opportunities existed for a young and ambitious attorney. It was here that he launched his illustrious political career.

From election as a Representative from Norwich to the Connecticut General Assembly in 1764, Samuel rose to King’s Attorney for Connecticut and Judge and Chief Justice of the Connecticut Superior Court. Because of his patriot sympathies he was appointed a member of Governor Trumbull’s Council of Safety and a delegate to the Continental Congress, where in 1776 he signed the Declaration of Independence. He represented Connecticut in the Continental Congress until 1784, serving as President from 1779 through 1781. Those were some of the most difficult years in the War for Independence. Through quiet diplomacy and encouragement, Samuel was successful in encouraging the states to meet their quo-

tas of men and provisions. It was during his term as President that the Congress ratified the Articles of Confederation and adopted the name ‘United States.’ In 1786, Samuel was elected Governor of Connecticut, an office he held until his death in 1796. He presided over the adoption of the Federal Constitution in 1788 and the decision to erect a new state house in Hartford, designed by the highly regarded Boston architect Charles Bulfinch”.

Samuel Huntington died Jan. 5, 1796 and was buried in the Old Norwichtown Cemetery, Norwich, Connecticut. (www.findagrave.com). *The date of his birth varies on various sites depending on whether they used the old calendar or our current one.

John Hart, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Hopewell, New Jersey, was also born in Eastern Connecticut, in Stonington, and moved with his family to New Jersey as a child. His farm and the fulling and grist mills that he owned were severely damaged by the British during the Revolution. He died in 1779, aged 68 and was buried in Hopewell, New Jersey (Malone, Dumas. “The Story of the Declaration of Independence,” p. 147). I know of John Hart from my sister Ann Markunas Fitts who named my Godson Robert Hart Fitts after this signer.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, June 2020. Special thanks to John Carter for information on Elliott’s, and Ann M. Fitts for alerting me about John Hart. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). 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, Connecticut 06329.

Safely manage insect pests in your gardens



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

You plant and tend your garden hoping to enjoy a bountiful harvest and beautiful blooms. Despite proper planning and planting, insects can move in and wreak havoc on your garden. The good news is, you can manage problem pests without harming the pollinators that are so important to your garden.

Start by reviewing the care your plants need to thrive. Make sure you are watering thoroughly and only when needed. Consider mulching the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic material to conserve moisture, moderate soil temperature, suppress weeds and improve the soil as they decompose.

Only fertilize if needed. Over fertilization, especially with high nitrogen and fast release products, can stimulate lush, succulent growth that is more susceptible to insect damage. Let your plants, not the fertil-

izer label, be your guide. Pale plants and those not performing as expected may need a nutrient boost. Consider a low nitrogen, slow release fertilizer that won’t stimulate lush, succulent growth or damage the plants when the weather is hot and dry.

Tolerate a bit of damage and wait for the songbirds and beneficial insects, like lady beetles and green lacewings, manage these pests for you. If the damage is more than you can tolerate, consider using an eco-friendly control product.

One you may not be familiar with is lightweight horticulture oil, like the OMRI-certified Summit Year-Round® Spray Oil (YRSO). This can be applied to garden plants during the growing season to manage insects such as aphids, mites, adelgids, scale, leafhoppers and whiteflies. Horticultural oils have been used for many years because they are low risk and effective against a variety of pests.

Horticulture oils kill insects by blocking the air holes through which they breathe. This makes them effective against all stages of the insect’s development from egg through adult.

The oil must contact the insect to be effective. If a ben-

eficial insect lands on a treated plant, it will not be injured. Avoid treating plants when bees and other beneficial insects are present, so you do not accidentally spray them with the oil.

YRSO horticulture oil (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) can also help reduce the incidence and spread of aphid-transmitted viruses. It interferes with insect feeding which helps reduce the transmission of the virus by the insect.

Lightweight horticulture oils have a minimal waiting period between the last application and harvest. Always check the label before using any product whether organic, natural or synthetic. You will find valuable information on the label, including application rates and directions to help you attain the best results.

You may also find some added benefits when reviewing the label. Horticulture oils can help in managing powdery mildew on plants like beebalm, phlox, peonies and cucumbers. Some can be applied when plants are dormant to smother and kill overwintering mites and aphids as well as egg masses of pests like the gypsy moth.

Monitor your garden throughout the summer. You



Photo Courtesy

Lightweight horticulture oil can be applied to garden plants during the growing season to manage insects like these leafhoppers.

will enjoy watching your plants grow, make timely harvests and discover insect pests when the populations are small and much easier to manage.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow

Anything” DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers’s Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

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SADIE'S
continued from page A1

most popular items are their fresh hand-dipped chocolates and truffles, but their cupcakes and unique selection of gummies are close runners-up. Perez has three daughters who all enjoy spending time at their mother's sweet shop and helping her create treats. Their favorites are the cupcakes, gummies, and chocolate-covered pretzels.

The Coronavirus pandemic hit Sadie's Sweet Shop hard, but they were fortunately able to stay running through online

COMPLEX
continued from page A1

she had received a deeper level of training earlier in her childhood dance studio. These thoughts inspired her to open The Complex Performing and Creative Arts Centre where children in her community could receive exceptional training while simultaneously excelling in personal growth.

Unlike other competitive recital dance schools, The Complex focuses on creating ambassadors of the arts who deeply understand their craft and enjoy what they do—whether its dance, theatre, music, or visual arts. The Complex is run by several dedicated and experienced artists, many of whom hold master's degrees and are high school teachers or college professors. Each one values education and teaches with care and integrity.

"Our mission is to give our learners a comprehensive experience in technique, creative development, and self-discovery," said Johnson. "We encourage our students to push past their comfort zones and develop work that makes change."

Last year, their student dance company created a full-length work in response to the school shooting epidemic in the country and performed it at

orders and the support of others.

"Thanks to the support of our customers and businesses like the Broken Crust Pizzeria, our online sales kept us going," she said.

Customers can shop in-store or place orders by phone, email, or on their website at sadiesweetshop.com. They also offer free local delivery and curbside pickup. Perez is hoping to begin offering in-store parties again during phase 3 of Connecticut's reopening.

Sadie's Sweet Shop is the epitome of a child's dreamland with bright pink walls and a

The Loos Center for area high school students as well as at Providence Water Fire's Fringe Festival. This is just one example of the exceptional events The Complex has been a part of.

Like many other businesses in the community, The Complex was negatively affected by the coronavirus. On March 12, the complex was two hours away from their final dress rehearsal for their winter musical "School of Rock" which they were to perform in collaboration with The Bradley Playhouse. They had been working tirelessly for months. The rights were paid, and the advertising was done. As they were preparing to open the show, they received word that Broadway had closed and Disney had closed. After a hard decision, they decided to follow suit and moved the production to March 2021. Both The Complex and The Bradley Playhouse suffered from the sudden cancellation.

"It was the scariest time I have ever experienced," said Johnson.

Two weeks later, all classes were running via room and Google classroom. Despite the challenging circumstances, The Complex was committed to not turning away any family that had lost jobs or couldn't afford tuition. The loss of performances and tuition lead to a 60 percent

checkered floor. Colorful treats line the walls in glass jars or plastic. Starry-eyed children or adults with a sweet tooth will be impressed by the wide selection of candies and other treats.

Working in a candy store is different from what children might imagine. It takes times and effort to stay on top of orders and maintain quality—but there is still some magic in it. People smiling when they enter the shop, children laughing at the birthday parties they cater, or customers saying a kind word is enough magic to make Perez glad she pursued her dream.

decrease in income.

"We will keep fighting to stay open for the next 15 years, but it has not been easy!" said Johnson.

They have set up a tuition relief fund to help offset the massive amount of tuition loss.

Currently, Johnson is planning to reopen for a summer season on July 7, operating inside their building at about 20 percent capacity. They have designed classes to ensure minimal students are in the building at a time to allow for movement freedom and physical distancing. Students also have the option to study virtually this summer for their four-week classes. The Complex will also be teaching dance, acting, and music classes for ages four and up this summer, and private music lessons will still be held virtually through August. Their annual Summer Arts Intensive, a week-long arts camp for students aged 12-20, is still being offered.

The Complex is determined to continue to deliver a high level of arts education despite its current challenges. Nichola Johnson is thankful for the generosity of others and is looking forward to great things in the future. To find out more about projects, specific classes, and opportunities, visit thecpac.org.

St. Joseph
continued from page A1

He encouraged the community to keep faith and to remember the many gifts and blessings God bestowed upon the community through the faithful service of St. Joseph School.

After Choquette delivered the mass, Sizemore honored several teachers, friends, parents, and alumni who have contributed to the school throughout the years through their support and commitment. He awarded several outstanding members of the school with St. Joseph School Awards and newly created Lifetime Achievement Awards meant

to recognize members who poured their lives into the school.

To end the ceremony, attendants read together the school's mission statement: "The mission of St. Joseph school is to create a strong foundation of Catholic faith in a caring, respectful, and nurturing environment. We encourage academic success, instill discipline, and infuse lifetime learning skills in each student."

The doors of the school have closed, but the influence St. Joseph School has had on Connecticut won't be easily forgotten. Their legacy will live on in the hearts and attitudes of its teachers, faculty, and alumni for years to come.

Woodstock Academy declines ESSER CARES funds

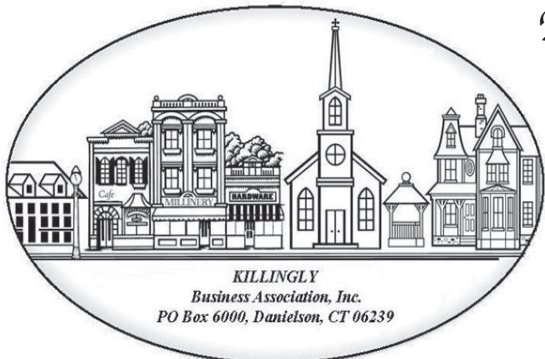
WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy is eligible to receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Grants as a part of the Education Stabilization Fund under the CARES Act. The Woodstock Academy has, however, chosen to decline the full amount of \$77,594 that would have been allocated through the Town of Woodstock, therefore allowing Woodstock Public Schools complete access to the full ESSER Fund Grant.

Christopher Sandford, The Woodstock Academy's head of school, noted, "This is just one way we can support one

of our community partners at Woodstock Public Schools as they navigate many of the same obstacles we have faced with educating our students in challenging times."

Viktor Toth, Superintendent of Woodstock Public Schools, shared, "This will have a tremendous impact in preparation for the year ahead. Specifically as we purchase 900 new iPads."

Toth added, "We value the partnership between Woodstock Public Schools and The Woodstock Academy and this is a prime example of we can work towards the best interest of the students."



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Some fun facts about the Fourth

One of our favorite holidays to write about is Independence Day. We all know the stories of our Founding Fathers — John Adams, Sam Adams, George Washington, Paul Revere, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton, to name a few. However, the history is endless. We thought we would shine a light on aspects surrounding Independence Day that aren't commonly known.

The famous painting that depicts the signing of the Declaration of Independence isn't exactly an accurate portrayal. All of the delegates were never together at the same time in Philadelphia. The final signing took place roughly a month later on Aug. 2. The Declaration was formally dated and adopted by Congress on July 4; however, Congress voted for independence on July 2.

Celebrating their new independence, soldiers along with civilians tore down a statue of King George III and melted it into bullets. In Georgia, people burnt the King in effigy and even held a faux funeral service. In Philadelphia, the King's coat of arms was burned in a bonfire. Massachusetts was the first state to recognize July 4th as a holiday in 1781.

In 1777, fireworks could be seen in the sky and the ringing of bells rang through the night in Philadelphia. Ships were decorated and lined the coast and streamers could be seen flying in celebration everywhere. The oldest annual parade takes place in Bristol, Rhode Island. 2020 will be the city's 235th consecutive celebration since its start in 1785.

In New England, dining on salmon became tradition. The story behind the popular cuisine, is due to the influx of salmon that summer. Along with the salmon, people had peas and turtle soup.

One common fact, is that Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826. James Monroe also died on the fourth of July in 1831. President Calvin Coolidge was born July 4, 1872.

Left out of mainstream history was the story of Crispus Attucks, the first to die in the patriot cause. Attucks was a black/native American patriot who was shot, and the first to fall during the 1770 Boston Massacre. Attucks was a runaway slave who was a rope maker and sailor. History says he was shot by two musket balls to the chest. In 1778, it became legal in Rhode Island for free and enslaved blacks to serve the cause, with freedom as part of their payment.

Educated by her owners, Phillis Wheatley was a well known poet during those times. Wheatley was kidnapped in West Africa and brought to America. At the age of 20, in 1773, she became the first African American and third female to publish a book of poetry. She eventually became free. She also advocated for independence, writing in support for George Washington's Revolutionary War in her poem, "To His Excellency, General Washington." Washington, impressed by her talent invited her to a meeting.

In 1958, when Alaska and Hawaii were on deck to become states, a history teacher assigned his class to design a flag, depicting the two new states. Sixteen-year-old Robert Heft, received a B- on the project. Unhappy with the mark, Heft sent the flag to Dwight D. Eisenhower. After the flag was chosen, Heft had his grade changed to an 'A.'

Another fun fact is that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration on what was referred to as a laptop. A writing desk that could fit over a person's lap.

In 1778, Washington ordered a double ration of rum for soldiers to celebrate with.

In 1776, there were roughly two and a half million people living in America. The current population is now 325.7 million.

Wearing an American flag, whether it be on a tee-shirt, headband, towel or shorts is in violation of the Flag Code. The code says that you are in violation if you sell or display any "article of merchandise, upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached, or otherwise placed a representation of [the flag... in order to] advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark, or distinguish the article or substance on which so placed." The code, however, has long since been deemed unenforceable dueto the logistics involved. Good news indeed for all of us who love to let our patriotism shine at this time of year.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What's offending you today?

To the Editor:
I still believe that whatever happened in the past — whether it be good or bad, right or wrong — is history, and nothing is ever going to change that. So, what's going to offend you today?

Having said all that, I'd like to comment on the tearing down of statues and the defacing of monuments, churches and other public property. This truly angers me but you don't see me starting a riot, blocking traffic, or breaking windows because of it. I'd even bet that some of my fellow letter writers feel the same way. The cowardly, mask-wearing, cretins who are doing this damage are not expressing freedom of speech - or the freedom of anything else - what they are doing is malicious destruction and as far as I know it's a crime! I'd like to say to Donna Dufrense that these are the people who are "flagrantly inciting violence." When you watch who is actually doing this, it appears that the majority of them are younger people, and what does this say about their parents? I'd like to know if any of them are even registered to vote, have jobs or are still living in their parents' basements? Protest all you want, but I think that this vandalism and destruction should be encountered by force and anybody who does this should be punished for their actions. And what does this say for our spineless politicians, governors and the city officials who are letting this happen? I'd say that punks running amok causing damage is truly a national crisis, but then again, whose job is it to run the country and to govern their states? (Hint: it's not Donald Trump.) I will, however, give credit to the officials in California who declared a state of emergency for parts of Los Angeles County when they imposed a curfew and had the National Guard on stand-by and ready to deal with this unrest. For a bunch of liberals, I'd say that was a good and much needed move. An even better move, in my opinion, was when a group of armed Texans defended the Alamo from intended,

Little white lies

To the Editor:
It's true that America has a sordid past in its dance with racism which is carefully selected in the stories we tell. It's no wonder that so many of us in white America are oblivious to the everyday systemic and overt racism that African Americans and black and brown people wade through most of their lives.

Americans tend to not know so much about history because – well let's face it – history was always taught from the perspective of HIS STORY, those white, waspish males whose ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War and became our heroes. We didn't know that most of them owned slaves, and we would not have cared because slavery had no relevance in our lily white lives. If you were female, Native American, the child of immigrants, or a Muslim, your story was never told in the history books until quite recently. Like many of the untold stories of the past, racism was so neatly packaged that we grew up believing in the little white lie that it no longer existed. These little white lies, seemingly so benign and meant to protect our innocent minds from the awful truth, had us believing that in America everyone is equal and has an equal opportunity to obtain success with a little gumption and pulling up on those boot straps. Those little white lies had us believing that slavery and racism was something of the long ago past and even then it couldn't have been all that bad, right? Movies and books engraved our brains with images of an antebellum South where slavery was a benign system of indentured servants who somehow enjoyed their captivity. Of course, the word "captives" was never mentioned.

Unless you were raised in Texas or Georgia, whose text books glossed over or omitted African American history altogether, you probably learned about slavery and the underground railroad in elementary school. In high school you may have had a social studies class that whizzed through the Jim Crow and the Civil Rights eras. In the '60s and '70s, you may have had a brown lefty teacher who did the Blue Eye/Brown Eye experiment in your class. But most likely the narratives in your textbooks were the Walt Disney version of American history. The fast-food drive-through version lacking the nutrition required to sustain democracy. By omitting the full story and not including the mistakes of the past Americans have been robbed of truth and anesthetized by those Little White Lies.

The Civil War (or the War of Northern Aggression, if you grew up in the South), became white-washed in text books with an emphasis on "States' Rights." In fact, it was the pushtule on the sore of division in a fledgling democracy. The war was the symptom

destructive hoodlums.

Does it really surprise anybody that now our finger-pointing Congress can't agree on police reform? We need true leadership in this country, you say? I agree, but we need it at all levels of government, and if you're referring to Pelosi, Schumer and her mindless, puppet ilk who wore clothing linked to the slave trade as "true leaders," you definitely need to have your heads examined. (Now there's a photo-op that backfired.) In a recent speech, the dictator queen of the Democratic Party referred to George Floyd as "Geroge Kirby" and said that "his name will always be remembered." Her "toady lap dog" Schumer also botched George Floyd's name and referred to him as both "George Kirby" and "Floyd Taylor." Stupid is as stupid does! Pelosi is the poster child for term limits, and needs to be put out to pasture!

I'll never be ashamed to be an American, nor will I ever be ashamed of our President. I am, however, ashamed that we've become a nation of people who feel that they have to now be appeased (to quiet by satisfying) for events that happened well before their grand-parents were even born. So now a statue of Christopher Columbus has been removed from a park in New Haven. This action was greeted with both cheers and jeers, but I feel that these removals only lead to a further national divide and this cannot be blamed on Donald Trump. Maybe the new American statue should be a pacifier on a plinth? Are you offended yet?

Its been questioned as to why people still support Donald Trump; the answer could be as simple as they just don't like the alternative. And if you really think that all the problems facing this country will magically disappear if Mr. Joe Biden becomes President, you're entitled to your opinion, but I certainly wouldn't bet the farm on it happening.

ED DeLUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

of a gap the size of the Grand Canyon over slavery which had deeply divided America. Especially in the North. We believed the little white lie that Northerners wanted to end slavery and the South did not with those woodcut images of slave owners, whip in hand etched in our brains. Needless to say, it was much more complicated than that. The economy of the North – the cotton mills, the banks, the shipping industry, and our fine universities – were complicit in the institution of slavery. After all, very few business men from the 1830's up to the Civil War would have tolerated an immediate emancipation as the radical abolitionists called for. Even Prudence Crandall, who opened an academy for African American girls in Canterbury, Conn. in 1832, had two brothers who frowned upon her abolitionist leanings. Hezekiah owned at least two cotton factories and Reuben had his own conservative bend toward gradualism. The argument for gradual change was another little white lie embedded with our complicity which still haunts progressive movements. Northern complicity helped to establish institutional racism from slavery, through the Jim Crow era and up to the present. Yet we continue to read the past and the present through our snow blind lens oblivious to the fact that racism still exists.

And why should we care about those Little White Lies? Much of white America believes that racism has the face of a hooded white Southern terrorist wielding their confederate flag, a symbol of terrorism to many African Americans. Because we have been led to believe that racism no longer exists or it's a Southern thing, people think we are making this stuff up, and black and brown communities are over reactive. Yet it eats away at the American psyche. Many white Americans, especially those of us in the middle and more privileged classes go out of our way to ensure others that we are not racist. But even those who are overtly racist will tell you "I haven't got a racist bone in my body," even though their behavior and the things they post in social media tell you otherwise. It is not helpful to have our white brothers and sisters hyper-focusing on convincing each other that they are not racist. What we really need is for everyone to use their voice and privilege to stop systemic racism now. And while taking that most frightful leap of faith, we (meaning the white community) need to continue on an introspective journey in which we examine how racism has impacted our own lives, how we have benefited by it, and how we have been hurt by the institutions that perpetuate a segregated society. This is what it means to be an anti-racist, as opposed to a non-racist. It's a difficult journey. There may be anger. There may be tears and guilt. But guilt will

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Lessons from the Fourth

For decades, we have celebrated the Fourth of July with the same friends at a lovely seaside town in Maine. There was a lively parade, with politically inspired floats and tourist jokes, lots of children scampering around and excellent food. Not this year. We will toast Independence Day in our own backyard. It is the ritual that matters, and the need we have right now to consider how best to celebrate the birthday of our country. I'm looking backward to think about the lessons of the holiday.

The older I get, the more I remember the people I knew when I was a child. My childhood was rich in characters. My parents were older, and my beloved two brothers were 15 and 13 when I was born. I essentially had four parents, who took me everywhere and regaled me with stories about the people we met. I suppose I should have been lonely, but the combination of my family's affection and my insatiable appetite for reading kept me from feeling on my own. An assortment of dogs, cats, rabbits, and an old Welsh pony added to the stories that filled my life.

An old man worked in our barn sharpening saws and repairing things. He had served in WWI and been exposed to mustard gas. He talked out loud to himself all day long. Perhaps he was lonely. Mostly, he quoted the Bible, I assume as a way to explain what happened in his life and because it was his frame of reference.

I liked to eavesdrop. He rehashed an investment he had made by saying – "I cast my bread upon the waters..." Apparently, he was waiting for the tide to come in, and bring him back his money. He also liked to say – "This country has been very good to me..." He gasped for breath every few words, but he was not unhappy. His life looked limited to me, but to him, it held a wealth of experiences.

Our neighbor served in the US Congress. With a hyphenated last name, Seely-Brown, and a patrician demeanor, he hardly seemed like the type to represent a sprawling district with a mix of rural towns and small cities based on textile manufacturing, but he served for six terms. He owned a large orchard and drove from Washington, D.C. through the night on Thursdays when the House was in session, to get home by dawn to work with his trees. He preferred hunting with local men to talking politics. He would have said that his life, including wartime service in the Navy, was the fulfillment of his dreams and the promise of our country.

My aunts were proud members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. My mother would have nothing to do with the organization. She felt everyone has ancestors and it was just a matter of luck who they were and what they did. My aunts supported the charitable work the DAR did and argued with my mother over the incident when singer Marion Anderson was not allowed to perform in a DAR concert hall. Ms. Anderson was African-American. My mother died before her sisters, so the debate ended. My aunts and my mother agreed that their right to hold different opinions was central to their existence.

This Independence Day finds our country divided in many ways. We can't agree on much. The people I once knew had strong opinions, too. They expressed their ideas, kept going, laugh occasionally and believed in the fundamental goodness of the country, their relatives and their neighbors. Hope we can do that too.



NANCY WEISS

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let’s discuss the real problems in America

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to the Editor, we have more name calling by another tunnel vision perspective of President Trump’s supporters as “white supremacist base” by donna Dufrense.

I and others refer to ourselves as people who love America and don’t want to see a future of the Democratic Party taking away more of our liberties and trying to destroy our Constitution constantly. The real problem with this Presidency is, Mr. Trump is not a career politician and won’t give in to that group, both sides, who have made themselves millionaires over the years at our expense and many do not represent the average citizen. Even here in Connecticut, your own Chris Murphy has no residency in our state, but that’s OK with the Left.

We don’t want a party who call themselves Christians but pass every bill to end pregnancies up to and including after birth and than harvest their organs like something out of a sci-fi horror movie and Nazi Germany. Dufrense continues with name calling, “rabid” and “zombie like” supporters. She further states that President Trump’s Tweets are a “secret Code for police giving a green light to white supremacists and an over-militarized police force to carry out the systemic oppression and murders of African Americans, Hispanics and immigrants.”

Only the Left can make this up, and this is the norm for them. They are filled with hatred and violence left over from the defeat of Hillary Clinton, the most corrupt politician and traitor and now they want to put in another corrupt Joe Biden. Is this the best they can come up with? Joe Biden and his family and friends who have profited many times over because of his position under Obama? The Obamas created this hostility towards the police, and where it is today? Yes, the senseless murder of George Floyd by a policeman that should have been off the force a long time ago, so Dufrense calls this “systematic murders?”

We need a Congress with courage

To the Editor:

It must be exhausting working in the Trump White House. Being in “Damage Control Mode” 24/7 because of Trump’s neverending stupid statements and actions has to take its toll. That (of course) explains the record number of Press Secretaries and all the resignations and firing of cabinet members. Probably the most dysfunctional administration in our nation’s history. Trump’s ship seems to be taking on water and slowly starting to sink. Public sentiment is turning against him because of his incompetent handling of -- everything, and even some Republican members of congress are slowly starting to distance themselves from him because of their own job security anxiety. As we get closer to November, the rats will start jumping off the sinking ship.

Trump still has his “Base,” of course. In a recent letter, one local supporter suggested that God himself chose Donald Trump to lead our nation. God chose Trump — wow! No matter what your political or religious beliefs are,

Dufrense also speaks of Colin Kaepernick taking a knee during the during the National Anthem to “call attention to police brutality.” His exact words were, “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color,” so Dufrense adds fuel to the fire by adding “police brutality.” See, this is the way of the Left to continue to create hatred and dissension among non-President Trump supporters and keep it going.

Let’s give some real stats. Latest FBI report murders of blacks in the US: Whites killed by Blacks, 11.30 percent; Blacks killed by Whites, 0.93 percent; Whites killed by Whites, 10.84 percent; Blacks killed by Blacks; 57.14 percent, a staggering number. The real problem is so evident. More than 72 percent of children in the African-American community are born out of wedlock and raised by a single parent for relative. There is no family structure, little true education and lack of a decent raising of the child. So, where do they wind up? I think the answer is evident. BLM is focused in the wrong direction, and we will never see this problem go away or the success of the majority of black youth and it was very evident with the makeup of the looters and those who set fires, etc. You don’t hear this on any news outlet; you don’t have the Left condemning this and you don’t have sport figures condemning this.

Redirecting money to inner city programs on drugs, violence, and sex education has very little effect on black youths. Peer pressure is the guiding force. What can anyone do is the million dollar answer. So next time anyone who wants to dump on our President Trump, try writing about the real problems in America, and for those who are ashamed to live in America, no one is prevention you from leaving!

TOM PANDOLFI
WOODSTOCK

Not all Christians align with Trump

To the Editor:

What an embarrassing letter identifying Trump as God’s new Chosen One, doing His work. People, please don’t assume that most Christians agree with this. Some Evangelical power brokers have praised Trump, but they’re following political strategies, not the Gospels. Trump has routinely and unapologetically violated all Ten Commandments, and vigorously embraced all Seven Deadly Sins. God often uses us sinners for the world’s healing, but repentance must come first, a recognition of right and wrong. Trump never admits any error of any kind. He’s a proud sinner.

The Divine Will for the world is not about surging stock markets or lots of jobs that pay so little you have to work three of them to pay the rent. It surely isn’t about a man who, even in the midst of this health crisis works relentlessly to withdraw the one program that tries to include all Americans in our health care. Jesus was a healer, not an investor.

DUFRESNE
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not save the world. We cannot afford to become anesthetized and fall back into inaction. What’s most important is that we do not expect people in the black and brown community to solve our problems for us or guide us on our journey. They have enough on their plate.

While doing the personal work, it’s important to stop making excuses for racist behavior and systemic racism. First of all, acknowledge that racism is real and though we may hate to admit it, we are culpable for our blindness, silence and complacency. It’s not those other white people who are at fault — the few bad apple cops — those white supremacists. It’s all of us. If you don’t see color, you are part of the problem; if you don’t have a racist bone in your body, you are part of the problem. If you bristle at the idea of white privilege because you were raised poor and think you understand, you are part of the problem.

There are many good and decent human beings who think of themselves as non-racists and who would never

God’s will surely doesn’t include a man who got to power by promising to protect voters from folks of different countries, religions, skin color and their children. Jesus is so much simpler than the Right’s agenda for Him.

“What must I do to do God’s will?” asked the lawyer,

“What does the Law say?” Asked The Truth, right back at him,

“Love God and my neighbor as myself...but who is my neighbor?”

Jesus told him the Good Samaritan story (Luke 10) - kindness to strangers, yes, but the most important part is Jesus’ choice of a Samaritan - an alien from a hated, feared group with a different religion, but a man who showed tender mercy to a victim from another tribe and country.

“That is the whole of The Law. Go and do likewise, Mr. Trump.”

Don’t hold your breath, folks.

G. LESLIE SWEETNAM
WOODSTOCK

dream of participating in some of the overt racist behavior we are witnessing on social media. The most hostile reactions to the protests against police brutality have been spun by racist elements of the Trump administration in order to woo their base away from the very difficult conversation we as a country need to have about race. The recent protests, the anger and the outrage against 400 years of oppression, and decades of not being heard as we knelt, prayed, sang, chanted and wrote letters seems to have reached a tipping point. We — meaning all the patriotic Americans, black, brown, white, rich, poor in the rainbow of diversity which represents the ideals of America, have had enough of little white lies. We can no longer be complacent about racism and the other little white lie about gradual change. Like those feisty abolitionists in the 19th century we are demanding structural change. It will be messy. There will be resistance. But this is America’s challenge as we strive to live up to what the rest of the world dreams and hopes we really are.

DONNA DUFRESNE
POMFRET

Local residents named to Dean’s List at Saint Michael’s College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — The following local residents were named to the Dean’s List at Saint Michael’s College for the Spring 2020 semester.

* Summer Chaponis, a Sophomore psychology / elementary education major from Woodstock and a graduate of Woodstock Academy.

About Saint Michael’s College Saint Michael’s College, founded in the great Catholic intellectual tradition, which also recognizes the principles of social justice and compassion, is a selective, fully residential Catholic college in Vermont’s beautiful Green Mountains. Our closely connected community delivers internationally-respected liberal arts and graduate education near Burlington, one of the country’s best college towns. To prepare for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives, young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other and their world.

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On July 5, 2020 Crossroads Christian Church invites you to an outdoor service held at 10:00 a.m. Please bring your P.P.E.: PERSONAL PATRIOTIC ENTHUSIASTIC Self, along with your own chair. We will be singing patriotic songs, along with worshipping the God who has blessed our land with its’ people’s and prosperity.

In the event of inclement weather, we will be having the service inside. Come and celebrate the freedom and liberties our Nation affords us, along with expressing gratitude and fostering unity among others who love our Nation and seek its healing across the land.

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OBITUARIES

Rachel S. Glaude, 80

DANIELSON- Rachel S. Glaude, 80 of Danielson, CT passed away Sunday, May 31, 2020 after a long illness at her home in Danielson, CT. She was born October 14, 1939 in Danielson, CT, daughter of the late Theodore and Alexina (Pelletier) Charbonneau. She was the beloved wife of Rene G. Glaude they were married April 23, 1960 at St. James Church, Danielson, CT. Rachel was a communicant of St. James Church. She was a Den Leader with the Cub Scouts. Rachel worked as a manager for Benny's Store in Danielson for 28 years until her retirement. She was an avid reader and enjoyed puzzles and loved to cook. She leaves her husband of sixty years



Rene Glaude of Danielson, CT; her children Guy (Linda) Glaude of East Hampton, CT, Jeffrey (Barbara) Glaude of Simsbury, CT, Greg (Tammy) Glaude of Killingly, CT, Randie (Ken) Long of Danielson, CT and Jamie (Kari) Glaude of Windsor Locks, CT; her grandchildren Jennifer, Evan, Andrew, Eric, Alexa, Marc, Lindsey, Jason, Jessica, Gwendolyn, Parker and Jordyn; her great-granddaughter Riley; her siblings Theresa King of Danielson, CT and Ronald Charbonneau of Melbourne, FL. Also several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a granddaughter Veronica Glaude. A private Mass of Christian burial held at St. James Church, Danielson, CT on June 6, 2020 with her burial following at All Hollows Cemetery, Moosup, CT. For memorial guestbook visit: www.gagnonandcostellofh.com.

Dr. Herbert (Herb) Richardson, 85

Dr. Herbert Richardson (Herb), 85, of Danielson passed away peacefully in his home after a long illness on Saturday, June 20, 2020. Herb was born on October 24, 1934 in Waterbury, CT. His family home was in Prospect, CT. He was the son of the late Calvin M. and Marie T. Richardson. Herb graduated from Yale University with a Masters in Music. After serving in the Army for two years, he continued serving his country in the Army Reserves for four years. Herb had a very happy marriage with his first wife Christine for 34 years. Herb and Christine moved to PA. There, Herb continued his studies at Penn State where he graduated with a PHD in History. Living in Westmont, NJ with their daughter Wendy, Herb became a professor at Glassboro State College (now known as Rowan University). He taught history for 32 years. His love of history thrived with visits to historical societies and helping his students with their projects. Herb met many friends



going to book and postcard shows enabling the growth of his business "Richardson Books". Five years after his wife Christine died, Herb married his wife Beverly, sharing 21 loving years together. After retiring, 18 years were spent in Danielson, CT. Herb continued going to the gym. For several years, Herb served on the curriculum committee, and he volunteered as an instructor of two historical courses in the Learning in Retirement (LIT) at Quinebaug Community College. He was a member of the Killingly Historical District Commission for a few years. Appreciating music, Herb sang in the Concert Choir of Northeastern Connecticut. Herb leaves his wife Beverly (Bev), daughter Wendy Perez, and his sister Marie L. Ancil and husband Denis, two grandchildren Brett, Jr. and Alexis Perez and other nieces and nephews. A calling hour will be held at St. James Church, Danielson on Friday July 3 from 10 – 11 am followed by a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial at 11 am. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. James Religious Education, 12 Franklin Street Danielson, CT 06239.

Leo H. Bellanceau, 61

THOMPSON – Leo Bellanceau, 61, Quaddick Farm Town Rd., passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and loved ones on Saturday, June 27, 2020. He was the loving husband of Laurie (Cotnoir) Bellanceau. Born in Fort Eustis, VA, he was the son of Lina (Schwelow) Bellanceau and the late Leo C. Bellanceau. Leo was a master carpenter who enjoyed working with his brother at Greg's Carpentry. He was an outdoors man and loved to hunt, fish and just spend time working in his yard. Leo's true love was playing with his granddaughter Evelyn Annalee and spending time with his family. Leo's family described him as a "Simple Man" and man that just enjoyed life and his dog Jessy.



Leo is survived by his son Leo H. Bellanceau II, his fiancé Samantha and beautiful granddaughter Evelyn Annalee, two brothers, Gregory and his wife Donna Bellanceau of Woodstock, Andre and his wife Sandra Bellanceau of RI; two sisters Loraine Rousseau and her partner Scott Kramer of Thompson, Angela "Sue" Welch and her husband Jim of Putnam, and many nieces and nephews. Relatives and friends are invited to visit with family's family from 9:00 am to 10:30 am on Thursday, July 2, 2020 in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. Immediately following a graveside service take place in St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., Rocky Hill, CT. 06067. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Richard W. Mayo, Sr., 66

WINDHAM– Richard W. Mayo, Sr., 66, of North St., passed away on Sunday, June 21, 2020. Born in Putnam, CT, he was the son of the late Jesse Sr. and Doris (Reil) Mayo. Mr. Mayo worked as a self-employed master carpenter and was a member of the local 475. A "Jack of all Trades and Master of None." He was also an E.M.T. for the Dayville Fire Department and a Boy Scout Leader for Troop #42. He was loving, hardworking and always a "crowd pleaser." He enjoyed camping and cooking. Richard was survived by his son, Richard Mayo, Jr. and his wife Kara of Pomfret, CT; his daughters, Tiffany



Bernier of Spencer, MA, and Crystal and her husband Craig Couillard of Scituate, RI; his brothers, Jesse Mayo, Jr., and Dennis Mayo; his two sisters, Betty Ann Mayo, Betty Jane; grandchildren, Caleb, Collin, Cian, Cavan, Conner, Cole, Clover, Damian, Cameron, Kaylee, and Lydia; and his extended family Angelo and Alexis Basso, David, Nancy, Richard, Pat, Clay. Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Richard's family from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2020 in the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam with a service in the funeral home at 12:00 p.m. Burial will follow in South Cemetery, Pomfret, CT. Memorial donations may be made to P.A.W.S, P.O. Box 31, S. Woodstock, CT. 06267. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Mary Anne Seyford 78

Mary Anne Seyford 78, died on June 22, 2020 at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. She was born July 2, 1941 in Oneco, CT, the daughter of Hazel Sparks Fletcher and William Renald Fletcher. She was predeceased by her husband Ernest Fred Seyford and an infant son Jonathan F. Seyford, twin of Jennifer Seyford. Surviving are her sons, William P. Caron of Dayville, CT, and Pete O. Caron of Florida. Also survived by her daughter Jennifer F. Seyford of Dayville, CT. Mary Anne is also survived by five grandchildren, William Caron and Christine Pilipaitis and Nicholas, Noah, and Ryan Godino. Mary Anne's



undeniable love for her grandchildren will never be forgotten! She is also survived by two nieces, Judy Hendrickson and Kathy Carter. A graduate of ECSC and a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Mary Anne taught school for 28 years mostly in Killingly, retiring in 1995. She served on many committees over the years including being a Cub Scout Den mother in Brooklyn, 4H Horse Club leader and CCD instructor. There are no calling hours and funeral services are private. Mary Anne will be buried with her husband Ernest and son in Riverside Cemetery, Oneco. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home, Danielson, CT. Donations in her name may be made to Hospice or SIDS. Share a memory at www.gagnonandcostellofh.com

Local students named to Dean's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN, Mass. — Dean College is pleased to announce that Nancy Lavallee of Dayville, Olivia Cunha of North Grosvenordale, and Yong Wang of Woodstock have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester. Students earning a place on the

Dean's List have demonstrated serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College. Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode

Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Heather Mowry named to College of Saint Rose Spring 2020 Dean's List

ALBANY, N.Y. — Congratulations to Heather Mowry of Woodstock for being named to the Spring 2020 Dean's List at The College of Saint Rose! Full-time undergraduate students who complete

a minimum of 12 graded credit hours, and who achieve a semester average of 3.5 with no D, F, or Incomplete grade, are eligible for the Dean's List. The College of Saint Rose (www.strose.edu) is a dynamic, progressive

college in the heart of New York's capital city where teaching is the first priority. The Saint Rose experience empowers students to improve themselves and the world around them.

American International College announces Spring 2020 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — American International College (AIC) in Springfield, Mass. has named 686 students to the Spring 2020 Dean's List. Dean's List students are full time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the exceptional commitment and accom-

plishment of these scholars during an unprecedented time. Katelynn Raynsford of Danielson Derek Turner of Danielson Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution

located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

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Latest antiques, collectibles, and auction news

It has been nearly three months since our last update on antiques, collectibles, and auction news. Much has occurred since my last report, beginning with some valuable antique eyeglasses that were saved from destruction.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

The rare pair of eyeglasses were saved by a knowledgeable employee of a second-hand store before they were buried in a New Zealand landfill. They were recently sold in an online auction according to UPI. The Martin's Margins style glasses were designed by optician Benjamin Martin in 1756. According to UPI, "the unusual thick-framed look of the glasses results from Martin's belief that exposure to sunlight would cause damage to eyeglass lenses." The glasses sold for \$5,282.

A 1933 "The Invisible Man" movie poster went on the auction block in March according to the Antique Trade Gazette. The one sheet "Invisible Man" poster (two feet, three inches by three feet, five inches) starred Claude Rains in the title role as a scientist. The film was based on a novel by H.G. Wells. This "Type B" version of the movie poster sold for \$152,000.

A valuable baseball card collection is currently being sold in an online auction.

According to ESPN, the "Uncle Jimmy" collection belonged to James Micioni of Boontown, N.J. ESPN reported that "he never married, never became a father and never owned a car. He walked to nearby jobs as a high school custodian and a chemical-factory worker." He only left his small town to serve in World War II. He was a fan of the Yankees and Jackie Robinson. ESPN reported "experts believe to be one of the most extraordinary private collections in the hobby's history."

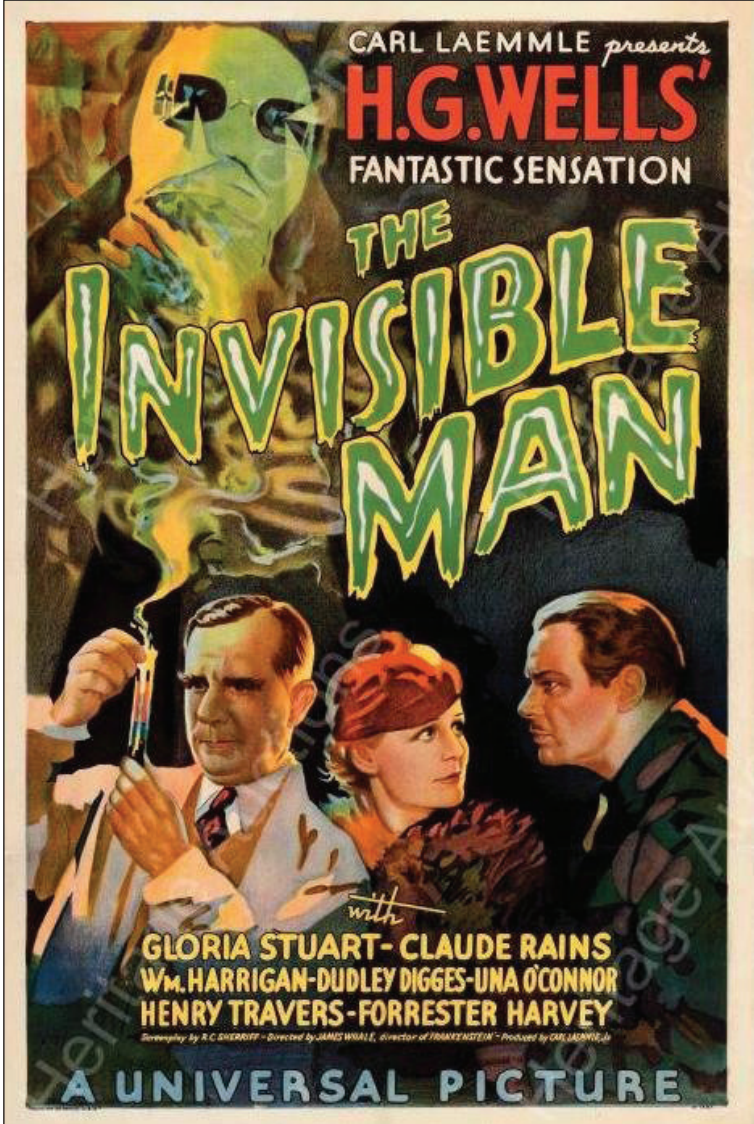
When he passed the cards were willed to his nieces and nephews who consigned them to an auction house. The cards have been grouped into 2,000 lots and are being auctioned in 3 sessions. Six 1933 Goudey Babe Ruth cards alone are expected to sell for \$1 million.

A 1959 Martin D-18E guitar that had been modified to accommodate the left-handed Kurt Cobain recently set an auction record according to the Rolling Stone magazine. Cobain played the guitar in Nirvana's iconic 1993 MTV Unplugged performance. It sold for slightly over \$6 million. The winning bidder was identified as Peter Freedman. Freedman plans to include the guitar in worldwide exhibitions that he is planning to benefit the arts. The Rolling

Stone reported "the previous record was \$3.95 million for a Black Stratocaster owned by Pink Floyd's David Gilmour."

Food and Wine magazine reported that an over 250 year old bottle of cognac recently set an auction record. The 1762 bottle of Gautier Cognac was said to be the oldest bottle ever sold at auction. There are believed to be only 3 bottles of this vintage that still exist. The bottle with its original label sold for a little over \$144,000. There was no information on whether the winning bidder planned to sample any.

I'll be presenting a webinar on June 8 at 2 p.m. in conjunction with Worthpoint.com "Don't Give Away Your Valuables. Get the Most for Your Estate Contents." There is a link to register on our Web site. We are also cataloging items for an online estate auction in Warren, R.I. and are planning to run an estate sale in Auburn, MA this summer. Bidding was strong during our recent online only antique estate auction. We are accepting quality consignments of smaller, high value items such as jewelry, sterling silver, coins, paintings, vintage comic books and sports memorabilia for our next auction. Please watch our website or sign up to be on our email list for updates on future events.



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LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY BOROUGH OF DANIELSON TAX and SEWER USE NOTICE

Taxes and Sewer use charges are due July 1, 2020. The first installment of taxes becomes delinquent on August 4, 2020. The first installment of sewer use becomes delinquent on August 1, 2020. For approved eligible deferment taxpayers the July 1, 2020 installment becomes delinquent on October 2, 2020.

All are subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF THE TAX OR INTEREST DUE.

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, during the posted hours, by mail, telephone, online, or in our drop box

Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org. Dated at Killingly this 19th, day of June 2020.

Patricia Monahan CCMC
Revenue Collector for the
Town of Killingly
June 26, 2020
July 3, 2020
July 24, 2020
September 25, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

The first installment of Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle taxes and Sewer Usage bills listed on the October 1, 2019 Grand List become due and payable to the Town of Woodstock on **July 1, 2020**.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, **Governor Lamont's Executive Orders FS, FW, and FX will extend the no-interest grace period for all taxpayers (except escrow accounts and non-qualified landlords) to October 1, 2020**. Payments must be postmarked or in the office by **October 1, 2020** to avoid interest charges.

Interest will be charged on **October 2, 2020** on all delinquent bills at a rate of one and one-half percent per month, beginning with 6 % for October 2nd through October 31st, and ending with 18% interest for all payments made in June 2021.

All escrows and non-qualified landlords making payments on Real Estate bills have a **due date of July 1, 2020**. **Payments must be postmarked or in the office by August 3, 2020 to avoid interest charges.** Interest will

be charged on August 4, 2020 at a rate of one and one-half percent per month or 18% annually.

There is a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 on each bill, including Sewer Usage bills.

Motor vehicle taxes not paid by **October 1, 2020** will be reported as delinquent to the Motor Vehicle Department on **October 2, 2020**.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 860-928-9469 ext. 318 or the Assessor's office at 860-928-6929 ext. 326.

The Tax Collector's office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **Fridays will be CLOSED**. The office will be closed on Monday, July 6, 2020 in observance of Independence Day.

Linda Bernardi, CCMC
Woodstock Tax Collector
415 Route 169
Woodstock, CT 06281
June 26, 2020
July 3, 2020
July 24, 2020
September 25, 2020

TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission held a Regular Meeting on

Monday June 22, 2020 beginning at 7PM via Zoom, to Discuss Closed Public Hearing and Possible Action on PZC Application #20-08.

PZC Application #20-08 – Applicant, property Owner Richard Desrochers dba, J & J Construction, LLC, 484 & 486 Quaddick Town Farm Road, Map 158, Block 20, Lot 8I for a Gravel Operation Permit. All motions and votes of the June 11, 2020 Special Meeting were rescinded on Planning and Zoning Commission Application #20-08. Approval was granted on Application #20-08 on June 22, 2020 to Applicant property Owner Richard Desrochers, dba, J. & J Construction, LLC, 484 & 486 Quaddick Town Farm Road, Map 158, Block 20, Lot 8I for a Gravel Operation Permit and include Lots 8I and 8J, amend the applicant's name and amend to change the description to Gravel Operation Permit. File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Planning and Zoning Commission. Respectfully submitted, Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman
July 3, 2020

TOWN OF THOMPSON

On June 22, 2020 the following wetlands agent approval was issued: Ap-

plication # WAA20020 approved with conditions, Joshua & Jessica Rhodes, 0 Pompeo Rd. (Assessor's Map 61, Block 59, Lot 5A) - construct a new single family home and septic system in 100-foot upland review area.

On June 25, 2020 the following wetlands agent approval was issued: Application # WAA20021 approved with conditions, Beverly Walker, POA for Dorothy Wetherbee, 23 Becola Rd. (Assessor's Map 116, Block 24, Lot 22) – replace failing septic system in 100-foot upland review area.
Marla Butts, Wetlands Agent
July 3, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Ernest A. Moore (20-00054) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, 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.
Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Debra J. Silva,
c/o BRIAN S. MEAD (attorney for Debra J. Silva) BRIAN S. MEAD, 148 OLD TURNPIKE ROAD, PO BOX 508, QUINEBAUG, CT 06262, (860)935-9211
July 3, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Catherine A Hair (20-00204) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, June 16, 2020, 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, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Michael D Hair
c/o JOHN F SHORO, BOWDITCH & DEWEY LLP, 311 MAIN STREET, PO BOX 15156, WORCHESTER, MA 01615
July 3, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Henry David Demers (20-00213) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, June 16, 2020, 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, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Colleen A Demers
c/o CHRISTIAN GEORGE SARANTOPOULOS, SARANTOPOULOS & SARANTOPOULOS, LLC, 143 SCHOOL STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
July 3, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Wallace Barr Robinson (20-00098) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, June 17, 2020, 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.
Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Allison. Burchell-Robinson,
c/o CARYL S BALSUS (attorney for Allison Burchell Robinson), BALSUS & JOHNSTON, LLC, 62 HYDE AVENUE, VERNON, CT 06066, (860)872-7200
July 3, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jo-Ann MacFarlane (20-00170) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, June 16, 2020, 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.
Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Zachary N. Reiner,
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS (attorney for Zachary N. Reiner), BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS - 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-6549.
July 3, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Arline M Bowen (20-00196) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, June 23, 2020, 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, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Stephen W Bowen
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS - 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
July 3, 2020

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Killingly Library to host virtual event

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Public Library will host a special virtual event, “Imagine Your Story,” with Turtle Dance Music, on July 15 at 5:30 p.m. It will be a live program featuring music, magic and bubbles!

We also have a variety of virtual programs for kids, tweens and teens starting in July. To register and for full descriptions go to the Killingly Public Library’s website at www.killinglypl.org. For additional information call the Killingly Library at 860-779-5383. For library updates make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



St. James Church to resume weekend services

DANIELSON — St. James Church, 12 Franklin St., Danielson, will resume Saturday and Sunday masses on July 4 and 5.

Every Saturday, there is a Mass at noon, 4 and 5:30 p.m.

On Sunday, there is a 7 a.m. Mass, 9 a.m. Mass and a 11 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

Visit our Web site for the all updates: stjameschurchdanielson.com.

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POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

357 magnum now sits on my nightstand next to me as I sleep. Rational? I think so. But at what risk?

Last night, the dreaded intrusion happened. I was asleep and heard a commotion on our side deck. Our door was open and only the screen separated us from the apparent intruder that began pushing on the screen. I rolled out of bed, grabbed my handgun, crawled to the screen and there he was. The biggest Opossum I'd ever seen. He growled at me, then slowly walked away, never knowing that all three of us, me, Smith & Wesson, were poised to send him to Opossum heaven. He was just a friendly neighbor out for a walk. I recognize that I moved into his neighborhood. He isn't trespassing in mine. I also realize fear almost caused me to pull the trigger. It was a wake-up call for me. Relax.

I think in normal times, I'd have sleepily gotten out of bed, walked to the door, looked, smiled, said a friendly word to a curious visitor and climbed back into bed ... but something has changed.

Before we start shooting each other ... Lets' take a breath. Relax. Step away from our fear and understand what's driving our anxiety.

The news is frightening. A bad cop murdered a relatively harmless suspect on television. Statues being torn down, stores looted and burned. Innocent civilians are being killed. It's all real. Television pundits stoking the fires and encouraging lawlessness are also real, while municipalities are voting to defund or disband local law enforcement.

On CNN an ignorant pundit, while encouraging rioters and looters shouted, "Show me where it says public protest should be peaceful!" Well ... Look no further than the First Amendment.

"... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

I think peaceably is a key word here. I'm mailing Chris Cuomo at CNN a copy of our Constitution, with the First Amendment tagged to make it easy for him to find without having to read too much. I highlighted the word "peaceably" in hopes he might understand.

And it's not just CNN. Fox photo shopped images allegedly depicting "CHAZ/CHOP" to escalate fear. MSNBC is full of fearmongering. There is not much real news on cable, especially

after 8 p.m. EST. Only ideological agendas designed to frighten us.

My longtime friend, Tim Duggan's says, "This is all driven by a 24-hour news cycle, that is driven by ratings, which networks found can be driven by fear." He's right. Fear is an effective ratings tool.

There is a drive, which I agree with, to license police officers. Maybe there should be the same for political pundits and politicians. I get the feeling lately that most have little knowledge of civics or American history. If a pundit, while on the air, is encouraging others to commit crimes, shouldn't he or she be charged with a crime? I think it's largely our political pundits on cable news driving much of the fear and anxiety on both sides.

I'm not talking about prohibiting free speech. I am recognizing that screaming "fire" in a crowded theater where there is no fire is prohibited. Promoting and encouraging others to commit crimes, using your platform on an international cable show is even more dangerous. Why is it not prohibited?

"Common Sense Americans" need to relax and be more discerning about what voices we allow into our heads and hearts. The nation is in turmoil. We have problems that must be addressed but we cannot allow a group of irresponsible talking heads on cable news to drive us over the edge ... and they are working overtime to do so. They are mixing news of the day with "False Evidence Appearing Real (FEAR)" to drive their political agenda. And make no mistake about it. There is little real news available to us on television. It's all sensationalized to drive an ideology. Do you still wonder why we are afraid?

What can we do to relieve this fear and anxiety?

Let's start with recognizing that an Opossum is just an Opossum. Maybe our fear is misdirected. Is it possible that sensationalized media is the true source of our national fear and not each other?

Shut them out. Turn them off. We are smarter and better than this.

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.garyw-moore.com.

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DANIELSON — The Killingly Public Schools announces its participation in the federally funded Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Under the SFSP, nutritious meals are provided to all children 18 years and under free of charge at:

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Danielson, CT 06239

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No Service on Friday, July 3.

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