

THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, May 26, 2023 Serving Thompson since 2005 Complimentary to homes by request

Defenders of Charity hold annual Armed Forces Bike Run



Jason Bleau

Bikes stand waiting for their riders to take to the streets of Northeastern Connecticut for the seventh annual Defenders of Charity Armed Forces Bike Run on May 21.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Defenders of Charity took to the roads for their first bike run of 2023 on Sunday, May 21, marking their seventh annual Armed Forces Run and Blessing of the Bikes. The annual run, which started at the Killingly VFW Post 4908 and traveled throughout the region, brought together bikers of all different backgrounds and clubs to take advantage of the beautiful spring weather and help support veterans while acknowledging

those who have served their country in any of the armed forces on Armed Forces Weekend. Dale Currier, President of the Defenders of Charity, said the event is always a highlight ride for the club helping them support veterans in need using the money raised by the entry fee and donations. “This run is to represent everybody that has served. All the money goes towards a needy veteran. Last year we were able to help out two different veterans that had cancer,” said Currier. “Everybody loves doing

what we do. They’re all volunteers. We often spend money to make money to give it away.

The VFW loves having us here because a lot of us are younger members and we’re able to come

here and help out with cleanup, painting, and whatever happens to come about.”

Currier explained that the ride often brings together a variety of

Turn To **BIKE RUN** page **A10**

Dr. Michael Baum honored with Community Champion Award from Northeastern Connecticut Chamber

PUTNAM — Michael Baum, MD, FACS, general surgeon, member of the Day Kimball Health (DKH) Board of Directors, and former President of the DKH Medical Staff has been honored with the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce’s 2023 Community Champion Award. The award was presented at the Chamber’s Awards Gala held at The Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock on May 18.

The Community Champion award is presented to an individual that has made a substantive, yet unrecognized, contribution to our community. The award recognizes an individual who has influenced our community from behind the scenes with a positive attitude, a willingness to help in a variety of capacities, and a commitment to excellence.



Courtesy

Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Health, and Dr. Michael Baum, general surgeon, and member of the Day Kimball Health (DKH) Board of Directors attended the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce’s 2023 Awards Gala Thursday, May 18 at The Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock. Dr. Baum was awarded the Chamber’s 2023 Community Champion Award for his contribution to the health and well-being of our community.

ities, and a commitment to excellence.

“In his roles as a general surgeon, former president of the Day Kimball medical staff, and on our board of directors, I have had the

personal and professional good fortune to work closely with Dr. Baum for the last several years,” said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Health.

“He has been a major contributor to the health and well-being of Northeast Connecticut and has done it in his own quiet and unassuming way. He is a leader and trusted physician to many, and he has been a pivotal part of Day Kimball’s ongoing advancement,” Kramer said.

“Dr. Baum’s tenure and leadership at DKH, coupled with establishing himself as a distinguished member of the community, have served to not only advance healthcare services locally but have also significantly improved the community at large,” Kramer continued. “For these reasons and more, the entire team at Day Kimball Health congratulates and applauds Dr. Baum for being recognized by the Chamber for this

Turn To **DR. BAUM** page **A10**

Woodstock voters approve budget, affirms Prop 46 repeal

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The town of Woodstock has been a busy place at the polls the first few weeks of May, with both the budget and an attempt to reinstate Proposition 46 bringing voters to the town hall for individual ballot votes.

The general government and education budgets were first with a ballot vote on May 9 easily approving both spending plans in a 1,124 to 721 decision. The voter turnout was 28.7 percent, with 1,845 totals ballots cast over the course of the day. The approved Fiscal Year 2024 general government budget totals \$6.2 million, an increase of 11.76 percent over the current year, while the school budget totals \$21.4 million, a 6.71 percent increase over 2023. Combined, these budgets total a 1.56 mil increase for the town.

The second ballot vote came on May 16, where voters were asked to once again address Proposition 46, a town ordinance adopted in 1979 that limited town spending. The ordinance limited the town’s combined budget to tax-generated revenues and state and federal funds with certain provisions in place to cover certain expenses. It also imposed limitations on budget increases during revaluation years. The ordinance limited increases to the total increase of the previous year or the average of the three previous years, whichever number was lower. Proposition 46 had received numerous challenges in years past, including a failed referendum in the 2000s, but was successfully overturned in March of 2023.

The March referendum saw a close decision of 1,191 to 1,017 to repeal the ordinance completely with a second question allowing the town to waive the ordinance for the new fiscal year if Prop 46 had been retained also receiving voter support. The results of that vote eliminated the ordinance altogether. However, a petition to reinstate Proposition 46 brought the question back to voters on May 16 where they reaffirmed their commitment to repealing the law. The ballot vote saw a 29.9 percent voter turnout, more than the budget referendum, with a vote of 824 “yes” to 1,108 “no,” solidifying the will of the voters to eliminate the ordinance for the foreseeable future.

McArthur leads Woodstock past Killingly at the plate and in the field



Courtesy

The Woodstock Academy softball team is all smiles after winning its first-ever Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II regular season championship.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DAYVILLE — Sarah McArthur was offensive and defensive in the

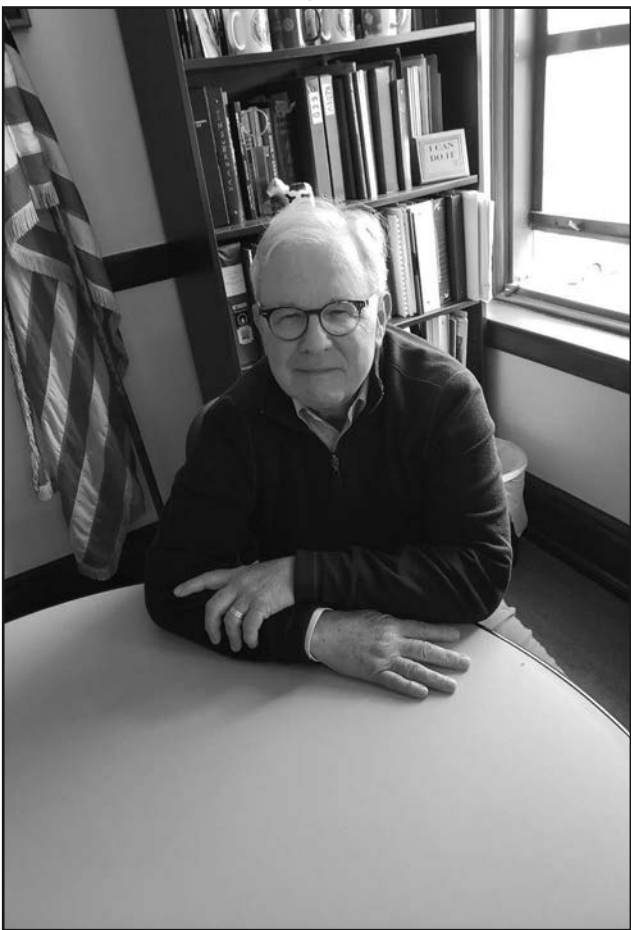
Woodstock Academy softball team’s 5-1 win over Killingly High on Monday, May 15 at Owen Bell Park. With the victory

the Centaurs claimed their first-ever Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Division II regular-season league championship.

onship. In 2021, because of COVID, the ECC altered its standard three-division alignment, combined and

Turn To **WOODSTOCK** page **A10**

Rebirth of Roseland Park and golf course vision of trustees



Courtesy
John Rauh, Vice President of Roseland Park and Golf Course Board of Trustees.

BY RON CODERRE
SPECIAL TO THE VILLAGER

W O O D S T O C K — Nearly 150 years ago, on July 4, 1876, Roseland Park was dedicated by Henry Chandler Bowen, the person who fulfilled his dream of providing open space for the people of Woodstock and surrounding communities in Connecticut and Massachusetts. In 1896, 20 years after the opening of the Park, Bowen’s son, Clarence W. Bowen and Judge George C. Holt teed off in the first golf match at Roseland Golf Club.

Due to Henry Chandler Bowen’s foresight the Roseland Park and Golf Course Board of Trustees, under the leadership of President Martha Beckwith and Vice President John Rauh, is developing short term and long-term strategic plans as part of a rebirth of the Woodstock landmark and treasure. Plans are underway with a review and modifications to the by-laws that will reflect the needs and requirements of the

21st century. Long range planning needs include continued improvements to the barn and house on the property, construction of an equipment storage facility, upgrades to the boathouse and adjoining deck and a relocated main entrance to better meet the traffic patterns of today’s automobiles.

Volunteers have been working on the golf course in widening and clearing fairways, removal of trees, and a new bridge on the second hole to safely accommodate golf carts. In the long term, golfers can anticipate playing on improved greens and new tee boxes, as well as improvements and modifications to the clubhouse.

“The goal of our Board is to insure the long-term viability of the park and golf course. We want to re-create the park and golf course for the enjoyment of the public, as Henry Chandler Bowen envisioned it. By instilling vitality and pride in the facility, the people and the families of the

greater Woodstock area will continue to enjoy the amenities,” said President Beckwith.

Mrs. Beckwith has long been involved in her community of Woodstock, serving on the Board of Trustees for eight years and serving on the Board and Foundation of The Woodstock Academy. Beckwith, who is married to Pastor Bob Beckwith of the South Woodstock Baptist Church, is a 1980 graduate of the Academy and a 1984 graduate of the University of Connecticut.

Board Vice President John Rauh, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and 36-year owner of Cableworks in Putnam until its sale in 2020, shares Mrs. Beckwith’s enthusiasm for the future of Roseland Park and Golf Course.

“Since moving to Northeastern Connecticut in 1978, I’ve been fortunate to serve on the Board of The Woodstock Academy, the Pomfret Board of Education and the Northeastern

Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and for the past 20 years as a member and former president of the Park and Golf Course Board,” said Rauh.

“I’m excited to serve with this energetic group of Trustees. Our goal is to maintain the facilities as privately run for public use, through every season of the year. By improving the overall look and usability of the park and golf course, we can continue to provide a quality and safe environment for citizens of all ages,” concluded Rauh.

Both Beckwith and Rauh noted they look forward to unveiling the Board’s strategic plan as Roseland Park and Golf Course look forward to a rebirth of the facilities and property. It all began with the vision and dedication of Henry Chandler Bowen. People like Beckwith and Rauh along with members of the Board are striving to bring the legendary Bowen’s dream to reality in the 21st century.

“Nuts” opens June 2 at Bradley Playhouse

PUTNAM — The Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut at the Bradley Playhouse is proud to present “Nuts.” This tense legal drama has been called the best courtroom melodrama since “Witness for the Prosecution” and “The Caine Mutiny Court Martial.” The show opens June 2, and runs for two weekends.

Performances are June 2, 3, 9, and 10 at 7:30 p.m. and June 4 and 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$23 for adults

and \$20 for seniors, students, veterans and first responders. Please note, this show runs for two weekends, not three. Due to content and language, Nuts is recommended for mature audiences.

“Nuts” was written in 1979 by Tom Topor, who drew upon his years of experience as a journalist covering New York City police stations, hospitals, and psychiatric wards. In 1987, it was made into a motion picture starring Barbra Streisand and

Richard Dreyfuss.

Claudia Draper is a strong-willed, high class call girl indicted for manslaughter after killing a client in self-defense. Her mother and stepfather attempt to have her declared mentally incompetent, which would prevent a trial and cause her to be institutionalized. But is she really “nuts,” and can she convince the judge?

The TNECT production of “Nuts” is directed by William Corriveau. Tara Golson stars as Claudia Draper. D. Robert Corriveau appears as Aaron Levinsky, her attorney, and Jonathan Demers is the District Attorney, Franklin MacMillan. Psychiatrist Dr.

Herbert Rosenthal is played by Jim Douglas. Preston Arnold and Tonya Leigh Brock portray Claudia’s parents, Arthur and Rose Kirk. The cast is completed by Roy Simmons as Judge Murdoch, Adam Leidemer as Harry Haggerty, and Brittany-Paige Kimlingen as The Recorder.

The Bradley Playhouse is located at 30 Front St. (Route 44) in Putnam. All seats are reserved. Reservations may be made with a major credit card online at www.thebradleyplayhouse.org or by calling 860-928-7887. Tickets may be purchased at the theater box office, either before the performance, or at the door if available. Purchasing your tickets ahead of time is always a good idea.



Courtesy
Preston Arnold (Arthur Kirk), Adam Leidemer (Harry Haggerty), and D. Robert Corriveau (Aaron Levinsky).

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 15: Bobwhite Quail, Worm-eating Warbler, Veery, Wood Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, American Kestrel, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Parula Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3-month	5.10	% APY*
6-month	5.10	% APY*
1-year	5.15	% APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor
5 Albert St
Auburn, MA 01501-1303
508-832-5385

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 05/18/2023. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867L-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD

Putnam budget meets with voter approval

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — Putnam voters approved all items during the annual town meeting on May 10, including both the general government and education spending plans for Fiscal Year 2024.

The two budgets were the highlight items during the quick town meeting that lasted less than half an hour and saw just over 60 voters in attendance. The first item of the night was

comprised of several different spending plans: the general government plan, EMS funding, library funding, and funding for school resource officers and school safety officers for the Putnam schools. The general government budget, which included bonded indebtedness, totals \$9.3 million, an increase of \$903,776, or over 10.5 percent on the current year. The library spending plan totals \$429,228, an increase of just under 3 percent, the EMD plan totals \$288,400, a 3

percent increase, and the police spending for the SSO and SRO, a new item in the budget, totals \$280,000. These items combined create a \$10.3 million general government spending plan that passed by a ballot vote of 53 to 9 according to the town meeting minutes.

The education spending plan was the second item addressed during the annual town meeting. The \$20.3 million budget represented an increase of \$950,000, a little less than 5 percent, over the current year. The budget passed by a slightly larger margin of 55 to 5. The combined general government and education budgets will bring a 1.1 mil increase to local property taxes while \$900,000 of the budget will be covered using surplus funds.

The remainder of the annual town meeting involved simple votes of approval from the taxpayers. Those present approved the five-year capital improvement plan, which runs through the fiscal year ending June 2028, as well as the Capital Non-Recurring Fund budget which totals \$422,000.

Spencer Fulone receives Lasell University book award

NEWTON, Mass. — Spencer Fulone of Thompson received the Undergraduate Book Award in Entrepreneurship from Lasell University.

Undergraduate Book Awards are given in recognition of a demonstrated commitment to excellence at Lasell University. Recipients are selected by faculty for serving as models for their fellow students in professional demeanor, academic achievement, maturity, perseverance, and collegiality.

Graduate Book Awards are given to Graduate and Professional Studies (GPS) students who graduate with a 4.0 cumulative GPA. The award is given in recognition of a demonstrated commitment to excellence at Lasell University.

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications, at (617) 243-2386, or smocle@lasell.edu.

Showplace Cabinetry is made in America by employee-owners who take great pride in every cabinet they craft for you. Your creative choices are nearly unlimited, and it's all backed by the assurance of a lifetime warranty. Call us to learn more about what we can do for your dream.

EMPLOYEE OWNED • MADE IN AMERICA • LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

189 Eastford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242
ph: 860-974-1924 • fax: 860-974-0099
eastfordbuildingsupply.com

Transform Your Home Today!

We are authorized retailer of Benjamin Moore Paints & Stains. Our Staff Makes it easy to find the right color, paint and supplies to ensure a successful project!

YOUR DREAM, CLOSER TO REALITY

Monday-Friday 7am-5pm
Saturday: 8am-12pm
Sunday: Closed

THE LAW OFFICE OF
GABRIELLE LABONTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

WILLS AND TRUSTS
MEDICAID PLANNING
PROBATE

5 VINA LANE • P.O. Box 709
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234
PHONE: 860-774-3700 • FAX: 860-774-6300

A/C & HEATING

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC DUCTLESS SPLIT HEAT-PUMPS
HEATING
AIR CONDITIONING
Michael J. Williams
SHEET METAL FABRICATION

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
COOLING & HEATING

M.J. Williams Heating & AC, INC.
Serving the community since 1988
High Quality work at an affordable price

508-949-0035
www.mjwhvac.com

Mass save hvac approved vendor
Energize CT hvac approved vendor

Open house at Woodstock’s Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue June 4

WOODSTOCK — Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue is opening its doors to the public on Sunday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and its resident opossums will be ready to meet and greet you. Ferncroft is located at 661 Route 171 in Woodstock. A donation of \$10 per person age nine and over is suggested. Pre-registration is required because of limited parking space.

Bella, Mango, and Sherman are educational ambassadors for Ferncroft and help Pam and Bill Lefferts, founders of the rescue, teach about opossums and other backyard wildlife. All three of the opossums have injuries that would keep them from surviving in the wild. Take the opportunity to tour the clinic and rehabilitation pens. Also, see orphaned baby opossums (joeys) that will be cared for at Ferncroft until they are ready to be released, which is always the hoped for outcome for an animal. Learn what it takes to become a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and operate a rescue.



At 11 a.m., Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education (Ashford) will present a birds of prey (eagles, hawks, owls) program.
At noon, Riverside Reptiles Education

Center (Enfield) will show its animals, which include a Burmese python and an American alligator.

At 1 p.m., Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue will present “All About Opossums.”

Representatives of The Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and rangers from The Last Green Valley will have information tables.

Pam’s children’s book, From Couch to Pouch: Why Lavender the Opossum Lives in a House will be available for a donation to the rescue.

There are three ways to register: email leftfertswh@msn.com or go to <https://www.paypal.me/FerncroftWildlifeRes> or venmo.com/u/Pam-Lefferts

Pets must be left at home.

More information about Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue, the open house, and upcoming programs can be found on Ferncroft’s Facebook page.

24th Masonic District tradition strong!



Center, standing, left to right Brother John Merz received his 50 years Masonic Veterans Service Medal presented to him by 24th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master Brother Jonathan Neitz shaking his hand in a packed room of veterans and widows.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

CHARLTON — On Saturday, May 20, the 24th Masonic District held its Annual Masonic Widows

and Veterans Luncheon at the Overlook Masonic Home facilities in Charlton.

This event has been going on for over a decade. Chairmen Brother Dean Moss, and committee

members bro. Steve Dragon were very happy to see all the attendees that came out for this very special tradition to honor our Masonic veterans and their widows. Fifty-one people attended, including many of

the Overlook facility residents, to honor these Masonic veterans and their widow’s luncheon. There was entertainment by Clyde Wheatley who played his saxophone and played mostly jazz from the ‘30s to ‘40s era. His music brought back many memories for those who attended this event.

Prior to entering the hall veterans and widows registered for the event. Widows were handed a Masonic pin and a pamphlet “Our Tribute to you honoring the loss of your loved one.” Presented at this event was a 50-year Masonic Veterans Service Medal to bro. John Merz who is affiliated with the Rose of Sharon Lodge located at the Overlook in Charlton. At the main dining hall entrance the ladies were

given a red rose from Leslie Cape of the Clara Barton Chapter No. 63 of The Eastern Star.

Prior to the meal the Color Guard entered the dining hall. The flag bearer, a Vietnam veteran Chief Petty Officer bro. Larry Olson walked proudly holding the flag high. Behind him was our 24th District Deputy Grand Master Brother Jonathan Neitz and Chairmen bro. Dean Moss. The color guard stopped, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. The Chairman of this event, bro. Dean Moss spoke and thanked everyone for attending this event. He quoted and said to me he looked

forward to this event because “The best thing we can give our widows and veterans is our time”. These are veterans who served our country when we needed them the most and risked their lives so we could have a better life. They have served their country with honor and distinction and the widows supported them and believed in what they were fighting for. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.

CARPENTRY SERVICES CT, LLC

Remodeling
Kitchens, Baths
and More!

CALL Gene Pepper at 860-230-6105
carpentryservicesct.com

CT #0606460 • #MA-HIC#196807 • RI #763
Veteran owned and operated since '89

Privacy Hedge!

Arborvitae 6-foot

Reduced to \$125/each.

Free Installation, Free Delivery.

Fast growing, High-quality

Beautiful & Bushy

Order now to reserve
for spring delivery.

Lowcosttreefarm.com

518-536-1367

Eastford announces plans for Memorial Day parade

EASTFORD — On May 29, Eastford’s Memorial Day Parade starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Eastford Elementary School. The Eastford Color Guard will lead the parade followed by Eastford Veterans, community and youth groups, and the Eastford Independent Fire Company. The East Woodstock Cornet Band will provide the music. Community members are invited to participate in the parade.

Immediately following the parade, a Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at Eastford’s Veteran’s Memorial. The ceremony includes an invocation, the recognition of an Eastford Veteran, the laying of a memorial wreath, a Military Salute, and musical presentations by the Eastford Singers, the East Woodstock Coronet Band, and Eastford Elementary School Students.

Preceding the parade, Memorial Day services will take place at the General Lyon Cemetery at 8:30 a.m. and the Grove Cemetery at 9 a.m. In the event of rain, the parade will be cancelled and the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the school. All are welcome to attend.

Daughters of Isabella hosting bottle drive

REGION — Daughters of Isabella are raising funds for Caring Families through their annual Baby Bottle Drive, starting on May13 and continuing until June18. Bottles can be picked up at any of the 4 Churches of St. Therese Parish. Fill a bottle with any amount of money that you can afford and proceeds will help raise awareness and funds for mothers and babies. Please make checks to Daughters of Isabella.

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

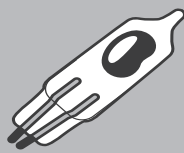
Mercury is found in products such as:



Thermostats



Thermometers



Mercury Switches



Fluorescent Lamps

Please contact your local Board of Health or Department of Public Works for information on where to safely dispose of these items.

SPONSORED BY

WIN WASTE INNOVATIONS

HOLY TRINITY GREEK FEST

A TASTE OF GREECE

JUNE 3RD & 4TH 2023

SATURDAY - 11 AM - 9 PM | SUNDAY 12PM - 5PM

80 WATER STREET DANIELSON, CT

GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

GYROS • PASTITSIO • MOUSSAKA • SOUVLAKIA

ROAST LAMB SHANK • GREEK SALAD • ROAST HALF CHICKEN

BAKLAVA • SPANAKOPITA • ASSORTED GREEK PASTRIES

LIVE DJ SATURDAY • GREEK MUSIC • CASH RAFFLE • RAFFLE BASKETS

HOLY TRINITY DANCE TROUPE PERFORMANCE • UNIQUE JEWELRY & GIFTS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOMEMADE GREEK FOOD AND PASTRY AT THE GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

Marianapolis’ Grace O’Gara signs letter of intent with Auburn University at Montgomery

THOMPSON — Post-graduate Grace O’Gara, of Worcester, Mass., signed her National Letter of Intent to play basketball for Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) on Tuesday, May 16.

O’Gara previously attended South High in Worcester, where she was a 1,000-point scorer. During her season with Marianapolis she averaged 9.5 points to go with her team-leading 2.9 assists and 3.1 steals per game and brought intensity and focus to the team.

“I have been playing basketball ever since I could remember but started playing travel basketball in second grade on an all-boys team,” she said. “What I enjoy most

about playing basketball is the sense of comfort it brings me. Every time I step on a court, I feel as if nothing else matters. I have dreamed about playing basketball at a high level ever since I was little, and now that time is finally here. My years of hard work and dedication to the game are paying off and I couldn’t be more grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to play.”

O’Gara said she decided to sign with AUM, “because I felt loved by all of the staff. I am ready to compete at a high level and I knew when I saw the campus that this was the right decision for me. Yes, it’s far from home, but I’m excited to make

new memories at a new place.”

“Grace has been absolutely fantastic for us,” said Wes Howard, girls’ varsity basketball head coach. “She moved so quickly through the adjustment period and really found a family here at MPrep, both on and off the court. She’s put in years of work for the chance to play ball at a school and program like AUM, and we couldn’t be prouder of her. I know that Grace is just going to keep getting better and better; she’s tenacious that way. It’s going to be really exciting to watch her career unfold at the next level.”

Auburn University at



Grace O’Gara (seated) with her parents Cynthia and Mike, and sister, Sam. Montgomery, located in Division II school play- Conference. Montgomery, Ala., is a ing in the Gulf South

Putnam resident Benjaminh Brodeur completes intensive research project

WORCESTER, Mass. — Benjaminh Brodeur, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in Mathematical Sciences at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a

member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled A Step Towards Better Traffic: Walking to School in Israel.

At WPI, all undergrad-

uates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university’s 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of

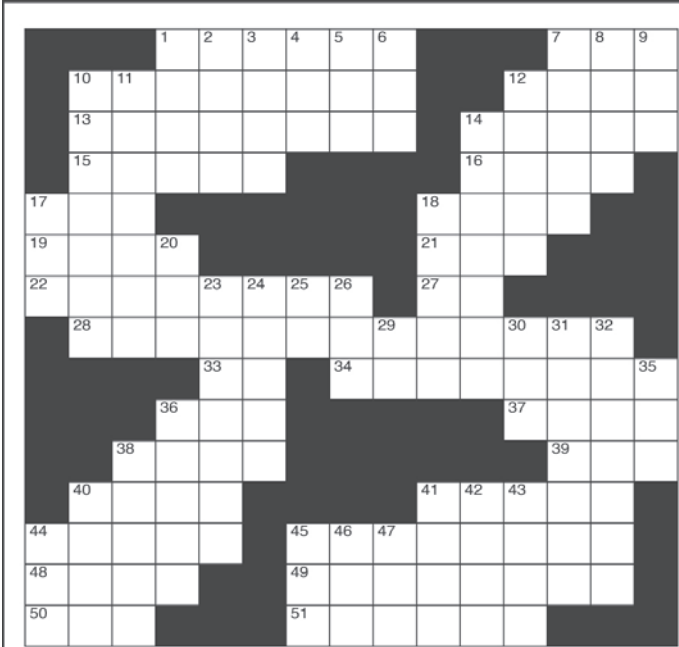
people’s lives and make a difference before they graduate.

“The WPI project-based curriculum’s focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems,” said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. “Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today’s global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and mean-

ingful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates

in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

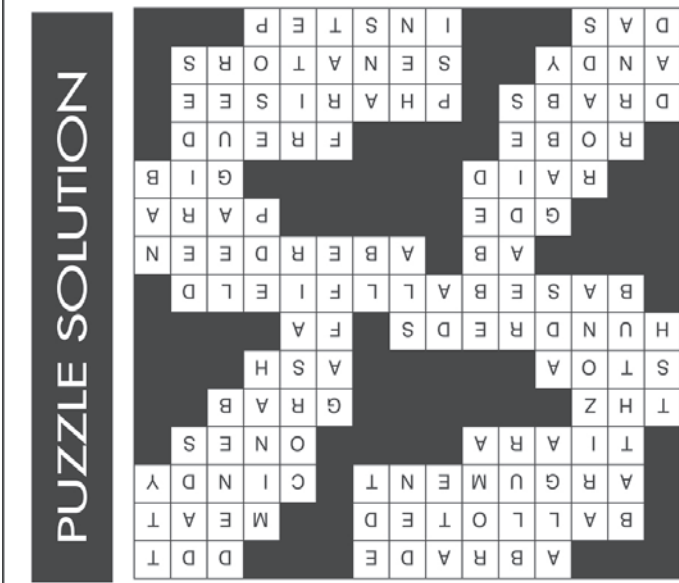


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Wear away by friction
- 7. Insecticide
- 10. Elicited a secret vote
- 12. Beef
- 13. Disagreement
- 14. __ Crawford, supermodel
- 15. Jeweled headdress
- 16.. Digits
- 17. Trillion hertz
- 18. Snap up
- 19. Classical portico
- 21. Residue after burning
- 22. Large integers
- 27. Free agent
- 28. Where ballplayers work
- 33. Blood type
- 34. Scottish city
- 36. Google certification (abbr.)
- 37. Serbian monetary unit
- 38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
- 39. Wood or metal bolt
- 40. Relaxing attire
- 41. Famed neurologist
- 44. Dullish brown fabrics
- 45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
- 48. Griffith, Rooney
- 49. Lawmakers
- 50. Government lawyers
- 51. The arch of the foot

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 2. Britpop rockers
- 3. National capital
- 4. Consumed
- 5. The habitat of wild animals
- 6. Sun up in New York
- 7. Cygnus star
- 8. Male parents
- 9. Talk to you (abbr.)
- 10. A place to clean oneself
- 11. Southwestern US state
- 12. South Korean idol singer
- 14. Pirate
- 17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 18. Mistake
- 20. Promotions
- 23. Prepares
- 24. Partner to flowed
- 25. State lawyer
- 26. Patti Hearst's captors
- 29. Pound
- 30. Electronic data processing
- 31. Sports player
- 32. Treats with contempt
- 35. Apprehend
- 36. Excessively talkative
- 38. Highways
- 40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 41. College organization for males
- 42. Any customary observance or practice
- 43. Employee stock ownership plan
- 44. Male parent
- 45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 46. Female bird
- 47. Autonomic nervous system



Regis College celebrates 93rd Commencement exercises

WESTON, Mass. — Empowered and inspired by their Regis education to serve as leaders and advocates for a more just and compassionate global society, members of the Class of 2023 celebrated their accomplishments with an inspirational commencement ceremony at the Leader Bank Pavilion in Boston featuring WHDH’s Amaka Ubaka who delivered the commencement address and received an honorary degree, along with philanthropists Bill and Joyce Cummings. More than 1,300 students graduated with degrees ranging from associate to doctoral levels.

“It is now up to you to take what you have learned and leave this ceremony committed to bettering the world around us with your knowledge and compassion. As the journey continues for each of you, I am confident in the future because you are in it,” Regis College President Antoinette M. Hays, PhD, RN said to the graduates.

Ubaka delivered the commencement address urging graduates to embrace their “rebel hearts,” a term used by the late singer Harry Belafonte to encourage individuals to stand up for what they believe in, even if it goes against the norm.

“Whether it’s through volunteering, activism, or pursuing a career that aligns with your values and passions, each of you has the power to create positive change. Remember that life is a journey, not a destination. There will be ups and downs, twists and turns, and unexpected surprises along the way. Embrace the journey and don’t be too hard on yourself if things don’t always go as you planned in your head,” said Ubaka. “As you move forward, remember that your unique experiences and perspectives are what make you special. Embrace your rebel heart, pursue your passions, and don’t be afraid to take risks.”

Thousands of friends and family members attended the ceremony, bringing their support and enthusiasm in celebration of the graduates’ achievements.

The following local students earned degrees:

Pouna Souvanasing of Danielson graduated Cum laude with a BS in Nursing

Jennifer Martell of North Grosvenordale graduated with a MS in Applied Behavior Analysis

Alyssa Espinosa of Putnam graduated with a MS in Occupational Therapy

Regis College is a coed university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. With over 3,200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. In line with Regis’ mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor’s completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university’s 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Regis educates the whole person, preparing our students to pursue excellence, to become change agents in their own communities, and to serve and lead as advocates for a more just and compassionate global society. Visit regiscollege.edu to learn more.

Villager Newspapers

TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:
MIKAELA VICTOR
RETAIL ADVERTISING
860-928-1818 EXT. 313
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news
LEGAL NOTICES:
860-928-1818, EXT. 183
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
KERRI PETERSON
860-928-1818, EXT. 303
kerri@stonebridgepress.news
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL: obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 860-928-4215
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS RELEASE
E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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

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

For Advertising Information
Call 860-928-1818 Ext. 326
email: mikaela@villagernewspapers.com

Woodstock schools team up with WE COMPETE to collect sneakers for reuse and recycling



WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Middle School (WMS) and Woodstock Elementary School (WES) have partnered with WE COMPETE, a local student run charity, to collect sneakers for reuse and recycling. The partnership between the Woodstock Schools and WE COMPETE aims to help those in need of footwear locally and globally as well as reduce the negative environmental impact of unwanted shoes in landfills.

Student Council facilitator, Angelica Jackson invited Julia Coyle, WE COMPETE's founder and a junior at The Woodstock Academy, to present the details of the program with WMS Student Council members last week.

"I am very impressed by the student's interest in making a difference,

and the impact that has both in their community and globally," said Julia Coyle.

Why it matters

Due to generous sneaker donations received at both school locations WE COMPETE will be able to offer more athletic shoes to those in need. Proceeds help support the reuse/recycle program, athletic opportunities for students, and is a positive step toward a future of zero carbon and zero waste.

Key details

- WE COMPETE's Sneakers for Students program provides the newer sneakers collected to local students in need of footwear.
- Remaining wearable sneakers go to developing countries where footwear is desperately needed. Globally, more than 600 million people don't even own a pair of shoes
- The worn out sneakers WE COMPETE collects are used for artificial athletic fields, courts, tracks, playgrounds and to pad the underside of flooring. In the United States, at least 200 million pairs of shoes and sneakers end up in landfills each year and shoes in landfills can take 30 to 40 years to decompose.

The collection boxes at The Woodstock Middle School and Woodstock Elementary School will be in place for the duration of the school year. Please join in making a difference locally, globally and environmentally by donating your pre-owned sneakers to their sneaker drive.

More drop-off locations can be found by visiting: we-compete.org.

For more information, please get in touch with WE COMPETE at: info@we-compete.org.

Woodstock resident Harold Wotton completes intensive research project

WORCESTER, Mass. — Harold Wotton, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled TRUE Robotics STEM Education.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives and make a difference before they graduate.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Spring 2023 Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — A total of 2,054 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI's spring 2023 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real" said Professor Arthur C. Heinricher. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were on the Dean's List for Spring 2023:

- Benjaminh Brodeur of Putnam, class of 2024, majoring in Mathematical Sciences
- Garrett McMerriman of Putnam, class of 2023, majoring in Data Science
- Brooke Peloquin of Putnam, class of 2025, majoring in Mechanical Engineering
- Connor Quinn of Woodstock, class of 2025, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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



Carlos Morales, MD
Colorectal and
General Surgeon

We offer an alternative to traditional surgery. The da Vinci Robot.

Your minimally invasive procedure is waiting.

Day Kimball Healthcare has added the da Vinci Xi Surgical System, the most advanced minimally invasive option for a variety of surgical treatments. Now our doctors can perform minimally invasive procedures with greater precision, smaller incisions, and faster recovery times than ever before. A new generation of community hospital is here to stay.

Healthcare in motion.

Killingly girls' lacrosse team improved as 2023 season progressed

NORWICH FREE ACADEMY SPOILS KILLINGLY BID TO QUALIFY FOR POSTSEASON

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Getting better as the season went along.

Looking back on Killingly High School's recently completed girls' lacrosse season, the above statement can certainly serve as a theme to the year. Killingly began the season 1-5, hit its stride in the middle of the year, going 5-2 — a stretch that included a three-game winning streak — before dropping the final three games of the season to finish 6-10 overall and 0-8 in Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Division II play.

In its regular-season finale, which ended up being its season finale, Killingly hosted Norwich Free Academy (NFA) on Thursday, May 18. Killingly knew going into the game a win would earn the team a berth in the state tournament. Unfortunately, the Wildcats had too much firepower, winning the game, 12-4.

"I reminded the girls after the game that even though we knew we needed a win against NFA to make states, our main goal this year was to improve every day and that's exactly what we did," Killingly coach Derek Ponciano said. "Before the season we

were moved up into the toughest division in the ECC, where we had to face Stonington, Waterford, Bacon and Montville."

The Wildcats (6-10), who employed a possession-based offense, jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first three minutes, 36 seconds into the game on goals by Molly Page (who scored seven times in the game). Killingly cut the NFA lead to 2-1 on a left-to-right shot just inside the far post by Emily Lamparelli with 20:52 remaining in the first half. Killingly trailed NFA, 6-1, at halftime.

Killingly cut the NFA lead to 6-3 in the first 8:16 of the second half on Lamparelli's second goal of the game, and a goal Laura Farquhar. The Wildcats, however, scored five straight goals to take a commanding 11-3 lead with 9:32 remaining.

A goal by Molly Crabtree with 7:15 to go closed out the Killingly scoring, and Page then scored the final goal of the game 45 seconds later to account for the 12-4 final score.

Ponciano was disappointed by the loss to NFA, but thrilled with how hard his players worked throughout the season.

"These girls really stepped up this year," Ponciano said. "I am very proud of them."



Courtesy

Prior to its final game of the season (vs. Norwich Free Academy on Thursday, May 18), the Killingly High School girls' lacrosse program took time to honor four seniors for their service as either a manager or a player. Those honored were, from left, Salena Thongsouvanh, Talia Noury, Aila Gutierrez and Alexis Rainey.

Lamparelli was Killingly's leading scorer, finishing the season with 48 goals and nine assists. She was followed in the scoring column by Farquhar (17 goals, 5 assists), Riley Ritchotte (15 goals), Morgan Blanchard (12 goals), Illyana Malarkey and Selina Metzermacher (10 goals each), and Crabtree and Aila Gutierrez (nine goals each).

"Emily was our No. 1 offensive option; she had

a really nice season," Ponciano said. "When you look at the scores of a lot of our games it says one thing, but when you watch the way we play offense it shows something completely different."

"I have a good group of girls who hustle for the entire game. They know who to give it to in scoring situations," Ponciano continued. "I don't have any selfish girls on this team. They're all willing

to spread the ball around in an effort to spread the scoring around. For us to be successful we need to have a balanced scoring attack and I think we had that this season."

Defensively, Killingly improved as the season progressed. Leading the way on defense were Crabtree (32 caused turnovers), Farquhar (30 caused turnovers) and Gutierrez (22 caused turnovers).

"Defense has been my focus and a point of emphasis since I started coaching lacrosse," said Ponciano, whose defensive unit, in addition to Crabtree, Farquhar, and Gutierrez includes Sydney Crabtree (Molly's twin sister), Lila Beaudreault, Raigan Leveillee and Ella Dunn. "We had a defensive plan last year and we brought it into this year and, I think, improved upon it."

"This year we added a lot of different defensive sets as the season progressed," Ponciano continued. "We have a really strong defense. I think all our defensive players are very consistent and forced a lot of turnovers."

While Ponciano was pleased with the in-season development of all his players, he was especially impressed by the progress Molly Crabtree made.

"Molly was a defender

for us last year. Her skill set really improved this year, so we gave her the freedom to play attack as well," Ponciano said. "When that happens we have a specific rotation where a player will drop back for her on defense, which allows her to get into the offensive flow of the game."

"Molly is very good in tight spots," Ponciano continued. "She knows how to get around players using her agility. Her basketball experience helps her because she comes to lacrosse already used to operating in congested areas. She plays defense but when she sees offensive opportunities she moves up. Molly didn't score for us last year, but this year she finished with nine goals."

Of the 19 players on this year's roster 17 will return next year, including three sophomore and three freshmen.

"The whole plan was to improve this year so we can have those freshmen as sophomores make a bigger impact next year," Ponciano said. "That's kind of hard to believe because they played so well this year, but I think they're going to have a huge year for us next year as well. I don't believe we'll make huge improvements next year, I know we will."

WOODSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

Grade 6
High Honors: Noah Damaso, Kalena Fortner, Alexa Heersink,

Marina Jennings, Avery Manbeck, Archie McDonald, Jude Sargent
Honors: Sydney Anderson, Isabel Berry, Logan Bessette, Parker Bessette, Kestrel Brousseau, Rachel Conant, Alexander Cournoyer, Hayden Ferguson, Autumn Fogarty, Brielle Fogarty,

Liam Hewson, Piper Jagodzinski, Jenson Knight, Brook Marshall, Bao Novotny, Cooper O'Brien, Kenzie Porter, Benjamin Shamp, Mikai Shepherd, Brooklyn Sherman-Wessell, Tristan Sparks, Emma Stacy, Aylin Stevens, Harbor Wotton

Recognition: Jayden Casillas, Grayson, De Oliveira, Jada Francis, Aislin Gabaree, Mason Haley, Ryleigh Hitchcock, Jacob Hull, William Leonard, Autumn Maturi, Quinlyn McKinley-Desjardins, Jonathan Montanez, Nicole Obeng, Dawson Pinter, Olivia Quinney, Samuel Shead

Grade 7
High Honors: Carolina Ahearn, Georgia Cross,

Charlotte Donovan, Roan Donovan, Nathaniel Drake, Jax Golden, Sophia Groves, Colton Haase, Emma Johnson, Abigail Keser, Kaitlyn McQuiston, Abel Rigney, Lily Smock

Honors: Isabella Amlaw, Ryder Benoit, Ava Carlone, Colby Deary, Alexander DeCarli, Ava Eaton, Caroline Ethier, Scarlett Hogarty, Davis Jette, Jack Keller, Kaitlyn LaBonte, Kaylee Letourneau, Cuhrliz Welch Lopera, Haven Magnan, Tristen Maloney, James McHugh, Owen Murdock, Kaleb Nagel, Luana Portilla, Stella Puchalski, Patrick Raftery, Erin Russell, James Silva, Cole Swabby, Kaitlyn Teal, Muhammad Zameer

Recognition: Drake Abdulloviski, Rhys Asikainen, Jacob Bickoff, Hope Boggia, Evan Boucher, Zoe Cloutier, Henry Griffin, Daniel Jameson, Abigail Manning, Oliver Moulton, Colbie O'Connor, Caroline Walen

Grade 8
High Honors: Brayden Bottone, Lorelai Fish, Patrick Fox, Robert Graham, Samuel Greene, Julia Guimont, Cooper Harris, Landon Murdock, Keegan Porter, Cayden Worth

Honors: Arianna Fox, Brayden Graves, Brady Hebert, Maxwell Kopp, Winston Kvanli, Maura Leonard, Kelsey McNeil, Molly Mead, Tyler

Odorski, Blake Robida, Chloe Vogt

Recognition: Mia Auger, Catalina Baarda, Sydney Betty, Kaylyn Converse, Amelia Ditzel, Maylie Ganas, Avery Grant, Patrick Griswold, Jake Henderson, Brendon Lundt, Hayden Maloney, Jessica Palmerino, Tatum Perez, Damien Redman, Jenna Saraidarian, Kieran Shepherd

Pomfret to hold Memorial Day parade Monday

POMFRET — The Town of Pomfret will be holding its annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29 starting at 10 a.m.

This year's parade kicks off at the Pomfret Congregational Church and proceeds down Pomfret Street/Route 44 to the Town Green where a short ceremony will take place. Come early to get a good spot on the parade route for this family-fun annual event!



Community Connection

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!

Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.CrookedCreekFarmMA.com

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

Find Us on Social Media

MA, CT & RI MA HIC 200626 CSL CS-115769

GUARANTEED ROOFING
Because your roof matters!

SPRING INTO ROOFING!

Most types of roofing!

- Residential
- Commercial
- Asphalt
- Metal
- Flat

Also, vinyl & fiber cement siding

guaranteedroofingct.com
860-792-5788

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs

All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

Wilsonville Herb Farm
Organic HOT pepper plants
Marcia Kettle
Certified Master Gardener
860-481-3585
149 Wilsonville Road,
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
wilsonvilleherbfarm@gmail.com
Hours: Thu-Fri: 10-6 • Sat: 9-3 • Sun: 11-3

ORGANIC HERB PLANTS, NATIVE PLANTS AND MORE
www.wilsonvilleherbfarm.com

Nathan's Lawncare Services

- Mowing
- Mulching
- Seeding
- Fertilization
- Clean Ups

Call/Text
860-234-7496
nathanbuddlawncare@gmail.com

Free Estimates!

For Advertising Information

Call

860-928-1818

Ext. 326

email:

mikaela@villagernewspapers.com

www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

Email us your thoughts to:
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

We'd Love To Hear From You!

Managing the heat of hot peppers



Roulette peppers have the citrusy flavor of habaneros but not the heat.

Don't worry if the rest of your family does not appreciate the spicy heat your favorite hot peppers add to entrees, beverages and desserts. Proper pepper selection, care and preparation can help you turn down the heat as needed.

Hot peppers' spicy heat is measured in Scoville Heat Units named for Wilbur Scoville. The level of heat was originally determined by a panel of individual tasters. Chili peppers were ground and added to a sugar-water solution. The solution was continually diluted until the panelist found the solution

no longer burned their mouth. Each pepper was assigned a number based on the amount of sugar-water solution needed to reach that point. Today a more accurate less subjective high-performance liquid chromatography method can be used for measuring the pungency of hot peppers.

Poblano and Siracha rate between 1,000 to 2,500, jalapenos up to 8,000, cayenne can peak at 50,000, habaneros up to 350,000 and one of the hottest, the ghost pepper, at as much as 2,200,000 units. If you like the citrusy flavor of habaneros

but not the heat, try the All-America Selections winner Roulette. Ornamental peppers are edible as well as pretty. Most rate anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 Scoville units. Chilly Chili ornamental pepper produces an abundance of attractive yellow, orange and red upright fruit on 10 to 12 inch plants. As the name suggests, they have almost no heat. Mix with flowers for decorative displays in containers and garden beds.

Peppers grow and produce best when day temperatures are 70 to 80 degrees, and night temperatures are 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Cold, heat and drought are the most common cause of blossom drop, misshapen fruit, and a poor harvest.

Use a hand pruner or garden snips to harvest peppers without damaging the plants. Harvest most hot peppers when fully mature and red for the strongest flavor. Green chili and jalapeno peppers are harvested when green. And some like jalapeno, habanero and Anaheim, are hot whether harvested when green or red. When your



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

summer is filled with long hot days hot peppers tend to be even hotter.

Avoid hot surprises when cooking by labeling hot peppers when growing, harvesting and storing them. Many sweet and hot pepper varieties look similar and confusing the two could be unpleasant. Just keep a glass of milk handy in case you need to neutralize the sting.

Turn down the heat, if needed or desired, when preparing your favorite recipes. Since most of the capsaicin, which gives hot peppers their heat, is in the white membrane that houses the seeds, just remove this and the seeds if you want the flavor with less heat.

Wear rubber gloves and avoid touching your face and eyes when

working with hot peppers as they can burn. Wash your hands, utensils and cutting boards when finished. Turn a portion of your pepper harvest into pickled peppers for the hot pickle fans in the family to enjoy throughout the winter. The key to success and safety is using a tested recipe that contains the right amount of ingredients and processing it properly. Check University or other vetted sources for safe recipes and processing guidelines. Try some of these strategies and mention the many health benefits to encourage reluctant eaters to try hot peppers. Although hot peppers and spicy food can add to the pain and irritation of ulcers, they do not cause them contrary to some of the hot pepper

myths. They do, however, provide gastric relief, kill cancer cells, prevent sinus infection, reduce inflammation, and even burn fat. Over time you may be able to turn up the heat on your favorite recipes for all to enjoy.

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

Roseland Cottage open house June 3

WOODSTOCK — Free tours of Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169, Woodstock, will be offered on June 3, in celebration of Historic New England's Open House day. Tours are offered on the hour, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., with the last tour starting at 3 p.m.

Known locally as The Pink House, National Historic Landmark Roseland Cottage is one of the finest remaining examples of the Gothic Revival style which was popular in the 1840s, when Roseland was built. It served as the summer home of prominent 19th-century businessman and abolitionist Henry Chandler Bowen and his wife Lucy Tappan, who entertained many luminaries at Roseland, including four US Presidents. The picturesque landscape includes the original boxwood parterre garden, which is planted with over 5000 annuals each spring, an icehouse, aviary, carriage barn, and, remarkably, the nation's oldest surviving indoor bowling alley. The Pink House is as beautiful inside as out, with elaborate wall coverings, heavily patterned carpets, stained glass, and furnishings in the Gothic Revival style that date back to the construction of the house in 1846.

Roseland Cottage will be open in 2023 from June 1 to Oct. 15, Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tours are always free for Woodstock residents and Historic New England members and for all visitors on June 3. Please call 860 928-4074 for more information, or to arrange group tours.

Emerson College student Margaret McLoughlin of Woodstock inducted into 2022-2023 Gold Key Honor Society

BOSTON, Mass. — Emerson College student Margaret McLoughlin of Woodstock is one of ninety-eight seniors and juniors inducted into Emerson's Gold Key Honor Society on April 5th, 2023 in a ceremony in the Semel Theater located in Boston, Mass.

The Gold Key Honor Society is an interdisciplinary organization founded at Emerson in 1962 to "recognize and encourage outstanding academic achievement." Juniors in the top 5 percent of their class, and seniors in the top 10 percent of their class who have earned at least 48 credits are eligible.

Margaret McLoughlin is majoring in Theatre and Performance and is a member of the Class of 2022.

About Emerson College
Based in Boston, Mass., opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates indi-

viduals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 4,161 undergraduates and 554 graduate students from across the United States and nearly 70 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, D.C., London, China, and the Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland, Mexico, Cuba, England, and South Africa. The College has an active network of more than 51,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.

Quinsigamond Community College releases list of graduates

WORCESTER, Mass. — Quinsigamond Community College has released its 2023 list of graduates. On Friday, May 19, at 1 p.m., QCC graduates took part in its 58th commencement ceremony at the DCU Center. To view the ceremony, visit www.QCC.edu/commencement. The ceremony will also be shown on public access station WCCA-TV 194.

Associate in Science
Brooklyn: Alicia Rivers
Danielson: Lukasz Bobinski
Dayville: Heather Barretta
Moosup: Aaron Delacruz, Rebecca Gervais
Plainfield: Abena Adjei, Amber Kaiser
Thompson: Kayli Annese
Tolland: Leanne Reardon
Certificate
Danielson: Brian Tvelia
Moosup: Yalitza Pagan-Diaz
North Grosvenordale: Evan Lancaster



Here's a five-star rate on an 11-month CD.

5.00%*
ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD*
11-MONTH CD SPECIAL
(NEW MONEY ONLY)



Boost your savings with another great rate from Centreville Bank. This special CD offer is available for a limited time.

Centreville Bank
1-800-377-4424 | centrevillebank.com/GreatRates
19 locations across RI and eastern CT
Now open in Smithfield!
Coming soon to Jamestown, Newport and Warren, RI

*11-Month CD Special: Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 4/26/2023. To obtain the Premium APY of 5.00% you must maintain a Personal Premium Checking or a Personal Premium Money Market Account (collectively Deposit Accounts) to qualify. If your Deposit Account is closed, the interest rate and APY will default to the Regular 11-Month CD Special Rate in effect at the time of account opening. The Regular 11-Month CD Special Rate is 4.75% APY. New Money only. New Money is defined as money not on deposit at Centreville Bank within the last 30 days. Minimum opening deposit is a \$1,000.00. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. Minimum balance to earn interest is a \$1,000.00. This is a limited time offer and can be withdrawn at any time.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER | NMLS#402947 | MEMBER FDIC

www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

THE SIDING STORE INC.
Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms
SPRING SPECIALS NOW IN EFFECT
\$\$\$\$
Financing available to qualified customers!
thesidingstoreinc.com
860.423.7771 860.963.9035
860.886.1718 860.564.7088
References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe


Enjoy Life with Better Hearing!

Call 860-315-9656 to schedule a hearing evaluation.

Does your insurance cover hearing aids? Let us check for you. We work with Anthem BCBS, United Healthcare, Hearing Care Solutions, Amplifon, Nation's Hearing, American Hearing Benefits, and CT Medicaid.

amplisound
HEARING CARE CENTERS
19 Quinebaug Ave, Putnam
351 Merline Road, Vernon
www.amplisound.com

Hearing Solutions for all Lifestyles and Budgets since 1981



P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818
FAX: (860) 928-5946
WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The Power of open-mindedness

In a world marked by increasing divisions and intolerance, the importance of open-mindedness cannot be overstated. Open-mindedness is not just a desirable quality; it is an essential attribute for both individuals and societies to grow. The willingness to explore new ideas, perspectives, and possibilities is the driving force behind growth, understanding, and peaceful coexistence.

At its core, open-mindedness stands in stark contrast to narrow-mindedness. While the latter shuts out differing opinions and clings stubbornly to preconceived notions, the former opens the floodgates to intellectual advancement. Open-minded individuals recognize the limitations of their knowledge and actively seek to broaden their horizons by engaging with diverse ideas and perspectives. They understand that the world is intricate, and that truth can be found in unexpected places.

An open mind liberates us from the constraints of our own biases and prejudices. It allows us to go beyond the echo chambers of our social circles, where our beliefs are constantly reinforced and seldom challenged. Open-mindedness compels us to question our assumptions, critically evaluate information, and consider alternative viewpoints. This willingness to embrace differing perspectives brings forth empathy, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the human condition.

In today's interconnected world, open-mindedness is more crucial than ever. The rapid advancement of technology has brought individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds, into closer proximity. Without open-mindedness, these encounters may result in misunderstanding, conflict, and the erosion of society. However, approaching these encounters with open minds allows us to discover commonalities, bridge gaps, and foster mutual understanding.

Open-mindedness also serves as a catalyst for progress. History has shown that many of humanity's greatest discoveries were made by individuals who dared to challenge prevailing wisdom and conventional thinking. By embracing new ideas, open-minded individuals pave the way for creativity, problem-solving, and the advancement of society. It is through open-mindedness that novel solutions emerge, technologies are grown, and uncharted possibilities come to fruition.

Open-mindedness does not imply blind acceptance or the abandonment of critical thinking. Striking a balance between open-mindedness and healthy skepticism is crucial. Open-mindedness does not suggest that all ideas are equally valid or that we should unquestioningly embrace every viewpoint. Instead, it means being willing to entertain diverse perspectives, objectively evaluate them, and draw well-informed conclusions.

In a time when polarization threatens to tear us apart, cultivating open-mindedness should be our collective goal. It requires us to engage in respectful dialogue, even with those whose views we vehemently disagree with. Open-mindedness is not a sign of weakness or indecisiveness; it is a strength that allows us to build bridges and find common ground.

As individuals, we should challenge ourselves to examine our beliefs, confront our biases, and remain receptive to new ideas. We should actively seek out perspectives that differ from our own and engage in meaningful conversations that expand our understanding. We should include ourselves in environments that encourage open-mindedness, where the free exchange of ideas is valued and respected.

Open-mindedness necessitates humility, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to lifelong learning. By embracing open-mindedness, we expose ourselves to the vast landscape of human knowledge and experience, paving the way for progress, unity, and a brighter, well connected future.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Replacing the F-Word

To the Editor:
Nancy Weiss's column "Replacing the F-Word" hit a nerve. I too am repulsed by the foul language littering TV series such as "The Diplomat," "Shrinking," "Citadel," "Succession"...in fact, just about all newer shows. Writers are nonsensically inserting the F-word into everyday, non-emotionally charged sentences and conversations: "The sun is f-ing shining."
Stupid. There is a screenwriters strike going on. Let them go. The gratuitous use of

the F-word is indeed like litter along the side of a road, and its inane, throwaway usage ranks worse than the dumb sentence-littering of the word 'like.' (Not long ago, 'basically' was the common word litter.)
I have retreated to re-watching movies from 'back in the day.'
Thank you, Nancy.

JUDY DOYLE
DANIELSON

A house divided

To the Editor:
As I write this letter, I sit in amazed horror as my country—the wealthiest nation in the history of the world—is on the brink of defaulting on payment of our bills. Why? Because our Congressional leaders have decided to connect payment of past debt incurred with negotiations for future budget allocations. Of course, a budget is only a prediction of what will need to be paid in the future. Theoretically, it may cost more or it may cost less. At least, that is how I figure my own expenses every month. I estimate. And I usually estimate on the high side.

The administration has put forth a detailed line-by-line estimate of future costs to run our government and meet our financial obligations. The Speaker of the House has presented no such concrete document. Instead, the position of the leader of the government branch responsible for paying our bills is to issue demands for percentages and caps on future payments. Notice, I am not using the word "spending." Some of our national budget is spending—like the Pentagon budget, much of which is for upgrading weapons, aircraft, submarines, our nuclear arsenal, etc. But also for buying new weapons systems, sometimes to supply the world with more war-fighting capacity. In my mind, those purchases are "spending."

We also financially invest in our country. In my view, that includes infrastructure; education; help for people who need food, housing, healthcare—including mental health care; and those of us who invested, along with our employers, in Social Security and Medicare. Those investments stand to yield a healthier, safer population who are more likely to live in harmony than a population at war with itself to find enough to eat or a safe place to live. Isn't that why gated communities gained popularity among those who can afford to live there: protection from their fellow humans who do not have what they need for their families?

In the South Killingly community I grew up in over 60 years ago, there was not great material wealth, mostly small subsistence farms. We shared with each other. My grandfather grew strawberries and sold them along Route 6 from a roadside stand. Our family had chickens. We traded eggs for the milk from cows our neighbor had. We cared what happened to each other and faced tragedies and problems together. I know those days are long gone, but I will never forget what is possible when people decide to live in harmony. That is my standard for human interaction. And that is why I have watched with increas-

ing horror as I see family members and friends turn on each other because of what people who do not know us, and whom we will never meet, gain political power by creating "enemies" among us.

During the last administration, close to \$7.8 trillion was added to the national debt, much of which was due to reduction of tax obligations for corporations and for the wealthiest among us. These reductions were put in place before COVID attacked us. Congress, while dominated by the opposing political party, raised the debt ceiling three times without opposition. So we can see what is possible. And for those of us who pay our bills, we can see what is necessary. There are strong arguments for restoring the previous tax obligations and for raising or eliminating the cap on social security payroll deductions. (If you earn more than \$160,000 in 2023, the remainder of your income is not subject to Social Security deductions.)

So, what can one little person do to move us all toward better possibilities? Listen. Help each other. Use the facts of a situation rather than what you heard someone else say. Discern the difference between opinion and "news." Don't discard someone from your life because of their political party, religion, economic status, ethnic heritage or skin color. Make friends with people you are not supposed to have as friends. Challenge stereotypes. I know readers can think of other possibilities to bring us back together in spite of disagreements.

Our political landscape is a reflection of our voters' choices. Register and vote. Now is not the time to be a witness, it is time to be involved in the restoration of civility and respect for each other. I pray that by the time this letter is printed, an intelligent and human resolution of debt payment will have taken place.

The political leaders who are now challenging the history of the United States as reliably responsible to make payment of our debt have pointed out that among their party's history is one of our greatest presidents: Abraham Lincoln. Let's remember that it was President Lincoln, during time of our greatest domestic crisis, who quoted from the gospel of Matthew: "a house divided against itself will not stand." It is past time for us to make the moves toward restoring our tragically divided house. I think we can do it. I also think we must.

Respectfully,

CLAUDIA ALLEN
THOMPSON

Late bloomers

Do good things come to those who wait? I don't know; I guess it all depends! Growing up, they said my age group belonged to the microwave generation—impatient, wanting everything 'popcorn quick.' That made it especially hard when I couldn't accomplish my dreams instantly.

ber those early practices where the promise of a tootsie roll at the end of each lap was my only motivation to keep going. However, as I paddled through the years, my love for the sport took root, growing with me from Junior high to College.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

slowest, but my gold medal was often out of reach. I often took solace in the fact that "I'm a late bloomer." Just like my dad said.

In the lull between high school and College, I stumbled upon triathlons. This thrilling combination of endurance sports had my heart racing even before I hit the starting line. I knew I was no longer a late bloomer and was delighted to win first place in my age group!

My victory could have been more impressive after discovering I was the only one racing in my age group, winning by default. It turned out I was still a late bloomer.

When I finally let go of the notion that I was going to be a professional swimmer, it initially felt like an admission of defeat, but it was really a recalibration of direction.

While I could feel my ego taking a hit, always in the back of my mind, I heard my dad's voice, "It's okay, Toby, you're just a late bloomer." A course change isn't about

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A9**

The pickleball phenomenon



NANCY WEISS

Bring on the games of summer. From the crack of a bat at Fenway to the Little League field down the street, summer is filled with a variety of games.

For years, a friend and I tried to play golf. Every summer we signed up for lessons, bought new golf shoes and reveled in the charms of various golf pros. I tried to change my swing, keep my head down, my eye on the ball, and much more. I failed, but I may try again. Now, a new game has come to our region, and it is leaving other games in the dust.

My husband, a better than average natural athlete, can seemingly pick up any ball, bat, racquet, paddle or club and play any game quite well after a few tries. His first response to pickleball, the phenomenon that is sweeping the country, was tepid. He might not have said it openly, but he thought it was a game for old people, too slow, characterized by odd rules and bizarre scoring methods. He tried it and didn't like it. When friends began to play at the Hale YMCA, he changed his mind. Now he is a pickleball player and he loves the game.

The first time I played pickleball was at Owen Bell Park in Dayville. I hadn't been in the park since my girls were little and I was impressed with all the equipment and game areas. A friend invited me to play. She was an early enthusiast for the game and has recruited many others. Pickle ball holds an important place for her and it is fun as well as healthy. Later she directed me to a lovely group in Ashford, who also gave lessons. I am nearly as lame at pickle ball as golf.

By now, everyone knows the story. Pickleball was created by three dads who were trying to amuse a group of kids on Bainbridge Island. The cobbled together a game from stuff they had and combined tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. Retirees in Florida and other vacation spots took to the game and eventually it got to the northeast and our little corner. Family friends with four boys developed a game they called kabadwhiff from the remains of Kadima rackets, badminton nets and Whiffle balls. It is played only in our area and Maine. No court is needed just a flat lawn.

On Feb. 24, the Boston Globe ran a funny article: "When a loved one contacts Pickleball Derangement Syndrome." The gist is that people get so involved, they want to play all the time. The soft popping noise of the ball can make neighbors crazy but the social nature of the game is what we really need. It isn't as hierarchical as tennis, has no dress code and there is plenty of time to chat with other players between matches, which take a mere 10 to 15 minutes. No wonder it is the fastest growing sport in our history.

I've got a long white skirt for croquet games, leather gloves for golf, goggles for swimming, a sturdy corn-hole game set, a frisbee, and two pickleball racquets that came with an inexpensive set. My sport is walking, merely putting one foot in front of the other, which I find very satisfying, but there is something remarkable about pickleball. It gives us the chance to talk with each other again in an easy, friendly manner. A game with a vocabulary that includes the words – dinking for softly bouncing the ball and Erne- a flying leap, has to be good. Just stay out of the "kitchen."

Letter submission policy

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

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

Decision on student loan forgiveness expected next month: What to know now

The movement to forgive a portion of the skyrocketing student loan debt started over a decade ago, but it's accelerated quickly in the last year with President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan, which may or may not move forward in the months to come.

That plan, which would forgive up to \$20,000 in student loan debt per borrower, depending on certain factors, was rolled out last fall and then was stalled by pending legal action.

Here's a brief timeline of events regarding the plan and a look at when borrowers might expect to have an answer as to whether or not some of their debt will be forgiven or not.

January 2021

President Joe Biden is inaugurated and begins working toward his campaign promise to "forgive all undergraduate tuition-related federal student debt from two- and four-year public colleges and universities and private HBCUs and MSIs for debt-holders earning up to \$125,000."1

August 2022

President Biden announces that he would cancel \$10,000 per borrower and \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients. The loan forgiveness was limited to Americans earning under \$125,000 per year, or \$250,000 for married couples. The relief was also capped at the



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
• • • • •
MICHAEL
BAUM
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

amount of a borrower's outstanding eligible debt.2,3,4

September 2022

Six states (Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, and South Carolina) sue President Biden and the Department of Education, claiming that Congress never approved massive student loan cancellation and that the Biden Administration and the US Education Department misused their emergency authority. They argued that the administration improperly used the HEROES Act, a 2003 law that "vests the Secretary of Education with expansive authority to alleviate the hardship that federal student loan recipients may suffer as a result of national emergencies."5,6

For the next month or so, various other parties sued the Department of Education and President Biden, including the Brown County Taxpayers Association in Wisconsin, college graduates Myra Brown and Alexander Taylor, and the Cato Institute.

October 2022

On Oct. 17, 2022, student loan forgiveness applications

opened, despite rising legal challenges. Also in October, the Supreme Court dismissed the six states' lawsuit, saying it lacked standing. Shortly after, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis gave an emergency order temporarily blocking the forgiveness plan after the six states appealed the decision.7,8

November 2022

Throughout October and November, there were various appeals and dismissals from both sides and on Nov. 11, the Department of Education stopped accepting student loan forgiveness applications. On Nov. 22, the student loan repayment pause was extended to June 2023, or until either the debt relief program is implemented or the litigation is resolved.

Looking Ahead to June – And Beyond

The Supreme Court is widely expected to deliver its decision on the legality of President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan by late June. If the plan is allowed to move forward, the Department of Education will likely reopen the student loan forgiveness website and begin processing applications.

But regardless of whether the plan goes forward or is struck down, the pause on federal student loan payments will be lifted 60 days after the decision is made, or 60 days after June 30, 2023 if the case has not been resolved, whichever comes first. So, if you have

outstanding student loans, be sure to begin making those payments once again at that time.

In the meantime, if you would qualify for forgiveness, there's one thing you should definitely not do between now and the expected Supreme Court decision in June, if you can help it. Do not refinance or consolidate your federally-owned student loans. (These include Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, Direct Consolidation Loans or FFEL Loans owned by the U.S. Department of Education.)

Why? By refinancing or consolidating the loans with a private lender, you will lose the ability to apply for forgiveness should the plan go forward – costing you anywhere between \$10,000 and \$20,000 in debt that you otherwise wouldn't have had to pay.

If you'd like to learn more about our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ strategic process and how we can put it to work to help you create an investment portfolio tailored to meet your goals and reflect your values, contact us at (860) 928-2341 or request a complimentary consultation on our website, at whzwealth.com.

Presented by Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor, Michael Baum, CFP® RICP®. Securities and advisory services are offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment

Adviser. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084. 860-928-2341. www.whzwealth.com.

<https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/promises/biden-promise-tracker/promise/1595/forgive-student-loan-debt-public-colleges-and-univ/>
<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/08/24/biden-expected-to-cancel-10000-in-federal-student-loan-debt-for-most-borrowers.html>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/08/24/who-qualifies-for-biden-student-loan-forgiveness.html>

<https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/>

<https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2022/09/29/nebraska-aggains-five-others-in-suing-the-biden-administration-to-stop-student-debt-cancellation/>

<https://www.justice.gov/olc/file/1528451/download#:~:text=%C2%A7%C2%A7%201098aa%E2%80%93931098ee>

https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.moed.198213/gov.uscourts.moed.198213.44.0_2.pdf

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/biden-student-loan-forgiveness-blocked-appeals-court>
<https://studentaid.gov/>

You've heard of DAR, but what about the Daughters of Union Veterans?

It's hard to believe that Memorial Day Weekend is almost upon us. I was researching at the Killingly Historical Center recently, and glanced at a binder of Windham County Transcripts from the 1950's. Have you heard of the Daughters of Union Veterans? (A perfect Memorial Day weekend topic!). The Mary A. Livermore Tent No. 18, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held their meeting Thursday night, April 17, 1958 at their headquarters in the vestry of the Congregational Church with the president, Mrs. Clark, presiding. Fifteen members were in attendance. Mrs. Clark named two committees for the ensuing years as follows: Visiting committee, Ethel Chase and Ada Malo; floral committee, Rachel Dobson and Hazel Davignon. Orders were read by secretary Clara Everett. Plans were made for the Department Convention to be held in New Britain at the Burritt Hotel, on April 28 and 29. Mrs. Cornelius LaPointe, a department aid and also a delegate from the tent will attend. Accompanying her will be Mrs. Shirley Chase, Miss Nina Borden and president Mrs. Alice Clark...After the meeting a penny social was enjoyed. Refreshments of cake, cookies, tea and coffee were served by the hostesses Mrs. Mary Leach and Mrs. Hazel Davignon." (WCT April 24, 1958).

Now recently, I attended a LiR presentation on the DAR, but I had never heard of the above organization. An Internet search was in order. The organization's Web site, www.duvcw.org, listed that it was incorporated Dec. 12, 1885, but was not federally chartered until Dec. 9, 1985. Daughters of Union Veterans was organized on May 30, 1885 by Olive Howard, Harriet Knapp, Eva Merwin, Frank Merwin, and Bertha Martin. The first meeting on June 3, 1885 at the home of Eva Merwin, 419 First Street, SE Massillon, Ohio. (It was

originally) incorporated as "The National Alliance of the Daughters of Veterans of the United States of America" on Dec. 12, 1885, in Massillon, Ohio. They were endorsed by The Grand Army of the Republic at the 34th Annual Encampment held in Chicago, Illinois, 1900... The name was changed to Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861 - 1865 at the 54th National Convention held in Des Moines, Iowa 1944.

Local groups, called Tents, were named for Army Nurses who served in the Civil War or any loyal woman of the Civil War era whose patriotic deeds during the years 1861 - 1865 were recorded. If you have an ancestor who fought in the Civil War, you might want to join this organization. Currently, Connecticut seems to have no listed tents. However, if you are interested in joining go to the website and contact the Membership Chairperson to become a Member-at-Large. A key phrase in the articles of Incorporation reminds women to "keep green the memory."

So, who was Mary Livermore, for whom the Danielson Tent was named? An internet search produced a nice biographical sketch. Mary Livermore dedicated herself to women's suffrage, temperance, and Civil War aid.

Born on Dec. 19, 1820, Mary Ashton Rice grew up in Boston with her parents Timothy Rice and Zebiah Ashton. She was educated at the Charlestown Female Seminary until 1836 and stayed on as a teacher of French, Italian, and Latin for two years before she took a governess position for the Henderson family in Virginia. Here she witnessed the extents of plantation slavery. She left Virginia a firm abolitionist in 1842.

While working as a principal at a co-ed school in Duxbury, Massachusetts, Mary



KILLINGLY
AT 300
• • • • •

MARGARET
WEAVER

Ashton Rice met Reverend Daniel Parker Livermore. The couple married May 6, 1845 and had three children. "Mary Livermore dedicated herself to the temperance movement and charity work. After moving to Chicago in 1857, she founded the Home for Aged Women and the Hospital for Women and Children and became a board member for the Home for the Friendless. Daniel Livermore started the New Covenant, a Universalist publication, with Mary Livermore as his associate editor. Until 1869 she wrote for almost all departments of the paper and often took charge of operations when Daniel Livermore travelled for church business.

"During the U.S. Civil War, Mary Livermore and Jane Hoge ran the Northwest Branch of the Sanitary Commission in Chicago, which coordinated the United States relief effort and supported an overwhelming number of sick and wounded. Livermore organized relief groups, made speeches, wrote reports and news bulletins, and fundraised. She also travelled to the front where she toured hospitals, delivered aid, wrote letters for sick and dying soldiers, and accompanied soldiers leaving the hospital.

To fundraise for the Sanitary Commission, Livermore and Hoge had the idea to hold the first Sanitary Fair. From the opening procession on Oct. 27, 1863, the Fair captivated Chicago and the region. When the Fair ended after two weeks, it raised nearly \$90,000. The success of Livermore and Hoge's Sanitary Fair inspired others to be held in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York City. (<https://www.nps.gov/>

people/mary-livermore.htm)

Locally, women were working to provide much-needed supplies for their Civil War soldiers far away from home. The Oct. 30, 1862 issue of the Windham County Transcript in Dear Transcript Letters from Windham County Soldiers During the Civil War 1861-1865 published by the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. reported that the Putnam Soldiers Aid Society sent a box to the Connecticut Soldiers Relief Association in Washington containing "twenty-five new shirts, 6 old shirts, 19 pairs of drawers, 38 towels, 3 dozen handkerchiefs, 9 pairs of pillow cases, 3 sheets, 1 pair pants, 1 piece of fly-netting, 3 cans jelly, 1 bag dried raspberries, 1 bag whortleberries, 1 bag dried apples, 63 pamphlets, 1 cake mutton tallow, 9 pounds of lint, 10 wrappers, 1 pair socks, 21 fans, and a lot of bandages." (p. 202). The Danielsonville Aid Society list contained another assortment: "18 sheets, 10 dressing gowns, 11 pairs drawers, 7 pillow cases, 2 comforters, 34 handkerchiefs, 34 towels, 3 sheets, 2 coats,

1 pair pants, 8 pair stockings, 2 pair slippers, 3 neckties, 8 cups, 3 bags hops, 3 bags whortleberries, dried apples, jellies, 4 bottles wine, 1 paper gelatin, 1 paper corn starch." (p. 202). The May 21, 1863 Windham County Transcript reported that "the Williamsville Soldiers' Aid Society sent a box to the Connecticut Relief Association containing the following articles: 3 dressing gowns 3 feather pillows, 2 husk pillows, 6 pr. Leather slippers, 8 cotton shirts, 3 flannel undershirts, 5 pairs woolen socks, 6 pairs cotton socks, 18 towels, 2 dozen handkerchiefs, 6 papers corn starch, 7 pillow cases, 4 sheets, 4 rolls bandages, 1 bar castile soap, ¼ yard oil silk, 14 lbs. dried apples, 10 ounces sage, ¼ lb. Campher (sic), 6 fine combs, 6 coarse combs" (p.279). (Williamsville is now Rogers). Copies of Dear Transcript are available for sale at the Killingly Historical Center. It contains many letters from local soldiers in the Civil War.

I found several definitions of whortleberries on the internet. They seem to have been similar to blueberries. Vocabulary.com

described them as an "erect European blueberry having solitary flowers and blue-black berries." Collins dictionary also referred to them as huckleberries. I grew up with huckleberries, which were much sweeter than today's blueberries.

This Memorial Day weekend take the time to honor those who have served and sacrificed for us. Place a flag, go to a wreath-laying, attend a parade, say a prayer. Remember and say, "Thank you."

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

POSITIVELY

continued from page A1

accepting failure but acknowledging the many avenues to the finish line.

Not hitting it big in the pool wasn't a failure. Instead, it was life nudging me to look beyond, to find where my natural strengths lay. Sometimes, instead of focusing on 'what might have been,' you must look at 'what could still be.'

A common belief is that shifting goals is akin to giving up. But that's not the whole truth.

Remember, only you know your own heart. Shifting your focus isn't necessarily waving the white flag—it might just be the turn you need toward your real win. Sticking with a lost cause doesn't make you a hero—sometimes, the real bravery is in stepping away from the familiar and venturing into the new.

Being a late bloomer doesn't always mean you'll grow where you originally planted. If life compels you to reroute and venture in a different direction, don't mistake it for failure. Instead, it's

a sign that your success is about to blossom—you're just a late bloomer.

It's not about the speed you reach your goals but more about the resilience and determination you develop along the way. Developing the ability to change course when the initial plan doesn't work out and seeking success on a path less traveled.

As a kid, I'd listen to my father's words and feel a comforting sense of validation. Now, those words resonate with even deeper significance. They remind me that it's okay to take my time and that blooming late doesn't mean blooming any less brilliantly.

Don't be quick to deem your ventures as failures if they don't work out as planned. Your goals may shift, and your dreams may evolve, but it's all part of our unique blooming process.

Sometimes, the journey you've embarked upon isn't the one that will ferry you to the shores of success.

Being a late bloomer doesn't necessarily mean you've missed the boat. Sometimes, it means you're getting ready to captain your own ship.



DOOR & WINDOW

SUPER DEAL



BIGGEST
new customer
discount!



SUPER DEAL

CALL BY MAY 31

SAVE 25%
ON EVERY WINDOW, ENTRY DOOR & PATIO DOOR¹

+ PAY NOTHING FOR A YEAR²

Doors:

- Our interlocking design features and continuous weatherstripping on our patio doors **help eliminate drafts.**

Windows:

- The combination of our composite Fibrex® frames and our reinforced window seals helps provide **year-round comfort.**

Renewal by Andersen:

- We aim to make replacing your windows and doors **an affordable project and the best home improvement experience you've ever had.**



RENEWAL
by ANDERSEN
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Call now to book
your **FREE Window & Door Diagnosis**

959-456-0067

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. 25% discount valid during first appointment only. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 5/31/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 6/10/23. ²No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

High School Notebook

Killingly baseball grabs wins over St. Bernard, Wheeler, Plainfield in final week

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

In what can be best described as an uneven season (think roller-coaster ride), Killingly High School entered postseason play on a three-game winning streak and a 10-10 regular season record. Coach Ben Desaulnier's crew won three games in five days last week defeating St. Bernard (5-4, Friday, May 19), Wheeler (2-1, Wednesday, May 17) and Plainfield (5-3, Monday, May 15). All three games were played at Owen Bell Park.

Hayden Larrow had the biggest hit of the game for Killingly in the win over St. Bernard (16-3), an RBI double in the bottom of the sixth inning that allowed Mason Frazer to score the go-ahead run. Before scoring what would end up being the winning run, Frazer tied the game with a two-run single. Ben Jax picked up the win on the bump, going 6-1/3 innings before being relieved by Lincoln Waterman, who picked up the save.

The win over 11-5 Wheeler was drama-filled as well, Michael Fabiano driving in Waterman to give Killingly a walk-off victory. Landon Manzi kept Killingly in the game until it had a chance to win it, striking out 11 and no surrendering an earned run in a

route-going performance.

The win over 11-6 Plainfield included the largest margin of victory — two runs — for Killingly during the week, but in no way was it a walk in the park. Starting pitcher Dominik Kubera was dominant for the home team, going 6-2/3 innings, allowing four hits, three runs (all earned), and striking out seven. Ashton Goodwin (two doubles, two RBI) led the offense while Brady Zadora added a pair of singles.

Elsewhere: Woodstock Academy is also heading into the postseason on a roll, going 3-1 last week and finishing the regular season with a 17-3 record.

The Centaurs' only blemish last week was a loss to Ellington (7-5, Friday, May 19). Before that Woodstock defeated Norwich Free Academy (8-1, Thursday, May 18), Coventry (11-6, Wednesday, May 17), and Windham (10-0, Monday, May 15).

In the road win over Norwich Free Academy Kaden Murphy pitched four-plus innings and allowed only two hits to pick up the win while Brady Ericson struck out six of the eight hitters he faced to pick up the save for the Centaurs. Eric Mathewson had a pair of hits against the Wildcats.

In the win over visiting



The Woodstock Academy girls' lacrosse team honored its nine seniors before the final home game of the season, against Norwich Free Academy, Tuesday, May 16, on the turf field at the Bentley Athletic Complex. Front row (left-to-right): Bryn Miller; Joanna Lin; and Hadley Grether. Back row (left-to-right): Lily Blair; Gabby Couture; Keynila Hochard; Lennon Favreau; Lindsay Nuttall; and Rori Mackenzie.

Coventry, Maxx Corradi had three hits, including a double, and drove in two runs to lead Woodstock's 12-hit attack. Ericson had a two-run homer for the Centaurs and Keon Lamarche added a three-run triple.

In the win over visiting Windham, pitcher Riley

O'Brien was in command from the outset, allowing three hits while striking out seven in a five-inning, mercy-rule shortened contest. Corradi and Mathewson both drove in two runs for the Centaurs, who took full advantage of seven walks and five Windham errors.

BOYS' LACROSSE

In its final regular-season game Woodstock Academy qualified for the Connecticut Class M Boys' Lacrosse Tournament with a 9-7 victory over St. Bernard-Wheeler, Thursday, May 18, in Uncasville. Zach Gessner had three goals and two assists to lead the 7-9 Centaurs to the win while Henry Wotton added two goals and two assists, and Jared Nielsen scored twice and set another goal up.

BOYS' GOLF

Killingly, the No. 1 ranked boys' golf team in the state, improved to 12-0 with wins over Windham (7-0, Thursday, May 18), Stonington (7-0, Monday, May 15), and East Lyme (6-1, Monday, May 15).

In the win over Windham Cameron Seiffert and Harrison Giambattista each shot 1-under-par 32. Ethan Lackner fired a 1-over 34, and Logan Gagnon carded a 3-over 36 to round out the scoring for Killingly. In the wins over Stonington and East Lyme Seiffert was the medalist with a 1-over 35 while Logan Gagnon shot 37, Matt Card 38 and Ethan Lackner 42.

With the wins over Stonington and East Lyme Killingly clinched its 10th

straight ECC Divisional Championship.

Elsewhere:

Woodstock Academy swept a home-and-home series with Tourtellotte, defeating the Tigers 7-0 in a pair of matches played Wednesday, May 17, and Thursday, May 18.

In the May 17 match, held at Raceway Golf Club in Thompson, Davis Simpson and Don Sousa tied for medalist honors, each shooting 4-over par 40. In the May 18 match, held at Thompson's Quinnatisset Country Club, Logan Rawson led Woodstock Academy (6-6) with a three-over par 39 while Don Sousa shot 40, and Davis Simpson 43.

Nicolas Kostacopoulos was low man for Tourtellotte (6-9) both days, firing a pair of 46s.

GIRLS' GOLF

It was a tough day on the course thanks to a stiff breeze and chilly conditions, but Woodstock Academy was able to maintain its focus in a 231-257 win over Suffield. The Centaurs (9-3, 7-2 in ECC matches) also picked up a forfeit victory over Waterford (1-6, 1-7) as the Lancers could not field a full team. Woodstock's Maya Orbezo fired a 44 to take medalist honors.

BOYS' TENNIS

Killingly went 2-1 last week, sandwiching wins around Woodstock Academy (5-2, Friday, May 19) and Lyman (6-1, Monday, May 15) around a loss to Waterford (6-1, Tuesday, May 16).

Singles winners for Killingly (7-7) in the win over Woodstock included Lucas Clayton, Henrick

Pawul and Ryan Rattray. The Centaurs (7-5) picked up match points in doubles from Owen Rigney and Tyler Chamberlin, and Quentin Paterson and Ryan Chabot. Singles winners for Killingly in the win over Lyman were Henrik Pawul, Phillip Purcell, and Anthony Purcell. Doubles winners in the match were Jack Owens and Ross Hill, Ivan Tang and Sai Patel, and Colin Ericson and Deven Delaney.


GIRLS' TRACK

Woodstock Academy (4-0) defeated visiting Waterford, 113-37, Wednesday, May 17, behind the performances of Juliet Allard and Magdalena Myslenski, who both won three events. Allard won the 100- and 200-meter races, setting a personal best in the 200. Allard also finished first in the 300-meter hurdles. Myslenski, in the final home meet of her high school career, finished first in the discus, javelin and pole vault. Double winners for Woodstock were Bella Sorrentino, in the 100-meter hurdles and the shot put and Reegan Reynolds in the long and triple jumps.

BOYS' TRACK

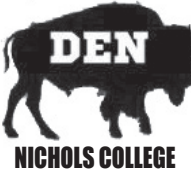
Woodstock lost to Waterford, 82-68, Wednesday, May 17, but Jared Eaton had a meet to remember. The senior won the javelin, shot put and discus, setting a personal-best in the discus (137 feet, 4 inches). Carter Saracina won the 100-meter sprint and was second in the 200-meter sprint.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!



DUDLEY HILL
GOLF CLUB

AT NICHOLS COLLEGE



DEN

NICHOLS COLLEGE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

Golf Course 7am-7pm

Bison Den 11am-8pm

Serving
Lunch
Full Bar

80 AIRPORT ROAD DUDLEY, MA 01571 (508)916-2822



VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS

Please Support
Our Local Advertisers

Northeastern Connecticut
is such a special place.

As your local advertising rep for our Villager Newspapers,
it brings me great satisfaction to help local merchants
in Northeastern Connecticut generate more business.



Now more than ever,
it is so important to shop local.
Your local Villager Newspaper is delivered
free to you every week, thanks to the local
advertisers who are in this issue.
Please support them.
Without them, there would be no Villager.

Our readers trust our advertisers,
and our advertisers trust us!

Reach out anytime,
Mikaela

Mikaela Victor

Advertising Account Executive

mikaela@villagernewspaper.com

(860)928-1818 Ext. 326



www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com



Take the First Step
to a Brighter Future!

• Free High School Completion Programs

o Take small classes OR

o Work independently with NEDP tutors

• Free English Language & American
Citizenship Classes

• Locations in Plainfield, Thompson, Putnam,
Hebron, Stafford, Willimantic & Killingly

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

TECHNOLOGY LOAN
PROGRAM

EASTCONN

ADULT & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Scan the QR Code to learn
more about our programs.

eastconn.org/adult-programs

DANIELSON 860-779-3770 • WILLIMANTIC 860-423-2591

It is the policy of EASTCONN that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be discriminated against under any program because of race, color, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, genetic information, gender identity or expression, veteran status, disability or any other classification protected by state or federal law. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in any program, activity, or GED test please contact a school counselor at 860-423-2591 for assistance. You may also contact Sabrina Mancini at the Connecticut State Department of Education at 860-807-2110. EASTCONN is in compliance with CT General Statutes Sec 10-73 (a)(c) and does not charge a fee for any textbooks or materials used in the mandated program areas.



Say it in
living
color!

The world isn't
black and white.
So, why is your ad?