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Killingly football — ‘in a good position’ — poised for another strong season



Killingly High head football coach Chad Neal and his 100 victories are looking for another strong season in 2022.

Photos Courtesy



BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Here’s a scary thought: as good as the Killingly High football team was last season — undefeated, Connecticut Class M champions, an offense that scored 35 points a game and a defense that only allowed 9 per outing — the 2022 edition might be even better.

Is that notion a stretch? Yes. Is it preposterous? No. “Things look really good. We bring a lot of players back in all three phases of

Please Read **FOOTBALL**, page **A5**

Recently graduated Jack Sharpe (right) and Nate Keefe (left) helped the 2021 Killingly High football team to the Class M State Championship.

Killingly’s Resident Trooper program requires accreditation

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY — The town of Killingly has been informed by the state that its town Resident Trooper program is required to be accredited under a bill passed in late 2020.

Town Manager Mary Calorio provided an update to the Town Council in early August revealing that initially the state exempted the town’s Resident Trooper program from the 2020 Police Accountability Bill’s required accreditation process.

The document was approved by state lawmakers in response to growing concerns around police violence and brutality against minorities in 2020 that gained national attention following the death of George Floyd. Calorio said her office was recently informed that the town does, in fact, need to be accredited and must put together documents to bring the program in line with the bill.

“Under the Police Accountability Bill is required

Please Read **TROOPER**, page **A4**

Blane Road intersection plans taking shape

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON — For several years now, there have been talks to reconfigure one of the most unique intersections in Thompson connecting Riverside Drive and Blane Road. Confirmed in 2020 as part of a series of road construction projects, the reconfiguration would significantly shrink the intersection which is currently wide enough to accommodate numerous lanes of traffic and often sees vehicles unsure of where to stop of enter as they transition between the two roadways.

Thompson First Selectwoman Amy St. Onge and Tyra Penn-Gesek, Thompson’s Director of Planning & Development, provided a brief update on the status of the project and its design during a meeting of the Economic Development Commission on Aug. 17. St. Onge confirmed that the project will be paid for through the

public works budget although the town has yet to receive a quote for the cost from the contractor and the design is still being refined with the initial proposal shrinking the intersection too much for the town’s liking.

“It was too narrow - The public works guys confirmed it actually needs to be widened just a little bit,” St. Onge said. “As soon as we get some type of an estimate, we can say that we’re full steam to go ahead with that.”

Penn-Gesek, who actually resides on Blain Road, said she fully supports the long-discussed change for the intersection, but agreed there needs to be a happy medium between shrinking the current configuration without narrowing things too much.

“The contractor painted out the lines based on the design, and it is narrow. The point of

Please Read **INTERSECTION**, page **A5**

Woodstock Academy implements student-focused, value-driven schedule

WOODSTOCK — As schools across the country work to provide students with the academic and social experiences needed after Covid-19, many are looking at all aspects of a program to have the largest impact. At The Woodstock Academy, one of the largest leverage points is the daily schedule, which has been modified for the 2022-23 school

year to increase focus on the whole child. By adjusting the schedule, The Academy aims to provide better preparations for learning and engagement by meeting the students’ academic and social needs within the confines of the school day.

“Research shows that students who feel connected to school are more successful overall,” said Dr. Michael

Harten, dean of academics at The Woodstock Academy.

The first schedule change is to replace one of the current Advisory Blocks, offered two times per month, with an Activity Block. In spring 2022, students participated in an activity of their choice in place of an Advisory Block, which provided them the opportunity to develop relationships and

connections, as well as student growth and success.

The second change, a new daily schedule that moves lunch to its own time and does not run it in conjunction with third block classes, is designed to carve out more time for students to access adults, and for adults to access other adults. This modification was made through the reflection of

e-learning, recognizing that the community lunch hour positively impacted the pace of the day due to the creation of flexible time that could be customized to student needs, including academic support. For in-person learning, these benefits will be present during the lunch hour, as the library,

Please Read **SCHEDULE**, page **A3**

Local family makes donation to benefit DKH cancer fund



Photo Courtesy

The Northeast Connecticut Cancer Fund of Day Kimball Healthcare was the recent recipient of a generous donation of \$2,000 by the Solomon family in memory of their family member and 2018 NECT Cancer Fund Angel Ambassador, Shannon Labonte who passed away from a rare form of cancer on April 27, 2018. Since that time, the Solomon family and friends have organized numerous fundraisers to provide annual donations in support of the NECT Cancer Fund of DKH, the Shannon Lee Labonte Scholarship Fund at Putnam High School, and other causes that she held close at heart. The NECT Cancer Fund provides financial assistance to residents of Northeast Connecticut who otherwise may not have the financial

resources to access needed medical care. Pictured, left to right: Kristen Willis, director of development, Day Kimball Healthcare; JoAnn Labonte, Shannon’s mother-in-law; Zoe Labonte, Shannon’s daughter; Ann Russo, Shannon’s aunt; Roberta Solomon, Shannon’s mother; Chloe Magao, Shannon’s Cousin; and Linda

Pacheco, Shannon’s aunt at the Deary Memorial Recognition Garden, located on the grounds of DKH’s Schneider Center at 309 Pomfret St., across from the Day Kimball Hospital campus. The garden was created by members of the Deary family in 2007 to memorialize, honor, and recognize cancer survivors and loved ones lost to cancer.

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Please Read XXX, page A1
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History through the lens of local photographers



KILLINGLY
AT 300

MARGARET
WEAVER

The Killingly Historical Society recently received a donation of an old photo album. Unfortunately, none of the people in the pictures were identified. The only inscription was “Clarence to Cora”; no surnames were given. Several of the photographs were taken by A. E. Withington of Danielsonville. The fact that the Borough was referred to by its longer name, with the “ville”, meant that these photos dated to 1895 or earlier. A check of the Killingly Business Encyclopedia by Natalie Coolidge revealed that Withington was taking photographs in the area as early as 1874; his last entry was for 1913. I found Alton E. Withington ,on Ancestry.

com in the 1913 Danielson, Connecticut Directory with an address of 169 Main D, Photographic Supplies. In 1910 he was 56 years old and was residing on Winter Street with his wife Ida M. She died, and in 1920 he married Lizzie Tripp. Withington died Oct. 14, 1940 aged 87 and was buried in Westfield Cemetery (find-agrave). Perhaps your family has photos that were taken by Withington. If you are familiar with Clarence and Cora, please stop by the Killingly Historical Center and see if you can identify any of the photos. The only other local photographer was W.R. Carr of Wauregan. I checked census records and so far I have been unable to locate any information on him/or perhaps her.

A number of other photographers appear in the Killingly Business Encyclopedia. Here are just a few: William H. Brown (Dayville-1885); A. H. Calderwood (1890); L. Monroe Card (1880); Howard R. Cooley & Paul A. Gareau (1950). Do you recall Frank L. Bardy

(1949, over W. T. Grant)? Grube Camera Shop, Inc. (1955, Main St. Danielson)? Henry Allen McEwen (1900's)-the Killingly Historical Society has a collection of glass plate negatives which he took. Henry Misiaszek (1950)? George Pappajon (1920).

There were many other photographers in Killingly over the years. If you are curious about individuals who took your family photos, feel free to stop at the Killingly Historical Center during regular business hours and we will check the Killingly Business Encyclopedia to see if there is an entry for your photographer. If you haven't visited the display of old cameras, you might want to also look at those.

Did you know that the key-stone-shaped building that is on the north side of the railroad tracks in Danielson was constructed for the S. P. Davis Photographic Studios about 1867-8. The small windows provided additional lighting. I did not know that the building once had two gold cameras on the front. (WCT, March 5, 1868 in Killingly Business Encyclopedia). See “Images of America Killingly” by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer for a photo of this early photography shop.

Have you attended a wedding recently? In 1922, I came across the following announcement for a wedding time that we would certainly consider most unusual. “At St. James church at 7 o'clock Monday morning, Miss Alice Mathieu of this place was united in marriage with Armand Blain of North Grosvenordale. Rev. John Roux, M.S. performed the marriage and was celebrant of the nuptial mass, attended by numbers of relatives and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Blain left with Albert Trahan Monday afternoon for a ten days' motor trip to Montreal and to smaller place () in the vicinity of that city.” (Norwich Bulletin,

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1922, p. 14; newspapers.com). I would have to check old local newspapers to see if St. James had a regularly scheduled 7 a.m. Monday morning mass at that time. I can remember when they did.

When I was reading old newspapers, I was surprised to see that a woman would be playing on a baseball team which would be coming to this area. “Bill Martin has assembled a lineup that should make formidable opposition to any plans for victory that the Providence Independence may have when they come here with their star woman first base player, Miss Lizzie Murphy, Sunday next. Manager Martin said Wednesday afternoon that he will have the following outfit in the field for Danielson: Phillips, Boston College, catcher; Reiger, International and Eastern league pitcher; (M?)artin, first; Buckley, Philadelphia Textile league, second; Hart, Webster, 3rd; Faber, Norwich State hospital, short; Adams, left; Arrigan, Providence, center; Pellerin, right. It is probable that Manager Martin will arrange a game with Putnam, possibly, a series of games, so the indications are that Danielson is going to have the best of the season's ball at the... end of the year's playing period. Manager Martin feels that the fans will respond with heavy attendance for such games as it is planned to stage, so is going out, and booking real fast teams to meet the fine outfit that he has assembled to represent Danielson.” (Norwich Bulletin, Thursday, Aug. 24, 1922, p. 6, newspapers.com).

“Merrill E. Smith post, No. 933 is the name of the new organization of Veterans of Foreign Wars that has been started in Danielson with Frederick E. Cunneen as commander and Arthur Rainville as vice commander. John F. Purvis, who has been active in bringing about the organization of the

post, has been elected adjutant. These are the only officers elected up to the present time, but is expected to complete the list of officers of the post at the next meeting, which has been called for Wednesday evening, Aug. 30...The post is named in honor of a Brooklyn young man who gave his life while fighting in France during the world war. Commander Cunneen is a veteran of the Spanish-American war and saw service with the navy off the coast of Cuba in the stirring days of '98. Vice Commander Rainville was a member of the famous Yankee (26th) division, which made such a brilliant fighting record in France, and Adjutant Purvis also saw hard active service in France with the 56th Coast artillery.” (Norwich Bulletin, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1922, p. 14; newspapers.com).

I found an article about a derailment in Putnam on the same page of the paper. “A wrecking crew came to Putnam on Sunday and worked all morning getting a derailed caboose of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad back on the rails. The caboose was over the embankment near the gas house. It was derailed when an engine backed a string of freight cars down too far.”

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian August 2022. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or contact the Killingly Historical Society at www.killinglyhistorical.org. Leave messages for the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.

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If you've read the previous six weeks, you've read about six qualities you'll need to develop to accomplish your dream. The six qualities are Desire, Faith, Specialized Knowledge, Imagination, Organized Planning, and Decision. The seventh is persistence.

There have been many books written on how to accomplish your dreams. I've always gravitated to "Think and Grow Rich" by Napoleon Hill. This book, written over 80 years ago, is one of the first books written in modern times that is an organized philosophy of success.

You may have realized I'm using this book as a guide to writing about the qualities you'll need to accomplish your dreams. The book discusses more qualities you'll need than I can write in this column. If you've never read it, I recom-

mend you do.

Persistence is key to accomplishing your dreams, and everyone knows it. Doing it can be a bit tricky. There are so many things that can take you off track. You may lose the support of a friend or have a failure that makes you want to quit and take a break.

Sometimes when you experience a failure, you may tell yourself you need a little time off, and then suddenly, months and years pass, and you realize that you gave up.

When I wrote about the fourth quality, Organized Planning, I wrote about how you'll need a team of people to help you develop an organized plan. Napoleon Hill called this team of people, The Master Mind Alliance. We can call it your inner circle.

When you experience something negative that can make you want to quit, your inner circle will come to your aid! When you want to stop, you may express this emotion with your inner circle, and you'll find that they won't hear of it. They'll encourage you to get back in the saddle, that it's only a speed bump and that you're on the path to accomplishing great things!

You've probably heard it said that you would be like your five closest friends. It's essential to remember this when you consider that those within your inner circle will be the ones who can help pick you back up when you fall.

If your closest friends don't believe in your mission, it's a dangerous place to be. They can destroy your will to per-

Persistence

sist if you have the wrong inner circle. Are they critical of what you want to do? If so, you have the wrong team.

Make sure they have the same goals and priorities as you. If not, you may be in trouble because persistence can be difficult without the encouragement of those closest to you.

Keep in mind the first step! Desire. A strong desire can carry you through. How bad do you want it? Get fired up, and do what you must to reconnect to your Desire when persistence is low. It might help to create a daily routine that keeps you hungry.

It's a fact of life that if you don't have persistence, you won't make it. There are too many things that will keep you down. We've all seen and heard of people who failed many times but always seemed able to get back to the top. That's called persistence.

Many tend to think that you only make it when you get a good break, and until your break comes, you haven't got a chance. This can be true, but most fail to realize that your break doesn't come unless you give it all you've got, go through the trials, and practice persistence.

Like all the qualities discussed in previous weeks, you can cultivate persistence. One of the best ways to develop persistence is to find your purpose. When you have a sense of purpose, you will have the endurance to persist. Why are you doing what you're doing? How is it connected to your greater purpose in life? Connect your dreams to your higher power and your higher purpose.

It's never easy, but where there is a will, there is a way.

When you combine Desire, Faith, Specialized Knowledge, Organized Planning, Decision, and Persistence, I believe you will accomplish your dreams!

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Canadian Rockies

BY DENNIS BLANCHETTE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

The mountains are calling and I must go...John Muir

The Canadian Rockies adventure travel story was intended to be a one-off, but several readers asked what happened after we landed in Calgary. A valid question since the Canadian Rockies cover such a large area. We visited Banff National Park, Yoho National Park and Jasper National Park. These three national parks cover an area of over 4.5 million acres with thousands of miles of trails and it is difficult, if not impossible, to cover 17 days’ worth of activities in a 1000 word article. Besides there is a plethora of data on line and in books regarding accommodations, sights, activities and hikes. This article recounts some interesting experiences to provide a flavor of the trip.

Banff National Park
From Calgary it’s a couple of hours drive to Banff National Park. That afternoon we did a short hike around Minnewanka Lake and checked into Canalta Lodge in downtown Banff.

“Would you like to park in our garage?” the desk clerk asked.

“Sure,” I responded.
“I’ll have to charge you \$7 per night. Is that OK?”

I paid you \$300 a night to sleep here and now you want to charge me \$7 to park I thought, but she was so nice and polite all I could say was, “sure, no problem.”

There were some free newspapers in the lobby and the front page story in both of them was the bears. Canada had gotten more snow than usual during winter and it was taking longer to melt so the bears waking from hibernation were coming down to the valleys in search of food. There were many reports of grizzly bears coming into Banff and becoming nuisances and having to be relocated. Both papers reiterated the recommendation of the Park Service to carry bear spray at all times. If only they communicated that to the Customs Officers at the airport the trip would have been perfect.

Cascade Mountain is the most prominent mountain one sees from downtown Banff so we hiked the Cascade Amphitheater Trail to see what was on the other side. The hike begins following a dirt road through Norquay Ski Area before becoming a trail. The higher we got, the more snow we encountered and we had to scout around to find the trail several times. The trail ended at tree line and extruded us out into a gargantuan amphitheater covered in 3 feet of snow. Snow streaked mountains gleamed all around us. We ate lunch while watching mountain goats frolicking on the nearly vertical slopes and listening to avalanches thundering down the mountainsides.

Yoho National Park
The Trans-Canada Highway crosses the continental divide at Kicking Horse Pass and

enters British Columbia. On Sunday we drove to Emerald Lake for an eight-mile round trip hike to Yoho Lake. The hike begins on a series of wood plank bridges spanning the alluvial fan created by glacial meltwater. Then it ascends steeply, at an angle across the mountain. After an hour or so, we began encountering snow on the trail and started post holing. There was no snow in the drainage lines above the trail, so we foresaw no avalanche danger. The trail disappeared at the top, but there was a set of footprints in the snow and we followed them to Yoho Lake. We ate lunch and three quarters of the way back down, encountered the first other hikers, a couple and three teenage women. They asked about trail conditions and we told them all that we had found out. A little further down a macho man in spandex shorts and tee shirt, with a female companion and a dog, asked if we made it. I replied affirmatively and they asked for no further information about the trail conditions, apparently assuming if old people like us could do it, no problem. They did not have hiking poles, micro spikes or any sign of food or water. Good luck, I thought. Even if you make it, you will be carrying that dog.

On a drab, grey, cloudy day we drove to the town of Golden on the Trans-Canada Highway along the Kicking Horse River for which the eponymous coffee is named. The road is fenced completely on both sides to prevent wildlife from crossing. To assist with animal migration, overpasses are constructed every few miles to allow animals to safely cross. It seems to be working as we saw not a single road kill.

On the way back we stopped at an information center to see what we could learn about Lake Louise trail conditions from the ranger. We only had one day there and wanted to make it count.

He advised us, “stick to the trails around the lake. Don’t go up, there’s avalanche danger. Avoid the Plains of Six

Glaciers trail and the second teahouse. Also do not hike up to Yoho Lake.”

“Why?” I asked. We hiked up there two days ago.”

He looked disgusted.
“You could have been caught in an avalanche,” he said.

“There was no snow above the trail.”

“Well I had a guy from Florida here...

“We’re from New England and had poles and spikes.”

His attitude softened, but he stood firm. “Well I can tell you guys like adventure, but it’s not recommended to go up.”

It was unclear if his data was out of date or they were used to discouraging tourists like macho man.

On the veranda in front of the 539 room Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, people were packed in like logs on a Maine river drive. Some of the fanciest hiking gear was in evidence. Top of the line brands and then brands so obscure I had never heard of them. There was enough spandex clothing to pollute every ocean with micro plastics for years and increase global warming another couple of degrees. Everyone was taking the obligatory lake picture, so we immediately set off uphill, to the Lake Agnes Teahouse. (Teahouses are small restaurants built by the Canadian Pacific Railroad to entice people to use their railroad.) A woman in leather dress flats, sans socks, went racing by, practically running. As she passed she looked at me and said “is this the way to the top?” Many possible responses flowed through my brain, none of them appropriate so I muttered, “We just got here.” But she was already 10’ ahead of me.

The Lake Agnes Teahouse had a line to get inside. We eschewed the line and went up to Big Beehive for fantastic views of the Bow Valley and the turquoise waters of Lake Louise, and just in time to see a couple getting engaged. From there we headed for the Plain

of Six Glaciers Teahouse. The teahouse was not open, but we had a great conversation with several young women who were organizing the supplies that had been dropped off by helicopter that morning. This was the longest hike of the trip, 11 miles and eight hours. And I realized I never saw any of the people in the fancy, expensive gear on the trail.

Jasper National Park

It was too soon, but it was time to check out Jasper. Before leaving on the trip I asked the well-known CT writer Bob Lorentson for tips, since he had visited Jasper in the 1970s. The two things that impressed him the most were Mt. Edith, which he called the most gorgeous mountain in the world, and the glaciers along the Icefields Parkway. The Icefields Parkway runs north 147 miles from Lake Louise, through Banff and Jasper National parks, to Jasper with hundreds of scenic vistas along the way. We stopped many times to take in the sights – Bow Lake, Peyto Lake and Athabasca Falls to name a few. The final stop was the Athabasca Glacier. The leading edge used to be up to the road, but now is over several hundred feet away and receding at 30’ per year. The signs marking its location in years past felt like a kick in the gut from mother nature.

The next day’s destination was Mt Edith, named after Edith Cavell, a British nurse who was executed by the Germans during World War I for helping Allied soldiers escape. Partway there the road was closed, so we turned around and improvised, leaving Mt Edith Cavell for the next trip. On the way to Patricia Lake a grizzly bear was grazing by the side of the road, only a few feet from the car. We parked at the stables and some horseback riders said they had spotted a black bear on the trail to Patricia Lake. As I was carrying the bear spray,

it was decided that I should be in front. It was an interesting trail through meadows, very buggy but no bears. Back at the road Janet passed me and the parking lot driveway and stayed on the trail. Suddenly stopping in mid stride beside a large white pine, she turned around and whispered “there’s a black bear behind that pine.” She backed slowly away and we went back to the road and up the driveway to the parking lot. On reaching the car, we saw two more grizzlies grazing next to the stable.

The high season in the Canadian Rockies is July and August – the best weather but also the most crowded. So crowded in fact that there is a lottery system to gain access to some of the premier locations. We opted to go in June to avoid the crowds, knowing there was risk of snow in the higher elevations, limiting access to several of the more famous trails. However, there are so many trails one could spend years hiking them all, so it was a worthy tradeoff for a first visit. The restaurants, shop and views from Jasper were just as nice as Banff’s, but it seemed more open and the vibe was mellow.

The Canadian Rockies have it all; lush green vegetation contrasting with white snow-capped peaks, teal colored lakes, waterfalls, glaciers and an abundance of wildlife. You often read about the abundance of wildlife at a given destination but rarely see without significant effort. On this trip we saw black bears, grizzly bears, mountain goats, elk, caribou, deer and grouse with no effort at all. The next trip is already being planned.

Dennis R. Blanchette is a semi-retired civil engineer and travel writer. For pictures of the Canadian Rockies, visit his travel blog at www.dennisblanchette.com. Feel free to email any specific questions from there.



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Newer collectibles bringing huge prices

When I started selling antiques and collectibles during the 1980s, toys from the 1950s were selling very in vogue. Roy Rogers and Hopalong Cassidy toys, Ginny and some of the first Barbie dolls were in high demand. As the generation that grew up with those shows grew older, the toys became in less demand and toys and collectibles from the 1960s took their place. Demand continues to shift as one generation stops collecting and new generations look for items from their youth.

Some modern collectibles that were just starting to be produced or weren't even made yet when I started selling things in the 1980s are bringing huge auction prices.

Transformers are a popular toy that came out during the 1980s. According to the Hasbro Toys Web site, "Transformers are living, human-like robots with the unique ability to turn into vehicles or beasts." Like every other collectible, buyers want the most perfect example they can afford. Also as with many collectibles, there are companies that grade items. For example, the Collectibles Grading Authority (CGA) uses the AFA (Action Figure



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
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Authority) scale when grading Transformers. A 1984 Transformers Series 1 "Starscream" action figure grading AFA 90 NM+/MT sold for nearly \$6,000 in 2019. A "Shockwave" AFA 75 75/80/90 1986 Sealed Vintage G1 Transformers Hasbro Figure" went for \$7,100 in May of this year. A "Transformer Series 2 Jetfire" with a very high AFA 90+ NM+/MT grade brought over \$21,000 last year.

A sealed vintage video game can bring incredible prices. CGA also grades video games using a VGA (Video Game Authority) scale. Another company, WATA, also grades video games. WATA is a division of "Collector's Universe" whose PSA (Professional Sports Authenticator) group also grades cards and authenticates autographs. Collector's Universe also owns PCGS (Professional Coin Grading Service).

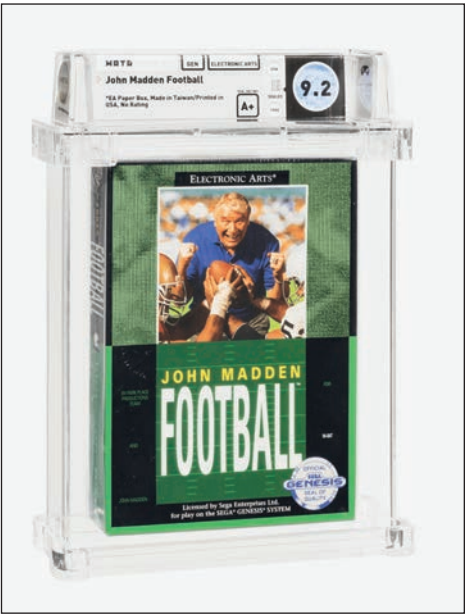
Some auction prices from last week reflect the demand for video games. A "Casino Kid" NES Nintendo Sealed Video Game grading at WATA 9.6/A+ sold for \$1,100. A Grandia PS1 PlayStation Sealed Video Game with the same grade also brought the same price. A Dr. Mario NES Nintendo with the same WATA 9.6 rating brought

\$2,750.

Before I list some of the video game record prices, I'd be remiss if I didn't note that some of the collectibles auction prices are suspect. Every year or so, a newspaper or Internet article suggests that Disney VHS tapes with black diamonds are going to sell for five figure sums. Snopes reports this to be false, and lists examples of black diamond tapes selling in the \$20 range. USA reported in July that one of the grading companies is facing a lawsuit for artificially inflating the values of video game prices to increase demand for their services.

With that caveat, here are some video game auction prices. NPR reported that a prototype of one of the first video games, Pong, sold for \$270,000 in March. A UPI article reported that a 1990 Madden football video game set a record for a video game when it went for \$480,000. The Smithsonian Magazine reported that a 1996 copy of Nintendo's Super Mario set an auction record when it reached \$1.56 million. The toys from the 1950s Western TV shows had to move over there's a new sheriff in town.

We are still accepting consignments for our November multi-estates auction. My "Evaluating your Antiques" class takes place at Bay Path High School on September 13th. I'll be at appraisal events at the Townsend Historical



Society on October 15th, the Worcester Senior Center from on October 18th and the Leicester Senior Center on November 5th. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us at www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com for antiques and collectibles auction services.



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

Create works of art with flowers

Preserve a few memories of this summer's garden or create gifts to share with family and friends. Pounding flowers onto fabric or paper is a fun and easy way to preserve the beauty of garden flowers.

Use watercolor or other rough surface paper when pounding on paper. Purchase ready to dye (RTD) or prepared for dying (PFD) fabric or prepare the fabric yourself. You'll find supplies and directions at most craft stores.

Prepare a space for pounding flowers onto paper or fabric. A large cutting board or piece of wood will protect the furniture below. Or better yet move this project outside onto the sidewalk or other surface that can't be damaged by the pounding.

Cover the surface with wax paper and secure with masking tape to prevent the flower color from soaking through onto the cutting board. Cut the fabric to size and secure it or the paper to the board with masking tape.

Gather a few of your favorite leaves and flowers. You will have great results from thin brightly colored petals and leaves. Consider starting with rose, daisy, geranium, petunia, and pansy petals although any flowers and leaves can work. Remove or reduce the size of the large center of coneflowers, black-eyed Susans and similar blooms so they lay flat on the fabric. Or remove the petals, discard the center, and arrange as desired.

Remove any stems, sepals, or other plant parts you do not want to transfer. Then place the desired parts face down on the paper or fabric.

Once your design is set, cover with several layers of paper towel or another sheet

of watercolor paper. Taping leaves and petals in place on fabric helps reduce the risk of petals moving during the pounding process.

Gently tap the leaves and flowers in place using the flat side of a hammer. Next, evenly hammer from one side of the design to the other, making sure to hit every part of each plant.

Lift the paper covering and remove the crushed flowers and leaves from the paper along with the tape from the fabric. Allow your design to dry and carefully brush off any remaining plant pieces.

Set the design on fabric using an iron set on the hottest setting without steam. This sets the colors but will not make it washable. Preserve the bright colors of your works of art on paper with a UV protective acrylic spray. Be sure to read and follow label directions and apply in a well-ventilated area.

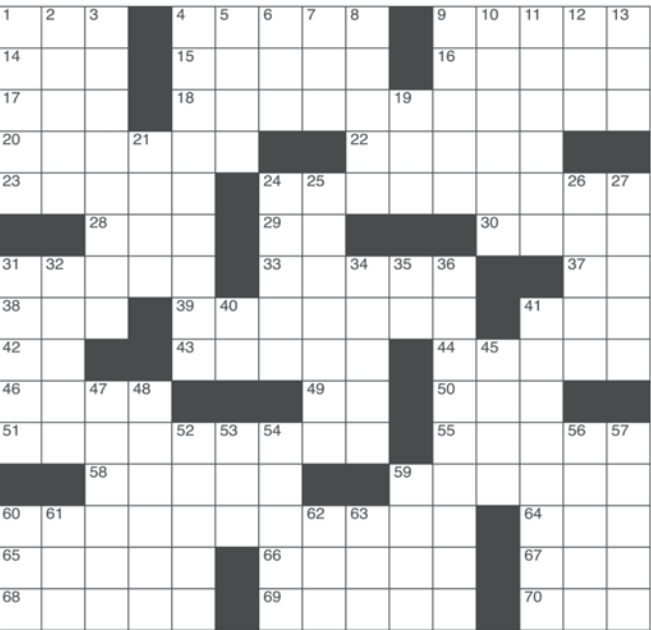
Pounding flowers is a fun project for all ages. It is a simple way to transfer a plant's natural dye onto paper or fabric to create works of art, greeting cards and more. For more gardening projects visit MelindaMyers.com.



Photo Melinda Myers

Create art and preserve a bit of the garden with flower pounding.

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"* DVD 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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point north of due west
- 4. Indigenous peoples of northern Scandinavia
- 9. Popular California/Nevada lake
- 14. Go quickly
- 15. Fatty acid in soaps
- 16. Brand of fuel stations
- 17. State of fuss
- 18. Romance novelist
- 20. Members of a household
- 22. Asserts to be the case
- 23. Type of infection
- 24. With metal inlays
- 28. Chinese philosophic principle
- 29. Early multimedia
- 30. Employee stock ownership plan
- 31. He investigated Clinton administration
- 33. Shells
- 37. Six
- 38. Snakelike fish
- 39. Capital of Kenya
- 41. Influential group (abbr.)
- 42. Used to chop
- 43. It comes as a case
- 44. Challenges
- 46. Small amounts
- 49. The Golden State
- 50. Peyton's little brother
- 51. For walking in Alaska
- 55. Buddhist honorific titles
- 58. Lively ballroom dance
- 59. Capital of Albania
- 60. Late night host
- 64. Draw from
- 65. A way to utilize
- 66. One who is not native Hawaiian
- 67. A power to perceive
- 68. Bulky
- 69. Horse mackerels
- 70. Proclaim out loud

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hits
- 2. Bathroom accessory
- 3. Young
- 4. Beef cattle
- 5. It's often in soap
- 6. For each
- 7. Innermost membrane enveloping the brain
- 8. A way to leave
- 9. Emaciation
- 10. Punish with a fine
- 11. Steeds
- 12. Having eight
- 13. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 19. Mature reproductive cells
- 21. Armadillo species
- 24. Ancient country in what is now Romania
- 25. Extreme greed
- 26. Stars
- 27. Poems
- 31. Places to sit
- 32. One from the Lone Star State
- 34. Small rails
- 35. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 36. Where coaches work
- 40. Indicates position
- 41. Mammals
- 45. Resembling a wing
- 47. Beliefs
- 48. Hindu male religious teachers
- 52. Mischievously
- 53. Where athletes want to end up (abbr.)
- 54. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 56. Horned squash bug genus
- 57. Excessively sentimental
- 59. Shared verbally
- 60. You can put it on toast
- 61. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- 62. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 63. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano



PUZZLE SOLUTION

VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Aug. 15: Bluebird, Bobolink, Barn Swallow, Baltimore Oriole, Pileated Woodpecker, Great-horned Owl, Eastern Towhee, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Yellowthroat, Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow, Hummingbird, House Wren, Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Wood Duck. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home.



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TROOPER

continued from page A1

accreditation of all law enforcement units and what they defined as units didn't necessarily describe our law enforcement agency," said Calorio. "So, when the bill first went through, we immediately reached out and asked how we were going to be treated, do we need to be accredited outside of the State Police because we are under the State Police, we have to follow all the same SOPs."

Initially the state indicated that because the Killingly Resident Trooper program is in partnership with the State Police that the State Police accreditation applied to the town. However, in July, Calorio met with representative of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council who informed the town that the resident troopers are considered a separate law enforcement unit.

"We have to pull all of our stuff together to be able to pass that review," said Calorio. "One of our staff members has attended the accreditation training. I'll be going on Aug. 30 to the training as well. A lot of it, we basically have to reference State Police policies on the handling of a lot of that. It's just a matter of we have to create the binder. It's a documentation process on it and some of it we just have to fold in our current written policies into that book to round it out. It still may require some additional policies."

Despite what Calorio called a "last minute switch" she said the town is "going with the flow" and preparing for their review which is expected to take place in July of 2023.



Insightful

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of a female athlete

BY DONALD WILLIAMS
BROOKLYN

One hundred years ago, a team of excellent baseball players, led by their impressive pitcher, barnstormed through New England and played a much-anticipated game in eastern Connecticut.

The Bloomer Girls of New York and Boston, a semi-pro, all-female team featuring pitcher Emily Flaherty, arrived by train in the North Grosvenordale neighborhood of Thompson, Connecticut, on Sunday, Aug. 27, 1922. They would play the local American Legion team in what was widely promoted as the biggest attraction of the year.

Admission was 35 cents, 25 cents for ladies, and fans arrived by train, trolley, and automobile; locals walked and a few came by horse and buggy. The ballfield was near the massive Grosvenor Dale Company textile mill, surrounded by rows of mill housing, and bordered by the French River. By game time at 3:15, more than twelve hundred fans packed the stands and surrounding area.

In previewing the contest, the Norwich Bulletin touted the game with a nod to the recent ratification of a woman's right to vote: "As they have come late (into) the political arena, so too are the young women of the land coming onto the baseball diamond." Women's baseball teams had played in various settings in the late 1800s through the early 20th century. In 1922, however, women athletes wanted recognition and respect, and did not want their games to be considered an amusement. The Bulletin heard that message and added, "Bloomer Girls are real baseball players and can swat a homer over the left field fence or haul down a long hit to match the best that many male players have to offer."

Emily Flaherty was a trailblazing athlete. She grew up in Milton,



Massachusetts, and played on her high school's very first field hockey team in 1915. She became her school's star baseball pitcher and hitter—another new high-school sport for women. In 1917, she made national news when she struck out 21 batters in a seven-inning game. She also threw a no-hitter that year. Interviewed by the Boston Globe, she said that after high school she hoped to go to Sargent College in Cambridge, which specialized in health, physical conditioning and rehabilitation. She wanted to become "a teacher of gymnastics and athletics."

Emily Flaherty was known for her velocity and ability to mix up pitches and throw curves and drop balls. On the day she played in North Grosvenordale, however, she had pitched many games in a row—there was no such thing as a three or four-person rotation of starting pitchers. The Legion men scored four



runs in the first inning and added another three in the third for a commanding 7-run lead. In the fourth inning, the women rallied and battled back with four runs; Emily hit a shot deep into left field for a double. The Legion added five more runs and the Bloomer Girls one, for a final score of 12 to 5. Emily struck out a number of players and pitched all nine innings, as she usually did. The Webster Times wrote that the crowd appreciated the skill of the women athletes, and said that Emily Flaherty "was applauded time and again for the fine work with both bat and in the field."

Emily never got the chance to go to Sargent College or become a teacher. She also had no opportunity to make a living as an athlete. By the end of the 1920s, women's semi-pro baseball teams largely disappeared. There would be a brief resurgence in the 1940s, the

era explored in the movie "A League of Their Own," but those teams also ceased playing by the early 1950s.

When Emily played baseball for the Bloomer Girls for little pay, she needed a second job and began work at the Jordan Marsh department store. She stayed there in various roles, beginning as a stenographer, for more than fifty years. During WWII, she worked hard to promote the sale of U.S. Savings bonds to help pay for the war effort. At the end of the war, she was one of eighteen men and women in Massachusetts recognized by the U.S. Treasury Department with a Silver Medal for outstanding service.

I learned about the Bloomer Girls game in North Grosvenordale when, back in the 1970s, my dad, my brothers and I found an old poster in our barn promoting the game. Only recently have I been able to track down the details of the game and the pitcher, Emily Flaherty.

Today, female athletes face similar challenges and obstacles, but there has been progress. In 1972, federal legislation known as Title 9, prohibited discrimination against women in education programs including sports. Prior to Title 9, only one in 27 women played sports at the secondary or college level. By 2016, that increased to one in five. I think of my daughter, Nina, who had an opportunity to pursue athletics that ultimately led to a passion for rock climbing. That passion became an occupation—she has had opportunities to earn a living that Emily Flaherty never had. The fairness created by Title 9 must be preserved.

One hundred years later, Emily Flaherty and her colleagues deserve to be remembered for their talent and dreams, and for blazing a trail for all those who have followed in their footsteps.

Eastern Police Chief honored at ‘100 Men of Color’ gala

WILLIMANTIC — Stephen Tavares '96 of New Hartford, chief of police at Eastern Connecticut State University, was honored at the "100 Men of Color" Black-Tie Gala and Awards on Aug. 12 at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center.

Presented by the June Archer & Eleven28 Entertainment Group, the ceremony is named for musician, author and motivational speaker June Archer, and recognizes the contributions of men in business, education, entrepreneurship, entertainment and service throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. During the ceremony,

emoney, the city of Springfield, Mass., declared Aug. 12, 2022, as "Stephen Tavares Day" in his honor.

In 2017, the Bristol Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) also named Tavares as one of the "Most 25 Influential African Americans in the City of Bristol." In Bristol, Tavares also was a trailblazer—the first Black officer in the history of the Bristol Police Department to earn promotion in 2005. To date, Tavares is the highest-ranking Black administrator in the history of the City of Bristol.

Tavares had a distinguished

26-year career with the Bristol Police Department. He started in 1995 as a patrol officer and later detective, before moving on to roles including police sergeant, detective sergeant, lieutenant and completing his time there as deputy chief. During his career, Tavares has held specialized positions, including narcotics officer, K-9 officer, crisis negotiator, and domestic violence liaison.

"Being inducted into the 2022 class of the 100 Men of Color is a tremendous honor that comes with great responsibility," said Tavares. "I am being recognized for the work that I have done in the community, and it is my obligation to represent the 100 Men of Color class of 2022 and the June Archer Group and Foundation by remaining present for men in our Black and Brown communities."

At Eastern, Tavares continued as a trailblazer, as an alumnus being appointed as police chief. As a former student, Tavares understands the importance of supporting students and other members of the campus community through the development of programs that promote health and safety, as well as prevention programs in related areas.

"Nothing is more important

to me than the safety of our students, faculty, staff and visitors," said Eastern President Elsa Nunez, in introducing Tavares last year. "We have many tools and resources at Eastern to ensure that our campus is safe - none more important than the brave and trusted members of our campus police department. Finding the right person to lead the department going forward is critical to the success of our campus police force. In Chief Tavares we have a veteran officer and administrator and a highly respected member of his profession. I am delighted he has returned to Eastern in this vital position."

FOOTBALL

continued from page A1

the game [offense, defense and special teams]," said Killingly head coach Chad Neal, now in his 19th season at the helm. "I would say we bring back as much, if not more, than most teams. We feel like we're in a good position. I'm excited to get going again, excited to see what this year's team will bring."

A year ago, you may remember, Killingly (12-0) plowed through the regular season, beating every team on its schedule by at least 25 points. In the Connecticut Class M Tournament Neal's brood defeated a co-op team made up of the Gilbert School, Northwestern Regional, and Housatonic Valley, 49-14, in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs, Branford, 13-12, in the semifinals, and Rockville, 28-14, for the title.

Fifteen starters from last year's team are back, including, on offense, quarterback Thomas Dreiholz (53-for-99, 1,117 yards, 16 touchdowns, 3 interceptions, 1 sack), running back Soren Reif (119 carries, 1,150 yards, 16 TDs), receivers Ben Jax (a team-leading 27 catches 718 yards, 8 touchdowns) and Noah Colangelo, and linemen Terrence Allen, Darin Exarhoulias and Devin Exarhoulias.

"Thomas really had a strong year last year," Neal said, "especially at the end. He finished very strong for us."

Returning starters on defense include linemen Allen (63 total tackles, 33 solo, 6 sacks, 4 forced fumbles, 1 fumble recovery returned for a touchdown) and Devin Exarhoulias, linebackers Perry (the team's leading tackler with 115 total tackles, 76 solo, 6 sacks, 2 forced fumbles), Reif (58 total tackles, 34 solo, 3 interceptions — 1 for a TD, 1 sack), and Alex Potapskiy (42 total tackles, 27 solo, 2 forced fumbles, 2 fumble recoveries).

Also returning on the defensive side of the ball are safeties Jax (4 inter-

ceptions, 1 fumble recovery, 2 defensive touchdowns) and Colby Lopes (3 fumble recoveries, 1 defensive TD), and corner back Colangelo (3 interceptions, 1 defensive touchdown).

Allen played every defensive snap last season while Perry and Reif were both Class M All-State selections at linebacker.

Positions up for grabs during pre-season include center, linebacker (one spot), and cornerback (one spot).

The key newcomer for Killingly this year is offensive lineman Alexis Ruiz-Ortiz. The 6-foot-4, 314-pound Ruiz-Ortiz played last year at Burncoat High School in Worcester, Mass.

"He can move and he can play," Neal said about Ruiz-Ortiz. "He's going to step right in for us, probably at right tackle."

Ten players on last year's team have graduated: Jack Sharpe; Nate Keefe; Ryan Miller; Seth Dootson; Trevin Russ; Shane Leduc; Noah Russell; Olivia Cicarelli; Chris Berthiaume; and Justin Baker.

Sharpe, Killingly's leading rusher (277 carries, 1,406 yards, 24 touchdowns) was a Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) Top 26 All-State selection, as well as the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Division III Player of the Year.

Keefe (TE/LB), Killingly's No. 2 pass catcher last season (13 receptions, 288 yards, 4 TDs) and No. 2 tackler (69 total tackles, 43 solo stops, 4 sacks, 3 fumble recoveries, 1 interception), was an ECC Division III Offensive All-Star, as was Russell, the team's starting center. Dootson, a linebacker (63 total tackles, 30 solo, 2 sacks) and Russ, a cornerback (35 total tackles, 20 solo, 1 interception) were named ECC Division III Defensive All-Stars.

Killingly opens defense of its ECC Division III and Class M titles at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 9, when it hosts Montville at Morgan Field. Other home games, all with 6:30 p.m. starts are: Friday, Sept. 23, vs. Bloomfield;

Friday, Oct. 14 vs. Windham; Friday, Nov. 4 vs. Waterford; and Thursday, Nov. 10 vs. Stonington.

Road games for Killingly are: 6:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 16, at Norwich Free Academy (NFA); 6:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30, at Griswold/Wheeler (the game will be played at Griswold High); 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21, at Branford; 6:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 28, at Fitch; and 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 24, at Woodstock Academy.

"I'm excited about our schedule. We open up with Montville at home and then we go to NFA. NFA is a large school and we're going to play them down there, so that's not going to be an easy task," Neal said. "I think the marquee matchup of the season for us is week three at home against Bloomfield. They were in the Class

S final last year. We've also added Branford, and we play Fitch, too."

Squib Kicks — Killingly scored 40 or more points in 7 of its 12 games last year, finishing with a total of 420 points. ... Killingly allowed 110 points in 2021. ... In a three-game shutout stretch against Griswold/Wheeler, Plainfield, and Norwich Free Academy, Killingly rolled up a combined 133 points. ... Killingly has won 32 straight home games, a streak that dates back to 2015. Neal's 100th career win came in the 2021 state title game. ... Neal said 85 players are a part of Killingly football this season. "I'm excited about our numbers," Neal said. "We'll be able to run three strong programs [varsity, junior varsity, freshmen]."

INTERSECTION

continued from page A1

it was to narrow it, but it is definitely a change in profile there and a much needed one. It's amazing what an ocean of pavement people have just be lolly-

gagging over for years," she said.

Goals for the transformation of the intersection are to create a more defined roadway with consideration of the safety of both commuters and pedestrians, who often enjoy fishing in the nearby river.



Health Department urges safety at local fairs

BROOKLYN—The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) is ready for another busy fair season and offers fairgoers simple advice to enjoy the Brooklyn and Woodstock Fairs in a safe and healthy manner.

Every year, NDDH sanitarians inspect hundreds of food establishments at both fairs. All food vendors are required to obtain an NDDH Fair Permit, which must be displayed in a prominent location in the food booth during the entire fair. In addition, all food vendors must possess a current Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) certification or Food Awareness and Safety Training (FAST) certificate.

“NDDH inspects all food vendors at the fairs to assure compliance with the Public Health Code,” said Sue Starkey, NDDH Director of Health. “An event that brings hundreds of thousands of people to an area within a short time frame requires tremendous coordination. We remind fairgoers that they play a role in their health and safety. Fairgoers become food handlers when they purchase a food product. They too, should practice food safety so they reduce their risk of food-borne illness.”

In addition to food safety, NDDH encourages frequent hand washing or the use of hand sanitizers if hand washing facilities are unavailable. NDDH-sponsored signage throughout the fairgrounds promotes healthy fair habits.

“Frequent hand washing and proper food handling are two of the best ways to insure a healthy fair experience,” commented Linda Colangelo, NDDH Education and Communications Coordinator. “The fairs have a long-standing tradition of providing fairgoers with plenty of fun, festivities, agricultural and animal exhibits, and food. NDDH partners with fair management to assure that fairgoers have every chance to avoid illness.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported three human infections with an influenza (flu) virus that usually spreads in pigs. These cases were traced to an agricultural fair in West Virginia. Sporadic infections happen every year often in the agricultural fair settings, where pigs from different places come into close contact with each other and with people. These venues may increase the risk of spread of flu viruses among pigs and between pigs and people due to these interactions.

Recommendations to limit the spread of flu viruses include not eating or drinking while in swine barns and other pig areas, avoiding contact with pigs that appear to be sick, and washing hands often with soap and running water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after contact with pigs.

People who are at higher risk for developing serious flu complications should avoid pigs and swine barns at fairs or wear a well-fitting mask that covers the nose and mouth to reduce their risk of exposure to flu viruses.

“The combination of thousands of people, food, animals and limited hand-washing facilities at the fairs creates a higher risk for bacterial and viral infection, including novel (new) disease,” said Starkey. “These infections can occur through food-borne illness or by interaction with farm animals. By increasing awareness of proper hand washing techniques and the use of hand-sanitizing stations, we hope to reduce the risk of illness for fairgoers. Fun at the fair starts with these simple health reminders.”

POMFRET RECREATION UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Night Basketball: 9/3/22-9/24/22 at the Pomfret Recreation Park. This program is for boys and girls in grades 3rd-8th. It is a just for fun, co-ed pick up style basketball with a few skills and drills. The time is as follows: 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade play from 4:30pm – 5:15pm. Grades 6th, 7th, & 8th grade play from 5:15pm – 6:00pm. The fee is \$35.00 per person.

Before School Soccer: 9/19/22-10/28/22 each school day from 7:50 am – 8:20am. No play on 10/10/22. This program is for boys and girls in grades 4-8. Join in on the fun of playing Before School Soccer. Brush up on your skills with your friends in the gym each morning. The fee is \$35.00 per child.

Movie at the Park: 9/23/22 at the Pomfret Recreation Park. The movie will be The Nutcracker and the Four Realms. The movie starts at 7:00pm. Watch the movie under the stars. Concessions will be sold by the Recreation Department. This event is free.

Tree House Village Treasure Hunt at the Park: Find the 12 hidden “treehouses” in the Disc Golf Path areas at the Pomfret Recreation Park. There are forms in the kiosk to write down the names of the houses. If you find all 12, you can turn in your card at the Pomfret Recreation Department at 5 Haven Road for a prize. Please make sure your name and contact information is filled out.

Co-ed Summer Cribbage League: – for ages 16 and up. Tuesdays, May 31st to October 18, 2022, at the Pomfret Community Center. Time is 6:30 to 9 pm ish. Instruction will be provided those wanting to learn the game. All equipment is provided. You can check out www.quietcornerleagues.com or the Recreation Dept. web page for more info. \$20.00 per person for the season with a tournament at the end. Teams consist of two players

Men’s Over 30 Basketball: Monday evenings from 6:30pm – 9:00 pm in the PCS Gym starting 10/3/22 through 3/27/23. Pick up style basketball. Men of all levels of fitness are welcome to attend. No play dates are as follows: 10/10, 11/7, 12/26, 1/2, 1/16, and 2/20. The fee for this program is \$30.00.

Rec. or Treat with Scare Crow Contest. Saturday, October 22nd starting at 4 pm at the rec. Park. Trick or treating, hay rides, bon-fire and movie after dark. Bring your blankets and chairs for the movie. Scarecrow contest has two categories, one for adults and one for children. \$50.00 1st place for each and \$25.00 2nd place for each. Rain date is 10/29/22.

WE HAVE 2 SEATS OPEN ON THE RECREATION COMMISSION. HELP THE COMMISSION BRING SOME MORE FUN TO POMFRET!

You do not need to live in Pomfret to participate in most Town Rec. programs.

Questions: 860-974-142 or email: Barbara.gagnon@pomfretct.gov

To register for these events, the forms are available on our website: www.pomfretct.gov/recreation or you can stop by the Pomfret Town Hall to pick one up.

Sunflowers for Kids event planned at Lapsley Orchard

POMFRET — Sunflowers for Kids will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4 at Lapsley Orchard on Route 169 on the Brooklyn/Pomfret line. Sales of sunflowers and wildflowers, including pick you own, will benefit United Services Children and Family Programs. Free Children’s Activity at the event with USI’s Youth Service Bureau. For more information, visit www.unitedservicesct.org or call 860-774-2020.

SCORE Southeastern CT to host free Q &A panel on “Small Business Loans: Issues and Options”

REGION — The Southeastern Connecticut chapter of SCORE, mentors to America’s Small Businesses, presents a free Webinar on Small Business Loans: Issues and Options Monday, Sept. 12 from noon to 1:30 pm. This webinar will feature a panel of lending professionals from a cross-section of small business lenders.

Small Business Loans: Issues and Options will explain the basics of borrowing money from these experienced small business lenders and enable you to ask your own questions during an extensive Question and Answer period.

The panel will include Donna L. Flynn, CCM, Senior Vice President, Business Solutions Manager of Liberty Bank; Tanisha Baptiste, MBA, Economic Development Specialist of the US Small Business Administration (SBA); Shawn Johnston, Board Chairman of Northeast CT Economic Alliance, and Frederick L. Welk, Jr., Business Advisor and Director of Business Education & Communications at Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF).

The panel moderator will be Frank LaMonaca, Southeastern CT SCORE Chapter Chair; a retired executive with 38 years of experience in banking and financial services.

Webinar Sponsor Liberty Bank, established in 1825, is one of the oldest and largest mutual banks in the country. With more than \$7 billion in assets, Liberty has 56 banking offices across Connecticut and one in Massachusetts. As a full-service financial institution, Liberty offers consumer and commercial banking, cash management, home mortgages, business loans, insurance and investment services. Named a Top Workplace every year since 2012 and a Forbes Best-in-State Bank in 2021 and 2022, Liberty maintains a longstanding commitment to superior personal service and unparalleled community involvement. Learn more at www.liberty-bank.com.

SCORE is a nonprofit association that offers free and confidential advice on starting your own business or improving and growing your existing small business. Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million aspiring entrepreneurs. Each year, SCORE’s 10,000 volunteer business experts provide hundreds of thousands of free small business mentoring sessions, workshops and educational services to clients in 300 chapters nationwide. SCORE’s nine counseling sites in Southeast Connecticut include Guilford, Madison, Old Saybrook, Essex, Waterford, Middletown, Mystic, Norwich, and New London. For more information on upcoming free workshops and how to schedule a free small business mentoring session with our counselors, visit <https://sect.score.org>.

Would You Like To Become A SCORE volunteer? Your business knowledge and experience can help others start or grow a small business. Learn more about becoming a SCORE volunteer at: www.score.org/volunteer.

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Volunteer opportunity in Brooklyn

BROOKLYN — UConn Extension People Empowering People CI is seeking two volunteer facilitators to go into the Brooklyn Correctional Facility to facilitate UConn Extension PEP CI on a weekly basis. The UConn PEP CI program mission is to draw from the unique strengths, life experiences and capacities of each participant to build a community of mutual support from which participants gain skills and confidence to aid their rehabilitation and ultimately keep them out of prison.

These two volunteer facilitators will work together as a team and lead a series of 15 to 17 two-hour sessions to a group of 10-15 inmates. During their first series, they will work with an experienced UConn PEP CI facilitator. Sample sessions include Empowerment, Values, Communication, Problem Solving, and Managing Conflict, Coping Strategies, Healthy Relationships, Goal Setting and Preparing for My Next Job. Day and time of sessions have yet to be determined. Training of the UConn Extension PEP CI Program will be provided. Potential volunteers will need to be available during daytime hours. Please email pep@uconn.edu for more information and to request an application. You can also visit the UConn PEP CI Web site at: <https://pep.extension.uconn.edu/pepci/>.

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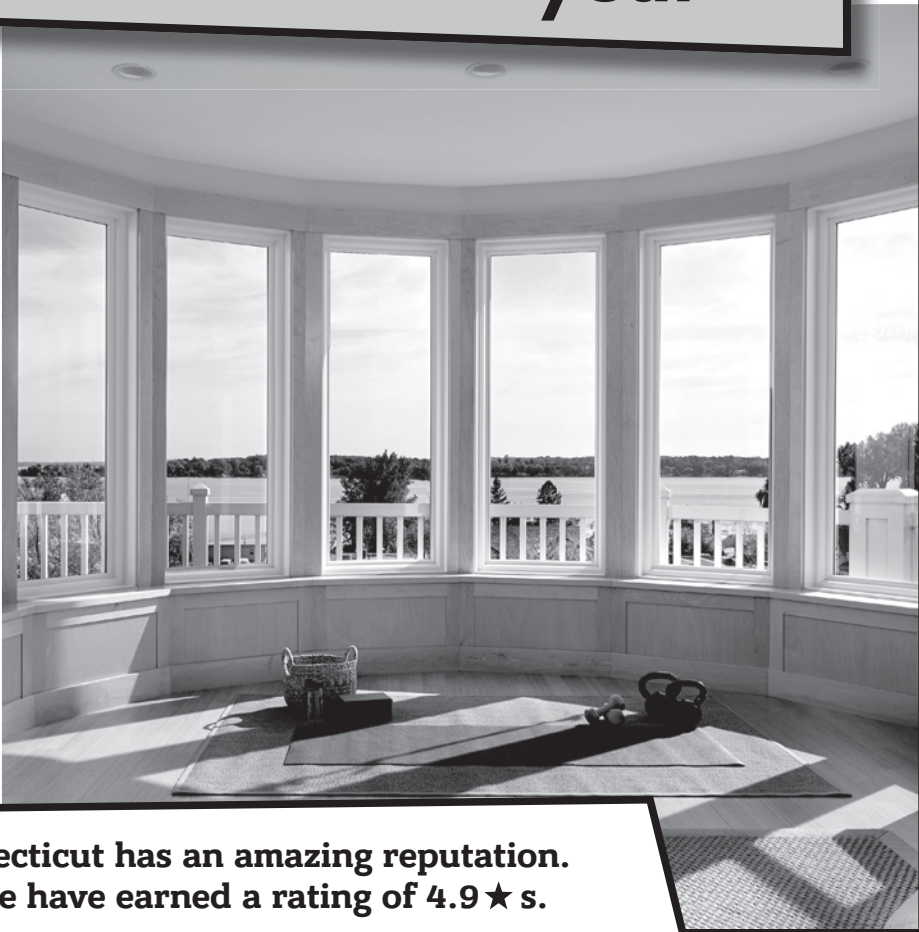
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– Michael S., Madison, CT




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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Seize the waning days of summer

Oh, no! Summer is coming to an end; however, we know the weather will stay warm likely through September, then it’s on to what we New Englanders affectionately call “Sweatah weathah.” But for now, let’s focus on making the most of what we have left of our coveted New England summer days.

Time passes so quickly that we forget we had meant to do this, or go here and see that, or visit this old friend. The good news is that there is still time for a no regrets summer.

The most fulfilling thing we can do is to reconnect with friends. Plan a night out having appetizers, or a last minute summer grill session. Even planning a short meet up for a walk or a hike is a great idea. Find a lake or a river with some nice rocks and just relax and catch up, taking in all that summer has to offer.

Nostalgia tells us that time spent with friends on our bikes until the lights came on were the best carefree times during the summer months. Why not take a night and watch old movies to bring you back, and escape from the go, go, go that is adulthood. Our favorite blasts from the past include “Field of Dreams,” “Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure,” “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom,” “Crocodile Dundee,” and anything with Steve Martin and Martin Short.

Spending time outdoors during late night hours is always a treat. Look up at the stars, even if it’s from your own porch and enjoy a peaceful moment, listening to the crickets and the frogs have a chat.

That book sitting on your coffee table that’s been staring at you all summer? Pick it up, and give yourself a goal to read at least five pages...just do it, before you know it you’ll be engrossed in it.

Get outside and go for a run, bike ride or a hike in a new place. Find places that you can revisit when the snow falls! Snowshoes and Nordic skis, heck even moon boots do the trick! But alas, let’s stay focused on summer.

Take a refreshing swim in a nearby lake or river. Pop yourself onto a floaty and just bob as all of your cares float away.

Try to cook as many meals as possible outdoors on your grill. Soon it’ll be too cold to wait to flip your burgers and dogs.

We love all seasons, and every time one ends, we get excited for the next. One of the benefits of living in New England is enjoying a solid four season year. Pretty soon it will be pumpkin everything, apples and crisp fall leaves, but for now...let’s stay in summer mode!

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.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lisa Thomas is the health care advocate our district needs

To the Editor:
The recent halt of both inpatient and outpatient surgeries at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford and the shortage of staff at other hospitals across northeastern Connecticut has become a full-blown crisis in our district. Despite the urgency of this issue, our district has not received the statewide attention it needs to address this crisis.

This problem will not be fixed until we have a vocal and experienced advocate for us in the state legislature. That is why we need Lisa Thomas as our next state senator in Connecticut’s 35th district to make the voice of the quiet corner heard in the General Assembly.

Lisa has been in the forefront of efforts to restore critical hospital services, including labor and delivery care, to our region. She knows that the loss of services has placed an unacceptable burden and risk on our families. Until we have a leader who is forceful and persistent in demanding this healthcare crisis be addressed by the General Assembly, hospital staff shortages will continue to plague our district.

Lisa is the fighter we need to give our district the quality of healthcare we deserve. Sincerely,

WILLIAM HALL
COVENTRY

Some questions for those opposed to DKH takeover

To the Editor:
After reading letter after letter, along with ads in local publications, maybe the Canning team can answer a few questions.

First, how have all of the Catholic hospitals operating in the tristate area been successful for decades? No protests, no marches, no nightly news about the denial of services they keep hammering away at.

Secondly, would it be possible to rally your team and come up with an equitable solution? Many extremely capable individuals have worked tirelessly for years trying to keep our biggest employer viable and here for our most urgent healthcare needs. Maybe the missing key to success was to have one of you or all of your team participating in the process?

Signs of a cult?

To the Editor:
First, when 30 or so armed FBI agents all descend on a home unannounced, with a search warrant, and the homeowner does not know about it in advance, that is a raid. Yes, the evidence presented to the judge (who had previously recused himself from a Trump/Hillary Clinton court case) was found to create probable cause. However, the FBI has been working with Trump officials previously. Why didn’t they just ask for the documents?

There was no evidence of document destruction, despite what the “paper in the toilet” prognosticators would have you believe. The documents seized are reportedly some of the same documents that were already seen previously. I don’t buy for one second, as many Americans don’t, that Donald Trump was harboring national security concerns at his home. If the FBI wanted something back, they could have just asked.

A “raid” is a last-resort action, and if it was so urgent, why the delay between when the warrant was signed and when it was executed? They say “time to plan the warrant execution,” yet this is a residence that they already knew about. If it was “national security” they were worried about, and they knew Trump wasn’t there, was that much

planning really needed? Why did they leave the boxes of “national security” concerns just lying in the driveway? They took them from a padlocked room to a driveway? Does that make sense?

Also, many of the same FBI “players” that were involved with Crossfire Hurricane were involved with this raid. Anyone have a problem with this? Also, I find it laughable that someone goes through the trouble of defining a cult, including a list of five warning signs, and then says “I am not accusing anyone of cult involvement...” FYI...there are many people out there that support Trump on an overall basis, especially when comparing him to the current President. Is Trump perfect? Not even close, but when someone’s overall values line up more closely with Trump than with the current President, it’s not crazy to line up with Trump and his thoughts/actions for what is best for America.

Lastly, I question President Biden’s supporters and ask, Why do you spend so much time telling us how bad Trump is? Why don’t you tell us how great Biden is and let us decide for ourselves? I think we all know the answer.

MICHAEL A. DOUGLAS
BROOKLYN

So long, Liz

To the Editor:
Say goodbye to Liz Chaney. One of the reasons why the people of Wyoming sent her packing was because she spent more of her time serving as one of Pelosi’s pawns than she did in her own home state working for its residents. Up next for poor Lizzy is the sour grapes, I hate Trump cry-baby tour. Remember there, Liz, that being consumed by that much hate isn’t good for you, and if anybody feels bad for her you can always send her a box of tissues.

So now Biden’s (in name only) Inflation Reduction Act has passed, a bill that Bernie Sanders, the CBO (Congressional Budget Office) and others have said will do nothing to address inflation. Sen. Joe Manchin admitted that the left’s expansive spending legislation won’t «immediately» reduce inflation, despite the fact that it was specifically promised to do so. It only passed because of Kamala Harris’s deciding vote, and if it actually does anything to benefit the American people - which I hope that it does - I’ll at least then say that Harris actually helped accomplish something in her so far worthless tenure as Vice President of the United States. The day after it passed, some puppet mouthpiece on Connecticut TV news said that this bill would reduce Connecticut homeowners’ electric bills by \$300 per month; however, he didn’t elaborate on how this was actually going to happen. And don’t bother telling me what you think this “historic” (?) piece of legislation is

going to accomplish because I’ve heard all the debates, all the selling points and all the pros and the cons, so now’s the time to see what it’s actually going to do.

And I certainly don’t want to disappoint Mr. Cassettari, but maybe he can explain to me why Pelosi took her son, Paul Jr. along on her recent trip to Taiwan? Nanny claimed that he was only her “escort,” even though he had no political influence or any real reason to be there, and by the way her entourage booked 42 hotel rooms there on the taxpayers dime. But of course it had nothing to do with the fact that he (and no doubt mommy) possibly have a future interest in cashing in on Taiwan’s (chip and battery producing) technology now did it? (I’ll wait.) Now here’s a headline from those biased, liberal twerps at Rolling Stone Magazine that’s right up your alley: “Like Their Cult Leader, Jan. 6 Rioters Try to Cash in on Attempts to Destroy Democracy.” It’s no surprise, though, that Rolling Stone didn’t mention in that article that certain squad members cashed in on their rental properties and received money during the pandemic, all while those same lying hypocrites said they supported canceling rents during the pandemic.

Kudos on the Claudia Allen piece «Signs of a cult,» and I hope that it was a «take a look at yourself” eye-opener for some.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Blossoming



BEYOND THE PEWS
.....
BISHOP JOHN W. HANSON

Historically, God has consistently given His people encouraging messages of hope. For example, He spoke this hope that Israel would be restored, through the Prophet Isaiah:

Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses. Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God. With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.” (Isaiah 35:1-4 NLT)

When the Israelites returned to their homeland and were restored as a nation, something very visible began to take place that accents the fulfillment of the promise given through Isaiah. Here is how it is described on Wikipedia:

Agriculture in Israel is a highly developed industry. Israel is a major exporter of fresh produce and a world-leader in agricultural technologies despite the fact that the geography of the country is not naturally conducive to agriculture. More than half of the land area is desert, and the climate and lack of water resources do not favor farming. Only 20 percent of the land area is naturally arable...

The development of modern agriculture was closely tied to the Zionist movement and Jewish immigration to Palestine in the late nineteenth century.[4] Jews who immigrated purchased land that was mostly semi-arid, although much had been rendered untillable by deforestation, soil erosion and neglect. [2] They set about clearing rocky fields, constructing terraces, draining swampland, reforestation, counter-acting soil erosion, and washing salty land.[2] Since independence in 1948, the total area under cultivation has increased from 165,000 to 433,000 hectares (408,000 to 1,070,000 acres), while the number of agricultural communities has increased from 400 to 725. Agricultural production has expanded 16 times, three times more than population growth.[2]

God will do the same for every individual or community who commits to cooperating with His plan. He searches for people who are willing to align with Him, so He can channel His blessings into our world. In short:

The enemy seeks people who will allow him to channel hatred, jealousy, strife...

God seeks people who will be agents of his love, joy, peace...

A nation, a community, a church, or an individual’s heart will be revealed by the fruit they bear. If their life is full of murder, selfishness, dishonesty, looting, immorality... everyone will know they have chosen to cooperate with the kingdom of darkness. If their life is full of kindness, mercy, integrity, love... everyone will know they have chosen to cooperate with the Kingdom of Light. It then follows: if our world is ugly, it is not because God is not good; it is because mankind refuses to align with God and His plans for goodness.

Those of us who have chosen to follow Christ (allowing Him to fill us with His love and power) have the distinct privilege of bearing good fruit even in difficult times. We can blossom in the desert. We can love the unlovable and release our giftings to minister to all who will receive.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more information or materials, please visit www.ActsII.org.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

About that “silly” notion

To the Editor:

I could only wish that the big money involved in the abortion industry was a “silly” notion, as Mr. Wesler claims. Our very own US Food and Drug Administration was deeply involved in the trafficking of baby body parts, paying many thousands of dollars for the fruit of poor women’s wombs.

According to an article written by Edie Heipel and published in the highly-esteemed paper known as The Federalist on April 26, 2021, the role of our Federal Government in this travesty was epic. I know I was aghast with the findings. The 10 examples outlined in the report were uncovered by Judicial Watch through a FOIA request.

The title of the piece is “Top Ten Sickening Details About How Federal Employees Trafficked Baby Body Parts”. It can be found at the following Weblink: <https://thefederalist.com/2021/04/26/top-10-sickening-details-about-how-federal-employees-trafficked-baby-body-parts/>. Among the findings, and I quote: The US Food and Drug Administration paid an estimated \$2,000 per individual baby, at times adding up to \$12,000 per box of harvested organs.” Have I got your attention yet? The article continues, and I quote: “Email records confirm the FDA agreed to prepay Advanced Bioscience Resources (ABR), likely the country’s largest fetal tissue trafficking firm, an estimated \$2,000 for each aborted child, adding up to \$12,000 per average box of tissue with shipping and packaging fees.”

Here’s a little more to make you nauseous, and I quote directly from the article: “The FDA bought organs like livers, brains and eyeballs of dismembered babies for hundreds of dollars apiece, courtesy of ABR’s collusion with local Planned Parenthood.”

The author substantiates the findings with various charts. The first is titled, “Fees Per Specimen.” It is broken down into the 1st and 2nd Trimester, showing how much money was paid for each cat-

egory of aborted babies from Jan. 2010 to Jan. 2015.

The second chart is titled, “Fetal Tissue Specimens ABR Transferred From PPPSW 20-Week Fetus (No xxx201).” Dollar amounts are specified for the brain, eyes, liver, thymus, liver and lung, for a total of \$2,275.

A 21-week old baby with Down Syndrome is described as having its parts (including skin, limbs and organs) sold by ABR for \$2,600.

Another direct quote from the article: “The FDA demanded that the tissue be in pristine condition. Their initial quote specifies that tissue be “fresh, never frozen” and harvested from babies 16-24 weeks old “free of known chromosomal abnormalities.”

There is a lot more to be learned. Here are a few more highlights. “The FDA asked for organs from late-term babies.” “The FDA bought skulls of 2nd trimester babies.” “The FDA requested boy organs to create humanized mice.”

I’ve only touched on a few points. For those who deny that abortion is big business, please take time to read, discern, and learn how your tax dollars have been spent. Copies of detailed supporting documentation are amply provided by Edie Heipel, thanks to the hard work done by Judicial Watch.

Another valuable site for further information is <https://thenewamerican.com/sickening-e-mails-surface-fda-nih-buying-aborted-human-fetal-parts-for-experiments/>. President Trump banned the use of fetuses for research purposes by cancelling the FDA contracts in 2018, but the Biden administration reversed Trump’s research ban in April of 2021. The FDA says it is no longer buying baby parts. But the Biden administration announced “the spigot was going to be turned back on again” according to Tom Fitton of Judicial Watch.

SUSAN EMERSON-HILL
THOMPSON

Let’s keep Covenant Healthcare out of the picture

To the Editor:

Two recent headlines in the Villager caught my eye last week; the first announced a grant of \$580,400 to Day Kimball Hospital, and the second announced a gift of \$6,500 for a volunteer program at the Hospital. I can only imagine Covenant Healthcare dancing with joy to believe they may not only be buying the hospital for a song, but getting bonus money along with it.

As you may know, the Web site savedkh.org has been collecting signatures and opinions from all over our community and hundreds of citizens have made it clear that not only does the community oppose the sale of the hospital, but they believe that a religious organization should not be involved in their healthcare. We have heard this over and over from discussions within the community.

Since we know, I assume The Board of Directors knows, that Medicare has rated Day Kimball five stars, but Covenant rates only three stars. So what we will be stuck with is restricted healthcare dished out by a lower rated out-of-state group, who will have bought Day Kimball for next to nothing: what a deal.

Of course, they come with promises, but in the end, they come with very little, starting with a pittance toward the debt owed for retirement. Covenant does not intend to pay that money, but rather to push that debt on to the US Government. Yes, the Government, through the PBGC, not Covenant, will bail out the pensions.

So then, who wants to sell the hospital, and why? Does the Board of Directors believe that the idea of a religious takeover is actually in the community’s best interests. Since the term ‘community hospital’ should have some meaning, it is unbelievable that the community was neither consulted nor involved in this discussion. The board didn’t even tell you the Hospital

made a profit last year.

This proposed sale has been kept out of the public’s knowledge since the beginning. It is only now that the Hospital is buying advertising with money, they claim they don’t have. This was only brought on by the ads and letters from (savedkh.org), trying to stop the sale: otherwise DKH would have said nothing.

When you see the Day Kimball Hospital’s advertisements, look carefully for the misstatement, “an affiliation with Covenant health,” they know full well the application they signed clearly states Sale of Hospital, would they lie about that?

Do they mention anywhere in their ad that they intend to sell your hospital to Covenant, a restrictive religious group that intends to impose their restrictive religious doctrine on every physician associated with the hospital. More than 500 procedures in men’s and women’s healthcare that were readily available last year would thereafter be prohibited. All of those facts are clearly spelled out in the agreement. Would they mislead you by omission?

Like a mouse creeping in for the cheese, Covenant wants to creep into Connecticut for our hospital; help us block their opening.

The office of Health Strategy is reviewing the agreement between DKH and Covenant, if you send a quick email to ohs@ct.org and let them know it’s a bad idea for Day Kimball, your opinion will count.

If you don’t care that your hospital will be sold to an out-of-state group, which is lower rated, that plans to restrict your healthcare, do nothing. However, if you think this community deserves better, join your neighbors and friends at savedDKH.org.

RAMON CANNING
POMFRET

The lure of Chatham



NANCY WEISS

We are back from a week in snazzy Chatham on Cape Cod. Every year, we vacation there with our family. About midway, after being edged off the sidewalk by tourists charging into the Chatham Candy Manor one too many times, I wonder how we ended up here again. I remember when our girls were little. I didn’t want them to be “country mice” and thought Chatham was a place to learn to be independent, walk around without a parent, buy something (candy, usually) and cross a busy street. They would

have mastered these skills, but we set the stage. Now my grandchildren are part of the picture, and they enjoy it too.

Where we spend our vacations has a lot to do with what we expect out of life. My father had a hunting “camp” in Vermont. The “camp” meant that there was no indoor plumbing. Hard to imagine, but within my lifetime, people, mostly men, went “up North” to hunt deer. At the end of his life, he admitted that he had never fired a shot, but like traipsing around in the Vermont woods. The quiet, the distance from his noisy family, the excuse to carry a hip flask, were the essence of vacation to him.

My mother refused to stay at the “camp.” She vacationed at the Woodstock Inn. She

and I sat on the front porch and watched the world go by. Meals were formal and once my brother convinced me to drink the lemon water in my finger bowl. I never see a finger bowl now, but when I do, I want to take a sip. My father turned up after a day or so and, once reunited, we agreed that Vermont was just about perfect.

Years ago, friends bought a place on the Maine coast and settled in every summer with their boys. We were often included and relished the chance to dip our feet into the freezing cold water, catch a glimpse of the lupine fields and feel we’d stepped back in time. Two of those boys, now grown men, have homes in Maine. My husband worked close-

ly with families as a financial advisor. He often knew several generations and observed that children, even as adults, wanted to go back to the places where they spent family vacation. Sometimes it led them to move to those spots in retirement or buy or rent homes of their own. I wonder if they were happy with their decisions or disappointed by the difference between vacation time and real life. Regardless, like the mission many have to spend their later years in Florida, the vacation place is a destination that holds the promise that life and the people living it, will be better off even if the details are blurry.

Shark sightings kept us out of the ocean. Crowds kept us out of restaurants. Parking

made us think twice about visiting downtown and the heat cut short long pedals on the bike path. But, it was a good time. We found joy in each other’s company. The cousins got to know each other better. The squeals of delight were frequent. My husband played golf with his oldest grandson and taught him the basics of tennis, a great gift to a grandfather who loves sports.

Next spring, we will talk about summer vacation. I will suggest Vermont. My husband will mention Maine. In the end, the children and grandchildren will vote for Chatham, and we will happily agree. Country mice like candy shops and the memories that are built around them.

Positive changes for retirement savings could be coming

Whether you’ve just started saving for retirement, you’re nearing retirement, or you’re already retired, there could be new legislation passed in the coming months that will offer long-awaited positive changes for your retirement savings and security.

In late March, the U.S. House of Representatives passed “SECURE 2.0,” legislation that would improve the retirement savings system for U.S. workers in several ways. Then in late June the Senate Finance Committee approved the EARN Act along with other proposed legislation that together form the Senate’s version of SECURE 2.0.

Though there are differences between the House and Senate versions of the legislation that must still be resolved, legislative leaders and pundits are optimistic that a final version of SECURE 2.0 could be passed by Congress and signed into law by the President this year.

There are many proposals that could benefit your retirement savings and current finances in various ways, but here’s a look at just a few of the key proposals that could have the biggest impact on your overall financial plan and retirement savings if they’re passed...

INCREASE YOUR CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS

If you’re 50 or older, you can make “catch-up” contributions to your retirement plan – that is, contributions over and above the usual maximum amount allowed each year. Currently, you can contribute an additional \$6,500 to a 401(k) or \$1,000 to an IRA, on top of the standard annual contribution limits (\$20,500 for 401(k)s and \$6,000 for IRAs in 2022). Both the House and Senate versions of the SECURE 2.0 legislation would increase the catch-up contribution amount for 401(k)s to \$10,000, though they differ

slightly on the age ranges that would be eligible for that increase (62 through 64 in the House’s version, and 60 through 63 in the Senate version).

LET YOUR RETIREMENT FUNDS GROW UNTOUCHED FOR LONGER

If SECURE 2.0 passes, the age at which you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your 401(k) will rise to 75 by either 2032 or 2033 (depending on whether the House or Senate’s version of this provision is passed), up from the current RMD age of 72. The penalty for failing to take the RMD would also be reduced to 25 percent rather than the current 50 percent penalty – and if the missed RMD is corrected quickly, the penalty could even be reduced to 10 percent. (It’s important to note that a surviving spouse who becomes the account owner of a Roth IRA is not required to take distributions at all.)

IMPROVED ACCESS TO FUNDS FOR EMERGENCIES

There are two proposals in the Senate that would allow workers to tap into retirement savings in the case of an emergency. One would allow you to withdraw up to \$1,000 from your 401(k) or IRA without having to pay the usual 10 percent early withdrawal tax penalty if you’re under age 59 and a half. In the other proposal, employers would be allowed to automatically enroll employees in emergency savings accounts at 3 percent of pay. Those accounts can then be accessed by employees up to once per month for emergency needs. The emergency account would be allowed to



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LAURENCE HALE
INVESTMENT ADVISER

accrue up to \$2,500, with any excess funds being automatically diverted to a linked 401(k) account.

Of course, you’ll want to be sure you weigh the pros and cons with your financial advisor before tapping into your retirement savings. The short-term benefit may not be worth the potential loss in savings over the long-term.

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR 401(K) WHILE YOU PAY OFF STUDENT LOANS INSTEAD

To help ease the burden on younger workers who are still paying off student loans, both the House and Senate have proposed legislation that would allow employers to contribute to an employee’s retirement account on their behalf while the employee is paying off student loans rather than contributing to a retirement account themselves.

While it’s always best to start saving for retirement yourself as early as possible, this provision could help bridge the gap for young workers whose budgets are stretched thin during those first few years of employment, ensuring that at least some funds are being saved for retirement.

IF SECURE 2.0 LEGISLATION PASSES, CONSULT WITH A FINANCIAL ADVISOR BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGES

While the retirement savings legislation proposed by both the House and Senate could offer a variety of new benefits and options in general, it’s important to remember that what’s beneficial for one person may not necessarily be the most beneficial choice for another.

Decisions regarding retirement contributions and distributions can have big impacts both in the short-term (with regard to your annual income tax filing) and over the long-term (with regard to how much you’re able to ultimately save and how you can maximize those dollars).

It can be challenging to balance the needs of today with the goals of tomorrow, and to keep up with always-changing laws and regulations surrounding retirement savings, taxes and finances. That’s why it’s so important to work with a financial advisor who can help you determine how these decisions may affect your overall financial planning strategy and guide you in making the right decision. To learn more about our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ financial planning process here at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, visit our website at whzwealth.com or give us a call at (860) 928-2341 and see how we can put our strategy and expertise to work for you.

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Killingly hosts American Foodie Festival

DANIELSON — Killingly played host to the American Foodie Festival on Saturday, Aug. 20 featuring a selection of local food trucks and other activities just off of Main Street in Danielson. Music, bounce houses, face painting, vendors, and, of course, good food made for a delightful afternoon which

was all part of the social media effort American Foodie Festivals that seeks to draw attention to food-based events. The Killingly Business Association sponsored Killingly's festival as a way to show off some of the hidden delicious gems of the region.

Photos Jason Bleau



The Arteta Family of Plainfield enjoy some food from some of the food trucks in Killingly.



Visitors to the American Foodie Festival break for a bite in Killingly.



A Cupcake for Later, a Willimantic-based cupcake company, made a stop in Killingly.



Brooklyn First Selectman Austin Tanner and his crew from Creamery Brook Bison are a common sight at any local foodie event.



Mixtape provided the musical entertainment for the afternoon for Killingly's American Foodie Festival.



Marvel's popular hero Spiderman made a guest appearance at the festival.



Elliana and Conner of Danielson were just a couple of the many kids who got their face painted during the festival.



Dude's Donuts served up some fall-themed donuts including apple cider flavored treats.



Youngsters had their choice of several bounce houses to kill some time at the Foodie Festival.



ALWAYS HELPING

Photo Courtesy

The Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club helped TEEG in a very big way by volunteering with the backpack distribution at Pomfret Community School, Woodstock Middle School and the TEEG facility in Thompson. Families were able to come to these locations and fill their backpacks with school supplies. The Interact Club also made a donation of nine Scientific calculators, some composition books, folders, paper and pens, according to Interact Advisor Roberta Rocchetti. Chelsea French, TEEG program director, said many families were helped and she thanked the Interact volunteers: Emily St. Martin (Putnam High School) and Mikayla Walford from Putnam, Abigail Morin, Jeff Phongs, Talia and Kaelyn Tremblay, Jackie Dearborn, Kira Greene and Abby Smith (Woodstock Academy); Jordyn Butler, Eric Levesque, Melanie Noonan and Kaylee Beck (Tourtellotte Memorial High School). The Putnam Rotary Interact Club is a regional club for students ages 12 - 18 and meets from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday from September through May at the Putnam Library. Rocchetti said "It is a great way to help our community and earn community service hours at the same time. Our volunteer activities help TEEG, Daily Bread, the local Salvation Army, Day Kimball Hospital, the Alzheimer's association and Relay For Life, to name a few. Sept. 13 is the date of our first meeting." For more information contact Rocchetti at 860-933-8603 or robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

Reap the many health benefits of a good laugh

Most people have heard the adage that “laughter is the best medicine.” There are many indications that laughter can be beneficial to the mind and body, and that the perks of laughter and humor are far-reaching.

Various professionals have studied the clinical benefits of laughter, including Dr. Lee Berk and Dr. Stanley Tan at Loma Linda University in California. Here is what these experts say in regard to the benefits of a few good belly laughs.

- Boosts immune system**

A 2016 study titled “The Laughter Prescription” and published in the American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine found that the amount of laughter a person experiences is related to the immune system’s ability to fight off infections, among other benefits. The study references additional research that indicated spontaneous (not forced) laughter boosts the immune system by increasing natural killer (NK) cell activity. Levels were measured after participants watched a one-hour humorous video. NK cells are lymphocytes with a unique ability to kill a broad spectrum of cancerous and virus-infected cells, according to the National Institutes of Health. Laughing out loud improves immune system function and increases heart rate and oxygen levels.
- Helps heal the brain**

Laughing can help reverse symptoms of grief or depression by increasing the pleasure-enhancing neurochemicals in the brain, according to the Dr. Sears Wellness Institute. A good laugh also may help people recovering from chronic illnesses by helping to alleviate fear and anxiety that could otherwise preoccupy the mind.
- Suppresses stress hormones**

Drs. Berk and Tan found that the stress hormones epinephrine and cortisol decrease following laughter. Laughter may help people feel less stressed and overwhelmed.
- Provides a small body workout**

Hearty laughter can exercise the diaphragm, contract the abdominals and even work the shoulders and muscles in the face. Laughter also gets the heart pumping at a rate that burns a similar amount of calories per hour as walking slowly.
- Provides natural pain relief**

Research suggests that laughter decreases inflammation that may contribute to pain. Researchers at the University of Maryland found that laughing also increases blood flow, which may help to reduce pain as well. Finding ways to laugh more is an easy and fun way to improve overall health.
- Lowens blood pressure**

Individuals who laugh often have lower blood pressure than those who laugh less often. Lower blood pressure reduces the risk for stroke and heart
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- ## Eastford to offer parenting course
- BY MIKE MORAN**
FOR THE VILLAGER

EASTFORD — A parenting course entitled “Raising Highly Capable Kids” will be offered in Eastford this fall. The class is based on 40 Developmental Assets that come from research by The Search Institute’s. These assets are the building blocks every child needs to grow and mature. The more assets that children develop, the more healthy behaviors and positive results they have in life.

“We are excited to see parents discover what their kids really need to succeed,” said Lyn Moran, co-facilitator, adding “And we have fun together as we build a supportive community. We are not in this alone.”

The program is free for all families in the area and is being held at The Congregational Church of Eastford on Thursday evenings for 13 weeks starting Sept. 8 through Dec. 8 (no Thanksgiving session). Free dinner will be served for participants and their children at 5:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided during each class from 6-7:30 p.m. The program is offered by a community partnership between the Eastford School and the Congregational Church of Eastford. There is no religious content. Attendees are asked to register at cceastford.org/parenting More program information is also found at that web page.
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Buildings Open 10:00 am - 10:00 pm
Carnival Opens 12:00 pm - 11:00 pm

SUNDAY
Fair Gates Open 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Buildings Open 10:00 am - 10:00 pm
Carnival Opens 11:00 am - 11:00 pm

MONDAY
Fair Gates Open 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Buildings Open 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Carnival Opens 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Cattle Barn Closes 4:00 pm | Agricultural Center Closes 4:00 pm
Vender Breakdown 6:00 pm

CARNIVAL PRICES
\$1.00 per Ticket | 22 Tickets for \$20
55 Tickets for \$50
Wristbands: \$25.00
Thursday 5pm-9pm/Friday 12pm - 5 pm
ADMISSION

ParkingFREE
General Admission..... \$12.00
Handicap \$12.00
Advance Sale (Before Wednesday, September 1st)..... \$9.00
Senior Citizens (62 and Over) \$9.00
Children 7-12\$9.00
Children under 7 .FREE
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FRIDAY, SEPT. 2ND

MAIN STAGE
12PM National Anthem 12:30-1PM BLOOMS
1:30-4:30PM Moose & The Hightops 5-5:30PM BLOOMS
8PM Ultimate Aldean

ON THE GROUNDS
9AM Draft Horse & Oxen Obstacle Course- Grandstand
11AM Rabbit Hopping Demo- Agricultural Center
1PM Giant Pumpkin Weigh Off- Cattle Show Tent
10-4PM Farmer's Market- Agricultural Center
3PM Lawn & Garden Tractor Pull- Pulling Area
7PM JM Motorsport Productions, Inc- Grandstand
“World’s Largest Demolition Derby”- Figure 8

MONDAY, SEPT. 5TH

MAIN STAGE
11-11:30AM BLOOMS 12PM National Anthem
1-2PM Baha Brothers 3-3:30PM BLOOMS
4PM Dan Candell

ON THE GROUNDS
10AM-5PM Lawn & Garden Dirt Pull- Grandstand
10AM Oxen Pull- Pulling Area
10-4 PM Farmer's Market- Agricultural Center
11AM Rabbit Hopping Demo- Agricultural Center
1PM Rabbit and Poultry Costume Class- Agricultural Center
2PM Lumberjack Contest- Cattle Show Tent

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3RD

MAIN STAGE
12PM National Anthem
12:30-1PM BLOOMS
2-3PM Beantown Bucaroos
4-4:30PM BLOOMS
5:30-7PM LIAM COLEMAN
8PM Shot of Poison- Tribute to the 30th Anniversary of Poison

ON THE GROUNDS
7:30AM Tractor Pull on Concrete- Pulling Area
10AM Beef Cattle Show- Cattle Show Tent
11AM Rabbit Hopping Demo- Agricultural Center
10-4PM Farmer's Market- Agricultural Center
1PM Open Poultry Show- Agricultural Center
6PM Truck Pull- Grandstand

ALL 4 DAYS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

ON THE GROUNDS
Pirate Man Dan- Walk Around
Dinosaur Xperience- Walk Around
Antique Tractor Display- Next to Rest Tent
Jolley Clown Family- Kids Tent and Walk Around
Wild World of Animals- Between Exhibit Hall and Carnival
Chris Lantz-Chainsaw Carver-Between Cattle Barn and Buyers Place
Skeleton Crew- Walk Around
Live Shark Encounter- Between Exhibit Hall and Agricultural Center
Dialed Action Bmx Stunt Show- Grandstand Field

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4TH

MAIN STAGE
12PM National Anthem
12:30-1PM BLOOMS
2PM-4PM Maddie Ryan
5-6:30PM Annie Brobst
7-7:30PM BLOOMS
8PM Charlie Lask

ON THE GROUNDS
10AM Draft Horse Pull- Pulling Area
10AM Dairy Cattle Show- Cattle Show Tent
11AM Rabbit Hopping Demo- Agricultural Center
10-4PM Farmer's Market- Agricultural Center
1PM Poultry Showmanship- Agricultural Center
1PM Rabbit Showmanship- Agricultural Center
5PM JM Motorsport Productions, Inc- Grandstand
“World’s Largest Demolition Derby”

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