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Friday, January 13, 2023

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Lead hazards identified at Lofts at Cargill Falls Mill

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — The Northeast District Department of Health and Connecticut Department of Health have identified lead hazards at the Lofts at Cargill Falls Mill housing complex according to press releases issued by NDDH and the town of Putnam.

NDDH reports that they conducted an inspection of a unit in the complex and detected lead in a brick wall, baseboard, closet door, and a wood floor filler. Exposure to lead, if unchecked, can create health problems especially in children under the age of six. Following the discovery, NDDH followed state statutes and worked to identify other units with children under the age of six to schedule inspections to determine the extent of the contamination.

“We are committed to working with other

response partners to protect the health and well-being of the tenants of The Lofts at Cargill Falls Mill,” said Sue Starkey, NDDH Director of Health in a statement. “The role of NDDH in this response is to conduct investigations to identify lead hazards; write orders to the property owner to remedy the problem; and approve and monitor the plan for correction that is submitted to us.”

“We know that recent news about toxic lead levels found at the Lofts at Cargill Falls Mill has caused concern and we remain committed to keeping all those impacted informed and educated,” added Linda Colangelo, NDDH Education and Communications Coordinator. “Lead can be present in mansions and mills, and in buildings and homes built before 1978. We want people to understand the causes and dangers of lead expo-

sure and the steps they can take to reduce their risk. It’s important to note that most children exposed to lead do not appear to be sick, so a blood lead test is the best way to know if your child has had an exposure.”

The town of Putnam acknowledged the situation in a press release of their own on Jan. 3 also confirming that at least one child’s medical tests showed lead blood levels of concern and that NDDH is working directly with the child’s parents. The town provided its own update on the situation in their statement.

“Of the various tests completed, please note that the drinking water samples did not trigger any reporting limits. The town’s Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) provides drinking water and is required to perform routine testing for lead, with no action

Turn To **LEAD** page **A15**



Courtesy

DAY KIMBALL WELCOMES FIRST BABY OF THE NEW YEAR

Every baby is special, but there can only be one first baby of the New Year born at Day Kimball Hospital’s Burdick Family Birthing Center. After a four-day wait, that honor belongs to Aila de la Mora Gauvin, who was born at 6:12 p.m. on Jan. 4 to Joann and Brian Gauvin of Danielson. Aila is the couple’s ninth child. The healthy baby girl weighed in at seven pounds seven ounces and measured 18.5 inches long. Aila and mom are doing great! Aila’s birth makes her the first baby born at the hospital and in Northeastern Connecticut in 2023.



Matthew Myslenski

Murphy applauds signing of “Billy’s Law”

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy is applauding President Joe Biden’s signing into law the “Help Find the Missing Act,” an effort that dates back to Sen. Murphy’s days in the House of Representatives.

Murphy co-sponsored the bill with Texas Republican Sen. John Cornyn, as well as fellow Democratic Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Republican Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota, and Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina in a true across-the-isle effort to pass legislation to close loopholes in America’s missing persons systems by streamlining the reporting process and ensuring that law enforcement databases are more accessible.

The law has been nicknamed “Billy’s

Law” after 31-year-old Billy Smolinski of Cheshire was reported missing. Sen. Murphy, who was a member of the House of Representatives in 2009, worked with Billy’s parents Janice and Bill Smolinski to introduce the Bill in Washington. The Smolinskis conceived the document after working with law enforcement to locate their son facing numerous systematic challenges along the way especially in regards to the federal databases for missing persons and unidentified remains. U.S. Representative Jahana Hayes on Connecticut has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“When I first met Jan and Bill almost 15 years ago, I was inspired by their determination to fix a missing persons system that had repeatedly failed them during the search for their son Billy,”

said Murphy in a statement. “I’m so proud to have worked with Senator Cornyn, Congresswoman Hayes, the Smolinskis, the family of Gabby Petito, and countless others to finally get this bill to the president’s desk. This is a big deal that is going to ensure the thousands of other families with missing loved ones won’t face the same obstacles going forward.”

Murphy and others came together to introduce the bipartisan bill on the Senate floor in October with five main pieces: Authorize and ensure funding for the National Missing Persons and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), connect NamUs with the FBI’s National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to create more comprehensive missing persons and unidentified remains

Turn To **LAW** page **A15**

Woodstock Academy student’s Harvard acceptance reaction goes viral

WOODSTOCK — When Woodstock Academy Senior Matthew Myslenski logged on to check the status of his Harvard University application in mid-December, he never imagined that the moment would be viewed by millions of people online. But that’s just what happened when Matthew and his twin sister, Magda, recorded their reaction to the extraordinary news of his acceptance. The video, which features an authentic moment of pure bliss in real-time, quickly went viral on social media, garnering more than 3 million views on Instagram and TikTok.

The news came as no surprise to the Woodstock Academy community. Everyone who’s had the opportunity to work with Matthew has seen his exceptional intellect and work ethic first-hand. When he graduates this June, Matthew will have left a significant impact on the school, with his involvement in medical club, membership in six honors

Turn To **ACCEPTANCE** page **A15**

Crabtree twins help Killingly’s defense overpower Centaurs



Jason McKay

Killingly’s Molly Crabtree weaves her way through the Woodstock Academy defense and makes her way toward the net.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Double trouble. That’s what twin sisters Molly and Sydney Crabtree were to the Woodstock Academy girls’ basketball team during Killingly’s 41-25 victory over the Centaurs on Thursday, Jan. 5, at WA’s Alumni Field House.

The 5-foot-3 juniors each scored

seven points and were a big part of the defensive effort that forced Woodstock Academy into committing 19 turnovers — 16 in the first half — after which Killingly led, 19-12. Eleven of the Centaurs’ turnovers were recorded as steals by Killingly. Molly Crabtree had four of those steals and her sister had three.

“We really get amped up for this rival-

ry and tonight coach (Scott Derosier) was preaching to us intensity and pressure all night long and we really did that on defense, changing up from man to zone and then back to man,” Sydney Crabtree said. “We really got after them. We got steals, we were able to run, get down the floor and get baskets.”

Killingly (6-2) scored the final nine

Turn To **KILLINGLY** page **A15**

bankHometown raises \$66,000 for local food pantries



Courtesy

bankHometown's Thompson, Conn. office AVP Branch Officer Maria Thomas and Woodstock, Conn. AVP Branch Officer George Dimopoulos present a check to Jo-Ann Chenail and Anne Miller of the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group, one of 15 pantries receiving donations from the bank's Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraising campaign.

Massachusetts:

- Athol Salvation Army Food Pantry
- Auburn Youth and Family Services Food Pantry
- CARE Food Pantry, Clinton
- Food Share, Southbridge, Charlton & Sturbridge
- Friendly House Pantry, Worcester
- Millbury Senior Center
- Ginny's Helping Hand, Inc., Leominster
- Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
- Sutton Senior Center Michael A. Chizy Food Pantry
- St. John's Food for the Poor, Worcester
- St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Webster

Connecticut:

- Community Kitchens of Northeastern CT, Killingly
- Daily Bread, Putnam
- Friends of Assisi, Killingly
- Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group

"bankHometown would like to thank everyone who selflessly donated to our Neighbors Helping Neighbors campaign," said Morton. "We're pleased that these food pantries received much-needed funds in time for the holiday season."

About bankHometown
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts and has \$1.3 billion in assets and 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2021, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$288,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.3 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

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O X F O R D
— Robert J. Morton, president and CEO of bankHometown, announced that the bank's 19th annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraising drive raised \$66,000 for local food pantries. This brings the total amount raised over the 19 years the program

has been in place to \$330,900.

The annual appeal is part of bank-Hometown's charitable giving program, called The Giving Tree, which reflects the bank's commitment to making a real difference in the neighborhoods it serves. Throughout the month of November, the bank invited customers, employees, and members of the community to donate funds at bank-Hometown branches. All donations received were matched, dollar for dollar, by bank-Hometown and the total divided among food pantries in Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut communities the bank serves. Each of these pantries received \$4,400 to help feed families in need:

“The Sunshine Boys” opens at the Bradley Playhouse Jan. 20

PUTNAM—Once again vaudeville takes the stage at the historic Bradley Playhouse when the Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut presents the memories, miseries, and laughs of Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys." This engaging homage to the tradition of vaudeville opens Jan. 20, and runs for two weekends.

This is the opening show of the 2023 theater season, featuring the theme “Stage and Screen”; a celebration of plays that were also made into motion pictures. Come and check out your favorites and let us know which version you prefer.

Performances are Jan. 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 22 and 29 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$20 for seniors, students, veterans and first responders. Please note, this show runs for two weekends, not three.

Neil Simon is a well-loved, prolific writer whose plays often take place in his native New York City. He began his career as a writer for Sid Caesar in the 1950s and continued on to become one of the best-known authors of comedy, both on stage and on screen. Mr. Simon was nominated for 17 Tony Awards and won three, the 1991 Pulitzer for “Lost in Yonkers,” and four Academy Awards for Best Screenplay. Some of his other plays include “Barefoot in the Park,” “The Odd Couple” and “Plaza Suite.”

“The Sunshine Boys” introduces us to “Lewis and Clark,” a comedy team from the golden age of vaudeville. Lewis retired years before, but Clark is still trying to pick up bit parts and commercials with the help of his agent nephew. The men grew to hate each other and haven’t spoken since their act broke up. Clark’s nephew convinces them to reunite for a television special on the history of comedy and chaos results as they attempt to recreate their most famous comedy routine.

The TNECT production is directed by Tonya Leigh Brock who is assisted by Sarah Oschmann. “The Sunshine Boys” are played by David S. Hopcroft as Willie Clark and Michael Celularo as Al Lewis. Preston Arnold appears as Clark’s long suffering nephew Ben. Brittany-Paige Kimlingen



Courtesy

David Hopcroft (Willie Clark), Wendy Harris (Eddie), and Michael Celularo (Al Lewis).

is the Nurse, Sarri Patterson plays the Registered Nurse, Wendy Harris is Eddie, and the part of the Patient is played by James Asal. Eric J. Molloy is the Director/Announcer and Amy Hall is understudy for the Nurse and is the sound board operator.

The Bradley Playhouse was completed by Ransom Bradley in 1901 and was a showplace for vaudeville, national touring companies fresh from Broadway, and silent films complete with piano accompaniment. "Talkies" were first presented in 1928. Movies continued to be shown at the theater until 1984 when the Northeast Repertory Theatre brought live theater back to the Bradley. The current theater group incorporated in 1991 as the Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut and continues to bring live entertainment to the "Quiet Corner."

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

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The Town of Woodstock is committed to ensuring our budget discussion engages citizens and provides opportunities for input. It is strongly encouraged that you attend this important meeting.

Town of Woodstock Annual Tri-Board Meeting
Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance/Board of Education
Budget Discussion

Tuesday January 17th at 6:00pm

Immediately followed by

Open Public Forum

Location: Woodstock Middle School Cafeteria
147B Route 169, Woodstock, CT 06281



To attend meeting virtually via Zoom, see posted Agenda on
www.woodstockct.gov

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Woman’s Board of Day Kimball raises \$30,000 toward pledge to support surgical robot program



Courtesy
Woman’s Board of DKH President Valentine Iamartino (center right) presents a check for \$30,000 to Kristen Willis, Director of Development, Day Kimball Healthcare (center left) as Woman’s Board members look on. The donation will go towards their most recent pledge of \$250,000 to support the purchase of Day Kimball Hospital’s da Vinci surgical system.

PUTNAM — The Woman’s Board of Day Kimball Hospital (WBDKH) is working to fulfill a \$250,000 pledge to support Day Kimball Hospital’s recently

acquired da Vinci surgical robotic system. At their recent quarterly meeting and luncheon, Woman’s Board President Valentine Iamartino presented a check for \$30,000

toward the pledge. Funds for this commitment are raised through the gift shop at Day Kimball Hospital and various fundraisers sponsored by the Woman’s Board.

The da Vinci surgical system will enhance surgical capabilities and enable surgeons to perform minimally invasive surgeries including both laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgical procedures across multiple surgical services. This technology allows Day Kimball Hospital to bring much-needed additional treatment options in the areas of urology, colorectal surgery, gynecologic surgery, and general surgery.

“On behalf of the entire Woman’s Board, I am so pleased to have the opportunity to support Day Kimball’s purchase of the da Vinci surgical system,” Iamartino said. “The Woman’s Board is excited to be engaged in assisting the hospital with procuring this state-of-the-art equipment through our latest pledge, and I am very proud of everyone for their efforts to date towards our commitment of raising \$250,000. This is the latest and greatest equipment available for minimally-invasive surgery, and its capabilities provide surgeons with precise, time-saving tech-

nology, literally at their fingertips. We are proud to be involved with this important initiative for our community hospital, especially knowing that anyone in our region requiring surgery can benefit from this technology, so close to home.”

“We are extremely grateful for our 128-year partnership with the Woman’s Board of Day Kimball Hospital, and for their ongoing and continuous support of our efforts to enhance the quality and services we provide to the community,” said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. “The Woman’s Board’s generous commitment toward the procurement of this cutting-edge technology, and their contributions so far have already significantly aided DKH’s expansion to our surgical offerings for those in Northeast

Connecticut.”

Through the efforts of the 170 members of the Woman’s Board, along with the community’s support of their events, it is the mission of the Woman’s Board to raise funds to enhance the quality and services of Day Kimball Hospital. Established when Day Kimball Hospital opened in 1894, the Woman’s Board has served the hospital and community in multiple ways for well over a century, and

has raised nearly \$2 million to support important and necessary medical equipment needs at the Hospital, including the Hospital’s first ambulance in the early 1900s.

For more information about the Woman’s Board of Day Kimball Hospital, visit www.daykimball.org/womansboard. To learn more about the da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot at Day Kimball Hospital, visit daykimball.org/da-vinci.

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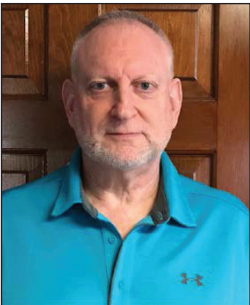


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Quinebaug Middle College recruiting students for 2023-2024 school year

DANIELSON — EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College (QMC), a regional, public magnet high school, is currently recruiting academically motivated students for the 2023-2024 school year. Students who seek a more independent learning environment tailored to their academic and career goals are encouraged to apply.



Located on the peaceful campus of Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) in Danielson, QMC offers high school students a middle college experience that enables them to earn a high school diploma while also earning free, transferable college credits from QVCC.

Our scholars select from one of our six learning pathways: Liberal Arts and Humanities, Education, Business Leadership, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Allied Health Sciences. Core academic and elective courses and mentorship opportunities are aligned to the individual learning pathways.

Housed in a \$24-million, state-of-the-art facility, QMC offers other advantages that include small classes; a personalized, competency-based approach; a rigorous curriculum; and a collaborative school governance model. Once enrolled at QMC, students have access to high-tech laboratories, career and vocational resources, public service options and other unique learning opportunities.

In addition, our scholars gain real-world experience in project management, public communications, and community organization and leadership. In fact, service leadership is built into our school day, allowing students to engage in community service and projects.

QMC enrolls about 160 students, grades 9-12, from 18 towns across northeastern Connecticut. The school is administered by EASTCONN through a partnership that includes EASTCONN, QVCC and several northeastern Connecticut towns. Enrollment is not limited to students in northeastern Connecticut.

EASTCONN is a public, non-profit, Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving the education needs of schools and communities in northeastern Connecticut since 1980. Learn more about EASTCONN at www.eastconn.org.

For more information about QMC and to enroll, students can visit www.eastconn.org/qmc for an application. To learn more, contact QMC Principal David Brown at dsbrown@eastconn.org.



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ACT Performing Arts Magnet High School presents student dance company performance

WILLIMANTIC — The public is invited to see an exciting new dance show called “Grace Under Fire.” Inspired by the seven graces, this Student Dance Company production runs on Friday, Jan. 13 and Saturday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at Arts at the Capitol Theater Magnet High School in Willimantic.

“Grace Under Fire” is entirely student-run, with design and choreography created in class and a cast and crew of students from different pathways at ACT. Each piece focuses on a grace and delivers emotion and a message for the audience to enjoy. The grace of wisdom is explored in “Wiser Now,” a piece choreographed by senior Samantha Perry. Perry’s work explores the idea that “wisdom is the choice that recognizes pain and suffering as part of the human experience. It is inevitable that we will cause each other to suffer in some way.”

The grace of counsel secures truths with human reason, while knowledge manifests through us. These graces

are explored by the choreographers of “Take My Advice” and “Knowledge as One,” which remind the audience to know your worth and power. “The Beauty Within,” a dance of reverence, depicts the discovery of self-love through supportive friendships – a message mirrored through “Flawless,” a piece choreographed through the lens of piety with an emphasis on finding the beauty in and believing in oneself.

The final two graces of fortitude and understanding depict struggle, finding strength while battling mental illness and learning what others go through in their lives. Together, these pieces represent a prime display of our students’ capabilities to maintain “Grace Under Fire.”

Student Dance Company members include seniors Maximus Bouilly (Norwich), Madison Dufault (Oneco), Alora Kerwin (Tolland) and Samantha Perry (Lebanon); juniors Alexis Butler (Groton), Layla Edmiston (Sterling), Layla

Hellandbrand (Coventry) and Madisyn Raymond (North Grosvenordale); and sophomores Abigail Buchanan (Stafford Springs), Audrey Houk (Coventry), Caitlyn Kurcinik (Willimantic), Morgan Labonte (Mooseup), Juliana Margelony (Vernon), Najah Wells (Norwich) and Tatyana Winston (Baltic).

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students/children/seniors, and \$5 for ACT students/alumni and EASTCONN employees. For questions or to reserve by phone please call 860-465-5636. Tickets can be purchased at the door an hour before the performance with cash or check only.



EASTCONN, which administers ACT, is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving the education needs of northeastern Connecticut’s schools and communities since 1980. Learn more at www.eastconn.org.

Exhibit tells story of Holocaust survivor’s resilience and creativity

WILLIMANTIC — The story of one woman’s journey from Holocaust concentration camps to life in Western New England as a clothing designer will be told through 35 of her creations displayed in an exhibit that was developed and designed by students and staff at Eastern Connecticut State University.

“Sidonia’s Thread - Crafting a Life from Holocaust to High Fashion” will be exhibited at the Mandell Jewish Community Center Jan. 2-Feb. 10, with an opening reception on Jan. 8.

Anya Sokolovskaya, associate professor of theater and costume design at Eastern and curator of the exhibit, said the 35 garments will project Sidonia Perlstein’s life story from a small village in Hungary to two concentrations camps, Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen; a displaced persons camp; and an eventual career as a sought-after dressmaker and designer based in Springfield, Mass.

“I use the garments to talk about her life,” she said. Context presented in historical posters and videos will lead viewers to see parallels between Sidonia’s life and those of other immigrants and Jewish survivors of persecution, she said.

The posters for the exhibit and the logo were created by students and graduates of Eastern. They also photographed the garments and designed the exhibit catalog, and a student helped Sokolovskaya create the exhibit space at the Mandel Center. A

video and 12 vignettes for the exhibit were created by Travis Houldcroft, lecturer in the theatre program. Hope-Marie Cook, librarian for education and head of curriculum at the Eastern library, contributed to an educator’s guide.

Sidonia grew up sewing for her family, and she used her skills to support herself and her two-year-old daughter when she arrived in the U.S. in 1949. Her dressmaking business, Sidonia’s Dressmaking and Alterations, drew customers from northern Connecticut and Springfield, MA, where she lived. She died in 2006 at the age of 93 but was still sewing late in her life.

“Sewing defined her life,” Sokolovskaya said.

Sidonia was one of many survivors who worked in the garment or fashion industries after World War II, and the exhibit describes the connection between the textile and garment industries and Holocaust survivors.

Sidonia’s daughter, Hanna Perlstein Marcus, wrote a book about her mother’s life, “Sidonia’s Thread: The Secrets of a Mother and Daughter Sewing a New Life in America.” A book talk she gave to the Hebron Library inspired Sokolovskaya to design the exhibit of garments from Sidonia’s collection.

“My dream is that museums will showcase it,” said Sokolovskaya.

The exhibit, which also has plans to show this summer in Vernon, has an educator’s guide available free to high school and college educators with background and narratives about the Holocaust and the lives of immigrants in the last half of the 20th century.

Vanilla Bean to host 31st Annual benefit show for Access Northeast Food Pantries

POMFRET — On Saturday, Jan. 21, for the 31st year, “The Red Hot Banjo Wizard” Howie Bursen returns onstage, joined by Sally Rogers, John Bailey, and Bennett and Lorraine Hammond at The Vanilla Bean Café located at 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret. The performance will benefit Access’s Northeast Connecticut Food Pantries. This local tradition is an evening of singing, laughter, hot licks on guitar, fiddle and banjo, wonderful desserts, and beverages ranging from cappuccinos to fine wines. The Vanilla Bean is a great place to shake off the winter blahs, and will have music that will lift your spirits. The show begins at 7 p.m., and admission is \$25.

Howie Bursen describes his fellow musicians this way: “Sally Rogers, Nightingale with a Voice Clear as the Queen’s Diamonds; John Bailey, Guitarista Extraordinaire; Bennett Hammond, Whizbang Inventor of the Bennett Hammond Style; Lorraine Hammond, Musical Royalty, and Lady of the Rose in the Mortar.”

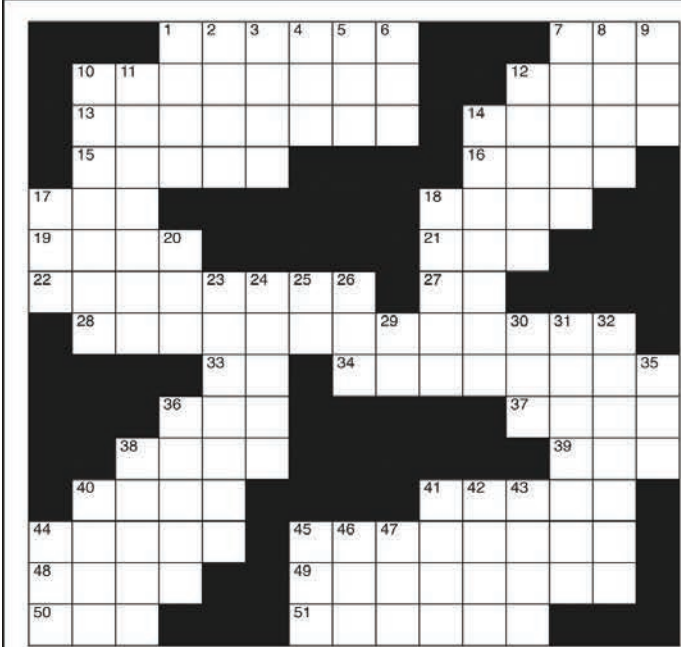
Together, they will knock your socks off!

Bursen says, “We like to think globally and act locally. This is our way of giving back...”

All proceeds from the concert will be used to buy food from the Connecticut Food Bank. Each \$1 donated is used by Access to buy more than \$15 worth of food from the Connecticut Food Bank for distribution to those in need throughout northeast Connecticut. Customers in need of Access’s Food Pantries can call 860-450-7400 ext. 7495 in Willimantic and 860-412-1600 ext. 1647 in Danielson.

In the last two years, Howie Bursen and Sally Rogers performed a virtual concert at the Vanilla Bean through Musea.me and raised over \$6,300 last year and \$9,800 in 2021 for the Access Food Pantries.

The Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region.

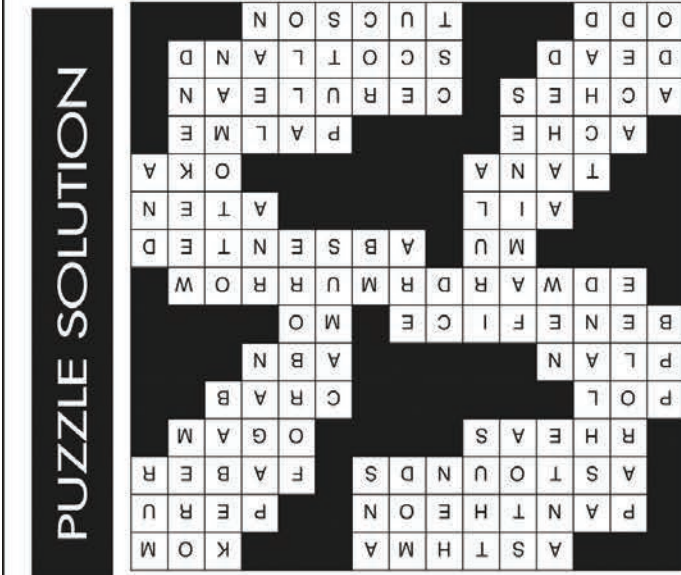


CLUES ACROSS

1. Respiratory disorder
7. Bulgarian mountain peak
10. Group of important people
12. South American nation
13. Amazes
14. __-Castell, makers of pens
15. Perlman and Seehorn are two
16. Early medieval alphabet
17. Legislator (slang)
18. Tasty crustacean
19. Course of action
21. Airborne (abbr.)
22. Permanent church appointment
27. Larry and Curly’s pal
28. Famed American journalist
33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet
34. In a way, vanished
36. Afflict in mind or body
37. Egyptian Sun god
38. Source of the Blue Nile
39. Egyptian unit of weight
40. Be the source of pain
41. Esteemed award __ d’Or
44. Partner to pains
45. Deep blue
48. No longer living
49. Country in the UK
50. Not even
51. Arizona city

CLUES DOWN

1. Wager
2. Classical portico
3. As a result
4. Bird
5. A type of “Squad”
6. Autonomic nervous system
7. Dish with food on a stick
8. City northwest of Provo
9. C. European river
10. One out of jail
11. Henry Clay estate
12. Heaten
14. Refrained
17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
18. “The Stranger” author
20. Not old
23. Periods of starvation
24. Language of tribe in India
25. Savings account
26. Pitching stat
29. Megabyte
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. A place to put your feet
32. The fun part of a week
35. We all have our own
36. Partner to “oohed”
38. African nation
40. Breezed through
41. Sets out
42. Other
43. Not fattening
44. “Much __ about nothing”
45. Central Time
46. Former EU monetary unit
47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom



VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Jan. 2: Bald Eagle, Bluebird, Red-tailed Hawk, Junco, Cooper’s Hawk, Black Ducks, Canada Geese, Mockingbird, Robin, House Finch, Purple Finch, Chickadee, Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-bellied Woodpecker. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home.

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NDDH encourages homeowners to “Plan a Raid on Radon”

BROOKLYN — The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) is partnering with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to educate residents about the dangers of radon exposure and to encourage them to take action to protect their families and home.

Radon is an odorless and invisible radioactive gas formed from the breakdown of uranium and is naturally released from rocks, soil, and water. All outdoor and indoor air has some radon in it. Radon can build up in the air in any home or building whether it has a basement, is sealed or drafty, or is old or new. High radon concentrations can occur sporadically in all parts of Connecticut and two homes right next to each other can have different radon levels.

According to estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 1 in 15 homes in the United States have high radon levels.

“In outdoor environments, radon levels are very low, and generally not considered harmful,” said Linda Colangelo, NDDH Education and Communications Coordinator. “However, radon can get into homes or buildings through small cracks or holes and build up to higher levels, becoming a health hazard. You can’t see, taste, or smell radon, so you may be unaware that this silent killer could be in your home.”

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking. Smokers exposed to radon have a much higher risk for developing lung cancer.

The EPA and the Surgeon General’s office estimate that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.

It takes many years for lung cancer to develop. Most people don’t have symptoms until lung cancer is advanced and harder to treat. The good news is that lung cancer from radon is preventable and simple steps can be taken to reduce the risk of radon exposure.

“Be ready for radon before it sneaks up on you by testing your home – it’s the only way to know if it has high levels of radon,” explained Colangelo. “To help homeowners ‘Plan a Raid on Radon,’ NDDH is offering a limited supply of free radon test kits and educational materials to district residents. Visit the health department at 69 South Main Street in Brooklyn to receive one free radon test kit per home with instructions for use and a radon fact sheet. Participants will receive a follow-up call from NDDH within two weeks to assure that the kit was used and returned to the manufacturer according to instructions for analysis.”

NDDH is unable to reserve kits or mail them. Test kits can also be purchased from a local hardware store or the American Lung Association by calling 1-800-LUNG-USA or by visiting www.lung.org.

Radon levels vary seasonally and tend to be higher in the winter months. The best time to test for radon is between the months of November through March. Windows and outside doors should remain closed as much as possible during radon testing.

The EPA recommends that homes with radon levels at or above 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) be fixed. Homeowners should consider reducing their potential lung cancer risk by fixing homes with radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L.

Radon levels can be reduced by hiring certified radon mitigation professionals who can install ventilation systems, soil depressurization systems, and seal entry routes for radon gas in existing homes. New homes are built with radon-resistant features. To learn more about radon and to obtain a list of radon mitigation contractors, visit the DPH Radon Program website at www.ct.gov/radon.

Additional resources: NDDH <https://www.nddh.org/services/community-health/radon/> EPA <https://www.epa.gov/radon> and the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/radon/index.html>.



Courtesy

A GIFT FOR SERVICE

Victor Kratz (standing), past Post #13 and District #4 Sgt.-at-Arms, with World War II veteran Carl Eisen. Kratz was on hand to present Eisen with a lap blanket made by Dorothy Carlage in recognition of Eisen’s service to our country.

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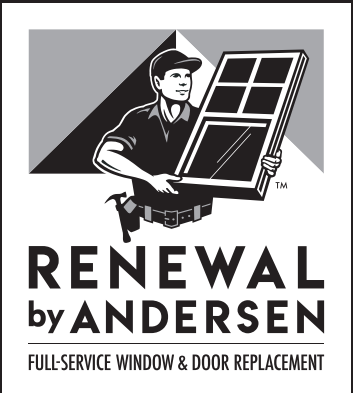
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Former woodworker carves novel from “Tiezzi’s Board”

WOODSTOCK — Longtime Woodstock resident and woodcarver turned novelist, Ham Martin is celebrating his most recent novel, “Tiezzi’s Board,” released in August by Black Rose Writing.

Martin began building furniture and making hand-carved wooden signs in his Woodstock shop in 1975. For years he made reproduction furniture from early Connecticut designs, as well as scores of hand-carved, gold-leafed signs for local businesses, some still hanging. But in 1995, a serendipitous event led to a new career.

“One day, a lumber salesman from J. Gibson McIlvain visited the shop where I was working. I teased him because his company had just cut me off from culling through their mahogany stacks for boards that were 15 or 16 inches. I needed that width for some big plaques I used to make for Pomfret School. The salesman countered by telling me I could buy a really big mahogany board, a board 14 feet by 54 inches, from an old Italian guy in Meriden, CT.”

According to Martin, the salesman wrote the dimensions of the big board and a name and address, Tiezzi, North Main Street, Meriden on a Post-it note. That note sat on the author’s bureau for over a year.

“At that time, we used directory assistance and with the help of an operator, I was able to locate a number for the only Tiezzi listed in Meriden,” Martin said. “When I finally reached Giordano Tiezzi, I was amazed that the board really existed—and was for sale.”

Martin considers finding the board, Tiezzi’s board, one of the most important happenings in his life.

“The board Giordano

Tiezzi sold me had two lives: first it was fashioned into a wonderful carved conference table for a wealthy New York businessman, and later became a beautiful fictional story,” he said.

Martin set the story of “Tiezzi’s Board” in the towns of Old Lyme and Saybrook. Protagonist woodworker Joe Carroll lives on the Connecticut in Old Lyme while Giordano Tiezzi’s old timey shop is across the River in Saybrook. Readers have been charmed by Martin’s depiction of those locations which figure heavily in the story. Many have been surprised to learn that research turned up a long-gone shipyard on the Connecticut River involved in the production of PT Boats during WWII. That shipyard comes to life in the fictional story.

Giordano Tiezzi is deceased, but granted permission for his name to be used in Martin’s novel.

“Mr. Tiezzi was a charming man,” Martin said. “It was a treat to meet him. He and his late brother Dominic had owned the Honduras mahogany board since WWII. That enormous board belonged to the Tiezzis for over 50 years

before I purchased it. This seemed magical to me; it captured my imagination and a fictional story about the board coming to Connecticut, and what might have happened to it, began to emerge.”

Ham Martin’s debut novel, “Talk Radio,” was a finalist for the 2022 fiction prize of the Maine Literary Awards. Readers have the opportunity of sampling opening chapters of “Tiezzi’s Board” at his Web site, www.hammartin.com, and can learn what happened to the real Tiezzi board in the book’s Afterword.

SCORE of Eastern Connecticut presents two-part Webinar series on QuickBooks

REGION — SCORE Eastern CT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America’s Small Businesses, will offer a free two-part Webinar series for small business owners on QuickBooks, presented by Intuit ProAdvisor Elizabeth Santaus. Attend one or both sessions. Pre-registration is required (after registering, you will receive confirmation emails with information on how to join the webinars).

Part 1: “Managing Your Business Finances with QuickBooks” – Tuesday, Feb. 7, 10 – 11:30 a.m. ET

If you have turned to QuickBooks™ for help as a new user, and find you need help setting up the program, this webinar is for you. It will explain the Chart of Accounts and its critical importance in the correct use of QuickBooks. There will be time for Q&A on any QuickBooks questions you have.

Part 2: “Choosing the Right QuickBooks: The Basics of Setting Up Your QuickBooks Company” – Thursday, Feb. 9, 10 – 11:30 a.m. ET

In this follow-up Webinar, we will compare features of QuickBooks Desktop versus QuickBooks Online. We’ll set up a QuickBooks Desktop company from scratch, reviewing the setup preferences and decisions along the way. If time permits, we will also view

preferences for a QuickBooks Online company to help those users understand their options as well. There will be time for Q&A. Attendees are asked to have QuickBooks loaded on their computers.

Workshop presenter Elizabeth Santaus has over twenty-eight years of experience in the financial accounting software and bookkeeping industry. With previous experience consulting and as CFO for three sister companies in Branford, Elizabeth knows how to help businesses prosper and grow. She has consulted, trained, and provided bookkeeping services for more than 300 small businesses in Connecticut and New York since launching Dressler Santaus LLC in 2006.

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 current and 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. In 2020/2021, SCORE helped people start 45,000 businesses, creating 74,500 additional non-owner jobs. All 40+ counselors in Eastern Connecticut are volunteers, receive no compensation, and are working or retired business owners, executives, and managers. With more than 50 workshops/webinars and special events each year, and advances in remote mentoring tools, SCORE ECT helps small businesses across Southeastern and Northeastern Connecticut. For more information on upcoming free workshops and how to schedule a free small business mentoring session with our counselors, visit <https://www.score.org/easternct>.

Assumption students named to University’s Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University’s Dean’s List for the fall 2022 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a minimum of a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list. The Dean’s List is announced at the completion of each fall and spring semester.

Alexander Boligan, Class of 2023, of Thompson

Samuel Roy, Class of 2023, of Thompson

Alison Blair, of Woodstock, Class of 2024

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England’s premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 38 majors and 50 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

Kira Horan of Putnam graduates from University of New Hampshire

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Kira Horan of Putnam graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of New Hampshire in December 2022. He/she earned a BS in Homeland Security.

Students who received the honor Summa Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0: Students who received the honor of Magna Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64.

Students are only graduated after the Registrar’s Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. Participating in the commencement ceremony is the act of honoring and celebrating academic achievement.

The University of New Hampshire inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. A Carnegie Classification R1 institution, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, and received \$260 million in competitive external funding in FY21 to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

Local students named to Dean’s List at Stonehill College

EASTON, Mass. — Regan Stuyinski of Brooklyn, a member of the Class of 2023, and Lauren Hovestadt of Woodstock, also a member of the Class of 2023, have been named to the Fall 2022 Dean’s List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

Lasell University students named to Dean’s List

NEWTON, Mass. — Lasell University named students to the Dean’s List for their academic performance in the fall 2022 semester, including:

Alexandra Chitwood of Dayville

Aidan Morin of Brooklyn

Spencer Fulone of Thompson

To be named to the Dean’s List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A day to honor equality

Public offices throughout the state will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 until his assassination in 1968. The federal holiday falls around the birthday of King on Jan. 15. Republican President Ronald Reagan made the holiday official in 1983. In 1986, the first observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day took place. In the year 2000 the holiday was observed by all 50 states for the first time since 1986. Labor unions, in contract negotiations, brought the idea of celebrating King via national holiday. Republican Sen. Edward Brooke of Massachusetts and Democrat John Conyers of Michigan brought forth the legislation in 1979, where it was five votes shy of passing in the house. Those in opposition to the day cited that the cost of paying federal employees would be too expensive. Others stated that honoring a private citizen would go against tradition, in that King never held a public office. In 1980, Stevie Wonder released the single “Happy Birthday” to shed light on the campaign. The largest petition in favor of an issue in the history of the United States gathered six million signatures. Two Republican senators from North Carolina, Jesse Helms and John Porter, opposed the bill because of King’s opposition to the Vietnam War and also accused King of being a communist. An FBI investigation dating back to 1963 turned up no evidence that King had been influenced by communists. The bill passed the House of Representatives 338-90. Within the bill was language establishing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. King’s wife, Coretta Scott King, was made a lifelong member of this commission by President George H.W. Bush in May of 1989. Martin Luther King Day is seen as a day to promote equal rights for all Americans. While there are few traditions surrounding the holiday, many educators use the day to teach their students about the struggle against racial segregation and racism. In New Hampshire and Arizona, the day is combined with Civil Rights Day. In Idaho, the day is referred to as Human Rights Day, and in Wyoming, Equality Day. King, who was born in 1929 was an American Baptist minister from Atlanta, Georgia. In 1963 during the March on Washington, he delivered his famous “I have a Dream” speech. In 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in promoting nonviolent resistance and for advocating for Civil Rights. King was assassinated at the age of 39 in Memphis, Tenn. by James Earl Ray. Ray, 41, was sentenced to 99 years in prison. The assassin died in prison in 1998 from hepatitis. An excerpt from King’s famous speech: “So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire; let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York; let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania; let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado; let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia; let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee; let freedom ring from every hill and mole hill of Mississippi. “From every mountainside, let freedom ring. “And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: ‘Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.’”

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

Heads-up Woodstock

To the Editor:
Here we go again – according to an email being circulated from RTC Chair Dwight Ryniewicz, the spenders are back at it, proposing to amend or repeal Prop 46, again. The “alleged group” is possibly being led by a Woodstock “Selectperson” and supposedly has a “huge” base of support. If past attempts are any indicator, they have at least 500-600 votes that will turn out in support. They are planning a public presentation, tentatively on Jan. 17, so check the town Web site for details.
The supposed basis for this “new” attempt is the need for 24 hour ambulance staffing and likely anything else they can make up. While these attempts to amend or repeal have gone down time after time at referendum, a hundred “No’s” can be cancelled by one “Yes,” a fact they are keenly well aware of. For the spenders there is never enough.
Woodstock taxpayers took a 5.8 percent property tax increase this year, which still

didn’t cover all the existing spending increases, even under Prop 46, thanks in large part to the laissez-faire attitude of the Woodstock Board of Finance toward actual budgeting and accounting practices. Removal of the one constraining factor, other than the need for a referendum vote, will force an even larger gap between spending and revenue, and can only result in more and larger tax increases. What’s enough, 8 percent, 10 percent a year, year after year? There is more than enough money within the existing budgets to cover 24 hour ambulance services and to assure more than adequate funding for the schools where it already costs more to educate a second grader than a high school student – and yet test scores are falling! Let’s try a little actual financial management and responsibility for a change.
Stand up now or pay, and pay, later.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

CIAC likes money

To the Editor:
To my friend Sheila Johnson and her commentary concerning the CIAC: She is spot on about the CIAC and its actions towards athletics and athletes. There used to be a saying about this organization, “Brackets and Tickets.”
This organization contains many high paying jobs and a beautiful facility in Cheshire. The CIAC also makes football teams play three games in about 10 days. Since most schools play a rivalry game on Thanksgiving, their most attended game of the regular season, thus bringing in the most money in ticket sales. With every game does increase the chance for injury. Most games in the opening round tend to be one sided, just reinforcing the money aspect.
In most of the other sports, parochial and Magnet schools do so much better in sports like basketball, softball and baseball, due

to the need for smaller rosters which helps them in recruiting. Yes, recruiting. CIAC does not really care about the athlete but the ticket money. Basketball finals are played at a casino site. What message does that send? There is much more but i hope this informs all about this organization. I join you, Sheila, in your outrage, but it has been going on for years. Look at Ansonia HS, win all the time in S but never move up.
If this week is any indication in nominating a Speaker of the House, going to be a crazy two years, so people get ready to hold on, If Fox is your own source of “news,” that would explain a lot about their thought process.
Say hi to Gavin, Brendan, and my buddy, Brian T.

DAVID CASSETTARI
KILLINGLY

Sidewalks and road improvement in Thompson

To the Editor:
As a resident of Thompson, I would like to thank our First Selectman, Amy St. Onge, and the Town Planner, Tyra Penn-Gesek, for doing an excellent job with coordinating and installing the new sidewalks and Route 12 roadway improvements this past fall.
As someone that is committed to this town in various commissions and boards, I have come to realize it is the little steps that will eventually lead into a larger recovery for our town, and it starts with improvement projects

such as this and leaders like you. I would be remiss if I did not thank Gov. Ned Lamont as well for providing the accessible grants for projects like this. Let’s keep Thompson moving in this positive direction, together. Brian Santos
“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” — Desmond Tutu

BRIAN SANTOS
THOMPSON

Our athletes need a safe track at Tourtellotte

To the Editor:
My name is Alex Grauer. I am an alumni of Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Class of 2022. I am a coach at the middle school, and feel that our student athletes need a safe, updated track facility to be able to maintain a level of wellness and physical fitness throughout the year. I would appreciate the

taxpayers/residents of Thompson seriously considering this project, as it will be extremely impactful to our students and community for years to come.
Sincerely,

ALEXANDER GRAUER
THOMPSON

Biden finally acknowledges the problems at our border

To the Editor:
Here’s a few news items that I recently came upon. The New York Times reported that “Biden announces a major crackdown on illegal border crossings.” The Wall Street Journal noted that “the Biden administration leans on Trump-era policies to combat the migrant wave.” Reuters mentioned “facing pressure over border crossings, Biden steps up migrant expulsions.” However, the biggest news came when President Biden said that he plans on visiting the border, and he made good on his word. Yes, it’s taken some time, but all of this is definitely a welcome step in the right direction.
Last week, it was mentioned that the new Congress needs to work together to solve real issues. That is so true, and one of those issues is of course the border problem. President Biden said about the incoming House majority: “Now they have a choice — they can keep using immigration to try to score political points or they can help solve the problem and

come together to fix the broken system.” It’s certainly going to be interesting to see how that works out.
So now Kevin McCarthy has become the Speaker of the House, but it took 15 tries to make that happen. During those proceedings, some Democrats joked and took a “grab some popcorn and have a drink.” wait and see approach as those events unfolded, but then, it wasn’t their choice to make, now, was it? Also, while it was going on, Donald Trump called on the McCarthy holdouts to vote for him, to which Lauren Boebert - a Trump ally - basically said that Trump needs to stay out of this, but then it wasn’t his choice to make either.
In the works for the 118th Congress is a plan to impose term limits for Congress. That would be great, and the need for term limits has often been mentioned in letters here.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Pride rebuked



NANCY WEISS

I come from people who considered pride to be one of the most unacceptable qualities one could have. Pride, as we have been told since time immemorial, goeth before a fall, and as a new year begins, my bits of personal pride are taking a serious beating. No sense wandering off into resolutions for self-improvement when foundational beliefs are being eroded as quickly as iron nails in a glass of coke, a science experiment my father once used to demonstrate the evils of soda.
Pride in one’s constitution, one’s overall health and vigor doesn’t seem like an especially vainglorious quality. As a person with a lousy backhand and poor eye hand coordination, it seemed okay to be privately cocky about my own health, even vigor. I saw myself as a person who doesn’t get sick, who doesn’t “catch” things and when I do, the malady is over in a flash. That is until recently when I made and unfortunate acquaintance with XBB.1.5. or one of its relatives. After ducking Covid for years, suddenly, I didn’t want to move from my bed.
In the dark, wee hours, I assessed everything I’d done right and felt more than a pang of self-pity. I’d had every shot and booster. I’d worn masks, washed my hands, wiped down surfaces and skipped events I dearly wanted to attend. I blame a visit in early December to Boston for the calamity that befell my husband and me when we became ill. To add to the insult, I was sicker than he. I rested, took some more drugs and got better. Then it came back.
I can almost hear my Puritan ancestors taunting me that I was so prideful as to think I would avoid illness. Take her down a peg or two, I imagine them whispering across the centuries.
Whatever seemed unfair about my recent illness is nothing compared to the latest challenge to my self-esteem and that of anyone who, for free or for pay write stories, poems, or long-running newspaper columns. I’m thinking of ChatGPT, and if you haven’t heard of it, look it up right now! It is a program, a new force in the universe, that generates written responses to any prompt. It composes sentences word by perfect word. There are no split infinitives, no dangling participles. It follows the rules of grammar, but more dramatically, the nuance of the written word.
At Christmas, a friend, who runs a dairy farm in Maryland, told me that she was making sure that the robot that milks her cows didn’t freeze in bad weather. She has replaced her farm help with robots. I realized that people like me can be replaced by bots too. Open AI bots can write original material or fix up essays written by students or anyone. Where does that leave us?
I taught English in a high school in upstate New York. It was the hardest job I’ve ever had. Every week, 125 students wrote a composition, which I corrected and returned by Friday. By the end of the year, many were quite good, and the teenagers were proud of themselves, especially when they shared what they saw as deep, original thoughts. With ChapGPT, they won’t need to bother. In seconds, the program can write it for them.
Every new year offers the promise of change. This one has brought me two shocking comeuppances: don’t think you can slip through the talons of illness and prepare for a revolution in how we write, compose poems, translate and learn. Swallow pride and accept find a bot about humility.

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Want to retain employees? Empower them to financial wellness

In any business, employees are likely the greatest asset. Savvy and caring business owners and leaders understand the importance of ensuring employees are happy and satisfied. Not only does it help to keep productivity high, it keeps turnover low – something that’s especially important in today’s labor market, where competition for new hires is high. One way you can help address your employees’ happiness, thereby helping



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JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT ADVISER

to retain them as part of your team, is to combat one of their biggest stressors: money.

According to a recent survey by the American Psychological Association, inflation is

the number one cause of stress in Americans today.¹ That’s not surprising but fortunately, helping your employees alleviate that and other financial stressors is within your power. Here are six ways you can empower your employees to find financial wellness to reduce stress, help them to live well, and help your business to thrive.

1: Provide financial counseling

A survey of millennials

found that only eight percent were able to prove they have a high level of financial knowledge, yet the majority of those surveyed did not seek professional financial help.² As a business owner or leader, you’re in a position to help your employees close that knowledge gap. Consider hosting workshops on home buying, loan consolidation, car buying and any other major or relevant issues your employees face. Create safe spaces to talk in open forums and offer in-house or contracted financial counseling for your employees to utilize.

2: Consider student loan assistance

Fifty-eight percent of people between the ages of 18 and 29 acquired debt to obtain their bachelor’s degree. That number jumps to 60 percent for those aged 30 to 44.3 With statistics like those, chances are there may be employees in your workforce that are currently paying down some student debt.

As an employer there are several ways to offer assistance, from providing student loan counseling to establishing a match contribution program. Additionally, some employers offer varying degrees of student loan assistance for employees who commit to working a certain number of years at that company. With outstanding loan debt hitting \$1.57 trillion in America last quarter, employers are getting more involved than ever to offer loan relief and assistance where they can.⁴

3: Encourage wellness

A great way to help employees combat stress is to promote physical well-being. If your office space allows it, consider offering an in-house fitness center or studio that employees can take advantage of before, during and after work. Or, provide gym membership reimbursements and other wellness benefits. By offering financial incentives like reimbursements, you can

help your employees gain access to important wellness programs and amenities they otherwise may not be able to afford.

4: Implement employee purchasing programs

If your employees are looking to take a few courses at a local college or purchase a new computer for their home office, an employee purchasing program may be a beneficial option. While it typically puts little to no financial burden on your company, employee purchasing programs can allow an employee to purchase items through you and pay interest-free through paycheck deductions or other agreed-upon methods. These can help protect employees from other more costly alternatives, including loans or credit cards with high interest rates.

5: Offer healthcare guidance

If you offer healthcare benefits, you’re already helping to empower your employees. But when possible, try taking your insurance offerings one step further by providing easy access and useful tools for employees. When possible, offer employees an intuitive smartphone app or webpage portal that can help them easily track and monitor their deductibles, claims and costs. This can help employees understand how much they should be setting aside for medical emergencies as well as what claims they’ve already made for the year.

6: Mandate 401(k) education

Again, offering a retirement plan option for employees is a great way to promote financial wellness. But if you aren’t educating your employees about their options or answering their questions, you could be keeping a significant number from participating. It should be a priority to make sure your employees are comfortable with their 401(k) or 403(b) options. Offer workshops, or work with your company’s financial advisor to

offer ongoing education for employees.

If you don’t have a financial advisor or your current advisor isn’t providing this kind of holistic and comprehensive service, get in touch with our team at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors. We help business owners and executives to create a long-term strategy for financial success both in the workplace and for them personally, through our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process. To see how we can help you and your business, contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com, or learn more at our Web site, [whzwealth.com](http://www.whzwealth.com).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell our officials what you want Woodstock’s future to look like

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m., the boards of selectmen, finance, and education will meet in the Woodstock Middle School cafeteria and via Zoom. Historically, when the three boards meet, it is to discuss projected expenditures, anticipated large projects, and worrisome deficits for the coming fiscal year. To use a cliché, I presume this year’s discussion will focus on the perfect storm of financial challenges the general government and education system will encounter in the coming months.

Rising fuel and electricity costs have plagued our town and school budgets, as they have our homes. The increasing cost of emergency services and the requirement to honor existing employee contracts will affect the proposed budgets for 2023-24. The lack of growth in our Grand List of taxable properties and the annual reduction in state education funding paint a dire picture for projected revenue. What is the status of the pandemic-related grants meant to bolster education programs and support community services temporarily? At some point, that money runs out, and our officials must decide whether we can afford to continue to fund those items or let them go.

I think Woodstock residents must identify our priorities regarding the town and school services and should immediately share our opinions with our elected officials. What do we want Woodstock to look like in the coming five, 10, or 15 years?

Woodstock has reached the proverbial edge based on what I’ve read in letters to the Editor and meeting minutes and heard while attending meetings and talking with fellow residents. Here are a few questions I would like answered: Is it true that if we don’t adequately fund our EMS service, it will cease to exist as of July 1? What other school programs are we on the cusp of losing? Will our DPW remain adequately staffed? Are we providing what is mandated by the state and federal governments?

For years, as a citizen and former elected official, I heard complaints about the need for more communication from the town hall and the schools about the actual status of our finances, programs, and services. With all three boards meeting together, this is our opportunity to learn about where we stand. We are responsible for sharing our priorities with the people we elected to make these decisions. Don’t make our elected officials guess and then shoot down their choices at the annual budget referendum without first providing input.

Join me, either in person or via Zoom, on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. to listen to our officials outline what could be our reality in the next fiscal year and the years to come. Stay for the open forum to share your opinion and ask questions. Don’t let this opportunity pass. It’s your town; as long as you remain here, it’s your future, too.

MEGAN BARD MORSE
WOODSTOCK

School district’s budget proposal is out of touch

To the Editor:

The school is asking us for \$15.2 million! That is not a typo. That was the first reaction of the Board of Finance, but they were assured that was the real number. Although not one of the board members defended the proposal presented by the First Selectman, except for one courageous member who said no to this boondoggle, they voted to send the proposal to referendum for the taxpayers to decide. The people who are supposed to watch every penny of the budget and protect us from deals like this let us down; now we have to waste the town’s time and money on a plan that was rushed through at the last possible minute. Without time to evaluate the pros and cons, the Board of Finance was forced to make a decision, to deny the proposal or send it forward, due to the urging of the First Selectman, on a moment’s notice, because of dubious grant deadlines.

The school does need two boilers in the near future, which were approved at the November Board of Finance meeting. But that wasn’t enough, the school is coming right back for \$13.2 million for ‘Phase 1’ of their HVAC plan. Is this plan state of the art, sustainable, green, geothermal and does it air condition the classrooms for a price that enormous? No, there were very few details presented to the board, but they did say it is for conventional heating oil burners and that only the cafeteria and gym would have AC. And what are ‘Phase 2’ and Phase 3’ and what will they cost us?

This is where the grant money comes in. There is a very competitive grant being sought by many Connecticut towns. The town officials are saying that if we don’t get the grant, the ‘Phase 1’ project dies. But read the referendum question carefully, it doesn’t say that. There is no disclaimer about a grant attached to the question, only the authorization to spend the money. If you vote yes, the town will be obligated to go forward with the project, at the taxpayer’s expense.

Then they are asking for a half million dollars for security upgrades: doors locks, cameras, monitors, with a quote in hand for \$139,000, yet they are asking for \$500,000. Why? The First Selectman said that the difference is for

security measures they can’t disclose to the taxpayers, yet they have no quotes, and there is no way to verify where the money is going.

Now that the trees have been cut down, we can all see the beautiful track at Marianapolis, and low and behold, we need one and a half million dollars to finally fix ours. Whatever happened to fundraising? The track has been in disrepair for twenty years, plenty of time for the whole town to get on board for a very worthy project. In the 1960s, my mother was the queen of fundraising up at the school, every time I turned around, I was selling candy bars to all my very patient neighbors on West Thompson Road. The school didn’t run to the taxpayers every time they wanted something. The taxpayers provided the school with what they needed; my mother teamed up with Mary Fisher to provide what they wanted. Would it be nice to have a beautiful track? Of course, it would. Can we afford it at this time in history?

Referendums always bring up the obligatory moaning and groaning about the cost of opening all four polling places. Well, that expense rests squarely on the shoulders of the two Registrar of voters. They are the ones with the authority to tell us what time and where to vote. A referendum or a primary have different rules than an election and the whole town may vote in one place, like the library or the town hall on a Saturday like we did in the 1980s, the only reason all four polling places are used during a referendum is because the Registrars want it that way.

Last May, the voters of Thompson approved approximately \$20 million for the school to educate approximately 900 students. The school year had barely begun before they were already in the red. At a time when the taxpayers of Thompson are suffering the effects of inflation, resulting in sticker shock at the grocery store, lowering their thermostats, and anxiously watching the fuel gauges on their heating oil tanks, to have the school come back and ask for another \$15 million is, in my opinion, the height of audacity.

BEVERLY WARNER
THOMPSON

Auction news for the New Year



Happy New Year! Let’s start 2023 by catching up on some big auction news that closed out 2022.

An 1898 Smith and Wesson Revolver that belonged to Teddy Roosevelt made headlines recently. Roosevelt obtained the gun in 1898 when he was a lieutenant colonel training with the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, also known as the Rough Riders. The Rough Riders were the only unit to see combat during the Spanish American War. While Roosevelt received the Smith and Wesson pistol, he preferred a different weapon during the war: The Robb Report writes that “Roosevelt famously used a Colt double-action revolver salvaged from the wreckage of the USS Maine, the US Navy ship that sank in Havana Harbor in February 1898.” He kept the Smith and Wesson pistol as a “nightstand pistol.” It sold for \$910,625 in December, nearly matching the \$1 million a Star Wars prop pistol that was used by Harrison Ford’s Hans Solo character fetched at an August auction.

Trains Magazine reports that one of the spikes from Promontory Point, Utah will soon be hitting the auction block. Promontory Point is where the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads met in 1869. The transcontinental railroad united the country by rail. You might remember from history class reading about the golden spike being driven when the railroads met. The golden spike now resides in the Stanford University Art Museum. Train Magazine reports that there were three

additional spikes used at the ceremony. There were two silver spikes and one with “a gold head, a silver shaft, and an iron spike at the base.” That mixed metal spike (also known as the Arizona spike) is the one that’s heading to auction. The spike is engraved “Ribbed with iron, clad in silver; and crowned with gold Arizona presents her offering to the enterprise that has banded a continent, dictated a pathway to commerce.” The spike is expected to sell for between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

Steve Wozniak’s toolbox will be auctioned online at the end of this month, according to Benzinga.com. Wozniak was one of the founders who formed Apple in 1976. The toolbox is said to be from pre-1978, during Apple’s formative years. An Apple Facilities Engineer found the toolbox with Steve Wozniak written on it on a Dymo label. The Facilities Engineer had asked Wozniak for it several years ago and Wozniak told him he could have it. The toolbox bidding starts at \$10,000 with an estimate of \$20,000 to \$30,000.

And there’s another big piece of Apple history that will also be sold soon: Apple’s first trade sign that was used by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak when the company was still a startup. The nearly nine-foot long opaque sign features a multi-colored apple and has a starting bid of \$50,000, with an auction estimate of \$100,000 and \$200,000. With all these Apple items going to auction, I might just hang onto my old iPhone for a while.

We’re offering a Colt revolver, along with over 500 additional items in our next online auction which starts this week and ends on Jan. 31. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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



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

The settlement of South Killingly

Inclement Weather: If the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center is closed due to inclement weather, an announcement will be made on WINY. If you are not sure, call the Center at 860-779-7250 after 10:15 a.m. on a Wednesday or Saturday. If you get the answering machine, the Center is probably closed.

As I begin 2023, I'm busy planning several new historical PowerPoint presentations. The one on the Underground Railroad in Northeastern Connecticut, scheduled for a May session of Learning in Retirement, will take the most work, but it will be so interesting to research. I've been working on this topic off and on for many years, focusing mostly on Killingly and Putnam but hope to expand my horizons to other local towns. Of course, I'll mention Canterbury's Prudence Crandall and Brooklyn's Samuel May. From Horatio Strother's "The Underground Railroad in Connecticut," I know that Killingly's Prosper Alexander was an underground railroad agent. From Putnam's late historian Robert Miller I learned of Putnam's Asa Cutler. I've heard rumors that Bowen's Pink House, Roseland Cottage, was a station. I know of at least two houses in South Killingly that were connected with the underground railroad and about a former Masonic building in Putnam that was also utilized as a hiding place. Now, I seek your help! If you know of people or places that fit this topic, please email me. I have plenty of time to include them in the story.

Since part of the above story will take place in South Killingly, which also had a large Anti-slavery society in 1837, I'm refreshing my mind about the history of that region. Since I don't find many references to the 18th century history of that area in my computer Villager files, I'll share a little with you, breaking the story into a number of pieces.

In the early 1700's, what we refer to as South Killingly was settled about 20 years later than the northern sections of town. Prior to the incorporation of Killingly, the land, called the Owaneco or Plainfield Purchase, had been sold to a number of men from Plainfield and had not been distributed into lots. According to 19th century Windham County Historian Ellen D. Larned, Jacob Spalding, son of Edward of Plainfield, was likely the first settler of South Killingly. In 1721, his father deeded him the "twenty-first lot in the Plainfield Purchase, cornering on Horse Hill." Jacob at once built a fortified house and established himself there with his young wife, the first settlers of South



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

Killingly and the only white inhabitants within many miles...The difficulty of procuring supplies in this remote settlement was a serious annoyance to these young settlers. In the first summer they broke up land, raised grain and stock but ere the winter was over there was nothing left for themselves or their cattle, and the snow was so deep that supplies could not be brought to them, and their only resource was to return to Plainfield--so 'starting the oxen ahead to break a path, the cows followed them, Mr. Spalding and his family.'

"Even after some years of settlement, with children to feed, they often suffered from scarcity of food and various privations. The only accessible grist-mill was that on the Moosup (River), five miles distant, a whole day's journey through the winter snowdrifts, so that Mr. Spalding was obliged to pass the night when he carried his grain there. On one such occasion the family was very short of provisions. An enormous beef-bone, which had perhaps served as basis for many messes of bean-porridge, was given over to the children, picked clean and scraped over and over, and again laid up lest every particle of flesh or gristle had not been removed. Night came on. The children went to sleep; the anxious mother watched and listened. Indians had been around through the day unusually insolent and troublesome, and she had given them what food she could spare through the window--a square hole, closed with a sliding-board--but had not suffered them to enter. Now, she was sure she heard them prowling about the house. She listened more intently. After a time, she was certain that she heard some one climbing up to the windows, intending doubtless to break in and assault her and her sleeping children. She looked around the room for some defensive weapon and her eye caught the great beef-bone. Quick as a flash she seized it, opened the window and hurled it with all her strength into the face of the advancing Indian. He gave a most horrible howl, dropped to the ground and fled with all the company, frightened out of their wits by this most extraordinary projectile, and fearing worse things were in store for them." (History of Windham County Connecticut, Vol. I, Swordsmith edition, p. 143, 144).

"In 1728, Jacob Spalding...was thrown from his cart and instantly killed. His widow occupied the homestead, and before long married Edward Steward, a reputed scion of the royal family of Scotland, and a zealous adherent of James II and the Stewart dynasty. (Larned, op. cit., p. 276). Jacob left four young children: Simeon, Jacob, Dameris

(m. William Short) (all Spalding, Charles W. The Spalding Memorial. A Genealogical History of Edward Spalding of Virginia and Massachusetts Bay and His Descendants, 1897, p. 77.) and Alice (m. Nathaniel Brown--Killingly Land Records, 5, p. 245). He was interred in the Old Plainfield Cemetery (Find a Grave; Ancestry.com).

"Lots in Plainfield Purchase were formally distributed in 1730. Title to land south of Manhumsqueag (near Wheststone Brook) was confirmed to Daniel Lawrence. The Plainfield residents soon sold out their shares of this land to prospective settlers, and its population rapidly increased. Roads were laid out connecting this settlement with Chestnut Hill and Killingly Center. In 1732, the south inhabitants were permitted by the town to build a pound for their own use at their own charge." (Larned, op. cit., p.276).

"Attendance upon public worship was found very difficult and burdensome, and in the winter of 1734-5, they hired a minister to preach to them in their own neighborhood, but were still compelled to continue the usual rate for the support of Mr. Fisk" (the minister of the First Society which meeting-house was east of present-day Route 21/Thompson Pike, a little south of the present Killingly-Putnam town line). Application for relief to the authorities of Killingly proving insufficient, the South Killingly people petitioned the General Assembly in April, 1735, representing 'that these families, numbering a hundred and fifty souls, and but few of their women and children were able to attend public worship...begging them liberty to hire an orthodox minister for five months of the year, and freedom

from the ministerial tax during that period.' This request was graciously granted, and regular religious worship henceforth held through the wintry season in South Killingly. The inhabitants and proprietors of this section signing the petition were--William Spalding, Edward Stewart, Nathaniel Patten, John Moffatt, Levi Preston, Amos Pearce, Nathaniel Blanchard, Boaz Stearns, Richard Whitmore, John Eaton, Daniel Lawrence, Joseph Hutchins, Wyman Hutchins, Daniel Kee, John Firman, Nathaniel and Josiah Hewlett, Joseph Hoffes, Lebeus Graves, Daniel Foskett, Stephen Spalding, Jonathan Russell, William Whiting, John Priest, and John Wilson. Some of these signers were residents of a strip of land east of the Owaneco Purchase, which was laid out and distributed by the proprietors' committee." (Larned, op. cit., p. 277).

So by 1735, South Killingly was nicely settled, had a pound, and winter religious services. No mention of a meetinghouse was found this early, but that situation would be rectified in the following decade.

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

We need a sense of direction

You could be hurting, and your family could be in trouble. Every day feels like a grind; you can't make it from one day to the next. You may have addictions, people disrespect you, and you have little help. Inflation seems spiraling out of control, and they say World War III is upon us. There appears to be chaos everywhere, especially in our minds.

We've been lucky to live in a primarily stable society for as long as most of us have been alive. When things become unstable and uncertain, we become stressed out, depressed, and worried. It can rob your sense of purpose and meaning.

It makes you want to give up and sit in a dark room and hide. You may have moments where you scream and cry, thrashing about as if doing so will make it all go away.

You can run away, go to the bar, watch television, and pursue any pleasure you can think of in the hopes it will go away. You can pursue happiness in all its forms, but still, life is waiting.

From the moment we are born, we are in a constant state of change. None of us will stay the same, and none will get out of life alive. What will we become? What is the meaning of it all? What's the point?

It's odd. For most of my life, I've pursued happiness, and although that was the goal, it didn't always bring joy. While

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

working to be an actor, I didn't have a job for many years. All I did was go to the gym, eat nice dinners, go to clubs, hang out with friends, audition,

take acting classes, and travel.

It was fun in a lot of ways, and also, it felt empty at times. I was too irresponsible to be able to handle it properly. I dreaded getting a job; I dreaded responsibility because I saw it as something that wouldn't bring any fulfillment.

Then one day, a stray cat showed up at my door. She begged for food, and I decided to feed her. After a few weeks, she started coming into my apartment, and I soon discovered I was a cat owner! I was responsible for another life. I gave her the best food; I took her to the vet and was concerned for her every need. It brought me so much fulfillment. That was just the beginning of my journey toward responsibility.

In a famous online lecture, rockstar Psychologist Jordan Peterson says, "You need a sustaining meaning; where do you find that? You generally find that in responsibility to yourself and other people." What is the goal of life? "To be the strongest person at your father's funeral."

I don't think he means that you should seek to be the strongest person at the funeral so you can feel better than everyone

else, but because you can become a beacon of hope, someone to rely on, and an example to others.

I was not the most responsible person at my father's funeral, not by a long shot; My father had some fantastic friends.

Within hours of his death, I found myself engulfed in responsibility. It was new and stressful; since then, I don't get much sleep, and I'm constantly on the move. I'm helping to run two businesses, writing this column, taking care of family members who need my help, and working a full-time job which I love. Oddly, or not so oddly, I feel fulfilled.

I didn't find fulfillment in pleasure; I found it in responsibility, just as Dr. Peterson says.

With all of life's problems, it's easy to become depressed and turn away from things we know we ought to do. Sometimes it feels like burying your head in the sand, deliberately ignoring the reality of the situation, and pretending the problem doesn't exist is the best course of action.

On the contrary, personal responsibility and accountability are the building blocks for a meaningful and fulfilling life.

By taking ownership of our life and actively working to improve our circumstances and others, we can create a sense of purpose and direction and contribute to the well-being of our communities.

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Christmas in Québec

BY DENNIS BLANCHETTE

“Christmas isn’t just a day, it’s a frame of mind.”
— Valentine Davies

“Ow,” I shouted as my head cracked into the side window of the car again. It seemed like we had made 37 turns in the last 10 miles.

“Is this car taking us the shortest way or the fastest way?” I asked Janet.

“Shortest number of miles,” she responded. “It’s all about the charging stations.” We had heard good things about Québec at Christmastime and were on the way from West Paris, Maine to check them out. There would be no sleeping or writing so I did the only thing left – stared out the window.

Every half mile or so, a driveway left the road and disappeared into the woods and I tried to imagine what was at the end; a cabin, a mine, or a mansion? Virginia rail fences were fairly common. They don’t require post holes, perfect for the rocky soil up here and long after the fence falls down, the rocks that supported the posts serve as silent testament to the fence that once stood there and evidence for future surveyors trying to locate an old property line.

In the small towns we passed through, deserted houses that witnessed better times stood only a few feet from the road, the

porches sagging, holding on by one nail, refusing to give up. Newer houses were farther from the road, sometimes directly behind an abandoned house. Why not fix up the old ones or tear them down I wondered? Some of the houses only had siding on one side, the remainder wrapped in Tyvek – did winter come too soon or the money run out too fast? There was often an RV in the yard, making one wonder about priorities. Many yards had accumulations of what seemed to be junk – was it due to Yankee thriftiness, lack of time to haul it away, hoarding issues or simply lax zoning codes?

An old rusted fire truck sat out in a field waiting for a fire that it couldn’t do much about anyway. Was it dumped there or was someone intending to restore it someday? The route took us past several of the connected farmhouses that Thomas C. Hubka wrote about in his classic book “Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn.” Giant old paper mills that looked like they had rambled right out of a Stephen King novel stood vacant and deserted while loaded logging trucks headed south, away from the mills, probably to a port so the logs could be shipped to China.

Cannabis stores seemed to be as numerous as the trees, how they would all make a profit was something else to

wonder about. We passed the historic Solon Hotel, a home for travelers for 125 years and recently renovated for another lifetime. Churches were everywhere and all seemed well maintained, testifying that the business of selling hope was still lucrative. The bare farm fields, harvested of their crops and now displaying only stubble, told of the on coming winter.

In Moscow, Maine, serendipity appeared in the form of a 30-foot-tall wood retaining wall, decorated with hundreds of colorful birdhouses in every imaginable shape, along with the occasional ski boot, buoy and a cannabis leaf. The Million Dollar Birdhouse Wall as it is known, has its own Facebook page and web site. The wall is on a blind curve with nowhere to pull over and so I wondered how they got them in place.

We charged up the EV in Jackman, Maine and a few miles later, Route 201 turned into Route 173 at the Canadian border. The navigation system took us to our rented apartment, a massive stone building said to be one of the original structures in Québec. It was a block inside the 3-mile-long wall that encloses the Old City and its fort, La Citadelle, the largest fortified base in North America.

Québec was founded by the Frenchman Samuel de Champlain in 1608

and in 1690 the French started to build a timber and earth wall around the city. The British were not too happy about this. Fortunately for the British, the French got sidetracked and never completed the wall. The British snuck in at night and captured the city in a 20-minute battle. The British then spent a century building a fort and completing the wall. Since its completion it has never witnessed a single battle. After a few years the British got disgusted because no one would speak English and gave Québec back to France, wall and all.

The next morning, we wandered up and down the massive granite block walls in the bitter cold, the wind hitting us like a runaway freight train going 60 miles per hour. The obligatory visit to the historic 600 room Fairmont de Château Frontenac was just an excuse to check out the toboggan run but it was not open. The Frontenac is said to be the most photographed hotel in the world, but I must have been on its bad side for I couldn’t get an unobstructed picture no matter where I stood. The cobblestone streets were decorated with hundreds of Christmas trees. When the lights lit up in the evening, it was sheer magic and the streets were thronging with people, despite the bitter cold. Every now and then there was an outdoor German Christmas Market with

vendors selling every manner of product from mittens to pâté, from little wooden booths.

My favorite exhibit at the Museum of Civilization was entitled “Merde/Oh Shit.” With the goal of seeing poop as a resource rather than a waste, it was by far one of the most interesting and amusing museum exhibits ever. The good mood was quickly quelled by the horrors expressed in the next 2 exhibits. The Witness Blanket exhibit paid tribute to the victims of the residential school era, when the children of First Nations peoples were taken away from their parents, isolated from their culture and religion and deprived of their ancestral language. Conditions at the schools lead to malnutrition, starvation, disease, physical abuse, sexual abuse and death. The exhibit “This is our Story” tells the story of the 11 Aboriginal nations of Québec and how they were stripped of their land and government.

The next day we wandered down to Petit Champlain, its narrow brick streets lined with restaurants and shops. It was enchanting, but also crowded and a bit touristy. Just as we were about to leave, serendipity provided for us again in the form of a 20-person choir, clad in fur coats, singing Christmas carols. That night the German markets were packed; people were lined up 10

deep at the Winterbar for glühwein and shots of Jägermeister. Only the fried dough booth had a longer line. The lively strains from a trio of musicians distracted the crowd from the lines and the cold, while I wondered how they could play stringed instruments in 20-degree weather.

Too soon, it was time to leave for the mountains. A 45-minute drive brought us to the Mont Sainte Anne cross country ski area; with over 100 miles of trails, it is the largest in Canada. After burning off the calories we had acquired from eating French food for 4 days, it was off to Le Massif de Charlevoix for two days of downhill skiing. On the second day, we got last chair up, but all the runs back down were roped off. We ducked under the rope and skied the last run of the day all alone in semi darkness, snowflakes swirling around us. The lodge at the bottom was dark and deserted, but they had left the door open for us to retrieve our ski bags. I’m usually bah, humbug when it comes to Christmas but the hospitality and joie de vivre of the Québécois could win over the cold heart of Ebenezer Scrooge.

Dennis R. Blanchette is a travel writer and occasionally civil engineer. Pictures of the trip can be found on his travel blog, Derelicting About With Dennis at www.dennis-blanchette.com.

Boost the health and beauty of your houseplants



Courtesy — Summit Responsible Solutions
Sticky traps attract insects to their yellow surface and trap them on the sticky surface to prevent damage to plants.

Fight the post-holiday blues with a bit of indoor gardening. Keeping your houseplants healthy and looking their best with a bit of grooming this winter is sure to lift your spirits.

Clip off any dead leaves as they appear. Use a sharp snips or bypass pruner to make a clean cut that looks tidy and closes up quickly. An occasional brown leaf is not usually a problem but if browning continues, it might be time to take action. Evaluate the growing conditions and make needed

adjustments.

Brown leaves are often caused by low humidity which is common in many homes during winter. Boost the humidity in your home by grouping plants together. As one plant loses moisture through its leaves through transpiration the neighboring plants benefit. Add pebbles or marbles to the saucer or trays beneath the plants. Allow excess water to collect in the pebbles below the pot. As the water evaporates it increases the humidity right around the plant. Move plants that require moist soil and high humidity into a terrarium. They are attractive living decorations and make caring for high-maintenance plants easier.

Over- and under-watering can also result in brown leaves, leaf edges, and tips. Water thoroughly when needed. Base frequency on the plants you are growing, room temperature and humidity. Tropical plants need more consistently moist soil while cacti and succulents like it drier. With lower light conditions in many homes, plants grow slower and may need less frequent watering in winter. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer which can lead to root rot.

Stop fertilizing indoor plants in



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

winter unless they are actively growing. Applying fertilizer that plants don’t need can cause root damage, leading to leaf discoloration.

Trim off brown tips that are common on spider plants, dracaenas, Ti plants, and prayer plants sensitive to the chlorine and fluoride in water. Avoid the problem by using chemical-free water.

Wipe dust off the leaves with a damp cloth. Use a cosmetic brush to clean the fuzzy leaves of plants like African violets. Keeping your plants clean and well-groomed also helps reduce insect and disease problems.

Further protect plants from pests with Summit Sticky Traps (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com). Just place one or two in the pot with the sticky side exposed. The yellow attracts fungus gnats, aphids, thrips, leaf miners, and other harmful pests

feeding on your plants. The sticky surface traps the insects causing them to die without the use of pesticides. Replace the trap once it is covered with insects or every three months.

Boost indoor plant resilience by providing the right amount of light. Move plants to a sunnier window or add artificial lights as needed. Then give plants a quarter turn every time you water. This promotes more balanced growth by exposing all parts of the plant to the light source.

Taking time to tend to your plants improves their health and beauty while elevating your mood and helping fight stress.

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

Scramble the Duck, Connecticut’s own weather predictor, to predict spring or winter

EASTFORD — Scramble the Duck, the accurate weather-predicting groundhog alternative, will predict an early spring or six more weeks of winter. The event will be held on Feb. 2, 7:30 a.m. at the Ivy Glenn Memorial in Eastford, Connecticut. The event will also be livestreamed on Scramble the Duck’s Web site.

People are invited to the event in person at the Ivy Glenn Memorial. The event will also be livestreamed at scrambleduck.org/livestream/. Fans are encouraged to celebrate online if they are not able to attend the event.

Scramble the Duck is an accurate alternative to groundhogs like Punxsutawney Phil, Connecticut Chuckles, and others. Unlike any groundhog, Scramble guarantees perfect accuracy for his weather prediction.

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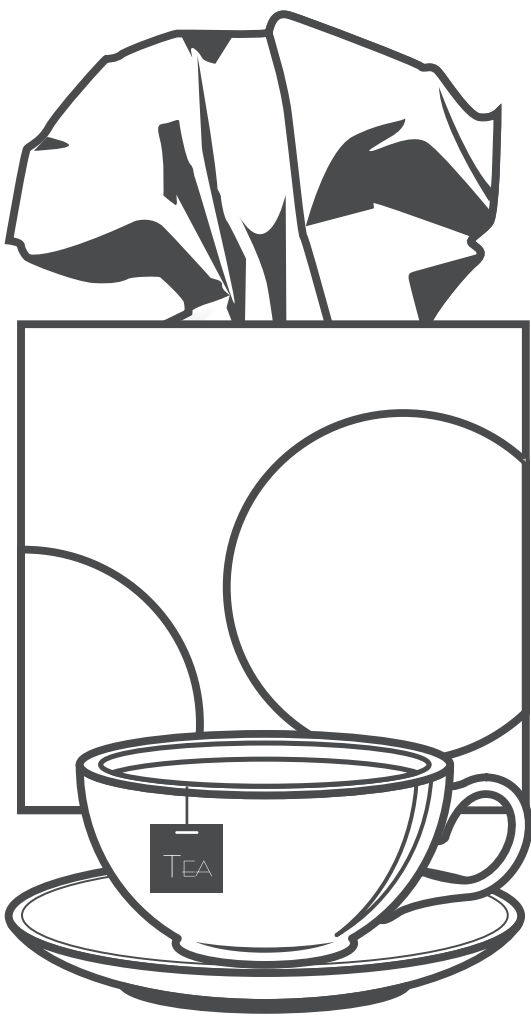
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Celebrate the benefits of hot tea.
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1915:** THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REJECTS A PROPOSAL TO GIVE WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE.
- **1962:** THE FIRST AMERICAN COMBAT MISSION IN THE VIETNAM WAR TAKES PLACE.
- **1969:** THE NEW YORK JETS OF THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE DEFEAT THE BALTIMORE COLTS TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL.



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ANSWER: HOT TEA



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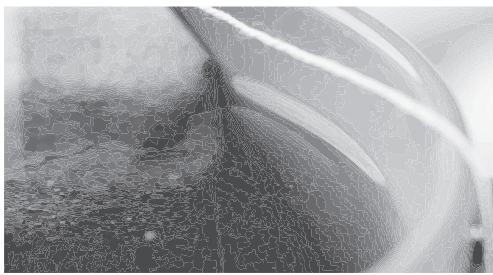
a dark-colored Chinese tea



- ENGLISH:** Tea
- SPANISH:** Té
- ITALIAN:** Tè
- FRENCH:** Thé
- GERMAN:** Tee



TEA IS THE SECOND-MOST-CONSUMED BEVERAGE IN THE WORLD.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: TEA BAG IN MUG

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Chinese New Year.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 17 = A)

- A. 7 14 24 17 13**
Clue: Relating to the moon
- B. 3 19 13 19 23 6 19 5 26**
Clue: Prediction based on stars or symbols
- C. 6 3 11 24 17**
Clue: Asian country
- D. 10 26 23 22 11 12 17 7**
Clue: Large celebration

Answers: A. lunar B. horoscope C. China D. festival

SUDOKU

		5			1			
		6	4					3
					8	4		
					3			1
			9				8	
3						7	4	
8	3			9				5
	5					2		6
	7			2			3	

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	8	3	5	2	1	9	7	6
6	9	2	7	3	8	1	5	4
5	7	4	1	9	6	3	8	2
9	4	7	2	5	1	8	6	3
2	8	3	6	4	9	7	1	5
6	1	7	9	4	8	3	2	5
3	2	5	8	7	4	6	9	1
7	4	6	3	1	9	8	5	2
8	2	1	9	6	3	5	4	7

ANSWER:

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Killingly boys' basketball now rides five-game winning streak

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Sophomore Johnny Kazantzis poured in a game-high 19 points to help lead the Killingly High School boys' basketball team to its fifth straight win, 64-37, over Plainfield on Thursday, Jan. 5, in Central Village.

Seniors Yianni Baribeau, Tom Dreibholz, and Logan Gagnon all played key roles in the victory for 5-1 Killingly. Baribeau recorded another double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 14 rebounds, while Dreibholz added 12 points and eight rebounds and Gagnon chipped in with seven points and five rebounds.

Elsewhere: Woodstock Academy went 1-1 last week, defeating Ledyard (61-37, Friday, Jan. 6) and losing to New London (63-36, Tuesday, Jan. 3). Both games were played at WA's Alumni Field House.

The win over Ledyard was keyed by a 24-4 second quarter run that allowed the 2-6 Centaurs to build a 33-9 halftime lead. Senior Brandon Nagle scored half of his team-high 16 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, in the decisive quarter, while junior Hunter Larson contributed 11 points and senior Carter Morissette added nine.

In the loss to New London, Woodstock was led by sophomore center Brady Ericson, who finished with game with a double-double of 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Girls' Basketball
Freshman Rose Lopez hit the game-winning shot as time expired to lift Ellis Tech to a 32-31 come-from-behind win over visiting Wilcox Tech on Friday, Jan. 6. With 2.5 seconds left sophomore Sadie Murray (five steals) inbounded the ball to Lopez (six points, 10 rebounds), who went right up with the shot, which dropped through the basket as time expired. Golden Eagles' junior Kylie Damble finished the game with a double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Ellis Tech (4-3) also won its other game last week, defeating visiting Grasso Tech, 38-18, on Tuesday, Jan. 3. Damble led the way to victory with 15 points, nine rebounds, five steals, and three blocks. Murray finished with 10 rebounds, five points, and five assists. Lopez added nine rebounds and four steals and sophomore Kiara Cartier chipped in six points.

Boys' Hockey
Undefeated Woodstock Academy won both games it played last week, defeating Housatonic Regional, 10-0, on Saturday, Jan. 10 in Kent, and visiting Burrville, R.I., 5-2, Monday, Jan. 2, at the Pomfret School's Jahn Ice Rink.
Junior Donny Sousa led the way for the 7-0 Centaurs in the win over Housatonic, scoring four goals and setting up another. Classmate Noah Sampson added three goals and two assists while sophomore Maxx Corradi added a goal and three assists. Junior Jared Nielsen added a pair of goals and sophomore Keegan Covelio finished with three assists. In the win over Burrville Sampson scored twice while Sousa, Corradi and freshman Jack



Photo courtesy Jude Caffrey

Killingly senior Yianni Baribeau receives a warm welcome from his teammates after Woodstock Academy coach Donte Adams called a timeout after Baribeau scored Killingly's first 17 points in its 45-38 win over the visiting Centaurs on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022. Baribeau finished the game with a double-double (25 points, 16 rebounds).

Larkin also lit the lamp.

Girls' Hockey
The Woodstock Academy co-op team had a tough week, losing to visiting Mercy/Northwest Catholic/East Hampton co-op, 2-0, on Saturday, Jan. 7, and 5-1 on the road to Burrville, R.I., on Monday, Jan. 2.
Senior goaltender Elizabeth Morgis made 26 saves in the loss to Mercy while freshman Maci Corradi scored the lone goal in the loss to Burrville off assists from senior Caitlyn Flynn and junior Mia Williamson. The Centaurs' record dropped to 3-6-1 with the losses.

Boys' Indoor Track
At the Bethel Invitational, held Saturday, Jan. 7, Woodstock Academy sophomore Christian Menounos won both the 1,000 and 3,200-meter races while senior Vincente Bastura captured first in the 1,600-meter run and then ran a leg of the winning 3,200-meter relay along with juniors Charles Caggiano and Joel Koleszar, and sophomore Colton Sallum.

Girls' Indoor Track
At the Bethel Invitational, held Saturday, Jan. 7, Woodstock Academy won five events. Senior Bella Sorrentino had a personal best 34-foot throw in the

shot put while classmate Magdalena Myslenski cleared the pole vault bar at 7-feet-6-inches and junior Julia Coyle won the 1,600-meter run. The Centaurs' quartet of seniors Tessa Brown, Lauren Brule, and Sydney Lord, along with

freshman Olivia Tracy and Sydney Lord won the 3,200-meter relay. Brown then teamed up with senior Gianna Smith, and sophomores Isabella Selmecki and Mia Sorrentino to win the sprint medley.



Courtesy

Kids hit the train for the Kids Fun Run sponsored by Day Kimball Healthcare during the annual Thompson Turkey Trot in November.

Thompson Turkey Trot a success despite rain

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON — Thompson's annual November tradition, the Centreville Bank 5K Thompson Turkey Trot and 3K Wobble, was another big success this past fall despite rain literally dampening the experience for many.

The Thompson Trails Committee, who organized the event held at the Thompson Dam on Nov. 13, heard an update in early December from Race Director and Trails Committee member Brian Loffredo. The race raises money each year to support Thompson Trails, TEEG, and Thompson Recreation. Some numbers were up, and some were down in 2022 as race organizers tried to incorporate both new and familiar elements to the annual pre-Thanksgiving run while also battling the rainy weather.

"We had great help from volunteers. TEEG did a great job bringing personnel out. The Kids Fun Run had its biggest participation to date," Loffredo said during the Trails Committee's Dec. 5 meeting. "We had 140 or so runners which is the same as the year before. With better weather, we might have been even better. We were down a little on the walk which doesn't surprise me. It's not as competitive, people aren't going to come out to walk in the rain. We added a starting line mat this year that gave people an accurate time."

Loffredo explained that they tried to incorporate new obstacles in the Kids Fun Run and utilized a brand-new portable sound system which he said allowed for more freedom and clearer volume over the course of the day.

"I'm happy that this solves our needs and therefore would solve a lot of the needs (in town)," Loffredo said. "I'm happy for the purchase and I think it will work out for anyone else who needs to use it."

The race also included a new mat at the finish line providing runners with more immediate and accurate times for their runs from start to finish.

The final tally for the event after expenses came to \$13,758.90, surpassing 2021's numbers, which will be split among the three beneficiary organizations. Looking ahead to 2023, organizers would like to include a more accurate measure of the walking route distance and put more emphasis on recruiting walkers and walking teams in general. The goal for the next race is to top \$15,000 after expenses.

Putnam Lions to host annual Volleyball Challenge March 18 & 19

POMFRET — The annual Putnam Lions Volleyball Challenge (PLVC) will be held at the Pomfret School Strong Field House on Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, March 19. This indoor facility boasts four courts guaranteeing that all teams remain active, spread apart and in continual competition.

The tournament is the Lions Club's largest fundraising event of the year and is a fun challenge for volleyball players of all levels. It features two coed divisions, one on Saturday for serious competitors and one on Sunday for corporate and recreational players. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners of each division in addition to the coveted PLVC traveling trophy to the winners on Sunday. Players will receive complimentary food, beverages and snacks and will be entered in several drawings.

Anyone who wishes more information or would like to become a sponsor or enter a team should contact Lion Mike Hanrahan at (860) 933-5793 or by email: fishcrzy@hotmail.com.

Local business' participation in Neighborhood Assistance Act assists The Arc

DANIELSON — The Arc Eastern Connecticut received \$13,000 this year from Eversource and the Jewett City Savings Bank as part of Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance 2022 tax credit program.

Funds will be directed towards the continuation of an extensive window replacement initiative at The Arc's Day program facility on Mechanic Street in Danielson, which provides supports to more than 150 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"We've had some great community partners helping us through this program over the past few years," noted Laurie Herring, The Arc's Chief Operations Officer. "Our building has many older windows. Thanks to Eversource and the Jewett City Savings Bank, we'll be that much closer to having it be extremely energy efficient, and we can keep the people we support comfortable and healthy throughout their day."

The Neighborhood Assistance program provides tax credits to businesses who make cash contributions to tax-exempt organizations to help with state-identified priority projects.

"It continues to be an extremely important program," noted Ms. Herring, "since it gives nonprofits funds for capital improvement projects that would normally be impossible to complete."

To learn more about The Arc Eastern Connecticut and its programs throughout the region, please visit TheArcECT.org or contact Denise Tift at (860) 889-4435, ext. 116.

OBITUARIES

Thomas J. Kane, 79



Southbridge: Thomas J. Kane, 79, of Fiske St., passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Saturday, Jan. 7th, in UMass Memorial-Harrington Hospital, Southbridge, after a brief illness.

He leaves his three children, Christine Kane-Latour and her husband John of Woodstock, CT, Kenneth Kane and his wife Lissa of Southbridge and Kelli Kane of Southbridge; his brother, James E. Kane, Jr. and his wife Judy of Auburn; his four grandchildren, Jared Latour, Ryan Latour, Kayla Kane and Tyler Kane; his two great grandchildren, Collin Irwin and Jaxon Saunders; and his nephew, Matthew Kane and his niece, Mary-Kate Kane. He was born in Southbridge the son of the late James E. and Wanda A. (Orzech) Kane.

Thomas worked as manager of Baker Shoe at Ames department store for over 40 years, starting in the Southbridge store and later in the Sturbridge store from which he retired.

Thomas was a loyal son dedicated to the care of both his mother and father in their later years. Thomas also had a soft heart for animals; watching over and caring for a stray cat who befriended him. He was also quick to lend a hand almost daily when his daughter's dogs required additional care.

He was an avid outdoorsman, especially enjoying fishing and hunting. Thomas enjoyed gathering with his friends at the former Pete's Spa and later at the Hospital Spa in Southbridge where he loved a good game of chance.

The family would like to thank the nurses and doctors in the ICU at Harrington for their kindness and compassionate care.


A graveside service for Thomas will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 24th, at 12:00 pm in St. Mary's Cemetery, Charlton St., Southbridge. There are no calling hours.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

*Send all obituary notices to
Villager Newspapers, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news*



LEAD

continued from page A1

levels exceeded in recent years," the town stated. "NDDH has also notified the Cargill Falls Mill property owner, of specific requirements to abate, eliminate and manage the lead hazards, including required timelines. NDDH has also contacted other residents that live at Cargill Falls Mill requesting ten-

ants housing children under 6 years of age to contact NDDH."

Concerned residents of Cargill Falls Mill are directed to contact the property management company Konover Residential at cargillfallsmgr@konover-residential.com or (860)455-4334 with questions regarding the lead contamination. Konover has contracted with a Connecticut-certified lead inspector to review and provide recommendations to resolve the situation.

ACCEPTANCE

continued from page A1

societies, and leadership roles as adult liaison for the leadership conference and president of the German honors society.

Having watched him grow over the past four years, Matthew's guidance counselor, Valerie Champany said, "He can do anything, and he does whatever he sets his mind to without question or complaint."

Matthew has cerebral palsy, a physical disability that affects movement and muscle tone, but what could be viewed as an obstacle to some serves as motivation in pursuit of his goals.

"I don't limit myself with anything," said Matthew, "and I want to inspire others to not limit themselves either."

When Matthew enrolls at Harvard this fall, he'll be majoring in Biology, with a plan to follow in his parents' footsteps and establish a career in medicine.

"After taking AP Bio at WA, I knew I wanted to focus on a STEM career," said Matthew. "I feel well-prepared for college because of Woodstock Academy's challenging academic opportunities and the amazing teachers who encouraged my success."

Matthew is just one of many WA Class of

2023 students celebrating early acceptances. His sister Magda is headed to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and other members of the senior class have already been accepted to Stanford, ECSU, Wesleyan, Columbia, QVCC, Syracuse, Quinnipiac, Northeastern, the U.S. Navy, and more.

"What Matthew and our other 2023 admits have been able to accomplish is indicative of The Woodstock Academy's steadfast commitment to creating lifelong learners and informed citizens of the world," said Head of School Christopher Sandford. "We are incredibly proud of all their achievements."

KILLINGLY

continued from page A1

points of the first quarter, turning a 6-6 tie into a 15-9 advantage. Molly Crabtree scored five points in the run, turning a WA turnover into a foul-line jumper and then — after another Woodstock miscue — canning a 3-pointer from the top of the arc.

Killingly pushed its lead to 19-8 in the first five minutes of the second half, sophomore Ariaahna Headen (a game-high 11 points) converting a pair of layups off of assists by Molly Crabtree and Aila Gutierrez.

Sydney Crabtree scored five points in the first three minutes of the second half, hitting a left-side 3-pointer 22 seconds in and then driving to the hoop for a basket with 5:24 left in the third quarter. Killingly led, 30-17, when play headed to the fourth quarter.

Woodstock (8-2) scored the first four points of the period on a right-side 3-pointer by Sidney Anderson and a free throw by Eva Monahan (a team-high nine points), cutting the Killingly lead to single-digits (30-21) with 7:07 remaining in the game.

Junior Laura Farquhar (10 points) righted the ship for Killingly with 4:25 to play, dropping in a left-side 3-pointer to push the lead back into double digits (33-21). From that point Killingly's lead was at least 12 points for the rest of the game.

Woodstock's comeback effort was hampered by the fact the Centaurs were 1-for-8 from the free throw line in the final quarter. For the game WA was 6-for-16 from the foul line.

All five players who scored for Killingly scored at least six points.

"We all work so well together; we've been playing together for many years," said Molly Crabtree, whose complete-game effort included seven rebounds. "The whole team is so unselfish. We love to use our bigs, and we love to take it outside to the perimeter. We just have it going on, all-around right now."

Sydney Crabtree said the team shifted its offensive approach, beginning in

the second quarter.

"We started to work the ball around more in the second quarter and that carried over to the second half," said Sydney Crabtree, who along with her sister and Farquhar, are legitimate threats from behind the 3-point arc. "I've wanted to shoot 3-pointers all my life. When my dad (Killingly boys' basketball coach Jim Crabtree) coached me he told me to relax about that. But coach Scotty (Derosier) is always preaching to shoot the ball. He tells us as soon as we get open 'have a quick release and take the shot.'"

During a radio interview after the game Derosier was asked about the fact Killingly seems to go through offensive lulls occasionally.

"You can go through a lull offensively as long as you do the job on the other end of the court. All I care about is what's on the other side of the scoreboard," Derosier explained after the radio interview. "When our guards, who are undersized, play the way they did tonight head to head — they completely locked down (Kaylee Saucier) — it makes things easier on the team and it makes things easier on the coach."

Derosier has a special appreciation for the effort the 5-foot-2 Gutierrez, the lone senior on the team, provides on a game-to-game basis.

"I coached boys for 30 years and I've coached girls for the last 12 and Aila is the toughest player — period — I've ever coached," Derosier said. "She does whatever I ask. I tell her I need her to play the four; she plays the four. If I tell her I need her to do this or that, she does this or that, too."

Killingly's win over Woodstock came two days after a 37-34 home loss to Ledyard. Sydney Crabtree scored 11 points in the defeat while Headen added 10.

Two days after the Woodstock win Killingly defeated Windham, 49-32. Headen led the way in the win over the Whippets, scoring 20 points and grabbing eight rebounds. Sydney Crabtree added 13 points — 12 of those points coming on four 3-pointers — and Molly Crabtree added eight points, four rebounds and four steals.



Lila Beaudreault of Killingly has plenty of time and space to let a 3-point attempt fly.



Killingly's Aila Gutierrez attempts a layup while a Woodstock Academy defender tries to block her.



At right: Ariaahna Headen of Killingly retrieves a rebound and attempts a put-back while two of the Woodstock Academy's defenders swarm her.

LEGALS

TOWN OF THOMPSON

On January 4, 2023 the following wetlands agent approval was issued: Application # WAA22033 approved with conditions, Spicer Plus, Inc., 0 Reardon Road (Assessor's Map 65, Block 101, Lot 6D) - Two-phase construction of a propane filing station with associated grading for a stormwater management system (Phase 1) and a septic system for a future associated support building (Phase 2), portions of which are located in the 100-foot upland review area. Marla Butts, Thompson Wetlands Agent January 13, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Leo J. LaFlamme (22-0026) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 20, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Cheryl Ann LaFlamme c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281 January 13, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Dale C. MacQueen (22-00463) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Thomas A. MacQueen Jr., 202 Baxter Road, Woodstock, CT 06281 January 13, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Larry W. Piers (22-00349) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 6, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Claire LaFramboise, 76 Rawson Road, Woodstock, CT 06281 January 13, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Ivy Lepik (22-0323) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated January 5, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is: ALYSON R ALEMAN, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260 January 13, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joanne Rutledge (22-0003) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated January 5, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Ashely Rutledge c/o BENJAMIN IAN CONNOR, LAW OFFICE OF BENJAMIN CONNOR, 150 WEST MAIN STREET, BRANDFORD, CT 06405 January 13, 2023

