

Woodstock Toy Drive celebrates successful 17th year

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department continued one of the longest running holiday collections in the Quiet Corner on Saturday, Nov. 12 with their annual toy drive.

Each year members of the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department come together to collect toys and monetary donations to benefit the Putnam Family Resource Center, TEEG, and the Town of Eastford as the unofficial kickoff event for the holiday giving season. Now 17 years strong, the toy drive has amassed around 40,000 toys and over \$130,000 over its lifetime, and 2022 proved to be another successful year.

Department President Russ Downer said the event is one of the department’s most cherished community programs and seeing the turnout is always inspiring for the volunteers that help make it happen.

“It’s a nice community event for us. Oftentimes, we’re asked to go out and help

somebody in their time of need on the worst day of their lives. This is a way for us to give back in a more positive way. It’s just amazing to watch the community come together,” said Downer. “Our departments take pride in what we do for the community. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and we’re able to give back a lot to the community. We’ve seen kids grow up here and a lot of our members bring their kids as well. It teaches them what it’s like to give back and pay it forward. We think that’s very important for them.”

The 2022 event collected over 1,100 toys and nearly \$7,000 in donations to help give local children an eventful and memorable holiday. Numerous local businesses, organizations, and school groups also stopped by throughout the day to donate. In some cases, young kids even emptied out their own wallets to support their community. Just another year in what has become one of the Quiet Corner’s most cherished local traditions.



Jason Bleau

Member of the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department show off boxes of toys collected during their 17th annual Toy Drive.

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Paws celebrates five years



BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — Over the past five years Paws Cat Shelter in Woodstock has established itself as a staple of the local community and one of the premier animal shelters and adoption sites in the region. On Nov. 12, the organization celebrated its quinquennial anniversary welcoming the public to enjoy cake and meet and greets with their many furry friends looking for a home.

Fay Beriau, President of Paws, said it has been a “whirlwind” five years for the organization which hosts a building full of adoption-ready cats with 160 volunteers helping care for the animals day and night. Through all the challenges Paws has stuck to its mission of providing good, happy, and safe homes for the animals and helping connect them with their forever families.

“We’ve changed so much and weathered so much,” Beriau said. “We survived COVID and inflation. It’s really not me that runs this, it’s the volunteers. They’re all inside and here every day. We’ve rescued about 4,000 animals in our community over the last five years. Every cat that comes in doesn’t leave until they’re spayed and neutered, and they receive their shots and are tested. We want to make sure they go to the right fit. We do this

Photos Jason Bleau

A pair of kitty mascots waved to commuters as they passed by Paws during the shelter’s fifth anniversary celebration on Nov. 12.

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Incumbents dominate in midterms

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION — Despite promises of a “Red Wave,” Connecticut remained a largely blue state following the 2022 midterm elections with most races in the Quiet Corner specifically going to incumbents regardless of their political party affiliation.

Connecticut maintained its largely liberal voting trend from the past few election cycles re-electing Democrat Ned Lamont as Governor over challenger Bob Stefanowski in a rematch from the previous gubernatorial election. Lamont earned 54 percent of the statewide vote compared to Stefanowski’s 43 percent with the remaining votes handed out between third party candidates Robert Hotaling and Michelle Louise Bicking. The win also secures Susan Bysiewicz another term as Lieutenant Governor over Republican challenger Laura Devlin. As was the case in several elections over the last decade, the Quiet Corner skewed mostly Republican. According to the Secretary of State, Brooklyn, Eastford, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Woodstock saw voters

support Stefanowski over Lamont, while Pomfret was the local outlier supporting the incumbent Governor’s reelection.

On the national level, seats for United States Senator and Congressman were both up for grabs as the nation watched closely with Republican’s optimistic of a shift in Congress. Eastern Connecticut chose to keep the status quo reelecting Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Congressman Joe Courtney, both Democrats, to new terms in office. Blumenthal easily defeated his Republican rival Leora Levy, who was backed by former President Donald Trump, while Courtney fended off a challenge by Republican Mike France. Looking at how the elections broke down in the Quiet Corner, Blumenthal didn’t find much success in the Northeast. At the end of the night only Pomfret voters chose to support the incumbent Senator while citizens of Brooklyn Eastford, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Woodstock supported Levy’s campaign. Congressman Courtney fared much better in the region earning the support from every local town except

Turn To **RESULTS**, page A10

HOLIDAY MAKES FOR EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in next week’s editions of the Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Woodstock Villager has been moved up to Monday, Nov. 21 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at brendan@villagernewspapers.com.

Our staff would like to wish our readers a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Stonington shows fight early, but Killingly scores 49 consecutive to win

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — As just another score in a list of football scores, Killingly High’s 65-19 win over Stonington High on Thursday, Nov. 10 looked like just another blowout. By the end of the game it was just that. But, for the first 12 minutes, it was the football equivalent of a championship boxing match.

Killingly (8-1) landed the first punch, scoring on the first offensive play of the game, senior quarterback Tom Dreiholz hitting classmate Ben Jax with a 65-yard touchdown pass. Twelve seconds into the game, Killingly led, 6-0.

Stonington (2-7) delivered a counter punch on its first offensive series, quarterback Jayden Carter throwing a screen pass to running back Will

French for a short gain that French turned into a 39-yard touchdown. Ethan Mahoney tacked on the extra point and, with 10:09 left in the first quarter, the Bears led, 7-6.

On the ensuing drive Killingly marched to the Stonington 14-yard line where, on fourth-and-goal, Dreiholz drilled a 32-yard field goal to put Killingly back in front, 9-7, with 6:17 remaining in the first quarter.

After an exchange of punts Stonington took possession of the ball at the Killingly 36-yard line. The Bears needed five plays to re-take the lead, Carter hitting French with a 7-yard scoring strike. This time Mahoney’s extra point attempt was blocked. With 2:06 left in the first quarter, Stonington led, 13-9.




Photo Courtesy — Mary Rief

The Killingly High football team is thrilled after winning the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Division III Championship as a result of its 65-19 victory over Stonington High on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Starting its next drive on its own 35-yard line, Killingly needed just three plays to take the lead for good, 16-13.

A 21-yard burst up the middle by senior fullback Keith Perry brought the ball to the Stonington 44-yard line. Junior running back Soren Rief then gained 15 on another first-down run,

Turn To **FOOTBALL** page A14

Personal memories of Putnam Heights



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

NOTE: The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 23, the day before Thanksgiving. It will be open Saturday, Nov. 26 as usual.

Several weeks ago, I did a presentation at Learning in Retirement on Historic Killingly Hill-Putnam Heights, and was able to expand upon the Oct. 8 Walktober Walk of the same name. Much to my delight, Putnam Heights resident Linden Whipple, who is also a Killingly Historical Society Board member, willingly shared memories of former residents and points of interest.

Does the name Aspinock Springs ring a bell? Imagine an amazingly fine mineral spring right here in Northeastern

Connecticut not far from the Putnam Heights meetinghouse. It was so fine that soda was even manufactured from its waters--but I'm getting ahead of myself. Linden gave me a copy of an article about the spring which appeared in the Wednesday, Aug. 28, 1895 Windham County Standard. "The Aspinock Spring was first discovered in 1884 on a woodlot then owned by Dr. F. H. Peckham, situated less than one-fourth mile east of the Congregational church on Putnam Heights, in a very picturesque spot. The land sloping to the east, you have a fine view of East Killingly and surrounding country. Dr. Peckham sold the wood and timber on the lot to three enterprising men from out of town, who, in looking around for a suitable place to build their cabin where they could have good drinking water near them, discovered two springs very near together. They were both excellent springs of water, but the wood choppers knew how to appreciate a good thing, and used the spring which has now become so celebrated for drinking and cooking, the other for washing purposes. The wood choppers, who were more than ordinary intelligent men, often laughed at Mr. Ames and other neighbors about having such a fine spring of water under their noses all those years and not knowing it was there, yet at the same time no one even dreamed of the spring ever being of any commercial value. Mr. Ames, who was then in need of a pasture for his cattle, thought, as every one else would, that a good living spring in a pasture would be a great value for the cattle, and purchased the land of Dr. Peckham for that purpose after the wood was got off, which was the first of June 1885. That summer was a very dry season. Nearly all the wells in that vicinity became dry, and people had to go to brooks and springs after water. Mr. Ames, who had an excellent well of water in an ordinary time, went to this spring with others when his well failed and was the first of their thinking the spring of any value as a drinking water. Those using it through that

drouth (sic) never could relish their well water again if ever so good. They also found by the improvement in their appetite and good health that it contained valuable medicinal qualities. Mr. Ames then called the

attention of Dr. H. L. Hammond of Killingly to the spring, as the doctor had been living in Sarasota for a number of years. After testing the water as far as he could go, he advised Mr. Ames to send a small quantity from both springs to Dr. Kersting, a first-class chemist in Boston, who pronounced one spring a remarkably pure and in every respect healthful and very desirable water for drinking or other purposes, while the other was good but not pure enough to put on the market. Then Mr. Ames, by the kindness of Dr. Hammond, sent a large quantity of water from the best spring and had a thorough analysis made, quantitating the different kinds of minerals therein.

"Hon. William T. Harris, Commissioner of Education in Washington, D. C. has had the Aspinock (water) sent to Washington for several years, and says, after using the water from other springs, even the celebrated Poland, that he prefers this to any other, and although it costs considerable to have it sent so far he will not be without it.

"This wonderful spring was named after the old Indian name of the place... The Aspinock water was sent as a contribution to the national display of mineral waters at the World Columbian Exposition (in Chicago, Illinois in 1893) by special request from the office of the Director General, and not by any interest this town or state took in the matter."

Images of a Native-American and the name Aspinock were also used on bottles after a soda company was formed in the early 20th century. Ernest Perry, who died in the 1930's, then Albert Sochor ran the bottling company. Albert used to go from house to house and some of the stores delivering soda until approximately the early 1960's. Perhaps some of you have an old bottle or two. By the time Linden was a child they were using plain bottles. Linden used to like the orange and the birch beer. Albert also had ginger ale, white and dark birch beer, sasparilla, root beer, cream soda, a cola, and grape soda. (Conversation with Linden Whipple, Nov. 12).

Linden Whipple also commented that there were two springs a little farther north on Putnam Heights behind the Cady-Copp Cottage. One was referred to as the "Indian well." The second was adjacent to a wood road used by the Danielsons, had a "cement enclosure" and included a cover. The overflow from this second spring went into a small brook that continued down towards the Killingly-Putnam town line

off of Aspinock Road. He also mentioned that there's a spring on Wicker Street in Putnam.

I'm sure many of you also recall the spring in the southern part of Danielson at the end of Dyer Street. I remember seeing people stopping along the side of Route 6 south and going with their containers to get this wonderful drinking water. Gary Wrobel said his family was just one of the many that used to go get water there. (Text Nov. 11). It is likely that all the road redesign on Route 6 partially led to it being closed to the public. O.W. Gray's 1869 Killingly panel in his Atlas of Tolland and Windham County shows an Indian Well on the ledges above Danielson, probably in what would be the L'Homme Street area.

At the Killingly Historical Center Bernie Mitchell, Lynn LaBerge, and I continued the discussion of springs. Bernie mentioned that Alexander's Lake is all spring-fed. He reminded me that the hill across from the Killingly Town garage on Route 12 is also full of springs. I'm sure many of you have driven that way after a rain and have seen the streams of water pouring off the hill. Lynn and Bernie both mentioned a spring connected with a culvert near Kent Street in Danielson.

If you know of other springs in the area, please email me. It would be good to make note of them for conservation and other purposes.

Since my next article will not be published until Thanksgiving weekend, Happy Thanksgiving to you all. If you are able, please make a donation to Friends of Assisi or one of the other local food pantries in your area. Many grocery stores even have drop-off containers. Remember to give thanks that you have food on your table and this year are able to last to gather with family and/or friends. May we never take that gift for granted.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, November 2022. Special thanks to Linden Whipple, Gary Wrobel, Bernie Mitchell and Lynn LaBerge for their assistance. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329.

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Community Orchestra to hold winter concerts this weekend

BY JANE VERCELLI
NORTHEAST CT COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

POMFRET — Clark Memorial Chapel on the Pomfret School campus (Route 169) will be the venue for the Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra's Winter Concert on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. Admission is free. Masks are required. Donations are welcome.

The concert program features the glorious "Christmas Concerto" by Arcangelo Corelli with soloists Rachel Lewis of Putnam on recorder, Ellen Browne of Pomfret on violin, Sara Harkness of Woodstock on cello and Brianna Toedt of Columbia on violin. Trisha

Snyder of Thompson will be playing the Clark Chapel organ.

This will be our first concert at Clark Chapel since December 2019 just before the Covid 19 quarantine started in March 2020.

Our program includes music by Bach, Vivaldi, Torelli and Rowley. The all-strings orchestra musicians are from towns throughout eastern Connecticut. Our conductor is Dylan Lomangino of Bloomfield.

We are also performing this concert on Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 525 Ashford Center Road (Route 44) in Ashford. In this performance Linda Hilliard of Manchester

will be playing harpsichord accompaniment for the Corelli "Christmas Concerto". The church is between the Hole in the Wall Camp and the Ashford Dairy Bar. Admission is free. Masks are required. Donations are welcome.

We are grateful to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for making it possible for us to continue to rehearse and perform throughout the Covid 19 pandemic in a space large enough for us to socially distance while wearing masks.

The orchestra welcomes musicians of all ages to join us in weekly rehearsals. Questions? Call or text 860 428-4633 or message janevercelli@gmail.com.

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A woman with long, wavy brown hair and a red lip, wearing a black off-the-shoulder dress, stands in a field of tall grass with trees in the background.

Melina Martello-Munoz

Melina was nominated by her peers Kaylee Beck, Isabelle Nieves, and

In Isabelle's nomination, she states, "Melina is someone who is there for her friends in an instant if you need her. She is my closest friend at Tourtellotte and I can say with full confidence that she is a hard worker trying to move up in society to reach her goals. I look up to Mel as an older sister figure because of her adamant stature and hope to witness her growth as an actress as time goes on."

When asked what motivates

Finally, Melina's message to her school and community is, "Never be afraid to be yourself. It's good to be confident in who you are and what you do. Don't be afraid of what others think of you and just go crazy."

For more information about WA Gives Back or to connect about volunteer opportunities, please contact Sara Dzedzic at sdzedzic@woodstockacademy.org.



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GOOD



NEWS

A Thanksgiving prayer

Thanksgiving is nearly here, and we need it. The unseasonably warm weather gave us a taste of what it might be like to live in the Carolinas, but that's not where we belong. As New Englanders, we thrive in the changing seasons. One morning, we will wake up to a dusting of snow and feel the familiar satisfaction of believing we are ready for winter even if we are not. We long for the chance to glance back at the bounty of the summer, but we are constitutionally programmed for the cold, even if all that is required of us a turn of the thermostat dial and a sharp intake of breath at the price of heating oil.

I smell woodsmoke on the night air, and take comfort that my neighbors are stoking their stoves and banking their fireplaces. My husband and I are long past a fascination with burning wood, but the odor is linked to the holidays.

This year, as I set the table, I will pause, as I always do, to think about the people who won't be at our Thanksgiving table.



NANCY WEISS

My parents died so long ago, it seems they were from a different era, not merely a different century. My father-in-law loved food, but was often disappointed by what I cooked. Even in his late 80's, he would rally to carve the holiday bird and when he had taken a bite, put down his fork and say, "The turkey is dry." I was annoyed and hurt, but looking back, I remember his holiday routine fondly.

Through the years, we've shared meals with many people, some related by blood and many by affection. Friends have played the role of family for me on holidays and deepened my gratitude for all the forms of belonging and connection that come along if we are open to them.

Last year, I shared a poem from Rev. Max Coots, Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Canton, N.Y., where my husband and I lived years ago. Max died in 2009, and the church gave me permission to share his poem. The reaction from readers

was so lively that I decided it should become a local tradition.

Here is: A Prayer of Thanksgiving (sometimes called the Vegetable Prayer)

Let us give thanks...
For generous friends with hearts as big as hubbards
And smiles as bright as their blossoms;
For feisty friends as tart as apples;
For continuous friends, who like scalions and cucumbers,
Keep reminding us we had them;
For crotchety friends as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;
For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants
As elegant as a row of corn- and the others-
As plain as potatoes, and so good for you.
For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussel sprouts
And as amusing as Jerusalem Artichokes,
And serious friends as complex as cauliflower

And as intricate as onions;
For friends as unpretentious as cabbages,
As subtle as summer squash and as persistent as parsley,
As delightful as dill and endless as zucchini, and who like parsnips
Can be counted on to see you through the long winter;
For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening time
And young friends coming on as fast as radishes;
For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils,
And hold us despite our blights, wilts and witherings.
And finally for those friends now gone, like gardens past,
That have been harvested, but who fed us in their times
That we might have life thereafter.
For all these we give thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving, dear readers.

PAWS

continued from page A1

all through fundraising, open houses, and we have a mission which is to save as many lives as we can in this community."

Beriau said Woodstock and the surrounding towns have been welcoming and embracing, providing help whenever they are called upon, especially over the last three years of

economic difficulty. While the organization does welcome animals from homes unable to accommodate them any longer, they also work to support households that need assistance to keep the cats in their families rather than giving them up for adoption.

"I tell people if we were to adopt out every cat out of there today and go to our intake list, we could fill up our shelter and

still have an intake list. We try to work with people to see why they need to surrender their cats. If they need food, we help them get food. Sometimes they can't afford to get the cat fixed so we help them with that. We want people to keep their animals in their homes," said Beriau. "This community is so good. We wouldn't be half of what we are without their support. They're all very support-

ive. If we need help, they're there for us even in these times of inflation. Just today we have so many donations. We know the community is there for us."

Looking ahead, Paws is working to implement some new programs to further their mission of finding homes for every animal that comes through their doors. The organization is seeking long-term foster homes to care for some

of their animals with specific health requirements and they are planning out a senior-for-senior program to connect senior cats with senior citizens who will take care of them. The organization is also always seeking out volunteers, especially for weekday mornings. Applications to volunteer and adoption information can be found at www.woodstockcats.org.

www.860Local.com

- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Greek mountain
 - 5. One dependent on something
 - 11. Gratitude
 - 14. Glazed ceramic ware
 - 15. Paddling
 - 18. Step
 - 19. More greasy
 - 21. Upper-class young woman
 - 23. Light beige
 - 24. Belief in a supreme being
 - 28. Indigenous people of Scandinavia
 - 29. A beloved princess
 - 30. Transfer property
 - 32. Field force unit
 - 33. Automated teller
 - 35. When you hope to get there
 - 36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 39. Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two
 - 41. Blood type
 - 42. Stringed instrument
 - 44. Curses
 - 46. Barbary sheep
 - 47. Belonging to a thing
 - 49. Supporters
 - 52. Leaf-footed bug
 - 56. A shower of water
 - 58. Attribute to
 - 60. Intermittent
 - 62. Soda waters
 - 63. Scottish island
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Klutz
 - 2. Relaxing places
 - 3. Expel saliva
 - 4. The extended location of something
 - 5. Certified
 - 6. Cease to exist
 - 7. Powerful legal pro
 - 8. The OJ trial judge
 - 9. Popular greeting
 - 10. "90210" actress Spelling
 - 12. Blyton, children's author
 - 13. "This Is Us" star Fitch
 - 16. Battery cell with a nickel alode
 - 17. Full of bacteria
 - 20. Remains of an old building
 - 22. Exist
 - 25. It gets you into places
 - 26. Witness
 - 27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
 - 29. Father
 - 31. Touch gently
 - 34. Licensed for Wall Street
 - 36. Herring-like fish
 - 37. Lute used in N. Indian music
 - 38. Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
 - 40. Atomic #62
 - 43. Religious
 - 45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)
 - 48. Influential civil rights organization
 - 50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)
 - 51. Turn away
 - 53. Kidney disease (abbr.)
 - 54. Smooth-feeling fabric
 - 55. Competently
 - 57. Sea eagle
 - 58. General's assistant (abbr.)
 - 59. It helps you see
 - 61. Emerging technology

PUZZLE SOLUTION



A selection of the 160 volunteers came out to celebrate Paws' five-year anniversary.



Just one of the many furry friends housed at Paws Cat Shelter in Woodstock which celebrated five years of helping animals like her find their forever home.

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At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Nov. 7: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, American Kestrel, Pheasant, Bobwhite, Saw-whet Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Junco, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret.

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The best holiday deal for your budget in 2022

The holiday shopping season is upon us. Unfortunately, the highest inflation we've seen in 40 years is also part of the holiday season this year; driving prices up for everything from gifts to decorations, holiday dinner and more. If current economic conditions are making you take a second look at your capacity for spending this holiday season (and they probably should), use this guide on how to help stretch your dollar a little further without breaking the bank – it'll be the best holiday deal you get this year!

Revisit (or create) your budget.

You should already have a household budget in place as part of your ongoing financial planning and strategy, but the holiday months likely do require some adjustments to take into account the additional spending. Ideally, you've already made a plan to allocate some of your monthly expendable income toward your holiday shopping in the months leading up to the holidays.

If you don't already have a budget and have now run out of time to plan in advance, start by writing out a breakdown of your regularly occurring income and expenses to see what you have left over for expendable income. Then use the rest of the tips below to help stay within the budget you now know you have.

Pay with cash, or plan credit purchases carefully.

While inflation is making it more difficult to afford necessary goods and services, Americans are increasingly relying on credit cards. But interest rates

are also going up. So, unless you pay off your balance in full, you'll ultimately be spending way more on your holiday gifts than the sticker price. To keep your spending in check, and to avoid tacking interest payments on to the cost of your purchases, pay with cash—or be sure you can pay off your entire credit card balance before interest is applied.

Shop sales (and know where to find them).

During the Covid-19 pandemic, many industries were affected by delays or cancellations in product deliveries from overseas. Now that production and transport have mostly resumed, stores have been saddled with excess inventory that they need to clear out in order to make room for new products. The result? Sharp price reductions. Keep an eye out for sales, coupon codes, and free shipping perks before making a purchase, especially at big box stores.

Overstocked products will also find their way to off-price retailers as larger stores sell off their excess and delayed shipments that arrived late. You'll likely see products and brand names—and possibly new discounts—in these types of stores that you've never encountered there before. If you're looking for a specific gift, compare that item at various retailers to make sure you're getting the



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MICHAEL BAUM
INVESTMENT ADVISER

best deal available.

Buy off-season.

Leading from the above, while most people are focusing on pumpkin spice and sweater season, stores are hoping to get rid of whatever swimsuits, beach towels, and other summer season items they still have in stock. If you don't mind giving a taste of summer in December (and who wouldn't mind receiving that?), you could score significant deals. Remember this tip at the end of winter; too, when prices of cold-weather attire are similarly slashed.

Holiday products may be causing stores the same issues as seasonal products. If holiday inventory was delayed last year, stores had to hold these items for months until those holidays came around again this year. So, there's a good chance they might be on sale or show up at an off-price retailer.

Support small businesses.

If you have a bit of wiggle room in your budget, purchasing gifts from a small business just might help keep that company in the black during a tough year. Inflation has boosted operational and material costs, causing many small businesses to raise their prices, or cut their staff. Buying small helps stimulate the local economy and keep jobs in your community.

Give yourself the gift of financial secu-

rity.

While the state of the economy might not be ideal for holiday gifting, be assured that there are ways to use current economic conditions to your advantage—and spread some holiday cheer. But as in the case of our first tip, budgeting, those advantages depend on early planning and an ongoing strategy.

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Tiffany Alvarado earns Westview Commons Employee of the Month award



Tiffany Alvarado

DAYVILLE — Tiffany Alvarado achieved the October Employee of the Month award at Country Living at Westview Commons. Performing her role for the independent and assisted living facility's dining services provides her with opportunities to cook in their state-of-the-art kitchen, as well as serve the residents at their tables in Westview Commons' Great Room. She has been on the Westview Commons' team since May, and she has been gaining new abilities and responsibilities ever since her hiring.

Alvarado worked in home care for more than 20 years prior to joining the dining staff at Westview Commons. Taking care of seniors—in any way—is a personal passion for her. She had great comfort bringing her talents to Westview Commons; finding it easy to connect with the resident population because of her background in providing care. She especially enjoys taking care of people in settings that are comfortable for them, and she channels this enthusiasm to make Westview Commons as inviting as possible through her pres-

ence. Before starting her current role in the facility's dietary department, she cooked mostly as a functional need, so she greatly appreciates learning more about the craft of culinary arts through her work. In addition to her kindness and compassion, this recently-gained kitchen knowledge greatly benefits her mealtime interactions with Westview Commons residents at their tables.

Alvarado currently lives in Danielson, having moved to Connecticut seven years ago. She graduated from The High School for Enterprise, Business, and Technology in Brooklyn, N.Y., and remains proud of her New York City roots. She often finds herself so busy during daytime hours that she really likes to relax by enjoying simple pleasures. She is a fan of multiple genres of TV programming. Reality shows and fictional procedural crime dramas are among her favorite ways to unwind. She is both literally and figuratively close with her daughter Tyasia; both working alongside each other at Country Living at Westview Commons to provide hospitality.

Tiffany appreciates the comfort she has among the team at Westview Commons, and easily recommended it to her daughter, commenting "My colleagues here have very helpful, very pleasant personalities. We benefit having people around like that to keep spirits high."

She continued to remark about her Employee of the Month achievement at Westview Commons: "I'm so honored to receive this award! I get excited whenever I have a day working at Westview Commons. I've had such a great experience getting to know all of my coworkers and all of our residents here—and I'm learning so many new skills in the process. I really appreciate it!"

Country Living at Westview Commons' Executive Vice President David T. Panteleakos expressed his gratitude for Tiffany's impact at the facility, commenting "Tiffany is a key contributor to offering Westview Commons residents a lifestyle they deserve. Our dining services are a big part of the daily activity here, and Tiffany makes great efforts to ensure that the dietary team offers the best nutrition and kindest nurturing to our residents at meal-times. Congratulations to Tiffany!"

Country Living at Westview Commons is a 75-unit independent and assisted living community conveniently located in picturesque Northeastern Connecticut. Affiliated with Westview Health Care Center, a nationally-ranked nursing facility according to CMS and U.S. News and World Report for the past 14 years consecutively, Westview Commons is a catered living facility dedicated to a genuine 5-star experience including outstanding service, culinary expertise, and professional in-house entertainment. Located in Dayville, Westview Commons combines convenience, tranquility and comfort; providing a lifestyle that seniors deserve.

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Auction, antiques, and collectibles news



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In a followup to the local news story I wrote about in my last column, I'm excited to announce that the auction of Worcester, New England and other historical memorabilia starts this week. The collection belonged to the Rotman family of Worcester. While the Rotman name is most well-known for their furniture store, the family ran a highly successful sports card and memorabilia business. They also held telephone bid auctions during the 1980s and 1990s. We will be offering nearly 700 lots of items they collected. The Rotman's collection online auction will begin this week, with bidding closing on Wednesday, Dec. 7. There will be a preview at Rotman's Furniture on Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4. Pickup for local bidders will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11.

As for other antique news, I shared in a September column that Paul Allen's art collection could bring over \$1 billion at auction. The auction took place earlier this month and far exceeded that estimate, topping \$1.6 billion. CNBC reported that five paintings sold for over \$100 million. The top selling painting was Georges Seurat's "Les Poseuses, Ensemble," which brought \$149.2 million.

In more noteworthy auction news,



CBS News reported that the only known poster for the 1959 Moorhead, Minnesota Buddy Holly concert recently sold. Holly was touring with Richie Valens and the "Big Bopper" (J.P. Richardson) when their plane tragically crashed, killing Holly, Valens, Richardson and everyone on board. The poster had fallen from a telephone pole soon after the show was cancelled and was picked up by a maintenance man who placed it in a closet. After being forgotten for about 50 years, the poster sold for \$447,000 earlier this month, setting a record for a rock and roll poster. The previous record was for a poster from the Beatles 1966 concert at Shea Stadium.

CoinNews.net reports that Mike Coltrane's estate collection recently



went on the auction block. Many of the coins were minted soon after our country's independence. A 1792 President Washington cent went for \$136,000. A 1794 half cent that, according to coin-news.net, was the second or finest example known, brought \$168,000. A half cent from 1793 sold for \$180,000. A "New Jersey Copper" was the top seller at \$192,000. The entire collection sold for \$2.4 million. That's certainly more than just pocket change.

It was nice seeing many of you at our recent Townsend Historical Society, Worcester Senior Center and Leicester Historical Society appraisal events.

We had two online auctions close this week and we have two more sales scheduled for this year. As mentioned, the Rotman's online auction begins this week. We will also have a large auction of art, historical memorabilia and other antiques and collectibles beginning in two weeks. Please visit our website <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.

American Legion Post #13 celebrates Veterans Day



Private Connor M. Vassar

PUTNAM — The Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post #13 of Putnam paid tribute to veterans with its annual Veterans Tribute & Guest Bartender Night on Thursday, Nov. 10. The event was held at Marley's Pub in the Black Dog

Restaurant.

This marked the 13th consecutive year that Post #13 has held the event, which began in 2010. The evening is the Post's largest fundraiser of the year with proceeds benefitting activities such as scholarships, American Legion baseball, the constitutional oratorical program, Boys State and State Police Youth Week, and the Post's Veterans-in-Need program. The evening event raised approximately \$14,000.

"Once again, the community responded in supporting the veterans of our Post. We're thankful to Craig Gates and his staff at Marley's Pub for accommodating the large turnout that showed up in support of our guest bartenders," said Post Commander Michael S. Vassar.

"It's also a very touching time for our membership as we stop to honor and recognize

veterans from our community who have selflessly served our country. The tribute to these veterans is our way of saying thank you and we don't forget," concluded Vassar.

The Post honored three veterans, Korean War veteran Rolland "Rollie" Johnson, Past Post Commander Robert "Bob" St. Onge, also a Korean War vet and George "Paul" Olson, a World War II Coast Guard veteran. Johnson and St. Onge were on hand to receive commemorative plaques, while Olson, who is 100 years old will be honored at Westview Health Care in the near future.

"I can't believe what a great evening this is. I'm honored beyond what words can express. The members of Post #13 deserve so much credit for their effort on behalf of those of us who served many years ago," said honoree Bob St. Onge.

The evening also held a special moment for Commander Vassar, as his wife was presented a "Blue Star Mother of America" banner in recognition of her son Private Connor M. Vassar who graduated from United States Marine Corps recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina on Nov. 4. Manuel "Manny" Rodrigues, a career Marine and Army veteran and Commander of American Legion Post #52 of Coventry was on hand to make the official presentation.

Blue Star Mothers of America is a recognition that is accorded to mothers, step-mothers or grandmothers who have a son or daughter serving on active military duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Commander Vassar also thanked the 16 guests who served as bartenders collecting \$11,626 in tips, the largest portion of the evening's pro-

ceeds. The guest bartenders included Jeff Rawson, Pat O'Brien, Joe Carlone, Jr., Attorney Maddie Smith, Craig Gates, Tom Borner, Denny Gates, Mark Dexter, Marc and Tom Archambault, David Coderre, Jason Verraneault, Mayor Barney Seney, State Representative Rick L. Hayes, Jim St. Jean and George Amenabar.

"This event was a success because of the support we receive from our members, the many volunteers who turnout to assist throughout the evening and the generous individuals who care about veterans," said Commander Vassar.

The evening opened with a stirring rendition of the "Stars Spangled Banner" by Army National Guard Specialist Emily Lajoie, a member of Post #13.

Woodstock Recreation announces Third Annual Winter Festival Dec. 10

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Recreation Commission is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Winter Festival, a fun day of shopping and family activities at Woodstock's many businesses, farms and non-profits. Attendees are encouraged to visit 15 Woodstock businesses for bargains, crafts, entertainment, refreshments and more, with the day culminating in a Wreath Raffle, Prize Drawing and Tree Lighting at Roseland Park Barn.

• Dec. 10: Day kicks off with the Christmas Run at 9 a.m. at Roseland Park.

• 15 shops, farms, churches and more will host activities, bargains and refreshments at their place of business. Kids activities include photos with Santa, wagon rides, cookie decorating, ornament making, a scavenger hunt, story time and more. Woodstock farms will have deals on local meat and

dairy products and shops will offer holiday deals on décor and gifts.

• Seven organizations will be represented with games and treats at Roseland Park Barn.

• Brochures with an Event Passport & Map can be picked up at Woodstock Town Hall or any participating business starting Thanksgiving Weekend. Get your passport stamped at participating businesses and receive a drawing ticket for every business you visit. Passport prize drawing held at 5PM at Roseland Park Barn, with gift cards and other prizes from Woodstock businesses. Enter your wreath raffle tickets and stamped passports by 5pm for a chance to win!

• New this year: Wreath Raffle to raise money for Roseland Park and Woodstock Recreation. Purchase tickets at Roseland Park Barn between 1 and 5pm on December 10 for a

chance to win one of almost 30 beautiful handmade artificial wreaths.

• 5:30 p.m.: Tree Lighting Ceremony, Presented by the Woodstock American Legion Benson-Flugel Post 111.

Participating businesses:
Pinecroft Farm - 159 Butts Rd.
Bracken Memorial Library - 57 Academy Rd.
The Christmas Barn - 835 Route 169
The Rusty Relic - 599 Route 169
The Senexet Grange - 628 Route 169
West Woodstock Library - 5 Bungay Hill Rd.
Westview Farm - 209 Prospect St.
The Arc of Eastern CT (Emporium & Cookie Factory) - 22 Rt 171
Stargazer Farm - 136 Woodstock Rd.
South Woodstock Baptist

Church - 23 Roseland Park Rd.
Shops At Black Walnut Farm - 218 Rt 169

Farm to Table Market at Elm Farm - 324 Woodstock Rd.

Fairholm Farm - 72 Chandler School Rd.

Cherry Ledge Farm & Minis Helping Many - 11 Swenson Rd.
Woodstock Creamery at Valleyside Farm - 210 Child Hill Rd.

Organizations at Roseland Park Barn - 205 Roseland Park Rd.:

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For more information, visit <https://www.woodstockct.gov/recreation-department/pages/events> or contact Recreation Director Erin Lucas: erinlucas@woodstockct.gov or (860) 928-6595 x333.

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Give the gift of preserving the garden’s harvest



Photo Courtesy — Gardener’s Supply Company

Tomato press and sauce makers turn garden-ripe tomatoes into a seed-free, skin-free sauce with the turn of a handle.

Give a gift that helps your favorite gardeners enjoy the flavors of their garden well past the end of the growing season. Both new and experienced gardeners often spend their gardening budget on plants and seeds, leaving little or none to invest in food preservation equipment and supplies. Prepare your favorite gardener for the next harvest season with some food preservation

supplies and equipment. Canning jars, freezer containers, spice cubes and airtight bottles for canning, freezing, and storing dehydrated herbs and vegetables are always welcome gifts. These supplies come in handy throughout the harvest season and are often in short supply when food preservation is at its peak. Most gardeners grow their own fresh herbs and drying



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is the easiest way to preserve the harvest. Simply gather stems, secure with a rubber band, and suspend in a warm, dry location. As the stems dry and shrink, the rubber band does as well, keeping the stems secure. Use a spring clothespin to secure the herb bundles to wires or other support. Create your own drying set up or invest in one of the commercial herb drying racks. If space is limited, your gift recipient will appreciate a system like the Stack-it Herb Drying Rack (gardeners.com) that allows them to dry lots of herbs in a very small footprint. The drying system you purchase or create should provide the needed space for the harvest and allow sufficient air circulation for fast drying. Herbs with high moisture content like basil, oregano, lemon balm and mints will mold if not dried quickly. If this has been a problem in the past, try placing a small bunch in a paper bag with holes in the side and stems outside the

bag. Hang these from a drying rack or speed up the process by using a microwave or food dehydrator. Many gardeners grow onions, garlic, and potatoes for long-term storage. All three of these vegetables prefer cool, dark storage locations with good air circulation. Separate potatoes from onions that give off pungent gases that can taint the potatoes’ flavor. Avoid plastic bags that retain moisture and can shorten these vegetables storage life. Breathable potato and onion storage baskets have been used by gardeners for centuries. Boost the style and space savings with the Stackable Bamboo Harvest Storage Basket with Lid. Just stack as needed and place on the rolling base for easy storage and accessibility. Help your gift recipient turn their harvest into something delicious. Fermentation is a relatively easy preservation technique that has been used for thousands of years. Preserve some of your cucumbers as pickles, cabbage as sauerkraut, and berries as preserves with fermentation. For most projects you just need the fruit or vegetables, water, salt, and spices. The desired ingredients are placed in a covered vessel like a Stoneware Pickling Crock. Weights are used to keep the

fruit and vegetables submerged in water throughout the fermentation process. Consider smaller fermentation kits for those with limited space. A three-liter glass jar with an air-lock lid and ceramic weights will allow you to ferment small quantities of vegetables. Reduce the workload and boost the enjoyment for those making tomato juice, sauces, and soups. Hand crank and electric tomato presses, strainers and sauce makers allow gardeners to separate the skins and seeds from the tomato meat for quicker and easier processing. Giving a gift that helps preserve flavors from the recipient’s garden will be useful and remembered for seasons to come.

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

Quiet Corner Garden Club elects officers for 2023 program year

WOODSTOCK —The Quiet Corner Garden Club elected officers for the 2023 program year at its Annual Meeting held Nov. 7. Elected for a two-year term were Elaine Turner, President; Ramona Savolis, Vice President Members’ Activities; and Lanette Lepper, Secretary. Continuing for another year in office are Mike Radzvilowicz, Vice President Administration and Cynthia Thibeault, Treasurer. Ms. Turner, former VP of Members’ Activities and club member since 2018, commented, “The only reason I accepted this position was because of Linda Kaplan, outgoing President. She has been instrumental in increasing club membership and forging relationships with people in the communities served by the Club. This Club consists of a group of people who actually fight to be on committees. We get a lot accomplished and always have fun doing so.” Ms. Turner was also a key part of the 2021 Gardens & Art in the Country garden tour and craft fair, sponsored by the Club in July. A painter and muralist herself, she organized the Plein Air artists, musicians and craftsmen that provided entertainment in the eight tour gardens. Ramona Savolis, a member since 2017, said, “I appreciate the opportunity to work with such a talented group of



Photo Courtesy

Left to right: Elaine Turner, President, Lanette Lepper, Secretary and Ramona Savolis, VP Members’ Activities.

gardeners and friends!” Ms. Savolis previously served as Secretary and as Fundraising Chair. Lanette Lepper formerly Vice-Chair for the Club’s Civic Projects Committee,

joined the Club in 2018. She stated, “I have very much enjoyed my time in the Quiet Corner Garden Club, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2023!”

During her three years as President, Linda Kaplan guided the Club’s transition during Covid to Zoom meetings and programs held outdoors and now back to in-person meetings. She was also lead organizer of the Club’s annual Plant Sale, held the Saturday before Mother’s Day. The Plant Sales and bi-annual Garden Tours are the Club’s largest fund raisers with proceeds used to fund civic garden projects in the Quiet Corner and scholarships for students interested in horticulture and agriculture studies. Ms. Kaplan is Publicity Chair of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., and currently is working on the 2023 Connecticut Flower Show to be held in Hartford in February. She plans to remain active in the Quiet Corner Garden Club as well. The Quiet Corner Garden Club meets the first Monday of the month from October to July and the second Monday in September at the South Woodstock Baptist Church in Woodstock. For more information about the club and its activities, see our Web site, QuietCornerGardenClub.com, or find us on Facebook. The Quiet Corner Garden Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization affiliated with Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs.

Toys For Giving Toy Drive accepting donations

BROOKLYN — Toys for Giving Toy Drive is now open and accepting donations for children ages infant to 14 years old. Donations are accepted throughout the year but are needed by Dec. 12 to be part of this year’s distribution. Unused, unwrapped toys, books, and other appropriate gift items are accepted as well as cash donations. Cash donations are used to purchase age-appropriate gifts to fill in for age groups that may be lacking through donations. Since 1995, the Brooklyn Parks &

Recreation Department’s Toys for Giving Toy Drive has helped Brooklyn families in need of assistance during the holidays. Each year, more than 100 Brooklyn children experience the joy of the holiday season each year because of the generous donations from community members. It is a true neighbor helping neighbor initiative. Donations may be dropped off at the Brooklyn Town Hall at 4 Wolf Den Rd., or the Brooklyn Parks & Recreation office at 69 South Main St. If you are

making a monetary donation, please make checks payable to the Brooklyn Parks & Recreation Department, 69 South Main St., Brooklyn, CT 06234. Brooklyn Parks and Recreation Department thanks the extended

Brooklyn community for your continued support of this wonderful holiday tradition. It truly encompasses the heartfelt magic of a community coming together to help their neighbor in need.



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Put a little love in your heart

Alongside the bright red ribbons, boughs of holly, and countless images of Jolly old Saint Nick that seem to greet us everywhere we go during the holidays, those of you who have braved the malls or, better yet, browsed the shops in your own community so far this season have likely encountered another holiday icon in your travels — the dedicated volunteers who bundle up and brave the chilly air to collect donations for organizations such as the Salvation Army.

Always seeming to be ready with a cheerful greeting and a warm smile for the crowds of shoppers who file past them every day, these hearty souls serve as an important reminder to all of us that now, more than any other time of year, is the time to turn our thoughts toward the less fortunate among us ... and that sometimes, the greatest gift of all can be a helping hand in a time of need.

With the cloud of economic uncertainty leading many of us to tighten our belts more than usual when it comes to our holiday shopping this year, and the stress of dealing with family politics or traveling away from home for the holidays occupying our thoughts, it can be all too easy to forget that times are that much tougher for those who have been victimized by the ravages of COVID and its aftermath. Right here in our own backyard, there are a great many families who have fallen on hard times, often through no fault of their own, and have nowhere left to turn for help but the generosity of strangers.

Fortunately, there are no shortage of charitable organizations scattered throughout the area that are prepared to meet the growing demand for assistance, but only with the support of their respective communities. So, whether it be through a donation of canned goods to your local food pantry; a donation of used clothing to your local thrift shop; or simply by slipping a handful of bills into one of the bright red Salvation Army coffers manned by those spirited, bell ringing volunteers, we encourage our readers to think of their fellow man and put a little love in their hearts, as Jackie DeShannon once sang, and remind themselves of the true meaning of the season by offering a helping hand to their neighbors in need.



LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

Thank you, Villager Newspapers

To the Editor:

For several years now, and particularly throughout each election season, the Villager Newspapers have dedicated many yards of valuable space in their publications to letters expressing a variety of political opinions. The letters ran the gamut from left to right, and are all printed without censorship or arbitrary curtailment. None of the other publications that circulate in this area came close to furnishing this kind of forum for

Judge Elect Labonte thanks community

We are grateful and humbled that Gabrielle Labonte is the Judge Elect for the Northeast Probate Court, District 26. Thank you to everyone, in and out of the district, who supported her.

We want to thank the team; they were small in number but very strong. Particularly, Ellsworth E Chase, Jr. as Treasurer, chief strategist, and key messaging; and David Jakubowski, Jr., who managed events, scheduling, technology, and who coordinated and

Time to put youth and reason in the driver's seat

To the Editor:

You've got to love politics. The midterms are finally over, and both sides are claiming some kind of victory. The predicted "Red Wave" was more like a red trickle. So much for polls and pundits. Like rats jumping off a sinking ship, Republicans are now turning against the monster they helped create — Donald Trump. Looks like they want to replace him with another divisive egomaniac — Ron DeSantis. On the Democratic side, Joe Biden seems to think the midterms are confirmation that he should run for a second

Thank you from Jeff Gordon

To the Editor:

The campaign for the 35th State Senate District seat was very hard fought. People voted and their voices were heard. Every vote matters, and this election proves it.

I am honored and humbled by the support given to me. Thank you! I am excited for the opportunity to be your next State Senator for the 35th District. I am already at work as Senator-Elect.

During the campaign, I spoke about the issues important to everyone, regardless of politics or partisanship. As a State Senator, I will fight to help make Connecticut more affordable for hard-working people, families, and retirees. I will fight to support the job-cre-

The reality of inflation

To the Editor:

In January 2021, when Joe Biden took office, oil was at just over \$50 a barrel. As promised, Joe's first acts were to shut down oil pipelines and begin his war against fossil fuels.

By the end of August, after Joe's disastrous exit from Afghanistan, where the message to Putin, Xi, Kim, and Khomeini was "if you're going to do something, do it now while I'm in office," oil was at \$71 a barrel, effectively giving Putin an additional \$200 million a day in excess revenue as compared to January, when Biden came in — yes, Russia pumps 10 million barrels a day. Now, with plenty of funding, Russia goes into Ukraine and oil goes to \$90

Misstating a fact and perpetuating a lie are two different things

To the Editor:

In your Nov. 11 edition, Ed DeLuca repeats a disproved assertion by former president Donald Trump that Speaker Nancy Pelosi "declined" Trump's offer to order National Guard deployment on Jan. 6, 2021, the day that a violent mob, incited by Trump, stormed the Capitol. USA Today, the Associated Press, The Dispatch, and PolitiFact all found Trump's claim to be false.

But Mr. Deluca's absurd comparison of Trump's lies to those he alleges President Biden made had me wondering if he isn't employed by the Democratic Party. Can anyone seriously compare Biden's misstatement of the price of gasoline to Trump's repeated claims over the last two years that the 2020 election was stolen from him?

Even a 10-year-old understands that mis-

free speech and open dialogue amongst our citizenry.

If there were a local First Amendment award, I would nominate the Villager Newspapers. Since there is none, I write to at least express my gratitude that a privately-owned company has shown this high level of community service.

JOHN D. BOLAND
POMFRET CENTER

drove while Gabbi was out knocking on doors meeting people.

Gabbi is looking forward to serving the people of the 26th Probate District. Thanks again for all of your invaluable help and support.

ELLSWORTH CHASE
CHAIR, LABONTE CAMPAIGN
POMFRET CENTER

term. Bad ideas from both sides of the aisle.

Any hope of getting our country back to "normal" will require that both parties embrace the concept of government run by younger, reasonable lawmakers. Time to get rid of the extremist wackos who follow a dangerous agenda, and elect people with common sense who want to serve the American public. Term limits are long overdue.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

ating small businesses in our communities. I will fight to make neighborhoods safer: I will fight to defend all of our rights and medical freedoms, including reproductive rights. I will fight to keep local decision-making about our towns in the hands of the people who live in the towns.

There is a lot to do. I will be listening to you, learning from you, and working for you. look forward to working with you to get good things done. I have faith in our communities, and in Connecticut, that we can get it done.

SEN. (ELECT) JEFF GORDON
WOODSTOCK

a barrel, an extra \$400 million a day — and we are paying for "Putin's War."

But Joe's not done... Let's dump a couple trillion more dollars on the fire. And inflation makes its run to over 8 percent, with gas prices breaking \$4 a gallon. Heating oil breaks \$5 a gallon — and now going higher, if you can get it. Mortgage rates triple. How's that new assessment looking?

Joe Biden's fault? You bet. This isn't rocket science.


DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

stating a fact isn't equivalent to repeating a lie that inspired an armed insurrection, diminished our standing around the world, and caused 70 percent of Republicans to doubt the validity of our election system. And a 10-year-old understands that a president taking credit for an increase in Social Security payments isn't equivalent to claiming over thirty times, starting when the U.S. recorded its very first death, that Covid-19 would just "disappear" or was "disappearing," probably resulting in hundreds of thousands of unnecessary American deaths.


As I said in my last letter, please keep writing, Mr. DeLuca. And keep calling the women you dislike names. It's very revealing.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

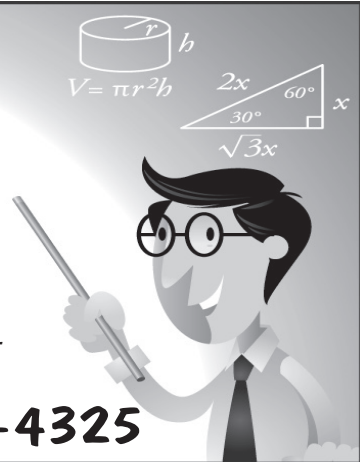
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Disgust can be a motivator



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**TOBY
MOORE**

We've all been disgusted by something in our lives.

Disgust is a feeling of aversion a person has towards something offensive. It can take the form of a mild dislike or intense loathing. Disgust has the effect of causing a person to physically turn away from what is disgusting to them.

If you saw hundreds of maggots worming through your food, you'd feel revolted enough to throw it away and maybe lose your appetite for a while! If you saw someone do something evil, you'd be upset enough to tell someone about it and call the police. If you hear someone say something that offends you, you may feel unpleasant enough never to see them again.

What happens when you've had too much alcohol and have a terrible hangover that ruins your day? Are you disgusted enough to quit and maybe go to rehab?

What happens when you've been eating so much that you're far from achieving your weight loss goals? Does it disgust you enough to get in the gym and watch what you eat?

Do you feel disgusted when you lash out at someone and overreact to something they did or said?

Sometimes, change requires you to be disgusted. Self-disgust with your life, situation, relationship, addiction, and finances can catalyze change.

Jim Rohn tells the story of a married woman whose husband controlled all the money. She'd have to ask him first whenever she wanted to buy something. Every time she did, he acted annoyed and said, "what for?" She felt so low, so disgusted; she said to herself, "Never again!"

She picked up a few books and began to study. She had the plan to start a successful business. After much hard work and probably a little luck, she became vice president of a very successful company. She never asked her husband for money ever again. The tables had turned, and I'm sure her husband had to ask her for money from time to time!

My father struggled with weight gain his whole life. One day as he visited with the doctor for a checkup, the doctor very seriously said, "do you want to end up like your father and die of a heart attack at 57?" My father replied, "no!" And the doctor said, "then you need to make a change."

He came home absolutely sick with himself. He didn't want to be overweight any longer but knew all too well that he could not stay disciplined enough to remain on any one diet forever. Determined to make a change, he scheduled a visit with another doctor to get bariatric surgery.

In the face of all the difficulties involved with bariatric surgery, he optimistically decided to change the course of his life. The revulsion he felt awakened a determination that helped him make a lifelong change. Not only did he lose the weight and keep it off, but he may also have extended his life by many years.

A Philadelphia lady had struggled with alcoholism her whole life. She was able to quit periodically, but she always fell off the wagon eventually. When the pandemic hit, she slipped up and started stealing her daughter's alcohol. Her daughter confronted her about it; she was so upset with herself that she entered rehab, where she learned to live without substances. A great change!

One lady was dumped and cheated on by her boyfriend. Her depression and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The soul of a nation

To the Editor:

As we grapple with the 2022 elections and our national dark night of the soul, it's worth reflecting on the battle at hand whether it's good vs evil, knowledge vs ignorance, or the inevitable power struggle between Democrats and Republicans. Unfortunately, the pawns in this modern-day crusade are the disenfranchised white working-class who have fallen prey to a feckless, entitled charlatan, promising them a better economy, cheaper gas, and a "great" America that teeters on fascism. Democracy is betrayed by Trump's dirty money in the palm of a modern-day Judas.

Both sides imagine America on the edge of dystopia. But we have been here before. Interest rates and inflation were through the roof in the 1980's, and Reaganomics heavily taxed the poor and working-class while cultivating the corporate welfare that sucked the American Dream out of the middle-class. Unemployment is lower than the last fifty years, yet price gouging in the petroleum industry has been used as a political ruse alongside fear mongering and racist tropes about crime, to cultivate uncertainty and anxiety.

Plenty has been said about how we got here on the political slope which slants violently to the right and the left, and I don't need to tell you there is a lot of rhetoric and propaganda on both sides by those who have adopted "The Culture Wars" as a way of life. But I find it more compelling to examine Thomas Moore's quote from his book *Care of the Soul*: "... the root problem is that we have lost our wisdom about the soul, even our interest in it. We have today few specialists of the soul to advise us when we succumb to moods and emotional pain, or when as a nation we find ourselves confronting a host of threatening evils." — Thomas Moore, *Care of the Soul* (1994)

Indeed, we do find ourselves confronting a host of threatening evils, most notably division. But conflict often follows paradigm shifts in social and material culture. Still, "We the People" seem to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps, inching forward with each generation. However, something feels different in these strident times. Our obsession with technology, social media, and materialistic entrapments have caused us to stray. Information overloads have unraveled communities, numbing our ability to listen or see another point of view from the myopic mud in which we swim.

Those with a conspiratorial obsession in the culture wars point fingers toward the 1960's, which ushered a parade of cultural revolutions into the millennium. But what could have been more revolutionary than the righteous causes of the religious zealots and abolitionists of the 19th century who took on slavery? They too fought their battles in social media. They preached to the choir in their own magazines and newspapers, just as we do on Facebook. Often, they would duke it out in letters to the Editor in local and state-wide newspapers. Thought and opinion may have moved slowly back then, given the technology at hand, but the fervor was just as ebullient as the rabid rants encountered online.

So, what makes the current "threatening evils" so different from those of the 1960's, the 1830's, or 1776? Perhaps Thomas Moore was right when he said we lack the wisdom of the soul. Does America even have a soul? America flaunts a certain patriotic spirit around the world. The national motto during the bicentennial in 1976 was the "The Spirit of 1776," but what does that mean in the context of depth, wisdom, and soulfulness? Not much. We tend to be a shallow, feisty, and cranky lot as a nation, and even though we've been caught up in countless religious movements we are easily distracted by our materialism and politics. What does it mean for a nation to have a soul, and how does it manifest itself when the waters are troubled?

The soul of the nation is the hot topic in numerous conservative think tanks, most notably The Heritage Foundation. In the eternal battle between good and evil, anyone who stands one degree to the left of Richard Nixon is a leftist communist, and the "righteous right" needs a warrior like Trump, because they've tried everything else (dignity, respect, civility) since the 1960's. This relic of McCarthyism and the John Birch Society believes that America lost its soul in the '60's. A white, evangelical, Christian soul, no doubt.

It's true, Americans began to turn away from churches and institutions in the '60's. It was an era when the children of the middleclass were rejecting the shallow materialism of their parents. They sought a deeper understanding of themselves and who we are as a nation, inching us a few steps toward the ideals of what America could be.

MOORE
continued from page A8

heartbreak were almost too much to bear. She saw the signs and knew better but chose to ignore them. She was so sick with herself for not speaking up

that she made a significant change! Initially, she sought therapy, and as she began unraveling her life, she could identify other things that bothered her and made changes accordingly.

Sometimes, you have to hit a new low to feel

strong enough to make a change. Although we all wish we had changed our lives before we felt disgusted. Self-disgust doesn't have to be the end, but it can often be a new beginning that leads to a life you've always wanted.

I don't think America lost its soul in the 60's, but we sure could use our own righteous warrior to fight for racial and social justice in 2022.

If you turn the dial back to the 1830's, another rebellious generation which had reaped the harvest of their parents' prosperity was questioning authority. These children of the industrial revolution (another paradigm shift) defied the status quo and took the Constitution to heart in their arguments against slavery. During their quest to build a better America, they started newspapers, communes, and joined religious movements that shook the rafters of the mainstream churches. They used the power of the pen, armed with fanatical religious language that would raise more than a few eyebrows today. As in the 1960's, these young people initiated the reform of prisons, education, women's rights, and civil rights. They were driven by an internal set of principles which they believed were God-given and therefore more valid than the laws of man. It seems like their America had a soul, although the rest of America doubted it was the right kind of soul. After all, slave holders during that era used the Bible as a tool of repression in a feeble attempt to justify the evil consequences of slavery.

The search for the American soul is driven by the bi-polar ping-pong match of economic trends. The generations who brought wisdom, change and evolution to America were the biproducts of the previous generation's economic surge forward and the rise of the middleclass. The generations who suffered the consequences of economic recessions and depressions, tend to be more cautious. These are not the risk-takers who will pull us forward. Out of necessity, they become shallow and materialistic, chained to biology and survival. These lost generations lack soul and fall back on the fundamentals of religion, that "inoculation against the real thing." Soulfulness is a risky business requiring a solid foundation. Economic security nurtures the courage to venture into new frontiers of the soul.

Examining America's uptrends and downtrends, reveals that we have always had a soul beneath the smoky veil of our national identity. The early colonies floundered for several generations as they tried to get their bearings on the new continent. When the economy grew from tobacco, sugar, and the Trans-Atlantic slave trade it was game, set, match for the next generation. Universities were built and with them came the "Age of Enlightenment" which gave the founding fathers the intellectual courage and desire for a revolution in thought. War-torn and reeling from too much change, America recessed in the late 18th century. But then the industrial revolution widened the middleclass, and the children of that generation were able to get a better education. Boarding schools for boys and girls flourished. Minds were opened and expanded. America became expansive.

If expansion of the mind is what leads America to her soul, then ignorance is what holds her back from spiritual actualization. Unfortunately, we suffer the burden of ignorance with each generation as those with a kind of perverse nostalgia disrupt progress and the trend toward enlightenment, and justice. It's almost as if the lesser self of our body politic comes full force to do battle with the ever-progressive soul of the nation. You can see it in Trump's venomous spin and the rabid rhetoric of Christian Nationalists like Marjorie Taylor Greene who see themselves as culture warriors for the end times.

If education truly is the seat of America's soul, then we must take caution to protect this sacred tenet of the United States. Thomas Jefferson posed that A democratic republic requires an educated people. He must have been onto something since one of the first things on the to-do list in the dictator's manual is to go after the schools. Every despot knows that an educated populace will become their undoing. So, take caution, America, as Trump and his spin-machine continues to attack education on all levels: calling the intellectuals, writers, and the free press "elitists" with disdain on his tongue. The republican agenda of privatizing public schools, the underfunding of public education, and undermining of educators are but a few examples. The poisonous cultivation of ignorance will eventually rob America of her soul. A soul requires enlightenment and forward motion. It cannot thrive in the hostile environment of ignorance. We should be asking ourselves if we are selling America's soul in order to gain a few political points at the gas pump.

DONNA DUFRESNE
POMFRET

Lady Liberty is relieved

To the Editor:

Lady Liberty heaved a sigh of relief as voters turned out in near record numbers for last week's elections and chose to uphold our democratic values. Candidates who questioned the validity of the election system, and more specifically, the 2020 presidential contest, lost big. Voters declared that majority rule is fair and that decisions are decided by the electorate, not those whose only role is to certify the election. Mostly, though, it was Donald Trump's last dance, although the orchestra has yet to pack up. And in a stunning rebuke, the Democratic Party bucked a nearly unanimous trend, and did not see a midterm tanking. At last common sense prevailed.

There are important lessons to be learned not withstanding that America is stronger than other democracies and we will defy power-seeking egomaniacs like Trump. As it becomes more apparent that Trump cares more about himself than about his country, it also appears he could not care less about the Republican party. Rather than graciously accept defeat, he has pointed the blame to anyone else in the room including Mitch McConnell, Dr Oz, and even his wife Melania. He has also gone after the real Republican Presidential frontrunner, Governor Ron DeSantis, calling him "Ron DeSanctimonious" and hinting that he has political dirt to stir up. A Trump-DeSantis feud would be political poison for the party but may bring more rational adults into the room. He has also attacked Virginia's rising star Governor Glenn Youngkin joking that his name sounds Chinese. It certainly would be ironic should Adam Kinzinger or Liz Cheney throw their hats into to ring; they will go down in history for putting their nation before career. It also would not be surprising if Trump forms a third party should he lose the Republican nomination.

As such, the Democratic party best find a better cadre of candidates than the last time. President Biden has been the right man at the right time given the extreme circumstances of a post covid economy, a shrinking work force, a regressive China, and a reborn Soviet Empire not to mention the rabid bipartisanship. He has got things mostly right but still his tendency for verbal gaffes and his age will not get him reelected. Nor has Vice President Kamala Harris made any meaningful impacts to suggest she is up for the task.

Should the House (as it most likely will) flip Republican, the next two

The shrine?

To the Editor:

Now that the midterms are over, one good thing came through very clearly: most Americans prefer democracy to what had taken place over the last six years. They came out against the policies of the document stealing, grifter, tax cheat, election denying, liar, racist, ex-president and those who supported the coup attempt on Jan. 6 of 2021. He may announce that he is running for President in 2024, mainly to play his usual victim role. A snowball stands a better chance of survival at the equator than his returning to the White House ever again. He must think that if he runs for President, it will slow down or eliminate the indictments that are in his future. Good luck with that, and this way, he can do what he does best, grift off his followers for money; this he does well. The country, mostly 75 percent of the electorate in many states, said to him go away. He may not go away but he should slowly go by the wayside, just leaving us with bad memories and much hatred. Even the hate should slowly pass. Trump and the truth shall never meet.

Please, Mr. DeLuca does pretend to know or understand my thoughts. In this matter, your thinking is so far off from the truth. Your attempt to attach me to Pelosi is so sad and basically preposterous. DHS, FBI and DOJ are responsible for the security of the D.C. area. On the days leading up to Jan. 6, most people could see something was going to happen, led by the cult leader's desire for anarchy, chaos, and hate in an attempt to overthrow this democracy. My point is simple, Mr. DeLuca — if those protestors were BLM affili-

ates, the cult leader would have ordered the Capitol to be cleared, and quickly. Remember when Rep. McCarthy pleaded with the cult leader at like 2:30 on that day to do something, and Trump rebuffed him by saying it was Anifa and BLM? McCathy told him that the people at the Capitol were "his" people doing the rioting. Leave no doubt that Trump wanted chaos, hate and violence to win the day. Has he offered to help those arrested and convicted, like he promised, after all his rhetoric got most of them to show up? Not with "his" money.

One more attempt to explain how the Federal Reserve works, Mr. DeLuca. Any action by the Federal Reserve in raising rates takes six to nine months to start working. If they had done rate hikes a year ago, inflation could have been slowed by this summer. My guess is that it will be closer to 4-5 percent or even lower this upcoming summer. As usual with you, do not let the facts get in the way of your narrative. Stop spinning like Trump. The stock market does not like uncertainty, but the days of free money are over. Corporations are now into «Porking thy fellow Americans» until they cannot get away with it anymore.

Lastly, time to take down the shrine to the cult leader; Ed. Time to move on, this period of history will not be looked on favorably, to say the least. The darkness is over, and the sun will come out again. Republicans will start speaking against the cult leader; hop aboard, Mr. DeLuca.

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OBITUARIES

Clayton E. Hooper, 79

Clayton E. Hooper, 79, of Dayville, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at Yale New Haven Hospital on Tuesday October 25, 2022. He was born in Eastport, ME on January 9, 1943, son of the late Hollis O. Sr. and Agnes (Jones) Hooper. Clay was a graduate of Killingly High School where he met the love of his life Arlene Veilleux. They would go on to enjoy 57 years of marriage. He was the most devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend spreading good deeds for the people in his life while never expecting anything in return. He was a man filled with compassion and he will be remembered for his kind soul. Clay was a man of many hobbies, but he most enjoyed fishing, gardening, woodworking and collecting antique tools. He was a lifelong member of



the Danielson Lodge of Elks and was very active in the Alexander's Lake Community. Clay would be seen on daily walks around the lake with his brother Durell (DeeDee) Hooper. Clay took on the role of dedicated caregiver for DeeDee until his passing in April 2022. Besides his wife Arlene Hooper, Clay is survived by their children Leslie A. Mayo and Andrew R. Hooper and grandchildren Jacob and Luke Post and Alundra Hooper. He also leaves his brother Raymond Hooper, sister-in-law Carole Hooper, and his brother and sister-in-law Edward and Beatrice Gumula as well as many nieces and nephews. Clay was predeceased by his parents, and brothers Hollis O. Hooper Jr. and Durell Hooper. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Clay's memory can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital <https://www.stjude.org/donate/>

Marion "Toot" Lapierre, 82

Marion "Toot" Lapierre, 82 of Eastford, died Wednesday November 9, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Oliver Lapierre, he died in 2013. Daughter of the late Raymond and Emelda (Desrosiers) Ives, she was born in Willimantic on March 16, 1940. Marion worked at UCONN in the School of Special Education for 30 years as Administrative Assistant to Dr. A. J. Pappanikou. She enjoyed scrap book- ing, crocheting, sewing, loved music, played the accordion and was an excellent cook. Over the years Marion opened her home to many teenagers that needed a home. She is survived by her children John "Jack" Vinal of Eastford, Paul Vinal and his partner Donna Caracino of Eastford, Kim Stanton of Kingsville, MD, Wendy Roy of Eastford, step-chil-



dren David Vinal and his wife Sharon of Pensacola, FL, Darrin Vinal and his fiancée Kimberly Gentile of Maricopa, AZ, grandchildren Crystal Stanton, Benjamin Stanton, Nicholas Vinal, Judy Krupula, Kevin Vinal, Danny Vinal, Gary Vinal, Adam Roy, James Roy, Matthew Roy, Justin Vinal, great grandchildren River Stanton, Paige Krupula, Logan Vinal, Landon Vinal, Piper Vinal, Reagan Roy, Ryan Roy, Hannah Roy and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by brothers Raymond T. Ives and Harold "Dub" Doane. Memorial service will be Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 5:00 PM at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT, calling hour will be from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516 or Disabled American Veterans at donate.dav.org/donate. Share a memory at Smithandwalkerfh.com

TOY DRIVE

continued from page A1



Courtesy — Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department

Members and Volunteers of the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department pose for a group photo during the department's annual Toy Drive.



Courtesy – TEEG

Volunteers take in donations to benefit TEEG, The Putnam Family Resource Center, and the Town of Eastford.

Michael O. Beaulieu, 68

Michael O. Beaulieu 68 Of Dayville passed away suddenly on Nov. 1, 2022. He was born in Putnam to the late Oliver Beaulieu and Emilia (Madison) Beaulieu. Micheal attended Putnam schools. He left High School to join the Navy and was stationed in Virginia until 1974. Michael worked for The State of Ct . D.O.T. In Putnam and then in Pomfret until he retired in 2001 after 26 years. Then he did a few jobs, like the gas station at the old Dunkin Donuts in Dayville, Foreign Motors East, running cars to and from the auction. And Advanced Auto in Brooklyn .



He was a member of the Killingly Rifle club in Brooklynand Tri State Cruisers car club. Mike enjoyed playing cards whether it was at the club on Friday nights or at home with friends. Mike enjoyed taking his classic car to car shows where he was proud of the trophies and the plaque he received. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing and going to swap meets .

The thing He loved the most was going out with his wife of 47 years who he loved with all his heart. He married Karen (Raymond) Beaulieu in 1975 , who survives him. They built their life together and raised two children, a son who predeceased him,Steven Beaulieu and a daughter Tina Wilbur of Putnam. After his retirement he and his wife raised their Grandchildren who survive him, Samantha Nienhuis of Putnam and Michael Wilbur of Danielson . He was predeceased by three sisters , Gloria Berube, Mary Yost, and Darlene Raymond and two brothers Lucien Beaulieu and Lawrence Beaulieu. He is survived by sisters Alma Soucy and husband Paul of Danielson, Faith Mayo and husband Bruce of Putnam. And a brother Oliver and wife Linda Beaulieu of Dayville. Mike also leaves many nieces and nephews and he leaves his two best friends Leon Renaud and Ken Morse. Michael was loved by many and will be sadly missed by all. There will be a celebration of life to visit with the family and friends on December 3, 2022 from 2-5 pm at My Community Bible Church, 620 RT-205, Brooklyn, CT 06234 (The former Sacred Heart Church) A graveside service will be held at a later date.

RESULTS

continued from page A1

Killingly, where he lost by less than a percent, and Thompson which proved to be the most Republican-leaning community in Northeastern Connecticut with an overwhelming support of GOP candidates on the ticket. Looking at state races, incumbents ruled the night as almost every returning candidate walked away a winner by the end of the evening. Mae Flexer once again maintained her grip on the State Senate seat for the 29th District defeating Republican challenger and Thompson Selectwoman Suzanne Witkowski. Witkowski certainly had support in Northeastern Connecticut winning by large margins in Brooklyn, Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson as well as Scotland and Canterbury but Flexer earned her own impressive victories in Mansfield and Windham. Flexer, who was also listed as the Independent and Working Families Party candidate on the ballot, claimed victory by less than a percent in one of the closest races of the night. The other State Senate race for the 35th

District, comprised of parts of both Tolland and Windham County, was an open seat with incumbent Republican Dan Champagne choosing not to run for reelection. The contest saw his previous opponent, Democrat Lisa Thomas, contend with Republican Jeff Gordon, the long-time chair of Woodstock Planning & Zoning Commission. While the seat was an opportunity for Democrats to add to their majority in Hartford, Gordon prevailed by the end of the night including large victories in Eastford, Thompson and his hometown Woodstock. The list of State Representatives from Northeastern Connecticut will stay exactly the same going into the new session. All three incumbents up for reelection maintained their seats easily by night's end. Republican Rick Hayes capped off his bid for reelection with a runaway victory over Democratic challenge Christine Maine. Hayes's fellow Republican Representative Anne Dauphinais likewise claimed an easy victory over Democrat Dave Randall to continue to serve the 44th District. Democratic incumbent Pat Boyd faced a more

competitive race against Republican Aaron Soucy but still managed to easily maintain his place representing the 50th District. Finally, Republican incumbent in the 47th District Doug Dubitsky easily staved off a challenge from Democrat Dave Nowakowski. The 47th District includes part of the town of Brooklyn. The one big change of the night came for the Judge of Probate 26, a seat held for the past few cycles by Democrat Leah Schad. This proved to be the one outlier in an election of incumbent dominance as Schad lost to Republican challenger Gabrielle Labonte. Judge of Probate 27, which includes Killingly, saw an uncontested election with Republican Carolanne Rowe reelected to the seat. On the state level, it was all Democrats for the other major offices in Hartford. Stephanie Thomas was elected Secretary of State, Erick Russell won the race for Treasurer, Sean Scanlon won for Comptroller, and William Tong returns as Attorney General. The state also voted overwhelmingly in support of the one question on the ballot to amend the State Constitution to permit early voting.



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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Bottone, Bonin, Gronski lead Centaurs into Class L Girls' Volleyball Semifinals



Photo Courtesy

Woodstock Academy seniors, from left, Ellie Nunes, Jade Desmond, Morgan Bonin and Leila MacKinnon were all smiles not only during Senior Night festivities — held Monday, Oct. 24 — but also during the Centaurs' run to the Connecticut Class L Girls' Volleyball Tournament semifinal round.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

After an uneven regular season, the Woodstock Academy girls' volleyball team seems to be peaking at the right time — tournament time.

The Centaurs, in a span of six days, won three matches and advanced to the semifinal round of the Connecticut Class L Girls' Volleyball tournament.

Woodstock, the No. 12 seed in the 27-team tournament, opened the postseason with a 3-0 first-round home win over Brookfield, the No. 21 seed, on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Two days later, in Guilford, the Centaurs picked up a second-round victory over fifth-seeded Guilford High, 3-1. On Saturday, Nov. 12, Woodstock was back on its home court at the Alumni Field House for a quarter-final-round match against Pomperaug High of Southbury. The Centaurs defeated the 13th ranked Panthers, 3-0.

Set scores in the win over Pomperaug were 26-24, 25-14, and 25-20.

In the match with the Panthers, Woodstock Academy was led by senior Morgan Bonin (10 kills and 10 digs). Also contributing to the victory were sophomores Liliana Bottone (14 digs, nine kills, four assists, and three aces), Sophie Gronski (22 assists and 18 digs), and Cassidy Ladd (10 service points). Six of Ladd's service points came in succession to finish off the second set.

Set scores in the victory over Guilford were 25-19, 24-26, 25-17, and 25-21. Bottone led the way against the Grizzlies with 22 kills, seven in the first set, 16 digs and four aces. Gronski finished the match with 37 assists and 19 digs, while Bonin added 17 kills, 20 digs and four aces.

Set scores in the win over Brookfield were 25-16, 25-16, and 25-21. In both of the first two sets, Woodstock scored

nine of the final 13 points to secure the set victory. In the third set the Bobcats rallied to cut the Centaurs' lead to a single point, 21-20, before WA scored the four of the final five points of the set and the match.

Bottone finished with 11 kills, four aces and 10 service points for the Centaurs while Bonin added seven kills and four blocks, and Gronski finished with 21 assists.

Thanks to its three-game tournament winning streak Woodstock Academy (15-9) advanced to the semifinal round of the tournament, where it played top-seeded Joel Barlow (19-0), on Wednesday, Nov. 16, after press time.

Football

Norwich Free Academy scored a late touchdown to defeat visiting Woodstock Academy, 21-17, and dash any hopes the Centaurs had of capturing their first-ever Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Division I title.

NFA quarterback Colby Ayuyu connected with Conor Gaughan on a 39-yard touchdown pass with 5 minutes, 11 seconds to play for the game-winning score for the Wildcats. Ninety seconds before Ayuyu's scoring strike to Gaughan, Woodstock Academy kicker Henry Wotton booted a 26-yard field goal to put the Centaurs (4-4 overall, 1-2 ECC Division I) up, 17-14.

Wide receiver Carter Saracina (7 catches, 128 yards) scored the first touchdown for Woodstock Academy, taking a screen pass from quarterback Teddy Richardson (14-for-24, 148 yards) to the house from 62 yards out to give the Centaurs a 7-0 lead.

Norwich Free Academy tied the game, 7-7, late in the first

quarter when Gage Hinkley capped a 12-play drive by diving into the end zone from a yard out. The Wildcats then took the lead, 14-7, early in the second quarter when Jeremiah Paul scored on an 18-yard reverse.

Woodstock Academy sent the game into halftime tied, 14-14, thanks to a nine-yard scoring run by junior David Bunning.

Boys' Soccer

Ethan Lackner and Harry Giambattista scored the goals and Trent Pichie made the saves for Killingly, the No. 28 seed, in its 2-0 upset victory over No. 5 Wheeler in the first round of Connecticut Class M Boys' Soccer Tournament on Monday, Nov. 7, in Hartford.

Lackner scored off an assist from John Fitzgibbons while Giambattista scored off an assist from Lackner. Pichie made eight saves en route to posting the shutout.

The results weren't as good for Killingly in the second round of the state tournament as it lost, 5-0, to No. 11Tolland High on Wednesday, Nov. 9 in Tolland. Pichie finished with 20 saves. Coach Derek Ponciano's team finished 8-7-1.

Elsewhere:

Fifteenth-seeded Ellis Tech bowed out of the Connecticut Class C Boys' Soccer tournament on Monday, Nov. 7, losing its first-round game, 2-0, at home to RHAM High, a regional public school located in Hebron. Senior Mason Carney made 16 saves for the Golden Eagles, who finished 9-6-2.

Girls' Soccer

Tourtellotte High, the No. 21 seed in the Connecticut Class S Girls' Soccer Tournament, saw its two-game tournament win streak snapped in the quarter-final round by Portland High, the No. 20 seed, 3-1, on Saturday,

Nov. 12. Prior to the loss to the Highlanders the Tigers defeated No. 12 seed Parish Hill, 6-0, on Tuesday, Nov. 8, and No. 5 seed Ellis Tech, 6-0, on Thursday, Nov. 10. All three of Tourtellotte's tournament games were played on the road.

Field Hockey

Killingly High's trip to the Connecticut Class M Field Hockey Tournament for the first time in four years ended up not being as fun or as memorable as the team hoped it would be. Fourteenth-seeded Killingly lost in the first round to third-seeded Fitch, 4-1, on Tuesday, Nov. 8, in Groton. Senior Hannah Donovan scored for Killingly, which finished 7-9.

Fitch and Killingly played twice previously this season. The Falcons prevailed in both games — 4-1 on Tuesday, Sept. 13, in Killingly, and 5-0 on Friday, Oct. 7, in Groton. Last year Killingly won just three games and scored 19 goals. This year, under first-year coach Erika Ponciano, the team won seven games and scored 28 goals. Senior captain Aila Gutierrez, who led the way for Killingly all season, finished with 14 goals — including two game-winning goals — and six assists.

Boys' Cross Country

Woodstock Academy sophomore Christian Menounos turned in a solid showing at the New England Boys' Cross Country Championship on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Ponaganset High School in Foster, R.I. Menounos finished in 16 minutes, 50 seconds to place 51st out of the 260 runners in the field. Menounos was the first WA runner to compete in the New England championship since Kevin Graham in 2004.

Gelhaus, Costa duo help Woodstock Academy defeat Windsor

CENTAURS THEN BEAT DANIEL HAND BEFORE LOSING TO WETHERSFIELD

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Senior Grace Gelhaus scored three goals and sophomore Leah Costa added a goal and an assist to lead the Woodstock Academy girls' soccer team to a convincing 5-1 win over Windsor High in a first-round game in the Connecticut Class L Girls' Soccer Tournament, played Tuesday, Nov. 8 on the turf field at the Bentley Athletic Complex.

With the win the Centaurs, the No. 11 seed in the 28-team tournament, advanced to the second round where they upset sixth-seeded Daniel Hand High School, 8-3, on Thursday, Nov. 10, in Madison. The victory over Daniel Hand sent Woodstock into the quarterfinal round where they played at third-seeded Wethersfield High. The Centaurs, despite jumping out to an early 1-0 lead, lost to the Eagles, 2-1.

In its win over Windsor, Woodstock Academy went ahead, 1-0, with 17 minutes, 13 seconds left in the first half, on Gelhaus' first goal of the game.

Centaurs' sophomore Bella Mawson used a soft left-to-right touch pass to get the ball to Gelhaus in the middle of the field 20 yards from the goal. Gelhaus looked like she was going to shoot at the right side of the goal, causing Warriors' keeper Olivia Rosario to come off the goal line and commit to that side. Once Rosario was past the point of no return Gelhaus changed direction and shot the ball, from 10 yards out, into the left side of the net.

The Centaurs took that 1-0 lead with them into halftime.

Windsor tied the game, 1-1, just 4:35 into the second half on a goal by freshman striker Kambryl Armstrong. Armstrong got the ball from a teammate about 15 yards from the goal, turned and took a quick shot to the right side that Centaurs' goalkeeper Rebecca Nazer got her left hand on but couldn't control, the ball finding its way into the right side of the net.

The good news for the Eagles was, with that goal, they tied the game, 1-1. The bad news was, with that goal, they poked the bear.

Four minutes after Armstrong's goal Woodstock re-took the lead, 2-1, Gelhaus scoring this time off a perfect cross



Photos Jason McKay

Woodstock Academy's Grace Gelhaus attempts to out-manuever and weave away from the defense.



Magdalena Myslenski of Woodstock Academy moves the ball away from a hard-charging Windsor defender.

from Costa. Costa threaded the ball right-to-left to Gelhaus, who was in the middle of the field 18 yards from the goal. Gelhaus got control of the ball, spun to her left and then drilled the ball, left-to-right, past the diving Rosario.

"Getting that second goal so soon after they tied the game was huge," Gelhaus said. "Their goal was a wake-up call for us. After we scored our first goal we let up a little bit and the momentum shifted to Windsor and they capitalized off it. Coming back and scoring

right after they scored gave us our confidence back."

The Costa-Gelhaus goal-scoring connection is something that has worked well for Woodstock Academy all season.

"Grace and I work together really well," Costa said. "We complement each other. We read each other perfectly; she knows what I'm going to do before I do it and I know what she's going to do before she does it. When we're out there together we understand what needs to happen and we make it happen."

This is just the first year Costa and Gelhaus have played together. Costa transferred into Woodstock Academy from Stonington High before the school year began.

"During the season we learned how to play together and it really works. We've gotten more and more comfortable with each other as the season has gone on," Gelhaus said. "I have a lot of trust in Leah; she's a great player. She finds me wherever I am. On our second goal she set me up perfectly; all I had to do was tap the ball into the goal."

The Centaurs had the momentum back after Gelhaus made it 2-1. Woodstock Academy scored three goals in a seven-minute span.

Woodstock (14-5-2) went ahead, 3-1, with 22:02 remaining in the game, junior Emma Massey scoring on her own corner kick. Massey sent the ball in left-to-right, the ball bouncing off Rosario's chest straight into the goal.

Gelhaus' third goal of the game, on a rocket of a shot from 35-yards out came with 15:37 remaining and put WA ahead, 4-1.

"I had luck on my side on that one," Gelhaus said, a wide smile crossing her face. "It went right over the goalie. When I kicked it I was worried about it being too high because a lot of my shots are too high."

Costa put the Centaurs ahead, 5-1, 32 seconds after Gelhaus' goal No. 3, scoring on a great individual move. Costa worked her way through two Windsor defenders, carved out a little space for herself and rifled the ball into the net.

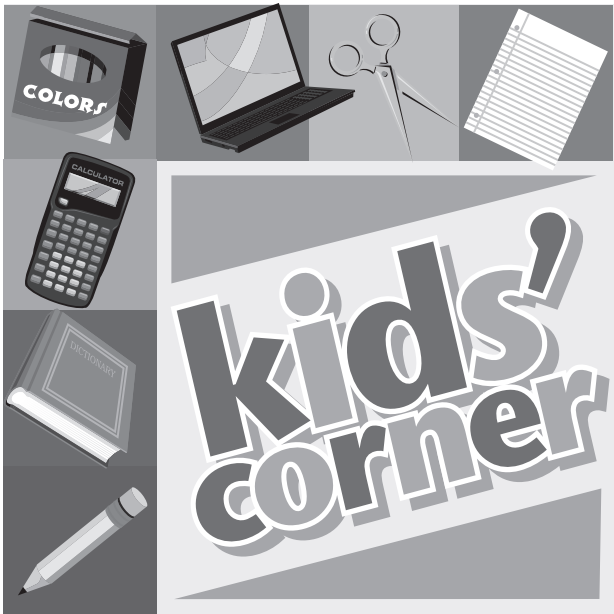
"There were two defenders in front of me but I don't think they were on the tops of their toes," Costa said. "So, I put a juke on both of them. On the juke I faked left and went right, and went by them. Once I got past them I had the whole net open in front of me."

Woodstock coach Dennis Snelling said he thought the Centaurs' overall team speed wore the Eagles down.

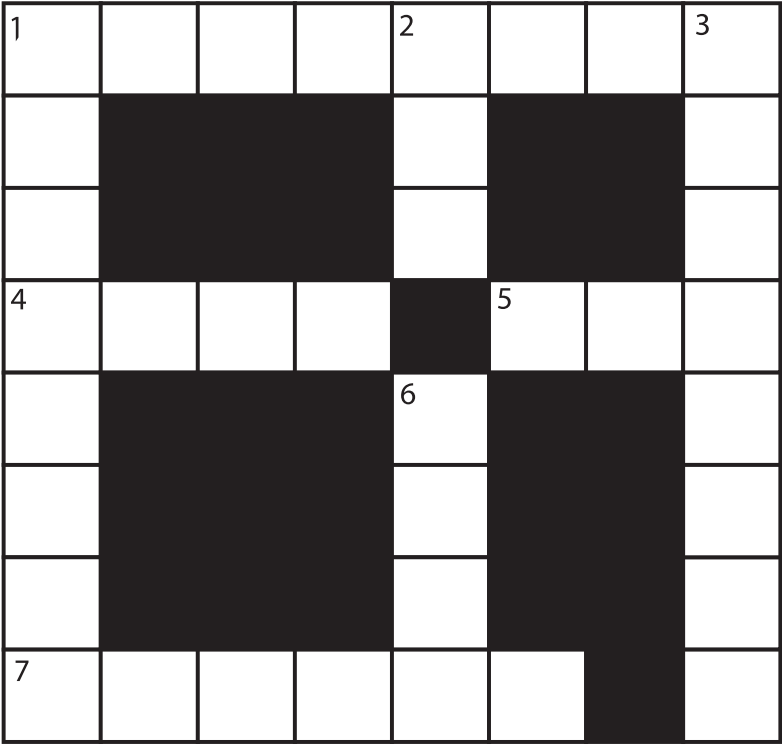
"You could see their players getting tired and their coach said before the game that they didn't have a lot of subs," Snelling said. "When you have to chase track stars like Grace and Leah, eventually you're going to get tired."

In the win over Daniel Hand Gelhaus scored five goals and assisted on two others and Costa scored the other three goals. Picking up assists in the victory over the Tigers, in addition to Gelhaus, were Nazer, Lennon Favreau, Juliet Allard and Freya Robbie.

Gelhaus, who scored Woodstock's lone goal in the loss to Wethersfield, finished the season with 25 goals and 11 assists while Costa ended up with 13 goals and seven assists.



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Least perceptible
- 4. Notion
- 5. Metal container
- 7. Seasoned and tasty

DOWN

- 1. Relatives
- 2. Brewed drink
- 3. Gratified
- 6. Structure that closes an entrance

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1920: THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS IS HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.
- 1926: THE NBC RADIO NETWORK OPENS WITH 24 STATIONS.
- 1971: INTEL RELEASES THE WORLD'S FIRST COMMERCIAL SINGLE-CHIP MICROPROCESSOR, THE 4004.



THIS FOOD TYPICALLY IS THE MAIN COURSE DURING THANKSGIVING DINNER.

ANSWER: TURKEY



CASSEROLE

a type of stew or side dish cooked slowly in an oven



ENGLISH: Pie

SPANISH: Tarta

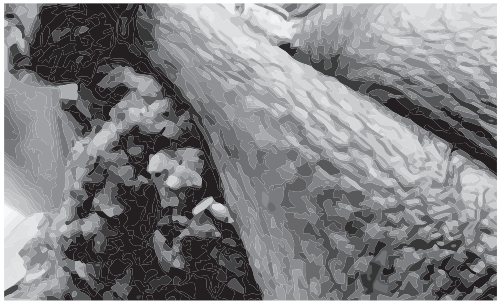
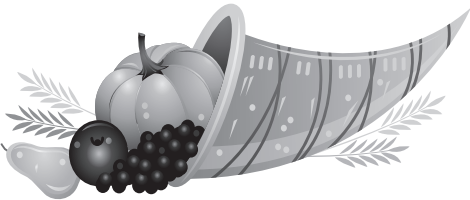
ITALIAN: Torta salata

FRENCH: Tarte

GERMAN: Pastete



THE CORNUCOPIA, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "HORN OF PLENTY," IS A SYMBOL OF FALL.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: STUFFED TURKEY

CRYPTO FUN

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to caregivers.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 7 = T)

A. 26 1 10 15 13 22 19 26 15

Clue: Oversee

B. 26 1 10 10 25 13 7

Clue: Assist

C. 3 5 13 19 20 8

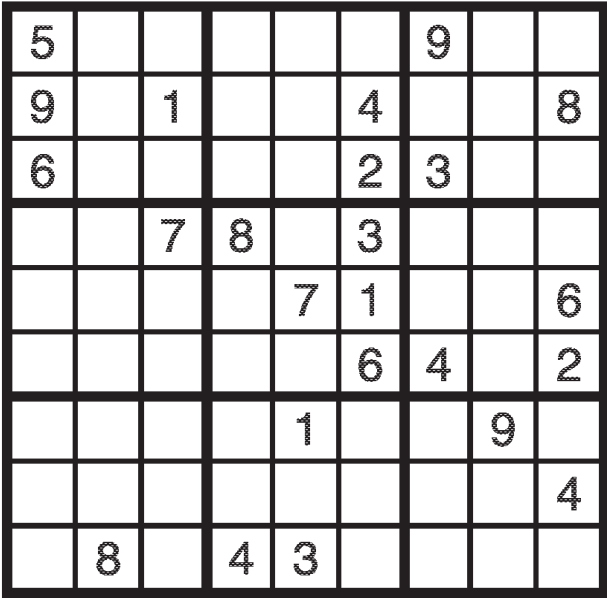
Clue: Sensitive

D. 5 7 7 15 20 7 19 25 20

Clue: Focus

Answers: A. supervise B. support C. caring D. attention

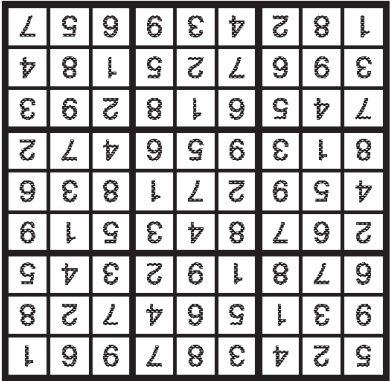
SUDOKU



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!



ANSWER:



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¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 11/25/22 with the purchase then occurring on or before 12/5/22. ²No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. Southern New England Windows LLC is the authorized representative of Renewal by Andersen and the registered Home Improvement Contractor. Renewal by Andersen does not hold this HIC number. All residents of islands including but not limited to Martha's Vineyard will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details at <https://www.renewalbyandersen.com/homeowner-help/warranty>.

How to confront frequent increases in costs of living

Prices on the majority of goods and services have increased significantly over the last year-plus. Financial analysts report that inflation has reached heights that haven't been seen in 41 years. According to the United States Department of Labor, the consumer price index, which measures changes in how much Americans pay for good and services, rose 0.4 percent in September.

As prices soared, families' budgets were being pushed. What can people do in the face of rising costs on items they need, including those who may be on fixed incomes? These suggestions may help.

- Frequently review your budget. Keep track of how much items cost right now. Document all spending by writing down a list of weekly expenses or utilizing any number of free budgeting apps available. Tracking what is going out may make it easier to cut costs on less essential items, such as streaming services or gym memberships.
- Contact service providers. You may be able to negotiate better deals with a service provider, such as a mobile phone company or a cable television provider, if they learn you are considering leaving. If they can't work out a deal, go with the less expensive provider. You can always switch back at the end of the term if you desire.
- Stop automatic payments. Having subscriptions and other bills automatically deducted from your checking account is convenient, but those rising costs may be overlooked. By viewing your bill and paying it each month, you can see where costs have increased and where you might need to rethink services.
- Carpool to work or school. Reduce

expenditures on gasoline by sharing the costs with another person. Determine if public transportation is more cost-effective than driving to work or school each day.

- Consider alternative retailers. Brand loyalty to one supermarket or a particular retailer is quickly becoming a thing of the past. Nowadays it is wise to comparison shop across various stores to figure out where you're getting the best deal. Venture into stores you may not have considered previously. Divide your shopping list by store category, visiting several for different items if it leads to big savings.
- Unplug, literally and figuratively. Cut down on energy costs by unplugging items when not in use. Reduce dependence on devices to further stem costs on electricity and gas-powered appliances.



Prices continue to rise and consumers can explore various ways to stick to their spending budgets.

The impact of reading on personal health

Books transport people to different times, provide a sense of escapism and introduce readers to different schools of thought. Individuals may read for pleasure and/or to expand their intellectual horizons.

It's important to note that reading also may help improve mental and physical health. With so much to gain from reading, now is a great time to embrace those book clubs, resolve to read more and explore how picking up a good book may be just what the doctor ordered.Reduces stress

Immersing yourself in a story requires focus and concentration. According to researchers at the University of Sussex, it took just six minutes of reading for study participants to experience slower heart rates and reduced muscle tension.

Stress is one of the biggest threats to overall health, as

the stress hormone cortisol can lead to inflammation in the body that may impede the immune system, according to Piedmont Health. Finding ways to reduce stress, including through activities like reading, is a win for anyone who wants to improve his or her health.

Impacts longevity

According to the 2016 study, "A chapter a day: Association of book reading with longevity," by Bavishi A, Slade M.D., reading exerts its influence on longevity by strengthening the mind. Reading positively impacts the way the brain creates synapses, optimizing neurological function. It also expands vocabulary, and helps with memory.

Changes the brain

A 2014 study published in Neuroreport determined reading involves a complex system of signaling and networking

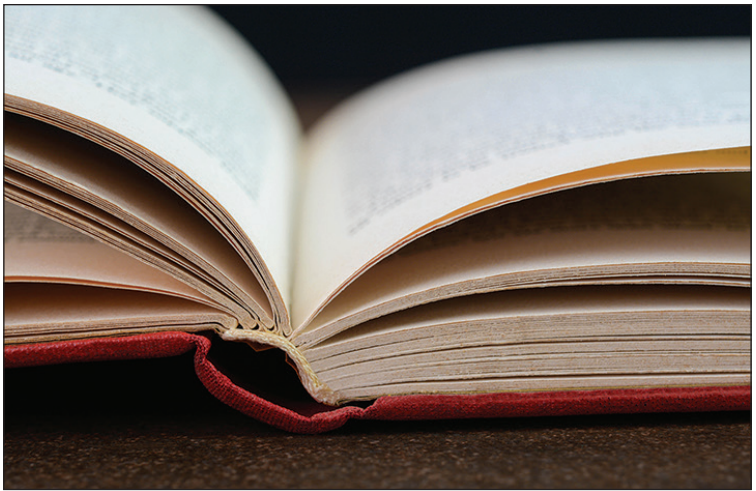
in the brain. As one's ability to read matures, these networks become stronger and more sophisticated. MRI scans found that brain connectivity increased throughout studied reading periods and for days afterward.

Increases empathy

Through literary fiction, readers are exposed to the situations, feelings and beliefs of others. This can help a person develop a greater ability to empathize with others, according to Healthline.

Helps improve sleep

Reading is an effective way to wind down and relax before going to bed. It can be a positive nighttime ritual, provided one reads a paper book or utilizes an e-reader that is not backlit, as bright lights from digital devices may hinder sleep quality. In fact, doctors at the Mayo Clinic often suggest reading as part of a regular sleep routine.



Reduces depressive feelings

Individuals diagnosed with depression may feel isolated and estranged from other people. Books may reduce those feelings by helping a person temporarily escape his or her world into another. Also, books can serve as a common ground

through which conversations over shared interests can begin with others.

Reading has many positive health benefits, which is why resolving to read more can be beneficial.

FOOTBALL

continued from page A1

taking it down to the Bears' 29. On the next play Dreibholz and Jax hooked up again, this time from 29 yards out, putting Killingly ahead, 15-13. Dreibholz made it 16-13 with the first of his six successful extra points with 1:09 left in the opening quarter.

On the touchdown, a short pass to the left flat, Jax made several tremendous moves to get into the end zone. He faked going out of bounds, cut up against the grain, bounced back to the outside and then dove into the end zone so he wouldn't get pushed out of bounds.

"I was just trying to keep my feet moving toward the end zone. We were at a point where it was still a really close game. I knew we had to make a play, we had to make something happen," said Jax, who got help getting into the end zone. "I got a great block from our tight end, Alex Potopskiy, and it came downfield. For him to get down there

and help me out is what made that touchdown a great team play."

A four-touchdown second quarter allowed Killingly to push its lead to 44-13 at halftime. Rief scored on runs of 25 and 55 yards, Jax caught his touchdown pass from Dreibholz, this one from 27 yards out, and Perry scored on a 20-yard run. In the third quarter Rief scored his third TD of the game on a 13-yard run and junior Gabe Torrente scored on an 11-yard run. Torrente also scored in the fourth quarter on a 35-yard run. After both Torrente TDs, freshman Kolby Mills successfully booted the extra point attempts.

"They were tough," said Killingly coach Chad Neal, who agreed that feisty was a good way to describe the Bears. "We went for the knockout and they kept throwing jabs at us. They came out with tempo, and their quick game was good. Fortunately we settled down and took care of business."

At one juncture of the game Killingly, which gained a total of 521 yards (334 rushing), scored 49 straight points.

Dreibholz completed 5-of-7 passes for 153 yards and three touchdowns. For the season he is 48-of-67 for 1,346 yards and 24 TDs. The 6-foot-3, 180-pounder holds Killingly's single-season record for touchdown passes. Dreibholz surpassed Kurt Strandson, who threw 20 TD passes in a season twice in his career, in Killingly's 56-7 win over Waterford on Friday, Nov. 4. Dreibholz was asked about Stonington's feistiness after the game.

"In the end I think the fact they were feisty was good for us; it definitely was a test we needed," Dreibholz said. "In the beginning we came out slow but we picked it up."

Rief rushed for 183 yards and three touchdowns on 12 carries. The 5-11, 195-pounder has rushed for 1,517 yards and 22 TDs on 134 carries this year. He is averaging 11.32 yards per carry. One of Killingly's slogans is "RPO," which stands for run people over. Rief is clearly a disciple of that philosophy.

"I try to initiate the contact with the guys who are trying to tackle me," Rief

said. "I can see it right through their facemask; I know when they're scared. When I see that I just go right at them and I lower my shoulder. It usually works out well."

Jax finished the game with four catches for 133 yards and three touchdowns on offense and he intercepted a pass while playing defense. Perry finished with 55 yards and a score on four carries. On defense he made five tackles, three unassisted.

Perry said when Killingly trailed in the first quarter the team's sideline remained upbeat and confident.

"We always know we're in it as a team. It's never over until the fourth quarter is over. When we see all zeroes on the scoreboard, that's when we know to let up on the gas. Until that point we just go, go, go," Perry said. "We responded great. We have a lot of seniors on this team and we know how to keep grinding, we know how to respond to adversity."

LEGALS

TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold Public Hearing on Monday November 28, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room, Thompson Town Hall, 815

Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 via Zoom. PZC #22-34 Application of Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission, 815 Riverside Drive, Annual Update to Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations for 2022. Proposed amendments may be reviewed in the Director of Planning Office

or Zoning Office. Respectfully submitted, Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman November 18, 2022 November 25, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Edward T Rzeznikiewicz (22-00432) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 8, 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

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Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Terri Cedio c/o THERESA IMPERATO MADONNA, LAW OFFICE OF THERESA I. MADONNA, LLC, 110 MAIN STREET, JEWETT CITY, CT 06351 November 18, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Fred R. Serrine (22-00454) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 8, 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: Travis Serrine c/o MICHELE ANN P ALULIS, ATTORNEY MICHELE ANN PALULIS, LLC, 158 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2,

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Edward M. Mead, Jr. (22-00424) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 4, 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: Scott P. Mead, BRIANS MEAD LAW OFFICE OF BRIANS MEAD, 148 OLD TURNPIKE ROAD, PO BOX 508, QUINEBAUG, CT 06262, (860)935-9211. November 18, 2022

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