

# THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, January 20, 2023

Serving Thompson since 2005

Complimentary to homes by request



Jason McKay

Killingly High athletic director Kevin Marcoux hands a commemorative basketball over to senior Yianni Baribeau, who scored the 1,000th point of his career in a 62-49 victory over Putnam High on Thursday, Jan. 12.

## A grand evening for Killingly's Yianni Baribeau

SENIOR SCORES 1,000TH POINT OF ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER VERSUS PUTNAM



Yianni Baribeau of Killingly takes and makes a 3-pointer in front of a Putnam defender.

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — It took longer than anyone in the Killingly High School gymnasium thought it would, but Killingly senior Yianni Baribeau — finally — scored his 1,000th career point with 48.2 seconds remaining in the first half of his team's 62-49 victory over Putnam High on Thursday, Jan. 12.

The 6-foot-3 forward entered the game three points shy of the milestone. Baribeau got to within a point of the milestone with 3:23 left in the first quarter, scoring on a power drive to the basket. He then went through a scoring drought that lasted more than 10 minutes and included several misses on shots he normally makes, including a pair of free throws.

"I don't think I've ever seen him miss two free throws in a row since he came into the high school," Killingly coach Jim Crabtree said. "When he missed those two free throws I knew he was really pressing."

Baribeau, who finished the game with a double-double of 19 points and 18 rebounds, reached the 1,000-point plateau with one of his signature plays — a left-side baseline drive that he cut up and into the lane and dropped the ball into the basket.

After he became the ninth player in Killingly High history to score at least

1,000 points, there was a brief time-out during which Killingly athletic director Kevin Marcoux presented Baribeau with a basketball that had the No. 1,000 painted in white on it. Play resumed a few minutes later.

"It feels good; it's a big milestone," Baribeau said after the game about joining Killingly's 1,000-point club. "Not many people have done it here at Killingly."

Baribeau very nearly scored point No. 1,000 in Norwich during a 67-59 loss to Norwich Free Academy (NFA) on Tuesday, Jan. 10. He entered the game with NFA needing 23 points for 1,000 in his career and he scored 20.

"I came up three points short in that game, but I didn't want to get it at that place," Baribeau said. "I'd rather have done it here at home than anywhere else."

Baribeau was as surprised as anyone in the Standing Room Only gym that it took as long as it did to score the three points he needed to reach the achievement.

"I don't know what was happening; nothing wanted to go in. I kept trying but nothing wanted to fall," Baribeau said. "I just wanted to get it over with. I didn't want to keep thinking about it. I wanted to be done with it so we could focus on winning the game."

Crabtree said he wasn't surprised it took Baribeau as long as it did to score point No. 1,000.

"It's the only thing he's been thinking about for days. He's a young kid and it's a big thing," Crabtree said. "Even though he's played the game for a while and he's pretty good at it, he just couldn't get this out of his mind. It was wearing on him. I said to him during the first half, once it goes, we're just going to explode. I told him to just relax and let it come to him. Even though he was struggling in that first half Yianni was very unselfish; he got other guys involved."

One of those guys was classmate Tom Dreiholz, who also finished the game with a double-double, scoring a game-high 26 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

Dreiholz, after the game, couldn't stop smiling when asked about Baribeau scoring his 1,000th career point.

"I was so happy Yianni got his

Turn To **YIANNI** page **A7**

## Brooklyn Elementary School receives agriculture grant

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BROOKLYN — Brooklyn Elementary School was among 32 entities in the state to receive a share of \$452,268 in funding through the second round of the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grant program.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture announced the grant winners at the start of 2023 which included school districts, early childhood providers, non-profits, and small businesses with the goal of helping develop farm-to-school programs across the state. The awards are designed to increase the availability of local foods in child nutrition programs and allow educators to use hands-on educational techniques to teach students about nutrition and farm-to-school connections. Agriculture Commissioner Bryan

Hurlburt released a statement praising the funding in the grant announcement saying the 2023 awardees is double the previous year thanks to increased funding capacity.

"We are especially appreciative of the advisory committee members who participated in the review process to ensure these projects will have a meaningful and immediate impact on students access to fresh, nutritious Connecticut Grown foods while providing interactive learning opportunities related to agriculture, nutrition, food and health," said Hurlburt.

The funding allows entities to apply for up to \$24,999 to fund projects fitting one of four "tracks." The Department of Agriculture received 72 applications and Brooklyn Elementary School because the only local entity to earn funding. The school received an undisclosed amount to fund a greenhouse project.

The award also earned praise from State Representative Doug Dubitsky, whose district includes Brooklyn.

"I want to thank the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, for recognizing the merits of Brooklyn's project and providing this great opportunity to strengthen agriculture in the Town of Brooklyn," said Dubitsky in a statement. "Giving children the opportunity to learn the importance of agriculture in everyday life will surely help the preservation of farming by the next generation. I congratulate the students and staff at Brooklyn Elementary School for developing this incredible project."

The grant programs is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and is administered by the Connecticut Department of Education and the Connecticut Farm to School Collaborative.

## Creation Church holds first Christmas at the Bradley

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — The Bradley Playhouse played host to a variety of events over the holiday season, but one night was especially important to the members of Creation Church of Thompson. On Dec. 23, the Church held its first Christmas at the Bradley, a special pre-Christmas event featuring caroling, Christmas treats, and stories of the true meaning of Christmas as church members and visitors from the community at large came together to celebrate in faith and song.

Pastor Bernie Norman called the event a "tremendous" and "truly marvelous" night that offered "a little something for everyone" to help celebrate Christmas in what could become a new annual tradition. The theme of the evening was "The One and the Why? Who is this Child whose birth we celebrate each year and why did He come?" The night began with a thunderous adaptation of Little Drummer Boy by the Worship Team followed by all 400 in attendance singing of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" together. Worship team singer Christy Long then beau-



tifully sang "The First Noël," followed by Creation Kids dressed as shepherds and angels singing "Away in a Manger."

Turn To **FIRST** page **A7**

## Cierra Peaslee earns Westview's Employee of the Month award



Cierra Peaslee

DAYVILLE — Cierra Peaslee was recognized as the November 2022 Employee of the Month at Westview Health Care Center.

Peaslee is a first-shift certified nursing assistant at the Dayville facility; performing this role at Westview Since October 2021. She holds personal inspi-

ration for her early interest in nursing care, with family experiences shaping her passion for a medical career at a young age. She grew up in Killingly, and graduated from Killingly High School. She gained her certification as a CNA through Westview's "Earn While You Learn" program (the facility's initiative for training CNAs in the classroom and clinical settings while simultaneously providing them with employment). Presently, she is pursuing further education to achieve a degree as a registered nurse from Three Rivers Community College. In her studies, she has come to appreciate the role of research in the nursing field. Looking further into her future, she ultimately aspires to become an advanced practice registered nurse and she hopes to deliver care in settings like emergency departments and trauma centers.

As mentioned, Peaslee is a full-time

Turn To **PEASLEE** page **A7**



# Madelyn Lecuyer named to Sacred Heart Dean's List

FAIRFIELD — Madelyn Lecuyer of Woodstock was named to the Dean's List of Sacred Heart University. Madelyn is a Junior majoring in Nursing.

About Sacred Heart University

As the second-largest independent Catholic university in New England, and one of the fastest-growing in the U.S., Sacred Heart University is a national leader in shaping higher education for the 21st century. SHU offers more than 80 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs on its Fairfield, Conn., campus. Sacred Heart also has satellites in Connecticut, Luxembourg and Ireland and offers online programs. More than 9,000 students attend the University's nine colleges and schools: Arts & Sciences; Communication, Media & the Arts; Social Work; Computer



Science & Engineering; Health Professions; the Isabelle Farrington College of Education; the Jack Welch College of Business & Technology; the Dr. Susan L. Davis, R.N., & Richard J. Henley College of Nursing; and St. Vincent's College. Sacred Heart stands out from other Catholic institutions as it was established and led by laity. The contemporary Catholic university is rooted in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition and the liberal arts, and at the same time cultivates students to be forward thinkers who enact change—in their own lives, professions and in their communities. The Princeton Review includes SHU in its Best 386 Colleges—2021 Edition, "Best in the Northeast" and Best Business Schools—2021 Edition. Sacred Heart is home to the award-winning, NPR-affiliated radio station, WSHU, a Division I athletics program and an impressive performing arts program that includes

**Women's Writing Retreat**  
March 4, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
**Silver Circle Gallery**  
134 Main St., Putnam, CT  
\$30.00 includes refreshments/prizes  
Write your foundational moments through prompts/group work  
Limit 10 women  
Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to register and for details  
*Hosted by author Karen Warinsky*

**Hull**  
forest products

Conserving Forests / Crafting Wood / Since 1965

**Custom and Stock Wood Flooring Mill Direct**

Made from Locally Grown Wood

Flooring showroom hours  
8:30-4:30 Mon-Friday  
Appointments Preferred

**CONNECTICUT GROWN**

**Best Value & Quality from CT's Largest Sawmill**



*Come see what we saw!*

Family Owned & Operated since 1965  
www.hullforest.com • (860) 974-0127



Jo-Ann Szymczak  
CRS, GRI, SRES  
508-943-7669  
774-230-5044  
**CALL JO-ANN FOR VIEWINGS!**

**FEATURE HOME**  
Charlton - 8.5 Acres



- 3 Bedroom
- 2.5 Bath
- 32' Great Room
- Fireplace • Wood Furnace
- 2 Car Garage

**182 Gould Rd - \$449,900**

**ReMax Advantage 1**  
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01604

**Licensed in MA & CT**

# Putnam's Espinosa brothers headed to New England Regional Finals of 2023 Elks Hoop Shoot

PUTNAM — Town residents TJ and Bryce Espinosa are headed to the New England Regional Finals of the 2023 Elks Hoop Shoot.

The duo punched their tickets to the next round by winning their respective divisions of the Connecticut Elks Hoop Shoot Finals on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Manchester High School. Throughout the contest the Espinosa brothers are representing Putnam Elks Lodge No. 574.

TJ Espinosa, 12, won the state title in the 12-13-year-old division in impressive fashion, hitting all 25 of his foul shots. Bryce Espinosa, 10, emerged victorious in the 10-11-year-old division, connecting on 18-of-25 free throws.

This is TJ Espinosa's second consecutive state championship. Last year he won the 10-11-year-old division and went on to finish second in the 2022 New England Regional Finals.

The 2023 New England Regional Finals will be held Saturday, March 11, at the University of Southern Maine, located in Portland.

The winners of the New England Regional Finals will advance to the Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals on Saturday, April 22, at Chicago's Wintrust Arena, home of the WNBA's Chicago Sky.

TJ Espinosa advanced to the Connecticut Elks Hoop Shoot Finals by hitting 24-of-25 free throws in the local competition, and 22-of-25 foul shots in the district round.

Bryce Espinosa advanced to the Connecticut Elks Hoop Shoot Finals by connecting on 20-of-25 free throws in the local competition, and 21-of-25 foul shots in the district competition.

# Danielson American Legion announces scholarship program

DANIELSON — Charles Crowley, Commander of the Leo J. L'Homme-William F. Burdick American Legion Post #21 of Danielson, announced that the Post is accepting applications for its 2023 Scholarship Program. The Post will award two individuals with \$1,000 scholarships.

Any Killingly or Brooklyn resident who is a graduating senior at Killingly High School, Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School, Quinebaug Valley Middle College or from a homeschooling setting is eligible to apply. The awards will be made to applicants enrolling in a two- or four-year college, university or technical college. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in a program leading either to an associate or baccalaureate degree or a technical college certificate of completion.

The scholarships are intended to provide assistance to deserving applicants who are the child, grandchild or sibling of a living or deceased Veteran or an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces.

"This is the first time that Danielson Post #21 has offered these scholarships. We are determined to support our community and the education of our children while, at the same time, honoring and helping out our military families. We feel privileged to be able to do this," said Commander Crowley.

Students interested in submitting an application for the Danielson Post #21 Scholarship Program are encouraged to contact their Guidance Department.


Applications with all supporting documentation must be received by the Scholarship Chairman at the following address by March 31: The Scholarship Chairman, American Legion Post #21, P.O. Box 203, Danielson, CT 06239.

Winners will be promptly notified, and checks presented at their respective Awards Ceremonies.

# Sisters earn dean's list honors

BROOKLYN — Sisters Linsey and Alyssa Claire Arends of Brooklyn were both named to the Dean's List at their respective universities for the fall semester of 2022.

Linsey is currently enrolled as a freshman at the University of Rhode Island. Alyssa attends Quinnipiac University as a Junior.



**POMFRET**  
S C H O O L

SCHWARTZ PUBLIC LECTURE

**JESSICA BRUDER**

The New York Times bestselling author of *Nomadland*.

There will be a book signing and reception following Bruder's talk.

**Friday, January 27**  
**7:00 PM**

Pomfret School, Hard Auditorium  
398 Pomfret St.  
Pomfret, CT 06258


**pomfret.org/schwartz**

This event is free and open to the public.  
Registration is not required.

THEATRE OF NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT, INC.

**BRADLEY**

THE BRADLEY PLAYHOUSE PUTNAM, CT




**THE SUNSHINE BOYS**  
BY NEIL SIMON

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
www.concordtheatricals.com

Al and Willie as "Lewis and Clark" were top-billed vaudevillians for over 40 years. Now they aren't even speaking. When CBS requests them for a "History of Comedy" retrospective, a grudging reunion brings the two back together, along with a flood of memories, miseries, and laughs. The story follows the attempt by a young theatrical agent to reunite his elderly uncle, a former vaudevillian great, with his long-time stage partner for a TV reunion. Despite their celebrated reputation, the two old men have not spoken in twelve years. Besides remastering their sketch, the two men have numerous issues to work out before they are ready to return to the public eye.

**JANUARY 20 - JANUARY 29**  
**FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS at 7:30pm and SUNDAYS at 2pm**




**ADULTS: \$23 / STUDENTS & SENIORS: \$20 / FIRST RESPONDER & MILITARY: \$20**



**TICKETS ON SALE!**  
**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:**  
**www.TheBradleyPlayhouse.org**

SCAN ME

**FOLLOW THE BRADLEY PLAYHOUSE**



**BOX OFFICE: (860) 928-7887**  
30 Front Street  
Putnam, CT 06260

For Advertising Information  
Call 860-928-1818  
email: ads@villagernewspapers.com



# Blumenthal applauds Food Donation Improvement Act

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Hunger and food insecurity continue to be major hurdles nationwide going into 2023, especially in the wake of both a pandemic and inflation. While many have taken to social media to make light of the increased price of food goods over the past year, the issue remains a serious one that lawmakers in the nation’s capital are prioritizing in the new year. Sen. Richard

Blumenthal, who was reelected to serve as Connecticut’s representative in November, is one such lawmaker who took the time to praise bipartisan legislation called the Food Donation Improvement Act that he says will expand food donation efforts of manufacturers, restaurants, grocers and the like. The legislation was approved in December by both the Senate and House after Blumenthal partnered with Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania to spearhead and effort to expand food dona-

tions across the nation in November of 2021. “Stopping hunger should be a national priority—as this new bipartisan measure recognizes,” said Blumenthal in a statement on Jan. 6. “Incredibly and unconscionably, as Americans across the country go hungry every day, nearly 40 percent of America’s food goes to waste, but much of it can be saved and donated instead of discarded. This new law will promote more food donations by restaurants, supermarkets and others by removing legal road-

blocks.” Toomey also chimed in on the new law, saying it will help making donations to those in need easier and more convenient. “Donating food to the less fortunate should be as easy as possible,” said Toomey. “This new legislation will help get more food to those who need it most by shielding good faith donors from frivolous lawsuits.” According to the U.S. Congress’s official website, the bill “expands the liability protections for donations of food and grocery products to include

donations of an apparently fit grocery product or apparently wholesome food for which the recipient is charged a good Samaritan reduced price that is no greater than the cost of handling, administering, and distributing the food or product; or that is donated directly to a needy individual by a retail grocer, wholesaler, agricultural producer, restaurant, caterer, school food authority, or institution of higher education.” The bill was sponsored in the House of Representatives of Massachusetts

Congressman Jim McGovern. Those wishing to help individuals with food insecurity on the local level can donate to one of numerous agencies and organizations in the Quiet Corner. These include Daily Bread and Interfaith Human Services of Putnam in Putnam, TEEG in Thompson, Friends of Assisi in Danielson, and Project PIN in Moosup. Details on how to donate to or volunteer for these agencies can be found on their respective Web sites.

# SNHU announces Fall 2022 Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2022 Dean’s List. The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. Samantha Lynch of Danielson Marc Hoffower of Woodstock Valley Candy Garcia of Putnam Jenna Tatro of Putnam

Brianna Hudon of Thompson Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the «Most Innovative» regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).

# SNHU announces Fall 2022 President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2022 President’s List. The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. Bethany Paul of Brooklyn Hannah Reid of Brooklyn Ariana Koivisto of Brooklyn Evelyn Moore of Danielson Christine Moran of Danielson Cody Chapman of Danielson Melisa Moone of Danielson Katherine Perry of Danielson Andrew Cruz of Danielson Adrianna Stevens of Danielson

Isaiah Moone of Danielson Debonie Thompson of Putnam Jewelia England of Putnam Francesca Benoit of Thompson Lynn Biesiadecki of Pomfret Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the «Most Innovative» regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).

# Nominations welcome for Putnam High School Wall of Honor

PUTNAM — Nominations are being accepted for the 2023 Putnam High School Wall of Honor. The Wall commemorates the achievements of Putnam High School graduates who used their early education at the school to distinguish themselves in their chosen careers. Former staff members, who made significant contributions while in service to Putnam High, are also eligible. An honoree must be five years removed from Putnam High to be considered for nomination and will remain eligible for induction for five additional years. Only five recipients are recognized each year. Application forms are available at the office of the Superintendent located at Putnam High School, WINY Radio, Putnam Public Library, and on-line at Putnam Public Schools or Wall of Honor Web sites. Deadline for submitting completed forms is Feb. 15.

# Springfield College recognizes Dean’s List students

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Springfield College Recognizes Dean’s List Students for the 2022 Fall Semester. Springfield College has named Annabelle Bastura from Pomfret Center to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2022 fall semester. Bastura has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PT. Springfield College has named Arielle Johnson from Pomfret Center to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2022 fall semester. Johnson has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-OT. Springfield College has named Aurissa Boardman from Brooklyn to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2022 fall semester. Boardman has a primary major of Health Science. The criteria for selection to the Dean’s List are as follows: The student must

have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term. Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

# Isabella Belanger named to Saint Joseph Dean’s List

WEST HARTFORD — Isabella Belanger, of Eastford is among the 400 undergraduate students who have been named to the University of Saint Joseph Dean’s List for the fall 2022 semester. Students who are awarded this academic achievement have earned a GPA of 3.50 or higher for the semester, with no grade lower than a “B.” “Once again, USJ students proved that they are committed to academic excellence,” said Provost Michelle

Kalis, Ph.D. “These students are the future nurses, teachers, social workers, scientists, actuaries, and leaders our community needs. The entire University community is proud of their accomplishments.” Belanger is a student majoring in Nursing. Congratulations on earning this achievement, Isabella.

# Nichols College students earn academic honors for fall 2022

DUDLEY, Mass. — More than 400 students at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., have achieved President’s List or Dean’s List honors during the fall 2022 semester. The President’s List and Dean’s List recognize those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. To be included on the President’s List, a student must have a grade point average of 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester. Students with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive Dean’s List honors. Keeley Cerbo of Dayville Taylor Charron of Brooklyn Makala Dube of Brooklyn Brett Gile of Dayville Ethan Gosper of Danielson

Anthony Ferraro of Thompson Laura Hackett of North Grosvenordale Nicholas Kolodziejczak of North Grosvenordale Prince Patel of North Grosvenordale Nick Skaradowski of Thompson Kiona Carpenter of Woodstock Haley Carr of Woodstock Lucas Couture of Woodstock Ethan Gosper of Danielson Sarah Hull of Woodstock Dominick Kollbeck of Woodstock Ryan Odorski of Woodstock Robert Voght of Woodstock

About Nichols College The mission of Nichols College is to educate and enlighten students to capitalize on their ambitions and to become impactful, forward looking global leaders.

DON'T MISS A BEAT

CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Overhead Door Of Windham County

Two 9'x7' Garage doors & Two Electric Openers

Now \$3,100

Exp. 02/28/2023

- ✓ Two Remotes & Wall Buttons
- ✓ Take Down Of Current Door
- ✓ Wireless Outdoor Keypad
- ✓ Photo Saftey Eyes

CALL 860-889-3848 / VISIT [OHDCT.com](http://OHDCT.com)

93 Hartford Rd, Brooklyn, CT 06234

THE LAW OFFICE OF

GABRIELLE LABONTE

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

WILLS AND TRUSTS

MEDICAID PLANNING

PROBATE

5 VINA LANE • P.O. Box 709  
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234

PHONE: 860-774-3700 • FAX: 860-774-6300

Turning 65 or losing employer coverage in the next 4 months?

Unsatisfied with your current Medicare plan? CALL ME!

My purpose is to place you in a plan that is appropriate for YOUR lifestyle, budget, drugs taken and health insurance needs.

I represent ALL 8 Medicare Insurance Carriers in CT

Aetna • Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield

CarePartners of Connecticut • Cigna • ConnectiCare

Humana • United Heathcare/AARP • WellCare

I am local, and my services are at no cost to you.

Medicare Advantage Plans

Medicare Supplemental Plans

Part D Drug Plans

Dental, Vision, & Hospital Expense Plans

Call Mickey Weinstein at 203-592-0000



# Golden Eagles feast on Vinal Tech in lopsided win

ELLIS TECH FORCES HAWKS TO COMMIT 33 TURNOVERS IN 44-10 VICTORY



Jason McKay

Ellis Tech's Kiara Cartier attempts to pass the ball away while being well-defended by Vinal Tech.

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — Turnovers, a tasty after-dinner dessert, have been known to cause a sick feeling in the stomach of many a high school basketball coach. Jason Coleman, the Vinal Tech girls' basketball coach appeared to be struck by the malaise in the visiting Hawks 44-10 loss to Ellis Tech on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

The Golden Eagles used their speed and quickness to force Vinal Tech into 33 turnovers — 19 of those turnovers actually being steals by Ellis Tech. Coleman was seen holding his head in his hands several times during the game, especially in the first quarter when his team turned the ball over 19 times.

Ellis Tech (6-4) which scored the first six points of the game, led from start to finish. The Golden Eagles were ahead, 11-3, after the first quarter; 23-8 at halftime, and 35-10 after three quarters. Vinal Tech (3-5) did not score in the fourth quarter.

"We're a young team, but we're a fast team and we're trying to use that to our advantage," Ellis Tech coach John Murdock said. "This was one of our better offensive games, but our offense, because of our youth, is definitely a work in progress. Because of that we focus on defense and I'm always telling the team, 'if we hold the other team to less than 30 points we have a chance to win the game.'"

Leading the way for the Golden Eagles in the win over the Hawks were juniors Brooke Montecalvo, who scored a game-high 12 points, and Kylie Damble, who added 10. Senior Liliana WongKam and sophomores Sadie Murray and Kiara Cartier all chipped into the winning effort with six points each.



Kylie Damble of Ellis Tech scans the court for any open teammates during an inbounds play.



Ellis Tech's Maja Bobinska hoists up a shot before Vinal Tech's defense can swarm in for the block.

"This year we've focused a lot on offense, but our offense isn't as strong as our defense. The strength of our offense is playing up-tempo," Murray said. "We're looking to run every chance we get. Offensively, turnovers are something we struggle with at times, but we're continuing to work on taking better care of the ball when we're on offense."

"Our defense is very, very strong; it's our focus every game," Murray said.

said. "It's something we focused on a lot last year and we have carried that defensive focus into the season. "Our defense, especially causing turnovers and getting steals, it just all comes together naturally and it all adds up."

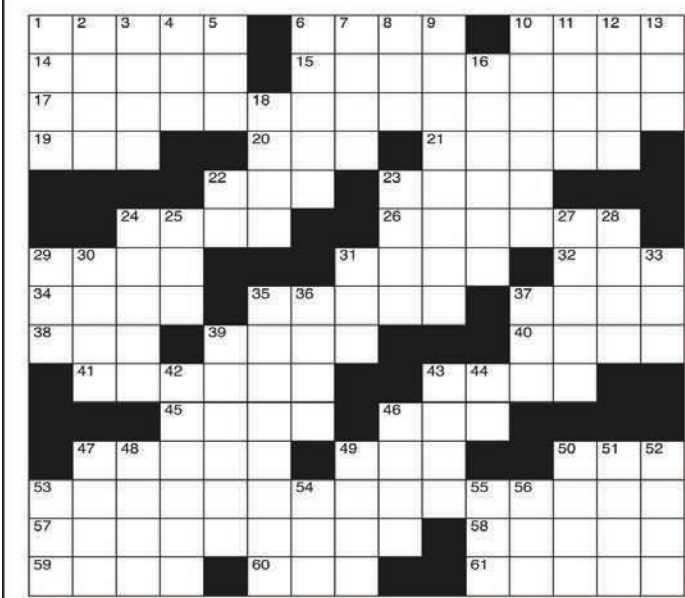
Murray led the way in the rebounding department with 13 boards, while Damble pulled down eight and Montecalvo, despite being 5-foot-2, grabbed four rebounds. Damble, Montecalvo, Murray, and Cartier all recorded four steals each, and WongKam had three.

"We're a very young team and we have a lot of new players, but we're very fast and we try to use that to our advantage every chance we get. I would describe us as a fast and quick team," said Montecalvo, who believes winning these regular season games is all about building confidence.

"Winning builds confidence. We won last night (55-38 in New Britain against Goodwin Tech on Tuesday, Jan. 10), so we came out today feeling like we could do it again and we did. We did what we do and we won again."

Damble, who serves as team captain with Montecalvo and Murray, led the Golden Eagles in their win over Goodwin Tech, recording a double-double by scoring 26 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Montecalvo added 11 points, eight rebounds and five steals while Rose Lopez, a 5-foot-9 freshman, scored seven points and pulled down eight rebounds.

Unfortunately, the week ended on a sour note for Ellis Tech, the Golden Eagles losing at Norwich Tech, 40-37, on Friday, Jan. 13, despite starting the fourth quarter with a 33-27 lead. Damble recorded another double-double in the loss, pouring in a game-high 22 points (13 in the second half) and grabbing 10 rebounds. Murray scored six points in the defeat, while Lopez added four.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Not invited
  - 6. Whale ship captain
  - 10. One point south of southwest
  - 14. Small cavity in a rock
  - 15. Recidivists
  - 17. City of Angels hoopster
  - 19. A way to mark with one's signature
  - 20. OJ trial judge
  - 21. Rice cooked in broth
  - 22. One point east of due south
  - 23. One point east of southeast
  - 24. Complements an entree
  - 26. Grouped by twos
  - 29. Disfigure
  - 31. Woods
  - 32. Political action committee
  - 34. Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
  - 35. Kin groups
  - 37. Philippine Island
  - 38. Contrary to
  - 39. Bluish-gray fur
  - 40. Comprehend the written word
  - 41. Natural depressions
  - 43. Felines
  - 45. Breathe noisily
  - 46. Taxi
  - 47. Pancake made from buckwheat flour
  - 49. Swiss river
  - 50. Foot (Latin)
  - 53. Have surgery
  - 57. Formal withdrawal
  - 58. Monetary units of Peru
  - 59. Greek war god
  - 60. 2,000 lbs.

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Green and yellow citrus fruit
  - 2. A bright color
  - 3. Thicket
  - 4. Journalist Tarbell
  - 5. A place to work or relax
  - 6. Sharp mountain ridge
  - 7. Helicopter
  - 8. Mimic
  - 9. Suggests
  - 10. More musty
  - 11. Large, flightless rail
  - 12. Make beer
  - 13. Soviet Socialist Republic
  - 16. People who account for you
  - 18. Taunt
  - 22. South Dakota
  - 23. Cover the entirety of
  - 24. Kids' favorite visitor
  - 25. A way to save for retirement
  - 27. Fencing swords
  - 28. C. China mountain range
  - 29. Type of sandwich
  - 30. Team
  - 31. Paddle
  - 33. Partly digested food
  - 35. Most cagey
  - 36. Shoppers make one
  - 37. Cathode-ray tube
  - 39. Food supplies
  - 42. Backbones
  - 43. Concern
  - 44. Blood group
  - 46. Broadway songwriter Sammy
  - 47. Dutch colonist
  - 48. Full-grown pike fish
  - 49. Deity of a monotheistic cult
  - 50. Type of bread
  - 51. S. Nigerian people
  - 52. Scottish tax
  - 53. Young women's association
  - 54. Brazilian city
  - 55. Hide of a young animal
  - 56. Midway between north and northeast



## Villager Newspapers

**TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:**  
MIKAELA VICTOR  
RETAIL ADVERTISING  
860-928-1818 EXT. 313  
mikaela@villagernewspapers.com

**LEGAL NOTICES:**  
860-928-1818, EXT. 183

**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:**  
KERRI PETERSON  
860-928-1818, EXT. 303  
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

**TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:**  
E-MAIL: obit.s@stonebridgepress.news  
CALL: 860-928-4215  
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

**TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS RELEASE**  
E-MAIL: brendan@villagernewspapers.com  
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

**VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS**  
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
frank@villagernewspapers.com

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818 EXT. 102  
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DINICOLA  
508-764-6102  
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
860-928-1818 x 323  
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
860-928-1818, EXT. 305  
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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

## VILLAGER ALMANAC

### At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Jan. 9: Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, Hairy Woodpecker, Mockingbird, Cooper's Hawk, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Great-horned Owl, American Tree Sparrow, Goldfinch. Visit [ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home).

[www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com](http://www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com)

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

**SHOWPLACE CABINETRY™**  
EMPLOYEE OWNED | MADE IN AMERICA | LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

**EASTFORD Building Supply**

189 Eastford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242  
ph: 860-974-1924 • fax: 860-974-0099  
[eastfordbuildingsupply.com](http://eastfordbuildingsupply.com)

**Transform Your Home Today!**

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

**Benjamin MOORE PAINTS**

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

**YOUR DREAM, CLOSER TO REALITY**

[ShowplaceCabinetry.com](http://ShowplaceCabinetry.com)

For Advertising Information  
Call  
860-928-1818  
email: [ads@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:ads@villagernewspapers.com)



# Dreibholz the X factor for Killingly in defeating Clippers

## PUTNAM SHOWS PLENTY OF FIGHT IN CLOSE LOSS



Killingly's Tom Dreibholz muscles his way toward the basket for a layup.

**BY KEN POWERS**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Lost in the euphoria of Killingly High senior Yianni Baribeau scoring his 1,000th career point is the backdrop for that drama — the outcome of the Putnam at Killingly boys' basketball game — which was very much in doubt with less than 12 minutes to play.

Killingly (7-2) won the game, held on Thursday, Jan. 12, 62-49, and Baribeau was a factor down the stretch, scoring 15 of his 19 points in the second half, but the Clippers severely tested Killingly,



Alonzo Henries of Putnam hoists up a 3-point shot versus Killingly.

especially in the first half.

Putnam (5-6) held the lead in the game for the final two minutes, 41 seconds of the first quarter and the first 6:02 of the second quarter. The Clippers led by a point, 15-14, at the end of the first quarter and only trailed by five, 28-23, at halftime. With 3:20 left in the third quarter the Killingly lead was just six, 39-33.

Senior Alonzo Henries scored nine of his 15 points in the first half for Putnam while classmate Jacob Mailloux scored six of his nine points in the first 16 minutes. Junior Noah Rudman, who scored a team-high 16 points, scored a dozen after halftime, nine coming in the third quarter.

In addition, the Clippers defense, designed to shut down Baribeau and sophomore Johnny Kazantzis, was giving Killingly's two leading scorers fits.

"We executed a very good game plan. The boys absolutely bought in 100 percent. They worked their butts off for that first half," Putnam coach Shawn Deary said. "Unfortunately they got gassed by the end of the second quarter and couldn't make a couple of easy bunnies we had a chance to make."

"I was begging to hold on to the lead until halftime, but unfortunately that didn't happen," Deary said. "I think the outcome of the game might have been different if we went into halftime with the lead. I'm very proud of the way the boys fought tonight."

Deary said a big part of the Clippers' defensive game plan was to stop, or at the very least slow down, what he called the Yianni and Johnny show.

"We were playing a triangle and two against (Baribeau and Kazantzis) and sagging off the other guys," Deary said. "I told my boys the X factor was going to be No. 22 (Killingly senior Tom Dreibholz). We knew he was going to screen and roll so we had to help out defensively on whatever side he was on."

"He's a very good athlete with a very high IQ," Deary said of Dreibholz. "He's the reason why they stayed in it in the first half. We knew if he made all his buckets we'd be in trouble and he had 14 points at the half."

Dreibholz's first-half production was more than 50 percent of his game-



Putnam's Jacob Mailloux floats a layup toward the basket in front of the Killingly defense.

high 26 points. He also pulled down 14 rebounds, giving him his second double-double of the season.

"Whoever we're facing, I always know they're going to be trying to stop Yianni; he's our best player. That should be everyone's game plan," Dreibholz said. "I knew I needed to step up. I got free for a lot of pick and rolls and my teammates did a great job of getting me the ball."

Killingly coach Jim Crabtree said he knew heading into the game with Putnam that he needed Dreibholz to have a big all-around performance, but especially offensively.

"We rode Tommy hard in practice and in the game tonight because nobody else has been scoring for us," Crabtree said. "We went to (Norwich Free Academy) the other night (Tuesday, Jan. 10) and we scored 59 points and Johnny and Yianni scored 45 of those points (Kazantzis 25, Baribeau 20)."

"If Tommy doesn't show up we're not going to go far. We need another piece to the puzzle," Crabtree continued. "Tommy showed everyone tonight that he can play the game. We all knew he could. Coming into the game I was hoping tonight would be a good game for Tommy. As soon as he scored our first two baskets, and 10 of our first 14 points, I knew he was going to have a big game."

When told that the Putnam game plan was to stop he and Kazantzis, but that there had

been no mention of Dreibholz, Baribeau laughed.

"No one can stop Johnny and me, and no one can stop Tom, either," said Baribeau, who finished the Putnam game with 19 points and 18 rebounds. "All of our offense runs through us three."

Forty-eight hours after scoring his 1,000th career point, Baribeau led Killingly to a win over visiting Stonington, 65-39, on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Against the Bears Baribeau scored a game-high 33 points and grabbed 16 rebounds. Baribeau has recorded a double-double in every game Killingly has played this season. Dreibholz also turned in a double-double effort with 15 points and 13 rebounds, while Kazantzis added 10 points.

**THE SIDING STORE INC.**

Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms

**WINTER SPECIALS**

NOW IN EFFECT

**\$\$\$\$**

Financing available to qualified customers!

**thesidingstoreinc.com**

**860.423.7771 860.963.9035**  
**860.886.1718 860.564.7088**

We take pride in our customer service!

860.423.7771 860.963.9035  
860.886.1718 860.564.7088

VISA DISCOVER

References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

**QUEST MARTIAL ARTS**

Thompson CT  
www.questmartialarts.us  
860-928-9218

Use Code KICKIT23 on our website for \$23 off your first month! Or Call to Register. Accepting New Adult Students

**\$23 OFF ALL TRIAL MONTHS**

**JANUARY 2023 SPECIAL!**

**Enjoy Life with Better Hearing!**

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

**amplisound**

HEARING CARE CENTERS

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

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

**Hearing Solutions for all Lifestyles and Budgets since 1981**

**PUT YOUR TRUST IN US**

TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE

Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044  
Diane Luong 774-239-2937  
Maria Reed 508-873-9254

ReMax Advantage 1 • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01604

CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS

Licensed in MA & CT

**WOODSTOCK- 2.75 Acres**

- New kitchen w/ center island
- 1st Floor Laundry • New flooring throughout
- 3 bedroom • Woodstove

**49 Lebanon Hill Rd – \$364,900**

**STURBRIDGE- MOVE IN!! 4 Bedrooms**

- In-law Apartment or Legal Apartmenty
- First floor family room
- New siding, kitchen, 3.5 baths, electrical, septic
- Gas Heat • Agent Bonus

**21 River Road – \$515,000**

**SZYMCAK SELLS! THOMPSON**

**SOLD \$415,900**

- Inground Pool
- 2500 sq. ft.
- 7Garages

**370 Pompeo Rd**

**SZYMCAK SELLS! OXFORD**

**SOLD \$185,000**

- 1 Bedroom
- Updated Kitchen

**15-8 Thayer Pond**

**SZYMCAK SELLS! WEBSTER**

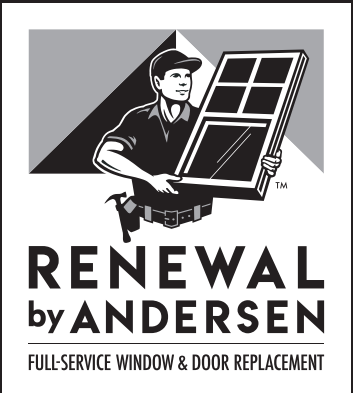
**SOLD \$400,000**

- 2 Units • Sided
- 3 Bedroom Unit

**142 Kildeer Road**



# ● These 51,668 local homeowners chose our windows.



● = Our Southern New England Customers

ANDERSEN  
WINDOWS & DOORS

## Why have 51,668 Southern New England homeowners chosen us to replace their windows?

**No pressure.** During your Free Window and Door Diagnosis, we'll give you an exact, down-to-the-penny price that's good for an entire year.

**120 years of window expertise.** Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, the window and door brand that your dad told you to trust.

**No middleman to deal with.** There's no runaround between the installer and the manufacturer because we handle it all, from custom-building to installing to warranting all our products.

**We won't sell you vinyl.** We've replaced thousands of poor-quality vinyl windows and doors, so we made our window's Fibrex® composite material two times stronger than vinyl.



Must call before Jan. 31!

Buy one window, entry door or patio door, get one

**40% OFF<sup>1</sup>**

— plus —

**NO NO NO**  
money down payments interest

**for 1 year<sup>2</sup>**

**Make an appointment and get a price that's good for an entire year!**



Call for your **FREE Window and Door Diagnosis** **959-456-0067**

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 1/31/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 2/10/23. <sup>2</sup>No 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](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



FIRST  
continued from page A1

Soloist Jim Northridge was next and nearly brought the house down with his wonderful singing of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.” Interposed between several of the songs was a modern-day “Wonderful Life/Christmas Carol” play written by Emma Rategan.

The highlight of the night was The Norman Family Singer who played and sang “When I Think of Christmas,” some on vocals and others on piano and guitar. Pastor Bernie closed out the event by answering the very question of the night, “Why?”

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life,” said the Pastor.

The night closed out with the Creation Worship Team performing a rendition of the popular Trans Siberian Orchestra’s Christmas music and a singing of “O Holy Night” by the Creation Kids. The final song of the evening was, fittingly, a rendition of “Silent Night” sung by the everyone in the room with tiny, battery-operated candles lighting up the space.

“As I think about the night as a whole, in my opinion it was the single most Christ-centered Christmas evening I have ever seen from start to finish,” Pastor Bernie concluded.

It remains to be seen if Christmas at the Bradley becomes an annual tradition, but one thing is for sure. The event provided many with a wonderful and inspiring night to appreciate the nuances and simple joys of Christmas coming together as one community in faith, hope, and love to explore what the most wonderful time of the year truly means.

YIANNI  
continued from page A1

1,000th point. That’s an important milestone for anyone to get. That’s impressive,” Dreiholz said. “He’s probably the most versatile player on the court at all times. He can play around the perimeter; play under the basket, and take it all the way. He also defends, blocks shots and rebounds.”

Baribeau is the first Killingly High player to score 1,000 points in a sea-

son since Shayne Bigelow (1,037 career points) did so in 2020. Other Killingly players who scored 1,000 career points are: Luke Desaulnier (2019, 1,229 points); Shane Gibson (2008, 1,864 points); Dan Piccione (2000, 1,131 points); Josh Dinerman (2000, 1,120 points); Brad Leire (1990, 1,474); Ed Desaulnier (1968, 1,020); and Mike Castagna (1957, 1,069 points).

Gibson is Killingly’s all-time boys’ leading scorer while Tracy Lis, Class of 1988, is the school’s all-time leading scorer with 3,681 points.

“We are very proud of Yianni reaching the 1,000-point milestone and joining an exclusive group of players in program history to do so,” Marcoux said. “While Yianni would rather the spotlight be on his teammates and team accomplishments, this is no doubt validation of the amount of hard work and dedication he has put in over many years to perform at such a high level. His leadership by example has been the difference in the team’s success this year. He exemplifies everything we strive for in our student-athletes.”

PEASLEE  
continued from page A1

CNA working at Westview and a full-time student working towards her degree as a registered nurse, so she appreciates any social time that she can spend with her family and friends. She and her fiancée enjoy going to the gym together, as well as sharing hiking and biking explorations whenever possible. She especially likes travelling to upper New England for additional outdoor adventures. In the winter months she and her family love to go snowmobiling around the Laconia, New Hampshire region, and over this past summer, she discovered her new passion for whitewater rafting during a group excursion down Maine’s Kennebec River.

Upon learning that she achieved Westview’s Employee of the Month designation, Peaslee expressed extreme appreciation towards the people she works with. She knows that everyone working together, with combined effort, yields daily rewards for the patients, residents, and staff members at the Dayville facility.

“I feel so rewarded in my role at Westview, and receiving an honor like Employee of the Month increases that feeling even more,” Peaslee commented. “I am fortunate to work with a great group of health care providers and colleagues at Westview—we witness each other’s dedicated efforts towards our patients and residents, and that inspires us all to perform our roles at the highest level. I really appreciate being recog-

nized among this amazing team!”

David T. Panteleakos, Westview Administrator, is pleased to see the impact that Peaslee has as a considerate care provider for patients and residents as well as the impact she has as an excellent teammate for her colleagues.

“Every day that she arrives at Westview, Cierra brings her personal passion for skilled nursing care, her desire to learn more about the medical field—and most importantly, her encouraging energy that inspires positivity in everyone around her,” Mr. Panteleakos continued, adding “Our nursing staff here at Westview is a highly dedicated group of medical professionals, and I greatly appreciate the role that Cierra performs alongside our team at Westview. Congratulations to Cierra!”

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 15 years.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Hamstring injury doesn’t hamper Centaurs’ Sousa, who makes 55 saves in hockey team’s victory

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Woodstock Academy boy’s ice hockey team scored just enough goals to win and sophomore goaltender Dante Sousa did the rest, making 55 saves in the Centaurs’ 2-1 victory over perennial Rhode Island power Bishop Hendricken on Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Pomfret School’s Jahn Rink.

Sousa’s feat, impressive in its own right, becomes more impressive when the fact that the goalie injured his hamstring in the second period of the game is taken into consideration. Despite being in obvious pain, Sousa stayed in the game and finished the period.

Prior to the third period of the goaltender and Woodstock Academy head coach Mark Smolak discussed whether the younger Sousa should go back between the pipes for the third period.

He did return, and Sousa didn’t let the injury affect his level of play. He made 35 saves before the injury and 20 afterward. It was the second time

in his high school career that he has stopped at least 50 shots in a game.

Bishop Hendricken (6-2) grabbed a 1-0 lead eight minutes, 56 seconds into the first period when defenseman Griffin Crain poked the puck past Sousa.

Woodstock Academy (8-1) tied the game, 1-1, four minutes later, freshman Brady Lecuyer scoring his third goal of the season off an assist from sophomore defender Jayden Fuller.

The Centaurs scored what ended up being the game-winning goal in the second period when freshman defender Ian Sherman unleashed a blast from the blue line, the shot hitting the stick of junior Troy Daviau and landing in the Bishop Hendricken net. The goal was Daviau’s second of the season.

Bishop Hendricken dominated the game from a shots-on-net perspective, finishing with 56 shots,

which were 44 more than the Centaurs managed to put on the Hawks’ net.

The victory over Bishop Hendricken was a much needed one after the Centaurs saw their eight-game season-opening winning streak ended by undefeated (8-0) North Haven, 5-1, on the road on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Sophomore Maxx Corradi scored Woodstock Academy’s lone goal, which staked the Centaurs to a 1-0 lead with five minutes, 30 seconds remaining in the first period. Donny Sousa, Corradi’s junior linemate, assisted on the goal.

Girls’ Basketball  
Woodstock Academy went 1-1 last week, defeating Plainfield, 32-23 on the road on Thursday, Jan. 12, after dropping a 43-39 decision to visiting Norwich Free Academy

(NFA) on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at WA’s Alumni Field House.

Woodstock (9-3) used a balanced attack to defeat the Panthers, freshman Kaylee Saucier leading the way with nine points. Sophomore Eva Monahan added eight and senior Leila MacKinnon chipped in seven.

The loss to NFA was a close game from start to finish. The Wildcats took a five-point lead with 28 seconds to play when Naevaeh York (15 points) hit the first of two free throws and teammate Emily Orcutt rebounded her teammate’s miss on the second foul shot and scored on a put-back.

Woodstock Academy freshman Isabel D’Alleva-Bochain cut the Centaurs’ deficit to two points when she connected on a 3-pointer with 10 seconds remaining in the game. The Wildcats,

however, sealed the win when Brooke Bolles (nine points) hit two free throws with 1.5 seconds to play.

Saucier led the Centaurs offensively, scoring 14 points.

Elsewhere:  
Undefeated Bacon Academy outlasted host Killingly, 48-40, on Friday, Jan. 13.

Killingly (6-3) started slowly, trailing 8-2 after the first quarter. Killingly junior Molly Crabtree (19 points, six 3-pointers) shot her team back into the contest in the second quarter, Killingly outscoring the Bobcats 21-9 in the period to take a 23-17 lead into the locker room at halftime. The teams were tied, 36-36, as play moved into the fourth quarter.

Bacon improved to 10-0 by outscoring Killingly, 12-4 in the fourth quarter.

Boys’ Basketball  
Woodstock Academy battled valiantly, but dropped a pair of games last week, losing to Waterford, 51-46, on Friday, Jan. 13, and Cheney Tech, 37-34, in overtime, on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

In the loss to Waterford sophomore Garrett Bushey scored a game-high 16 points, 11 coming in the Centaurs’ 24-point fourth quarter. Senior Brandon Nagle and junior Hunter Larson each scored 11 points against the Lancers.

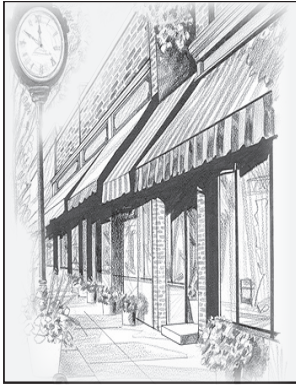
In the loss to Cheney Tech Woodstock Academy carried an eight-point lead into the fourth quarter but scored only one basket in the quarter and one point in overtime. Bushey led the 2-8 Centaurs, scoring 12 points, while senior Carter Morissette added 10.

Belmont University  
announces Fall 2022  
Dean’s List

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The following students achieved the Dean’s List at Belmont University for the Fall 2022 semester. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours (exclusive of audit and pass/fail courses this semester) and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C (inclusive of audit, pass/fail courses and zero-credit courses).

Lauren Neely of Woodstock  
Amiah Van Dyke of North Grosvenordale

About Belmont University  
Located two miles from downtown Nashville, Tenn., Belmont University comprises nearly 9,000 students from every state and 33 countries. Nationally ranked and consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report for innovation in higher education, the University offers more than 115 areas of undergraduate study, 41 master’s programs and five doctoral degrees. With a focus on whole person formation and data-informed social innovation, Belmont is committed to forming diverse leaders of character equipped to solve the world’s complex problems. For more information, visit [www.belmont.edu](http://www.belmont.edu).



Community  
Connection

For Advertising  
Information  
Call  
860-928-1818  
email: [ads@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:ads@villagernewspapers.com)

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

**WE BUY GOLD**

**Specializing in Custom Designs**

**All types of Jewelry Repairs**

MASTER JEWELERS™  
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA  
[morinjewelers.com](http://morinjewelers.com) • 508-764-7250  
Located at CVS Plaza

**TREMBLAY**  
HOME IMPROVEMENT  
Interior • Exterior  
masonry • repairs • tile • roofing etc  
**774-253-7479**  
Registered Insured

Gwenn Gaumond, DVD MS

168 Route 171  
PO Box 757  
Woodstock, CT 06281  
(860)315-5955  
[info@peakebrookvc.com](mailto:info@peakebrookvc.com)

**Peake Brook Veterinary Center**  
[www.peakebrookveterinarycenter.com](http://www.peakebrookveterinarycenter.com)

*Crooked Creek Farm*  
~ est. 1992 ~  
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

**Stock up now!**


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

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

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!**

Find Us on Social Media





P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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

**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# Some tips for surviving flu season

Flu season has peaked in New Hampshire, and COVID cases are back on the rise. Hospitals in Boston have reported putting several patients on ventilators due to COVID complications. A highly contagious variant, XBB has surfaced, and experts have reminded people to remain vigilant and take precautions such as wearing a mask on a plane or in any other space that puts one in close quarters with others.

The Flu has run rampant this year, and with many still unsure about getting vaccinated against influenza, we have some reminders and tips that will boost your immune system. Noted is the fact that even a flu shot cannot completely keep you safe from falling ill. Depending on what you want to find, you can read arguments on both sides of the flu vaccine debate. One thing we can all agree on, with or without the shot, is that there are things we can do to boost our immune system. Below is a friendly reminder of those simple steps. The first and most obvious step is to wash your hands as this is the most effective way to prevent the flu. The next step is to be mindful of maintaining gut health. Experts say 70 to 80 percent of our immune system lives there. Eating whole foods that are nutrient-dense is key. Abstaining from a diet with processed foods can boost your immunity — after all, food is medicine. Sticking with foods that you can't open, besides, of course, the famous banana is a good rule of thumb. Foods loaded with sugar weaken the immune system; this includes refined flours found in breads, pastries, crackers, pasta, and cereal. Loading up on vitamins A and D will help support your immune system. The highest levels of vitamin A are found in the liver of many animals such as duck, goose, beef, and lamb. If you refuse to eat liver, such as this Editor, an alternative would be sweet potatoes, cantaloupe, squash, carrots, spinach, and apricots.

Drinking bone broth can restore much needed minerals back into our bodies. Modern farming practices as well as the influx of processed foods has made the absorption of minerals more of a challenge. Bone broth contains magnesium, zinc, calcium, phosphorus, and Sulphur. Taking probiotics promote healthy gut flora which can help the body fight against viruses. Taking vitamin C is something we've heard our care givers repeat constantly throughout our youth. Some doctors suggest taking 1,000 milligrams a day on an empty stomach. If you already have a cold or a flu taking 1,000 milligrams two to four times a day could help according to doctors.

Lastly, find a way to get a good night's sleep, keep your stress at bay and exercise. Lack of sleep can increase inflammation levels in your body giving you a high white blood cell count. Sleep produces the hormones prolactin and melatonin, if you don't have enough of these, you will be more susceptible to infections. Avoid stress because it can cause a biochemical change in your gut as well which can compromise your immune system. A good workout will also boost your immune system. The flu is primarily spread through droplets made when those infected sneeze, talk or cough. The virus can be transmitted from up to six feet away.

## 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

### A rush to financial ruin

To the Editor:

There will be a referendum held in Thompson on Tuesday, Jan. 31, between noon and 8 p.m. at the regular polling places. Voters will be asked to vote for three separate projects.

The voters will be asked to approve \$13.2 million for an HVAC project at the school complex, half a million dollars for security upgrades at the school complex and \$1.5 million to replace the running track with a new one, for a total of \$15.2 million.

This is being rushed through because of a possible state grant with 68.2 percent reimbursement for the HVAC project. These projects were first brought to the Board of Finance at a special meeting a couple of days before Christmas by the First Selectman. It was so rushed, there was no information on the projects for the members of the board to review. There are no grants available for the other 2 projects and again, very little information. Without the information required to make a sound judgement, five of the six board members voted to send the projects to referendum placing the projects in the hands of the taxpayers. What does this mean to the taxpayers?

When the Financial Director, Bill Steglitz, ran the numbers for the three projects, his estimate was it would add .8 mills to the tax rate with an interest rate of 4 percent. This was assuming the State would reimburse the town for the HVAC project with a \$9 million lump sum payment when the project was complete, and the interest rates would stay at the current rate. This will cost the town \$9,968,000 over 22 years, at a minimum.

If the state chooses to amortize the payment and pay out the \$9 million over 20 years, which it has in the past, the additional interest payments will increase the effect on the mil rate to 1.2 mills and cost the town \$13,780,000 over 22 years.

Only one of the three projects has a possible grant available; of course, with 169 towns vying for \$150 million, there is no guarantee that a \$9 million grant will be awarded to Thompson. Proponents of the projects will point out that the legal notice states "no amount of the appropriation may be expended until the town receives evidence of the State's approval of the grant," but that is not included in the wording of the referendum questions which just ask to appropriate the funds for the project. If the referendum

To the Editor:

A flyer prepared by "some concerned citizens of Woodstock" that was mailed to Woodstock residents indicates that budgets have been cut and cut and cut to meet the required spending limits of Pro 46. But the graph included in the flyer shows a steady increase in the budget.

Last year, the selectmen told us that taxes would only increase by about 6 percent if we approved their proposed budget. A lot of voters believed them. I don't know about you, but my taxes increased by 12 percent despite no improvements being made to the property. That is double (100 percent more) that the misinformation provided.

The expenses associated with lack of due diligence and the poorly thought out purchase of Hyde School, and with implementing a football program at the Academy, have been significant. Neither did a thing to improve the quality of education.

The town is investing next to nothing in

### School health and safety are not "out of touch"

To the Editor:

Mrs. Warner makes complaint in the Jan. 13 villager that the Thompson Public School system is out of touch in requests for health and safety items. Let's not make this unclear. These are health and safety items.

Our children cannot learn in a building if they do not have clean, appropriately moderated air. We have systems dating back to the '80's, if not earlier. We have continuously slapped on Band-Aid after Band-aid, duct tape and gum. Is it unfortunate that a grant to do so came out with extreme short notice, and in a time of economic uncertainty? Yes. However, how is that the fault of the approximate 900 students who grace the halls?

Let's also discuss the "rush." The building committee had been working on a proposal for this for weeks. If the bulk of our local Board of Finance members paid a bit more attention to what actually occurs in town, rather than just themselves, they would have been aware of it. Meeting agendas and minutes had been posted. This is not hidden information.

Security upgrades: As someone who has two children in the district, I personally feel it's irresponsible to list out specifically any concerns/weakness in the building. That is asking for trouble we as a community do not need. The legal notice, while not specific does list out several items that would be addressed. So our children's safety should be put at risk for someone's need to know absolutely everything?

Track: The downfall of the track is a direct correlation to the lack of involvement in our community by our local Board of Finance and community alike. While, yes, it's taken 20 years to get to this point, but every year it is the same excuses. The last several years it was: we cannot fund anything because of

questions are approved, the town must go forward with the projects, whether or not the State approves the grant. If the State does not approve the grant, the additional interest and principal payments will increase the effect on the mil rate to 1.8 mills and cost the town \$22,780,000 over 22 years.

Why the rush? Is the state going to run out of grant money? The wheels of government typically grind very slowly, yet in this case, the biggest spending proposal in many years, there isn't even enough time to make a formal presentation to the Board of Finance at a regular meeting. The board was not even given any information on the total cost of the HVAC project other than an estimate for phase one, what else is included? The Board was told that there are two boilers that are critical, but the Board approved 143 thousand dollars to replace the two boilers in November: The board also asked if air conditioning was included, they were told "just for the cafeteria and gym," not for the classrooms.

The board was also told at their regular meeting on December 15th that the school system is currently over budget by \$1,132,000,000 in the current year. They also have to account for a \$250,000 over budget for 2022, another 1.8 mills on our tax rate.

If it passes, the average taxpayer will see their tax bill go up an extra \$450-\$550 per year if the interest rates stay at 4 percent. It could be much higher if interest rates increase.

What will the Thompson taxpayers get in return? Not much. If we are going to spend \$1.5 million to tear up and rebuild a track, let's do it at the Belding site. The current owners are in arrears on their taxes, and a beautiful new track along the river, would be an asset to the whole town. Being in the center of town would encourage its use by the citizens and it would remove an eyesore. It is a project that I believe the town could get behind.

It is time to take a step back, make formal presentations to the board, with information on the total project scope and actual costs. These projects should be part of our normal budget process, where the information is available for the board members and the taxpayers to make an informed choice. The taxpayers deserve it, it is after all their money the town wants to spend.

BILL WARNER THOMPSON

open space conservation, or in attracting new businesses or helping existing businesses thrive, which are essential to preserving our rural character and reducing the costs associated with residential properties.

Over the years, there have been repeated efforts to repeal Prop 46, or to do questionable work arounds. As far as I can tell, Prop 46 has been the only thing keeping spending in check.

Yet every couple of years, there is an attempt to repeal it, perhaps in the hope that voter turnout will be as poor as it usually is, or that people are not smart enough to grasp the implications of getting rid of the law.

Sorry, but I have very little trust left in the town government's ability or willingness to make wise budget decisions that will make Woodstock continue to be an affordable place to live.

E.Z. SMITH WOODSTOCK

covid. Years before that it was the economy. I'm sure this year, it will be the economy again. The track affects not only our student athletes, but failing to repair it eliminates a safe location for other community members as well. I competed on that track during my time at TMHS as well as students before me, but not many after due to the apathy.

Fundraising is not as it was in the time of Mrs. Fisher. I sit as a board member on both the Elementary and Middle School PTO. We fundraise for field trips, classroom needs, and a playground expansion, all not included in the budget. We consistently have to ask our families over and over to support this fundraiser or this one, often having to be in competition with our local recreation sports, scouting groups, and other youth programs. Our district cannot exist on fundraising. There are not enough candy bars to sell to cover the necessities that this district needs.

It's clear that the Board of Finance in not bringing topics to Town Meeting and referendum in the past have left residents ignorant of what would occur in the future.

Personally, I do not elect my local officials to make the decision, but to provide the options, and as a taxpayer, it's my job to determine the one I feel is best not only for myself but my community as a whole and vote for that option.

I hope Thompson Public Schools families and residents alike get out to these meetings and vote, rather than leaving these items in the hands of a few.

Thank You,

JESSICA BOLTE THOMPSON

## Relationships are the key to happiness



NANCY WEISS

Our neighbor came by recently with a plate of homemade pastries. We sat down to share a cup of tea and enjoyed the kind of rambling conversation one has with someone seen occasionally, but to whom we are linked by proximity and history. When he left, we felt good, and I imagine he did, too. I've read that this kind of interaction not only feels good, but it is good for us.

I live in the small town where I grew up. My childhood home was a hub of activity. People came and went all the time. Sometimes they had coffee, sometimes tea. Often, they had a drink, generally a blended whiskey, or in summer, beer. The retired Jesuit priests from a place called St. Robert's Hall, dropped by to talk about the Red Sox, politics, and chat with our minister. Men came to ask my father's advice. Couples dropped in to gossip and check on my mother's failing health. Nothing went unnoticed, but at least in my memory, there was little judgement. Everyone had a back story, which everyone knew or purported to know, but the camaraderie was palpable.

My parents lived and worked in the same space. By the time my husband and I were building our careers and raising our daughters, we were at offices or on the road. When I got home energy went into creating decent meals, organizing for the next day and staying on top of what everyone needed. Somehow there was still time for visits from neighbors, friends, and countless people who helped with the endless repairs our 18th century property demanded. Best of all, older friends, people whose children were grown or who were single, invited us for drinks and dinners and made us feel special and adult.

Much has changed. I have come to understand that not everyone welcomes coming and going in their homes. I know people who would prefer that only their immediate family visit in person. Dropping by isn't always acceptable either. During the dark days of pandemic isolation, only the delivery people came to our door. One afternoon a friend came by with a bag of beautiful hand-made masks for us and I nearly cried at the sight of him. I was lonely for visitors.

Not everyone is. Dunbar's Number is a social scientist's stab at quantifying the number of social connections we can maintain. It is about 150, based on research on brain size in humans and monkeys and the optimum size of groups, including Christmas card lists. We can maintain relationships with about 150, according to the study, with an inner circle of five. We can recognize 1,500 people. I love random bits of information such as this and will offer it up in a conversation sometime within the 150 meaningful contacts I have.

As writers look for clues to the new year, the power of relationships pops up. The weekend WSJ reviewed an 85-year study, the Harvard Study of Adult Development. It found "that personal connections are the most important factor in long-term health and happiness." What a relief! Factors such as exercise, diet, successful careers are important, but not as much as good relationships when it comes to longevity and being happy. Finally, some good news for those of us who love a long chat at the post office or a glass of wine with friends at 85 Main.

Tomorrow, I'll write thank you notes to friends who brought me food, flowers and champagne when I was sick. Relationships are the best medicine ever.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An open letter to the citizens of Killingly (and our families from sending communities)

To the Editor:

I was astonished to learn what depths some of my colleagues on the Board of Education would go to in an attempt to bully and silence me.

The vote to censure me at the Jan. 11 meeting only had one result: further damaging the reputation of the Killingly Board of Education.

My first duty as a member of the Board of Education is to protect the money used to fund our schools. We are legal fiduciaries.

When the idea of contracting with CHCI was shown as an Agenda item and presented at the Ad Hoc Committee, I undertook the due diligence to prepare for a decision: I asked questions. Admittedly, I compared the CHCI proposal to the rejected Generations proposal for a school-based health center.

When I learned there was a cost associated, I questioned this - as I'm sure many did. I wanted to know why it was in the interest of the taxpayers of Killingly to spend \$25,000 in startup costs for CHCI when Generations said it would begin operations without cost to the town.

I wanted to know whether the one part-time person offered by CHCI would meet the needs of the students of Killingly.

I wanted to know what services would be provided during the six months CHCI said it would need to hire, train, and certify staff.

At the Nov. 30 meeting, it was clear that a prior meeting had taken place. I sent a

brief email to CHCI inquiring, which did ask for dates and attendees. As a result, I learned that two state representatives invited CHCI to a meeting via Zoom. CHCI indicated that "Ms. Martin, Mr. Ferron, and other members of the Board of Education" were present.

In a lengthy yet direct email (to board leadership) outlining my concerns, I questioned that process and authenticity to the District. The response I received was unprofessional. Ultimately, as a result, I was removed from the reformed AdHoc Committee.

After reviewing both options from CHCI & Generations, I believe contracting with them both providers would have benefited our District best.

CHCI's decision to not enter a Contract with our District came Tuesday, Jan. 10, over 40 days after my brief email and correspondence with CHCI.

Ultimately, I believe the decision not to enter a contract came from weeks of contractual demands and change requests - a process I was not a part of.

I will continue to fulfill my duties as a Killingly Board of Education member and continue to ask questions to hold the Board of Education accountable for its decisions to the children, parents, staff, and taxpayers of Killingly.

Our children are watching.

Sincerely Yours,  
SUSAN LANNON  
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Heads up, Woodstock, part II

To the Editor:

Okay, Woodstock, we now know from a "Letter to the Editor" in the Jan. 6 edition of the Villager by Glenn Lessig and a position paper published by "some concerned citizens of Woodstock - Glenn Lessig Chairman" and distributed to Woodstock residents, that the spenders are in fact coming after Prop 46, as expected and the lead issue is EMS funding. What is a bit surprising is how this group, led by a former Board of Finance member, doesn't seem to realize that town finances are part of the public record, and so is easily cross checked.

For the spenders, there is never enough money. They firmly believe more money will solve all ills, and so facts are just an inconvenience, but here are few: Glenn et al, claim that the need for fulltime EMS is putting the town's finances at risk. The cost for full-time EMS, as they suggest, is \$284,000 and that since Woodstock's budget has been "cut...and cut...and cut..." we are hitting a financial wall. In reality, the Woodstock budget has only been "cut" twice since 2002. First in 2010 by \$30,000 - that's \$30,000 out of \$21 million; the second time in 2011 by \$69,000 out of \$21 million. You might recall that this was just after the financial collapse of 2008/9. Back to today, in reality surpluses on the town side over the last five years have averaged over \$350,000 per year and could easily cover the EMS issue especially with a little actual financial management. Glenn then goes on to explain how the Grand List went down between 2011 and 2021 and implies (strongly) that, this in itself, limited budget increases under Prop 46 and forced cuts in services.

Glenn either overlooked the 18.2 percent jump in the mill rate during that period to offset the drop in market values for real-estate and which compensated for the devaluation or doesn't understand it, and forgot how Prop 46 works in a Reval year increasing the budget by the same amount as the previous year or average of the last three whichever is lower - it never cuts the budget. Between 2011 and 2021 - and since - budgets have increased every year in part because of increases in revenue from the Grand List or from

the application of Prop 46's revel clause. Lastly, Glenn turns to education; where he claims "Students took the greatest hit."

Reality check - first, school budgets were not cut even once, in fact grew at a compound annual rate (CAGR) of 2.8 percent which is not unreasonable for that period of time, but then we have the school enrollment issue at WPS (pre-K through 8) where in 2002, enrollment was 30 percent higher than it is today, dropping from 1,002 to 766 this year - and where we have over 140 employees today and not to mention have declining test scores year after year for more than seven years. Of course, the blame goes to Woodstock Academy where enrollment is actually up about 5 percent. Test scores hard to dodge - failure on education. On the cost side, Glenn knows better than this as he did a report for the Board of Finance back in 2019 comparing the actual cost (not the partial figures reported by the school admiration) per student at WPS v/s WA that showed the actual spending per student for pre-K through 8 is higher than at Woodstock Academy, i.e. it costs more to educate a second grader than a high school student - the report was presented to BOF and filed but never published to public. It has only gotten worse since then. WPS has roughly the same number of teachers and paraprofessionals for 766 students as Woodstock Academy has for almost 1200 students. Finally, if you still think more money is the solution; on Jan. 10, the Town Auditors presented the 2022 audit report to the BOF which included three "significant discrepancies" all on the School Admin side. Two discrepancies in reference to straight accounting procedures, not minor errors, and one additional discrepancy resulting in a violation of state statute CGS 10-222; all will require corrective action reports - so failure on financial management.

Yes, let's take away the only restraint we have on spending and let the spenders at it. If you thought 5.8 percent was fun, wait for 10 percent - year after year - and even that won't satisfy them.

DAVE RICHARDSON  
WOODSTOCK

Thompson needs to start taking care of our town's biggest asset - our kids.

To the Editor:

Is clean indoor air important to you? Is our children's safety and security while at school important to you? Is maintaining our towns largest asset and maintaining outdoor recreation for our students and community important you? These aren't nice to have items - we are now at a point that we need to address issues at the school that impact safety, air quality, and our facilities/grounds.

Our town has turned the other way and put off the needs of our children and school for far too long. Year after year, the school is expected to put forth a zero or close to zero increase on budgets, ignoring the fact that everything increases in cost year after year. Just the basics: oil, gas, electricity, and insurance don't cost less as years go on - they increase. We all know it; we see it in our own household budgets. So how we continue to expect the school to take on those increases without needing more money is mind boggling.

Want to know what happens when essential items increase yet the budget remains flat? Maintenance is put off, activities are reduced, and quality of education potentially decreases as our best educators leave to find better pay

elsewhere. To add fuel to the fire, our special education population continues to increase putting even more fiscal pressure and budgetary deficit on our budget. The end result is to sacrifice our kid's education yet again as funds are moved from the General Education Budget to offset all the budget shortfalls. Is that what we want? Do we want our kids in a building that isn't properly maintained? In a building that should be made more secure for the safety of our kids? At a school that can't provide the basic necessities and education they deserve? At a school that lets its facility crumble away leaving little to no access to a sport that is rated most popular in the nation and loved by many of our middle school and high school boys and girls?

Our kids are our town's biggest asset - let's not forget they are our town's future. We as townspeople should VALUE our children and their education, not turn a blind eye and hope for the best. We need to step up and take responsibility as a community and start taking pride and care of our town, our school, and our kids. The alternative is not an option.

HEATHER SANTOS  
THOMPSON

The well being of our children is under siege

To the Editor:

To be a right-wing culture warrior in the early 2020's, one must possess a certain ability to blind oneself to an actual problem and measures to fix it, and focus instead on an issue which, while nominally related, is calculated for maximal potential to inflame and divide.

Which is why, when presented last year with data from the Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC) survey of 449 Killingly students in grades 7-12 showing that 28 percent of them had thoughts of harming themselves and 14.7 percent had an actual suicide plan (consistent with data from other regions of the country during the pandemic), the first response of the Republican members of the Killingly School Board was not to express concern, worry, or ponder how one might best improve the situation, but rather to get their patron, State Rep. Anne Dauphinais, to conduct her own survey of Killingly residents entitled "Public school services for minors without parental consent." This survey asked not about the importance of proper recognition and treatment of mental distress or illness, depression, or thoughts of suicide, but rather honed in on hot-button topics like birth control, premarital sex, abortion, gender identity, religion, vaccines, and whether or not it would be appropriate for a school counselor to discuss these things with a student without express parental consent.

So when a proposal by Generations Family Health Center, which was already providing mental health services to several surrounding school districts without controversy, to provide an in-school, full-time, well-trained mental health counselor in the Killingly schools (at no cost to the school department) was voted down 6-3 by the Republican members of the school board last March, it came as no surprise.

The scant explanations that were given highlighted concern with the fact that there would be situations where a counselor would see a student urgently for a problem without initial parental consent. That this had not been a problem in the other school districts where Generations operated and that subsequent care and counseling would require the parent(s) to sign off were discounted and no attempt was made to further clarify the consent issue or to negotiate in good faith around this stumbling block.

Instead, the former chair of the school board questioned the honesty of the students in the SERAC survey: "How do you know they were honest responses? We're dealing with kids. They could have written anything. That's what kids do." The current chair, Norm Ferron, was quoted as saying that 14.7 percent of students with a concrete suicide plan was "not that big of a number."

In the months after the rejection of the Generations proposal, virtually every school board meeting featured brave current and former students, parents of suicide victims, teachers, and mental health experts pouring their hearts out with little or no response from the Republican members of the board. In fact, if there was any response to these testimonials it was usually annoyance that they were "taking up our time."

Faced with the board's intransigence and alarmed by what they felt was inaction in the face of a crisis, a group of Killingly students, parents, and other residents filed a petition in April to the state Department of Education alleging that the Killingly board had "failed to meet the educational interests of its' students," leading to a state investigation of the board and culminating in a scathing report issued in late October.

The report concluded that the board engaged in "deliberate indifference" to students' mental health needs and pointed out that it had pushed two mutually exclusive narratives: that the board's lawyers had told it not to look for alternative mental health proposals because it could be "construed as an admission of failure to implement the state's educational interests" and, at the same time, that it had fact been actively looking for alternative proposals the whole time.

The report also pointed out that since the filing of the complaint there had been at least 11 board meetings (and 18 since the SERAC mental health survey presentation) without "adoption of any meaningful substantive interventions."

Presumably in response to this report, and in an attempt to stave off a formal inquiry by the state board of education requested by the state department of education, the Killingly board solicited a proposal from Community Health Center Inc. (CHC) to provide mental health services. The initial proposal was lacking in some details and it was only after some time and Killingly board member Susan Lannon speaking directly to CHC that it became clear

that only a part-time counselor would be provided, there would be substantial use of telehealth visits, and that it could take up to 180 days to fill the position. In addition, there was to be a start-up cost of \$28,703 and the contract would only be for one year.

Subsequently, CHC withdrew its proposal and although it is far from clear why the company backed out, it referenced fear that they "would not be welcomed with open arms."

This prompted the Republican members of the Killingly board to quickly blame Lannon for sabotaging the proposal from CHC although there is no clear indication from CHC that she was the reason for the withdrawal and the questions she asked them were mundane ones about length of contract, staffing, cost, means of providing services (virtual vs. in-person), start-up time - all questions whose answers would ordinarily be considered essential before any decision was made about entering into a contract.

Not content to simply blame her, the six board Republicans along with Democrat Lydia Rivera Abrams, who frequently sides with the Republicans, voted for a formal censure of Lannon last week, a measure which carries no actual penalty but seemed to be an unnecessary and vindictive act against someone who was asking the questions that should have been asked before any contract was signed. A video of the meeting where she was censured is easily found on the internet (and worth watching) and is remarkable for the intensity and anger with which board members blame Lannon for CHC's withdrawal, without producing a single bit of evidence that she was in fact responsible.

But even more remarkable than the board's bogus vivisection of Lannon was the complete absence of any genuine discussion regarding the best way to move forward in fixing the problem that clearly exists in the Killingly schools.

Contrast this with the remarkable speed and efficiency the board showed in figuring out a way to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for armed guards in the Killingly schools after the Uvalde tragedy despite multiple studies which show (and a general consensus) that armed guards do not prevent school violence or shootings.

So. It doesn't add up. What has so stymied this board in developing a humane, responsive, practical, comprehensive program to give students the sense that their elders care about them and want to work with them to find solutions to their understandable distress? Why has there been no negotiation or discussion around the issue of consent, a good faith attempt to come to some agreement which would allow for emergency care and yet ensure that parents were appropriately involved?

The answer, of course, is that this isn't about doing what's right for the students.

It's about winning a battle in the culture wars. It's about making a specious point about "parental rights," and, in the process, summoning irrational fears of counselors "indoctrinating" students into any number of lifestyles and habits. (Plain vanilla psychological counseling doesn't happen to serve anyone's political agenda.) This is also ultimately about, I suspect, weakening our public education system, which is not something I relish saying about members of a public school board.

As Christopher Rufo, who, perhaps more than anyone in America, is responsible for pitting school parents against each other, puts it in a pamphlet entitled "Laying Siege to the Institutions" sent to me from Hillsdale College (an ultra-conservative institution in Michigan): "I call for a siege strategy. You have to be aggressive. You have to fight on terms that you define... to some extent, the institutions are now destroying their own credibility. Look at the public health bureaucracy and teachers' unions, which acted in concert to shut down schools and keep children needlessly masked...as a result there has been an explosion in home-schooling, as well as in the number of alternative K-12 schools such as the one Hillsdale College is helping to launch around the country...What is needed is to build alternative or parallel institutions and businesses in all areas."

Three final thoughts: people get hurt in any siege; having a school board that doesn't really believe in public schools is like having the fox guard the hen-house;

the Killingly students desperately need the support they so very much deserve.

JOHN A. DAY, JR., M.D.  
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

Additional Letters  
to the editor,  
see next page



# Five myths about generational wealth

The Rockefellers, the Vanderbilts and the Gettys are all famous families known for their success in building and maintaining generational wealth. While they've successfully passed down millions and billions of dollars to loved ones, the idea of successfully maintaining generational wealth is considered hard to achieve by some. Others believe that maintaining wealth through generations is almost inevitable. But both of these assumptions are wrong.

Let's break down some common myths regarding family wealth and the truth about generational wealth planning that every family should hear.

Myth #1: Wealth lasts many generations

It's easy to assume that a wealthy family has always been wealthy and will always be wealthy. But the truth is, around 70 percent of wealthy families lose their wealth by the second generation. More so, around 90 percent of families lose their wealth by the third generation.

There are many reasons for this. Parents may not wish to discuss money with their kids; second- or third-generation heirs don't understand the value of money; or families may neglect to set a plan for preserving their wealth in place. Whatever the case may be, it's important to understand that having family wealth and preserving family wealth are two very different things, and the latter often requires careful and considerate planning.

Myth #2: All family members are smart about money

Inheriting or obtaining a large amount of wealth does not mean one suddenly gains total financial literacy. What it does mean, however, is that a lack of financial knowledge can lead to decisions with a greater impact. This myth can be a dangerous one, as it may make some family members feel embarrassed or reluctant to admit their lack of financial knowledge.

For those who are not financially savvy, the burden of caring for and protecting family wealth can be a great source of stress. For those who find themselves in this position, working with a trusted financial profes-



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
LAURENCE HALE  
INVESTMENT ADVISER

sional should be a top priority. Your financial advisor isn't there to judge or scoff at your lack of financial knowledge. Instead, he or she is there to educate, guide and strategize on your behalf.

Myth #3: Parents talk to their kids about money

With wealthy families, it's easy to assume money and wealth are common topics of conversation. But in reality, it's possible children may receive an inheritance with very little understanding of how much they have or what to do with it. This is because, while communication has increased in recent years, it's likely some parents or grandparents are still uncomfortable talking about money with their children or grandchildren.

This, in turn, can cause a lack of financial knowledge (which we have discussed above) and lead to poor spending habits or loss of wealth over time. Therefore, a crucial component of preserving family wealth is open communication and transparency between family members.

Myth #4: Kids are lazy & don't work

We've all seen rich, young socialites on television, which may bring a few choice words to mind: arrogant, lazy, privileged and so forth. While some wealthy second- or third-generation heirs may fit that stereotype, others choose to continue working hard throughout their lifetime. Those who work may understand the importance of preserving wealth, typically because these values have already been discussed at length. They know that while several million dollars sounds like a lot, it can slip away fast when serving as one's only source of income.

Myth #5: Most millionaires inherited their wealth

Remember, only about 30 percent of wealthy families maintain their wealth beyond two generations and only 10 percent beyond three generations.<sup>1</sup> This means that most millionaires

today didn't inherit their wealth at all or may have only inherited a modest amount. Instead, they followed a plan, invested wisely, and worked hard to accumulate their wealth.

You don't have to be a Rockefeller to make a generational wealth plan. If you have a sizable amount of assets you wish to preserve for generations to come, you're in need of a generational wealth plan. If you aren't already, consider working with a trusted financial professional who can help you plan, educate family members and see your plan through after your passing.

We take a holistic, long-term approach to wealth management at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Financial Advisors. Through our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well strategic financial planning process, we partner with our clients to create a financial plan that's tailored to meet their specific goals and flexible enough to accommodate both the expected and unexpected changes that life holds, both for you and for your loved ones. If you'd like to learn more about how we can help you to create a strategic financial plan for you and your family, contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com, or visit our Web site at www.whzwealth.com.

Presented by by Principal/Managing Partner Laurence Hale AAMS, CRPS®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259, 860-928-2341. www.whzwealth.com.

h t t p s : / / w w w . y a h o o . c o m / n o w / 5 - h u g e - l i e s - g e n e r a t i o n a l - w e a l t h - 1 8 1 7 1 9 8 6 5 . h t m l

# The Putnam “Vampire”

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



KILLINGLY AT 300  
MARGARET WEAVER

asked Maureen Herrera, who volunteers for both Aspinock and Killingly Historical Societies, to use her Lydar site to search the area. Nothing positive; only piles of stones. No obelisk, and we could see at least one or two obelisks in Munyan Cemetery, which is not far away. We won't give up!

I think one of the next things I will do is go to the Putnam Town Clerk's office and see if the vitals list the cause of death after Putnam was incorporated. I'll see how many individuals I can find who died from tuberculosis until the late 1800's. I do have the last name of a family or two that lived in that greater area from the Putnam map in Gray's Atlas of Windham County for 1869. I can also work in the land records to see who owned property in the area, but that will all take time. If I uncover something, I'll let you know. Even though I've not found what I want, I did spend an most interesting week searching.

I actually did a Google search for Putnam vampire and came across what I considered a "funny" find. A vampire actually was used as the theme for a Gertrude Chandler Warner Box Car "ghost-written" book, "The Vampire Mystery." Since Greenfield was based on Putnam, I had to smile to myself. Putnam Children's Librarian Tina Aubin kindly requested it for me on interlibrary loan so I had good fun reading it--but of course I don't believe in vampires. However, I think it might have scared me if I were reading it as a young child.

Some of you may recall reading about the uncovering of a "vampire" burial in Eastern Connecticut in the 1990's. The Smithsonian Magazine carried an article called The Great New England Vampire Panic that summarizes what happened. I cannot begin to tell everything so if you're interested, read the entire article. "Children playing near a hillside gravel mine found the first graves. One ran home to tell his mother, who was skeptical at first--until the boy produced a skull. Because this was Griswold, Connecticut, in 1990, police initially thought the burials might be the work of a local serial killer named Michael Ross, and they taped off the area as a crime scene. But the brown, decaying bones turned out to be more than a century old. The Connecticut state archaeologist, Nick Bellantoni, soon determined that the hillside contained a colonial-era farm cemetery. New England is full of such unmarked family plots, and the 29 burials were typical of the 1700s and early 1800s: The dead, many of them children, were laid to rest in thrifty Yankee style, in simple wood coffins, without jewelry or even much clothing, their arms resting by their sides or crossed over their chests. Except, that is, for Burial Number 4.

Unfortunately, Leon had no time period when the individual passed away and did not know the lady's name? Talk about looking for a needle in a haystack! Longtime Aspinock Historical member Fabby Cutler, an East Putnam resident, hadn't heard of that vampire either. Neither had Putnam Heights resident Linden Whipple. Have any of you heard this story? Did anyone attend the presentation so many years ago? If so, please contact Bill Pearsall at the Aspinock Historical Society or email me.

Despite such scanty information, I did begin to search for the grave and any stories I could unearth. This single burial is not listed in Charles Hale's cemetery collection for Putnam, but I noticed that there were several other cemeteries that those transcribing stones in Putnam were unable to locate. Dead end number one! Next I went to the Putnam's assessor's office to see if anything appeared on their aerial maps near the power lines. Nothing! I must say that everywhere I went, I did spark a lot of interest and had individuals who said they would check with others who had lived in that area. Later my son Michael Weaver helped me install Google Earth on my iPad, but we could not find a walled-in site near the power lines on that either. Next, I

When Bellantoni lifted the first of the large, flat rocks that formed the roof, he uncovered the remains of a red-painted coffin and a pair of skeletal feet. They lay, he remembers, 'in perfect anatomical position.' But when he raised the next stone, Bellantoni saw that the rest of the individual 'had been completely...rearranged.' The skeleton had been beheaded; skull and thighbones rested atop the ribs and vertebrae. 'It looked like a skull-and-crossbones motif, a Jolly Roger. I'd never seen anything like it,' Bellantoni recalls. Subsequent analysis showed that the beheading, along with other injuries, including rib fractures, occurred roughly five years after death. Somebody had also smashed the coffin. 'J.B.,' as the 50ish male skeleton from the 1830s came to be called, because of the initials spelled out in brass tacks on his coffin lid. He was shipped to the National Museum of Health and Medicine, in Washington, D.C., for further study. Meanwhile, Bellantoni started networking. He invited archaeologists and historians to tour the excavation, soliciting theories. Simple vandalism seemed unlikely, as did robbery, because of the lack of valuables at the site. Finally, one colleague asked: "Ever heard of the Jewett City vampires?" In 1854, in neighboring Jewett City, Connecticut, townspeople had exhumed several corpses suspected to be vampires that were rising from their graves to kill the living. A few newspaper accounts of these events survived. Had the Griswold grave been desecrated for the same reason?...  
"Though scholars today still struggle to explain the vampire panics, a key detail unites them: The public hysteria almost invariably occurred in the midst of savage tuberculosis outbreaks. Indeed, the medical museum's tests ultimately revealed that J.B. had suffered from tuberculosis, or a lung disease very like it. Typically, a rural family contracted the wasting illness, and—even though they often received the standard medical diagnosis—the survivors blamed early victims as 'vampires,' responsible for preying upon family members who subsequently fell sick. Often an exhumation was called for, to stop the vampire's predations." (www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-great-new-england-vampire-panic-36482878/). There are many, many other articles on "vampires" in Rhode Island and Eastern Connecticut that you can see if you are interested.

If nothing else, keep in mind that the causes of "the wasting sickness", tuberculosis, consumption, were not known until later in the 19th century so people were of course scared. You never know what will cause a panic.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, January 2023. Special thanks to Bill Pearsall, Leon Renaud, Tina Aubin, Michael Weaver and Maureen Herrera. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killingly-historical.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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CIAC has been mischaracterized

To the Editor:

To my friend David Cassettari and his commentary concerning the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC): You are not spot on about that organization and its actions towards athletics and athletes.

Having served on CIAC committees as a coach, athletic director and school administrator, I feel that the information which you provided is not only misleading, but in some instances, inaccurate.

I realize that when I served was as far back as the "Ice Age." However, I assure you that the operation of this organization has not changed that significantly.

There is a staff of about 19 full time individuals, including office personnel, to oversee the governance and structure of over 30 boys and girls sports conducted under its jurisdiction. However, each sport has its own Committee consisting of a CIAC representative, school administrator, athletic directors and active coaches representing all three size levels. And it is these collective individuals who establish the rules and policies for each sport. There are only three divisions, small, medium and large schools. However, Committees are empowered to add sub-divisions as they deem appropriate based upon the size and quality of a school's program, football being a

prime example.

The CIAC is a non-profit entity. Its funds come from dues that each school is required to pay to be a member and receipts from playoff games and tournaments. But of the 30 state tournaments or competitions it supports, many generate little or no income.

So whatever income is received has to pay for non-revenue generating activities and tournaments, awards, an annual banquet for a pair of athletes from every member school, rules interpretation meetings, coaching clinics, the oversight of the Unified Sports programs for athletes with disabilities; and, as you mentioned, the many high paying jobs in a beautiful building. It is a great improvement, by the way, from the previous and antiquated facility in Hamden.

Is it a perfect organization with no warts? Show me one that is. But bylaws are updated annually and the CIAC provides a 230-page organizational structure manual which addresses just about any concern that you might have, including recruiting, how divisions are established and altered as deemed necessary and how it is attempting to deal with the transgender athlete. Might provide you with great reading material, David.

BUZZ KING  
DAYVILLE



# For our benefit

It was a tragedy, and probably completely avoidable. On Friday afternoon, Aug. 26, 2020, a man hiking in Grand Canyon National Park fell approximately 200 feet to his death. As people heard this news release from the National Park Service, I am sure their hearts went out to the man's family and friends. He was only 44 years old. Immediately, the question arises: "What could have been done to keep this kind of thing from happening?"

As more of the story was revealed, it became clear that the victim fell because he had ventured off the designated trail. He accidentally fell from rim west of the Bright Angel Point Trail, located on the North Rim of the park, because he didn't feel the need to stick to the trail. The Grand

Canyon National Park rangers who were called for rescue efforts found the man's body about 200 feet below the rim and determined he would not have fallen if he had kept to the trail, which the park service spent millions to create and maintain.

One source reported that, over the years, 180 people have died, falling into the Grand Canyon. Knowing that close to five million tourists will visit each year, The Park Service spends millions of dollars to try to keep people safe. To get a sense for how much money is spent, we can note that in 2017 the park announced it was short 300 million dollars in repair money. Throughout the years the Park Service has spent



BEYOND  
THE PEWS  
.....  
JOHN  
HANSON

thousands of manhours and millions of dollars building and maintaining safe trails and secure lookout points. They were built for the benefit of hikers like this man. He did not pay for the trail, except through taxes. His life would have probably been spared if he had just stuck to the path someone else thoughtfully provided.

God went to a lot of trouble to lay out some trails for His creation. When mankind holds to those trails and safe-

ty features, families, communities, and nations prosper. But human nature seems to always insist on leaving the trails. In doing so, we forfeit everything that was painstakingly provided for our benefit.

Here are four examples of some beneficial safety features God has given for us who are hiking through the Grand Canyon of life:

The benefit day of rest and reflection: In Mark 2:27, Jesus said, "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." God said we should take a day off every week. Man turned it into a heavy burden. Few of us truly take a day of rest each week. Even fewer enjoy the benefit of making it the Lord's Day.

The benefit of marriage: God says, be faithful to one partner. Many scientific studies have proven people are happier and live longer when they take this path. Others have proven that children are blessed when their parents choose this path. But, if we insist on selfishness and unfaithfulness... if we play the field... we will forfeit the love and trust we could enjoy. Our children will also be cheated.

The benefit of honesty: God says don't take what is not ours. He says not to lie. But some say, "I better get what I can and let other people fend for themselves," thereby forfeiting the joy of giving and the peace that comes from contentment and a clear conscience.

The benefit of wisdom: The commandment

"Honor you father and mother," is a safety feature designed to bless us and future generations. As our society has violated this principle, our culture has sunk into an avalanche of things like violence, rebellion, and mass murder.

People are blessed when they take full advantage of all the benefits God built into His creation. When we can recognize the trail and guardrails as gifts, we can embrace them and enjoy the benefits.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries, where they do their best to live by the boundaries established in God's book to mankind. For more information, please visit [www.ActsII.org](http://www.ActsII.org).

# New winning flower and vegetable varieties

It's never too early to start planning new additions to this year's gardens and containers. Start compiling your list now so you are ready to place your seed order or buy plants early when the selection is the greatest.

Consider including a few All-America Selections (AAS) winners. These plants have been "Tested Nationally & Proven Locally™" for their superior performance in home gardens and containers. Grow a few of these 2023 flower winners for a new look to some long-time favorites.

Coral Candy Coleus is part of the Premium Sun series of coleus. It is the first coleus grown from seed to be selected as an AAS Winner. This uniformly compact coleus has unique narrow, ser-



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

rated, multicolored leaves. The AAS judges found this variety maintained the color even when grown in full sun. It performed well all season and had almost no flowers. You will only need three seeds to fill a 14 to 16 inch container.

Bring a bit of the tropics to your garden, patio, or balcony with Royal Hawaiian® Waikiki colocasia. This beautiful elephant ear wowed the judges with its sturdy burgundy stems and large glossy leaves featuring pink veins and creamy white centers. Waikiki reveals these striking colors earlier than other variegated colocasia. This compact variety holds up well in wind and rain.

The stunning orange flowers of Doubleshot snapdragons will have you looking for spaces in the garden and containers to include this winner. This 18 to 20 inch tall snapdragon features open-faced double flowers that start out in shades of orange and orange-red transitioning to a dusty shade as they age. Its strong stems produce lots of flower-filled branches all season long that don't break off in high winds.

Blue By You salvia is bursting with bright blue flowers from late spring into fall when spent flowers are removed. This perennial blooms up to two weeks earlier than similar varieties already on the market. It was tested over three seasons, including winters and proven to be hardy in zones 4b to 9a. It is a favorite of hummingbirds and butterflies, makes a great cut flower, is suitable for containers, and is heat tolerant. All this and it's less favored by deer and rabbits.



Courtesy — All-America Selections

Make space in the vegetable garden for the high-yielding Kabocha Sweet Jade winter squash. The fruit weighs between one and two pounds, making it perfect for single servings of squash, as an edible soup bowl, or added to a variety of Asian-style dishes where a sweet, earthy nutritious squash is typically recommended. Roast, bake, or puree Sweet Jade's deep orange flesh that has a dry texture with a sweet flavor.

Grow San Joaquin jalapeno pepper when looking for big harvests in a short timeframe. This means you'll have lots of peppers available for canning, pickling, and serving roasted and stuffed to large groups of guests. Leave them on the plant longer, allowing them to turn a beautiful red while maintaining their flavor. These thick-walled peppers have just a hint of heat at 2,500-6,000 Scoville units.

**The strong stems of Doubleshot snapdragons produce a plethora of stunning orange flowers all season.**

Make room in your gardens and containers for these and other winning varieties. Adding new introductions that have been trialed by horticulture professionals across North America helps increase your gardening success.

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

# Heroes come in all shapes and sizes

We've seen so many superhero movies that we've been conditioned to think that a hero must have superhuman abilities. Like Superman, "faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive!" They must be able to fly, shoot lasers through their eyes, and perform feats of incredible strength and agility.

The truth is that heroes come in all shapes and sizes. Sometimes even a little girl can stand up to great tyranny and win.

leaving thousands of young girls without access to education. Women were forced to wear burqas in public and were beaten and killed if they dared to defy this oppressive rule.

The Taliban thugs carried out random bombings and targeted assassinations, causing absolute fear and panic.

Public executions and amputations were punishments for crimes. Anyone accused of spying or collaborating with the Pakistani government was publicly beheaded.

It reminds me of the old phrase, "It's not the size of the person, but the size of their heart that counts."

Have you ever heard of Malala Yousafzai? Malala Yousafzai was born in Pakistan on July 12, 1997. She was raised in a conservative family and received her early education at home. Her father was a teacher and an education activist. He instilled in her a love for learning and a desire to improve the education system in Pakistan.

In this situation, I'm sure many of the local population sought help from the government or lobbied the United Nations for Peacekeepers. No doubt, many prayed for a miracle, never realizing their miracle was a twelve-year-old girl.

Malala's father, who ran a school for girls, refused to comply with the ban, and Malala began speaking out against the Taliban's actions.

In 2009, when Malala was only 12 years old. The Taliban began taking control of the Swat Valley, where Malala lived. The Taliban's brutal reign of terror was a nightmare for the local population.

As the Islamist extremist group tightened its grip on the region, they imposed a harsh version of the Islamic law that stripped away the people's fundamental rights and freedoms.

Girls were banned from school, and those who dared to defy the ban were tortured and killed. The Taliban destroyed dozens of girls' schools,

In September 2008, Malala wrote a blog for the BBC under a pen name, describing life under the Taliban. The blog was a huge success. Soon after, she began speaking to the media about her life and the importance of education for girls.

What kind of threat could a twelve-year-old girl be to the mighty Taliban? Enough of a threat that Taliban leadership unanimously decided to kill her; and they knew where she lived. Death threats were delivered to her house and slid underneath her door. Even newspapers began publishing threats against her.

One day in 2012, she had defiantly attended a school to take an exam; while riding a bus on the way home, a Taliban hitman boarded the bus and asked which of the children was Malala; after identifying herself, he put a bullet in her head, and injuring two others.

Indeed, the attacker thought he was successful in his attempt. After being rushed to the hospital for a five-hour surgery to remove the bullet, miraculously, the doctors said she had a 70% chance of survival.

Malala survived and seemed to have a full recovery. In 2013, she spoke at the United Nations. She said, "The terrorists thought they would change my aims and stop my ambitions, but nothing changed in my life except this: weakness, fear, and hopelessness died. Strength, power, and courage were born ..."

Despite the odds, Malala Yousafzai stood up against the Taliban's brutal regime and fought for girls' education in Pakistan.

In 2014, she became the youngest ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Malala Yousafzai continues to fight and, no doubt, is just beginning her journey to greatness. Although the Taliban is alive and well, Malala has won. Her international fame and attention have captivated the world, and there is no turning back.

You have within you a strength that is greater than you can imagine. Like Malala, you can pursue your dreams, stand up against tyranny, and win.

Hiring?

Reach More

Loca/Applicants

Email:  
ads@villagernewspapers.com

Phone:(860) 928-1818

Help  
Wanted





Crossword Puzzle

1			2			3	4
5							
6		7				8	
						9	
		10					

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1901:** QUEEN VICTORIA IS STRICKEN WITH PARALYSIS. SHE DIES THREE DAYS LATER.
- **1920:** THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION IS FOUNDED.
- **1983:** THE APPLE LISA, THE FIRST COMMERCIAL PERSONAL COMPUTER FROM APPLE COMPUTER TO HAVE A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE AND A COMPUTER MOUSE, IS ANNOUNCED.



PHILATELY IS ANOTHER NAME FOR THIS POPULAR HOBBY.

ANSWER: STAMP COLLECTING

ACROSS

- 1. Place to live
- 3. Short for “hello”
- 5. Pans
- 6. Like to do
- 8. Taylor Swift song
- 9. Word used in comparisons
- 10. Natural aptitude

DOWN

- 1. Fun interests
- 2. Exchange of goods
- 4. Something enjoyed
- 7. Stick out
- 8. Male

Answers:  
Across  
1. House 3. Hi 5. Bakeaware 6. Enjoy 8. Me 9. As 10. Talent  
Down  
1. Hobbies 2. Sale 4. Interest 7. Out 8. Man

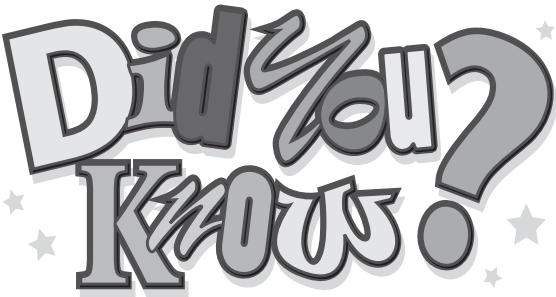


HOBBY

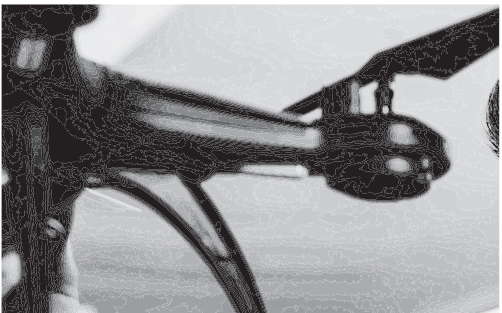
a regular activity that is done for enjoyment



- ENGLISH:** Art
- SPANISH:** Arte
- ITALIAN:** Arte
- FRENCH:** Art
- GERMAN:** Kunst



READING, TRAVELING AND FISHING ARE SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR HOBBIES AROUND THE WORLD.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: DRONE

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to bath safety.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 3 = G)

- A. 8 15 24 10**  
Clue: Slide
- B. 3 9 11 2**  
Clue: Hold on
- C. 15 24 3 4 5 24 25 3**  
Clue: Illumination
- D. 23 11 5 14 9**  
Clue: H2O

Answers: A. slip B. grab C. lighting D. water

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:



Albert J. Sharpe, 52



With his legendary quick wit and encyclopedic arsenal of jokes (nearly all too inappropriate for printing here), he loved to spend hours talking and swapping tales with everyone he met. He never failed to make people laugh and especially excelled at cheering up

In lieu of flowers, should you wish to honor Albert with a gift, donations to an education fund for his children can be made to The Sharpe Family at 9A Kathleen Drive, Brooklyn, CT 06234.

Dr. Dominick F. Roto, DMD, 98



Born of first-generation parents who emigrated from Italy and Poland. He represented the American Dream. He was born during the Depression and helped his mother navigate hard times. At 18 years old, he was drafted into WWII and participated in the South Pacific Campaign as a Navy attachment to the Marines as a pharmacist mate. He saw active fighting in the Philippines. After the war he was called into a special covert mission, Operation "Beleaguer" in China. Eventually he returned from the War, and like thousands of other GIs, he sought out the American dream with education, family and a home. He attended UCONN in both undergrad and graduate studies and went on to Tufts Dental School adding his DMD degree. In 1955, he opened his solo dental practice in East Hartford, the town that he grew up in. He worked in



For online condolences, please visit [www.tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tierneyfuneralhome.com)

## Walter Zeh, 97



He loved nature and the outdoors and had a fondness for the Quiet Corner. In 1994, he and his wife moved to Thompson CT after building their

Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 11:00AM in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255. Memorial donations in Walter's memory may be made to Hospice of NECT, P.O. Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260, David E. Thompson Volunteer Fires Dept., P.O. Box 271, Thompson, CT 06277 or Thompson Fire Engine Co. Inc., 406 Chase Rd., Thompson, CT 06277. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 223 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255. For memorial guestbook please visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

# LEGALS

The fiduciary is:  
 Mariah L Jasmer,  
 MARK R BROUILLARD ST ONGE &  
 BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171,  
 WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
 January 20, 2023

*A warm stew  
to chase  
the chill away*

This recipe for “Jalapeño Pork Stew With Pickled Onions” from “Real Simple Dinner Tonight: Done!” (Time Home Entertainment) by the editors of Real Simple is tailor-made for a cold day. This hearty dish will warm anyone up both from the heat of the stew itself and the spicy kick of the jalapeños.

Heat oven to 325 F. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large ovenproof pot on Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Season the pork with the cumin, 1¼ teaspoons salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper. In batches, cook the pork until browned, turning occasionally, 6 to 8 minutes; transfer to a plate.

*Gilman & Co.*  
Funeral Homes and Crematory  
"Living Up to a Tradition"  
~ Bob

*Gilman & Valade* 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Funeral Homes and Crematory

**"Living Up to a Tradition Started 100 Years Ago"**  
~ Bob Fournier

1919 2019

Alexander & Senora Gilman    Eva & Leonard Gilman    Lawrence & Arlene Bellerose    Robert & Adrienne Fournier

**"A century of dedication, compassion and guidance."**

**Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory**  
104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260 • 860-928-7723 • [GilmanAndValade.com](http://GilmanAndValade.com)





# Tourtellotte Student Spotlight: Kayla Botelho

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Each month, Tourtellotte Memorial High School’s Student Spotlight program recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, character, leadership, attitude, and/or contributions to the school and community. January’s Student Spotlight honoree is senior Kayla Botelho.

Kayla was nominated by Corey Kostacopoulos, Allison Thebeau, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Prouty.

Kayla’s friend Allison says, “Kayla puts all of her time into making everyone around her happy, no matter what. She is always putting the needs of others in front of her own and proves to be a wonderful friend. This past year Kayla has opened up and shown how talented and amazing she really is. I am so proud of each and every one of her accomplishments and can’t wait to see what she does next.”

Corey adds in Kayla’s nomination, “She is a top student who has essentially built the Diversity Club from the ground up.”

Mrs. Anderson says, “Dedication, hard work, and kindness are Kayla’s notable strengths. Tackling lead roles in our musicals, being the assistant student conductor for our choir, President of Diversity Club, and singing the National Anthem for countless community events demonstrates just how active and dedicated Kayla is to her educational experiences. Kayla will always offer to help anyone for any reason. A born leader, Kayla doesn’t shy away from any adversity; instead, she takes it on head first with positive energy. I am so happy to have gotten the chance to know Kayla over these past few years, and I look forward to seeing the absolutely amazing things in her future.”

Finally, Mrs. Prouty adds, “Kayla is a wonderful person who brings a positive and kind spirit to class. She is really the type of student that any teacher would be lucky to have. She is hard-working, driven, kind, and thoughtful. Not only is she a talented artist; she is involved in so many clubs and activities such as yearbook, leadership, drama, and diversity which is a testament to her willingness to help others. I feel lucky to have gotten to know her over the past four years and cannot wait to see the phenomenal things I know she will accomplish.”

While consistently achieving high honors throughout high school in courses such as AP Art, Kayla leads in several school clubs and organizations and has performed in several musical productions both inside and outside of school, including “Beauty and the Beast,” “The Great Gatsby,” Tourtellotte’s Got Talent, and Broadway Stars. Kayla will also be playing the character of Bert when “Mary Poppins” hits the stage in the Thompson Schools Auditorium beginning March 24.

When asked what motivates her, Kayla says, “What motivates me is being able to make things happen. I enjoy making people smile and making a difference in my school. When whatever event I’ve been preparing for finally happens, it makes all of the work worth it. I strive to bring people together through theater and my leadership in the Diversity Club.”

About her future, Kayla states, “This school offered me a wonderful opportunity when I was able to play Lumiere in ‘Beauty and the Beast’ last year. I had always loved musicals, but it unlocked a love for performing I didn’t know I had. From every role I play and audition for, I learn something new. And because of that, I feel this need to keep performing after high school. I plan on going to college for musical theater, but I would also like to start an electrical company with my dad one day. My dream is to one day be able to open my own local theater for other dreamers like me. But I’m ready and excited for whatever the future may bring.”

Finally, Kayla’s message to her school and community is, “No matter what challenges life throws at you, getting involved is the best way to meet new people and create wonderful experiences. A little bit of kindness can go a long way and make it a mission every day to go out of your way to make one person feel good. I am so thankful for all of my friends that have been along the journey with me this past year.”

# Ryan Graham earns Westview Commons’ Employee of the Month award



Ryan Graham

DAYVILLE — Ryan Graham earned the distinction of November 2022 Employee of the Month at Country Living at Westview Commons.

Graham provides an important role on the Support Services staff at the Dayville independent and assisted living facility through his overnight duties; working on the third shift to provide his presence and assistance for the residents as needed. He has performed this role at Westview Commons since joining the staff of the residence in February 2021. Concurrently, he has also worked at Winchester Interconnect CM Corporation over the past six years; fulfilling a position as a sales team Account Manager there. Graham’s third shift responsibilities include maintaining the reception desk and monitoring the security of the facility, some basic maintenance and cleaning when necessary, and offering his kind greetings to residents rising early in the day.

Graham was raised in Pomfret, and graduated from The Woodstock Academy. Presently, he lives in Plainfield with his wife, Patty Dupre, and their son, Johnny Dupre-Graham, and daughter, Jazzy Dupre-Graham. His family likes to maintain a healthy pattern of outdoor physical activity. For aquatic adventures, they enjoy fishing and kayaking along the Quinebaug River and on the Quaddick Reservoir in Thompson. He and his family thoroughly enjoy hiking on the quiet corner’s many beautiful trails—Ross’s Cliffs in Killingly and Mashamoquet Brook State Park in Pomfret are some of their favorite wood-

land walking destinations. Graham is an avid disc golfer; further establishing his passion for outdoor activities. Given Ryan’s professional schedule, he and his family place emphasis on all of their time together. Movie nights, board game tournaments, and seasonal outings provide special memories for Ryan’s family to cherish with each other.

In receiving this Employee of the Month designation, Graham reflected on his role at Westview Commons with pride: “I love working here at Westview Commons—this facility is so beautiful and so well-kept by our team. Everyone I work with exhibits kindness in their conduct, and willingness to collaborate the best of our abilities to provide our residents with a carefully catered living experience. I know how dedicated my colleagues are here at Westview Commons, so I truly appreciate being recognized among this team!”

Westview Commons’ Executive Vice President, David T. Panteleakos, shared his gratitude for Graham’s efforts towards the operations of the residence, noting “I have great appreciation for Ryan’s overnight dedication to preserve the safe, comfortable atmosphere here at Westview Commons. As one of our night watchmen, his responsibilities instill our residents with relief as they rest. By day and night, we want our residents to know they are secure—and Ryan is an important contributor in this effort. Congratulations to Ryan!”

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 15 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.

# Explore Mohegan history and traditions at special presentation in Pomfret

POMFRET — It’s somewhat common knowledge that much of the land that now comprises the Quiet Corner was once Mohegan tribal land under the control of the sachem Uncas. Not long after bequeathing the land to his two sons, Joshua and Owaneco, the land was acquired by early settlers.

You are invited to learn more on Sunday, Jan. 22, when David Eichelberg, Outreach and Tradition Specialist of the Mohegan Tribe, will give a presentation about the culture, history, and performance of dance and song of the Mohegan people.

“I hope that this will be the first of a series of talks members of the Mohegan tribe will make,” shared Lorraine Reeder, a Vestry member of Christ Church. “I envision arranging future talks where we can learn more about how the Indians cared for the land and raised their crops. I think they may be able to help us determine how we as individuals can contribute to saving our environment, and maybe delaying the spread of global warming.”

Christ Church Pomfret will open the doors of its hall at 2:30 p.m., offering refreshments prior to the 3 p.m. talk. Reservations via email to christchurchpomfret@gmail.com are requested but not required. All are welcome and there is no cost to attend. Donations to the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum will be accepted.

Christ Church is located at 521 Pomfret Street, Route 169, in Pomfret.

## Now Hiring For:

- Cooks
- Servers
- Dishwashers
- Housekeeping
- Skilled & Visiting Nurses\*

\* May be Eligible for \$3K - \$20K Sign - On Bonus

Full Benefits Starting Day 1, Free Meals, Tuition Reimbursement, 401K w/ Company Match, Best in Industry Mileage Reimbursement for Traveling Positions \$0.62.5 per Mile

88 Masonic Home Rd, Charlton, MA 01507  
Direct Line: (508) 434-2325  
E-Mail: DL-Recruiting@overlook-mass.org  
www.overlook-mass.org/careers

## ONE FREE ADULT ADMISSION W/ THIS AD!

Jenks Productions presents the 14<sup>TH</sup> Annual Worcester Wedding & BRIDAL EXPO

Worcester's LARGEST & Most Complete Wedding Show w/ Exhibits, Live Entertainment, & Dazzling Fashion Shows!

# JANUARY 21 & 22

### DCU CENTER

50 Foster Street • Worcester, MA  
SATURDAY 11AM - 4PM  
SUNDAY 11AM - 4PM  
ADMISSION \$10.00

### SIGN UP AT THE SHOW TO WIN OUR 2023 GRAND PRIZE PACKAGE!

**\$5,000 Grand Prize Package**  
4 day 3 night stay, gulf view room w/ private balcony overlooking the Gulf and beautiful sugar white beaches  
Courtesy Association of Wedding Professionals Int'l\* Approximate Value \$1000+  
\*Restrictions May Apply  
Register Online, or at the Show

**OVER 150 PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:**  
Bridal Shops • Formal Wear • Florists • Invitations • Photographers • Caterers  
Videographers • Jewelers • Bands • Disc Jockeys • Entertainment • Hotels • Make-Up & Hair Stylists  
Travel Agents • Banquet Facilities • Wedding Consultants • Limousine Services • Gifts & More!

OTHER UPCOMING BRIDAL SHOWS IN:  
HARTFORD, CT • WHITE PLAINS, NY • SPRINGFIELD, WORCESTER, MA

SPONSORED BY:

## WWW.JENKSPRODUCTIONS.COM • (860) 365-5678

LIMITED ONE PER PERSON. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. NO COPIES. NOT FOR RESALE.