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Relay for Life moves to Putnam for 2024



BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut returns for another year this June with a new home and a new theme to help raise money in support of the American Cancer Society. The Relay has long been a tradition in the region previously hosting the walk at the Woodstock Fairgrounds before moving to the Brooklyn Fairgrounds and, most recently, spending a year at Roseland Park. However last year the Canadian wildfires forced the Relay indoors for the first time with Putnam High School as its host. With the 2024 Relay fast approaching, Event Chair Shane Donahue has revealed that Putnam will serve

as the new home for the event full-time with the Saint Marie-Greenhalgh Sports Complex on Wicker Street as the host site. While the Putnam community has long been supportive of the Relay for Life and provided a last-minute emergency site in 2023, this is the first time the town will serve as the official host community for the event. “Roseland Park was a great host for us, but after last year moving inside Putnam High School the town was such a supportive community and really came together for us in the eleventh hour and we decided we wanted to be a part of the Putnam community,” said Donahue. “It’s a smaller venue, too. Roseland is beautiful, but it’s really big so we were more spread out. The new venue is more an appro-

priate size for us.” The new year also brings a new theme as every Relay embraces a different concept to help create unity among the teams and add to the fun of the day. This year’s theme is “Hollywood Nights,” and will include plenty of television and movie themed displays and activities that honor survivors, caregivers and more. “We’re going to have a Walk of Fame that shares some research milestones and important figures from the American Cancer Society. We’re going to have our teams pick their favorite TV shows and movies and decorate their sites based on that choice. We’ll have a team parade where each team will dress up as the characters from those movies and TV shows and walk a lap so we’re pretty excited about that this year,” said Donahue. Another new addition is a Relay poetry contest which will be conducted prior to the event. Two

different age categories will be judged in May with the winning poems to be read during the opening ceremonies at the 2024 Relay. The event also has a new fundraising goal of \$100,000 after raising more than \$90,000 and surpassing their goal in 2023. While there will be plenty new to enjoy at Relay, many staples will also return including the luminaries, survivor and caregiver lap, and survivor reception. It all starts at 10 a.m. on June 1, and will run through the night concluding at 10 a.m. on June 2. Relay for Life is still accepting new teams and participants with team captain meetings on the third Wednesday of every month, the next meeting scheduled for March 20. Details on how to start a team or get involved can be found on the Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut Facebook page or by visiting www.relayforlife.org/northeasternct.

Killingly Memorial School renovation progresses

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — While renovation efforts continue at Killingly Memorial School into 2024, teachers and students have already become accustomed to their new classrooms following a move-in at the beginning of the year. However, while the transition has been smooth heating has become a minor issue as teachers are unable to control the temperature in their individual classrooms due to delays in equipment that forced project managers to resort to a temporary heating system. Representatives of Downes Construction Company met with the Killingly Board of Education on Feb. 14 to provide an update on the situation while they await the permanent installation later this year. Frank Tomcak, a Project Executive with Downes Construction Company, provided a brief presentation that explained the reasoning for installing a temporary system to get the school through the rest of the winter. “With COVID, it’s really plagued our industry. We’ve been up against a lot of supply chain issues, especially when

it comes to mechanical equipment, electrical equipment, light fixtures, roofing, pretty much you name it a lot of the lead times we’re used to are out the window. We have the permanent heating equipment approved in March of last year. Tracking the delivery, we were on track to get those units on time to turn over the mechanical equipment with the addition in December. However, the needle began to move once we contacted the vendor,” said Tomcak. “We looked at other options in terms of expediting production of the permanent equipment. That wasn’t an option available to us. We also looked at the possibility of going with an alternate manufacturer. That was also not a possibility.” In anticipation of the delays, the company began examining temporary heating options by the end of summer 2023 settling with Polygon as the vendor. Tomcak said Polygon was vetted by the project team which included the fire marshal and building department. The temporary system includes three units that work very similarly to the permanent system,

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Roseland Legacy Campaign moves toward goal

WOODSTOCK — Approximately 150 years ago, Henry Chandler Bowen, a well-known philanthropist and community activist embarked on a plan to build a park around what is known today as Roseland Lake. Engaging hundreds of local farmers and residents, he successfully completed the work and his project became a reality. On July 4, 1876, on the 100th anniversary of the United States, the Park was dedicated, with President Ulysses S. Grant, the first of four United States Presidents to come to Roseland Park in attendance. Over the years, the Park and the adjoining Golf Course, which opened in 1896 have provided the residents of Woodstock and the towns of Putnam, Thompson, Pomfret and Eastford as well as the Massachusetts communities of Webster, Dudley and Southbridge thousands of days and hours of recreation, relaxation and outdoor exercise. Under the guidance and leadership of the Roseland Park and Golf Course Board of Trustees the facility has continued

to be available to thousands of visitors and groups annually. Over the years, time and ‘mother nature’ have taken a toll on the facilities and grounds. Through the years the park and the golf course have withstood the New England seasons and served the public faithfully and well. It’s now time for the people of Woodstock and the surrounding communities to take care of the successful project nurtured by Henry Chandler Bowen a century and a half ago. With the goal of maintaining and restoring the park and golf course to its past grandeur the Board of Trustees embarked on a needs and financial assessment necessary to maintain the facilities for the next “150 Years and Beyond,” which is the theme of the Legacy Campaign. “We have a true trifecta of beauty in the lake, the park and the golf course. We are fortunate to enjoy these facilities. Most communities would love to have what the people of our area have enjoyed for the past 150 years,” said John Rauh, Chairman

of the Roseland Park and Golf Course Legacy Campaign.

The Legacy Campaign

is the Board’s effort to raise \$500,000 or more

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Courtesy

Youngsters from the surrounding communities and as far away as Griswold participated in the RP&GC “Kids Golf Camp” during the past summer. Kids programs and nature programs are planned for the upcoming season as part of the Roseland Park and Golf Course education effort.

Killingly continues to seek solutions for Ballouville Mill

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Three months after a fire destroyed the historic Ballouville Mill in Killingly, locals are still waiting for answers as the remaining debris and protective fencing have created an eyesore with seemingly no solution in sight. However, Town Manager Mary Calorio has stated she is doing her due diligence to procure help from state and federal sources to resolve not only the Ballouville Mill, but other problematic mill properties as well. After receiving a letter from a local taxpayer during the Town Council’s Feb. 21 meeting calling for a quicker cleanup of the mill property, Calorio told the Council that she feels the same frustration as citizens that the process is moving slow. She explained that she has made efforts to grab the attention of any lawmaker or official she can to stress the importance of clearing the property as soon as possible. “That is definitely a complex situation. We do have active engagement from the EPA. They’ve been out recently and checked the monitoring wells. They have been in contact with the property owner, and they are taking their actions. I realize that in the neighborhood and in front of everyone’s faces it seems like nothing is happening,” said Calorio. Her office has been in constant contact with the EPA about both the Ballouville Mill and the Bailey Hill Road Mill which burned down in 2019 to determine next steps for both properties which note only look unsightly, but present potential safety and health hazards the longer they go unaddressed. As far as the Ballouville Mill is concerned, Calorio said the EPA needs to activate their emergency enforcement action plan and re-test the entire site to determine hazardous material levels and a disposal plan. In the meantime, she has approached state lawmakers advocated for a quick response even going so far as to make the subject her primary question to Gov. Ned Lamont during a recent convention of small town leaders. She told the Council Lamont promised the state would assist and she plans to hold him to that guarantee. “I’m going after it; I am. The state has to step in. The towns don’t have the financial resources to be able to do this lift. We don’t have the teeth on the environmental side to remediate these and really that’s where we need to go,” said Calorio. On the local level, the Town Council has no power to enforce any cleanup requirements. Council Chair Jason Anderson noted that both the Ballouville Mill and the Bailey Hill Road Mill are privately owned, leaving the town with few options in terms of proceeding with any cleanup.

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Audubon Center to host program on CT natural history

POMFRET — Paul Colburn will present a natural history of Connecticut from the early 1600's, when European colonists arrived, to the present on Saturday, March 9 at 2 p.m. at the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Road, Pomfret Center. Paul is a graduate of the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Master Wildlife Conservationist Program. Adult admission is \$5 for CAS members; \$10 for non-members. There is no charge for children 12 and under.

Colburn describes the interactions between native species and Europeans, particularly from habitat and harvest perspectives. In this context, he covers Eastern mountain lions, Eastern gray wolves, Eastern coyotes, elk, turkeys, passenger pigeons, fishers, white-tailed deer, black bears, New England cottontails, and more. Paul concludes by addressing the state of Connecticut's wildlife today and current habitat and population management issues.

European colonists had a different mindset than that of Indigenous Peoples with regard to the use of the land and its resources. When they first came to Connecticut, the land was heavily forested. By the mid-1800's, forest covered only a fifth of the state. Trees had been cut to clear the land for agriculture and construction, and stone walls built to pen livestock and mark boundaries. Wildlife requiring forest habitat began to disappear.

At the same time the landscape was being altered, colonists encouraged hunting of predatory animals, such as bobcats, cougars, and wolves, by putting boun-

ties on them. Cougars and wolves were quickly extirpated from the state and the black bear and bobcat populations were greatly reduced. Animals and birds were harvested/overharvested for food, fur, or feathers. Today, we often come across place and road names that reflect the animals that once lived in the area. Joshua's Trust Pigeon Swamp Preserve, located in Lebanon, once hosted large numbers of now extinct passenger pigeons, congregating there to devour beech nuts.

In the second half of the 19th century, people began to abandon their farms. Their cleared land was subject to ecological succession, with one plant community and its associated wildlife giving way to another. By 2022, according to an estimate by the Connecticut State Council on Environmental Quality, forests again covered most (between 57-60 percent) of the state's land area. These are not the large, dense forests of hundreds of years ago. Most is edge forest and much of it is fragmented. Still, it provides habitat in which some animals, previously eradicated or uncommon, now survive. Wildlife reintroduced to Connecticut and/or naturally expanding their ranges include fishers, black bears, and wild turkeys.

Sarah Heminway, director of the Center at Pomfret, says, "The Connecticut Audubon Society manages and protects 20 sanctuaries, providing 3,300 acres of wildlife habitat. We want people to understand the relationship between changes to the landscape and changes to habitat suitability for various animals and birds. We also want to let people know what they can do to successfully co-exist with the state's wildlife."

Putnam High School Wall of Honor announces Class of 2024

PUTNAM — The Putnam High School Wall of Honor Committee has released the names of five individuals who will make up the Class of 2024. The award honors PHS graduates or those who have provided service to the school through demonstrated spirit, leadership in their chosen profession, high standards of citizenship and service to their community. The induction ceremony to honor these individuals will be held in October.

Selection to the Wall of Honor is also a reminder to current students that a Putnam High School education can serve as a springboard to careers in various fields of one's choice.

This is the seventh class of inductees and includes: William Perry Barber, class of 1925; William Kelleher, class of 1949; Roger Franklin, class of 1956; Harold Alvord, class of 1962 and Albert Cormier for service to the school. All except Franklin are posthumous inductees.

William Perry Barber served two terms as Putnam's mayor in the 1940's and then compiled an outstanding political and judicial career at the State level. He served fourteen years on the Connecticut Supreme Court including two years as President Pro-Tem and was State Senator for ten years.

William Kelleher was an outstanding football and track athlete while at Putnam High School before continuing his education at Brown and the University of Connecticut where he continued to establish school records in track. As a coach and teacher at

the high school and college level he developed a number of athletes who earned All American honors and one Olympic competitor.

Roger Franklin was a graduate of Norwich University where he was commissioned Second Lieutenant. Following active duty he was assigned to serve in various training command and staff positions before retiring as a Colonel in 1992. He served in the

Connecticut Labor Department for 36 years before turning his attention to local volunteer community services, including over 18,000 hours at Day Kimball Hospital.

Harold Alvord was a military veteran who served in Vietnam where he was injured when his helicopter was shot down. He retired after reaching the rank of Colonel and went on to become Director of Public Works in Norwalk, Connecticut

where obligations included many varied assignments. His organizational and managerial expertise brought about significant changes in the city for which he was recognized.

Albert Cormier will be the first inductee who is not a graduate of Putnam High School but was recognized for his contributions while serving as the school's guidance counselor. In his capacity as counselor to the students, he introduced new pro-

grams and opportunities and more importantly developed a rapport with students that played a significant role in their high school development and beyond.

This will bring the total of inductees to thirty since its inception in 2017, and their plaques are prominently displayed on a "wall" in a corridor adjacent to the gymnasium.

WA partners with Omega Educational Consulting to create new summer program

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy is proud to partner with Omega Educational Consulting, Inc. to run the newly created Woodstock Academy College Immersion Program (WACIP). This new 21-day boarding program is geared toward high school students, domestic or international, who are seeking to immerse themselves in the American college and university discovery process.

The President of Omega Educational Consulting, Steve Cruz, brings over two decades of professional experience in educational counseling and student affairs to The Academy. He has an established record of providing admissions and personal support to both domestic and international clients. Throughout his career, Steve has worked with countless international students to ensure successful acculturation and acclimation to life in the United States.

Head of School Chris Sandford said, "We are very lucky to be able to partner with Steve and the Omega team. Since the company's founding in 1998, they have helped thousands of students through the admissions process. This summer boarding program is very unique, and we are excited to offer this on our South Campus."

The WACIP will be individualized for students and assist them in choosing the correct list of schools for them, compiling their applications, and working on leadership and team-building skills that will benefit all students as they prepare for the collegiate environment. In addition to the on-campus work, the students will be visiting colleges in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

"I am so grateful and excited to partner with such an excellent institution. My team and I look forward to bringing our expertise in college admissions and leadership development to this program in collaboration with The Woodstock Academy faculty and administration. Cheers to an excellent summer in Connecticut," said Cruz.

The Woodstock Academy has prepared students for their futures since 1801. This new partnership and program will serve to enhance and strengthen this preparation beyond our current student population and allow additional students to engage with The Academy during an important part of one's educational journey. If you are interested in being a part of this program, please visit our Web site.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Feb. 19: Bluebird, Flicker, Song Sparrow, Barred Owl, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Carolina Wren, House Finch, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Courtesy

PUTNAM INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION APPOINTS NEW OFFICERS

The Putnam Inland Wetlands Commission appointed new officers at their monthly meeting. Left to right: Ted Altmeier (commissioner), Scott Irwin (vice chair), Adam Paquin (chairman), Cindy Dunne (commissioner), Mike Bogdanski (secretary/commissioner).

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WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK

MARCH 4-10

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at woodstockct.gov.)

Monday the 4th

- Beautification Committee, 4:30 p.m.
- Inland Wetland Commission, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 5th

- Economic Development Commission 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday this week:

- Board of Assessment Appeals, 6 p.m. each day.

Thursday the 7th

- Board of Selectmen, 4 p.m.
- Open Space & Farmland Acquisition Committee, 7 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning, 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each Weekday

- Stepping into Sobriety Meetings, South Woodstock Baptist Church.

Monday the 4th

- Community Kitchen Free Lunch, First Congregational Church, noon.

Community Kitchen of Northeastern CT to benefit from Stop and Shop Bloomin’ 4 Good program

PUTNAM — Community Kitchen of Northeastern Connecticut, Inc. has been selected to benefit as March’s Stop and Shop Bloomin’ 4 Good Program.

Community Kitchen of Northeastern Connecticut, Inc. has been selected by store leadership to benefit from the Stop & Shop’s Bloomin’ 4 Good Program, created to fight hunger across the communities served by Stop & Shop.

During March the purchase of a \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked “Bloomin’ 4 Good” from the Stop & Shop at 60 Providence Turnpike, Putnam, will brighten a home or make someone’s day while also directing a \$1 donation to Community Kitchen of Northeastern Connecticut, Inc.

This is a great way to broaden awareness in the local community and raise donations for our organization to help fight hunger. Since the program’s launch in February 2021, more than \$1.2

- Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday the 5th
- The Bridge Young Adults, Evangelical Covenant Church
 - Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday the 6th
- Story Hour, West Woodstock Library.
 - Knitting Group, Town Hall.
 - Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
 - Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church
 - The Bridge (young adults), Evangelical Covenant Church • Book Club, Taylor Brooke Winery, 7-9 p.m.
 - Arm Knitting Workshop, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 7-9 p.m.
 - Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday the 7th
- Lady’s Small Group and Men’s Bible Study, South Woodstock Baptist Church
 - Grief Share Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 6:30-8 p.m.
 - Sip & Craft Spring Wood Ornament, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6-7:30 p.m.

- Friday the 8th
- Woodstock Sustainable Kitchen, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 3-8:30 p.m.
 - New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday the 9th
- Woodstock Sustainable Kitchen, Taylor Brooke Brewery, noon-7:30 p.m.
 - Live Music – Jonny Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.
 - Italian Dinner, First Congregational Church of Woodstock, dine in 5 or 6:30, take out 4:30-6:30.
- Sunday the 10th
- “Woodstock Through the Camera’s Eye” exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon
 - Jayy’s Catering Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 1-6 p.m.
 - Live Music – Turas, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 15, 7 p.m.
Mar. 16th, 2 p.m.
• Disney’s Newsies, Jr. Loos Center for the Arts.
- March 23
- Easter Egg Hunt, Roseland Cottage, 1 p.m.
 - Souper Supper, WDTC, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 5-7 p.m.
- March 21
- “Day Kimball Homecare,” Senior Social, First Congregational Church of Woodstock, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- March 28
- Azul String Quartet, Loos Center for the Arts, performances 9-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-noon

To submit calendar items: woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com.

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Developmental Preschool Screenings

Woodstock Elementary School is accepting appointments for Woodstock children ages three and four for developmental preschool screenings. These screenings are intended to screen age appropriate development skills, address questions/concerns about growth, development and speech, and identify children who may need further evaluation for special services.

Screenings are held on Friday mornings.

Please call the Woodstock Elementary School office to schedule an appointment at 860-928-0471. Preregistration is required.

WORCESTER, Mass. — Assumption University has announced that Ava Bollig, of Woodstock, Class of 2027, has been named to the University’s Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

“Earning the right to be named to the Assumption University’s Dean’s List is an extraordinary accomplishment and we congratulate those students who demonstrated exemplary academic excellence this semester,” said Assumption University President Greg Weiner, Ph.D. “These students have demonstrated a deep commitment to the pursuit of truth in the company of friends that lies at the heart of the Catholic liberal education Assumption provides.”

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England’s premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and

education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Mass., seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

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EDITOR

How about this weather?

“How about this weather?”

If ever there was an easy, non-challenging conversation opener, this is it. You can be in line at the grocery store, serving jury duty or pushing papers around at work – it doesn’t matter where you are – this line never fails.

Everyone seems willing to talk about the weather. It’s a built-in, slam-dunk, easy topic that allows complete strangers to either commiserate or celebrate, depending on the daily meteorological situation.

So, what is it with the weather? Why do we love to discuss, comment and re-hash it? Weather is complicated, frustrating and ultimately uncertain. Weather breaks our hearts and lifts our moods and forces daily choices for everyone. Weather drives our decisions, affects our attitudes and makes fellow survivors out of strangers.

Weather is our most true common denominator. No matter what our life circumstances – student, professional, retiree – when you live in the same geographic area, you and your fellow community members have the weather in common.

Weather doesn’t care about politics or sports teams or vacations or the date on the calendar. It is an equal opportunity annoyer and a great equalizer – everyone has to drive in snow, or dash to the car in the rain, or stand in long lines at the fair in the hot sun. Almost everyone has had a picnic cancelled, a vacation spoiled or a ball game rained out.

But weather is also the unexpectedly warm, sunny, sweet-smelling spring morning that causes smiles and banter with co-workers. It’s the light snow flurries that add sparkle to early December and prompts holiday greetings between shoppers. It’s the crisp, snappy feel of fall football games and the slow, sultry, humidity of summer evenings spent on backyard patios. It’s the backdrop of every day of our lives.

So, what is it with the weather? Maybe we love the topic because it’s universal. Maybe we love the excitement of something that will change – either for the good or the bad. Maybe it’s that it is temporary and fleeting and some- thing to either be withstood or enjoyed, knowing that it will not last. Maybe it’s simply because weather is always with us... whether we like it or not.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No one but himself

To the Editor:

I hope loyal viewers enjoyed this interview of Trump conducted by one of their blonde mannequins. Said he: «We’re going to take over Washington, D.C. We’re going to federalize; we’re going to have very powerful crime and you’re going to be very proud of it.” No one in the news media picked up on this. Not one word. He continued: “They come out with faucets where no water comes out you know if you go out and buy a home and they know what I mean the showers you stand under a shower and there’s no water five times longer...” No media response to that beauty either. Who would stand under a shower with no water coming out for five minutes let alone “five times longer,” whatever that means? Trump’s new platform — faucet and shower reform.

Granted, these were the only two snippets of this debacle I saw, thank goodness. The rest was probably just as incoherent. President Biden didn’t utter this nonsense. It was the proud Republicans candidate for President.

If Biden did, though, the press would be all over him! Now who really is showing signs of cognitive decline?

Do you know the most important part of being a president? Making intelligent decisions. All of you wringing your hands about Biden’s age, just look at a sample of what’s been done under his leadership:

Bipartisan infrastructure package (Example: Have you noticed more bridge repair and road paving?); Covid Relief Rescue Plan (no uptick in Clorox sales, though). I’m sure all the Trumpers sent those checks back.

The Pact Act expanding VA benefits; A more strident effort to combat climate change; First major gun safety bill in decades (still more could be done, Republicans); The CHIPS Act, building semi-conductors here at home rather than China; Inflation Reduction Act; expanded access to health care: Lower drug costs for seniors; Support for Ukraine in the fight against Russian expansion. Google Biden Administration Accomplishments for more details. This all came about with a MAGA led House more than willing to fight him at every turn. There’s Speaker Johnson with his head up where the sun doesn’t shine

(bipartisan Senate Border Bill “DOA”).

Then there’s Trump parasites Marjorie Greene and Elise Stefanik lining up to be Vice President, a heartbeat away from being the leader of the free world. Terrifying. These Republican House cowards then go back to their home districts and take credit for what they voted against! What’s worse, the shamelessness of their actions or their hapless constituents just not getting it?

Everything could be easier and better, but all that Joe has helped to achieve is a lot better than nothing. Maybe you just think a tax break for the ultra-wealthy is the zenith of what government can do for Americans.

Trump wouldn’t know the difference between Medicare or Medicaid. He’s too busy standing under a waterless shower for “five times longer.”

Then there is their crowning glory: the House Hearings on the Biden «Crime Family.” Looks like they took one more shot to the chin when another of their star informant was arrested not once but twice by the FBI.

Seems his devastating information was all a lie. With a name like Smirnov, I wonder who he was taking his marching orders from? The least he could have done was change his name, the dope. Smells like another dose of Russian disinformation aimed at gullible American voters.

This is Putin’s plan to help re-install his repellant, idiot-clown puppet back into the White House; To encourage Trump’s plan to exit NATO; To expand his land grab farther into Eastern Europe. Think of what could be in store with that depravity in the Presidency again.

Not only here at home, but across the globe. If you think sending aid to Ukraine is costly, what do you think a possible war between nuclear powers would cost? Most importantly in human life. Do you really trust Putin to be that rational? Read NATO Collective Defense Article 5 and think about it.

Do I sound paranoid? I’m not, just concerned of approaching the end of my time in a country and a world I won’t recognize the same way I have all my life.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

Spring will come

To enjoy living in our corner of the world, it is good to have a short memory. In one day, the weather may do a complete reversal. I set out on a walk with a friend only to be pelted with sleet and freezing rain halfway on our journey. By the afternoon, I went outside to look for snow drops, pussy willows and witch hazel. Although I didn’t find the greenery I was seeking, I found spring. No matter how much snow falls in the next few weeks, spring is here and it is wonderful.

March 1 is St. David’s Day, the patron saint of Welsh people. I am more than half Welsh and for many years I put daffodils in my church in honor of my family. Daffodils are one of the symbols of the holiday. Once, alone on a train in England, I looked out the window to see a hillside covered in daffodils. The memory of that moment pops up when I think about spring. Daffodils won’t appear here on March 1, but who cares, the possibility is palpable.

A collective noun for robins is a blush of robins. It is a perfect word for the assembly of birds I saw one chilly morning. I’ve been calling these early visitors Canadian Robins, but that may not be accurate. Wherever they reside, the birds are beautiful, perhaps because they are so common. They radiate the sense that all is well and we live in friendly communion with nature.

While the robins are welcome signs of spring, a nasty looking insect keeps turning up inside the house. Many years ago, I witnessed the first onslaught of orange ladybugs as they settled all over a shed. It was shocking at the time, but now everyone is familiar with small infestations of ladybugs in the corners of the ceiling. My grandson and I are always on the hunt now for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. The big, ugly insects turn up on window sills and drop to the floor to be tossed outside. They are harmless to people but tough on crops. At least they are better than ticks!

Spring skiing is a glorious experience. I am no longer a downhill skier, but the memory of bright sun glistening off of a ski slope is indelible. The snow gets wet and heavy, but the reflections are magical. I love the deep purple shadows of late afternoon on a mountain.

My husband dusted off his golf clubs and went to an indoor golf place to get ready for spring. He fusses about the sport, but loves days with his friends on area courses. This year, I plan to muddle my way through Woodstock Golf Course. I love the relaxed nature of the place and I want to see all the work that is being done on the property. It’s a course I am comfortable on.

The plant catalogs are pouring in. White Flower Farm in Litchfield is a favorite of mine as they show interesting plantings for container gardens. I try to copy their suggestions, but purchase the plants locally. I’ll need a visit to Logee’s Greenhouse to get me through the last weeks of wintry weather, but soon our local nurseries will open up.

We are nearly at the end of the first real winter we’ve had in a few years. We’ve had low temperatures, a fair amount of snow, too much rain. I’ve forced forsythia and quince. Bright spots of color – aubergine and puce herald the skunk cabbage. Early one morning, it will arrive. You’ll know it. Spring.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Woodstock’s sky-high dump fees

To the Editor:

Even before the start of 2024, Woodstock’s annual dump pass cost more than any other town’s in northeast Connecticut. But apparently, it just wasn’t high enough.

On Jan. 1, the town raised the fee another 10 percent for general residents, to \$220 a year. For seniors, the price went up 20 percent, to \$125. I live in Woodstock, and I feel penalized for trying to take out the trash.

My frustration only grew when I called neighboring towns to check on their dump fees. Hampton, which has a tax rate nearly identical to Woodstock’s mill rate of 22.4, charges \$25 for an annual dump pass. Eastford (mill rate 25.61) charges \$60 for two passes a year. Killingly (mill rate 28.66) charges \$80. Ashford provides complimentary dump services to all residents, with the cost factored into the town’s 33.085 mill rate.

Brooklyn (mill rate 28.60) provides free recycling services and only charges per

13-gallon trash bag. (The town sells them for about \$2 apiece.) Thompson (mill rate 25.02) charges \$135 for an annual dump pass. When every other town is significantly more affordable than Woodstock, it’s no wonder that many residents opt for private trash collection from Casella (formerly Willimantic Waste).

I asked First Selectman Jay Swan why Woodstock’s transfer station charges so much compared to other towns. “I don’t know what other towns do,” Swan replied. But if Woodstock is charging nearly 10 times more for its dump pass than other towns, isn’t that a sign of someone dropping the ball? “The transfer station is not at the top of my priorities,” Swan said.

Swan said he wasn’t going to raise taxes on everyone just to make Woodstock’s transfer station cheaper for the one-third of residents who do use it. I see some libertarian sense in that. But at some point, providing reasonably priced trash services is common sense for the overall public good.

The government isn’t spying on you — your neighbors are

To the Editor:

The WINY Talk Show should be treated like a podcast where I can listen after the fact on Facebook or something. Then maybe I can listen to it more than just on weeks I take off from work like this one. Regardless, I tried listening to the WINY Talk Show on Monday and the Quiet Corner’s predictable Chicken Littles went on about how smart speakers like Amazon Alexa and Google Nest are tools for the government to spy on you. You know, that classic Orwellian paranoia?

It’s always interesting how in a country of three hundred and thirty million people there are individuals who think the government is singling them out specifically for some reason. All these people who cause all these problems but somehow, it’s you that dudes in suits have to snoop on via that little tennis ball smart speaker your kids got you for Christmas? Give me

a break.

If we’re going to be paranoid about people watching us, we should be paranoid about the private sector more than the government. First, smartphones have been a thing for nearly 20 years already, and recording laws may define “in person encounters” as one-party consent so your meltdown in Walmart over spaghetti sauce prices or whatever can go viral on TikTok in seconds if someone whips out their phone. Also, how many times have people made fun of surveillance footage for being fuzzy whenever the police have needed help finding suspects? Imagine if stores invested in better gear and not only are you being filmed, but you’re being filmed in high definition?

These wouldn’t be government agents in fancy suits and black helicopters snooping on you – it’s Johnny from Loss Prevention who’s grumbling about his boss who’s been on his case about tube socks being stolen from aisle such and such.

Let’s also have a little fun with the double standard that it’s terrible if government people spy on you with today’s technology but if you bust out your phone and record government folks messing up it’s “citizen journalism” as they say on Twitter, now X. We can’t have good names and bad names for the same technology depending on who uses it. It is what it is, and what people use it for makes it good or bad, not who uses it.

You might as well just pretend you’re on TV everywhere you go, because you’re only one malicious person or closed-circuit system away from that being the case, and nearly all the time it won’t be the government doing it. Never underestimate the audacity of private citizens going all Citizen TMZ on you for clicks on some viral

video site.

Outside of video, let’s talk about all the screeching and hollering I see on Facebook these days. First, everyone has screenshot buttons. Second, anyone you block can just make a mole account via a business page to see what you’re saying behind their back, so once again, the accountability rests on your shoulders to do the right thing and not freak out in text format because Joe Biden did something or whatever.

Lastly, when it comes to companies snooping on us, it’s important to remember that these snooper tech systems can be trolled – badly. Worried about Creepy Uncle Algorithm watching what you click on the internet? Mess with the system by filling it with junk data. Create a burner account on Google or Microsoft or something and look up the most random stuff you can think of so the systems think you’re the weirdest person on the face of the planet. The computers will go along with it, and you’ll see the weirdest targeted advertising as you click in your browser.

Such is the folly of government trying to spy on us via things like smart speakers and tracking cookies. It’s too easy to flood the system with junk data, and I imagine AI is about to make that a lot worse.

So yeah. Chill out. Take a deep breath, and casually go about your business. You should be more worried about that person with a smirk on their face in the grocery store noodling around on their phone than folks in suits with sunglasses descending on your house in SWAT gear with big black helicopters and assault rifles. Life isn’t a Jerry Bruckheimer movie, and that’s a good thing.

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.

Why you should plan taxes two years at a time

Let's admit it: planning for taxes is not the most fun activity. There are likely (many) other things you would rather be doing. But accurate tax planning is important for your overall financial health. Planning early for taxes can help you save money, make fewer mistakes, and stress less when tax season arrives.

In fact, you might be surprised to know that there are even benefits to planning your taxes a full two years in advance. Here's why...

The benefits of planning ahead When it comes to tax planning, it's natural to want to procrastinate and put it off until the last minute. But a two-year tax plan is a smart strategy and can help you plan well. Approaching your taxes two years at a time allows you to look ahead and implement strategies to maximize benefits and lower your tax liability.

Here are some of the benefits of planning your taxes two years at a time:

Early organization means fewer errors Any errors on your tax returns are going to delay the process even further, so planning ahead allows you to gather all your documents and avoid potential errors before your taxes are due.

Eliminate deadline stress Taking the time to get important tax documents in order reduces procrastination and eliminates tax deadline stress.

Increased ability to take advantage of all available tax deductions & credits Early planning will ensure that you are claiming all the tax deductions and credits available to you. You can assess where you stand by reviewing your current and projected income levels and making any changes as you calculate your taxes correctly. You can use the Tax Withholding Estimator on the IRS website to estimate the federal income tax you want your employer to withhold from your paycheck as you think ahead.1

There's also a Form 1040 calculator at whzwealth.com/resources that allows you to estimate your tax liability using the current year's tax rates and rules.

Have time to review tax law changes Tax laws change frequently, so by planning for two years at a time, you can review these laws and know when they go into effect to be proactive in your planning.

Develop a payment plan strategy By planning ahead, you can project any tax liability ahead of time and develop a payment plan strategy, if needed. If you are self-employed or receive income from your investments, you will have time to calculate your quarterly taxes and build those expenses into your budget.

Be strategic with your investments For greater tax efficiency With a two-year plan, you can also reallocate your investments to be as tax efficient as possible. For example, you may



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JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

Planning out your taxes two years in advance allows you to be strategic about your tax savings and prepare for any tax changes coming your way. When you plan early, you can limit the stress and anxiety that come with last-minute tax planning. No one wants to be gathering important tax documents days before the filing date! Being proactive and looking at your short-term and long-term financial picture will help you approach tax planning more efficiently.

Our team at WHZ folds tax planning and tax-efficiency into the overall financial strategy and

plan for each of our clients, as part of our Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™ process. To learn more about how our process and partnership could benefit you and your financial goals, give us a call at (860) 928-2341 or book a complimentary consultation online any time on our website, www.whzwealth.com.

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Lenten traditions explored

The Lenten season marks a period of 40 days when faithful Christians prepare for the glory of Easter Sunday. Easter commemorates the miracle of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is foundational for the Christian faith.

Lent is a season when Christians reflect and prepare to celebrate Easter. Lent is a period of spiritual purification that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. Fasting, giving alms and prayer are some of the hallmarks of Lent.

Many Lenten traditions are well known, but others are not. Here's a glimpse at some of those traditions.

The first 'Lent'

Lent is based on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert in preparation for his public life. Matthew 4:1-11 shares that Christ was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit for a period of fasting and prayer; where He constantly encountered the devil and his temptations.

Lent also mirrors the period of time (40 days) that the Israelites spent in their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Israel.

Black fasts

While certain Lenten restrictions have lightened up a bit in recent years, it once was the norm to consume a single meal per day of bread, water and herbs after sunset on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, which was known as a black fast. During the other days of Lent, no food was allowed until 3 p.m., which Christians believe was the hour of Our Lord's death.

Piñatas for Lent?

The Lenten tradition of hitting a papier-mâché creation filled with candy originated in Italy. Eventually the idea was picked up by the Spanish and brought to Mexico, where the familiar piñatas now known to partygoers across the globe appeared. Professor Michael Foley, author of "Dining with the Saints," says the original piñata had seven

cones to represent the seven deadly sins. Hitting the cones and defeating the sins revealed the heavenly reward in the form of candy.

Prayerful pretzels

In the early Middle Ages, when other foods were not allowed during Lent, pretzels became popular. The twisted shape of the pretzels was associated with arms entwined in prayer.

Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns are synonymous with Easter. Although they may pre-date Christianity and might have been a tradition adopted to make Christianity more relatable to the masses, one legend suggests they originated with a twelfth century Anglican monk. This monk reportedly baked the buns and marked them with crosses in honor of Good Friday. These yeast-d sweet rolls have since become a popular treat on Easter weekend.

Lent precedes Easter each year and is full of time-honored traditions.

Let's face it. Trump is a crook. He has been convicted of fraud at least twice. Oh, you may say, "This doesn't count because they were in civil court not criminal court." Well, fraud is a fraud. It is still a crime and he has been found guilty. For those of you GOP'ers who say they won't vote for Trump if he is convicted of a crime, I challenge you to step up and vote Blue.

Let's face it. Trump is a hypocrite. The latest is his complaining about countries who have not paid their share into NATO. This is from someone who has stiffed hundreds over 40 years "in business". I put this in quotes because his history is one of "business" failures one after another. In fact, he has never had a "business" success unless you consider using one loan or con to pay off previous loans or investors.

Let's face it. Trump is not a patriot. He has done nothing to protect our country. The latest is his encouraging Putin to invade NATO nations. NATO has been and continues to be a bulwark against Russian aggression. Trump knows so little about world economy and security. We are all interconnected. If Europe falls to Russia, the world will be plunged into irreversible depression. And for what? Just to placate a child's ego.

Let's face it. Trump has no solution for the immigration problem. He promised us in his first Presidential run that he would fix immigration. Well, he had four years to do so and he didn't. The Wall was and is an overwhelming disaster. What he and both political parties have done is not realizing that the border is not the problem. The problem is that Latin American countries are rife with corruption, violence and drugs. This forces people to flee their country just to stay alive. Until these countries provide safe and stable societies, there will always be huge numbers of people trying to find someplace safe.

Let's face it. Right now, med school is not a prerequisite to become a judge or legislator. Then why do they feel empowered to dictate medical decisions when they are completely incompetent to do so? Since when is it justified to insinuate politics or religious belief into the workings and decisions in doctors' offices or hospitals? This is corruption at it's most basic form, i.e., imposition of dogma against the will and to the detriment of the majority.

Let's face it. The Alabama decision is exactly to this point. And for all you far right evangelicals, I offer up a Bible verse, to wit, Genesis 2.7. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." In simpler words, life begins at first breath. For all you evangelicals, please justify to me this contradiction to your abortion stance.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Woodstock Academy

Gymnastics
Saturday, February 24
Centaur's finish 3rd in Class S
MILFORD – The Woodstock Academy gymnastics team was bolstered by the return of junior Olivia Aleman who had missed all but one meet this season due to injury. The Centaurs finished third in the Class S gymnastics championship at Jonathan Law High School with a 133.175 total behind Daniel Hand which placed first with a 140.275 total and Killingly (138.0). Although individual results count only toward the team score, Aleman had a tremendous meet as she was best on the floor (9.525) and bars (9.425) and second in the vault (9.2).

Boys' Hockey
Tuesday, February 20
Woodstock Academy 4
Burrillville, R.I. 1
BURRILLVILLE, RI – Noah Sampson finished with the hat trick to lead the Centaurs (9-9) to their third straight victory. Brady Lecuyer also scored in the win for Woodstock Academy.
Wednesday, February 21
Simsbury 5
Woodstock Academy 3
SIMSBURY – The Centaurs may have surprised the second-ranked team in Division I early as Woodstock Academy held a 2-1 lead at the end of the first period courtesy of goals from Maxx Corradi and Brady Lecuyer. But Simsbury (16-1-1) scored four unanswered goals, two by Reid Anastasio, in the second and third periods to claim the lead for good. Donny Sousa scored the last goal for Woodstock Academy (9-10) with nine seconds left. Noah Sampson had two assists and Troy Daviau had the other for the Centaurs.
Saturday, February 24
Woodstock Academy 8
Notre Dame-Fairfield 1
POMFRET – Captain Noah Sampson celebrated Senior Night with three goals and two assists to help the Centaurs finish the regular season with a 10-10 record and second-seeded in CIAC Division II. Sampson's production gave him 22 goals and 21 assists this season. He scored two of his goals in the first five minutes in the game, both coming on breakaways and the second was a short-handed tally. Maxx Corradi added two goals and an assist and Keegan Covello, Brady Lecuyer and Troy Daviau also scored for Woodstock Academy.
Lukas Grinvalsky had the only goal for the Lancers (3-16).

Girls' Basketball
Fleeton honored as Coach of the Year Tuesday, February 20
Woodstock Academy girls' basketball coach Will Fleeton was honored as the inaugural Eastern Connecticut Conference girls basketball Coach of the Year. It's the first year that the league has asked its coaches to select one of their own to receive the honor. Fleeton led the Centaurs to a 15-5 finish in the regular season. Sophomore guard Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain was named an ECC Division I All-Star. Junior Center Eva Monahan received honorable mention recognition while D'Alleva-Bochain earned the team's ECC Scholar-Athlete award and senior captain Reagan Reynolds was the recipient of the team's ECC Sportsmanship Award.

Ellis Tech
Girls' Basketball
Ellis Tech lost 33-39 to Kaynor Tech in the semifinals of the CTC tournament on Wednesday, February 21. Kylie Damble scored a team-high 15 points and add 6 rebounds, Rose Lopez scored 7 points and added 6 rebounds and Sadie Murray added 7 rebounds.

Strong defense, team offense enough for Centaurs to top Ledyard



Jason McKay photos

Woodstock Academy's Gabe Luperon Felcha goes in for a steal while defending a Ledyard player.



Teddy Richardson of Woodstock Academy shoots a 3-pointer while completely open.



Woodstock Academy's Carter Tosetti lets a shot fly while being pressured by a Ledyard defender.

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — On Wednesday, Feb. 21, the eighth seeded Woodstock Academy boys' basketball team hosted No. 9 Ledyard High for an ECC play-in game and the Centaurs, behind their home crowd, bolted out to a quick lead, outscoring Ledyard 16-4 after the first quarter. The lead was kept throughout with great defense and a team effort offensively, as Woodstock defeated Ledyard 47-38 in a defensive battle. "It was big because I feel like it got them settled in, but we got too content a little bit, guys let the offensive guys go by them and we just can't get tense in the playoffs," Woodstock Academy head coach Donte Adams said about his team's quick start. "We have to treat every possession like it is the last, so if we do the right things every time, we will win the game. It is hard to win a playoff game, but I feel like my guys came out with energy tonight and it settled them in, which was big." The Centaurs found success when they moved the ball on the offensive end and everyone got involved. That is how the scoring was in this contest. Junior Garrett Bushey stepped up and led Woodstock with 13 points, and seniors Hunter Larson and Teddy Richardson each scored seven points. Ten Centaurs scored

in this contest. "One hundred percent we always go one more, which is one more pass, so if everyone gets a touch on each possession that's great offense and it makes everyone comfortable and makes everyone a factor on the team," stated Adams about finding the best shot. "We want our opponents to guard us, we want everyone to be a threat. It was big tonight that guys were able to score, and I felt like we got guys to score we usually don't get. That is big, it was great on the offensive end for us." Despite getting production for a number of players, it was defense, especially in the first half, that was the strength for the Centaurs in this win. Woodstock held Ledyard under 40 points and only allowed 15 points in the first half. Nothing was easy offensively for the visiting Colonels due to the energy from Woodstock on that end of the court. "It is playoff basketball, so it is one and done, so I have been putting an emphasis the last few practices that we have to play defense," stated Adams. "It has been one of the main things we have been working on coming into practice and the guys played defense tonight and we just have to continue and pick it up and play tomorrow." Woodstock ended up unfortunately losing to St. Bernards in the ECC quarterfinals on Thursday, Feb. 22, 74-39.

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SPORTS

Tourtellotte outlasts Killingly in ECC Tournament tilt



Tourtellotte celebrates after defeating Killingly.

Jason Mckay photos



Michael Fabiano of Killingly looks around a Tourtellotte defender to pass the ball down the court.



Jake Patterson of Tourtellotte keeps the ball away from Killingly's defense while attacking the basket.



Quin Crowley of Killingly makes his way up to the net with Tourtellotte defenders surrounding him.

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Killingly High boys' basketball team led by four points going into halftime, 36-32, against Tourtellotte High on the shoulders of freshman guard Quin Crowley, who scored all 19 of his points. However, the host Tigers came out of the halftime locker room with something to prove.

Led by two seniors, Jake Patterson and Deonte Snow, and junior Joshua Carlson, Tourtellotte outscored Killingly 18-8 in the third quarter to take a 50-44 lead going into the fourth. The momentum shifted quickly and the Tigers ran with it, holding the lead for the rest of the contest to defeat Killingly, 59-55, to move onto the semifinals of the ECC tournament on Thursday, Feb. 22.



Tourtellotte's Nicolas Kostacopoulos finds a lane to make a pass.

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The wives of Israel Putnam

In case of inclement weather, listen to WINY or call the Killingly Historical Center a little after 10 to see if it is open. If you get the answering machine, leave a message. We are probably closed. Thank you.

Lynn LaBerge, archivist for the Killingly Historical Society and Center, was cataloguing several donations for the archives, which you might find interesting. The first was a small booklet entitled “Course of Study for the Dayville Village School”, 1884.” I’ll give just a few extracts. “First Year. Receive your pupils cordially, taking great pains to make first impressions of school life pleasant. Give them something to do at once... Let the reading for the first two months be entirely sight reading. Write the names of familiar objects on the blackboard and associate these names with the objects for which they stand... Writing. Drill upon the straight line “/” giving special heed to slant and spacing. (Many of us are old enough to remember when penmanship was a regular part of our curriculums. Special lined paper. There were special wooden chalk holders to make lines for penmanship on the chalkboard. There was endless practice with writing lines and ovals. Some of us even had Ink wells). Farther on, the text of the booklet refers to using slate and blackboard. Among the general rules was, “Shouting to those passing in the street and the throwing of stones, nuts, snow-balls or any other missile near the school building or at any person passing in the street, are strictly forbidden.” (p.15). A photo of the Dayville

School can be found on page 85 of “Images of America” by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer.

Were you a student at Killingly High School in 1976? They produced the Broadway musical “George M.” on Feb. 25 and 26 of that year. It was based on the life of Broadway star George M. Cohan (1878-1942) who was called “The Man who created Broadway.” Some of his most famous songs were “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” “Yankee Doodle Boy,” and “Give My Regards to Broadway.” (Wikipedia). Perhaps you were a member of the cast of the musical: George Cohan-Stephen Jax; Archie-James Pestana; Jerry Cohan-Jeffrey Merrill; Mellie Cohan-Debra Doff; Josie Cohan-Claudia Reid; E. F. Albee-Roger Baxter; Madame Grimalde-Stacy Asal; Mr. Beckman-Eddie Rahab; Ethel Levy-Alice Berrios; Agnew Nolan- Lorraine Gingras; Ben-Leslie Anthony; Freddie (Fay Templeton’s Manager)-Scott White; Mayor (Norvet T. Harty-Brian Holt; Sam Harris- David Chandler; Fay Templeton-Tami Martineau; Rose (Fay Templeton’s Maid)-Brenda Page; Ma Templeton- Cheryl De () ne; Walt-James Pestana; Director-Leslie Anthony. While I was researching this, I discovered that there are You-Tube presentations of the musical by a variety of artists.

The volunteers at the Center chuckled at the little statement on the program, “The audience is requested not to use flash cubes during the performance.” I wondered how long they had been in existence. “In 1965 Eastman Kodak of Rochester, New York replaced the individual flashbulb tech-

nology used on early Instamatic cameras with the Flashcube developed by Sylvania Electric Products. A flashcube was a module with four expendable flashbulbs, each mounted at 90° from the others in its own reflector.”(Wikipedia). Of course, now people just use their cell phones to take photos.

March is Women’s History Month. In past years, I’ve written about local women who rose to national prominence such as Mary Dixon Kies of Killingly who is credited with receiving the first patent given a woman in her own right (1809) and Emeline Roberts Jones of Danielson who was the first female dentist. This year I want to pay tribute to local women who endured much for our country, especially as we begin to think about the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

I’m sure most of you have heard of General Israel Putnam of Pomfret and Brooklyn. Can you imagine what it must have been like to have been his wife? I think I might have fainted if I had known he was going to crawl in the wolf den to shoot wolf. Then, there was being captured during the French & Indian War, being tied to a stake, and about to be burned! Later in 1762 Putnam survived a shipwreck during the British expedition against Havana, Cuba. Then there was worrying about him during the Revolution! Being “Old Put’s” wife was filled with more than your normal everyday worries!

Israel Putnam’s first wife was Hannah Pope, the daughter of Joseph and Mehitable Pope. When they were married in Salem,

Massachusetts on July 19, 1739, she was just a few months shy of her 18th birthday. In her “History of Windham County Connecticut, Vo. I,” Ellen D. Larned says that Israel Putnam purchased land in Pomfret in that same year. “Within two or three years (he) had erected a house and out buildings, broken up land for corn and grain, set out fruit trees and collected many valuable cattle and sheep. This fine flock soon caught the fancy of his appreciative neighbor (the wolf) and one morning some ‘seventy sheep and goats were reported killed, besides many lambs and kids torn and wounded’”(Swordsmith ed., p. 294, 301). You might wonder why the Putnams had so many sheep. Their meat was a valuable trade commodity, being sent from New England ports to the West Indies. So Hannah Putnam was married to a young, enterprising, daring man.

Hannah and Israel Putnam had ten children born between 1744 and 1764. The youngest son, Peter Schuyler Putnam, born in 1764, was an infant when his mother passed away the following year on April 6, 1765 at age 43. She was interred in the South Cemetery in Brooklyn. Hannah (Pope) Putnam did not live to endure thy tribulations of the Revolution. Her son Israel Putnam, Jr. served under his father during the Revolution. (Most biographical information is from Mark Allen Baker’s “Connecticut Families of the Revolution”; some is from findagrave).

Israel Putnam’s second wife was a woman he had known



KILLINGLY
AT 300

MARGARET
WEAVER

ern Connecticut.” (p. 109,110).

Deborah was Israel’s wife when the controversy over replacing the meetinghouse in that society ensued. It certainly must have been a great topic of conversation at the inn. If you are a long-time reader of this column, you might remember that Godfrey Malbone ended up erecting Old Trinity Church as a result.

Like the wives of many other generals during the Revolution, Deborah Putnam accompanied Israel to headquarters during at least one winter. Sadly she died while at his Fishkill headquarters on the Hudson Oct. 14, 1777 and was interred “in the Beverly Robinson’s family vault” at Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York. (North American Family Histories, p. 225, Ancestry; findagrave).

We think of men sacrificing their lives for their young country. Don’t ever forget that the women did also!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, February 2024. For additional information, email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

Gear up for the 2024 garden season

It’s never too early to prepare for the garden season ahead. Having the right tool for the job saves time, reduces the frustration of trying to make the wrong tool work, and allows you to garden longer with less muscle fatigue.



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

Take an inventory of all your tools. Be sure to check the shed, garage, or tool caddy. Make a list of those that need to be replaced or need an update. This is also a good time to clean and sharpen those tools you plan to use in the coming growing season.

As you update your tools, you may want to purchase a few hand tools with comfortable wooden handles and carbon steel heads. The wood adds a natural aesthetic that goes hand in hand with gardening.

Make sure you have the right shovels for those frequent digging tasks. Perhaps it is time to invest in a long-handled shovel with a narrow head that allows you to dig in small spaces. Corona’s DigMaster Nursery Shovel has a

hardened steel blade and a handle for durability and long life. The ComfortGel grip allows you to keep working longer.

Like digging with the right-sized shovel, dead-heading flowers with the right tool makes it easier and you’re more likely to get the job done. For those with a lot of dead-heading, select one with an ergonomic design, a finger loop for better control, and an easy-release lock like Corona’s Ergo Dead Header Snips.

Late winter and early spring are also the time to do a bit of trimming and pruning on indoor plants. Pruners and snips with specially shaped blades, like the Corona BP14623 Houseplant Pruner, make trimming individual leaves and stems easier, ensuring you make the cut where planned.

A scoop comes in handy when placing potting mix or fertilizer in containers. The more you use it, the more uses you will discover for scoops like Corona’s Multi-Scoop with a stainless-steel scoop and ComfortGel grip.

If you struggle to haul soil, mulch, and plants to the garden bed, it may be time to invest in a garden cart. Wheelbarrows are a traditional favorite but how about a four-wheeled cart with pneumatic tires to make moving the load over rough ground easier? Consider one with sides that fold down for easier loading and unloading. Or perhaps one with a dumping mechanism, like Corona’s CR1000 Poly Dump Cart, that makes it easy to empty loads of mulch and soil where it is needed.

And don’t forget about the young gardeners in your life. Having their own set of properly sized hand tools, long-handled tools, and of course, a wheelbarrow will make working with you in the

garden even more special. Kids, like adults, benefit from spending time in the garden. Give them their own garden patch or row to dig, plant, and tend. You’ll all have more fun.

When upgrading your garden tools, consider donating those that are still in good working order to a nearby community garden, school garden, or master gardener group. They can always use extra tools to help them grow gardeners of all ages. And those that have reached the end of life can be turned into garden art. It’s a great way to save memories of gardens’ past.

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 series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contrib-



Courtesy — Corona Tools

The long-handled Digmaster nursery shovel with its narrow head makes it easy to dig even in small spaces.

uting editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise in writing this

article. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Eastern announces spring 2024 music events

WILLIMANTIC — The Eastern Connecticut State University Department of Music has announced its schedule of music events for the remainder of the spring 2024 semester. Events will include performances and guest lectures. All events will be held in the Fine Arts Instructional Center (FAIC).

March will kick off with a faculty recital featuring pianist David Ballena and saxophonist Joshua Thomas on March 2 at 2:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

On March 30 at 3 p.m. in FAIC 110, Eastern’s University Hour series will feature musicologist Dana Gooley of Brown University analyzing iconic theatre composer Stephen Sondheim’s compositional strategies.

April, the busiest month of the performance season, will begin with “Kaleidoscope,” an evening of traditional and contemporary wind band repertoire by Eastern’s Concert Band on April 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall. On April 11, Christie Echols, professor of music tech-

nology, will perform a faculty recital of contemporary and electronic works for the upright bass at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

Eastern’s opera program will host a 30-minute adaptation of Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” on April 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the FAIC’s Susan Sukman McCray Foyer. This event will be free to the public thanks to a grant from the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation. A Piano Studio recital will be held on April 15 at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

On April 19, the Colloquium Series will host a recital of German lieder, German songs that set poetry to music, titled “Heroes, Gods and Sirens” at noon in the Concert Hall in conjunction with the University’s Big Read program.

An honors recital for music students will take place on April 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall, followed by an awards ceremony after the performance.

The last full week of April will begin with a performance by the Concert Chorale on

April 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall in celebration of Earth Day. On April 26, the Percussion Ensembles concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall, featuring works for large and chamber percussion ensemble and steel band.

Eastern’s Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo concert will take place on April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the FAIC foyer. The Jazz Combo will spin interpretations of jazz standards, while the Jazz Ensemble will perform classic big band charts. The season will con-

clude with the Student Chamber Music recital on April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

To learn more about Eastern Performing Arts or to find tickets for events, visit https://easternct.showare.com/ or email theatreboxoffice@easternct.edu.



Do-it-yourself (DIY) advice abounds on streaming services. There are decorating shows, repair shows, gardening shows. There are even programs that feature a professional who comes in to rescue the homeowner floundering out of their depth. All the major home improvement chains offer DIY workshops to learn how to lay pavers, install flooring, faux paint a wall, or put in koi ponds. It

In the early 19th-century, home décor experienced trends, as well. Wall stenciling became a means of imitating the expensive imported wallpapers coming into America from Europe. Although urban areas like Boston had access to such luxuries, wall decoration in the countryside took a practical approach. Wall

stenciling was appreciated for its frugality, as well as its beauty. The decorative process was simple. A coat of paint was applied directly over the plaster, usually whitewash or tinted whitewash in ivory, gold, pink, blue or gray. Some of the backgrounds were quite dark and dramatic. The stenciled motifs were mechanically and systematically painted in combinations


CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



The earliest examples of stenciling date from the late 1700s, and its motifs were drawn from nature and usually painted in two colors. Stenciling applied during the Federal Period emphasize a formal, one-piece stencil and designs like eagles, corner fans, festoons and tassels. As the technique evolved into the Victorian Period, the design was applied with even greater precision, by using multiple stencils to form intricate motifs, and painting them in only one color. The artists traveled about from town to town and few of their names have been recorded. Moses Eaton is probably the most famous. He worked in central Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and southern Maine.

The evidence of original stenciling in an historic house is often found when stripping away layers of wallpaper. The oldest layer may carry the transfer of the original painted décor on the reverse side as it is pulled away from the plaster. Occasionally, the removal of wall board will reveal a decorated area. However, much original work has been painted over or walls have been removed.

Occasionally, the homeowner picked up stencil and brush, but more often, itinerant artists were employed to stencil the walls. These were the folks who also painted family portraits, produced murals and painted and/or stenciled floors, embellished carriages and signs, and did other tasks for a small stipend or room and board. Some were very talented, others not so much. This author has viewed stencils in nearby Canterbury composed of giant pinwheels of a dark forest green, measuring 16 inches in diameter.



and applied to a teal blue background. The decorations covered all the walls of a small parlor. It was disturbing. The same house had a border applied around the top of a pale-yellow room which resembled a parade of dark green dinosaurs. This particular itinerant artist identified himself by his use of distinctive patterns and their placement on the wall. As he moved further north on Route 169 to Brooklyn, he painted the same huge pinwheels in another home, this time black painted on yellow. To date, no giant pinwheels or dinosaurs have been found in Woodstock.

There were several unidentified traveling craftsmen who transected southern Worcester County and northern Windham County in the early 1800s. They left their signature in their work as vividly as if they had signed the walls; each artist can be distinguished by their color palate and patterns used, and in the way they combined colors and placed designs on the walls. Their simple, portable tools included stiff brushes, powdered pigments to mix with whitewash or milk paint, and stencils made of thin sheets of tin, wood, leather or heavy paper.

These anonymous artists seemed to follow the major "highways" of the day. In Woodstock, those routes would have included the Boston & Hartford Central Turnpike (parts of Route 197), the Somers Turnpike (parts of Route 171), the Norwich-Springfield Turnpike (part of Route 169), and the Norwich-Worcester Turnpike (a portion of which followed Roseland Park Road and Paine District Road). It is no surprise that most of the documented examples of early 19th century stenciling in Woodstock have been found along or near these routes. Six houses with rooms decorated with original stenciling were photographed in the 1980s cataloguing various patterns and colors. The images are part of the col-

During Woodstock's Tercentenary, the exhibit catalogue reproduced a photograph of a stenciled wall from the home of Thomas Lyon (1760-1824), located in North Woodstock. It illustrated walls completely filled with stenciling, including a special overmantel treatment. The background was blue-gray and the designs were painting in green, red and black. While the individual motifs have been used in other parts of New England and New York, this room was unusual because the stenciling included Masonic symbols of tradesmen's tools and religious elements integrated into the overall design. This has not been documented elsewhere. The Lyon home was used as the meeting place for Putnam Lodge No. 46 A.F. and A.M. The Freemasons were a ritualistic, secret society of tradesmen and craftworkers, and in the early 19th century were criticized by the church as having heretical tendencies. (Heritage and Horizons, 55).

Do more examples of this artform exist in Woodstock? Future DIY projects may uncover additional work but the owner of an historic home is well-advised to be gentle with renovation and, particularly, demolition.

Books on Woodstock history available at any of the town's four libraries and the website for the Woodstock Historical Society (www.centerforwoodstockhistory.com):

Bowen, Clarence
Winthrop. History of
Woodstock. Boston:
James R. Osgood, 1882.
Larned, Ellen D.
History of Windham
County, Connecticut.
2 vols. Worcester:
Massachusetts: Printed
by Charles Hamilton,
1874.
W o o d s t o c k
Tercentenary Committee.
Heritage and Horizons.
Woodstock Remembers
300 Years.
Woodstock, CT 1968.



Work has begun as part of The Roseland Park and Golf Course Legacy Campaign. Widening of fairways, which have become overgrown, is in process. The tree removal will also allow for much needed sunlight to the course in needed areas.

continued from page A1

in the initial phase. According to Rauh, the original financial projections indicate the need for \$2 to \$3 million to satisfactorily bring the park and golf course to its original state. Working with former Woodstock resident and nationally acclaimed park architect Wilson Martin the Board will undertake paving and redesign of the current roadways to ensure the safety of pedestrians, youngsters and motor vehicles.

A new main entrance is planned, which will offer immediate views of the lake and the beauty of the park. Updates to the barn and boathouse, including indoor facilities for the convenience of patrons and visitors to the park are in the plans. Another important aspect of the project is construction of an equipment storage facility, which will extend the life of park and golf course maintenance machinery. Playground

improvements including new equipment and restoration of grassy areas for the safety of youngsters are integral to the future of the park and the families who are daily users.

"The plan is to work closely with the Woodstock Little League, which has been located on the grounds of the park for 65 years. The Little League Complex is the first thing people see when arriving from a southerly direction. Along with the baseball fields, improvements to the golf course to benefit the more than 9,000 rounds played there during the summer months have already been initiated," said Chairman Rauh.

Since embarking on the \$500,000 Legacy Campaign on October 29, 2023, Rauh, along with Vice Chairmen Dr. Jonathan Gradie and Honorary Chairman Paul Kelly noted that the fundraising efforts have edged over 80 per cent of the goal. The trio has been working closely with the leadership team

of Trustee President
Martha Beckwith,
Patrick O'Brien, Jeff
Bond, Anthony Listro,
Lynn Converse, Pam
Brown and Board
Historian Marc Cotnoir.

The Legacy Campaign is designed to allow donors three years to fulfill pledges or their intent to participate, giving individuals, corporations, organizations and financial institutions an opportunity to make significant gifts. Recognition opportunities honoring donors or memorializing loved ones are part of the pledge process according to Rauh.

"This is a major undertaking by the Board and the first time we've ever embarked on such a venture. If we are to maintain the beauty and utility of this land and operate it as a private location, the support of the community is vitally necessary. We plan to start on improvements in late spring or early summer," concluded Rauh.



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Bryant University students named to Dean’s List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students named to the Fall 2023 Deans’ List.

To earn a place on the Deans’ List, students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

Michaela Clifford of Putnam
Avery Pedersen of Putnam
Karly Seiffert, of Dayville
Curtis Lefebvre of Pomfret Center
Matthew Roethlein of Pomfret Center
Nathan Roethlein of Pomfret Center

About Bryant University
For over 160 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron’s. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

Local students make Dean’s List at RIT

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Garrett Geyer of Pomfret Center and Jonah Whitney of Thompson were named to the Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Geyer is in the computer engineer-

Local students on Dean’s List at University of Saint Joseph

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Saint Joseph has announced its Fall 2023 University of Saint Joseph Dean’s List.

“Students on the Dean’s List exemplify academic excellence and their ability to achieve their goals. We are very proud of these students who join the network of accomplished USJ scholars competitively pursuing a range of studies from health sciences to criminal justice,” said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D.

Local students on the USJ Fall Dean’s List:

Emma Carpenter of Brooklyn
Isabella Belanger of Eastford
Alicia Smith of Eastford

The University of Saint Joseph is the premier small private university in Connecticut developing professionals for in-demand fields. A USJ degree is a proven credential for undergraduates seeking a traditional New England college setting with exceptional NCAA Division III athletics and a strong sense of community. For graduate students ready to learn more and earn more, USJ offers online, hybrid, and on-ground masters and doctoral programs with innovative modular curricula that attract students from around the world.

View our website at www.usj.edu.

Dean’s List honors announced at Tufts University

MEDFORD, Mass. — Tufts University recently announced the dean’s list for the Fall 2023 semester. Dean’s list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Ben Gordon of Woodstock, Class of 2026
Zachary White of Pomfret Center, Class of 2026

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Mass., and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university’s schools is widely encouraged.



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LOCAL MARTIAL ARTS STUDENT EARNS BLACKBELT

American Martial Arts Center, Foster, R.I., recently held a blackbelt grading. The candidates demonstrated a mastery of skills in forms (hyung), self defense, kicking techniques, and weapons. Grandmaster Ken Saucier proudly promoted Logan Hamel (Danielson) to 1st Dan Blackbelt.

Never tell them they’re wrong

Enemies. We all have them. Some people are your enemy, and you don’t even know it. They may have been motivated by jealousy or envy, or maybe they misinterpreted something you said to them once and felt slighted. Since then, they’ve been quietly undermining you at worst, and at

best, they may just be waiting for their moment.

There are a million ways to make an enemy. Maybe you accidentally took someone’s favorite pen, and they’ve sworn a vendetta. Or perhaps you got the last slice of pizza at a party, not knowing it was earmarked for someone else, sparking a silent, saucy rivalry. Let’s not forget the classic “reply all” email faux pas, where you accidentally shared your not-so-flattering opinion on the monthly birthday cake choices with the entire office. And I’m sure there are some listed elsewhere.

Nobody wants an enemy, do they? I don’t. Some say that if you don’t have any enemies, then you’re not doing it right.

Winston Churchill said, “If you don’t have any enemies in life, then you haven’t stood up for anything.”

He’s probably talking about a different type of enemy than what I’m about to present.

While leafing through one of the most popular self-help books ever written, “How to Win Friends and Influence People,” I came across one sure-fire way to not make an enemy.

Imagine you’re in a team meeting discussing the direction of the upcoming project. You believe that focusing on digital marketing will yield the best return on investment, arguing, “Considering our tar-

get demographic spends most of their time online, it’s evident that digital marketing is where we should be allocating the majority of our budget.”

Your coworker, however, believes traditional marketing methods like print and television ads will have a broader reach, countering, “Our brand’s strength has always been its appeal to a wide audience, and traditional media gives us that visibility.”

Your ego flares up at this moment, tempted to dismiss their perspective outright. You might feel inclined to assert, “That approach is outdated and inefficient. Wait until we see the results from focusing solely on traditional methods and missing out on the digital audience. Then we’ll see who’s right.”

Often, our ego comes up, and the ego always wants to be correct. This temptation to prove your point without fully considering their viewpoint can quickly turn a professional disagreement into a personal conflict.

Now, you may be right. Your reasoning may be sound. But you must also consider that other people almost always want to be correct. Whether you know it or not, you insulted their intelligence, and now they’re your enemy.

Enemy is a strong word, but whatever the case, they almost certainly see this as a challenge. Why wouldn’t they? You told them they’re not seeing the big picture. Now they have something to prove.

Now, you’ve got a situation on your hands because you were right and made them feel silly about it, and they’re now going to want their chance to make you seem foolish.

What’s a way to avoid this? Well. It’s straightforward. You can begin by saying, “Well, now, look, I thought otherwise, but I may be wrong. I frequently am, and if I’m wrong, I want to put it right. Let’s examine the facts.”

Nobody will object to you admitting that you could be wrong, and let’s examine the facts!

It’s a curious thing about us humans: we can change our minds in a heartbeat over the smallest things, no drama involved. But the moment someone tells us we’re wrong? That’s when the walls go up, and we stand our ground harder than ever.

Telling someone they’re wrong is a dead-end strategy, especially in a way that might make them feel less than brilliant. You could throw every fact and figure their way, and more often than not, they’ll stick to their guns, convinced of their rightness, even if it’s just in the privacy of their thoughts.

So, how do we navigate this tricky terrain? Dale Carnegie hit the nail when he said, “Show respect for the other person’s opinions. Never say, ‘You’re wrong.’” It’s as simple as that.



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- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas



- Listing price: \$650,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



MORE INFO:





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