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- George Jones

# PUTNAM VILLAGER

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## Woodstock extends moratorium on commercial cannabis

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The town of Woodstock has extended its moratorium on marijuana businesses in town effectively preventing applications for commercial cannabis for much of 2023 allowing the Planning and Zoning Commission more time to formulate regulations.

This isn't the first time the moratorium has been extended in Woodstock. Following the legalization of recreational cannabis in 2021, towns across the state began examining their regulations to fit both state and local expectations for such businesses in anticipation of a potential influx of applications. While Woodstock hasn't seen any specific companies interested in moving into town the Planning & Zoning Commission are working hard to perfect all the details before officially opening the floor to potential applicants.

Woodstock Planning & Zoning Chair Jeffrey Gordon said the commission wants to craft “common-sense, responsible regulations” and decided they needed more time to perfect the document. At an early-March meeting they moved to extend the moratorium from its previous April 30 deadline to Oct. 31.

“It's one of our top discussions,” said Gordon. “We take all our work seriously, so we do spend the needed time to get public input to learn from staff and what works and doesn't work in other towns. We also have to be mindful of any legal issues so we want to make sure we're doing things correctly and staying away from things that might create legal problems for the town. We want to make sure we're fair with whatever regulations we come up with for the town. We're doing our due diligence, which we're known to do.”

Gordon clarified that in the state of Connecticut cannabis growing or retail businesses are not zoned agricultural, but commercial and that many factors need to be taken into account when drafting regulations. The Planning & Zoning Commission has not hosted any businesses interested in moving into Woodstock, but their meetings have seen citizens voice opposition to banning marijuana as well as concerns about these businesses being too close to private homes. Woodstock is working to not only follow state laws, but also keep in mind what's best for the citizens in town.

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## 48th Costa Rican President named 2023 Visions in Leadership speaker



Carlos Alvarado Quesada

DANIELSON — Carlos Alvarado Quesada, the forty-eighth President of the Republic of Costa Rica, will be the featured speaker for the 2023 Visions in Leadership program at Quinebaug Valley Community College. President Alvarado will visit the campus on Wednesday, March 29.

Created in 2010, Visions in Leadership provides an opportunity for QVCC students, faculty, staff, and community members to listen to and learn from a speaker of national recognition. The QVCC Foundation thanks 2023 Visions in Leadership sponsors Rebecca Harvey and UNICORR Nutmeg Container Corporation, Charlie Pious for their support of the event.

Alvarado completed his constitutionally limited term in May of 2022. During his presidency, he launched Costa Rica's National Decarbonization Plan, organized the run-up to U.N. Climate Change Conference - COP25 in Madrid, and with France and the United Kingdom created the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People. He was responsible for Costa Rica's accession to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), marking the fourth Latin American

country and the first in Central America to do so.

He has won numerous awards for his innovative approach to sustainable energy and ambitious climate policies including the 2022 National Geographic Society Planetary Leadership Award, 2019 TIME's 100 Next emerging leaders from around the world who are shaping the future and defining the next generation of leadership, and on behalf of his country, the Champion of the Earth Award for policy leadership, presented by the United Nations Environment Program.

Alvarado is currently at The Fletcher School of Business at Tufts University as Professor of Practice in Diplomacy and as Senior Fellow in the Edward R. Murrow Center for a Digital World, focusing on small states diplomacy and preparing tomorrow's leaders to address the most pressing global issues.

The QVCC Foundation was established in 1971 as a 501c3 organization to help those who otherwise could not attend college due to financial constraints by involving area business and community members in fundraising efforts. Today's 25-member strong diverse group of community leaders continues to work tirelessly in support of the Foundation's mission... to raise funds so that all residents of Northeastern Connecticut are provided the opportunity to attend QVCC regardless of income and to support educational excellence, technological advancement, and professional development at the College and to serve as the Regional Advisory Council to the College.

Tickets for the sell-out event must be purchased in advance at [www.QVCC.edu/Foundation/give-now](http://www.QVCC.edu/Foundation/give-now). The cost is \$80 per person and includes dinner, dessert, the presentation, and a silent auction.

## Herdic makes Ellis Tech history by winning state wrestling championship

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — For the first time in school history, Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School has a female state wrestling champion.

Junior Addisyn Herdic, wrestling at the 2023 Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Girls' Invitational (better known as the girl' state open) defeated Amity High School's Abby Pallotto, 16-0, in the championship final of the 100-pound weight class. Because the match was stopped with nine seconds left on the clock the victory goes in the record book as a technical fall.

Herdic's victory over Pallotto was her third win of the tournament, held Friday Feb. 24 and Saturday, Feb. 25, at New Haven's Floyd Little Athletic Center. After a first-round bye, Herdic defeated her three opponents by a combined score of 38-0.

“I'm definitely a better defensive wrestler than I am an offensive wrestler,” Herdic said with a laugh when interviewed in the library at Ellis Tech recently. “The offensive part of the sport is something I have to work on, on my feet, a bit more.”

The victory over Pallotto capped off a tremendous season for Herdic, who finished 29-14 for Ellis Tech while wrestling in the 106-pound weight class and facing primarily male opponents during the year. She also competed, at 106, for the Golden Eagles in the Connecticut Class M Tournament, finishing 2-2.

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Courtesy

Addisyn Herdic stands with Ellis Tech head wrestling coach Zach Veleas (left) and Golden Eagles' assistant coach Caleb Ferland after winning the 100-pound weight class at the girls' state open on Saturday, Feb. 25, in New Haven.

## Killingly launching Chase Reservoir cleanup efforts

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Chase Reservoir Conservation Area has long been a popular spot for outdoor recreation over the years thanks to its collection of hiking trails and preserved natural beauty. However, recent weather events and a lack of upkeep have left these trails covered in dead trees and debris creating risky conditions for those who choose to visit the reservoir. Killingly town officials are hoping to remedy the situation by exploring ways to clean up the trails and make the reservoir safer and more presentable.

Town Manager Mary Calorio updated the Town Council on the Reservoir's condition in February, where she presented photographs taken during a January visit showing numerous dead trees downed beside and along the trails as a result of natural decay combined

with extensive windstorms that have pummeled the area over the years.

“Right after the windstorm at Christmas, I made a point of going out there to visit the property. There's pretty severe damage. There are a lot of downed trees right now. I walked the property and the trail itself has about six areas where it's completely blocked. It's four or five trees down all kinds of stuck together. The trail also is very wet. The ground is too soft right now for us to really bring equipment in to re-cut open those trails,” said Calorio.

The town is monitoring the trails with plans to bring equipment in to clear what they can once the ground is dry enough, but Calorio is also looking towards the long term to create a full forest management plan. Her office reached out to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

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Courtesy

## RECOGNIZING AMAZING WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Daycy Nammachack of Blended Nutrition, a Herbalife partner, recently presented to the Killingly High School Future Business Leaders of America. The FBLA invited Blended Nutrition to present on International Women's Day. Ms. Nammachack shared her experiences in business, her passions, and her motivation for her work. FBLA members were treated to some of Blended Nutrition's amazing shakes and teas. This was a truly inspiring presentation for our members.



# Kazantzis a can-do player for Killingly in playoff win over Hall

STATE TITLE DREAMS HEARTBREAKINGLY DASHED, HOWEVER, IN QUARTERFINAL LOSS TO WCA

**BY KEN POWERS**  
*SPORTS CORRESPONDENT*

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School's 1-2 scoring punch of junior Johnny Kazantzis and senior Yianni Baribeau was simply too much for William Hall High of West Hartford in the teams' Connecticut Division III Boys Basketball Tournament second-round game, played on Wednesday, March 8.

Kazantzis scored a game-high 20 points, 18 in the second half, and Baribeau added 17 points, 16 in the first half, in seventh-seeded Killingly's 61-49 victory over the Titans, the No. 10 seed. Senior Tom Dreibholz added nine points to the winning effort.

"Now we've got a three-headed scoring monster, so we're pretty dangerous, and that's what I like to see," Killingly coach Jim Crabtree said following the win. "As long

as we play tough and compete on the backboard, we can hang around."

The 6-foot-2 Kazantzis has averaged 20 points per game for Killingly in its last nine contests, eight of them wins.

"The last three weeks have been big for Johnny and big for us, too. One day in practice, about four weeks ago, Johnny just took over our practice," Crabtree said. "I could tell he was ready to be a scoring threat for us the way Yianni and Tom are."

Killingly (18-6) took control of the game in the second quarter. With the score tied, 18-18, Killingly went on a 15-2 run to end the period. Baribeau had 12 of his 16 first-half points in the quarter, including back-to-back 3-pointers to end the half. He made the first from the right corner with 1:18 to play before intermission, the second from the left corner with one second

showing on the clock.

Kazantzis only made one basket in the first half, after which Killingly led, 33-20, but he wasn't worried.

"I know, the way our offense runs, that my shots are going to come to me. I only had two points at halftime, but I knew I was going to get my shots in the second half," Kazantzis said. "I know at some point my teammates are going to get me the ball, so I don't worry about it. I just try to just keep playing in the flow of the offense."

Kazantzis pushed the Killingly lead to 40-25 with 4:57 left in the third period on his first shot of the second half, a 3-pointer from the right corner that hit nothing but net.

"When I hit that corner three early in the second half, that got me going," Kazantzis said.

Hall (13-9) played its way back into the game,

closing the quarter on a 14-3 run to trail, 43-39, as play moved into the fourth period. Killingly's final three points of the quarter came off another 3-pointer by Kazantzis from the left corner with 1:26 remaining in the quarter.

"Once we got the 15-point lead (Hall) went to a zone-and-trap defense and we didn't recognize it quick enough," Crabtree said, explaining the Titans' late third-quarter run.

Kazantzis put Killingly ahead, 46-39, 27 seconds into the fourth quarter on an old-fashioned three-point play. He drove through a congested lane, absorbed some contact, converted a layup, and then hit the accompanying free throw.

With 6:04 remaining in the game Kazantzis pushed his team's lead back to 10, 49-39, with a right-side 3-pointer. With

4:48 showing on the clock he made it 51-39 for the home team scoring a layup off an assist from Dreibholz.

The 6-4 Dreibholz pushed the Killingly lead to 53-41 with 2:27 left when he came off a screen underneath the basket and posted up Hall's Amecca Freeman, who's 5-10, on a mismatch. Dreibholz easily converted a short turnaround shot from about three feet from the basket.

"Tom scored a couple of big baskets for us in the second half," Crabtree said. "He made a big move on an inbounds play that resulted in a layup and then we found him again on a post-up where he had a mismatch defensively. Those were big baskets."

Kazantzis scored the final basket of the game on a breakaway layup at the buzzer. Many — in the crowd and on the playing floor — wanted the layup to be a dunk.

"I wanted Johnny to dunk it at the end," Dreibholz said. "Johnny had a great second half for us."

Unfortunately, Killingly's state championship dreams were cruelly dashed two days after the victory over Hall.

In a Division III quarterfinal, played on Friday, March 10, at John F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury, second-seeded Waterbury Career Academy (WCA) defeated Killingly, 64-63.

After Kazantzis (a game-high 28 points) staked Killingly to a 63-60 lead with a pair of free throws with 27 seconds to play, WCA scored two baskets in the final 11 seconds to win the game.

Baribeau scored 18 points and grabbed 15 rebounds in his final Killingly game while Dreibholz ended his Killingly career with a 13-point, 9-rebound effort.

## Woodstock Academy powers through Division II ice hockey bracket

**BY KEN POWERS**  
*SPORTS CORRESPONDENT*

WOODSTOCK — Two down, two to go.

That's the scenario the Woodstock Academy boys' hockey team faces after the first week of the Connecticut Division II Boys' Hockey Tournament.

The second-seeded Centaurs opened the post-season with a 5-0 quarterfinal-round victory over 15th-seeded Glastonbury, Tuesday, March 7, at the Pomfret School's Jahn Ice Rink. They followed that up with a 6-2 win over seventh-seeded Westhill-Stamford in the quarterfinal round, Friday, March 10, at Hartford's Koeppel Community Center at Trinity College.

Woodstock Academy (22-1) entered its semi-

final-round game with sixth-seeded Branford (15-7-1) on Wednesday, March 15, having won 15 straight games. The Centaurs defeated the Hornets, 11-1, on Saturday, Dec. 17.

In the win over Glastonbury Dante Sousa, Woodstock's sophomore goalie, finished with 27 saves, many made while the Centaurs clung to a 1-0 lead, compliments of freshman defenseman Jack Larkin who scored his third goal of the season two minutes, 28 seconds into the game.

"Dante Sousa stood on his head against Glastonbury. Every time there was an issue Dante stood tall; he was there. He relishes the opportunity to be in do-or-die situations. He's just cold as ice and he shut the door,"

Woodstock Academy coach Mark Smolak said. "Dante found out earlier that day that he was not going to be named goalie of the year and I think he used that as extra motivation to not only shut the door but to get the shut-out as well."

The organization that gave Sousa the cold shoulder was the Instagram-based Connecticut High School Hockey Writers group.

Smolak said the Larkin goal was one of opportunity. During warm-ups the first-year varsity coach noticed that the Glastonbury goalie seemed nervous and he told his team before the game to make sure they threw the puck at the Guardians net early.

"What Jack does really well, especially in the offensive end under pressure, is know when

to dump the puck down around the boards, throw it in the opposite corner, or to throw it on net," Smolak said. "When Jack scored we were a little late in the shift and wanted to get a line change, so Jack just threw it on net."

"It was a situation where, three feet from the goalie, if the puck takes a bounce and you're not fully square to that puck it can be dangerous," Smolak explained. "That's exactly what happened; three feet from the goalie the puck popped up at the perfect height between his pad and the glove and went in."

Maxx Corradi pushed the Woodstock Academy lead to 3-0 in the late stages of the second period, scoring his 37th and 38th goals of the season in a four-minute span. Noah Sampson and Donny Sousa, Corradi's linemates, both scored

third-period goals to account for the 5-0 final. In addition to lighting the lamp, Donny Sousa recorded three assists.

In their quarterfinal win over Westhill-Stamford the Centaurs scored three first-period goals, two off the stick of Donny Sousa and one from Jacob Jurnovoy.

The Vikings (17-5) cut the Woodstock lead to 3-2 with a pair of goals early in the second period, but Jurnovoy's second goal of the game (and fifth of the season, to go along with 14 assists) gave the Centaurs a 4-2 lead heading into the third period.

"When we moved Jacob from defense to forward, we did so because we wanted a second line that could contribute and score," Smolak said. "It took a while to get going, however, because there were games when we just couldn't get them

together. But as the season has progressed my green line, which is what I call the second line, has developed to the point where, in five of our last six games, both lines have been on the score sheet."

"When you look at the playoffs you need scoring depth," Smolak said. "You kind of say, 'we're going to throw our best against their best' and that's when your depth needs to come up. We need another line to be able to come up and score. My green line has been doing that."

Skating regularly on the green line with Jurnovoy are Jayden Fuller (10 goals, nine assists) and Max Larkin (nine goals, 14 assists).

Corradi sealed the Centaurs' quarterfinal win in the third-period with his 39th and 40th goals of the season.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC

### At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 6: Tree Swallow, Hooded Merganser, American Kestrel, American Woodcock, Mallard, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Wild Turkey, Flicker, Great Horned Owl, Bluebird, American Tree Sparrow, Carolina Wren, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Finch. Visit [ctaclubon.org/pomfret](http://ctaclubon.org/pomfret).

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## Putnam to host Arts and Crafts Festival

PUTNAM — The Putnam Arts Council (PAC) is pleased to announce it will be hosting the Putnam Fine Arts and Crafts Festival on June 17 and 18. The PAC is excited to add this event to the list of events and arts for which Putnam is



known. It will bring local communities together for a day of art, music, and fun as well as being close to the wonderful restaurants and businesses in the downtown area.

The festival will take place at the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Putnam, and will feature a diverse range of artists and performers from the local community and beyond. Attendees can expect to see a variety of mediums including paintings, pottery, photography, and others. Additionally, there will be live music throughout the day.

"We are thrilled to bring a fine arts and crafts festival to Putnam and to showcase the incredible talent in our area and beyond," said Beth Johnston, one of the festival's organizers. "Our Arts Council is excited to welcome everyone to experience the joy and creativity that the arts can bring, while supporting local artists, and finding the next amazing piece for your own home."

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, rain or shine. Parking and admission is free. The festival encourages attendees to adhere to local health guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for all.

For more information, visit [www.putnam-arts-council.com](http://www.putnam-arts-council.com) or follow Putnam CT Arts Council on social media.

## Brooklyn Democrats to host St. Patrick's Day fundraiser

BROOKLYN — Join the Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee for our 2023 St. Patrick's Day Municipal Candidate Fundraiser!

We'll be celebrating at Hank's Restaurant (416 Providence Rd., Brooklyn), at 6:30pm, on Thursday, March 30! RSVP by March 23 with your choice of either a corned beef or turkey dinner (both come with all the fixings). There will be coffee, tea, soup and more! Participate in our St. Patrick's Day Raffle, support local politics and tell potential Brooklyn leaders what issues matter to you! Cost is \$35 per person, tax and tip included. We hope to see you there!

## Camp Woodstock YMCA

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# Day Kimball Healthcare, DK Healthcare Foundation announce 2023 annual fundraising events

**T h u r s d a y ,** March 30 | 5 p.m. Cruisin' for Cancer Care Guest Bartender Night Marley's Pub at Black Dog Bar & Grille, Putnam Join our Cruisin' for Cancer Care Committee Thursday, March 30 for a Guest Bartender Night at Marley's Pub at Black Dog Bar & Grille. Enjoy great food and drink for a good cause; the night features local celebrity guest bartenders, drawings, and more. Admission is free and all cash tips will be donated to the NECT Cancer Fund of DKH. For more information about this event, visit [daykimball.org/guest-bartender-night](http://daykimball.org/guest-bartender-night) or call the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation Office at (860) 928-7141.

**Friday, May 5 | 6 p.m.** Beer & Wine Tasting Mansion at Bald Hill, Woodstock Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at our Beer & Wine Tasting on Friday, May 5. Get a taste of the best that Connecticut and our region's vineyards and

breweries have to offer, along with hors d'oeuvres, raffles, and entertainment from Evan Couture Music - all to benefit the NECT Cancer Fund of Day Kimball Healthcare, which provides critical support to those in Northeast Connecticut who are fighting cancer. Tickets are \$45 and must be purchased in advance. For more information about this event, visit [daykimball.org/tasting](http://daykimball.org/tasting) or call the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation Office at (860) 928-7141.

**Sunday, Aug. 27 | 10 a.m.** Cruise, BBQ & Brew - Motorcycle & Car Cruise Thompson Speedway, Thompson, & The Black Dog Bar & Grille, Putnam Join us for a full day of fun beginning with laps on the track at Thompson Speedway, a 90-minute motorcycle and car cruise around the beautiful northeast corner, followed by a delicious BBQ lunch and entertainment at the Black Dog Bar & Grille! This event is orga-

nized by the Cruisin' for Cancer Care committee and draws hundreds of motorcyclists and classic car enthusiasts each year. Registration is \$35 per person, and proceeds benefit the NECT Cancer Fund of Day Kimball Healthcare. For more information about this event, visit [daykimball.org/cruising](http://daykimball.org/cruising) or call the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation Office at (860) 928-7141.

**Friday, Sept. 8 | Two tee times: 7:45 a.m. & 1 p.m.** Day Kimball Hospital Centreville Bank Golf Classic Connecticut National Country Club, Putnam The Day Kimball Hospital Centreville Bank Golf Classic signature event benefitting DKH is the hospital's most significant fundraiser and has helped to provide continued high-quality medical care, technologies, and facilities for those served across Northeast Connecticut. For more information about this event, visit [daykimball.org/golfclassic](http://daykimball.org/golfclassic) or call the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation Office at (860) 928-7141.

**Saturday, Nov. 11 | 6 p.m.** Dueling Pianos The Raceway Restaurant and Banquet Hall, Thompson Join us at The Raceway Restaurant and Banquet Hall in Thompson for a high-energy dueling pianos show featuring Savage Pianos. Tickets are \$45, must be purchased in advance, and include hearty hors d'oeuvres, automatic entry in our door prize, and a fantastic show filled with great music, sing-alongs, and laughs all night long! Proceeds, including your tips for tunes, benefit the Day Kimball Healthcare At Home services of HomeCare, HomeMakers, and Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut. For more information about this event, visit [daykimball.org/pianos](http://daykimball.org/pianos) or call the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation Office at (860) 928-7141.

**Sunday, Dec. 3 | 5 p.m.** 34th Annual Hospice Tree of Life Ceremonies Simultaneous tree lighting ceremonies held in 11 towns throughout Northeast CT Each December, communities throughout Northeast Connecticut come together to remember and honor their loved ones through a symbol of light. The purchase of memorial lights on each community's Tree of Life benefits the wonderful work done by Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut which enhances the lives of terminally ill patients and their families. For more information about this event, visit [daykimball.org/treeoflife](http://daykimball.org/treeoflife) or call the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation Office at (860) 928-7141.

About Day Kimball Healthcare Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of

Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is [www.daykimball.org](http://www.daykimball.org).

About Day Kimball Healthcare Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of

About Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation The purpose of the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation is to raise philanthropic funds for Day Kimball Healthcare and its associated programs and services including Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, and Day Kimball Healthcare's Pastoral Care and Volunteer Programs.

## Catrina Vanasse earns Westview's Employee of the Month award

DAYVILLE — Katrina Vanasse was recognized at Westview Health Care Center as their January Employee of the Month.

Vanasse performs her role as a housekeeper with great personal pride at the Dayville skilled nursing facility. When discussing her position, she frequently reiterates her understanding that Westview is not only a skilled care setting—but that it is home for all of the patients and residents within. She finds great importance in preserving the cleanliness and pleasantness for all of the individuals present at Westview on a given day. Knowing how important it is to maintain that standard, she works closely with her colleagues in housekeeping, support services, and all of the departments that she needs to collaborate with to achieve this stated goal.

Vanasse joined the Westview team in October 2021, and she shares pride with her colleagues for the strength that they have shown persevering through recent years. In her own words, she states that she loves to clean. She finds peace maintaining her spaces to feel fresh, neat, and organized. This is especially important to her as she considers the skilled nursing setting of Westview Health Care Center. She acknowledges the vital importance of sanitation and hygienic cleaning around the facility while simultaneously placing additional focus on preserving the aesthetics of the patients' and residents' residence. She approaches her role in housekeeping as if the patients and residents are her own family, and this forms her personal standard of performance at Westview. She elaborated on this thought, commenting how she and the whole housekeeping team carry out their duty with dedication:

“To be a housekeeper in a skilled nursing facility like Westview, you have to have compassion and heart. We all work here to take care of others' loved ones—individuals that they may not be able to care for. We take the responsibility to continue their family love in our work,” Vanasse commented.

She knows that the decision to admit a loved one into a skilled nursing setting can be a tough decision for many families. There is great joy she finds in knowing that her efforts offer families the opportunity to visit their kin at Westview with peace and calm surrounding the setting.

Vanasse maintains the same standard of freshness in her own residence in Putnam. In addition to her role at Westview, Katrina is an independent consultant for “Pink Zebra,” a company that creates scented soy wax melts to generate aromatic atmospheres for their clientele. She really enjoys learning about marketing their non-toxic



Catrina Vanasse

aromatherapy products, and is personally pleased with the way these scents preserve her spaces with the air of a fresh, spring day.

She has called Putnam home for most of her life; currently living there with her husband Dennis, and in close proximity to her daughter Hannah and her son Nathan. Her son Zach and his girlfriend Kirsten live in nearby Pomfret, and they have recently expanded the Vanasse family joy with the birth of their daughter Olivia. Two more sons, Alex and Xavier, serve in the United States Navy and instill Katrina's family with patriotic pride. Alex's eight years of service and Xavier's three years of service have led to long chapters in-between full-family gatherings. All more reasons that Katrina celebrated her recent visits with her sons—the first in several years. She and her loved ones know that being a military family is different, and that they all accept the collective sacrifices necessary to preserve American life and liberty. For many years, she enjoyed attending bingo at the Garden City Baptist Church in Ballouville as an activity with her mother, sister, and grandmother. She continues to appreciate this good, clean, wholesome fun with her mother and sister—and likes the way that these game nights support the church.

Upon receiving this recognition from Westview, Vanasse expressed gratitude for the recognition among her peers: “I feel truly grateful that I am appreciated as Westview's Employee of the Month. I want to take a moment to thank all of my wonderful coworkers that recognize my hard work and dedication!” She went on to reiterate her personal passion for tidy quarters: “I enjoy cleaning the residents' and patients' rooms that I am assigned to on a daily basis. Westview is their home, and they deserve the best, cleanest, highest quality conditions all around them at all times. I am honored to do what I do.”

David T. Panteleakos, Administrator of Westview Health Care Center, greatly values Vanasse's approach to carefully maintaining the places and spaces at Westview, commenting “Katrina is such a great addition to our amazing housekeeping department! She is an integral member of our housekeeping dream team that maintains our facility's five-star appearance and environment of care. Congratulations to Katrina!”

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 dedi-

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cated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities

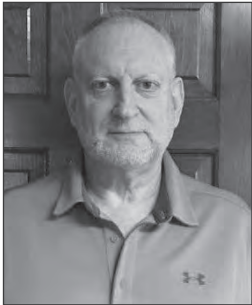
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## TEA announces return of Bedtime Stories

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Mary R. Fisher Elementary School is happy to announce the return of a much beloved event, Bedtime Stories, hosted by the Thompson Education Association (TEA).

We hope students will come join us in their favorite bedtime jammies for some stories, songs and snacks on March 30 from 5-7 p.m.



# America The Great Cabaret Series kicks off March 26



Kala

WILLIMANTIC — The America Museum in the Eastern Connecticut Veterans Community Center proudly presents its “America The Great” Cabaret Series starting Sunday, March 26 from 4-6 p.m. at the Veterans Center, 47 Crescent St., Willimantic.

The event presents amazing local musical talent whose music not only entertains but also tells us fascinating stories about local history. Our first show boasts the amazing folk music from Kala, as she serves as the 18th Connecticut State Troubadour, a role dedicated to promoting cultural literacy, creative arts and wellness in the community. She is the founder of the Quiet Corner Songwriters meetup, a music coach, and musical theater director, accompanist, and composer. Please join us by registering at [AmericaMuseum.org](http://AmericaMuseum.org). Tickets are \$10 per person, refreshments will be available for purchase. All funds support the museum.

This series is made possible by the Leo J. & Rose Pageau Trust.

The America Museum’s mission is to expand the knowledge, deepen the awareness, and provide a greater appreciation, to both visitors and local residents, of the dedication and sacrifice of those people who served in the defense of liberty. We tell the story of America by sharing experiences, discussing our involvement in international conflicts-why they were fought, how they were won, and what they mean today-so that all generations will better understand the price of freedom and better appreciate the country in which they live. We present and interpret information through exhibits, presentations and discussions and engage others in such a way that we, as citizens of our nation, will have learned from our past and will build a better future based on liberty and justice for all.

## Area residents named to Emmanuel College Dean’s List

BOSTON, Mass. — Renee Auger of Woodstock and Jillian Romagnano of Putnam made Emmanuel College’s Dean’s List for the Fall 2022 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean’s List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

Emmanuel College is a co-educational, residential institution with a 17-acre campus in the heart of Boston’s educational, scientific, cultural and medical communities. Enrolling more than 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students, the College provides boundless opportunities for students to expand their worldview through rigorous coursework, significant internship and career opportunities throughout the Boston area and beyond, collaborations with distinguished and dedicated faculty, and participation in a dynamic campus community. Emmanuel’s more than 70 programs in the sciences, liberal arts, business, nursing, and education foster spirited discourse and substantive learning experiences that honor the College’s Catholic educational mission to educate the whole person and provide an ethical and relevant 21st-century education.

## Students named to University of Hartford President’s Honors List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford congratulates the students who have been named to the President’s Honors List for Fall 2022.

The President’s Honors List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester:

Jennifer Kelley of Brooklyn  
Maralex Ramirez of Danielson  
Ashton Gauvin of Putnam  
Gracen Van Der Swaagh of Putnam  
Jordyn Brousseau of Woodstock

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for more than six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut’s capital city, approximately 4,000 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students from 48 states and 45 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We’re a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit [www.hartford.edu](http://www.hartford.edu) for more information.

## Access awarded \$5,000 through Liberty Bank Foundation for Access to Employment Program

WILLIMANTIC — The Access Community Action Agency was recently awarded \$5,000 from the Liberty Bank Foundation for the Access to Employment Program. Funds will be used to help unemployed/underemployed people in our community accomplish their employment goals.

Access to Employment provides tools to help prepare individuals to find meaningful employment and retain a job. Individuals in the Access to Employment Program are supported with case management and in-person classes to determine what jobs they really want and take the steps needed to get the job. Participants learn about the skills they need to get to their goals, resume writing, computer and financial literacy as well as connections to low-cost/no-cost programs available to them.

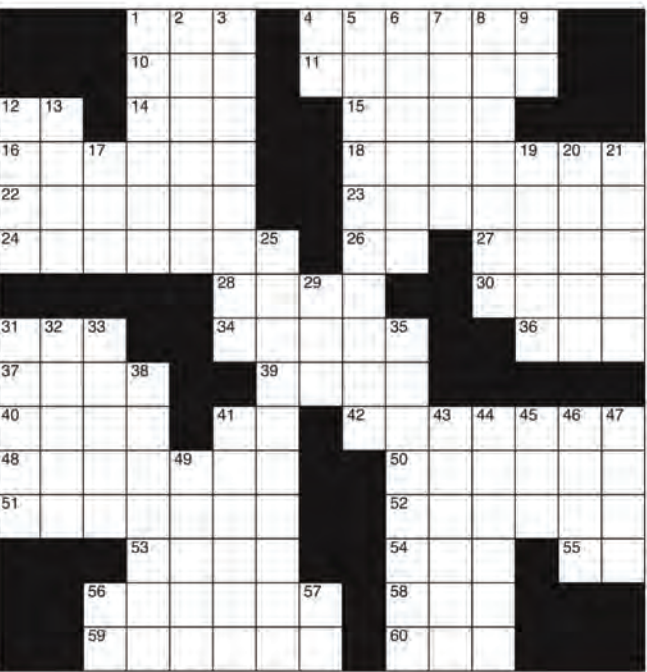
Access to Employment is going into its eighth year and has helped approximately 200 people find meaningful employment. The 11-week classes will resume this Fall, 2023.

Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://accessagency.org/>.

## Ben Gordon named to dean’s list at Tufts University

MEDFORD, Mass. — Ben Gordon of Woodstock, Conn., Class of 2026, was named to the dean’s list at Tufts University for the Fall 2022 semester. Dean’s list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville, and Grafton, Massachusetts, 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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Belonging to a thing

4. Pass or go by

10. Partner to cheese

11. Subjects

12. U.S. State (abbr.)

14. Bits per inch

15. Forest-dwelling deer

16. Illinois city

18. A salt or ester of acetic acid

22. Wholly unharmed

23. Cuddled

24. Bane

26. Global investment bank (abbr.)

27. Oh my gosh!

28. Arrive

30. Famed Spanish artist

31. Home of “Frontline”

34. Group of quill feathers
36. Keyboard key

37. Army training group

39. Detail

40. Pole with flat blade

41. Football play

42. Makes unhappy

48. Island in Hawaii

50. Back in business

51. Of an individual

52. Painful chest condition

53. Tropical American monkey

54. Matchstick game

55. For instance

56. Even again

58. Popular beverage

59. Evaluate

60. Time units (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Stain one’s hands

2. Nocturnal hoofed animals

3. Back condition

4. Popular movie alien

5. City of Angels

6. Peaks

7. Infantry weapons

8. Left

9. Atomic #99

12. Told a good yarn

13. Vale

17. Resistance unit

19. Aquatic plant

20. Bluish greens

21. About some Norse poems

25. Reinforces
29. Egyptian mythological goddess

31. Supportive material

32. Subatomic particle

33. Expired bread

35. Cereal grain

38. Goes against

41. Walkie

43. One who does not accept

44. Beliefs

45. Indicates near

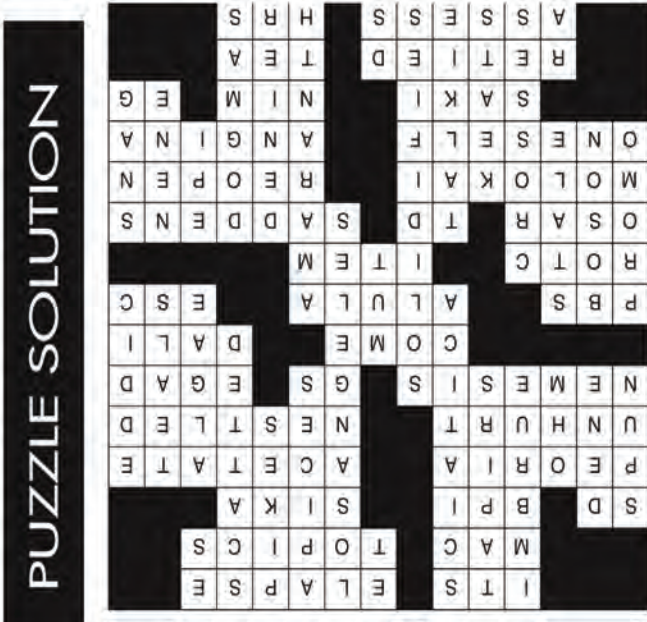
46. Brazilian NBA star

47. Grab quickly

49. Romantic poet

56. College dorm worker

57. Set of data



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## Email Us!

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**We’d Love To Hear From You!**





Putnam Mayor Barney Seney (center) poses with volunteers of the Courthouse O'Putnam 5K.



Scott Bushey was the first to cross the finish line setting a new race record of 15 minutes and 20 seconds.



What better way to see off the racers than with a real-life bagpipe player to set the mood.



Elizabeth Fengler was the first woman to cross the finish line, setting a new race record for female runners with a time of 17 minutes and 51 seconds.



Early birds prepare for their run in the annual Courthouse O'Putnam 5K.



The Case family of Hebron prepare for their annual run in the Courthouse O'Putnam 5K.



While many visitors and participants wore festive outfits, only one spectator could brag about being an actual leprechaun as they cheered on runners.



Main Street in Putnam was crowded with runners, supporters, and spectators out to enjoy the annual O'Putnam 5K race.

# Putnam hosts annual O'Putnam 5K

PUTNAM — The Courthouse O'Putnam 5K took off once again on March 12 as Putnam's annual St. Patrick's Day tradition brought hundreds of runners to town to take on the second of four O'race 5Ks in Connecticut that make up the Lucky Challenge series. The race took runners on a trip through the center of Putnam, including the Putnam River Trail, with a post-race celebration embracing the spirit of St. Patrick's Day on Main Street. The 2023 race features record-breaking times as both overall winner Scott Bushey and the first female across the line Elizabeth Fengler set records for the fastest finish and fastest finish by a woman in the race's history.



Runners arrive at one of the signup tents as they prepare for Putnam's annual St. Patrick's Day tradition.



A group of festive runners toured downtown Putnam before the big race.

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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# Let’s end Daylight Savings Time once and for all

Last year, United States Senators voted unanimously to nix daylight savings. The plan is to make daylight savings time permanent. If the bill passes, it will go into effect in November of 2023 to avoid a scheduling nightmare with the travel industry. The bill is called the Sunshine Protection Act. Florida Senator Marco Rubio noted that most people despise the changes, and he questioned why the practice of turning our clocks back or forward one hour at the onset of winter and spring is still, as the younger generations say, a “thing.” The time change first became known to Americans in 1918. Rhode Island Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse noted that the change places New England in complete darkness during afternoon hours, affecting youth sports and leads to depression. A sunset of 4:15 p.m. is not conducive to daily life. Some experts relayed that year-round daylight savings will make people happier and more productive. We are all always happier when it’s lighter longer. Most of us. If the bill passes, the rest of the country will join the likes of Arizona, Australia and Hawaii who opt not to spring forward and fall back. Daylight savings time is used in roughly 70 countries across the globe. Here we compiled a list of pro’s and con’s so you can determine your own thoughts. The idea of DST is to utilize activity during daylight hours. Some benefits include decreased electricity consumption, a decrease in the number of traffic accidents and crime. DST also increases recreational time, hence boosting the economy. According to studies the changes cost \$60 billion. Interesting is the fact that the barbecue industry and small convenience stores increase sales by \$135 billion. As for energy consumption a study in 1997 revealed that no significant effects occurred when DST was observed all year. In all, energy demands were reduced by just 2.6 percent.

Another pro is the decrease in traffic accidents. When more people drive during daylight the risk of accidents decreases due to the simple fact that driving in the dark is typically more dangerous. Pedestrian accidents would also significantly drop. A reduction in crime has also landed on the pro list. When folks finish work, and run errands while it’s still light out, the exposure to crime becomes less since more crimes take place at night. The increase in recreational time is a no brainer. The longer it’s lighter out, the more time there is to have fun outdoors. As stated above this is also an economy booster. When more people are out and about, they spend more money. The exposure to more vitamin D that the sun provides also proves as a health benefit. On the flip side of the coin, the change may disrupt sleep schedules. The transition can be rough especially for those who don’t get more than five hours per night as it is. However, after the initial adjustments no long-term adverse effects on circadian rhythms were noted.

The longer the day, the more fuel consumption takes place in the atmosphere. The increase in evening traffic emits more pollution in the air. It’s clear the pros outweigh the cons. In our opinion, the natural cadence of the sun should not be altered. If we stick with longer days and leave it at that, we think a much more positive population would ensue.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The budget die is cast

To the Editor:

I have been a proponent of Woodstock’s Proposition 46 because I believed it helped control increases in property taxes. I also believe in spending within one’s means. But on March 9, I ended up voting to waive it for one year. I figured that option would enable us all to evaluate the result. Instead, 54 percent of voters chose to permanently repeal it.

The six previous efforts to get rid of Prop 46 failed by about 2 or 3 to 1. The turnout for this vote was pretty good – 2,208 voters. In 2020, Woodstock had 6,032 active voters, so that’s about 37 percent, which is probably fairly representative. Clearly, a lot of residents cared enough about the outcome of the referendum to show up.

I wholeheartedly support democracy. I realize this change will benefit underfunded

K-8 programs that are absolutely essential preparation. No amount of spending at the Academy can make up for years lost prior to high school. And I know all too well that nobody would want to wait too long for an ambulance when their loved one is dying.

The die is cast. We will soon see what the loss of Prop 46 means. I don’t need a lecture on how important public participation will be in the decision making process. I have spent my career in public service, volunteered in Woodstock for decades, vote in every election, read meeting minutes, and try to stay informed. I freely share my concerns and priorities with town officials, although I have seen them fall on deaf ears. I sincerely hope to be proven wrong about what will happen next.

E. Z. SMITH  
WOODSTOCK

### Prop 46 - RIP

To the Editor:

After 43 years of service to the Woodstock community, repeated attempts to repeal, and a continual onslaught of attempts (some successful) to circumvent Prop 46, Prop 46 met its demise on March 9; but before the spenders celebrate too hardily, they need remember that budgets still have to pass a referendum, and that it was tax increases year after year that gave us Prop 46 in the first place.

With the demise of Prop 46, it will be up to the BOF, and the other two key boards, BOS

and BOE, to exercise leadership and keep reality in mind – something all three have failed to do in the past.

The budget process will be in full swing starting March 14, before you read this; thanks to all those who turned out to vote on March 9, now you need to follow the process and the budget that will come out of it. For those who didn’t vote...

DAVE RICHARDSON  
WOODSTOCK

### A rare moment of bipartisanship

To the Editor:

The House approved a resolution formally condemning China for its use of a surveillance balloon over the United States, which was shot down by the military. The measure won unanimous support in a vote of 419 to 0, marking a rare moment of bipartisanship in the sharply divided House.

More recently, the House voted 419 to 0 to pass a bill requiring the Biden administration to declassify intelligence related to potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China and the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bills passage came as the Chinese lab-leak theory drew more attention. The debate was brief and to the point: Americans have questions about how the deadly virus started. The vote was the final approval of the bill, sending it to President Biden’s desk to be signed into law. (Imagine that — our Congress is actually agreeing on some issues.) Dr. Fauci said he believed the virus “most likely” emerged in nature and jumped from animals to humans, and also that if you argue with him, you’re arguing with “the

science.” Anyhow, it will be interesting to see what becomes of this.

So now, the Jan. 6 footage in Tucker Carlson’s hands. After its airing, a segment of NBC (Connecticut) News moaned about it and again showed their same old, same old orchestrated scenes of that needless and unfortunate incident. Yes, what Carlson presented can be considered as being “cherry picked,” but don’t the American people have the right to see more of what actually happened? However, according to Chuck Schumer, they don’t. Now that we’ve seen the footage that the Democrats and the anti-Trump J6 committee didn’t want us to see, the answer to that apparently is censorship when Schumer literally called for Fox News CEO Rupert Murdoch to stop Tucker Carlson from releasing it.

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### Stay engaged

To the Editor:

As a representative of the Concerned Citizens of Woodstock advocacy group, I’m writing to thank residents for their participation, encouragement, and support these past few months.

It was a tremendous group effort to plan and execute an educational campaign focused on informing residents about the basics of town government and the history and restrictions of Proposition 46.

We greatly appreciate all those who attended our information sessions, regardless of whether you agreed with our argument or were just there to learn more. Your support via our website and social media channels and willingness to share our messages and to talk to your friends, family, and neighbors about the issue were essential in the successful effort to repeal 46.

We couldn’t have done it without you; however, our work is not done. Please continue to be involved in our community as informed citizens and/or volunteers. (Follow the Senexet Grange on Facebook for local events and volunteer opportunities!)

Remaining engaged shouldn’t be burdensome, but it will take some effort. For example, it might require adjustments to your schedule to make it to at least one of several upcoming budget-related meetings or time to review meeting minutes, write letters or call our town officials to ask questions. (Sign up on the Woodstock town website to be part of the email distribution list!)

The FY24 budget season is well underway. The boards of education and selectmen have already presented their initial proposals to the Board of Finance. These plans will be revised in the weeks to come. We will have multiple opportunities to share our opinions at finance board meetings, the public hearing, the Annual Town Meeting, and, finally, the budget referendum in May.

Now maybe more than ever, our elected officials need to hear from us about what we expect and what we’ll support. They cannot do this in a vacuum, and we cannot expect our voices to be heard or listened to if we wait to share them at the 11th hour.

Stay engaged, Woodstock.

MEGAN BARD MORSE  
WOODSTOCK

### 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.

## Politics are the fumes of disrespect

Five women and I are going to hike the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path in early June. We have done similar trips before, walking from village to village carrying our backpacks while a car service transports our luggage to the modest inns and B&Bs where we spend the night. On this trip, however, the distances between towns are longer than any we have done before. Several days will require 12 miles of hiking. To prepare, I am walking as much and as far as I can. That is why, on a blustery Sunday afternoon, I spent a few hours walking in Putnam along the Quinebaug River. I stopped to buy gas and found myself smacked in the face by the opinions dividing our country.

Usually, I buy my gas at Kelly’s in Putnam. Lori pumps the precious fuel into my car and we laugh about something. It is a pleasant experience that leaves me driving away with warm feelings about how lucky I am to live in a beautiful place among people I like and who know me.

I was driving on fumes, so I stopped at a self-service station. I pulled in and I heard the man at the opposite pump say something. I thought he was asking me a question, so I spoke to him. I jokingly asked if he was talking to the gas pump. He took offense, I guess, and told me that he was from Florida, a wonderful place, where, in his words, there were only two genders and that was that. He further said that anyone who voted for Biden had the Devil’s blood on their hands. He was ready to go on, but I’d had enough. I told him that perhaps with beliefs like that, it was better he stay in Florida and people like me remain where we are. I was getting quite hot under the collar.

My first reaction was to escalate the conflict. After all, I was in my neck-of-the woods. I didn’t ask his opinion about anything. I thought I was being pleasant. He was spewing his ideas for no apparent reason. He was angry. He was making me angry. My gas tank was full. His was too, although as one might guess he was trying to override the system and squeeze in a few more drops. I wanted to step up onto the cement divider, so I would look taller and give him a piece of my mind.

Then I had three thoughts. I could finish my transaction at the gas pump and leave. I could go inside the office and pay for his gas, which would probably make him completely lose it. Or I could fool myself into believing that I could say something that would change his mind.

I noticed the door to his truck was wide open. I looked at the person inside and met the eyes of a teenage boy who was turned toward the man and me. He was motionless. He wanted to move on. I got in my car and left.

I’m going to walk often and everywhere until I leave for my trip. I’m filled with images of the open path and a sense of freedom. I’ll be a tourist in Wales. Although I am interested in the opinions of the local people and the other hikers, I won’t insult them by forcing my ideas on them.

The fellow at the gas pump didn’t offer me the same respect. It isn’t merely opinions that divide us. It is how we see other people. The political statements are merely fumes.



LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

This is not the time to  
increase Thompson’s tax  
burden

To the Editor:

Daylight Savings Time has arrived, and spring is in the air. It is also time for the annual shell game with the budget in Thompson.

For residents of Thompson, officials are quoting an average property increase of \$639 when a typical property will see a \$865 increase, meaning half the properties will see less and half will see more if the budget goes through as proposed, and this doesn’t include the increase in vehicle taxes.

On March 2, the Board of Education and the First Selectman presented their budgets to the Board of Finance. Let’s look at the numbers presented to the Board of Finance; all numbers are based on our current mill rate of \$25.02.

First up was the education budget; the board is recommending an increase of 9.55 percent in total spending with expected flat revenue from the state. This is important because state funding consists of about a third of their revenue, if state revenue is flat, more of the increase needs to come from the taxpayer. The actual amount of proposed increase in taxes the taxpayer will see is 15.34 percent.

Next up was the town government budget, the First Selectman is recommending an increase of 14.68 percent in general town spending with a slight increase in local revenue from building permits, licenses, conveyance taxes, transfer station fees, etc. Town revenue makes up about a quarter of the town’s budget, the rest comes from taxation. The actual amount of proposed increase in taxes the taxpayer will see is 19.39 percent.

The town budget also includes Capital Expenditures, here the First Selectman is proposing an increase of 61.54 percent in spending. This is in addition to the \$15.2 million approved at referendum on January 31st for the School HVAC, security and running track. There are no reimbursements this year so the actual amount of proposed increase in taxes the taxpayer will see is 127.51 percent.

The one bright spot at the presentation was Debt Service, it went down 2.26 percent. This won’t last though, because of the referendum vote approving the School HVAC, security and running track this is expected to increase 46 percent next year, or 0.8 mills.

Whenever tax time comes around, everyone is concerned about the mill rate, with good reason because the mill rate times your assessment determines your property taxes. What nobody talks about, and really should is the Grand List, and the total amount of taxation. We experienced this last year when we were told the mill rate was only going up .07 and the increase in taxes would be minimal. We found out differently when we received the tax bills for our vehicles, this was because of an increase in the Grand List changed the value of a mill and the total amount of taxation went up the equivalent of 1.2 mills.

The Grand list is the total amount of taxable property in Thompson as of the past October. Since the value of one mill is one thousandth of the Grand List, as the Grand List grows, so does the amount of revenue the town receives for each mill. In the five previous years, the Grand List grew by 25.6, if the mill rate had held steady over that period, the revenue from property taxes would have also increased by 25.6 percent. This budget year, the value of a mill increased 1.74 percent because the Grand List was updated as of Oct. 1, 2022.

The amount of taxation is how much the town raises in taxation of the Grand List. The town determines how much it needs, subtracts any federal or state funding, and divides that sum by one thousandth of the Grand List and that is the new mill rate. Because the value of a mill increased, the town is claiming the proposed mill rate of 4.16 is only a 16.64 percent increase in taxes, when in fact it is an actual increase of 18.7 percent in taxation.

With the current inflation rate of 6.5 percent, many of us are having trouble keeping up with our bills, just with the price of food, utilities, and fuel we need to prioritize eating, lighting, or heating. Some of us can afford this proposed tax increase, but many of us can’t. Unfortunately, the Board of Education and the First Selectman have done Thompson a disservice by asking for such large increases during a time of economic difficulty.

The Thompson Taxpayer Alliance has produced a PowerPoint presentation to help you understand the budget process which we will post on our Facebook page. We also plan to have a meeting or two where you can come and learn and ask questions, stay tuned. For more information, please contact the TTA at ThompsonTaxpayerAlliance@gmail.com.

BILL WARNER  
THOMPSON

Women’s financial history –  
and the empowering future ahead

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, it’s all but impossible not to realize the implicit role that financial independence – or lack thereof – has played and will play in shaping the lives of women past, present, and future.

The history of women and finances is long and complicated. A woman’s ability to control her own finances (and to accrue wealth and empowerment as a result) has fluctuated throughout the ages and still does across the globe. Suffice it to say, the idea that a woman can and should accumulate and control her own wealth, and thereby her destiny, hasn’t always been popular.

Thankfully, that’s not the case today in America. But it’s important to understand how we got here, to realize just how recently we crossed over the threshold into financial independence, to give voice to the financial challenges that still plague women today, and to understand why it’s important to everyone that women’s financial empowerment continues to grow in the future.

So first, here’s a brief look at the history of women and finances in America.

1862: Women can claim land in their own names, thanks to the passage of the U.S. Homestead Act.

1920: The 19th Amendment is passed, giving women the right to vote. Although it’s not a financial milestone specifically, women now hold the power to influence the legislation that has up to this point prevented them from holding power over their own finances.

1963: The Equal Pay Act is passed, making equal pay for equal work no matter your gender the law of the land – at least in theory.

1967: Discrimination in hiring and employment is banned through Executive Order 11375, opening the door for women to pursue more varied and higher-level jobs.

1974: The Equal Credit Opportunity Act is passed, granting women the right to obtain credit independent of their husbands.

2014: Fast forward nearly forty years since the last major financial milestone for women, and a woman takes control of the country’s central bank when Janet Yellen becomes the first female appointed as chair of the Federal Reserve. It was a watershed moment that highlighted how far women had come, both on the national stage and in

individual households, in the realm of wealth and finance.

Here’s where women and finances stand now.

Women are steadily becoming the dominant gender in terms of population, lifespan, educational achievement, and labor force in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2021, there were about four million more women in America than men, and 72 percent more women ages 85 and older than men in that same age group. About 36 percent of women ages 25 and older had earned a bachelor’s degree, compared with about 34 percent of men.<sup>1</sup>

Why do those statistics matter? A 2022 report by McKinsey & Company sums it up well. The authors predict that women will “take center stage as investors over the next decade.” That prediction is driven in large part by the fact that women in the baby boomer generation are outliving their male counterparts. For those who were married, that means they’re quickly becoming the lion’s share of those responsible for handing down wealth.<sup>2</sup>

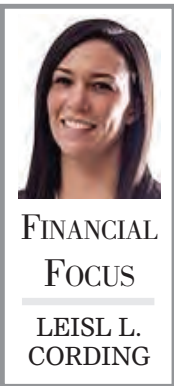
The report reads, in part, “By 2030, American women are expected to control much of the \$30 trillion in investable assets that baby boomers will possess—a potential wealth transfer that approaches the annual GDP of the United States. At the same time, younger affluent women are becoming more financially savvy; for example, 30 percent more married women are making financial and investment decisions than five years ago.”

But one area where women still aren’t catching up, however, is in earnings. Women working full-time still earn a median salary equal to just 81.5 percent of that earned by men.<sup>1</sup>

And here’s the empowering outlook on women and finances for the future – along with a word of caution.

Clearly, the days of women taking a passive role in household finances and having little significance in the fields of finance and economics are over. Instead, quite the opposite will be true. Women will soon tip the scales in becoming the majority in terms of not only population but also employment and wealth transfer in America.

Looking further ahead, it seems a safe assumption that if the current behavioral trends of younger women persist, they’ll also match or exceed their male counterparts in amassing their



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organizing a ladies’ orchestra. It looks as though there might be some music in the air here this summer.” (WCT 3/6/1913). If you know of others in this drum corps or have photos that can be copied for the Killingly Historical Center, please contact me.

Women take Note: Perhaps you had an enterprising female relative! “Fifteen young girls met at the home of Ruth Arnold on Reynolds St. Wednesday afternoon, March 12, and formed what is to be known as the Bachelor Girls’ Club.” (WCT March 13, 1913). No names were included. If you have heard of this club and can supply a name or two, please email me. Likewise, if you have heard of similar clubs in other area towns, please let me know. Keep in mind that in 1913 women still did not have the right to vote. Perhaps this was a forerunner of “Votes For Women.” Of course, they might simply have been trying to think of ways to attract boyfriends and husbands.

I’m a huge baseball fan, and, as I type this, I have a Red Sox spring training baseball game on as background. Thus the following quickly caught my eye, “Joseph Rondeau, a former resident of Danielson, is to be one of the catchers of the American League this year.” (WCT March 13, 1913). I knew nothing about him but found a nice write-up and photo on Wikipedia. “Henri Joseph Rondeau (May 5, 1887 – May 28, 1943) was an American baseball player. He played professional baseball as an outfielder and a catcher for 17 years from 1909 to 1925, including parts of three seasons in Major League Baseball for the Detroit Tigers in 1913 and the Washington Senators from 1915 to 1916. He also played in all or parts of 12 seasons with the Minneapolis Millers in the American Association. Rondeau was born in Danielson, Connecticut, in 1887. He played baseball as a boy in Danielson and began playing organized baseball as a second baseman for the Perseverance team out of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, in the Mill League...Rondeau died in 1943 after a long illness at age 56 at his home in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. He was buried at Precious Blood Cemetery in Woonsocket.”

Have you heard of a cigar factory

own wealth and having an equal or controlling role in household finances as well.

But, here’s the word of caution – those continuing advances assume that the stubborn wage gap that women have faced for decades also goes the way of history. It also relies on women continuing to build confidence in their financial management and investment capabilities.

Having been forced to the sidelines for so long, it’s no wonder that many women are hesitant to take control of their finances. But that hesitancy is fading with practice, as older women overcome those ingrained mistaken beliefs, and with time, as younger women come into their own without those beliefs to overshadow them.

For my part, I’m proud to be among the 25 percent of female wealth managers in the U.S., and even more proud still that the number of women entering the field of finance is growing every year. And I’m especially proud to work for a wealth management firm that actively works to understand women’s unique needs in order to empower their future. The partnerships I forge with my female clients while creating a financial strategy that empowers the future they want for themselves is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job.

To learn more about our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well strategic financial planning process at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors and how we can tailor it to help you meet your goals, reach out to us for a complimentary consultation at (860) 928-2341 or on our website at whzwealth.com.

Authored by Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor Leisl L. Cording CFP®, Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser: 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259, 860.928.2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com> 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 financial advisor: 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.

- <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2023/women-history-month.html>
- <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/financial-services/our-insights/us-wealth-management-a-growth-agenda-for-the-coming-decade>

in Ballouville? “The real estate business has been quite brisk here (Ballouville) for the past few days. Joseph Requier has purchased the house and barn near the schoolhouse, known as the Peter Morse place. Peter Paul has purchased the building near the bridge, formerly used as a cigar factory, and will fit it up for a barber shop and pool room.” (WCT March 20, 1913). If you have information on this, please email me.

In the March 3 Killingly at 300 column, I mentioned a number of women of note from Northeastern Connecticut. Did you know that Mary Kies of Killingly was recognized at the first woman in the United States to receive a patent in her own right? In 1809 she was granted a patent for a “fabric” of straw woven with silk, which could have been used for the bonnets that were common then. President James Madison signed the patent; his wife, Dolley, sent a note expressing her appreciation of the fact that a woman had received a patent. (Larned, Ellen. “History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vo. II,” p. 432, 432)

Fish Fridays: Support one of Killingly’s Historic Properties, Killingly Grange #112, the former Killingly Center School. The Danielson Lions Club and the Killingly Grange will hold their final fish fry Friday March 24 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fried or Baked Fish with choice of Baked Potato or French Fries. \$15.00. Beverage & Dessert also available. Dine-in or Take Out. Limited number of meals. Call 860-230-7367 or visit [www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/](http://www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/). At the door pay by cash, credit card or check. They are also collecting non-perishable food for local food pantries.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, March 2023. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or [www.killinglyhistorical.org](http://www.killinglyhistorical.org). or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://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.



# The people of Connecticut know what’s best for their towns

BY SEN. JEFF GORDON  
WOODSTOCK

Reach out and talk to people. Listen and learn. Work with them. That’s the lesson I’ve learned over the past 15 years as Chair of Woodstock’s Planning & Zoning Commission. In this role, I’ve led revisions to my town’s plan of conservation and development, zoning and subdivision regulations, and affordable housing plans.

During all of this, and even during my campaign, I spent a lot of time going out to neighborhoods to talk to people where they live, hear their concerns, find out what they need and want, and find out what realistically town government can support. Common sense rules the day in these actions and decisions. This is how responsible and reasonable solutions are found that improve the quality of life of the people who live and work in Woodstock. My approach as your state senator has been the same.

Representing the 13 towns of our district, and talking to people in our rural and urban communities, I’ve gotten the message as it relates to affordable housing options. Our residents have a real concern for these options, but it diverges from the attitudes miles away in Hartford. Here, the topic of affordable housing recently has taken center stage.

While the needs of the district may vary, we know what is best for our towns when it comes to affordable housing. Our

region exemplifies this. We are unique in that we have communities that are made up of rolling landscapes, farms, and rural neighborhoods. We also have towns with developed commercial corridors, apartment buildings, and industrial property. One size does not fit all. I am a firm advocate for attainable housing for all families in the state, keeping the unique makeup of our towns in mind.

So, what’s the reason for the piqued interest in what Hartford Democrats are calling ‘affordable’ housing? A key idea in Hartford driving this is a measure that imposes ‘fair share’ affordable housing requirements for the 169 Connecticut towns. The state’s definition of affordable housing is strict and very difficult to meet for rural or small towns. Based on the proposed state metric, the 13 towns of our Senate district (Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Ellington, Hampton, Stafford, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Vernon, Willington, and Woodstock), would have to build an additional 5,804 housing units for the ‘fair share’ model.

The estimated cost based upon a 2023 estimate would be around \$2 billion dollars. Take the small town of Union for example, which has 781 people and 381 existing affordable housing units. This new state mandate would demand 76 new housing units—a 20 percent increase. If you have been to Union, which I have often and is a lovely

town with great people, and which is comprised of a large area of protected forest, then you would readily see why its ‘fair share’ mandate cannot be achieved, even by year ten.

These requirements simply are not realistic for rural towns. Where will such a drastic increase in dwelling units be built? Where will people park? How will our water and sewer connectivity be impacted (many towns do not have such infrastructure in place)? Our schools? Towns would be forced to manage this undertaking (without meaningful state help). That is wrong. Forcing towns to provide such large numbers of affordable housing to meet a metric created by the state without regard to the unique factors and features of each town would create a situation by which towns would be destined to fail, of no fault of their own.

Any penalties placed on towns would be an unnecessary and an unfortunate burden on the hard-working families and job-creating businesses therein. It would be like trying to hammer a square peg into a round hole. It does not work. A one-size-fits-all, top-down, state-mandated approach to creating affordable housing in our towns already does not work through the current laws known as the 8-30g system. This system has been in place for many years. It would be a system that would cause harm to communities across Connecticut.

Look south to New

Jersey as an example of this disastrous effect. A law there enacted some years ago similar to what is now proposed here in Connecticut has failed to achieve its intended goals, has been mired in bureaucratic and legal quagmires, and has made things worse—not better—for public policy initiatives.

There is more to housing than simply what the state defines as ‘affordable.’ Earlier, I mentioned ‘attainable’ housing. This is how we should view the state’s housing situation. This is also the approach underpinning my work in Woodstock. There, many people who are not low income but nevertheless face challenges in buying, building, or staying in a home. It’s important to look beyond strict state metrics and look at low- and middle-income brackets, how land is developed, and the cost of zoning permitting. Even more factors like environmental impacts and what land can and can’t be developed must be included. After we examine these factors that our government can control, we must look at what we cannot control as directly: the cost of building materials, land, and labor.

With that said, there is a separate bill in our Housing Committee that does take these ancillary factors into account and leads us on the best path to ‘attainable’ housing. It is a step toward a holistic approach grounded in reality using the circumstances that exist in each town. Yes, it considers that this housing meet

certain income requirements, but not the strict state criteria mentioned earlier, in determining the overall recognized affordable housing in a town. This is a concept that I support. It is common-sense.

Before one starts to create or change land use regulations (zoning), one needs first to research, understand, and think through carefully land use goals (planning). I have been doing it for many years. Do not put the cart before the horse. We need to let each municipality continue to find what would work and not work for its own people, then set out to create updated housing plans and land use regulations with the input of the people who live in their own towns.

Let us work together to review the state’s current 8-30g affordable housing law and to determine collaboratively in an inclusive manner what needs to be done for reform. These are important steps to take before we act further on ‘affordable housing’ measures. It is not about politics. It is about working together to have smart decisions made. Local planning and zoning officials who are directly elected by the people of their towns are good decision-makers for their communities and neighborhoods. Public meetings provide families opportunities to have their voices heard and for Planning and Zoning Commissioners to learn from residents. I look forward to continuing to be a leader taking part in this ongoing discussion.

# Telling is not tattling

BY MIKE BOGDANSKI

You have heard it so many times: “Don’t be a tattler tale!”

As children grow, they learn the rules of everyday life. They know that following the rules gives them good results from their parents and peers. It becomes natural for a child (and even us adults) to call attention to perceived rule-breakers. Strangely enough, somewhere along our parent and child development, we learn that “do not tattler” was a good motto for many.

Adults often believe that tattling can be three things.

A bid for attention. It’s a way to get another child in trouble.

A way to correct a child’s behavior.

It is critical to interpret tattling versus telling so that children will confide in a teacher or parent about what they are witnessing.

When students tell on other children, they may have legitimate concerns. Listening to the reason for these concerns and how they affect the situation must be taken seriously, no matter how trivial they seem. Sometimes students do it to gather information, test limits and see if you will enforce the rules.

The main reason children “tell” is that they don’t know how to handle the problem themselves, so they use the only problem-solving technique they know: talking to an adult. Some children will “tell” for attention and recognition, and want you to notice they are following the rules. By reporting others they’re seeking the support they are doing the right thing. Adults should assume that when a child tells them about a problem, it has some critical importance to the child. No matter how small a concern is, an adult should always reward the child for coming forward. Once the telling has taken place, an adult can clarify the topic for the child. Here are some ways to help a child define “telling”.

Assume that the child’s motivations for telling are positive.

Is it necessary for an adult to help the child or can it be resolved on their own?

Is the reported behavior deliberate or is the inappropriate behavior an accident?

Do you think the offense is dangerous or harmless?

Is it a small deal or a big deal?

Is it done to get someone in trouble or to keep people safe?

Is someone hurt or might be hurt?

Tattling has a negative connotation. Telling is like witnessing a crime. It could be as simple as “they took my crayon” to “that man instructed me to keep a secret”. The statements need clarification, a rating of urgency, and an expectation of potential harm. You always want your kids to “tell” you when they have a problem, large or small.

Mike Bogdanski is a martial arts Grandmaster and anti-bully activist.

# The wisdom of Sun Tzu

Unforeseen events can shake our world to the core, leaving us scrambling. COVID-19 lockdowns caught us off guard and demonstrated that even the most meticulous planning could not prepare us for the unprecedented.

While news of the outbreak surfaced months before it reached the USA, many of us remained ignorant until it disrupted our daily lives. It is a stark reminder that life can take unexpected turns, and we must learn to adapt in the face of uncertainty. Rare but catastrophic events can occur, and taking precautions is essential.

Over time, I’ve seen pursuing my goals as a battle I am committed to winning.

The ancient book, “The Art of War,” by Sun Tzu, says: “The general who wins the battle makes many calculations in his temple before the battle is fought. The general who loses makes but few calculations beforehand.”

This quote suggests that those who prepare for various potential scenarios will emerge victorious, while those who plan for only one scenario will fail.

It’s good to recognize that in order to accomplish our goals, we may need to navigate numerous challenges and obstacles along the way. In other words, success may require us to dodge many bullets.

I run a tech startup and also have friends and acquaintances that work in the tech startup world. One close friend called me in tears because his startup lost all its money last week. Their money was deposited in Silicon

POSITIVELY  
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TOBY  
MOORE

Valley Bank (SVB). There are talks of bailouts, but at this time, there are still questions about how much of their deposit is protected.

I’ve been accused of pessimism when discussing preparations for every scenario. Still, I like to say, “Is it negative thinking to see the Hurricane coming, ensure your house is boarded up, and have extra water and food?”

“In peace, prepare for war,” said Sun Tzu.

Is there any preparation that could have been made to prevent the loss of their money? That’s tough because if you cannot trust the banks, what are you supposed to do, throw \$10 million under your mattress?

To prepare for such a scenario, you’d have to come to the opinion that we are in economically uncertain times.

As my startup gains more investors, putting all the money in one bank may not be the best idea. As volatile as it is, I am inclined to put some into cryptocurrencies, some into cash, and maybe even into gold and silver, and the rest spread out into multiple banks.

You must build your dreams on a solid foundation, or they can all be blown away when the storms of life arrive.

Sun Tzu said, “Every battle is won or lost before it is ever fought.”

bserving my father in business taught me a great deal about preparation. While he was a highly successful businessperson in many respects, I learned the most valuable lessons by watching him navigate his failures and

setbacks.

I’ve thought a lot about one circumstance where he partnered with a close friend of his from Canada in a new business venture. While things started off promising, it wasn’t long before the partner’s true colors were revealed. He embezzled nearly a million dollars, leaving my dad reeling and realizing he had been caught off guard.

It’s a cautionary tale that underscores the importance of always having safeguards and precautions, even with close friends and business partners.

A crisis could come at a moment’s notice. We never know what life will bring.

“Plan for what is difficult while it is easy.” — Sun Tzu

A fine line separates preparation and paranoia - it’s essential to be ready for anything, but not at the cost of our mental well-being. Making preparations shouldn’t lead us to believe that the worst-case scenario is inevitable.

Having a positive mindset in the face of potential trouble is everything. Hardship will come, but you must know in your heart and mind that you have what it takes to overcome it.

Preparing for the worst-case scenario is not a sign of pessimism — it’s a necessary aspect of achieving success in the face of unexpected challenges.

Stay informed, prepared, and optimistic; embrace the unknown, and make the most of every opportunity!

# Late winter tent caterpillar management

Start this year’s tree pest management with a stroll through the landscape. As you enjoy the scenery, be sure to look for any unwelcome pests



GARDEN  
MOMENTS

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that may be overwintering on the twigs of trees.

Look for and remove egg masses of tent caterpillars now through spring. These clusters of eggs look like shiny blobs of mud surrounding the twigs. Each egg mass contains hundreds and in some cases thousands of eggs.

The forest tent caterpillar is the most widely distributed tent caterpillar: It attacks a variety of trees that vary with the region. Check any sugar maples, aspen, cherries, apples, oaks, birch, ash, alder, elm, basswood, or water tupelo trees growing in your landscape.

Trees may suffer damage when large populations of these caterpillars devour the majority of the tree’s leaves for several years

in a row. This can result in reduced tree growth, top dieback, and tree mortality. There are several natural predators of this insect pest so working with nature is a great way to help reduce damage. Remove the egg masses found on small twigs that are more easily reached on smaller trees. After the eggs hatch, look for the caterpillars in a silken mat, not a tent like the other tent caterpillars. Remove the young caterpillars from branch tips or squash those resting on the main stem in the evening or on cool days.

You may also see similar egg masses of the Western or Eastern tent caterpillars depending on where you live. Their egg masses look similar to those of the forest tent caterpillar. Remove the egg masses of these tent caterpillars in spring before the eggs hatch.

Once the eggs hatch, the caterpillars begin forming a webby tent in the crotch of the tree.

As they feed and grow, the tent expands. They remain in the tent during the hot part of the day and rainy weather.

Knock the tents, caterpillars and all, out of the tree when the majority of caterpillars are in the tent. Smash or dump the caterpillars in a can of soapy water.

Do not burn the tents. This old practice is hazardous and the fire can severely damage the tree, much worse than the insects.

Control is usually not needed on healthy and established trees. If you decide to intervene, consider using an organic insecticide with the active ingredient Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki (Btk). It is effective when applied to the tents soon after they start to form and when the caterpillars are small. Just spray the tent and the surrounding 1.5 feet of leaves. These products only kill caterpillars and will not harm other insects or birds feeding on these pests.

When working with nature, we have help from predatory



Melinda Myers

**Eastern tent caterpillars crawling on top of their webby tent.**

insects and songbirds when managing these and other garden pests. Taking time this winter for a bit of prevention can go a long way in reducing damage from tent caterpillars. 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.*



www.Connecticut  
QuietCorner.com



# OBITUARIES

## Evelyn W. Chmura, 90



PIC

Our dear mother, Evelyn W. Chmura sadly passed away on March 2, 2023 at the age of 90. She was a wonderful mother who was always there when we needed her and was always involved in her busy family's various activities. We truly will miss her.

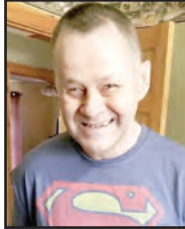
Born on November 29, 1932, in Brooklyn, CT, she was the daughter of the late Ethel Nash and George Nash. Evelyn was the loving wife of the late Edmond W. Chmura, whom she married on August 23, 1952. They met when Edmond successfully repaired her car. They were the best of friends and enjoyed dancing the Polka at various locations. Evelyn is survived by her children Priscilla (James) McQuighan of Chesapeake Beach MD, Thomas Chmura of Danielson CT, Charles (Lisa) Chmura of Pomfret CT, Peter (Dawn) Chmura of Pomfret, CT, 5 grandsons, and 7 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her siblings, Rita (Omer) Kerouack and George

James (Bette) Nash.

Evelyn graduated from Killingly High School in 1950, where she played the trombone in the marching band, served as class secretary, and was very popular with her classmates. She also was a member of the community band along with her father and sister, who all played the trombone. After graduation, Evelyn was a bookkeeper for Rogers Corp., and later for Ed's Service Center until recently. She also became a teacher's aide at Killingly Memorial School, where she touched the hearts and minds of many elementary school students. She had many hobbies such as gardening, sewing, knitting, collecting antique glassware and pottery, and relaxing and digging for clams at the ocean. She loved the family's dogs, especially Winnie, her constant companion after her husband passed.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. James Catholic Church in Danielson on Monday March 20, 2023 at 11 A.M. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Our Companions Animal Rescue at ourcompanions.org or mail to PO Box 956 Manchester, CT 06045. [tillinghastfh.com](mailto:tillinghastfh.com)

## William Thomas Bridges, 61



William Thomas Bridges, 61, died Wednesday March 1, 2023, at Hartford Hospital. He was born March 3, 1961, son of Roger and Beryl (Smith) Bridges. A lifelong resident of Connecticut, Billy

was known for riding his bike and you could see him picking up cans on the side of the road. He loved to laugh and made others laugh too. He

is survived by his brothers John of Danielson, Michael of Maine, Paul of PA, sisters Sharon of PA, Nancy of CT, and Eileen of VT. Two aunts, Marcia Smith of Danielson and Madeline of Brooklyn who was his co-guardian with his niece Susan Doyle of Moosup, along with several nieces and nephews. Funeral services and burial will be private. Donations in Billy's memory may be made to the Tamarack House 28 Tamarack Circle Dayville, CT 06241. [tillinghastfh.com](mailto:tillinghastfh.com)

## Madeleine J. LaCoille, 83



Madeleine "Maddy" J. LaCoille (Bonin) passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on 2 March 2023 in Orange City FL, she was 83 years young.

Maddy was born in Putnam, CT on 16 November 1939 to Hurside and Margaret Bonin. Maddy was a graduate of Saint Mary's Elementary School, Putnam Catholic Academy High School, and Saint Francis School of Radiology.

She spent most of her life as a homemaker. She loved to dance, loved watching sports, knitting, word search puzzles, travel, and had a beautiful singing voice. She adored the color purple. Born and raised in Putnam, she also lived in Quinebaug, CT, Deltona, FL,

and Orange City, FL where she was a resident for the last 27 years.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband Wilfred LaCoille, and a son Richard. Maddy is survived by 3 siblings: Gertrude (George) Bordua, Louise (David) Laurens, and Peter (Melissa) Bonin. She is also survived by 3 children: Peter (Annette) Tetreault, Michelle (Randy) Beasley and Denise Lemire. She also leaves eleven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren along with a special friend Richard Marchese.

A funeral mass will be held at Saint Mary's Church on July 8, 2023, at 10:30 am. She will be laid to rest next to her husband Wilfred in West Thompson Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Saint Mary's Church in Putnam, Connecticut.

## Eugene J. LaCoille, 91

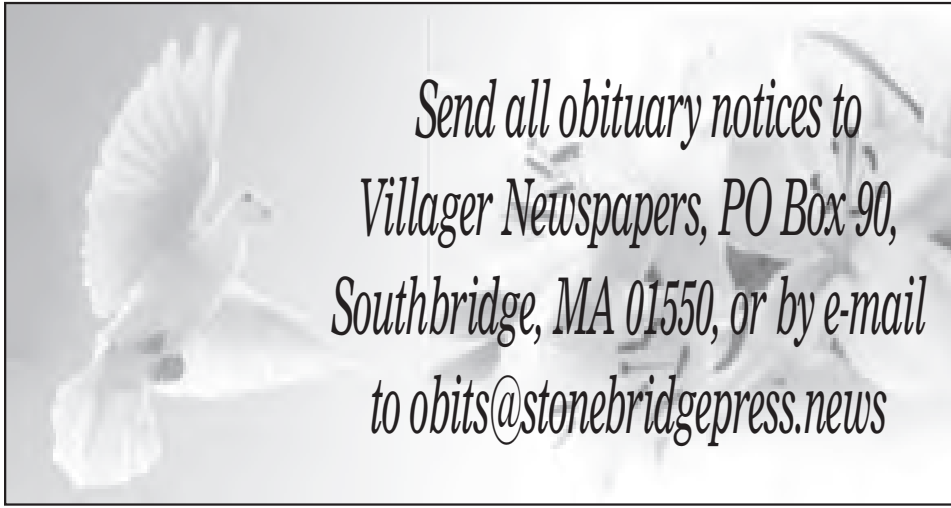


Putnam – Eugene (Gene) J. LaCoille, 91, formerly of Pomfret Center and Orange City, FL, passed away suddenly at home at Little River Acres in Putnam on March 6, 2023. Gene was born

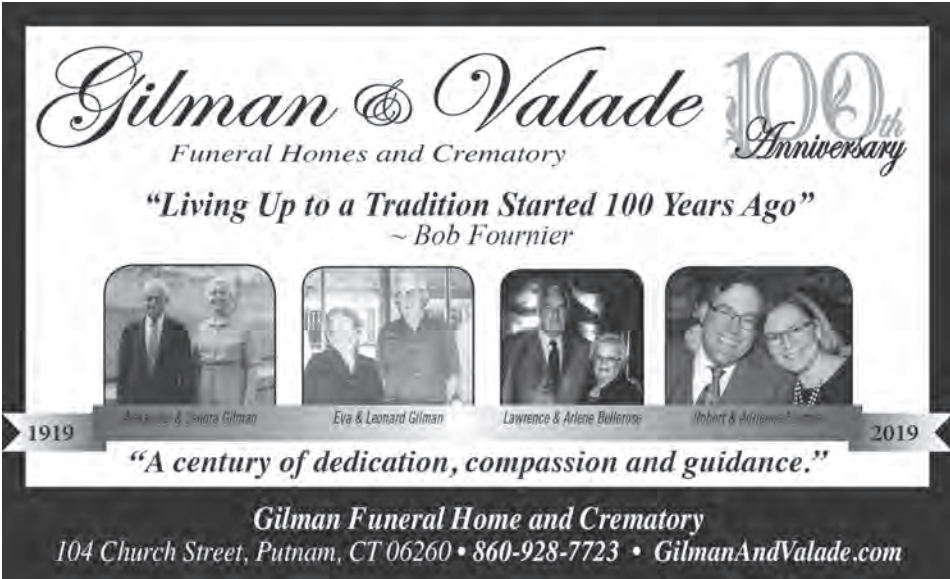
September 23, 1931 in Putnam, son of the late William and Eva (Brooks) LaCoille, and husband of 59 years to the late Barbara (Deotte) LaCoille, who passed away on November 11, 2020. Gene attended Tourtellotte High School before volunteering to enlist in the U.S. Army in February of 1951 during the Korean War Conflict. He served in the 31st Infantry (Dixie) Division, 31st Signal Company as a radio communications instructor. He received his Honorable Discharge in February of 1953, attaining the rank of Corporal. Following his discharge, Gene attended New England Technical Institute in Providence, RI, where he received certification in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning field of study. Upon graduation, he accepted a position with General Electric as a refrigeration and air conditioning technician. In the late 1950's, Gene became self-employed when he opened his own appliance sales and service store. Aptly named Gene's, Inc., it became one of the most reputable appliance stores in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut, and a fixture on West Thompson Road on the Thompson/Putnam line for nearly 40 years, until his retirement in 1993. Gene met the love of his life, the former Barbara Deotte in early 1961. They were married November 25, 1961, at Saint Mary Church of the Visitation in Putnam, and resided in Pomfret Center for 40 years before retiring to Orange Tree Village (OTV) in Orange City, FL in 1993. When Barbara's health began to decline, Gene and Barb moved back to Putnam in 2019 to be closer to family. Gene was a long time member of the Thompson Lions Club, serving a term as club president. He was also a member of the Putnam Elks Club, as well as a life member of the American Legion. Gene was heavily involved with organizing and participating in various activities and events at Orange Tree Village. He was an avid golfer, especially in his retirement years in Florida, where he was happy being able to play year-round. He golfed and bowled in the OTV leagues. He also served as a ranger at the Glen Abbey Golf Club in DeBary, FL for many years before retiring

from that job in 2018. Gene's most endearing quality, besides his friendly, easy-going and laid-back demeanor, was his absolute love for and devotion to his wife, his children and their families. During the 18 months that Barbara resided at Davis Place in Danielson, Gene never left her side. He would make the drive from Putnam to Danielson every single day to bring Barb her two chocolate chip cookies, have lunch with her, bring her to recreation activities, and just sit and hold her hand all afternoon. As a family friend used to say, "Gene and Barb's love was one for the ages." Gene enjoyed watching his children, as well as his grandson, participate in sports and other extracurricular activities throughout their teens and young adult years. And lastly, he absolutely adored and enjoyed spending time with his four great-grandchildren. Gene leaves his daughter Tammy LaCoille (Cindy Morse) of Brooklyn, his son Randy LaCoille (Susan Wilson) of Putnam, his grandson Mark LaCoille (Krystyl Taylor) of Danielson, great-granddaughters Brooke, Topanga and Sapphire LaCoille of Danielson, and great-grandson Alex Taylor of Boston, as well as several nieces and nephews. Also, beloved extended family Claire Guerin of Danielson, Sean Guerin and his fiancé Katey Kwasniewski of Danielson, David Guerin and his wife Cierra of Gering, NE; Karen, Paul, and Becca Locke of Enfield, and Spencer Locke and his daughter Izzy of Phoenix, AZ. Gene will also be greatly missed by his group of friends at Little River Acres that he played pitch with and had lunch with every day in the LRA dining room. He was predeceased by sister Elaine Credit, and brothers Wilfred and Edward LaCoille, Sr. Smith and Walker Funeral Home in Putnam will oversee the arrangements. Calling hour were Monday, March 13 from 10:00-11:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian burial at 11:30 a.m. at Saint Mary Church of the Visitation in Putnam, and graveside service with full military honors at the West Thompson Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to Gene's favorite charities in his memory, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and Wounded Warrior Project. Share a memory at [Smithandwalkerfh.com](mailto:Smithandwalkerfh.com)

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# LEGALS

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Bernard A. Phaneuf (23-00073)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 8, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.  
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Janice A. Phaneuf  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS,  
168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528,  
PUTNAM, CT 06260  
March 17, 2023

### P. Willis Construction, Inc. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION and NOTICE TO CREDITORS

1. P. Willis Construction, Inc.
2. Eastford, Connecticut
3. Claims to be presented to: Edwin C. Higgins, III, Esq. Bachand, Longo & Higgins  
168 Main Street, P.O. Box 528  
Putnam, CT 06260
4. Claims to be presented by June 1, 2023

By Phillip E. Willis, President  
Date: February 14, 2023  
March 17, 2023

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Frank J. Owens (23-00072)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 7, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.  
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Arthur Owens c/o ATTORNEY MICHELE ANN PALULIS, LLC, 158 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2, P.O. BOX 616,  
PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-9928.  
March 17, 2023

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Cecile Williamson (23-00055)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 8, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address

below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Scott Syriac, ALYSON R ALEMAN  
155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-2429.  
March 17, 2023

### STATE OF CONNECTICUT COURT OF PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Alfred E Mowry (23-00040)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decreedated **March 3, 2023**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.  
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Brenda Goyette, 156 Sayles Ave.,  
Putnam, CT 06260  
March 17, 2023

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE AMERICAN SELF STORAGE UNITS 179 QUINEBAUG RD. NO. GROSVENORDALE, CT 06255 March 21, 2023 INSPECTION TIMES: 10 :00AM & 3:00PM

Sale of all goods stored in delinquency at AMERICAN SELF STORAGE UNITS.

The following named people have until the morning of sale to settle their account, including all subsequent fees pertaining to sale, and to vacate their unit or the unit will be sold to cover debts, Unit# sorted by contents.  
**B50 LUCAS R. PERRY**  
**B26 LAURETTE A. BELLERIVE**  
**D45 TARA J . COTE**  
**J36 FELICIA L. MECK**  
**G14 CAROL A. TURNER**  
**K23 JEFFREY P. RYAN**  
Cash or certified check only. All sales final. Merchandise must be removed within five (5) working days of bid acceptance.  
Highest bidder must pay a \$100.00 deposit on unit and will be returned when said Highest bidder will be notified by telephone the following business day  
Date: March 10,2023  
Date: March 17, 2023



HERDIC  
continued from page A1

Zach Veleas, Ellis Tech's head wrestling coach, was not surprised Herdic won the girls' state open.

"Addisyn was absolutely phenomenal during the state tournament," said Veleas, who earlier this season hinted at the fact that he believed a state title was in Herdic's very near future. "She spent the entire year wrestling at 106 against boys in a varsity lineup. That's just something that a lot of those other girls did not get to do over the course of the year, and Addisyn had tremendous success doing so."

Herdic's toughness is well-chronicled — she wrestled this year while recovering from a broken nose, and injury she got during an Ellis Tech wrestling match — but Veleas said she is much more than the toughest wrestler on his team.

"Addisyn does a great job of taking the information we (the coaching staff) give her into her matches and she made a lot of adjustments during the course of the year," Veleas said. "In that last tournament Addisyn put everything together just the way we knew she could. She really couldn't



Addisyn Herdic of Ellis Tech ties up Amity's Abby Pallotto during the finals at 100 pounds in the CIAC Girls Invitational Saturday in New Haven. Herdic won by technical fall, 16-0.

have wrestled any better.

"Her technique was all the things we had talked about over the course of the year," Veleas continued. "Addisyn made corrections and adjustments to her technique throughout the season. She put all the things together she was supposed to put together on one day and wrestled phenomenally."

Herdic, who has been affiliated with MarcAurele — a club wrestling program based in Niantic — since she was nine years old, wrestled in junior varsity matches last season for Ellis Tech. She moved up to varsity this season and into the starting spot at 106.

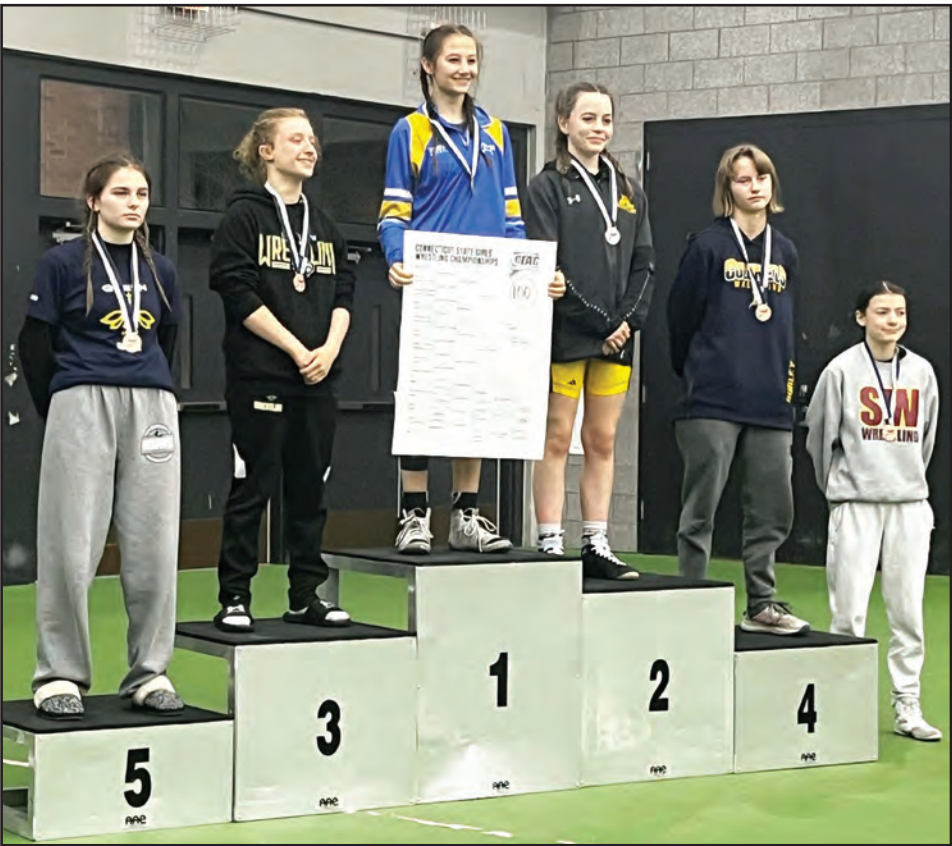
Herdic wrestled in the girls' state open following last season. Competing in the 107-pound weight

class, she finished sixth.

"I didn't know last year that to compete in the girls' tournament at 100 I had to have made that weight six times during the season to be eligible to compete in that weight class at the girls' state open," Herdic said. "So, I wasn't able to compete at 100 last year; I had to compete at 107. If I had known that was the rule I would have made sure (by making the weight six times during the season at 100) I could participate at 100 last year as well."

Herdic said as the girls' state open progressed she continued to believe she could emerge victorious.

"I tend to overanalyze my opponents," Herdic said. "I research the matches they've won and their records, so I was pretty confident — just



Ellis Tech junior Addisyn Herdic is all smiles as she stands atop the podium after winning the state title in the 100-pound weight class at the girls' state open on Saturday, Feb. 25, in New Haven.

based on other people I had known they had wrestled and how well they had done against them — that the thought of winning the state title at 100 at the girls' state open was realistic."

The victory over Pallotto was the realization of a goal Herdic set for herself on the first

day of practice this season.

"I came into this season wanting to win the state title at 100, not just place," Herdic said. "That was my goal for the season."

Veleas said Herdic revealed her goal to him prior to the start of practice.

"She was on a mission. This was the one thing she had worked for the entire season," Veleas said. "She told me before the season started, 'I want to do this. I want to go 100 pounds this year. I want to make the weight so I can win a state title.'"

Mission accomplished.

MORATORIUM  
continued from page A1

"We want to make sure we understand as much of the law as we can so we don't do anything contrary to state law. We also want to make certain, and many towns do this, that wherever someone wants to put a commercial cannabis operation that we have it a certain distance away from what is termed 'sensitive structures', meaning schools, houses, churches, municipal buildings, things like that. A lot of towns want to make sure those are separated, and we want to make sure we're being as fair as we can in that process," said Gordon.

The Planning & Zoning Commission will continue to deliberate these regulations for the remainder of the year and could end the moratorium early if they finalize the document prior to the October deadline.

CLEANUP  
continued from page A1

which offers up to eight hours per year of forestry services for a single property in any town. The town received a written report that Calorio stated would be explored in meetings with staff to determine recommended action and created a request for proposals to hire a forester to develop a full forest management plan for the reservoir.

"The forest management plan will help us identify what steps are moving forward in addressing that property and bringing it to better health so we can still maintain it as a passive recreational property," Calorio said.

While it is important to maintain a safe environment for hikers at the reservoir, the forestry management plan is also about maintaining a safe environment for the town as the dry and dead trees create added risk of



fire hazards. After 2022 brought severe drought conditions, Calorio fears that a failure to address the dead material could create a significant fire risk as the wood dries

up. She also stressed that those who use the trail in its current condition do so at their own risk and that additional signage will be set up to make sure people are reminded



Photos from a January walk of the Chase Reservoir Conservation Area show dead trees and debris littering the popular hiking trails. Killingly is forming plans to clean up the reservoir in the near future.

to be cautious of their surrounding while using the trails until the clean-up effort commences.



# Community Connection

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Peter Mayer

# Minnesota folk singer to appear in Pomfret

POMFRET — Minnesota folk singer, Peter Mayer, returns on Saturday, April 29 at 7 p.m. to The Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd. The charge to attend this event is \$25 for CAS members; \$30 for non-members. Registration is required as seating is limited. To register, go to [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-programs](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-programs) or call the Center at 860-928-4948.

Guitar virtuoso Peter Mayer ([www.petermayer.net](http://www.petermayer.net)) has been singing and song-writing for more than 20 years, performing in venues across the U.S. and beyond. He composes songs for a small planet—songs about interconnectedness and the human journey—songs about life on earth and the mysterious and wondrous fact of our existence. He also writes about dress hats, pumpkins and pajamas, and other important stuff! His music has been performed by artists like Kathy Mattea, David Wilcox, Claudia Schmidt, Anne Hills, Priscilla Herdman, Darryl Purpose, Billy Jonas, and Ronny Cox, to name a few. Song books, church hymnals, and folk radio playlists across the country include his work. He is the recipient of fellowships from the McKnight and the Bush foundations. Peter has eleven albums to his credit.

Local singer, songwriter, and guitarist Maria Sangiolo (The Vanilla Bean Café, Pomfret) comments, “Peter’s expressive voice and thoughtful lyrics reach my innermost being, challenge me to face the dark, face the truth, listen....and feel heard all in one sitting.”

Come out and enjoy an evening of extraordinary music in the Quiet Corner.

# EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College announces honor roll

DANIELSON — EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College (QMC) has released the Semester 1 Honor Roll list for School Year 2022-2023:

High Honor Roll  
Morganna Avery Burdsal- Uncasville (Montville)  
Isabella Barnett- Windham  
Chistopher Benoit- Putnam  
Grace Benoit- Putnam  
Zoey Bochicchio- Tolland  
Scott Bonafine- Windham  
Matthew Bradley-Griswold  
Rachel Gagliardo- Plainfield  
Justice Henderson- Brooklyn  
August Holdridge- Taftville (Norwich)  
Katrina Imre - Danielson (Killingly)  
Madison Knudson- Plainfield  
Natasha Miller- Sterling  
CJ Orthmann- Canterbury  
David Palmisciano- Danielson (Killingly)  
Elsie Peterson- Plainfield  
Melanie Quental- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Ninoshka Robles Solano- Windham  
Lourdes Sanchez Rodriguez- Windham  
Ramaya Talabert- Putnam  
Michaela Tetrault- Sterling

Honor Roll  
Jason Adjei- Plainfield  
Pamela Andujar Collazo- Windham  
Ava Aubin- Plainfield  
Cameron Barber- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Sophia Beshaw- Canterbury  
Alexander Bishop- Brooklyn  
Claire Bonafine- Windham  
Deondre Brown- Brooklyn

Sophie Caron- Danielson (Killingly)  
Camden Chaplin- Central Village (Plainfield)  
Marisa Chappell- Dayville (Killingly)  
Karina Cavell- Jewett City (Griswold)  
Allanah Coult- Plainfield  
Anani D’Abrosca- Sterling  
Kaleb Dansereau- Sterling  
Mason Dansereau- Sterling  
Ruby Fallon- Sterling  
Jason Fletcher- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Alexys Fontaine- Windham  
Ella Forgues- Dayville (Killingly)  
Darren Gravel- Plainfield  
Erin Gravel- Putnam  
Danielle Gustafson- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Kailey Hamel- Sterling  
Talisha Headley- Windham  
Abby Homen- Plainfield  
Kaitlyn Lanctot- Woodstock  
Yareni Mendez-Hernandez- Windham  
Melany Mendoza- Windham  
Gavin Moore- Brooklyn  
Sophia Phillips- Danielson (Killingly)  
Cadence Pittman- Eastford  
Madalyn Pittman- Eastford  
Anna Polaino- Putnam  
Cassandra Reynolds- Danielson (Killingly)  
Lianna Rivera- Plainfield  
Carina Rodriguez- Windham  
Camila Snyder- Pomfret Center (Pomfret)  
Tristanie Sweet- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Rheiley Vegiard- Danielson (Killingly)  
Marylynn Whitfield- Wauregan (Plainfield)

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EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College (QMC), a regional, public magnet high school, is currently recruiting academically motivated students for the Spring 2023 semester and 2023-2024 school year. Students who seek a more independent learning environment tailored to their academic and career goals are encouraged to apply. QMC enrolls about 160 students, grades 9-12, from 18 towns across northeastern Connecticut. The school is administered by EASTCONN through a partnership that includes EASTCONN, QVCC and seven northeastern Connecticut towns. Enrollment is not limited to students in northeastern Connecticut. For more information about QMC and to enroll, students can visit [www.eastconn.org/qmc](http://www.eastconn.org/qmc) for an application. To learn more, contact QMC Principal David Brown at [dsbrown@eastconn.org](mailto:dsbrown@eastconn.org).

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