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PUTNAM VILLAGER

Friday, April 23, 2021

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New Principal named at Putnam High School

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM – Putnam High School will have a new principal starting this summer, with the announcement of Heather Taylor as the choice candidate to lead the school into the future.

Taylor was named the top candidate for the job on April 14 during a brief meeting of the Putnam Board of Education. She will succeed outgoing principal Jackie Vetrovec who will be transitioning to the Putnam School

District Curriculum Director effective July 1.

Superintendent Daniel P. Sullivan III touted Taylor as the favorite in a large pool of candidates who applied for the position. He thanked Vetrovec for her commitment to the job, and said he sees a bright future ahead with Taylor at the helm.

“We had a robust pool of applicants for the position at Putnam High School. Heather really rose to the top. Heather comes to Putnam with a great deal of experience as a curriculum person

and then a middle school principal and started her career as a high school teacher. Her passion for teaching and learning and her desire to be working in Putnam became evident to me and the other members of the committee. I believe she’s going to be a good partner for the administrative team here in Putnam trying to continue to move Putnam High School and the district forward,” said Sullivan.

Taylor was humble during her first speech as incoming principal thanking the district for choosing her and

the community for welcoming her with open arms.

“I am honored and privileged to be selected as the new principal of Putnam High School. Putnam is a special community. Small in size, but with a big heart,” said Taylor. “I’m incredibly excited for the opportunity to lead Putnam High School, and to work closely with the amazing staff and families to help our students achieve their goals in school and beyond. I’m so grateful for this opportunity, and your faith in me.”

Thompson budget goes to voters

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON – After nearly three hours of deliberation during a livestreamed meeting on April 15, the Thompson Board of Finance has approved a proposed budget to be decided on by the voters for the 2022 Fiscal Year.

In the first budget season following the town’s decision to combine the education and town spending plans on the referendum ballots, the Board of Finance went into the evening with a proposed mill rate of 25.81, a 6.53 percent increase over the current fiscal year. Throughout the night that number was trimmed down substantially to 24.95, an increase of just under 3 percent over the 24.23 base mill rate of the current budget year. That equates to a .72 mil rate increase to the tax levy.

In real numbers this represents minor increases to both the education and general town budgets. The education spending plan comes in at \$19.1 million, an increase of \$138,818 over the \$18.9 million

budget in the current fiscal year. On the town side, the proposal comes out to \$6.1 million compared to the current year’s budget of \$5.9 million, a \$154,173 increase. Debt services increases from \$1.092 million to \$1.148 million, while capital jumps from \$710,000 to \$875,000. The spending plan also projects \$7.5 million in general revenue on the education side and \$1.68 million in revenue on the general government end along with \$270,000 in capital from the Tourtellotte Fund Revenue adding up to \$9.4 million in estimated revenue overall. The proposed 2022 fiscal year budget adds up to \$27.2 million compared to 2021’s total of \$26.7 million, a little over \$18 million of which will be paid through taxes compared to \$17.15 million from the current year. The total increase in the tax warrant comes in at \$864,940.

The Board of Finance unanimously approved sending the adjusted spending plan to the voters for consideration at a town meeting on May 3 with a referendum to follow on May 17.



LEGION WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBER

Photo Courtesy

The L’Homme-Burdick American Legion Post #21 of Danielson recently inducted its newest member, Donald Church (center), in a ceremony held on Wednesday, April 14. Church, a Korean War era veteran, served in the United States Air Force, primarily in a remote area of Alaska. Church is pictured with Post #21 Commander Charles Crowley (right) and Ronald P. Coderre, District #4 Commander. Post #21 was revitalized three years ago. Any veteran interested in becoming a member should contact Crowley or Coderre.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Bo Yaworski tosses no-hitter for Killingly High

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Bo knows no-hitters.

With apologies to Nike’s legendary “BoKnows” advertising campaign, which featured multisport athlete Bo Jackson and debuted during Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game in July of 1989, Killingly High senior Bo Yaworski began the 2021 season in impressive fashion, throwing a complete-game no-hitter to lead Killingly past visiting Tourtellotte High, 4-0, on Saturday, April 10.

Yaworski, a 6-foot left-handed pitcher, finished his first career no-no with 13 strikeouts.

Killingly’s offense in the game came off the bats of senior Cole Lavigne and junior Nate Keefe, both players singling and doubling. Sophomore Ben Jax also smacked a double.



Courtesy Photos

Junior Jenna Bankowski slides home safely with the eventual winning run for Woodstock Academy in the Centaurs’ 5-3 win over Norwich Free Academy on Saturday, April 13.

Killingly improved to 2-0 with a 10-3 win over New London High on Wednesday, April 14. Junior Jay Grzysiewicz picked up the win against the 0-3 Whalers, allowing three runs in five innings of work. Yaworski and junior Justin Baker combined for six of Killingly’s nine hits in the

game. Yaworski singled, doubled, and tripled off New London pitching while Baker finished with three singles.

Elsewhere in the Quiet Corner:

Woodstock Academy junior Zach Roethlein lived

Please Read **SPORTS**, page A9

Woodstock Academy to hold virtual Human Rights Conference

WOODSTOCK — As part of The Academy’s student-led Conference Series, The Woodstock Academy Human Rights Conference will take place virtually on Wednesday, April 28.

Open to students in eighth grade through high school, the conference will bring together a diverse body of individuals who share the same goal of engaging students and adults in authentic, hands-on opportunities in diverse topics.

Sydney Haskins, Woodstock Academy junior and Adult Liaison for the Human Rights Conference, said, “I think the most valuable part of the Human Rights Conference is educating students about the issues going on both locally and globally.”

The Human Rights Conference is set to host discussions and workshops with local

and regional human rights leaders. Each workshop is designed to be interactive and thought-provoking, leaving student participants with a lasting set of tools to guide them in developing their own understanding of human rights.

“It’s bound to inspire some young people and students to advocate for a better future for all people without discrimination based on appearance, identity, or origin. It’s a really great thing we’re doing and I’m proud to be part of it,” Haskins added.

Topics of discussion include refugee rights, prisoner rights, women’s rights, immigration, child labor, genocide, food scarcity, homelessness, human rights and effects of COVID-19, LGBTQ+ rights, mental health, and racial equity.

Please Read **CONFERENCE**, page A2

Surviving the Battle of the Ironclads

Bob Taber recently gave me a Saturday, Aug. 16, 1930 Norwich Bulletin which he had purchased at the auction of Felicia Terry's belongings a number of years ago. The newspaper was one of the few items that survived the fire that caused her demise. Bob thought perhaps Felicia had saved it since it mentioned a local African-American man, Thomas L. Taylor of Putnam, who was the last survivor of the clash of iron clads the Monitor and the Merrimac in the Civil War. "At his home on the east side of Oak Hill, Thomas L. Taylor, an elderly colored citizen of the community today (August 15) read with interest the following dispatch which appeared in the afternoon editions of Thursday's papers. 'Raleigh, N.C. August 14. William Francis Blake said to be the last surviving veteran of the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac is dead here today'... Although the southern veteran may have been the 'last' survivor of the famous naval encounter of the iron-clads, Mr. Taylor, who is now in his eighties is believed to be the only member of the crew of the Union 'cheese box on a raft' now living...Mr. Taylor was aboard when the Monitor steamed out of its base at Hampton Roads and during the thick of the battle which raged for several hours after the Confederate iron covered hulk was encountered. He served as a 'powder monkey'. His duties consisted of passing up explosives from the ammunition hold to the gunners in the revolving turret."

Years ago, Fab Cutler, archivist for the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam, had reminded me about Taylor's fame. The following summary is taken from my Feb. 7, 2014 Killingly at 300 column. "According to his story related to William Kimball, who lived near the Grove Street Cemetery, Taylor, a former slave, had been born on a plantation in North Carolina. 'At the age of 14, when Fort Sumpter (sic) was fired upon, he decided to make a break for

freedom. He appropriated one of his master's best saddle horses and started North, reaching Hampton Roads, Va., without apprehension. He soon found himself engaged as a messenger boy for one of the officers on the Monitor. With sleeping quarters on the Monitor, Taylor little realized that within a short time he would have a part, however, insignificant, in one of the most famous battles in history. He served as a powder monkey on the Monitor during the terrific battle with the Confederate iron-clad Merrimac March 9, 1862, his duties consisting of passing explosives to the gunners in the turret. He saw little of the conflict but he felt and heard much...As a result of his strenuous day's work and wounds, Taylor was confined in a hospital at Fortress Monroe for a short time, and then he enlisted in the Navy, serving on another Monitor, modeled after the original. On July 13, 1865, he was honorably discharged and later became a sailor in the West Indies. He located in Putnam around 1883 and up to the time of his death in 1932 had served as janitor in various school, church and office buildings.'" (Killingly Historical Society files-paper perhaps Windham County Transcript 4-26-60. Kimball's account seems to have first appeared in an issue of the New Haven Register.).

"Taylor died on March 7, 1932 at age 84 apparently never really recovering from an attack in Worcester, where he had been living at the time. From his obituary I learned "two men (had) clubbed him over the head, robbed him of his pension money and left him lying unconscious on a back street in that city. The blow on the head that he received at that time had not only sapped his strength but had also affect-



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

ed his mind" according to Mrs. George U. Miller of Woodstock Avenue at whose home Thomas had been staying. Taylor was buried in Grove Street Cemetery with military honors on March 9, the anniversary of the battle between the ironclads (Windham County Observer March 9, 1932). His gravesite remained unmarked for many years. However, on April 24, 1960 that was rectified as a marker was placed at his grave following the efforts of local veterans' units. (See Killingly Historical Society files for various articles-not all marked-and an article in The Evening Gazette by Bernard A. Dupont dated March 9, 1981).

Of course, I was curious about a few of the Danielson articles in the above paper, and the following caught my eye, "Copious Consumer of Clams. Behold George LaBelle bringing another championship to Killingly! The Ballouville man has been crowned as the champion clam-eater of all the thousands who have eaten shore dinners at Rocky Point. Mr. LaBelle went to the Rhode Island shore resort on the local Carpenters' union outing. He is a husky and blessed with a good appetite. Having stowed away four bowls of chowder and two dozen clam bakes, some member of the party inquired if he were not going to eat any clams. 'Yes, and plenty,' he replied. A waiter that overheard the remark brought him four pans and casually mentioned to him that the record eating at one sitting at Rocky Point was 248 clams. Thereupon George set out to make the man who held that record look like a weakly flapper. Having disposed very easily of the four pans of clams ten more pans were ordered for him. By this time a gallery had gathered and George was the object

of much attention. He ate steadily on until he had devoured 310 clams, and only stopped then, he says, in order that he might finish his meal with a few ears of corn and a slice or two of watermelon. There were no disastrous after effects, and George stands ready to bost (best?) the clam-eating record just as soon as anyone surpasses it." (Norwich Bulletin, Saturday, Aug. 16, 1930, p. 3).

Did you ever think about when the roads in Northeastern Connecticut were being paved with concrete instead of being dirt? A small item in the paper noted the following: "The westerly section of the nearly three miles of concrete highway between Wauregan and Danielson is complete, though travel is permitted over only a part of it. The easterly half of the new highway will be under construction during the following week."

The mail and answering machine are being checked on a regular basis (usually Wednesday) although the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center is closed to the public. Please send an email to the director or leave a message on the answering machine if you would like to donate items or have research questions.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, April, 2021. Special thanks to Bob Taber for the newspaper from which the above articles were taken. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

Planting tips for growing success

Increase your growing success by giving your transplants a good start with a few simple planting techniques. Preparing them for the transition outdoors and planting properly will help you grow your best garden yet.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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MELINDA
MYERS

Supply Garden Cart (gardeners.com). Keep frost protection handy or move plants indoors when frost is in the forecast.

Once the plants are hardened off, move them into the garden. Water the planting mix thoroughly the night before planting. If possible, plant in the morning or on a cloudy day to reduce moisture loss and stress on the plants.

Follow spacing recommendations on the plant tags to save money and time. You will need fewer plants to fill the space and allow each plant to reach its full potential.

Press on the sides of the pot to loosen the roots and carefully slide the plant out of the container. Do not pull the plant out by the stem or you may end up with all stem and no attached roots.

Gently loosen any encircling and tightly bound roots. This encourages the roots to explore the surrounding soil and establish a strong root system. Use fingers to tease apart the roots or a sharp knife to slice through the surface

roots in a few places.

Plant tomato transplants several inches deeper or set long leggy plants in a trench. This encourages roots to form along the buried stem. Remove the lowest leaves that will be covered by the soil and loosen the roots on the hardened-off transplant.

Dig a shallow trench two to three inches deep. Lay the leggy tomato in the trench and carefully bend the stem so the upper portion remains above ground. Cover the stem with soil and water.

Set stakes and towers in place at the time of planting to reduce the risk of damaging roots and stems when trying to secure tall plants. Make sure the support is strong and tall enough for the plants. Gardener's Supply Vertex tomato cages and supports are flexible, lightweight and can be installed around established plants without damage.

Remove any flowers and fruit on the transplants at the time of planting so plants can direct energy into forming roots, resulting in more flowers and fruit over time. If you cannot bring yourself to do this, try removing flowers on every other plant or row at planting. Do the same to the remaining flowers the following week.



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Set tomato stakes or towers in place at the time of planting and make sure they are strong and tall enough to support the mature plants.

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Water new transplants often enough to keep the soil moist, but not soggy wet. Water thoroughly and gradually extend the amount of time between watering to encourage deep, more drought-tolerant roots. Adding a layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic mulch will help conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it decomposes.

Implementing these strategies will help increase your enjoyment and reduce maintenance throughout the growing season.




Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's*

Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

CONFERENCE

continued from page A1

"Part of The Academy's mission is that our students will become more informed and engaged global citizens. The topics covered in the workshops of the Human Rights Conference support the inclusion of diversity in a wide variety of experiences that we strive for as a school," said Head of School Christopher Sandford.



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VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of April 12: Pine Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Bluebird, American Kestrel, Wood Duck, American Woodcock, Flicker, Carolina Wren, Junco, Pileated Woodpecker, Mockingbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Brown Creeper, Red-shouldered Hawk. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Woodstock Academy honor roll

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

High Honors
Grade 12: Alexia Adams, Brian Antunes, Livia Armstrong, Sierra Bedard, Kathleen Ben, Tabitha Bezanson, Cedric Bilica, Liam Blanchflower, Ethan Bove, Matthew Brady, Katelin Briere, Logan Brock, Abigail Brown, Jacob Brown, Eshete Calvo, Riley Chapuis, Soria Cotillo, Sydney Cournoyer, Sydney Couture, Cody Currie, Emma Curtis, Hannah Darigan, Sarah Delaney, Domizio Di, Stella DiPippo, Estella Douglas, Zhiyan Du, Eliza Dutson, Jocelyn Foisey, Zipeng Gao, Colby Groves, Ashley Guillot, Caleb Hall, JiaHao He, Yago Herrera, Emma Hovestadt, Hailey Klar, Dominick Kollbeck, Brynn Kusnarowis, Jadyn LaFlamme, Cassandra Leighton, Caitlin LeSage, Mackenzie Leveille, Hanna Longwell, Angela Lu, Ciara MacKinnon, Avery MacNeil, Harriet Majek, Nathaniel Majewski, Marco Maluf, Matthew Marshall, Sophia Mawson, Gavin Miller, Bailey Mitchell, Salwa Naveed, Giovanni Nuccio, Ashley Nunes, Meaghan O'Brien, Molly O'Connor, Olivia Ott, Avery Pajak, Lily Patenaude, John Peabody, Alexa Pechie, Violet Pietrowski, Arriel Quant, Connor Quinn, Castro Ruiz, Taegon Ryu, Elijah Saine, Noah Salsich, Alexa Schimmelpfennig, Heather Schofield, Madeline Silbermann, Suzanne Silbermann, Emily Skellett, Meghan Slate, Sybaljan Tahirova, Sarah Tavares, Nicole Terjesen, Mallory Tyimok, Alexandra Vaida, Kassidy Walden, Allison Wall, Eli Werstler, Caroline Wilcox, Alexander Williams, Jialei Zhang

Grade 11: Jai Abrams, Amber Ahearn, Claire Anderson, Aurissa Boardman, Carleigh Boisvert, Elaina Borski, Zoe Botta, Kyle Brennan, Stella Brin, Ethan Campbell, Murphy Chace, Annabella Chaves, Jordan Chiles, Ava Coutu, Nicholas Dahl, Kaitlyn Dalbec, Henry Driscoll, Emmaline Ebbeling, River Favreau, Shannon Gagnon, Marrin Gorgone, Gabriella Graham, Olivia Grant, Madelyn Groves, Liam Hagan, Samuel Hagan, Morgan Hardacker, Sydney Haskins, Emma Heimgartner, Grace Herindeen, Ashley Kasacek, Anna Kellermann, Hannah Kim, Cassandra Klingensmith, Jonah Libby, Seamus Lippy, Sarah Lucas, Megan Lucier, Jillian Marcotte, Emma Millix, Sofia Murray, Thomas Musumeci, Gianna Nichols, Bethany Noe, Marissa O'Sullivan, Ryan Odorski, Savannah Olson, Ian Palmerino, Dhruvi Patel, John Pokorny, Julia Powell, David Ramos, Hans Rhynhart, Camila Roman, Julia Scandalito, Sydney Schuler, Kadin Shepherd, Jordan Sienna, Adeline Smith, Conor Stewart, Jonathan Surowaniec, Thao To, Daniel Torres, Norman Warcholik, Haojun Xu, Damian Young

Grade 10: Charlotte Adase, Brooke Arpin, Maxwell Auker, Ava Basak, William Basiliere, Vicente Bastura, Brooke Bergevin, Emma Blanchette, Morgan Bonin, Kayanna Bourassa, Tessa Brown, Carah Bruce, Lauren Brule, Delaney Canty, Ella Chabot, Summer Chaput, Daniel Chenail, Mateusz

Chojnicki, Avery Collin, Gabrielle Couture, Ethan Craig, Shannon Cunniff, James D'Alleva-Bochain, Alexis Danila, Taylor Danner, Carolina DaSilva, Kirsten Deorsey, Jade Desmond, Connor Dunkley, Ella Favreau, Lennon Favreau, Alexandra Flint, Katie Fortin, Jackson Gallagher, Zachary Gessner, Emily Goodell, Hadley Grether, Lucas Gustafson, Collin Hamilton, Cameron Heath, Carl Huber, Jeong Hwang, Aleena Jafar-DeCesare, Brian Jameson, Yunseo Jeon, Nathan Joseph, Jacob Jurnovoy, Esmeralda Kasneci, Mario Kasneci, GyuHo Kim, Ava Lanoue, Annika LeBoeuf, Curtis Lefebvre, Joanna Lin, Alexis Lisee, Peishi Liu, Rori Mackenzie, Carter MacNeil, Makayla Mayo, Kaden McCullough-Murphy, Kamden Meyer, Bryn Miller, Abigail Morin, Carter Morissette, John Murray, Ella Musumeci, Matthew Myslenski, Angela Newell, Cormac Nielsen, Ellie Nunes, Lindsay Nuttall, Maya Orbegozo, Paige Owens, Noah Page, Jillian Plouffe, Kylie Quercia, Amelia Racicot, Jenna Robbie, Wyatt Robbie, Celeste Robbins, Natalie Romano, Aubrey Rumrill, Quintavanh Sangasy, Braiden Saucier, Jonathan Sebastian, Lilian Sharpe, Gianna Smith, Isabella Sorrentino, Isabel Sumner, Xin Sun, Alexandra Thompson, Alyssa Thompson, Owen Tracy, Jack Tyler, Patrick Webster, Liam Wilcox, Violet Young, Colin Zavorskas

Grade 9: Carleh Avery, Claire Beck, Natalie Bell, Kerry Blais, Anthony Buckner, Danielle Cabassa, Charles Caggiano, Caitlin Chandler, Emily Cournoyer, Julia Coyle, Leah Danis, Zoe Ender, Summer Espeseth, Campbell Fraser, Hailey Gagnon, Sean Gasperini, Alexander Gessner, Victoria Gonzalez, Caroline Harris, Angelos Haveles, Halie Hoffman, Ava Hovestadt, Emma Kerr, Christopher Kirkconnell, Madysen Knox, Joel Koleszar, James Koproski, Corinne LaMontagne, Taylor Lamothe, Kaitlyn Lancot, Hunter Larson, Kayla Leite, Samuel Lescault, Randi Lucido, Maeve Lusignan, Phoenix MacRae, Emma Massey, Alexandra Mattioli, Sarah McArthur, Kendall McCormack, Madison McMahon, Kayleigh Murray, Rebecca Nazer, Cang Nguyen, Jared Nielsen, Timothy O'Sullivan, Mia Pannone, Amber Pepper, Brynn Perry, Sophia Petrella, Xuemei Qu, Reagan Reynolds, Evan Rhault, Samantha Richmond, Noah Sampson, Olivia Saraidarian, Matthew Saunders, Nicholas Saunders, Zachary Shead, Ava Simoes, Megan Smith, Arthur Soucy, Kaelin Soukaloun, Ethan Staples, Sawyer Stewart, Talia Tremblay, Addison Tyimok, Madison Whitehouse, Madison Williams, Mathew Zheng

Honors
Grade 12: Pipe Ajayi, Emily Anderson, Emma Auker, Zachary Banning, Iris Bazinet, Aden Berthiaume, Steven Bratu, Zachary Brody, Rachel Canedy, Stefan Chervenkov, Julia Dearborn, Alexander Dehler, Andrew Dilko, Raymond Espinal-Guzman, Adam Exley, Kileigh Gagnon, Grace Gronski, Chelsea Harda, Jacob Hernandez, Joey Ignacio, Keegan Kelleher, Megan Kelly, Dylan LaBrecque, Aochen Li, Jerry Lin, Skyla Lindell, Siyao Liu, Samuel Massey, Emily

McClure, Lexi McCullough-Murphy, Kathleen McDowell, Alina Michalski, Emme Miglietta, Carly Millette, Zachary Niemann, Xavier Parker, Melanie Pазienza, James Phongsu, Megan Preston, Isabella Price, Maxwell Racicot, Haven Renshaw, Owen Ritzau, Jeremy Romano, Maria Santucci, Chayton Scheuritzel, Adam Schimmelpfennig, Alyssa Sharrow, Rockwell Valentine, Yuhang Yang, Alexis Zagrodny

Grade 11: Parker Anderson, Linsey Arends, Annarose Avery, Sasha Becker, Alison Benoit, Morgan Bentley, Alison Bessette, Jacob Boynton, Paige Campbell, Leah Castle, Devin Chadwick, Dylan Chamberlin, William Chambers, Hannah Clark, Ella Davis, Alivia Dean, Margaret Ebbeling, Scout Favreau, Alexa Fernandez, Atticus Finch, Tomson Flanagan, Arimae Gagne, Bryson Gould, Tyler Green, Matthew Griffin, Ryan Hanlon, Emma Hayden, Siyuan He, Sergio Herrera, Brendan Hill, Ian Hoffman, Taewoo Kim, Summer Ko-Szych, Caleb Koleszar, Keenan LaMontagne, Ashton Lanning, Thai Le, Kanxu Lin, Elizabeth Lovrien, Allison MacAlister, Coen McDonald, Hailey McDonald, Lauren Medeiros, Phu Nguyen, Jason Ofcarcik, Tegan Perry, Donela Perzichino, Khoa Phan, Hunter Phillips, Logan Reynolds, Zachary Roethlein, Mia Ruggeri, McKenna Starr, Sadie Susi, Nomar Tejada, Vincent Tocci, Ainslie Tschamler, Ainsley Viano, Tyler Warren, Grayson Webber, Zachary White, Dylan Wynkoop, Kamila Wysocki, Han Zheng, Zhi Zhou

Grade 10: Aaron Allard, Ella Anderson, Emilia Babbitt, Riley Balanovich, Trey Barrett, Italia Burgio, Desiree Cabassa, Tate Chavez, Mitchell Child, Anthony Cimmino, Mykela Cote, Amanda Currie, Bodie Defoc, Ivy Dowdle, Gavin Driscoll, Jared Eaton, Ava Edwards, Louella Flanagan, Jaydon Gormley, Chance Graley, Kylie Gregory, Magnolia Hart, Olivia Jendrewski, Donovan Joseph, Kaiden Keddy, Samuel Kim, Emma Korsu, Khang Le, Rain Lin, Sydney Lord, Leila MacKinnon, Thy Mai, Jack Marshall, Olivia Mawson, Dylan Mayo, Jayden Meier, Elizabeth Morgis, Abigail Morse, Magdalena Myslenski, Alyson Niemiec, Carter Payne, Ethan Pokorny, Sophia Quinn, Alexa Rock, Lillian Rossi, Jakub Sarzynski, Adele Schmidt, Davis Simpson, Grace Smith, Mackenzie Starr, Caira Stevens, Linzhuoran Sun, Camilla Tahirova, Bella Webb, Cameron Wood, Cooper York, Melissa Zea, Zimo Zheng, Alex Ziarko

Grade 9: Elizabeth Adams, Delaney Anderson, Kyle Anderson, Elizabeth Bishop-Klee, Ryan Bradford, David Bunning, Timothy Caisie, Emerson Dalton, Ana Davis, Riley Dupont, Joaquin Fraga, Aiden Gagnon, Nicolas Goncalves, Allison Griswold, Amelia Haynes, Hunter Haynes, Dayeon Kim, Kevin Lin, Connor MacLeod, Zachary Majewski, Samantha McDowell, Savannah Ortiz, Dominic Pascale, Joshua Rilling, Gracie Scott, Don Sousa, Jessica Stolarek, Lana Syriac, Josiah Vadeboncoeur, Zoe Wiggin, Alicia Wynkoop, Christopher Yuettnr

Recognition
Grade 12: Michael Adams, Ethan

Aspiras, Trey Ayotte, Timothy Billings, Kaelyn Bushey, Amanda Cerrone, Chloe Forsten, William Gaug, Gabriel Geyer, Isah Mohammed, Evan Odorski, Payton Peterson, Maria Pires, Kyra Shaw, Clayton Singleton, Mya Symington-St. John, Steisi Topalli

Grade 11: Hamilton Barnes, Neil Camara, Aaliyah Clavell, Nicole Davidson, Ethan Davis, Riley Driscoll, Lindsey Gillies, Jackson Goetz, Gabriel Hill-Boucher, Isabel Hull, Olivia Hull, Benjamin Laisi, Aiden Lisee, Adalyn Lukachie, Madison Malboeuf, Emily Nazer, Tavian Santos, Robert Saraidarian, Graham Scribner, Silas Strandson, Alex Szarkowicz

Grade 10: Stella Atchinson, Madison Bates, Brianna Connors, Benjamin Douglas, Baden Eaton, Grace Gelhaus, Maximiliano Gonzalez, Matthew Gouin, Hannah Johnson, Max Larkin, Caitlin LaVallee, Makala McDermott, Avery Mowrey, Brandon Nagle, Mavin Palmerino, Diego Rodriguez, Noelle Sallum, Carter Saracina, Mackenzie Sellers, Allison Surprenant, Adam Thompson, Dominick Tocci, Dylan Veilleux, Kylie Wakely, Xiaodan Wang, Nicholas Webster

Grade 9: Peyton Bentley, Thomas Blevins, Rynne Bourbeau, Madison Brown, Troy Daviau, Hunter Eddy, Aiden Finch, Hayden Fontaine, Gavin Grant, Hannah Hart, Jada Hernandez, Sophia Hernandez, Tyler Hudson, Cade Jones, Lila Kirkland, Cameron McNally, Karley Medina, Lillie Pendleton, Elijah Smith, Thea Sullivan, Jack Sumner, Ramaya Talabert, Henry Wotton

Villager Newspapers

ACCURACY WATCH

The *Villager Newspapers* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake call (860) 928-1818 or e-mail charlie@villager-newspapers.com.

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EYE CATCHING

Photo Courtesy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EDNA!

Edna Lavallee, born in Massachusetts in 1921 to immigrant parents from Poland, recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Edna is first generation in this country, and moved to Danielson with her family at age nine. She was the middle child of eight siblings. She attended the Killingly public school system, and there learned to speak English. Her schooling in Massachusetts was in a Catholic Polish school. After she learned to speak English, she taught her parents English so that they might become naturalized citizens. Edna is part of the Greatest Generation. After high school, during the war, she went to work for Pratt & Whitney and became one of the hundreds of thousands “Rosie the Riveters.” Building engines was her contribution to the war effort. She married in 1943 to Joseph Lavallee, who at the time was a medic in the Army/Air Force during the Second World War. Together, they had two children, Carolyn and Jeffrey; two grandchildren, Suzanne and Michael; and two great-grandchildren, Hannah and Thomas. Due to COVID, a drive-by birthday celebration was arranged by Suzanne and husband Eric last Sunday, which included the Danielson fire Department and friends in cars. Even at 100, Edna continues to live in her home of almost 70 years, where she enjoys reading and watching baseball on TV, especially when the Red Sox are playing.



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Vanilla Bean Café hosting live Art Show

POMFRET — For Immediate Release: The Northeast Connecticut Art Guild will be presenting a member’s show from April 29 – May 30, at the Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd., Pomfret.

The Art Guild has partnered with the Friends of the Pomfret Library and will be donating 20 percent of their sales to support the Library’s programs.

Elaine Nelson, President of Friends of Pomfret Library, says they were founded 11 years ago and have donated more than \$25,000 towards library programs and services for all ages, including a variety of art classes and exhibits.

“We believe that everyone is inherently creative and we love to make creative tools and opportunities available to the community though the public library! Thank you to The Northeast Art Guild for your support!” Nelson adds.

The Guild’s Vice President, Julie Caprera, is very enthusiastic about this annual show, commenting “The Art Guild returns, ‘live,’ to one of our favorite venues – The Vanilla Bean Café, a local destination for great food, live entertainment and community art. This May, come enjoy the Art Guild exhibit and support your local artists while enjoying a delicious meal!”

By purchasing a painting from these talented artists, you are not only supporting the library, but you are also helping the area’s artists in what has been a difficult, pandemic year. Many of our artists having been taking online courses during the shutdown, improving their art skills and involving themselves in studio work, outdoor painting, and community murals. Members’ meetings have continued via ZOOM, keeping us connected and encouraged! If you are an artist 18 years or older, the Art Guild welcomes you to join for a yearly membership fee of \$30. We offer a website gallery, lower cost workshops, free demonstrations, community installations, and frequent opportunities to show your work in a variety of venues.

The Northeastern CT Art Guild is a 501c3 nonprofit organization celebrating 36 years promoting the Arts in the Northeast. Go to www.artguildne.org to join and see what we have been up to! Contact Elaine Turner, President at info@artguildne.org for questions or comments.

Local Eastern students present at NCUR research conference

Putnam High School honor roll

WILLIMANTIC — Seventeen Eastern Connecticut State University students presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) from April 12-14. The event, which is the largest undergraduate research conference in the country, was hosted virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the presenters were: Emma Kellermann of Eastford, a senior who majors in New Media Studies. Kellermann’s Poster presentation is titled “Ambisonics in Theater Sound Design: An Exploration in Spatializing Audio Through Ambisonics Technology.”

Allen Horn of Pomfret Center, a senior who majors in History. Horn’s oral presentation is titled “Maggie’s Story: Using Animal Narration Effectively.”

Research topics at NCUR spanned the arts, sciences and humanities and were presented in a range of formats - from oral and poster presentations to artwork and performance. Majors represented by Eastern students included political science, music, theatre, business administration, English, psychology, new media studies, communication, health sciences and history.

Eastern students presented on such topics as the impact of partisanship on climate change opinion; strategies to support play for preschoolers with sensory disabilities; emotional intelligence and career interests for college students; the growing distrust in the media among young people; and more.

“This is the largest undergraduate conference and Eastern has a distinguished record for sending many students to NCUR each year,” said Psychology Professor Carlos Escoto. Eastern is routinely among the top schools nationwide in NCUR participation, despite its modest size.

Students were able to attend faculty presentations on topics such as mental health, anti-racism and more. The conference also featured two graduate fairs, where students could speak with representatives from New York University’s Tandon School of Engineering, Purdue University and Princeton University.

NCUR kicked off with a panel focused on the film “Picture a Scientist,” which participants were encouraged to watch before the conference. The documentary looks at gender discrimination faced by female scientists in fields such as biology, chemistry and geology. Due to the virtual setting, speakers who would otherwise be unavailable were able to attend the conference, including closing speaker Bertice Berry, a sociologist and best-selling author.

PUTNAM — Putnam High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

CLASS OF 2021
High Honors: Greyson Anderson, Nathan Barylski, Johnathan Carita, Laylah Chavez, Harley Field, Emma Fisk, Anna Ionkin, Catherine LaForest, Ethan Latendresse, Jordan Levesque, Brooke Peloquin, Mackenzie Peloquin, Jamie Petre, Emma Rudman, Michayla Rugh, Abby St. Martin
First Honors: Kalai Ayau, Emma Braithwaite, Randy Johnson, Colby Livingston, Haddijatou Mbye, Bethany Smith, Oscar Steinbrick, Haley Syrjala
Recognition: Abigail Desrosiers, Chad Flick, Alex Hutchins, Jack Lomax, Adriana Maltias, Timothy Maryanov, Julie Morris, Mackenzie Oleszewski, Abbigail Pelletier, Tyler Shippee, Maggie Wojciechowski

CLASS OF 2022
High Honors: Autumn Allard, Makenna Barnett, Reagan Boledovic, Amayah Chavez, Tyler Fullerton, Olivia Hassett-Mellen, Amelia Labbe-Fahy, Olivia Labbe-Fahy, Lexie Latendresse, Celenia Lopez, Avery Pedersen, Halie Reidy, Jack Rindge, Ewa Sekula, Destiney Simas, Hunter Vanasse, Connor Vassar
First Honors: Zachary Belleville, Johnathen Brouillette, Samantha Eddy, Kandi Garcia-Morente, Avory Kelly, Kayla Morrison, Iasmin Neves, Benjamin Northup, Xander Ruggeri, Dominic Sheldon
Recognition: Karson Bates, David DePari, Ethan Gardner,

CLASS OF 2023
High Honors: Grace Benoit, Kaylee Goding, Cameron Lowell, Jacob Mailloux, Enrico Gabriel Ong, Angelina Porter, Ella Schoppe, Emily St. Martin, Alishia Thompson, Bailey Touchette, Amy Vongvirath, Gabriel Weidele, Guinevere Weiker, Brenden Womack
First Honors: Juana Ajqui Hernandez, Elysse Britt, Cooper Livingston
Recognition: Makani Ayau, Jacob Benzie, Shea Bernier, Jenny Boriboun, Allyson DiNola, Michael Ellis, Jack Garcia, Blake Hebert, Rylee Houle, Sara Lackey, Emerald Perry, Daniel Pratt, DeAnn Pringle, MacKenzie Reidy, Nicholas Renshaw, Osiris Salcedo, Hailee Silveira, Shaina Sudol

CLASS OF 2024
High Honors: Melodie Anderson, Lucian Canova, Grace Collins, CoraRose Desrosiers, Brady Devlin, Robert Dion, Atiana Estes, Travis Fredette, Lily Goyette, Grant Hart, Nathaniel Lazarou, Savannah Loiselle, Pedro Ortiz, Noah Rudman, Isabel Vergoni
First Honors: Draven Levesque, Jonathan Racine, Adam Sekula
Recognition: Brendin Adams, Destiny Beaudoin, Aysaiah Chavez, Christopher Denham, Romeo Devil, Katelyn Fitzpatrick, Ashley Jordan, Elijah Kelly, Danielle Levesque, Colin Martin, Kayque Neves, Hunter Salvas, Jack Seiffert, Deonte Snow, Josephine Spalding, Autumn Wisnieski

Lions hosting head saving event for St. Baldrick’s

REGION — Want a free head shave “for the kids?” The Lions of Eastern Connecticut (District 23C) are partnering with St. Baldrick’s volunteers and their Foundation to raise funds for pediatric cancer research. Haircutters are volunteering to “Shave for the Kids” on Sunday, June 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds, 347 Gilead St., Hebron.

Brave shaves will be waiting in line and turning in their pledges at this seventh annual event. Last year’s event went virtual due to the pandemic but we still managed to raise \$9,500! In 2019, at our District Lions event with St. Baldrick’s, we raised more than \$26,600 for children’s cancer research.

The afternoon will include free entertainment and special guest speakers who have been forever impacted by childhood cancer in their lives. Food and beverages will be available for purchase from the Hebron Lions, with proceeds going to St. Baldrick’s.

Registered shaves who turn in a minimum of \$50 to St. Baldrick’s by May 21 will receive a free St. Baldrick’s t-shirt the day of the Shave event. Shavees will also receive free ice cream!

This is a perfect partnership— Helping to fight Pediatric Cancer is one of Lions Clubs International’s signature cause areas. St. Baldrick’s Foundation is the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants and has funded over \$300 million worldwide. Funds help raise crucial funds for research, boost awareness and provide hope to give kids’ a lifetime. Every two minutes, a child is diagnosed with cancer. In the United States, one in five will not survive. Recently, with St. Baldrick’s help, the five-year survival rate has risen from 79 to almost 85 percent.

For more information about how to donate, to collect pledges, or to be shaven, go to the Web site at: www.stbaldricks.org/dashboard/event/11581/2021. You may also contact Laura Rowe (860) 235-2582 or e-mail her at lionlau-ra23c@gmail.com.

Eastern student presents at Phi Alpha Theta regional conference

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University history students Claire Lavarreda ‘21 and Allen Horn ‘21 presented their research at a virtual conference of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society on March 27. Hosted by Saint Anselm College, the New England regional conference included 25 student presenters grouped into 11 panels from 16 colleges across the Northeast.

Horn is a senior History major from Pomfret Center. Horn presented his paper “I do my best for my horses and am sorry for them’: Massachusetts Cavalrymen’s Attachments to their Horses,” which is part of his honors research conducted under History Professor Thomas Balcerski. His paper examined how Civil War cavalry soldiers viewed their steeds, through the papers of two Massachusetts cavalrymen.

“I had a wonderful time and got to answer some interesting questions from the virtual audience,” Horn said. “Presenting at undergraduate conferences like Phi Alpha Theta is a great way to develop public speaking skills and get new perspectives on your research, and I hope to see more Eastern students at future ones.”

To attend the conference, the two Eastern students had to be invited by the Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society. Professor Thomas Balcerski, co-adviser to Phi Alpha Theta, said to be inducted into the honor society students need an overall GPA of at least 3.0, with at least a 3.1 in the history major. Students must also achieve junior standing at Eastern.

“I am very proud of both student presenters at the conference,” Balcerski said. “The Phi Alpha Theta regional conference has traditionally been an excellent venue for students to test out new ideas in front of a friendly audience and obtain valuable feedback in the process. This year’s meeting was no exception.”



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BROOKLYN — The Federated Church of Christ, located at the intersection of Routes 6 and 169 in Brooklyn, will host a Mother’s Day plant, bake and yard sale Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to noon. Among the items for sale will be Rada knives, local maple syrup, and Finnish coffee bread.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A change must come

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself,” Russian author Leo Tolstoy wrote in the late 19th century.

Racism continues to rear its ugly head. A black man was recently harassed for walking in the ‘wrong’ neighborhood. A neighborhood in which he lives. Wouldn’t it have been just as easy for the individual who questioned his presence there to simply smile, wave, and go about tending to their own business?

We recently listened to old radio interviews from the 1930’s and the 1940’s in which former slaves were discussing their lives. One man was talking about needing a pass to leave the property, and needing another pass when he left the store he was sent to in order to walk back home. One woman mentioned watching a female friend be whipped for a trivial ‘infraction,’ and recalled how she screamed. Another man talked about the day he found out he was free. His family was given one last meal, then sent out on their own. He noted that the family had nowhere to go, did not know how to read or write because they were not allowed to go to school, had no money, and job prospects were nil to zero given their skin color. To have actual audio of those enslaved is a stark realization that this didn’t happen all that long ago.

These are not enjoyable topics to bring up, but as we were taught in school, this is our history. It happened. We cannot be afraid to not discuss the truth about the society in which we came from for fear it might offend someone. The fact is, racism should make any reasonable thinking person upset. Knowledge is power, and the more you know, the more you understand, the more you can change the world around you, even if that orbit includes your own personal circle of friends and family.

One of those who quietly but effectively challenged America’s prejudiced attitudes was Jackie Robinson, and indeed, Jackie Robinson Day just passed on April 15. This is a day that has been commemorated since 2004. At Ebbets Field, on Opening Day in 1947, Robinson, donning the number 42, made his Major League debut, suiting up for the Brooklyn Dodgers, playing first base. He was the first black baseball player to play in the league, but not without much peril, including death threats. Robinson was harassed by fans and players on opposing teams as well as his own, in the middle of games and at his own home. His perseverance was astonishing.

On this day every year, umpires, coaches, managers and players for both teams wear the number 42. This day has been described as not only a significant day for baseball, but for the country. In 1963, Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. In 1997, the number ‘42’ was retired across all major league teams.

As Albert Einstein once wrote, “The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”

LETTERS POLICY

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

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



www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“They are evil!”

To the Editor:
When you read these letters to the editor, you probably think that there are only the good guys (“who agree with me”) and the evil ones (“Them!”). But if you really knew all the authors, you would realize that each cares for their community and their world,

and is doing good for the community in ways you might not even realize. Please remember, we’re all human and all care in our own ways.

JOCK MCCLELLAN
WOODSTOCK

Where was the outcry when Trump was called names?

To the Editor:
I’d like to ask why Mr. Taylor (or anybody else, for that matter) seems offended by my name calling, when the same was constantly being directed at President Trump? I have no problem admitting that I’m guilty of it, but I feel that our politicians more than deserve it.

Anyhow, in the now (mostly) absence of the anti-Trump rhetoric, or of any real praise for President Biden, I’ll say that my worthy sparring partner and myself are at least keeping the opinion page interesting. I will, however, give credit to President Biden because he’s now admitted that there is an actual crisis at our border.

My source about Pelosi saying “Why do you want to put a check next to Trump’s name?” was a CNN interview that she had with Wolf Blitzer. (Fake news and lies?) Blitzer asked her straight out: “Why don’t you accept Trump’s generous offer?” But instead of actually answering the question (or any of his others), madam obstructionist continually went off on evasive rants blaming the republicans and (also) said: “Why are you defending him?” (Trump). When Blitzer told her that nobody is going to get everything they want (from the bill), and that even some Democrats were willing to accept Trump’s offer, her ignorant response was

that you (Blitzer) don’t know what you’re talking about and that the President is unimportant. (Really, and I wonder how she feels about that now?) Pelosi was also asked why she wasn’t willing to compromise, and she replied: “Why won’t they compromise with us?” I’m willing to concede and say that Pelosi wasn’t totally responsible for holding up the stimulus bill, but she sure played a part in doing it.

I’ll give Mr. Taylor that McConnell was an obstructionist as well and shame on him. Turn-coat Mitch flip-flops more than Dr. Fauci ever did, and he is yet another self-serving, poster child for term limits. Pelosi held it up, McConnell held it up, what difference does it now make? The bottom line was that the people who actually needed the money were left to suffer and wait, and maybe we can just agree on that?

In closing, I’m going to say that we can blame ourselves for the continued national divide, but we also have to blame our members of Congress, and I’ll bet that Todd Patrie (and possibly, Mr. Taylor?) will agree with me on that.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Whitewashing history

To the Editor:
Recently, I visited a cellar in an old colonial house which must have been used for a home industry or craft in the 18th or 19th centuries. The stone walls had been meticulously whitewashed to reflect limited candle or lamp light, but over the past two-hundred and fifty years the flaws were oozing to the surface. Water stains and the darker minerals in the local granite gneiss were beginning to poke through and show their true colors. An earlier inhabitant tried to cover up the flaws, but truth has a way of bubbling to the surface.

Like that beautiful colonial foundation, our country has come to a place of reckoning with its past and the whitewashing of history. We can no longer hide the truth because it has been steadily eating away at our flesh and bone. We have been exposed by the historic and present rhetoric of white supremacists and the pustule of uber right extremism that oozed to the surface in 2016. White liberals seemed ever-so shocked by the blatant hate speech spewing from the cracks of social media onto the streets, and yes, the White House. “This is not America! This is not who we are!” we cried. But, in fact, it is exactly who we are and have been throughout history. Our black, brown and immigrant communities have known it all too well and continue to suffer the consequences.

We Americans like to think of ourselves as resilient and optimistic. We want to believe that we truly are the ideal tenets set forth by the Constitution; the land of opportunity and dreams; the “give me your tired and poor.” Yet our darker angels, continue to boil to the surface demanding our attention. It’s about time that we unite as a country and face down the ugly beast which has driven the cogs in our wheelhouse since the first enslaved Africans arrived in 1619. We cannot solve the problem of systemic racism unless we acknowledge that it exists, and the first step is to break through that whitewashed wall of denial that keeps it in place. Racism is not a Southern problem. Racism is not limited to the KKK, nor is it the banner flag of the rural poor or a badge of ignorance. It is not someone else’s character flaw. It is US. Even the white, highly educated middle and owning class of New England cannot escape it because we have always been complicit in holding structural racism in place. From the beginning of the slave trade where New England wealth was built, to the present-day institutions of finance and education, Northern complicity and denial have helped to perpetuate an apartheid society. Real estate redlining, inaccessible mortgages and loans, substandard housing, underfunded schools (the pipeline to prison in a cracked justice system) and a failing health system have contributed to the widening race and wealth gap. But the buck doesn’t stop there.

Much of white America turned a blind eye to the racist and nativist agenda in the campaign of 2016, but feigned shock when the white nationalist base of the republican party pledged their loyalty to Donald Trump and stormed the Whitehouse in an act of sedition. Yet while many of us rallied around Black Lives Matter after the shooting of George Floyd tipped the scales of “wokeness”, some continue to behave like fragile children with their retaliatory taunts “blue lives matter” or

“all lives matter”. We are told that by exposing the truth –we are dividing the country as if throwing a coat of paint on or ignoring the facts will make them go away.

Another example of fragile white reactivity can be seen in the conservative zeitgeist around cancel culture. Unfortunately, cancel culture has become the battle cry of the culture wars and mutated into an attack on how American History is taught and whose story is told. Distortion and disinformation have a way of dismantling democracy in a society that has lost respect for science and facts. The fact is, the teaching of history has been highly manipulated through the interpretation of a white, and sometimes white supremacist, lens. We need to strengthen the lens so that we can see all the multifaceted details that brought us to this time and place.

And what is this time and place? In the words of George Santayana, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The last four years of the Trump regime and the decades leading up to this era of American history are in fact our condemnation. The rise of hate groups and white supremacy, the blatant racism and resistance to justice and equity may not have emerged had we been vigilant about teaching a complete American History. While public schools were distracted by high stakes testing and collecting data, many dropped history from the K – 6 curricula, leaving it to the discretion of teachers and their pet pilgrim projects. Thus, we have generations of Americans who are divested from their history, and care little for discourse or justice.

The result of such neglect rendered us incapable of recognizing the dog whistles of nativism, and racism, in the rhetoric of the former occupant of the Whitehouse. It has also helped to cultivate the recent antics of Margaret Taylor Green in her America First Caucus which proposed that we return to teaching the white, Anglo Saxon version of history which “made America great.” In other words, a government by the white people for the white people only.

Unfortunately, it is the whitewashed version of history which has undone the true story of America, so rich in diversity. It has left out the understory of Native peoples, enslaved Africans, and immigrants. It has skimmed over the mistakes and flawed policies and ignored the resistance and resilience of the American People who have carried the destiny of this nation on their backs. The consequence of whitewashing history is the erosion of trust and a deeply furrowed divide. The likes of the Heritage Foundation and the uber right would have us believe that telling the truth, facing our demons, and embracing our flaws is anti-American. But what could be more patriotic than to know our past, the good, the bad, and the ugly? If we truly love our country and our heritage, then we will show the world that we are willing to embrace the full story of American history and engage in a discourse that will solve problems in the future. Hiding the truth of our past prevents us from living up to our ideals. After all, if you don’t expose the cracks in that wall, the foundation will crumble.

DONNA DUFRESNE
POMFRET

Celebrating poetry at QVCC

Every time I attend an event, real or virtual, at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, I come away impressed. I was a fan of the first president, the late Robert Miller, who defined a path for the college, which continues. Director of Development Monique Wolanin ramped up the Foundation with an impressive board that raises funds for the QVCC Foundation. The Foundation gives out several awards for poetry. This year, a virtual ceremony will celebrate the 14th Annual Julius Sokenu Poetry Awards. At the end of the column, I’ll tell you how to participate.

As part of the continuing celebration of April as poetry month, I am sharing the work of two award winning poets from the 2020 event. I’ve been communicating with Jon Andersen, Professor of English and a poet, who is devoted to promoting students and their work. Andersen, Professor of Spanish Elkin Espitia Loaiza and Library Associate Deneuve Hernandez are the organizing committee for the Sokenu event. The QVCC Cultural Committee is the primary committee and the sponsor.

Now on to the poetry! Let’s start with the first place winner in the QVCC English Category for 2020. I’ve changed the format somewhat due to space.

We Are Not So Different from a Goose
By Taylor Lynn Copeland for Arnée

Last night I heard the geese pass over, hearing autumn’s approach. Can you feel how she reaches out with cool, quiet fingers, preparing to draw the curtains and usher us once more to the hearthside? Summer still lingers in the sun-soaked fields and dynamique skies, in the garden that even now offers its life work for the harvesting; autumn is coming, but she has not yet arrived. Even so, overhead—the geese!

Call it melancholy, but only because the cries echo like change, and leaving, and dark months coming. Call it aching, but only because the chorus makes us long to take to the sky ourselves. Call it bittersweet, but only because the refrain has been poorly translated to mean “good-bye.” (After all, what do we truly know of goose song?)

The geese pay no mind to such sentimentality. What care have they for the metaphor we make of them? They leave because it is their lot to move with the turn of the seasons, to seek warmer places to rest their wings.

Departures aren’t sad; not for them. And they go, they call: Are we all here? Is everyone accounted for? Such love rests in the way they make certain none are left behind, while below them, autumn readies the world for its brumal rest.

Maybe our melancholy doesn’t come from the leaving. Do we ache for our lack of wings alone? Or because we have known, too well, the bitter absence of belonging? Standing below, gazing up at the feathered underbellies, we recall

what it is to be outside
Turn To **WEISS** page **A8**

Learn these three basics of investing to get started on building wealth

Most people have a general idea of what investing is, but perhaps you don't have much knowledge about what it actually involves apart from the contribution you (hopefully) make to your 401(k) or other retirement account each pay period. But gaining a basic understanding right now of key investment concepts can provide the foundation you need to get started on the road to a healthy financial future. Here's what you should know now, so you can get started on building a wealthier tomorrow.

Investment types
Investments can be broken down into three basic groups: stocks, mutual funds and bonds.

Stocks, sometimes also called equities, shares, securities or units, are essentially a piece of a company. Stocks are primarily bought and sold on stock exchanges. The two major exchanges in the U.S. are the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System, more commonly called the Nasdaq. When you buy a stock, you are buying a fraction of ownership in a company, and the value of that ownership will increase or decrease along with the overall value of the company. Stocks offer the greatest opportunity to grow your investment over time, but they also pose the greatest risk – if the company's performance



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declines enough and you sell the stock at a time when it's worth less than when you bought it, you could lose the money you originally invested instead of making more money from it.

A mutual fund is an investment product that pools money from a large number of people and then invests that money in a combination of stocks, bonds, or other investments. That combination is called the fund's portfolio. Much like with stocks, each person who has put money into the mutual fund owns a share of it, and the value of that share will increase or decrease in keeping with the overall value of the fund's portfolio. Because a mutual fund consists of a combination of higher and lower risk investments, they are generally less risky than investing in stocks alone.

Bonds are loans made by investors to large companies or other entities such as the federal or municipal governments. Corporations and governments then use those funds to finance operations and fund projects. When you buy a corporate or government savings bond, you invest your money for a pre-determined amount of time. At the end of that term, the corporation or government entity pays back the money you invested plus a set amount of interest. Because the amount of interest you receive is pre-determined and cannot change, a bond is called a fixed-income investment. Because of this,

bonds present the least risk for investors but they also generally offer the lowest return for your investment.

Account types
There are different types of accounts that you can open, through which you can purchase any of the investment types listed above. In general, investment accounts can be broken into two groups: retirement accounts and non-retirement accounts.

Retirement accounts are long-term investments made in order to provide income after you retire from working. Types of retirement accounts include the employer-sponsored 401(k) or 403(b), or a traditional IRA (individual retirement account); for these accounts, you can make tax-free contributions up to a certain amount each year, but you pay tax when you withdraw the funds and there are penalties if you withdraw funds prior to retirement. There's also a Roth IRA – contributions to a Roth IRA are taxed, but future withdrawals are tax-free.

Non-retirement accounts are long-term investments made to build wealth or for another specific purpose other than retirement. These types of accounts include individual investment accounts, 529 college savings plans and UTMAs or UGMAs, which are investment accounts that are set up for a minor but controlled by the adult until the minor comes of age.

Key concepts
Regardless of which investment accounts and types of investments you choose, there are a few key concepts that are

critical to understand.

Compound interest is the addition of interest to the original amount that you invest (called the principal), which then itself begins to earn interest as well. Over time, compound interest is a powerful force in growing money. For example: a person who invests \$3,600 per year at 8 percent interest beginning at age 40 will have \$104,500 at age 70. But a person who invests \$3,600 per year at 8 percent interest for just 15 years beginning at age 25 and then stops investing anything further will have \$1,050,000 at age 70, thanks to that compounding interest.

Disciplined investing is the idea that you must leave your investments to grow over the long term in order to make that compounding interest, as well as the highs of the stock market, work for you. Missing just a handful of the best performing days of the stock market could cost you hundreds of thousands of dollars over the long term.

Diversification simply means that you should invest in a variety of investment types, some that are high-risk and high-reward, and others that are low-risk but lower-reward. Having a diverse mix of investments helps to reduce risk overall, while still allowing for growth. Your age and goals will dictate how much overall risk is right for you, and the amount of risk it makes sense to take usually changes over time.

There is a lot to learn when it comes to investing, but hopefully this information has given

you a basic understanding of what it's all about, and perhaps more importantly, some excitement to get started in investing for yourself. I do however highly recommend speaking with a financial advisor to make sure you get started off on the right foot, and to offer you important guidance and advice along the way.

At Weiss, Hale and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors we also provide our clients with financial literacy and investment education along the way as well. You can get a sneak-peek at some of the tips and resources we provide our clients to help them Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ on our Advisor's Blog at whzwealth.com/advisor-blog.

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What is an antique's provenance?

For those of you who collect antiques or even watch antique related television shows, you've probably heard the term "provenance." Merriam Webster's definition is "the history of ownership of a valued object or work of art or literature."

It is always helpful to have some historical information that has passed been down with your family heirlooms. Most of the information that we hear from family members is valid. Sometimes the stories have been embellished. Other times the facts may be true but there is no way to confirm it and sometimes the family history doesn't line up with the facts.

When I first started this business over 20 years ago, a woman contacted me and said that she had a rifle that family history said was used by a soldier in an African American regiment during the Civil War. The rifle was old enough to have been used then. An expert on antique weapons from New Hampshire accompanied me to view the rifle. He was familiar with the weapons used by Civil War regiments. The rifle was a model that wasn't one used



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

by African American regiments.

Another potential consignor from the Southwestern part of the country contacted us regarding an early desk that he had. He claimed that it belonged to Mother Goose, who is said to have written some of the world's most famous nursery rhymes. Mary Goose was buried in the Old Granary Burying Ground in Boston in 1690, according to the

History Channel's Web site. Local legend said that she was the person who penned the famous Mother Goose nursery rhymes. The History Channel said that Mary Goose in Boston isn't the person who wrote the nursery rhymes though. References to Mother Goose date back to the Roman Empire during the 8th century. "Mere l'oye" or "mere oye" (Mother Goose) was a term used in France during the mid-17th century to describe a woman who captivated children with delightful tales," according to the History Channel. There were two problems with the desk that the consignor wanted us to sell. There was no doc-

umentation showing that the desk belonged to Mary Goose and evidence shows that Mary Goose wasn't Mother Goose. The desk would have to be sold for what it was, just an antique desk.

Here are some things that you may have that can increase the provenance and subsequent value of your items. We sometimes find hand-written notes along with objects in an estate describing who owned the piece and when it was acquired. An old sales receipt can determine provenance. Sometimes photos can be matched with the item. For example, we've had a photo from the late 1800s of a woman wearing a piece of jewelry that we were selling. A certificate of authenticity by a reputable company is always helpful, but even a signed letter by the person who received an item from a celebrity explaining when and how they received something is beneficial. When we sold a jacket that belonged to Admiral Byrd we had a letter saying that it had been de-accessioned back to the family from the Smithsonian Museum. It's hard to find any better provenance than that.

Our multi-estate online auction ending June 2 features Rock n' Roll memorabilia from a New York promoter who was



Photo Courtesy

A bracelet worn by groundbreaking rock vocalist Janis Joplin.

James Brown's agent. Items include rings that belonged to Elvis Presley, a Janice Joplin bracelet, along with other pieces owned by Freddie Mercury, and James Brown. There will be letters of provenance accompanying these items. We are still accepting quality consignments for this auction. Our online auction of sports and non-sports cards all from one estate will be running soon. The third session of model trains, die-cast cars, and other

toys is now running online. See our Web site for details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

Confessions of a “Barbecue Master Pitster ” wannabe...

Last week, I mentioned that I love online cooking tutorials. There are so many great opportunities to learn, but my favorite is a little less refined than most. Barbecue Pit Boys or www.bbqpitboys.com are a cross between ZZ Top and the Grateful Dead. These “good ol’ boys” live for their grills and have created and collected a mass of great recipes, all cooked in their outdoor barbecue pit. In fact, they’ve become so popular that chapters are popping up all over the world ... so I’ve started one and begun inviting a close group of friends to join. We are now officially the “Barbecue Pitsters.”

Oh, before we go on ... why isn't barbecue popular in Italy? Could it be because the spaghetti keeps falling through the grill? (Lump bump)

The plan is to grill once a month, on a weekend. The guys will assemble at lunchtime, have a few snacks on the grill and plan our evening meal. Our wives will join us around

5:00 for appetizers and dinner, all cooked outside. They can then praise us for our culinary excellence at “the pit.” Because as a true Pitster would say, “it’s gonna be guud (not just good).”

Oh ... “What’s the difference between South Korean BBQ and American BBQ?”

South Korean BBQ has more Seoul...

I’m now in training. Like Rocky Balboa, preparing for Apollo Creed, I’m awake before the sun rises. I grab my phone and begin learning new ways and things to barbecue or smoke. I’m obsessed. I have a beautiful grill and smoker, but as I told you last week, I ordered a new outdoor pizza oven and a special rotisserie grill. I’ve assembled a variety of wood chunks for smoking ... cherry, apple, pecan, hickory, mesquite, just to name a few. My stomach cancer battle will prohibit me from eating most of what I cook, and that’s okay. Through it all, I realize it’s the



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GARY W.
MOORE

process I love. I’ll get little nibbles here and there. Some of the softer foods I can handle, but if I never ate a bite, I’d still love to cook for others.

So, the pantry is quickly filling with a plethora of spices and sauces. My back patio is beginning to look more like an official “Pit.” I stand in front of my three grills and I’m an astronaut and my grills are my control panels. I stand outside in anticipation and feel like a “Master of the Barbecue Universe.” I’m committed. I’m ready.

Forgive me ... but here’s one more. “You know that mouth-watering sensation you get when you’re grilling a steak on the BBQ? I wonder ... do

vegans get that when they mow the lawn?”

I think my first dinner will be baby back ribs with my special sauce (my recipe), “Red Neck Beans” from the Pit Boys collection, corn roasted on the grill and Hasselback Potato’s. And for dessert, my Moms Pineapple Upside Down Cake in an iron skillet, and yes, cooked on the grill. Nothing cooked indoors.

There’s just something ... I don’t know ... something Neanderthal that emerges from my DNA when I see meat. A barbecue grill seems to assert a man’s masculinity. I get this irresistible urge to start a fire and go to work. Primitive? I guess. Channeling my inner macho man? Maybe. All I know is that I love everything involved. Just writing about it has my testosterone flowing.

A friend of mine suggested that slaughtering a cow for food is murder. He is a vegan of course and I respect his choice. I love animals and am very

soft-hearted, but uncharacteristically responded, “If God didn’t want us to eat cows, He wouldn’t have made them out of beef!”

Thank you for reading the meanderings of my “inner-griller.” That’s right. I’m a shameless “Barbecue Master Pitster” wannabe.” I’m firing up the grills and I’m ready for summer. If you’re hungry, just step outside and follow your nose to my pit. I’ll greet you with a cold drink and a charred chunk of flesh.

My straw cowboy hat is firmly on my head. The charcoal is blazing, and I’ve got my “Barbecue Shoes” on.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

OBITUARIES

Professor Roger E. Kasperson, 84

Washington, D.C.: Professor Roger E. Kasperson, 83, passed away peacefully at home in Washington, DC on Saturday, April 10th, after an illness.



He leaves his beloved wife of 15 years, Bonnie Ram; his son, Demetri Kasperson of Southbridge; a daughter, Kyra Litschauer and her husband Crocker of Woodstock, CT and a grandson, Cameron

Litschauer; a sister, Alice Blackwood and her husband Budd of Uxbridge.

Roger was born in Worcester the son of Carl Gustav and Ethel Mildred (Anderson) Kasperson. His childhood memories on a small farm in Northborough, Massachusetts in the 1940's and 50's revolved around tending to farm animals and working in gardens. From these humble beginnings, he received a sports scholarship from nearby Clark University in Worcester in 1955; he was the first in his family to attend college. He chose geography as his major, but with broad interests, Roger took courses in philosophy, literature and sciences. After graduating from Clark, Roger completed Master's and Doctoral degrees in geography at University of Chicago. Arguably, at that time, the University of Chicago's geography department was one of the most respected in the world.

Dr. Kasperson returned to Clark University as a professor in 1969. He has authored or co-edited 24 books and monographs and 150 peer reviewed articles. From 1993-1998, he served as both Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Clark University. During Roger's long association with Clark, it became one of the top 'green' universities, universities that impact society, especially for social and environmental issues, and it is among the most innovative, according to Michael Greenberg, Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University. At Clark, Roger met his first wife Jeanne, who founded

a specialized research library focused on risk analysis and together they co-authored many publications. She passed way in Sweden in 2002.

At Clark, Roger co-founded CENTED, the Center for Technology, Environment, and Development, serving as Director from 1978-81. The group consisted of experts ranging from physics, geography, philosophy and psychology. Upon his retirement, Roger was appointed as Research Professor and Distinguished Scientist. Roger was a giant in the fields of risk analysis and communication, global environmental change, vulnerability, sustainability, and resilience. He was an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. From 1999-2004, Roger was the Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute.

According to Nick Pidgeon of Cardiff University (UK), "Roger Kasperson has been the leading light in our field of risk communication for over 30 years now. He was one of the first geographers to be elected as a Fellow of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences." Ortwin Renn (of the International Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Germany) describes Dr. Kasperson over the many decades as a "role model for a dedicated, sincere and value-based scholar in the risk field."

Gifts can be made in Dr. Kasperson's name at this special memorial website https://alumni.clarku.edu/RogerKaspersonMemorialGifts.

Donations will be directed to the Jeanne X. Kasperson Research Library Endowed Fund at Clark University.

Funeral services and burial for Dr. Kasperson will be private. There are no calling hours.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing the arrangements. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Carol Sanger

Carol Sanger of Danielson, CT passed away on April 13, 2021 with her husband of 55 years, and children by her side. Carol was born in Bridgeport on November 8, 1942 daughter of the late Nick and Erna (Jensen) Stosak. She was a graduate of Warren Harding High School. She worked for the New York Stock Exchange for many years in Downtown Bridgeport. Carol leaves her husband Bob, her daughter Kristen



and three grandchildren. A son Brian Sanger of West Haven. A sister Jackie of El Paso, Texas as well as three cousins, five nephews, and two nieces. Carol was predeceased by her son Robert Sanger and his wife Rhonda Sanger and a sister Patricia Stosak. Due to Covid 19 restrictions a memorial service to honor Carol's life will take place at a later date. Memorial donations in Carol's memory may be made to the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association at www.Alz.org/ct. tillinghastfh.com

Gunther and husband Casey Gunther, and three grandchildren. A son Brian Sanger of West Haven. A sister Jackie of El Paso, Texas as well as three cousins, five nephews, and two nieces. Carol was predeceased by her son Robert Sanger and his wife Rhonda Sanger and a sister Patricia Stosak. Due to Covid 19 restrictions a memorial service to honor Carol's life will take place at a later date. Memorial donations in Carol's memory may be made to the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association at www.Alz.org/ct. tillinghastfh.com

Beatrice O. Baron, 97

PUTNAM – Beatrice (Bruneau) Baron, 97, of Ballou St, passed away on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at her home surrounded by her family. She was the beloved wife of the late Edward T. Baron. Born in Webster, MA, she was the daughter of the late Maurice and Ida (Beaudon) Bruneau.



Beatrice worked as a self-employed hairdresser. She was a communicant of St. Mary Church of the Visitation. She enjoyed playing BINGO and loved to exercise.

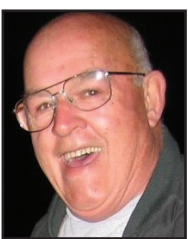
Beatrice is survived by her sons,

Ron W. Baron and his wife Sharon of N. Grosvenordale, and Edward Baron and his wife Victoria of Port Aransas, TX; her daughter, Darlene Jeacopello and her husband John of Somersworth, N.H.; ten grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. She was predeceased by her son, the late Theodore Baron.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Beatrice took place on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in St. Mary Church of the Visitation Church, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Cemetery, 18 E. Main St, Webster, MA. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Ronald F. Kosiba, 81

NORTH GROSVENORDALE, CT – Ronald F. Kosiba, affectionately known as Baldy, 81, of North Grosvenordale, CT and formerly of Auburn, MA, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 16, 2021 surrounded by family.



He leaves his loving wife of 58 years, Judith (Berggren) Kosiba; his daughters, Karen A. Kosiba, of Natick, and Kristine K. Moran and her husband Tim, of Douglas; two grandsons, Rourke and Reilly Moran, both of Douglas; his siblings, Richard Kosiba, of Upton, and Mary Army, of Uxbridge; along with many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Mary (Chase) Kosiba, and his brother, Joseph Kosiba.

Born in Whitinsville and raised in Grafton, Ron enlisted in the U.S. Army where he drove tanks during the Vietnam War – he was honorably discharged in 1963 and transferred to the Reserves. He worked for the Auburn Water Department, then Commerce

Insurance for two decades before retiring.

Ron was a true fighter who always persevered and found humor in everything. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, travelling, fireworks, 4th of July, and spending as much time as possible in the great outdoors. Most of all, he cherished the moments spent with his grandsons, family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with the Kosiba family between 11 AM and 12 PM on Friday, April 23, 2021 at the BRITTON-WALLACE FUNERAL HOME, 91 Central Street, Auburn, MA. Burial, with military honors, will follow at Hillside Cemetery, Auburn. To leave a note of condolence, or to share a fond memory with Ronald's family, please visit www.brittonfuneralhomes.com

Richard “Seamist” G. Beausoleil, 85

DANIELSON – Richard G Beausoleil, fondly known by his friends as “Seamist”, 85, of Reynolds St., formerly of Putnam, died Tuesday April 7, 2020. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Euclide and Marie Ange (Petrin) Beausoleil.



Mr. Beausoleil worked as a machine operator at Cranston Print until his retirement in 1999. He enjoyed playing pitch and making his delicious pork pies for his friends and family.

Richard is survived by a daughter, Michelle Nicol and her husband Kevin of Putnam; his siblings, David

Beausoleil of Putnam, Leo Beausoleil of Danielson, and Lucille Nelson of Putnam; four grandchildren, Ethan, Evan, Megan, and Kyle Nicol all of Putnam, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two brothers, Robert and Ronald Beausoleil.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday May, 1, 2021, at 10:00a.m. in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT 06260. Burial to follow in St. Mary Cemetery. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Tips for planting blueberries

A trip to the produce aisle at a local grocery store can unveil a host of healthy additions to anyone's diet. Such a jaunt also can raise eyebrows, as produce, particularly organic fruits and vegetables, can be very expensive. Consumers may feel helpless to corral the cost of healthy foods like fruits and vegetables, but all hope should not be lost. That's especially so for people willing to give gardening a try.

Blueberries are one of the healthiest foods people can eat. The USDA

National Nutrient Database notes that blueberries, which are low in calories and high in fiber, are great sources of the vitamins C, K and B6. However, organic blueberries can be among the most expensive foods in the produce aisle. Various factors, including where blueberries come from and whether or not they're organic, dictate their cost. But it's not uncommon to pay roughly \$4 for a six-ounce package of organic blueberries. For some, such costs are prohibitive.

Growing blueberries in a home garden can save blueberry lovers substantial amounts of money while ensuring they reap all of the benefits of this highly nutritious and edible berry. The following are some tips novices can employ as they plant their first batch of blueberries.

• Consult a local garden center. The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council recommends consulting a local garden center before planting blueberries. The professionals at such centers can rec-

ommend the best variety of blueberry to plant. That's an important first step, as the USHBC notes that farmers cultivate dozens of varieties of highbush blueberries across North America. Lowbush varieties also may be a gardener's best option depending on where he or she lives. A local garden center can help you determine which variety best suits your local climate.

• Plant where there is ample sun and

Turn To **BLUEBERRIES** page **A10**

WEISS

continued from page **A6**

looking in. After all, we are not so different from a goose; as we journey through life, don't we cry out, reaching for others: Are you there? Are you with me? This, then, is my prayer for you: That there will always be someone who answers your call.

Genie Johnson lives in Woodstock. She was selected for the Connecticut

Student Poetry Circuit in 2019. The poem, which follows won first place in the QVCC English category in 2019.

They Said

We heard about it on the morning news
as if you were a common stranger
There was no carefully worded phone call,
no buffer from your name's confirmation.
to persuade us all to listen, but with calloused ears your friends and family

fixed iron tongues against you.

It's why you turned to vodka, isn't it?
To hush your beating heart;
there was never any chance for you to rise.
Not only was there no smoke alarm—
you were passed out drunk, they said.

Kim: I want to wrap my arms around your swollen body,
put my mouth on your lips and breathe for you.
But it's too late to coax life into you,
too late

to wake you up and take you home.

I want to share more poems, including one written in Spanish and English by Joaris Santiago Cancel, a Quinebaug Middle College student. I'll do that soon. It is terrific.

On April 29 at 6:30 p.m., livestream on the You Tube channel to see the awards program : https://qvcc.edu/14th-annual-julius-sokenu-poetry-awards-night-features-student-poets-and-the-corneilus-eady-trio/

I plan to watch!

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TEEG to begin offering in-person pantry appointments

United Services, Inc. works to promote mental health awareness among older adults

REGION — Welcome Back! TEEG will begin in-person pantry appointments beginning in May with a redesigned community market that focuses on nutrition and access to healthy food options including more fresh and frozen produce, dairy products, and heart friendly choices.

Since the start of COVID, TEEG's Community Market has worked to serve clients through pre-made, personalized food boxes to help maintain

social distancing. Client-choice pre-made boxes will still be an option available to individuals and families who utilize our pantry, as will deliveries for our senior clients.

TEEG will also be expanding its food services programs with a new satellite pantry in Pomfret within the Pomfret Senior Center located at 207 Mashamoquet Rd. Opening in May, this new pantry will initially operate on the first Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon and the third

Thursday of each month from 1 until 3 p.m. by appointment only. TEEG will also be continuing its mobile food pantry on the first Tuesday of every month from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m., and the third Thursday of each month from 1:30 until 2:30 p.m. at the Woodstock Town Hall, no appointment necessary.

Clients are encouraged to contact TEEG at 860-923-3458 to schedule appointments for food services.

POMFRET/PLAINFIELD —Older Adults Mental Health Awareness Day is held each May. Join United Services, Inc. Medical Director, Dr. Sarah De Asis, and Director of Clinical Services Melissa Demma, LCSW, at Pomfret Senior Center for a conversation on Mental Health in Older Adults at noon Tuesday, May 4 outside. Light refreshments and informational handouts will be provided.

Thursday, May 6 is Older Adults Mental Health Awareness Day! Join De Asis and Demma, at Plainfield Senior Center for a conversation on Mental Health in Older Adults at noon Thursday, May 6. Light refreshments and informational handouts will be provided.

For more information about these events, call Emily Morrison at 860-774-2020.

SPORTS

continued from page A1

out one of every baseball player's childhood fantasies, ripping a bases-loaded RBI single to left field in the bottom of the seventh-inning to lead the 1-1 Centaurs to a 3-2, come-from-behind win over Tourtellotte on Tuesday, April 13.

With three outs remaining WA trailed, 2-1. The Centaurs' game-winning rally began when freshman Keon Lamarche and senior Trey Ayotte both walked and senior Max Racicot singled to load the bases. With one out senior Jacob Hernandez tied the game with a sacrifice fly to center, setting the stage for Roethlein's game-ending heroics.

Sophomore Kaden Murphy picked up a complete-game win on the mound for WA, striking out seven. For the Tigers (0-2), Mason Barber pitched well, allowing just four hits in six innings of work, while finishing with six strikeouts.

Woodstock Academy opened the season with a 12-2 road loss to Norwich Free Academy on Saturday, April 10. Juniors Brendan Hill (an RBI double) and Norm Warcholik (single) had the Centaurs' only two hits in the game.

Putnam senior Colby Livingston allowed no earned runs in five innings of work to lead the Clippers past Wheeler, 15-3, in Putnam's season-opening win on Wednesday, April 14. Offensively the Clippers (1-0) were led by Livingston who was 3-for-3 with two walks and an RBI double. Sophomore Jacob Mailloux drove in a pair of runs with a sixth-inning double.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

The Killingly High softball team collected a pair of season-opening wins, defeating Norwich Teach, 24-0, on Saturday, April 10, and New London, 2-0, on Wednesday, April 14.

Against Norwich Tech junior Emma Carpenter hurled a five-inning no-hitter, striking out five while not issuing a walk. Sophomore Casey Beauregard provided some power at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a double and three RBI.

In Killingly's win over New London senior Lex Faucher allowed just two hits while picking up the complete-game victory. Faucher struck out eight and didn't walk a batter. Carpenter and Izzy Robbins provided the offense; both finished the game with an RBI.

Elsewhere:

Woodstock Academy won two of its first three games, capping the first week of the season with senior Mackenzie Leveille tossing a five-inning perfect game in the 2-1 Centaurs' 20-0 victory over Tourtellotte in Thompson on Tuesday, April 13.

Leveille struck out 11 and threw only 53 pitches including just 16 in the first two innings during which she struck out five Tigers' batters on three pitches each. Sophomore Lexi Thompson had three hits, including a homer, and drove in four runs for WA. Centaurs senior Amanda Bond finished the game with three hits and five RBI.

Woodstock opened the season on Saturday, April 10, splitting a double-header with visiting Norwich Free Academy. The Centaurs dropped the first game, 15-7, but roared back to win the second game, 5-3. WA's second-game win over NFA was just its second victory over NFA in the last 17 regular-season meetings between the schools. It was the Centaurs' first win over NFA since May 6, 2015.

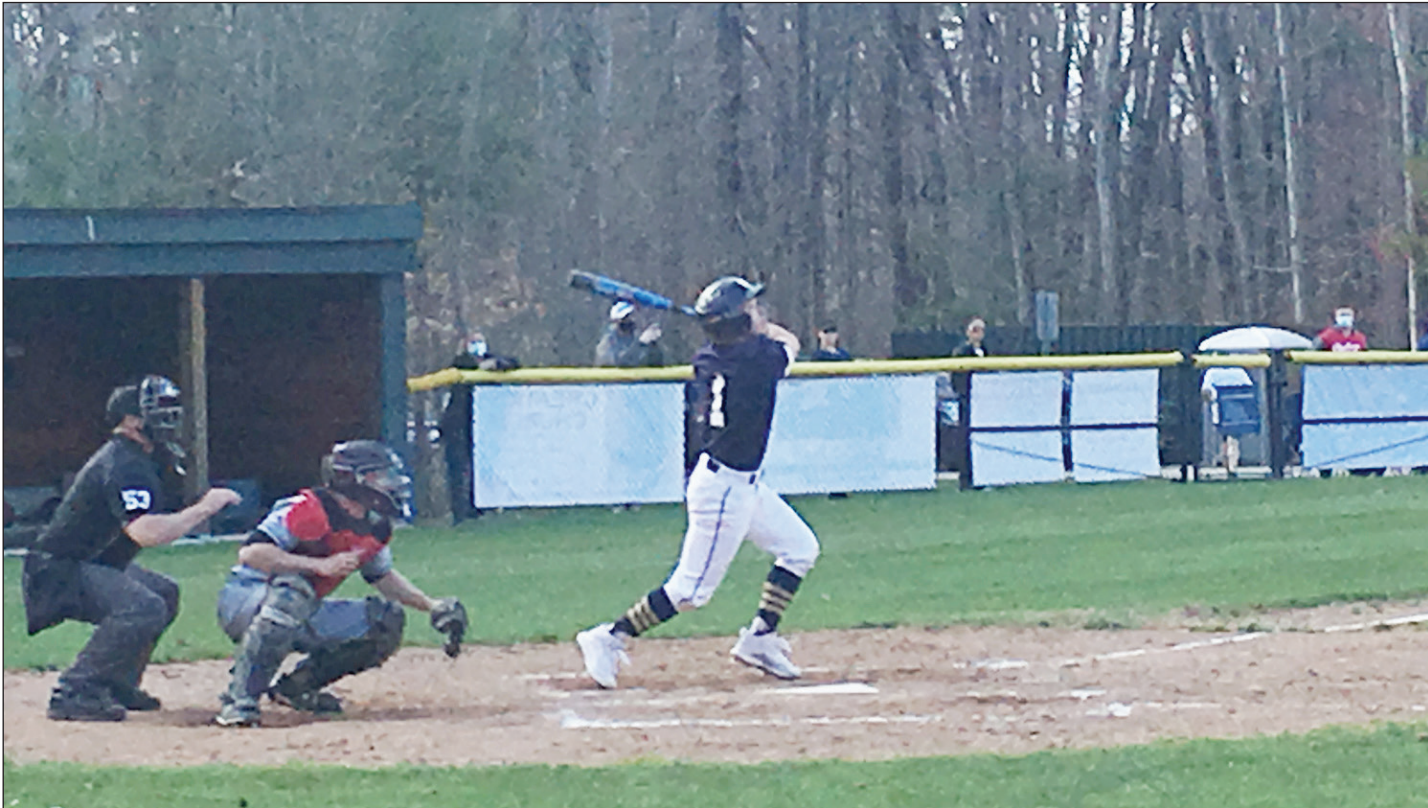
Thompson, making her varsity debut in the circle, limited the Wildcats to six hits and struck out seven. She also added two singles at the plate. Leveille's two-run double highlighted a four-run first inning for the Centaurs. Delaney Anderson smashed an RBI triple later in the game.

BOYS' LACROSSE

Woodstock Academy began the season 2-1, wins over Norwich Tech/Windham Tech (13-1) and Ledyard/Griswold (11-3) sandwiched around a 12-5 loss to East Lyme.

In the Centaurs' season-opening win over Norwich Tech/Windham Tech, played at the Bentley Athletic Complex on Saturday, April 10, senior Guerin Favreau led the way with six goals and four assists. Favreau either scored or assisted on 10 of WA's first 11 goals. Juniors Everett Michalski and Jonah Libby each scored twice for the Centaurs, while seniors Brandon Richards, Riley Chapuis and Alex Wojciechowski all found the back of the net as well.

Following a road loss to East Lyme on Tuesday, April 13 — during which soph-



In Woodstock Academy's come-from-behind win over Tourtellotte on Tuesday, April 13, senior Jacob Hernandez tied the game with a seventh-inning sacrifice fly to center.

omore Jacob Jurnovoy scored twice and Favreau had a goal and an assist, Woodstock Academy climbed back into the win column with its win over Ledyard-Griswold on Thursday, April 15. Libby scored four goals and added two assists while Favreau had three goals and three assists.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

It was a tough season-opening week for the Woodstock Academy, the Centaurs losing on the road to Stonington, 17-2 on Tuesday, April 15, and 9-7 at home to Norwich Free Academy on Thursday, April 15.

Senior Peyton Saracina and junior Shannon Gagnon both scored a goal against Stonington while Gagnon and senior Eliza Dutton each scored twice against NFA.

BOYS' TENNIS

The Woodstock Academy singles trio of seniors Stefan Chervenkov and Connor Quinn and junior Evan Haskins all won their matches — Chervenkov and Haskins sweeping their opponents — to lead the Centaurs past visiting Killingly High, 7-0, in the season-opening match for both squads.

BOYS' TRACK & FIELD

Woodstock Academy dropped its season opening meet, held on Wednesday, April 14, to visiting Norwich Free Academy, 102-43, the Wildcats overall depth proving to be too much for the Centaurs to overcome. WA winners in the meet included: Adam Schimmelpfennig, in the 110 and 300 hurdles; Eric Phongsa, in the 100 meters, in a time of 11.2 seconds; Jackson Dias, in the high jump (5-10); Hans Rhynhart the 1,600m (5:22); and Keenan LaMontagne in the discus (127-9 1/2).

Scoring points for Putnam High, in its 123.5-7.5 loss to Windham on Tuesday, April 13 were Nick Vagnini, who tied for third-place in the 100 meters (12.4 seconds), Ethan Gardner, who was second in the 3,200-meter run (14 minutes, 27 seconds) and third in the 1,600-meter run (6:09), and Raymond Jordan, who finished second in the javelin with a toss of 79 feet, 8 inches.

GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

Woodstock Academy began its season in dramatic fashion, defeating host Norwich Free Academy, 74-72, on Wednesday, April 14, by winning the final event of the day, while also collecting a second-place tie in the same event. Those seven points allowed the Centaurs to turn a three-point deficit into a two-point win.

Woodstock's Jillian Edwards won the high jump, the last event to finish and teammate Reegan Reynolds finished in a tie for second. Reynolds picked up two wins to go with her second-place tie, capturing both the 400-meter run and the triple jump for the Centaurs. Also bagging first-place finishes for WA were Talia Tremblay (in the 300 hurdles), Bella Sorrentino (shot put) and Ksenjia Martinovic (100 hurdles).

Bailey Touchette won the 200 meters (in 30.9 seconds) and came in second in the 100 meters (14.4 seconds) and the long jump (leaping 11 feet, 1.5 inches), in Putnam's 91-14 loss to Windham on Tuesday, April 13. Emma Rudman scored three top-three finishes for the



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LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY TAX COLLECTORS LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-4PM Tuesday 9-5PM Friday 9-11AM.

The fourth quarter installment of taxes becomes due on April 1, 2021, and becomes delinquent on May 4, 2021 and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org

Dated at Killingly this 26TH day of March , 2021

Patricia Monahan CCMC
Revenue Collector for the
Town of Killingly
March 26, 2021
April 9, 2021
April 23, 2021

Notice of Decision

At its 4/13/2021 regularly scheduled meeting, the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission held a properly-noticed hearing to provide Edward Branciforte of 36 Paradise Drive, Brooklyn, CT, an opportunity to be heard and show cause why the Order to Remediate for Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Violations issued on 4/5/2021 should not remain in effect. Mr. Branciforte failed to attend the hearing and failed to offer any evidence or information to the Commission. The Order to Remediate remains in effect. The Commission referred the matter to Town Counsel for further proceedings including, but not limited to, taking the issue of the violation to State of Connecticut, Superior Court in accordance with statutory and regulation provisions.

April 23, 2021

Notice of Decision

At their 4/13/2021 regularly scheduled meeting, the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands

and Watercourses Commission held hearing to provide Terrance Veazie of 117 Tatnic Road Drive, Brooklyn, CT, an opportunity to be heard and show cause why the Order to Remediate for Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Violations issued on 4/5/2021 should not remain in effect. The Order to Remediate was issued due to violations of IWWC permit #21107A, issued on 1/8/2008, extended by the Commission on 1/10/2012, extended by the Commission to January 2022, and transferred from George R. Forson and Joanne K. Forson to Terrance M. Veazie and Lisa D. Veazie on 11/21/2017. Bruce Woodis of KWP represented Terrance Veazie at the hearing. The Order to Remediate remains in effect, at a minimum, until the 5/11/2021 regularly scheduled meeting of the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Representatives of KWP shall conduct an inspection after the next substantial rainfall and submit a memo to the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agent regarding the effectiveness of the recently installed erosion and sediment control measures.provisions.

April 23, 2021

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On April 12, 2021, Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agent granted wetlands approval for 04-21-02 – 63 Crooked Trail – Daniel Durand – 10x20 deck, and the Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agency granted wetlands approval for 01-21-02 – Maria Bushey – Laurel Hill Drive – Map 7272, Block B35, Lot 34 – construction of new home, septic, well, and driveway.

April 23, 2021

BOROUGH OF DANIELSON Warning of Election May 3, 2021

The Electors of the Borough of Danielson are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling place in said Borough on Monday May 3, 2021 for the following purposes:

1. To cast their votes for President,

(6) Council Members, Clerk and Treasurer.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is as follows:

District #1- Killingly Public Library, 25 Westcott Road, Danielson, CT 06239

The polls will be open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. Absentee ballots can be obtained by calling 860-428-0442.

Dated at Killingly, Connecticut this 15th day of April, 2021.

April 23, 2021

Notice of Decision

At its 4/13/2021 regularly scheduled meeting, the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission held a properly-noticed hearing to provide Paul Lehto an opportunity to be heard and show cause why the Order to Remediate for Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Violations issued on 4/5/2021 for a sand and gravel removal project at the end of River Walk Drive (Assessor's Map 32, Lot 148) should not remain in effect. The Order to Remediate was issued due to violations of IWWC permit # 060920A, issued on 7/28/2020. Mr. Lehto failed to attend the hearing and failed to offer any evidence or information to the Commission. The Order to Remediate remains in effect. The Commission scheduled a site walk for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, 4/19/21 in accordance with its regulations. If the owner interferes with the site visit, the wetlands agent is authorized to seek an administrative search warrant in accordance with applicable statutory provisions.

April 23, 2021

TOWN OF BROOKLYN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Webex meeting on the following:

Enforcement SPG 20-001: To review the status of compliance, as outlined in Sec. 9.D.8.5 of the Brooklyn Zoning Regulations, regarding the Cease &

Desist Order issued on March 31, 2021 to Paul Lehto for violations of the conditions of SPG 20-001 Gravel Special Permit at his property at the eastern end of River Walk Drive (71 acres, Assessor's Map 32, Lot 148).

A copy of the order is available on the Town of Brooklyn website (www.brooklynct.org). Webex meeting information will be included on the May 5, 2021 Planning and Zoning Commission agenda.

All interested parties may attend the meeting, be heard and written correspondence received.

Dated this 13th day of April.

Michelle Sigfridson
Chairman
April 23, 2021
April 30, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Judith A Baer (21-00093)

The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 17, 2021, 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.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Edward E Hemphill, 1540 Rte, 197,
Woodstock, CT 06281
April 23, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE Barbara Champoux (21-00081)

The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 5, 2021, 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.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Nancy Brosky 183 C Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, CT 06281.
Attorney: PATRICK FILAN,
LAW OFFICES OF PATRICK J FILAN PC, ONE ELIOT PLACE, FAIRFIELD, CT 06824
April 23, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joan Marie Berman (21-00126) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 7, 2021, 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.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jennifer J John, 1674 Route 171, Woodstock Valley, CT 06282
Attorney, MARY C. OBERG, DIANA, CONTI & TUNILA, LLP
1091 MAIN STREET, MANCHESTER, CT 06040, (860)643-2181
April 23, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Marilyn J. Perry (19-00484) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated January 9, 2020, 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.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Deborah L. Wright, 362 Pinch Street, Hampton, CT 06247
April 23, 2021


BLUEBERRIES

continued from page A8


well-drained soil. The roots of blueberry plants should remain moist throughout the growing season, so choose an area where the soil drains well. If that's hard to find, consider planting in raised beds or patio containers. In addition, the University of Minnesota Extension notes that blueberries require full sun, so plant in a spot where the blueberries will not be denied daily sunlight.

- Prepare the soil. Blueberries require acidic soil, so running a soil test prior to planting is a good idea. Speak with a local garden center about soil adjustments if the soil is unlikely to promote growth.
- Fertilize carefully. The USHBC notes that established blueberry plants will respond well to acid fertilizers. However, it's important not to overdo it, as blueberries are sensitive to overfertilization. Follow fertilization instructions and speak with local garden center professionals for advice.
- Be patient. The UME notes that plants won't bear much fruit in their first two to three years, and that harvests are bigger after five years. So patience is a virtue blueberry planters must embrace.

Planting blueberries can be a rewarding hobby that also can save gardeners money at the grocery store.



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




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