



WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

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Murphy tours TEEG, 65 Main in Thompson



Sen. Chris Murphy tours TEEG's food market during a visit to the agency on Jan. 19

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON — Sen. Chris Murphy paid a visit to the Quiet Corner on Thursday, Jan. 19, where he toured both TEEG and the 65 Main building in Thompson to discuss local community programs and the plans for the aging Main Street facility.

As his colleague, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, had done previously in the summer of 2022, Sen. Murphy toured TEEG's

Thatcher Road campus including their food market before moving to the aging 65 Main building which once served as home to the local school Superintendent in its heyday. Now plans are in place to evolve the building into a community-oriented small business center with the help of grant funding including congressional monies that both Senators helped procure for the town.

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development in

Thompson, helped lead the tour of the aging 65 Main structure where she discussed the potential of the building and the difficulties funding the project with the Senator.

"We developed a very conservative renovation estimate pre-inflation and I tossed it in the ring for the congressional appropriations process and we were successful, so we have enough to get it back into function," Penn-Gesek said.

With the help of two federal grants the project is now at least half funded by a total of \$362,000 achieved through the congressional funds and a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant. With

the help of numerous community partners Penn-Gesek said they hope to see the small business center start to take shape in the next year.

"We're going to get it to the point where we can use it and take it as far as we can so the full exterior, mechanical and plumbing — We're going to do the best we can with what we've got and make sure the community has access to it again. We'll build a sense of pride and place and see that it can be functional and then go for that next phase," Penn-Gesek said.

While in town, Senator Murphy also visited

Courtesy

Killingly to decommission Town Hall EV station

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council is moving forward with disconnecting the electronic vehicle charging station at the town hall as they await news of a potential grant to replace it with a modernized system.

The Town Council previously addressed the charging station in December where Town Manager Mary Calorio explained that an electrical consultant had recommended disconnecting and retiring the current station after it was determined that the station couldn't connect to the town's systems without an upgrade. The station was originally installed through a grant and the town took control of the station in 2017.

In December, the Town Council asked Calorio and the town engineer to reconvene with the electrician to determine a process for decommissioning the station with plans to replace it with a more modern system. Calorio updated the Council in early January on the status of these discussions.

"We discussed back with the electrician that the reason for the recommendation for full decommissioning was the concern that somebody was going to potentially plug into the station and potentially cause damage to the vehicle. So, we went back through the process and relooked at everything so we would be able to install a lock-out tag-out breaker to the box, deenergizing it but also to make sure nobody could potentially plug in to the external. We did find that we could put a bag, essentially and out of service bag, over the actual unit and zip-tie it on so that way it can't get removed and that would essentially make sure nobody runs into that risk," said Calorio.

That process would cost around \$300 which Calorio confirmed was available in the town's operating budget. She confirmed the cost is less than the average monthly cost of keeping the seldom-used system operational in its current state.

"We're estimating that the town is expending about \$360 a month in electric energy costs based on what we averaged for consumption. I don't have a direct meter, so I can't give direct numbers of exactly what is being consumed on there. We based our estimations of consumption on what we observe, vehicles being out there and plugged in and the frequency of that," Calorio said.

The Town Council unanimously approved the plans to decommission the station, but stressed this is not an attempt to eliminate EV charging at the town hall altogether. The Council still plans to replace the current system but is awaiting news of a grant that would cover much of the cost. Calorio said if the town receives that money from Eversource it would pay for 100 percent of the make-ready expenses including installation and the full decommissioning and removal of the current unit. It would also pay for 50 percent of the new hardware. If the town is successful in processing the funding, the total estimated cost could be around \$3,500 to install the new unit which Calorio stated would need to go before the Fiscal Subcommittee and the Town Council.

Veterans Coffeehouse thriving at new Putnam home

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

DANIELSON — Over the years, the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse has become a staple of the local community. From its humble beginnings in its namesake town to its more recent setting in Putnam, the Coffeehouse has become a popular resource for veterans who gather together to share stories and utilize the numerous services provided through the organization.

Fred Ruhlemann, President of the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse Board of Directors, said the Coffeehouse has grown tremendously despite limited space and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coffeehouse got its start in 2015 when 23 veterans sat down to think of something new for veterans to do in the region. They partnered with the Thames Valley Council for Community Action who helped the Coffeehouse find its footing in its first two years. By 2017 around 45 veterans were attending the Coffeehouse regularly and the organizers decided to go in a new direction incorporating the organization, applying for 501C3 certification, and establishing a Board of Directors and an Advisory Committee. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit it became clear that due to increased numbers and the limits of social distancing the Coffeehouse was destined for a new space, so they left their first home on Broad Street in Danielson and moved to neighboring Putnam where they partnered with the Putnam Elks.

"We had already been looking to move and it just so happened that right at that time the Exalted Ruler Jim Eccleston from the Elks Lodge in Putnam happened

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Brais gets hot from distance, helps Golden Eagles defeat Tourtellotte

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Ellis Tech boys' bas-

ketball team put on a long-distance shooting clinic during its 69-50 victory over Tourtellotte

High on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Jim Canty Gymnasium. The Golden Eagles



Jason McKay

Ellis Tech's Michael Armstrong attempts to get a hook shot up and over the Tourtellotte defense.

connected from behind the 3-point arc 11 times, junior Ian Brais leading the way with a career-high seven long-range baskets, which accounted for all of his game-high 21 points. Senior Devin Cornell (11 points) hit three 3-pointers while classmate Caleb Evans (nine points) hit one.

Brais hit two 3-pointers in the first quarter, three in the second and one each in the third and fourth quarters.

"I went out there and hit the first two 3s I took, so I kept shooting and the shots kept falling," said Brais, whose pregame routine features few, if any, shots from way downtown. "I can never shoot in pregame; I never hit a shot in pregame. Before the game I don't warm up shooting-wise; I use the time to get mentally focused for the game."

Ellis Tech (3-9) snapped a seven-game losing

Turn To **EAGLES** page **A16**

High School Notebook

Pereira on point for Killingly girls' gymnastics team

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The undefeated Killingly High girls' gymnastics team defeated Norwich Free Academy (NFA), 136.4-131.1, on Saturday, Jan. 21 in a meet held at Deary's Gymnastics in Danielson. Freshman Ella Pereira led the way for Killingly taking home the meet's all-around honors with a score of 37.4 as a result of finishing first on the bars (9.5), tied for first in the vault (9.4), and third on beam (9.3). With the win Killingly improved to 2-0 overall and 2-0 in Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) competition. Woodstock Academy also defeated NFA, 132.65-131.1, on Saturday, Jan. 21, at Deary's. Sophomore Olivia Aleman paced the Centaurs' victory with three 9.4 scores, scores which allowed her tie for first-place on vault and secure second-place finishes on the bars and in the floor exercise. Woodstock Academy improved to 1-1 overall and 1-1 in the ECC with the victory over NFA.

Plainfield's Brenna Johnson, who trains at Deary's, was second in the All-Around with a 37.25. She won the beam and the floor events and finished tied for second in the vault. Ellis Tech's Jordyn Murray, who also trains at Deary's, finished third in the vault. Boys' Ice Hockey Maxx Corradi led Woodstock Academy to a pair of wins last week, 10-0 over the Suffield/Granby/Windsor Locks (SGWL) co-op team on Saturday, Jan. 21, and 9-2 over previously undefeated Lincoln (R.I.) High School, on Monday, Jan. 16. Corradi, a sophomore, scored eight goals in the two wins, three against SGWL and five against Lincoln. He now has 20 goals and 11 assists this year for the Centaurs, who improved to 10-1 overall and 5-0 in Nutmeg Conference action. Also in the win over SGWL, junior Noah Sampson, Corradi's linemate, assisted on the first five goals Woodstock Academy scored.



Killingly freshman Ella Pereira performs on bars, which she won with a score of 9.4.

Sampson now has 14 goals and 18 assists this year. Junior Donny Sousa, sophomore Jayden Fuller and freshman Ian Sherman each scored twice and sophomore Keegan Covello also lit the lamp. Sherman, in addition to his two goals, also recorded two assists. Scoring in the win over Lincoln, in addition to Corradi, were senior captain Jacob Jurnovoy (two goals, two assists), Sousa (goal, three assists), and Fuller. Lincoln, a Division 2 school in Rhode Island, is now 6-1. Girls' Basketball Ellis Tech won two of its three games last week and in doing so improved to 8-5, which clinched a berth in the Connecticut Class S Girls' Basketball Tournament. The

Golden Eagles sandwiched road wins over Vinal Tech (36-15, Friday, Jan. 20) and Cheney Tech (40-22, Tuesday, Jan. 17) around a road loss to Tourtellotte (35-34, Thursday, Jan. 19). Junior Kylie Damble led the way in the win over Vinal Tech, scoring 14 points and pulling down eight rebounds. Classmate Brooke Montecalvo added eight points and four steals to the winning effort while senior Liliana Wongkam and sophomore Sadie Murray chipped in five points each. In the win over Cheney Tech Damble recorded a double-double, scoring a game-high 24 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Montecalvo added six points, and freshman Rose Lopez chipped in four. Freshman Summer Dutram led Tourtellotte in its win over The Golden Eagles, scoring a team-high 13 points while junior Audrey DeFilipo added 11. The Tigers (3-7) also defeated Ellis Tech, 35-24, in the teams' previous meeting this season, back on Tuesday, Dec. 27. Damble led the Golden

Eagles' effort, scoring 18 points and grabbing nine rebounds. Lopez added nine rebounds and six steals and Murray scored seven points and grabbed nine rebounds. Ellis Tech led, 8-7, after the first quarter, the game was tied, 15-15, at halftime, and Tourtellotte led, 29-24, after three periods. The Golden Eagles outscored the Tigers, 10-6, in the final quarter to keep the game a nip-and-tuck affair. Elsewhere: Killingly improved to 7-3 at the halfway point of the season with a 69-16 road win over Montville High on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Killingly powered its way to a 43-10 halftime lead on the strength of six 3-pointers and finished the game with eight 3-pointers. Nine Killingly players scored in the rout, led by junior Molly Crabtree, who poured in 19 points and hit five 3-pinters. Sophomore Ariahna Headen added 10 points and eight rebounds for Killingly. Boys' Basketball Woodstock Academy went 1-1 last week, defeating visiting Plainfield,

58-28, on Tuesday, Jan. 17, and losing to Fitch, 52-33, on Friday, Jan. 20. In the win over Plainfield, the Centaurs' Brady Ericson scored a game-high 16 points and Carter Morissette added 10. In the road loss to Fitch Brandon Nagle and Garrett Bushey each scored nine points. Woodstock Academy is 3-9. Killingly High lost a pair of games last week, 52-41 to visiting Griswold on Friday, Jan. 20, and 71-54 to Fitch on Monday, Jan. 16. Yianni Baribeau had a combined 36 points, 22 rebounds and six blocks in the two games. Killingly is now 7-4. Indoor Track Woodstock Academy seniors Liam Wilcox and Bella Sorrentino both had strong performances, each placing fifth overall in the boys' and girls' 55-meter hurdles competition, respectively, at the Bethel Indoor Pentathlon Invitational, held Saturday, Jan. 21. Sorrentino finished the race in 9.26 seconds, Wilcox in 9.45. The times turned in by both athletes are personal bests.

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Woodstock Agricultural Society elects officers and board members

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Agricultural Society, sponsor of the annual Woodstock Fair, elected its officers and board of directors for 2023 in a meeting at the South Woodstock Baptist Church Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Eastford resident Jeff Sandness was re-elected as President of the 27-member board. Marc Allard of Killingly will serve as first

vice-president and Steve Raheb of Pomfret Center is the second vice-president. Myra Pratte of Woodstock and William Moseley, also of Woodstock, will serve on the Executive Committee as members at-large. Woodstock resident Gail White was elected treasurer and Irene Wheeler, also of Woodstock, was elected secretary.

Eight members were elected to the Board of Directors to three-year terms. Steve Child, Susan Converse Webster, Karen Moseley, William Moseley, Brad O'Connor, Tia Shackett and Irene Wheeler, all from Woodstock, were re-elected. Michael Alberts from Woodstock and Lanette Lepper of Dudley, MA. are newly-elected members to the Board of Directors. Chris Mayhew of Woodstock was named to fill the one year that long-time member Dexter Young, who passed away in December, had remaining on his term. The Woodstock Agricultural Society also congratulates and wishes best of luck to former first vice-president, treasurer and Board of Directors member Jeff Gordon on his election to the Connecticut State Senate.

VILLAGER ALMANAC
AT CT AUDUBON
Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week Jan. 16: American Kestrel, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Flicker, Junco, Red-tailed Hawk, Canada Geese, Crow, Cardinal, Goldfinch, Purple Finch, House Finch, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home.

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Wrestling to make its return to Woodstock Academy

WOODSTOCK — Cahan Quinn remembers what it was like to be a wrestler at Woodstock Academy.

“I remember the family aspect; to be with the team for most of the week and then on Saturday for the all-day tournaments. You really get to know your teammates and spend a lot of time together,” Quinn said.

Quinn was convinced, as a junior, by Tristan Menard to go out for the team.

He loved it.

But the program was ended following the 2017-18 season.

It will be back as a winter athletic offering in 2023-24.

And so will Quinn as he will be the head coach of the program.

“It’s nice to get the program back,” said

Woodstock Academy athletic director Sean Saucier. “It’s a sport that I enjoy. I’m familiar with it. I used to run it at Hyde (School) and (his first year at Woodstock Academy). It’s a great sport for boys and girls and we’re super-excited to get it back.”

Saucier held an organizational meeting last week for the program.

Over 25 potential wrestlers turned out with about half that number “fully” committed and the others very interested.

“We were looking for, at minimum, 15-20 potential wrestlers and we got that. There is definitely some excitement and the numbers justify (bringing the program back),” Saucier said.

Not all is said and done. There are still some



Marc Allard — Courtesy

Cahan Quinn — Former Woodstock Academy wrestler Cahan Quinn will now serve as the program’s head coach when wrestling makes its return to Woodstock Academy in the 2023-24 winter athletic season.

logistics to be worked out such as where the program will be housed.

The winter sports at Woodstock Academy already include three levels of boys and girls basketball, boys and girls ice hockey, boys and girls indoor track, gymnastics, cheerleading and a ski team.

“I think we have space on the North Campus to fit them in. They may have some creative practice times, like we do with hockey (the boys practice at 5:30 a.m. on several

weekdays at the Jahn Ice Rink at Pomfret School). We were able to make it work with two prep basketball teams. I think we can make it work with a wrestling team,” Saucier said.

The team will immediately return to the varsity level.

Woodstock Academy has already reached out to the Eastern Connecticut Conference which has agreed to add the Centaurs to the league schedule for the sport next winter.

“We will be in a lower division as we get our feet under us,” Saucier said.

Quinn, who works in campus security at Woodstock Academy, is just excited for the opportunity, not only for himself, but the athletes.

“I’m excited to bring the program back and help out the athletes a lot. It will make them more well-rounded and give them something else to do in the winter,” Quinn said.

It’s also that type of sport where the individual is highlighted as much as the team.

“It’s a very individual sport, based on yourself and how much work you are willing to put in, with a little of the team aspect on the scoring side. You want to help the team win by doing your best on a consistent basis. There are usually not a lot of people on the team so it’s a really tight-knit community,” Quinn said.

It is also a sport that demands discipline.

In addition to perfecting wrestling moves athletically, there is also the mental aspect.

Athletes have to endure the long days, prepping

for their matches while dealing with a lot of down time.

And the most difficult part, making and maintaining weight throughout a four-and-a-half-month season.

The sport offers an advantage to an educational institution— it’s co-ed.

There were no girls at the organizational meeting but that may not be the case next winter.

“I had a girl who came up to me (Thursday) asking if she could wrestle and I said, ‘Absolutely. If you want to come next winter, feel free, we’re not turning anyone away,’” Quinn said.

And it makes for a happy football coach as it keeps athletes in the weight room.

“There is, obviously, some crossover there and it’s a great way for the kids to stay fit, work on their strength, and I’m excited to have Cahan (who is also an assistant football coach) as our wrestling coach so there will be a lot of crossover there. That’s helpful,” said Saucier who is also the school’s head football coach.



Courtesy

Putnam Rotary President Missy Meyers, left, presents the Ring a Ding Trophy to Paige Perry from Putnam High School.

Winners all around

SALVATION ARMY AND INTERACT BELL-RINGERS BOTH WIN

PUTNAM — It was a win-win campaign. The Putnam Rotary Club’s Interact Club and its student helpers had a friendly competition going as they rang bells for the local Salvation Army. And all that work netted the Salvation Army nearly \$14,000 and that money stays local.

The bell-ringing season ends each year with a Salvation Army/Interact Pizza Party where the individuals and the schools who put in the most hours ringing bells are honored. It’s a friendly competition.

Debbie White, service extension coordinator for the Salvation Army, thanked all the volunteers who took part in the 2022 kettle campaign. The bells were ringing for four weekends before Christmas.

The schools represented were: The Woodstock Academy, Putnam High School, Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Killingly High School, Marianapolis Prep School, Harvard H. Ellis Tech, EO Smith, Ashford School, Pomfret School, Rectory School and Assumption School.

The schools with the most bell-ringing hours were:

Third place - Putnam High School - 55 hours; second place - Tourtellotte Memorial High School - 66 hours; and first place – The Woodstock Academy with 172 hours.

The winners for the student with the most bell-ringing hours were:

Third place - Gabriell Cerasiello - 8 hours; second place - Carter Payne, Alyssa Thompson, Caitlin Mercer, Eoin Mercer (team) - 9 hours; and first place – Paige Perry – Putnam High School - 13 hours.

Fight hunger in Killingly this winter

STOP & SHOP FLORAL BOUQUET PROGRAM TO BENEFIT ACCESS FOOD PANTRIES FOR FEBRUARY

KILLINGLY — Fight hunger with a simple purchase of a floral bouquet! Access Community Action Agency has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting hunger organization in the Stop & Shop Bloomin’ 4 Good Program for the month of February at the Stop and Shop location in Killingly!

The Stop & Shop Bloomin’ 4 Good Program, which launched in February 2021, is an easy way for shoppers to give back as part of the regular shopping routine.

Every \$10.99 Bloomin’ 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker sold supports a hunger organization local to the Stop & Shop in which it was purchased. According to Feeding America, every \$1 donation to a local hunger organization can provide 10 or more meals to someone in need.

As part of this ongoing program, every month at every Stop & Shop location a different local hunger organization is selected to benefit from the sale of the Bloomin’ 4 Good Bouquet. Access was selected as the February beneficiary by local store leadership at the Stop & Shop located at 1094 Killingly Commons Dr., Killingly. Access will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 Bloomin’ 4 Good Bouquet purchased in February. All the funds raised will go directly to the Access Food Pantries located in Danielson, Willimantic, and the Mobile Food Pantry to help families in need this year.

“What a beautiful way to give back, help to fight hunger in our local community, and make a room, or home even brighter,” said Kathleen Krider, Senior Director of Community Engagement and Resource Management of Access. “Now they can fight hunger too! We are thrilled to be chosen to benefit from this unique and impactful Stop & Shop Program, as the demands of those in need are higher than ever this year.”

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

For more information about the Stop & Shop Bloomin’ 4 Good Program, please visit stopandshop.bloomin-4good.com.

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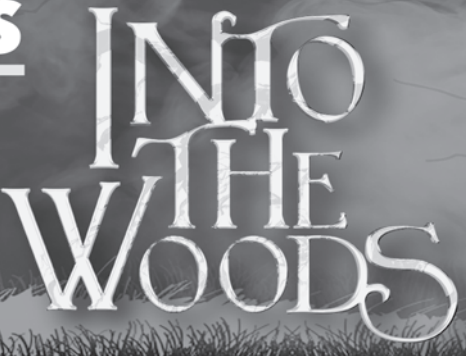
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COURTNEY SECURES FUNDING FOR EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

Congressman Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, visited United Services Dayville office Thursday, Jan. 19 to celebrate the \$1 million Community Project Funding submitted by Courtney’s office to the federal budget for a renovation and expansion project at the agency’s Killingly Domestic Violence Shelter. The shelter is the only in the region to provide 24/7 emergency shelter and wraparound support services to women, men and children fleeing domestic violence. From left: United Services Shelter Manager Laura Maguire, USI Intensive Services Division Director Heather Victoria, USI Director of Development Emily Morrison, USI Child Advocate Patti-Sue Brown, Congressman Joe Courtney, USI President/CEO Diane Manning, USI DV Advocate Julia Knight, USI DV Program Manager Terri Hart, and Killingly Town Manager Mary Calorio.

Students named to University of Vermont Dean’s List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — The University of Vermont is proud to announce that the following local students have been named to the dean’s list for the fall 2022 semester. Sedona Pratt from Danielson is majoring in Secondary Education - Science. Claire Anderson from Pomfret Center is majoring in Business Administration. To be named to the dean’s list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

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Sunday: Closed

Women’s writing retreat in March at Silver Circle Gallery

PUTNAM — “Toward Spring,” A Women’s Writing Retreat, will be held at The Silver Circle Gallery, 134 Main St. in Putnam, on March 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by published author/poet Karen Warinsky, women will write and share some foundational stories/poems from their lives using prompts. Refreshments, prizes, limit 10 women. \$30. Email karen.warinsky@gmail.com to register by Feb. 25.

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Accounts vary on Valentine’s Day origins

Valentine’s Day is a bright light in the middle of the winter . Come February 14, sweethearts celebrate their love and affection for one another on this day devoted to happy couples.

The origin of Valentine’s Day has generated much speculation over the years. Most early accounts do not point to heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolates. Rather, a few distinctive tales may paint the picture of early Valentine’s Day, and they have nothing to do with stuffed animals or romantic dinners.

Roman festival
One of the earliest records of the term Valentine’s Day is traced to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival. This annual event held on February 15 included animal sacrifices and priests called the Luperci who would take pieces of animal hide and touch it to the foreheads of women in the hopes it would make them more fertile. Fortunately for the squeamish (and the sacrificial animals), Pope Gelasius I ended Lupercalia and replaced it with St. Valentine’s Day by the end of the fifth century.

Two or three St. Valentines?
Most people attribute the origins of Valentine’s Day to the holiday’s namesake, St. Valentine. But it seems that Valentine was the surname of a few

different individuals. According to History.com, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus. One Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who decided that single men made better soldiers than those with families or wives. Claudius outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine disagreed with the decree and would perform marriages in secret. Others believe it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop beheaded by Claudius II outside of Rome, who was the true namesake.

Yet another Valentine may have been jailed and fell in love with a jailer’s daughter while in prison. He purportedly wrote to her, beginning the first Valentine card or letter tradition. Other stories say the imprisoned Valentine actually was writing to a blind woman he purportedly healed, and signed the note “from your Valentine.”

It is hard to know who is who in regard to the name Valentine, as the stories and the people behind them are used interchangeably. Some historians believe they actually are the same person rather than several Valentines, while others insist there were multiple martyred individuals.

However you slice it, the defiant actions of one or more people named “Valentine” set the course for centuries of romance to follow.



Sweet cookies for your sweetheart

- liner of your Instant Pot.
4. Heat the water over medium heat until steaming.
 5. While the water is heating, add the egg and 3 tablespoons of the measured out sugar to the bowl you’ll be using for the double boiler.
 6. Once the water is steaming, place the bowl over the steaming water and whisk until the egg whites are foamy and white. When they are foamy and white, remove the bowl from the pan or Instant Pot and set on a hot pad on the counter. Turn off the burner or Instant Pot.
 7. Add the remaining sugar to the egg whites and mix using an electric hand mixture until the egg whites are white, glossy and can form stiff peaks.
 8. Add the food coloring now if you’d like to color your macarons. Mix until combined.
 9. Add the powdered sugar and almond flour to the bowl and mix with your mixer for 8 seconds. After the 8 seconds is up, use a silicone spatula to stir and smear the batter from the outside of the bowl towards the center. Turn the bowl as you do this to make sure all of the batter gets stirred equally.
 10. Do this until your batter thins and is able to drizzle a ribbon of batter for a few seconds without it breaking.
 11. Transfer the batter to a piping bag equipped with a round piping tip.
 12. Pipe equal circles onto a silicone or parchment-lined cookie sheet. Make sure that your piping bag is straight up and down. Apply equal pressure and release pulling straight back up. Repeat with the remaining batter.
 13. Bang the pan gently but firmly onto the counter a few times to remove any air bubbles.
 14. Preheat oven to 300 F.
 15. Allow the macarons to dry out as the oven preheats, for about 20 to 30 minutes. Your macarons should be dry to the touch before going into the oven.
 16. Bake for 11 to 13 minutes at 300 F. The macarons should not turn brown.
 17. Allow the macarons to cool completely on the pan.
 18. When the macarons are completely cool, make your filling.
 19. Make your filling by combining all ingredients using either a stand mixer or your electric hand mixer. Slowly add in the heavy cream (you can substitute milk if you’d like) because you want a thick buttercream so it doesn’t squirt out while eating the macaron.
 20. Once the buttercream is mixed together and your desired consistency, gently pipe some frosting onto the bottom side of one cookie and then sandwich the frosting with the bottom side of a second cookie to create your macaron.
 21. Repeat with remaining cookies.




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Valentine’s Day presents an opportunity to shower loved ones with special gifts, including treats. Dessert is a significant component of Valentine’s Day, as chocolates and cakes are given and consumed in abundance.

French macarons are a great sweet for amateur bakers to add to their Valentine’s Day repertoire. Making macarons often is a labor of love, so offering a sweetheart a plate of these chewy, meringue-based cookies really shows you care. Vary the filling of choice depending on your beloved’s favorite flavors.

Enjoy this recipe for “French Macarons,” which utilizes the Swiss meringue method, courtesy of Karli Bitner and her “Cooking with Karli” blog. Weighing the ingredients produces more reliable results.

FRENCH MACARONS

Make 20 macarons

- | | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| 100 | grams powdered sugar |
| 100 | grams superfine almond flour |
| 100 | grams egg whites |
| 100 | grams granulated sugar |
| | Food coloring, if desired |

- Vanilla buttercream filling
- | | |
|-----|---|
| 4 | tablespoons butter, at room temperature |
| 112 | cups powdered sugar |
| 1 | teaspoon vanilla extract |
| | Up to 2 tablespoons heavy cream |
| | Food coloring, if desired |

1. Measure out all ingredients.
2. Sift together the powdered sugar and almond flour. Set aside.
3. Add 1 cup of water to your sauce pan or to the



4 facts about St. Valentine

- Saint Valentine is the patron saint of lovers and engaged and married couples. He also is the name behind the holiday that inspires images of red hearts and rose petals in the middle of February.
- Not much is actually known about St. Valentine because records are sparse. However, these facts have emerged.
- St. Valentine could be one of at least three individuals who were martyred. In fact, some believe there were about a dozen St. Valentines.
 - Of course St. Valentine is known for presiding over lovers. However, he’s also the patron saint of epilepsy, watching over those who experience seizures associated with the disease.
 - Visitors to the Basilica of Santa Maria in Rome can find the flower-adorned skull of St. Valentine on display. Other parts of St. Valentine’s skeleton are on display in the Czech Republic, England, France, and Ireland.
 - Some people think Geoffrey Chaucer may have invented Valentine’s Day. In his “Parlement of Foules,” he speaks of a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine’s Day. This association became more established after Chaucer’s poem received widespread attention.

Plan a special Valentine’s Day



Couples have been commemorating their love for one another in February for quite some time. Couples may go about such celebrating in their own unique ways,

but it’s not uncommon to focus on a night out on the town. Valentine’s Day is a busy holiday for many businesses, but especially so at restaurants and other romantic ven-

ues. So it’s best to plan ahead to ensure a perfect evening. These tips can help you organize a Valentine’s experience to remember.

Tip #1: Reserve early
The closer to Valentine’s Day, the more likely popular restaurants will be all booked up. If the goal is to dine at a particularly trendy spot — or anywhere but the most obscure establishment — be sure to make a reservation well in advance. Start planning the Valentine’s Day dinner in December so you won’t have to look far and wide to book a reservation. If a restaurant does not take reservations that far out, ask when they will start collecting names for

Valentine’s Day and book the moment you can.

Tip #2: Secure transportation
One way to make the night more romantic is to snuggle in the back seat of a vehicle and have someone else do the driving. This also is a safer option if you plan to pop a bottle of bubbly or sip some wine while celebrating. Hiring a limousine, luxury car, horse-drawn carriage, or something similar also will require advanced reservations. However, going the extra mile can make the night memorable.

Tip #3: Emulate a scene from a favorite film
The person you love may adore a romantic movie, whether it’s a

classic or more recent tear-jerker. When planning a romantic evening out, consider reenacting a movie scene with you and your special someone in the starring roles. For example, recall when Tom Hanks met Meg Ryan at the top of the Empire State Building in “Sleepless in Seattle.” Include a visit to the observation deck or roof as part of a whirlwind Valentine’s Day experience.

Tip #4: Attend a live music performance
Music can touch the heart and soul. That makes an evening watching a band play or enjoying a musical on the stage even more memorable if it occurs on Valentine’s Day. Select an intimate

venue to add to the romantic ambiance of the night.

Tip #5: Think outside tradition
While dinner and a movie are Valentine’s Day favorites, any activity done together can be memorable and romantic. Why not book a couple’s cooking class? Or enjoy a winter sport like skiing or ice skating? Or warm up after window shopping on Main Street by sipping hot cocoa and snuggling on the sofa under a blanket at a nearby B&B?
Romantic nights out on Valentine’s Day can be made even more special with some forethought and planning.

The most popular Valentine’s Day gifts

Valentine’s Day sparks one of the busiest shopping seasons of the year. Though it might not inspire the masses quite like Black Friday, Valentine’s Day compels millions of people to find gifts for that special someone in their lives each February. In fact, the National Retail Federation’s Annual 2022 Valentine’s Day Spending Survey found that the average person expected to devote \$175 to Valentine’s Day spending in 2022.

Any heartfelt gift can light up a sweetheart’s smile on Valentine’s Day, but certain items tend to be more popular than others on February 14. Though Valentine’s Day shoppers can always go their own way when shopping for their sweethearts, some of the more traditional gifts remain wildly popular. In its survey, the NRF found that these go-to gifts maintained their status as the most popular items for individuals to show their love for that special someone in 2022:

- Candy: Fifty-six percent of survey respondents indicated they planned to buy candy for their sweetheart on Valentine’s Day. Though any candy can suffice, chocolates inside a heart-shaped box tend to be especially popular in mid-February.
- Greeting cards: Greeting cards will likely never go out of style, as 40 percent of respondents indicated they would give a card in 2022.
- Flowers: The appeal of a bouquet is undeniable, prompting 37 percent of shoppers to give flowers on Valentine’s Day.
- A night out: A romantic night out is perhaps as meaningful as ever in a world still emerging from the pandemic. So it’s no surprise that 31 percent of respondents indicated they planned to take their sweethearts out for a night on the town in 2022.
- Jewelry: Though it might rank below the others on this list, jewelry remains a go-to gift on Valentine’s Day. And with total Valentine’s Day spending on jewelry estimated at more than \$6 billion in 2022, this could be where most Valentine’s Day dollars go this February.

Valentine’s Day indulgence done devilishly right

If asked to describe the favored foods of Valentine’s Day in a single word, “decadent” might prove the most apt descriptor: Foodies and non-foodies alike recognize that Valentine’s Day and chocolate are intertwined, making the day an ideal time to indulge in something decadent. This Valentine’s Day, couples can share their love for decadent delights by working alongside one another to whip up this recipe for “Devil’s Food Layer Cake” from Elisabeth M. Prueitt and Chad Robertson’s “Tartine” (Chronicle Books).

DEVIL’S FOOD LAYER CAKE

Yields 1 10-inch cake; 12 to 16 servings

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Cake layers | |
| 134 | cups all-purpose flour |
| 412 | tablespoons cornstarch |
| 1 | teaspoon baking powder |
| 12 | teaspoon baking soda |
| 114 | cups cocoa powder |
| 1 | teaspoon salt |
| 1 | cup unsalted butter, at room temperature |
| 234 | cups sugar |
| 5 | large eggs |
| 114 | cups full-fat buttermilk |
| Chocolate Ganache | |
| 24 | ounces or 32 ounces bittersweet chocolate |
| 3 | cups or 4 cups heavy cream |
| 12 | cup plus 1 tablespoon caramel |

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Butter and lightly flour the sides of two 9-inch cake pans, knocking out the excess flour. Line the bottom of each pan with parchment paper cut to fit exactly.

To make the cake layers, sift together the flour, cornstarch, baking powder, baking soda, cocoa powder, and salt into a bowl and set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter on medium-high speed until light and creamy. Slowly add the sugar and continue to beat on the same speed light in color and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition until incorporated before adding the next egg. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl with the rubber spatula. With the mixer on low speed, add the flour mixture in 3 equal batches alternately with the buttermilk in 2 batches, beginning and ending with the flour mixture. Stop the mixer, scrape down the sides of the bowl and then mix again for another few seconds.

Divide the cake batter evenly between the prepared cake pans. Bake until the top springs back when lightly touched or a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Let the cakes cool completely in the pans on a wire rack.

When the cakes are cool, turn them out by inverting the pans, and then turn the cakes upright. Using a serrated knife, slice off the domed portion from the top of each cake to make the tops flat. If you want to decorate the cake with crumbs as described in the headnote, reserve the slices for making the crumbs.

To make the crumbs, preheat the oven to 250 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a nonstick liner. Break up the cake slices and spread on the lined baking sheet. Place in the oven and toast until completely dry, about 1 hour. Let cool completely, then transfer to a food processor or blender and process until finely ground. Sift the crumbs through a medium-mesh sieve. (Don’t use a sieve with fine mesh or the



crumbs won’t pass through.) Set aside.

To make the ganache, place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl, using the smaller amount of each ingredient if you will be decorating the cake with crumbs and the larger amount if you will not. Bring the cream to just under a boil in a small saucepan. Pour the cream over the chocolate. Let the mixture sit for a few minutes without stirring until the chocolate is partially melted, and then stir with a rubber spatula until smooth and shiny.

To assemble the cake, split each cake into 2 layers to make 4 layers in all. Transfer 1 layer to a serving plate. Using an offset spatula, spread 3 tablespoons of the caramel evenly over the cake layer. Spread a thin layer of ganache (about 1/4-inch thick) over the caramel. Top with a second cake layer, and again spread with 3 tablespoons caramel and then a thin layer of ganache. Top with the fourth cake layer. Refrigerate the cake until the center seems firm, 1 to 2 hours. Cover the remaining ganache with plastic wrap and leave at room temperature for finishing the cake.

Remove the cake from the refrigerator. Using the rest of the ganache, frost the top and sides of the cake with the offset spatula. If you are going to coat the cake with the toasted cake crumbs, the cake must be evenly frosted and the ganache must be soft enough for the crumbs to adhere. If the ganache has hardened, use a kitchen torch to soften it slightly, or put the whole cake into a 400 F oven for 10 seconds or so, just until the chocolate looks shiny. Sprinkle the crumbs evenly over the top of the cake, then tilt and turn the cake so that they spill over the sides, adhering to them as they fall. If you are using only the ganache and not the crumbs, the ganache will be thicker on both the top and sides.

Serve the cake at room temperature. To store, cover tightly and keep in a cool place for up to 4 days. It is not necessary to keep this cake in the refrigerator.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Winter travel through the years

The first big storm of the season has come and gone, leaving us with anywhere from three to 12 inches of snow, depending on where you are. As with most things, we like to think about how our ancestors handled certain situations. It was during a snowy drive last winter that this writer became grateful for studded snow tires and heat. That experience prompted thoughts about how those who came before us dealt with travel during snowstorms. During the winter of 1717, a storm dumped four feet of snow, creating snowdrifts of up to 25 feet. Passing through the snow-covered roads was too much for a postman who traded his horse for a pair of snowshoes. Objects similar to skis were attached to carriages as a means of winter transportation. Streets had to be passable for wood and food deliveries. When the roads were not passable townspeople would gather together in large groups and dig out a path. The snow was placed into the back of a horse-drawn cart by gangs of men and driven to the closest river to be dumped. Salt was also used on streets, but many people complained because it ruined their shoes and clothes. Fast forward to 1840, when the first snowplow patent came to be. It wasn't until 1862 that the first snowplow was put into use. The plow was attached to a cart and pulled by a team of horses. Soon after, many cities began to use the horse-drawn snowplow. Typically, the use of the horse-drawn plow was only used to clear main streets, leaving side streets and sidewalks snowed in by large piles often blocking entrances to businesses. Many business owners actually brought lawsuits against the plowing companies as a result because their customers could not gain access to the storefronts. The solution to that conundrum, was the hiring of snow shovelers to accompany the plow. The blizzard of 1888, however, was too much for the "modernized" plow, leaving many people trapped inside their homes. This emergency was the catalyst cities needed to begin coming up with a better plan for snow removal. One idea was to stay on top of the storm as it started, instead of waiting for it to end. Different men driving the plows were assigned to certain neighborhoods as well. The invention of the automobile brought with it a crutch and a new possibility as far as snow removal went. The crutch being that an entirely new method needed to be engineered and put into use. In New York, in 1913 a dump truck could be seen on city streets. Seven years later the first snow loader, came on to the scene. It had a big scoop with a conveyor belt. The snow would go into the scoop via the belt, then dumped into the back of the truck. From there, off to the river it went. It wasn't until 1959 when the weather was able to be predicted more accurately, allowing towns and cities to better prepare for any incoming storms. Reading old diaries of our New England ancestors gives the perfect window as to what it was like to experience a bitter cold winter, prior to modern practices. A shining example is the quote below from literary critic Van Wyck Brooks. "All praise to winter, then, was Henry's feeling. Let others have their sultry luxuries. How full of creative genius was the air in which these snow-crystals were generated. He could hardly have marveled more if real stars had fallen and lodged on his coat. What a world to live in, where myriads of these little discs, so beautiful to the most prying eye, were whirled down on every traveler's coat, on the restless squirrel's fur and on the far-stretching fields and forests, the wooded dells and mountain-tops, -these glorious spangles, the sweepings of heaven's floor."

— The Flowering of New England, 1815-1865

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Woodstock has reached a breaking point

To the Editor:

My takeaway from Tuesday night's meeting of the Woodstock boards of selectmen, finance, and education is that the funding issues our town faces have been years in the making, and we have reached a breaking point.

The standing-room-only crowd at the middle school and those who could access the meeting via Zoom should have clearly heard that the funding issues go beyond the ambulance services, if more revenue is not generated to cover that cost and others, there will be a loss or reduction of services provided by public works, K-8 schools, town hall departments, and libraries starting July 1.

Residents asked town officials for their plan on how they intended to right the ship, and town officials asked residents the same. Don't be shy. Send it to them. Below are the key email addresses for finance, education, and selectmen:

karenfitzpatrick@woodstockct.gov
selectmen@woodstockct.gov
boeinfo@woodstockschools.net

First Selectman Swan said he would call another tri-board meeting in the coming weeks. You don't have to wait until then to give direct, in-person feedback to our elected officials. Selectmen will meet next on Jan. 19. There is a special meeting of the Board of Ed on Jan. 25 and a school finance committee meeting on Jan. 26. The Board of Finance meets on Feb. 14. All agendas are on their respective websites.

Time is of the essence. Our boards of selectmen and education are already drafting their proposed budgets for 2023-24. If we, as a town, want to do something to access more revenue or identify what to reduce or eliminate, now is the time to do it.

MEGAN BARD MORSE
WOODSTOCK

No rush on HVAC, security, and track projects

To the Editor:

Mr. Warner states in the Jan. 20 Villager that the projects in the Town of Thompson for HVAC, Security, and Track are rushed. This is a flat out lie. While Mr. Warner may not have been paying attention to what was actually occurring in town while he was ringing false accusations of election fraud, and attempting to dismantle our Planning and Zoning group; the Building Committee was actively meeting to discuss these projects.

The track project has been on discussion in multiple Building Committee meetings since October of 2020. The HVAC project has been in multiple Building Committee meetings since March of 2021. The Security project has been in multiple Building Committee executive sessions since July of 2022.

Let's also discuss a lack of presentation to the Board of Finance. Is the Building Committee also not a volunteer board? When are Board of Finance members going to be held accountable for doing the skin of their teeth bare minimum in this town. They (with the exception of 1) do not attend other board meetings and you never see them at town functions.

The Board of Finance was notified of the intention of the Track as coming as a capital project all the way back in March of 2021. They were made aware of HVAC Assessment in May of 2022. In June of 2022 they were notified again of HVAC concerns and security assessment. They were again made aware in October of 2022. And then they were made aware again in November of

2022 of the grant being available for HVAC.

Agendas and minutes are publicly available on the town website. They'll even email them to you if you sign up. Except for the Board of Finance, for "some unknown reason" that's the only board agendas and minutes I do not receive. Brings the question of who is really transparent doesn't it?

Perhaps I hold my local representation to a higher standard. And before we go with "they are busy"/"have full schedules"; I call B.S. I am a parent to 2, work a full time job, hold a treasurer position for MRFES PTO; a secretary position for TMS PTO, and I have a seat on the Board of Education. If I can show up, so can they.

Now, let's go over the BOE budget overage. This one is simple. Special Education mandates that are not properly funded by the State and the Federal Government. Funny how Mr. Warner leaves out that driver as it's discussed in every Board of Education meeting as well as the Board of Finance meetings. So where does the responsibility for those costs come from? The taxpayer. This has been an issue since I've started attending BOE meetings six or seven years ago. It's not going away. The Board of Education has been lobbying our local State and Federal representatives for years to fix this. How about the local Board of Finance and community members add their voices?

Thank You,

JESSICA BOLTE
THOMPSON

Rules for thee, but not for me

Biden's wind-up toy Press Secretary is keeping up with her usual style of not directly answering questions from the press, but now, the administration's once friendly news outlets are also questioning her avoidance and looking for answers, which is certainly getting under her thin skin. NBC News correspondent Peter Alexander called her out for the «runaround» she's been giving reporters, and Gray Television correspondent Jon Decker did the same over her giving a «non-answer»

So what's the next thing that the democrats are going to accuse Trump of - that he rang Pelosi's doorbell and ran? And speaking of Pelosi, it's been reported that the "former" house speaker summoned priests to rid her luxe San Francisco home of "evil spirits" after the attack on her husband, and as that saying goes: "I can't make this stuff up." Pelosi's critics had a field day with that news. "Will she also be coordinating one for the speaker's office?" wondered Rep. Matt Gaetz. The President of the Catholic League urged Pelosi to get "help" — from a psychiatrist. Another Tweeted that "Hopefully Nancy doesn't vanish after the exorcism."

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Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

Snow days

Fat, white snowflakes drift by my office window and change my mood. As is the way with most people, gray, cold January days



NANCY WEISS

make me feel trapped indoors and vaguely anxious. I check the level of oil in the tank, the seed in the bird feeders, the number of eggs in the fridge and wonder what else I should be doing. Every day, I spend ten minutes with a mask over my eyes to counter the dryness that is the result of a cataract operation. In that short period of time, I make a mental list of what I must do when the timer on my phone goes off. I'm caught in the web of thinking I must be productive. I must be prepared.

Snow fall is a happy thing, especially when one doesn't need to drive anywhere. We can't really call ourselves New Englanders if we don't shovel snow or brag a bit about how many inches we got. The men who buy new snowplows surely are happier than those who purchase rototillers as the possibility of snow is much more of a gamble. Chance makes life exciting. Gardens will always be there, but drifts of snow come in the night and change the landscape entirely. January should be a snowy month and this afternoon, as I write my column, checking to watch the lawn disappear under a light sheet of snow, I forget about a warming climate and revel in the beauty of a winter snowfall.

Reveling never lasts long, however, and the need to accomplish something looms large. Most of my life, I've written a daily to-do list. I use an index card because I developed the practice before smart phones were invented and I like paper and fountain pens. Every year I bought a pocket datebook, a personal luxury from Brooks Brothers, until the venerable firm stopped making them. I found a replacement source. The new red leather booklet composed of mostly empty pages makes me feel the year is filled with possibilities.

As I write in the birthdays of family and friends, upcoming trips and weddings, I am arranging my life as if I am in complete control. I know that isn't true, but here is contradiction. We all want predictability, but we also want surprises. If I stick to the list, I'll get all the little things done. If I open myself up for the unanticipated, there might be something wonderful or not.

I spend time with writers, poets, painters and various artists. Every one of them digs deeply into the well of creativity and inspiration. Producing art of any sort has always been difficult, but in a world of distractions, it is especially easy to drift. The pandemic may have taught us again the lessons of January — embrace the moments when it's too cold for a walk, too icy for a drive and too foggy to go out for dinner. Be quiet, do something you really want to do, think your own thoughts.

All my life, I've memorized poems. I rely on them to put me to sleep and to calm anxiety. Waiting for cataract surgery I recited in my mind a Mary Oliver poem: "When Death Comes." I knew I wasn't going to die, but I had time to think. I like the last line when the poet sums up what we all want: "I don't want to end up simply having visited this world."

A January snow day is a fine time to stop and think about productivity, possibilities, pleasure, creativity and how we wish to live this year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Penny wise and pound foolish

To the Editor:

Thompson voters, please vote yes on all Three Questions on the Jan. 31 Referendum: Help stop the neglect in The Town of Thompson.

Question 1 – The HVAC system at the school - The boilers at the older portions of the school are at the end of their life span dating back to the 1970’s and early 1980’s. We are going to have to spend the money to replace them either piecemeal at full cost or try to take advantage of this State grant and pay only 32% of the cost thereby bringing some of our state tax dollars back into Thompson.

Yes, it is a very competitive grant, but if we don’t try now when. As the hockey great Wayne Gretzky said, “You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take.” This year we had two boilers fail at the old High School area of the school. Because they were so old parts were not available to fix them and it costs the Town \$148,000 to replace them.

A boiler at the Middle School has started to leak. Again, because it is so old no parts are available, so the leaking piece was removed, and it is running on less than full capacity. Every time a boiler goes down, it causes disruption to the students; classrooms are too cold to conduct classes in and students must be moved to other available spaces. If the Town were to receive the grant and replace the outdated equipment all at one time, we would be better able to plan a more convenient time which would cause less disruption to students and faculty and gain a more efficient HVAC system in return.

It is incorrect to state that if we vote yes to the HVAC question #1 on the referendum the Town would have to go ahead with the project. The First Selectperson, Ms. St. Onge, answered that question at the Town Meeting on Jan. 18. The Legal Notice states clearly that if the Town does not receive the grant the HVAC project will not proceed. The Legal Notice is a legally binding document and we as a Town are bound by its wording.

Question 2 – Security – Nothing is more important than the lives and safety of our children. The upgrading of security has been ongoing for many years at the school and this money requested is for another phase in that process. The Building Committee, Facility Manager and the Board of Education work diligently to make sure that safety measures are implemented to safeguard the children at the school.

Question 3 – The Track - As to the suggestion of placing the track at the Belding site, I’m no expert, but if this site is even feasible, it would just push off the project for many more years while the property goes through tax foreclosure; the cost of the project would likely increase substantially to include additional infrastructure

that is already available at the school. When I first was elected to the Board of Education eleven years ago, we included \$650,000 in the capital budget to repair the track and this was not the first-time money was asked for the repair of the track. It was cut from the budget multiple times by the Board of Finance. And here we are eleven years later asking again with the cost more than doubled to a \$1.5 million estimate. Now we are at a critical point to fix this track because during the High School’s last NEASC accreditation evaluation the track was cited as a factor needed to be remediated. If we lose accreditation at our High School, it will have serious ramifications for our students and our Town. At the Town Meeting we heard students stand up and speak of sprained ankles incurred while practicing on the two lanes deemed semi-usable. This neglect brings not only shame to our Town but a potential significant liability. More importantly we are injuring our kids.

It was stated that there was a rush to put this forward to the Board of Finance. There was no rush! The Building Committee was given the charge by the Board of Selectmen to get estimates for the Track project in 2021 and the HVAC project in early 2022. The Building Committee does not operate in secret. They hold regular meetings open to the public the second Wednesday of the month. Their Agendas and Minutes are posted on the Town Website. The Board of Finance had every opportunity to inform themselves as to the details of these two major construction projects potentially happening in our town before their Dec. 21, 2022, meeting and to follow the progression of these projects right along. At their Dec. 15, 2022 meeting the Board of Finance discussed the HVAC system replacement and decided to hold a Special meeting to discuss the matter on December 21st. So, to imply that the Board of Finance was in the dark or had very little information about these projects may be true, but they had every opportunity to inform themselves as to the details of these projects.

When are we, as citizens of Thompson, going to stop the neglect and take pride in our town’s assets, both tangible and non-tangible? Our greatest assets are our children. They are the future of our town. We need to stop the neglect and invest in our community, our schools and our children to build a vibrant community to attract businesses into our town. If we don’t make the investment now, we will be, in the words of Robert Burton in his book, “The Anatomy of Melancholy,” “Penny Wise and Pound Foolish.”

KATHLEEN HERBERT
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

The future of the great town of Thompson hangs in the balance

To the Editor:

I have watched over the last couple years the personal attacks from a citizen of Thompson aimed at the selectman or various boards in the town of Thompson. The letters to you that are published often contain the truth, but only a partial truth. This ploy has worked, and citizens, not knowing any better have followed at the direction of this individual. Recently there have been several letters that once again have some truth to them but without context make it look like the town is burning \$100 bills on Riverside drive. I would like to add the full context so the community in Thompson can weigh the options for themselves and make a fully informed decision.

First, the HVAC Project for the school. This project has been in the works since June of 2022. The grant opportunity was provided in November of 2022 with deadlines of December 2022 and January of 2023. The project has been brought to the attention of the town because of the state imposed deadlines to recoup 68.9% of the citizens’ state tax dollars and bring them back to the local community. What does that mean by the numbers, it means yes, it is a \$13.2 million project with the Thompson Taxpayer paying about \$4.11 million and the State \$9.09 million in capital costs on the project. The notice of referendum clearly states that the HVAC project will not proceed unless

the grant is secured. The town is looking at the best way to avoid costly piecemeal without state reimbursement.

Second, the school security is in its planning phase and understanding that the security of the school is a privileged process and that costs can vary depending on overall scope it was the intent of the building committee to have all avenues covered. There currently are no grants for this work. However, if a grant is opened for this type of work, they can be applied for retroactively as has been done in the past.

Third, the Track has 100 percent design plans funded by ARPA. This is a shovel ready project that has been years in the making. This project is not going to get cheaper the longer it is pushed off. The track in Thompson has been decommissioned for 19 years. Let’s give our athletes a chance to shine at home again!

The future of the great town of Thompson hangs in the balance... Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Moms, and Dads let’s not let our future hang in the balance. Send the message that we are willing to fight and stand behind our children. Keep them healthy, foster athletic growth and keep them safe! The average home in Thompson at \$225,000 means an annual increase of about \$135.46 or \$11.29/month.

JUSTIN YONG
THOMPSON

The facts regarding the 2019 Woodstock BoF study

To the Editor:

In Mr. Richardson’s recent letter, he makes several statements that are misleading, one specifically regarding a cost comparison study completed in April 2019 for the Woodstock Board of Finance. Here are links to the study, and the BoF meeting when the final report was presented. Please read and form your own conclusions based on the facts.

At the Jan. 8, 2019 BoF meeting, Glen Lessig and Dave Fortin (BoF members) were tasked by the BoF to form a bipartisan sub-committee to evaluate the per-pupil cost of education to the town, for both the Woodstock Public School and Woodstock Academy school systems. Comparing the two school systems is difficult with considerations for state grants, pension supports, special education, transportation, etc. needing to be considered. This study was a response to the repeated comments to the BoF regarding the excessive cost to the town from WPS compared to WA. Collection of the data was difficult, with some WA State data missing from the final report.

The study was presented to the BOF on 04-09-19 (This is a link to the minutes <https://www.woodstockct.gov/node/451/minutes/2019>). The study investigated per-pupil cost in two categories, State/Town expenditures and Town only expenditures. The study noted that there were several state-funded sup-

ports to WA that the study was not able to verify (This is a link to the study -<https://www.woodstockct.gov/node/451/minutes/2019>). The study shows that in the State/Town cost category, (even with missing State cost data to WA) that the two systems’ costs were nearly equal - WA was .08 percent less expensive. In the cost to Town only category - WPS was 39.8 percent less expensive. The study noted that a comparison of the two school systems is difficult and not conclusive. The Facts of the study were clear in 2019 and are still clear today.

It is time for Mr. Richardson to stop using inaccurate comparisons between our two school systems to distort the truth and misinform the public. Please read the facts and form your own opinions.

It was not the BoF’s or the study’s intention to criticize either school system, only an attempt to analyze the town’s per-pupil cost to both school systems as accurately as possible. The Fact is that Woodstock does not have enough available revenue to fund all of our needed town services, and to provide all of our students the quality education that they need to be successful and that the town of Woodstock can be proud of.

GLEN LESSIG
DAVE FORTIN
WOODSTOCK

The misguidance from Warner continues

To the Editor:

I recently saw a letter in the Villager by Bill Warner on Jan. 20 which comments “Let’s do [the track] at the Belding site,” suggesting that “the town could get behind” such a location versus at the school. I’m not sure at what point Mr. Warner decided he could speak for the town and what they could get behind, and secondly, I thank Mr. Warner for suggesting support of a new track, but the fact is, the Belding location would cost the taxpayers significantly more than the town’s proposed \$1.5 million.

Since Mr. Warner suggested a new track that would cost the taxpayer more located at Belding, maybe I should thank Mr. Warner again for making such a suggestion as it only supports keeping the new track at its current location, the school. I truly do not understand why he wants to suggest or recommend items such as this when he clearly has no knowledge on this topic. He clearly:

- 1) did not attend the informational town meeting last Wednesday, Jan. 18 when the track (and the HVAC and security projects) were presented
- 2) he has no or very limited construction experience and should not be suggesting building a track where it would cost exponentially more money; and
- 3) the Belding site is currently private property.

If Mr. Warner attended last week’s town meeting, he would have witnessed the Building Committee’s presentation, led by myself, and he would have come to realize that there was plenty of research, time and data done on all three projects. Instead of assuming he knows best, professionals in this business of building tracks outlined why the school is the best location. I have been building such structures for over more than 25 years and stand by the detail that I have provided to the public. For the record, since it was insinuated by a community member at the town meeting, my company has no interest in completing this work nor do I bid any work in Connecticut. I strictly have been volunteering my personal time and expertise to the town for the benefit of ensuring that the projects are well budgeted, constructed properly, and the town is protected. With this said, I will add only factual information and will simply list some of the important details on why the Belding Mill site is not a good suggestion:

First and foremost, this is about building pride in our school and boosting community engagement. Keeping the new track on school grounds will only

build on that overall mission.

Belding Mill is private property. I am not sure if it is still for sale, but regardless this would add costs to the taxpayer in order to purchase, not reduce costs.

Subsurface conditions have not been evaluated at the Belding Site and would only cost additional money to the taxpayer in order to complete such geotechnical studies. The current track school location subsurface has been studied, confirmed to be sound, and will work well for the track.

There is no existing drainage system at the Belding site to serve a track. Our plan at the school is to reuse the existing drainage system which has been fully investigated and confirmed to be in good working order. Utilizing the Belding site would require several steps for example; investigation, design and the overall construction of a new drainage system would likely cost beyond \$500,000 additional dollars for the taxpayer.

The tracks utilization would be dominated by school activities and home track meets. As I said at the presentation, the school is busing our student athletes to other locations spending money on general travel costs. Having a localized track on school grounds requires zero transportation, making the most logical financial sense.

At the school, the community at large could not only utilize the track just as easy as they could at Belding Mill, but also support our student athletes that run track and boost community engagement.

Our community landscape continues to decay, and our town owned buildings continue to deteriorate due to neglect and minimal financial support. Something needs to be done and revitalizing our community costs money. The track has been decommissioned for 20 years and in a state of advanced disrepair. Our school and community deserve and have earned this new track. Support the track, town, and school assets as they clearly need it.

Misguided information is infecting and seriously impeding this town’s revitalization. Accurate project details and financial information with regard to the Mill Rate impacts are all outlined within the presentation and are available on the town’s website. Support the three projects the town has proposed and vote yes on Jan. 31.

Thank you,

BRIAN SANTOS
THOMPSON

Facts about town referendum proposals

To the Editor:

There are three proposals that are presented for the town’s voters to consider this coming Tuesday.

The first proposal is for improving the Heating and Ventilation (HVAC) system at the Thompson Public Schools. This proposal, net of state grants, will cost the town a little under \$4.2 million. In Thompson, homes are assessed at 70 percent of their market value. So a typical home with a market value of \$225,000 would be assessed at \$157,000. State grants are provided upon completion of the project so the town would get interim financing for the initial period while the HVAC was installed. When the project is completed we get the state funding and then get long-term financing for the \$4.2 million that Thompson is required to provide for this project. This would add \$78.75 per year to the taxes of the house described above - that’s less than \$2 a week.

The second proposal is for \$500,000 for school security. Much has been made of the lack of specific details about what is entailed in this project. I think the reason for this is obvious but just in case someone does not understand why details are not provided it is because, when evaluating security needs, weak-

nesses are considered. These weaknesses are not made public because they might give potential attackers ideas about taking advantage of these weaknesses and thereby gaining access to our schools and harming our children. When included in the financing of these projects the ongoing cost of this project amounts to an increase of less than \$15 per year to the taxes of the house described above

Finally the track rebuilding project. This will cost \$1.5 million for this long overdue project. As mentioned at the recent town meeting, track & field sports is the most popular sport for girls and the second most popular sport for boys. Sports are an important part of the development of our children. The cost for this project would, when included in the financing of these three projects, amount to \$42.53/year for a typical homeowner or less than \$1 a week.

So if the town approves all three projects the weekly cost of these amounts to less than \$2.50 - about the price of a cup of coffee.

STEPHEN HERBERT, SR.
BOARD OF FINANCE
NORTH GROSVENORDALE



www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

Catherine J. “Kay” Phoenix, 96



Kay was a beloved “Nana” to her eight

Funeral services are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Luella Sarah Newcombe (Sally), 101



Sally attended Thompson schools and graduated from Tourtellotte High School. She worked as a home health aide for Community Home Health Care for over ten years. She turned a hobby of making and decorating cakes into a cottage business. She became well known from the 1960s to the 1990s for her beautiful wedding cakes that defied gravity. She also taught cake

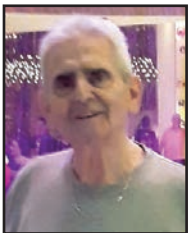
Sally was always proud to say that she still lived in the home in which she was born. Her life will be celebrated at the Brandy Hill Baptist Church at a later date.

Holly A. Poh, 72



She was born on November 3, 1950 in Putnam, the daughter of G. Alfred and Dorothy E. (Chapman) Wetherell and lived in East Woodstock most of her life. She graduated from Woodstock Academy in 1969 and then earned

Memorial calling hours will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Friday, January 27 in the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. Burial will be held privately at the convenience of the family. Donations in her name may be made to either the May Memorial Library, PO Box 14, East Woodstock, CT 06244-0014 or to the New England Basset Hound Rescue, PO Box 321, Rutland, MA 01543. www.websterfunerals.com



His life long friend Friend and caregiver at his side for the past 18 years , Dorothy Whitney of West Warwick, RI; 5 grandcchildren Symphony, Miranda,

*Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news*

In lieu of flowers donations to Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church 35 Lake parkway Webster Ma. 01570

Victor Naum, 82

LEGALS

January 27, 2023

The second installment of real estate and personal property taxes, sewer use bills, and motor vehicle supplemental taxes listed on the October 1, 2021 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Woodstock on **January**

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:

The fiduciary is:
Russell W Barbour
c/o ERNEST J COTNOIR,
MAHER AND COTNOIR.

163 PROVIDENCE STREET,
P.O. BOX 187,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
January 27, 2023

Eylssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Carrie Gates
c/o WENDELLIN DEAN AVERY,
THE LAW OFFICE OF
WENDELL D. AVERY,
72 W. STAFFORD RD., UNIT C-1,
STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT 06076,
(860)851-9419
January 27, 2023

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
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24 Murolo Rd.,
N. Grosvenordale, CT
06255
January 27, 2023

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Help
Wanted

Women: Five steps to financially empower yourself

The path to building wealth to live well now and into retirement can seem daunting for many people, but studies show that's particularly true for women. Thanks to a long history of women being left out of financial decision-making, there's a gender gap in financial literacy. Although times have changed, that gap persists, in large part due to the fact that many women lack confidence in their own financial decision-making.

That's the biggest challenge I see with many of my female clients and it was also my biggest challenge when I was one of only a few women studying finance in college. Having the confidence to know you can educate yourself about your finances and then believing in that knowledge enough to build up wealth and assets in your own name is what it means to be a financially empowered woman. And regardless of where you're at in life, it's never



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too early or too late to empower yourself to build and/or manage your own wealth so you can live the life you envision for yourself and your loved ones. Here's a simple, five-step process to jumpstart the process of empowering yourself to financial freedom.

- Step 1: Develop a strategy
Developing a financial strategy can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Think about how you envision your ideal future. Do you have debt you want to pay off, a home you'd like to buy, or higher education you want to fund for yourself or a loved one? Prioritize your goals and start building your savings strategy from there.
- Step 2: Get started
Regardless of your financial situation, one of the best things you can do for your future self is to start moving toward your goals today. Get in the habit of paying yourself first and make investing part of each paycheck

- that may result from trading).1
What does it mean to invest like a woman? It means taking healthy, age-based risks and investing regularly for the long term. Work closely with your financial professional before diving into something that may look enticing but may ultimately detract from your goals.
Investing involves risks, and investment decisions should be based on your own goals, time horizon, and risk tolerance. The return and principal value of investments will fluctuate as market conditions change. When sold, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. Remember that past performance does not guarantee future results.
- Step 4: Never stop learning
It's never too late to become an empowered and engaged investor. Adopt the mindset of a learner. Stay curious, and keep having conversations whenever you can about wealth management, financial strategies, and investing. Take advantage of the resources

- available to you to learn everything you can. And most importantly, don't be afraid to ask questions of the experts in your life. Your financial professional's goal is to help you build the financial life you envision and the future you deserve.
Step 5: Build a team
Confident investors are only as strong as the support team around them. Wise advice from a trusted professional can save you time and keep you on track to achieve your investment and retirement goals. Regular check-ins can help you adjust your strategy, especially if there's been a change to your goals, dreams, and/or life situation, so you can pursue the financial future you have in mind, no matter what life throws your way.
Our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well strategic financial process is designed to do just that, and our team at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors is experienced in working with women to empower their financial freedom. Contact us for a complimentary con-

sultation at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com, or learn more and access lots of great resources on our website, www.whzwealth.com.

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1 <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/investing/woman-better-investors/>

Clothing in the 18th and 19th centuries

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

Have you gone shopping for clothes recently? You probably purchased a few items of wearing apparel for Christmas presents if you bought nothing for yourself. You had so many choices in styles, colors, sizes, and prices. Have you ever thought about how much work it took to cloth a family in colonial Northeastern Connecticut? You would have needed to raise sheep and plant flax (for linen), shear the sheep, clean the wool, dye the wool, card and spin the wool, etc. have someone warp the loom and weave the cloth all before you could make it into something to wear which involved much cutting and hand sewing.

I received a most interesting book for Christmas entitled "The Needle's Eye -Woman and Work in the Age of Revolution." By Marla R. Miller, it focuses on the lives of a number of women in the Connecticut River valley in the 1700's and early 1800's who made money through their seamstress work. It was quite an "Eye opener." I had no idea that most women of that era were unable to cut out all but the simplest pieces of clothing--the women's shifts,

aprons and simple skirts, the men's basic shirts. One needed a skilled mantua maker (what we would call a dressmaker or tailor/tailoress) to cut and fit the pattern for a "fancier", dressier dress, men's suits, and pants. The cutting in itself was a complicated process for the dressmaker had no tape measures*. Fabric was draped on the body and was often shaped by using many tucks and folds. Excess material was then cut away. This basic garment would often be used as a lining for the completed garment. (For a nice explanation of this process with photos see "Cutting to the Chase" at colonial-williamsburg.org.) One woman (or man) might cut the garment while another might carefully hand sew all the seams. Even apprentices and teenaged daughters could work on the long, long seams. It is no wonder that only the wealthiest women would own more than a few "good" dresses and colonial individuals were buried in shrouds while their clothing was passed on to other family members. (Bellantoni, Nick, "And So the Tomb remained," p. 64 and many wills), I began to wonder about which women were capable of cutting garments here in our area. I've not come across any mention of them. Now, if this topic appeals, I must mention that the book isn't really light reading but reads like a text or thesis. I kept bookmarks at both the place where I was reading and the footnotes, for frequent reference. Nevertheless, I found the book very enlightening

and enjoyed it very much. I'm sure I will go back and reread sections. I did a lot of sewing in my younger years (before the age of petite patterns) so appreciated reading about all the work involved in the construction of clothing years ago.

One of the first tape measures arrived on the scene in 1829 and was patented by James Chesterman. This first tape measure was made of steel and was made from the left-over wire that was used for hoop skirts." (hausoftools.com).

Old Sturbridge Village has an exhibit on a related topic (Clothing the Family), which I am anxious to see. My son Michael helped me with a QR code in the Fall 2022 issue of the Old Sturbridge Village Visitor that is enabling me to watch a webinar on their new Needle & Thread exhibit. ("The Art and Skill of Clothing an Early 19th-Century Family"). It's expanding my horizons and making me look at everyday occupations in a different way. Since I live in an 18th century colonial home not far from the Killingly Hill/Putnam Heights common, I like to imagine members of the Joseph and Hannah Adams family and what their daily lives might have been like. In the 1837 time frame that Sturbridge focuses on, Joseph Adams, Sr. was



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MARGARET
WEAVER

deceased but his widow Hannah and Joseph Adams, Jr. and his wife Aseneth would have been living in the house. In the early 1830's a number of houses had been erected across from the common not far away including the tailor shop/home of Job and Jesse Armstrong and Mowry Sayles. (The home is now owned by Betty Zimmermann).

At least for a short time, the Adams women would not have had far to travel to seek professional assistance with their garment making. By the 1840's the railroad had made its appearance through Northeastern Connecticut. Present-day Danielson drew a number of businessmen and quickly gained resident several tailors. According to H. V. Arnold's "Making of Danielson," James Rothwell was in business by 1845. He apparently associated with M. Roderick, but they didn't get along well. In 1847 Martimeus Roderick had purchased the business of James Rothwell and was located in the first house north of the Methodist Church. (The church was where present-day Danielson Surplus Sales is located). "He will give strict attention to CUTTING, MAKING, AND TRIMMING garments of every description, in the newest approved style in a workmanlike manner...Every fashion will be adapted so as to suit each customer's taste...

Having learned by business more than twenty years ago in New York city, and employed for a considerable time as a cutter in the same city, and having been active in business the last sixteen years in Massachusetts, ten of which were spent in Worcester County from whence I came here..." (Democratic Argus Oct. 28, 1848; entry in the Killingly Business Encyclopedia by Natalie L.Coolidge). Roderick died in January, 1864, aged 75 years. (Killingly Business Encyclopedia for Rothwell and Roderick entries).

I did find dress-makers in the Occupation binders of the Business Encyclopedia although the entries were slightly later. The earliest I located was for Mary W. Washburn in the October 13, 1859 Windham County Telegraph. "Danielsonville, She has Removed From Miss H. Bennet's To a Room Opposite the Arcade Building At the sign of Dress Making. Jane Frances Perkins was listed as a dress and cloak maker in the 1870 U.S. Census. There were many others.

Ready to wear clothing for men appeared much earlier than it did for women. "During the War of 1812, the US government began mass-producing military uniforms, making them one of the first ready-to-wear garments in history. The concept of ready-to-wear men's clothing survived the war, and by the end of the century, most men had access to ready-to-wear clothing lines in department stores. At the time, women's fashion

was much more complex and fitted than men's clothing—including fitted waists, necklines, and sleeves—making ready-to-wear women's clothing impractical during the era."

(/www.masterclass.com/articles/ready-to-wear-fashion-guide). For an interesting website on the ready-to-wear clothing topic see bellatory.com/fashion-industry/Ready-to-Wear-A-Short-History-of-the-Garment-Industry.

"Archeological records show that merchants in Ancient Babylonia shipped and distributed some ready-to-wear garments as early as 1400 BCE (BC). In Ancient Rome, garments were produced in workshops of up to 100 workers to outfit the military." Historical Society president Bernie Mitchell's reply was, "There's not much material to a loin cloth." We do have fun at the Center!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, January 2023. Special thanks to Bernie Mitchell and Michael Weaver for technical assistance with the webinar. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

God trusts

I couldn't tell you the make, model, or year, but I can tell you it had seen better days and it was about to make my day memorable. I am guessing it was a Ford pickup built in the 1950s. I think it had once been a beautiful green color, but it was now primarily the color of rust. I know it was a standard four speed that had been used to herd cattle, navigate Montana prairies, and haul a lot more than it was designed to carry. I remember it was sufficiently dented and was missing parts. The floor carpet was long gone, and barbed wire, pliers, and leather gloves were stuffed behind the seat.

And, when I had ridden in it, with my uncle, to check fences, we were always accompanied by his dog.

This jalopy was the perfect vehicle to survive my first attempt at driving. The truck and everyone nearby were fairly safe, because I was too small to give that workhorse its worst treatment, and we were in the middle of a field. I was probably nine or ten - way too young to drive in the city - and my dad would have never encouraged me to do what my uncle was helping me do.

I sat on the front edge of the seat, straining to

see over the dashboard and reach the clutch and break all at the same time. My job was to just let out the clutch and steer straight ahead. I was getting my first opportunity to drive. Truth be told, the only reason I was driving was because all the older people were needed to drive the combine and hay binder, or to hoist and stack sixty-pound bales onto the back of the truck and trailer. My task was to, at someone's command, take my foot off the brake and slowly let out the clutch. I was instructed not to push the gas pedal. All I had to do was steer down the row in between hay bales until someone hollered

for me to stop. I just needed to remember to push the clutch all the way to the floor before applying the brake.

It probably was not a memorable day for the rest of the crew, but the day my uncle let me drive that pickup was a big day for me. I had been given an opportunity. I felt trusted; like someone believed in me. I felt some pressure not to mess up, but I also got a taste of being part of something important. It felt like it does when God gives us a chance to be a part of what He is doing. We sometimes feel like we are too small or inexperienced, but He just smiles

and encourages us to give it a shot. He gives us an opportunity to be a part of something big and eternal, and He loves it when we do the same for our fellow man.

It is sobering to think that God trusted a dozen men with evangelizing the whole world. These men had not been long in training, but they were big of heart. As Jesus left the earth, He told His disciples and followers to go to Jerusalem and wait for His power. Five hundred of them had an opportunity to be a part



BEYOND
THE PEWS
JOHN
HANSON

of the initial outpouring of His Spirit, on the day of Pentecost. One hundred twenty of them took Him up on the offer. They changed their world. You have the life-changing opportunity to join them!

Bishop John W Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more information or archived messages, please visit www.ActsII.org.

In the Studio” features artists from the Quiet Corner-home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, hand-craft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we’ll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We’ll also learn some “artspeak” terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those “artist words.”

In this interview, we’re meeting with Laura Moorehead. Recently retired from a career in commercial art, Laura is focusing on her own art. You may have seen her paintings displayed locally, or in a current show of work by Putnam Arts Council Members, family, and friends at the Putnam Municipal Complex (200 School St., Putnam). The show opened on Jan. 7, and will run until Feb. 12.

Hello Laura; thanks for making time for our interview. You are on the go with classes, traveling, and creating art! I understand that you’ve been painting with oil, encaustics, and recently water-color. Tell us about this painting, please.



Sunflower Soldier, Oil on canvas

This is the first real painting I did after I retired. I call it Sunflower Soldier because the bug you see at the top is a soldier beetle. I have lots of gardens and quite often post photos and descriptions of bugs on my Facebook page because they fascinate me. Is it a good bug or a bad bug? Soldier Beetles are good bugs, of course!

You’ve traveled an interesting road from growing up in central New York State, to a commercial art degree from Endicott College, followed by time in the US Navy when you saw the world and learned about computers! A stay in Groton led to a later move to Putnam and work in the publishing and graphics field here. Would you call your home in East Putnam your “happy place?”

Most definitely. The variety of events and celebrations, the generous, friendly people, the location to so much more - what could be better?! The wonderful variety of restaurants is something my husband and I take advantage of often. And our house is out in the middle of the woods where we can enjoy nature’s beauty and quiet.

You won an award for this encaustic abstract floral. What can you tell us about the award and this piece?



Autumn Beauty Series 1. Encaustic on wood.

The award was from a floral-themed show at Arts Center East. Floral was a perfect fit for me! This piece is part of a series I’m doing based on the beauty of plants in the Fall. Not the bright red and orange leaves but, instead, the rich browns, deep reds and aging greens as nature goes to seed. Now that I am of a “certain age” I like to show how beautiful the autumn of nature and our lives can be.

In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI



The main thing I struggle with as an artist is to loosen up. I think it comes from years of having to follow graphic design guidelines. It’s not easy to just turn off the perfection my job called for. I spent many years becoming proficient and comfortable with Photoshop. So starting a painting onscreen is a way for me to relax and begin with more confidence. I’ll set up a document in the size of my canvas then import the photos I want to use as a basis of the painting. I’ll rearrange, adjust colors, and crop until I like what I see. Then, when I start the painting, I feel freer. My most recent painting began with a photo I took of interesting architecture on a trip to Italy. I then added some cats and a dog to give the final painting a lot more fun. *on exhibit at the Putnam Municipal Center

This painting of beets has to be one of my favorites. How do you choose your subjects?



Beets. Oil on canvas

My favorite subjects are things that usually go unnoticed - closeups of things in my garden, a twisted tree trunk, interesting angles of buildings, a family enjoying the little things, etc. With the beets I just loved the way the roots and leaves curved and the great colors so I took them up to my front hallway where the sunlight was coming in and took a ton of photos. What I didn’t notice until I looked at the photos was the great little puddles of water underneath them. It was such a fun, unexpected part of the painting.

What are you working on now?

I’m just starting a piece for the February show at Silver Circle. The theme is “Dreams and Regrets.” It’s such an interesting subject I can’t resist it. And I am good friends with Lisa Andrews who has done so much for art in our area. She always puts on a great show. So far I have two thoughts in mind. The first is another piece for my autumn beauty series. But I think I’m leaning more towards a close-up portrait of an elderly couple. Something that is very ambiguous in their expressions. I think it’s a great way to suggest both dreams and regrets.

Thank you for this interview. I’m going to close here with one more question. What are your thoughts on the quote: It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see. (Henry David Thoreau)

Wow, great quote. Not only for art but for all that is around us as human beings. How we interact with one another. Maybe if we took time to really stop and look - at art and at one another - we’d understand a little more. Learn a little more. See a little more. I’d encourage everyone to go to an art show or museum. Choose a painting you feel uncomfortable with and stand there for an extended period of time. Don’t just look at it, really begin to see it. Then apply that to life. See the world around you. It’s beautiful!

Word of the day

Photoshop: Photoshop is an image creation, graphic design and photo editing software developed by Adobe. [techtar-get.com]

About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock) is a nationally recognized framework glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Significant projects include costume work for the Santa Fe Opera, and framework demonstrator at the Peabody Essex Museum. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

Your love of garden-ing, cooking, and color shows! You work from photographs, manipulated by computer. How does that work and why do you like this method?

From slave to hero

In 1748, James Armistead was born into the world, and his life was far from ordinary. James was born into slavery, belonging to the Armistead family, a well-established and prominent family in Virginia who owned a vast plantation and many different businesses. Little did they know, this enslaved man would become one of the greatest American heroes ever.

Amidst the darkness of slavery, James learned to read and write, unlike many of his fellow enslaved people. James’s ability to read and write was invaluable as the Revolutionary War was heating up and would prove to be the key that unlocked his path to freedom.

By 1781, the colonies were amid a fierce war for independence against England.

The British, led by the infamous Lord Cornwallis and his army of red-coats, were making devastating raids and attacks on the Continental Army and their cities. Under the command of General George Washington, the colonies fought bravely alongside their French allies, but it seemed as though victory was slipping from their grasp.

To turn the tide of the war, Washington sent the Marquis De Lafayette from France to reinforce the Continental Army’s position in Virginia. Lafayette, a seasoned military leader, knew that the Continental Army alone was no match for British forces; he had to think outside the box.

Although enslaved people weren’t allowed to fight, Lafayette recruited James; he was determined to utilize every advantage and was eager to learn more about the enemy’s plans.

Together they devised a plan to infiltrate the British camp and gather vital information from within. James knew the stakes were high and was willing to take the risk.

James posed as a runaway slave and offered his services to Cornwallis, desperate for a chance to serve the British army, and Cornwallis believed him.

Day after day, as he served dinner to Lord Cornwallis and his generals, he gained their trust and listened in on their secret plans. With every word, he memorized their strategies, studied their maps, and learned their procedures. He was like a fly on the wall, unnoticed but always present, always listening.

Cornwallis and his generals had no

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

idea that the servant before them was not just an enslaved man but a spy working for the Continental army.

As the war was getting closer to the climax, The Battle of Yorktown, every piece of information James gathered was crucial for the Patriots to win. He was determined to help win the war and secure his freedom.

He provided the Marquis with detailed information about the location and strength of British troops, their supply lines, and plans for escape or reinforcement.

Armed with this information, The Marquis launched a bloody siege against the British army in Yorktown. The siege lasted for several weeks, as the Continental Army and the French allies bombarded the British positions with artillery.

The Patriots could anticipate the British’s every move and turn the tide of the battle. Defeated, Cornwallis surrendered, and the Battle of Yorktown was over.

James’s bravery and dedication to the cause of freedom for himself and our nation played a vital role in the defeat of the British.

This victory may have never been possible without James’s bravery and dedication as a double agent. His actions as a spy during the war were instrumental in securing freedom for the colonies and served as a powerful example of resistance against slavery and oppression.

He defied the notion that enslaved people were merely passive victims and showed that they, too, could actively fight for their liberation.

Some believe that James and the Marquis kept in touch. Fifty years later, when The Marquis was on a rockstar tour of American Cities, almost 100,000 showed up to see him; James was there and was embraced by the Marquis as a hero while the crowds roared with approval. James took the last name Lafayette in honor of his relationship with the Marquis de Lafayette.

James Armistead Lafayette’s story remained largely unknown for many decades. It was in the 20th century that historians began to acknowledge his role in the war and his significance as a symbol of courage, determination, and resilience.

Although he’s no longer here, I wish to say to James, “Thank you for your service.”

Grow a beautiful indoor succulent garden

It’s no surprise that succulents, including cacti, are popular. These easy-care houseplants come in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes making them perfect for any home.

All you need is a lot of light and benign neglect to raise healthy and beautiful succulents. Place the plants near an unobstructed south-, west- or east-facing window.

Don’t let a lack of light stop you from enjoying these beautiful plants in your home. You’ll find many attractive options for displaying your plants while providing the light they need. A single desktop LED plant light, attractive plant light shelves and carts, and furniture-grade light gardens allow you to grow these sun-lovers anywhere in your home.

Grow these plants in cacti and succulent potting mix. These fast-draining mixes help reduce the risk of overwatering which can lead to root rot. Further reduce this risk by using containers with drainage holes that are only slightly larger than the succulents’ root system. Growing them in too large of a container that retains moisture longer can result in root rot, decline, and even the death of your plants.

Water thoroughly whenever the top inch or two of soil is dry. Some gardeners check the soil moisture at the drain hole to ensure it is dry and the plants need to be watered. Always pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer.

Avoid water collecting in the rosette of leaves or the cluster of prickly stems that can lead to crown rot. Use a watering can like the Haws Indoor Watering Can which has a long narrow spout that allows you to reach under the plants to water just the soil.

Make slight adjustments in your watering regime and growing environment as the seasons change. Adapting to changing conditions will keep your plants healthy and looking their best year-round.

Find a cool, sunny, draft-free location for your cacti and succulents in the fall and winter. Maximize the amount of light the plants receive by moving them to the sunniest, usually south-facing, window in your home. Water thorough-



Courtesy — Gardener’s Supply Company

Succulents are low-maintenance houseplants that add interest and beauty to indoor décor.

ly but only when the top few inches of soil are dry and just often enough to keep the plants from shriveling. These changes in the growing conditions often encourage a spring display of colorful and unique flowers.

Boost your succulents’ natural beauty by displaying them in unique containers or places in your home. Create a living wall display with a 3-tier vertical wall planter (gardeners.com) or Mini Magnetic Galvanized Planter Pockets.

Grow a succulent centerpiece that can be enjoyed year-round. Plant a variety of succulents in a long narrow planter like the Veradek GEO Series Planter boxes. Display it on the table, and if needed, move it back to its sunny location between dinner parties. Small containers like the heart-shaped concrete tabletop planters allow you to create an attractive dish garden even when space is limited.

Whether you’re a busy, experienced, or new indoor gardener, creating a succulent garden may be just what you need to brighten your home and elevate your mood.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and 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.

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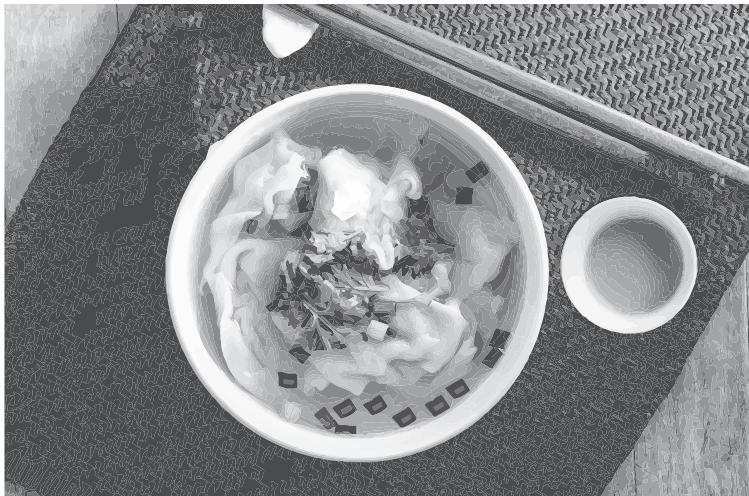
What’s the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. More scallions in soup 2. Missing spoon 3. Chopstick broken 4. Dipping sauce bowl

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1957:** AMERICAN INVENTOR WALTER FREDERICK MORRISON SELLS THE RIGHTS TO HIS FLYING DISC. IT IS LATER RENAMED THE “FRISBEE.”
- **1986:** THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTS ITS FIRST MEMBERS.
- **2020:** THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DECLARES THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.



MINESTRONE

a thick soup containing vegetables and pasta



TRUE OR FALSE?
DRINKING AND EATING WARM FOODS AND BEVERAGES CAN HELP RELIEVE COLD OR FLU SYMPTOMS.

ANSWER: TRUE



- ENGLISH:** Soup
- SPANISH:** Sopa
- ITALIAN:** Minestra
- FRENCH:** Soupe
- GERMAN:** Suppe



SOUP WAS FIRST KNOWN AS “SOP.” IT WAS A MEDIEVAL DISH OF A THICK STEW POURED ON SLICES OF BREAD USED TO SOAK UP THE LIQUID.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHICKEN SOUP



Solve the code to discover words related to donating blood.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 14 = O)

A. 3 14 12 5 15 8 14 12

Clue: Gift of money or something

B. 22 21 14 1 15 5 4 6

Clue: Not enough

C. 17 8 2 6

Clue: Growth and sustenance

D. 19 5 1 8 12 4

Clue: Compassionate

Answers: A. donation B. shortage C. life D. caring

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

● These 51,668 local homeowners chose our windows.



● = Our Southern New England Customers

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

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

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

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

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



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

40% OFF¹

— plus —

NO NO NO
money down payments interest

for 1 year²

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



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

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 1/31/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 2/10/23. ²No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. Southern New England Windows LLC is the authorized representative of Renewal by Andersen and the registered Home Improvement Contractor. Renewal by Andersen does not hold this HIC number. All residents of islands including but not limited to Martha's Vineyard will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

