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## Food drives prepare pantries for holidays



Photos Jason Bleau

Volunteers for Dailey Bread in Putnam sort through donations from the Handcuff Hunger and Killingly Police Department food drives.

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**REGION** — With Thanksgiving on the horizon, numerous food drives were held during a busy pre-holiday weekend with local police departments and social service organizations gathering food and money to help those in need celebrate the holiday.

In the Quiet Corner alone, the Putnam Police held their annual Handcuff Hunger food drive as Price Chopper in Putnam, while the Killingly Police Food Drive took place at the Stop & Shop in Dayville on Nov. 19 and 20. Both programs benefitted TEEG in Thompson and The Daily Bread Food Pantry in Putnam. Friends of Assisi, which operates a pantry in Danielson, also received food from the Killingly drive

but held a food drive of their own as well to benefit their holiday programs. A holiday can drive was also held in Thompson, and Project PIN, an organization that provides food security services to the Plainfield area, benefitted from a food drive outside the Brooklyn Wal-Mart.

Representatives of the individual beneficiary agencies all stressed the importance of these food drives during a particularly tough financial year for many which follows two years of pandemic stresses on family budgets. Friends of Assisi Assistant Director Mindy French said the Food Drives are an annual reminder of just how grateful they are to have such a supportive community around them.

"The food drives remind us of what we experience in working with the commu-

nity every day, but I think that we forget just how much the community does until we have a big event where everyone is going for the same cause. It centers you back to do the work and reminds us how grateful we are," said Friench.

Chelsea French (no relation), Community Programs Manager at TEEG, said their agency depends on the food drives for not one, but two holiday programs in November and December respectively to help relieve the financial burden for over 200 clients they serve annually.

"These food drives really help us gather a lot of foods that are essential for our Thanksgiving distribution," she said. "We do three different distributions

Please Read **PANTRY**, page **A5**

## Day Kimball Hospital earns fourth consecutive 'A' Leapfrog hospital safety grade

**PUTNAM** — Day Kimball Hospital has once again been nationally recognized with an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group for achieving the highest national standards in patient safety. This national distinction celebrates Day Kimball Hospital's achievements in protecting patients from preventable harm and errors and providing safer patient care. Day Kimball Hospital has also been honored with an "A" grade in both the spring 2021 release and the fall 2021 release, as well as the spring 2022 release of the Leapfrog Group's Hospital Safety Grade.

"Our patients rely on Day Kimball to deliver safe, high-quality care, and receiving an 'A' hospital safety grade four times in a row from a highly respected group like Leapfrog speaks to Day Kimball's dedication, commitment, and teamwork to making patient safety a top priority," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. "Ensuring that Northeast Connecticut's residents have access to high-quality, compassionate care is a commitment that everyone in our organization takes very seriously, and it motivates each and every one of us to do our very best each and every day as we serve our community. I am beyond proud of our entire team's hard work and dedication which has enabled us to achieve this distinction from Leapfrog once again."

"Day Kimball Hospital is

committed to the highest levels of patient safety, and receiving four consecutive "A" grades for our efforts by a nationally recognized organization like Leapfrog is a testament to the excellent care we provide," said Dr. Martin Durtschi, Vice President, Medical Affairs and Quality for Day Kimball Healthcare. "This important distinction truly reflects our ongoing commitment to clinical standards of excellence and our resolve to improve the health and well-being of the community we serve. I am so grateful to our diligent and dedicated team and the exceptional job they do staying focused on patient safety to protect them from harm."

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization with a 10-year history of assigning letter grades to general hospitals throughout the United States, based on a hospital's ability to prevent medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent, and free to the public. Hospital Safety Grade results are based on more than 30 national performance measures and are updated each fall and spring.

"I applaud the hospital leadership and workforce for their strong commitment to safety and transparency," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "An 'A' Safety Grade is a sign that hospitals are continuously evalu-

Please Read **LEAPFROG**, page **A5**

## Woodstock Academy's Fourth Annual Giving Day has largest impact to date

**WOODSTOCK**—On Tuesday, Nov. 15, The Woodstock Academy held its fourth annual Giving Day, a record-breaking day of donations to date, all of which directly contributed to InSpire 150, the campaign for the Academy Building. The Academy set a goal of

\$40,000 and raised a total of \$56,241 from 181 donors. Gifts were made from four different countries, compiled from parents, grandparents, friends, organizations, and alumni classes ranging from 1948 to 2024.

As a result of our continuing

efforts, Giving Day has pushed the InSpire 150 campaign to more than \$1,020,000 in gifts and commitments.

Associate Head of School for Advancement, Jonathan Sturdevant, said, "We are extremely grateful to the greater Woodstock Academy

community that has generously helped us reach our fundraising goal and provide our students with another facility they can thrive in for years to come."

Renovations are ongoing and the Academy Building is expected to reopen in the fall

of 2023.

The Woodstock Academy would like to thank everyone that helped make Giving Day a success, and for their support of the InSpire 150 campaign thus far. Every dollar

Please Read **GIVING DAY**, page **A3**

## Centaur's State Tournament run ends in semifinals to undefeated Joel Barlow

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

It was simply too steep a hill to climb.

That is the ultimate takeaway regarding the Woodstock Academy girls' volleyball team's 3-0 loss to top-seeded and undefeated Joel Barlow High in the semifinal round of the Connecticut Class L tournament in a match played on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at the Sports Medical Sciences Academy in Hartford.

Set scores in the match were 11-25, 17-25, and 13-25. Joel Barlow improved to 20-0 with the win. The Falcons headed to the Class L final having dropped just four sets all season, zero coming after Sept. 16. Barlow then

won the state championship, 3-0, over No. 7 Bristol Central on Saturday, Nov. 19 in East Haven.

Woodstock Academy, the No. 12 seed in the Class L tournament, finished its season 15-10.

Centaur's coach Adam Bottone told Woodstock Academy sports information director Marc Allard that nervousness seemed to play a role in his team's struggle at the start.

"I don't know if (the team looked at it as) 'Oh no, we're playing the No. 1 undefeated team,' but we went into it nervous instead of staying loose and relaxed," Bottone told Allard. "We struggled to receive the ball and because of that, we couldn't get our offense going. We sent a lot of easy



Photo Courtesy — Bradley O'Connor/oconchobhairproductions

**Happier times: Woodstock Academy freshman Vivian Bibeau (9) and senior Jade Desmond (4) take part in a celebratory dance following the Centaur's 3-0 win over Pomperaug in a Class L state quarterfinal match at the Alumni Field House on Saturday, Oct. 12. Woodstock Academy coach Adam Bottone (in background) took part in the celebration. The Centaur's then lost to top-seeded Joel Barlow in the state semifinals.**

balls over which put our defense back on its heels.

"Going in we knew we had to play our best game of the year if we want-

ed to hang with them. They ran a really fast offense which was tough for us to try and get up and block because

Please Read **CENTAURS**, page **A2**

# The Native American presence in Killingly



**KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
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MARGARET  
WEAVER**

*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.*

Did you know that this is Native American Heritage Month? I had forgotten that until I read the special insert "Tradition" in the Nov. 13 issue of the New London Day. I am more than happy to try to write a little about their long presence in this area, since I've been gathering notes on them for at least forty years. Hopefully, what I write will whet your appetites to learn more and will help foster a greater respect for their culture and traditions.

I am intrigued by a map marking early boundaries in Killingly that Ellen D. Larned included in her "History of Windham County, Connecticut, Volume I." By contact times it seems as though three Native tribes were utilizing land and resources in present-day Killingly. It appears that the "Whetstone Country" in present-day East Killingly was extremely important since all three groups had access to the stone for

making projectile points. In fact, our Whetstone Brook gets its name from the Native Mahmunsqueeg, "The spot resorted to for whetstones." It was the n.e. bound-mark of the Mohegan territory claimed by Uncas, the Mohegan." (Nipmuc Place Names of New England—entry notes that the word could be Mohegan or Nipmuc, both with ?; Nipmuck Indian Association of Connecticut, First Edition, 1995).

Another extremely important location for the Indigenous Peoples was at the falls of the Quinebaug River in present-day Danielson. It was a perfect fishing spot, particularly when shad swam upriver to spawn. Archaeological finds in the greater area include fish weirs in the river below the falls. They are visible from the Killingly River trail. The Native American name for the location was Acquunk. "According to testimony by Passagocogon, a Quinebaug Indian, in 1704: a small fort stood on the hill in which only four families had wigwams. The head man at the fort was called Wannonchaumoo." Quinebaug, meaning "long pond" was a word that frequently occurred in New England. The Quinebaugs were "a band of Nipmuc Indians." (Ibid).

Keep in mind that the Native Americans had a completely different idea of land "ownership" than the Europeans did and that caused no end of trials and difficulties for them and the early white settlers, particularly in Plainfield. Nipmucs claimed land throughout much of Northeastern Connecticut and into Massachusetts. Narragansetts to the east in present-day Rhode Island even exerted their power and influence at various times.

I've read from the websites of the Mohegans, Mashentuck-Pequots, and Narragansetts that the Native Americans have been in this area for thousands of years. I thought I'd share some of what I've found. The Mohegan site provided the following: "When does history begin? Like humanity everywhere, Native American people trace their past in more than years. Scientific evidence shows Native American presence in the area for 10,000 years. But oral history begins with creation, when the Great Spirit created the earth. The earliest clans of the Delaware Tribe included the Wolf clan, or Mohegans, who settled in upstate New York. After migrating to Connecticut this group became today's Mohegan Tribe."

This is what the Mohegan site said about the Tribal Symbol--

**Four Semicircular Domes:** The blue

offense going, we struggled," Bottone said. "We really needed to side out on the first ball that came over the net and we had trouble doing that."

Sophomore Lilianna Bottone had five kills and six digs for Woodstock while senior Morgan Bonin finished with three kills and 10 digs. Sophomore Sophie Gronski finished with 12 assists and 10 digs, and junior Reegan Reynolds added three digs.

A careful approach from the service line by the Centaurs resulted in few service errors, but even fewer (zero) service aces.

"We served very conservatively to keep the ball in play," Bottone said. "That's what we had been working on, but our serves weren't difficult either."

The 2022 season for Woodstock was a lot like the sport of volleyball — one of runs. The Centaurs won their first six matches and eight of their first nine, then lost three straight, then won two in a row, then finished the regular season losing four of six. Woodstock then lost to Fitch in the first round of the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I Tournament.

In the post-season the Centaurs defeated No. 21 seed Brookfield, 3-0, in the first round, No. 5 seed Guilford, 3-1, in the second round, and No. 13 seed Pomperaug, 3-0, in the quarterfinals.

"I keep saying, 'We're young,' we have some good seniors but we're really a young team," coach Bottone said about the Centaurs' fast

start. "We only had five wins last year. To then make the semifinal round of the state tournament this year is huge growth in a very short period of time. That was nice to see. I was very happy with the season."

Woodstock's uneven second half of the season may have been brought on by injuries, including concussions and illness, and led to lots of lineup changes.

"You're mixing the lineup and then the girls get healthy and the lineup changes again. That leads to uncertainty," coach Bottone said. "Then we had an injury at the end of the season to Ellie Nunes, our Libero. That forced us to play without a Libero in some matches. Even though it was a struggle at times, I thought the girls did really well responding to those changes."

The Centaurs will lose just four seniors, Bonin, Nunes, Leila MacKinnon and Jade Desmond to graduation. Key returnees include Lilianna Bottone (coach Bottone's daughter), Gronski, Reynolds, and sophomores Cassidy Ladd and Mia Sorrentino.

"I have a lot of pieces coming back," coach Bottone said. "Obviously, Lilianna and Sophie will be a big part of that; Cassidy Ladd is going to continue to improve. Reegan will be back. Mia Sorrentino will be a threat on the outside, too. We definitely have a lot of pieces in place."

Woodstock's biggest worry heading into the 2023 season will be at the middle hitter position which was split between Bonin and MacKinnon this year.

"I think we will have girls playing club (in the offseason) and if that happens, that will be good," coach Bottone said. "If the CIAC allows us to do some coaching in the summer — I'm crossing my fingers that will happen — it will help establish and build the basics we need to move forward."

Once the land claims were settled, the Tribe purchased and operated a restaurant, and established a sand and gravel business. In 1986, the Tribe opened its bingo operation, followed, in 1992, by the establishment of the first phase of Foxwoods Resort Casino.

The ceremonial groundbreaking for the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center took place on Oct. 20, 1993, in a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of federal recognition of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. The new facility, opened on Aug. 11, 1998, is located on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation, where many members of the Mashantucket Pequot tribal members continue to live. It is one of the oldest, continuously occupied Indian reservations in North America."

"The tribal symbol is both a reflection of Mashantucket Pequot past and a symbol of hope for the future. Framed against the sky, the lone tree on a knoll represents Mashantucket, the 'much wooded land' where the Pequots hunted and kept alive their identity as an independent people. Displayed on the knoll is the sign of Robin Cassasinamon, the Pequot's first leader following the 1637 massacre at Mystic Fort. The fox stands as a reminder that the Pequots are known as "The Fox People." (https://www.mptn-nsn.gov/tribalhistory.aspx

Prior to the Covid pandemic I had been to the Mashentuck Pequot Museum several times and am looking forward to returning there and to visiting the Tantaquidgeon Museum of the Mohegan tribe. I hope that you, too, will be able to visit them. Both should give you a much greater understanding and appreciation for these earliest inhabitants of our region than I can possibly do.

The Nipmucs and Narragansetts also were significant players in our area's past. I'll write about them in a future column.

*Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, November 2022. 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, Connecticut 06329.*

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**CENTAURS**  
continued from page A1

we're a fairly small team," Bottone said. "Our reaction to the quicker offense was a little slow. Hopefully, it's something our girls who are returning next year will learn from."

The Centaurs looked more like the team they had been all year in the second set, their best of the night, but the Eagles still managed to prevail by eight points.

"We made a lot of great plays and some good digs. We did the best we could, but when we weren't able to get our

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**GOOD NEWS**

# Westview, QV Multisport celebrate 15-year partnership



DAYVILLE — To commemorate their 15-year partnership with Westview Health Care Center, Quinebaug Valley Multisport offered a gift of a framed jersey to hang in the Westview Sports Medicine gymnasium. Westview has remained a primary sponsor for the group (formerly known as Quinebaug Valley Velo) since its beginning; prominently placing the facility's logo front and center on their competition gear. The QV Multisport athletes wear this apparel as they train throughout our local towns and trails and during the variety of races their members enter. In addition to local marathons, cycling races, and triathlons, QV Multisport members have participated in events like the Boston Marathon, The Mount Washington Bike Race, and The Ironman Triathlon during their organizational history.

According to QV Multisport athlete Marc Cotnoir, "The club's primary objective is to promote the value of

cycling, running, swimming and hiking as sports to benefit personal health and well-being. To that extent, the club has provided support for local trail building, youth cycling, and other projects that benefit the sports that our club promotes."

The partnership between Westview Health Care Center and Quinebaug Valley Multisport goes beyond sponsorship itself—many of the QV Multisport athletes have worked with the Physical Therapists and Athletic Trainers at Westview Sports Medicine over the years to maintain their athletic abilities. A group of Quinebaug Valley Multisport members recently visited Westview Sports Medicine to deliver this framed 2022 competition jersey as a gesture of their gratitude. The attending athletes from QV Multisport were adorned in a variety of competition jerseys and jackets from different eras of the organization. The range of Westview logos printed on the attire

from different years further illustrates their shared history.

During the presentation, QV Multisport member Nicole Danis expressed profound gratitude from the group, stating, "On behalf of the Quinebaug Valley Multisport Board of Governance, we present this jersey to show our appreciation for your continued support. You have supported us for over 15 years—both financially and physically! Over this time, we have greatly appreciated your knowledge in working with our athletes, and we highly recommend your services to everyone in our region."

Once the jersey was positioned in its place on the wall, the present QV Multisport members signed the frame's glass to commemorate the occasion.

Kayla Belanger, a Physical Therapist at Westview Sports Medicine, shared in celebrating this long-standing collaboration, commenting "Westview Health Care Center has such a great connection with Quinebaug Valley Multisport, and I have been fortunate to get to know several of their athletes throughout the years. I love hearing about all of their aspirations and accomplishments with the events they pursue."

Belanger went on to comment on the reciprocal success shared between the facility and the club, noting "QV Multisport athletes push themselves to achieve greater and greater athletic goals, and in turn, that challenges us to be better and better as Physical Therapists and Athletic Trainers. It's a mutually beneficial collaboration, and I am proud to be a part of this long-standing partnership."

Westview Sports Medicine Director Alex Williams greatly appreciates the gift of the framed jersey, and moreover, the strong, healthy representation that Westview and QV Multisport promote.

"I am very proud to see this partnership stride through our 15th year and beyond. Both of our organizations, Westview Health Care Center and Quinebaug Valley Multisport, work very hard to represent the best of our abilities. Through our shared and respective histories, we celebrate our achievements: in local health care and

national rankings—in regional races and international triathlons. I really appreciate the gift of this framed jersey as a symbol of how we inspire greatness in each other," Williams said.

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 14 years.

## Giving Tree returns to Woodstock Town Hall

WOODSTOCK — First Selectman Jay Swan has announced the Woodstock Town Hall is once again sponsoring the annual Giving Tree to benefit approximately 60 Woodstock senior citizens and veterans in need this holiday season.

The Agent for the Elderly, Recreation Department, and the First Selectman's office have partnered to organize this very necessary project. Citizens interested in helping their neighbors should stop by the Town Hall lobby and select a tag or two. Tags can also be picked up at any of the Woodstock libraries. Items requested include socks, knit hats, bath towels, washcloths, hand or

body lotions, liquid or bar soap, laundry detergent, coffee and tea, puzzle books, toothpaste, shampoo, dish detergent, \$10 Walmart Gift cards, books of stamps, small flashlights, batteries, blankets and other personal care and household items. Bring your unwrapped gift to the town hall or any of the Woodstock libraries.

The deadline for these contributions is Thursday, Dec. 15 so that items can be packaged and delivered in time for the holidays. Questions about this initiative should be directed to the First Selectman's Office at 860-928-0208, ext. 310.



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### GIVING DAY

continued from page A1

makes a difference and will have a significant impact on current and future students.

"This is a very important project for The Academy and its students, and greatly anticipated by our entire community. In fact, several of our current students made gifts during Giving Day," said Head of School Chris Sandford. "Education has evolved so much since the Academy Building was built 150 years ago, and we are excited to have the renovations reflect the needs and expectations of a modern-day education."

To learn more about InSpire 150 or make a donation, visit woodstockacademy.org/inspire150. This campaign is ongoing as we push past our goal and continue to support the project.

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# “A Christmas Carol” opens at Bradley Playhouse Dec. 2

PUTNAM — Dare we say it? Yes, it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! An excellent way to get in the spirit of the holiday is at the Bradley Playhouse, where you can once again visit with Scrooge, the timeless spirits, and Tiny Tim and all the Cratchits. The Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut is proud and excited to present Charles Dickens’ beloved story, “A Christmas Carol,” which opens Dec. 2 and runs for three weekends.

Performances are Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 4, 11 and 18 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$18 for seniors, students, veterans and first responders.

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, adapted and directed by Aidan Horrigan, is a traditional take on the beloved ghost story following the tight-fisted Ebenezer Scrooge through a series of strange and magical journeys with three ghosts, where he ultimately discovers the true spirit of the holiday season. This Holiday favorite was adapted exclusively for the Bradley stage and will feature effects and play with sound, allowing the audience to feel immersed as they follow Scrooge into the past, present, and future of what Christmas really means.

The TNECT production of “A Christmas Carol” is directed by Aidan

Photo Courtesy  
Back row: Amy Stolzel (Mrs. Cratchit), Jim Archambault (Bob Cratchit), Jeffrey McAteer (Tiny Tim), Michael Griswold (Scrooge), and Sophie Marcus (Martha). Front Row: Calla Gilbert (Belinda), Menden Gilbert (Peter).

Horrigan. He is assisted by Brenna Griswold as stage manager. Ebenezer Scrooge is played by Michael Griswold. His otherworldly visitors include his deceased partner Jacob Marley performed Roy Simmons, Christmas Past played by Jayden, Michaela and Shannon Casey, Christmas Present played by Seth Jajliardo, and then there is the mysterious Christmas Future. Jim Archambault is Bob Cratchit and Jeffrey McAteer is Tiny Tim. The play is narrated by Harry Pearson as Charles Dickens. All the other beloved characters are there as well, played by an enthusiastic ensemble cast.

Masks are encouraged for anyone who is unvaccinated or at high risk, but they are not required. This policy is subject to change, so check the Bradley website for any updates prior to attending.

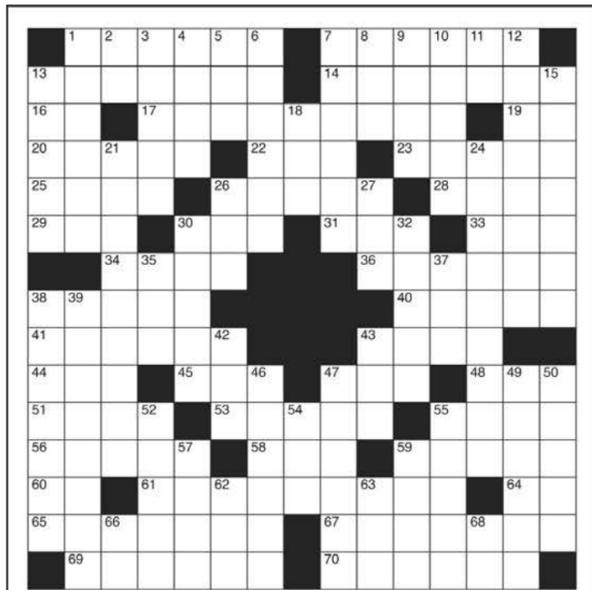
The Bradley Playhouse is located at 30 Front St. (Route 44) in Putnam. All seats are reserved. Reservations may be made with a major credit card online



at [www.thebradleyplayhouse.org](http://www.thebradleyplayhouse.org) or by calling 860-928-7887. Tickets may be purchased at the theater box office, either

before the performance, or at the door if available. Purchasing your tickets ahead of time is always a good idea.

## Let the season begin with Saint Nicholas Victorian Fair



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. India’s “City of Lakes”
- 7. Large marine mammals
- 13. Used to carry belongings when traveling
- 14. Rechristens
- 16. Equally
- 17. Heavy plant-eating mammals
- 19. Millihenry
- 20. Japanese immigrant to N. America
- 22. Deep, red-brown sea bream
- 23. Norse gods
- 25. Peppermint and pekoe are two
- 26. Auguste \_\_, founder of positivism
- 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 29. High-resolution microscope (abbr.)
- 30. Wide metal vessel used in cooking
- 31. V-shaped open trough
- 33. People of southern Benin
- 34. People of southern Ghana
- 36. It’s a significant creed
- 38. Period between eclipses
- 40. Furies
- 41. Emerged
- 43. Philippine Island
- 44. Where wrestlers battle
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Central European river
- 48. Language
- 51. Semitransparent gemstone
- 53. Forming in a bottom layer
- 55. Distinct region
- 56. Broad blades
- 58. Leavened bread
- 59. Influential cosmetics exec
- 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. Era free of war
- 64. One who helps professors
- 65. Idealistic
- 67. Ornamental plants

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Beloved hound
- 2. Equal to 100 grams
- 3. S-shaped moldings
- 4. Hawaiian cliff
- 5. Everyone has one
- 6. Subatomic particle
- 7. Ghost
- 8. Adult female bird
- 9. Greek temple pillars
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. Measures the width of printed matter
- 12. Musical interval
- 13. Tantalizes
- 15. Places of worship
- 18. An unskilled actor who overacts
- 21. One who volunteers to help
- 24. Precaution
- 26. Beverage holder
- 27. Very long period of time
- 30. Bullfighting maneuvers
- 32. More critical
- 35. Sends packing in a boxing match
- 37. Taxi
- 38. Decorative Russian tea urn
- 39. North American Great Plains natives
- 42. Seize
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Devil rays
- 49. Bubble up
- 50. Veranda
- 52. Outcast
- 54. Car mechanics group
- 55. Realm
- 57. A place to get off your feet
- 59. Popular music awards show
- 62. Consumed
- 63. A way to make cooler
- 66. Thus
- 68. Indicates it’s been registered



POMFRET — The annual Saint Nicholas Victorian Fair in Pomfret will be held on Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (snow date Dec. 10) at Christ Church in Pomfret, one mile south of the Vanilla Bean on Route 169. The Saint Nicholas Fair is well known for offering holiday gifts at great prices and supporting many area charities and agencies. There will also be an On-line Silent Auction Nov. 19 – 30. Auction purchases should be picked up in person at the Fair on Dec. 3. Shop local and give back to your community for the holidays this year.

Last year, the Silent Auction raised \$7,500 to support community outreach. Auction items this year include gift certificates

donated by local businesses and numerous other items to bid on. The auction is accessible at [www.biddingowl.com/ChristChurchPomfret](http://www.biddingowl.com/ChristChurchPomfret). It goes live Nov. 19 at noon and closes on Nov. 30 at noon.

An in-house luncheon will be offered on Dec. 3 including chicken salad & chili, while supplies last. Pre-orders through the online auction website link are available for those wanting take-out. The in-person Saint Nicholas Fair features holiday gifts for everyone on your list! This year, gift booths will include a Holiday Bakery, Chocolate Extravaganza, Vermont Cheese, Cookie Booth, Crafts, a Bottle Board, gently used toys at the Toy Box, new items at the “Give

It Again” booth, plus holiday plants and wreaths.

All proceeds from the Saint Nicholas Fair are allocated for outreach programs, including TEEG, the Access Agency, Day Kimball Hospital Hospice, ARC of Quinebaug Valley, Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Deary Memorial Cancer Fund, Community Kitchens of NECT and more.

Questions? Call 860-315-7780 or email [christchurchpomfret@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchpomfret@gmail.com). Christ Church is located at 527 Pomfret Street, Pomfret. To learn more, visit [ChristChurchPomfret.org](http://ChristChurchPomfret.org). Follow them on Facebook at [@christchurchpomfretct](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchpomfretct).

### Killingly Library invites all ages to Holiday Craft Night

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Public Library will host a Holiday Craft Night for all ages Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 5-6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a fun night of crafting! There is something for all ages. We will be offering special crafts for children in the Marie C. Chartier Community Room, a craft for adults in the magazine section, and a craft for teens in the Young Adult section. No registration required!

### Our Lady of La Salette hosting cookie sale

BROOKLYN — Our Lady of La Salette Church will host its Big Annual Holiday Cookies “By the Pound” Sale Saturday, Dec. 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the church basement at 25 Providence Rd. (Route 6), Brooklyn.



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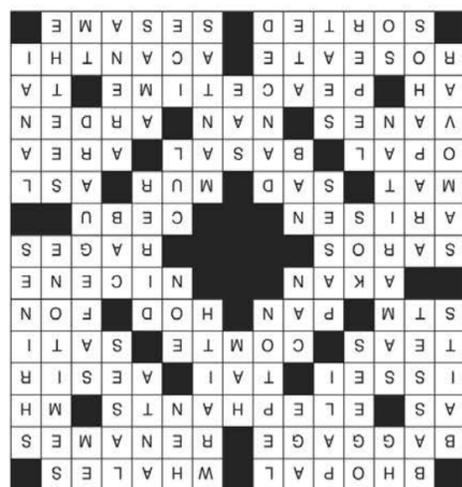
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### PUZZLE SOLUTION



**PANTRY**

continued from page A1

over the course of the week before Thanksgiving and any leftovers go towards our Christmas holiday distribution in December. All of this really helps provide the resources families need for the holidays.”

Karen Osbrey, who also volunteers for

the Daily Bread Food Pantry and serves as President of the pantry’s parent organization Interfaith Human Services of Putnam, said the food drives are especially important in 2022 as the need has noticeably increased due to the overwhelming impact of inflation and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic. “Programs like Handcuff Hunger are extremely important to us because it not only helps us with our Thanksgiving

programs, which are over and above what we do every month, but it also helps to replenish our stock. Lately we’ve seen an increase in families asking for services because of the cost of service and gas and inflation in general. These families who were making ends meet are now dipping below the water and they just need assistance so days like today are really important to what we do,” said Osbrey.

On the topic of the impact of inflation in the 2022 holiday season, all three organizations were in agreement that the need is increasing, and they are seeing more and more clients coming through their doors asking for help. Osbrey said inflation has affected everyone in some way, but not everyone is equipped to manage the impact and that’s where food pantries come into the picture.

“Inflation affects everybody. Some of us can handle it better than others because we have more resources, so we know this is affecting our clients.

The dollar is not stretching as far as it used to and I’ve noticed a 35 increase in groceries when I, myself, go to the store. If I’m feeling that, I know others are feeling it too,” said Osbrey.

At TEEG, Chelsea French said they pride themselves in trying to relieve the stress of the times off of their clients’ shoulders. Everyone acknowledges that things are not getting cheaper, so providing food services is a big way their agency tries to help ease the financial stress of those who come through their doors, especially during the holidays.

“The stock in the grocery store is limited and the prices are increasing. Access to stuff is just getting more complicated so if our clients can come here and get everything they need to still enjoy a family meal and reduce some of that stress it benefits everybody. It makes us feel good that we can support people and it makes families feel good that they can still access family time and enjoy a meal together without the burden of the weight of the supply issues and high prices,” French said.

Jean Cyr, Director of the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry, agreed with her colleagues, admitting they are seeing more and more clients falling on hard times every month. While the food donations certainly help during the holidays, people are still struggling in the bigger picture as well.

“The people we’re seeing now are so much more destitute. We have more people living in their cars. It’s sad to see where some of them are, but we’re glad that we can help them. I believe we’re seeing people poorer than they used to be, and we know they’re struggling,” said Cyr.

If anyone is seeking help with their own financial situation all three organizations are available to individuals in their specific towns. TEEG serves the towns of Pomfret, Thompson and Woodstock. Friends of Assisi provides services to the Killingly area and Brooklyn and Daily Bread serves those in need in Putnam.



The Killingly Police Department held their annual food drive outside of Stop & Shop in Dayville.



Volunteers for Friends of Assisi sort through donations received through the Killingly Police Department and the pantry’s own weekend food drive.



TEEG volunteers unload food donated through food drives held in Putnam and Killingly.



Photos Jason Bleau

The Putnam Police Department held their annual Handcuff Hunger Food Drive to benefit TEEG and Dailey Bread outside of Price Chopper in Putnam.

**LEAPFROG**

continued from page A1

ating their performance, so that they can best protect patients. Your hospital team should be extremely proud of their dedication and achievement.”

To see Day Kimball Hospital’s full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter, Facebook, and via its newsletter.

DKH takes pride in the excellence of care provided to its patients and the communi-

ty. To learn more about all of Day Kimball Hospital’s various safety and quality measures, visit [www.daykimball.org/quality](http://www.daykimball.org/quality).

About The Leapfrog Group  
Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps forward for patient safety. The flagship Leapfrog Hospital Survey and new Leapfrog Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Survey collect and transparently report hospital and ASC performance, empowering purchasers to find the highest-val-

ue care and giving consumers the lifesaving information they need to make informed decisions. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog’s other main initiative, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents, and infections. For more, follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and sign up for our newsletter.

**TOWN OF WOODSTOCK HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM NOTICE OF PROPERTY OWNER MEETING**

There will be a meeting for property owners interested in participating in the Town’s Housing Rehabilitation Program. The Program is available to income-eligible property owners. Eligible work items may include, but is not limited to roofing, windows siding, heating system repair/replacement, electrical/plumbing repairs, ADA improvements, lead/radon remediation. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 1 (lower level), Woodstock Town Hall, 415 CT Route 169, Woodstock, Connecticut and will review the qualifications for participation and the program process.

Gross household income limits to apply:  
1 person - \$62,600; 2 persons - \$71,550; 3 persons - 80,500;  
4 persons - \$89,400; 5 persons - \$96,600; 6 persons - \$103,750.

If you would like to attend the meeting and require special assistance, or if you are non-English speaking and require an interpreter, please contact the Town’s Selectman’s Office at 860-928-0208 ext 310 to request accommodations.

The Town of Woodstock promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low- and moderate-income families regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual preference, marital status, or handicap.

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# Quinebaug VFW hosts Harvest & Holly Festival

QUINEBAUG – VFW Post 10088 in the Quinebaug village of Thompson hosted a special holiday-themed event on Saturday, Nov. 19, the Harvest & Holly Festival. The event served several purposes including promoting the VFW itself and showcasing the home- and hand-made goods of some of its mem-

bers and supporters including knitted cloths and baked treats. The event was complimented by raffles and a brunch to promote a sense of community and welcome people into the VFW with open arms. The Quinebaug VFW is currently seeking new members to help continue its legacy into the future.



Visitors to the Quinebaug VFW enjoy some relaxation and community.



Elmer Preston, a well-known local and supporter of the VFW, was certainly in the holiday spirit during the Harvest & Holly Festival as he helped sell antiques like old toys and household goods.



VFW volunteers Nicola Chrzanowski and Linda Szpyrka pose for a photo in between customers.



Photos Jason Bleau

Volunteers of the VFW kitchen served breakfast treats and other goodies to visitors to the Harvest & Holly Festival.



Homemade knitted goods on display in front of military uniforms helped define the spirit of the Harvest and Holly Festival, supporting both local crafters and the VFW itself.



While the handmade goods were popular, the home-made treats were arguably the most popular items for sale at the festival.



VFW volunteer Tina Desabota and Event Chair Anne Chrzanowski greeted guests as soon as they walked in the door offering them chances to win several prizes.

## Local students named to Goodwin Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD — Isabella Latour-Gervais of Brooklyn, Shayla Haggerty, Amy St. Onge and Molly Myslivy of Thompson, and Monica Gosselin and Stephanie Horton of Woodstock have earned a spot on the Goodwin University Dean's List for Summer 2022.

They are among the 713 students to make the Dean's List, reserved for those who demonstrate great academic performance.

Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a

given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Goodwin University congratulates Isabella on making the Dean's List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

Goodwin University in East Hartford, Connecticut, is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the

lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit [www.goodwin.edu](http://www.goodwin.edu).

## Local students named to Goodwin University's President's List

EAST HARTFORD — Stephanie Horton of Woodstock, Shyla Haggerty of Putnam, and Amy St. Onge of Thompson earned a place on Goodwin University's President's List for the Summer 2022 Session. The Summer 2022 President's List includes 263 students, all of whom scored a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Goodwin University in East Hartford, is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit

the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit [www.goodwin.edu](http://www.goodwin.edu).

## Thompson Tax Office accepting Toys for Tots donations

THOMPSON — The Thompson Tax Office will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys through the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program this holiday season.

The drop box will be arriving on Tuesday, Nov. 22, and toys will be collected through 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Toys for all age groups will be accepted, from infants through teenagers. Toys for Tots does not publish a list of recommended gifts; however, donations of realistic-looking weapons, or gifts containing food will not be distributed,

according to the organization's policies. When considering the age of the child who will receive your gift, please be aware that tweens and teenagers are often underserved by many charitable toy drives.

The mission of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program is to spread joy to children at the holidays. This is the organization's 75th anniversary, and they are proud to continue to collect and distribute toys locally to our neighbors in need.

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# Ellis Con 32 welcomes game enthusiasts

KILLINGLY – H.H. Ellis Technical High School continued its longstanding celebration of everything gaming in 2022 with Ellis Con 32. The annual gaming convention brought enthusiasts of all kinds to the school to compete against each other in games both new and old. Card games, board games, tabletop games, and video games were

all included in the event throughout the day with some games including as many as four or five participants and others being solitary challenges. The event has become a beloved tradition at the school where many students hone their skills in mathematics and technology with career aspirations of creating games of their own someday.



Players try their hand at "Towns & Taverns," a book of battle maps that changes the game depending on which page you play.

Photos Jason Bleau



The Canterbury Lions Club provided food for Ellis Con 32.



"Magic: The Gathering" players test their skills against opponents in one of the most popular modern card games in the world.



Players take on one of the most famous games of modern times, "Dungeons & Dragons."



Players think through their next move in a tabletop game called "Birds of Prey."



A squad of players tackle mission in "Target for Today" a unique war-themed game that challenges players to succeed in solitary play while also being part of a larger squad.



The players took part in "Bolt Action," a unique game that reenacts some of the biggest conflicts of World War II.



Players challenge each other in a card game based on the popular "My Hero Academia" series.



A vendor teaches players the rules of the interstellar game "Mission to Planet Hexx."



Competitors take on the popular tabletop game "Warhammer 40K," which explores potential future warfare using narrative battles.



If you think playing chess against one person is hard, try three. This four-player version of the game creates a whole new look for one of the most famous games in history.

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 EDITOR

# The roots of Thanksgiving

From 1621 to 2019, Thanksgiving has always been about celebrating an abundant fall harvest. The holiday's roots date back to the original Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag tribe, who shared the first Thanksgiving meal together.

The celebratory feast was held by individual colonies up until 1789 off and on with a proclamation from President George Washington. President Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe Thanksgiving, and it wasn't until Abraham Lincoln's Presidency in 1863 that it became a federal holiday.

Many of the food items on our Thanksgiving menu are not what was served during the first few traditional Thanksgivings. For one, turkey was not served.

There aren't many documents from that time regarding that first Thanksgiving; however, one note did describe wildfowl (duck or geese) cod, bass, deer, bread, corn and porridge being served. The birds were described as being stuffed with onions and nuts. Seafood such as mussels and lobster was also served. For vegetables, squash, beans, corn, cabbage, carrots and peas were on the table.

Not on the table was mashed potatoes and gravy (gasp!), and there was no cranberry sauce or pies.

Perhaps no one has managed to capture the feeling gratitude better than Henry David Thoreau, author of "Walden," in 1856.

"I am grateful for what I am and have," he wrote. "My thanksgiving is perpetual. It is surprising how contented one can be with nothing definite - only a sense of existence. Well, anything for variety. I am ready to try this for the next ten thousand years, and exhaust it. How sweet to think of my extremities well charred, and my intellectual part too, so that there is no danger of worm or rot for a long while. My breath is sweet to me. O how I laugh when I think of my vague indefinite riches. No run on my bank can drain it, for my wealth is not possession but enjoyment."



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## LETTERS POLICY

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

## Letter submission policy

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

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

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Where is the concern for election integrity in Brooklyn?

To the Editor:  
 Really, Brooklyn? Pencils to fill out our ballots? In a season where so many Americans have lost confidence in our election process, at the very least, our registrars could've provided a tool that's not so easily erased. Yes, there would likely be a smudge on the page but, who's to say such would not be chalked off as a voter mistake?

With so many in our country believing the 2020 election was stolen, making noise to the

### Thank you

To the Editor:  
 Thank you to all the people of the Northeast Probate District who supported me in my bid for re-election as judge of probate. Whether it was a vote, a contribution, a lawn sign, a Facebook share, sign waving, a letter to the editor, a kind word or one of a thousand other things, it meant the world to me. Despite all the support, the campaign was ultimately unsuccessful.

Thank you to the members of my hometown Pomfret Democratic Town Committee who were unfailing in their support. Their enthusiasm and dedication was a great indication of how strong we are as a committee. Thank you to my amazing seven town campaign team and all the area DTCs. Watching how much effort so many wonderful people

### Republicans have no plans to "do away" with Social Security or Medicare

To the Editor:  
 If I was to rate the "red wave" on a scale of one to 10, I'd give it maybe a three, but it was effective enough in giving the Republicans control of the House, and you already know what I'm about to say — it saw Nancy Pelosi being removed as Speaker of the House. She's now been demoted to become just another "rank and file" House member, and there'll be no more "witch hunts" orchestrated by her, and I hope that Madame Pelosi and the Democrats don't forget that "What goes around, comes around!" In an after-election interview, the outbound Speaker said that the recent attack on her husband "turned voters off." Really, now? Did she actually expect that incident to be some kind of a rallying cry, especially when it's the Democrats who are soft on crime? Anyhow, I think I've kept my gloating to a real minimum, and I could care less if there will be a river of tears from the thin-skinned usuals, but give the Devil his due there, kids, because had the reverse happened, you'd certainly be rubbing it in my face. Personally, I hope that some cooperation in solving the problems that plague this nation will now result, but I suppose that's too much to expect.

Now, here's an interesting news quote about the midterm elections that came from Think Americana (which is an "extreme-right" leaning news outlet): "Many conservatives put the blame for an underwhelming midterms performance on former President Donald Trump. The midterm election saw many Trump-endorsed candidates all over the country fail to gain office. The midterms were seen by many as a sign to move on from Trump. The outlandish candidates pushed by Trump turned some easy wins into close races and other possible wins into losses." (And I'll bet you weren't expecting that, now, were you?)

### I'm with Pocahontas

To the Editor:  
 It's no surprise that Trump supporters like Mr. DeLuca continue to spew racist rhetoric along with the big lie. After all, bullies attract other bullies. Usually, I don't pay any attention to the political iterations of Mr. DeLuca, but one of his tirades in the Woodstock Villager a few months back has been bothering me. While taking a punch at Sen. Warren, Mr. DeLuca referred to her as "Pocahontas," a slur used by Trump when she threatened his fragile ego. Bullies can't stand smart women. Intellectually incapable of having a real conversation or debate with Sen. Warren, Trump stooped to sexist and racist tropes, targeting her for claiming Native American heritage. Now that Killingly has lost over \$94,000 in funding due to the Redmen sports name thanks to the short-sightedness of the BOE, I think it's time we put the racist rhetoric about Native Americans to rest.

Like many Americans, myself included, Sen. Warren's family narrative was that they had Native American heritage. In Northeast Connecticut, there are still remnants of Nipmuc, Narragansett, Pequot, or Mohegan heritage passed down in family lore. Many French Canadians, like my family, had Micmac ancestors. Like Elizabeth Warren, we were taught to be proud of that heritage even though the traditions had been white-washed for generations, and the traces of DNA are scant. Before I realized the difference between claiming ethnicity and culture, I am sure I checked the Native American box on more than a few census reports and applications. I did not expect to get special treatment or a free ride. I was simply proud of that

same for 2022, and others ridiculing those doubting Thomases as conspiracy theorists, one would hope that local officials would do everything possible to alleviate the doubt and division so prevalent today. Instead, even those of us who were inclined to believe the process was still fair and honest, gave pause when handed that #2 stub.

LISA BURBANK  
 BROOKLYN

were willing to put into my campaign was inspiring and humbling. I am so very grateful for all of their hard work.

Finally, a special thank you to my three children, Caroline, Will and Julia. They have been my biggest champions and hardest workers. We ran a campaign as a family that I am proud to say was positive and honest. As a mom and a judge, it was important that my kids saw that integrity and hard work matter and that the ends never justify the means.

It has been a wonderful 12 years serving as your probate judge. Thank you.

LEAH POLLARD SCHAD  
 JUDGE OF PROBATE  
 NORTHEAST PROBATE COURT

I certainly didn't expect Connecticut, or Massachusetts and Rhode Island for that matter, to change their voting habits. In Connecticut, the usual happened. Litchfield and Windham counties went red, and the rest of the state went blue, which is no surprise. In Villager Newspapers land, the Towns of Killingly, Thompson, Putnam and Woodstock all went red, and there is a reason (or more like three of them) that I listed Killingly first and Thompson second.

One campaign issue, which was merely a scare tactic, that the Democrats threw out was that the Republicans want to "do away with" Medicare and Social Security. Sean Hannity called that yet another one of the Democrats' lies when he recently celebrated "the end of the Pelosi nightmare." In an interview, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu said: "Democrats accused Republicans of planning to make major cuts to Social Security and Medicare, and all of a sudden, there's a tone out of Washington that we're going to get rid of Social Security and Medicare, which of course is not going to happen." I did an Internet search for: "Are there any Republicans who actually said that they want to 'do away with' Social Security and Medicare," and I couldn't find a single one of them. Maybe you'll have better luck? It's also apparent that all these "threats to our democracy" rants didn't quite get the job done either.

And to end this, when I previously said that I wasn't going to vote for a single Democrat, that turned out not to be true because when I got into the voting booth, I did vote for Aileen Witkowski, who is both a great person and a longtime friend.

ED DELUCA  
 NORTH GROSVENORDALE

smidgen of a bloodline. And this brings me to the racist roots of Trump's bully tactics when he demanded that Senator Warren prove her heritage with a DNA test.

Long before DNA testing, the federal government developed bloodline policies for tribal recognition. In the nineteenth century, while one drop of African "blood" was enough to validate slavery, the tribal nations, decimated by centuries of war and genocide, had to prove their cultural heritage in order to hold onto their lands. During a 2012 NPR "Talk of the Nation" interview with David Treuer (Ojibwe) the bloodline policy was explained as a quantum requirement instead of the urging of the federal government. "It was believed that we would then soon breed ourselves out of at least official existence by intermarrying with non-Natives," Treuer told Host Neal Conan.

Proving one's ethnicity by the "blood" continues in modern day tribal recognition and stirs up a hornets nest of racism especially for the many people in Connecticut tribal nations whose ancestry includes African descent. During one of the "Waking the Dead" lectures sponsored by Pomfret Historical Society last November, genealogists Lois Boyd and William Fothergill described their difficulty in attaining acceptance into their respective Native American tribes, partly because of their African descent. Although DNA has proved to be helpful for identifying Native American ancestry, it is only a generic marker in a relatively small database. The real markers for cultural heritage are in the stories and cultural practices handed down

Turn To **DUFRESNE** page **A9**

# Things can change in seconds

BAM! One minute, I was merrily driving to Putnam to have lunch with an old friend. Next, I heard and felt the impact of my vehicle being struck from behind. I had slowed to allow the truck in front of me to turn into a private driveway. The person behind me had not. It was a chilly day on Route 44 E, and as the young woman in the other car emerged, we were both trembling from the shock of it all. As cars whizzed by, I was grateful no one was hurt. I called the police.

This was the first real car accident I had ever experienced. Over many years of driving, I have backed into things and scrapped the side of another car. For decades I drove around New England calling on donors as part of my job, logging thousands of miles. I can shut my eyes and remember near misses

on ice covered interstates and moments when I skidded into ditches. Through it all, my cars and I were unscathed. Not this time. We've all read about the increase in car accidents since the pandemic. There is more distracted driving, more road rage, more use of electronic devices. On the Internet, I read that read end collisions like mine account for 28 percent of all auto accidents, a significant percentage. I like to think I am a safe driver. I am not always. I speed sometimes. I look away from the road at beautiful sunsets, house decorations and my neighbor's cattle. I let my mind drift in countless directions. All these actions lead to distracted driving. I'm guilty. Until the other day, I was also lucky.

After 9/11, a donor to UConn, where I worked, gave me a present. It was a sturdy box that held a flashlight, a knife, a hammer, a whistle and extra batteries. He had read that people who survived the World Trade Center attacks has items like these and were able to escape. I was touched. I put the box in my car and eventually the contents were spread here and there and lost. In the back of my damaged car, there is an emergency kit. It did nothing to stop the accident, but it would have been useful if help hadn't come so fast.

In minutes, Putnam Police Officer Bernier was on the scene. He was efficient, polite, asked the relevant questions and sorted things out. He was kind to the young woman who hit me, and to me. He told us what to do, who to call and what mattered legally. Her car was oozing fluids and mine had to be towed.

It is a common expression to say, "everything happens for a reason." I don't think that is true. Much of what occurs in our lives and in the world is random. The accident was random. I was fortunate that my three-year-old Subaru was well made and absorbed the blow. The other car was smaller and looked like a child's broken plastic toy.

Years ago, when I learned I was pregnant with our first child, I carried myself as if I were a fragile, porcelain cup for a few days. When I first pulled out of my driveway in my loaner car, I felt a bit the same. After a few miles, I was confident again. The young woman who caused the accident is a college student, working her way through school. I hope that the randomness of our encounter doesn't take her life off track. In a matter of seconds, things change dramatically.

Turn To **DUFRESNE** page **A9**



# Brighten the holidays with colorful plants

Garden centers, florists and grocery stores are filling their shelves with a variety of holiday plants; a sure sign the holidays are approaching. This is the time of year to give, receive or fill your home with colorful poinsettias, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, and other holiday plants. Extend their beauty and longevity with proper care.

Start by selecting healthy plants that have been receiving proper care. The plants should be free of insects, disease and have no yellow leaves, brown leaf edges and spots. Flowering plants should have just a few open flowers, some buds showing color, and the rest healthy plump buds. You will enjoy watching the flower buds open, blooms expand, and a longer flowering period.

Always protect your gift plants from the harsh outdoors. Professional florists and garden center staff should provide a care tag and wrap your plants in a plastic or paper sleeve for the ride home.

Carefully remove the wrap as soon as you get home. This is especially important when caring for poinsettias. The upturned leaves emit ethylene, a ripening hormone that can shorten the longevity of your poinsettia's colorful display.

Rewrap your holiday plant anytime you move it outdoors and never leave it sitting in a cold car while running



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

errands. A chilled plant looks fine until it warms. By the next day, the plant turns grayish-green, wilts and may die. Not such a nice gift or addition to your holiday décor after all.

Once home, place it in a cool, brightly lit location. The cool temperatures and indirect light help the blooms last longer. Remove or fold down the foil wrap, if present, to allow sunlight to reach all the leaves. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air. These can dry or chill the plant resulting in leaf and blossom drop.

Check the tag for watering instructions. Most holiday plants prefer moist but not wet soil. Use your finger as a moisture meter. Water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist or according to the directions on the care tag.

Pour out any water that collects in the foil, basket, decorative pot or saucer. Or place pebbles in the bottom of these or the saucer to elevate the plant above sitting water. This reduces the risk of root rot and makes care much easier.

Lengthen the time between watering and increase success by amending the potting mix with a moisture-retaining product like wool pellets (wildvalley-farms.com). This organic and sustainable product reduces watering by up to 25 percent. Just spread it over the soil surface and push it into the soil around



Photo Melinda Myers

Cyclamen plants have uniquely shaped flowers, come in a variety of colors, and stand above attractive variegated leaves.

the plant.

Keep your floral display looking its best by removing spent flowers from azaleas, Christmas cactus, cyclamen and kalanchoes. This keeps the plant looking fresh and often encourages more blooms.

Once the holidays have passed, keep enjoying these plants through the gray days of winter. Move the plants to a sunny window, fertilize with a dilute solution of complete or flowering plant fertilizer, and water as needed.

Add some artificial berries, cut flowers in water picks, or silk blooms to replace the faded flowers. Use colorful stakes or natural twigs for added beauty and to support floppy leaves and stems.

Boost your spirits and those of family and friends this holiday season with a

few colorful plants. Giving them as gifts and using them to decorate your home is guaranteed to brighten your holiday celebrations.

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

# End-of-year money moves to reduce 2022 taxes

What has changed for you in 2022?

For some, this year has been full of change, whether in their personal or professional life. For others, 2022 may have been relatively uneventful. Either way, it's a good idea to review your finances before this year ends. Changes in your own life (even small ones) along with changes in the tax code could have a big impact on whether or not you'll end up owing at tax time. But if you're proactive, there are things you can do before the year ends to minimize your tax burden. Here are some of the most common to consider.

(Keep in mind that this article is for informational purposes only and is not a replacement for personalized advice. Please consult your tax, legal and accounting professionals before modifying your tax strategy.)

Can you engage in tax-loss harvesting?

That's the practice of taking capital losses (selling securities for less than what you first paid for them) to manage

capital gains. You might want to consider this move, but it should be made with the guidance of a financial professional you trust.<sup>1</sup>

In fact, you could even take it a step further: Consider that up to \$3,000 of capital losses in excess of capital gains can be deducted from ordinary income, and any remaining capital losses above that amount can be carried forward to offset capital gains in upcoming years.<sup>1</sup>

Should you itemize deductions?

You may want to take the standard deduction for the 2022 tax year, which has risen to \$12,950 for single filers and \$25,900 for joint. If you think it might be better for you to itemize, now would be a good time to gather the receipts and assorted paperwork, and share them with your tax professional for guidance.<sup>2</sup>

Are you thinking of gifting?

If you're likely to owe taxes, you could instead make a charitable gift before the end of the year instead. Donations to a qualified charity or non-profit



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
LAURENCE HALE  
INVESTMENT ADVISER

organization may qualify as a tax deduction. (But be aware that for some gifts, you may be required to itemize deductions using Schedule A.3)

While we're on the topic of giving, it's also a good idea to review a portion of your estate strategy at this time. Specifically, take a look at your beneficiary designations. If you haven't reviewed these designations for some time, double check to see that these assets and accounts are structured to go where you want them to go in the event that you pass away. Lastly, look at your will to make sure it is still valid and up-to-date.

Do you need to adjust your withholding?

Check on the amount you

have withheld from your paycheck. If you discover that you have withheld too little on your W-4 form so far this year, you can adjust the withholding in order to cover your expected tax burden before the year ends. Yes, this will result in a smaller paycheck, but it's better than being surprised with a big tax bill in April.

What else can you do before ringing in the New Year?

You might be eager to ring in a new year but you should consider speaking with a financial or tax professional well before New Year's Eve arrives. Doing so now, rather than in February or March, might help you improve your short-term financial situation.

At the same time, take this opportunity to address your long-term financial health as well. Just as being proactive at year's end will save you both anxiety and money at tax time, working with a financial advisor who is also a fiduciary to put a strategy in place for achieving the future you envision will do the same for years to come.

At Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Financial Advisors we use our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well strategic financial planning process to help our clients to do just that. Contact us at (860) 928-2341 or [info@whzwealth.com](mailto:info@whzwealth.com), or visit our website at [www.whzwealth.com](http://www.whzwealth.com) to learn more and get started.

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# If things don't go your way, let it go

Life sometimes goes differently than planned.

Maybe there was construction on the freeway, and you had to take another route; in the process, you probably got a little annoyed, possibly a little road rage.

Perhaps you didn't get the promotion at work; you've worked hard for years and made all the right moves only to have another employee steal it from you. You've been soaking in the bitterness ever since.

Have you ever been in a relationship and behaved in a manner that you hoped would elicit a specific response, and when the opposite happened, you were sad, depressed, or angry?

All of the unknowns in life can cause anxiety about the outcome of any situation. If you're like me, whenever



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
TOBY MOORE

there is any doubt about a particular outcome, it gets even more stressful as I try and prevent these scenarios from happening in the first place.

When I'm worried or upset about the possibility of a bad outcome, I become terrified of what might happen if I'm not in control.

All of us feel the need to be in control of some aspects of our life. In my personal life, I've experienced a lot of anger and frustration by attempting to control things I have no control over.

Life has a habit of getting in the way. We can make the most detailed plans, but as the saying goes, "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry!"

We all want things to happen a certain way, and it's unnerving when something doesn't go as planned. If

you're used to having a lot of control, and things aren't going as planned, it can bring despair: Leaving you overwhelmed and unable to cope.

Negative emotions are uncomfortable, sometimes, they help guide us down the right path in life, but there are more times when negative emotions are counterproductive and self-destructive.

How many times has something happened that was outside your control, and it ruined the rest of your day? How many times has an annoyance turned into resentment and bitterness?

It's good to plan; it's good to think of everything and try to make things go perfectly, but if they don't, do we have to let it upset us?

Is it healthy to be so controlling?

According to studies, people who try to control too much tend to be more anxious than those who don't. They tend to have less satisfaction when things

past.

Although Elizabeth Warren and I may not be able to attain tribal recognition with our scant bloodlines, our emotional connection to heritage and our white privilege from the breeding out policies in the 19th century gives us a leg up to fight for Native American rights: the honoring of treaties, protection of Native lands; bringing attention to the thousands of Native American women who go missing or murdered each year; and calling out the Killingly BOE and other backward schools across the nation that continue to use racist Native American sport mascots. As for Mr. DeLuca's parroting of Trump's ridiculous racist trope in an effort to reduce Elizabeth Warren to a cartoon character, all I can say is I'm with Pocahontas.

DONNA DUFRESNE  
POMFRET

DUFRESNE  
continued from page A8

through the generations and tedious genealogical digging into the understory where Native Americans were deliberately written out of history.

Unfortunately, many of us who would like to check those boxes for Native American on official documents, are the victims of the genocidal policies of "breeding out" in our watered-down bloodlines. Aside from the little sweet-grass baskets on my Great Aunt Rose's shelf, and a few Micmac words which could have been made up for my benefit, I have no claim to my Micmac heritage. I must be satisfied that the family stories are as true as the rosewood skin of my father and his pride in having "Indian blood."

While Mr. DeLuca parrots Trump's

racist tropes, the Killingly BOE has chosen to promote the "Redmen" mascot in spite of the consequences of losing state funding for education. Their flag-waving alumni have dressed up in war paint, which, far from honoring Native people, is akin to blackface in its blatant racism. Rather than falling prey to the pseudo patriotism of white supremacy and Trump's bylines, the so-called "Redmen" BOE should be honoring Nipmuc history and placing flags on the graves of the Nipmuc soldiers who volunteered for the Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment in the Civil War. Rather than howling war hoops at a football game, they should be made to say the names of the real "Indians" who risked their lives to save this country from the white supremacist Confederacy. Charles Webster; William Lambert; Joseph Justin from Eastford and Pomfret. This is how we honor the

# Putnam High School honors local veterans

BY ALLYSON DINOLA  
PUTNAM HIGH SCHOOL

PUTNAM — Traditionally schools have the day off for Veterans Day, but here at Putnam High School, we dedicate this day to honor the veterans who so bravely served our country.

Putnam High School held its second Veterans Day ceremony on Friday, Nov. 11. Our school was privileged to be joined by more than twenty-five local Veterans for a morning filled with breakfast, classroom visits, and a special flag raising ceremony where all students take a moment to remember the opportunities and privileges Veterans helped to provide. Members of our local American Legion Post 13 led the Flag Raising Ceremony and Putnam High Schools very own Acapella group sang the National Anthem. Please continue reading to hear more about what the Veterans had to say as well as pictures from the event.

Our event was made possible in large part due to the generous donations from the following: The Broken Crust, Bills Bread and Breakfast, The Bakers Dozen of Putnam, Garden Gate Florist, Stop & Shop of Dayville, Sawdust Café, Soleil Bakery, Chubby Dog Coffee, Walmart,



Putnam High Schools Social Studies teachers John Allen and Matthew Amendola, and the Putnam High School National Honor Society. Thank you for your generous contributions that led to organizing this wonderful annual event and again thank you to the Veterans in this world and the ones that came to speak with students here at Putnam



High School. Here are some thoughts veterans had to share: "It's an honor to serve," said Albert Cormier. "In addition to constructing bridges,

we were very well trained on how to get rid of bridges, very efficiently," added Hans Lowell "I'm 23 years in, I have one year and seven months to go, but I'm not counting," said Wayne Weiker.

# Sports pioneer leaves legacy in peaceful places



PUTNAM — Inspiring young athletes for decades, Pam Childs left a lasting mark on high school girls' basketball in Northeastern Connecticut. She coached her Putnam teams to 411 wins and eight



Quinebaug Valley Conference titles from 1969 to 1999. At her 2001 induction into the

Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, the three words that many used to describe her were: "Legend.

Pioneer. Institution." In retirement, Childs continued to inspire, enthusiastically encouraging others to enjoy the beauty of the Quiet Corner. She led the Wednesday Noon Walks at the Connecticut Audubon Society's Center at Pomfret for more than 10 years. The longtime Audubon volunteer died July 27, 2021, but her impact and legacy continue. "She was welcoming and attentive to the needs of those she led, making sure they were comfortable with the pace and trail terrain," said Sarah Heminway, Director of the CT Audubon Northeast Region. "She was also famous for the stacks of walking sticks she made for the Center nature store." "Pam was a dear friend to Connecticut Audubon," Heminway continued. "Her legacy is to encourage all of us to 'go for a walk' and appreciate the beauty around us. Her fellow walkers and friends placed a granite bench in her memory on the west side of the Day Brook trail of the Baffin Sanctuary in Pomfret. We encourage everyone to go for a walk, enjoy Pam's bench and consider all that she contributed to our region."

## OBITUARIES

### Elizabeth A. Aucoin, 74

Putnam – Elizabeth (Herlihy) "Betty" Aucoin, 74, of Liberty Highway, passed away on Thursday morning, November 17, 2022, surrounded by her loving family.



She was the beloved wife of Peter Aucoin. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of the late John and June (Morse) Herlihy.

Mrs. Aucoin worked as a secretary for Belding Heminway for ten years. She was a volunteer for Day Kimball Hospital for 20 years. She enjoyed cake decorating, baking, and sewing. She especially enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

In addition to her husband Peter, Elizabeth was survived by her daughter Allison Darigan and her husband John of Woodstock; her brother, Ellsworth "Butch" Herlihy and his wife Diane of Putnam, and Brian Herlihy of Woodstock; her sisters, Maryanne Loomis and her husband Dick of Putnam, and Katherine Saucier and her husband Ronald of Putnam; eight grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Melissa Pelletier.

Funeral services are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. Memorial donations may be made to Day Kimball Hospital Cancer Fund, P.O. Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

Funeral services are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260.

Memorial donations may be made to Day Kimball Hospital Cancer Fund, P.O. Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## LEGALS

### TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

**The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold Public Hearing on Monday November 28, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room, Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 via Zoom.**

**PZC #22-34** Application of Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission, 815 Riverside Drive, Annual Update to Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations for 2022.

Proposed amendments may be reviewed in the Director of Planning Office or Zoning Office.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman November 18, 2022 November 25, 2022

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Beno, Chairman November 25, 2022

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jay M Johnson, AKA Jay Johnson (22-00460) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk  
The fiduciary is: Joan M Pelletier-Johnson c/o DAMIAN MICHAEL NASH, KALANDER & SHAW, LTD., 931 JEFFERSON BLVD., SUITE 2004, WARWICK, RI 02886 November 25, 2022

### TOWN OF THOMPSON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

**The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals held a Public Hearing on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and took the following action:**

**ZBA #22-01** Mark P. Lamontagne, 458 Fabyan Road, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255, Map 19, Block 85, Lot 161, RRAD requesting a Variance for a 12' setback, amended to 13' setback for a detached 2 car garage. Continued from October 12, 2022. Approved **File may be reviewed online, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals, or in the Zoning Office.**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF Joseph Denis Morissette, AKA J. Denis Morissette (22-00469) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is: Delores E. Morissette, MARK R BROUILLARD (attorney for Delores E. Morissette), ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281, (860)928-0481. November 25, 2022

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# A fun festival for all



Susan Levesque and MaryBeth Jolda members of Daughters of Isabella sell raffle tickets at the annual Yuletide Festival



Sister Anne Cacciapuoti (front) and Sharon Leighton members of Daughters of Isabella share in the festival fun.



Standing Maureen Desilets and sitting Sandra Montie members of Daughters of Isabella share in the festival fun

Daughters of Isabella #543 hosted their annual Yuletide Festival Nov. 12 at St Mary's Hall in Putnam. A great time for all who participated.

Photos Courtesy

## Potatoes and cauliflower in a new way

Certain items are staples of the Thanksgiving dinner table. For example, mashed potatoes, candied yams and stuffing are Thanksgiving stalwarts. Pumpkin and apple pies help wrap up the festivities.

Thanksgiving hosts and hostesses interested in injecting more variety into their Thanksgiving offerings may want to consider a few unique side dishes to complement their turkey dinners. Sides that borrow from familiar flavors may fit seamlessly into the holiday feast and add spark to the meal.

This recipe for "Gnocchi with Roasted Cauliflower" from "Real Simple Dinner Tonight: Done!" (Time Home Entertainment) from the editors of Real Simple is rooted in popular ingredients synonymous with Thanksgiving. Gnocchi

is a chewy and filling pasta made from potato — a holiday standard, while cauliflower is a mild, versatile vegetable that absorbs the spices and flavors of other ingredients. Putting these two ingredients together allows holiday hosts to provide a new side with some familiar flavors at this year's Thanksgiving dinner.

**Gnocchi with Roasted Cauliflower**  
Serves 4 (as a main course)

- 1 small head cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 1/4 cup fresh sage leaves
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- 1 pound gnocchi (fresh or frozen)
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan

Heat oven to 400 F. On a rimmed baking sheet, toss the cauliflower and sage with the oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Roast, tossing once, until the cauliflower is golden brown and tender, 25 to 30 minutes.

Fifteen minutes before the cauliflower is finished, cook the gnocchi according to the package directions. Divide the gnocchi among bowls and top with the cauliflower and Parmesan.

**Tip:** Cauliflower florets are easier to separate if you remove the core first. Place the head stem-side up. Using a paring knife, cut around the core at an angle, creating a cone-shaped piece, then lift it out. If the head is very large, halve it first through the core.



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## Saving strategies for young adults

When a person is young, saving money may be the furthest thing from his or her mind. After all, this may be a time to enroll in college or trade school, make a first big purchase, such as a car, or even get married. Thinking about establishing a solid financial footing for the future can take a back seat when life is filled with so many significant events.

But it's never too early to start saving — even when saving seems to be an impossible task. Young adults should keep saving in mind and look to various strategies that can set them up for long-term financial security.

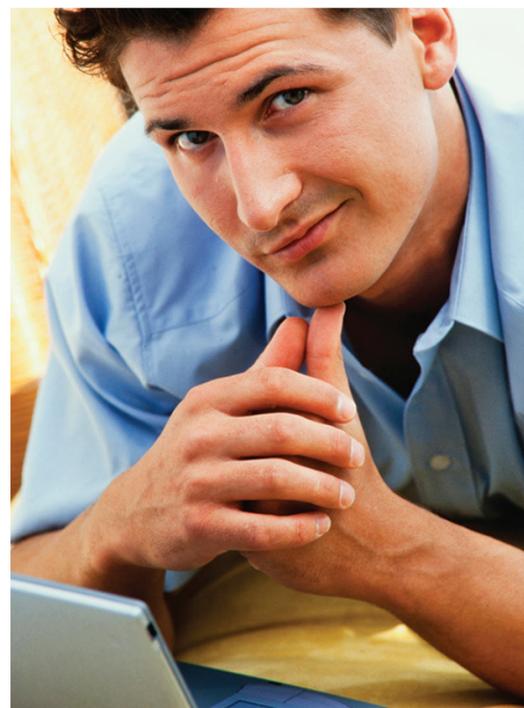
**Set long-term goals**

It's easier to save when saving is attached to specific goals. While some may aspire to retire early, establish an emergency fund or to purchase a home, others may want to save for an overseas vacation. Motivation to save can make it that much easier to do so.

**Determine where you spend the most**

Saving money on smaller purchases will add up over time, but to really build a robust savings, figure out your biggest expenditures and how you can cut back to pad your savings. The Logic of Money reports that the average American spends more than 60 percent of their income on housing and transportation. Figuring out how to cut costs in these categories can be a great way to save.

**Use cashback apps**  
Young adults are tied to their digital devices. Why not make them work for you? Free cash



back apps give you money back for various purchases. Ibotta and Dosh are just two cashback apps available. Some can be linked directly to a credit or debit card to have passive income deposited directly. With others, you can cash out as a direct deposit or via a payment app like PayPal.

**Set aside one-third of your income**

Make it a point to put away \$1 for every \$3 earned into a savings account, advises U.S. News & World Report. That is a good measure for establishing a rainy day fund. If you don't trust yourself to transfer the money, have a set amount automatically deposited from your paycheck into a designated savings account.

**Treat credit cards like using cash**

The "buy now, pay later" option is an attractive trap to fall into. Using credit cards often is a safer way to pay merchants, because you're risking others' money rather than your own with a debit card. However, using credit can make it challenging to visualize what you're actually spending. Do not purchase more than you can pay off within each billing cycle. Set account alerts on your phone to let you know when you've hit your budgeted credit card spending limit. Resist the urge to open and use too many cards.

Young adults can begin saving early with some conventional and highly effective strategies.

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