



*In three words,
I can sum up
everything I've
learned about
life: It Goes On. -
Robert Frost.*

PUTNAM VILLAGER

Friday, February 2, 2024

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Killingly Library hosts mind-body wellness professionals

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The journey of personal health is a multifaceted one. It involves physical wellness, but also incorporates mental and emotional care to help create an effective balance. While many tackle these different aspects of health as individual journeys, they are more intertwined than some may realize.

That's just part of the teachings provided by Brad and Pamela Thompson, who are certified Emotional Freedom Techniques, or EFT, specialists that together created their program Wellness Within 11 years ago. On Jan. 24, they brought their teachings to the Killingly Public Library to help encourage techniques that will allow locals to tackle their personal health journeys from a more holistic approach.

The Thompsons are

both former educators who traveled the world to perfect their understanding of how the mind can affect the body. Their teachings explain how western medicine might provide some solutions to health problems, but that finding balance is a more personal journey with more control than many may realize. Through the study of recent literature and scientific analysis, the Thompsons have explored how the mind can affect the body and, in many ways, be the underlying cause of extended illness over time. The goal of their practice is to teach people how to take control of their mind and body as one to positively impact their physical, mental, and emotional health rather than depending solely on western medical practices for solutions.

"What people generally know in terms of health is the western medicine model, go to the doctor, get a prescription of a

diagnosis, and they're treated on the symptoms, but not on the cause. So, we introduce a different way of looking at health and disease by looking at the true causes of these conditions through the use of mind-body tools and techniques and science that backs up the mind-body connection," said Brad Thompson.

"One of the goals for this program and others is to help people understand that they have more power over their happiness, their health, and their well-being than they've ever been led to believe," Pamela Thompson added. "We give them tools on how to access that and information that will help them to understand why that's so."

Their session provided participants with breathing techniques and introduced them to EFT concepts like "tapping" designed to help them

Turn To **WELLNESS** page **A11**



Jason Bleau

Brad and Pamela Thompson, professionals of EFT techniques and mind-body wellness, brought their program Wellness Within to the Killingly Public Library.

Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital contributes \$25,000 towards \$250,000 Pledge

Courtesy



Pictured, left to right: Elaine Turner, Beth Frost, Kim Lecuyer, Denise Archambault, Deb Cornman, Wanda Mineo, Heidi Hare, Cheryl Medlyn, Arlene Baril. Front: Valentine Iamartino, President; Kristen Willis, DKH Director of Development.

Killingly reopens Valley Road Bridge

BEAR ROAD BRIDGE
UPGRADES BEGIN

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — A bridge on Valley Road in Killingly has been reopened after receiving renovations last fall according to Town Manager Mary Calorio. The structure is the first of three bridges that were scheduled for work at the start of 2023 to upgrade culverts and improve structural integrity.

In October of 2023, Calorio explained that three bridges would be upgraded and partially funded through the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program. The projects were first approved in 2016 with Northern Construction eventually hired to replace all three. The first bridge was on Valley Road over Mashentuck Brook. During a Jan. 9 meeting of the Town Council, Calorio announced that bridge has officially reopened, and work began on the second bridge at the start of the year.

"The culvert that spans over the Mashentuck Brook has been fully replaced," Calorio said. "They did a really great job. Northern Construction has moved on now to the box culvert on Bear Hill Road."

The Bear Hill Road Bridge was initially indicated to be the third bridge scheduled for work during Calorio's update in October. It appears that work has been moved up as the bridge closed on Jan. 2 with a long detour put in place.

"There's no way around having a long detour out there," said Calorio. "This has been communicated to all of the emergency services as well as the Board of Education so clearly everybody has made their paths around. We anticipate that this closure will be for approximately three months and after they complete that one, they will move on to the third box culvert that was part of this overall approval."

The third culvert will be another Valley Road

Turn To **BRIDGE** page **A11**

FUNDS SUPPORT DAY KIMBALL HOSPITAL'S DA VINCI SURGICAL ROBOTIC SYSTEM

PUTNAM — The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital is working to fulfill a \$250,000 pledge to support Day Kimball Hospital's recently acquired da Vinci sur-

gical robotic system.

At its December quarterly meeting and luncheon, Woman's Board President Valentine Iamartino presented a check for \$25,000 toward

the pledge which originated in April 2022.

To date, the Women's Board has applied more than \$71,000 toward its pledge. Funds for this commitment are raised

through the gift shop at Day Kimball Hospital and various fundraisers sponsored by the Woman's Board.

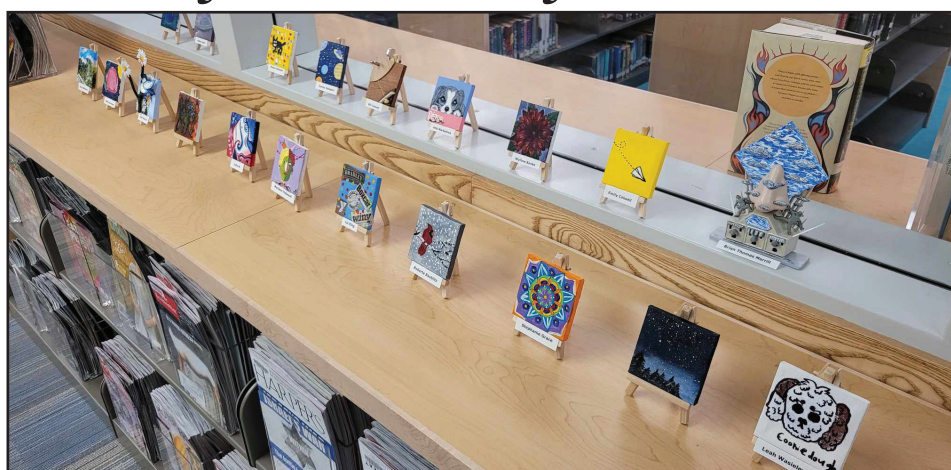
Turn To **PLEDGE** page **A10**

Putnam Library debuts Tiny Art Show

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The Putnam Public Library has added some new local art to its decor, at least for the next month, with the debut of its first Tiny Art Show on Jan. 22.

The show features more than 30 hand-painted pieces from a variety of artists age 14 and up, each with their own style and personality. While some participants embraced simpler designs others created



Jason Bleau

The Putnam Public Library's first Tiny Art Show features more than 30 pieces of varying styles. The show will be in place until the end of February.

Turn To **SHOW** page **A10**

SCORE presents two-part Webinar series on QuickBooks

DATES: Tuesday, February 27, and Thursday, February 29, 2024
TIME: 12:00 to 1:30 PM EST
L O C A T I O N : Live on Zoom
 See below for workshop details and registration links.
REGION — SCORE Eastern CT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America's

Small Businesses, will offer a free two-part webinar series for small business owners on QuickBooks, presented by Intuit ProAdvisor Elizabeth Santaus, on Tuesday, Feb. 27 and Thursday, Feb. 29 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Attend one or both sessions. Pre-registration is required (after registering, you will receive confirmation emails with links to join

the webinars).
Part 1: "Managing Your Business Finances with QuickBooks" Tuesday, Feb. 27, noon-1:30 p.m.
 Sponsored by Guilford Savings Bank
 If you have turned to QuickBooks™ for help as a new user, and find you need help setting up the program, this webinar is for you. It will explain the Chart of Accounts and its critical importance in the correct use of QuickBooks. There will be time for Q&A on any QuickBooks questions you have.

Part 2: "Choosing the Right QuickBooks After the Discontinuation of QuickBooks Pro, Premier, and Mac" Thursday, Feb. 29, noon-1:30 p.m.
 In this follow-up webinar, we will discuss Intuit's decision to discontinue their QuickBooks Desktop Pro, Premier and Mac products this spring, and what options remain. We will compare QuickBooks Online versions, Intuit's remaining desktop software – QuickBooks Enterprise Solutions – and other possible accounting software platforms for small businesses. A detailed guide to migrating from the Mac/Pro/Premier QuickBooks versions to QuickBooks Online will be made available to participants. There will be time for Q&A.

Workshop Presenter Elizabeth Santaus has more than 28 years of experience in the financial accounting software and bookkeeping industry. With previous experience consulting and as CFO for three sister companies in Branford, Elizabeth knows how to help businesses prosper and grow. She has consulted, trained, and provided bookkeeping services for more than 300 small businesses in Connecticut and New York since launching Dressler Santaus LLC in 2006.

Guilford Savings Bank (GSB) has been serving the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses in Connecticut for over 148 years. Founded in 1875 by local business owners, it has proudly stood as a trusted institution in the communities it serves. Starting with a \$17,000 investment and one branch on the picturesque Guilford Town Green, GSB has grown to eight branches with just over \$1+ billion in assets, offering digital and virtual banking services to customers throughout the state of Connecticut. Learn more at <https://mygsb.bank/>.

About SCORE
 SCORE® is a nonprofit association that offers free and confidential advice on starting your own business or improving and growing your existing small business.

Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million current and aspiring entrepreneurs. Each year, SCORE's 10,000 volunteer business experts provide hundreds of thousands of free small business mentoring sessions, workshops, and educational services to clients in 300 chapters nationwide. In 2022, SCORE volunteers shared 4.65 million hours of expertise and advice with their clients, helping people start over 30,000 new businesses, and creating over 82,000 additional non-owner jobs. With more than 50 workshops/webinars and special events each year, and advances in remote mentoring tools, SCORE Eastern CT helps small businesses across Southeastern and Northeastern CT. For more information on upcoming free workshops and how to schedule a free small business mentoring session with our counselors, visit <https://www.score.org/easternct>.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Jan. 22: Northern Harrier, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Junco, Eastern Towhee, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Flicker, House Finch. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.



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David Eichelberg returns to share Mohegan traditions at Christ Church



POMFRET — David Eichelberg, Outreach and Tradition Specialist of the Mohegan Tribe, returns to Christ Church Pomfret on Sunday, Feb. 4 to share more local history through the oral traditions of the Mohegan tribe.

Dressed in a traditional, handmade costume, Eichelberg will perform more drumming and share more artifacts, but will also indulge the audience in storytelling. Time permitting, the audience will learn some native games as well.

Doors of the church's Great Hall open at 2:30 p.m. for coffee and refreshments, and the talk begins at 3 p.m. All are welcome and there is no cost to attend.

Christ Church is located at 527 Pomfret St., Route 169, in Pomfret.

Courtesy
David Eichelberg, Outreach and Tradition Specialist of the Mohegan Tribe, dresses in traditional garb.

Local students earn Dean's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY, Mass. — More than 220 students at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., have achieved Dean's List honors during the fall 2023 semester.

Dean's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

The following local students earned Dean's List honors for the fall 2023 semester:

- Gabriel Dowd of Brooklyn
- Brett Gile of Dayville
- Ethan Gosper of Danielson
- Liam Wilcox of Woodstock Valley
- Kaitlyn Lamontagne of N. Grosvenordale
- Hailey Stewart of N. Grosvenordale
- Joseph Werge of N. Grosvenordale
- Mateusz Chojnicki of Woodstock
- Dominick Kollbeck of Woodstock

- Kaitlyn Lamontagne of N. Grosvenordale
- Ryan Latour of Woodstock

About Nichols College
 Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

POMFRET

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INTO THE WOODS

FEBRUARY 15, 16, & 17, 2024
 7:00 PM

Pomfret School, Hard Auditorium
 398 Pomfret Street

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
www.pomfret.org

Ashley Nunes named to University of Delaware Dean's List

NEWARK, Del. — Ashley Nunes of Woodstock has been named to the University of Delaware Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

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Pomfret Horse and Trail recognizes Volunteers of the Year

POMFRET — Three members of Pomfret Horse and Trail Association were recognized as Volunteers of the Year at the January annual meeting.

Bill and Diane MacLaren, owners of Tyrone Farm, were awarded certificates for their immeasurable hospitality and promotion of equine activities in Pomfret. The MacLarens have hosted meetings, potluck suppers, and numerous equine events over the years, including the Cross-Town Ride and the Fall Foliage Ride in 2023. Both rides allowed access to miles of trails on their land and raised thousands of dollars. The MacLarens enabled Pomfret Horse and Trail to donate funds to the Wyndham Land Trust, the Audubon Society, and New England Forestry for open space preservation.

Pomfret Horse and Trail Vice President Gina Labbe said, “We owe the MacLarens a long-term debt of gratitude for their contribution to the horse community, the preservation of land, and the beauty of Pomfret. Tyrone Farm has been the standard bearer of riding events for almost four decades, beginning with the Pomfret Hunter Pace in 1986.”

Margie Huoppi, Pomfret Horse and Trail treasurer, was awarded a Volunteer of the Year certificate for earning 208 volunteer hours, the highest number for any member.

Labbe said, “Margie is the backbone of Pomfret Horse and Trail. She keeps impeccable records and is a major organizer of every event we run. She was one of the original members when we formed in 2007 and is a long-time rider. She is integral to every aspect of our group—from events to website maintenance to treasurer reports. We could not exist without her.”

New Pomfret Horse and Trail officers and board members were also elected, including Gina Labbe as vice president, ShyAnne Demers as a new board member and secretary, and Jennifer Reilly as a new board member.

Pomfret Horse and Trail Association is a nonprofit organization formed to promote responsible horseback riding and to preserve open space and the centuries-old system of riding and hiking trails in Pomfret, Connecticut. The association works closely with landowners, local land trusts, and the

town of Pomfret to maintain access and expand trail networks. Anyone is welcome to join at: www.pomfrehorseandtrail.com.

FEBRUARY 19TH IS MOVING DAY WELCOME TO OUR 3 NEW ORTHOPEDIC PRACTICE PROFESSIONALS

The Day Kimball Ortho Group is expanding, and we're thrilled to welcome three exceptionally talented Advanced Practice Professionals to our team:

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PA-C, AT-C

David J. LaChance
APRN, RNFA

Michael Olm
MS, PA-C

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Courtesy

PREPARE FOR CUPCAKE WARS

Eastford is excited to host the sixth annual “Cupcake Wars” baking contest on Saturday, Feb. 24, 1 – 3 p.m. Allison Gormley, event coordinator said, “We are so excited to host the event again this year. We look forward to seeing and tasting all the creative cupcakes! Everyone from our communities is welcome to participate or come to take part in the People’s Choice voting.” The sweet delights will be judged in categories to include recipe and display and in two age groups - junior (ages up to 13) and senior (14 and up). There will also be “People’s Choice” awards where the judges will be the guests. Attendees can taste, enjoy, and cast their votes for people’s choice. This community-wide, all ages event will be held at the Eastford Elementary School and is sponsored by The Congregational Church of Eastford. Register to compete by Feb. 22 (it’s all free) at www.cceastford.org/events/Questions? Call 860-974-024 or visit office@cceastford.com.

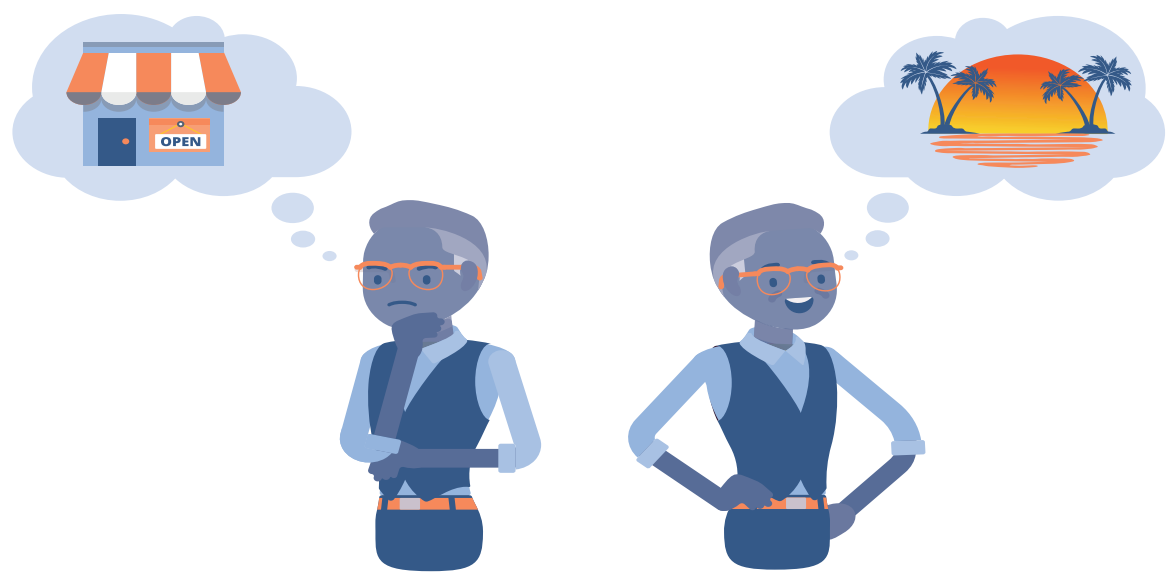
Samuel Hagan named to the College of Charleston President’s List

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Samuel Hagan of Woodstock was named to the College of Charleston Fall 2023 President’s List (Highly Distinguished). Hagan is majoring in Accounting.

To qualify for the President’s List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

To qualify for Dean’s List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Located in the heart of historic Charleston, South Carolina, the College of Charleston is a nationally recognized public liberal arts and sciences university. Founded in 1770, the College is among the nation’s top universities for quality education, student life and affordability. Its beautiful and historic campus, combined with contemporary facilities, cutting-edge programs and accessible faculty attracts students from across the U.S. and around the world.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Immigration

To the Editor:
 As of today (Jan. 20), the Senate, with a bipartisan effort, has been working on finishing a bill looking to send aid to Ukraine, Israel and both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate have agreed on way to help the immigration problem. The GOP Senators stated it is a good policy that will help in the immigration crisis now that is happening on the southern border. Good.
 Bipartisan means both sides agree help the country and solve the issue or at least a step in the right direction. On to the House. Someone does not want the legislation to go through, Why? This person basically using the Speaker of the House (laugh-laugh) will not bring it up. Why? The cult leader/Orange Jesus/ twice impeached, four times indicted on 91 counts, being sued two times being civilly in New York, one furthering damages in defamation lawsuit, for molesting E. Jean

Carroll, one in fraud cases on playing with the values of his properties for his monetary benefit (this tag gets longer all the time), wants to use immigration a campaign issue against Biden. He would rather have the problem continue on for an additional 12-18 months than solve it now. This is leadership?
 Bet someone in Thompson likes it. Like his master, he loves the insanity that cult leader provides. Maybe even that is the intention. As a few writers lately have stated in this paper he is unstable and a danger to this country and the world. He loves to insult people on their heritage, name and only God knows what else. Someone editorializes in this paper in a fashion that make Trump happy. Super gibberish.

Lastly, my condolences to Dink about the passing of your mom. She was a good lady.

DAVID CASSETTARI
 KILLINGLY

Washington Republicans have the cart before the horse

To the Editor:
 Our Republican House Representatives in Washington voted in favor of an impeachment inquiry into President Biden before having the necessary evidence. This is unprecedented. A vote to impeach should be made based upon the presence of factual evidence of wrongdoing, and not before. The Representatives are using impeachment as a political tool to try Biden in the court of public opinion and the court of 'alternative' facts.

If impeachment is called for as a result of proof, then, by all means, impeach. But to call for this extraordinary action without facts is a sad commentary on the state of our politics. We have so many important issues to address as a country, shouldn't those be our focus?

RAY WISHART
 CHAIR
 POMFRET DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Republicans' only concern is power

To the Editor:
]Currently, immigration reform is the number one issue for Republican voters, according to almost every poll. Nevertheless, Donald Trump, found guilty by a jury of raping and defaming a woman, and MAGA radicals in Congress want to kill a bipartisan immigration reform bill simply because they don't want a Democratic president to sign it. They prefer to allow Americans to continue dying from fentanyl overdoses to preserve an election issue that they believe they can exploit to defeat President Biden in November.

he thinks that will help him overcome his rape, fraud, and insurrection to win election. He couldn't care less about you, me, or your readers, only about himself.

I don't know if it was done intentionally or not, but the two letters you printed side-by-side on page A5 of the 26 January Villager provided a perfect contrast between a traditional conservative Republican and the majority of the GOP today. In the first instance, Senator Jeff Gordon presents a thoughtful and logical case for a slower transition away from petroleum-powered vehicles without gratuitous comments about his opponents. In the second instance, we get more Ed DeLuca.

Sincerely,
 BILLY G. TAYLOR
 KILLINGLY

EV power comes from wherever – that's the point

To the Editor:
 If you want to know why so many people that are into science and technology end up as Democrats, just find some narcissistic word salad from Republicans about things like EVs, grab the popcorn, and watch them trudge their way into being on the wrong side of history. Bonus points when it involves politicians telling you to keep politics out of something like electric cars... and then writing a political essay about electric cars.

generation later. Like it or not, we've gotten what we can out of gas, and the world knows it, which is why parts of the world with less oil and more of something else (like nuclear) are barreling forward as fast as they can towards electric cars.

Cornell University also recently has been working on a form of battery that charges in under 5 minutes, going after the charge speed issue that EVs are throttled by, though indium anodes are heavy and won't help the weight issues of EV battery arrays and how EVs currently eat tires for breakfast due to the extra weight. Their project is based on current lithium ion technology though, not solid state. Lastly, for folks concerned about lithium, sodium ion batteries are also a thing, and the folks pursuing those are trying to get over their lack of energy density since that tech's newer and less refined. Bottom line – people are doing stuff to go after the problems of electric cars rather than sitting around whining.

Lastly, when someone cries about electric cars, rewind things a century and see if their points apply to gassers in the early part of the last century. "Where is the fuel going to come from" could have easily been thrown about when horses and buggies were still everywhere but gas stations weren't. "It costs too much" would have applied in the pre-Model T days when "horseless carriages" were play toys for rich people. We've seen what happened since then though, which should be reason enough for us to support the fledgling technology's further development if we're smart enough to learn from history.

Necessity is the mother of invention. The issues with electric cars like range and how to handle cold winters are just more reason to throw more brains at the matter and find more solutions, including things like inductive charging that some folks are experimenting with where a parking spot has a jumbo-sized version of the wireless charging that phones have. Technology is about trying to solve problems rather than sitting around crying about them.

Solid state batteries remain the technology to watch. When batteries go further from full to dead than gas tanks go from full to empty we'll be having a very different discussion about EVs, and some folks running their mouths right now are going to be very, very embarrassed.

JAY GERHART
 PUTNAM

The comfort of crosswords

As the sun rises, I turn on my iPad and begin to play the New York Times Mini-Crossword. If there isn't a tinkle of celebratory music in less than a minute, I am disappointed. The day may not go well if I can't complete the small brain teaser in seconds. Early in the week, I print out the big crossword puzzles and fill in the blanks with relative ease. By



NANCY WEISS

Saturday, I'm sunk, not like my dentist, who admitted he makes short work of the most challenging puzzle of the week. Welcome to the world of crossword puzzle fans.

My mother, cigarette ash dangling dangerously in her right hand, sharpened her pencil and tackled the Boston Globe crossword puzzle every morning. It is one of my clearest memories of her, focused, not to be disturbed until the daily challenge was complete. Now I'm more than twenty years older than she was when she died and I wonder how quickly she might have solved the New York Times puzzle. Instead of her attitude of entitlement — the puzzle was a daily devotional, I wonder if juicing up my brain will stave off dementia for a decade or so.

Cruciverbalist is the word for a crossword puzzle enthusiast. I've never seen it used or heard it spoken, but if a clue references it, I hope I remember. There are countless people who love the games. Will Shortz, the editor of the NYT crosswords, is my favorite, but there are many more. I read that doing the puzzles uses our linguistic intelligence, a practice favored by people like me who are challenged by words. Suduko, which so far leaves me cold, is played by those who enjoy logic. My husband likes to do Wordle. He doesn't post his scores, but many do, a competitive move that would make me nervous.

Exploring the Internet led me to a study in JAMA Open, July 2023. It indicates that brain-challenging activities such as journaling, playing chess, board games and crossword puzzles lowered the risk of developing dementia in older adults. The only board game we play with regularity is Quiddler, a word contest that our friends introduced us to. My bookshelves sag beneath the weight of journals I'll never reread. I never learned chess or mahjong, so only crosswords stand between me and forgetfulness. Thank goodness they are engrossing. My brain needs them.

I'm in good company, according to some. Over 50 million people solve crosswords at least now and then. On WebMD, I read a study: "Crosswords, Crafts... by Lisa O'Mary that said: "... crossword puzzles also use language in a way that triggers word and knowledge networks in the brain." Apparently, there is a 9 percent reduced risk of dementia among people who did active mental activities. Before I begin to wonder who funds such studies, I pause to consider how much time it takes to do the Sunday puzzle. I learn that "top solvers" can fill in the blanks on the tricky 21 x 21 square in eight to 12 minutes. I'm breathless.

When faced with clues that are the names of hip hop groups, internet acronyms, current movie or television stars, I am at a loss. It's not dementia. It's cultural brain freeze. When I fill in Tashkent, capitol of Uzbekistan, I know the answer because a family friend moved there. Unlike some, I don't look up answers in dictionaries. Either I remember it or I don't. Unlike my mother, I fill in the blanks in pen, even though I'm often in error. I guess entitlement is where one finds it. Give me a cruciverbalist anytime. They are certain to be good company.

The story behind our most unique weather-predicting tradition

Every year on Feb. 2, the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania becomes the center of attention as the entire country waits with baited breath to see whether or not its most famous resident will see his shadow when he emerges from his underground den. It's a quirky tradition that combines weather prediction folklore with community celebration.

Groundhog Day has its origins in European weather lore, brought to North America by German immigrants. They believed that a groundhog's behavior could predict the weather, and this tradition has been passed down through generations.

Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog, takes the spotlight on Groundhog Day. If Phil sees his shadow when he emerges from his burrow, it's believed that winter will last for six more weeks. If not, spring is expected to arrive early.

The celebration at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney is turned into quite the event. Thousands gather early in the morning to witness Phil's prediction. After being awakened, Phil's verdict is announced to the crowd by the "Inner Circle," who show up replete with top hats and tails. It may seem superstitious, but that is part of its charm. In a world full of serious matters, Groundhog Day is one of the rare occasions when people come together to enjoy a bit of whimsy.

This tradition has a way of uniting communities. For Punxsutawney, it's a point of pride and a symbol of local identity that's been celebrated for over a century.

Regardless of Phil's prediction, let's hope for an early spring!

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.

The main advantage of electric cars will be that the fuel is generated rather than manufactured. Gasoline and diesel are manufactured. Methanol and ethanol are manufactured. Hydrogen cars seem to buck the trend, but they'll still require transmissions and needing to start the thing which is optional in certain electric setups that keep things simpler and end up requiring less maintenance. On the other hand, however you can generate electricity is how you can charge an EV – full stop. Ultimately with some better battery technology, nothing will match the consumer freedom offered via a car that shares the same energy as our houses and smartphones... and the options from which to get it.

Samsung has joined the race for solid state batteries and wants to come up with something that goes to EVs first by 2027, then scales down to everything else afterwards like phones, laptops, tablets, electric power tools, the works. Meanwhile I was poking around reading about cars and I found out that the compact cars my Dad liked driving when I was little back in the '80s only had slightly worse fuel economy than the ones I drive a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Earth - Hope is not a strategy

To the Editor;

In the early 2000s, while living in Philadelphia and working for AIG, I published "Climate Change - Hope is Not a Strategy" in a now-defunct (call it extinct) environmental journal. Twenty years later, it seems many are still just hoping climate change isn't going to turn out as bad as scientists are predicting.

A 2023 survey by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago found that three out of four Americans believe climate change is happening. However, roughly 50 percent are skeptical that climate change is the result solely of human activity, and that number is actually growing, despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary. That tells us one primary thing: the fossil fuel industry's relentless disinformation campaign is working! It also reveals, sadly, that we humans are pretty easy to dupe.

The revenues from the top 10 fossil fuel companies alone, if compared to a country's gross domestic product (GDP), would rank that small group as the eighth largest country in the world! So yeah, they've got the big bucks to fund "think tanks" who craft slick and misleading marketing messages that get us to buy in and our political leaders to join in ("drill, baby, drill") for re-election funds. The messaging works because we (homo sapiens) are somewhat pre-programmed as a species to gather the resources that give us the best chance of succeeding and we are short-term thinkers, so, gathering resources as cheaply as possible is part of that programming. Know anyone who drives out of their way for the gas station with five cent cheaper gas, even though that adds up to savings of 60 cents on 12 gallons (likely offset by the additional distance driven)?

We have a lousy track record of factoring the downside of complex resource scenarios and planning for the future. We tend to think about what it takes to make us happy right now, not seven generations or even 10 years from now. Like say, what was the plan cavemen had in mind when they killed off the last Woolly Mammoth? It probably went kind of like this: "Boys, we're in deep trouble... We ate the last one! A lot of stunned faces look at each other in silence and then finally, one of them says: "How 'bout them Dodo bBirds over there?!" Or, for us modern homo sapiens what's the plan with digging up and burning geologically sequestered carbon (i.e. fossil fuel)? Do we even have a plan other than: "use it up as fast as possible and then hope we'll figure something out after it's all gone?" There's that "hope" word again.... Never mind the fact that long before fossil fuels are all gone the earth will be too hot to support human life anymore.

"Geologically sequestered" means the carbon has been stored in the earth's bedrock. How? Natural carbon sequestration began with the arrival of earth's first living organisms that were able to survive in our young planet's hot and toxic environment. Much the same way modern trees take carbon dioxide (CO2) from the air and store it as wood mass, as these simple ancient organisms breathed, they took in CO2 from the atmosphere and exhaled O2 (oxygen) and the carbon became part of their biomass. This infinitesimally slow process went on for billions of years, and slowly scrubbed the atmosphere of CO2. When these carbon-rich organisms died, they sank to the bottom of the ancient seas, and over millennia, buried in sediments, turned into coal, oil and natural gas and are now part of the earth's bedrock.

For the first two and half billion years of its existence, the earth could not support complex life forms. They first showed up in the seas, but it wasn't until four billion years had passed before life finally crawled out onto land. Before that, our atmosphere was just too hot for things like dinosaurs or dairy cows. It took more than four billion years of CO2 scrubbing by those microscopic organisms for the earth's climate to become hospitable for complex life to flourish on land.

Evolutionary processes then played out on land and all kinds of weird species came and went. About 250 million years ago, dinosaurs showed up and had a great time for 180 million years, never causing any problems with mother earth. They'd still be here today except for the fact that a very big meteor came and smashed into the earth and shut that party down. It was an intensely violent event that flipped the earth's climate in an instant. In a few short days all the big creatures (the megafauna) were gone and the game of life started again from scratch from the little critters that survived. That cosmic event left the door open for us to evolve from the ashes. With no velociraptors around to chew us delicate morsels up, we humans were able to hang around long enough to eventually figure out how to make fire and split the atom!

For 99.9 percent of homo sapiens' (Latin for "wise man") fortunate existence, the "resources" we used were only meat and plants for food, water, animal hides or fur for clothing, and of course stone for tools (thus, the stone age). Maybe throw in (pun intended) a good spear made from a tree branch. Eventually, we figured out how to work a new technology called fire and firewood

became an essential resource. A million or so years later, we added whale oil as the latest, greatest resource. This oil was not geologically sequestered carbon, it was biologically sequestered in the form of a huge living animal with lots of blubber. We liked that resource so much, the poor whales got within a hair's breadth of going the way of Woolly Mammoths. And they would be extinct had we not discovered geologically sequestered carbon in the ground, in the form of crude oil, in western, PA, in 1847. But of course, history reveals that China (it's always China right?) actually drilled the first oil well some 350 years before Christ. How the heck...?

Back to that Pennsylvania oil well: for about 180 years, we have been releasing geologically sequestered carbon back into the atmosphere at rates increasing exponentially with each passing decade. CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere are now headed towards levels not seen since early earth was covered with active volcanoes and the only living thing was something called cyanobacteria, in the oceans. The rapid growth of this modern-day carbon release has been driven by the explosion of the human population aided by the advent of the industrial revolution; since then, human population has exploded from one billion to eight billion with 10 billion on the horizon by 2050! And of course, we have very big appetites for fossil fuels.

Today, the heat-forcing equivalent of man's relentless carbon release has been compared to a nuclear bomb blowing up every two seconds somewhere on earth for the last 50 years. But, the fossil fuel industry (i.e. the ones who profit off this carbon release), would have us all believe the change in earth's climate (that we all see with our own eyes), is simply the result of "natural processes". They have convinced us to ignore the fact there are now eight billion of us humans swarming the earth, burning gas, oil, coal and natural gas, every day, 24/7 in just about every nook and cranny of our innocent planet. And if that wasn't bad enough, at the same time earth's precious rainforests are being bulldozed and deliberately set ablaze to clear land for palm oil farms that go on as far as the eye can see. So much for the toucans, jaguars and the massive umbrella-like kapok trees they call home: we really love that palm oil! After all, this new "resource" produces wonderfully moist cookies and cakes, and I guess a few other things we can't live without like cosmetics and shampoo. But, it seems we think we can live without the rainforests. At least we hope so, right? Because the planet's rainforests are disappearing faster than girl scout cookies drenched in palm oil!

We're back to that "hope" word again! And, we're also looking again at our inability to manage complex resources without, uh, "extinction" coming back into the conversation. This time, it's not Woolly Mammoths, Dodos or dinosaurs we're talking about. Today, it's honey bees, coral reefs, Atlantic Cod, Siberian Tigers, Snowy Owls, Polar Bears, even foods we love to eat like bananas, grapes (wine anyone?), cocoa and even our daily cup of jo might not make it to the future. Anybody ok giving up coffee for life? According to a September 2021 article by the World Economic Forum, 40% of all our edible crops face imminent extinction! Just how is it that we, the ones who are causing all this extinction, plan on avoiding extinction ourselves? I sure hope we have a plan that goes beyond just, uh... "hope."

If we plan on sticking around for a respectable run as a species, we better accept pronto (Latin for "immediately") the reality of climate change and quit putting geologically sequestered carbon into the atmosphere. Wouldn't that after all be "wise?" A January 2023 article by J.D. Power reports that the average American household's second largest monthly expense is gasoline, equalling approximately \$5,000 per year. Add another \$2,000 per year for home heating costs in New England and you really get the point. Over the average adult's life, that's \$400,000 they squeeze out of us. It's a great business model for the oil companies! But it's a lousy one for the rest of us (and the planet).

So how about this for an idea? How about we add a new resource to our list? It's called the sun! Solar is now the world's cheapest source of energy and the average return on investment for homeowners is down to seven years or less. That means, after seven years you own your own personal power plant and your energy is free! Oh, and you can even charge your electric vehicle off your roof. And there's even more benefits to this model: if we really do want to stick around, that sun up there in the sky is non-polluting and eternal! Isn't it time we homo sapiens finally get wise and start playing the long game?

If you are concerned about our planet's health and the future we are leaving for our children, please visit earth21st-century.com and email me or join me for a presentation of Earth 2024 at one of the listed events.

KEN WOLSLEGEL
WOODSTOCK

Returning Trump to the White House would be a disaster

To the Editor:

While Donald Trump was delivering his angry and psychotic victory speech in New Hampshire, PBS was airing a documentary on the 1930's fascist / Nazi movement in our country. The timing of that broadcast seemed very appropriate. "Nazi Town USA" relayed a powerful message -- the possibility of history repeating itself in our nation today.

"I don't get too angry, I get even." Trump's words are usually what you

expect to hear from an adolescent bully, not a former president. He's always been insecure and vindictive, but lately seems more "off the rails" than ever. The Trump Presidency was a dark stain on our nation's history that we can't afford to repeat. Putting that thin-skinned egomaniac back in the White House would be a disaster for our country and the world.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Why you should plan taxes two years at a time

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

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

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

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

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

Plan for major life changes Planning ahead allows you to adjust to major life changes, such as selling a home, getting married or divorced, retiring, or moving to a different state with different tax requirements.

Plan your retirement contributions Just like planning for your investment allocations, you can also plan out your retirement contributions to be tax efficient (and to ensure that your plan is funded).

Time your charitable giving Charitable giving is another way you can use proactive tax planning to your advantage. Use charitable donations as a way to reduce your tax liability by planning ahead.

Find tax help Lastly, planning ahead gives you time to find and work with a trusted professional, if needed, to coordinate tax and financial planning. For helpful resources and this year's key filing information



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

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

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

Be strategic with your investments for greater tax efficiency With a two-year plan, you can also reallocate your investments to be as tax efficient as possible. For example, you may want to consider any capital gains and plan to pay taxes on those gains when it's more advantageous for you. It's important to estimate your tax burden before you sell any major asset, such as your home, business, or appreciated stocks.

Plan for major life changes Planning ahead allows you to adjust to major life changes, such as selling a home, getting married or divorced, retiring, or moving to a different state with different tax requirements.

Plan your retirement contributions Just like planning for your investment allocations, you can also plan out your retirement contributions to be tax efficient (and to ensure that your plan is funded).

Time your charitable giving Charitable giving is another way you can use proactive tax planning to your advantage. Use charitable donations as a way to reduce your tax liability by planning ahead.

Find tax help Lastly, planning ahead gives you time to find and work with a trusted professional, if needed, to coordinate tax and financial planning. For helpful resources and this year's key filing information

and dates, as well as insights to help you minimize your tax liability, be sure to access our Tax Resource Center, now available at Tax Resource Center available on the WHZ website at bit.ly/WHZTaxCenter2024.

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

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

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Local students earn President's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY, Mass. — More than 215 students at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., have achieved President's List honors during the fall 2023 semester.

President's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

The following local students earned President's List honors for the fall 2023 semester:

- Keeley Cerbo of Dayville
- Hannah Cozza of Dayville
- Makala Dube of Brooklyn
- Maya Orbegozo of Brooklyn
- Taylor Annis of N. Grosvenordale

- Stephen Scrapchansky of N. Grosvenordale
- Nick Skaradowski of Thompson
- Alina Michalski of Woodstock
- Ryan Odorski of Woodstock
- Stephen Scrapchansky of N. Grosvenordale

About Nichols College Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

When cold temperatures were a cause for relief

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

I'm beginning the body of this column on a cold, wintry morning with temperatures in the low teens. My arthritis rebels! However, residents of Killingly in the early 1900's would probably have been happy for the cold temperatures since it meant thicker ice. A Jan. 14, 1904 Windham County Transcript article noted, "Ice is 12 inches thick, and growing thicker each day." Ten years later the January 29, 1914, commented, "It looks now as if there will be no shortage of ice in Danielson for the year of 1914. The Quinebaug Lake Ice Company has harvested in the neighborhood of 3000 tons and of as fine a quality as ever was put into a shed. This company will begin deliveries the 1st of February and has adopted the following prices--Up to 100 lbs. in one delivery, 35 cents per 100 pounds; 105-pounds to 500 pounds in one delivery 25 cents per 100 pounds; over 500 pounds in one delivery, 20 cents per 100 pounds. A discount of 10 per cent on all these prices will be allowed if bills are paid on or before the 10th of each month. This is a substantial reduction over last year's figures." A number of businesses, as well as private homes, relied on a good supply of ice to keep their food cold and safe.

"Early cold storage systems in America were located not in kitchens, but underground. A seven-foot pit found at Jamestown is believed to be modeled after an English-style ice pit. There may have been a hut built over the pit to trap cold air and help preserve perishable items like meat, packed in ice and straw for insulation. A more elaborate icehouse was found at the former site of the President's House in Philadelphia. The octagon-shaped pit, built in the 1780s, has a stone lining to reduce heat loss, and it would have contained ice brought from a nearby body of water. Not far from this museum in Alexandria, Virginia, an ice well from around 1793 has recently been restored. The natural ice harvesting industry in America began to take off in the early 1800s." (<https://american-history.si.edu/explore/stories/keeping-your-food-cool-ice-harvesting-electric-refrigeration>).

Perhaps some of you recall seeing old iceboxes. They were a necessity of years gone by. "The international trade in ice was started by Frederick Tudor of Boston, known as the Ice King. In 1806

he shipped 80 tons of ice to Martinique in the West Indies. By 1847, 52,000 tons were sent to 28 cities across the USA by Tudor as well as Cuba, Jamaica, Brazil, Europe (there was an 'ice safe or refrigerator' at the 1851 Great Exhibition from the Wenham Lake Ice Co in Massachusetts) and even India (Calcutta became Tudor's most profitable destination), and by 1900 nearly every family, grocer and barkeeper in the USA had an icebox... The refined form of icebox as kitchen furniture or appliance was invented between 1850 and 1860 and remained in production in a similar form until the advent of the electric fridge in the 1940s..."

"There were a variety of experiments and attempts to come up with an electric refrigeration system that worked well for the home. One device that showed some initial promise was the DOMELRE, or "domestic electric refrigerator," released in 1914. It was a small cooling device that could be used in any icebox to replace the ice itself. It offered more careful temperature regulation, but the market wasn't ready for electric refrigeration quite yet; it was neither reliable nor affordable enough."

"The first refrigerator to become widely popular in American homes, the General Electric Monitor top refrigerator, was introduced in 1927. In the 1930s, many Americans happily began giving up their ice boxes filled with blocks of melting ice for newly affordable electric refrigerators, which allowed more space—and longevity—for leftover food. It was unthinkable to throw away food during the Great Depression, and refrigerator sales grew thanks to discounted prices offered by manufacturers. The real bump in refrigerator sales, however, started in 1935, when New Deal loans encouraged Americans to make the switch to electric."

([//thevintagefridgecompany.com/about/history](http://thevintagefridgecompany.com/about/history)).

February is Black History Month. In past years, I've written some about African-Americans in Northeastern Connecticut. This year, I'd like to mention a few individuals who made an impact nationally. One was abolitionist Frederick Douglass (1818-1895). He was born about 1818 in Talbot County, Md., the son of an "enslaved Black woman" and a white father. "He was actually born Frederick Bailey (his mother's name) and took the name Douglass only



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

after he escaped. "Separated from his mother as an infant, Douglass lived for a time with his maternal grandmother, Betty Bailey. However, at the age of six he was moved away from her to live and work on the

Wye plantation in Maryland. From there, Douglass was "given" to Lucretia Auld, whose husband, Thomas, sent him to work with his brother Hugh in Baltimore. Douglass credits Hugh's wife Sophia with first teaching him the alphabet. With that foundation, Douglass then taught himself to read and write. By the time he was hired out to work under William Freeland, he was teaching other enslaved people to read using the Bible. As word spread of his efforts to educate fellow enslaved people, Thomas Auld took him back and transferred him to Edward Covey, a farmer who was known for his brutal treatment of the enslaved people in his charge. Roughly 16 at this time, Douglass was regularly whipped by Covey. After several failed attempts at escape, Douglass finally left Covey's farm in 1838, first boarding a train to Havre de Grace, Maryland. From there he traveled through Delaware, another slave state, before arriving in New York and the safe house of abolitionist David Ruggles. Once settled in New York, he sent for Anna Murray, a free Black woman from Baltimore he met while in captivity with the Aulds. She joined him, and the two were married in September 1838. They had five children together. After their marriage, the young couple moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where they met Nathan and Mary Johnson, a married couple who were born "free persons of color." It was the Johnsons who inspired the couple to take the surname Douglass, after the character in the Sir Walter

Scott poem, "The Lady of the Lake."

"In New Bedford, Douglass began attending meetings of the abolitionist movement. During these meetings, he was exposed to the writings of abolitionist and journalist William Lloyd Garrison. The two men eventually met when both were asked to speak at an abolitionist meeting, during which Douglass shared his story of slavery and escape. It was Garrison who encouraged Douglass to become a speaker and leader in the abolitionist movement." If you are interested in learning more on Douglass go to this history channel website and also Google other sites (www.history.com/topics/black-history/fredrick-douglass).

Please take a moment to remember the many unnamed enslaved individuals who never had a chance at freedom. May we feel sorrow that they were enslaved, and do whatever we can to ensure that the people of this world we live in now are free from bondage.

I had a call from Killingly Historical Society Board member Linden Whipple concerning last week's column where I mentioned the fire in the Valley School. He said that the teacher, Cora Shippee, was the daughter of William Henry Shippee who had sailed on the whaling ship the Charles W. Morgan. As you know, that is one of the main exhibits at Mystic Seaport (Jan. 27). I always find it interesting when we have a "Killingly connection."

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

Free Webinar panel on "Small Business Loans: Issues and Options" offered by SCORE

REGION — A free Small Business webinar and Q/A session, "Small Business Loans: Issues and Options," will be presented by SCORE Eastern CT (<https://www.score.org/easternct>), Mentors to America's Small Businesses, on Thursday, Feb. 22 from noon-1:30 p.m. The presentation will feature a panel of lending professionals from a cross-section of small business lenders, with Frank LaMonaca of SCORE Eastern CT moderating.

"As a former small business banker," LaMonaca commented, "I understand the challenges and opportunities that entrepreneurs face when seeking financing. This webinar will bring together a diverse panel of experts from leading banks and other financing sources serving the small business market. Participants will gain valuable insights and the ability to make informed decisions to fuel their business' success. Our aim is to empower our audience's small business dreams." LaMonaca, a Certified SCORE Mentor and former Chapter Chair of SCORE Eastern CT, is a retired executive with 38 years of experience in banking and

financial services.

The panel will include Tanisha Baptiste, Economic Development Specialist and Veterans Business Development Officer at the Connecticut District Office of the Small Business Administration (SBA); John Beir, VP, Small Business Banking Officer at Berkshire Bank; Tom Caliento, Business and Technical Advisor at Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer); and Ricardo Vidal, Director of Lending at the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF).

Each panel member will briefly discuss their institution and specialty, then LaMonaca will ask prepared questions, after which there will be an extensive Question and Answer period to address the questions of the webinar attendees.

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SCORE® is a nonprofit association that offers free and confidential advice on starting your own business or improving and growing your existing small business. Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million current and aspiring entrepreneurs. Each year, SCORE's 10,000 volunteer business experts provide hundreds of thousands of free small business mentoring sessions, workshops, and educational services to clients in 300 chapters nationwide. In 2022, SCORE volunteers shared 4.65 million hours of expertise and advice with their clients, helping people start over 30,000 new businesses, and creating over 82,000 additional non-owner jobs. With more than 50 workshops/webinars and special events each year, and advances in remote mentoring tools, SCORE Eastern CT helps small businesses across Southeastern and Northeastern CT. For more information on upcoming free workshops and how to schedule a free small business mentoring session with our counselors, visit <https://www.score.org/easternct>.

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SPORTS

Windham Tech's pressure too much for Golden Eagles to handle



Ellis Tech's Cristian Estrada goes in for up a layup while a defender attempts to block.

Jason Mckay photos

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Early and often, Windham Tech pressured the ball against Ellis Tech on Friday, Jan. 26. This caused turnovers and created an early hole the Golden Eagles couldn't dig themselves out of and they were defeated 96-46.

"We try to be positive, we have been working a lot in practice on just taking care of the basketball," stated Ellis Tech Head Coach Dan Piccione. "The problem is on our senior leadership, we are just in a stretch where we are making the wrong decision. It has been hard out there, you saw in the first half we had five turnovers in the first quarter."

For Ellis Tech going forward in the season patience and having confidence with the basketball is going to be a big area of focus.

"For sure, they have to be confident with the basketball and dribble with pressure and just not always rush to a bad decision," stated Piccione. "Take their time, they're good shooters, but if you can't get shots off it doesn't matter."

In the contest offensively the Golden Eagles showed flashes. They can really shoot the basketball. Senior Cristian Estrada led the team with 16 points and hit four from 3-point range. Estrada scored all 16 of his points in the first half.

"They've been good, but it seems like the last three games we are digressing in terms of we can't get our offense going and on defense we are having a lot of communication issues especially with our bigs," Piccione stated. "It definitely showed up tonight, but all year long they've been working hard and we will turn it around."

Until the final whistle Ellis Tech gave it their all. It wasn't their night against visiting Windham, but led by senior Ian Briaia, Cristian Estrada and a few underclassmen who played good minutes, the Golden Eagles will get back on the winning track.



Juelz Garcia of Ellis Tech takes a quick 3-point shot while the defense fails at a block.



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Ellis Tech's Aaron Gilfoy shoots a corner shot with a defender rushing in.

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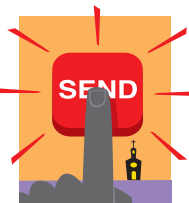
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SPORTS

Defense fuels comeback for Woodstock in boys' basketball victory versus Griswold

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Academy boys' basketball started slow and found themselves down 13-4 after the first quarter to a visiting Griswold High School team that came into the contest red-hot on a five-game win streak on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

However, despite the early deficit, the Centaurs, on the shoulders of good team defense and efficient offense from junior Brady Ericson, outscored Griswold 17-8 in the second quarter to go into halftime tied at 21.

"It was really big, with how the game started off and one thing I preach to my guys every day is toughness," stated Woodstock Head Coach Donte Adams about the big second quarter. "You have to come in and it is all about toughness and what are you going to do when adversity hits you and tonight for the first

couple of plays of the game it wasn't going our way, but our guys stuck to the game plan and our brand of basketball and going into halftime we were able to tie it."

Woodstock's momentum carried over into the third quarter and the Centaurs began the period on an 11-4 run. Griswold would cut into the lead throughout, but steady offense and great defense kept Woodstock out ahead for the rest of the contest, defeating Griswold 51-46 for a huge home win.

"It is toughness, we had a great week of practice leading up to this game and our guys were really good on the defensive end in practice and it showed at the end," stated Adams. "If you look at our record and the way the games are going, we have lost a lot of close ones, so it shows tonight we were able to fight it out."

Ericson played a crucial role in the win. He led the team with 18 points, but scored six during the second quarter comeback and eight in the third quarter to keep and extend the lead for his team. He is also a key piece on defense for the Centaurs.

"He has been playing

well, he has played well the whole season," expressed Adams. "We look for him to lead us every night. It doesn't need to be scoring, it may be rebounding, or even out there talking. He is one of the loudest guys on the defensive end. I call him the anchor and tonight he was able to lead us with points, I

believe, if not he played a big role for us in the game."

The story of the game was defense, and it was clear that Griswold wanted to shoot perimeter shots. Limiting easy looks was a main focus going into the contest.

"That is what we

preach," Adams emphasized. "We worked on it all day in practice throughout the week. I told them that they are a very good team and if they get hot it is going to be a long game. We were able to contain them behind the 3-point line. Even though they made a couple early, at the end it came through for us."

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Killingly High School

Boys' Basketball

New London (11-3) was victorious over Killingly (5-8) with a final score of 75-54 on Saturday, January 27th. Deven Williams had 21 and Savvaun Warren had 13 for New London. Johnny Kazantzis led Killingly with 22, while Quin Crowley had 12 points.

Girls' Basketball

The Killingly girls dropped their 8th game of the season against a tough new London team, 69-39 on Friday, January 26th. Molly Crabtree led Killingly with 21 points, and Lila Beaudreault chipped in with 7.

Wrestling

On Wednesday, January 24th, Senior Night, Killingly ranked No. 8 in the state defeated ECC Division II rival Ledyard 54-17. Pinning for the Redmen were Max Richardson, (Sr.) Ian Cathell, Brady Zadora, (Sr.) Amani Samuel, (Sr.) Giovanni Sanchez, (Sr.) Ryan Barretta, (Sr.) Soren Rief and Anthony Oates. Also, winning two tough decisions were Bradey Jonasch (4-0) and Mason Connetti (10-4). The team remains undefeated at 25-0 and continues with a 55 match wins streak.

Killingly went 4-0 on the day at the State S/M Dual Championships on Saturday, January 27th. That extended the Dual meet win streak to 59-0 and it also marks win number 700 for Coach Bowen. Killingly beat Branford 60-24 and Avon 54-16 in pool C to start the day. Then in the Championship pool Killingly defeated Foran 48-24 and in the finals defeated RHAM 47-29. Going 4-0 on the day were Max Richardson, Brady Zadora, Aiden Mantia, Giovanni Sanchez, Exael Padilla, Soren Rief, and Anthony Oates. Ryan Barretta went 3-0 and Bradey Jonasch was 3-1.



Courtesy photo

The Killingly wrestling team has run its dual meet win streak to 59-0.

Indoor Track

On Saturday, January 27th, Killingly Indoor Track had a 29-team battle royal for The Jack Long Meet which had teams from all around the state. Competition was certainly not lacking in our last regular season meet before the ECCs begin!

As always, ladies first:

Shanaya Brown continues her dominance in the 55- meter dash and flew finishing 3rd in a field of 90!

Janelle Oppong put in work to score points and run her way to a State Qualifying time!

Marley Cusson and Addyson Larkin continue to put in the practice on the 300- meter dash and continue to compete hard!

Emma Seide continues throwing hard in Shot Put and as a side note, has nearly a million views on her last meets throw on Instagram!

Onto the gentlemen:

Everton Brown continues his dominance in the 55- meter dash flying to finish 1st as he prepares for States and Nationals!

Zeke Benoit and Isaiah Benoit continue to battle hard and put in work in the 600-meter dash to score points for Killingly!

In Killingly's first SMR of the season, it was Preston Suprenant to Philip Fernandez- Garcia, to Casey Hamilton to Caydan Jonasch. Absolute respect gentleman for forming this great team late and competing!

Lastly, but rarely ever last in a race or jump is Jeremiah Smith. He finished 1st in the 55- hurdles in a field of 39! He also finished 4th in high jump soaring in the air 6 feet and flew in the long jump to finish 4th!

Gymnastics

Killingly remains undefeated after making their record 7-0! Captain Ella Pereira lead the team tying her career high all around score of 37.4 as well as placing 1st in vault, beam and all around. Freshman Jessie Williams placed 3rd on bars and junior Natalie Guzman tied for 3rd on beam. The team recorded a season high team score today of 140.65!!

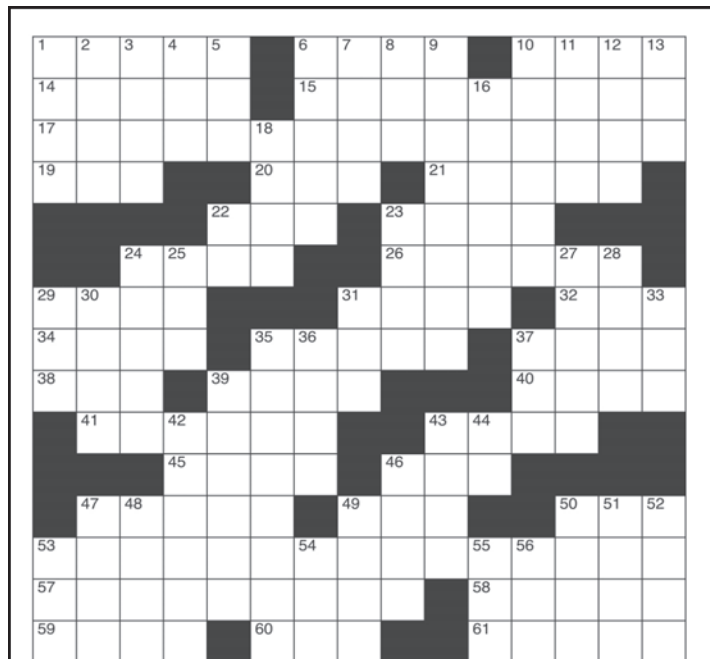
Vault

- Ella Pereira Killingly 9.45
- Brenna Johnson Plainfield 9.35
- Ava Pereira Ellis Tech 9.0
- Bars
- Trinity Ambruso NFA 9.3
- Ella Pereira Killingly 8.95
- Jessie Williams Killingly 8.6
- Beam
- Ella Pereira Killingly 9.45
- Trinity Ambruso NFA 9.4
- Brenna Johnson Plainfield & Natalie Guzman Killingly 9.0
- Floor
- Brenna Johnson Plainfield 9.7
- Ella Pereira Killingly 9.55
- Trinity Ambruso NFA 9.35
- All Around
- Ella Pereira Killingly 37.4
- Trinity Ambruso NFA 36.1

Woodstock Academy

Boys' Hockey

Devlin Mansolf, who transferred from Burrillville, R.I., finally got a chance to play and made his debut in a Woodstock Academy uniform a memorable one. Mansolf pitched the shutout in goal for the Centaurs and got plenty of offensive support. Brady Lecuyer had a hat trick



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M., architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname
- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Siberian river
- 2. Blessing
- 3. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 4. Principle underlying the universe
- 5. Work unit
- 6. Yellow edible fruits
- 7. Gemstone
- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star Richards
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes
- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again
- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. ___ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd
- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

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NOTEBOOK

continued from page A8

for Woodstock Academy, all three of his goals came in the second period.

Noah Sampson finished with six points, getting assists on the first four goals, scoring the fifth and then adding another tally in the third period. Maxx Corradi added a pair of goals and three assists and Donny Sousa finished with two goals and two assists.

The Centaurs are now 5-6 after the 9-0 win over the Eastern CT Eagles (3-8-2) and a forfeit win from East Greenwich, R.I. on Wednesday, January 24th.

New Canaan 3
Woodstock Academy 1

DARIEN — The game got off to a shaky start as it was delayed by an hour after a glass pane broke during warm-ups.

The Centaurs (5-7) followed suit as they were a bit off early and gave up two goals in the first 7 minutes, 45 seconds to their hosts at the Darien Ice House.

Donny Sousa cut that lead in half with his 12th goal of the season for Woodstock Academy with 2:48 left in the second period.

Doster Crowell, who also assisted on New Canaan's first goal, scored his second goal of the game into an empty net with 53 seconds left to account for the final.

Girls' Basketball

The New London High School Whalers took the battle for first place in the Eastern Connecticut Conference by scoring the final 11 points of the contest, 53-37 on Tuesday, January 23rd. Serenity Lancaster paced New London (9-4, 4-1 ECC Division I) with 17 points while Ky-Ani Allgood added 12 and Nyarah Dudley 11. Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain led the Centaurs (12-3, 4-3) with a trio of 3-pointers while Kaylee Saucier added eight points and Sidney Anderson tossed in seven.

The free throw line was the Bobcats friend in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter. Cara Shea, who scored all seven of her points in the fourth quarter, broke a 36-36 tie, with a free throw with 1:46 to play. Skyelyn Schoen-Rene followed with a pair of free throws and Shea finished off with two more with four seconds left to account for Bacon Academy's (9-5) margin of victory, 41-36 on Thursday, January 25th. Katelyn Novak was the only player in double figures as she finished with 10 to lead the Bobcats, Schoen-Rene finished with nine. Sidney Anderson led the Centaurs (12-4) with eight while Vivian Bibeau added seven.

Boys' Basketball

To say that nothing comes easy for the Centaurs might be an understatement.

For a fifth time this season, Woodstock Academy was forced to play an extra four minutes and for a second time, it prevailed. Junior center Brady Ericson had a lot to do with that as he scored seven of his 21 points in the extra period including a 3-pointer that was the dagger the Colonels could not recover from. Ericson finished with a double-double again as he pulled down 13 rebounds. Hunter Larson and Teddy Richardson added 12 points for the Centaurs who pulled within one win of qualifying for the state tournament at 7-7 overall (1-3 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) with a 68-59 overtime win over Ledyard on Friday, January 26th.

Wrestling

Woodstock Academy was defeated 57-24 to Fitch on Wednesday, January 24th. Lucas Theriaque and Owen Hamilton recorded pins for the Centaurs (0-7, 0-2 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) while Jacob Say and Jake Henderson were awarded wins by forfeit from the Falcons (4-13, 1-2).

Gymnastics

Centaur's split meet in Danielson
DANIELSON — Livia Gerum finished with a 33.4 All-Around total and Emma Long recorded a 32.85 to lead Woodstock Academy past Norwich Free Academy 130.9-130.15.

The Centaurs (2-4, 2-4 Eastern Connecticut Conference) fell to the East Lyme Co-Op (7-2, 6-2) which finished with a 134.3 total.

Killingly (6-0, 6-0) dominated the meet, as a whole, as it finished with a 140.65 total with Ella Periera first in the All-Around with a 37.4 total.

The Wildcats (2-6, 2-6) were led by Tiffany Ambruso who finished second individually with a 36.1 total.

Ellis Tech

Girls' Basketball

Ellis won 39-8 on Tuesday, January 23rd. Our record is now 12-2 with a big league matchup against Windham Tech. Sadie Murray added 8 assists, Rose Lopez pulled down 8 rebounds and Kylie Damble added a team-high 10 points.

Ellis lost 32-30 against Windham Tech on Friday, January 26th. Kylie Damble added 11 points and Sadie Murray scored six.

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To conquer or be defeated is your choice

I was recently reading Norman Vincent Peale's renowned book, "The Power of Positive Thinking." In it, a chapter titled "I Don't Believe in Defeat" particularly caught my eye.

That's an intriguing statement. He doesn't believe in defeat?

Yet, history and everyday life are littered with examples. The Nazis faced a resounding defeat in World War II, legendary boxer Muhammad Ali tasted defeat in the ring, and once-giant corporations like Blockbuster and Kodak have crumbled under the weight of progress.

Defeat seems not just a possibility, but a certainty. So, what exactly does Peale mean when he boldly claims he doesn't believe in defeat? When you dig deeper into Peale's book, you understand exactly what he's getting at.

He discusses two types of individuals and their approaches to life's challenges. Inspired by Peale's insights, let's conceptualize a hypothetical scenario that embodies his principles.

Imagine two characters: 'The Overcomer' and 'The Obstacle Person.' These are not individuals Peale specifically names but archetypes we can use to explore his ideas further.

In this scene, The Overcomer, who embodies Peale's philosophy of positive thinking and problem-solving, discusses with The Obstacle Person, who symbolizes the defeatist attitude Peale warns against.

The exchange unfolds something like this:

The Overcomer, noticing a habitual negativity in the other's responses, addresses The Obstacle Person with a

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
TOBY
MOORE

mix of curiosity and challenge. 'Why do you always emphasize the obstacles rather than the possibilities?' he asks, his voice tinged with genuine curiosity.

With a shrug of resignation, the Obstacle Person replies, "Because to be intelligent, one must always be realistic. There are undeniable obstacles in this project. And you, how do you propose we deal with these obstacles?"

"That's simple," the Overcomer responds with unwavering confidence. "I'd just remove them, that's all, and then forget about them."

The Obstacle person laughs sarcastically and replies, "That's easier said than done," skepticism heavy in their voice.

A knowing smile creeps across The Overcomer's face as they lean in slightly. "My life has been a journey of overcoming obstacles. I've yet to meet one that couldn't be dismantled with enough faith, guts, and hard work."

This interaction between The Overcomer and The Obstacle Person illustrates the essence of Peale's philosophy. It's about recognizing obstacles and having the mindset to confront and dismantle them. This leads us directly to one of Peale's core pieces of advice.

To overcome any obstacle, Peale says, "Stand up to it and don't complain about it or whine under it but forthrightly attack it. Don't give way under it, and it will finally break. You will break it. Something has to break, and it won't be you, it will be the obstacle."

The Obstacle Person is already defeated before they even begin to strive toward a goal. Why is this? It's because

they are ensnared in a web of defeatist thinking.

Before embarking on any venture, the Obstacle Person already catalogs reasons for failure. Their mind is a battlefield where pessimism consistently overpowers optimism. Every potential problem is magnified, and every hurdle seems insurmountable. In this state of mind, defeat isn't just a possibility; it's a foregone conclusion. The Obstacle Person, crippled by defeatist thinking, loses the battle before it even begins.

This mindset is The Obstacle person's most significant barrier, more so than any external challenge they might face.

Contrast this with The Overcomer, who approaches the same venture with a different lens. The Overcomer acknowledges the obstacles but doesn't grant them the power to halt progress. Instead of being paralyzed by what might go wrong, this person is energized by what could go right.

I'm sure you've recognized this in your own life. There were times when you were able to overcome a seemingly insurmountable obstacle.

I've noticed this in recent years in my own life. I've started a business that is in a very competitive market and one that seems impossible to crack. There have been moments where panic has overtaken me, but after I regain control and keep moving forward, I've found the obstacles fall away and were never as big as they seemed.

Conquering an obstacle or being defeated by an obstacle is a choice that defines your journey. Choose to rise, not surrender.

Get a jump start on managing plant pests this winter



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS



Melinda Myers

This lilac is infested with scale insects that form a grayish to dark brown protective covering called a test that resembles an oyster or mussel shell. It is an insect pest of more than 130 species of plants.

Just like us, insects spend their winters in different locations. Unlike us, they spend their winters in different stages of development. Some may overwinter as adults, others in their immature stage as grubs, caterpillars, or nymphs, while others will be in the pupal stage like a chrysalis or cocoon. Understanding their lifecycle and location can help us support beneficial insects while managing problem insect pests.

Invite beneficial insects like lady beetles, parasitic wasps, and predatory mites to your landscape to help manage populations of plant-damaging pests. Add a birdbath to encourage insect-eating songbirds into your gardens. Most songbirds eat insects or feed them to their young while adding color, movement, and entertainment to your garden.

Keeping your plants healthy with proper care is the first and an important step in any pest management strategy. Healthy plants are better able to tolerate pest attacks and are more likely to recover from the damage.

Despite your best efforts, insect pests may attack and damage your plants. Birds and predaceous insects often

manage small populations but there may be times you decide to intercede. Winter is a great time to monitor and, in many cases, manage plant-damaging insects.

Scale insects can be one of these and come in a variety of colors and shapes, but all grow and reproduce under a waxy covering. This covering protects them from predators, desiccation, and pesticides. Depending on the scale species they may overwinter as an immature scale, fertilized female, or eggs under the protective covering.

Treating plant damaging scale in late winter or early spring is one way to jumpstart control of this pest while having minimal or no impact on beneficial insects that will help manage this

pest. Take some time now to check plants for problem pests like the invasive oystershell scale.

This insect is not native to North America and is a pest of more than 130 species of plants including poplars, ash, beech, maple, willows, dogwood, cotoneaster, and lilacs. Adult scale insects form a grayish to dark brown protective covering called a test that resembles an oyster or mussel shell. In the fall the mated female lays 20 to 100 eggs inside the test, dies and the eggs remain there throughout the winter.

Removing heavily infected twigs and branches is an option when the scale population is contained in a small portion of the plant. You can also gently scrape the scale off branches and stems with a plastic dish scrubber. Be careful not to damage thin-barked plants.

Another option is to apply organic lightweight horticulture oil like Summit Year-Round Spray Oil

when plants are dormant. The temperatures must be 40 degrees or higher when treating. As always, read and follow label directions for effective and safe control. Since the eggs are so well protected, a second application of the horticulture oil can increase success. Make a second application, if needed, when the eggs hatch and the immature insects known as crawlers emerge in spring after the buds have burst.

As you survey your landscape this winter, pay special attention to stressed plants and those susceptible to oystershell scale and other insect pests common in your area. Plants exposed to road dust and pesticides may also be more vulnerable as these conditions negatively impact predators and parasites that help manage plant pests.

Regularly monitoring plant health, working with nature, and strategically managing invasive pests like the oystershell scale can help improve the health, vigor, and longevity of your landscape plants.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the 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 Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Caroline Wilcox named to Elms College Dean's List

CHICOPEE, Mass. — Caroline Wilcox, of Pomfret Center, was named to the College of Our Lady of the Elms fall 2023 Dean's List.

Wilcox was among 482 students named to the fall 2023 Dean's List.

To qualify, a full-time student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher, without incompletes.

Elms College is a coed Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

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A rare survivor

Located on the Still River in West Woodstock, the Chamberlin Mill is situated in a picturesque location on Old Turnpike Road. It is a rare example of a water-powered circular saw mill that was later converted to run on gasoline. Many readers may envision historic or replica saw mills, like the one at Old Sturbridge Village, that have an up-and-down saw. Circular saws were an improvement in the technology of the 19th century that allowed processing larger logs with improved speed and accuracy. There was a seasonality to the saw mill industry. People harvested logs in the winter and the saw mills operated at peak capacity in the spring when the water sources were their highest.

There were a series of mills on same site on Old

Turnpike Road from the 1700s. The first was developed by Manasseh Hosmer as both a grist and saw mill. From the early 1800s through the 1960s, the property and mills were owned by the Sessions-Stone-Chamberlin-Taylor family. In the 19th century, Lyman Session operated the mills, as also ran a store and shoe manufacturing business.

It is quite amazing that Chamberlin Mill still survives. The building is a two-story, post and beam structure with very generous loft space. It is anchored on a high foundation of dry-laid fieldstone and includes a penstock (sluiceway to regulate water flow) and a turbine (machine where a wheel is made to continuously turn by a fast-moving stream of water). The building retains much of its histor-

ic gear, workings of cast iron, and flat belt pulleys that transitioned power from the water wheel to the saw. The water source was two dammed ponds just north of the building. Chamberlin Mill operated until the 1960s, thereby keeping most of its functioning elements in place and not on a scrap heap.

Chamberlin Mill was very productive. According to the 1850 census, it produced 40,000 feet of lumber and 400,000 shingles (20 percent of the total shingle production in Woodstock). The Muzzy Shingle Machine was an original element of the saw mill but it was sold off in the 1990s.

During the Great Flood of 1936, the Chamberlin Mill structure survived but equipment was destroyed, along with the

lower dam. The damage was so great that it was no longer possible to use water power to run the saw. In the Hurricane of 1938, many trees toppled, creating a huge supply of raw product to cut. In 1939, the Chamberlins converted their power source to a 1928 Studebaker President engine fueled by gasoline and the saw mill continued viable operation until after World War II.

All operation finally ceased in the 1960s and the building was vacant until 2000. The property was purchased by the Nature Conservancy, as part of the 98-acre Still River Preserve. In 2012, a nonprofit, Chamberlin Mill, Inc. was formed and acquired the mill building and a small portion of the land to maintain the site as an educational and historical asset. The organiza-

WOODSTOCK THROUGH THE YEARS

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



tion brought life back the 1928 Studebaker engine and rebuilt the 1873 saw. In 1990, dedicated members of the restoration team were able to locate a Muzzy Shingle Machine, c. 1860, nearly identical to the original one from the Chamberlin Mill.

Chamberlin Mill, Inc. is dedicated to preserve and sustain the historic saw mill. The nonprofit offers occasional programs and opens the site to visitors. Consult ChamberlinMill.org for details and to read the interesting, illustrated blog about the restoration. One can also follow them on Face Book. Chamberlin Mill is enjoyable to see any time of the year, but especially during fall foliage season.

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

Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. History of Woodstock. Boston: James R. Osgood, 1882.

Larned, Ellen D. History of Windham County, Connecticut. 2 vols. Worcester, Massachusetts: Printed

by Charles Hamilton, 1874.

Woodstock Centenary Committee. Heritage and Horizons, Woodstock Remembers 300 Years.

Woodstock, CT, 1968.

WOODSTOCK BY THE WEEK FEB. 5-11

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

Monday the 5th
• Inland/Wetland Com., 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 6th
• Economic Dev. Com., 6:30 p.m.
• Board of Finance, 7 p.m.

Thursday the 8th
• Open Space & Farmland Acquisition Com., 7 p.m.
• Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each Weekday
• Stepping into Sobriety Meetings, South Woodstock Baptist Church.

Monday the 5th
• Mind, Music & Movement (0-6 yrs.),

Town Hall, 10 a.m.
• Community Kitchen Free Lunch, First Congregational Church, noon.
• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6:30 p.m.
• Knit & Crochet Club, Senexet Grange, 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 6th
• The Bridge Young Adults, Evangelical Covenant Church
• Yoga Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
• Craft Adventure, West Woodstock Library, 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 7th
• Story Hour, West Woodstock Library.
• Knitting Group, Town Hall.
• Yoga, Roots to Fly Wellness, Senexet Grange, 6 p.m.
• Youth Group, South Woodstock Baptist Church
• The Bridge (young adults),

Evangelical Covenant Church
• Bonsai Bar Workshop, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30 p.m.
• Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group, East Woodstock Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday the 8th
• Lady's Small Group and Men's Bible Study, South Woodstock Baptist Church
• Senior Social "Love Song Jeopardy," First Congregational Church, 1:30 p.m.
• Scrabble, West Woodstock Library, 2 p.m.
• Indoor Cornhole League, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 5:30 p.m.
• Sip & Plant Valentine Succulent, Taylor Brooke Winery, 6 p.m.
• High Vibe Winter Wellness Series #3, Masterpiece Minerals, 6:30 p.m.

Friday the 9th
• Story Time Hour, May Memorial Library, 10 a.m. - noon.
• New England Trivia, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday the 10th
• Mack's Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, noon-7:30 p.m.
• Live Music - Rick Polseno, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.
Sun. 11th
• "Woodstock Through the Camera's Eye" exhibit, Woodstock Historical Society, 10 a.m. - noon
• 30 for 30 Food Truck, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-6 p.m.

• Live Music - Turas, Taylor Brooke Brewery, 2-5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 15
• Bunco Game Night, West Woodstock Library, 6:30 p.m., adults only, limit 12, sign up at librarian@westwoodstocklibrary.org.

Feb. 16
• Valentine's Day Dinner, Inn at Woodstock Hill, 6-9 p.m.

Feb. 22
• Bee True to You - A Modern Anti-Bullying Fairytale, Loos Center for the Arts, performances 9-10 a.m., and 11 a.m. to noon

May 3-4
• The Addams Family, musical comedy production by Woodstock Academy, Loos Center for the Arts.

To submit calendar items: woodstockbytheweek@gmail.com.

Local students named to Worcester State University Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Worcester State University congratulates the following students on being named to the Dean's list for the fall semester of 2023.

Ryley J Meyers of Danielson
Chloe A. LaPierre of Plainfield

PLEDGE

continued from page A1

"The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital has been a longstanding partner in the advancement of care at DKH," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Health. "From their past contributions to our Maternal Child Health department to their current efforts toward the advancement of our surgical offerings they have consistently demonstrated a commitment to the engagement and support of our organization."

The da Vinci surgical system enhances surgical capabilities and enables surgeons to perform minimally invasive surgeries including both laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgical procedures across multiple surgical services. This technology enables Day Kimball Hospital to bring much-needed additional treatment options in the areas of urology, colorectal surgery, gynecologic surgery, and general surgery.

"The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital proudly contributes to the advancement in healthcare for Northeast Connecticut," Iamartino said. "Our ongoing commitment reflects our dedication, and helps ensure that our community hospital remains at the forefront of technology, and allows patients to have access to the very best care right here in our own community."

Through the efforts of the 170 members of the Woman's Board, along with the community's support of its events, it is the mission of the Woman's Board to raise funds to enhance the quality and services of Day Kimball Hospital. Established when Day Kimball Hospital opened in 1894, the Woman's Board has served the hospital and community in multiple ways for well over a century, and has raised nearly \$2 million to support important and necessary medical equipment needs at the hospital, including the hospital's first ambulance in the early 1900s.

For more information about the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital, visit daykimball.org/womansboard. To learn more about the da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot at Day Kimball Hospital, visit daykimball.org/da-vinci.

Upcoming events at the Thompson Library

THOMPSON — On Thursday, Feb. 15, from 6-7:30 p.m., the Thompson Public Library presents the next in our series of local history programs presented by Joe Iamartino, "The Great Awakening & How It Changed the Thompson Religious Landscape: Congregational, Methodist and Baptist Church History," brought to you by the Thompson Public Library & Thompson Historical Society.

On view through March, you're invited to participate in "Focus on Thompson: Our Favorite People: A Photography Exhibition." Submission form deadline Feb. 21. Forms available at the front desk.

For more information, please visit www.thompsonpubliclibrary.org or call 860-923-9779.

SHOW

continued from page A1

more elaborate, in some cases three-dimensional, displays all confined to a 3 X 3 canvas. Adult Services Librarian Nicole Nichols explained that the Putnam Public Library wanted to create a new program that would encourage creativity during a time of the year where things tend to slow down and the weather makes it difficult to escape the home. The Tiny Art show allowed local artists the chance to express themselves creatively while challenged with the set limitations of the small canvas.

"The works represent a nice cross section of abilities and

creativity. That was the whole goal," Nichols said. "We want people to know that libraries aren't just about books. We wanted to embrace the broad potential audience that we have, and art is a natural way of doing that - Art is just a great way to engage the mind beyond just reading."

Participants were provided with a kit including their canvas, paint brushes, and paints. The rest was up to them. Nichols said the decision to include teenagers with adults in the age range allowed the show to be more diverse and create a judgement free zone for artists of all skills and styles. Still, artists could choose not to put their name on their piece if they wanted

to remain anonymous.

The art show was also part of the library's larger mission of connecting with local students. Nichols said she hopes it will help create a partnership with area schools to encourage creativity among teenagers.

"It's giving an outlet for these students in the high school who don't have a lot of opportunities to get involved in any kind of exhibit. It's also part of why we placed it where we did, the teen room is right behind the exhibit. We did have a few high school students participate, but I don't think there was enough time to build a partnership with the school. We are hoping this is a jumping off point

to create that partnership not just limited to Putnam, but any high school. Many people from other towns use the Putnam Library. It's an opportunity to partner with schools or any other agency that use art as a form of creative outlet or even therapeutically," said Nichols.

If the turnout for the 2024 show is any indication, the Tiny Art Show could, indeed, become a new annual tradition. All available kits were distributed, and Nichols said the turnout was fantastic. The Tiny Art Show will be in place until the end of February at which time all works will be returned to their respective artists for their personal displays.



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OBITUARIES

Georgette S. Chenail, 96



Georgette S. Chenail passed away on January 22, 2024 at 96 years old. She left this earth to be with her Lord and her loving family who predeceased her: husband Roland of 64 years, her mother and father: Joseph Frechette and Alice Turenne, her sister Lorraine Argo, and her grandson Nicholas D Hawes.

Georgette is survived by her children Cathleen Chenail of Griswold and husband Allen, Susan L. Hawes of Moosup, and David R. Chenail of Brooklyn and companion Jeannie. She also will be greatly missed by her grandchildren: Andrew Hawes, Miranda Hawes, Devin Chenail, Daniel Chenail and Zellie, (her granddog who loved to shower her with kisses). Georgette and Roland built their own home on Moosup Pond Road in Wauregan, where they raised their family.

During her years as a homemaker, she was involved in Girl Scouts (service unit chairman), and worked in the cafeteria at American Standard. Georgette

was a regular communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Wauregan and All Hallows Church in Moosup. She enjoyed politics and serving her community: moderator at the voting polls, treasurer for the Northeast Transit district for 25 years, on the board of Directors for Quinebaug Valley Senior Center, on the Board of Directors for T. F. E. G. Bozrah. After Roland's retirement, they travelled extensively: Pennsylvania, the Golden Isles, Hawaii, Boothbay Harbor, Alaska, Fatima in Portugal, and many trips to Canada.

Throughout her life, Georgette loved to learn, was an active member of Learning in Retirement at QVCC and was an avid reader. Georgette loved nature and enjoyed feeding her birds and watching Simone the Wandering Turkey Throughout her life Georgette donated for the betterment of others and gave to many charities. Funeral Services will be held at All Hallows Church in Moosup on February 10th at 11am.

In lieu of Flowers please make a donation to the charity of your choice. Share a memory at GagnonandCostellofh.com

Henry L. Bourgeois, 87



N. Grosvenordale – Henry L. Bourgeois, 87, of Pompeo Rd., died Monday afternoon, January 22, 2024, at St. Francis Hospital. He was the loving husband of Estelle (Ravenelle) Bourgeois. Born in

Putnam, he was the son of the late Edward and Antoinette (Phaneuf) Bourgeois.

Henry was a graduate of the Putnam High school, Manchester Community College where he was Valedictorian and received his BA in Police Science, and Eastern Connecticut State University where he received his BA in Sociology.

On August 31, 1957, he was united in marriage to Estelle (Ravenelle) Bourgeois in St. Joseph Church in North Grosvenordale.

Mr. Bourgeois served with the United States Army in the security agency at Ft. Devens; after being honorably discharged, he went to work for the State of Connecticut as a Connecticut State Trooper, retiring as a Lieutenant.

Henry was a member of the Connecticut State Police Association Alumni, the FBI Academy Association, American Legion Post 67, Wednesday night pitch league at the American Legion, Post 67, and was a communicant of St. Joseph Church in N. Grosvenordale.

He was an avid fan of the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox and Boston Bruins. Above all, Henry cherished the quality time that he spent attending his grandchildren events

and hosting family outings with his wife Estelle at their home.

Henry is survived by his wife of sixty-six years Estelle (Ravenelle) Bourgeois; his two sons, Charles "Chuck" H. Bourgeois, Sr. of Thompson and Michael J. Bourgeois and his wife Kathleen of Woodstock; a daughter, Paula M. Cahill of N. Grosvenordale; a brother Davis Bourgeois of GA; his sister, Cecile M. Bourgeois of Putnam; five grandchildren Charles Bourgeois Jr., Thomas Cahill, Danielle Bourgeois, William Bourgeois, and Vincent Bourgeois; two great grandchildren, Londyn Bourgeois and Carina Racine, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother Edward Bourgeois, Jr. and four sisters, Elaine Belsey, Rachael Buder, Carol Hamel and Ann Marie Rhynhart.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Henry's family from 10:00AM to 1:00PM on Saturday, January 27, 2024, in the Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 1:30PM in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in Henry's memory to St. Joseph Church, P.O. Box 665, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook, visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.



WELLNESS

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overtake the mental and emotional hurdles that physical ailments can create. The idea is that by understanding oneself as a whole individual someone can be more in control of their overall health. The Thompsons described the body as "total energy" with stress and anxiety having a negative effect on the body over time, exacerbating or even creating problems with someone's health. Their teachings acknowledge that people shouldn't control or ignore their emotions, but rather use those emotions to guide them and to find a place where they are less stressed, but more in a state of growth and repair.

While the Thompsons seek to provide a new understanding of how the mind and the body are intertwined in per-

sonal health, they're not opposed to western medicine. Rather, they see their teachings as a complement to the work done by the capable professionals in the medical field. The idea is that we, as individuals, are not giving all our perception of health to outside forces to provide us with peace of mind and an all-encompassing cure.

"There's a place for western medicine. What we want to say is that we have much more control over our health than we think. If we always rely on someone outside us, then we're missing the boat. We can prevent that trip to the doctor if we learn these techniques," said Brad Thompson, who stressed their goal is not to discredit doctors, but rather to show people they have a certain control of their health that they may have never realized.

"We are whole beings. We are mind, body, soul,

and emotions. When we only look at the physical, we're not taking care of the whole," added Pamela Thompson. "We have to address the whole, so all of those things need to be taken into consideration. When you're in an acute situation you absolutely need that western medical help, and these doctors are very good at it, but there are ways you can care for yourself as well."

The Thompsons offer consultations through Wellness Within and hold introductory seminars across the state like their event in Killingly. Information on their programs and approach to personal health can be found on their website, wellnesswithinc.com. The Killingly Public Library also scheduled the Thompson to appear on the library's podcast, KPL LIT TALKS, to discuss their services which is available on all major podcasting platforms.

BRIDGE

continued from page A1

bridge, this time sitting over Whetstone Brook. A timeline for that project has not been announced. Calorio indicated that Northern Construction is aware of the inconvenience the Bear Hill Road closure will cause and said they will do their best to get the bridge open sooner. All three projects are 50 percent funded through the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program. A map



Courtesy

The finished bridge on Valley Road over the Mashentuck Brook.

of the Bear Road detour et for the Jan. 9 Town Council meeting agenda. has been made available on the Killingly Town Website and in the pack-

Priscilla A. Butler, 79



Priscilla A. (Gifford) Butler, 79, of Charlton, MA and formerly of Dudley, MA, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2024, at The Overlook in Charlton, MA. Priscilla was born in Putnam, CT on April 26, 1944, daughter of the late Harry and Ruth (Aldrich) Gifford.

Following graduation from Putnam High in 1962 she worked at Risom Manufacturing in Grosvenordale. She then had a career, working in various positions at American Optical Corporation in Southbridge, MA, retiring as an accomplished human resource professional. In retirement, Priscilla pursued and perfected her many hobbies including quilting, knitting, basket weaving, coin collecting and genealogy. As a member of the Killingly Historical Society, and other genealogical organizations, she developed thorough backgrounds for many founding families of Northeastern CT. Her work can be found in collections at The Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, CT, the New England Civil War Museum, as well as other organizations. Priscilla served her community as a member of the Dudley Conservation Land Trust, and you could always find her raising funds at the Black Tavern Historical

Society. She loved God and her church family as a member of the Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church.

Priscilla was pre-deceased by her husband of 36 years, David G. Butler, with whom she shared many of her community pursuits and a great love of the New England Patriots. Also predeceased by her parents, and sisters Virginia Kesaris and Jean Sanchini. She is survived by four stepchildren, Deanne Lins of Georgetown, TX, Carolyn McMahan of Spruce Head, ME, Jennifer Hatch of Newburg, ME, and Randall Butler of St. George, ME. She is also survived by her sister, Sara G. Parker, and many devoted nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the 4th floor nurses and staff at The Overlook in Charlton, MA for their compassionate and dedicated care of Priscilla while she was a resident there. In lieu of flowers, donations in Priscilla's name may be sent to one of the organizations she was a member of. The Dudley Conservation Land Trust or the Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church.


A Celebration of Life Service will be held at the Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church, 24 Child Hill Road, Woodstock, CT in the spring, date TBD. The burial will be private at Elmvale Cemetery, Woodstock, CT. Share a memory at SmithandWalkerfh.com


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





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LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
The Planning & Zoning Commission has scheduled Public Hearings for Thursday, February 15, 2024, to begin at 7:45 p.m., at Woodstock Town Hall, Lower Level, Meeting Room 1, for applications: #SP565-07-05M Woodstock Academy – 150 Rt 169 (map 6395 block 64 lot 11) Special Permit Modification for construction of 4 tennis courts to replace soccer fields at WA South Campus; and #SP661-01-24 Dario Ciovacco, 170 Joy Rd (map 7278 block 32 lot 06C) – Activity on a Scenic Road for driveway relocation. February 2, 2024 February 9, 2024

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the following application with conditions on 1/18/24: #SP660-10-23 Woodstock Sustainable Farms, Kenneth Rapoport, 211 Pulpit Rock Rd (map 7278 block 32 lot 25, 25-1 & 25-3) – event & wedding facility promoting agritourism. Chairman Jeffrey Marcotte. February 2, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON
Planning and Zoning
LEGAL NOTICE
At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on January 22nd, 2023 at 7:00

PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and via ZOOM, the following action was taken.
PZC 23-56 –Mountford Construction, LLC owner of 0 Logans Lane Map 137, Block 20, Lot 6M Zone Rural Residential Agricultural District (RRAD) request a 3 lot sub-division, in compliance with 2023 Amended Sub-division Regulations Article III and Article IV, APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS
PZC 24-01 Application Gassan Nayfeh owner of 15 Market Lane, Map 169, Block 93, Lot 3. Zone DMRD, .30 Acres request to increase existing multi-housing from 8 apartments to 12

apartments (increase of 4 Apartments) Zoning Permit with Site Plan Review by Commission, according to the Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations **Article 12, 274-12.2 #21 and Article 4. 275-4.4 A. and B.**
Action - Zoning Permit with Commission Site Plan Review Discussion APPROVED
Respectfully submitted.
Joe Parodi-Brown, Chairman
Files may be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Office
February 2, 2024

Fundraiser sets records all around



Courtesy

Interact Club members, volunteers, advisors.

PUTNAM — Putnam Rotary Club President Amanda Kelly praised the Interact Club members' fundraising efforts for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. They pulled in a record amount of money — and spent a record number of hours in the cold doing it.

In its 26th year, according to Interact Club advisor Roberta Rocchetti, the club members and volunteers raised \$15,283.

Kelly said, "We appreciate the hours you volunteers spent in the cold, bell ringing."

She added, "Those hours and hours added up."

She also thanked the advisors and volunteers who helped.

The Salvation Army, recipient of the club's Kettle Campaign efforts, uses all the funds raised in the local area.

Debbie White, director of Social Ministries for Connecticut and Rhode Island, told the volunteers in a letter, on behalf of the Salvation Army "you have our heartfelt gratitude for your dedicated service as a volunteer."

She added, "Thank you for choosing to be a beacon of hope and change." The school which spent the highest number of hours on "kettle duty" was Woodstock Academy with 166 hours. In second was Putnam High School with 152 and

coming in third was 93 hours for Tourtellotte Memorial High School. In the individual category there was a tie for first with Paige Perry and Gabriell Cerasiello of Putnam High working together for five weeks and racking up 32 hours. In second was Kaylee Borders with 15 hours and in third was Delta Wagner with 12 hours.

Interact Club members include: Paige Perry, Gabriell Cerasiello, Kasyan Robillard, Delta Wagner, Danny Boriboun, Maggie Kimball, Maddie Jezierski, Kira Greene, Phoebe Griffin, Hunter Larson, Taylor Lamothe, Madie McMahan, Ava

Simoes, Greysen Dery, Kiley Elliott, Elizabeth Ladzinski, Amelia Haynes, Logan Casteen, Austin Crim (UConn), Lillian Conway, Caitlin Mercer, Eoin Merce, Vivianna Hill, Jordyn Butler, Eric Levesque, Patricia Peterson, Cade Jones, Jared Nielsen, Emma Kerr, Eden Lusignan, Gianna DiCola-Keddy, Noel Racicot, Ella Carota, Zahara Moore, Ava Hovestadt, Cooper Sweeney, Joshua Tackson, Talia Tremblay, Kaelyn Tremblay, Serena Smith, Livi Gerum, Keivon Robison, Abby Houle, Sofia Thurber, June Ferraro, Kaylee Beck, Jin Blair, Kaylee Borders, Jackie

Dearborn, Avery Thienel, Adam Rumrill, Sara Macri, Angelica Oliveira, Evan Shaughnessy, Julius Lang, Leo Rocchetti, Delaney Anderson, Danny Pynn, Jay Patel, Ryan Rivera, Tyler Shead, Mikayla Bessette, Ava Golden, Bella DiGregorio, Julia Coyle, Grace Pokorn, Maya Rodrigues, Mackenzie Lewis, Angel Sherpa, Noah Russell, Ben Cross, Ela Gadoury, Alexis Phav, Gia DiPasquale, Celine Leffingwell, Adrian Rivera, Grace Akana, Ethan Latandrice, Romeo Devil, Hudson Smith, Adric Devil, Cody Keene, Madison Williams, Arthur Soucy, Lillian Beausoleil,

Sophia Milardo, Anna Bell, Jadon Dakal, Colby Ormerod.

Also, Patty Gaffney, Marysia Cournoyer, Adam Rumrill, Maryann and Calvin Heath, Woody and Dottie Durst, Garry Brown, Claudia Ursin, Donna Drasch, Leo, Mike and Roberta Rocchetti, Dick Loomis, Kelly Alves, Harper Smith, Hudson Smith, Paul Pikora, Fred Chmura, Jonathan and Keri Tremblay, Doug Porter, Barry Shead, Pam Brown, Amanda Kelly, Shannon Fagan, Matthew Gardiner, Hailey Messier, Tom and Jacob Russel and Richard and Kathy Naumann.

WOODSTOCK WORKINGS

BY CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER

A monthly report of the work of the 21 Boards, Commissions and Committees listed on the Town of Woodstock Web site, woodstockct.gov. Information is taken from the official minutes of these groups, citing the date the action was taken, and including no opinion or analysis. Routine motions to approve minutes, adjourn, etc. are not included.

Board of Assessment appeals

Jan. 18 – Motion to set meeting dates for 2024: March 5,6,7 and Sept. 10, 11, noticed by ads in the Villager and Shopper's Guide. Passed unanimously.

Board of Selectmen

Jan. 4 - Motion to move forward with the process to obtain the proposed STEAP Grant for Muddy Brook Fire Department. Passed unanimously.

Motion to move the proposed changes in building department fees, the proposed changes in fire marshal fees and proposed referendum (spending) cap increase to the list of items to be addressed at town meeting. Passed unanimously.

Motion to award the Peake Brooke Road Bridge bid to Loureiro Contractors in the amount of \$974,191. Passed unanimously.

Jan. 18 - Motion to approve the Economic Development Commission Welcome Packet as presented. Passed unanimously.

Committee on Aging

Jan. 22 - Motion to approve the budget request of \$5400 and associated goals. Passed unanimously.

Crystal Pond Park Commission

Jan. 10 - Motion to accept the summary report comparing 2023 financial to previous years and included it in the minutes. (Passed unanimously).

Inland-Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

Jan. 8 - Motion to table application 12-23-01 for 150 Rt 169 – Woodstock Academy/Field conversion to tennis courts within an Upland Review Area awaiting CHA Engineering details of the proposed stormwater drainage. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 12-23-02 – 200 Green Road/Hull Forest Products for Kim Merchant for a Timber Harvest as an Agricultural Use of Right. Passed with one abstention.

Motion to approve application 12-23-03 – 52 County Road/Kevin & Sonia Greene/Driveway for New Home within an Upland Review Area as a Wetland Agent approval once the NDDH design approval letter is in hand, with the additional requirement that the Wetland Agent approval includes having received plans that provide for a driveway to the proposed new home with top-dressing of no greater than one foot in depth. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application 01-24-01 – 122 Joy Road/Eric Hansen for Mark LaBonte for a Timber Harvest, that it be authorized by Chair M. Parker without the matter returning to the IWW Agency, after receipt of the correct Woodstock Timber Harvest form and the provision by the applicant of the map that was screen-shared during this meeting. Passed unanimously.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Jan. 4 - Motion to continue the public hearing #SP660-10-23 Woodstock Sustainable Farms, Kenneth Rapoport to January 18, 2024. Passed unanimously.

Motion to schedule a public hearing for agenda item #SP565-07-05M Woodstock Academy – 150 Rt 169 (map 6395 block 64 lot 11) Special Permit Modification for construction of 4 tennis courts to replace soccer fields at WA South Campus on Feb. 15 at 7:45 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve #356-93-05M David & Kerri

Mullen – 135 & 145 Perrin Rd. (map 5787 block 43 lots 05-1 & 05-1B) for subdivision modification for boundary line adjustment as presented. Passed unanimously.

Motion to schedule a public hearing for application #SP661-01-24 Dario Ciovacco, 170 Joy Rd (map 7278 block 32 lot 06C) – Activity on a Scenic Road for driveway relocation on February 15, 2024 at 7:45 pm. Passed unanimously.

Motion to schedule a public hearing for the Proposed Text Amendment: Subdivision Regulations, Ch. V – Application Review, Decision and Post Approval Process, Section 2.D on March 21, 2024 at 7:45 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Jan. 18 - Motion to close public hearing #SP660-10-23 Woodstock Sustainable Farms, Kenneth Rapoport, 211 Pulpit Rock Rd. (map 7278 block 32 lot 25, 25-1 & 25-3) – event & wedding facility promoting agritourism with the expectation that Aaron Farbo submit his resume to the commission to validate his professional qualifications. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve application #SP660-10-23 Woodstock Sustainable Farms, Kenneth Rapoport, 211 Pulpit Rock Rd (map 7278 block 32 lot 25, 25-1 & 25-3) – event & wedding facility promoting agritourism with the following conditions. Passed with one abstention.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Jan. 9 - Motion to elect Stuart Peaslee as Chairman for the upcoming term. Passed unanimously.

Motion to elect Bill Chaput as Vice Chairman for the upcoming term. Passed unanimously.

Motion to elect Dotti Durst as Secretary for the upcoming term. Passed unanimously.

Jan. 22 - Motion to submit a budget request of \$825 for FY 24-25. Passed unanimously.

POMFRET — The American Chestnut Foundation's (TACF) documentary, "Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut," will be shown at The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. The screening will be followed by a question and answer session with Jack Swatt, president of the Connecticut chapter of TACF, and Ginny Patsun, manager of the TACF seed orchard in Stafford. The event is presented in collaboration with The Wyndham Land Trust. No registration is required and there is no admission charge. "Clear Day Thunder" tells a story that will interest a number of audiences, including citizen scientists, history buffs, and forestland owners. When European colonists first came to Connecticut, the land was heavily forested with chestnut, oak, and pine trees. Estimates are that chestnuts comprised up to 25 percent of the forest in what was to become Connecticut. The trees grew quickly and many of them became massive, producing thousands of nuts. They were both economically and ecologically important. Chestnut

lumber, straight-grained and rot-resistant, was used extensively in building and furniture making. Nuts were food for any number of insects, birds, and mammals. They were not only mast for wildlife but also feed for domestic animals. Farmers grazed cattle and pigs in the woods, fattening them for home use or the market. Chestnuts also were harvested and roasted or pounded into meal to be eaten by people.

In the late 1800's/early 1900's, a fungal canker disease was unintentionally introduced to North America on plants imported from Asia. Sweeping through the forest, the blight killed mature chestnut trees, which had no resistance to it. Underground and not exposed to the airborne fungus, their root systems often survived and sent up sprouts. These soon became diseased and survived only a few years. A few lived long enough to produce nuts. Even today, more than a century after the introduction of the blight, this remains the case. There are not, however, enough of these trees to maintain a viable, reproducing population. Thus, the

American chestnut tree is functionally extinct.

"Clear Day Thunder" explains why there still is hope for the American chestnut. The Chinese chestnut evolved with the fungus and has resistance to it. Back crossing of American and Chinese chestnuts for many generations has resulted in trees with some blight resistance. Scientists also have developed a genetically modified American chestnut. Researchers inserted a single gene from wheat that encodes for oxalate oxidase, an enzyme that breaks down the toxic oxalic acid that the blight fungus uses to damage the chestnut's bark. The genetically engineered chestnut tree, like all transgenic plants, must be approved by the federal government before it can be made available to the public.

The phrase "clear day thunder" has a sad derivation. It is a description of the sound of gigantic, dead chestnut trees crashing to the forest floor. "Clear Day Thunder" shows how passionate people involved in the restoration effort are motivated to bring this iconic tree back to the forests of the east.

Ryan Hanlon makes Eastern Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them is full-time student Ryan Hanlon of Woodstock, a junior who majors in Communication and Accounting.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded course work with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Kaylynn Horan of Putnam named to University of Alabama Presidents List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Kaylynn Horan was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for fall semester 2023.

A total of 13,950 students enrolled during fall semester 2023 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit news.ua.edu.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.