



POSTAL
CUSTOMER

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #231
ECR WSS

SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550

PUTNAM VILLAGER

Vol. II, No. 13

Complimentary

(860) 928-1818/e-mail: news@villagernewspapers.com

Happy New Year

Friday, December 29, 2006



A Year to Remember

BY DAVID DORE
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

PUTNAM — When brides are getting ready to walk down the aisle, they are supposed to have four things with them: something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

If the town of Putnam was a bride, and the year 2006 was a marriage, all four categories were covered.

There was the old (for example, a new zoning classification for six former mill buildings), the new (a Price Chopper supermarket and plenty of new faces in town and school government), the borrowed (an inter-

im principal for Putnam High School) and the blue (one of the favorite colors of fans who attended the state championship final, featuring the high school boys' basketball team).

The new building in town that perhaps excited local residents the most was the opening of a Price Chopper supermarket at the Riverfront Commons shopping plaza on Kennedy Drive. It was an event years in the making — and one event that was put off for months.

Plagued by several delays — including 23 construction barrels blocking off a section of Bridge Street that were thrown into the Quinebaug River in late June — the store finally opened to great fanfare Tuesday, Aug. 15.

That, Mayor Robert G. Viens said throughout 2006,

was only one part of a complete transformation of the plaza. From one end to the other, the drab brown and green exterior would be replaced with clock towers and other features designed to incorporate the feeling of the nearby downtown section.

Viens said renovations should be done in the first half of 2007 — but, in case they are not, the town of Putnam extended a \$950,000 line of credit for the project for a year, through Dec. 31, 2007.

SHOOTING AT WAL-MART

The frenzy created by the Nov. 17 release of the Sony PlayStation 3 video game system — touted for its high-

Turn To **REVIEW**, page **A20**

Deojay pleads guilty to Nilan death, '04 rape

BY SHAUN MORIARTY
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — In hopes of saving his own life, the man accused of brutally killing a Woodstock woman pleaded guilty Thursday, Dec. 21 in Danielson Superior Court.

Scott Deojay of Plainfield, pleaded guilty to capital murder and other felonies in the December 2005 murder of Judith Nilan, 44. He also pleaded guilty to first-degree sexual assault in an unrelated 2004 Plainfield case being prosecut-

ed concurrently.

Deojay returns to court for sentencing March 9.

After accepting the pleas, Judge Antonio Robaina allowed Nilan's family to present victim impact statements.

Although he did not offer a statement in court, Nilan's husband, Jon Baker, stated Tuesday, Dec. 26, that he hopes the guilty plea will bring an end to this chapter of the tragedy.

"Hopefully, this part of this

Turn To **DEOJAY**, page **A6**

Cheerleaders help one of their own



Adam Minor photo

The Putnam High School cheerleading team has been trying to raise money for the family of Killingly High School cheerleader Mary-Beth Kinchen, whose house burned down last week.

RIVALRY IS PUT ASIDE TO HELP VICTIMS OF FIRE

BY ADAM MINOR
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

Rivalries between Putnam and Killingly high school sports programs may be intense, but as far as their respective cheerleading teams are concerned, it's all in the family.

In an effort to raise money for the family of a Killingly cheerleader whose family's house burned down nearly two weeks ago, the Putnam cheerleading squad has taken it upon itself to lend a helping hand.

The Palazzi family, owners of Palazzi Orchards in East Killingly, lost

Turn To **FIRE**, page **A6**

INSIDE

A8 — LEARNING
A10-11 — OPINION
A13 — RELIGION
A16-17 — OBITUARIES
B1 — REAL ESTATE
B6 — CALENDAR

LOCAL

'CHOCOLATE
QUEEN'
PAGE A2



SPORTS

YEAR IN REVIEW
PAGE A18



VILLAGER TRIVIA!

It is the state song of
Connecticut.
Answer inside.

Introducing the Chocolate Queen

BY ADAM MINOR
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

A book has arrived that will satisfy the sweet tooth of children everywhere.

“The Chocolate Queen,” a young adult fantasy novel by Thompson author Lee Brooks, is now on shelves, and offers an interesting take one of the world’s most popular confections.

In the not too distance future in a parallel world, there are two lands where women rule. In one land, called Reverent, live the pious Outsiders, with strict rules and regulations, where chocolate is taboo.

Separated by scrublands deep in the Forest of Mantilla, hides a secret city called Carmel, a place where chocolate is plentiful. For 150 years inside this city live the Dregs. Their loyalty is to their queen and protecting the Gift.

The Dregs believe in a prophecy handed down through generations, and is inscribed on a rock in Carmel’s park and written in Dreg symbolism.

The prophecy reads: “In the midst of battle and bloodshed, a child with paradise eyes and hair like a precious jewel, shall be born by a woman of privilege. Many tears will fall for the bearer of this child that will render heartache and betrayal. This child will have great skills, endurance, and courage and grow to become the leader of a New World.”

Many battles have erupted between Reverent and Carmel, causing turmoil and segregation. Will Reverent conquer Carmel and rid the world of chocolate forever?

Could the people of Carmel survive in such a world, or will they rise up against Reverent to protect their way of life?

Carmel could never be prepared for the traumatic chain of events that lies before them — events that could potentially cause their whole world to crumble.

For Brooks, the idea for the book came out of a simple love for chocolate.

“I saw one of my girlfriends eating a piece of chocolate one day,” said Brooks. “I was thinking about it and thinking about it, so I thought I would write something. I write poetry, and I wrote a couple of paragraphs, and it was really silly. My son said, ‘Why don’t you do something with that?’ I was playing with it, and it kind of grew from there.”

The story chronicles the struggle between the value systems of Reverent and Carmel, and the life of Queen Abigail as characters struggle with the meaning of Carmel’s prophecy message.

“I thought I’d do something different, but cute too,” Brooks said. “I wanted to keep it as real as possible,

like it could have happened. I tried to focus on the feelings going on between the characters — the mother and the son, the queen and best friend, the love interest — how people are related.”

She continued: “Everything has been done. I love movies, so when I wrote it, I was thinking about when I watch a movie, and how I would describe it.”

Brooks said the writing portion of the process was nearly derailed after her computer crashed and many people said she had lost everything on her hard drive. Luckily, employees at a nearby Best Buy were able to extract the data she needed to continue.

While writing, Brooks said she inserted many of her own experiences into the book.

“When I started writing it, I started thinking of ideas, then things just started coming into my head, and I started writing. But, what I did was, I started taking a lot of my own experiences and put them into the book — labor, relationships, friendships, things that happened to me. I pulled all those experiences in and put them in for flavor. It put a lot of meat in the book.”

After she finished a rough draft of her completed story, it took another year to edit.

“Editing was the hardest part,” she said. “I changed it many times, because I needed a real hook in the beginning of the story. So, I changed the chapters many times.”

During the process, Brooks attempted to contact many of the nations largest publishing companies. However, she was denied each time.

“The big boys don’t want to talk to anybody that hasn’t published anything,” she said. “So, I went to a bookstore and got a book on literary agents, and I wrote to everyone in there that could possibly be interested in what I wrote, and I got some very lovely ‘no’s.’”

Finally, publishing company PublishAmerica called.

“They contacted me and said they were interested in looking at it,” Brooks said. “They took a chance with me. They liked it, but they said it needed work.”

PublishAmerica has more than 20,000 signed authors. They are a traditional publishing company whose primary goal is to “encourage and promote the works of new, previously undiscovered writers,” according to their Web site (www.publishamerica.com). Like more mainstream publishers, PublishAmerica pays its authors advances and royalties, makes its books available in both the United States and Europe through all bookstores, and never



charges any fees for its services.

The company signed Brooks to a six-year deal last year for “The Chocolate Queen.”

To create a finished product, Brooks said, she had to “pool her resources,” having her story proofread by a schoolteacher, and hiring an entertainment lawyer to make sure the story was perfectly structured.

“[The lawyer] said, ‘Since it’s your first book, it’s got to be right. When you get to be somebody, you can write any way you want,’” Brooks said. “We went through the book probably 15 times. When it finally came in the mail, the last thing I wanted to do was read it.”

When asked if she was thinking about writing a sequel, Brooks replied: “We’ll see. I would probably go backwards. I think it would be easier to talk about before — how did that person grow up? Why are they like this?”

The book is available now at Amazon.com, Brooks’ Web site (www.thechocolatequeen.net), PublishAmerica’s Web site (<http://www.publishamerica.com/books/17379>), and Wonderland Books in Putnam.

Wonderland will also be hosting a book signing Saturday, Feb. 10.

“I want people to enjoy [the book], and get a good feeling,” Brooks said. “I want them to take some time and think about their own relationships, and what is important to them.”

VILLAGER ALMANAC

— QUOTATION OF THE WEEK —

“The entire Rectory School community worked to create the Heart-y Party, and it reflects the caring mission of the school.”

-Mary Lou Seaward, Rectory School tutor

— OPEN TO CLOSE —

PUTNAM TOWN HALL (963-6800)
Monday through Friday8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Town Clerk (963-6807):
Monday through Friday8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Recordings accepted until 4 p.m.; office occasionally closed between noon and 1 p.m.

Water Pollution Control Authority (963-6819):
Monday through Friday8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Veterans Services9-11 a.m. Friday

PUTNAM PUBLIC LIBRARY (963-6826)
Monday through Thursday10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Story Time: 4 p.m. Mondays, 11 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays

PUTNAM POST OFFICE (928-4051)
Window:
Monday through Friday8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday8:30 a.m. to noon

Lobby/Post Office Boxes:
Monday through Friday6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

— TOP 10 VIDEOS —



All the King’s Men (PG-13-Drama)
Invincible (PG-Drama/Sport)
Jet Li’s Fearless (PG-13-Action)
Lady in the Water (PG-13-Mystery/Fantasy)
Little Miss Sunshine (R-Comedy/Drama)
My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13-Comedy/Romance)
A Scanner Darkly (R-Animation/Mystery)
Step Up (PG-13-Drama/Romance)
The Wicker Man (PG-13-Mystery)
World Trade Center (PG-13-Drama)
Provided by Great American Cinema in Putnam

— REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS —

\$0, 42 Fremont St., Richard R. Brodeur (Putnam) to Louise M. Brodeur and Michelle M. Brodeur Foronda (Putnam).
\$240,000, 364 Woodstock Ave., The Fern Phaneuf Revocable Trust and The Lorraine Phaneuf Revocable Trust (Putnam) to Robert H. Fredette and Susan Kay (Charlton, Mass.).
\$50,000, 25 Pleasant St., Dennis P. Huff (Fairhope, Ala.) to Janice Huff (Putnam).
\$193,585.11, 101 David Circle, James K. Kelley, Foreclosure Committee for sale for Robert P. Pelletier, et al (Danielson) to Deutsche Bank National Trust Co., as trustee c/o Option One Mortgage Corp. (Irvine, Calif.).
\$209,900, 297 Sabin St., Unit 10, NRE Construction LLC (Dayville) to Cheryl A. Nowicki (Brooklyn).

— AT THE AUDUBON —

Bird sightings for the week of Dec. 18:
Large Flocks of Gold Finch and House Finch. Carolina Wren, Ring-necked Ducks, large numbers of Black Ducks and Mallards and a Barred Owl.
Also seen were two Bobcats together at one of our blinds.
These birds and animals were all sighted on Connecticut Audubon Society or Wyndham Land Trust properties in Pomfret.

— WEEKEND WEATHER —



Saturday — A 30 percent chance of rain in the day, mostly cloudy at night. High near 39, low around 32.
Sunday — A chance of rain, freezing rain or sleet. Cloudy. High near 39, low around 30.

Provided by the NOAA Weather Service

Joseph Jewelers LLC

Wedding Jewelry



- Wedding Bands
- Engagement Rings
- Earrings
- Necklaces
- Etc

153 School St. Putnam
860-928-4525
158 Main St. Danielson
860-774-8093

Laurel Forge
Mark Schlehofer, Blacksmith



Airons_Scones_Chambersticks_Fireplace Tools
Hooks_Coat and Key Racks
Custom Orders Welcome

53 Wade Rd. (860) 974-0659
Pomfret Ctr, CT 06259 www.laurelforge.com



- Alternators • Starters • Generators
- Farm • Industrial - Small Engine
- Snowplows

Service Available 7 Days!

Woodstock Rebuilding
102 Indian Spring Road • Woodstock Valley, CT
(860) 974-2152
cell:559-7340 • Ken Braithwaite

Kelly's TIRE *Since 1936*



SNOW TIRES STUDS AVAILABLE

OPEN: MON.-FRI. 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
SATURDAY 8:00 A.M. - 12 NOON
928-4432
306 SCHOOL STREET • PUTNAM, CT

Services
• 4 Wheel Alignment
• Front Wheel Alignment
• Batteries/Brakes/Exhaust
• Lube & Oil/Shocks/Struts
• Wheel Balancing

Products
• Passenger Car Tires
• Performance Tires
• Light Truck Tires
• R.V. Tires • Tubes
• American Racing Rims
• Lawn and Garden

VICTORY LANE Blues Club
LIVE MUSIC • DJ • KARAOKE
POOL • DARTS • GAMES

New Year's Eve Party - Country style w/Bill
Champagne toast, party favors, snacks
FREE Rides home included in cover

Karaoke/DJ Wed, Thurs and Sat nights
Friday, Dec. 29th - FEVER band

729 Hartford Pike, Dayville, CT 06241 • (860) 774-8688

Since 1934
Phone **974-3538**
Email-rdegaff@coburnfinancial.com

Richard De Graff
Coburn & Meredith, Inc.

FREE ADVICE ON STOCKS AND BONDS ONLY

Stock Broker Over 47 Years Experience **256 Ashford Rd. Eastford, CT 06242**

How to Use



PUTNAM VILLAGER

TO PLACE A RETAIL AD:

RETAIL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
STEPHANIE COLE
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 105
stephanie@villagernewspapers.com

RETAIL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
SETH BOTTONE
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 119
seth@villagernewspapers.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:

CUSTOMER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE
GEORGIA LEAMING
(800) 367-9898, EXT. 139
georgia@stonebridgepress.com

TO FAX THE VILLAGER:

CALL (860) 928-5946

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD:

CLASSIFIED MANAGER
SARAH HYNDY
(800) 536-5836
sarah@stonebridgepress.com

TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:

E-MAIL: wbird@villagernewspapers.com OR send to Putnam Villager, 107 Providence St., Putnam, CT 06260

TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

E-MAIL: wbird@villagernewspapers.com OR send to Putnam Villager, 107 Providence St., Putnam, CT 06260

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS:

E-MAIL: wbird@villagernewspapers.com OR send to Putnam Villager, 107 Providence St., Putnam, CT 06260

TO SOUND OFF:

CALL (860) 928-1818, EXT. 150

TO REQUEST A PHOTO REPRINT:

CALL JEAN ASHTON AT (800) 367-9898, EXT. 100, OR E-MAIL REPRINTS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.COM

VISIT US ONLINE:

www.villagernewspapers.com

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR/WEEKLY EDITOR-AT-LARGE
WALTER BIRD JR.
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 103
wbird@villagernewspapers.com

MANAGING EDITOR
DAVID DORE
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 109
david@villagernewspapers.com

REPORTER
BRUCE COULTER
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 108
bruce@villagernewspapers.com

REPORTER
SHAUN MORIARTY
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 111
shaun@villagernewspapers.com

REPORTER
ADAM MINOR
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 112
adam@villagernewspapers.com

REPORTER
CHUCK EDENBURN
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 113
chuck@villagernewspapers.com

REPORTER
TRACY SEELYE
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 114
tracy@villagernewspapers.com

REPORTER
GUS STEEVES
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 115
gus.steeves@gmail.com

A STONEBRIDGE PRESS PUBLICATION

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK C. CHILINSKI
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 104
frank@villagernewspapers.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
RON TREMBLAY
(800) 367-9898, EXT. 102
rtremblay@stonebridgepress.com

ADVERTISING
MAJOR ACCOUNTS MANAGER
JEAN ASHTON
(800) 367-9898, EXT. 104
jashton@stonebridgepress.com

ADVERTISING STAFF

RETAIL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
STEPHANIE COLE
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 105
stephanie@villagernewspapers.com

RETAIL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
SETH BOTTONE
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 119
seth@villagernewspapers.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
KRYSTEN SULLIVAN
(860) 928-1818, EXT. 102
krysten@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
(800) 367-9898, EXT. 105
production@stonebridgepress.com

CLASSIFIED MANAGER
SARAH HYNDY
(800) 536-5836
sarah@stonebridgepress.com



Visit us at the Belding Mill,
107 Providence St., Putnam,
Conn. Call (860) 928-1818.
E-mail wbird@villagernewspapers.com.

Racing to fill the pantry

ELLIS TECH BESTS WINDHAM IN FOOD DRIVE COMPETITION

BY TRACY F. SEELYE
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

A food collection challenge between Danielson's Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School and Windham Technical High School in Willimantic meant more than a prize and bragging rights for Ellis Tech — it meant full shelves at the two communities' food pantries throughout the winter.

On top of the food drive the two schools played basketball that night, it was a good day for both school and community spirit.

Ellis Tech students donated a combined 4,929 nonperishable food items to Windham Tech's 2,077.

Ellis Tech's electronics shop won the intramural contest with 1,051 items, followed by masonry with 1,030 and hairdressing with 678. Linda Edmonds' freshmen homeroom won with 368.

The winning shop's students will receive a free screening of a movie at Wishing Star Cinema 4 donated by the theater.

CONTEST BOOSTS DONATIONS

Students approached the food drive with a competitive edge more typically seen on the athletic field, but the main point of feeding the less fortunate in their town was certainly not lost on them.

Jessica Bibeau, Ellis Tech school social worker, said there have also been side competitions between upperclassmen in the 11 trade shops and the freshmen homerooms.

"Today, it has been incredible," Bibeau said Friday, Dec. 15 — the deadline for donations — as she counted the food items rolling in.

As she spoke, students from the carpentry shop were bringing in their donations.

"You should have seen my office," Bibeau said. "I've been storing items in there."

Last year, without an inter-school challenge to spur donations, Ellis Tech students donated 2,848 food items to the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry in Danielson, according to pantry director Jean St. Cyr. The food lasted well past the holidays.

"We're just so pleased," St. Cyr said Friday. "We had no idea it was coming."

She said Ellis Tech usually holds a Thanksgiving food drive, and police officers accept donations for the pantry in



Chris Dillon of Thompson, Anthony Valade of Brooklyn, Jenna Normandin of Thompson, Jordyn Gullotta of Killingly and Cassie McRory of Putnam help Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School Social Worker Jessica Bibeau count food items donated in the challenge against Windham Tech Friday, Dec. 15.

December. The two drives, as it turned out, were reversed this year.

"We did it a little late this year. We usually do it around Thanksgiving," Bibeau said. "They told us at Assisi that the food drives we did last year and the year before carried them through March."

"Ellis Tech is very typical of the generosity the schools, businesses, churches and individuals in this community have shown us," St. Cyr said.

Windham Tech will be donating the food it collected to the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.

While Ellis Tech's drive is a school tradition, this is the first time they have issued a challenge to another tech school, according to Bibeau.

"I called and challenged them to a food

drive contest," Bibeau said. "It's just a good school spirit for the kids. It was insane. At 7:30 a.m., when the bell rang, they all started bringing their food down. The hairdressers had their rolling carts full. The spirit of this building is incredible."

Everywhere Bibeau went in the school during the final collection, she was asked about the final tally — she decided a school-wide announcement was in order when she arrived at a total.

The Ellis cafeteria staff also got involved, donating 60 items.

The shops at the school had been keeping their actual totals close to the vest until the deadline.

"I have gone to the food pantry with 10,000 cans [in the past]," said masonry instructor Michael Daigle.

Tracy Seelye photo

Killingly plans warm welcome for 2007

BY GUS STEEVES
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

KILLINGLY — New Year's weekend is typically a little frosty in Danielson. But this year, there should be plenty of body heat, downtown to keep things warm, as the town celebrates its fourth annual Frostival.

Until last year, the event was known as First Night, but the town opted to change it both because the name is a trademark, and the town wanted a little more flexibility to expand the event beyond just Dec. 31, Recreation Director Tom Dooley said.

"It allows us to play with that week on either side," he said.

This year, it will be held Saturday, Dec. 30, closing Main Street from Davis Park to Water Street for live music, skating, roving performers, a psychic, wrestling and other events.

"We wanted a street carnival and this has blossomed into a great event," said Recreation Commissioner Jim Milliard, who has been part of the planning all four years. "It brings families out and gives merchants a chance to use their stores as venues. We wanted to do something

different and go from there.

"We're trying to go into every mode of entertainment — country, folk, rock 'n' roll, dance, sports," he said. "There really hasn't been much we haven't tried. This year, we've got a monkey. My question was, does the monkey wear a hat? Nobody can tell me that."

Milliard is also a Frostival performer, as leader and saxophone player in the 13-member Great Garage Band Reunion. In that role, he said, "a lot of people stop by that wouldn't get a chance to see us."

Another regular performer is Christiana Gaudet, a former Killingly resident who recently moved to Pennsylvania, but plans to participate in Frostival anyway. She's locally known as the WINY psychic, and plans to ply her trade in person somewhere along the festival route. Normally, she said, she's been stationed in Danielson Bookstore, but that's closed.

"I've done a lot of First Night celebrations and other community events in different states, but there's something special about the community events in that part of the world, northeastern Connecticut," Gaudet said.

REGIONAL APPEAL

Milliard agreed, saying that's the organizers' intent. He sees it as being more than just a Killingly event, but as one of several in area towns that aim to build community throughout the region. He predicted around 10,000 people will attend this year.

According to Killingly Resident Trooper William Kuckle, the state police will shut down Main Street from about 2:30 to 10 p.m., detouring traffic down Broad Street to Franklin and Water streets. There will be designated regular and handicapped parking areas, he added.

Police saw no problems with previous New Year's events, and expect none this year, Kuckle said.

Many of the events will be similar to those of previous years, but the new ones include wrestling, extra rides at Davis Park and several new bands, Dooley said.

"It feels really organized this year, and the vision seems a lot clearer this year," he said. "The staff has had a full year to consume how the process is and

work more closely with sponsors."

As in past years, admission is free, and Dooley said he hopes it always will be. That's in part because the various sponsors, some of whom are also venues, are paying about half the budget. By 2010, he said, he hopes it will be entirely sponsor-funded.

"The sponsors are giving a gift to the town," Dooley said. "... We're still looking for that big opening Frostival event. I have an idea, but I haven't found it yet."

The festivities run from 3 to 8 p.m., and close with fireworks.

In the past, those fireworks have happened with snow falling, an experience Gaudet described as "amazing."

"The weather is part of the fun," she said. "With a bonfire and food and skating and music and a psychic, what else could there be?"

A list of the attractions is available at Killingly's town Web site, www.killingly.org.

Gus Steeves is a Villager Staff Writer. Contact him at (860) 928-1818, ext. 115, or by e-mail at gus@villagernewspapers.com.

ACCURACY WATCH

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

If you find a mistake, call (860) 928-1818 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- TUESDAY, JAN. 2**
- Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall
- TUESDAY, JAN. 9**
- Inland Wetlands Commission, 7 p.m., Putnam Middle School
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10**
- Board of Education Performance and Progress Committee, 7 p.m., Superintendent's Conference Room, Town Hall
- TUESDAY, JAN. 16**
- Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall
- Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., Putnam Middle School library

NEWS BRIEFS

Business Hall of Fame accepting nominations

HARTFORD — The Connecticut Business Hall Of Fame has announced it is accepting nominations of Connecticut business leaders and leading companies for entry into the Connecticut Business Hall Of Fame.

The Class of 2006 Induction Ceremony is scheduled to take place in March 2007, where the winners will be announced during a breakfast awards ceremony.

Nominations are now being taken online, via the Connecticut Business Hall Of Fame Web site at www.ctbhof.com, for nine different categories including business leaders from small, medium and large size businesses and companies of various sizes as well.

Nominations are also accepted for corporate volunteers and business graduate students. One student will be picked to receive a scholarship award. The nomination period is open until Jan. 31, 2007 and costs \$35 per nomination.

The Connecticut Business Hall Of Fame showcases successful companies and business leaders through business networking and industry events that are held throughout the state. The organization partners with private and public organizations, as well as associations and state corporations to promote economic development.

— Submitted by Ron Dresner

VILLAGER TRIVIA!

Answer: "Yankee Doodle."

SHOPPING FOR THE BEST MORTGAGE RATES?

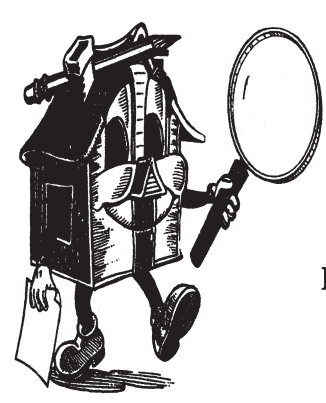
LOOK NO FURTHER

Fixed Rates as low as

5.25%

5.56%

APR



BFC

BAY FINANCE COMPANY INC

"The Mortgage People Who Care."

211 Main Street Webster, MA 01570

1-800-822-2173

www.bayfinance.com

The Mortgage Affiliate of
Commerce Insurance Company
Providing Exceptional Customer Service
for over 25 years

CT Lic #0002165
MA Lic #MC0142
Rate subject to change without notice

ATTENTION

ALL OWNERS OF:



Tri-State welcomes you to our conveniently located Award Winning Authorized Service, Parts & Sales Departments in Dudley, MA.

We welcome ALL MAKES & MODELS!

We will provide ALL your factory warranty, authorized service contracts, factory recalls and maintenance needs on your vehicle!

No Matter where your vehicle was purchased!

Call one of our service, parts or sales professionals at 800-339-2321 or 508-943-7474

Rentals Available! No Appointments Necessary!

SEE YOU IN DUDLEY

TRI-STATE

TOYOTA • SCION • DODGE

191 West Main St. Dudley, MA 01571

Our Sales Dept. offers the **BEST DEALS** in the area on New & Used Vehicles with the **BEST trade-in Allowance!**



Residential Rubbish Removal

~ Other Services ~

Roll-Off Containers	Commercial Trash Removal	Cleanouts
10 Yard	2 Yard	Removal of All unwanted items:
15 Yard	4 Yard	• Attics • Cellars
20 Yard	6 Yard	• Garages
	8 Yard	• Estates
	Dumpsters	• Apartments
		Construction Debris

Please Call for a FREE Estimate on All Services • (860) 963-0444

David Lussier Gallery of Fine Art

283 Route 169 Woodstock CT

860-928-5434 Thu-Sun 12-5pm

"fine art...it may well be the best gift of all"



"Tis the Season" by David Lussier

Environmental debate swirls around Killingly Commons project

BY GUS STEEVES
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

KILLINGLY — Piles of dirt and debris are disappearing from the former Anchor Glass site as part of the long process of converting a brownfield into a shopping mall.

But what that movement means depends on whom you talk to.

Town Councilor Peter Kissa alleges the landowner, Ceruzzi Holdings, doing business as Dayville Properties LLC, has removed a pile of contaminated materials from Phase 2 without permission, and the state Department of Environmental Protection isn't properly overseeing the project.

"One thing we can say for sure is they [DEP] are not out here supervising," Kissa said while taking pictures of the Route 101 site from a neighboring cemetery Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 19. "Do you let the fox guard the henhouse? That's essentially what's happening now."

He and fellow observer Robert Corriveau, an organizer for the Carpenter's Union from Waterford, said they're concerned some contaminated materials might be running off the property via a brook into the Five Mile River, blowing off it as dust into neighboring areas, or simply being buried on the property, rather than taken away for disposal. Kissa also said he's concerned about where some of the material is being taken.

At the time of his visit, the wind was blowing dust from the site's huge central mound eastward toward Interstate 395, and an excavator was visible digging on the Phase 2, or western, part of the site.

According to town documents, Phase 1 is supposed to be the clean area, and Phase 2 the contaminated section of the property. DEP approved Ceruzzi's remedial action work plan for Phase 1 in June.

"If the stuff is safe, that's fine. If it's not, I have a problem with

creating environmental issues," Corriveau said. " ... I have seen other sites in the past where hazardous materials had to be removed and it wasn't done properly."

Corriveau said part of his concern is for the safety of workers who will build Killingly Commons, the 500,000-square-foot mall planned for the site. As a union representative, he keeps tabs on projects that might involve union labor, he said.

At the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting Monday, Dec.18, Kissa said town and DEP documents reveal the existence of "50 different areas of concern regarding polluted materials." The meeting primarily dealt with a few minor changes to the project's construction plans, and project architect Patrick O'Leary of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., of Middletown, said he had no participation in the remediation issues.

After the meeting, Town Engineer Bruce Chimento said Kissa's concerns are valid, but largely out of date. The company and its contractors have been complying with everything town and state officials have asked of them, Chimento said.

Last week, Chimento provided an e-mail and notes of a conversation he had with Mark Lewis, the site's DEP overseer, indicating most of those 50 areas have been cleaned up. He said he has seen an approved Phase 2 cleanup plan, but did not have a copy.

Several issues are still being addressed, Chimento said, citing the e-mail from Lewis dated Nov. 8: disposal of material from the site's southern landfill; ecological assessment and, if needed, cleanup of the southern wetlands and northern fill areas; treatment of water in the fire pond and related 10,000-gallon tank; and several locations where soil tests revealed high levels of metals and PCBs.

Lewis said most elements of

Ceruzzi's Phase 2 cleanup have verbal approval, and will get formal written approval once the two sides finish negotiating "all but about three" issues, primarily related to the wetlands. Those issues are being investigated by a subcontractor working with DEP risk assessor Tracy Iott, and they haven't yet reported on the solutions, he said.

Regarding the contaminated pile that was removed, Lewis said DEP has wanted it removed for some time. As long as it goes to a licensed disposal facility, he said, DEP "doesn't care" where it goes, adding that out of state disposal is "quite likely" because few such sites exist in Connecticut.

TOXIC LEGACY

Such issues are a legacy of the site's use for manufacturing glass food and beverage containers under Anchor Glass and other owners between 1957 and 1996. It was identified as a potential federal Superfund site in the late 1990s, largely due to discovery of PCBs from machinery and heavy metals, especially chromium, in the bricks used to build the glass smelting kilns.

The state took responsibility for the site in September 2001, according to a letter of that date from DEP supervising analyst William Warzecha to Don Smith, Connecticut site manager for the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

According to a May 1 letter in Killingly town files from DEP Waste Engineering and Enforcement Director Robert Isner, Ceruzzi-hired contractor Environmental Waste Management Associates LLC of New Jersey tested the brick and found "It is non-hazardous, but it does contain concentrations of metals that exceed the pollutant mobility criteria."

According to the LennTech periodic table Web site

(www.lenntech.com), many compounds of chromium either exist in nature or are created by human activities. The most notable types fall into two groups: trivalent chromium (or Cr III) and hexavalent chromium (or Cr VI). Of them, the latter is more easily absorbed by the body, but the former is more common in nature, according to an online fact sheet from Argonne National Laboratory.

"Chromium (III) is an essential element for organisms that can disrupt the sugar metabolism and cause heart conditions when the daily dose is too low," the LennTech site states. "Chromium (VI) is mainly toxic to organisms. It can alter genetic materials and cause cancer."

A different page from the same site notes the nutritional level of chromium is just 120 micrograms per day, and exceeding 200 micrograms causes concentration problems, fainting and other signs of toxicity.

The Anchor Glass bricks have a thin layer of chromium on their surface to seal them, Chimento said. Such bricks "may, depending on tests conducted at the time of generation, leach hexavalent chromium in excess of EP Toxicity limits," states a one-page document titled "Flue Slag & Checker Brick Emergency Procedures."

Chimento said he believes the document comes from an Anchor Glass manual, but it does not say so. According to the EPA Web site, "EP Toxicity" refers to "extraction procedure," a way of testing materials that was superceded by the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) in the early 1990s.

Although Chimento said he believes DEP visits the site at least weekly, Lewis said he drives by the site occasionally, but hasn't actually visited it since "earlier this year." Nobody from DEP has been there this month, he said.

DEP last met with Ceruzzi representatives in Hartford around a month ago, he said.

"There has to be a certain level of trust between us and them," Lewis said. But if DEP comes to suspect dishonesty — which it does not at this point — it would start making unannounced visits, he added.

Warzecha said DEP has given the owner a green light to "do whatever work they need to do on the entire site," provided they address the issues in the Nov. 8 letter. Once done, he said, they also must document transport and disposal with a permitted facility, although he wasn't sure whether it had to be permitted by Connecticut DEP.

"Even thought [the material] tested as non-hazardous, we asked them to remove it and not reuse it," Warzecha said. "It's polluted, but not at hazardous levels."

Chimento said the same regarding recent water testing done on the site. Documents on file in the Killingly engineering office show that a wide variety of substances, including magnesium, arsenic, hydrocarbons and sulfates, have been found in the fire pond water, but all of them are "well below" the limit that's acceptable in sewage, he said.

The town has agreed to let Ceruzzi pump the fire pond water into town sewers at a rate of 35,000 to 50,000 gallons per day. In the process, Chimento said, it will pass through two settling tanks, two filters, and other treatment devices to trap any contaminants, which will be trucked to a landfill, along with any remaining sediment from the pond.

In his e-mail to Chimento, Lewis said the company originally intended to reuse the sediment by mixing it with cement and asphalt, but testing "showed that the treated material would continue to leach metals, petroleum hydrocarbons and semi-volatile organics."

Chamber of Commerce names annual award winners

KILLINGLY — President Suzanne Franklin announced the recipients of the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce annual awards. The individuals will be formally recognized at the chamber's Annual Dinner and Awards Gala on Friday, Jan. 19 at The Raceway Restaurant in Thompson. Those individuals interested in attending the event should contact the chamber office at 774-8001.

- Civic Achievement Award: This award is given to an individual or group for their broad-based involvement with clubs, civic groups, charities, etc., over a long period of time. The committee selection is Greg King.
- King is owner and operator of King Oldsmobile, GMC and Cadillac. A lifelong resident of Putnam, Greg has served his community in countless ways. He has been a long-standing member of the Putnam Lions Club, and has served as its president. He was responsible for the innovation of the "Sight Mobile," an artistically painted car that is parked in different lots to collect eyeglasses. He is very active with the Putnam United Methodist Church, and serves the ministry as chairman of the Board of Trustees. His support transcends towns, as he has been supportive of the Danielson Rotary Club by serving as their hole-in-one sponsor for many years. Generous to a fault, Greg rarely says "no" when asked for support.
- George J. Racine Sr. Humanitarian Award: This award is given to a person in recognition of their dedicated involvement with a specific cause or activity, which promotes concern for human welfare. The committee's selection is the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group and its executive director Donna Grant.
- TEEG and Grant received numerous nominations in recognition of the work that they do. Established almost 20 years ago to provide social services to the residents of Thompson, TEEG's mission statement is "to empower individuals to live independently, strengthen families to live respectfully, engage the community to work collaboratively and connect resources to promote a better future."
- TEEG and Grant have assisted countless clients. Their programs include Senior Outreach for food, assistance, and recreation. It includes adolescent mentoring, Gamblers Anonymous, People Empowering People and Parents as Teachers, just to name a few.
- Business Leader of the Year Award: This award is presented to an individual for outstanding business leadership and active participation in community organizations. The committee's selection is Dianne F. Williams.
- President of Quinebaug Valley Community College since 1992, Williams' leadership at the institution has been unmatched. As school enrollment has grown, so has Williams' philosophy that a record is not something to stand on, but rather something to build on for the future. She leads by example, and her leadership style serves not only to motivate her staff, but also to inspire them to be their best. Williams dedicated 10 years to the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, including service as the organization's president in 2001. In addition, she serves the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board. A recipient of numerous awards, including Woman of the Year Award from NECONN Business and Professional Women's Group; the Rotary Foundation's highest award, the Paul Harris Fellow; and the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Gold Key Award, Williams' leadership and volunteerism are well chronicled.
- Gold Key Award: This award is presented to an individual or business for their outstanding service to the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. The committee's selection is Richard Loomis.
- Loomis has served the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce for the last decade, serving in various capacities. In 2004, Loomis took the position of president of the organization. He co-chaired the organization's Cinco de Mayo fund-raiser, served as chairman of the Sign Committee, and played active roles on the Auto Show and Nominating committees. One of Loomis' significant accomplishments during his first year as president was the successful expansion of the Employer Services Program, and the largest ever Auto Show to date. The committee is indeed pleased to select Loomis as the recipient of the chamber's Gold Key Award.

— Submitted by Elizabeth M. Kuszaj, Executive Director, Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

The Five Questions ...

1. Orem, Provo, Moab, Cedar City: Where are we?
2. Who won baseball's first ever World Series in 1903?
3. Seven states have only one U.S representative. What are they?
4. Where in Europe is the famous Prado Museum?
5. How many Great Lakes border New York?

Answers on Page A8

Thanks for reading the Putnam Villager!

Advertise here!

Call Stephanie at (860) 928-1818, ext. 105.

Mailed To 26,204 Homes Every Week by USPS

WOODSTOCK, PUTNAM, THOMPSON

Mailed to 15,126 Homes every week
(Total circulation 16,000 copies weekly)

KILLINGLY

Mailed to over 11,078 homes every week
(total circulation 12,000 copies weekly)
Printing Both Editions

28,000 Copies Printed Every Week!
Friday Publication Date

	WPT	Killingly	Both
1/16 page (10.5 C.I.)	\$63.00	\$52.50	\$94.50
1/8 page (21 C.I.)	\$126.00	\$105.00	\$189.00
1/4 page (42 C.I.)	\$252.00	\$210.00	\$378.00
1/2 page (84 C.I.)	\$504.00	\$420.00	\$756.00
3/4 page (126 C.I.)	\$756.00	\$630.00	\$1,134.00
Full Page (168 C.I.)	\$1,000.00	\$840.00	\$1,500.00

Column width=1/4 inches Pages Size 8 column =11-1/2 x 21"

Deadline: Covers is by 3 P.M. Monday

Check us out on the web at www.villagernewspapers.com
for rates and information.

You can email us your ad with credit card info

NO CONTRACTS TO SIGN!
ALL PRICES ARE OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICES,
NOT SPECIAL DEALS!
WE GIVE YOU: BEST CIRCULATION!
BEST PRICES AND BEST OF ALL-BEST RESULTS!!



VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS

Putnam Villager • Thompson Villager
Woodstock Villager • Killingly Villager

"Every Home, Every Week"

860-928-1818

2 col. wide x 5" deep

The cost for this ad in
the WPT
Villager editions
is only

\$60.00

The Killingly edition
is only

\$50.00

The cost for
both editions is only

\$90.00

PRICE PER WEEK

2 col. wide x 1.5" deep

The cost for this ad in either the WPT
Villager edition is only \$18.00
The Killingly edition \$15.00
The cost for both editions is only

\$27.00

2 col. wide x 2.5" deep

The cost for this ad in the WPT
Villager edition is only

\$30.00

The Killingly edition is only

\$25.00

The cost for both editions is only

\$45.00

PRICE PER WEEK

WHAT IS IT?



CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Dec. 29, 2006

Deadline Jan. 4, 2007

My guess for this week's photo is: _____

Answer to last week's photo:
Spire at Roseland Cottage

Who wants \$25 cash in their pocket? Anyone? *The Villager* has it to give. Enter 'What is It?' now for your chance to win!

Name _____
Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

Please mail your entry form to the Villager Newspapers, 107 Providence St., Putnam, CT 06260, attn: Editor, or drop off to the office at 107 Providence St. (The Belding Mill Complex) in Putnam. You may also fax your entry to (860) 928-5946. **All photos are of sights seen in and around Brooklyn, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, Woodstock, Pomfret and Eastford.** Responses must identify the subject and where it can be seen. Answers will be given the following week in the Killingly Villager, Putnam Villager, Thompson Villager and Woodstock Villager. At the end of each month, all entry forms with the correct answer will be included in a random drawing. **One lucky winner will receive \$25! Good luck!**

Thanks for reading Villager Newspapers!

Environmental resolutions

January was named for the Roman god Janus, whose two faces look in opposite directions. In January, many of us reflect on the past, and commit to positive changes in the future by making New Year's resolutions. Common focus areas are getting fit or unfat, and getting out of debt. Here are three suggested resolutions that can help you achieve these goals with the added benefit of protecting the environment. Remember that while vague or lofty goals like "save the planet" might work for Bruce Willis in the movie Armageddon, in real life they are a formula for failure. You are more ten times likely to achieve a goal if it is explicit and specific.

STOP JUNK MAIL

Every adult is sent an average of 41 pounds of junk mail each year. About 44 percent of it is thrown out unopened. Catalogs we do look at encourage us to buy things we may not be able to afford. To reduce unsolicited mail, tell companies and charities you deal with not to share or sell your name. Get off many mailing lists by contacting the Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735-9008. They now require you to pay \$1 by credit card or check for this. You can also pay a professional. For \$41, half of which is donated to a non-profit organization, 41pounds.org will help you unsubscribe. They estimate they can reduce your incoming junk mail by 80-95 percent in just four months.



OUR
BETTER
NATURE
BET
ZIMMERMAN

RECYCLE MORE

In one study in Ohio, 60 percent of items thrown in the trash were recyclable (source: OH DNR, 2005). Only one-third of PET plastic soft drink bottles are recycled (source: American Plastics Council, 2004.) Recycling isn't just the law — it helps keep our water, air and land clean, and saves energy, natural resources and landfill space. Redeeming recyclable bottles and cans can also net you hundreds of dollars a year. Commit to recycling all your junk mail and other paper, along with plastics, aluminum, metal and glass. Get your kids into the habit, by having them help you sort, or using a free Planet Protectors Club Kit (EPA530-E-98-002) that takes children on a learning adventure with challenging activity books, games, and stories about recycling (call (800) 490-9198 or go to www.epa.gov/epaoswer/ow/kids). Plan a visit to the

CRRA Trash Museum on Murphy Road in Hartford, where you can all see how garbage and recyclables are processed, or check out the Children's Garbage Museum in Stratford with a giant Trash-o-saurus and composting pile wriggling with worms. Share magazines by donating them to hospitals or clinics, or create an informal program where you rotate magazines among your neighbors.

DRIVE LESS

Transportation is the source of 26 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Most car trips are less than five miles, which is a good distance for a walk or bike ride. Walking is free, helps you get fit and lose weight, and provides an opportunity to truly enjoy the scenery. Start small: when the weather is nice, walk to the bus stop to pick up your kids. Carpool at least one day a week to work, your child's soccer game, a meeting, or church. Public transportation is limited in the Quiet Corner, but Rideshare vans do run in this area, and there is bus service in Putnam - see www.ctrides.com for options. Although some resolutions are broken before the ink dries, one study showed that 46 percent of resolutions were still maintained after six months (source: Changing for Good by J. Norcross). Look at your resolution as a process, not a one-shot deal, where you can make a difference over the long term.

Bet Zimmerman, a member of the Woodstock Conservation Commission, is a Certified Environmental Professional.



SCRANTON'S SHOPS



Has a New Look!

After being under new ownership for a little while, we have started to see a few small changes. The most recent has been a beautiful new paint job!!!

Stop by and tell Deb what you think!



Scranton's Shops

860-928-3738

300 Rte 169 • South Woodstock, CT 06267
(across from the Woodstock Fairgrounds)

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS

Putnam Villager • Woodstock Villager • Thompson Villager • Killingly Villager

"Every Home, Every Week"



Community & Professional Learning

Learning for Life

Winter Classes Starting in January

Small Business Support Center



What You Should Know About Starting Your Own Business
January 3rd
Importance of & How to Write Your Business Plan
January 17th
How to Set Up Your Business & Why You Need Business Planning
January 22nd

Careers



CNA, EMT, Real Estate & More!

Certified Nursing Assistant w/ Occupational ESL
January 25th - May 31st
Medical Billing & Coding Certification
January 27th - May 26th
Spanish for the Healthcare Professional
January 31st - March 7th
Real Estate Principles & Practices
February 1st - May 3rd

Kids, Technology & More!

Kids Academy: February & April Vacation Weeks
Technology: 1/2 & Full Day Classes on MS Office & QuickBooks
Learning in Retirement • Online Courses
Motorcycle Basic Riders Course
Personal Development

Call 774-1133 To Enroll

www.QVCC.commnet.edu/cpl
For the complete course guide

QUINEBAUG VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

742 Upper Maple Street Danielson, CT 06239

Nilan’s brother: Deojay ‘simply sentenced her to death’

DEOJAY
continued from page A1

tragic story will be put aside,” Baker said in an e-mail.

Nilan’s father, Robert F. Rivers, was the first of several family members to address the court and Deojay. A handful of those who spoke in court refused to refer to Deojay by his name, instead opting to call him by his prison number.

Struggling to speak through the tears, Rivers called his daughter’s death “a shame.”

As he spoke, Deojay, his hands and feet shackled, placed his head in his right hand and appeared to be quietly crying, or attempting to fight off tears.

Rivers continued remembering his daughter, whom he dubbed an “exceptional” person. “Nobody will ever take her spirit,” he said. “This is one wound ... that will always be there.”

In his e-mail to the Woodstock Villager, Baker stressed he did not feel Deojay should be spared the death sentence but felt pursuing the penalty would only prolong and increase the pain felt by so many.

“I certainly believe there is no reason for this murderer to be alive, but having seen what multiple court appearances have done to our children, our family and Judy’s parents and brothers and sisters, it is better not to continue the court events further,” he stated. “Unfortunately, replaying those events exactly a year later and during the holiday season cloud Judy’s memory and raise more anger, bitterness and divisiveness than the beauty and love this wonderful woman brought to her family and our community. It has always been important to me that she be remembered for who she was and that he be forgotten. I hope that will happen now. It has been hard enough to deal with the

intense sadness that her loss has meant. The strength of our love has gotten me through many difficult nights.”

Jerry Rivers, Nilan’s brother, approached the bench to read a statement written by his mother, criticizing the plea bargain and calling for the death penalty.

Jerry Rivers argued Deojay has “simply sentenced [Nilan] to death” and suggested society has “become too civilized” because his sister’s murderer would be allowed to live.

Chris Rivers, another brother, spoke of “the pain, the emptiness and the sadness” the family has fought for more than a year now.

“My pain is my family’s grief and the pain I see in them,” he said. “This loss cannot be measured. This loss cannot be reversed. This loss cannot be understood by regular people.”

Chris Rivers continued: “To me, Judy was Saint Jude. I love her and forever miss her.”

Robert J. Rivers, another of Nilan’s brothers, traveled from Minnesota to Connecticut for the court appearance. He recalled his sister’s nickname for her six siblings — the “Circle of Seven.”

“Every day, I have to remind myself that the Circle of Seven still exists,” he said. “She was a wonderful life. There is no judge, there is no jury, there is no guilty plea that will ever fill the void.”

Barbara Donovan, one of Nilan’s sisters, said of Deojay: “That man stole everything” and called him “a real-life monster.”

Margaret Johnson said of her sister: “She had a soul as deep as the ocean.”

She added that Deojay “has no soul, and I pity that.”

Chris Rivers spoke of the restraint he has forced upon himself at each court date he has attended.

“It has taken all of my strength to remain civil and not to lunge at [Deojay] and snap his

neck,” Rivers said, adding that he hopes Deojay is ultimately given a death sentence or commits suicide while in prison.

“This is a crime in itself,” he said of the plea agreement. “Justice is not swift, and the penalty is not just. He is still getting away with it. He is a perfect candidate for the death sentence.”

He added: “I will never forgive him, and if he died tomorrow, I would throw a party.”

Donovan shared similar feelings.

“How scared she must have been will haunt me forever,” she said. “I loathe him for what he has taken ... I despise him ... may he burn in Hell.”

After court had adjourned, Robert J. Rivers said for him there would never be closure.

“Time heals all wounds?” he asked rhetorically. “I won’t live that long.”

Added Chris Rivers: “If anybody deserves death, [Deojay] does.”

Robaina told the family he was “deeply touched” by their statements and would remember them when it came to issuing a sentence to Deojay.

MONDAY, DEC. 12, 2005

Judy Nilan, a social worker at Woodstock Middle School, left the English Neighborhood Road home she shared with Baker and his children for her routine jog around the block the afternoon of Dec. 12, 2005.

Later that evening, one of Baker’s children called looking for a ride because his stepmother had unusually failed to pick him up at Woodstock Academy. Soon, the family was searching the neighborhood for Nilan. With no sign of her, State Police were called.

A few hours after police began their search, a trooper found a bloodstained receipt signed by Deojay and Nilan’s black headband in the snow on the side of the road. Nearby, the trooper observed, was a fresh 40- to 50-

foot skid mark.

By 5 a.m. Dec. 13, police were interviewing the owner of Freeman Sales and Service in Putnam, the store which had issued the receipt. The store owner indicated Deojay had indeed made a purchase the day prior, charging it to the account of his employer — Carroll Spinney, best known as the man who plays Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch on the children’s television show “Sesame Street.”

Police decided to search the Spinney property for more clues, bringing a police dog along.

Froehlich said as soon as the dog was released at the property, it picked up Nilan’s scent and led police to a storage building where, “there was a large amount of a blood-like substance.” Police soon found Nilan’s lifeless body, brutally beaten, hogtied and in a fetal position, on a loft within the building. Her spandex running pants were pulled down around her knees, and a rope was wrapped around her neck, Froehlich said, “seven or eight times.”

Froehlich said police observed “a vast amount of blood-like substance around the woman’s head.”

Meanwhile, in Plainfield, police had found Deojay at his then-girlfriend’s home. He denied knowing anything about Nilan’s disappearance, and later attempted to hang himself. When his former girlfriend attempted to call 911, Deojay allegedly kicked the phone away from her. He was taken to Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam for a mental evaluation, and was taken into custody by police for interfering with a 911 call.

Once in police custody and facing more questions about Nilan’s disappearance and death, Froehlich said, Deojay altered his story and admitted he had killed her, but swore it was the result of a motor vehicle accident.

“Deojay began to cry out loud and told police he had accidentally

struck [Nilan] ... he thought he hit a deer,” Froehlich said Thursday, Dec. 21. “He told the police her face was covered with blood.”

Deojay told police, Froehlich said, he had panicked because he was driving his former girlfriend’s car with a suspended license. He then claimed to have picked her up, put her in the car, and took the body to Spinney’s property to dump her body. Froehlich said Deojay claimed to have accidentally dropped the light Nilan several times because she was “wet and slimy” and had to use a rope to hoist her to the loft. He denied sexually assaulting Nilan, or removing any of her clothes, suggesting they may have “slipped” down in the process.

Froehlich and police investigators didn’t buy Deojay’s claims.

“It is the state’s position that that story is absolutely unbelievable,” Froehlich said. “Latex running tights don’t slip down. They’re stretchy.”

She continued: “It is clear that Judy Nilan did not die there on the side of the road. It is clear Scott Deojay took her [to Spinney’s property] and she didn’t die from being hit by a car. He beat her to death. She had bruises, contusions on her brain.”

Froehlich said the medical examiner asserted Nilan’s only injury consistent with being hit by a car was a bruise on her buttocks. The examiner noted the injury would not have killed Nilan.

Froehlich explained prosecutors had been unable to prove whether Deojay sexually assaulted Nilan because of a lack of usable evidence. There were bodily fluids found in Nilan’s mouth, Froehlich said, but the amount of blood in her mouth prevented officials from accurately testing the sample. Deojay, who sat through much of Froehlich’s statements motionless, interjected: “That’s not true.”

Perkins: Area cheerleaders a ‘family’

FIRE
continued from page A1

their house in a fire last week. The mother of the family, Heidi, is still working toward full recovery of her hands and arms. The family was also treated and released for smoke inhalation. They did not have a homeowner’s insurance policy.

Last week, first-grade teacher Lynn Macalister sent an e-mail to faculty members about the family’s plight.

“I ended up hearing about it from [Macalister],” said high school cheerleading coach Melissa Perkins. “We all talked about the best way to do something positive to benefit the family. We talked about doing a clothing drive, but having two teenage girls, that probably wasn’t the best thing to do. We might have gotten boys clothes. So, we decided the easiest thing to do would be to take up a collection.”

“Coach came to us at practice and told us what happened,” said cheerleading co-captain Danielle Smith. “So, we decided we would have a bucket, and hopefully around the holidays, people would be generous.”

Perkins said the initial reaction to the news of the incident was “sad,” but once the squad began to realize they could do something about, they became excited.

“It’s one of our own,” she said, referring to Killingly cheerleader Mary-Beth Kinchen. “It’s another cheerleader. Cheerleaders kind of have a special bond, regardless of what school you go to. They are all connected. It’s more like a family. They are competitive against each other come competition, but they are a close-knit bunch. It’s interesting — the cheerleaders don’t really take on that same fierce rivalry that other sports do.”

“We compete against them, but we are

always supportive of each other,” Smith said.

Starting Monday, Dec. 18, cheerleaders manned a table outside of the cafeteria, collecting change from passing students. As of Friday, Dec. 22, they collected more than \$100, and have been collecting at the Clipper Classic basketball tournament this week.

According to Putnam co-captain Samantha Perron, the idea came about after hearing two Killingly High School cheerleaders on WINY AM 1350.

“We thought we should do the same thing,” Perron said. “I talked to my mom, and she talked to my coach, and now we are doing it. It’s so close to the holidays. We thought we should do something. We would want someone to do it for us if something happened.”

Smith said the squad is thinking about doing a raffle at the Clipper Classic, but details have not yet been finalized.

“The holidays are a time to be close with your family,” Perron said. “When you have nothing, it’s really hard to be happy during this time. We are just trying to give happiness.”

Traynor Trucking has set up a trailer to collect donated furniture at the home site on North Road across from the orchard. According to Macalister, whatever items are duplicated or that the family cannot use, will be donated to the Red Cross.

To donate to the Palazzi Family Fund, mail checks to Savings Institute and Bank, Palazzi Family Fund, P.O. Box 424, Dayville, CT 06239.

Adam Minor may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 112, or by e-mail at adam@vil-lagenewspapers.com.

Still time to enroll in Medicare

HARTFORD — As Connecticut Medicare beneficiaries face the annual Dec. 31 enrollment deadline, Gov. M. Jodi Rell is encouraging beneficiaries to take full advantage of Connecticut’s nationally-recognized Medicare Part D consumer education and application assistance program.

“I am encouraging any Medicare beneficiary in Connecticut experiencing problems or difficulties understanding their Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage to contact Connecticut’s toll free help line,” Rell said. “Operators and counselors are standing by, ready to help in any way they can.”

Beneficiaries or persons assisting them in navigating the new system should call 1-800-994-9422 and speak with a CHOICES health insurance counselor for information.

“As long as there are thousands of Medicare beneficiaries yet to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug coverage plans and scores of questions about how to enroll, our work in Connecticut is far from over,” Rell said. “Connecticut’s been a model for the nation in the effort to educate Medicare beneficiaries about the new Medicare coverage, but we can always do more.”

“As Medicare beneficiaries and ConnPACE recipients receive enrollment and re-enrollment Medicare Rx materials in the mail, there are bound to

be a lot of questions needing immediate answers. CHOICES can answer your questions, or direct you to where your concerns can be addressed and I urge people to call without hesitation.”

Earlier this year, Rell directed that state resources be made available to continue these efforts, in addition to the federal grant dollars Connecticut has received for education and outreach.

The governor has earmarked an additional \$145,000 in state resources to continue the efforts until March 31, 2007. Connecticut continues to press federal officials for ongoing federal aid.

Beginning in January 2006, the federal Medicare program contracted with private companies to provide the new Medicare prescription drug coverage known as Medicare Rx, or Medicare Part D.

In Connecticut, there are 51 stand-alone prescription drug plans, and 23 Medicare Advantage plans (HMO or PPO) that offer Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Connecticut became a national leader in providing consumer education and application assistance by bolstering the CHOICES program and marketing the program to Medicare beneficiaries as an objective source of information about the Medicare Part D program.

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO THE WINNERS OF OUR READERS CONTEST!!

Tracy Farrow of Dayville
* \$100 for *Charlie Brown Campground*

Alice Biesiadecki of Thompson
* \$50 for *Empire Buffet*

Philip Majorana of Ashford
* \$10 for *Gene’s Furniture Loft*

Charles Lalumiere of Danielson
* \$10 for *Johnny’s Pizza*

Peggy Harrington of Pomfret
* \$10 for *Jade Garden*

Bob Anderson of Woodstock
* \$10 for *Buster’s Rivers Edge*

Christina Erskine of Dayville

Nancy DoRouin of Brooklyn
* \$10 for *Johnny’s Pizza*

Kelly Grant of Woodstock
* \$10 for *Empire Buffet*

Linda Walsh of Putnam
* \$10 for *Putnam Supermarket*

Tony Giambattista of Brooklyn
* \$10 for *Country View Restaurant*

Lisa Antonson of Wiltonville
* \$10 for *Hank’s Restaurant*

WANTED

The “Biggest WINNER” OF

Body By Design

Personal Training & Pilates Studio

Head 2 Toe Body BENeFIT

8 Week Weight Loss Program Includes:

- Workouts Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:15 a.m. with a Personal Trainer
- Think Light! Nutritional Program
- Polar Heart Rate Monitor
- Biggest Winner T-Shirt
- Measurements & Informational Handouts

To Register by January 5

Call 928-0492 or email info@BBDstudio.com

Register by January 2 & receive 10% OFF

Body by Design 152 Route 171 Woodstock



The Hot Spot

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

An Irish Troubadour, imported from Japan

Irish music has a long history of influence on many forms of great American genres, from bluegrass to pop — and even rap.

On the Irish music front today, one is likely to find either reverent traditionalists like the Chieftains, or modern rock acts such as U2, whose musical experiments often veer far away from their traditional Irish roots.

Singer/songwriter and County Wicklow native Brian Cullen's original works embrace his old song Irish past with a blending of classic Americana and modern rock. Add to this a lively flair for entertaining with good humor and the resulting concoction is a treat audiences have enjoyed around the globe.

Like many popular Irish singers, Brian has a fine tenor voice and is a talented multi-instrumentalist. But he isn't just another handsome tenor voice with an entourage of musical instruments — Brian has carved out his own unique personal and musical niche. While Ireland welcomes him to stages once a year or so, audiences in Japan are treated to his charms and talent all year round. Nagoya, Japan is home and is also where



NOT SO
QUIET
CORNER

MARK
RENBURKE

of soulful Celtic and American roots-influenced songs. We joined forces to form “The Rising Pints,” along with fine musicians such as accordion and whistle player Mayumi Nagaura, percussionist Eiji Wakami, and string player William Matheny.

TRP performed all over central Japan for several years in the growing Irish pub scene and were featured two consecutive years at the Tokyo Celtic Festival. After my departure from Japan in 1998, Brian continued his solo music career, releasing a second recording in 2003 with his group, “The Magical Otters.”

Brian recently put together a more rock-oriented band named IzinitObvious to feature his more groove-based original material. His musical interests and works are diverse, but his Irish roots and influences are never far behind.

A rare visitor to the United States, Brian will visit right here

in New England for the first time in six years.

He and I are kicking off a reunion tour in Rochester, N.Y. that will take us to the East End of London British Pub in Putnam Wednesday, Jan. 3.

Brian will do a short solo set of mostly originals at 8 p.m. Then, as a trio, we will cut into some classic Irish, rock and roots songs, with some more of his great originals mixed in. I hope you will stop in, say hello, and raise a pint to this talented lad who is as much an influence to me as any famous musician I can think of. A great musical evening awaits — just don't try to match him ounce for ounce on Bailey's Irish Cream.

ENTERTAINMENT THIS WEEK

- FRIDAY, DEC. 29**
- The Fever Band, 9:30 p.m., Victory Lane, 729 Hartford Pike (Route 101), Dayville, 774-8688
 - Bloodset Memories, Amido Black, Face First, End All Suffering, 9 p.m., The Riverside, 13 Water St., Danielson, 774-2575, \$7
- SATURDAY, DEC. 30**
- Paul Geremia with Bart Price, 9 p.m., The Riverside, Danielson, \$10 and \$12
- SUNDAY, DEC. 31**
- 9Teen and Lovely Lisa (New Year's Eve Dinner Party), Point

- Breeze, 114 Point Breeze Road, Webster, Mass., (508) 943-0404, \$100 per couple
- Generations (New Years Eve Dinner and show), East End of London British Pub, 5 Heritage Road, (Route 395, Exit 96) Putnam, 963-2622, \$45
 - Southern Bastard Church, White Rose Confession, When Angels Cry and The Sunday Drive (New Years Party), The Riverside, Danielson, \$10 Over 21, \$15 Under 21
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3**
- Brian Cullen with Brogue & Blarney, 8 p.m., East End of London British Pub, Putnam
- THURSDAY, JAN. 4**
- Gadgets Made From Wood, Follow The Flies, In Dire Need, Dour Cursiva, and Strike Up The Skies, The Riverside, Danielson, \$8
 - Open Mic. 8 p.m., East End of London British Pub, Putnam

If you're an artist who would like to be featured, know of someone else who is, or simply want to let us know about an upcoming gig, please email me at the address below. Anything I get by Sunday of each week will make the following Friday's paper. Keep the music live and not so quiet here in Northeastern CT! Email Mark: CTlive@MarkRenburke.com

STORK REPORT



PUTNAM — The following births were recorded at Day Kimball Hospital:

Wednesday, Oct. 25

A son was born to David Jr. and Jennifer Simonds of Moosup. A son was born to Eric and Simonne Brais of Brooklyn.

Thursday, Oct. 26
A daughter was born to Edward Donoghue and Jennifer Rossetti of Pomfret Center.

A son was born to Edward Donoghue and Jennifer Rossetti of Pomfret Center. A son was born to Heather Griffin of Moosup.

Friday, Oct. 27
A son was born to Robert and Mary Lannon of Putnam.

Saturday, Oct. 28
A daughter was born to Peter and Pamela Greenhalgh of Killingly.

A son was born to Gary and Jaime Baril of Moosup.

Monday, Oct. 30
A daughter was born to Elias and Marcia Farquhar III of Danielson.

Tuesday, Oct. 31
A son was born to Shawn Noble and Sharon Kelley of Danielson.

Wednesday, Nov. 1
A daughter was born to Joshua and Jennifer Wilson of Danielson.

Thursday, Nov. 2
A daughter was born to Erik and Khampascuth Soraseun of Danielson.

Friday, Nov. 3
A daughter was born to Timothy and Tricia Apicelli of Pomfret Center.

Sunday, Nov. 5
A son was born to Matthew Johnson and Melissa Parker of Woodstock.

A daughter was born to Christopher Moore and Tiffany Rock of Danielson.

Monday, Nov. 6
A son was born to Shawn Cavanagh and Nicole Billetti of Brooklyn.

Tuesday, Nov. 7
A daughter was born to Davin Person and Holly Pelletier of Danielson.

Wednesday, Nov. 8
A daughter was born to Glenn and Miranda Johnson of Plainfield.

A son was born to Anthony and Candace Navan, Jr. or Sterling.

Thursday, Nov. 9
A son was born to Curtis Sr. and Angel Davis of Dayville.

Friday, Nov. 10
A daughter was born to Christopher and Heidi Davis of Brooklyn.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet “MISCHIEF”



The “Pet of the Week” is supplied through the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments Animal Shelter in Dayville.

Mischief is quite the character. He turned himself in to the local homeless shelter for a free meal and a bed. All he got was the meal, as he was not a person. Mischief believes himself to be a person, so he was dismayed to discover a nice young woman was worried about him and turned him in to the animal shelter. Instead of his own bed, he was put into a cage. Poor Mischief was rather upset by all this, but he quickly went out of his way to charm the staff. Now, most days you can find him sleeping upside down with all four feet in the air on someone's chair, while they try to work around him. It's not quite as good as a bed, but he seems to be making do. If you are looking for a nice young adult male cat, then you have to meet Mischief. This cute white and black guy with medium length hair is very friendly and will keep you laughing at his antics. But be warned — Mischief is still in search of a bed to call his own!

You may visit Mischief and his friends at the Dayville Shelter, located 1.4 miles north of Route 101, on Route 12 in Dayville. Telephone: 774-1253. You may also visit us on www.petfinder.com under ZIP code 06241. Adoption fees are \$50 for unneutered or unspayed dogs and cats (fee includes a voucher to help cover cost of surgery and vaccinations), or \$5 if the pet is already spayed or neutered.

Other shelter guests include: a Lab/Rottie mix, a Rottweiler, a coonhound and a boxer mix, as well as 16 cats, six older kittens and two young kittens, all with unique and remarkable personalities.

Update on previous Pets of the Week: Twilight has found a new family! Chips Ahoy, Miles, Jett the kitten, Tammy, Scruffy and Waldo are still patiently waiting for that special family to come and take them to their forever homes.

Pasteles Bakery

Pastry and Coffee
bagels-cakes-espresso-lattes

27 Main St. N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255
Tel: 860-923-0455 Annette O'Conner-Pastry Chef

**AVON SIGN UP TODAY
OR NEED A REP CALL ME.**

Joanne M. Nesbitt, ISR

860-963-7580

Toll Free 1-877-963-7510

<http://www.youravon.com/jnesbitt>

Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Monthly

home-Maid
Cleaning Services
Home Cleaning ~
Weekly or as needed
We'll bring the equipment & supplies.
You can look forward to a very pleasant feeling & a clean, healthy home. We are a green company, using environmental & people friendly products. Call now to schedule your next cleaning...

860.928.3720
Serving Customers One At A Time Since 1988

Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Monthly

Woolworks, Ltd.
at Jeremiah's Antique Shop

For All Your Knitting & Crocheting Needs
(860) 963-1228
26 Front Street, Putnam, CT 06260
email: woolworks@snet.net
OPEN WED-SUN 10AM-5PM

From Our Family to Yours...

Happy Holidays

GERARDI INSURANCE

You'll Like Our Approach to Insurance!

www.gerardiinsurance.com

Pomfret St. Putnam • 928-7771 or Main St. Danielson • 774-3881

Weekly Crossword
By Ed Canty

Directional Signals

Across

1 Aide:Abbr.
5 Motorbike
10 E-mail competitor
14 Mystery game
15 Blazing
16 Chicago landmark
17 Cape Cod concern
19 Utter indistinctly
20 Barnyard Mom
21 Ball of fire
22 Corporation, e.g.
24 West German capital 1949 to 1990
25 Piggishness
26 Fleeces
29 Speedboat appendage
32 Tantalize
33 Doled out
34 Sculler's need
35 Additional
36 Passover supper
37 Italian moola
38 Pilot's concern:Abbr.
39 Bucks
40 Relay need
41 Technically, perhaps
43 In a foolhardy manner
44 Imperfections
45 High altitude habitat
46 New York lake
48 Likewise
49 Tom Brady, e.g.
52 Walk in water
53 Cuba, Jamaica et al
56 At all times
57 _____ flu
58 Gemstone
59 Hideaways
60 2005 and 2006
61 Roman Emperor

Down

1 Skin problem
2 Sluggish
3 Certain
4 Comes before ball or shirt
5 Bricklayers
6 Frequently
7 Dock
8 Stray
9 AWOL soldier, perhaps
10 Northern Ireland
11 Former Democratic electoral stronghold
12 Brood
13 Agile
18 Worship
23 Requirement
24 Foundation
25 Computer entrepreneur
26 Great bargain !
27 Word of welcome
28 Steinbeck novel
29 Golf iron
30 John Paul II to his Mother
31 Sarcasm
33 Restaurant offering
36 Free rider
37 Piece of cake
39 Herring's cousin
40 Nobleman's title

42 Tool box staple
43 Sticky organic substances
45 Church table
46 Still unpaid
47 Church area
48 China container
49 Water carrier
50 Back
51 National capital
54 First mate
55 Comedian Knotts

Quotable Quote

People, like nails, lose their effectiveness when they lose direction and begin to bend.

Walter Savage Landor

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

LEARNING



PUTNAM ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Tuesday, Jan. 2: Putnam's Special Pizza, cheese or pepperoni, garden salad with dressing, fruit and milk choice.

Wednesday, Jan. 3: Soft shell taco, meat, cheese, lettuce, tomato, rice, corn, salsa, fruit and milk choice.

Thursday, Jan. 4: Chicken drummies, whipped potato with gravy, steamed broccoli, dinner roll, fruit and milk choice.

Friday, Jan. 5: Deli turkey breast wrap, cup of vegetable soup, Goldfish crackers, fresh veggie sticks, fruit and milk choice.

PUTNAM HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday, Jan. 2: Putnam's Special Pizza, tossed salad with dressing, 100 percent fruit juice, fruit and milk choice.

Wednesday, Jan. 3: Tomato soup, double toasted cheese sandwich, veggie sticks, Goldfish crackers, fruit and milk choice.

Thursday, Jan. 4: Chicken breast strips, whipped potatoes and gravy, steamed corn, dinner roll, sherbet, milk choice.

Friday, Jan. 5: Baked macaroni and cheese, whole wheat roll, steamed broccoli, fruit and milk choice.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Tuesday, Jan. 2: Chicken with gravy over egg noodles, carrots, fruit, milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 3: Spaghetti and meatballs, roll, green beans, fruit, milk.

Thursday, Jan. 4: Chicken patty on a bun, corn, pretzels, fruit, milk.

Friday, Jan. 5: Cheese or bacon pizza, salad or carrot sticks, fruit, milk.

HARVARD H. ELLIS TECH

Tuesday, Jan. 2: Cheeseburger or hamburger, salad/sandwich alternative, fruit, milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 3: American chop suey, salad/sandwich alternative, fruit, milk.

Thursday, Jan. 4: Rib-B-Cue, salad/sandwich alternative, fruit, milk.

Friday, Jan. 5: Nachos with meat and cheese, salad/sandwich alternative, fruit, milk.

BY LINDA MASSUCCI
SPECIAL TO THE VILLAGER

The new calendar year also means the mid-year mark for your child in elementary school. The next few months should be regarded as the most progressive, regarding academic growth and development.

At least a month has passed since your child's parent-teacher conference. At that time, goals and standards were discussed. If concerns were mentioned regarding minimal academic achievement, a planning and placement team meeting (PPT) would have been scheduled. During the time after this parent-teacher conference, your child's school papers and/or notices from the teacher should be reflecting the goals and standards discussed. If necessary, the PPT you attended would provide information on additional assessments or observations conducted, and activities to be practiced at home, in addition to the classroom support services being offered.

During the early elementary years, a child's academic growth seems to spiral swiftly upward this time of year. The creation of a solid foundation for learning can be attributed to this growth. Also, the teacher has formed clear objectives for each student. By this time, a collection of pre- and post-assessments allows lessons to reflect the needs and learning styles of the students. In addition, productive parent-teacher communication allows all involved to help obtain the learning objectives for the child.

As a parent, it is important to maintain communication with your child's teacher this time of year. Home observations, in conjunction with classroom

observations, can determine whether the child is making sufficient gains and accomplishing the required grade level standards. The grade level requirements, standards, criteria and curriculum should have been discussed at the last parent-teacher conference, or on curriculum night. In addition, the protocol to receive support services should have been reviewed. When parents and teachers work together, the possibility of a child "falling through the cracks" can be eliminated.

Always remember: it is important to know your child's goals, and how they correlate to the grade level standards. Although your child may be accomplishing all of his or her set goals, the standards for the grade level may not have been mastered. If this occurs with your child in a regular educational setting, it is of importance to discuss your concerns with the teacher. All children learn at different rates, hence the reason to have individual goals. However, as a parent, you must remember the goal of the public school system is to have a child meet mastery on certain standards by a certain grade level.

When a child has mastered grade level requirements, parental involvement is of importance to insure continual academic growth. If mastery occurs at mid-year, the teacher must continue the spiral effect of learning. A parent should never hear the following: "You don't need to schedule a conference. Your child is doing fine"; "Your child has completed all the lessons in the textbook or curriculum for this grade level, so I'll provide some extra worksheets to keep him busy"; "I

only have to teach what's in the text" or "The curriculum doesn't teach that at this time of year."

As mentioned previously, all children learn at different rates. It is the expert teacher who conducts lessons and assessments based on each student's needs for growth and continual development. The curriculum and standards serve as guidelines, but the child determines the pace.

Not sure where your school ranks on mastering students' individual goals and learning styles? Allington and Cunningham discuss two types of school cultures: control and commitment: "Control strategies call for an elaborate system of rules, regulations, and mandates designed to standardize the instruction offered in schools and thereby improve student achievement. Some mandates point to the use of particular instructional materials, other mandates focus on the amount of time to be spent teaching different subjects, and others on the skills to be mastered at each grade level. Many policies foster a competitive atmosphere by publicly ranking schools on achievement and rewarding some schools (Blue Ribbon schools, for example) and penalizing others (a state's deficient schools or 'F' school listing)" (2002).

The evidence collected on schools with a control environment (McNeil, 2000 and Murphy, 1998) concluded, " ... [C]ontrol strategies can work to change teacher behavior, but the most common changes identified seemed not to be changes that actually benefited students or enhanced higher-order learning." The key word is higher-

SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC are encouraged to submit items for inclusion on the Learning Page. The deadline is noon Monday. Send all items to Editor Walter Bird at wbird@villagernewspapers.com.

order learning, which results from a focus on individual learning styles, using data for instructional improvement, and providing accountability with autonomy to classroom teachers. This model would be found in a school that emphasizes commitment. "Commitment strategies call for reducing bureaucratization while fostering professional independence and decision-making. The goal is to increase educator involvement in the instructional process. ... Teachers take more professional responsibility for educating children when they have ownership of the instructional plan and decision-making occurs on the shop floor. ... They enhance teacher collegiality and collaboration, which can have a positive impact on the instructional process and student learning" (Allington and Cunningham, 2002).

In conclusion, every parent must remember our public school teachers are under much pressure to have every child pass a test by a certain date, or reach a certain academic school percentage by the end of the year. As long as politicians approve monetary incentives to schools with high-test scores and Blue Ribbon banners are displayed on schools, it will be increasingly difficult for expert teachers to remain focused and satisfied with each student's individual growth.

Linda Massucci, a former Putnam Elementary School teacher, is the owner of L&M Educational Consultants in Vernon, and writes a monthly column for Villager Newspapers. She may be reached at (860) 871-2827, or by e-mail at lin-dam@landmeducationalconsultants.com.

Five Answers ...

1. Utah
2. The Boston Pilgrims
3. Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
4. Madrid
5. Two: Lake Erie and Lake Ontario

SCHOOL NOTES

Honor rolls, awards, news, and events... Let us know what's going on at your school!
(860) 928-1818
or adam@villagernewspapers.com.

Dumas Decorating Center
Route 12 North Grosvenordale, CT

860-923-9619

Holiday Sale

**Hardwood
Tile
Vinyl
Laminates
Carpet**

Visit our Showroom!
Everything from floor to fabrics on display



Store Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5
Sat 9-2
Evening By Appointment Only

We fashion floors for you!
www.flooringnetwork.com

WOODYS OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Riot Kayaks	Cannon Paddles
Peak UK	Peregrine
Seattle Sports	Outfitters
Ultra Light	Quivers Sale
Backpack	Snowshoe,
Equipment	Rentals,
	Instructions
	Winter
	Camping Gear

750 Rear Main St., Willimantic, CT 060226
www.woodysoutdooradventures.com

BY CHUCK EDENBURN
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

POMFRET — It's called the Heart-y Party because it's a party with heart.

This was the vision of former Rectory School Librarian Joy Daentl when she coined the name several years ago.

The Heart-y Party is a gift to students from faculty and staff, where items are prepared and packaged for area needy children, just in time for the holiday season.

Every Rectory School student attended the Heart-y Party on Wednesday, Dec. 13, in the school's library, for one period of the day, when he or she could eat treats, play board games, sit and relax, make a felt tie, or stuff a bag.

Rectory School tutor Mary Lou Seaward, said preparations for the Heart-y Party began with Craft Day, held Dec. 5. Seaward organized this year's Heart-y Party with help from fellow faculty and staff, as well as local parents.

"At the craft day, for about three hours, we made things like homemade lip gloss, hats, candy cane mice, playdough, activity booklets, and cookies," said Seaward. "The seventh through ninth graders took the SSAT's during that time, while the fifth and sixth grade students participated."

According to Seaward, faculty and staff helped the students

produce several items during craft day, including 232 containers of homemade lip-gloss, 58 packages of homemade playdough, 440 decorated gingerbread cookies, 66 felt mice candy canes, 125 stamped bags, and 100 fleece hats.

"It's really done with the whole faculty and staff contributing food, gifts and help. Day parents help deliver the items to area agencies," said Seaward. "It's not organized by a committee, but we have a list of things we need help with and it all gets done. If we need a run to a store, someone is always willing to do it. We put out help sheets and people sign up and do all kinds of jobs, including cutting items like felt and fleece for homemade items, manning stations during the party, picking up food, making food. The whole school contributes to this, and plenty of families also contribute for stocking stuffer items."

Seaward said a gift area was set up in the Admission's Office where donations piled up and "nearly buried the



Courtesy photo

Students and staff at Rectory School pack together toys, clothes and goods for the Heart-y Party.

Admission's secretary."

"Students, their families, faculty, staff, and friends of Rectory School donated items a young child would enjoy receiving," said Seaward. "The kindergarten through second grade made daily trips to Admissions and dropped off their items. The dining hall hosted our Craft Day and baked all the cookies. The Rectory School's Maintenance Department donated all the money to purchase the fleece for the hats."

Agencies that benefited from

Rectory Schools fund-raising efforts, include Day Kimball Hospital's pediatric center, Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG), Putnam Family resources center, a homeless shelter in Danielson and a domestic violence shelter in Danielson.

"The entire Rectory School community worked to create the Heart-y Party, and it reflects the caring mission of the school," said Seaward.

Awards & Printing

Est. 1965

**The Area's
Best Selection Of**
Trophies • Plaques • Pins
Gift Items • Certificates
Ribbons • Medals • Clocks
Desk Sets & More

**Affordable Printing
For Your Business**
Carbonless Forms & Invoices
Letterheads & Envelopes
Business Cards • Brochures
Tickets • Wedding Invitations

Located at 1011 N. Main St. (Rt. 12) Dayville, CT
860-774-8800 • Open M-F 9-5:30 & Sat. 9-12

Accurate Medical Billing, LLC

Patricia A. Tubman
Donna J. Robinson, CPC

36 Cook Hill Road
Danielson, CT 06239

Phone 860-779-7208
Toll Free 877-779-7208
Fax 860-779-7210

Planning an Addition or New Home?
DESIGN AND DRAFTING SERVICES
C.A. SPAGNUOLO & ASSOCIATES
Material Lists • Land Use Approvals • Project Management
Blue Printing • Plotting & Large Copy Services
Commercial & Residential
Email: cas_associates@charter.net 860.974.3280
Woodstock, CT

Find your thrill on Bassett Hill

BY CHUCK EDENBURN
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

WOODSTOCK — This is no ordinary flea market.

The Bassett Hill Shops, which owners Sue and Eric Fallenius run out of their home at 23 Bassett Hill Road, are indeed not your average flea market. The business enjoyed a three-year run before Sue Fallenius became ill, and was forced to close for a little over a year.

Fallenius, who has since recovered, is now persevering with two mechanical valves working to keep her heart pumping. Her husband is also an electrician, thus limiting the amount time of time he can contribute to the business.

“Most of the people who come here know I was sick for a while, but now that I’m healthy again, I’ve been anxious to get back to work again,” she said. “Although we originally called ourselves the Bassett Hill Shops, we’ve since taken an upscale flea market approach. I think people will be pleasantly surprised if they come out here and give us a chance.”

Since the shop reopened Friday, Dec. 8, Sue Fallenius has been busy searching for new and unique items at antique stores and tag sales from Maine to Florida.

She has also had help from her friend, Theresa Stevens, a Putnam resident.

“We look around for different things that we think people would be interested in,” said Stevens. “I’ve had some of my own things

there, and so have my friends. Sue has her business pretty well organized. I just started helping Sue out in the last year, and I’ve known her for nearly 10 years.”

Inside, customers can find items that just can’t be found elsewhere. There are also some of the usual flea market items, such as books, rugs, collectables, antiques, glassware and sporting equipment.

Yet, Sue Fallenius believes some of the rarer items she carries at her business will impress customers, both returning and new.

“We’re looking for unusual antiques, crafts and, right now, a little bit of everything,” said Sue Fallenius. “We don’t accept junk, but we do carry merchandise for all ages and religions. I look for a lot of different and unusual things from all different countries. We have things around here that you wouldn’t expect to find.”

The Falleniuses plan to further develop their business before the start of the summer by expanding the driveway, which will be reserved primarily for the elderly and handicapped. Others will park on one side of the street.

“During the summertime, my customers enjoy picnicking outdoors, and we have a screened patio with picnic tables for them to sit at,” said Sue Fallenius. “We’re hoping to bring in a food vendor, and we have an interested party already. However, if that doesn’t work out, I’ll still find someone.”

Other vendors will also be present during



Chuck Edenburn photo

Sue Fallenius organizes some of the products she sells at the Bassett Hill Shops.

the spring and summertime, and Sue Fallenius said she plans to offer vendors both indoor and outdoor rental space.

“We’ll try to put as many vendors under cover as possible, although obviously, that will cost a little bit more than our outdoor space,” she said. “My husband, Eric, has helped me out an awful lot, by renovating the

barn and installing shelving, too.”

Although the business is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the winter, Sue Fallenius said she hopes to have it open Sundays during the summer. Customers can also call her at (860) 974-0367 to arrange to visit the Bassett Hill Shops by appointment.

Generations offers warmth for Quiet Corner homeless

BY GUS STEEVES
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

KILLINGLY — For many people, the holiday season is a time of family gatherings. Seth V., 21, isn’t one of them.

Seth, who declined to give his last name, will be lucky if he has a roof over his head. He just got out of jail, has no job, no driver’s license and restraining orders against him from family members. He spent a couple of days in the local homeless shelter, but said he was about to get evicted from that place for being on the premises when most clients weren’t supposed to be.

To add to his burdens, Seth suffers from both substance abuse and a mental illness, although he won’t specify what his diagnosis is.

“It’s extremely difficult because of the mental aspects,” he said at Thursday Dec. 21’s Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day gathering at Killingly Library. Picking his words carefully, he added, “Because of my substance abuse history, many people don’t want to help me.”

His situation is not at all unusual, said Michelle Brady, clinical medical assistant at Generations Family Health Care, which sponsored the event. Homeless people often have dual diagnoses that are not managed well, frequently because the person lacks medication and/or can’t get counseling.

Pulling a bottle of pills from his hooded sweatshirt, Seth proves he has the former, but he doesn’t have the latter: The question he and others in his situation face is — will he be able to refill it when it’s gone?

That requires money and a job, but those are especially difficult to get with a criminal record, Seth admits.

“It’s difficult to do good with so much negativity around,” he said. “You try and do the good thing. Nobody gives you a chance, and what ends up happening? You sell drugs on the street because they’re the only ones who will give you work.”

“It’s a vicious circle,” Brady said. “They can’t afford their medication,” and failing to take it often

allows the psychological issues that landed them on the streets (or in jail) to reassert themselves.

Generations is hoping to do something about that, embarking recently on a 10-year plan to end homelessness with several other organizations and business sponsors across the state. But that’s a daunting task: first, they have to find the homeless population, which includes those living on the street, in shelters, “doubled up, not on a lease, not paying rent, with another family,” or in “substandard housing,” said Tracie Lakotta, a health support worker at Generations.

Generations served at least 400 people in northeastern Connecticut last year, most of them in one of those categories, Lakotta said. In several cases, the clients live in someone else’s garage, where they have a roof, but no heat, Brady added.

Many other clients aren’t technically homeless, but very close to it. Many families are just “one semi-catastrophic illness” or a job loss away from being behind financially, forced to choose between bills, rent, health care or food, on the edge of spiraling into homelessness, Duffy said.

An episode of the TV series “30 Days” chronicled this situation. In it, financially-secure filmmaker Morgan Spurlock and his wife try to live on or near minimum wage in Columbus, Ohio, for a month. They barely succeed — largely by being able to put off paying two emergency room bills, the electricity deposit, and the rental deposit until after the month was over.

Several advocacy groups hope to identify the region’s housing need when they conduct a statewide survey next month, but Generations director Leigh Duffy said the methodology of



Gus Steeves photo

Shelter resident Lea Morgan and others go through donated clothing at Killingly Public Library Dec. 21.

that survey — one night, between 7 and 9 p.m., in Danielson, Putnam, and other population centers — will undoubtedly miss homeless people, especially rural ones.

“Even if 10-year plans to end homelessness take effect, it still takes 6 months to complete the plan and 3 years before you see any new housing,” Duffy said.

The Rev. John O’Neill, pastor at St. James Catholic Church, has a way to fill that gap: convert some of the closing Catholic churches to housing.

In Rhode Island, the diocese is selling some churches and setting aside some of the land for low income development. Since at least four churches in Windham County are closing in March due to a lack of priests, funding, parishioners or all three, there’s an opportunity for that to happen here, O’Neill said.

Nationwide, inexpensive houses started being torn down in the 1980s to make way for more upscale development, “so there’s just nothing there for many folks,” Duffy said.

“The need here is huge,” said Pat LeDuc, Generations’ site manager and a recent transplant to Brooklyn from Rhode Island. “When I saw people living on the river and under the [Davis Park] Christmas tree, it was a rude awakening.”

Ayanett Osorio and Lea Morgan have seen that first hand. Both young women live at the ACCESS shelter on Broad Street, but are seeking places of their own to live with their male partners.

Osorio came to Killingly two months ago from Puerto Rico. She has an infant son and a daughter going to Moosup Elementary School, and school officials helped her get a bed at the shelter, which is the only one in the region. A smaller “no freeze” shelter run by St. Albans Church closed this year for lack of funding.

Osorio said many shelter people were not evicted or jailed, and don’t have mental health issues. Some, like her, simply don’t have family in the area to help them.

“There are times when you feel frustrated and like you’re at a dead

end,” Osorio said while looking through donated clothing.

She said she’s seeking maintenance or factory work, but her background on Puerto Rico was in retail and waitressing until about a year ago.

Morgan’s journey to the shelter took a different route. After several years in foster care, she moved into an apartment with a friend, then into the shelter by herself, where she “met a lot of nice people.”

“It’s hard to look for work around here,” she said. “There are so many people in such a little town” and not enough low-cost apartments.

“Why don’t people in shelters get priority?” Osorio asked.

Morgan finished her thought by saying, “Priority one. We’re always last. [Employers] always think we’re not capable of doing what we need to do. They say we have to do better for ourselves, but when we try, they don’t let us.”

Despite that stigma, Osorio, Morgan, and even Seth still have hope. In Osorio’s case, it’s mostly faith that God will provide, but with Seth it’s a lingering desire to finish his GED and work as a drug counselor or in a treatment center.

“A lot of it is how you project yourself; you have to remember it will look up,” Osorio said. “You have to believe in yourself.”

Generations Health Care is at 54 Reynolds St., Danielson, in the Daniel’s Pharmacy building. For more information, see its Web site, www.genhealth.org, or call (860) 774-7501. The 60-bed ACCESS Emergency Shelter is at 51 Reynolds St.; for information, call (860) 774-4977.

Troop D cracking down on traffic violations

DANIELSON — State Troopers assigned to Troop D completed another busy weekend in the area of motor vehicle enforcement.

Between 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, and 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, Troop D troopers issued 87 citations and 100 written warnings for motor vehicle offenses.

Additionally, six persons were arrested by Troopers and charged with DWI during this same timeframe.

This weekend’s efforts are the latest example of the work being performed by the men and women at Troop D to prevent fatal accidents and serious injury accidents and to deter the “drinking and driving” that is so often associated with the holiday season.

Motorists are reminded of the importance of designated drivers, obeying the speed limits and the use of seatbelts.

Our troopers want to insure a continued safe motoring holiday season for persons traveling in northeastern Connecticut.

-Submitted by the State Police, Troop D, in Danielson

We like scoops. Phone tips to (860) 928-1818, or by e-mail at wbird@villagernewspapers.com.

WOODSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS OLD IMAGES FOR BOOK

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Historical Society is searching for original photographs, postcards, maps, and artwork to be included in its newest publication, a pictorial history of the town.

Postcard and photo collectors, as well as organizations and families, can bring items for copying and consideration for inclusion in the book to Palmer Memorial Hall on Woodstock Hill at 523 Scenic Route 169 from 2 to

4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29. Members of the publication committee will be there to discuss the items and scan or photograph them.

For more information contact Woodstock Historical Society Publications Chair Cheryl Wakely at (860) 923-6148 or by e-mail at cwakely@gmail.com

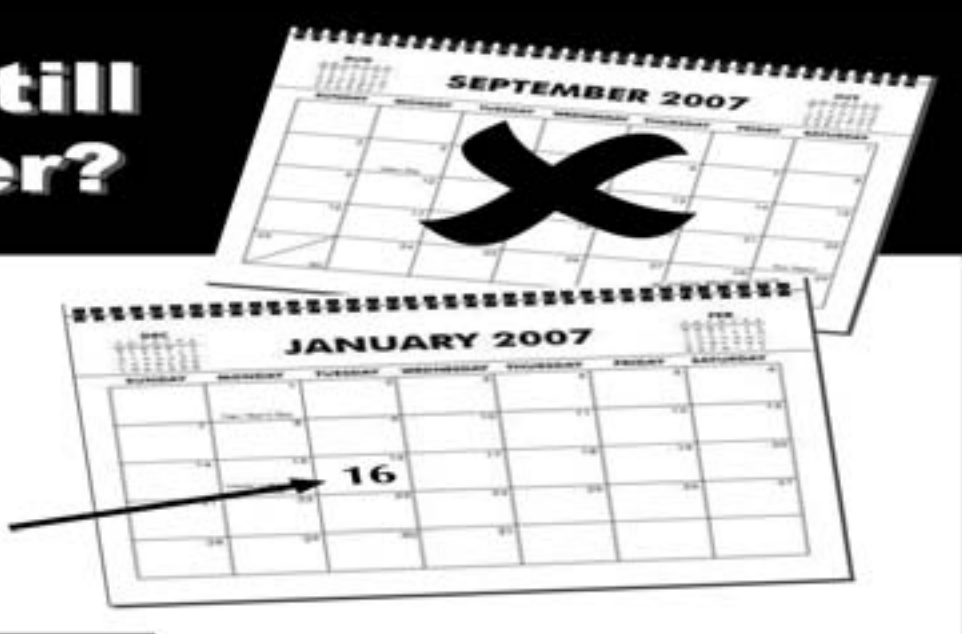
— Submitted by the Woodstock Historical Society

Why wait till September?

Start your college education in January!

SPRING SEMESTER REGISTRATION

Tuesday, January 2
Wednesday, January 3
12 – 6:30 pm



For more information, call the Learning & Student Development Office at 774-1130. www.qvcc.commnet.edu

QUINEBAUG VALLEY



COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Our Community. Your College.



PUTNAM VILLAGER

107 PROVIDENCE ST.
PUTNAM, CT 06260
TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818
FAX: (860) 928-5946
WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G.
CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT &
PUBLISHER

WALTER C.
BIRD JR.
EDITOR & WEEKLY
EDITOR AT-LARGE

EDITORIAL

2006: 365
days of
news

The year 2006 is about to go in the books as the year that was — and what a year it has been here in the Quiet Corner.

In every town, there are an infinite number of stories to be told, and *The Villager* has been fortunate to be able to write about many of them. Some, like the tragic end to the amazing life that was Woodstock's Judith Nilan, spilled over from 2005. We saw it near a conclusion with the guilty plea of her killer just last week.

From schools to town halls, athletics to human interest, we bore witness to stories that — big or small — left an impact on the communities here in Northeast Connecticut. Of course, as a newspaper, we merely delivered the news — and attempted to delve deeper into the how and why. Our readers lived the stories — whether they reside in Woodstock, where Proposition 46 caused such a stir, or in Putnam, where a spate of bank robberies, a shooting outside Wal-Mart and turmoil in the high school dominated so many headlines.

In Killingly, the debate was furious over a proposed new school and the development of Killingly Commons. Thompson saw a series of fires, the demolition of the North Grosvenordale Mill, the ongoing Thompson Hill sewer project and a number of issues involving its schools.

The news, of course, wasn't all bad. Over the course of 365 days, there were scores of stories highlighting the best in human spirit, especially when it came to our communities rallying to one cause after another. That giving spirit has always defined the inhabitants of the Quiet Corner, and *The Villager* considers itself lucky to have witnessed it up close and personal.

On a personal note, we saw three of our four papers celebrate their first birthday. The *Putnam*, *Thompson and Woodstock Villagers* began late fall last year — hope and anticipation their driving force. More than a year later, we remain humbled by the reception afforded us by you, our readers. We remain excited about the opportunity to help keep you informed — and to give you a forum to express your own thoughts and opinions.

Earlier this year, the hope and anticipation that accompanied our inaugural launch last year returned when we established our fourth paper — the *Killingly Villager*. Being able to add the villages of Killingly, the borough of Danielson and the town of Brooklyn to our stable has been a source of pride and, if it were possible, brought even more energy to our mission of providing the best possible newspapers — to every home, every week.

We couldn't do it any of it without you, and for that we are eternally grateful. So take a moment for some self congratulations, for Villager Newspapers is, in truth, nothing more than a vehicle for delivering your stories, your news. It's your own corner of the world here in Northeast Connecticut, and we are honored to be a part of it.

With eyes wide open, we train our thoughts to 2007 and what could be. We invite you to continue thumbing through the pages of your *Villager* newspaper, and we thank you for welcoming us into your homes, week after week.

We hope you enjoy, in this issue, a look back at the year that was. We'll see you in 2007.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

What they're saying...

QUESTION: What are you doing for New Year's?



Marie Downer Pomfret
"I'll be staying home and relaxing."



Sue Simmons-Stahl Pomfret
"Watching the extended version of 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy."



Harold Rohloff Woodstock
"I'll be working, and I hope more customers will come to Stop and Shop New Year's Day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m."



Jim Castle Pomfret
"I'm going to my neighbor's house New Year's Eve for a party."

PHOTOS AND QUESTIONS BY VILLAGER STAFF WRITER CHARLES EDENBURN

LETTERS

Written word carries with it power, good and bad

To the Editor:

I scan the editorial pages of *The Villager* every week, hoping more people will speak out against feeding our troops to the war in Iraq, where their lives are sacrificed for a supposedly greater value; where legs, arms, eyes and other body

parts are torn away, causing them to spend the rest of their lives in a hospital.

Comparing all the suffering happening to our people and Iraqi people with saving the "face" of one man is unjustly preposterous, to say the least.

"Words can start wars or prompt peace. Words are power for good or evil" (found in a church bulletin). The written words have more power than one may think.

P.S. TOMLIN
WOODSTOCK

Play at Bradley Playhouse was highly enjoyable

To the Editor:

It was our extreme pleasure attending the production of "Broadway Live ... Christmas" Saturday night, Dec. 9 at The Bradley Playhouse.

We recently moved here to Connecticut, and thought it would be nice to get a little Christmas spirit by seeing a local play, as it was advertised. It was our first time in this theatre and every seat

was filled. The show was an outstanding production put on in a very professional way. We enjoyed it so much and we could tell by the people all around us, hearing their comments, that they did, also.

We especially enjoyed the part of the Grinchess. She was really terrific and added just the right amount of humor at the right moments. The special guest and

group that did "The Twelve Days of Christmas" were hilarious. We were almost on the floor with laughter. Every single person who took part in this production, even in a small way, deserves to be commended for their expertise and their time and efforts. Bravo to all. We look forward to attending the theatre again.

BARBARA AND BILL LANGLOIS
DAYVILLE

Football committee offers thanks for support

To the Editor:

On Jan. 23, the Football Committee of the Woodstock Academy Athletic Booster Club will conduct its final weekly processing of donated returnables at the Woodstock Transfer Station. This date will mark the attainment of the final \$20,000 installment of the \$70,000, three-year funding commitment to defray the start-up expenses for the new football program now successfully underway at Woodstock Academy.

This could not have been accomplished without the steady and generous support of Woodstock residents in contributing more than 640,000 returnable cans and bottles over the past three years. The committee also extends thanks to the Town of Woodstock for permitting the establishment of the redemption project at the

transfer station, and to Woodstock resident Marty Nieski, of "Marty's of Dudley," for working with us over the past three years in processing the \$32,000 in returnables redemption funding raised.

The football committee is also most appreciative of the generous support by area citizens and businesses through ongoing financial support of and participation in the annual Woodstock Football Golf Outings and the comedy and music nights that have been co-sponsored with the Woodstock Academy Project Graduation Committee. These annual events have accounted for more than \$38,000 over the past three years.

And finally, the committee sincerely thanks the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees, administration and athletic

department and coaching staff for all of the hard work and efforts in so successfully initiating the new program that now extends extracurricular athletic opportunities to an additional 85 Woodstock Academy students.

Having fulfilled the \$70,000 commitment made in late 2003, the Football Committee and the expanding Woodstock Academy Football family will now look forward to continuing in the years ahead with ongoing fundraising events to help support the new program, facilities and athletics at the Academy.

ED HIGGINS, JIM BELLEROSE
AND GLENN ORN
CO-CHAIRS, FOOTBALL
COMMITTEE OF THE
WOODSTOCK ATHLETIC
BOOSTER CLUB

Death penalty fitting punishment for killers

To the Editor:

Death penalty foes make me sick. They say, "Lethal injection is causing severe pain, excruciating pain to the killers of other human beings."

What?

What about the victims of

these killers? Were their deaths all peaceful, calm and involving no pain?

Sorry, but they deserve what they get; not to mention what "the Judge" of us will give them. "Damnation in the Lake of fire for eternity," now that is

pain never to end. (Revelation 20:14 and 15).

If you're old enough to do the crime, you're old enough to have your name printed in the paper. No excuses.

M. ESTHER
KILLINGLY

Time to
make lists

Lists and list-making dominate our thoughts this time of year.

Everywhere we turn there is a new selection of preferences to chart the directions of pop culture or urge us to get our houses in order. The inclination at the start of a new year to plan for

changes in behavior that will lead to, better health, improved relationships, tidier closets, tastier meals and, perhaps most of all, increased mental capacity is irresistible.

A quick look at the notable books of the year can spur instant anxiety, even if one focuses on just the top ten. How can we fail to dip our toes in the tomes chosen as "best"? Fortunately, our remarkable local libraries offer all of them for the price of a visit. I'll read *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick as my book club has selected it. A chance to hear local historian Dr. Lavius Robinson on the subject will add to the experience. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan, who writes about American food, an abiding interest in our household, is definitely worth some quality time.

The #1 word of the year in Merriam-Webster's list is an odd one: "truthiness," a word made-up by Stephen Colbert of "The Colbert Report," a comedy show. The word reflects the perils of our time, as it means "Truth that comes from the gut, not books." It is "the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true." Colbert has a wry sense of humor and has touched our deepest inconsistencies.

If we find our own "truthiness" about the war, capital punishment, birth, death, life and infinity for example, we won't need to spent lots of time reading, thinking and talking as our gut reactions will do the trick. With the time we save, we can go to the movies and see a film entitled "Happyness. The top ten words included Google, decider, vendetta, quagmire and sectarian. How far we have come from last year when the focus was on integrity, pandemic, levee and tsunami!

We know the topics most queried on search engines in 2006. Number one was: "What is Hezbollah," at least an important question. Eight of the other nine topics were for information on various drugs. The ads in print media and on television tout so many drugs for such a variety of conditions that it is easy to start feeling the side effects of drugs one isn't even taking.

Reality TV shows topped the list of what we watched in 2006, followed by "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars." I've only see snippets of the reality shows as they seem designed to humiliate attractive, naïve people. The shows are akin to my image of ancient Romans tossing Christians to the lions, although apparently millions find them entertaining. I turn the channel and watch reruns of PBS fundraising shows, which could be seen as another form of torture.

A list of the top ten notable experiences in 2006 for our region is fun to consider. My list includes: River Fire in Putnam, a croissant from Pastiche's bakery, an Audubon owl prowling guided by Andy, Kristin's lavender labyrinth in Thompson, harvesting grapes at Sharpe Hill, a summer meal of Brian's fishcakes, a bargain at Ocean State Job Lot, the new décor at Pomfret Public Library, the new clock in Danielson and a round of golf on the old Pomfret Golf course. Who knows what 2007 will bring, but this year we can begin listing our top ten early and often.

Nancy Weiss, a lifelong resident of Northeast Connecticut, resides in Pomfret with her husband Jim, and writes a column for Villager Newspapers.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor are always welcome, and may be sent to Villager Newspapers, 107 Providence St., Putnam, CT., 06260, or via e-mail at wbird@villagernewspapers.com. Be sure to include a name and residence. Please refrain from sending letters via fax, and be sure to supply a home address and phone number to allow for confirmation. Allow at least 48 hours for a response. Letters must be submitted by noon Monday to ensure publication in the following week's issue. Every effort will be made to accommodate late submissions, but inclusion can not be guaranteed. The rules of good taste and libel will, of course, apply to all submissions. Personal attacks will not be published. Discerning readers will understand that brevity is the key to effective communication. Longer submissions may be considered as commentaries. Being the presider of space on the Opinion Pages, the editor retains the right to edit all letters.



OPINION

2006: THE YEAR IN LETTERS

Villager Newspapers appreciates all those who took time over the past year to write letters to the editor. Their words, thoughts and opinions are what helped make our opinion pages come to life. We thank all of you who took pen in hand, or computer key pad to fingertips, and shared what was on your mind.

As 2007 creeps ever so closer, we hope to see a continued swarm of letters, not only from those whose names are familiar on these pages, but from others who have not yet done so.

We also wish to acknowledge those who called *The Villager's* Sound Off line in 2006. Keep those calls coming. For strangers to Sound Off, this is an anonymous

forum that allows you to, well, sound off about an issue of importance to you. Names are not published for Sound Off calls.

In the true spirit of appreciation, we acknowledge in print the letter writers of 2006. If you wrote a letter this year, and your name is omitted, please call us so we can mention you in a future issue.

Again, from all of us at *Villager Newspapers*, thank you for being a big part of the last 365 days. To all, Happy New Year.

Ken Rappoport, Bill Sowka, Glenn Boies, Edmond Smith, Diane Jamieson, Karen Durlach, Elaine Turner, Shawn Bates, S. Burns, Cynthia Kelly, Greg Shimer, Angie

Henrichon, Sam Ducharme, Jeffrey Gordon, James Hillmana, Thompson Public Library, Catherine Darigan, Donna Lynch, Glenn Miller, Francis A. Baran, Edmond D. Smith, Laren Durlach, Carol Childress, Lee Wesler, Alex Cinquanta, Ellen Holley, Helena Parks, Joseph Iamartino, Paula Coughlin, Sarah Wildgoose, Robert Kendra, John Frank, Patricia Douglas, Christy Yurz, Nancy Gale, MaryBeth Gorke-Felice, Cynthia Foote, Nicholas A. Longo, Alyssia Cinami, Ricky Hayes, Tom Kneeland, Christine Wilson, Emily Murphy, Lindsay B. Paul, Amanda Adams, Ron Cabana, Lisa Arends, Suzanne

Hardebeck, Thomas Goodkind and William Zamagni.

Also, Albert Bruno, Dale and Peg Smith, Denise Rzeznikiewicz, Dr. Suzanne Smith, Gerard Chartier, John Clough, John Wilkinson, Peter Sears, Michael Morrill, Emily Westbrook, Paul Cotnoir, Thompson Memorial VFW Post 10088 and Ladies Auxiliary, Pattie S. Tomlin, Albert Bruno, Mike Koss, Mike Tirone, Frances Shaw, Barbara Wright, Rome J. Bernier, Camp Nahaco Park Commission members Chuck Lee, Mike Bernardi, Tony Perreault, Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Norma Jean Loftus, Lincoln Budd, Mike Bartlett, Dick Woodward

and Denis Day, Dorren Bently, Gina Labbe, Norm Babbitt, Ms. E., David Smith, Wayne Correa, Konesni Family, P.S. Tomlin, CRL, Wayne Covea, Edwar Zucca, Coyd Nielsen, Vic, Jan and Dorothy Beaudry, Mike Tirone, Scott Pempek, South Killingly Fire Department, Robert C. Slater, G.L. Sweetnam, Arlene Deasy, Pat Chaput and Sheila Burns.

Also, Gerald Ferguson, Michael Moses, Theresa Guertin, Karen Warinsky, Sharon Loughlin, David Hopcroft, Jean Hood, Paul Borgman, Claudia Allen, Matthew Carroll, Tima Smith, Dennis Lavallee, Richard Peloquin, Barbara Caparulo, Harold Reeves,

John Sarantopoulos, Frank Corden, Jan Perry, Lee Wexler, Jennifer O'Connor, Dave Richardson, Ruth Dipietro, Teresa Barton, Carolyn Werge, Jon Baker, Sherri Vogt, Brenda Verdone, Paula Coderre, Rania Baik, Ron Tillen, John Ryan, Laurie K. Mottle, Linda Wojcik, Wayne W. Durst, Eric Martin, Jock McClellan, Tiffanie Schley, Barbara Caparulo, Dorothy Durst, David Lyon, Harold Reeves, Gloria Block, Randy Kempain, Mary Puracchio, Gary Breton, Paul D. Cotnoir, Robert Lussier, Tom Letourneau, Linda J. Colangelo, Joe Lindley, Noreen Kellner, Barbara and Bill Langlois.

WHO SAID IT IN 2006

One of the most interesting features on our opinion pages, we feel, is the weekly "What They're Saying" segment that, quite simply, poses a question to unsuspecting area residents and lets them respond. We snap a photo and run it with their answers each week.

Sometimes serious, often funny, "What They're Saying" is raw and unrehearsed. Caught outside the local supermarket or retail store, residents were, for the most part, willing to let a reporter take their picture and ask them anything from their opinion on the war in Iraq to which three historical figures they'd like to have dinner with.

We thank all those who have appeared on these pages. We look forward to taking to the streets again in 2007 with a whole new batch of questions.

Here are some of the individuals who took a moment to say what was on their mind in 2006. To those we may have missed, please call us. We'll acknowledge you in a future issue.

Alan Morin, Carolyn Labonte, Crystal Dauphinais, Ray Deleon, Alisha Devlin, Larry Maglott, Rich Dubois, Zach Durst, Bill Dukeshire, Cindy Olmsted, Harriet Chenette, Margaret Weaver, Ann LaPointe, Barbara Yarbrough, Gena Mangiacapra, Ray LeClair, Alaine Anderson, Christine LaBonte, Cormac Lundt, Stephanie Majewski, Jared Smith, John Morrison, Leslie Post, Ryan Doyle, Becky Leon, Cynthia Poudrette, Joseph Haggerty, Marissa Lanni, Mark Eucker, Mark Klein, Tammy Foular, Thomas Chen, Barry Morgan, Brian Sheldon, Lloyd Walling, Preston Shultz, Roger Bedard, Ruth Lee, Sandra Walling, Wayne Walker, Amy LaRoche, Jaime Murphy, Jason Blanchard, Jim Perron, John LaRoche, Leland Bradley, Randy Para, Wayne Daniels, Arden Casiano, Bethany Mesyna, Doris Baker, Laurie Mainville, Patty Lajoie, Paula Long, Paul Credit, Roland Smith, Andrew DeLarosa, Ann Chenette, Gisela Ilewicz, Jean Vasileff, Kathy Ulm, Laurie Bernier, Ted Crandall, Tom Slye, Don Courtemanche, Elaine Skelton, Emanuel Booker, Heather DeLuca, Jean Deroko, Laurie Plantier, Phyllis Mullan and Renee Beshaw.

Also, Ashley Ortiz, Erica Parks, Kenny LaFleur, Lisa Stedford, Mary Crowell, Matthew Durning, Sandra Chause, Tammy Haller, Chreyl Mayo, Courtney Warner, Jaimie Debruycker, Kerry Stone, Nona Windrow, Rebecca Guilbault-Triplett, Themis Waddington, Theresa Lambert, Brad Gauthier, Crystal Yuill, Gina Armitage, Jennifer Roberts, John Lower, Kevin Smith, Kristen Tarryk, Paul Hubert, Dan Franklin, Earl Ratcliffe, Jens Eriksen, Jim Clark, Julie Miller, Kim Beaupre, Paul Ziubinski and Sarah Pingeton, Bobby Wilson, Chad Neal, Clarry O'Leary, DA Ayen, Doug Boston, Jay McCarthy, Marc Rondeau, Michelle White, Al Miller, Barbara Repko, Deborah Stravato, Harold Rohloff, Holly Fawell, Marcel Ducharme, Natasha

Roberts, Stella Duroscher, Ed Allard, Jim Strahle, John Douray, Mary Taffe, Matt Malia, Patty Alegra-Babcock, Paul Pimentel, Xes Zeiss, Alisha Waite, Ann Centori, Anthony Sands, Christine Myrick, Kirby Cunha, Louise Pempek, Mike Ogden, Paul Morin,

Byron Patterson, Cheryl Smith, Christine Gagnon, Donna Hall, Judy Kendall, Sharon Dumas, Shawn Martel and Tony Tibbetts.

Also, Ashley Morin, Fred Bellville, Jennifer Groves, Jessica Leese, Phitsamay Sourinho, Tim Meredith, Trish Karkutt, Dana Jordan, David Leandro, Jan Perry, Kyle Brodeur, Larry Gagne, Marion Langevin, Steve Hardies, Violet Wilt, Bell Gilmore, Charles Davila, Eugene Ennis, Kevin Kenny, Marcia Stoll, Marjorie Ennis, Mel Ogden, Janet Esch, Jennifer Medeiros, Joan Golrick, Larry Meersman, Larry Ouillette, Lewis Whitehead, Lynn Bischoff, Nancy Ouillette, Brenda Lepage, John Irving, Maggie Dougherty, Mall Weiderpass, Mary Gerardi, Mellissa Lepage, Nancy Nystrom, Ruth Demuth, Keith Adams, Chris Johnson, Geno Bifano, Kate Scott, Harry Piotrowski, Kelly Jarvis, Jon Viens, Dottie Deaume, Dawn Sanchas, Betty Cariveau, Cindy Sullivan, Leona Eckard, Paul Lucenti, Allen Chartier, Melissa Mayo, Molly Truesdale, Pat Marquis, Ruth Sanborn, Shaun Beard, Susan Rogers, Theresa Barlow, Adolph Rutkin, Brian Murphy, David Lowell, Elizabeth Blundell, Jay McNeill, Joe Sullivan, Marcela Arratia, Mark Smith, Angel Archeval, Dawn Owen, Fran Ignasiak, Holly Desimone, Jane Desrosiers, John Wright, Kathryn Camgemi, Nicky Dee, Allen Brooks, Karel Sinko, Mary Combs, Mona Tremblay, Pat Culver, Paul Combs, Sean Brady, Spring Price, Barbara Neal, Bill Wright, Crystal Dauphinais, Holly Larkin, Jason Bates, Lois Harris, Mike Rickaby, Nancy LaRochelle, Eleanor Marcheterre, Joan Bucher, Lisa Rock, Melinda Marley, Nathaniel Harvey, Pam House, Paul Zamaite, Peter Aucoin, Charlotte Mayo, Chuck Holman, Dave Palmer, Dawn Poirier, Laraine Sholler, Leonard Todd, Matt Haczynski, Mel Davis, Bill Price, Bonnie Wolters, Dave Laliberte, Eileen Gallup, Justin Bonner, Sara Blacher, Shane Bouthillier, Sonya Tebo, Ellen Chambers, Jeanie Teeter, John Baldwin, Lex Piccione, Robin Gosselin, Sharon Olsen, Todd Kreuzburg, David Stevenson, Ed Morin, Jack Rattray, Jean Paulino, Mary Butler, Mary Salinas, Wesley Chamberlain, Chuck Boster, Frank Abdulloviski, Frank Kush, Jere Stone, Lois Dapsis, Marc Coderre, Tracey Anderson, Zach Klingensmith, Eli Leyko, Marie Boardman, Maura Higginson, Michelle Rawcliff, Rosanna Tugtmeier, Shirley Gauthier, Ted Morin, Wendell Davis, Anna Terwilleger, Jim Castle, Kathy Basley, M. Pensak, Marie Downer, Sue Simmons-Stahl and Vince Giambalvo.

2006: Quiet Corner Year In Review Cartoons



SOUND OFFS

Reader has thoughts about superintendent

Sound Off:

It has come to the attention of many in Putnam that Margo Marvin is not the person to be the educational leader in our once strong academic town.

In her last three years as superintendent, she has had three different philosophies on educational professional development. No wonder the students, as well

as the teachers are frustrated and somewhat confused. And the cost. But then again, what does this superintendent care? Just pass it on to the taxpayers of Putnam.

When is this school board going to wake up and buy her out before it is too late and she destroys the very foundation of Putnam's educational system?

No excuse for shooting outside Wal-Mart

Sound Off:

It's funny when it says, "Affidavit lists motives for shooting," (*Putnam Villager*, Dec. 15).

You know what? There is no motive for shootings. These gentlemen knew exactly what they were going to do. I don't care if it was a love triangle or a death threat or anything, they went and they did something. I know you have to print the facts and what not, but the facts are they went there with a motive — end of story. Doesn't matter if it's a love triangle or anything like that.

This is absolutely ridiculous — death threats and what not. You know what? These (suspects) should be locked up and put away for a very long time. If they're this young and they're that dangerous — you know, it's kind of sad and scary. I know you have to print what you have to print, but let's not defend them, because here we go again.

This is what is wrong with America. There has to be a reason for everything that everyone does. Oh, boo hoo. It's very sad nobody takes responsibility for their actions.

Full story on DRI site needs to be told

Sound Off:

I'm just calling to voice an opinion on the article, "DRI Site Accident Waiting to Happen?" (*Killingly Villager*, Dec. 15).

I'm a resident of Brickhouse Road. Basically I live right across the street. I read the article and I just want to know "these people that are complaining had all the work in the yards redone by DRI and they're complaining they want him out of there, they want the town to end his contract. Who's going to pay the difference in the taxes when they force him out of there early and why was he a good guy when he was doing all the work in their yards and he's not now?"

These people need to get a life and move

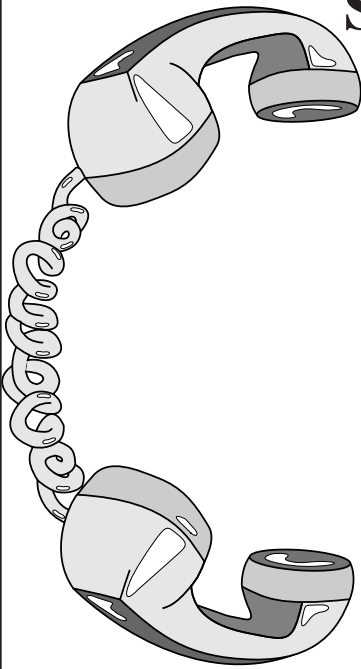
on, instead of making false accusations. I work second shift, and they say he is over there working until midnight. I work second shift and I come in between 11:30-11:45 every night, and there's nobody over there. I would just like to see another article in the paper because these people all had work done in their yards and now all of a sudden he's a bad guy because the work's done and everything.

The full story needs to come out because the recycling station is the cleanest it has been in years. These accusations that are made in the paper — I don't know where they're coming up with them. People need to get their stories straight.

Don't forget to Sound Off!
Call 860-928-1818, ext. 5 today!

SOUND OFF!

As an additional service to our readers, the *Villager Newspapers* offers an anonymous forum allowing callers to "Sound Off" about the hot-button issues and topics in their towns. Call our "Sound Off" line today. It can be reached, 24 hours a day, at (860) 928-1818, ext. 5. Names may be omitted for "Sound Off" calls only, although you may leave a name or initials. All comments should be made clearly and concisely, to minimize the potential for mistakes. No libelous comments will be published. Personal attacks are not allowed. "Sound Offs" may also be e-mailed to wbird@villagernewspapers.com. Be sure to label the e-mail as a "Sound Off" submission. We look forward to hearing from you!



“He was a soldier, a dad, a friend. He was everything to a lot of people. ... He believed to the core of his soul in what he was doing over there [in Afghanistan].”

— Michele Phaneuf, on her husband, Connecticut Army National Guard Sgt. Joseph Phaneuf, a Putnam native who was killed in December while serving in Afghanistan.

“[The mill owners'] concern is their business. Our concern is the integrity of the historical mills.”

— Cynthia Dunne, Zoning Commission chairman, on a plan to rezone six mill buildings to allow condominium units to be built. The plan passed, with input from mill owners, in August.

“The real disappointment wasn't not getting the job. It was the humiliation, I feel.”

— Putnam Town Clerk Sara J. Seney, after she was told by Killingly Town Manager Bruce Benway in February she would no longer be considered for the town clerk position in Killingly. Her assistant, Elizabeth Wilson, was picked a couple of months later.

“It may seem like we were just trying to be kids to walk out of school, but that's the only thing we could have done.”

— Ali Perlwitz, at the time a junior at Putnam High School, on a student walkout Wednesday, May 24 to protest results of a budget referendum the previous day.

“I want to reiterate that the school is not dangerous. We are no different than any other high school with all the social issues that are brought into our building. We have to deal with those issues. We have to be the problem solvers, and we have to be great listeners. I want to assure all the parents and guardians out there that Putnam High School is a safe place for the students to learn.”

— Former Putnam High School Principal Linda Joyal, responding in February to claims from Selectman David W. Coderre that there was a gang roaming the halls of the school, and some students were “afraid to go to school.”

“They say America runs on coffee. I guess they aren't kidding.”

— Putnam Mayor Robert G. Viens, on the town's fourth Dunkin' Donuts location, which opened in mid-November on Kennedy Drive, next to the Jade Garden restaurant.

“Competition is good and healthy. It'll bring more people to this side of town, and I will benefit out of it, too. Of course, we will be fighting.”

— Selectman Jitendra K. “Jay” Sinha, owner of Putnam Supermarket, on Putnam's new Price Chopper store, which opened in August.

“If the taxes do go up, then I'm sorry, but if they do you have to live with it. There's nothing you can do about it.”

— Putnam High School student Patrick Rheault, on people who wanted no increase in Putnam's fiscal 2006-07 tax rate.

“I put my hand over my chest. I looked at it, saw blood, and was like, ‘Oh my God, those [expletive]s actually shot me.”

— Michael Penkala of Webster, Mass., describing his being shot outside the Putnam Wal-Mart Friday, Nov. 17 as he waited to buy a Sony PlayStation 3 video game console.

“Flowers and a gift bag are nice, but a win is a must to make it the best.”

— Putnam High School volleyball player Tiffany Vanleeuwen, on the Clippers' victory over Ellis Tech on Senior Night, Monday, Oct. 23.

“The Board of Finance has not cut one penny from all the budgets and 12 positions are being cut. I don't understand that.”

— Putnam Board of Finance Chairman Anthony Falzarano, on the Board of Education's proposed spending plan for fiscal 2006-07.

“History really isn't dead. It's a living, breathing thing. It's part of what has formed us, and part of where we are going.”

— William Pearsall, appointed in March as Putnam's municipal historian.

“I don't understand. We live in a society where we just turn our heads? ... When is it going to end? When are people going to help other people?”

— Patty Bishop of Woodstock, speaking about a homeless man who lived from December 2005 to March in the Putnam Parkade shopping plaza on Providence Pike (Route 44).

“It's fun. The bus rides, the screaming, the losing your voice. It's awesome.”

— Putnam High School student Katie Dragon, on being a member of the school's Z-Crew cheering section last year.

“We are going to get past the first round this year, and the second. We're a powerhouse.”

—Putnam High School Lady Clippers soccer co-captain Rachael Skowron, speaking in August, on the team's prospects this year. She was proven right, as the Clippers advanced to the third round of the state playoffs in November.

“He's a thief. That's it in a nutshell ... He's a smooth talker and a predator. He has to be stopped.”

— Robin Bruso of Putnam, who filed a complaint that led to charges being filed against her former contractor, Francis Bellotti. The case is now in arbitration, Bruso said in November.

“They have a year and a half left on their lease, and I plan to reopen another pharmacy there. Don't count the Viens family out yet.”

— Putnam Mayor Robert G. Viens, whose family owned Viens Pharmacy on Providence Street until it was sold in March to Brooks Pharmacy.

“I believe I am here for a reason. What that reason is, I don't think anyone knows that. We have to let it play itself out. Every single day, there is something new to be learned.”

— Francoise G. Gauthier, after she was named interim principal of St. Mary's School in February. She was later picked as its permanent principal.

“We're not cutting the fat. There is no fat. We're cutting the meat, the sirloin and the prime rib.”

— Pat Perfetto, who has a daughter at Putnam High School, during an April 12 hearing on the fiscal 2006-07 school budget.



Affordable Custom Window Coverings

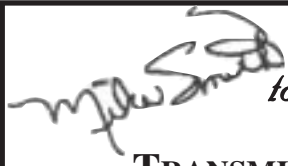
(860)779-6155

FREE In-Home Consultation

Shutters • Draperies
Wood Blinds • Honeycomb Shades
Woven Woods and more!

Budget Blinds
a style for every point of view®

Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated
©2006 Budget Blinds, Inc. All Rights Reserved



Happy Holidays
to all our customers from all of us at
Mike's Transmissions

TRANSMISSIONS & AUTO CENTERS
Quality Used Cars

Over 30 years experience in the transmission industry

We Have:

- Synthetic Lubricants & Oils
- Dodge Cummins Diesel Hi-Performance Modifications for Engine & Transmission for More Power!
- Saginaw Racing Transmissions & Clutches for Thompson Speedway

*We are the only Transmission Shop in the area that can rebuild your transmission completely! Including the torque converter! *Remans available 12/12 - 18/18 - 3/36 - 3/75 Warranties

WINTER SPECIAL
\$10 Off Transmission Flush
mention this ad

Michael W. Smith
Office 860-774-8421
On-Line at: mikesmithtransmissions.com
849 North Main Street, Danielson, CT 06239
Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-5:00pm; Sat. 8-12



Certified Automotive Master Technician



The Staff at Killingly Eye Care wishes you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

50% Discount Coupon

Use this coupon in our Optical Shop towards your second pair of glasses or lenses. Need stocking stuffers? Come browse our line of accessories!

Not to be combined with any other offer. Expires 6/30/07

25 Green Hollow Rd. Danielson • 860-779-1588 • www.KillinglyEye.com

Avoid Conflict Diamonds - Buy Antique

ABIGAIL'S JEWEL BOX™



Also SHOWCASING
Abigail's Heirlooms™
the extensive collection of quality Victorian jewelry documented as never-before-worn

- Diamonds
- Engagement Rings
- Wedding Bands
- Victorian Jewelry
- Top Quality Estate & Gemstone Jewelry

136 Main Street Putnam
860-928-1300
jsales@aol.com
OPEN THURS-SUNDAY 11-5
Easy to find across from the Courthouse Restaurant
ON SITE BUYING & APPRAISALS

RELIGION

Good morning 2007

Villager Newspapers offer “Beyond the Pews” as an opportunity for area church leaders to write about issues that affect their assemblies and the communities they serve. Submissions may include sermons. If interested, contact Editor Walter Bird Jr. at 928-1818, ext. 103, or e-mail wbird@villagernewspapers.com.

Our calendar declares the beginning of a new year. Dare we expect it to be a happy one? Pragmatic, realistic, honest, everyday people can't help but wonder if the future will be bright. A steady bombardment of bad news, angry politics, and moral debauchery fan the flames of fear and worry. And, since we now live in such a small world, when bad things happen, even in remote places, the whole world watches and winces. Good news, on the other hand, doesn't seem to travel as fast or get its share of the spotlight. As a result, one might feel dishonest proclaiming that the new year will be a happy one.

To complicate matters, many of us are not careful to appreciate the daily miracles and blessings God sends our way. For example, it is somehow easier to complain about the failures of our political leader, our boss or our family members than it is to celebrate their strengths and their positive impact on our lives. So, in a sub-conscious effort to protect our hearts and maintain emotional equilibrium, we often opt to expect bad things so we will not be



disappointed when bad things happen. It simply takes more courage and energy to risk believing that good things are around the corner. In short, since it feels “safer” to fellowship with sorrow and pain rather than to hope for joy and progress, it might be that we - too easily - give up the happiness to which faith could lead us.

With all that said, I pose the questions: Is it realistic to believe for a Happy New Year? Are we “chumps” to anticipate good days ahead? I think we would be chumps not to expect a happy new year. 2007 is a clean slate... a fresh piece of paper... a blank canvas... a new digital file! It has all the potential of a new job, a new semester, or a new house. We can all make a fresh start.

If you are skeptical or lack the courage to believe for a good year, maybe you would be interested in a little extra boost to help you tackle the coming year with optimism and hope; the kind of boost that even the disciples of Jesus needed. Jesus' disciples are honored and respected for the positive impact they had on our world, but they, too, faced the dilemma you and I face. They wanted to believe in a bright future. They tried to live right and do right. But even Jesus disciples needed a little extra boost.

St. Peter might be the most prominent example. He was a blue collar worker who eventually became a great leader of first century church. This man loved Jesus. At one point he optimistically and boldly pro-

claimed that he would die for Christ. When Jesus was arrested, however, Peter cursed and denied that he knew Jesus. Then, along with most of the other disciples, Peter ran for his life when Jesus was crucified. While Jesus lay in the grave Peter was so disappointed that he decided to return to fishing. He believed, but he lacked courage.

Then came a fresh start. Jesus rose from the dead, commissioned his disciples and then told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the power they would need to make the most of this fresh start. Acts chapter 2 records the event. Peter, the disciples, Jesus' mother and those praying with them in the “upper room” were believers and followers of Christ, but on the Day of Pentecost He moved into their hearts and gave them power. They were baptized with the Holy Spirit. As a result, they spoke in other languages as the Spirit gave them utterance. Peter promised this same experience to “as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts 2:39) This was the power to start fresh; the power to go forward in troubled times.

Maybe this is the kind of boost you need. If so, do what the first century Christians did: pray... wait on God... seek Him until He baptizes you with the Holy Spirit. He will empower you so you can sit up on January 1st, stretch and proclaim: “Good morning 2007, with God's help. I just know this is going to be a Happy New Year!”

John Hanson is the bishop of Acts II Ministries of Thompson. More information is available at www.ActsII.org.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

EASTFORD Congregational Church 8 Church Road (860) 974-0294 Pastor Mike Moran Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Service: 11 a.m. Sunday Prayer: 7 p.m. Tuesday MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers): 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Mondays Celebrate Recovery: 7 p.m. Fridays	P.O. Box 222 Quinebaug, CT 06262 935-5205 Masses: 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday Holy Day as announced Weekdays: 8 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday Pastor: Fr. Arul Rajan Peter Religious Education Coordinator: Mrs. Louise LeFort Grades K-6: 8:45-9:55 a.m. Sunday Grades 7-9 (Confirmation): 7-8:30 p.m. Monday
Eastford Baptist Church 133 Union Road 974-1414 Pastor Tim Vamosi Sunday School: 9 a.m. Service: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday — youth program	Tri-State Baptist Church P.O. Box 404 Thompson, CT 06277 (Meeting at the VFW Hall on Route 131, south of intersection with Route 197) 933-8947 rberard@tristatebaptist.org www.tristatebaptist.org Pastor R. Berard Sunday School for all ages: 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Service: 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening Service: 7 p.m.
POMFRET Most Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church 568 Pomfret St. 928-5830 Mass: 4 p.m. Saturday; 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday Rev. Ryszard Sliwinski, Administrator	Bible Fellowship Church 400 Quinebaug Rd P.O. Box 619 Quinebaug, CT 06262 923-9512 or (800) 621-6807 thompsonbfc@aol.com www.bfc.org Pastor Dennis Spinney Sunday services: 9 a.m., Bible School for all ages; 10 a.m., Worship Service Tuesdays: 4:30 p.m., Teen Bible Study; 6:30 p.m., Children's Bible Club/Adult Bible Study and Prayer Fridays: 6:30 p.m., Teen Youth Group
Christ Church of Pomfret 527 Pomfret St. 928-7026 Services: 8 and 10:15 a.m. Sunday; 9:15 a.m. (Rectory School Chapel) Mid-week service: 7 a.m. Wednesday Rector David M. Carter	Acts II Ministries P.O. Box 224 1366 Riverside Drive Thompson, CT 06277 935-5107 (toll free, 888-433-9901) www.actsII.org Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Abington Congregational Church Route 97 974-1476 Service: 10 a.m. Sunday Rev. Dr. Bruce Hedman	HighPointe Church 1028 Thompson Road Thompson, CT 06277 935-0357 www.gotohpc.org www.goto24seven.com Sunday Services: 9 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes for infants to sixth grade: 9 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. 24:Seven Youth Ministry: Grades 9-12, 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday; Grades 6-8, 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
First Congregational Church 13 Church Road (Pomfret Center) 928-7381 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday Summer Schedule: No Sunday school; Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Pastor John Eklund	Emmanuel Lutheran Church 83 Main St., P.O. Box 221 North Grosvenordale (860) 928-7038 Pastor Charles F. Seivard Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m.
PUTNAM Putnam Congregational Church 175 Main St. 928-4405 Reverend Thomas Meyer Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday	Quinebaug 7th Day Adventist Church 768 Quinebaug Road (Route 131) 933-5412 Services: Saturday worship, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday Sabbath School, 11 a.m.; weekly prayer meetings, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
East Putnam Community Church 250 East Putnam Road 928-2193 Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Tri-State Christian Academy — K-8	North Grosvenordale United Methodist Church 954 Riverside Drive 860-923-2738 or 860-923-9133 Pastor: David Baird Services: 9 a.m. Sunday; Sunday School, 9 a.m.
First Congregational Church 71 Liberty Highway 928-7381 Pastor John Eckman Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday	Thompson Congregational Church 347 Thompson Road 860-923-2431 Rev. Robert Duebber Services: 10:30 a.m., Sunday; Bible School, 9:15 a.m., Sunday
Putnam United Methodist Church 53 Grove St. 928-9705 Pastor: David Baird Services: 10:45 a.m. Sunday (10 a.m. during the summer)	WOODSTOCK Church of the Good Shepherd 12 Bradford Corner Road 974-2047 Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday Deacons: Helen Harding, Brenda Houghton, Paul Nissen, Mary Vertefeuille. Associate Deacon: Karen White Junior Deacon: Justin Bressette
St. Mary's Church 218 Providence St. 928-6535 Rev. Roland Cloutier Services: 4 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday; 7:15 and 8 a.m. daily	East Woodstock Congregational 220 Woodstock Road 928-7449 Service: 10 a.m. Sunday (Children's Sunday school, same time) Pastor: Rev. Susan Foster
St. Phillip's Episcopal Church 63 Grove St. 928-3510 Rev. Godwin Agbo Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday (9:30 a.m. in the summer); Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Bible study, 7 p.m., Friday	Evangelical Covenant Church 24 Child Hill Road 928-0486 Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday; Sunday School: 9 a.m. (starting Sept. 10) Senior Pastor: Mike Gillett Associate Pastor: Pastor Gene Schamko Youth Pastor: Dave Magee
Putnam Baptist Church 170 Church St. 928-3678 Rev. Gil Bourquin Services: 11 a.m. Sunday; Russian language service, 5 p.m. Sunday; Youth group, 6 p.m. Friday; Bible study, 7 p.m. Thursday; Cultural school, 3 p.m. Saturday; Guitar lessons, 2 p.m. Saturday; ESL, by appointment.	Faith Bible Evangelical Free 587 Route 171 974-2528 Service: 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Pastor Mitch Santell
Putnam Assembly of God 25 Kennedy Drive 928-2794 Pastor: Gregg McKechnie Service: Sunday 10 a.m. Other: Wednesday Family Night, 7 p.m.; Friday Youth Night: prayer 6 p.m., Youth Service 7 p.m.	First Congregational 543 Route 169 928-7405 Service: 10 a.m. Sunday (Children attend for 10-15 minutes before going to church school class) Pastor James S. Harrison
Congregation B'nai Shalom (Conservative Synagogue) Sons of Zion building, 125 Church St. 928-4496 Lay Leader: Alan Turner, 774-7187 President: Linda Simons, 928-4806 Services: 7 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Saturday Hebrew School: 9:30 a.m. Sunday (during the school year). Contact Hebrew School Director Jennifer Wright at 774-6404 for information. Special services may be held at our Danielson building, 39 Killingly Drive.	North Woodstock Congregational 1227 Route 169 963-2170 Pastor Jesse Phagan Service: 10 a.m. Sunday; Bible Study: 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday
Jehovah Witnesses 81 Thurber Road 928-4442	South Woodstock Baptist Church Roseland Park Road 928-9341 Bible Class: 9 a.m. Sunday Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday Pastor: Bob Beckwith
THOMPSON St. Joseph's Church Weekdays: Monday and Tuesday — St. Joseph, 5 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday — St. Joseph, 7:15 a.m.; First Thursday — Sacred Heart, 5 p.m. Saturday — St. Joseph, 4 p.m. Sunday — St. Joseph, 8 and 11 a.m.; 9:30 a.m., Sacred Heart First Thursday — Sacred Heart, Eucharistic Adoration, 1 p.m. CCD — St. Joseph, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday	
St. Stephen Church Junction of Routes 131 and 197 130 Old Turnpike Road	

Got a scoop?

Call us at 928-1818 or e-mail us wbird@villagernewspapers.com

NEW AMERICAN FUSION CUISINE

utilizing the highest quality ingredients in creative and innovative ways

casual fine dining in a unique atmosphere

Open 7 days
Lunch, Dinner & Bar Menu
11:30 am - 11:00 pm

FULL BAR ••• RAW BAR

85 Main Street Putnam
860.928.1660

preview our seasonal menu online
www.85MAIN.com

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2006

In 2006, it was Connecticut politics as (un)usual

ONE RACE HAD A PARTY CHANGE...

BY SHAUN MORIARTY
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

They say the more things change, the more they stay the same. That was the case in the race for the United States Senate.

This year's big race began when Ned Lamont decided to challenge incumbent senator, and former candidate for Vice President, Joseph Lieberman in the August Democratic primary.

Lamont, a Greenwich resident, cited Lieberman's stands on the Transportation Equity Act, the Terry Schiavo debate and, of course, the war in Iraq.

"We've got ourselves into a mess and I think the guys who got us into the mess should be held accountable," Lamont told the *Villager* during a sit-down interview this summer. "They thought it was going to be easy. They thought it would pay for itself and we'd be greeted as liberators. Here we are, three and a half years later, and we're stuck in the middle of a civil war."

Lamont defeated Lieberman in the Aug. 8 Democratic primary by more than 10,000 votes, 146,587-136,468, a total of about 4 percent (52-48).

"They call Connecticut the land of steady habits," Lamont declared in his victory speech that evening. "Tonight, we voted for a big change."

But would that change be made?

Before Lamont had officially become the party's candidate, Lieberman had filed paperwork with the Secretary of State, allowing him to petition his way onto the November general election ballot as an independent. Ironically, 36 years ear-

lier, Lieberman worked for the Rev. Joe Duffey for U.S. Senate campaign in 1970. Duffey, an anti-war candidate, challenged then-incumbent Sen. Tom Dodd and won the Democratic primary but lost the November general election to Republican Lowell Weicker when Dodd worked his way onto the ballot as an independent party candidate, splitting the Democratic vote.

Could history repeat itself with longshot Republican candidate Alan Schlesinger winning courtesy of a split Democratic party? Would Lamont continue to gain support and take the seat? Or would Connecticut voters stick with Joe?

By late October, with the general election rapidly approaching, polls done by Quinnipiac University indicated Lieberman, running as the lone member of the Connecticut for Lieberman party, had the support of 52 percent of likely voters to Lamont's 35 percent. Schlesinger had a mere 6 percent in the Oct. 20 poll.

"Lamont's negatives are up and he has fallen farther behind in the match up against Lieberman because of his drop among independent voters and men," said Poll Director Douglas Schwartz. "Observers had speculated that Alan Schlesinger would benefit from the debate exposure and take Republican votes away from Lieberman. Instead, he took Republican votes away from Lamont."

Lamont's camp disputed the Quinnipiac poll, citing internal polls that showed a much more favorable outlook for their candidate.

"Our internal polls reflect a very different reality from what Quinnipiac shows," said Ben Simon, a

spokesman for the Lamont campaign. On Nov. 7, however, the only numbers that would mean anything were the number of ballots cast for the three candidates.

Despite losing his party's nomination, Lieberman won the election with 50 percent of the vote. Lamont garnered 40 percent while Schlesinger picked up most of the remaining 10 percent. Concerned Citizens candidate Timothy A. Knibbs and Green Party candidate Ralph A. Ferrucci were mere also-rans in the contest.

Lamont conceded but said he was pleased the election season showed voters were not pleased with where the nation was heading, particularly the war in Iraq.

"We ignited a spark that will change the direction of our country in Iraq and our country at home," Lamont said. "I am so much more optimistic about our country and our future, having had this conversation with the people of Connecticut over the past 10 months."

Lieberman admitted those 10 months were not quite as pleasant for him, although the final results were worth it in the end.

"This year's campaign, to say the obvious, was a long journey," Lieberman said during his victory speech. "We were tested like never before, but never wavered in our beliefs."

As for which side of the aisle he would sit on upon his return to Washington D.C., the former Democratic senator pledged no allegiance.

"I will go to Washington beholden to no political group, but only to the people of Connecticut and my conscience. That is my promise," he said.

ANOTHER HAD A CONTROVERSIAL RECOUNT

BY BRUCE COULTER
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

The 2006 Congressional races were billed as a referendum on the Bush administration's policy on the war in Iraq and on terrorism.

Democrats in Connecticut and across the country crowed it was time for a change on Bush's other failed policies in education, health care and Social Security.

In the end, it played out like a bad poker hand for Republicans, who continued to bluff with a pair of deuces, while Democrats held all the aces.

The result was a resounding defeat for the GOP, who lost control of the House and Senate for the first time in 12 years.

Among the winners was Joe Courtney, a Democrat from Vernon, who again took on incumbent Republican Rob Simmons for the Second Congressional District.

In an interview with the *Villager's* editorial board, Courtney predicted a "very close" election.

His words proved prophetic when, after a recount, Courtney was declared the winner with a margin of just 91 votes out of the nearly quarter million ballots cast.

During the contest, Courtney said there were several issues on which Simmons has let the district down in favor of national Republican policies.

"Holding people accountable is part of the job of Congress," Courtney said. "The fact of the matter is, these guys [Republican representatives] have been a rubber stamp for this administration and I think it's why people feel so strongly about this midterm election. They feel the system is completely out of balance."

For the most part, Courtney directed his

comments toward Republican policies on cuts to Title 1 spending in support of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA), failed energy policies, and wrong priorities and a failed mission in Iraq that for which America is paying a high price at home and abroad.

"Title 1 cuts are a direct result of the budget cuts in Washington," Courtney said. "This is in the middle of an educational budget year that the federal government dropped these numbers on the school superintendents of eastern Connecticut."

Energy costs were another burden on municipal governments as well as businesses and residents. Courtney placed the blame for the high costs of heating homes and businesses and driving cars squarely on President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress.

Simmons countered that he works "very hard to represent these rural towns."

"I have brought home literally millions of dollars for the firemen, for the municipalities, for drug abuse programs," Simmons said. "For the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, we have gone from \$200,000 a year to \$850,000 last year, and \$800,000 this year."

"In spite of the fact that the administration zeroes them out every year, we've been able to quadruple the amount of money they receive," he noted. "I pay attention to what goes on in our area."

Responding to Courtney's charge that Republicans dropped the ball on NCLBA, Simmons replied the state's accountability agreement with the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. was negotiat-

Turn To **RACE**, page **A15**



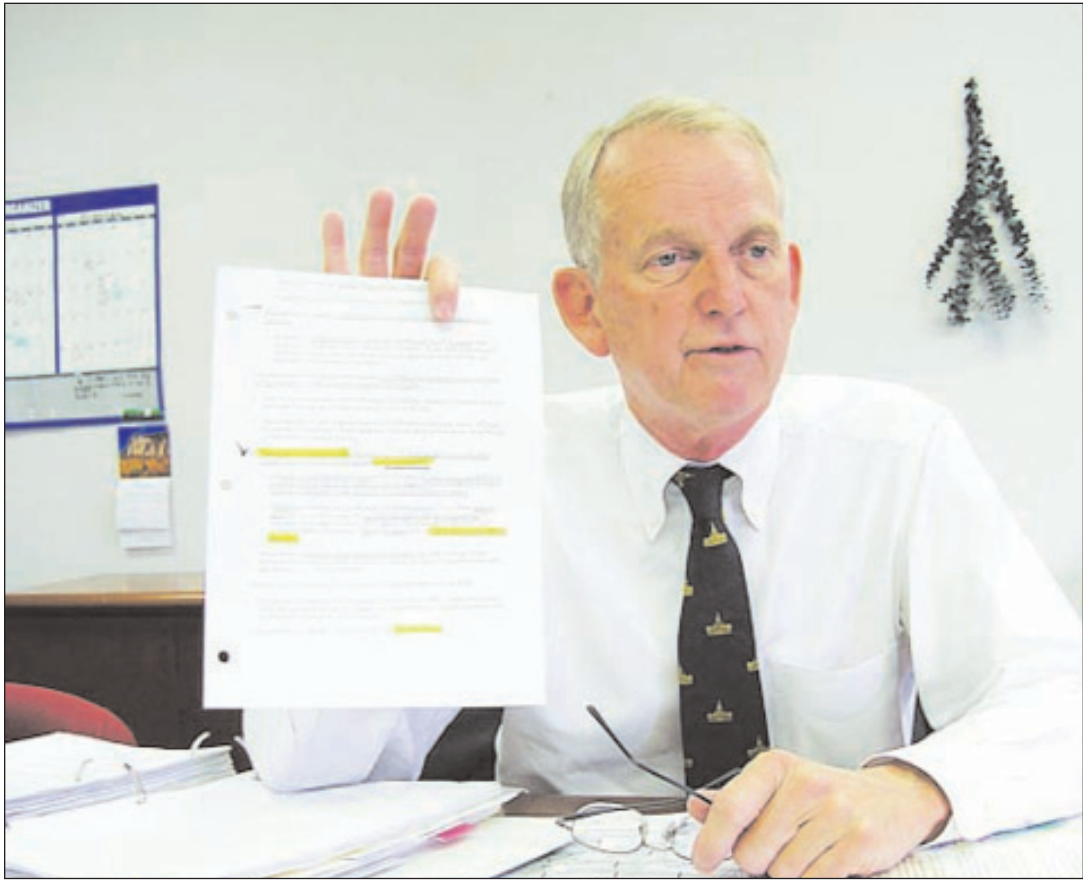
Schlesinger



Lieberman



Lamont



File photo

Despite denying Republicans were a rubber stamp for Bush policies, Congressman Rob Simmons lost his seat to Vernon Democrat Joe Courtney.

"Porter and Chester graduates come to us with the electrical skills and practical experience needed to successfully wire modular classrooms and offices."

Stan Knapik
VP Manufacturing
American Modular Corp.
Terryville, CT

Employers like Stan Knapik call Porter and Chester Institute when they need qualified, highly-skilled electricians.

You can graduate from Porter and Chester's Electrician: Industrial, Commercial & Residential Wiring program in only 12 months. And you learn by doing. It's more like being on the job, than going to school.

Call 1-800-870-6789

Main Campus, 670 Lordship Blvd., Stratford, CT

www.porterchester.com

• Enfield, CT • Stratford, CT • Watertown, CT
• Wethersfield, CT • Branford, CT (affiliates)
Chicopee, MA • Westborough, MA

Not all programs are offered at all locations.

PORTER AND CHESTER INSTITUTE

RJ's CONTRACTING

860-923-2933

R.J. Roy, Owner
Lic#561085 • Insured

INTERIOR WORK	EXTERIOR WORK	BASEMENTS
• Renovations • Kitchens • Baths • Cabinets • Vanities • Formica Work • Tile Work • Fixtures • Paneling • Flooring • Ceilings • Doors • Closets • Wainscoting • Carpet/Vinyl Installation • Plumbing • Electrical	Roofing • Siding • Decks Additions Chimney Repairs Gutters Installed Storm Doors Replacement Windows Steps • Porches Entrances	Sills Support Columns Floor Joists

Introduction to Pilates

Start your *New Year* with a *New You*

- ✓Increase core strength
- ✓Improve flexibility
- ✓Strengthen and streamline legs

Tuesday 6:30-7:15 PM

Thursday 8:15-9:00 AM

These and all classes run from Jan.-Feb. 16

Body by Design

Personal Training & Pilates Studio

To register call 928-0492 or BBDstudio.com

Szechuan, Polynesian & Mandarin Cuisine
Luncheon & Dinner Specials ~ Exotic Island Drinks

Jade Garden

Putnam 860-928-5351

Fax 860-928-2135
319 Kennedy Drive, Putnam, CT (Exit 95-97 off 395)

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Sun-Thurs 11AM-10PM
Fri. & Sat. 11AM-11PM
Kitchen closes 1/2 hour earlier

All You Can Eat Buffet

Wednesday to Sunday
Lunch Buffet 11:30AM to 2:00PM
Dinner Buffet - 5:00PM to 8:30 PM
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Northeastern Connecticut's Premiere Fitness and Wellness Center

Midtown FITNESS

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES	STRENGTH & CARDIO FITNESS
• Yoga • Swiss Ball • Body Bar • Step • Pilates • Turbo Kicked Mixed Martial Arts	• Spinning • Senior Citizen Classes • Spinning • Babysitting • Burn the Fat Off!
	• Circuit training equipment • Free Weights • Cardio Equipment • Treadmills - Bikes - Ellipticals - Rower - Stairmasters • Family Martial Arts Program

Personal Training

75 Railroad St., Putnam, CT • 860.928.9218
www.midtown-fitness.com



POLICE LOG

Editor's Note: The information contained in these police logs was obtained through either press releases or other public documents kept by each police department, and is considered to be the account of police. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

PUTNAM

TUESDAY DEC. 19

Bryon Patterson, 27, of 37 Battery St., was charged with creating a public disturbance.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

Michelle Lucier, 31, of 120 Turner St., Oakdale, was charged with fifth-degree larceny.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21

Jason P. McCarthy, 24, of 7 Beeches Lane, Apt. 3, Woodstock, was charged with traveling unreasonably fast.

Margaret J. Braxton, 49, 04 252 Old Canterbury Road, Norwich, was charged with driving too fast for conditions.

Alexander HILL, 20, of 120 Senexet Road, Woodstock, was charged with misuse of plates, and traveling unreasonably fast.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

Christina Coombs, 24, of 32 South A. St., Taftville, was charged with possession of marijuana.

Jason M. Dick, 34, of 174 S. Main St., Brooklyn, was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a license, and driving too fast for conditions.

Curtis Smith, 24, of 120 School St., was charged with possession of crack, possession of crack with intent to sell, possession of crack within 1,500 feet of a daycare, and possession of crack with intent to sell within 1,500 feet of a daycare.

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

William Fay, 56, of 304 Church St., was charged with first-degree criminal trespassing.

Cindy Wolanski, 49, of 18 Ballou St., was charged with second-degree assault.

William Fay, 56, of 304 Church St., was charged with driving while intoxicated.

Cindy Wolanski, 49, of 18 Ballou St., was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Mark Mulvey, 45, was charged with possession of crack, possession of drug paraphernalia, and criminal impersonation.

David Lowell, 25, of 35 Green St., was charged with breach of peace.

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

Samuel Tiburcio, 24, of 31 Chestnut St., Southbridge, Mass., was charged with operating under suspension.

Alan Richman, 45, of 30 Woodland Drive, Woodstock, was charged with traveling too fast.

Rodrigo Medeiros Dos Santos, of 78 Smith St., was charged with operating without a license.

Kenneth Tremblay, 36, of 33 Duffy St., was charged with second-degree threatening.

All of us here at the Villager wish you a very Happy New Year! Best wishes for 2007!

SUNSATIOn TAN
8, 10 & 12 Minute Booths & Beds

FALL SPECIAL!
1 MO. UNLIMITED
ONLY \$14.99 +
\$2 SERVICE FEE

Monday-Friday: 8:30am-8pm
Saturday: 8:30am-6pm
Sunday: 10am-4pm

**FIRST TAN FREE
OR \$10 OFF
FIRST PACKAGE**

508-943-4430
Tynsley Square 185 West Main St.
Dudley, MA 01571

www.sunsation-tan.com

NOW OPEN!
cosmic RAYS
TANNING SALON

HOME OF THE SATURN
(THE ONLY HIGH PRESSURED BOOTH IN THE AREA),
CAYENNE, SILVERBULLET & MONTEGO BAY

BONUS DUCKS! 4% Back
on Long Term Pkgs

31 THOMPSON RD., WEBSTER, MA
508.949.RAYS (7297)

1st TAN FREE!

Gift Certificates Available

SMART TAN CERTIFIED! Come visit me @ myspace.com

Dems take control of House, Senate

RACE

continued from page A14

ed by former Commissioner of Education Ted Sergi, "but without any input or knowledge of the members of Congress."

"In my opinion, it did not accommodate Connecticut adequately," Simmons said.

He also refuted Courtney's charges that Republicans were but a rubber stamp for Bush's policies.

Simmons pointed to Congressional Quarterly, a non-partisan political journal in Washington that specializes in politics.

On the magazine's "scorecard," Simmons noted he and fellow Republican Reps. Nancy Johnson and Chris Shays have ranked in the top 10 [in 2004] as one of the most independent House members opposing Bush policies, plans and initiatives.

"We are moderate Republicans who represent the state of Connecticut," he said. "The way we vote is different."

The National Journal, he said, also scored the three in the same manner in 2005.

Simmons said he also opposed Bush in closing the submarine base in New London, rail transportation, and Social Security privatization.

CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE RIDES ON COURTNEY

Despite the loss, Simmons was graceful in defeat, and congratulated his opponent.

"I wish Joe Courtney and his family all the best in the future. He ran a good race, and he deserves our respect," Simmons said. "Although we may have disagreed on some issues, we were never disagreeable in our personal relationship."

"While I am disappointed by this result, I am not upset about our effort," he continued. "We have the finest campaign team ever, and I thank them for all they have done. Unfortunately, the tide was against us. The miracle is not that we lost. The miracle is that the race was close enough for a mandatory recount."

After the campaign, Courtney spokesman Brian Farber said the congressman-elect will continue to focus on the issues he addressed throughout the campaign.

"The message he has been discussing throughout the campaign is improving access to healthcare, increasing funding to our local schools, and changing the course and policy in Iraq," Farber said. "Those are issues that are important to the people in eastern Connecticut."

Not long after being elected, Courtney said the most pressing issue now is how will he best serve his district and state, and what committees he will be assigned to.



File photo

Courtney's 91-vote victory was one of closest races since Democrat Sam Gejdenson beat Republican Ed Munster by a mere 21 votes.

"The steering committee is sorting through requests by congressmen," he said. "Obviously, some committees are more important in this district, [such as] defense and education."

He has since been appointed to the House Armed Services Committee, and is still defining how to serve the people of the Second District.

"It's a challenging time to walk into D.C.," Courtney said. "The 109th Congress is leaving with a huge fiscal mess. The deficit is \$339 billion. If you project out, using the white house of Congressional Budget Office's numbers, it will grow."

"This congress is about to punt on spending bills for the 2006-07 fiscal year," he continued. "They've only passed defense and the state department spending bills, [and] there are 11 others they have not enacted, including education, health, etc."

When Democrats take control of the 110th Congress, he said, House Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi plans to move forward with several initiatives in the first 100 hours. Among them are ethics, education and growth, health care and performance of legislators.

Pelosi has made it clear she expects House members to work Monday through Friday.

"People will notice a difference in the efforts of Congress and the work we produce," Courtney said.

Bruce Coulter may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 108, or by e-mail at bruce@villagernewspapers.com.

We like scoops. Phone tips to the Putnam Villager at (860) 928-1818, or by e-mail at wbird@villager-newspapers.com.

FLAGS & FLAGPOLES
• Any State • Any Country
• Open & Custom Flags
Call Anne at
860-928-0443
Located at
1 Quasset Rd., Pomfret in the Fiberoptics Building
www.flagthemes.com

**\$10 OFF
REMOTE STARTERS**
with this ad - Not valid with any other offer
Warm Your Car All Winter with a New Remote Starter
Professional Installation For Only \$149.99
• Body Kits • Navigation Units • Auto Detailing
• Custom Installs • Car Alarms • Window Tinting • Car Audio
98 Front St., Putnam • 860-928-0355
Conveniently located 1 mile off 395

Emanuel Lutheran Church
83 Main Street
North Grosvenordale, CT
Worship
Sundays at 9:30 AM
www.emanuellutheranthompsonct.org

Rell easily reelected in spite of party downfall

BY SHAUN MORIARTY
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss.

Although many Republicans lost seats in various positions at both the state and federal levels, Gov. M. Jodi Rell was one member of the GOP to retain her seat by a considerable margin.

The only tightly contested race for governor in Connecticut this year was in the Democratic primary. Stamford mayor Daniel Malloy squared off with New Haven mayor John DeStefano for the right to challenge Rell for the corner office.

Malloy stumped on issues including property tax reform, economic development, crime, tourism, high energy and gasoline costs, and universal health care. He also tabbed Messina Glassman of West Simsbury as his running mate.

DeStefano, who held a 20-point lead in polls leading up to the primary, also lobbied for property tax reform and universal health care. He also cited energy costs, tourism and pay equity as chief concerns. Like Malloy, DeStefano had also hand-picked a Lt. Gov. candidate — Scott Slifka.

Once the polls closed Aug. 8, and the results announced, those tickets quickly changed.

DeStefano won the primary, not by the 20-point lead shown in polls leading up to the election, but by a mere 2 percent, 135,404-131,270.

The race for Lt. Gov., howev-

er, was not nearly as close. Glassman defeated Slifka by almost 30,000 votes; 121,954-92,032.

DeStefano would continue his run for governor — with Malloy's running mate at his side.

The message from DeStefano and Malloy after the election was one of unity and hope.

"Tonight, the Democrats of Connecticut stand united," DeStefano said in his victory speech.

Malloy agreed in his concession speech: "...it is incumbent upon us as Democrats to rally together to make sure a Democrat is elected governor in Connecticut. There is no doubt that Connecticut needs new leadership."

Although DeStefano, Green Party candidate Cliff Thornton and Concerned Citizens candidate Joseph A. Zdonczyk all called for change in the governor's office, voters decided to stay the course in the Nutmeg State.

When the ballots were tabulated in the November general election, Rell's constituency returned her to office with 63 percent of the vote. Thornton and Zdonczyk tallied fewer than 15,000 combined votes, most of which were for Thornton.

"We have a lot of work to do in the next four years," Rell said after receiving word she had officially won re-election. "This is our moment. This is our time to make a difference for our state."



“We have a lot of work to do in the next four years. This is our moment. This is our time to make a difference for our state.”

— Gov. M. Jodi Rell,
Speaking during her victory speech in November

What are your 2006 memories?

The Villager wants to know what you thought were the highs and the lows of 2006!



If you'd like to share your memories, let us know at news@villagernewspapers.com, or call (860) 928-1818.



Classic 50's Checking

The Checking Account for People Over 50 with a Whole New 'Twist'.

If you are 50 years old or over, this is the Checking Account for you! Enjoy Checking with NO minimum balance requirement, PLUS a host of additional benefits, including:

- Unlimited check writing
- FREE Checks (limited selection)
- FREE Telephone and Online Banking*
- FREE Online Bill Payment Service*
- FREE single party Traveler's Checks
- FREE Money Orders & Cashier's Checks (2 per day)
- FREE Notary Service
- Four FREE Foreign ATM transactions per month**
- 10% Discount on Safe Deposit Box rental fees

It's like a 'Blast from the Past'! Rock on down to the branch nearest you today!



Open a Classic 50's Account and Receive a FREE COUPON BOOK
Offering Valuable Discounts at Many Area Restaurants.

*Normal account fees apply
**Other banks may charge a surcharge



PUTNAM SAVINGS BANK

...Banking for All Times

Putnam • Pomfret Center • Danielson • Plainfield • Griswold • Gales Ferry
Toll Free 1-800-377-4424 • putnamsavings.com

Member FDIC

Equal Housing Lender

OBITUARIES are published at no charge. E-mail notices to wbird@villagenewspapers.com, or fax them to (860) 928-5946. Photos are welcome in JPEG format.

Peter J. Pasqualetti, 50

WORCESTER, Mass. — Peter J. Pasqualetti, 50, of 57 Eastern Ave., died Sunday, Dec. 17 at the University of Massachusetts-Memorial Hospital, University Campus. Peter leaves his father, Robert M. Pasqualetti Sr., of Webster, Mass.; three brothers, Richard G. Pasqualetti of Westborough, Mass., Robert M. Pasqualetti Jr. of Nahant, Mass., and Daniel J. Pasqualetti of Webster, Mass.; a sister, Kathleen B. McCann of Putnam, and several nieces and nephews.

Gladys T. Borowski, 89

WEBSTER, Mass. — Gladys T. (Gontowski) Borowski, 89, of Oakwood Rehab & Nursing Center, formerly of 9 Greystone Ave., died Tuesday, Dec. 19, in Hubbard Regional Hospital. Her husband of 52 years, Joseph F. Borowski, died in 1988. She leaves four children, Patricia M. Betley, twins Joseph A. Borowski and his wife, Charlotte and Joanne M. Houle and her husband Lionel, all of Webster; and David Borowski and his wife Nora of Fabyan; a twin brother, Walter “Bill” Gontowski of Webster; seven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother, Stanley, and her sisters, Helen, Harriet and Josephine. She was born in Webster, daughter of

He was born in Manchester, N.H., son of Robert M. and the late Eleanor (Tinker) Pasqualetti Sr. Peter worked at Worcester Envelope in the shipping department. He was a Red Sox fan and enjoyed golfing. A service was held Thursday, Dec. 21 in the Robert J. Miller Funeral Home and Lake Chapel, 366 School St., Webster. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Frank and Pauline (Taraskiewicz) Gontowski, and lived there all her life. Mrs. Borowski was a homemaker. She was a lifelong member of St. Joseph Basilica, and a member of its Holy Rosary Sodality, Sacred Heart Society and St. Anne Society. She was an excellent seamstress. Above all, she enjoyed her family and friends. The funeral was held Friday, Dec. 22 from the Sitkowski & Malboeuf Funeral Home, 340 School St. A Mass followed at St. Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb St. Burial was in St. Joseph Garden of Peace. Memorial donations may be made to Friends of St. Joseph School Fund, 53 Whitcomb St., Webster, MA 01570. For more information, visit www.sitkowski-malboeuf.com.

Joseph E. Phaneuf, 38

EASTFORD — Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Phaneuf II, 38, of Kozey Road, died Friday, Dec. 15, in Afghanistan. He was the loving husband of Michele (Kozey) Phaneuf for 11 years. Born in Putnam, he was the son of Peter Phaneuf of Dayville and Barbara (Ortega) Phaneuf of Killingly. Staff Sgt. Phaneuf joined the Headquarters Company of the First Battalion 102nd Infantry Brigade in New Haven in November of 2005. He was also deployed to Iraq in February 2004 with the Connecticut Guard's 118th Medical Battalion. Prior to his service in Afghanistan, he worked as a field operating technician for T-Mobile for five years. Joseph was a member of the Eastford Volunteer Fire Department and also coached basketball, T-ball and baseball. He enjoyed photography and golf, and was an avid

Michigan Wolverine fan. Besides his wife and his parents, he is survived by three beloved children, Ryan, Danielle and Jordan Phaneuf, all at home; three brothers, Dennis Phaneuf of Medford, Mass., Tony Phaneuf of Killingly, and Rob Phaneuf of East Putnam; and three sisters, Tiffany Gion of Killingly, Holly Grube of Eastford, and Veronica Mobley of Montville. Friends and relatives visited with Joseph's family Tuesday, Dec. 26 in the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church St., Putnam. A Mass of Christian burial was held Wednesday, Dec. 27 at St. Patrick Cathedral, 213 Broadway, Norwich. Burial with Military Honors will be held in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Phaneuf Children's Education Fund, c/o New Alliance Bank, P.O. Box 71, Eastford, CT 06242.

Arthur W. Forgit, 83

OXFORD, Mass. — Arthur W. Forgit, 83, of Gardner Street, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, in his home. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Arline C. (Lavallee) Forgit of Oxford, Mass.; three sons, Gerald A. Forgit of Fertile, Minn., Francis R. Forgit of East Hampstead, N.H., and Paul E. Spencer of Oxford; two daughters, Gail A. Gilbreath of North Grosvenordale, and Kathryn M. Brayton of Dudley, Mass.; three brothers, Lorenzo “Lester” Forgit of Spencer, Mass., Rev. Robert Ambrose Forgit of Fairhaven, Mass.; and Raymond Forgit of Orr's Island, Maine; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; nephews and nieces. He was born in Worcester, Mass., the son of the late Arthur J. and Alice E. (Wellington) Forgit, and lived in Rochdale for many years and Quinebaug for several years, before moving to Oxford in 1950. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. Mr. Forgit was a machinist at Wyman-

Gordon Company in Worcester and Grafton for 20 years, retiring in 1986. Previously, he worked at Cushman Bakery in Lynn for 20 years. Mr. Forgit was a member of St. Roch's Church. He loved wood working and making furniture, and was an avid fisherman. A funeral was held Friday, Dec. 22, at Paradis Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford, followed by a Mass at St. Roch's Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Burial followed at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Calling hours were Thursday, Dec. 21, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701, or to the VNA Care Hospice, 120 Thomas St., Worcester, MA 01608. For more information visit www.paradis-funeralhome.com.

Imelda C. Durand, 79

DANIELSON — Imelda C. Durand, 79, of Westfield Village, died Tuesday, Dec. 26, at Villa Maria Convalescent Home in Plainfield. She was the wife of the late George Durand, who died Dec. 26, 2003. They were married May 31, 1947 at St. Anne Church in Fall River, Mass. Mrs. Durand was born March 17, 1927 in Fall River, the daughter of the late Phillippe and Marie Olivine (Morin) L'Heureux. She attended the local schools. After her marriage, she settled in the Killingly area. She devoted herself to the raising and care of her family, as well as the caring of her father. She also babysat for her neighbor's children. In 1988, she entered the foster grandparents program at the Dempsey Center in Putnam. She was an avid bingo player, and was a communicant of St. James Church in Danielson. She leaves two sons, Normand Durand and his longtime companion, Alicia Gale, of

Woodstock, and Leonard Durand and his wife, Kathy, of Dayville; two daughters, Janine Simmons and her husband, Chuck, of Killingly and Susan Gregware of Killingly; a brother, Raymond L'Heureux of Plainfield; two sisters, Dolores Plourde and Florence Christensen, both of Florida; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two sisters, Rita Parent and Lorraine Pensak. Following cremation, a Mass of Christian burial was held Thursday, Dec. 28 at St. James Church in Danielson. Burial followed at Bartlett Cemetery, in East Killingly. There were no calling hours. Donations in her memory may be made to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Gagnon Costello Funeral Home, 33 Reynolds St., Danielson, is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

Phyllis H. Robinson, 82

WORCESTER, Mass. — Phyllis H. (Ward) Robinson, 82, of 44 Drexel St., died Sunday, Dec. 17, at Beverly Healthcare-The Hermitage in Worcester, Mass. Her husband of 59 years, William M. Robinson Jr., died Nov. 1, 2004. She leaves her son, William W. Robinson, and his wife Lisa of Worcester; and two grandchildren, Ceara and Jacob. She was born in Cambridge, Mass., daughter of the late Charles H. and Pauline C. (Doringer) Ward, and lived most of her life in Barre, Mass., before moving to Worcester in 2000. She was a retired nursing supervisor; having worked many years at Hayward Hospital in Gardner, and she had also worked at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She and her husband owned and operated Snyder & Britten Funeral Home in Barre for

many years. She was a past president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 2, and was a member of the Alumni Association and Worcester County Association in Nursing. She was also a member of the Barre Public Nursing Association, and the Cradle Rock Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Barre. She was a graduate of Melrose High School, Class of 1942, and of Massachusetts General School of Nursing, Class of 1946. She had also attended Boston University. There are no calling hours. Funeral services and burial will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Barre Rescue Squad, Barre, MA 01005. Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street, Webster, Mass. is directing arrangements.

Edward L. Coty, 92

POMFRET CENTER — Edward L. Coty, 92, formerly of 400 Deerfield Road, died Tuesday, Dec. 19 at Pierce Memorial Home in Brooklyn. He was born Sept. 9, 1914 in Worcester, Mass., a son of the late Richard A. and Mary (Beesme) Coty, and had resided in Norwich for many years, moving to Pomfret Center in 1999. Mr. Coty was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He was employed as a supervisor in Research and Development at Electric Boat in Groton, retiring many years ago.

He was the husband of Hazel M. (Johnson) Coty, who died Sept. 26, 2004. He is survived by a son, Richard L. Coty of Chatham, Ill.; a daughter, Cheryl A. Pendergast of Canterbury; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. A sister, Gertrude Tuckerman, predeceased him. Funeral and burial are private. There were no calling hours. Dougherty Bros. Funeral Home in Plainfield has been entrusted with arrangements.

Lionel M. Ayotte, 69

BROOKLYN — Lionel M. Ayotte, 69, of 134 Fortin Drive., formerly of Plainfield, died early Wednesday, Dec. 20, at the University of Massachusetts-Memorial Hospital in Worcester, Mass. He was born June 18, 1937 in Woonsocket, R.I., a son of the late Leopold and Irene (Robidoux) Ayotte, and had resided in Plainfield for many years before moving to Brooklyn. Mr. Ayotte was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He was employed as a Truck Driver for the former Moskowitz Transportation Co. of Plainfield for 25 years, retiring in 1997. Mr. Ayotte was a life member of the Danielson Lodge of Elks 1706 and a member of Teamsters Local 493. He is survived by his wife, June (Chevette)

Ayotte; a stepdaughter, Ann Watson of Florida; a brother, Normand Ayotte of Hampton; a sister, Germaine Ayotte of Brooklyn; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Roland Ayotte, and a sister, Sister Lorraine Ayotte RJM. The funeral was held Saturday, Dec. 23 at Dougherty Bros. Funeral Home, 595 Norwich Road, Plainfield, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. John The Apostle Church. Burial with Military Honors followed in St. John Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, 279 New Britain Rd., Kensington, CT 06037.

E. Jeanne Squires, 77

NORWICH — E. Jeanne Squires, 77, died Wednesday evening, Dec. 20, at William Backus Hospital in Norwich after a short illness. Jeanne was born Nov. 15, 1929 in Norwich, the second daughter of Rachel and Joseph Friedman. She was a lifelong resident of Norwich, most recently living at Wequonnoc Apartments in Taftville. Jeanne was a dedicated mother and grandmother. She had an incredibly kind heart, and was always available for her friends and family. She loved gardening, cooking, drawing and poetry. She is survived by her daughter, Michele Penn of New London; daughter Debra

Grenier and son-in-law Homer Grenier of Woodstock; daughter Keri Lombard of Stafford Springs and daughter Rachel Penn and son-in-law Scott Barshay of Berkeley, Calif. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Crystal Brodrick, Christina Lombard, Sara Lombard, Sophie Barshay and Max Barshay. A burial took place Friday, Dec. 22 at Hebrew Benevolent Cemetery 4. A celebration of her life took place Tuesday, Dec. 26 at Church & Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem St., Norwich. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Norwich Hebrew Benevolent Assoc., 25 Trading Cove Circle, Norwich, CT 06360.

Edna Comey

GRAFTON, Mass. — Edna Comey, of Grafton, died Sunday, Dec. 17 in the University of Massachusetts-Memorial Hospital after a short illness. She was born in Southbridge, Mass., the daughter of Joseph and Nina Buckley, who were both natives of Manchester, England. After graduating from high school, Mrs. Comey declined an academic scholarship to college and chose to move to Boston and work for General Radio of Cambridge, Mass., where she had a promising future as an administrator in international client affairs. She left General Radio when she married her husband of 60 years, Keith Comey, who died in 2004. She enjoyed living in many different places, including Tennessee, Ohio, West Brookfield, Mass., New York, Vermont, and Pennsylvania, as her husband pursued a corporate management career before they settled permanently in Grafton in 1968, where they operated packaging manufacturing and manufacturers' representative businesses together. Mrs. Comey is remembered by her many friends for having a superb command of the English language, both spoken and written, a deep appreciation for and knowledge of classical music, and a love of reading, crossword puzzles, and card games. As a teenager, she was an organist for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Southbridge, and she continued to play the piano for her own enjoyment. She was a longtime member of the Shakespeare Club in Grafton, though here, as in most pursuits, she preferred to play a behind-the-scenes role. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Comey, with whom she shared the family home; her daughter, Alison Comey Moran, wife of Michael Moran, of Falmouth, Mass.; her devoted grandson, Jonathan Comey, and his wife, Laurie Comey, of Fairhaven, Mass.; and her sister-in-law, Jane Axtmann, of Vista, Calif.; a brother, Frank Buckley, of Basking Ridge, N.J. A sister, Jean Hazelton, of Woodstock, predeceased her. She was expecting her first great grandchild in April. Private cremation arrangements were through Roney Funeral Homes of Grafton. A memorial service will be held at a later date. There were no calling hours or visitations. Contributions in Mrs. Comey's memory may be made to UMass Memorial Medical Center Hospital Development Office, 119 Belmont St., Worcester, Massachusetts, 01605.

BUYING COINS
SEE US FOR YOUR HIGHEST OFFER

50 Years Experience
in Numismatics

•Collections •Accumulations
•Gold & Silver •Jewelry •Diamonds

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the sale of your holdings in an orderly and intelligent manner. In our 50 years of business we have built a reputation for honesty.
John W. Frink, Professional Numismatist
Member ANA, NENA

GREY CRANE RARE COINS & JEWELRY
LOCATED AT THE OLD MONTGOMERY WARD BUILDING
112 Main Street, Putnam, CT • (860) 963-7342
OPEN Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 10:00 to 4:30



Gilman Funeral Home
104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260

Valade Funeral Home
23 Main Street, North Grosvenordale, CT 06260

860-928-7723

Robert R. Fournier Jr. - Funeral Director
Locally Owned and Operated
Gilman-Valade LLC

Family Owned

Smith & Walker Funeral Home
Serving All Faiths
With Dignity
148 Grove Street
Putnam, CT 06260
Phone: 860-928-2442
1-888-595-2442


Steven W. Farnes
Licensed Funeral Director

Kathy S. Farnes
Office Manager



"Light a Candle"

www.smithandwalkerfh.com

10 Questions with Rev. Lisa Anderson

NEW PASTOR AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN BRINGS PERSONAL TOUCH TO CHURCH

BY TRACY F. SEELYE
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

BROOKLYN — The Rev. Lisa Anderson became full-time pastor for St. John Lutheran Church this month, following the retirement of Interim Pastor Mary Robinson. A celebration of New Ministry and installation of Anderson is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14.

Tell us something about your background.

"I have three brothers and a sister. I'm the youngest and so when I was about 12 I was already having nieces and nephews.



Anderson

And the family just kind of kept growing so I spent a lot of time, in my high school years, in particular, doing a lot of babysitting for my own nieces and nephews — and you don't get paid for that. It's shepherding of a sort. I had a lot of support from family. I grew up with four generations growing up in the same house [in Easton, Mass.]. Growing up with that was kind of a crazy household.

"We grew up very active in our church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in North Easton. I didn't do youth group much growing up, but I started teaching Sunday School when I was in high school. We had our option of going to Sunday School high school class or we could teach, and I love working with kids so I volunteered to teach. Once I started that, it was great. I started with another adult and within a year I was teaching on my own.

You have a degree in chemistry. How did you receive your calling to the ministry?

"I was going for my Ph.D. in chemistry. But I really did not want to teach. I didn't even take a teaching course during my undergraduate work. I liked the lab work, but when I got to graduate school at Worcester Polytechnic Institute I found what I enjoyed most was working as a teaching assistant, helping kids to understand what they had to do for labs. I ended up getting my teaching certificate.

"After eight years of teaching in Barnstable, Mass. — loved the teaching — I love working with youth as much as some people don't. Around my fifth or sixth year teaching I was also doing a youth ministry at a church. I was doing youth ministry conference-wide and synod-wide, which is all of New England.

I started to get these ideas of being a pastor and would dismiss it completely. I'm eight years into teaching, I'm finally getting myself out of the dregs financially and finally up to the decent pay level. I could just continue being active in the church. But it just kept gnawing at me, sometimes more than others. I was at a women's retreat with my sister-in-law, who kind of pushed me on it, which is something that good friends do. I finally admitted that I was in the process of deciding to go to the seminary. She just said, 'It's about time.' No one else was surprised; I was the one who was shocked.

How does the candidacy program work?

"It does everything from psychological exams you need to go through to make sure you know who you are, and that there are

no issues that could be troublesome. Pastors are placed in situations where you can be really enabling or caught up in some stuff. You have to know who you are and be really confident.

"That's part of [why few Lutheran pastors have been involved in sex scandals]. There have been some. The Lutheran Church takes it very seriously, actively regulating itself and it goes right to the police. It's an automatic. Their policy is much more open. In this synod we have to go through every three years a sexuality and safe conduct seminar. [The church doesn't] allow someone new to your church to work with children within the first year. A lot of churches are now more and more going toward fingerprints because the schools are doing that and so sexual predators need to find somewhere else, and churches are prime.

What brings you to Brooklyn?

"We're called, we're not appointed to a church. The bishop has paperwork from both the churches and the pastors that we fill out. They try to match up needs. A lot of what the bishop saw in me is my ability to help a church grow, do evangelism and really try to get out into the community. That was one of the things St. John wanted to start doing more. I had done that in my last couple of churches. Even though they were off the main road, nobody knew where they were. My only church in an urban area was my first call in Winston-Salem, N.C., and it just wasn't my style. I realized within a year or so it wasn't working well. I had enough trouble just getting my [20-member] church council's names down."

What do you most enjoy about being a pastor?

"I like the personal touch, I like knowing the names of my congregation. I like people feeling comfortable enough to come to me if they need to talk. There's not enough places out there to talk and, for some people even friends aren't a safe place. I've been trained to help people see where God is working in their lives. A lot of times they feel that God is not there, and I've experienced that in my own life. When I decided to go to seminary, there were quite a few barriers in my way, and finances were the least of them. I was born with a rare neurological disorder. Loud noises cause my muscles to go completely stiff. I couldn't get doctors to take me seriously and I was very frustrated and angry with God."

Is the Christmas season a more difficult time to take on a new church?

"This one's been a definite challenge, partly because I've had at least one funeral. It's difficult for liturgical churches. This is the feast of Advent and then Christmas starts Christmas Eve. Advent focuses more on prayer, and everyone is focused on Christmas, and so I'm trying to keep attention on a more prayerful time, more of a reflective time in our lives. Take a breather out of the busy Christmas time, but it still makes it a very hectic time for me. I'm trying to learn things, I'm trying to get involved with the community ... Not only this church, but religion as a whole offers people a chance to find meaning in their lives beyond the materialistic stuff people get into. God loves and accepts you as you are, and God encourages you to be the best you can be. So it starts where you're at, and lets you go

from there. Where else can you get that kind of acceptance?

What are your plans for this congregation?

"I'm just starting to put something together. I'm still learning about the congregation. They have really active committees — what I like to call teams — I kind of go with more of a sense of 'let's work together to do things. A team, to me, the focus is not on meetings. Teams work together to get things done. I'm still finding out who really does what around here ... The more people involved in doing things, the more they feel this is their church. Then looking to see what the needs are for the community. Not that we can solve them, but what can we do to help? And my hope would be not just in terms of Band-Aid approaches. Hats and mittens programs are wonderful things because they are needed for folks who don't have that. But also looking at what's the reason people are out on the streets, or what's the reason children have no food, and what can we do in this community? That we need to look at on an interfaith level, not just one church."

How do you decide on a sermon topic?

"I use what's called a lectionary. It's a three-year outline and we're in the third year right now. It basically gives us what scripture to use. The idea of a lectionary is, we use as much of the Bible as possible. It avoids a pastor getting used to using only certain passages of the Bible — prevents us from using only negative passages or leaning on only the good stuff. I spend time during the week using those lessons, studying them, reflecting, what words do I have to look up in the original Hebrew or Greek [for the root meaning]. Then I try to figure out what the scriptures have in common and how do they relate to the congregation's situation. I watch the news and read the papers every day and trying to see where it all connects. To me, it's sort of taking God's story which is outlined in scripture, my story in terms of my own personal life and where I see struggles and putting together where people in the congregation are — trying to work out where it all fits.

How has the reception been for you here?

"The congregation has been very welcoming. They've been very excited. It's been wonderful. I think they're ready. Things that happened in the past left them where they weren't doing a lot, and I think now they're looking to do some things, but they need some training."

At this time next year, what would you like to look back on as your biggest accomplishment?

"That I've gotten to know my congregation better, whether by visiting their homes or just here at church so I just have some sense of who they are. Involve more people in the congregation and looked at how we're going to get involved in the community and make the congregation grow.

"And I'm just now trying to figure out what that training needs to be. Everything from training, even ushers and greeters, so when someone new comes to church I am not the only one to say hi to them. It think this congregation is incredibly warm and welcoming, but as I've found in the past with any congregation if you are not looking to be attentive, people can fall through the cracks."

OBITUARIES

Palma Hemingway-Gauthier, 88

PUTNAM — Palma Hemingway-Gauthier, 88, of Arthur Street, died Thursday, Dec. 21, in Danielson.

She was the loving wife of the late Armand Hemingway and the late Joseph Gauthier.

Born in Dayville, Palma was the daughter of the late Wilfred and Ferdinanda (Briere) Billings.

Ms. Gauthier worked as a cashier for the former Wiess's Market for 15 years. She also worked for the former Pevner's Drug Store and Big G Supermarket.

She was a communicant of St. Mary's Church of the Visitation, and enjoyed playing cards and bingo.

She is survived by her son, Ronald A. Hemingway and his wife, Elizabeth, of Dayville, and her stepson, Richard

Gauthier, and his wife, Joan, of Port St. Lucie, Fla.

She was the sister of the late Rita Roireau, Lionel, Wilfred, Archie, Joseph, Waldo, Theodore and Normand Billings.

Relatives and friends visited with Palma's family Wednesday, Dec. 27, in the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam.

A gathering took place Thursday, Dec. 28 at the funeral home with a Funeral Mass in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam.

Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Dayville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CT Lions Eye Research Foundation, 330 Cedar St, P.O. Box 9268, New Haven, CT 06533.



Closest to Closet Fashions

Local & Internationally Known Designer
Clothing, Shoes & Accessories.
All articles clean and in
new or nearly new condition.
Affordable.

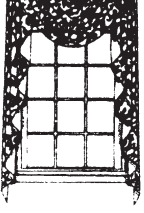
18 Furnace St. Danielson • Business # 860-774-5981

Closest to Closet Fashions
will no longer be open on Sundays starting Dec. 24, 2006.
However, we will be open on Mondays starting Jan. 8, 2007.

Hours of operation are as follows: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat 10am - 5pm

We at Closest to Closet Fashions wish to thank you for your patience with changes we have made since our opening.

We also would like to wish everyone a Very Happy and Safe New Year



Wellington Curtain

"Shop at Home Service"

- Curtains • Draperies • Blinds
- Shades • Hardware

**Tue-Fri 10-5
Sat 10-3**

**(860) 928-7475
Fax (860) 928-1110**

Joe and Jan Lefebvre
Route 171 Woodstock Avenue Plaza, Woodstock



The Lion and the Rose

New Age Emporium
Explore the New Age Philosophy
with a mind-opening eye view

SUNSEYE ESSENTIAL OILS
CANDLES, INCENSE, JEWELRY, BOOKS
TAROT & ORACLE CARDS
LARGE SELECTION OF ANGLES AND FAIRIES
WICCAN & PAGAN RITUAL PRODUCTS



**CALL FOR OUR
NEW WINTER
HOURS**

860-564-2077 Email: lionandrose@aol.com.
511 Norwich Rd., Rt.12 Plainfield, CT.



Antiques Marketplace

109 Main St & Route 44
Putnam, CT 06260
(860) 928-0442

Open 7 Days: 10 - 5
22,000 square feet
over 200 dealers
(exit 97, I 395)

Visit our web site: www.antiquesmarketplace.com



HULL FOREST PRODUCTS

101 Hampton Road
Pomfret Center, CT

An industry leader
in land conservation and management

- Professional forestry services
- Purchasing land, logs & timber
- Premium large plank flooring
- Hardwood & pine lumber
- Post and beam timbers
- Double ground bark mulch
- Sawdust & woodchips

Serving contractors,
homeowners and landowners
with the highest quality wood products
and land management services
for over 35 years.

For detailed information visit:
HullForest.com
or call 860-974-0127

Managing 8,500 Acres of
Smartwood™ Green Certified
Company Woodlands in Connecticut &
Massachusetts.



Your Local Outdoor Outfitter

Live in Concert Sat., Dec. 30th

THE JON BOLLES PROJECT
Acoustic Jam
FREE Show Starts @ 6pm
Refreshments served. *Bring the family, Fireworks after the show*

Located 21 Furnace St., Danielson, CT
or Shop Online at www.bikect.com
Store Hours: Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-2; Sun closed
1-860-774-6010

The Holidays are upon us at Clean & Clip Doggie Spa

Bring your best friend for
a grooming and take
home a 5x7 christmas picture
the slots are filling up
call 860-942-4471
to book an appointment

November 27th 2006
thru January 31st 2007





Holiday Bonfire

Thompson Recreation and the Community Fire
Department are sponsoring Thompson's first annual
Bonfire and "Fire for Fuel"
Join with your community to enjoy the
warmth and light of this holiday bonfire and
make a wish for the New Year.
Saturday, January 13, 2007
6-8 pm
Duhamel's Pond, Main St., North Grovenordale
(Parking in the Library Parking Lot & follow the sign)

- + Christmas trees will fuel the fire. Thompson residents may drop trees off anytime at the Thompson Landfill. Please place in the designated dumpster
- + Bring marshmallows to toast on a smaller campfire
- + Hot Chocolate and Baked Goods will be available for purchase from the Ladies Auxiliary and TMS 6th Grade Project Graduation
- + Donations will also be accepted for the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group Private Fuel Assistance Fund
- + Snow Date: January 20, 2007

Questions? Contact Thompson Recreation at 860/923-9440
Assistance provided by Thompson Together with funds from the William Caspar Griswold Foundation



EMPIRE BUFFET

Chinese Restaurant

928-2101
62 I Providence Pike (Rt. 44)
Putnam Parkade

Open Mon-Thurs 11am-10:30pm
Fri-Sat 11am-11pm Sunday 11am-10pm
Gift Certificates Available

Appetizer, Soup, Boneless Ribs, Crab Legs, Mussels, Shrimp, Sushi, Dumplings,
Lo Mein, Mei Fun, Fresh Fruit, Assorted Desserts, and Much More!

Lunch Buffet Adult \$5.95 Children 3 yrs \$1.50 - .50 per yr. over	10% OFF
Dinner Buffet Adult \$8.95 Children 3 yrs \$2.10 - .70 per yr. over	
Sunday Dinner \$8.95 All Day!	Any Purchase Dine-In or Take-Out Not to be combined with any other offer One coupon per person Expires 11/30/06

*** Voted Best Chinese Restaurant in Windham County - Connecticut Magazine ***

SPORTS YEAR IN REVIEW: 2006

Year to remember for the Clippers

BY BENJAMIN R. KIPP
VILLAGER SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — For Putnam high school, the past year was definitely a year to remember. The Lady Clippers' basketball team made a run at a Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) class small title, but fell short to Wheeler. Their record was good enough to play in the state Class "S" tournament as Shelby Gomes and Miah Manning led the Lady Clippers. They could only make it to the second round and were beat by Old Lyme 41-31, ending what both Gomes and Manning hoped would be a "banner year" by hanging a banner in the Putnam gymnasium. Laurie Neal and Diana Ortiz also played key roles all season long.

By far the biggest accomplishment of last year has to go to the boys' basketball team. After a loss to Woodstock in the ECC conference tournament, the Clippers felt they had something to prove in the state tournament. Colin Purdon led the way for the Clippers, finishing 13th all-time leading scorer at Putnam high school with 812 points. Purdon, along with Brandon Kress, Dan Vasbinder, Konrad Lueders and current captain Tim Sabourin, capped off an outstanding season by playing in the state championship game. Each of the seniors came up huge in their championship run. They ran into Hartford Sports and Medical Science Academy, Norwich Tech and Northwest Regional en route to a Plainville team that went into the playoffs with a 8-12 record. The championship game was a see-saw battle with no team taking a huge advantage, but in the end Plainville outlasted the Clippers, 64-61.

Head boys coach Tony Falzarano was inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Hall of Fame for being fourth all-time for victories in the state of Connecticut. Not only does it speak well of Putnam high school, but for the dedication Falzarano has displayed and currently displays to the boys basketball program at Putnam high school.

Freshmen lady tracksters Ariel Pelletier and Sara Jean Louis capped off an outstanding track season by making it states. Pelletier qualified in the 100m dash. Her 14.1-second time placed her 16th out of 23 runners. Louis made it to states in the long jump. She placed ninth out of 25 jumpers with a 14-foot, 9-inch jump.

Shelby Gomes and Colin Purdon were

female and male athletes of the year at Putnam high school. Gomes was a three sport athlete competing in volleyball, basketball and softball.

Gomes was also named honorable mention all-ECC in volleyball. Purdon was a two-sport athlete, also playing soccer. He earned first team all-ECC as a point guard.

Laurie Neal and Tim Crosby were given scholar athlete awards for 2006.

Alex Morrill was also named to the ECC all-academic all star team.

A minor blow was dealt to the Clippers when football coach Rich Bowen resigned his position in late spring. He had hoped to be closer to the school but when a things didn't work out he felt it was best to let go. In his two years the team only won one game, so the program had nowhere else to go but up.

The Clippers quickly worked on the situation and Greg LaBelle was hired as the new football coach. Senior captains Pat Murray, Tyler White and Chris Roberts had a high level of optimism. LaBelle also felt the Putnam program could turn around with a solid showing this year. The season started great, almost too good. A 40-0 win over Wright Tech, and a 14-13 win over a Montville team that was considered by many a favorite to win the ECC small conference and go to the playoffs, was the Clippers biggest win in the past five years. They then lost their next four games before beating Woodstock and Tourtellotte. Their last two games against Plainfield and rival Killingly were disappointing because one win in either of those two games would have meant a .500 season. However, they lost both, finishing 4-6 overall and 3-4 in the ECC small, which was a huge improvement from the past five years.

The girls' soccer team qualified for post-season play. They won their first two games against Shepaug Valley and Chaplin in the



The Clippers advanced all the way to the finals in the state tournament last season, losing to Plainville 64-61.

state playoffs. They then played their third game in five days, losing 2-0 to a much fresher and well-rested Cromwell Panthers team. Seniors Lindsay Trudeau, Racheal Skowron, Alena Phongsa, Krista DiVincenzo, Bethany Lee and Stephanie Bousquet led the team that made it farther than any other team in the past four years.

Phongsa was awarded with All-Conference soccer honors for her defensive presence in front of goalie DiVincenzo

Overall, the Clippers had a very successful year. Even though there were disappointments in other sports, the Clippers had many things to be pleased about last year.



Thank you everyone for a wonderful year!

Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous New Year!!

WONDERLAND BOOKS

120 Main Street,
Putnam, CT 06260
860.963.2600

*****Don't Get Snowed In*****

BORSKI

Snow Plowing & Sanding Services
Residential/Commercial

Other Services

Residential/Commercial Trash Service 2 Yard 4 Yard 6 Yard 8 Yard 10 Yard	Roll-Off Containers 10 Yard 15 Yard 20 Yard	Clean-Out Services Removal of All Unwanted Items: Attics - Cellars - Garages Estates - Apartments Construction Debris
--	---	--

Please Call for a Free Estimate 860-963-0444
MASTERCARD & VISA ACCEPTED
*****Don't Get Snowed In*****

GETTING TO KNOW ...

Krista DiVincenzo

AGE: 17

SPORTS: Soccer, basketball, and color guard.

SCHOOL: Putnam High School

Stranded on an island, name a magazine or book, CD, movie and friend that you would want with you...."
Cosmopolitan, Beyonce, Save The Last Dance, and Stephanie Bousquet, Alena Phongsa, Racheal Skowron, Lindsey Trudeau and Bethany Lee.

What is your nickname?
Kris or Rista.

Pick one: PlayStation, Xbox, iPod, mp3, Game Cube or cell phone.
Cell phone.

Who is number one on your speed dial?
My house.

Is cheerleading a sport?
Yes.

Favorite store in the mall?
American Eagle.

If you had a free ticket to any event, where would you go?
Justin Timberlake concert.

Name something you do that always annoys another member of your family:
I mumble.

Finish the sentences:
"The thing I most like about myself is ... " personality.

"If I wasn't playing basketball, I would be" playing soccer.

— Compiled by Sports Correspondent Benjamin R. Kipp

PHS WEEK AHEAD

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 29 — Clipper Classic: TBA, 5:30 p.m. (consolation), 7 p.m. (championship)
Tuesday, Jan. 2 — vs. Wheeler, 7 p.m. (no freshman game)
Friday, Jan. 5 — at St. Bernard, 7 p.m.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Saturday, Dec. 30 — Clipper Classic: TBA, 5:30 p.m. (consolation), 7 p.m. (championship)
Wednesday, Jan. 3 — at Wheeler, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5 — vs. St. Bernard, 7 p.m.

Junior varsity games start 90 minutes before varsity contests. Home games will be played in the Putnam High School gymnasium.

SCORE CORNER

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 22 — vs. Plainfield, W (48-46)

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 21 — at Plainfield, W (52-42)

Congratulations to the Clippers on a successful 2006!

From our family to yours wishing you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Enchanted Jewelry

104 Main Street • Danielson, CT
(860)774-0545

Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10:00-5:30
Saturday 10:00-3:00

SPORTS

Lady Clippers to rely on captain leadership

BY BENJAMIN R. KIPP
VILLAGER SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The play of any high school team falls back on the leadership of the team. For the Lady Clippers' basketball team, their success this season depends on senior captains Heather Broussard, Stephanie Bousquet, Bethany Lee and Krista DiVincenzo.

All four have been playing basketball from an early age. Broussard and Lee not only live next door to each other, they also have been lifelong friends. They even played together at Putnam Middle School, while Bousquet and DiVincenzo live close to one another and played at St. Mary's School. All four have also been teammates on Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) teams.

The seniors bring unique personalities and trademarks to both practices and games. "We're all friends," Broussard said. "We basically know what we want to do."

DiVincenzo has been a three-year varsity performer. Most of her playing time in the past came off the bench to spark the offense with three-pointers. This year, DiVincenzo's hard work has paid off, because she is consistently in the starting lineup for games.

According to coach Willie Bousquet, DiVincenzo's ball handling and rebounding skills have been the two biggest areas she has improved upon, and she will be expected to have a solid campaign this year.

"She probably takes instruction the best," said the coach. "She brings an intensity level to the game that we appreciate when she's on the floor."

Broussard has been labeled the most "versatile" of the Lady Clippers. She can handle the ball when needed, rebound on both sides of the court, pass well, and play the postposition on offense.

"She's good with driving to the basket, and a smart defensive player," said coach Bousquet, "and she's left handed."

Broussard is the only three-sport athlete among the four, also playing on the Clippers' soccer and softball teams.

Lee has been the starting center the past two years. Last year, she narrowly missed out on All-Eastern Connecticut Conference honors, averaging 10 points a game. So far this year, she has had a 20-point game against Tourtellotte and a 12-point game against Stonington. Lee is an emotional player, always trying to rally the girls when things seem to be down.

"She's our top returning scorer, and has the best interior moves of anyone on our team," said coach Bousquet.

Stephanie Bousquet, Willie Bousquet's daughter, has been playing varsity basketball since her freshman year.

She has led the team in assists and "taking charges" the past two years, and defensively, she draws the opponent's best player. She is also the team's main ball handler, which means "as she goes, so does the team," said her coach.

"Good decisions usually means good results," Willie Bousquet said.

Responsibility is the word both Broussard and Lee used to described what it has been like to be a captain this year. It's also a role that both of them wanted.

"It was always something that showed. I stuck with it," said Broussard.

"Definitely," Lee added. "I've been looking forward to it for the past three years."

Serving as a role model for underclassmen is also a role both enjoy.

This year's captains have a knack for putting the burden upon themselves to become better. They had three goals before the season started. First, start the

season strong. In their opening game against rival Tourtellotte, the Tigers left with a 44-24 loss.

The second was to be in the best physical shape possible. Once a week, a conditioning coach has come in to help condition Putnam for the season — something the team did not have last year.

The final goal was to capture the ECC Small division crown.

"We'll be in the thick of it, just like we were last year," said coach Bousquet.

"Win the ECC Small, and go far in the conference and state tournaments," Broussard explained.

If there is one thing missing from this year's captains, they admitted, it is becoming a better outside shooting team. Bousquet said he is confident that between DiVincenzo and Stephanie Bousquet, the ability to become a better outside shooting team is well within their grasp as the season proceeds.

As captains, communicating to underclassmen is the biggest challenge, both in practice and during a game. But having four captains makes it easy to overcome because there are enough players on the floor to make sure the message is received.

Broussard, Stephanie Bousquet, Lee and DiVincenzo are a tight-knit group, both on and off the court. On game days, they get together and wear a certain color or article of clothing to show the school that they are playing.

Willie Bousquet also talked about heart, and how his group shows a lot of heart during games. The Clippers, on most nights, are smaller than their opponent, but they make up for the size by playing with heart — a quality that cannot be coached.

Friendship Dairies to award \$20K in college scholarships

Friendship All Natural Cottage Cheese & Sour Cream will award a total of \$20,000 in scholarship money to 16 eligible high school seniors across Connecticut who plan to attend an accredited college or university in the fall 2007 semester. The scholarship money awarded will range from \$1,000 - \$3,000 each, with two winners in each county statewide (contingent upon eligibility requirements being met).

The eighth annual Project Friendship Scholarship serves as a thank you to Connecticut residents for supporting Friendship All Natural Cottage Cheese, Sour Cream and its other fine dairy products. The deadline to submit applications for the scholarship is Friday, March 16.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be graduating high school seniors residing in Connecticut, and selection criteria is based on academic achievement (3.0 or higher grade point average) and a demonstration of school and community leadership and helping to promote a safe and friendly environment.

In addition to submitting a completed Project Friendship Scholarship Application, students will be required to submit the following:

- A four-year high school transcript to date;
- Letter of reference from a teacher or counselor who is familiar with the student's academic ability. An additional reference from a community leader who is familiar with the student's volunteer activities is optional;
- A detailed list of school and community volunteer work; and
- An essay (500 words or less) explaining how they have made their high school a friendlier place and/or how they plan to use their education to make the world a friendlier place.

Applications post marked after the March 16 deadline will not be considered.

For more information on Project Friendship Scholarship and to obtain an application, students can visit their school's guidance counselor, visit Friendship's web site at www.friendship-dairies.com, or call (516) 719-4000, ext. 208. — Submitted by Friendship Dairies.

HYDE WINS EVERGREEN LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

WOODSTOCK — The football team of Hyde School, a national leader in character-based education, has taken home the Evergreen League Southwest Division's award for Sportsmanship this fall. The honor was awarded during the Fall Sports Recognition Banquet on Thursday, Dec. 14.

"We learned from sportsmanship how to be a man," varsity football quarterback Steve Dik said in his remarks at the awards ceremony. In her address to the school, Head of School Laura Gauld said, "It is clear that there was a lot of growth this fall. We believe that we are winners and we have to go after that and never quit. We don't all have the star talent, but everybody has the ability to play a key role."

— Submitted by Hyde School



THE VILLAGER

There is no better source to find out what your local team did last week!

Got scoops?
Feed our appetite!
Call (860) 928-1818.

KimberKids
NEW STORE NOW OPEN
www.kimberkids.com

New and Used Quality
Kids Clothing & Furnishings
Toys • Maternity Clothes
Consignments Welcome
Kid Friendly Environment
All Clothing Prewashed

Hours: M-W 10-5, Th 12-8, F 10-3, Sat 10-3
Located in the Jolly Commons
144 Wauregan Rd., Killingly, CT (860)779-0103

DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS

A	S	S	T		M	O	P	E	D		U	S	P	S	
C	L	U	E		A	F	I	R	E		L	O	O	P	
N	O	R	E		A	S	T	E	R	S		S	L	U	R
E	W	E		D	O	E	R		E	N	T	I	T	Y	
				B	O	N	N		G	R	E	E	D		
S	H	E	A	R	S			W	A	T	E	R	S	K	I
T	E	A	S	E		M	E	T	E	D		O	A	R	
E	L	S	E		S	E	D	E	R		E	U	R	O	
A	L	T		S	T	A	G	S		B	A	T	O	N	
L	O	O	P	H	O	L	E		R	A	S	H	L	Y	
				F	L	A	W	S		A	E	R	Y		
O	N	E	I	D	A			A	L	S	O		P	R	O
W	A	D	E		W	E	S	T		I	N	D	I	E	S
E	V	E	R		A	V	I	A	N		O	P	A	L	
D	E	N	S		Y	E	A	R	S		N	E	R	O	

OUR STAND

YOU HAVE MORE THAN JUST A CAR.
MAYBE YOU NEED A COMPANY
THAT HAS MORE THAN JUST CAR INSURANCE.

Call me today to see how much you could save with Allstate's home & auto discounts
(860)564-3383

Kevin Trahan
140 NORWICH ROAD
PLAINFIELD
a010213@allstate.com

Serving the community for over 20 years

Allstate.
You're in good hands.

Discount and insurance offered only with select company and subject to availability and qualification. Allstate Insurance Company, Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company and Allstate Indemnity Company, Northbrook, IL 60060 Allstate Insurance Company.

Got Wood?

• Heat multiple buildings — home, business, garage, shed, barn, workshop, pool & greenhouse with a Central Boiler Outdoor Wood Furnace
Central Boiler is the leading manufacturer of outdoor wood furnaces in North America.

The Difference is our Quality and our Service.

Season's Greetings!
Have a Happy & Healthy New Year!

MAINE LINE HEATING & SUPPLY
5 Stone House Rd., Stafford Springs, CT
(860) 684-6579
Financing is Available. Call for Details.
www.mainlineheatingandsupply.com

Sometimes All Your Appliance Needs is a Minor Repair!!

NOW AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL FRONT LOAD WASHERS

JT's We Service All Makes & Models
Appliance & Computer Repair
AHAM • NARDA • MCP

22 Woodstock Ave. (Rt. 171), Woodstock, CT • (860) 928-4148

WE BEAT ALL DEALS
TRI-STATE
TOYOTA • SCION • DODGE

Announces the return of Bob Baillargeon To the Sales Team

"For your best deal on a new or pre-owned vehicle - come see me in Dudley."

All credit applications accepted

Bob invites all his previous customers to see him in Dudley!

SHOWROOM HOURS:
Mon-Thurs 8-8 Fri 8-7
Sat 8-5 Sunday 12-4
1-800-339-2321
tcushing@krausecars.com

TRI-STATE
TOYOTA • SCION • DODGE
191 West Main St. Dudley, MA

Get back on the fast track

It's time to complete your degree — at Nichols College.

- the top business school in Central Mass.
- over 80 undergrad courses available
- ideal options for working adults
- Worcester, Auburn, Dudley, or online

www.nichols.edu
800-243-3844

NICHOLS COLLEGE

Your Success Is Our Business

CHACE BUILDING SUPPLY

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

90 Route 171 • Woodstock, CT • 860.928.2747
16 Route 74 • Willington, CT • 860.487.6207
114 Plainfield Pike • (Rte 14A) • Plainfield, CT

CHACE HOME DECOR
624 Route 12 • Plainfield, CT • 860.564.2049
Formerly, Interior Connections

www.chacebuildingsupply.com

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2006

REVIEW

continued from page A1

definition graphics — reached Putnam, as about a dozen people waited outside the Wal-Mart on School Street (Route 44) to make sure they could buy one.

One of the people in line, 21-year-old Michael Penkala of Webster, Mass., nearly paid the ultimate price for that after a couple of robbers shot him in the shoulder. Penkala would spend a week in the University of Massachusetts-Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, Mass., then return home to endless requests for interviews. He received a free Sony PlayStation 3 from Putnam Wal-Mart manager Michael Douglas.

Three men accused by Connecticut State Police of being involved in the robbery — Armando Guzman, 29, of Southbridge, Mass., William Robertson, 20, of Woodstock and Andrew Patnaude, 17, of Putnam — will face more court dates in 2007 on several charges they are facing.

LIFE AT SCHOOL

The Putnam public school system grabbed its share of headlines in 2006, from a several-months battle over its fiscal 2006-07 budget to a growing agreement among town and school officials on the need for a new high school.

From the time the Board of Education first presented its budget in February to the moment it was approved by voters at a referendum July 25, both sides geared up for a bruising and hard-fought battle.

Members of the Putnam Taxpayers Association objected to the \$14,834,000 budget presented in February — and the 2-mill increase that would have accompanied it. After two unsuccessful referendum votes — and a \$500,000 budget increase that disappeared after one of them — an additional \$159,000 was trimmed through health insurance savings and a reduction in the special education account.

The results of the first budget referendum galvanized one group in town, many members of which were not old enough to vote: students at Putnam High School. More than 100 students staged a walkout May 24 and demanded answers from Superintendent of Schools Margo M. Marvin and Viens in front of Town Hall.

After initially opting not to punish them for leaving school property without permission, Marvin and Principal Linda Joyal decided to give each of them one day's detention.

Against the wishes of Chairman Michael K. Morrill, the Board of Education approved a \$14,225,000 budget in August that did not include a \$25 fee to play sports at Putnam High School. The move was symbolic in some ways, since the fee would have raised about \$10,000 of the \$244,431 annual athletic budget.

This year's budget also eliminated or did not fill six positions across the district, although only two people ended up losing their jobs.

While Marvin and Joyal were on the same side when it came to disciplining students who walked out of school in May, they found themselves at odds a few months later.

Amidst rumors of disagreements between the two over an evaluation, Joyal resigned as high school principal in September and took the vacant assistant principal's post.

Despite talk among, and a petition from, students to the contrary, Marvin and Morrill claim the superintendent did not ask Joyal to resign as principal.

Former Bolton High School Principal Joseph Fleming is finishing up his time as the school's interim leader. William Barry, an assistant principal at South Windsor High School, was chosen in November as Putnam High School's new principal. He will take over Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Before that, in February, Selectman David Coderre painted a scary picture of Putnam High School — fights between students from Putnam and other communities, a gang roaming the halls of Putnam High School and attacks on students outside of school

— as he tried to urge his board to support the hiring of a police officer for the school system. Once Coderre's words hit the media, Joyal and students claimed the school was — as Joyal put it — “not dangerous.” Even Coderre backtracked somewhat from his statements, saying, “We don't want to paint the picture that our schools are out of control. Maybe it came across that way. I think our educators are doing as well as they can. We have had changes in our school system and in society in general that our school hasn't kept up with.”

In November, Marvin and the Putnam Education Association (the union that represents almost all of Putnam's 114 teachers) announced they are working out concerns union members expressed in a survey earlier this year that gave failing marks to several aspects of Marvin's job performance.

The results of that survey led to the union approving Nov. 17, 81-12, a vote of no confidence in Marvin. Once the calendar flips to 2007, the school district will send out a request for architects and engineers to help the school and town figure out if a new Putnam High School is needed — and, if so, what should be done with the current 55-year-old facility on Woodstock Avenue.

Viens envisions a so-called “campus environment,” with the three public schools and the Putnam Public Library located within walking distance of each other. The key to that plan is a 35-acre piece of town-owned land off Sabin Street, near the elementary and middle schools.

Viens said in March he didn't believe Putnam needed a new high school right away, but he changed his

mind a few weeks later after taking a tour of the building. He said in April he was “really kind of taken aback” by the condition of the school, such as the “antiquated” science labs.

People around Putnam High School — and the town of Putnam — were smiling in March, when the high school boys' basketball team reached the state Division IV championship game in March at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. Facing a tough Plainville team, the squad had plenty of support, including teachers and administrators, parents, Putnam fans and the Z-Crew student cheering section. Although Plainville won, 64-61, the people who filled the Putnam High School cafeteria after the game (many still sporting the school colors of blue and white) were proud of what the Putnam boys had accomplished — reaching the state championship for the first time in a decade.

QUIET CORNER ROBBERIES

Robbers found banks in southern Worcester County in Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut, including Putnam, an attractive target, with eight heists since June.

Five of them occurred in Putnam: three at the Westbank at 7 Providence Pike (Route 44), and two at the People's Bank inside the Super Stop & Shop down the street from Westbank.

After the People's Bank heists, the bank took no chances, hiring a state trooper to keep watch over customers and employees. Meanwhile, police work to solve the cases, and arrested Jason R. Bachand of Oxford, Mass., for one of the People's Bank robberies.

The suspects for the other two robberies at the East Putnam Westbank, on June 7 and Aug. 19, and the July 25 heist at People's Bank, remain at large.

Anyone with information on the unsolved holdups should call State Police Troop D in Danielson at 779-4900, or its 24-hour anonymous tip line at 779-4944.

ZONING AND BUILDINGS

A day after the town ushered in a new supermarket, it took a look at its past. The Zoning Commission, after months of discussion and negotiation with local mill owners, voted Aug. 16 to create an Industrial Heritage Overlay District (IHOD), which would “provide incentives for the redevelopment of our six mill properties, and at the same time ensure that those properties will be preserved in a manner architecturally consistent with their history,” Putnam Economic Development Director Norman MacNeill said in February.

The zone contains six former mill complexes that each date back more than a century: the Monohansett Mill on Canal Street, the Cargill Falls Mill on Pomfret Street (Route 44), the Morse Mill on Morse and Church streets, the Belding Mill on Providence Street (Route 171), and the Rhodes and Nightingale mills on Kennedy Drive. All six mills are on the Putnam River Mills Heritage Trail.

Later in the year, a group of Five Mile River Road residents voiced their objections to a proposal from Whitinsville, Mass.-based Unistar Properties to build 34 single-family houses on 62 acres of land at the junction of Five Mile River Road and Old Moffitt Road.

The Inland Wetlands Commission rejected the plan in October, but Unistar filed a lawsuit over the decision — then filed an amended plan for 33 houses.

NEW FACES AROUND TOWN

Every organization has its share of staff turnover, and the town of Putnam was no exception.

The year began with a new mayor, who took over for seven-term Mayor Daniel S. Rovero.

The town almost lost its town clerk, Sara J. Seney, when she was named the top candidate in January for the Killingly town clerk post. But, a few weeks later, Town Manager Bruce Benway withdrew her name from consideration and did not immediately give a reason.

That angered Seney, who said at the time, “The real disappointment wasn't not getting the job. It was the humiliation, I feel.”

Assistant Town Manager Kimberly Darigan admitted in May the search process had become “too public,” and the Town Council decided to start it again from scratch.

“It kind of leaked and spiraled,” Darigan said at the time. “Obviously, that doesn't bode well for any search. It makes the credibility of

the search questionable.”

The second time, the top candidate was Seney's assistant, Killingly resident Elizabeth Wilson. This time, the integrity of the search was not questioned, and Wilson was appointed town clerk a short time later.

In March, William Pearsall was appointed Putnam's town historian. He replaced longtime historian Robert Miller, who stepped down in December 2005 after 17 years.

In May, Police Chief Edward Perron announced his retirement after 39 years at the police department, 21 of them as chief. His second in command, Capt. Ricky L. Hayes, was named interim chief upon Perron's retirement May 15 — a title Hayes held for four months, because in September he was named the permanent chief.

The summer saw Mary Brumbaugh retire from the Putnam Public Library after 45 years, 26 of them as director, and Woodstock Selectman Delpha Very accept a part-time position as a grant writer, based in the Economic Development office.

In September, Priscilla Colwell, director of the Babcock Library in Ashford, accepted the Putnam library director's post. Until she took over Sept. 29, Children's Librarian Tina Aubin served as interim director.

Earlier this month, Economic Development Director Norman MacNeill announced he would step down in February to become executive director of the Quachita Partnership for Economic Development (OPED) in Camden, Ark.

Two vacancies on the Board of Education were filled in 2006, bringing it back up to its full nine-person membership. Andrew Peterson, 37, was appointed in February to fill the seat left open when fellow Republican Veronica A.C. Martish resigned. In October, Democrat Robert Barden was appointed to fill Lillian Newth's seat. She resigned in July, citing her husband's health, about a year after she returned to the board from a 10-year absence.

STORE CLOSINGS

The family-owned business in Putnam suffered a couple of setbacks in 2006.

After more than a century on Providence Street (Route 171), Viens Pharmacy closed March 30 after it was bought by Rhode Island-based Brooks Pharmacy, which already had a location at 12 South

Main St. (Route 12). Some members of the Viens clan objected to the sale, with the mayor, who owns the building, promising to reopen the family pharmacy when Brooks' lease runs out in mid-2007. The two Brooks stores are supposed to be combined in one location at the former First National supermarket at Riverfront Commons.

In September, the owners of PJ's Donuts announced they were closing after nearly three decades on Kennedy Drive. One reason given by Philip and Laurie Stefanides for their decision was increased competition in town — including another coffee shop, a new Price Chopper supermarket that sells coffee and doughnuts, and the town's fourth Dunkin' Donuts, all down the street from the doughnut shop. As of mid-December, the former home of PJ's Donuts was still vacant.



File photo

Police search the scene of a shooting at the Putnam Wal-Mart Saturday, Nov. 17 after Webster, Mass. native Michael Penkala was shot while waiting in line for the release of the PlayStation 3 video game console.



File photo

The former Viens Pharmacy on Route 171 became Brooks Pharmacy in March. Viens Pharmacy was in operation for more than 100 years.



Marvin



Joyal

VillagerNewspapers.com

Serving communities in the "Quiet Corner" of Northeastern Connecticut

Welcome to Villager Newspapers online.
Your source for all "Quiet Corner" News. Please click on any of our Publications below to read online or download weekly issues.
Free of charge! Acrobat Reader Required - Broadband recommended.
Don't have Acrobat Reader? Click here to download

About Us
About us
Staff Directory
Jobs Available

About Our Site
Archives
Local Links

Stonebridge Press
Auburn News
Blackstone Valley Tribune
Southbridge Evening News
Spencer New Leader
Webster Times
Winchendon Courier
Salmon Press (NH)

Town-to-Town Classified
Section can now be viewed as a separate file. Simply click on the link under the sections or Click Here.

Newsroom Staff
Here's how to reach us:
Villager Newspapers

PUTNAM VILLAGER

Putnam native killed in Afghanistan

Editor and head again for Dorset

Place for credit is crowded one first

I read more take than at 100,000

College more costly for seniors

WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

BRE's delivery contract, retention

Planned killed by roadside explosion

Sweet girls

I read more take than at 100,000

College more costly for seniors

THOMPSON VILLAGER

In case for the holidays

Enlisted soldier killed in action in Afghanistan

KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Filling the Pantry

Enlisted soldier killed in action

VILLAGER WEB SITE FREE FOR ALL

Villager Newspapers has unveiled an improved Web site for all four editions at www.villagernewspapers.com. The easy-to-use site allows anyone to read the four weekly editions of the paper — the Putnam Villager, Woodstock Villager, Thompson Villager and Killingly Villager — exactly as they appear on people's doorsteps each Friday, and at no charge. All you need is Adobe Acrobat Reader software, which can be downloaded from the site.

Also available are information about the paper and its staff, a list of local links, and the Town-to-Town Classified section.

We thank you for your support of Villager Newspapers and our Web site, and hope you enjoy our new site.