

Haddam Killingworth News

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COVERING HADDAM, HIGGANUM, HADDAM NECK AND KILLINGWORTH Copyright ©2020 Haddam Civic League LLC

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Historical society hosts scavenger hunt Labor Day weekend

By Elizabeth Hart Malloy, Executive Director, Haddam Historical Society

The Haddam Historical Society is hosting a family/group scavenger hunt over Labor Day Weekend to inspire residents to learn more about the heritage of their community and what makes it so special. Groups will be tasked to "hunt" for remnants of our past and legacy items we honor today. The adventure may bring you to places you have never visited or teach you about people who had a significant effect on our town's character. Groups will be able to com-

plete the "hunt" at their own pace over the three-day weekend.

Clues will be distributed on Saturday morning at the Thankful Arnold House Museum. Registration is required for a nominal fee of \$10 per group/family. All groups who complete the "hunt" will receive a prize and entered in a grand prize drawing.

Sample Question: The Green School House is located at foot of Candlewood Hill Road in the center of Higganum. Note how it has one door for boys and another door for girls. Once located across the street on Hig-

ganum Green it was moved shortly after Higganum Union School was built in 1894. Question? When was the building erected according to the plaque on the front?

Tickets also available online at www.haddamhistory.org or <https://haddamhistoryscavengerhunt.eventbrite.com/> (Clues will be emailed)

Please practice social distancing and all Covid-19 protocols. The event is sponsored by Christopher J. Smith, Alter & Pearson, LLC, Glastonbury and Central Systems, Inc., Fire Protection, Higganum.

Killingworth Author Karen Perry: *The Green Beach File*

By Kathy Brown

You may know Karen Perry, of Killingworth, because she is the mother of four very active boys in Killingworth. You may know Karen because she was on the RSD #17 Board of Education for four years, serving as the Board Chair for two of those. You may know Karen as a lawyer, or as a math teacher. Now you can get to know her as an author.

Karen Perry, who writes under the name K. A. Perry, has lived in Killingworth for 20 years with her husband and children. *The Green Beach File* is her first novel.

On breaks during college, Karen worked in an independent bookstore, "I thought of writing mysteries then," she explained. "That it would be really great to have a spot on the shelf in the mystery book section."

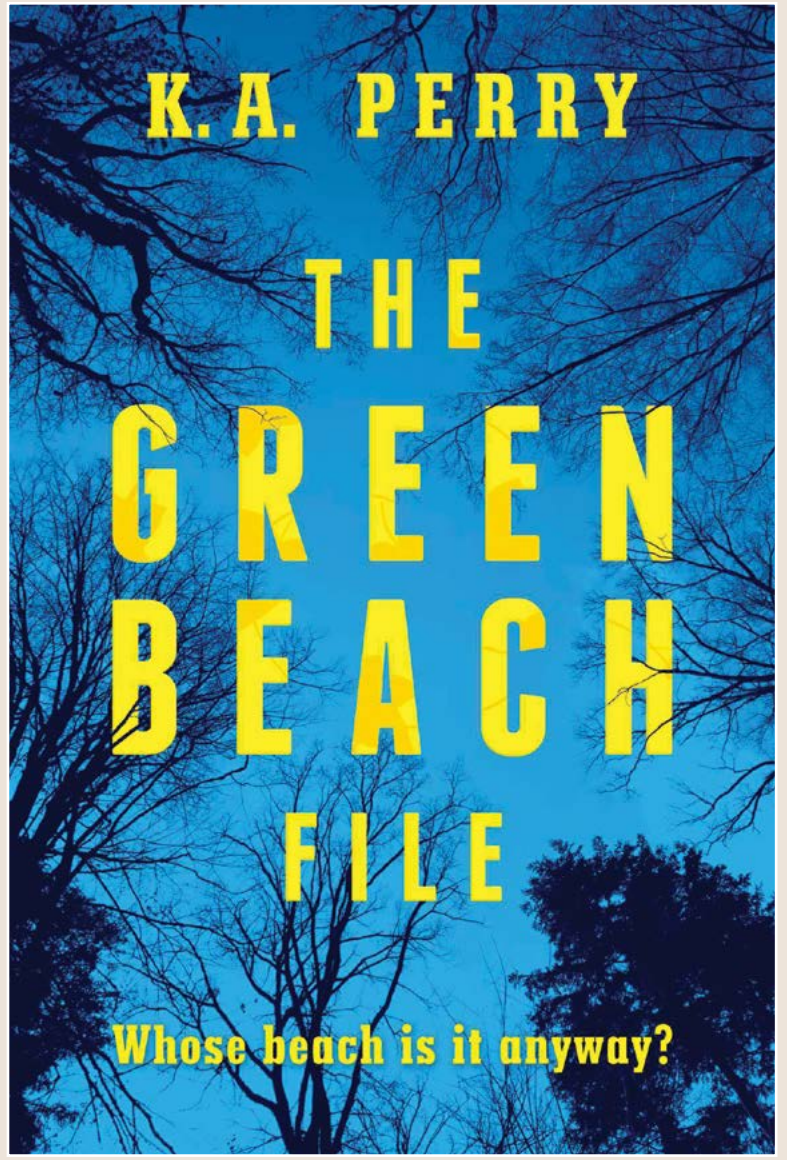
The Green Beach File is a mystery in the style of Philip R. Craig or Nevada Barr. It's not quite a cozy mystery in that the lead character, though she trips over a dead body, is more cerebral than the



Photos courtesy of Karen Perry.

typical heroine of a cozy mystery, though there is a little romance, as well as a few eccentricities in the heroine and her family. The heroine, Jenn Bowdoin, is a naturalist, as well as a lawyer well versed in environmental law, just like the author. "I practiced environmental law for over a decade with a large firm in Hartford," explained

Continued on page H4



In This Issue: Primary, recount results, Page H3 • Letters to the Editor, Page H5 • Board of Education, Page H6

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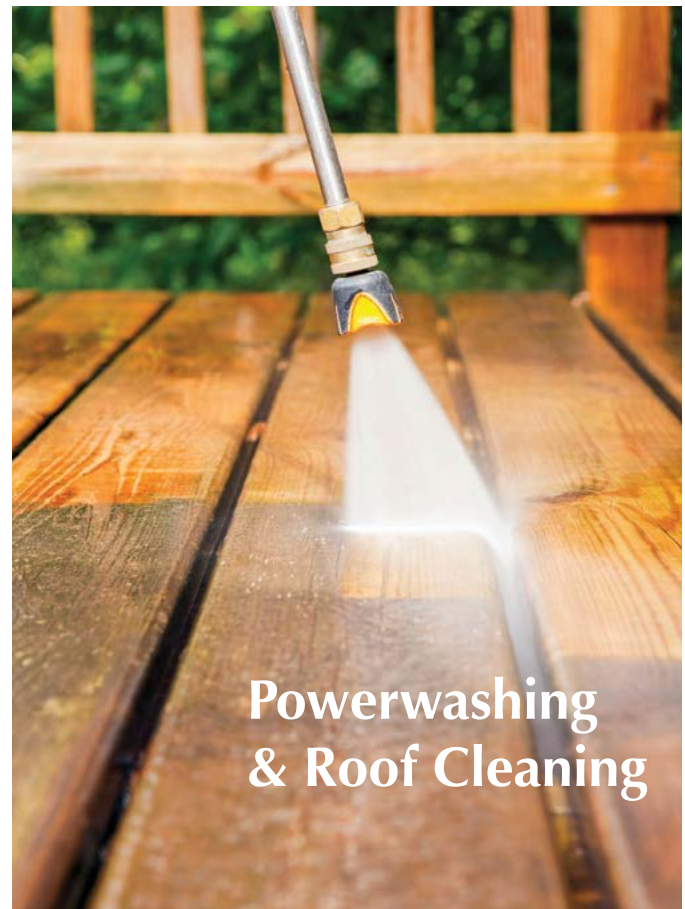
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Haddam, Killingworth Aug. 11 primary, recount results

From the Registrars of Voters of Haddam & Killingworth

Presidential primary

Democrat

	Haddam	Killingworth
Joe Biden	630	575
Bernie Sanders	124	73
Tulsi Gabbard	16	11

Republican

	Haddam	Killingworth
Donald Trump	364	251
Rocky De La Fuente	32	16

2nd Congressional District

	Haddam	Killingworth
Thomas Gilmer	157	140
Justin Anderson	221	141

Killingworth and Haddam have been notified that they must recount the 2nd congressional district votes by Tuesday, Aug. 18.

For Haddam, the Democrat voter turnout was 40.3%; the Republican voter turnout was 27.2%.

For Killingworth, the Democrat voter turnout was 50.6%; the Republican voter turnout was 24.4%.

2nd Congressional District Recount Results

Killingworth and Haddam were notified that they had to recount the 2nd congressional district votes by Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

These were the totals following the Primary.

2nd Congressional District

	Haddam	Killingworth
Thomas Gilmer	157	140
Justin Anderson	221	141

In Killingworth, the Registrar told us that there was no change in their count.

In Haddam, Gilmer and Anderson each received one vote from absentee ballots received after Aug. 11, but allowed by the state. Anderson received one vote because a voter used an "x" instead of filling in the oval, so the scanner didn't count it; voter intent was taken into consideration, and the vote was allowed. The new totals are:

2nd Congressional District

	Haddam	Killingworth
Thomas Gilmer	158	140
Justin Anderson	223	141

Also, in Haddam, Bernie Sanders picked up two more votes from overseas ballots.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE H1

Killingworth Author Karen Perry: *The Green Beach File*

Continued from page H1

Karen. Not only is she a former Chair of the Environmental section of the Connecticut Bar Association, but she has also served in each of its officer positions.

Readers in our area may notice that the fictitious town of Mayfield has a few similarities to Madison. But the characters and the issues portrayed are pure fiction. "I have no idea what gave me the idea for the book," said Karen, "but [I] have always had a pretty active imagination."

After practicing law for years, and after the birth of her third son, Karen

stayed home for a few years, then decided to go back to school to obtain her teaching certification for math through the Alternate Route to Certification. She has been teaching part time for three years, and she opened her own law firm in 2018 in Killingworth because the town was lacking a local one. Mostly, Karen practices real estate law, as well as trusts and estates, and an occasional environmental case.

Karen told Haddam-Killingworth News that it took her "a couple of years to write the book, and a couple of years to re-write it." With two part-time jobs and a family to take care of,

it can be difficult to find quiet time to write. "I often write when everyone else is sleeping," explained Karen. "Smack in the middle of the night, or in the early morning."

Of the main character, Karen says, "She is a naturalist. . . She notices the nature in every scene almost more than the people she interacts with, and it is nature itself which drives the plot towards its climax. Many Americans have been rediscovering nature during

the pandemic. Maybe besides an entertaining read, it will help folks recognize the restorative role nature plays in each of our own lives."

Will we see a sequel? Maybe. "I sure hope Jenn will keep tripping over dead bodies," said Karen. "I am working on a sequel, and I hope you will like how she gets drawn into the next mystery."

Check out *The Green Beach File* on Amazon.com or your favorite local independent bookseller.

Give your business a boost with an ad in the Haddam Killingworth News!

Killingworth Copes: multi-threat update

By Cathy Iino,
Killingworth First Selectman

We have a lot to cope with these days. The power is back on . . . again . . . for now . . . after Tropical Storm Isaias, but hurricane season has not yet peaked. The first mosquito carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis was trapped last week in Stonington. Two members of a weeklong camp held at the HK Intermediate/Middle School tested positive for COVID-19 after attending the camp for a couple of days just before Isaias shut down the camp (neither one was a Haddam or Killingworth resident). And one more Killingworth resident has tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total to 17. The individual is currently hospitalized.

That's why I've called this edition of Killingworth Copes a multi-threat update. We are strong, and we will keep up the fight on all fronts, but, sheesh. Enough already.

RSD17 school reopening

Our school district recently altered its original plan for reopening the schools this fall. The new, hybrid plan involves a mixture of in-person and remote

learning for all students in grades 2 through 12, and half-day, in-person school for kindergarten and grade 1, for the first month of the school year, which begins on September 1. Superintendent Holly Hageman explains the plan in detail on the RSD17 website. Superintendent Hageman writes, "Our goal will be to transition all grades to in-person learning after September 25th, and we will evaluate the appropriateness of that possibility based upon all relevant circumstances. We will aim to have decisions in place by mid-September for the model(s) to be in place beginning on Tuesday, September 29."

She encourages anyone with questions or comments to write to her at reopeningHKschools@rsd17.org

Eversource

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) held a public hearing via Zoom on Monday, Aug. 24, at 10 am to collect information and ask questions about Eversource's enormous July rate hike. PURA says it is reexamining that rate hike "to ensure that Eversource is not over-collecting revenues in the short term at the expense of ratepayers during this period of financial hardship."

Mosquito-borne illnesses

The recent rains are a blessing after many weeks of dry weather, but they do raise the risk of breeding mosquitoes carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, and other diseases. EEE, a rare but deadly disease, was a threat in our area last year and was recently found in a trap in Stonington. To reduce the risk of being bitten, avoid outdoor activities at dawn and dusk; wear protective clothing; and use insect repellents containing DEET. Maintain window screens, and prevent stagnant water from collecting in containers or elsewhere on your property. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as 24 hours.

Town Hall services

Although we are still admitting the public to Town Hall by appointment only, our staff is hard at work conducting all the services we normally provide. If you do not reach someone by phone (860-663-1765) during normal business hours—MTW 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Th 8:00 a.m. – 7 p.m.; F 8:00 a.m. – noon—please leave a message; we will get back to you. For emergencies, as always, dial 911.

Stay safe and carry on!

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH TOWN & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please visit www.haddam.org, www.townofkillingworth.com or haddam-killingworthnow.com for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes.

Thursday, August 27

Haddam ZBA Meeting, 7:30 p.m., remote access only

Friday, August 28

Higganum Farmer's Market, 3:30-6:30

p.m., former Haddam Elementary School

Saturday, August 29

Virtual Super Saturday Storytime, Killingworth Library, 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Monday, August 31

Reign It In, 3:30-5:30 p.m., HKYFS program

Tuesday, September 1

RSD #17 BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m., remote access only

Thursday, September 3

Haddam P&Z Meeting, 7:00 p.m., re-

note access only

Saturday, September 5

Scavenger Hunt, Haddam Historical Society, see article on page H1 for more details

Tuesday, September 8


Book Discussion, Killingworth Library, 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9

Haddam EDC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., remote access only

Thursday, September 10

Haddam Park & Recreation Meeting, 7:30 p.m., remote access only



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Before Your Next Home Improvement Project:
Some Important Steps to Take Before You Hire a Contractor

By Attorney Sylvia K. Rutkowska

With many of us spending more time in our homes, home improvement projects come to mind. Even in these financially challenging times, you may need to undertake repairs or improvements to preserve your property. You may even have already been approached by eager contractors with a "great deal".

Before you proceed, take some time now to do the following to help avoid painful and costly problems later.

No matter how much you like the contractor, or if he/she comes recommended:

1. Confirm licenses/registrations - see Department of Consumer Protection website.
2. Confirm *current* insurance
3. Get a copy of the *whole* contract in writing (not just an estimate), including:
 - a. Date when work will begin *and* be complete;
 - b. The price;
 - c. Notice of Customer's Right to Cancel within 3 business days; and
 - d. Signed and dated by *both* the contractor and home owner.
4. Make sure details important to you are in the written agreement, for example brand or quality of materials

The home improvement process can be exciting and challenging all the same time. The attorneys at Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C. are available for consultation on matters before or after the project.

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Jesse McLachlan, 35th District Rep., withdraws from 2020 election

To the people of Westbrook, Clinton, and Killingworth— this is a note of thanks for giving me the honor of serving as your State Representative.

Due to personal reasons, I have made the difficult decision to withdraw from the 2020 election. I have poured my heart and soul into serving this wonderful district, and it feels right to make way for fresh energy and new ideas. Scripture tells us that there is a time and season for everything. Having recently started my own small business, it's time for me to focus on building a career that will provide the joys of one day owning a home and starting a family of my own – the American Dream that we all hold dear. This is certainly not goodbye. Service will always be a part of my life, and I look forward to finding new ways to return the love and support that this community has so generously bestowed upon me for these past six years.

Serving these beautiful towns as your State Representative has been the most rewarding experience of my life. Together, we stood for fair and honest budgets, delivered long-anticipated transportation improvements, and fought vigorously to make Connecticut a more affordable and vibrant place to raise a family. Despite trying times, we protected the 9-town transit, stopped highway tolls, and passed a historic bi-partisan budget. We passed strong mental health parity legislation and fought to cap the cost of prescription medication.

Thank you for entrusting me with your voice and your vote. The strength and resiliency of our towns has been a constant source of inspiration for me. Of all the great things we have accomplished together as a district, the

relationships that I have developed with my constituents are what I will always cherish most. You have always held me to the highest standards of service, and I am a better person for how you have shaped and grown with me since day one. You granted me the honor of representing you in our State's Capitol, and for that I am forever grateful.

I have called this community my home for over 20 years. You have embraced my family, extending care and kindness during difficult days. You bestowed upon me the honor of representing you in Hartford and I will forever be grateful, especially in this time of great challenge in our community and our country. It has been an honor to serve you.

Yours Truly,

*Jesse MacLachlan
Connecticut State Representative,
35th District*

Disappointed in Trump signs at Police/Patriot Rally

Dear Residents of Haddam:

I'm a veteran, conservative, philanthropist and a lover of the town of Haddam that my siblings & I have fond memories of growing up in. I also support all first responders, police, military & all others who protect & serve us, as over 200 of you did recently. I've been a Republican for over 50 years.

I was very disappointed to see Trump signs at the rally. This shouldn't have been political, especially for a man who has insulted veterans & soldiers numerous times. He has damaged our great republic and is unfit to lead us, as Lincoln, T Roosevelt, Eisenhower & Reagan did.

Respectfully,

*William A. Wiley Jr.
Albuquerque, NM
Formerly of Higganum*

Voter Fraud: real or imagined?

In the past days I have been made aware of two incidents which support the concerns being raised locally and nationally about the opportunity for fraud associated with widespread mail in voting. In both cases the persons reporting these incidents to me are people I have known for 20 years or more and both are willing to personally tell their stories to officials who are in a position to investigate.

In one case, a voter in an area town received an absentee ballot application form sent out by the CT Secretary of State for the recent Primary on August 11. She completed the form and sent it to the Town Clerk in her town and shortly received a ballot from the town which she proceeded to complete and return to the Town Clerk. Shortly after that she received a second ballot for the same Primary, this time from the Secretary of State. She did not use it to vote twice but this certainly opens the possibility of fraud.

In the second case a Haddam resident happened to be at a window in a shoreline post office when a woman approached the town's Post Master at a second nearby window and she overheard this woman's proposal. She explained that she was avidly anti-Trump and wanted to offer the local post office the assistance of a number of volunteers on Election Day to help with making sure that voting documents would make it through the process if

the post office were to be overwhelmed. The Post Master expressed his own anti-Trump sentiments and offered to check into whether such assistance could be accepted.

What is wrong with this exchange at the post office? First, the post office official should not be expressing his political views with a patron and secondly that he would even entertain the opportunity to accept such help from non-postal employees is unacceptable.

Executive orders from the Governor and pronouncements from the Secretary of State about changes in voting methods are not the way to determine how Connecticut should vote. This is the responsibility of the Connecticut Legislature who were in session when Covid-19 came on the scene and there has been plenty of opportunity for the legislature to call a special session to deal with this important issue. Legislators have abdicated their responsibility. I say this as a former State Senator from this area.

States should not be making drastic changes in voting procedures, universal mail in voting, in a major national election. These changes should be tried out in local elections, possibly in a small section of the state, to iron out any issues that might come up. Then once we have a process we can trust we expand it further. Throwing the State of Connecticut or any other state into election chaos in a national election makes no sense whatsoever.

*Ed Munster
Haddam*

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RSD #17: Summary of July Board of Education meetings

By Jennifer Favalora,
RSD #17 Board of Education

Cougar Pride:

On July 17, the Class of 2020 celebrated their graduation together. The commencement, which followed state guidelines for distancing, began with a procession through the parking lot where proud friends and family cheered and waved from their cars. Seniors paraded to their seats on the football field for the school's first graduation ceremony under the lights. Large movie screens and speakers were placed in the parking lot for families to view the entire ceremony from the cars and they showed their support from afar by honking their horns after each speech and as the graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas.

Next School Year – Reopening Committee:

Under a directive from Governor Lamont, all school districts were required to develop a three-tiered plan to reopen schools safely in the fall with details required for an In-Person Learning model, a Hybrid Learning model and a Remote Learning model in the event that COVID-19 cases increase. The State

gave definitive guidance in early July that schools should plan to have all students return in-school on a full-time basis. In-classroom logistics include heightened safety measures such as wearing masks, cohorting students together, and increasing cleaning protocols at each school. The hybrid plan is a combination of in-classroom learning and remote learning to reduce the number of students in buildings at one time. In late July, Governor Lamont reversed the requirement for all students to return to school full-time and instead gave districts flexibility in how they open. RSD17's Reopening Committee decided hybrid learning would be the best balance of safety and instructional delivery for the first month of school during this highly unusual time. This transitional month will allow students to be in smaller class cohorts and gives teachers time to build relationships, foster academic growth and attend to social and emotional learning while teaching students new routines and protocols. Parents are able to opt into the Remote Learning model instead and can transition between the two as best suits their family's needs. Details of this plan and all other reopening communications can be found on the RSD17.org website.

First Day of School:

The State also announced that it is allowing districts to increase the number of professional development days at the start of the school year. Teachers and staff will use these days to train on new health and safety protocols, teaching strategies for in-person and remote learning, as well as for classroom set-up and continued facilities preparation. This change reduces the number of required student days from 180 to 177. Therefore the Board amended the school year calendar and the new first day of school for students will be Tuesday, September 1st.

Superintendent's Contract:

The Board evaluated the first year of Dr. Hageman's role as Superintendent, as a very unique year with significant challenges and will present the evaluation as soon as practical. The Superintendent formally requested to "Evergreen" her contract for a third year, the maximum allowed by the state for Superintendent contracts, to which the Board unanimously agreed.

On our RSD17.org Website:

You can view the District's Reopening Plans and FAQ under "Superintendent's School Reopening Updates" at the top of the page. Additionally, you can watch the video from the Class of 2020's Graduation Ceremony under "Community" – "HKTV" – "Click Here to View Channel 18 Live".

Haddam Killingworth News

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Send all requests, content and comments to: editors@HaddamNews.org

* paper is affiliated with
Haddam-KillingworthNow.com
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LEGAL NOTICES

PLANNING AND ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the Haddam Elementary School Higganum CT on September 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

1. Request for a special permit to allow for demolition of residential structure listed on Haddam Survey of Historical and Architectural Resources.
140 Dublin Hill Rd. Map 06/ Lot 042. Applicant: Tim Brewer

Said applications are on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam.

Planning and Zoning Commission, Haddam CT

The Town of Haddam shall endeavor to post its Legal Notices with the Haddam News publication. In the event that the weekly publication cannot meet the Town's statutory requirements, the Middletown Press or Hartford Courant shall be utilized to meet said statutory deadlines. Courtesy copies will be published to Haddam News that may or may not be timely. The Town's website is: www.haddam.org.

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Musings from a Millennial: Summer of Chaos & Communism

The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or other editors of this newspaper.

By Meghan Peterson, PhD

This has been a whirlwind summer in our nation and state. Health pandemic and political pandemonium have reigned. Homicides and violence in general have skyrocketed in cities. It has also become a season of speech censorship – one in which the Covid-19 mask may symbolize the political muzzle.

In Minneapolis, MN, ground zero for protests and riots in the wake of George Floyd’s death, police are simultaneously dealing with fewer officers on the ground (down at least one hundred or about 10% of the force) and a surge in violence. According to an Aug. 3 *Daily Mail* report, “75 officers have taken medical leave for post-traumatic stress disorder in the wake of the riots.”

In Seattle, WA, where the CHAZ/CHOP experiment debuted (it failed after three weeks, with the mayor ordering police to disband it after nighttime violence spiked), Department of Homeland Security sent federal agents there as a precautionary step to quell the violent rioting impacting local businesses, property, and lives.

In Portland, OR, protests have raged for more than 80 days, sometimes inflected with violence and assaults on law enforcement as well as on civilians.

Closer to home, WFSB reports that the New Haven, Conn. police department recently launched an aggressive recruitment effort to attract new officers during a time when law enforcement is hated, targeted, and attacked.

On another front, we have heard about college professors, such as Iowa State University Professor Chloe Clark, warn students of expulsion if they express pro-life views or positions that counter the Black Lives Matter narrative in their class assignments.

Law and order appear on the precipice. Free speech is faltering.

How did we arrive at this moment? I turn to my millennial peers for answers.

70% of millennial respondents to a 2019 YouGov survey said they are likely to vote along socialist lines. 36% of those respondents also said they approve of communism.

Does my generation understand what communism and socialism are? Or do they think these political ideas entail a woke (read: progressive, cutting-edge) re-structuring of society in which everyone is equalized and by extension, humanity’s differences and variations are neutralized? Do they know that communism always seems to be a panacea on the surface, but is something that can and does kill in the end?

What does communism have to do – if anything – with attacks on law enforcement, violent rioting, and the demise of free speech? I argue: everything. In order to make that case, we need to know a) what communism is; b) what it does. Let us turn to Karl Marx, the father of communism, for insight. Marxist communism centers on some of these core principles (the *Communist Manifesto* delineates 10, but there is space for just a few here):

- Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes
- heavy progressive or graduated income tax
- confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels (Marx means political rebels – i.e., those who does not comply with the communist agenda)
- centralization of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the State
- gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country

We now have an idea of what communism is. What does communism do? It kills. Millennials typically demand data – which is not a bad thing. Here are some facts.

Mao Tse-tung, founder of the Chinese People Republic, is estimated to have killed 70 million under

his regime. Stalin’s regime was responsible for 40 million dead. Pol Pot’s Cambodia saw about 1.3-3 million dead in under 5 years. During Ethiopia’s communist regime under Mengistu, 1.5 million died as a result both of genocide and drought-induced famine.

In total, communist regimes murdered 100 million people in the last century. 100 million people are dead – human casualties of a political ideology rooted in complete and total abuse of power.

In Connecticut’s Aug. 11 primary, a WTNH report shows that socialist candidate Bernie Sanders garnered 11.6% of the state’s registered Democratic votes. Joe Biden won 84.7% of the share. Don’t these numbers indicate support for a more mainline Democratic candidate, rather than the Leftist, socialist-communist one? Not so fast. Consider that under a Democratic presidential administration, the State would occupy center stage with proposed federal take-overs of housing, health care, education, criminal justice, and transportation infrastructure, as outlined in an Aug. 19 New York Times piece. It is possible that the mainstream Democratic presidential candidate has become more socialist-communist over time. It is also possible that the Democratic Party is trending more Left. In either case, the outcome is the same.

When a generation finds destruction and abolition of private property; totalizing power of the State; and other items of a communist platform appealing, it is no stretch to see the logical endpoint materialize in the form of lawlessness on the one hand and erasure of constitutional rights to private property and individual speech on the other.

To my millennial friends both in the Nutmeg state and beyond, it is your decision: freedom and liberty or chaos and communism.

Perhaps the autumn season will end this summer of hatred and violence. Perhaps it will also bring an end to the seedlings of communism that attempted to get their start in the soil of anti-freedom.

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH NEWS

To Helen Gaynier – A Note of Thanks

The Haddam Civic League, publisher of HaddamKillingworthNow.com and Haddam Killingworth News, wants to express our appreciation to Helen Gaynier

for her invaluable efforts for the online and printed papers and HCL generally as our Treasurer, Accountant and as a member of our Board of Managers. Her

assistance over the past six years was critical to our success. We thank Helen and send our best wishes to her in her retirement from these positions.

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Regular: To Go – Untangling Racism: The Gordian Knot

The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or editors of this newspaper.

By Deb Thomas

An old Greek legend tells of a poor peasant named Gordius, and his wife, who went into ancient Phrygia one day in an ox-cart. Good luck for Gordo; an oracle foretold the people that their future king would come into town riding in an ox-cart. After Gordius was named King, he offered his ox-cart to Zeus in thanks. However, he tied it up in an intricate knot. Another oracle had advised the people that whoever untied this knot, the “Gordian Knot,” would rule all of Asia. No one could do it; not until Alexander the Great came along and sliced it open with his sword. That’s the story, more or less.

A while back, I posted a photo in social media I found while randomly searching the internet—it was an eye catching image. I was looking for definitions of racism. A brief conversation ensued with a friend, where she posed the thought, “I actually hope we can reach a point when humans are not fearful of other humans simply because of the color of their skin. I think at the root of racism is fear, and that fear is responded to with violence.” I replied that I agreed. However, I believe at the root of racism is a fear so pervasive in American society – it will need deep dissection; and even deeper understanding. Even then there will be a resistance. The knot is tangled.

Since then, I’ve been mired in an internal discussion about racism and, trying to figure out how to write about and define it. On the surface, I know we form our opinions on the backs of our families first, and then from the people around us—our environment—our peers; so we learn as we are taught. That explains some of the reasoning why we think the way we do. But where did that come from? What is racism? Were the early humans racists? Racism has not always been the topic of the day; yet we just had a Peaceful Protest about racism on Higganum Green. Why is racism still prevalent after all this time? Didn’t we fight a Civil War to end slavery? I don’t believe in discrimination; how can I be a racist? Don’t we have laws to prevent discrimination based on creed, color, or religion? Racism is something that happens in big cities, right?

No; racism is here, in our news; globally and in our country and our town. Whatever you’ve learned from history, it’s time for a deeper examination. Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary defines racism as:

- 1: a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial

differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race

- 2a: a doctrine or political program based on the assumption of racism and designed to execute its principles
- b: a political or social system founded on racism
- 3: racial prejudice or discrimination

Racism is all around us; some of it is blatant. Some exists in secret and not so secret ways under the radar of law. De facto segregation and discrimination join forces in redlining and gerrymandering. I have read that in order to combat racism, communities need to examine their policies on every subject that governs our daily lives. It is profoundly difficult to understand all the ways in which racism is deeply ingrained and carried out in our present society. In order to change, leaders need to be open to discussion and ready to openly comprehend racism, but to confront racism in education, housing, and all public services. In addition, leaders must recognize racial bullying and aggression and eradicate it at once at the highest level.

I was moved by a story I read a long while ago in The Atlantic Magazine (June, 2014) by Ta-Nehisi Coates, titled, “The Case for Reparations.” He writes, “Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.” At the time, I was also reading, Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery (by Ann Farrow, Joel Lang, and Jennifer Frank, writers from The Hartford Courant), and I found both to be mind-expanding powerhouses of untold information about the earliest racism in our country; slavery and the North’s participation in perpetuating it.

In his article, Ta-Nehisi Coates wrote about housing problems post Emancipation, and after the great northerly migration. In suburban Chicago under the shadow of Jim Crow activities, the separate but unequal opportunities in education, and the legacy of discrimination endured long after slavery. “Having been enslaved for 250 years, black people were not left to their own devices. They were terrorized. In the Deep South, a second slavery ruled. In the North, legislatures, mayors, civic associations, banks, and citizens all colluded to pin black people into ghettos, where they were overcrowded, overcharged, and undereducated. Businesses discriminated against them, awarding them the worst jobs and the worst wages. Police brutalized them in the streets. And the notion that black lives, black bodies, and black wealth were

rightful targets remained deeply rooted in the broader society. Now we have half-stepped away from our long centuries of despoilment, promising, ‘Never again.’ But still we are haunted. It is as though we have run up a credit-card bill and, having pledged to charge no more, remain befuddled that the balance does not disappear. The effects of that balance, interest accruing daily, are all around us.”

Of my contacts in social media, I can see that as much as the Black Lives Matter movement energizes some with a call to action, there are others who are bothered by this. The only word I can think of is “bother,” because from what I read, some people perceive the movement of unequal treatment under the law – as an old, tired issue. “Haven’t we hashed this out before?” was a question I read in a New York Times editorial recently. Then, from a relative, I read, “That Aunt Jemima was a well-paid actress.” From friends in town I gleaned that, displaying of a Confederate Flag is just a “harmless, group identity thing.” With all the opportunities for enlightenment – I am wondering why some people are unconcerned or perceive the question of racism to be settled. It could be, as one of my childhood friends espoused, that some people like things “the way they were.” He’d also written that “things were better before.” I don’t know what he was alluding to, other than what seems obvious to me; that talking about Black Lives Matter, and the subject of racism—is uncomfortable. It is as if the Black Lives Matter movement seems too much to bear; it brings up a wellspring of questions that we have not confronted, and now it’s flooded the field. We have put off hard decisions and issues. Thinking and talking about social injustices to others is difficult; it is difficult and uncomfortable. It is overdue; and it is only a start. Real change is what’s needed.

My casual observation how the BLM movement is affecting society stems out of a curiosity about human nature; I have a background in psychology. My understanding of news articles across the spectrum of conservative and progressive—Democrat and Republican social media, is that there is small undercurrent feeling—which I came across while reading, that things have gone too far. That this progressive issue—has somehow come undone and, the peaceful protests and marches are somehow, an over-correction. See? The safety of how things “used to be,” is easier to deal with. To that, I say, no; things have not gone too far, we must change and it can begin with you.

It cannot be easy to be a black person in our so-

Continued on page H9

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Untangling Racism

Continued from page H8

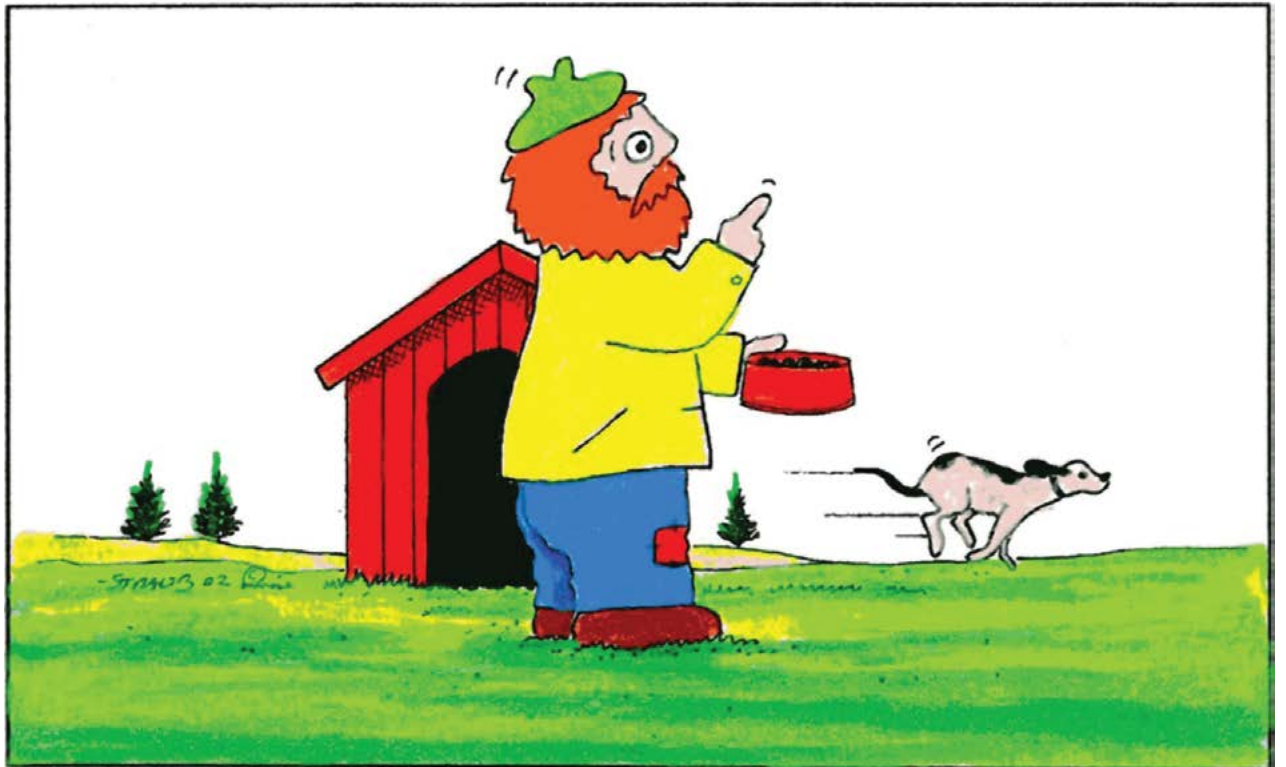
ciety right now. Yet, at no other time in the past four hundred years since the Mayflower's arrival, have so many confronted racism. The history of Blacks in America is painful to explain, yet, nationwide, we are talking about what is going on; George Floyd's death, the ensuing protests, and big issues of police and power. Talking about and talking to and most important, I believe—listening to—others' stories who have been wronged and discriminated against are necessary in order to bring about social changes, as difficult as they are, if you seek positive changes, as I do. I have learned a great deal from writing this; even as broad-minded, sensitive, and careful as I think I've been. I've learned there are ways we can all get involved to move forward. The basic ways we relate to one another whatever our ethnicity—is one way to enhance our understanding of each other and effect change. To start, we can be aware of microaggressions.

Derald Wing Sue, author of a 2010 book titled, *Microaggressions in Everyday Life*, and professor of Psychology at Columbia University's graduate school of education, equates the term microaggression as a

Continued on page H10

Mac O' Moodus

Roger Straub



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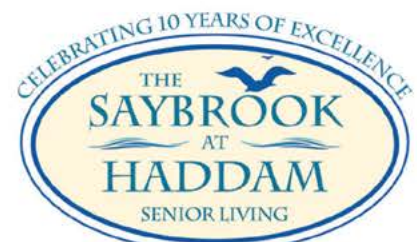
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Library open for in-person browsing

By Genie Dethloff, Killingworth Library

The Killingworth Library's sidewalks briefly bloomed with color during July's sidewalk chalk art contest. 12 squares were decorated by 14 artists ranging from toddlers to young adults, each one special and unique and beautiful to behold. The rains have washed them away, but each image was photographed and will be preserved digitally; right now you can enjoy them on the library's Website and Facebook pages. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, each participant will be



receiving a gift, with additional prizes drawn at random, as well as a prize for the submission receiving the most "likes" on the Library's Facebook Page. Our heartfelt thanks to the following for making this all possible:

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In addition, the library opened this

month for in person browsing and computer use by appointment. After working hard to meet safety protocols, we were able to open the main room. The children's room, conference room, and restrooms will remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

It had been such a long time since we saw any patrons in person and we are glad to be able to do that now, even if on a limited basis. This is a different way of operating for sure, but our patrons seem to be happily adapting so far.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE H9

Untangling Racism

Continued from page H9

"covert form[s] of racism," (from Sarah Hamson's article in The Globe and Mail, July 8, 2016). He defines micro-aggression as:

"...the everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership. In many cases, these hidden messages may invalidate the group identity or experiential reality of target persons, demean them on a personal or group level, communicate they are lesser human beings, suggest they do not belong with the majority group, threaten and intimidate, or relegate them to inferior status and treatment." A few examples for a classroom and applicable to all of us are:

"Using inappropriate humor in class that degrades students from different groups. Expressing racially charged political opinions in class assuming that the targets of those opinions do not exist in class. Using the term 'illegals' to reference undocumented students. Hosting debates in class that place students from groups who may represent a minority opinion in class in a difficult position. Singling students out in class because of their backgrounds. Expecting students of any particular group to 'represent' the perspectives of others of their race, gender, etc. in class discussions or debates. Denying the experiences of

students by questioning the credibility and validity of their stories. (I have copied only a few as taken from, a University of Denver position paper titled: Microaggressions in the Classroom, by former students: Joel Portman, Tuyen Trisa Bui and Javier Ogaz; and Dr Jesús Treviño, former Associate Provost for Multicultural Excellence.)"

Bringing racism into the open for conversation is a knotted puzzle. I have a difficult time trying to comprehend why some people are resistant to changing behavior and learning how to be not only smarter, but also kinder; I don't think I have it figured out. That is the subject of my exploration in future columns, along with the definition and history of race. Additionally, I'll attach and build a kind of lexicon of words that may help your understanding. I will keep posing questions while attempting to untangle the complex Gordian Knot of racism, and how we got here.

"The work of love, peace and justice will always be necessary until their realism and their imperative takes hold of our imagination, crowds out any dream of hatred or revenge, and fills up our existence with their power." John Lewis (from his book, Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America, 2018).

Deb lives on a backroad in Higganum and works daily on the Great American Thriller/Mystery Novel. People's stories interest her, along with a great cup of coffee. She has written for local news publications for over 30 years.

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