

Haddam Killingworth News

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COVERING HADDAM, HIGGANUM, HADDAM NECK AND KILLINGWORTH

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September 30, 2021

For breaking news go to HK-Now.com every day

Free weekly

Higganum Market under new ownership

By Kathy Brown

(September 18, 2021) — Many people referred to the Higganum Market as “Ming’s” because he left such a mark on the place. Those people will now have to get used to calling it “Pete’s.”

Ming Chou bought the Market in May 2013, and Prakash “Pete” Patel purchased the store in June. The Patel family was actually interested in purchasing the Market from Ming four years ago, but at that time, the Grange (owners of the building in which the Market is housed) didn’t think that they had enough retail experience. In those four years, the Patel family went from owning two retail businesses to eight, mostly liquor stores, all in Massachusetts. The Higganum Market is their first “full blown grocery” and their first business in Connecticut.

Unfortunately, when we contacted Pete to do the interview about the new business, we learned that he had been in a serious accident, resulting in many fractures. He is currently in a rehab facility in Connecticut, awaiting multiple surgeries. He had recently moved from Maryland where he had been in manufacturing, to Connecticut to run the Market. We were, however, able to speak with Pete’s brother Samir, who lives in Massachusetts and manages some of their other retail stores.

One of the things that the Higganum Market has been known for is their butcher, and that staff hasn’t



Prakash “Pete” Patel.

changed under the new ownership. The front end staff is also unchanged. The deli staff has changed, but Samir said that they knew that when they purchased the store, because the deli staff follows Ming from store to store as he establishes each business.

Pete did hire a store manager, George Jones, who manages the store in Pete’s absence.

Another thing that the Market has been known for is specialty foods. For a small store, they have extensive variety for vegans, gluten free/special diets, gourmands, and other foodies. The aisles have many

Continued on page HK9



Cheeses.

HKHS Boys place first & girls place third at Suffern Invitational

By Matt Diglio, Coach

On Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, the Haddam Killingworth High School Girls and Boys Cross Country teams continued their season as they split their squad at two invitationals. The Varsity Boys and Girls team traveled to Bear Mountain, NY to compete at the Suffern Invitational while the JV Boys and Girls traveled to Cromwell to compete in the CT River Valley Invitational.

The boys Varsity team raced well on the challenging 3-mile course at Bear Mountain and placed first overall as a team with 51 pts defeating the 16 other teams from NY in the race. They were led by senior tri-captain Caleb Freeman who placed 3rd in the race in a time of 17:11. Next to cross the line were teammates Andrew Hedges 6th (17:26), Tyler Robinson 10th (17:46), freshman Colton Merola 15th (17:58) and senior Evan Baird 17th (18:03).

The girls team also ran well to place 3rd overall with 89 points. They were led by junior Izzy Berardino who placed 9th in the race in a time of 20:45. Following her were senior captains Brianna Minervino 13th (21:15) and Ava DiMatteo 19th (21:51). Rounding out the team scoring was sophomore Sydney Adelberg 25th (22:49) and senior Charlotte Selmer 28th (23:15).

Continued on page HK5



The boys & girls varsity team with plaques at Suffern Invitational.

In This Issue: Sports, HK2-3, HK8 • To the Editor, HK6-7 • Connecticut News, HK9



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2021 Haddam Neck Fair winners of “Most Charming Baby Boy”

Good Evening,
This is Shawn Daigle of 46 Newberry Rd, Former Deputy Fire Chief. Hope all is well. I finally got around to reading this weeks edition of the East Haddam news. I was excited to see the write up on the front page of the Haddam Killingworth section by Sharon Challenger about the Haddam Neck Fair 2021 photos and contest winners. Only to be disappointed to see that a whole category of results from the baby contest was left out. The whole entire category 0-6 months, 7-12 months, and 13-18 months for both Boys and Girls for “Most Charming” was omitted.

We are happy to share that our identical twin boys Gavin and Wyatt Daigle from East Haddam won “Most

Charming Baby Boy” for the age 7-12 months. I am unsure of who the 5 other “Most Charming” category winners are. We look forward to seeing this correction. Thanks a bunch. Attached is a photo of my Wife Elizabeth, the boys Wyatt(Left) and Gavin(Right) and myself with their Blue Ribbon.

Shawn Daigle
East Haddam

Editor's Note: HK-now reached out to Haddam Neck Fair staff for information regarding the winners of the various contests and were given the list of local winners from Haddam, Killingworth, and Moodus, and two photos which appeared in our publication on September 16, 2021. It did not include all winners.



Elizabeth Daigle, the boys Wyatt(Left) and Gavin(Right) and Shawn Daigle with their Blue Ribbon.

HKHS GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

HKHS Defeated by Old Saybrook 1-2

By Dee Stephan, Coach

The Cougars took to the field on a beautiful Monday afternoon (Sept. 21, 2021). Old Saybrook came with an outstanding record(5-0) and a large number of players. Undeterred HK came out with a solid game plan and energy. The first quarter saw both teams using big drives to gain field position. At the end of one quarter the stats were dead even with 1 corner for HK and 1 for Old Saybrook.

The second quarter Old Saybrook began to wear the Cougars down with their hard hits and skilled ball handling. Eventually they were able to draw three corners which resulted in a 1-0 lead for the Rams. Unfazed HK rallied and managed to use a big hit up field and a mistake by the Old Saybrook Goalie to convert and tie the game at 1 each going

into the halftime.

As HK predicted Old Saybrook came out on fire, unhappy that the Cougars had pinned them successfully on their left side and unable to stop our speedy forwards. The third quarter saw Old Saybrook draw 4 corners while HK had no corners. With 10 minutes left in the third Old Saybrook executed a perfect corner and went up 2-1.

The fourth corner saw HK come out with a renewed confidence knowing they had 15 minutes to knot the game up. Again, the HK team gave fits to the Old Saybrook players by beating them to the 50-50 balls. HK kept the ball out of the defensive end for long stretches but was unable to convert the one corner in the fourth. Old Saybrook was determined



Protecting the goal Audrey Wrinn, Kelsie Piela, Liv Wettemann and Kami Narducci help goalie Tea Norman.

Continued on page HK3



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Sophomore Jaimey DiNapoli chases down her opponent. Photos by Heather Pach.

HKHS Defeats North Branford 5-0

By Mike Shea, Coach

The Haddam Killingworth High School Varsity Girls Soccer team defeated North Branford on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021, with a final score of 5-0.

After losing a non-conference game against Avon this past weekend, the HKHS girls regrouped and controlled their game against conference rival North Branford. With Rhianna Phipps in goal, HK was looking to rebound and strike quickly. Leah Chester wasted no time when she received a cross from outside midfielder Brianna Nugent in the first minute of the game. Julia Favalora quickly followed that goal, when Yumi Imai assisted her for the second goal of the game three minutes into the half. Midfield play was controlled by Emmy Kehlenbach, Laina Goodison and Amanda Cassidy. Captain Yumi Imai scored the third goal for the Cougars. Brianna Nugent closed the half with a goal.

With HKHS leading 4-0 at the half,

they concentrated on maintaining possession in the second half. As pressure built up for the Cougars, Brianna Nugent made another cross and Julia Favalora connected with a header, for her second goal of the game. HKHS defeated conference rival North Branford by a score of 5-0. This was the second shutout for goalkeeper Rhianna Phipps. Brianna Nugent, one of three goalkeepers for HK, had a great game as a field player today. She walked away with a goal and two assists.



Musings from a Millennial: Not acquiescing to acquiescence

By Meghan Peterson

The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or other editors of this newspaper. We welcome supporting or opposing views on any published item.

Perhaps as a result of being a mama to two young boys, I cannot help but notice something: kids are the opposite of stupid. When I say opposite, I mean the complete anti of stupid. Kids are refreshingly clever, freedom-loving, free-spirited, resourceful, and very willing to counter their mommy. Evidently, I need to up my ante to compete with my children's anti.

I tell them to eat, they are conveniently not hungry. I tell them it is time to go to sleep, they get not a second, but a third wind. They are dirty from rolling around in the leaves and touching the "helicopter" seeds common this season; they need a bath. Not happening. If bath is to occur, I guarantee you will hear two howling coyotes during a Harvest moon who just happen to be my toddler and baby.

As adults, we intuit this to be the case. We prepare for the stubbornness of our kids. Preparing for it and

actually being in it, however, are two distinct things. Yet, we relish this stubbornness in a way. It can be delightfully humorous and painstakingly frustrating at the same time. Why the mixed emotions? We, too, want to be that child. Children thrive in the power of play, of imagination, of thought – all of which mitigate against stupidity and laziness.

Kids are what adults wish they could be: free-spirited, loving, and non-acquiescent. Children have an innate sense of resourcefulness that some may call rebellion. I suppose that innate sense never quite disappears as children adolcesce. When my children refuse to acquiesce, they are asserting and claiming their independence from me, The Mommy.

The concept of acquiescence derives from the Latin word, "acquiescere/adquiescere," which means "become quiet, remain at rest, rest, repose." Source: etymonline.com/word/acquiesce

Acquiescence, as defined by Merriam Webster, is "passive acceptance or submission." More often than not, my kids certainly do not "become quiet," "remain at rest" or engage in activities that would resemble

anything like "passive acceptance or submission." They are anything but quiet.

To be clear, there is nothing wrong with quiet; we know the aphorism, "silence is golden." Silence is valuable and important, as is rest. Sometimes, however, you have to make a noise – a racket of sorts. In fact, I worry when my toddler and baby are too quiet. It makes me think they are plotting an act of rebellion or are already engaging in one. I like when they make a ruckus. It shows me that they are well, thriving, and being boys – who just so happen to be making a disaster out of my kitchen.

If you are making a racket, a mess, a clamor, that may not be such a bad thing after all. It demonstrates a refusal to acquiesce, a firm "yes" to the "anti." There are times and places for acquiescence – perhaps. But as my sons would gladly and proudly inform you, that time is not now.

So, as we begin to greet autumn, may we practice some anti-acquiescence and anti-quiet – particularly in a society that seeks to render "non-acquiescers" mute.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please visit www.haddam.org, www.townofkillingworth.com or hk-now.com for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes. See hk-now.com for more information on calendar items.

Thursday, September 30

Love2Sign with Jaye – Killingworth Library 10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Register for each session: 860 663-2000

Haddam ZBA Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 1

Higganum Fall Market: Build a Scarecrow Day, Entertainment – TBD 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. HES

HHS: Thankful Arnold Online Auction Oct 1-8

Brainerd Memorial Library Plants & Gardening Sale 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Friends will offer plants, gardening books, baked goods, beach reads & other items. We will have: Perennials, groundcovers, annuals, shrubs, trees, herbs, and as the season goes on – cut flowers, organic herbs, and edibles.

Saturday, October 2

Haddam River Days at the Meadows. Rain date will be Sunday October 3, 2021.

Brainerd Memorial Library Plants & Gardening Sale 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Brainerd Library Fall Festival & Book Sale 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Brainerd Library is pleased to announce our Fall Festival & Book Sale. We are holding it outside under tents. UConn Extension center will provide plants, flowers, and information to support your end of season planting.

Saturday Story Time KW Library 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Join us on Saturday morning for fabulous tales and fun crafts! Suggested ages 2-5.

PLEASE NOTE: Held outside on the library's grounds, weather permitting. Adults must remain with their children. Please register 860-663-2000

Monday, October 4

Brainerd Memorial Library Plants & Gardening Sale 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 5

Tech Tuesday – Killingworth Library 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The library is offering half hour private sessions for tech support every Tuesday. Sessions limited to one person at a time. Register in advance. 860-663-2000

Wednesday, October 6

Wiggle Wednesday – Killingworth Library 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Join Carrie Smith from Killingworth's own The Dance Corner, for dance and movement storytime! Suggested ages: walking toddlers through age 5. Held outside, weather permitting. Register <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

Thursday, October 7

Love2Sign with Jaye – Killingworth Library 10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Haddam P&Z Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

HKHS

HKHS Defeated by Old Saybrook 1-2

Continued from page HK2

to score again but was stopped time after time by our defensive unit. At one point the defensive unit stopped a sure goal (with a foot) awarding a penalty stroke to Old Saybrook. Goalie Tea Norman who is new to the position has never practiced penalty strokes. However, she was ready, and the pressure was on the Old Saybrook player. Again, the tide was on our side and Old Saybrook sent the penalty stroke wide, allowing us the free hit and a chance to advance the ball into our attacking zone. Never quitting and unwilling to allow any more goals HK held tight in the defensive circle.

Although we did not win this game, the girls played outstanding, sticking to the game plan and strategy. This is the third game in a row the girls have

scored, and with each game they are getting stronger and stronger.

A solid defensive effort was once again put in by Tea Norman in cage with 7 saves. Audrey Wrinn managed to pick off several long hard hits by Old Saybrook and transition the ball to the forwards. Notching her first goal was Sophie Ramino off of a pass from Captain Kami Narducci. Olivia and Lexi Wettemann played a solid game keeping the ball in our attacking zone. Kelsie Piela again came up with several strong defensive stops along with Freshman Maddie Catalano. Overall, the team as a unit played excellent field hockey vs a very strong team.

Next game at home on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, vs Westbrook/Old Lyme Co-op.

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2021 Haddam Candidates Board of Assessment Appeals

We reached out to both the Haddam Republican Town Committee and the Haddam Democrat Town Committee and asked candidates to respond to a set of questions; if a candidate did not respond, their name is listed, so that you know who is running for each office. Updates from all candidates are welcome and will be published as Letters to the Editor. The questions posed to the candidates were:

- Tell us a little about yourself.
- Why are you running for the position?
- What do you see as the important issues facing Haddam and how would you address them in your role?
- What are the key things you love about this town and its people?
- Additional thoughts to leave voters with?

JoAnn Woickelman (D): I am originally from Middletown but moved to Haddam when I married. I have two grown sons; one lives in town and the other son and his wife recently moved to Vermont. My working career was in banking, and I graduated from Connecticut School of Finance & Management. I retired from Liberty Bank as Assistant Vice President and had managed the Haddam & Higganum branches.

Between my banking experience, 26 years on the Board of Finance, and 14 years on the Board of Assessment Appeals, I understand the balance between the Grand List, town budget and its effect on the mill rate. The final result is your tax bill.

My role is to listen to the taxpayer. The Board is an advocate for them, within the confines of the CT state statutes. I enjoy working with people and assisting them.

The Haddam community is welcoming, generous, and caring. I see this through groups I am a part of: Haddam Scholarship, Salvation Army, Committee on Aging, and Haddam Elderly Housing.

Please consider reelecting me by voting on November 2, 2021. Thank you.

Craig Salonia (R): My wife Pam and I moved here from NJ in 2000. Over the years we have worked on improving our home, doing various volunteer activities in town including on the Board of Assessment Appeals and at St. Peter church. At the time of my retirement I had been working as a senior account manager for GE Healthcare Life Sciences. In that position, I managed all aspects of the client

relationship, ascertained their requirements and delivered on those needs.

I am running for a second term on the Board of Assessment Appeals because I believe I can work with potential applicants to find an impartial and equitable resolution to their issue. At the same time it would allow me to help town government to work better for all residents.

Much of the resources used to run the town government come from property taxes and so I believe that citizens should have an engaged impartial board to hear their concerns. Also since much of the board's work is governed by state statutes, I believe my previous experience will help achieve that goal.

Since my wife and I moved here we have since come to enjoy this small town community with its committed and supportive citizens along with the natural beauty of this area knowing that the "big city" is only a short drive away.

I look forward to serving the citizens of Haddam and ask for your support on November 2nd.

Judy Goldfarb (D): I have lived in Higganum with my husband Barry for more than 20 years, active in various concerns in town. We have enjoyed the rural feeling, along with the natural beauty and the strong sense of history. The diversity of the homes exhibit the history and the architectural sense of what has been here and is here. The people of this town share concerns, willingness to meet and discuss. The roles of people willing to make this a vibrant town is attractive. Our three sons continue to wonder why they didn't grow up here.

I previously served on the Board of Assessment Appeals and am seeking this position again. My experience on the Board, as well as previous experiences as a schoolteacher in urban, rural and military districts, a before- and after-school director,



JoAnn Woickelman (D)



Craig Salonia (R)



Judy Goldfarb (D)

a trainer, a consultant and an advocate for children, families and those who work with them give me great listening and decision-making skills. For more than 20 years I was the director of the Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative, a project of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, convening a broad range of stakeholders to improve and sustain effective early childhood programs by incubating and implementing new projects with community input to demonstrate quality improvement, using research to inform good practice and data to improve outcomes. I have served in leadership positions on state and national professional associations, am an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow, and am a member of the: Planning Commission for Higher Education, Post University Early Childhood Advisory Council, Two Generation Policy Work Group, and the Connecticut Birth - Grade Three Alignment Leadership. My ability to ask questions, seek a balance or understand resident concerns, and balance the finances of the town, along with the above experiences and my commitment to the town and the families who live here make me an excellent candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

"Knowledge comes by taking things apart: analysis. But wisdom comes by putting things together...."

— John A. Morrison

2021 ELECTION NEWS

Absentee Ballots for Nov. 2, 2021, election available Oct. 1, 2021

Connecticut law allows you to receive an absentee ballot if you cannot appear at your assigned polling place on election day because of active service in the Military, absence from the town during all of the hours of voting, illness, religious tenets forbid secular activity on the day of the election, duties as an election official at a polling place other than your own during all of the hours of voting, or physical disability. The State of Connecticut, via Public Act No. 21-2, June 2021 Special Session, has determined that the existence of the COVID-19 virus allows you to vote by absentee ballot if you so choose for your

own safety.

To receive your absentee ballot please complete and sign an application and return it to your Town Clerk.

Absentee ballot applications are available on the state's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>

Voted ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on Election Day either by mail, by ballot dropbox or in person in the Town Clerk's Office.

HADDAM

In-person: at the Town Clerk Office, 30 Field Park Drive, Haddam, during normal business hours.

Office Hours:
Monday – Wednesday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Or by mail:
Send application to the Town Clerk's Office and we will mail you the ballot.

Mailing address:
Town Clerk's Office, Town of Haddam, 30 Field Park Drive, Haddam, CT 06438

KILLINGWORTH

Absentee ballots are available on the town's website: www.townofkillingworth.com or directly from the Town Clerk's Office. Complete and sign your application, then return it in person or by mail to the Town Clerk's Office.

Our normal business hours are:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mailing address:
Town Clerk's Office, 323 Route 81, Killingworth, CT 06419.

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2021 Candidates Killingworth: Board of Assessment Appeals

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Francesco Lulaj (R): I was born and raised in Albania and moved to the U.S. in 2001. I am 45 years old. My wife Cassandra and I, and our four boys live on Jacob Lane. I own and operate La Foresta Restaurant, which we opened in 2014.

I ran for First Selectman in 2019 because I care about Killingworth. While I was unsuccessful, I remain deeply committed to the issues that I campaigned upon which are protecting our town's quality of life and helping to ensure Killingworth remains the best town in Connecticut to raise a family.

Balancing the delivery of quality municipal services with respect for the taxpayer's dollar is my primary goal. I also think it is essential to prepare for our town's future financially, particularly as Hartford struggles to balance its own budget and will likely be forced to reduce its support for local budgets.

Killingworth provides an extraordinary mix of lifestyle qualities including a largely rural character, a great location near major highways and the state's shoreline, and people who care about one another.

I believe everyone should do their part to help their community.

Matthew T. Stillman (D): I am an Elder Law/Trusts and Estates/Veterans' Benefits Attorney who practices locally in Guilford. I have received multiple accolades, including my organization's "Attorney of the Year" award for diligence and dedication to my clients and to my profession. My family have lived locally in Killingworth for over 24 years.

I am re-running for the position of Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) because the panel's goal is to ensure all get a "fair shake." I initially chose to participate and now to re-run because it is (basically)

a non-political means to assist my fellow townspeople. The BAA neither works for the town (and the Assessor) nor the fellow residents. We review the appeals in light of current statutes that determine the correct procedure/process to follow in the appeals process. If corrections are needed, the BAA works to apply them for a fair result.

I've been very pleased to serve in my elected capacity and wish to do so again.

The issues addressing BAA solely have to do with re-evaluation. My goal in the BAA is to ensure there is a fair and balanced approach for assessments that is evenly applied amongst the entire town. No age group, no religious group, no political party should be advantaged. Town politics have little to do with assessment appeals and that's the way it should stay.

We have great people; whether they be neighbors or businesses. Even when locals disagree, excepting a few unruly few, we state our opinions civilly and respectfully. It was a great place to live and raise our family.

I love the rural nature of Killingworth but I'd love to see more businesses and services to serve the community. More support and activities for Seniors and further development of safe recreational facilities/campuses for both youth, families, and Seniors are also always welcome. As for infrastructure, I'd love to see advances/improvements in Town Hall as well. I know



Francesco Lulaj (R)



Matthew T. Stillman (D)

these wishes contradict many who seek to either: a) prevent Route 81 becoming Route 1 in Orange, and others who b) wish to provide a "pennywise/pound foolish" approach to government but that really just costs us all more in the long run. I believe a healthy balance can be found (for town improvements versus their costs) in the future. These opinions, however, are mine and have little application for the roles of the members of the BAA, as I've explained.

I volunteer (yes, this is an unpaid, volunteer position) to support our friends, neighbors, and businesses for fair and even application of the assessment rules across all in our Town. My goal as a BAA member is to ensure equity and fairness across the entire community in the Assessment process.

As always, I welcome anyone's thoughts.

REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Transactions August 15 – 31, 2021

Haddam

Property on Quarry Hill Rd., C. N. and D. C. Fitzpatrick to A. J. Muir, 8/16/21, \$75,000

54 Shore Dr., W. E. Minkler to M. J. and K. M. Ferraiolo, 8/15/21, \$380,000

296 Beaver Meadow Rd., N. J. and S. A. Struck to J. T. Sibley, 8/25/21, \$420,000

Property on Nosal Rd., T. P. McCane to Town of Haddam, 8/31/21, \$21,000

Killingworth

20 Madison Hollow, R. C. and E. J. Hoover to C. M. and L. V. Larson, 8/17/21, \$530,000

74 Pond Meadow Rd., K. Nichols and J. L. Friedman to

A. J. and M. Nugent, 8/17/21, \$380,900

179 Route 80, P. and A. Sheldon to C. A. Dubois, 8/18/21, \$440,000

54 Chestnut Hill Rd., D. and E. Milne to S. and T. Schiffelbein, 8/23/21, \$800,000

81 Route 80, G. S. and S. J. Judge to L. L. and C. M. Williams, 8/24/21, 277,500

336 Roast Meat Hill Rd., Vanwyck Paula Est. to S. P. Sullivan, 8/24/21, \$375,000

76 Parker Hill Rd., B. A. and C. E. Coffey to J. R. and C. M. Wrzosek, 8/31/21, \$890,000

78 River Rd., J. P. and R. B. Vullermett to E. Schomer and D. K. Hyman, 8/31/21, \$600,000

Haddam Killingworth News

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Send all requests, content and comments to: **HK-NowEditors@outlook.com**

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The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors of this newspaper. We welcome supporting or opposing views on any published item.

Executive Director of HKYFS stepping down

Dear Community Partner and Supporter of Youth and Their Families,

I write to let you know that I will be stepping down from my position as Executive Director with Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth (HKYFS) effective October 31, 2021. I leave to begin a new chapter and find time for my family. My last day falls on the day of our 28th annual Pumpkin Run (and I hope you will join us that day as a runner or sponsor!)

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for working with the agency, and with me, over the past three, eventful, odd, sometimes difficult and constantly surprising, years. I admire, deeply, the collective passion and love of/for community that is felt everywhere one turns in HK and the willingness, of all, to support youth, families and build on shared strengths. The work of HKYFS is vital to the community. This we know, now, more than ever. And with the continued support of the dedicated Board, wonderful staff and its statewide association, I firmly believe the agency is well-positioned for growth.

During the next weeks, I will do everything possible to wrap up my duties as Director and make the transition as seamless as possible. If you have any questions or thoughts, please feel free to reach out. I will be in the office (860.345.7498) or available by work cell (203-653.8884) until the end of October. After that time, feel free to use my personal email should anything come up: GPSConsult.12@gmail.com.

For those of you who I will not be able to reach, I wanted to take this time to thank you for the myriad of things you have done with or for us over the past few years.

Thank you for:

- Being part of the HK Community Coalition and for the time you have donated, and your caring and part of a process to make HK a community that supports all families and children
- Time you have served on our Board of Directors and our Juvenile Review Board or as a Mentor or as a member of the Mentor Advisory Committee and

working with us virtually

- Donating to the HKYFS holiday giving and back-to-school collections/programs that help support youth and their families
- Being part of the HKYFS family and for trusting us as we work with you to sort out issues or challenges you face
- Being a volunteer or a runner or a supporter of our annual Pumpkin Run (and you have another chance to do so again this Halloween!)
- Following and liking us on social media
- Your notes of thanks and encouragement and your suggestions on how we can do things differently
- Giving to our annual appeals, the Day of Giving and other fundraising efforts that we sponsor to support our work and HK families

- Sharing the messages that we post that resonate with you
- Taking time to tell others about the importance of our work
- Joining us at community and educational events and talking to us about your thoughts or ideas on collaborating with others
- Caring for kids and neighbors and community in ways large and small
- Your patience with Mikko (our sometimes resident pup) when you visit our office!

I wish you all the best in the work that you do in and for HK and send wishes for a healthy and meaningful year. Most sincerely yours,

Laurie Ruderfer
September 17, 2021

Nancy Gorski running for Killingworth First Selectman

I am Nancy Gorski, running for First Selectman in Killingworth. Killingworth is a beautiful town with wonderful neighbors and a great sense of community. Our many volunteers help to make the town safe, beautiful, and historic. There is also much work to be done, and I am ready to get started.

Public health and safety are a priority for me and our entire slate of candidates. Covid remains a high risk. I respect everyone's opinions regarding masks, but we must ensure we follow state mandates as required in our public spaces.

Killingworth town buildings and residential homes have been impacted by PFAS. My home is in an impacted area. I need to work with residents and the state to ensure local wells are remediated. We need to partner with state officials to identify the source and plan for future mitigation.

With crime on the increase, we need to team up with our state trooper, residents, businesses, and nearby towns to understand what can be done to communicate risks to our community and improve public safety.

I welcome input from residents and the Chamber of Commerce on potential business development. Several vacant properties could serve well for small businesses, and I look forward to recruiting businesses to these properties.

We have many capital improvements over the next two years. The modular units in town hall need to be replaced. The fire station needs updates to improve the use of the facility for our first responders. We need to understand what it would take to remediate structural issues in the historic town barn and look for potential funding grants.

Most importantly, I will listen to residents and businesses and be transparent in my communications. I look forward to being of service to you and encourage everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 2.

Nancy Gorski
Republican Candidate for First Selectman
Killingworth



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PCS

Let's talk SBAC

As a candidate for RSD17 Board of Education, I believe it's essential to provide timely and accurate information to our community. An informed community is a strong community.

Let's Talk SBAC, short for the Smarter Balanced Assessment taken by grades 3-8 in ELA and Math.

A couple of notes before diving into the data.

1. SBAC scores are just a single, point-in-time assessment. The results provide insights for how students perform in comparison to other students around the state and for individual students across years.

2. The scores are not the end-all-be-all of district, school and student success. In the best case scenario, they are used to help identify learning strengths and growth areas for a district, and help parents understand what skills their children should work on for the year ahead.

3. With the pandemic, SBAC was harder to administer due to the complexity of remote, hybrid and in-person learning options.

Okay, let's get into it!

Overall, Region 17 schools performed on par with past performance, which is a positive sign given the interruption in learning during the 2019-20 school year.

- Over 7 in 10 students were proficient or higher in English Language Arts (ELA) and nearly 6 in 10

were for math.

- We did see a slight dip in math performance compared to past years. This was the first time in the last six years we've had proficiency under 60%. Statewide, there was a significant dip in math, too, showing that the disruption in learning negatively impacted math performance more than ELA.

- Compared to neighboring districts, we performed on par, if not better. This shows that we remain competitive in the region.

Okay, so now what?

- On an individual level, the scores are a great communication tool between families and teachers. Look over the score report and start a conversation about what areas you can further support at home.

- On a district level, we should first celebrate the fact that we're achieving great ELA results, even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. This will pay huge dividends down the road for our students. For math, we are already implementing extra support, funded by the federal American Rescue Plan funds, and providing after school and summer learning opportunities. This will hopefully close the gap quickly and permanently.

Overall, we're in a good spot. The state saw significant drops in performance for remote learners, and learners from high-need backgrounds (low

income, English Language Learners, and Students with Disabilities). We largely weathered the storm by offering a full in-person experience, and allocated resources to support our students.

Keep up the great work, RSD17 students, teachers and families! Our students benefit when we work together for their future.

*Hamish MacPhail
Board of Education Candidate
Resident of Higganum*

CAMPUS CORNER

Local students enroll at Eastern in the fall 2021

Merit Pages News

WILLIMANTIC, CT (09/17/2021)– Eastern Connecticut State University has enrolled more than 1,100 new students in the fall 2021 semester. The new admits include approximately 820 first-year students and nearly 300 transfer students who are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate level programs.

Among the students are:

- Madison Gamache of Haddam, a full-time undergraduate student majoring in Psychology.
- Collin Graveline of Killingworth, a full-time undergraduate student majoring in Communication.

- Megan Perry of Killingworth, a part-time graduate student majoring in Non-Degree.

The most popular majors for the new students include health sciences, psychology, business administration, criminology, computer science and biology. The incoming students come from communities across Connecticut, as well as 23 other states and Ontario, Canada. Aside from New England states, the largest feeder states are New York and North Carolina.

GIRLS SWIM TEAM 2021

HKHS Defeats Plainville 92 - 64

By Alison Karam, Head Coach

Haddam-Killingworth High School Girls Swimming Team won the first meet of its 2021 season on September 10, defeating Plainville 92-64 at home. H-K swimmers won every event. Two of H-K's veteran swimmers raced fast enough to qualify for State Championships in three individual events: Jackie Flaherty (SR co-captain) in the 200-yard Individual Medley (2:25.69) and 100-yard butterfly (1:03.83) and Erin Marica (JR) in the 500-yard freestyle (6:03.65).

Top 3 finishes for Haddam-Killingworth:

200-yard Medley Relay

1st: A Relay: Kristen Thebeau (JR), Erin Marica (JR), Johanna Houska (JR), Olivia Macaluso (FR)

3rd: B Relay: Wesley Beaucom (SR), Sofia Campo (FR), Emma Sajus (SO), Nikki Ackerman (SR)

200-yard Freestyle

1st: Aleia Goodison (JR)
2nd: Peyton Tyler (SO)

200-yard Individual Medley

1st: Jackie Flaherty (SR) *
3rd: Kristen Thebeau (JR)

50-yard Freestyle

1st: Olivia Macaluso (FR)
3rd: Sofia Campo (FR)

100-yard Butterfly

1st: Jackie Flaherty (SR) *
2nd: Johanna Houska (JR)

100-yard Freestyle

1st: Aleia Goodison (JR)

500-yard Freestyle

1st: Erin Marica (JR) *
3rd: Shea McNamara (SR)

200-yard Freestyle Relay

1st: A Relay: Olivia Macaluso (FR), Aleia Goodison (JR), Johanna Houska (JR), Jackie Flaherty (SR)

3rd: B Relay: Nikki Ackerman (SR), Olivia Campo (FR), Wesley Baucom (SR), Sofia Campo (FR)

100-yard Backstroke

1st: Kristen Thebeau (JR)
3rd: Peyton Tyler (SO)

100-yard Breaststroke

1st: Erin Marica (JR)

400-yard Freestyle Relay

1st: A Relay: Olivia Macaluso (FR), Aleia Goodison (JR), Johanna Houska (JR), Jackie Flaherty (SR)

3rd: B Relay: Emma Sajus (SO), Nikki Ackerman (SR), Peyton Tyler (SO), Kristen Thebeau (JR)

* Time qualified for State Championships



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HKYFS seeking leader for Executive Director position

The Board of Directors of Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. (HKYFS, "the agency") is seeking a dynamic, innovative professional to lead a well-regarded youth and family services bureau that has served the Haddam and Killingworth communities for nearly 30 years. HKYFS is headquartered in Higganum, CT. The agency's employees provide individual and group counseling for youth and their families, positive youth development programs, after school and summer programs, parent and grandparent education, first time juvenile offender programs and services, holiday gifting programs and many other services. The agency oversees the Healthy Communities Healthy Kids Coalition that focuses on alcohol and drug prevention programming with the Haddam-Killingworth community.

Mission: HKYFS is committed to enhancing child and youth development, enriching families, and promoting healthy Haddam and Killingworth communities.

Collaborations: HKYFS collaborates with over 100 entities, most notably Regional School District 17, local businesses, civic organizations, court services, The Connecticut Youth Services Association, health professionals, legislators, parent groups, other youth and family service agencies, religious communities, law enforcement officials, local and state agencies and many others.

Funding: Financial support for this non-profit, 501(c)(3), agency is provided by the towns of Haddam and Killingworth, state and federal grants, individual and corporate donations, proceeds from fundraising events and private

foundations.

Summary Job Description: Reporting directly to the Executive Committee of the HKYFS Board, the Executive Director's primary responsibilities include:

- Overall management of the agency
- Direction and supervision of all staff
- Accountability for budgetary and programmatic results
- Collaboration with Regional District 17 and other key constituencies
- Fundraising
- Identification and pursuit of applicable grant opportunities
- Staff and resource development
- Research and assessment
- Advocacy
- Professional representation of agency to all clients, government and community constituents

Qualifications: The ideal candidate will meet the following profile:

- An enthusiastic, compassionate and experienced leader with a demonstrated commitment to social service and advocacy on behalf of children and families
- A Master's Degree or equivalent experience preferably in social work, public health, or related field
- Demonstrated effective leadership of an organization, especially in the nonprofit sector and/or related to education, prevention, youth empowerment and community organizing
- Effective experience with nonprofit board development, grant writing and fundraising

- Understanding/experience with basic budgeting practices and financial statements
- A dynamic public liaison and partnership builder

Additional desired candidate qualities include: the ability to balance multiple priorities; excellent oral and written communication skills including presentation expertise; computer literacy particularly with QuickBooks, Microsoft Outlook, Excel, Word and Power Point; personal organization. The successful candidate will be available for periodic community interaction on weekends and weeknights and will pass appropriate fingerprint and background checks. Compensation will be commensurate with qualifications.

Qualified candidates should submit their resume, references, and cover letter by October 8, 2021

Via mail to:

Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc.

Attn : Jane Baird

P.O Box 432

Higganum, CT 06441

Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. offers employment opportunity to all applicants for employment and to all employees regardless of gender, age, race, color, religious creed, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, marital status or disability.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE HK1

HKHS Boys place first & girls place third at Suffern Invitational

Continued from page HK1

The JV boys squad placed 3rd at the CT River Valley Inv. and were led by race winner freshman Jack Cozean who covered the 5,000-meter course in a time of 18:27. The girls team placed first overall scoring 28 points to take the team title. They were led by race winner freshman Margaret Robinson who placed first

in a time of 24:53 for the 3.1-mile course.

The cross-country team will next be in action on Saturday September 25, 2021, at the Ocean State Invitational in Warwick, RI.

Photo courtesy of Yvette & John Minervino.

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Gov. Lamont outlines need for continuing emergency powers

By Marc Fitch, Yankee Institute. Reprinted by permission from Yankee Institute

(Sept, 22, 2021) — In a letter to legislative leaders calling for a special session next week to extend his emergency pandemic powers until February 15, Gov. Ned Lamont cited the Delta variant, an uptick in Connecticut cases and the ongoing need for vaccination, testing and mask mandates as reasons the emergency declaration should be continued for a sixth time.

Lamont said continuation of his executive orders are necessary to continue enforcing vaccination and testing mandates for state employees, teachers and school staff and nursing home staff.

“Several of the few remaining executive orders that remain in effect are critical to the State’s ability to continue our vaccination campaign and other critical safety measures, especially masking requirements in schools and other critical safety measures,” Lamont wrote.

Lamont also cited the need for continuing his emergency powers in order to continue “temporary changes to the summary process for eviction,” and procuring “non-congregate housing” for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence survivors.

Lamont says that continuing the emergency declaration will ensure Connecticut receives additional federal FEMA funding for those efforts and additional funding for emergency food assistance.

“Despite speculation to the contrary, the federal government has made it clear that we would not receive the roughly \$2 million per quarter in FEMA reimbursement for such efforts with the executive order the emergency declarations that enabled it,” Lamont wrote.

Lawmakers debated whether or not Connecticut has to continue its emergency declarations to receive that FEMA funding during the last legislative vote to extend the governor’s powers in July.

Lamont included two new executive orders he intends to sign if his emergency powers are extended, including an expanded vaccine mandate for health care facilities and health care workers “who provide care to high risk individuals,” and reducing the “cost of extended unemployment insurance benefits for individual employers.”

Meanwhile, the legislative Conservative Caucus held an informational public hearing on workers affected by employer vaccine mandates.

A number of individuals – particularly bus drivers, teachers and nurses — expressed concern over potentially losing their jobs for refusing the COVID vaccine when Lamont’s executive order requiring vaccines and testing for school and health care workers takes effect next week. Many called for an end to the public health emergency declaration.

A rally was held at the Capitol over the weekend on Saturday, September 18 with hundreds of people

protesting the mask and vaccine mandates.

The General Assembly is set for a special session next week to vote on whether or not to continue the emergency declaration with majority Democrats likely to pass the measure with opposition from Republicans.

According to the latest statistics provided by Lamont’s office, Connecticut’s daily positivity rate was 2.15 percent, with 269 individuals hospitalized

with the virus; 74.3 percent of those hospitalized are not vaccinated.

Connecticut has one of the lowest COVID infection rates in the country and one of the highest vaccination rates. According to the New York Times, 68 percent of Connecticut residents are fully vaccinated and 75 percent have had their first dose.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE HK1

Higganum Market under new ownership

Continued from page HK1

smaller shelving units in them with specialty foods: gluten free breads, granola and organic cereals, baked goods, and more.

While taking photographs to go with this article, I counted 40 varieties of maple and other syrups like Madagascar vanilla infused maple syrup, blueberry syrup, cinnamon infused maple syrup, barrel-aged maple syrup, Lyle’s Golden Syrup, and date nectar.

Likewise, there were over 100 varieties of barbecue sauces and marinades, including roasted garlic honey barbecue sauce, sugar free barbecue sauce, Naughty Dog Habanero & Jalapeno barbecue sauce, and Sweet Baby Rays in several varieties.

They have many varieties of nut butters and teas, pastas and spices, fresh bread, alternative milks, and much, much more.

When asked, Samir said that the way Ming had the store was very successful so “there was no point changing.” They wanted the business for four years, and it was “a well run and profitable business.” Ming stayed on for a short time to help with the transition.

Samir said that there might be some bumps because of Pete being in the hospital for the foreseeable future in terms of stocking products, but that if patrons are patient, “I promise we’ll get it back to normal,” said Samir. If there are any changes that you like, let them know.

Photos by Kathy Brown, except photo of Pete provided by Samir Patel.



Barbecue sauces.

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The Town of Haddam is seeking applications for the position of Transfer Station Part Time. This is a 20 hour/week position.

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HVFC Celebrates Old Timers' Night

On Sept. 19, 2021 Haddam Volunteer Fire Company welcomed back retired (Life) members for its annual Old Timers' Night. Once a member serves 15 years with the company, he or she can be elected to Life Membership.

The "Old Timers" were treated to a social hour, dinner, a prize raffle, and conversation with the newer members.

Photos by Olivia Drake, HVFC.



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Haddam River Days is back!

From Town of Haddam

Scheduled for Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Haddam Meadows State Park with a rain date of Sunday, October 3. Co-hosted by the Haddam Lions Club and Town of Haddam, activities include a car cruise show with live music followed by fireworks after sunset. There will be limited food options from local town civic groups. The event starts at 4:00 p.m. with fireworks around 7:45 p.m. Grab a blanket and bug spray, and head down to everyone's favorite annual event!

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