

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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March 3, 2022

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Free weekly

Yes, It Is OK to Become Your Parents. This Killingworth EMT Is Proof



Photo by Clark Judge.

By Clark Judge, KAA

There's a comical insurance ad on TV where homeowners are advised that they don't need to become their parents. But try selling that to Killingworth's Mary Robbenhaar-Fretz.

She knows better.

An EMT and member of the Killingworth Ambulance board of directors, she's done more than follow her mother's path most of her adult life. She traced it. Step ... by step ... by step.

At 30, she pursued her mother's passion and went into nursing. Decades later she joined the ambulance association's board. Just like her

mother. Then, in 2018, she became an EMT. Just like her mother. Now she makes ambulance runs with her husband, James – Mary in the back, James at the wheel.

Just like her mother ... and her Dad.

"You do kind of become your parents," she said, laughing. "That's frightening. But what's really scary is when people around town – particularly the older ones – see me and call me Romanie."

Romanie was her mother's name. Romanie Klein-Robbenhaar. Her father was Dolph Klein-Robbenhaar. They met when Romanie was in

Continued on page HK3

Deer Lake Sold to Private Developer. . . Almost

By Clark Judge

In what it called "a difficult decision" and "one that wasn't taken lightly," the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America has decided to sell the Deer Lake Scout Reservation to a private developer.

The unexpected move was made at a meeting Thursday night of the Connecticut Yankee Council's Executive Board and announced Friday. Response was immediate, with several persons seeking to protect the 255-acre property as open space characterizing it as "shocking."

But wait. There's a catch.

The sale is not final.

In its statement Friday, February 18, the Council



Photo by Clark Judge.

said it would "consider offers superior to the one being pursued, and any such offers would need to be received by March 31." In other words ... anyone interested in protecting Deer Lake has until the end of March to produce a competing figure.

Or else.

"This is incredible," state Sen. Christine Cohen said, "These are the Boy Scouts of America, and there is indeed an outdoor code. And you're going to just disregard all of that for the dollar? It's really unbelievable to me.

"This is an organization about doing good ... and

Continued on page HK5

Haddam Shad Museum: 2022 Hours

By Elizabeth Malloy, Executive Director

The Haddam Shad Museum will be open on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from April 3, 2022 to June 12, 2022. The Shad Museum, founded by Dr. Joseph Zaiantz of Haddam Neck, focuses on the importance of the shad fishing industry to Haddam and the Lower Connecticut River Valley. Housed in the former Bill Maynard Shad Shack, the museum features many important and unique artifacts related to this once important local industry and is the only museum in the country solely devoted to shad fishing.

Shad Museum directors, who are knowledgeable

about both commercial and sport shad fishing will be available to answer questions. Appointments encouraged at 860-345-2400. Masks suggested.

The museum is located at 212 Saybrook Road, Higganum, behind the gas station. Free admission.

Shad Fun Facts:

Shad do not feed after they enter fresh water

Shad belongs to the great family of herrings

Average weight of White Shad is 4 pounds

Maximum age of a shad is 7 years

Shad are sensitive to light

Sport shad fishing did not begin until the 1930s

In This Issue: • HVFCo News, HK2 • Library News, HK4 • Community Calendar, HK5





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RiverQuest – Big News, Big Moves and New Pursuits

By Kathy Brown

On January 31, 2022, the Connecticut River Museum, based in Essex, purchased the vessel RiverQuest. “She will now be berthed permanently at the Steamboat Dock in Essex which is where she began 20 years ago!” said Captain Mark Yuknat. Since the Museum will now have the name RiverQuest, Captains Mark and Alex’s boat excursions will be done under the name Connecticut River Expeditions.

Captain Alex Yuknat is getting ready for another season on the 64’ boat, “Adventure.” They are booking Private Charters, as well as some of the popular public cruises, such as the Sunset, Tree Swallow, Fourth of July, which will depart from Dock #3 at Eagle Landing State Park in Haddam.

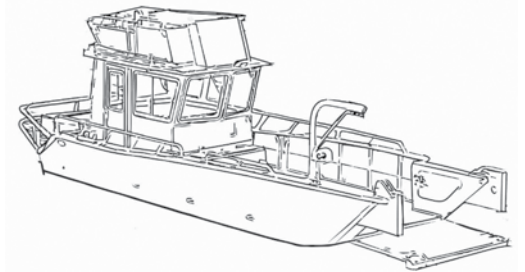
Captain Mark designed a 30’ aluminum research vessel, “R/V Keeper” that will be built by Chester Boat Works in Chester. “Keeper” will depart from Dock #1 at Eagle Landing State Park. Since it is a smaller boat, “Keeper” will be available for small group experiences, up to six passengers. “She will also be involved with a non-profit we established and other organizations that work on keeping the Connecticut River clean,” said Captain Mark.

The non-profit, which has yet to be named, is planning to take part in river cleanups, post educational information at Eagle Landing State Park, and have a small educational center at Eagle Landing State Park.



Cathy Malin, who has been crew/naturalist aboard RiverQuest for 10 years, will still be involved with RiverQuest, but she will be located at the museum now. She and Captain Dan will be offering late winter cruises to see Eagles, check out the Connecticut River Museum’s website for the schedule. For more information about RiverQuest, Cathy can be reached at 860.767.8269.

“The sale of RiverQuest is bittersweet,” said Captain Mark. “We have enjoyed all these years sharing the river with so many new and old friends, but we are very excited to move in a new direction with R/V Keeper and ADVENTURE. We hope you will be along for the ride!”



To contact Connecticut River Expeditions, please use their new email, captmark@rv-keeper.com, or call at 860-662-0577.

Photos/drawings courtesy of Connecticut River Expeditions.

HADDAM PROUD

Connecticut’s First Pick-your-own Daffodil Farm Receives Recognition from American Daffodil Society

By Jen Halfinger

Halfinger Farms Dancing Daffodils is celebrating their fourth pick-your-own daffodil season this spring. The Halfingers have worked diligently since 2017 to revive Higganum’s historic Bonfoey Property, and to put the land back into farming after an extended state of dormancy.

They are thrilled to have been recognized by The American Daffodil Society; Dancing Daffodils will be featured in their March publication of The Daffodil Journal, which is mailed quarterly to all ADS members across the United States and to those living abroad.

“Being recognized by The American Daffodil Society is an enormous

achievement for our farm and our family,” said Jen Halfinger. Picking daffodils is one of life’s simple pleasures. It is a back-to-basics activity; family and friends feel joy and are at peace when they are surrounded by the beauty of the daffodils. It’s an activity that is perfect for everyone. This is especially important to The American Daffodil Society whose mission includes promoting a widespread interest in daffodils.

Jolene Laughlin, the Daffodil Journal’s editor, explained, “Our organization has been working very hard to promote daffodils and make them relevant to younger generations. We are delighted to highlight growers that encourage the public to be more

aware of them and enjoy them.”

This spring, Dancing Daffodils will feature 60,000 daffodils for visitors to choose from. “We expect an early spring start, and an excellent pick-your-own daffodil season,” said John Halfinger.

The farm features over 20 varieties of daffodils to choose from. Dancing Daffodils is one of the places that helps make Higganum so special. The farm expects to open in late March or very early April. Call the picking hotline at 860-345-4609 for updates on the picking including start information and condition descriptions. Keep up to date on Facebook or Instagram.



Photo courtesy of the Halfingers.







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Yes, It Is OK to Become Your Parents. This Killingworth EMT Is Proof

Continued from page HK1

nursing school in the Netherlands – Amsterdam, to be exact – and soon married. Emigrating to Canada when Mary’s mother was six months short of graduating, they settled in Ottawa and welcomed the first of their four children.

Her name was Mary.

Four years later, Romanie and Dolph moved again — this time to the United States. On the advice of Dolph’s brother, who lived in Killingworth, the family relocated here in 1963 – moving in with Mary’s uncle before finding a permanent home.

And that’s where our story begins.

Fast-forward to February, 1971, when Romanie and Dolph join a group of concerned residents to form the Killingworth Ambulance Association. Both become actively involved, first as board members and then as first responders — making ambulance runs together, with Dolph driving and Romanie in the back.

Sound familiar? It should.

“I have to say my Mom probably got my Dad into it,” Mary said. “He was so busy. He worked 13 hours a day, and they’d be on at night. He’d get home at 6:30, and they’d be on at 7. They were volunteers, and back then, you didn’t have to be as skilled and trained as EMTs are now.

“My Mom was definitely more into it than my Dad. She really loved the hands-on stuff. Her first run was a UPS driver who had a bee sting. That was before EpiPens, and she had to do CPR all the way to New Haven. He didn’t make it.”

Mary attended Morgan High School before moving on to Wesleyan University, where she was a political science major. She envisioned a career as a lawyer but first joined the Peace Corps, teaching children in Niger. That lasted a year. Then it was back to the United States, accompanying a boyfriend to Indiana where she was a youth program director at the local YMCA. Eventually, she found herself back in Killingworth, this time certain what she would pursue next.

Nursing.

“When I was in the Peace Corps,” she said, “I wrote an essay to get into Yale (School of Nursing). I was supposed to teach English in Niger. They were French-speaking kids, who spoke the local language. But they didn’t need to learn English. They needed to learn about good health care and nutrition. That’s when I decided to come back and go into nursing.”

So she did. She gained an associate degree from

Quinnipiac’s School of Nursing, then spent 10 years at Yale Hospital as a pediatric RN while working toward a master’s in nursing.

“My Mom was thrilled that I was a nurse,” Mary said. “It sort of fulfilled her dream.”

Three years after Romanie passed away in 2013, Mary joined the KAA board of directors. Two years later, she decided to become an EMT, like her mother and father. So she took the 160-hour course, passed the exam and was certified to do what her mother had done decades earlier.

“For the longest time,” Mary said, “I wanted to volunteer and give back. Then, when I retired in 2018, I thought: Now I have time to devote to this. Really, it was in memory of Mom. The organization meant a lot to her. If my Mom hadn’t been involved with it, I don’t know if I would.”

But she is.

So is husband James Fretz, a self-employed cabinet maker and architectural wood worker. He joined the board with Mary in 2016 and took the EMT course four years later during the COVID pandemic. Like his wife, he passed the exam, and now the two are on call for the KAA from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“I probably influenced him,” Mary said, “but I didn’t really push it. I think he just kind of observed and knew we needed people. I said, ‘I just need a driver. If you would drive, it would make me so happy.’ So he took the course.”

He did more than that.

When the Killingworth Ambulance Association last fall celebrated its 50th anniversary, it recognized the top three responders from 2020-21. Board president Dan O’Sullivan and EMT Lisa Anderson were two of them. James Fretz was the third, remarkable in that he wasn’t EMT certified until December, 2020.

“James has been an amazing addition to the KAA,” said O’ Sullivan. “Not only does he cover two days a week with his wife, but he is frequently found on late night calls or on other days when needed to complete a crew. He is a critical part of our team in delivering EMS service to the town.”

Husband-and-wife teams aren’t unusual at the KAA. Mike and Marguerite Haaga are EMTs who serve on the KAA’s board of directors – Mike as the chief of service; Marguerite as the vice-president.

Board member Mark Clifton and wife Patty are EMTs, too. But a husband-and-wife team that followed every step – literally – of a mother and father? Rare, though Todd and Lara Hajek are close. Todd’s mother, Irene, is a former EMT and past president and vice president of the KAA board.

“I got involved because of Irene,” said Lara Hajek, an EMT whose brother, father and brother-in-law are – what else? — EMTs.

So forget that TV commercial. Like it or not, we do become our parents. Mary Robbenhaar-Fretz is proof.

“It’s kind of funny,” she said. “When you’re growing up, it’s the last thing you’re going to do, right?”

Apparently not.

KILLINGWORTH

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By

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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, March 3

RSD #17 Board of Education joint meeting on budget with towns 6:00 p.m.

RSD #17 Board of Education Budget workshop 7:00 p.m.

Haddam Planning & Zoning meeting 7:00 p.m.
Parmelee Farm Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 4

Killingworth Historic Review Committee meeting 11:00 a.m. (remote access).

Saturday, March 5

Saturday Storytime 10:00 a.m. Killingworth Library (Zoom).

Tuesday, March 8

Killingworth Health & Safety Committee meeting 2:30 p.m. (remote access).

RSD #17 BOE Budget workshop 6:30 p.m.

Killingworth Inland Wetlands Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. Location TBD.

Killingworth Board of Finance meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote access).

Killingworth Library Tuesday Book Discussion 1:00 p.m. The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland by Jim Defede. Location TBD - call library 860-663-2000.

Killingworth Library Tech Time Tuesdays 2:00 p.m. Register online or call 860-663-2000.

Wednesday, March 9

"No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion" 5 Part DVD Series-

Wednesdays, March 9 – April 6, 2022 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart on the Lake 194, Candlewood Hill Rd., Higganum.

Haddam Board of Assessment Appeals meeting 1:00 p.m.

Haddam Board of Finance Budget Review meeting 6:30 p.m.

Haddam Economic Development Commission meeting 6:30 p.m.

Killingworth Public Health meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote access).

Thursday, March 10

Haddam Board of Assessment Appeals meeting 1:00 p.m.

Killingworth Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote access).

Haddam Park & Recreation meeting 7:30 p.m.



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LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HADDAM Planning and Zoning PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the Old Town Hall, 30 Field Park Haddam CT on March 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

Public Hearing and Meeting:

1. A special permit request to allow a 6700sq ft commercial building to 1572 Saybrook Rd for office, retail and professional services. Applicant: DBP LLC - map 49/lot 69

Said application is on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam. Planning and zoning Commission, Haddam CT

TOWN OF HADDAM PLANNING AND ZONING NOTICE OF DECISION

It was decided at the Town of Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on February 17th, 2022 meeting at 7:00 p.m. to approve the following:

1. Proposed zoning text amendment to adopt new Section 8.A Adult Oriented Uses in the I-2 Industrial Zone with an effective date of March 20th, 2022. A copy of approved text is on file in Town Clerks Office.
2. Proposed amendments to Section 5.6 Prohibited Uses to remove tattoo parlors as prohibited use and add adult land uses with an effective date of March 20th, 2022. A copy of approved text is on file in Town Clerks Office.
3. Proposed amendment to allow Tattoo and Body Piercing Parlors by special permit in Commercial (C-1), Tylerville Village and Higganum Village District Zones with an effective date of March 20th, 2022. A copy of approved text is on file in Town Clerks Office.
4. Proposed special permit to change existing non-conforming use from light industrial/ bottling warehousing, loading and distribution of bottled water to a less intensive use involving storage and washing of catering equipment, furniture, décor, glassware, china and other personal property, and parking and garaging of related vehicles using existing buildings and improvements with conditions. 124 High Street Map 24 / Lot 40 Applicant: Eagle Landing LLC

JOB POSTING TOWN OF HADDAM PUBLIC WORKS/MAINTAINER

The Town of Haddam Public Works Department is seeking applications for the position of Maintainer. This is a 40 hour/ week position.

Applicants must have a valid CDL, Class A or B, with an Air Brake endorsement. Applicant must also provide the Town with a copy of your updated medical card and a copy of your driving history, obtainable from the DMV.

An application and full job description can be obtained by visiting www.haddam.org and selecting Employment Opportunities. Applications/resumes must be received no later than March 11, 2022 @10:00AM. Please send via email to selectasst@haddam.org.

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Deer Lake Sold to Private Developer. . . . Almost

Continued from page HK1

bringing people together ... and the love of the land. This is not in keeping with that mission at all. They're really being untrue to themselves. I'm surprised with this decision."

So are those involved in the potential purchase of Deer Lake. But the decision is easy to explain: The Connecticut Yankee Council says it has two offers – one from an unspecified developer and one from the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a non-profit that seeks to protect Deer Lake as open space. The bids aren't close – with a gap of approximately \$2 million believed to separate the two proposals – and the Council took the higher one.

But why were the bids so divergent? Ah, there's the question. Each was based on different appraisals. According to sources, the Boy Scouts had the property valued at anywhere between \$3.7-4.2 million, while the Trust for Public Land's appraisal is over \$1 million less. That's a problem, and it's one that – if not resolved before March 31 – is a deal breaker. Game over.

"I told the Trust for Public Land on numerous occasions that if you're close, we would accept it," said Rudy Escalante, president of the Connecticut Yankee Council's Executive Board. "I don't know if 'close' means a hundred dollars or \$100,000, but it at least has to be close. But if it's not close, it's an easy decision. And they weren't close."

But TPL is bound by laws and policies that govern how it uses both charitable and taxable dollars, and it can't and won't violate them. It was deeply invested in preserving Deer Lake, spent months and countless resources trying to negotiate with the Boy Scouts and dug deep to gain a fair-market assessment of the area.

In the end, that wasn't enough.

"I think there are a lot of folks working on this who are distrustful of the higher appraisal," said Cohen. "It really feels like they're over the barrel on this. The Trust for Public Land has been doing this for years and has expert appraisers who come out to properties.

"It's frustrating and a little bit suspicious that there's such a wide

difference there. Honestly, I think everybody's hands are tied now by the tight time line."

They are. There is no indication that TPL can do anything more than it has, and the Boy Scouts made it clear that it's not enough. They want the money to re-invest in two other properties, Camp Sequassen and Hoyt Scout Camp, and they want it now.

So, with negotiations at a standstill, the Connecticut Yankee Council decided to move immediately ... and in a direction that blind-sided Killingworth First Selectwoman Nancy Gorski.

"I'm absolutely disappointed," she said when reached Friday night. "(The Connecticut Yankee Council) responded to an offer out of disregard for open space and conservation. I am shocked. When I think that this property is in Killingworth, and it's going to be developed? I am not happy."

Nor are other political figures and conservationists, many of whom lined up at Deer Lake late last month to voice their support for its protection and preservation as open space. Included were U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, state Rep. Christine Goupil, Cohen, Gorski and members of various conservation groups, TPL and Save Deer Lake.

At that time, the Connecticut Yankee Council seemed so encouraged by Blumenthal's pledge to seek federal funding that it indicated it was willing to wait on a sale. But after a meeting two weeks ago with his office, the Council did an about-face. It changed its course and its timetable.

"That appraisal pretty much nails everybody to the wall," said Escalante. "Even his organization gave us no indication it was willing to go beyond."

And so it was the Council that moved ... to a vote.

"This decision by the Boy Scouts is deeply disappointing," Blumenthal said in a prepared statement. "My office will continue working with the Trust for Public Land and the Killingworth community to work toward a resolution that preserves public access to the camp and trails.

"This pristine open space is a state treasure that should be accessible and

open for camping, hiking, fishing and similar recreational and environmental uses."

It is important to note that the Scouts' decision has nothing to do with the Deer Lake Day Camp scheduled for this summer. A separate one-year rental agreement was reached last month between the Connecticut Yankee Council and Pathfinders, Inc. a local non-profit steering committee to benefit outdoor educational programs. It keeps the camp open from June through August under the continued direction of Mark and Patty Clifton, with 510 campers signed up since registration opened Thursday night.

However, its future beyond this summer is uncertain.

"The buyer," said the Scouts' release, "is allowing the Council to lease the property for at least the next three years to operate it as a camp."

What has some persons involved in protecting the property intrigued — and, frankly, perplexed — is the announcement that an offer has been accepted to buy the Deer Lake property ... but that the offer isn't binding if a "superior" proposal is made by March 31.

"Very confusing," said one individual. "It sounds like they're shopping it around."

Escalante disputed that interpretation.

"We have allowed (TPL) to bid and continue to allow them to bid," said Escalante. "If they want to change their bid and move forward, the developer has generously allowed us to put an 'out' clause in. That's where we are.

"We'd love to sell it to the town. It would've been great. Everybody would've thought we'd be heroes. But the money just wasn't there. It wasn't hundreds of dollars. It was millions."

And, in a nutshell, that is what this is all about: Money. For the Boy Scouts, it was a real-estate transaction ... simple as that ... and they took the better deal.

So what's next? No one is certain. The Trust for Public Land has declined comment. Gorski isn't certain what action the town can ... or should ... take. And Blumenthal pledged to continue working with the town and TPL to preserve Deer Lake.

But the reality is this: The Connecticut Yankee Council now enters into negotiations for a sale, and the possibility of a deal involving TPL, the state or local entities by March 31 is slim. Barring a last-minute upset, the property is then turned over to a developer ... with Escalante saying he has "no idea what their plans are."

"I do think all hope is not lost," said Cohen. There's always the possibility of a large donor coming in, feeling tied to the space and wanting to see the right thing done. But this is so incredibly disappointing and disheartening. I'm just shaking my head. This is not at all in keeping with the Boy Scouts' mission.

"They heard the public outcry on this. It's mind-boggling to think this is the direction they're going and that they moved at this speed. But I don't want folks to give up. There's been a wonderful grass-roots effort, and so many people have come together."

Nevertheless, the Connecticut Yankee Council is moving on. Essentially, it's now or never for Deer Lake, and the clock is ticking.

"I think we worked with the town of Killingworth as best we could," said Escalante. "I have a fiduciary responsibility to the Boy Scouts, the youth that are the members. And while I have respect for open land, I have to take care of our organization."

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Haddam Killingworth High School: 2021-22 Second Quarter Honor Roll

By Amanda Steele, Secretary, HKHS

Haddam Killingworth High School has listed the following students on the Honor Roll for Quarter Two of the 2021-22 school year.

Grade 12 – High Honors

Allen, Norianis
 Baird, Evan Thomas
 Beauchamp, Duncan Paul
 Bredefeld, Alyssa Rose
 Carlson, Tori Lynn
 Ceplenski, Eve Elizabeth
 Commerford, Hadley Grayce
 Conti, Andrew Thomas
 Criscuolo, Ly-Linh Anh
 Davis, Kayla Elizabeth
 Duncanson, Ryan Scott
 Flaherty, Jacqueline Grace
 Fleig, Andrew Steven
 Fontanella, Madison Elizabeth
 Freeman, Caleb Kanha
 Hedges, Andrew Vincent
 Height, Samantha Madison
 Imai, Yumiko Lillian
 Izzo, Trevor Anthony
 Keithan-Resnick, Madeline May
 Kowalski, Andrea
 Lamy, Caitlin Elizabeth
 LaTouche, Madison Marie
 Mack, Riley James
 Manley, Melissa Lynn
 Mazzotta, Kyla Reese
 Mercier, Joseph A
 Merola, Greyson Matthew
 Minervino, Brianna Marie
 Norman, Grayson William
 Rauscher, Laura Jocelyn
 Reinhardt, Sage Jillian
 Riggs, Libby
 Smith, Hayden Phoenix
 Snyder, Audrey Catherine
 Sosnowski, Leah Grace
 Strom, Scarlett Grace

Studzinski, Kylie Ann
 Swanson, Olivia Lee
 Thelen, Julia Florence
 Virgulto, Isabella Ann
 Wettemann, Alexis Lori
 Wettemann, Olivia Elaine
 Williams, Benjamin Andrew
 Young, Samuel Michael
 Zaitoun, Jayden Michael

Grade 12 – Honors

Ackerman, Nikki Lynn
 Barile, Gabriel West
 Cardarelli, Michael Joseph
 Cassidy, Grace Margaret
 Cavrell, Kevin James
 Civiello, Caden Emmanuel
 Grzep, Olivia Monika
 Guarino, John Russell
 Hajek, Sierra Marie
 Ketchedjian, Tobias Nathaniel
 Law, Aidan Thomas
 Leslie, Bryan Parmelee
 Lopez, Emma Mykala
 McGrath, Leah
 Mucciacciaro, Matthew Peter
 Mucciacciaro, Ryan
 Nelson, Jacob B
 Nugent, Brianna
 Phipps, Corey James
 Phipps, Rhianna Marie
 Rettberg, Carly Rose
 Schuster, Daniel Thomas
 Selmer, Charlotte George
 Sorrentino, Emily Maria
 Thompson, Ryan James
 Timothy, Jessica
 Welsch, Shelby Ann

Grade 11 – High Honors

Berardino, Sasha Grace
 Bodak, Kaleigh Pearl
 Botteon, Ryan Christopher
 Braren, Nolan Thomas

Brown, Georgia Grace
 Cancroft, Georgia Elisabeth
 Carter, Samuel Frederick
 Cassidy, Amanda Riley
 Chester, Leah Paige
 Conte, Caroline Laraine
 Corcoran, Paige Katherine
 Engler, Alexander
 Favalora, Julia Carolyn
 Ferguson, Jack Michael
 Freeman, Ellery Lauren
 Fulton, Jayden Hunter
 Gagliardi, Juliana Elizabeth
 Goldblatt, Colin R
 Gordon, Madeline Grace
 Houska, Johanna Lillian
 Insalaco, Jack Andrew
 Jones, Abigail Grace
 Kasperzyk, Payton Charlotte
 Kent, Caleb Paul
 Kolcio, Zenon
 Lara, Alexander Alberto
 LeMontagne, Jenna Aleece
 Lena, Christian
 Lonergan, Brenna Grace
 McKenzie, Grace Rose
 Miller, Gillian Alexander
 Murray, Sage Ann
 O'Brien, Kira Elisabeth
 Overchuk, Katherine Amelia
 Packtor, Adeline Frances
 Panzera, Arianna Marie
 Perry, Tyler Scott
 Petrie, Sarah Elizabeth
 Piela, Kelsie Elizabeth
 Powers, Callen Michael
 Pray, Jackson Lucas
 Schoen-Newsome, Sophia Molly
 Singer, Margaret Elizabeth
 Smigel, Duane Scott
 Strick, Laura Leigh
 Thebeau, Kristen Marie
 Tucker, Olivia Grace
 Wrinn, Audrey Arline
 Yazmer, Audra Lucy
 Yazmer, Payton Ella

Danaher, Lorin Margaret
 DeCrosta, Benjamin Paul
 Doverspike, Lawson Emil
 Fisher, Kevin
 Frith, Ellie Marie
 Garcia, Anadaly Bravo
 Hansted, Emmalena Gracie
 Henderson, Sarah Margaret
 Kelly, Nathan David
 LaCoss, Chloe Anette
 Lagace, Jayna Sophia
 Lavelle, Panagiotis
 Lloyd, Brooke Taylor
 Maier, Jacob Christopher
 Panzera, John Douglas
 Peterson, Emma
 Quilliam, Grace Elizabeth
 Scheppach, Neal Patrick
 Sirignano, Emma Lynn
 Whitehead, Jack Raymond
 Wurzbach, Wilhelmina Frazee

Grade 10 – High Honors

Celentano, Luke Patrick
 Churyk, Dylan Stefan
 Commerford, Ella Nicole
 DiNapoli, Jaimey Elizabeth
 Emigh, Shylee K.E.
 Fulcher, Mariella Elizabeth
 Gagliardi, Tyler Robert
 Girgenti, Juliana Rose
 Green, Emma Rose
 Harriman, Ava Lyn
 Hickman, Brooke Sarah
 Johnson, Alexa
 Kehlenbach, Emerson Lynn
 Keithan-Resnick, Jonah Benjamin
 Kuehn, Elsa Ann
 LaRosa, Jillian Marie
 Macy, Lauren Quin
 Marciniac, Abigail Beth
 Mazzotta, Mason Vincent
 McGoey, Jacob Edward
 McNeil, Ivy Rose
 Minickene, Samantha Alessandra
 Mitchell, Julia Curtiss
 Morales, Alejandra
 Munster, Victoria Rose
 Murphy, Elizabeth Margaret
 Nelligan, Kaleigh Grace
 Nguyen, Brian
 Norman, Tea Marie
 Pach, Samantha Valerie
 Palmieri, Christopher Joseph
 Richwine, Bella Rose

Grade 11 – Honors

Arnold, Kaylee Rene
 Badami, Pooja Vaishali
 Bailey, Brooklyn Reese
 Belanger, Amanda Louise
 Berardino, Isabel Maya
 Campo de la Vera, Alejandro Joseph
 Colandrea, Joshua Kai
 Coleman, Caroline Marie
 Cooke, Jamison Vaughan

Continued on page HK7



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EDUCATION

Haddam Killingworth High School: 2021-22 Second Quarter Honor Roll

Continued from page HK6

Rosenblum-Jones, Rebecca Grace
Ruimerman, Samantha Rose
Sajus, Emma
Therrien, Catharine Elizabeth
Tyler, Peyton Elaine
Walton, Leah Elizabeth
Werner, Benjamin Matthew
Wessinger-Neumann, Anna E
White, Edward Lucian
Yalamanchi, Vaishnavi Kalpana
Zajac, Annabelle Grace

Grade 10 - Honors

Adelberg, Sydney Alexis
Alger, Emily Katherine
Ashkenazi, Lucas Felix
Battistoni, Brigitte Ann
Blade, Alexander Johnathan
Braun, Hailey Christine
Coleman, Jenna Grace
Criscuolo, Tu-Lanh Quynh
Dattilo, Annabella
Hamilton, Ryan Michael
Hayward, Layla
Hill, Madeline Mercer
Hines, Nicolette Anne
Izzo, Tessa Rhiann
Johnson, Morgan Kara
Kessler, Declan Joseph

Kuchyt, Martin Alexander
Kukta, Caitlin Jean
Lamarre, Alyssa Mae
Lasusa, Ryan
LaTorre, Anabelle Helen
Marchetti, James Edward
Mastracchio, Jelena
Mercier, Benjamin Sigmund
Moriarty, Madison Leigh
Pitts, Cooper Thorpe
Reddy, Leeha
Ridgeway, Damen George
Rodriguez, Kayla Renee
Sicurella, Alec Jameson
Staskelunas, Luke Thomas
Timothy, Reese Anna
Zarra, Matthew Logan

Grade 9 - High Honors

Arbona, Kaley Grace
Campo de la Vera, Sofia Anne
Catalano, Madalynn Jeanne
Criscuolo, Liem Long
Eighmy, Claire Rose
Greenwood, Samuel Charles
Kelsey, Mitchell Benjamin
LaConte, Grace Ann
Leiberman, Bryce Daniel
Link, Clare Elizabeth
Liro, William Andrew
Loughlin, Ava Rose

Lowrey, Elias
Luneau, Sonya Rose
Macaluso, Olivia Sage
Maier, Brielle Snow
Mazzotta, Ava Grace
Merola, Colton Edward
Mitchell, Colin
Mitchill, Brody Paul
Napoletano, Caley McGill
Perry, Michael Gordon
Petersen, Amelia
Pierce, Sarah Joan
Pranulis, Hannah
Pypa, Veronica
Robinson, Cody Grey
Robinson, Margaret
Ruimerman, Seanna
Schweitzer, Mathias Joseph
Sehl-Albert, Keira
Seward, Madalyn Rose
Sirignano, Abby Marie
Sirqueira, Gabriel
Smalley, Chase Matthew
Smith, Jackson E
Thebeau, Jeffrey Emile
Thomen, Koen E
Williams, Gabrielle Sara Joy

Grade 9 - Honors

Aubin, Evan Alan
Barton, Summer Lynn

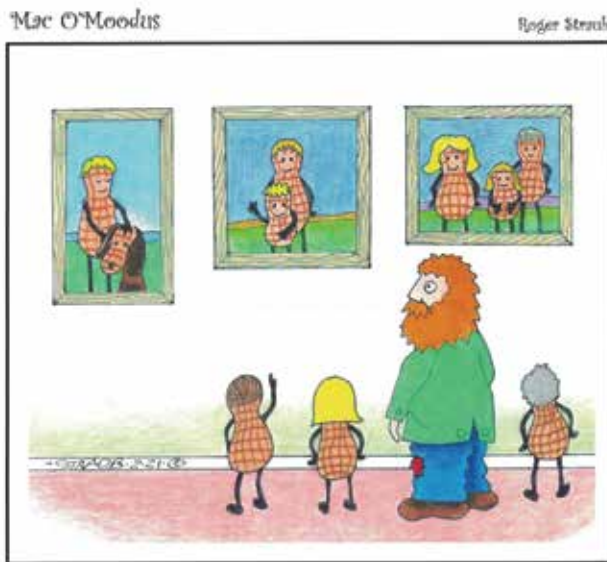
Christopher, Liam
Cozean, Jack James
Dixon, Trevor John
Dorman, Alisya Louise
Frasco, Christopher Raymond
Garoppolo, Anthony
Goeden, Emmerson Irene
Heath, Lauren Grace
Infante, Bella
Jacobs, Joseph Wade
James, William Richard
Joyner, Emily Reese
Lenart, Chase Jessica
Mallon, Natalya
McKenzie, Jake Thomas
McLaughlin, Larson Yong-Sheng
Merwin, Logan-Saige
Nieliwocki, Justin Walter
Ramino, Ava Danielle
Reilly, Hannah

Interested in writing for us?

Write to us at:

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CARTOON



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MEMORIAL DAY 2022

Order Veterans Personalized Bricks for Memorial Day 2022

By Rick Annino

Each Memorial Day, the Haddam Veterans Museum places an order for 4 x 8 inch red engraved bricks to be placed in the Memorial Walk in front of the Museum. These bricks are to honor any veteran who has been honorably discharged from any branch of the Armed Services. They do not have to be a resident of the Town of Haddam and the bricks will be placed by Veteran's Day.



Photo by Kathy Brown.

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RSD #17 BOE: Summary of January 2022 Meetings

By Jennifer Favalora, RSD#17 Board of Education

Cougar Pride: Superintendent Jeff Wihbey recognized Noreen Granucci for her 50 years as an employee in Haddam and Killingworth schools. Noreen was hired in January 1972, before the two towns became a regional district, as a special education teacher at Killingworth Elementary. Over 39.5 years she taught Transition, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade at both KES and Burr Elementary. Upon retiring, Noreen began her second career as a paraprofessional at Haddam Elementary and is now at Burr. Noreen's career has spanned generations of students, seven principals and eight Superintendents.

In December, the annual HKHS Holiday Show raised \$12,974.69 for the Connecticut Cancer Foundation which is a Non-Profit Organization that funds cancer research. The live telethon was produced on HKTU through the high school's Media and Communication courses and included participation from schools throughout the district.

Superintendent's Update: Superintendent Wihbey reported on the state-level changes to quarantine restrictions in place at our schools, including the removal of contact tracing at the schools. Mitigation strategies remain in place and are still reducing in-school transmission. Additionally, the District has received a limited supply of Covid testing kits and masks from the state to be used for staff and students.

Intermediate/ Middle School Lighting:

The Facilities and Finance Committees brought a joint recommendation to the Board to replace all of the lighting in the Intermediate/Middle School building to reduce energy consumption by 348,233 kWh per year, which is roughly the equivalent of taking 32 homes off the electrical grid. The net cost after Eversource incentives will be \$232,293. Eversource has offered a 40-month loan at 0%, with annual electricity savings offsetting loan payments to only \$36 a year. After the loan ends, annual energy savings will be approximately \$70,000 per year. The Board approved the recommendation and will use Secure Energy to complete the project within the next two months by working third shift and weekends.

Board Liaisons: The Board of Education named the following members to serve as liaisons between the Board of Education and the following agencies: Haddam Board of Selectmen: Brenda Buzzi, Killingworth Board of Selectmen: Kathy Zandi, LEARN Board of Directors: Jen Favalora, Park and Rec: Corey Roberts, Youth and Family Services: Shawna Goldfarb.

On our Website: In March, the Board of Education will begin work on the 2022-2023 RSD17 School Budget. All meeting dates, including the Superintendent's March 1st Budget Presentation, can be found on RSD17.org website under "District" → "Board of Education."

Proposed budgets and the budget timeline will be updated as they become available under "District" → "Budget Information."

Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords Celebrate 32 Years

By Kate Porch, MHVC Publicity Committee

On February 15, 2022 the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords celebrated their 32nd year of lifting spirits and healing souls with music. Founded in 1990 by Joyce Ghent, an RN at Middlesex Hospital, the group has grown from a handful of hospital employees to its current 90 members from all different communities and walks of life. The chorus was fortunate to be led by Gina Fredericks, an accomplished musician and talented teacher, for 31 years! Upon Gina's retirement, the Vocal Chords are delighted to welcome Samuel Tucker, the current Portland Secondary Schools Choral Director and AP/UCONN Music Theory teacher, as our new music director. We look forward to many years with this talented and enthusiastic choral

director.

As part of every year's celebration of its founding, the Vocal Chords acknowledge members who have reached 5 year milestones of their dedication to the group. This year, members recognized include: Ellen Ryczek (30 years), Mary Pierce, Marian Sarcia (15 years), Sherry Blaine, Leslie Pendleton, Jack Matthews (10 years) and Carolyn Henderson, Denise Ketterer, Michelle Richmond (5 years). Thank you all for your commitment to our musical mission.

MHVC will be performing our annual spring concert on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Portland High School. For more information, go to vocalchords20.org. Also check us out on Facebook (don't forget to Like us when you are there).



Photo courtesy of Kate Porch.

Middlesex Health Opens the Center for Golf Performance

By Amanda Falcone, Public Relations Director, Middlesex Health

There's a new resource for golfers looking to prevent, or recover from, an injury and improve their game.

The Middlesex Health Center for Golf Performance, located in Middletown, is now taking appointments and will assess and address a golfer's biomechanics. This will help golfers of all ages and skill levels better understand how their body relates to their golf swing. The goal is to keep them healthy and pain free.

Through the Middlesex Health Center for Golf Performance, physical therapists who are Titleist Performance Institute level 1 and medical certified provide a multi-point physical assessment that focuses on specific body movements, such as body rotation and posture. They also conduct a swing analysis using a sophisticated motion device. A specialized computer program gathers key data points and then creates graphs that illustrate the efficiency of a golfer's swing.

Using this system, alongside the physical assessment, Middlesex Health physical therapists will help golfers learn their pain points and limitations. This data will then drive improvement plans that include follow-up

sessions and at-home exercises and conditioning that are individually tailored to each golfer. For new golfers, they will learn what they need to do to be a successful, pain-free golfer.

With more than 60 million people around the world playing golf, Middlesex Health saw an opportunity to help Connecticut residents. This favorite pastime comes with many physical and mental health benefits, but it is important to use proper form and prevent injury.

"We are physical therapists who are also avid golfers," says Brian Taber, director of Physical Rehabilitation at Middlesex Health. "We appreciate the demands of the sport and want to use our knowledge to help those who visit the Middlesex Health Center for Golf Performance."

The Middlesex Health Center for Golf Performance does not offer your typical physical therapy session. Instead of focusing specifically on an injury, it takes a more holistic approach, focusing on the body as it specifically relates to golf. Appointments, while affordable, are not covered by insurance.

For more information about the Middlesex Health Center for Golf Performance, visit MiddlesexHealth.org/tpi

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