

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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August 18, 2022

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

Free weekly

Junior Division Member Ryan Wiese Graduates from Introduction to Fire Service Program



Ryan Wiese. Photos courtesy of Olivia Drake.

By Olivia Drake, HVFC Information Officer

Congratulations to Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Junior Division member Ryan Wiese, who has graduated from the week-long Introduction to the Fire Service program at the Connecticut Fire Academy! Ryan's grandfather, Howard Wiese, was a former HVFC Chief.

Following a brief awards ceremony, the Cadets demonstrated their newly-acquired skills in a simulated rescue operation.

HVFC Chief Sam Baber; Deputy Chief Jed Morrissey; Lieutenant Greg Duval; Lieutenant Kyle Everett; Firefighter Jamie Kuchyt; and Public Information Officer Olivia Drake attended the program to congratulate Ryan on his

accomplishment.

Once Ryan turns 18, he will be able to join the regular HVFC membership. For more information visit haddamfire.com



l to r: Lt. Greg Duval, Ryan Wiese, Chief Sam Baber.

The Winners! 2022 Killingworth Road Race Results

By Clark Judge

Mario Vazquez is hard to please.

The 43-year-old New Britain native conquered a field of nearly 200 runners and sizzling weather conditions to win the 15th Annual Killingworth Road Race on Saturday, August 6th, and it wasn't close. He beat the runner-up by nearly two minutes.

That's impressive ... except, apparently, to everyone but Vazquez.

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Mario Vazquez. Photo by Clark Judge.

HVFC Holds Water Rescue Drills on Connecticut River

By Olivia Drake, HVFC Information Officer

In a mock scenario exercise on August 8, 2022, the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company was dispatched to Haddam Meadows State Park for a reported personal watercraft accident near Haddam Island. In three rotations, crews took turns accessing the

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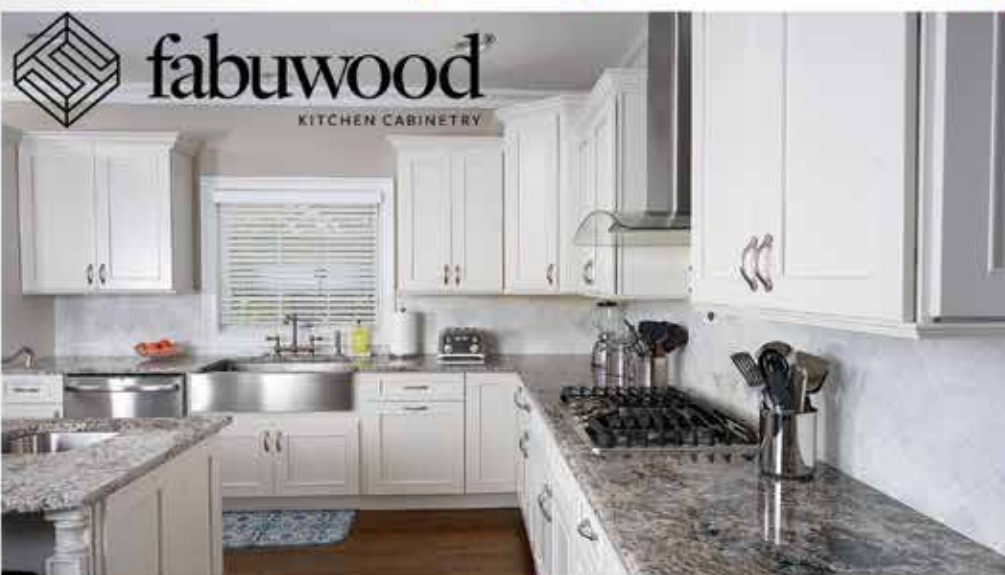
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The Winners! 2022 Killingworth Road Race Results

Continued from page HK1

He covered the four-mile route in 22:38, an average of 5:40 per mile and 1:58 better than second-place finisher Andrew Breck of Melrose, Massachusetts. Nevertheless, he was far from satisfied.

“I didn’t have a good week (of training),” he said. “I couldn’t eat right this week for some reason. So my training wasn’t where it was supposed to be. But I came out and did the best I could.”

The key word there is best. He was by far the best of an event staged for the first time in three years because of COVID. Leading from start to finish, Vazquez wound up with a time almost identical to his 2019 Killingworth Road Race when he was second to winner Conor McCabe.

McCabe won in 22:10. Vazquez finished in 22:37.3.

“That’s why I came back,” said Vazquez, who promised to return next year. “Because of my time. I wanted to beat it. I was hoping to run 21-something this time.”

OK, so he didn’t get there. But he was 10 minutes faster than all but 32 competitors, or 83 percent of the field.

Vazquez is an interesting story. He ran only one year of high school, competing in the 5000 meters, and did not compete in college. In fact, he said he didn’t compete again for 15 years before taking up running again “to see what I could do.”

Now he knows. So do the other 193 finishers Saturday.

Among them was Linda Spooner, 47, of Sturbridge, Massachusetts (photo above). She not only won the women’s open in 26:10; she finished sixth overall, averaging 6:33 per mile. Ivoryton’s Erin Lopez, 41, was second in 27:14.

In 2019, the last time the race was run, Guilford’s Maureen Terwilliger won the women’s event in 26:35.7.

Because organizers were uncertain of the turnout,



Photos by Clark Judge.

they ordered 180 T-shirts for participants. With 148 running three years ago, that seemed sufficient. It wasn’t. According to organizers, 189 individuals pre-registered, including one at 5:00 a.m. Saturday, with another 14 – or 203 in total – signed up by the start of the race.

“I bought the 180 shirts because you have to make the call early,” said Chuck Langevin, who co-organizes the annual event with Shawn Sodergren. “I thought I could have 50 extra. But the fact that we got most everybody a T-shirt was gratifying because everybody is happy, and we made more for charities. We definitely

exceeded my expectations.”

Sodergren agreed.

“We’re very happy with the turnout,” he said. “We had a great turnout from the 169 Running Club (a group of men and women dedicated to running a race in all 169 towns in Connecticut). The weather was good. Everybody got on the course and off the course safely. We didn’t know what to expect after COVID,

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PUBLIC SAFETY

HVFC Holds Water Rescue Drills on Connecticut River



Photo by Olivia Drake.

Continued from page HK1

scene via Marine-13. There, they worked to rescue multiple “patients” who were unconscious, injured, or inebriated, for the purpose of the drill.

“We respond to multiple calls a year on the Connecticut River, so it’s important that our members are refreshed in both boat operations and water rescue situations,” said Deputy Chief Jed Morrissey. “Helping to care for an injured patient in the water is much different, and often more difficult, than a regular assist, and requires a great amount of teamwork and communication.”

For more information on HVFC or becoming a member, visit us on haddamfire.com

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RSD17's 2022 Teachers & Staff of the Year

By Shawna Goldfarb,
RSD17 Board of Education

Regional School District 17 would like to recognize the following Teachers of the Year, and Staff of the Year, at each of our schools.

Teachers of the Year:

Becky Harkin has been a teacher at Burr since 2001. She taught first grade, third grade, and has been a second grade teacher for the past 15 years and is well deserving of the recognition of Teacher of the Year this year. Historically, the second grade team at Burr has seen lots of changes in staffing over the years and Becky has been the one constant. This year, the team included a long-term substitute and two teachers new to our district and Becky demonstrated unflagging leadership skills throughout the year. Becky stepped up as a mentor for all three new team members. She came in over the summer as each new teacher arrived to welcome them to the team and assist with setting up classrooms and getting to know curriculum materials. Becky became fondly referred to as “the mom of the grade level,” always looking out for everyone and making sure they had what they needed to be successful. She recognizes the importance of collegiality, trust and support in developing a cohesive grade level team. Students have reaped the benefits from the tight, mutually supportive team that Becky has helped to develop. Similarly, Becky regularly seeks feedback and input from our instructional coaches to ensure she is providing her students with the best possible educational experience.

As a teacher, Becky is organized, structured and well-planned. Students thrive in her classroom as a result of her consistency and routines. They feel safe, respected and know they can trust Becky to be supportive and fair. Becky has high expectations for her students and knows just what they need academically, socially, and emotionally in order to achieve their fullest potential. Whether that is a quick hug, a listening ear or extra

academic support to help a student understand a concept, Becky is right there providing exactly what each student needs throughout the day.

Haddam Killingworth Intermediate School's Outstanding Teacher of the Year is **Heather Barse**. Heather is a math, science and social studies teacher in the 4th grade. I can say without reservation that she is one of the most skilled math teachers I've worked with in more than 25 years in education. I could talk at length about her instruction, but I'll use the words of her nominator. This year, Heather did a phenomenal job supporting the 4th grade math team. Her strong knowledge of the I-ready program, along with her strength of data interpretation, helped guide many instructional planning meetings along with providing her math colleagues with valuable strategies to help strengthen their instruction as well. She showed us various reports the program provides and how she used that information to help group her students. In addition, she used data to create small groups and provided those students with interactive lessons to reinforce skills they needed help on. Heather's excellent collaboration and planning skills also helped ensure the math team was kept on track. She voluntarily mapped out each unit and provided the math team with a calendar of what lessons were to be taught on which days. She also communicated this information with our math support team as well.

Aside from curriculum, Heather works hard every day to maintain positive relationships with her students. Even with having a challenging class, Heather comes in each day smiling and greets her students with that same smile. She ensures that each student who comes into her room feels safe and comfortable and she takes the time to connect with them.

The HKIS community is very lucky to have Heather Barse as part of it. Her willingness to collaborate, her high standards for her students, and her knowledge of the curriculum

make her an integral part of our HKIS community. “I feel very fortunate to work with her.” I couldn't say it any better than her colleague and I also feel very fortunate to work with her. Congratulations, Heather!

It is my honor to introduce **Donna Jones** as the Killingworth Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

When I pause for a moment and reflect upon what makes a great teacher, I begin to think about relationships and how it is for someone to feel safe and cared for. And then I think about why Donna is such a special teacher and it becomes really clear. She has an incredible rapport with her students. She is extremely positive and supportive and her students trust her.

Donna knows her students so well, she knows whether they need a quick movement break to get some wiggles out, or whether they just need a minute to tell her about their weekend. She connects to her learners and always has a kind smile on her face.

Donna maintains high expectations and is a master at making educational decisions that are grounded in data. This has been especially important this year as she has worked tirelessly to fill in the gaps that may have been left in some of our students due to COVID shutdowns.

Donna is also a lifelong learner. Weekly, in the early hours of the morning, you will find her in the library with a group of colleagues studying and learning more about the science of reading and early literacy acquisition strategies. Her colleagues and students benefit from her dedication to improving herself. In fact, Donna often presents to the staff during our in-service workshops as a way to share her expertise with the rest of us.

One of her nominating colleagues recently said that “Donna is always eager to collaborate and work to provide purposeful instruction, utilizing a variety of tools and ideas, always with a warm, welcoming smile.” “Donna's calm, steady demeanor is a grounding force for us all during our busy and stressful school days,” wrote another colleague.

Donna also recognizes the value of building a positive school culture and celebrating student success. She has been an invaluable member of our school improvement team and has led our initiatives in developing “the KES Way.” It is my pleasure to congratulate Donna Jones as the KES Teacher of the Year.

Though she has been working in District 17 for about fifteen years, **Leanne Honious** joined the staff at HK Middle School just this year. Upon her arrival she was tasked with reinvigorating our library media center – making it the hub of learning for our school – collaborating with teachers to get students researching across all disciplines – and most of all, making the library a place where all students could feel at home and develop their love of reading. Just this year, Leanne has done all of this and more.

In addition to her traditional duties as the LMS, Leanne facilitates the train club and co-facilitates Aspiring Writers and Student Equity Council during flex. She helps students plan and broadcast the morning news every day. She has transformed the look and feel of the library and updated the library website. Recently, she added light up trees to the library and plans to use them as “poet-trees,” with student poetry as the leaves. In March, she held a book tasting to introduce

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Haddam Killingworth News

PO Box 15, Higganum, CT 06441

Staff and Contact List

Anthony Giamei, Managing Editor

Sharon Challenger, Senior Editor

Gigi Simko, Senior Editor

Meghan Peterson, Composition Editor

Carl Cavrell, Editor

Joanne Nesti, Copy Editor

Reporters: Phil Devlin, Sally Haase,

Clark Judge and Deb Thomas

Ed Munster, Advertising Manager

Contact us at:

HK-NowEditors@Outlook.com

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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, August 18

Toddler Tunes - Brainerd Memorial Library 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Children's Kindness Camp August 15 - 19, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (see Monday for details)

Killingworth Mystery Book Club 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Join us as we discuss *Before She Disappeared* by Lisa Gardner.

CT Summer at the Museum - 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

Friday, August 19

Children's Kindness Camp August 15 - 19, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Early drop-off and late pick-up available) First Congregational Church of Haddam.

Higganum Farmers Market 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. FOOD TRUCK- DOPE FRIED FOOD Music by Brian May

CT Summer at the Museum - 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

Sunday, August 21

CT Summer at the Museum - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

Monday, August 22

Killingworth Board of Selectmen meeting 7:00 p.m. Town Office Building.



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Killingworth Library Association meeting 7:00 p.m. KW Library.

Killingworth Zoning Board of Appeals meeting 7:00 p.m. Town Office Building.

Crafting Connections Mandala Seastar - Brainerd Memorial Library 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. A mandala is a complex abstract design that is usually circular in form. In fact, "mandala" is a Sanskrit word that means "circle". Mandalas generally have one identifiable center point, from which emanates an array of symbols, shapes and forms. In this class, we will be using art canvases, acrylic paints, and mandala dotting tools to create a sea star shape. Space is limited to 24. This is a program geared towards adults. We will accept participants age 16 and above.

Tuesday, August 23

Preschool Storytime at Brainerd Library 10:00 a.m. Join us every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for themed stories, songs, finger plays, and crafts. Appropriate for children ages 2 to 5, but siblings are always welcome. Storytime is held outside, weather permitting. Folding chairs will be provided, and families are welcome to bring a picnic blanket if they prefer.

Killingworth Economic Recovery meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote).

Wednesday, August 24

Night Boat to New York with Erik Hesselberg - Brainerd Memorial Library. Local author Erik Hesselberg will discuss his new book *Night Boat to New York: Steamboats on the Connecticut, 1824-1931*, a meticulously researched account of steamboat days on the Connecticut River, and their circuit from Hartford to New York City. Unlike the steamboats of Western waters, these vessels "were long, sleek craft, with sharp prows cutting a neat wake" as they traveled down the river at night to make port in New York by daybreak.

CT Summer at the Museum - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

Thursday, August 25

Toddler Tunes - Brainerd Memorial Library 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Haddam Zoning Board of Appeals meeting 7:00 p.m.

CT Summer at the Museum - 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.



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COMMUNITY

HKYFS Chooses New Executive Director, Tyree Hughey

By Laura Shipman, HKYFS

Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services is thrilled to announce the selection of Tyree Hughey as its new Executive Director. His official start date with the agency was August 8, 2022 and he has jumped right in by getting to know the Board of Directors and staff in the office. Tyree grew up locally in Portland and Middletown. He played football at Xavier High School and at Villanova University, where he earned his BS in Health Services before returning to Connecticut and earning his Master's in Social Work from the University of Connecticut. His career has been focused on providing opportunities for children and families around our state to, "Be the hero of their own song."

Tyree has significant experience in creating, implementing, managing and assessing programs; developing, leading and motivating teams; and identifying and solving problems. These were all assets the Board felt met the needs of our agency. Tyree has established a strong network both with state representatives, elected officials and business partners throughout the state.

During the search process Tyree was described as an individual who "enlightens, educates and motivates" youth and who works to create environments where people are comfortable asking for help. Tyree shared that he looks forward to learning about our community and exploring what the data tells us are our "growth opportunities." He looks forward to building partnerships and helping to rebuild our agency's offerings to best support our youth and our families.

One of Tyree's first official roles as Executive Director will be to help the Board hire a new Prevention Coordinator and Clinical Coordinator in order to return our counseling services to capacity. At this time, HKYFS services are available for children and families, but may temporarily include referrals out to other resources until our Clinical Director is in place.



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RSD17's 2022 Teachers & Staff of the Year

Continued from page HK3

newly purchased books and the March Madness bracket titles. Students came to the “restaurant” and sampled menus and books to vote on which were their favorites. Back in October, she rallied some staff members to dress as contestants from Double Dare on Halloween. Her colleagues thought she was crazy, but it was a hit with students and staff alike. Leanne participates in every single school spirit day and her ongoing efforts strengthen our school climate and encourage all students and staff members to thrive.

Leanne brings the same passion to working with her colleagues as she does with her students. She collaborates with social studies, ELA, science and math teachers in both buildings. She has helped to launch interdisciplinary units in ELA and History, and is teaching essential research skills at every grade level. On district PD days, Leanne provides teachers with professional development to address district and professional needs. She collaborated with others to plan Read Across America events and March Madness brackets for both buildings. She has also partnered with the PTO for book fairs and to coordinate assemblies such as a poetry slam for 7th graders. Leanne is also currently working on rewriting district library standards and curriculum and has collaborated with teachers to write social studies curriculum. She has helped pave the way for diversifying our read-alouds, book club titles and independent titles in the district. Leanne constantly reflects on her practice in an effort to improve her instruction, collaboration and, ultimately, student achievement.

We are so lucky to have Leanne Honious on our team at the Middle School and I am so pleased to be able to congratulate her as the 2022 HKMS Teacher of the Year.

HKHS and RSD 17 District Teacher of the Year 2021-22: **Ryan Kish** is a product of RSD17, having grown up here, graduated from HKHS and followed in the footsteps of his father, Mike Kish, who was a long-time teacher and coach at HK. He is actually the epitome of the classic HK “kid”: a great human with strong character, loyal to family and friends, hardworking and positive, while not making a lot of noise. He is a 16-year veteran of HK, teaching in and leading the Technology Education department.

Under his leadership, our PLTW program is easily one of the strongest in the state. He has accomplished this despite several staffing challenges over the years as they just don’t “make enough” tech ed teachers anymore. On many occasions, Ryan has stepped up and taught extra classes just to keep the program afloat and ensure that students could get the courses they needed.

Colleague and fellow department leader Marcy Webster says of Ryan, “Ryan cares about his students and strives each day to reach, teach, retain, mentor and support them.” He teaches to reach both the traditional and non-traditional students, giving them all a path to succeed as well as knowledge that they will use for the rest of their lives. “Ryan is the teacher these students will tell their children about, the one who taught them the tricks and tips they use each day to be successful.” Ryan is intensely student-centered, often volunteering to seek out struggling students to invite them into his room and whatever project is underway at the time so that they have a fun and safe home during lunch activity. He cares about the whole child and, when the need arose in our building, Ryan joined a small group of students and staff to design a program that more directly connected students in need with the resource required. He created a QR code poster, displayed around the school, that students can simply scan with their cell phone, which then sends a message to resource staff who are immediately deployed to support the student. A master carpenter, Ryan’s skills have often supported co-curricular programs, especially drama this year when a friend really needed his support. Lastly, Kish is one of those “last to fall” guys – and never has in all the years I have known him. Even when surrounded by challenges,

of which there have been plenty, his colleague writes of Kish, “He leads by example, gently urging us all to keep moving forward while looking back to ensure that no one is left behind.”

It is my great honor to know, work with and to count as a friend, HKHS Teacher of the Year, Ryan Kish.

Staff of the Year:

Pam Quinley joined the Burr Elementary School family as a special education paraprofessional in October of 2020 and is well deserving of recognition as Staff Member of the Year. From the moment she joined our team, it was apparent that she would do whatever it took to help students succeed. Pam is patient, dedicated and creative in support of students. Regardless of the situation, Pam is always able to keep her cool and think logically and creatively to problem-solve. She always seems to know just what a student needs in the moment in order to move through frustration, persevere with a task or remain focused on instruction. In addition to the specific students that Pam supports, she makes the extra effort to get to know all of the students in the kindergarten class and develops a relationship with each one of them. Students feel comfortable around Pam and she strikes a perfect balance between providing help and support while also promoting independence. Pam’s colleagues have consistently described her as “grace under pressure.” Her quiet, calm demeanor is beneficial to

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PRIMARY RESULTS

Haddam Primary Election Results from August 9, 2022

Haddam Primary Election August 9, 2022										
Office	Party	Candidate	D001	D002	D003	ABS	Hand Count	Total	Candidate	Office percent
Sec of State	D	Stephanie Thomas	118	71	17	13	3	222	Stephanie Thomas	73.0%
	D	Maritza Bond	38	26	7	6	5	82	Maritza Bond	27.0%
Treasurer	D	Erick Russell	85	53	13	13	4	168	Erick Russell	54.9%
	D	Dita Bhargava	36	24	5	3	4	72	Dita Bhargava	23.5%
	D	Karen DuBois-Walton	37	20	6	3	0	66	Karen DuBois-Walton	21.6%
			D1	D2	D3				Town-Wide (D)	
Total voters at close			158	99	32				289	
Total eligible at close			908	722	96				1726	
TURNOUT, incl abs									16.7%	
Office	Party	Candidate	D001	D002	D003	ABS	Hand Count	Total	Candidate	Office percent
US Senator	R	Themis Klarides	44	68	19	5	6	142	Themis Klarides	31.1%
	R	Leora R. Levy	127	120	12	0	2	261	Leora R. Levy	57.2%
	R	Peter Lumaj	31	16	4	2	0	53	Peter Lumaj	11.6%
Sec of State	R	Dominic Rapini	116	116	16	3	6	257	Dominic Rapini	58.5%
	R	Terrie E. Wood	76	81	20	3	2	182	Terrie E. Wood	41.5%
			D1	D2	D3				Town-Wide (R)	
Total voters at close			204	206	44				454	
Total eligible at close			779	772	83				1634	
TURNOUT, incl abs									27.8%	

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RSD17's 2022 Teachers & Staff of the Year

Continued from page HK5

students and staff alike.

I am honored to introduce **Megan Jenkins** as the Killingworth Elementary School Staff Member of the Year. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to observe Megan in a variety of settings, and I am constantly in awe of the talent and professionalism I get to see in Megan's work supporting students. She has a calm and nurturing demeanor that children respond positively to, and she is viewed by everyone as a highly skilled instructor, communicator and self-starter.

Throughout the course of a typical day, you may see Megan working 1 to 1 with a student, leading small group instruction, teaching a large group of students, or helping a child who is having difficulty, either behaviorally or academically. She does this with such success because she puts in the time and effort it takes to get to know each student as an individual. Megan has the flexibility and willingness to take on whatever challenges the school day brings, and that is an inspiration to the staff at KES.

A colleague of hers stated it best in a nomination letter: "A perfect combination of kindness and expectation of respect makes her perfect to work with this special population of students. She always builds strong relationships with every teacher and staff member she interacts with. Everyone always knows they can count on Megan." Another colleague said, "She has a soft, sensitive touch with those students who sometimes need a little extra caring on any given day. She's a superstar at always finding the good in each and every student."

Haddam Killingworth Intermediate School is proud to name **Carrie Armstrong** as our Staff Member of the Year. Carrie is a paraprofessional who largely works in our fifth grade classrooms. She is utterly dedicated to the students. She reads each group's book-club books to better help the students. She organizes those she needs to, encourages the ones who need it, and gently corrects behavior when that becomes necessary.

I have had many discussions with Carrie this year and what stands out is how important she sees each relationship she has with the students. She says, "They follow my directions because they know that I care about each of them." I have a special

assignment for Mrs. Armstrong: she watches the tag football game at every recess. Anyone who knows elementary recess knows that it is this game that usually has the most difficulty. So much so, that many elementary schools don't even allow it. However, with the boundaries that she sets, the kids not only can play, but have a great time doing it.

The family of one of our teachers has been hit several times this year with COVID quarantines, creating a large number of absences. It happens to be the class that Carrie spends most of her time in. Mrs. Armstrong has stepped up and helped keep the class running almost as if the teacher were in the room. It has been a tough year, but our staff like Mrs. Armstrong have made everything more manageable. Thank you, Carrie, for all that you have done and continue to do for the students and staff of HKIS.

It is my pleasure to introduce **Terrie Shimoda** as the 2022 HKMS Staff Member of the Year. Terrie is our Library Media Coordinator and as described in her nominations, she is a student and staff magnet and has devoted followers from all grades.

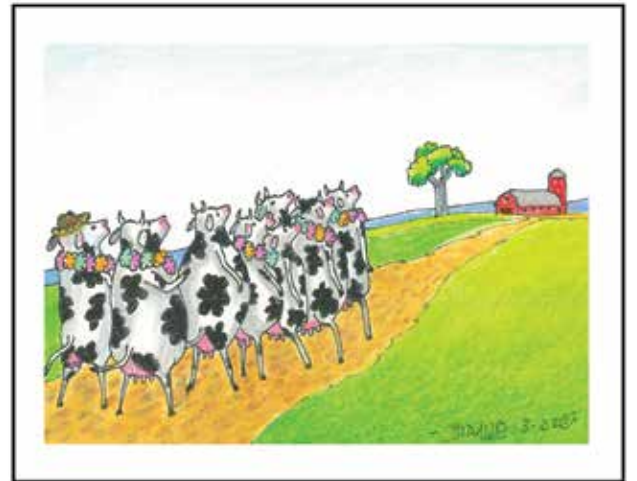
It has been noted that students purposefully make an effort to reach out to Mrs. Shimoda, not just when they want to check out a book or have a Chromebook question. Simply put, Terrie makes everyone she interacts with feel good and greets all with her infectious smile and hearty laugh. Students feel noticed, comfortable, and safe in her company. As one 8th grade boy said, "Mrs. Shimoda will always talk with you and point you in the right direction. She's straightforward, but always kind. I trust her and can talk to her about anything."

In addition to having an excellent rapport with students, staff members check in regularly with Terrie as well. She's quite the problem solver. If a student or teacher needs book recommendations for a particular genre or topic, she is there to help – often with numerous ideas ready to go. If there is a technology problem, Terrie often is the first line of assistance and can help students troubleshoot tech-related difficulties, which then lessens the Chromebook pile-up on the IT desk. And, if the copier is not operating properly, Terrie somehow manages to fix it, putting time-pressed teachers at ease and running off to their next class with copies in hand.

Finally, in addition to all she does during her work

Mac O'Moodus

Roger Straub



The Day The Cows Came Home

day, Terrie is a skilled seamstress who provided homemade masks to students and staff throughout the pandemic, and always gives her time to alter prom and wedding dresses. In short, Terrie makes every day brighter in our school.

Laura Wade joined the HKHS team this summer through what can only be divine intervention. Given the nursing shortage across the country, a great school nurse is hard to find and we actually hired Laura through a video interview from her Madison, Wisconsin home. It was our good fortune that she was moving east and managed to find little HK's job posting. When you first meet Laura, it is obvious that Laura is a rock star; half because of personality, and half because of Covid, she instantly became part of the core problem-solver circle of the high school. She is incredibly knowledgeable and skilled, and worked shoulder to shoulder with the administrative team to handle, respond to, and prevent Covid in our school. She works very closely with all of our student athletes, especially due to the absence of an athletic trainer for most of this year. Laura is skilled at difficult conversations, and brings a much needed sense of humor during this very difficult year. We simply could not have gotten through this year without her. In addition to handling a pandemic, Laura shines while teaching our young people about health and wellness. This year has brought some rather unusual health crises for both students and staff and her depth of knowledge prevented more than one tragic outcome. Laura is funny, personable,

Continued on page HK8

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The Winners! 2022 Killingworth Road Race Results

Continued from page HK2

but, as Chuck said, this exceeded our expectations.”

The results:

MEN’S WINNER

Mario Vazquez, 43, New Britain – 22:38.

WOMEN’S WINNER

Linda Spooner, 47, Sturbridge, Mass. – 26:10.

MALE AGE GROUPS

12 AND UNDER

Fischer Norton, 12, Killingworth – 35:18.

Connor Sodhi, 11, Marlborough – 38:33.

13-17

Jack Cozean, 15, Haddam – 25:02.

Jack Collins, 16, Griswold – 25:57.

18-39

Andrew Breck, 39, Melrose, Mass. – 24:36.

Simon Carvalho, 19, Naugatuck – 27:37.

40-49

Eric Ciocca, 44, Northampton, Mass. – 26:09.

Ion Norton, 42, Killingworth – 30:06.

50-59

Mark Reider, 58, Rocky Hill – 29:41.

Scott Hines, 56, Killingworth – 30:54.

60-69

William Clark, 60, Thomaston – 31:35.

Dennis Barone, 67, West Hartford – 33:22.

70 PLUS

Christopher Aiello, 75, Killingworth – 36:00.

Bob Dacey, 73, Vernon – 38:43.

FEMALE AGE GROUPS

12 AND UNDER

Violet Spooner, 12, Sturbridge, Mass. – 52:43.

Audrey Nims, 7, Haddam – 59:19.

13-17

Olivia Kaisin, 17, Guilford – 27:47.

Isabel Berardino, 17, Killingworth – 28:32.

18-39

Emily Sienna, 21, Haddam – 27:43.

Olivia Skapczynski, 19, Guilford – 27:54.

40-49

Erin Lopez, 41, Ivoryton ... 27:14.

Mary Bernier, 45, Hamden – 32:26.

50-59

Stacy Levy, 54, Wilton – 33:59.

Christy Miller, 52, West Hartford – 38:13.

60-69

Cynthia Vogt, 63, Killingworth – 35:17.

Katherine Bazinet, 60, Westbrook – 35:37.

70 PLUS

Dawn Werneck, 76, Avon – 41:09.

RSD17’s 2022 Teachers & Staff of the Year



Teachers of the Year L to R: Ryan Kish, Leanne Honious, Heather Barse, Donna Jones, Rebecca Harkin.



Staff of the Year L to R: Pam Quinley, Megan Jenkins, Carolyn Armstrong, Terrie Shimoda and Jean Nolet (retiree). Photos by Shawna Goldfarb.

Continued from page HK7

sets her own fashion trends and has recently taken heat for becoming my travel advisor.

Denis Recchia has worked for Regional School District 17 for 13 years. In that time, the District has gone a very long way with implementing new technologies district-wide and providing ever-increasing access to technology for students and staff. Just some of Denis’s duties for the district include

managing the wired and wireless networks for the schools, configuring PowerSchool for student reporting, school scheduling, yearly rollovers, and many other functions. Along with Denis’s work with the district’s technology, Denis was also Haddam Killingworth High School’s Varsity Soccer Coach for a few years. Please join me in congratulating Denis Recchia as RSD17’s 2021-22 District Staff Member of the Year.

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