

Lyman parents defend school to BOE

By Mark Dionne
Town Times

The Board of Education heard comments from about a dozen parents at its regularly scheduled BOE meeting, Dec. 18, at Coginchaug Regional High School. Speakers told the panel of their concerns that closing John Lyman Elementary School and housing the Integrated Day program in the same building as the Contemporary Program at the elementary level would diminish or eliminate the ID program.

"Eventually the program just disappears," said Mike Fusco, parent.

Approximately 25 members of the public attended the meeting, which ended an hour later than scheduled in part because of public comment. Residents spoke in reaction to preliminary proposals from the architectural

and education planning firm Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. which were made public Dec. 11.

While DRA officials stressed that the proposals are still in the planning stage, several options presented at the second of three workshops on Dec. 11 recommended closing Lyman, which houses the ID program.

"Lyman is a HOT (Higher Order Thinking) school and an ID school and I just don't see how that really special program is going to work if you put it into the same building as the Contemporary Program," said Maya Liss, parent of a Lyman first grader. "I would hope that DRA can be encouraged to come back with options that keep those two programs housed in separate buildings."

Several speakers said

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The Dec. 18 Board of Education meeting was the last for Dr. Ernest Perlini, who served as interim superintendent for RSD13. Perlini, center, was presented with a proclamation, thanking him for his service, by board member Norm Hicks and Chair Kerrie Flanagan, right. Dr. Kathryn Veronesi, left, takes over as superintendent Jan. 2.

Heath wins Howard Kelley Award



Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation board member Merrill Adams presents Robin Heath with the Howard Kelley Award Dec. 12 at Indian Springs Golf Club. Heath was recognized for his work with the Boy Scouts.

By Mark Dionne
Town Times

The Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation honored Robin Heath's spirit of turning a challenge into fun, and his years of teaching boys and young men independence, at a ceremony Dec. 12.

The foundation awarded Heath its Howard Kelley Award.

"I'm just out there having fun," said Robin Heath of his camping trips with the Boy Scouts in the lakes, rivers, mountains, and deep woods

of America and Canada. Heath has been working with the Boy Scouts since a 1994 snorkeling trip to the Florida Keys with his son Eric.

Heath, of Middlefield, still camps with the scouts even at "a young 69" and serves as Scout Master for Troop 33 in Middlefield.

"My favorite part of scouting is the 'outing' part," said Heath in an interview with the Town Times before accepting the award.

Since 1994, numerous scouts from the area have gone hiking in New Mexico, canoeing in the Boundary

Waters park in northern Minnesota, and swimming in Florida under Heath's guidance and supervision. Heath calls the Boundary Waters his favorite spot. "It's the wilderness of it. The boys really have to know their stuff," Heath said. "You're out in the middle of nowhere."

CVEF's award goes to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to giving back to the community in an educational way. The late Howard Kelley served as RSD13's first school superintendent and oversaw

See Award / Page 5

Teacups hold memories of the best of times



Malcolm Pearce with his collection of plates from China.

By Diana Carr
Special to Town Times

Helen Pearce, of Durham, has been collecting teacups since she was 8-years-old. She has over 100, lined up in order of size on the shelves that her husband, Malcolm, built.

"When I was a little girl I liked pretty things," she said. "My father's friend started a collection of demitasse cups and saucers for his granddaughter, and when she died he gave them to me. Word spread to my family, and whenever they traveled they would bring back a teacup for me. I've got teacups from all around the world."

These treasures weren't always on display. For the first three years of their marriage, the Pearces lived in

California, where the teacups remained unpacked because there was no place for them. When they came back to Connecticut, they remained unpacked in the cellar until the couple had an addition to the kitchen built and there was finally room for those shelves.

As a child, Helen used her teacups for tea parties with her dolls. They stay on the shelves now and "are a great source of conversation when company comes. I love the beauty of them," Helen said. "They bring back pleasant memories of the people who gave them to me. I still have the ones from when I was 8-years-old."

Malcolm also is a collector, with eight radio-controlled planes and gliders that he has flown at White's Meadow in Durham. But his pride and joy are the creamer, sugar bowl, and three plates that his great grandfather brought back from China 141 years ago — the only survivors of the original dinnerware set of 12. He and Helen brought a photocopy when they went to China a few years ago, and were able to get a replica made by the same company that had made the original set.

"We were on a tour," Malcolm said, "and I was hop-



Helen Pearce, at home in Durham, with her teacup collection.

ing to find the company that made my great grandfather's set. The guide knew where it was and she asked the bus driver to take us there, where I made the negotiations to

have a replica made. The set is hand-painted, and it took them four months to make. When it arrived on my doorstep, it was in perfect condition-not a single chip."

He revels in this attachment to his great grandfather, the Civil War era, and to China, and intends to pass these prized possessions down through the generations.

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Senior Happenings

Dial-A-Ride

Dial-A-Ride will transport seniors to doctor appointments within Middlesex County. It is necessary to be Registered with Dial-A-Ride is required.

A fee is charged. The Dial-A-Ride service operates Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call Dial-A-Ride (MAT) at (860) 347-3313.

Middlefield/Durham Senior Bus

The Senior Center has a 17 passenger bus that transports seniors to out of county doctors' appointments and twice a week trips. The bus is free; participants pay for their lunch. To reserve a spot on the bus, call (860) 347-5661.

For more information, call the Senior Center at (860) 349-7121.

Scrabble

The Middlefield Senior Center has a Scrabble game. An interested person is looking for a Scrabble partner. For more information, call (860) 349-7121.

Senior Center Programs

The Senior Center offers a knitting group, a card group, a bridge group, an exercise group, a yoga group.

Office hours and senior lunch

The Senior Center office hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is served on Mondays, Wednesdays,

and Fridays at noon. Make a reservation at least one day in advance, by visiting the Senior Center or call (860) 349-7121.

Middlefield Senior Center happenings

The Senior Center is scheduled to be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1, New Years' Day.

The Senior Center is exploring the possibility of starting a **TOPS** group that

will meet during the day. A meeting to discuss the topic is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. TOPS "Taking Off Pounds Sensibly" is a weight loss support group. Yearly fees are charged.



Drinking and Driving: A Disaster Waiting to Happen

*When you head out to celebrate this New Year's Eve, use your head.
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a designated driver, calling a cab or using public transportation.*

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Grade 7 - Timothy Arcari, Sierra Astel, Jenna Berens, Cade Buckheit, Nicole Catania, Makayla Cesario,

Owen Cordes, Margaret Fiondella, Caroline Fournier, Kelly Frier, Alessandra Fronc, Sarah Gaven, Erin Harlow, Hannah Huddleston, Tanner Jameson, Julia Kaliszewski, Jessica King, Gabriele Kozik, Kaitlyn Leahy, Thomas Lipka, Kailey Lipka, Megan Lower, Zoe Morris, Erin Murphy, Cole Niedmann, Jamie Nowak, Dominic Pascarelli, Paul Patenaude, Lindsay Peach, Skylar Rascati, Kyle Roberts, Michael Salley, Connor Satton, Willow Small, Sara Smith, Samuel St. John, Keya Stahl, Thomas Vallone, Joseph Venables, Tyler

Woodward, Hannah Wu, Bailey Zettergren.

Honors

Grade 8 - Daanyal Akhtar, Jared Anderson, Garret Basiel, Virginia Benbow, Cooper Berry, Luke Bourland, Emmanuel Bowles, Jamie Breton, Caitlyn Casey-Leonard, Colby Courchesne, Carol D'Agostino, Dylan DeGennaro, Demarie DelVecchio, Vincent DeMartino, Meghan DeVille, Liliana Diaz, Seamus Doyle, Ana Fede, Erica Fontanella, Tucker Fowler, William Glidden, Kaitlyn Gossart, Robert Griffin, Ashleigh Halligan, Richard Hawley, Jake Hesselstine, Laura Hinsch, John Howell, Tyra Hultgren, Patrick Kearney, Taylor Kelly, Andrew Kleczkowski, Carly Lane, Alyssa Lecza, Faith Mancarella, Sarina McCoy, Sean McMaster, Mary Mitchard, Daniel Munro, Tatiana Perez, Samantha Pietrzyk, Cal Pitruzzello,

Charlotte Planeta, Isabel Puziss, Nina Robertson, Reid Rodrigue, Griffin Saks, Maxwell Sartor, Matthew Schinas, Ashley Schuetz, Victoria Slight, Kyle Strang, Connor Sullivan, Julian Swan, Camryn Thayer, Samuel Titus, Daniel Turecek, Alyssa van Eyndhoven, Otto Wallach.

Grade 7 - Zachary Albin, Dana Arnold, Jayde Avery, Ethan Ballard, Duncan Bates, Emma Bournival, Mya Branciforte, Evelyn Caballero, Talia Caldwell-Andrews, Jennifer Chadd, Elizabeth Collins, Katelyn Cummings, Brendan Dana, Cameron Davis-Kania, Juliana DeFilio, Anna DiPentima, Alison Durand, Edward Dzialo, Hayley Esparo, Bridget Fehon, Melissa Fowler, Justin Gagner, Ryan Genest, Caroline Gmyrek, Alexandria Grenier, Michaela Grenier, Isabelle Haeberly, Brandon Hayward, Deagan Hettrik,

Ryan Hocking, Joshua Keating, Colin Kelly, Lilianna King, Raina Kurek, Abigail Larkin, Ryan Leahy, Sarah LeMere, Daniel Kipka, Lindsay Lipka, Samantha Loffredo, Alexandra Lyons, Allison Rae, Lindsey Marino, Isabella Marotta, Chloe Matus, Kylie Melillo, Aiden Moore, Bridget Morris, Andrew Morro, Andrew Mizen, Aidan O'Connell, Rohan Patel, Abigail Perkins, Amanda Perkins, Emma Piatak, Kylie Poggio, Jeffrey Pollard, Hayden Rovelli, Nathan Salva, Quinn Sarro-Twickler, Trevor Scotto, Colin Sheehy, Brian Sheldon, Gabriel Sirot, Timothy Smith, Trevor Smith, Christopher Sokol, Joshua Stagon, Durin Stahl, Megan Szymaszek, Olivia Tawa, Kenneth Trawicki, Connor Tsois, Christopher Ulizio, Robert Voss, Evan Wenchell,athan Witecki, Jake Woznyk, Haley Zito.

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- E-mail letters to news@towntimes.com, mail to 11 Crown St., Meriden, CT 06450 or fax to (203) 639-0210.

- Town Times will print only one letter per person each month.

- Letters should be approximately 300 words.

- We reserve the right to edit letters.

- Letters should be on topics of general interest to the community.

- We do not list names of people, organizations and businesses being thanked.

- Names of businesses are not allowed.

- Letters must be signed and names will appear in print.

- Include a phone number so Town Times can contact you for verification.

- Letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday to be considered for publication on the following Friday.

Award

From Page 1

the start of the Integrated Day program as well as the Youth Effectiveness Seminar (YES) program.

Kelley's wife Renee, who attended the award presentation, recalled that her husband's commitment to education continued after leaving the superintendent's position in 1991. Kelley became the CEO of the American School for the Deaf and learned to sign at age 75.

CVEF and Board of Education member Merrill Adams said that Kelley, like Heath, showed no fear of the elements. "All the teachers would complain because he would never close the schools," said Adams.

When he heard that he had won the award, Heath said he was in the midst of planning a scouting camporee to West Point. Heath's son Eric, who was on hand to watch the ceremony, said that such trips taught scouts independence, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Members of Heath's family, including his wife Terry, said

that Heath was already hoping his grandson, not yet two, would eventually camp with the scouts.

In her nomination of Heath and in her speech at the award presentation, Pam Moore Onofreo pointed to Heath's guidance of scouts to the Eagle Scout rank as a reason Heath made a good Howard Kelley Award recipient. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a scout can achieve and is only awarded after a significant community service project.

According to Onofreo, there have been 41 Eagle Scouts since the inception

of the troop decades ago. Of those, 30 have been guided to the rank by Heath, an enormous number for that time frame.

"A lot of good things happened in town because of those scouts," said Heath. He thanked many people who helped make scouting successful in Middlefield, including his fellow scout volunteers and the parents of the scouts. During his speech, Heath said the tally of Eagle Scouts could have been higher. "It would be 31 but we got snowed out on Tuesday night."

Heath was the third recipient of the Howard Kelley

Award.

The first one went to Christine Willett, for her efforts with her charity After the Storm, which include education for the community and cancer patients about holistic therapies.

The second Howard Kelley Award was given to Susan Michael, science teacher at Coginchaug Regional High School, for her environmental and educational efforts in the community and through the ECO club. Michael started recycling and conservation programs, such as the composting efforts at the Durham Fair.

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School News

Scholarship

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts plans to award a total of \$50,000 to 25 local high school seniors

this academic year through its scholarship program. Eligibility requirements for the RMHC scholarship are be eligible to enroll in and attend a two-or four-year college with a full course study and reside in a participating area.

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, financial need and community involvement.

Applications are available by calling 1-855-670-4787 or online at www.rmhc-ctma.org/scholarships. Deadline to apply is Jan. 21, 2014.

nior and senior students are welcome.

Admissions officers from Central Connecticut State University and Quinnipiac University plan to present an overview of the entire admissions process. The guidance department plans to discuss the procedures.

In the event of inclement weather, the forum will be rescheduled for Thursday, Jan. 16.

For more information, call the guidance department at (860) 349-7221.

Scholastic achievements

Linda Essery, of Rockfall, has been named to the honor roll for the fall term at The Loomis Chaffee School.

Jill Canalia of Durham graduated from Lydon State College, Vermont, at the schools winter commencement.

College admission forum

The guidance department at Coginchaug regional High School has scheduled its annual College Admissions Forum for Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m., in the auditorium. Parents and guardians of ju-

Seeking volunteers for tax prep assistance

Volunteers are needed for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program to help low-to moderate-income households prepare and file their taxes. Through the program, volunteers are trained and certified by the IRS to ensure that working families and individuals are filing for all of the appropriate tax credits.

The program is looking for volunteers for two VITA sites located in Middletown to provide free basic tax preparation assistance for eligible taxpayers. Tax preparation assistance is offered Jan. 25 to April 9.

No prior experience is necessary. Training is scheduled for Jan. 6 to 9 to Jan. 13 to 16.

Volunteers must attend consecutive evening sessions. VITA volunteers must complete a minimum of one 4-hour shift per week during tax season in the late afternoons and evenings or on Saturdays; maintain confidentiality of all client information; and interact with the public in a helpful and supportive manner.

For more information about volunteering, contact David Morgan at dmorgan@wesleyan.edu or (860) 346-1522.

Foot & Ankle FACTS



by
Dr. Gordon
Fosdick

DON'T TAKE CHANCES

Some people love cold weather. For those who work in cold environments or spend a lot of time outdoors during the winter, proper foot care is critical. Prolonged exposure of the feet to cold, wet conditions may result in trench foot. Wet feet lose heat 25 times faster than dry feet, causing blood vessels to constrict. Numbness, tingling pain, redness and bleeding under the skin, and swelling are just some symptoms that cold, wet feet can cause. Should those symptoms occur, footwear and wet socks should be removed, the feet should be thoroughly dried, and the individual should avoid putting any pressure on the feet to avoid tissue damage. He or she should seek transport to a medical facility for immediate care.

The components of the foot, ankle, and leg are designed to work together, sharing the tremendous pressures of day-to-day living. When they don't work properly, though, it can cause pain and other troubles for the best of the body, and it's time to get help. The specialized care and treatment we provide can make an important contribution to an individual's total health and well-being. AFFILIATED FOOT CARE CENTER, LLC offers comprehensive foot care by appointment. Please call us today. Good foot health can enhance your daily existence and improve your quality of life. Office hours in Middlefield are Mon. 9-5, Wed. 3-7, and Fri. 9-5; Tues. & Thurs. 9-5 in Wallingford. For our patients' convenience we offer on-site X-rays, and diagnostic and therapeutic ultrasounds.

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To submit sports info

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Send information and photos to: Town Times, 11 Crown St., Meriden, CT 06450 or email to news@towntimes.com.

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Submissions

The Town Times welcomes submissions regarding upcoming community events. These brief items run free of charge. We do our best to run a submission at least one time, however, we cannot guarantee a submission will be published on a specific date and content may be edited. Send submissions to news@towntimes.com or contact Marsha at (203) 317-2256. If you have specific requirements contact sales at (203) 317-2313.

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Library Briefs

Durham Public

Library

The Durham Public Library is scheduled to be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Zinio E-Magazines available - Zinio is an online magazine service that allows patrons to view full digital copies of magazines. It is the same material as the print version.

Magazine issues are not checked out so they are always available. Read online or download to read offline. A current Durham Public Library card (or a card from another LIOBN library) is required.

For more information and Zinio instructions, visit www.durhamlibrary.org.

Programs for Kids:

Bouncing Babies! (birth to 17 months). Mondays at 11 a.m. Drop in.

Mother Goose Storytime (18 to 30 months). Mondays at 10:15 a.m. Drop in.

Time for Tots (2 ½ to 3 ½ years). Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. Drop in.

Preschool Storytime (3 ½ to 5 years). Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Drop in.

Bedtime Storytime (ages 2 to 5 years). Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Drop in.

Story Magic! (Grades K to 2). Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Drop in.

LEGO Club (6 to 12 years). Thursday Jan. 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop in.

Kids in the Kitchen (8 to 11 years). Wednesdays, Jan. 15 and 29, Feb. 5 and 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Observe, learn, try, saute, boil, bake, mix, fry taste, enjoy!

Games, Games, Games! (Grades 3 to 5). Thursday, Jan. 16 from 4 to 5 p.m. Bring friends and test your skills at Apples to Apples, Sorry, Scrabble Jr., and other fun games. Drop in.

Lunch Bunch Book Discussion (Grades 4 to 6). Bring lunch; dessert provided. Saturday Jan. 18 at 12:30 p.m. Discuss "How to Steal a Dog" by Barbara O'Connor. Registration required.

Programs for Young Adults:

Teen Advisory Group (ages 12 to 18). Saturday, Jan. 4, 3 to 4 p.m. Share ideas for the library. No registration required. Drop in.

Practice SAT test (high school students). Saturday, Jan. 4, noon to 3 p.m. Prepare for the SAT by taking a practice test. Register at the desk or call (860) 349-9544.

Teen Cuisine (ages 12-18). Wednesday, Jan. 8, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Learn cooking skills, safety, prepare and eat a meal. register at the desk of call (860) 349-9544.

Knitting Club (ages 10 to 18). Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m. All levels welcome. No registration, drop in.

After school movie (ages 13 to 18). Wednesday, Jan. 15, 3:30 p.m. Movie to be announced.

No registration, drop in.

Stop motion movie making with Legos (ages 12 to 18). Wednesday, Jan. 22, 6 p.m. Learn to create a movie using the stop motion technique and Legos. Pizza and beverages provided. Register at the desk or call (860) 349-9544.

Program for adults

Book Lovers' Circle - Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Discuss "The Blue Sweater" by Jacqueline Novograty. Copies of the book are available at the Library. All are invited.

Mystery Book Discussion. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Discuss "Child 44" by Tom Rob Smith. Copies of the book are available at the library.

Levi E. Coe Library

Library hours are: Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; closed Fridays.

Holiday hours - The Levi E. Coe Library is scheduled to close: Wednesday, Nov. 27, at 1 p.m.; and Thursday, Nov. 28, for Thanksgiving.

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OPINION

Commentary

One way to take a powder

By Mike Roberts
Special to Town Times

Black powder hunting in Connecticut has come along way since its inception back in the 70s. Using some of those black powder long guns for the hunting of whitetailed deer was an adventure in itself. One never knew if the charge of black powder was going to go off or not when a deer arrived on the hunting scene.

Probably no one could attest to that more than your old outdoor writer.

My first black powder rifle was what is referred to as a "Kit Gun" that I received one Christmas from my darlin' Edna. Admittedly, it was a thing of beauty when it was finished thanks to my old friend Paul Cichowski, but back then everything else, especially the primer caps used to set off the charge of black powder, was as unreliable as the New England weather.

The loading procedure of a black powder rifle also left a lot to be desired. The

first thing you did was to put a percussion cap on the primer nipple and fire the cap to make sure that the hole in the nipple was clear. You then loaded the rifle, and it was not considered to be loaded unless it had a percussion cap on it, so many hunters loaded them at home before they hit the woods.

The amazing thing about this procedure is that when setting off the cap on an empty rifle, it always ignited on the first try. For me, "Murphy's Law" (anything that can go wrong will at the wrong time) always popped up its ugly head when it came time to shoot a deer.

I had my first run-in with this particular quirk of black powder hunting back in the 70s while hunting Housatonic State Forest up in the Cornwall area of Connecticut. I had picked a spot that overlooked a couple of intersecting deer runs and figured I would simply sit and let the deer come to me. Back then, muzzleload-



Mike Roberts
Woods 'n Water

ers had the first crack at deer and the state forest had enough hunters in it to keep some of the herd moving. It wasn't too long before a small

four-point buck came ambling up the trail towards me. I had been practicing how to thumb the hammer back on the rifle without allowing it to making a distinctive "CLACK" that accompanied cocking the hammer on a black powder rifle, so I was ready when that buck came into shooting range.

It stopped to munch on some acorns down in front of me and I set my sights on the critters and squeezed the trigger. I was rewarded with a resounding "CLICK" as the hammer hit the %@*^*^ percussion cap, which did not ignite.

The young buck's head popped up and he looked squarely at me before disappearing into the surrounding forest!

This was only a preview of some of the frustration I was about to experience in the early days of black powder hunting. Don't go away, I have a bunch of them.

Like I said, the main villain was the percussion cap back then, and I and a lot of other black powder hunters were experimenting with all kinds of makes and brands of the #11 percussion caps back then, looking for one that was virtually foolproof. But it wasn't always the percussion cap. Murphy's Law seemed to have its hold on my entire rifle and everything that made it dysfunctional.

Another time I had a permit to hunt Skiff Mountain

Give and take of the season

By Charles Kreutzkamp
Town Times

I'm declaring Dec. 26 to Feb. 2 the first annual Season of Taking.

From Thanksgiving to Christmas, we've all enjoyed a season of gratitude and giving. Food pantries have been filled, charities have received donations, and gifts have been exchanged. Those who aren't religious often participate in gift giving too, and although the time frames differ, gifts also are exchanged for Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Eid. Even strangers on the street are friendlier during the most wonderful time of the year.

For most Americans, the Season of Giving starts on Thanksgiving, when we celebrate the peaceful union of pilgrims and Native Americans. But that season of harmony didn't last long, and neither does our annual Season of Giving.

The Season of Taking really isn't a radical proposal if you think about it. Throughout the holiday shopping season, gifts are purchased for others, but on Dec. 26, shoppers flock to spend gift cards and attempt to return singing wall fish and horrifying sweaters.

The Season of Taking really starts to shine on New Year's Eve, a delightfully self-centered holiday which is celebrated not with a family meal that includes yams and stuffing, but by staying up late partying, usually with alcohol, usually with friends.

Both of the most popular New Year's traditions are totally self-involved. Many people kiss their significant other at midnight — if they have one; those that don't are left in the literal cold. Even the most benevolent

New Year's Resolutions focus on changing the self and "Losing Weight" is the most popular resolution of all, according to the University of Scranton's Journal of Clinical Psychology's 2012 statistics. Vanity, vanity.

Another one of the top five resolutions is to "Enjoy life to the fullest." After all that exhausting generosity, people just want to focus on themselves. So why not extend the Season of Taking out another month to match the Season of Giving?

Celebrants of the Season of Taking can forgive themselves if they forget about their New Year's resolutions — that's the first perk to enjoy. Participants can follow it up by giving themselves a break on cooking and ordering take-out, or buying themselves that shiny new whatsit that no one gave them for Christmas. It'll be good for the economy. Businesses can promote some revenue-raising self-indulgence with special offers on dinners for one — tis the season!

Food banks and charities will weather the storm of selfishness with the well-stocked shelves and savings from the holidays.

The best part of the Season of Taking, however, is that it ends. On Feb. 2, everyone celebrating the season wakes up, confronts their shadow in the mirror, and realizes that it isn't good to be selfish forever. We already set aside just one month of the year for giving — if we don't have a season for taking, isn't that just our default attitude?



Charles Kreutzkamp

Town Times

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Durham Recreation activities

Youth Recreation Basketball. Kindergarten through grade 8. Games begin in January 2014. A fee is charged. Students will learn the fundamentals and fun of the game.

Brazilian Style Indoor Soccer. Jan. 13 through March 26. For boys and girls grades one through six. The program is intended to develop the foot skills necessary to prepare and improve players for soccer. It combines training sessions with competitive play.

Space is limited. A fee is charged.

Body Sculpting offered at the Durham Activity

Center, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 5:30-6:20 a.m.

Yoga is offered at the Durham Activity Center, Monday and Wednesdays, Evenings 7 to 8 p.m. and Saturday Mornings, at 7:45 a.m.

Men's Durham Recreation Basketball league is accepting registration. Games begin in January. For more information, call Kevin Walsh, at (860) 690-9453.

For more information and registration forms for recreation programs, call (860) 343-6724 or visit townofdurhamct.org, Recreation.

COGINCHAUG GRAD NAMED ALL-CONFERENCE

Justin Johnson, a senior on the Salve Regina (Newport, R.I.) football team, has been selected first team, all conference, in the New England Football conference. The Coginchaug Regional High School graduate has helped the Sea Hawks to two bowl appearances in four years. A tackle, he is one of two linemen to play in all 11 games this season. He helped the Sea Hawks make national news on Nov. 2 when the team set a new record with 604 yards in total offense against Maine Maritime. The Salve offensive line was named the offensive line of the week in all of Division Three college football. Johnson also was named first team academic all conference for achieving a grade point average of 3.3 or above.



Powder

From Page 8

on a piece of property owned by Northeast Utilities, but managed by the DEEP. I had scouted the area for both turkey and deer and really liked the area. That muzzleloader season I was ready to harvest my first deer.

I had gotten up early to make the one-hour trip to my hunting area, and had loaded my muzzleloader at home before departing for Skiff Mountain. An old friend of mine, Jack Seitlinger, had made me a nifty brass ramrod for loading my muzzleloader to replace a wooden one that came with the muzzleloader. I entered the Skiff Mountain woods ready for action that morning just knowing I was going to get my first black powder deer.

That's when Murphy's Law popped up his ugly head again.

I had scouted the area quite thoroughly and knew just where I wanted to hunt, so I made my way to the spot in the early morning darkness. As it began to get lighter I glanced at my shooting iron to give it a last

check and then I saw it: My ramrod was missing from its holding slot on my rifle!

I knew I had put it back after I had loaded the gun at home, so what could have happened to it? I figured that I had not seated the ramrod properly into the holding slot on the rifle and it had slipped out during my dark trek to where I wanted to hunt.

Now I was in a quandary. I had one shot in the rifle, but what if the deer I shot required another round?

For me, the solution was simple. I decided not to hunt that morning and headed dejectedly out of the woods, kicking myself for making such a dumb mistake.

And no, I never found the ramrod.

Had enough yet? I've got more.

Once again while hunting Skiff Mountain, I was hunting the side of a mountain, slowly making my way back to where I had parked my truck. I had paused next to an old stonewall that cut through the old farm property I was on. The area had returned to forest over the years yet there were many of these old stonewalls

crisscrossing the woods and I liked to use them to hunt along.

A touch of movement up ahead of me caught my eye. It was a small six-point buck. My heart started to race a bit as I settled down to watch the buck as it slowly fed my way. This was going to be too easy, I thought.

The buck was about 35 yards out when it gave me a broadside shot at its vitals. I settled the sights on the buck, squeezed the trigger and the cap exploded with a resounding "POP!"

But that was it. The powder did not ignite!

The buck snapped its head up looking for the source of the cap igniting as I fumbled into my pocket for another cap. Having found one, I again put it on the nipple of the muzzleloader and again took aim at the buck as it stood riveted, looking for the source of the exploding cap.

Once again I touched off the round and was again rewarded with the cap and not the powder charge going off. This time the buck had nailed me and was headed off in another direction as I

stood there wondering what the heck had just happened? Two caps and no powder ignition!

After the buck had vacated the area, I decided to try it one more time and I kid you not, the powder charge went off. I know for a fact that this has happened to many muzzleloader hunters in the early years of the sport. Just ask them.

As the years progressed, so did the quality and reliability of the black powder rifles that were used for hunting. In fact, today they are state of the art and as reliable as any regular rifle being used for hunting large game.

I finally relented and gave up my first muzzleloader, but I did get to take one deer with it in the Housatonic Forest before retiring it.

My next black powder rifle was a Lyman Tradesman that I purchased from Blue Trail Range and I found it to be quite a bit better for my hunting forays. I took four more deer with that rifle before I purchased the one I use today.

Today, muzzleloader

hunting in Connecticut and surrounding states is no longer a trip into frustration. The guns are lot easier to use and their dependability is unbelievable.

Starting Dec. 11, Connecticut deer hunters will be using muzzleloaders to harvest some deer for the winter months ahead. Private land black powder hunters will be able to hunt from Dec. 11-31. They must have the proper private land permits and they will be able to take two deer, one antlerless and one either sex, or they may fill both tags with antlerless deer.

State land hunters will be able to hunt state lands from Dec. 11-24 a one-tag limit on a deer of either sex. One of the best things about the state land muzzleloader hunting is that as long as you have a state land muzzleloader permit you can hunt just about any piece of state land that allows black powder hunting (page 38 to 35 of your 2013 CT Hunting & Trapping Guide).

That's it gang, good hunting! See ya' and God Bless America and watch over our troops wherever they may be serving.

BOY SCOUTS TO RECYCLE TREES



Boys Scout Troop 270 of Durham has scheduled its third annual Christmas tree removal fundraiser.

As a service to the community, scouts will pickup and dispose of resident's Christmas trees on Saturdays, Jan. 4 and 11.

Donations are appreciated.

To schedule a pickup, call (860) 349-2370 or email Troop270DurhamCT@aol.com.

STOCKINGS STUFFED



Sacred Heart Academy students participated in the annual Stocking Drive. Each year, the student council organizes the event where Sacred Heart students fill stockings for students from St. Francis/St. Rose, St. Martin de Porres and public schools in New Haven. Participants, from left, back row: Rachel Korolyshun, Nneoma Obi, Samantha Sansone and Deirdre Reidy. Front row: Lauren Davis, Ashley Heidtmann and Andrea Sanchez. | (Submitted by Beth Griffin)



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OBITUARIES

Manton Harry LaFountain

DURHAM - Manton Harry LaFountain of Durham, formerly Northford, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by loving family on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013. He was 89 years old.



He was born in Windsor, Vt., on Oct. 16, 1924, a son of the late Ephraim and Flora (Thrasher) LaFountain, and grew up in South Woodstock, Vt., where he graduated from Woodstock High School. He served in World War II as part of the American Field Service, driving ambulances throughout Europe and India. After the war ended, he moved to Connecticut and, for nearly 25 years, worked with many dairy farmers throughout Middlesex and New Haven counties in his employment with the DHIA (Dairy Herd Improvement Association). He was subsequently employed with Jet Lines prior to his retirement in 1987. For nearly 25 years, he enjoyed RVing around the country with his wife. A Mason, he was a member of the New Haven Masonic Lodge. He was an avid reader, enjoyed playing the guitar as well as checkers, was a fearless setback player, and was passionate about computers, technology, cows, and good food. He was a wonderful storyteller and enjoyed talking about his experiences growing up in Vermont, raising cane, and -when pushed-about his stories as a veteran of World War II. He always loved visiting his native Vermont and made frequent trips each year, telling stories as he traveled along old dirt roads-never forgetting a childhood adventure. Mant was predeceased by his devoted wife of 59 years, Jane Knox LaFountain, in 2009.

He is survived by two loving daughters and their families, Jan Melnik and her husband, Ron, with whom Mant lived, and their sons, Daniel (and Amanda,) of Durham, Weston (and Jenni,) of Durham, and Stephen (and Francesca,) of Monterey, Calif.; and Beth Winslow and her husband, Jim, of Durham, and their children, Jack Murray, of Durham, Jim (and Danielle,) Murray, of Torrington; and great-grandson, Jaxxon; Jean (and Casey) O'Connell; Donnell, of Vancouver, Wash.; and great-granddaughter, Kara; and Jennifer Murray, of Oxford; he is also survived by his brother, Richard, of Bristol, Vt., and his brother, Wallace, of Winslow, Maine; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Maurice; and his sister, Sylvia.

The B.C. Bailey Funeral Home, 273 S. Elm St., in Wallingford has charge of arrangements. Burial will be private. Donations may be sent to Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, 33 N. Plains Industrial Road, Wallingford, CT 06492.

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Obituary fee

The Town Times charges a \$50 processing fee for obituaries. For more information, call (203) 317-2240.

FAITH

Churches, patriotism and peace

By **Ralph Lord Roy**
Special to Town Times



Ralph Lord Roy

The season of Advent back in 1941 soon brought news in striking contrast to the Christmas message of "peace on earth." On Dec. 7, 1941, we had attended church, enjoyed a big dinner, and were relaxing in the living room. Dad was napping in front of the radio, which was broadcasting symphonic music, when suddenly an impassioned announcer broke in. Pearl Harbor had been bombed. The next afternoon boys in our 8th grade met in their clubhouse upstairs in our barn, renamed our group the Defenders of Democracy, and wrote a letter to the two Vermont senators in Washington, pledging our zealous aid in the war effort.

My father had argued against American participation in the European conflict that had been raging for two years, and today many historians would unfairly label him an "isolationist." He detested Hitler, but had no affection for the British empire, its monarchy and rigid class system. Dad had expressed the hope that Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union that summer would lead to the collapse of both Nazism and Communism. Mom had told us that his main reason for opposing our intervention (and hers, too) was their four sons, all subject to military service if we became involved and the war dragged on.

Our local pastor had a strong pacifist bent, as did many ministers of that

era. After the attack on Pearl Harbor he and others were faced with the delicate decision of how to respond to this sudden crisis. Vigorously or reluctantly endorse the war? Or, continue to oppose it in principle, probably in silence, while supporting the military personnel and their families?

And how much patriotism should be incorporated into worship? That still can be an issue. A few would say "none," that Christianity is an international faith that transcends national borders. More might suggest that surely American democracy, even American "exceptionalism," must be favored by God. Others would argue for some middle course.

Like many other ministers over the years, I wrestled with this question, particularly when I disagreed with our foreign policy. Yet, my patriotism runs deep, and when a national holiday came along, I would give it attention in the sermon and hymns. My favorites include "America, the Beautiful" and "A Song of Peace," sung to that poignant tune "Finlandia" by composer Jean Sibelius.

The patriotic selection that I most enjoy singing is "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," which congregations would belt out. However, I always sang it

with mixed feelings. The lyrics serve as an exhilarating clarion call to join in holy battle against injustice. At the same time, is it blessing the brutality of war when it speaks of God's wrath and his "terrible swift sword"?

Prior to the Civil War, a song to the same tune was popular at revivals in the South, whose opening stanza asked: "Say brothers, will you meet us on Canaan's happy shore?" In 1861 Union troops replaced those words with "John Brown's body lies a-moldering in the grave, but his soul is marching on!" John Brown, of course, had been executed after leading an effort to foment a slave rebellion by attacking Harpers Ferry in 1859. He had been born in Torrington, Conn.

In November 1861, Samuel Gridley Howe and his wife, Julia Ward Howe, a prominent poet, both avid abolitionists, visited Union encampments in Washington. When one Army unit began to sing "John Brown's body," a minister suggested to Mrs. Howe that she could pen more suitable lyrics. That night, she later wrote, "I awoke...and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain."

See Peace / Page 12

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Parents

From Page 1

they'd moved to Durham or Middlefield for the school system. Some of the speakers, such as Christine Willet, told the BOE that Lyman was the draw. Willet said that not many parents in Connecticut can say that their children attend a school that is both a HOT school and an ID school.

In the current configuration, the ID program consists of multi-grade classrooms combining first and second graders and third and fourth graders at Lyman. ID students then "loop" with the same teacher in fifth and sixth grade at Memorial Middle School and remain

on a separate team for core academic subjects at Strong Middle School which, like Memorial, houses both ID and Contemporary programs.

Just over 40 schools in Connecticut are designated HOT schools. While the ID program continues into eighth grade, the HOT school designation is specific to John Lyman. HOT schools place an emphasis on an arts-integrated education and democratic practices in the classroom and school.

"Looking at combining the two schools pretty much takes away the whole idea of being a HOT school," said Tracy Wickwire. "You could

maybe put the programs in the same building (but) it wouldn't make it the same community that it is."

Parents also spoke about the results of the Lyman education. Several mentioned test scores. Nina Healy and Denise Fudge pointed to the ID assemblies and democratic practices as building confidence and independence.

Fudge said, "When you learn (public speaking) as a child, you don't have those fears." She also recently moved to Middlefield because of the school system.

BOE chair Kerrie Flanagan said that RSD13 was only in the beginning of the reconfiguration process.

Town clerk hours

The Town Clerk's office has scheduled new hours of operation beginning Thursday, Jan. 2.

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon.

Peace

From Page 11

She quickly scribbled them down, and they met with wide acclaim throughout the North. Once bitter memories of the Civil War faded away, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" became popular across the country and is included today in numerous patriotic observances.

Some controversy is likely to continue to surround the song. Jesus is prominent in its lyrics and opposition to public use of sectarian texts increases as America's secular and non-Christian population grows. Those with pacifist inclinations remain uncomfortable with its seeming endorsement of warfare along with its generous dose of apocalyptic imagery.

Many other words have been sung to the same mel-

ody. For years "Solidarity Forever" served as an anthem of the labor movement. Children return from summer camp singing: "I wear my pink pajamas in the summer when it's hot!" We used to shout out another parody back in elementary school. The chorus began: "Glory, glory, hallelujah, teacher hit me with a ruler." Fortunately, I can't remember the rest of it - something about a gun, a loaded .44.

Interested in more information on this topic? Check out the engaging new book titled "The Battle Hymn of the Republic: A Biography and the Song That Marches On," written by John Stauffer and Benjamin Soskis.

Ralph Lord Roy of Southington is an author and retired United Methodist minister. Email: Ralphlroy@aol.com.



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CALENDAR

Friday, Dec. 27

Casual bridge - The Durham Activity Center, 350 Main St., schedules casual bridge every Friday at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, call Jim Martinelli at (860) 346-6611.

Saturday, Dec. 28

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. Granby Memorial at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. Westbrook at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 2

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. Westbrook at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 3

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. North Branford at North Branford, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 4

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. North Branford at North Branford, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 6

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. Old Saybrook at Old Saybrook, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. Old Saybrook at Old Saybrook, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 9

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. Cromwell at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 10

Dance performance - Middlesex Dance Center has scheduled an American Academy of Ballet Performance Award event for Friday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m., at the Church of St. Coleman, Middlefield. The event is open to the public. Admission is a donation for the local food bank or local animal shelter.

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. Cromwell at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 13

Ham dinner - Boy Scout Troop 16 has scheduled a ham dinner for Saturday, Jan. 16, 5 to 7 p.m., at the Third Congregational Church, 94 Minor St., Middletown. A fee is charged. Proceeds benefit scouts in need of campships. The event includes a silent auction and scouting displays. For more information, call Bob Olenick at (860) 347-4208.

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. Haddam-Killingworth at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. Haddam-Killingworth at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 16

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. Old Lyme at Old Lyme, 7 p.m.

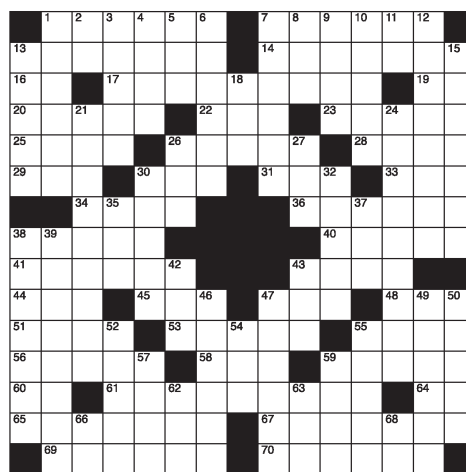
Friday, Jan. 17

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. Old Lyme at Old Lyme, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. Morgan at Morgan High School, 7 p.m.

See Calendar / Page 15



CLUES ACROSS

1. Lawyer disqualification
7. Filled in harbor
13. Die
14. Expected
16. As in
17. Squares puzzle
19. Of I
20. Small depressions
22. Cambridgeshire Cathedral
23. Layout and furnishings
25. Sandhill crane genus
26. Challenges
28. A widow's self-immolation
29. Earth System Model (abbr.)
30. Sound unit
31. A teasing remark
33. Surrounded by
34. Distinctive elegance
36. Imperturbable
38. Gulf of, in the Aegean
40. Ice mountains
41. Rubs out
43. German writer Weber
44. Tub
45. Digital audiotape
47. UC Berkeley
48. Actress Farrow
51. Epic body of poetry
53. Weight unit
55. A mild oath
56. More infrequent
58. One point N of due W
59. More rational
60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Manual soil tiller
64. 24th state
65. Surveyor
67. About ground
69. Something beyond doubt
70. Add herbs or spices

CLUES DOWN

1. Shelves
2. Max. medical unit
3. Religious orders
4. Blocks
5. Volcanic mountain in Japan
6. Close again
7. Clemens hero
8. ____-Jima
9. Rendered hog fat
10. Ocean ebbs
11. Spielberg blockbuster
12. Grade reducing
13. Shirk
15. Treats with contempt
18. Single Lens Reflex (abbr.)
21. Integer
24. Photographers
26. Lair
27. Female sibling
30. Supported a structure
32. German socialist August
35. Angeles, Alomos or Lobos
37. Ripe tomato color
38. Indefinite small number
39. Wind River Res. peoples
42. A baglike structure
43. Flying mammal
46. In poor taste
47. Hosts film festival
49. Evansville Hockey team
50. Ohio tire town
52. Popeye cartoonist
54. Resource Based Economy (abbr.)
55. Hates, Scot.
57. Evaluate
59. Porzana carolina
62. Decay
63. Own (Scottish)
66. Atomic #29
68. Santa says X3

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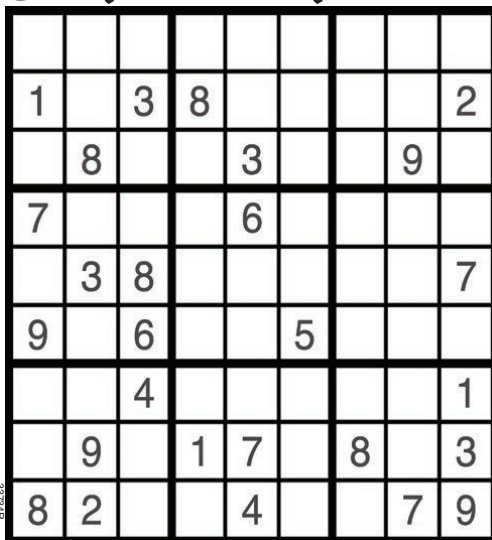
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SUDOKU



'Hour of Code' a pathway to tech jobs

By Charles Kreutzkamp
Town Times

National Programming Week took place earlier this month and schools in Durham and Middlefield celebrated the season with The Hour Of Code.

The project was promoted by Memorial Middle School teacher Lindsay Petroski with a YouTube video she created with students Pierce Stephan, Callie Cook, Nicole Andrews, Jared Munro, and Luke Piquol.

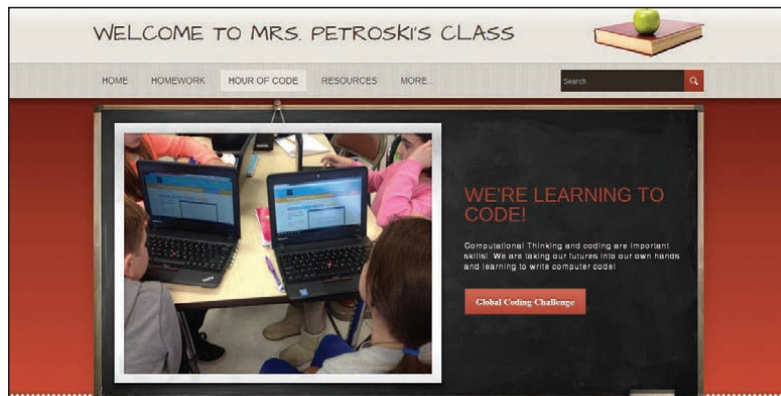
Petroski explained that students wrote and filmed the movie during their free periods and lunch. She said, students "taped the entire movie on my iPhone and Pierce edited it on his computer at home. The minute he sent me the file, the movie

went out on Twitter, on the RSD13 home page and was available for anyone willing to watch."

The short film, which can still be found on YouTube, was "a great success," Petroski said. "Many people have shared with me how much they liked the student work. My response is always, 'They are amazing kids capable of amazing things.'"

Petroski said the idea to promote coding first began when her students, who loved Minecraft, decided to attempt to convince school administrators to allow the game as a teaching tool.

Minecraft, which allows player-controlled avatars to build and survive in a world constructed out of blocks, can be used to create simulations of electrical circuits



Lindsay Petroski's Website features information about The Hour of Code, as well as a video created by her students. | (Charles Kreutzkamp/Town Times)

using an in-game harvested mineral, Redstone. Some players have even been able to create simple computer circuits within the game, including functional calcula-

tors formed out of miles of in-game-space.

Petroski, former high school teacher and current Technology Integration Specialist for Region 13 Bill Kurtz, as well as other teachers including Tina Hulbert, Jenny Lussier, and Anne Doyle all advocated for the Hour of Code, which came to numerous classrooms of many others.

The message was that "although coding can be complicated, there are many ways to approach student exploration in fun, less scary ways," Petroski said.

Kurtz said, "Strong and Coginchaug teachers have been very receptive. Some of them, like Susan Wagemaker of the CRHS Business Department, were programmers in their former careers before moving into education."

Kurtz will be starting extra-curricular programming groups at the Strong Middle School and Coginchaug Regional High School. Although Kurtz said he is "not an expert" on programming, "the conventional thinking is that teachers don't have to be expert programmers... they just have to know how to facilitate students learning something they're already interested in."

Malachi Caldwell-Andrews, 11, said that he enjoyed the Hour of Code,

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GREAT PARTY!



The Middlefield Senior Center celebrated with its Christmas Party recently. Entertainment on keyboard and accordion was provided by John Valerio.
| (Submitted by Joan Lombardo)

Calendar

From Page 15

Thursday, Jan. 23

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. Portland at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. Portland at CRHS, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 27

Girls basketball - CRHS vs. East Hampton at East Hampton, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Boys basketball - CRHS vs. East Hampton at East Hampton, 7 p.m.

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Provide winter protection for plants

By Dawn Pettinelli
Special to Town Times

With winter just around the corner it is time to implement any plans for protecting those plants most susceptible to winter injury. While there is not much we can do about extreme cold, plants can be protected from winter desiccation, breakage, frost heaving and salt.

Broad-leaved evergreens like holly, boxwood, Andromeda, rhododendrons and mountain laurel are most prone to drying or desiccation. One might notice browning on the tips, edges or even the whole leaf of injured plants as winter days go by. Evergreen plants will still lose water through their leaves during the winter especially on warmer, sunny

days. If the soil is frozen, the roots can't take up water to replace that which is lost and the leaves, and sometimes stems, dry out.

You can help any recently planted perennials, trees or shrubs survive the winter by making sure they go into the winter well watered. It has been a relatively dry fall in many areas so make sure the soil around fall planted stock is moist. If not, give them a good drink.

A two to three inch layer of mulch will give your plants a couple of extra weeks to draw water from the soil before it freezes. The mulch will also decrease the depth to which the soil freezes.

Avoid locating broad-leaved evergreens on particularly windy or exposed sites. If they are already

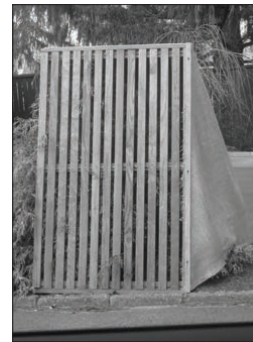
there and have experienced winter damage in the past, perhaps you can erect a burlap or lathwork fence on the windward side of them. For individual plants, set four stakes around them to which burlap can be stapled. Leave the top open and allow the bottom few inches to remain uncovered for air circulation. Do not use plastic bags to protect your plants as high temperatures may occur on warmer days injuring them.

Purchase an anti-transpirant such as Wilt-Pruf, Vapor Guard or Transfilm to apply to broad- and needle-leaved plants. This product can be sprayed as directed when temperatures pretty consistently stay below 50 degrees F. Anti-transpirants forms a waxy coating on the leaves which reduces the water

loss. It would be reapplied in late winter – usually during a February thaw.

Do note that anti-transpirants should not be used on Colorado blue spruce or other blue leaved or needled plants. Curiously, the blue color is due to a naturally-occurring, waxy covering that functions as an anti-transpirant. I have not tried it but supposedly blue needled plants sprayed with an anti-transpirant will turn green.

Damage from heavy snow or ice most often happens to evergreens located under the dripline of the house and next to driveways or walkways where the snow is shoveled. Take this into account when planning any new plantings and set your plants out of harm's way or



A frame of wood and burlap can help protect your plants in your landscape from winter snow and wind damage.

plant on protecting them.

Wooden supports can be placed over established evergreens. Make sure plants still receive enough light. Another alternative is to insert needle-leaved evergreen boughs (second life for that Christmas tree!) into broad-leaved evergreens like rhododendrons. This will cushion the impact of heavy falling snow to some extent. Upright or formally sheared evergreens will benefit from tying so they won't split open. Use a heavy, soft cord and wrap around firmly but loosely at about eight-inch intervals.

Frost heaving can be a problem for shallow rooted and recently planted perennials, shrubs or trees. Alternate freezing and thawing breaks the plant's roots and may result in plants being forced out of the ground exposing and drying out the roots and often killing the plant. This is more of a problem when snow cover is scarce.

Since we don't know what kind of winter we will have, your best protection is to mulch susceptible plants after the ground freezes. If two or three inches of bark mulch were applied after planting, more care is usually not necessary but if no mulch was put down around fall plantings, it really is a good idea to

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Fun activities for all generations

StatePoint – Parents are always in search of original activities to do with their kids. With seemingly endless hours to fill, finding enough fun and practical ideas to entertain kids can seem hard.

From outdoor physical activities to indoor crafts and fun with food, there are countless family activities for kids.

Try these options the next time you're looking for something to do:

Fun with Food

Kids love pasta. It comes in various shapes, sizes and colors—plus it's easy to make and good to eat. In her new kids cookbook 'Noodlemania!', Melissa Barlow serves up 50 imaginative recipes for adults and kids to prepare together. Barlow's book includes pasta recipes for hot and cold main dishes, salads, and even desserts.

'Noodlemania!' also includes interesting math facts, cooking tips, colorful photos and fun pasta trivia to keep kids learning while whipping up their playful pasta creations.

Try this Little Ladybug Salad recipe with your kids:

- 2 cups mini penne
- 1 container cherry or grape tomatoes
- 1 can sliced black olives, drained
- ¾ cup mini pepperoni
- ¾ to 1 cup Bernstein's Cheese Fantastico salad dressing
- 2 whole olives, cut in half

Cook the pasta; drain and rinse with cold water and then let cool completely.

Wash the tomatoes and then set three of the biggest and most oblong-shaped tomatoes aside. Cut the rest in half or quarters.

In a large bowl, combine the pasta and the cut tomatoes. Add the drained sliced olives, keeping several slices out with the reserved tomatoes. Stir in the mini pepperoni. Toss with the dressing and refrigerate until ready to serve.

With a little imagination, even the most boring day can quickly turn memorable!

Knock, Knock

Encourage your young jokesters to spend the afternoon crafting some unique stand-up routines. To create an authentic comedy-club feel, find a brick wall to use as a backdrop, lend your kids your loudest sports coats and punch up their punch lines with your best ba-dum-TSH.

A child who doesn't want to tell jokes can be the emcee, introducing the performers and encouraging the crowd to enjoy the show.

See Fun / Page 18



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Include your home in resolutions

Running a home can be a full-time job. Unfortunately, many of us don't have that kind of time. This new year, resolve to check off all the items on your to-do list without working harder. You can accomplish this by finding smarter solutions to maintain your home efficiently.

Pest Control

When it comes to pest control, a false sense of security during the cooler months can get you in trouble, as all homes are susceptible to pest invasion year-round.

If you're using firewood indoors, never bring more inside than you need at one time. Firewood can harbor insects like beetles, spiders, ladybugs, ants, cockroaches and centipedes.

It's important to have a professional periodically inspect for signs of pests and

take preventative control measures.

System Maintenance

Creating monthly and annual maintenance schedules for your home's major systems and appliances can save you time and money later, according to the experts at American Home Shield.

Start by adding these tasks to your monthly calendar: clean the dishwasher drains to prevent clogs and breakdowns, flush the garbage disposal with water and baking soda to prevent odor and grime, and change the filters for your air conditioner and heating system to improve air quality.

Annual maintenance should include checking your washer's hoses for leaks, cleaning the lint from your dryer ductwork, caulking leaks around windows and

doors, and having your heating and cooling systems professionally serviced.

Look into home warranty plans with a broad network of professional service contractors and the ability to place service requests 24/7.

A home warranty provides coverage for breakdowns of home system components, such as HVAC and plumbing, and also major appliances.

Deep Clean

Keeping your rooms clean can make a house a livable, comfortable home. Prevent clutter with organizational tools like baskets, shoe racks and coat hangers.

To avoid extra mopping, consider asking guests to remove their shoes before walking through your home. Such measures may save you from spot cleaning, but nothing can save you from the task



Don't forget to make a New Year's resolution regarding your home.

of home cleaning in the long term.

For a thorough, deep clean and to ensure small details aren't overlooked, consider using a professional cleaning service.

Tough Jobs

No other item in your home can affect the appearance of your home like carpeting. Schedule a carpet cleaning for a fresh start to the year, and have the carpets cleaned every six to twelve months.

Likewise, a trained technician can ensure proper care of surfaces like hardwood floors, tile and grout and also upholstered furniture.

Without adding too much work to your already busy schedule, you can resolve to give your home the care it deserves.

— StatePoint

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Fun

From Page 17

Scavenger Hunt

Children enjoy hunting for hidden treasure. A scavenger hunt gives them a chance to explore, get some exercise and think creatively. Select some common things for your kids to find -- playing cards, pinecones, or shiny rocks -- and hide them around the house and yard.

Compile a list and give point values to each item -- the harder the hiding spot, the more points it's worth. Have children take bags and start hunting! Once time is up, check the found items and add the points.

For a free sampler of activities, recipes and crafts for parents and kids visit www.Quirkbooks.com.

Code

From Page 14

which introduced him to Scratch, an MIT project that allows participants to learn the basics of coding. Malachi (the younger brother of this reporter) said most of his classmates made animated greeting cards during the Hour of Code, but one of his friends made a very simple game with a player controlled ninja who could catch on fire when making contact with a torch.

"There wasn't a lot to do with it, but it was funny," Malachi explained. He then demonstrated to The Times that after only an hour of instruction with the software, he was able to create several simple animations, including a sun swelling in size as it broke through some clouds.

Petroski and Kurtz both agreed that the increased demand for programming jobs is one important reason to promote the Hour of Code.

"By 2020, there will be 1.4 million computer programming jobs and only about 400,000 people to fill them," Petroski said, citing Code.org. Petroski said programming teaches "computational thinking," which helps create "good thinkers across all the academic areas."

Kurtz said the Hour of Code is an important project because of companies "crying out for more people to take the high-paying jobs they're offering" and for Americans to learn technical literacy.

"I like to characterize it as the U.S. population being akin to those alien races or future, post-scientific societies that have lost any understanding of the technology they depend on," Kurtz said. "Right now, we're conditioning people to be users of and consumers of technology, not creators of it."

Petroski said the Hour of Code was well received. "The students are enthusiastic and eager to learn more ... We have students from kindergarten to grade 12 and their teachers happily exploring coding this week. It's amazing."

Petroski said the project unleashed a "very positive and exciting vibe throughout the district."

Protection

From Page 16

put some mulch, evergreen branches, straw or pine needles around the base of these plants.

While you can't do much to cut down on the amount of salt used on the roads, you can control what is used on your walkways. Cat litter and sand are one alternative although they can be easily tracked inside the house. Less toxic salts like calcium chloride and calcium magnesium acetate as well as alternatives like corn-based products and amide/glycol mixes are now available. Check out what your local store offers.

As a rule of thumb, hemlocks, white pines and sugar

maples fare poorly when exposed to sodium chloride from road salts compared to yews, cedars and white spruce. Whenever sitting plants where they might come in contact with road salt, melt water from salted roads or salt spray from snowplows, it really makes sense to look at the salt tolerance of the plants before they are purchased and planted.

For questions about plant winter protection, deicing alternatives or for your other gardening questions, feel free to contact us, toll-free, at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center at (877) 486-6271, visit www.ladybug.uconn.edu or contact your local Cooperative Extension center.



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Jason Vieaux in concert

The Essex Winter Series presents guitarist Jason Vieaux, Sunday, Feb. 9, at 3 p.m. at the Valley Regional High School, 256 Kelsey Hill Road, Deep River. There is a fee for tickets. More information is available at (860) 272-4572 or www.essexwinterseries.com.

Vieaux has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad and was described by Gramophone as "among the elite of today's classical guitarists."

The program will include: Grand Overture, Opus 61 - Mauro Giuliani; Lute Suite No. 1 in e minor, BWV 996 - J.S. Bach;

Asturias and Sevilla (from Suite Española) - Isaac Albéniz; Jongo - Paulo Bellinati; Capricho Arabe - Francisco Tárrega; The Bat - Pat Metheny; A Felicidade - Antônio Carlos Jobim; and Suite del Recuerdo - José Luis Merlín.

He collaborates in recitals this season with Escher Quartet, acclaimed harpist Yolanda Kondonassis, and accordion/bandoneón virtuoso Julien Labro. Vieaux's passion for new music has fostered premieres of works by Dan Visconti, David Ludwig, Jerod Tate, Eric Sessler, José Luis Merlín and Gary Schocker.

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SONGS FOR WINTER



Kindergarten students performed at a recent Winter Concert at John Lyman School.
| (Submitted by Katey Giammatteo)

Get stitchy

Durham Recreation has scheduled its Get Stitchy program for Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Durham Activity Center, 350 Main St.

Get Stitchy is an open sew event for quilters and sewers. Participants may work on projects in the company of other sew-

ers, and exchange tips and ideas. Bring your project and sewing machine (including extension cord.)

For more information and to sign up, contact Pam Carey at (860) 349-0453 or carey_clan@sbcglobal.net or Vicki Berry at (860) 343-0879 or vberryl1@comcast.net.

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ANSWER

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7	4	2	3	6	1	9	8	5
5	3	8	4	2	9	6	1	7
9	1	6	7	8	5	3	2	4
3	7	4	9	5	8	2	6	1
6	9	5	1	7	2	8	4	3
8	2	1	6	4	3	5	7	9

CROSSWORD
ANSWER

K	D	I	S	B	A	R	S	I	L	T	E	D	
D	E	C	E	A	S	E	A	W	A	I	T	E	D
O	F	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	M	E	
D	E	N	T	S	E	L	Y	D	E	C	O	R	
G	R	U	S	D	A	R	E	S	S	A	T	I	
E	S	M	B	E	L	R	I	B	M	I	D		
			E	L	A	N	S	E	R	E	N		
S	A	R	O	S				B	E	R	G	S	
E	R	A	S	E	S			B	E	D	A		
V	A	T	D	A	T	C	A	L	M	I	A		
E	P	O	S	C	A	R	A	T	H	E	C	K	
R	A	R	E	R	W	B	N	S	A	N	E	R	
A	H	G	A	R	D	E	N	H	O	E	M	O	
L	O	C	A	T	O	R	E	A	R	T	H	E	N
S	U	R	E	T	Y	S	E	A	S	O	N		

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