

East Haddam News

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COVERING MOODUS, LAKE HAYWARD, HADLYME AND EAST HADDAM

May 12, 2022

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Free weekly

Play ball! New scoreboards dedicated on Opening Day

At East Haddam/Moodus Little League's Opening Day on Saturday, April 30, the Haslam Memorial Foundation officially dedicated two new scoreboards it purchased with funds raised at its inaugural golf tournament this past fall.

Foundation President Melanie Kolek said the approximately \$15,000 project got underway in January and finished April 29, right in the nick of time. As she put it in an email to the newspaper, "We were down to the wire, no pun intended!"

Brian Barzee of Northeast Scoreboards in East Haddam did the work at the East Haddam Elementary School field, Kolek said, and the project won approval from multiple town committees without issue.

Kolek gave remarks at the Opening Day dedication in remembrance of her father, former town constable and local business owner Richard Haslam, who passed away in October 2020. The foundation was named for Haslam, who was also an accomplished athlete and a baseball coach in the Little League.

Funds left over from the scoreboard project were used to purchase shirts for all of the league's coaches as well as uniforms for all-star tournaments in the league's majors baseball and softball leagues, Kolek said.

Haslam Memorial Foundation is hosting its second annual golf tournament on Monday, Sept. 12, at Fox Hopyard Golf Club, with all proceeds again benefitting East Haddam/Moodus Little League. More information will be forthcoming on the foundation's website, www.haslammemorial.com.



Melanie Kolek of the Haslam Memorial Foundation, pictured here with Tyler and Rob Kolek, delivers remarks at the dedication of the new scoreboards.



Brian Barzee of Northeast Scoreboards in East Haddam works on installing scoreboards donated by the Haslam Memorial Foundation. The project finished just in time for the April 30 Opening Day of East Haddam/Moodus Little League.

East Haddam man seeking Republican nomination in 33rd State Senate District

By Brendan Cox

Justin Anderson, a Republican of East Haddam, last week announced his bid for the 33rd State Senate District seat currently held by Democrat Norm Needleman of Essex.

A lieutenant colonel in the Connecticut Army National Guard, Anderson's resumé features 32 years of military service, including two combat tours to Afghanistan and two other deployments, as well as a 20-year career in the Connecticut Department of Correction and other bona fides in security, intelligence and emergency response. Closer to home, Anderson is a current member of East Haddam's Planning & Zoning Commission.



Continued on page EH5

East Haddam family helps ponies in need PJ's Ponies has helped find homes for a dozen animals

By David De Lucia

Even when East Haddam resident Keirsten Riccio was a young girl, she had a natural affinity for ponies and horses — and her daughter has followed in her footsteps and become the namesake for an organization that's been helping animals in need since 2015.

Riccio, a mother of two, offers a pony rescue out of her home called PJ's Ponies. The organization was named for her 11-year-old daughter PJ, an

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Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School Honor Roll

The following students were named to the Second Trimester Honor Roll at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School. To achieve High Honors, you must earn grades of A-minus or higher in all classes. To achieve Honors, you must earn grades of B-minus or higher in all classes.

8th Grade

High Honors: Jade Alvarez, Molly Beach, Sara Evans, Allison Gregory, Lily Jahne, Faith Kalisz, Alivia Kolasinski, Isabella Laban, Jackson Libero, August Riccio, Ethan Robinson, Elyanna Sorey

Honors: Colby Bryant, Collin Campagna, Ian Cook, Arianna Cummings, Julia Hallowell, Madison Hanlon, Charlotte Hedberg, Delila Herold, Anthony LaPila, Cecil Lowe, John McVerry, Aubrey O'Connor, Mia Piscioti, Joshua Ricard, Gavin St Germaine, Bryah Zuckerman

7th Grade

High Honors: Payton Balducci, Stella Brown, Kaelyn Cambi, Sabrina Cazassa, Madilyn Curtis, Todd Daniel, Lauren Drozd, Lilah Kelleher, Anastasia Kushnir, Arwen Little, Luke Sands, Olivia Skuby, Cora Steflik, Rowan Vitali

Honors: Aiden Bannon, Cayden Barber, Christopher Brining, Aiden Deckelman, Logan Desjardins, Beckett Feulner, Owen Kelly, Jonah Klancko, Isabelle La Marr, Autumn Landry,

Atticus Marshall, Makaylee Martin, Dylan McMahon, Adriel Neyra, Victoria Padron, Olivia Pelletier, Elijah Pollock, Kira Rand, Nicholas Robidoux, Grayden Sansalone

6th Grade

High Honors: Isabella Cuscina, Mia Dudley, Marcello Esposito, Teagan Giersz, Kathleen Hagerty, Kade Karpiej, Tyler Kolek, Ryan Langer, Matthew Ricard, Patience Riccio, Lia Scott, Michael Zieler

Honors: Jonathan Antone, Tallis Archambault, Carter Arpin, Charles Bentley, Colton Campagna, Avery Campbell, Ethan Carbo, Robert Carter, Alivia Clark, Emily Clark, Carly Cummings, Carinna Egan, Eryka Ford, Matthew Forsyth, Caitlin Hanlon, Ethan Heath, Zoe Herold, Thomas Humiston, Olivia Kaupp, Maria Kushnir, Austin Laban, Josie Martel, Peyton Miller, Alyssa Morrisette, Brian New, Hunter Paull, Nico Piscioti, Aydon Pont, Mackenzie Rahmann, Jeslyn Ramos, Aurora Rancourt, Layla Risk-Adams, Kayleigh Roy, Brandon Skoutas, Cole Soderberg, Rosabella Spirito, Isabella Stone, Rachel Straub, Avery-Jean Valli, Zoe Wilkins

5th Grade

High Honors: Jemmye Balducci, Addison Basconi, Lucia Dellaposta, Ethan Dill, Rose Esty, Juliet Feulner, Ava Goodie, Hayden Hatch, Elisa

Kim, Benjamin McVerry, Annabelle Rodowicz, Lleyton Thibodeau, Quinn Thody, Kevin Wade, Michael Waltamath, Evlin Ward, Claire Whalen, Hadley Williams, Jaymarie Woods

Honors: Kristian Anderson, Logan Arpin, Taylor Balducci, Laurel Beisel, John Bergami, Connor Bouchard, Natalie Breault, Mya Clark, Hunter Cooney, Kinley Cotton, Haeli Cronan-

Case, Madison Crosby, Emma Daniel, Matthew Diaz, Kayleigh Dinda, Kyla Dutch, Latief Graham, Grace Haddad, Allyson Hollis, Ava Liseo, Skye Moir, Nicolas Morganti, Logan Puziak, Quinn Puziak, Declan Rausch, Jaydalis Reyes-Gonzalez, Maxwell Sands, Emmett Sansalone, Kinleigh Smith, Emmett Soderberg, Evelyn Sorey, Shane Vitali, Adelyn Zaid, Nathaniel Zieler

CLASSIFIEDS

Local non-commercial classifieds are free: Deadline is two weeks before publication. We will run them for four weeks or until you tell us to stop. Email them to: editor@easthaddamnews.org. Classifieds must be submitted by email; submissions made through telephone or postal mail cannot be accommodated.

FOR SALE

FISHING APPAREL: Fishing wader suit plus boots, L.L.Bean, Goretex, size medium, \$125. Anglers' fishing vest, size large, \$50. Waxed, short fishing jacket, L.L.Bean, size large, \$50. Everything for \$200. Call (860) 345-4145. (5/12)

STEREO RECEIVERS: Samsui E-2000 receiver in great working condition, \$175; Yamaha NS series CR-400 receiver in great working condition, \$175; Zenith receiver with turntable in great working condition, \$100. Pictures available upon request on all items. (860) 917-0124. (5/12)

PLAYSTATION: PlayStation 3 with power cord, USB cord and controller, \$75. Picture available. (860) 917-0124. (5/12)

FURNITURE: Quality indoor Lloyd Flanders wicker furniture with cushions. Eleven pieces in excellent shape: table with four chairs; two side chairs; one rocker and mirror; small table plus mirror and footstool. Price: \$1,100. Call or text Jim: (860) 391-1061. (5/26)

PRINTER: Brother monochrome laser printer, like new, model HLL2395DW. Can copy, scan and do wireless printing. \$150 OBO. Call or text before 6 p.m.: (860) 874-8968. (5/26)

HDTV: Samsung 50-inch class HDTV, 1080p. Remote, stand and manual.

Plenty of ports and connections. Streaming/Internet. Rarely used, mint condition. TCL soundbar included with price. Email kimkimqv@gmail.com for pictures, pricing and information. (6/2)

GENERATOR: Husky 5000-watt portable generator with Briggs and Stratton engine. Recoil start, folding handles, four 120-volt outlets, one 240-volt outlet, night light. Quality machine, beautifully kept and maintained. Email kimkimqv@gmail.com for pictures, pricing and information. (6/2)

FURNITURE: Multiple items available in moving sale.

- Gorgeous, queen sized, four-post maple Cannon ball bed frame with full headboard and footboard. Quality metal frame with supports. Easy to assemble in 20 minutes. Delivery available for a limited time.

- Large single bed with two comfortable, quality mattresses and wheeled frame. Rarely used. Clean and durable.

- Office desk console with hidden keyboard roll-away. Pocket space for desktop PC. Upper level for monitor. Designed to fit corner walls to save space. Plenty of work area.

- Modern, dark cherry nightstand with three large easy pull-out dovetailed drawers. Accompanying small lamp with frosted shade.

Email kimkimqv@gmail.com for pictures, pricing and information. (6/2)

FISHING ROD: TFO Lefty Kreh Pro Series fly rod, 7'6", 3-weight, four pieces. Comes with original cloth bag and tube. New condition, \$95. Call or text Brian at (860) 550-2036. (6/2)



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State bill leaves ‘profound questions’ to women, doctors

As a physician assistant with training in midwifery at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, I had a particular interest in the recent debate in the Connecticut House of Representatives on a bill that would increase access to early-term abortion and give legal protection to providers and their patients. The bill had bipartisan support and passed 87-60.

The bill would establish a legal firewall in Connecticut should the U.S. Supreme Court roll back *Roe v. Wade*, a decision that barred states from prohibiting abortions in the first 12-week trimester. Several state legislatures have already passed laws to restrict abortion.

Connecticut’s bill would also allow midwives, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to perform medication and vacuum aspiration abortions, procedures now

limited to the practice of medical doctors.

Good people differ over the most profound questions of existence. So is the case with abortion. This is not an easy decision, and it should rest with a woman and the medical professional she trusts. Restricting access would undermine public health and have a disparate impact on the poor and people of color.

Forty years ago, I was preparing a 15-year-old girl for an aspiration abortion by a nurse midwife in Baltimore City Hospital. I asked to be excused from doing the procedure, perhaps because of my religious upbringing, but I did not waver in my understanding that the midwife, an extraordinary woman, and her young patient, had made this decision in a relationship of trust, within the law, and based on considerations I had no right to

control, for the best outcome for the girl.

In a career which spanned clinical practice and public health research, I have been privileged to give care to powerful people and to the powerless. I have seen a Supreme Court justice in his underwear and I have worked in the Baltimore City Jail.

I have learned that the best practice of medicine is grounded in impartiality, sound judgment and the best available science, not religious or political doctrines. I applaud Connecticut lawmakers who stood up for the women of Connecticut and their right to make such a personal and fundamental decision.

*John Olin
East Haddam*

Additional investments in state parks are much-needed

Editor’s note: The following was originally submitted as testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly in support of Senate Bill 12, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements and Other Purposes and Concerning the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust Program and Grants for Certain Law Enforcement Equipment and Homelessness Prevention and Response.

The Friends of Gillette Castle State Park is an all-volunteer nonprofit with a mission of promoting and protecting the unique Gillette Castle and its scenic grounds.

The Friends are in strong support of S.B. 12, specifically the increased bonding investment of \$15 million for state parks infrastructure included in Section 11 of the bill.

As you know, overall, DEEP (state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) has identified a backlog of nearly \$130 million in critical maintenance, repairs, and other infrastructure improvement projects at state parks. Some investments are necessary to renovate historic structures, but significant investments are also required to ensure facilities are more accessible to all, especially to those with mobility challenges. At Gillette Castle State Park, currently critical needs are window restoration (neglected for over 20 years), improvements in accessibility and vital improvements in drainage along eroding

roadways — during a significant storm in 2021 we had significant trail erosion that washed out onto the public “ferry road.” The immensely popular train trail hike has an important trestle that has been in disrepair and closed for many years.

Over the winter of 2021, the Friends of Gillette, in partnership with DEEP, erected a tarp to cover the roof of the home of Yukitaka Osaki, a historically important structure on the ferry landing. Yukitaka was a Japanese expatriot who served as William Gillette’s confidante, valet and right-hand man. Over the course of living on the river landing for many years, Yukitaka became beloved among the local community, and they

rallied to prevent his threatened internment during the dark years of World War II. This historic structure is at risk of collapse and requires urgent attention before it is lost.

On behalf of the Friends of Gillette Castle, we encourage committee members to consider the need for capital investments in Connecticut’s State Parks and support bonding in S.B. 12 for infrastructure improvements that are necessary, and in fact overdue, to sustain the many values that state parks provide to all of us.

*Lynn Wilkinson
President, Friends of Gillette Castle State Park*

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CALENDAR

Editor's note: To ensure timely publication, please send your event announcement to the newspaper at least two weeks prior to its date, to editor@easthaddamnews.org. For all events associated with either of the town's libraries, visit www.easthaddamlibrarysystem.org for additional information, registration, teleconference links and passcodes, and more.

May 14

Registration is open now for a parking space to sell your extra treasures at the East Haddam Historical Society Museum's annual tag sale, Junk-in-the-Trunk! The cost for each seller's space is \$25. All registrations must be in by May 7. The event takes place on the museum grounds, 264 Town St., from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 14. Vendors arrive at 7:30 that day. Your trunk or truck are your display case. You may bring a table if you'd like. All proceeds from your sales are yours to keep. Your registration fee supports EHHS in its mission to illuminate and preserve the stories of the people and places that shape our community. The East Haddam Garden Club will hold their Plant and Bake Sale in the garden and on the porch from 8 a.m. to noon. Call (860) 873-3944 to register and for more information.

The East Haddam Garden Club will hold its annual Plant and Bake sale on Saturday, May 14, from 8 a.m. till noon, on the grounds of the East Haddam Historical Society. Perennials come from members' own gardens, where they have been proven to thrive in our Connecticut climate. Also included are annual flower and vegetable packs. Proceeds from the sale go towards funding the club's many civic projects.

The English Tea Party sponsored by East Haddam Community Lions is back. It will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at St. Bridget's Parish Hall, 75 Moodus-Leesville Road in Moodus. Tickets are \$25 and have always been a hot commodity, so get yours soon. For tickets contact any member of Community Lions or Diane at (860) 434-5611 or Jenn at (860) 227-4596. The event benefits many people in the community, including two high school seniors who will receive \$2,000 scholarships toward furthering their education. Be among the bevy of women who will enjoy pots of tea, plates of sandwiches and desserts, glamorous (or funny)

hats and lots of conversation and laughter.

May 15

I-Park, 428 Hopyard Road in East Haddam, is hosting a Volunteers Day on Sunday, May 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a family-friendly event for anyone 14 years old or older. I-Park needs help cleaning debris off the trails, sprucing up its garden beds, reorganizing the indoor studios and doing some painting. Volunteers Day gives the public the opportunity to enjoy the 450-acre nature preserve with like-minded art and nature lovers. A complimentary lunch will be served after the work party. For more information about our exciting season of events and to register, please visit i-park.org, email events@i-park.org or call (860) 873-2468.

May 20

East Haddam Elementary School PTO is excited to announce the 21st Annual Basket Bash is on Friday, May 20, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the elementary school gym. The event features six top raffle prizes, more than 100 gift baskets and a silent auction. All are welcome. Much thanks to the families, school community and local businesses for making this event possible!

May 23

The Town of East Haddam will host a recognition of Vietnam-era veterans. Lt. Gov. Susan Bysewicz is initiating the event. Personal invitations have been mailed to known veterans of this era (based on DD-214 filings and in coordination with the American Legion). If you or someone you know served our country in the armed forces during the Vietnam era, and an invitation was not received, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at (860) 873-5027 so that this important service can be recognized.

June 4

Mark your calendars for First Church of Christ Congregational, 499 Town St. in East Haddam, Annual Tag Sale on Saturday, June 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. Come shop the many treasures, enjoy our bake sale and food booth, and check out the silent auction! Donate gently used items (no electronics or exercise equipment) — drop off Saturday, May 7, and May 21, 9 a.m. to noon. To reserve a space for \$25, email your name and contact information to contact@firstchurcheh.org.

Paint & Sip at Gillette Castle, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. June 4. Celebrate the Connecticut River valley & William Gillette's legacy through art. Sponsored by the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park. Join experienced painter Sue Weaver in an afternoon of painting at Gillette Castle. Sue was an art teacher for 35 years and has been leading paint nights for eight years. She will give step by step directions and paint along with you as you create a 16-inch-by-20-inch acrylic painting on canvas. First

come first served, 15 spots available. \$35 per person — all art supplies provided. BYOB. To register, go to www.gillettecastlefriends.org.

Ongoing

East Haddam's Top Dog contest is designed to promote the importance of licensing your dog (required by state law for all dogs over 6 months of age). The winner of the contest will receive the #1 tag without charge and the opportunity to march in the Memorial Day parade, among other prizes. The runner up will receive the #2 without charge and a surprise or two. The contest is judged by students at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School. To enter, please include a recent photo of your dog; owner's name, address, phone number and email address; and pet's name, age and breed. Send to townclerk@easthaddam.org or mail to East Haddam Town Clerk, 1 Plains Road, PO Box 385, Moodus, CT 06469. Entries must be received by May 16 to be included in the contest. 2022/2023 Dog licenses go on sale June 1, 2022. Fees are \$8 for an altered dog and \$19 for a dog that is not. Licenses are not prorated; a \$1 per month late fee is assessed commencing July 1. Evidence of rabies and spay/neutering are required.

Editor sought

The East Haddam News is accepting applications for editor. Interested individuals can email their résumé and a cover letter to editor@easthaddamnews.org.

East Haddam News Deadline

To be considered for publication, news items must be sent to the newspaper, editor@easthaddamnews.org, at least two weeks before desired publication date.

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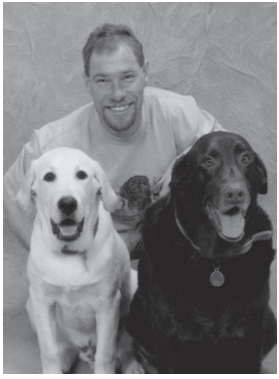
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William Douglas Korcak



William “Bill” Korcak passed away April 10 in Lexington, Ky., after a long illness. He was 56 years old.

Born January 8, 1966, he was

the father of Breeanna Miner and son of Arlene Grieder of Key Largo, Fla., and the late Daniel Korcak.

Bill grew up in East Haddam, attending Nathan Hale-Ray High School. Following high school, he went on to be a self-employed carpenter, which was his passion, and a carpenter at Electric Boat. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed fishing and his current hobby, making birdhouses. Bill moved to Kentucky eight years ago with his partner of 16 years, Susan Bennett.

Bill will be remembered as a having a gentle soul with some spice. He will be sadly missed by his daughter Breeanna Miner and her husband Ryan of East Haddam, his mother Arlene Grieder of Key Largo, his brother Daniel Korcak of Deep River, his partner Susan Bennet of Lexington, Ky., and many extended family and friends.

A celebration of Bill’s life will be held June 18, 2022, at Devils Hopyard Deep Hole at 11 a.m. We wish Bill a peaceful passage and we hope he is now on a better path with the creator, AHO.

To share your stories and condolences you may post them to www.memorialsources.com/memorial/william-douglas-korcak.

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East Haddam News editor to step down at end of May

To Our Readers: Brendan Cox will be stepping down as editor of the East Haddam News at the end of this month because of the exigencies of his day job and growing family, which includes two-year-old twins.

The Board of Directors would like to express its gratitude for the energy and professionalism that Brendan, a seasoned journalist, has brought to the paper. His news coverage has been first-rate, and he managed a growing number of lively contributors.

Brendan ably has augmented the legacy of the

newspaper, which is in its seventh year of service to East Haddam. We wish him the best of luck and hope to hear from him periodically.

The Board is in the process of interviewing candidates for the position and can be reached at rcasner10@gmail.com.

— The Board of the East Haddam News:

- Bob Casner
- Greg Barden
- Valarie Bergeron
- Michael Robidoux

East Haddam man seeking Republican nomination in 33rd State Senate District

Continued from page EH1

If Anderson is to get the chance to run against Needleman, a two-term incumbent, he will need to secure the Republican nomination May 16 in Higganum. The only other Republican hoping to run for the Senate seat is Brandon Goff, an East Hampton town councilor and Navy veteran and reservist who announced his bid in March.

Both men have focused on Connecticut’s cost of living in their public statements.

“Connecticut should not be a state that requires its citizens to be millionaires to afford the living here,” Anderson wrote in an email to the East Haddam News. “We have lost many families to other states. Families that have been in Connecticut for generations, who can no longer afford to live here. Hard workers who have taken their skills and businesses elsewhere.”

In an early salvo against Needleman, his potential opponent in November, Anderson continued, “Millionaire representatives will never endure what the shrinking, hardworking, middle class must.”

Anderson is no stranger to political campaigns. He unsuccessfully ran against U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, in 2020, losing by 21 points. With the exception of his first election in 2006, the firmly entrenched Courtney has historically won the biannual U.S. congressional race by double-digit point margins.

The 33rd State Senate District — which comprises East Haddam, Haddam, East Hampton, Colchester, Chester, Lyme, Deep River, Essex, Portland, Clinton, Westbrook and part of Old Saybrook — may be a

slightly softer target for a Republican nominee.

Before Needleman’s election in 2018, the 33rd District seat was held by Republican Art Linares for three terms. But Linares’ predecessor was the late Eileen Daily, a Democrat who served 10 terms and rose to Senate deputy president pro tempore.

Linares lost the 2018 Republican primary to current East Haddam Republican Town Committee Chairwoman Melissa Ziobron, over whom Needleman prevailed in that year’s general election by a razor-thin margin of 85 votes, or 0.2 points.

In 2020, Needleman bested Republican nominee Brendan Saunders by 8 points.

For his part, Anderson touts an ability to work across the aisle if he lands in Hartford in 2023.

“Decisions do not have to be made down party lines,” he said in a prepared statement emailed to the press. “However, they do have to be made in the best interest of ‘We the People.’ Legislation must have a positive effect for the most amount of people, not just select interest groups.”

Anderson’s website lists a wide range of political and legislative issues motivating his run for higher office. Among them are jobs and the economy, “reopening” Connecticut post-COVID-19, education and a number of topics of a more federal bent — immigration, national defense and 2nd Amendment rights, for example.

Much of the historical material above was sourced from www.ballotpedia.org, an excellent resource for voters and politics junkies. For more information about Justin Anderson, visit www.justinandersonforcongress.com.

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East Haddam family helps ponies in need PJ's Ponies has helped find homes for a dozen animals

Continued from page EH1

accomplished equestrian who already has extensive experience in all aspects of pony care, including riding them in the show circuit.

"I love horses because they understand your feelings" PJ said.

The goal of PJ's Ponies is to rescue ponies and horses who have been neglected and find them "forever homes." Since the rescue started, 12 animals have been successfully placed.

"We keep in touch with the new owners of all animals that find forever homes, receiving pictures and hearing about how they're doing," Keirsten Riccio said. When she's not working with animals, Riccio works in marketing, and her husband, Andrew, is a social studies teacher at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School.

By far the most well-known of all the animals PJ's Ponies has helped is Cricket. She was the very first rescue from 2015 and it soon became apparent she had found her forever home with the Riccios. Cricket is now a local celebrity and has even had a poem written about her in a local book of published poetry. PJ rides her in area shows and recently participated in Dressage for Kids in New York state. Cricket is considered a champion pony and has earned many ribbons. To look at the handsome mare, one would never guess she was neglected earlier in her life.

In 2018, another rescue, Tater Tot, also found a home at PJ's Ponies. During the pandemic especially, Tater Tot, an engaging pony with personality to spare, was walked around the neighborhood in various colorful costumes such as a brilliantly colored red and green Christmas ensemble. Small children are able to ride her, and indeed when PJ was younger, Tater Tot was her frequent riding companion. Like many ponies, Tater Tot has an uncanny knack for knowing exactly where treats are hidden. She will nuzzle a pocket until she finds her



PJ Riccio, daughter of PJ's Ponies animal rescue founder Keirsten Riccio, is pictured with Cricket. The pair competed in Dressage for Kids in New York state.

reward, and of course she is invariably correct.

In August 2020, Riccio obtained Charm via auction. This rescue pony was thought to be of Amish origin, and when she first came on board, was very withdrawn. Riccio spent much time and effort drawing her personality out, and by the time a placement in Ridgefield, Conn., was found, Charm had recovered enough to become a therapy pony. Such an animal has an exceptional disposition and is used to help physically and mentally challenged children and adults.

The most recent PJ's Ponies rescue was Riggins, who was on site for just a few months before being placed as well.

Since 2019, PJ's Ponies has had a Facebook page, which is the best way to get in touch with Riccio. Donations of any amount are always welcomed, as well as potential space for future quarantines and website developers to help PJ Ponies with technical issues. Fundraisers are held periodically as well; consult the Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

NATHAN HALE-RAY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX \$2,800,000

**TOWN REFERENDUM
MAY 24, 2022, 6:00 AM TO 8:00 PM
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The Nathan Hale-Ray High School Track and Field Athletic Complex Project entails the construction of track and field areas and improvements to the soccer field. Below are key components of the proposed project:

- the construction of a six (6) lane oval/eight (8) lane sprint track;
- the construction of a field surface for javelin, discus and other track and field events;
- the replacement and removal of existing soccer field and installation of a synthetic turf soccer field;
- the construction of restroom facilities;
- handicapped accessibility code improvements, including those providing ADA-compliant access to the track and fields.

The Town has been awarded a State of Connecticut grant in the approximate amount of \$1,400,000 for this project. Additionally, the Purple Fund Educational Endowment has pledged \$400,000 to offset costs to the Town of this project. The net cost to the Town, if all grants and endowments are received, will be approximately \$1,000,000 to be financed with the issuance of general obligation bonds and/or notes of the Town.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Caucus of all enrolled Republicans electors of the Town of East Haddam on Friday, May 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Grange, 488 Town Street, to endorse a candidate for Republican Registrar of Voters for the Town of East Haddam.

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on May 24, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Room #1-2, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, CT, to hear the following:

Annual review of the 2019 Planning & Conservation Plan of Development and review of the Affordable Housing Plan.

You may access the YouTube Live link from the Town's website: www.easthaddam.org

The application is posted on the official East Haddam web page, go to the calendar on the bottom right corner, click the meeting date and open the application.

At this hearing interested persons shall be heard and correspondence received.

Questions or comments about this application may be emailed to jventres@easthaddam.org during the hearing.

Crary H. Brownell, Chairman

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Student of the Month known for kindness, work ethic

Samuel Harmon, a senior at Nathan Hale-Ray High School, was selected as Student of the Month for January. The Student of the Month program helps recognize students who have gone above and beyond to achieve academic excellence, while showing impact in not only the classroom but also the community. Students also are judged on how they treat their fellow students and the staff. Each department nominates a student, but only one is selected as Student of the Month.

Mrs. Parthasarthy, Sam's accelerated physics teacher, nominated Sam for his desire to challenge himself and others in the classroom. She said he "is an example of a model student." Mrs. Parthasarthy was impressed with Sam and his ability to take on challenges

in the classroom. Sam studies hard in order to achieve his goals, and he's dedicated to his work and studies.

The other nominees for the month of January were Malachi Kearns, Juliana Cazassa, Selina Zhang and Alexandra Kushnir. Logan Strid, one of Hale-Ray's journalists, interviewed Sam about his achievement.

Sam enjoys helping others and in his free time, he volunteers with the fire department. Sam is a very kind person who is easy to talk to and get along with, he is always willing to help others and always makes people laugh.

Mrs. Erlandson, Sam's world literature teacher, described Sam as hardworking and conscientious.

"Sam can connect with every person in the classroom as he treats each

person with respect and has a sense of humor that is engaging and light-hearted," Erlandson said. "Sam is going to be really successful in the future as he values his education and the people around him."

When Sam was asked about what Student of the Month means to him, he said, "Student of the Month shows that I am hardworking and determined to achieve my goals."

Sam likes coming to school to further his education, and he also has fun doing so. When he was asked about his views of Nathan Hale-Ray High School, he said that the school is perfect and filled with nice staff and amazing people.



Samuel Harmon was named Nathan Hale-Ray High School's Student of the Month for January.

MEETINGS

Editor's note: Visit www.easthaddam.org and www.easthaddamschools.org to check for the latest meeting dates, cancellations and teleconference options. Residents can also view agendas, minutes, official notices and other materials.

May 12

Library Trustees, 6:30 p.m., East Haddam Free Public Library

May 16

Water Pollution Control Authority, 7 p.m., Municipal Office Complex, meeting room 1

May 17

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Office Building, meeting room 2
Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Office Building, meeting room 1

Board of Education Business & Planning Subcommittee, 6 p.m., Nathan Hale-Ray High School library

May 18

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Municipal Office Complex, meeting rooms 1 and 2

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This week's photos speak (or chirp) for themselves

It's been a spectacular week for photographs, so instead of the normal spate of purple prose, this week's column will be devoted to the visual arts, aka natural eye candy. Bet you can't eat just one.



Harold Moritz and Sheila Gleason submitted the photos of the bluebird and the towhee. They report: "Male passerine birds are staking out territories at our Geoffrey Road home, exemplified by this sharp-eyed eastern bluebird and persistently singing eastern towhee. His smaller cousins, the chipping and white-throated sparrows, are abundant now, and our first hummingbird migrants hit the feeder today (April 29)."



Sam Webster took this portrait of a bobcat that was eyeing the Adirondack chair in his yard near Tater Hill Road.



Ken and Bonnie Beatrice contributed the candid of this male rose-breasted grosbeak at left, as well as the hummingbird feeding at the red bird feeder above. "As the wild columbine blossoms, the hummingbirds begin to arrive," they write.

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