



*"Broken by it I may be; bow to it I never will."
— Abraham Lincoln.*

KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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Serving Killingly since 2006

Friday, October 25, 2024

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Courtesy
On Oct. 5, Thompson held its 20th Annual Community Day. Congratulations to 2024 Volunteers of the Year Erica and Larry Groh and 2024 Business of the Year Blackmer Farms.

Quiet Corner prepares for Election Day

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Election Day is fast approaching, with numerous races on the state and federal level complimenting the nation's presidential election to determine representation for the Quiet Corner on the state and federal level for years to come. The election will also determine the wishes of the voters to allow more widespread absentee voting potentially eliminating many limitations on the practice.

At the Nov. 5 general election, voters will, of course, help determine the new president of the United States as former Commander-in-Chief Donald Trump returns to the Republican ticket while current Vice President Kamala Harris seeks to maintain Democratic control of the nation's top election office. Locally, however, there will be plenty more decisions to make that will impact representation and voting accessibility on the federal, state, and local level.

One of the most pressing statewide issues on the ballot is an amendment to the Connecticut Constitution proposing no-excuse absentee voting. Under the current rules Connecticut voters may only utilize absentee ballots if they are unable to vote in person due to absence from their city or town or due to sickness, physical disability, or religious beliefs prohibiting secular activity on that day. The amendment would allow absentee voting without limitations essentially allowing anyone to vote by absentee ballot as long as they are a registered voter in Connecticut.

Local voters will also help decide two representatives in the federal government as Senator Chris Murphy and Congressman Joe Courtney each seek new terms in Washington. Murphy is challenged by Republican Matthew Corey in a rematch from 2018 where Murphy claimed an overwhelming victory. Corey, a Navy veteran and Manchester business owner, returned to the ballot after defeating Beacon Falls First Selectman Gerry Smith in the Republican primaries in August despite Smith being endorsed by Connecticut Republicans during the State Convention in May. Corey had previously run for the U.S. House as both an independent and a Republican before running against Murphy in 2018. Meanwhile Senator Murphy, a Democrat, is seeking his third term since succeeding Joe Lieberman in 2012. Prior to his time in the Senate, Murphy served in the Connecticut House of Representatives and State Senate and three terms as a Congressman in Washington.

For Congress, voters will choose between Democratic incumbent Joe Courtney and Republican challenger Mike France in another rematch. Courtney is seeking his seventh term serving Connecticut's Second Congressional District, a seat he has easily defended since 2006. France, a former Connecticut State Representative for the 42nd District, had previously challenged Courtney in 2022.

On the state level, both local State Senator races feature incumbents and challengers as Senators Mae Flexer and Jeff Gordon seek to maintain their respective seats. Flexer, a Democrat, has represented the 29th District since succeeding Joe Courtney in 2015. Her competition is Republican Chris Reddy, a small business owner with a

Killingly approves ARPA funding for Westfield Ave. project

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — A proposal to use the remaining balance of Killingly's ARPA funds to offset part of the cost of renovating the old high school on Westfield Avenue was approved by the Town Council on Oct. 8 after a quick public hearing that heard no opposition on the matter.

The proposal was initially presented in September by Town Manager Mary Calorio who explained that Killingly had until the end of the year to commit the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, funds or risk losing the remaining money. The Town Council had previously discussed the possibility

of offsetting part of the cost of renovating the retired high school on Westfield Avenue and, per traditional practice, held a public hearing to determine the interest of the taxpayers. The hearing proved to be a quick discussion and decision by the Council to support utilizing up to \$1.6 million in ARPA money to pay for a portion of the project.

Calorio reiterated statements from the September meeting confirming that this does not change the price or serve as an additional expense associated with the project, but rather helps offset what taxpayers would be paying for the final price tag.

"This will lower the amount that will be

borrowed for that overall project. It does not expand available money for expenditure. It lowers the amount that we'll be borrowing," she said.

The ARPA money had to be committed by Dec. 31, and needs to be expended by the end of 2026. With little time to establish other projects that could benefit from the funds, Calorio felt it was finally time to allocate the money for Westfield Avenue. The motion stated the use of "up to" \$1.6 million in ARPA monies allowing any leftover funds from other ARPA-funded projects to also be allocated to the project. The Town Council approved the motion unanimously.

Turn To **FUNDING** page **A9**

Honoring our ancestors: A celebration of history, heritage, and community

DANIELSON — The Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society is excited to announce a new program, "Honoring Our Ancestors," to be held on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel in Danielson. This special event will celebrate the launch of the Temple Beth Israel Community Archive, a project dedicated to preserving the rich cultural and historical legacy of the local Jewish community, which has enjoyed decades of generous support of the local interfaith community.

A highlight of the event will be an exclusive interview with Dr. Elsie Blumenthal Fetterman, a 97-year-old Danielson native who recently published her memoir. Her book is not only a powerful testament to the Jewish experience in Danielson but also a deeply personal story of a young woman's determination, discipline, and desire to make the world better. In her memoir, Elsie reflects on growing up in a small town, overcoming personal and societal challenges,

Turn To **ANCESTORS** page **A1**

Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital celebrates 130th anniversary



Courtesy

State Sen. Mae Flexer (center), 29th District Senator & Deputy President Pro Tempore, presents a citation to the Woman's Board President Valentine Iamartino (left) in recognition of the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital's 130th Anniversary. Joining them is Day Kimball Health CEO Kyle Kramer along with members of the Woman's Board who attended the Sept. 13 celebration.

PUTNAM — The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital (WBDKH) gathered on Thursday, Sept. 13 to mark its 130th anniversary, a significant milestone in the organization's history. Held at the hospital, the evening was filled with celebration, including dinner, raffles, and heartfelt appreciation from Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health (DKH).

A highlight of the event was the presentation of a state citation by 29th District

Senator and Deputy President Pro Tempore, Mae Flexer, who praised the Woman's Board for its long-standing dedication and service to the community. Sen. Flexer acknowledged the organization's role in establishing Day Kimball Hospital and its help in sustaining and growing the health and wellness of our communities.

Woman's Board President Valentine Iamartino gave a captivating presentation on the organization's history, draw-

ing attention to the pioneering efforts of founders Gertrude and Elizabeth Vinton of Pomfret. She emphasized how the Vinton sisters' vision for an infirmary to serve the regional community was groundbreaking, especially since their work began more than 30 years before women earned the right to vote. Iamartino expressed admiration for the continued mission of the Woman's Board noting, "It's remarkable to think that women were the

driving force behind the founding of Day Kimball Hospital, and their concept of an infirmary filled an essential need. 130 years later, we continue to fulfill the initiatives outlined in our charter to raise funds for the hospital."

Reflecting on her six years as president, Iamartino added, "To lead this incredible group of women with the same desire to support Day Kimball Hospital

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Turn To **ELECTION** page **A9**

Killingly's town nurse



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

NEW BOOK FOR SALE: The Killingly Historical and Genealogical Society now has "Ghosts of King Philip's War" by Thomas D'Agostino and Arlene Nicholson for sale for \$20. It includes tales from our region... Please add \$5 if you wish to have a copy mailed. The books are available at the Killingly Historical Center during regular Wednesday or Saturday hours (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) or may be purchased by mail. Please send a check to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.

Book Signing for the above book: The authors will give a talk on their book "Ghosts of King Phillip's War" and do a book signing at the Putnam Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Register now by calling the library at 860-963-6826.

Are you interested in the trolley? Mark your calendar. The Killingly Historical Society will have a guest speaker from the Connecticut Trolley Museum for its program on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Killingly Historical Center, 196 Main St., Danielson. Learn about the history of the Hartford-Springfield Street (trolley) Railway system. Killingly Historical Society member Frank Aleman will also do a short presentation on the trolleys in our town including the ones to Alexander's Lake/Wildwood Park.

There will be a short membership meeting at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome!

My first frost was later this year than some years, and did not appear on the windshield of my car until Oct. 17. That was fine with me since it meant I was using less heating oil. Still, fall foliage means the furnaces are going on. Some local residents will need help with their heating needs. I'm secretary of the Killingly Brooklyn Interfaith Council and urge you to support a fundraiser for the Danielson United Methodist Fuel Fund, which the Council oversees. This is a private fund, which receives no government assistance and helps those in the area who need heating assistance when state and federal funds are not available.

This coming Sunday, Oct. 27, the Fuel Fund will sponsor an a capella concert by Take Note! at the Federated Church of Christ in Brooklyn at 3 p.m. The program will include a selection of classical, jazz, gospel, doo wop, swing and American favorites. A free will donation will be taken at the door and a reception will be held in the church hall following the concert. If you are unable to attend, but still wish to support the Fuel Fund, donations may be sent to the Danielson United Methodist Church at 9 Spring St., Danielson, CT 06239. Checks can be made payable to the Danielson Methodist Fuel Fund.

Did you know that for many years, Killingly had a town nurse? A visiting nurse? In the fall of 1950, Miss Miriam A. Boomhower was honored for her dedication and many years of service to the local communities when she received the Civic Achievement Award given by Merrill C. Smith Post No. 2850, Veterans of Foreign Wars. "Miss Boomhower is the first lady to be chosen by the Post for this award." "The presentation will be made at the Tenth Annual Roll Call Supper to be held Saturday evening October 21."

Born in Eden, Vermont in December, 1872, she "entered the Boston Lying-In Hospital for training in nursing and later trained at the Rhode Island Hospital. Miss Boomhower has never claimed the title of 'Graduate Nurse' simply because in that day and age no graduate courses were given. A nurse was trained for nursing and she was a staunch and capable person on whom any physician could rely with complete trust." "It was quite by accident that Miss Boomhower happened to choose this part of New England as her home for she came here in 1896 primarily to visit her sister Clara, who had married John Williams, and was making her home in Brooklyn. Even as a visitor, Miss Boomhower soon found her services in great demand in obstetrical and general nursing and infant care and was persuaded to remain in Brooklyn. In 1916 she came to make her home in Danielson. In 1917, the Civic Federation at Danielson called her to the position of Visiting Nurse and in 1918, she conducted the first pre-school round-up ever held in the Borough. Her usual duties entailed visiting the sick and the infirm in their homes and providing them with professional care and advice..." In addition, she served as school nurse for 15 years. (Windham County Transcript Oct. 5, 1950-Killingly Historical Society family files; for the complete article and a photo go to killinglypl.org).

The Killingly Historical Center receives many donations, but most of them are from local residents. Archivist Lynn LaBerge was most surprised to open a package from Utah containing a beautiful friendship quilt in what we believe is the Ohio Star pattern. Each of the different colored blocks has a name written in the center. According to Kathleen Tracy's "Prairie Children and Their Quilts," "The Friendship Star Block is one that was filled with sentiment. When pioneer families headed west, friends and relatives would send quilts with them to commemorate special relationships. These quilts were sometimes treated as heirlooms and stored in trunks, and only when the settlers arrived at their destinations would they unpack the quilts to remind them of the loving hands that made them." (p.13)

Clarrabelle Nye's block is the only one with a date--Aug. 19, 1880. A number of the names are written "Mrs."... Nancy Marple wrote that "Mrs. Francis G. Young is really Susan Kinney Bromley, Nancy's 3rd great grandmother. One signed U.B. Scofield looks as though a man made it but may be for Mrs. Scofield. An accompanying letter from Nancy stated that Mrs. U.B. Scofield (Abby Jane Young) was her 2nd great grandmother; U. B. stood for Uri Bolivar Scofield who died in 1894. An undated and unidentified newspaper obituary in the Killingly Historical Society family files revealed that Uri had served in Company B of the 18th Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers during the Civil War. He was one of the earliest commanders of the McGregor Post G.A.R. Uri died of heart problems.

Since there is an 1880 date on the quilt, I decided to begin to see what I could find about the signers in the 1880 census and genealogical sties available online. I did learn that the above-mentioned Abby J. Young (Mrs. Uri Scofield) is buried in Westfield Cemetery, Danielson. According to findagrave she died August 4, 1890 in Danielson. She was born July 20, 1825 in Jewett City, New London County, Connecticut. I probably will not have time to research all the names but certainly will see what I can find on a few more. In the meantime, we are trying to figure out the best way to preserve and

display this family heirloom. It's a treasure that speaks so much to our past.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, October 2024. Special thanks to Nancy Marple. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES OCT. 28 - Nov. 2

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killingly.org)

Monday the 28th
Solid Waste Subcommittee Meeting (Town Meeting Room - Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Republican Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 - Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Monday the 28th
KPL Lit Talks (Library) All Day
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day

Wonderful Ones and Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.

Ghost Hunters International Star - Andy Andrews (Westfield Church) 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 29th
Teen Program Totes (All Day) (Library)

Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Can't Put It Down Book Club (Ages 50 and up) (Library) 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Small Business Academy (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 6 to 8 p.m.
Wednesday the 30th
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Witches and Warlocks Tea Party (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.
Beetlejuice Interactive Movie Experience (Ages 13-17) (Library) 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday the 31st
Story Craft (Ages two to six) (Library) 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Friday the 1st
Adult Take & Make Craft (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day
Lit Loot Bag (Ages 13-17) (Library) All Day

Saturday the 2nd
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day
Lit Loot Bag (Ages 13-17) (Library) All Day

KMS Ribbon Cutting and Open House (Killingly Memorial School) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS COMING UP...
Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing - Nov. 18 through Dec. 2 (Mondays) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Pre-Season Basketball Skills Clinic - Nov. 4 through Nov. 7 (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Virtual High Five 2024 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Stew and Story - Oct. 17 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Spooktacular Parade - Oct. 26 (Davis Park and Main Street)

Thursday Yoga with Mary - Nov. 7 through Dec. 26 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Yoga for every "body" Session 2 - Nov. 6 through Dec. 18 - Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Getting in Line Beginner Line Dancing - Session 2 - Nov. 6 through Dec. 18 - Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Youthoop Girls and Boys - Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Youthoop Instructional - Grades 1 and 2 - Dec. 21 through Feb. 8

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation Web site for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killingly.org.

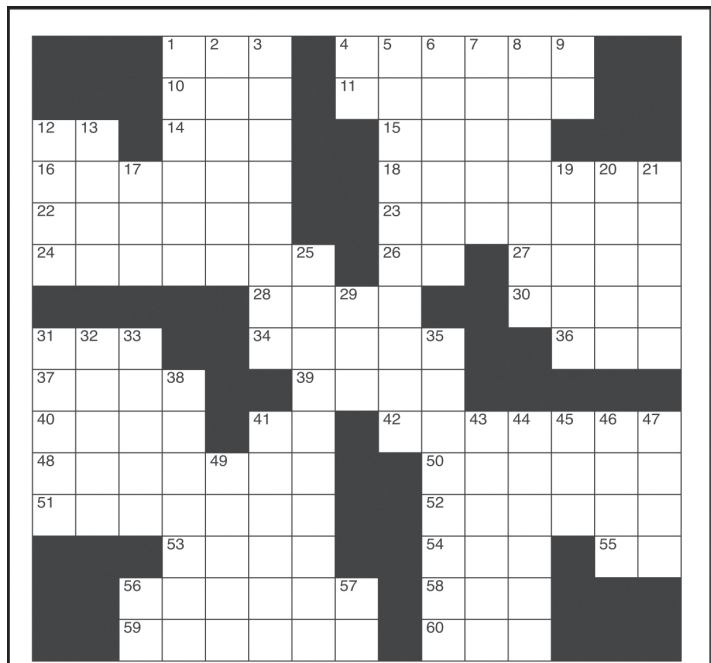
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CLUES ACROSS

- "60 Minutes" network
- Train line
- Go quickly
- Straightforward
- Canadian province
- At any rate (abbr.)
- Genealogy
- Make changes
- Utter repeatedly
- In a way, turned up
- Type of ship
- Agents of one's downfall
- Not out
- Something to scratch
- Round water pot
- Refreshing green fruit (slang)
- Promotions
- Primordial matters
- One-time world power (abbr.)
- Source of illumination
- The content of cognition
- An Arab ruler
- South Dakota
- Gnawed at with teeth
- Hawaiian island
- Smaller
- Of a single person
- Rigid bracelet
- Barbary sheep (Fr.)
- Not even
- Specific gravity
- Engage in petty bargaining
- Boxing's "GOAT"
- Split between parties
- Notable offensive

CLUES DOWN

- A place to lounge
- Skewed views
- Peacefully
- Commercial
- Auxiliary forces
- Large mollusk
- Take out again
- Sharp and forthright
- Knight (chess)
- Source of fiber
- Flesh covering some birds' beaks
- Energy
- Night monkeys genus
- Small, sharp nails
- Pleasant-smelling liquid
- Affirms one's hold
- CNN's founder
- Texans can't forget it
- "Oppenheimer" actor Matt
- Expression
- Vessel
- Lacking poetic beauty
- Tall, swift and slender dog
- Robber
- Liquefied natural gas
- Snakelike fishes
- The most worthless part of something
- City in Crimea
- Bad grades
- Reichsmark

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Audubon Center hosting author talk with Katherine Hauswirth



Katherine Hauswirth

POMFRET — Join writer and naturalist Katherine Hauswirth, author of “The Morning Light, The Lily White: Daily Dips into Nature and Spirit,” on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. at The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at

Pomfret, 218 Day Rd.

Hauswirth will discuss nature journaling and cover some history of the practice, especially in Connecticut and New England. She will also explain how nature journaling ties in with citizen science and phenology – the recording of observations across the seasons. There is no charge to attend the talk and subsequent book signing, which are presented in collaboration with the Pomfret Public Library. Registration is appreciated but not required.

Hauswirth writes about nature, often with

a spiritual bent. She is a Deep River resident, who has ties to the Quiet Corner of the state. She is a graduate of the Connecticut Master Naturalist program of the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center in Hampton. Katherine is also a CAS Trail Wood Artist-in-Residence alum, considering the former Edwin Way Teale homestead sacred ground. “The Morning Light, The Lily White” is a collection of short essays about “goings on” in the natural world. In this nature almanac/devotional, she makes daily observations across the calendar year, as Teale did in his book,

“A Walk Through the Year.”

“The Morning Light, The Lily White: Daily Dips into Nature and Spirit” (Shanti Arts, 2023) is Katherine’s second collection of nature writing. Her first, “The Book of Noticing: Collections and Connections on the Trail” (Homebound Publications, 2017), won honorable mention for general non-fiction in the American Society of Journalists and Authors 2018 competition.

Katherine enjoys conducting talks, retreats, classes, and workshops as well as online classes centered on nature writing and nature appreciation and contemplation.

Consider making it a nature journaling day

with programs at Trail Wood before and after Hauswirth’s presentation – Nature Journaling: Observing Fall at 10 a.m. and Last Light of Fall Walk at 3:30 p.m. For more information, go to ctaudubon.org/trailwood-home.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Oct. 14: Blue-headed Vireo, Bald Eagle, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

CT State holding Open House events

DANIELSON — Connecticut State Community College (CT State) will hold Open House events throughout Connecticut in November for those interested in learning about becoming a CT State student.

All are welcome to tour CT State campuses and learn about degree and certificate programs, financial aid, eligibility for free tuition and admissions. For more details including open house hours and event updates, visit www.ctstate.edu/openhouse.

Danielson CT State Quinebaug

Valley, Nov. 20, 5-7 p.m.

Many CT State degree options offer seamless transfer to the four Connecticut state universities and Charter Oak State College, making it the most affordable path to attain a bachelor’s degree in Connecticut. These credits can also be transferred to other public and private schools in Connecticut and throughout the United States.

Accelerated winter session classes begin Dec. 27, and spring credit semester starts Jan. 24. Short-term workforce career programs are also available on a rolling basis.

About CT State

Following the merger of the 12 Connecticut community colleges on July 1, 2023, CT State Community College has become the largest community college in the Northeast and sixth-largest in the nation, serving close to 70,000 students annually. As Connecticut’s largest and most affordable college, CT State is committed to providing accessible, high-quality education in a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Students benefit from a streamlined financial aid process, applying once to take classes at any of the CT State campuses, which include Asnuntuck (Enfield), Capital (Hartford), Gateway (New Haven and North Haven), Housatonic (Bridgeport), Manchester, Middlesex (Middletown and Meriden), Naugatuck Valley (Waterbury)

and Northwestern (Winsted), Norwalk, Quinebaug Valley (Danielson and Willimantic), Three Rivers (Norwich), and Tunxis (Farmington and Bristol). CT State’s college office is located in New Britain. Visit ctstate.edu for more information.

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Town of Pomfret INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Pomfret, Connecticut is hereby seeking proposals to strip and reroof the Pomfret Town Hall, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT with a minimum of mid-grade/40-year limited warranty shingles. Proposals should consist of tearing off existing shingles to bare wood, apply ice and water shield as required, installation of new shingles with galvanized nails, aluminum drip edge, and removal of all materials and scraps.

An accompanying, supplemental bid will be considered, but is not required, for the removal of existing gutters and their replacement with new leaf-guard or equivalent gutters.

On-site building walk will be conducted on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 10:00 AM at 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center. Bids will be received at the offices of the First Selectman, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 until **Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.** at which time they will be publicly opened.

The Town of Pomfret reserves the right to waive all formalities or to reject any or all proposals.

Dated at Pomfret, Connecticut
This 23rd of October, 2024

Maureen A. Nicholson
First Selectman

FCC Pomfret invites community to Autumn Supper, historical program

POMFRET — First Congregational Church of Pomfret invites you to enjoy an Autumn Supper and an historical presentation on Friday, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. “Not Too Dear a Sacrifice: Women Missionaries from New England” is a talk written and presented by Rachel Hollenbeck and Rachel Middaugh, two costumed historians at Old Sturbridge Village. The presentation will be preceded by a hearty fall meal featuring various soups, breads and dessert.

The early 19th century was a time of growing missionary involvement in New England with home and foreign missionary activity moving at a rapid pace. The presentation, which follows the meal, will focus on the stories of several Christian women from New England who went to various locations in the Middle East during the 1830s. Along with their life stories, Hollenbeck and Middaugh will explore what encouraged these women to become missionaries, the wider context in which their stories and work took place, and what missions work looked like for them. Through maps, sketches, and their own words published posthumously in their memoirs, “Not Too Dear a Sacrifice” tells the story of women devoted to God and ready to serve Him in whatever way possible.

Both the supper meal and the presentation are free of charge and all are welcome. If you have questions or would like to reserve your seat at the table, please email fccp@fccpomfret.org. We look forward to sharing together with you.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

WOODSTOCK — An open Al-Anon meeting meets at the East Woodstock Congregational Church every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group is open to anyone affected by alcoholism, family or friend. Any enquiries can be directed to 860-634-3271.

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This statement was provided 3/23/2023 by Joanne McHugh who is a client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee of future performance or success. For additional reviews, search us wherever local businesses are reviewed. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.

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OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

The records that define our lives

Every day since my brother died a few weeks ago, I receive something pertaining to his estate or his sessions. Sometimes it is a box from Fed/Ex with photos of our family when we were both young. Sometimes a letter comes in the mail with various documents that I signed electronically or were forwarded from his lawyer. My very efficient niece emails materials or sends warm messages that make both of us feel better. Once, this would have all taken more time, perhaps required me to be there in person, or certainly would have needed a stamp. I don't think there was a sign. As locals liked to say: "If you don't know where it is, you don't need to go there."



NANCY WEISS

Not very welcoming, but Mrs. Covell herself was capable, modern in her own way and a good teacher. Her husband had been town clerk before her and together they represented about a century on the job. Mrs. Covell trained her replacement, Nora Johnson, who ably did the job and moved the office to the current town hall. When Nora stepped down Cheryl Grist, the woman who had worked with her for years, assumed the position. Imagine what these three women did for one small town. They and town clerks in all our towns keep track of the things that really matter. Birth, death, property, various licenses, the impact of humans and the business of being a town. Looking at the records, especially land records written in the flowing handwriting of earlier centuries is our version of illuminated manuscripts. Historian Donna Dufresne delights in the script, but wonders if soon people will not be able to read cursive at all.

A friend invited me to see her garden recently. As we stood in a fairy land of cosmos, we discussed her property that since it was built on in 1820 has only had three owners. Each transaction is recorded in the land records at the town hall. Every boundary, frontage on the road and the abutting property owners are there too. It is a bit of a miracle, much like the exuberant blossoms, that we mark our place on the earth as efficiently as we do. The chance to own land was what attracted the original settlers and holds us in place, sometimes for generations.

The papers that fill our own lives are less enduring. My niece and I opened draw after draw in my brother's tidy cottage at a retirement community and tossed an accumulation of birthday cards, Christmas wishes, news clippings I sent him and photos of children. There were no bundles of love letters, just thank you notes for gifts. I resolved to empty my desk drawers, but I can't seem to get around to it.

Congratulations and thanks to Cheryl Grist on her well-deserved retirement. She was there for the revolutionary change of moving from the pen and the typewriter to the computer. She graciously welcomed new people, new processes and even new attitudes. She kept the priceless work of recording the life of a small town with accuracy and grace. Our personal histories may not be in order, but our town records are treasures.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be afraid, America

To the Editor:

Once again, where to start? Let's go with Project 2025. As if Project 2025 isn't a large enough threat to the US, we now hear that there is a super secret document called "The Fourth Pillar." Forbes Business magazine published an article on Aug. 22 which said that the Heritage Foundation was working on a detailed policy playbook for the first 180 days of a Trump administration. This apparently goes well beyond the draconian measures of Project 2025 to outlining the destruction of the Constitution and all Federal departments. This document will not be publicly released. Only selected staffers will know just what is in the "Fourth Pillar" and will not be allowed to discuss it in texts, emails or messages. In this way, the details cannot be found out thru the Freedom of Information Act. Be afraid, America; very afraid.

U.S. election administrators and the Harris' campaign condemned recent threats by Donald Trump to jail "corrupt" election officials if he loses on Nov. 5, accusing him of intimidation and inciting potential violence. As proof, Trump wrote: "We cannot let our Country further devolve into a Third World Nation, and we won't Please beware that this legal exposure extends to Lawyers, Political Operatives, Donors, Illegal Voters, & Corrupt Election Officials. Those involved in unscrupulous behavior will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately, never seen before in our Country." Ironically, these are exactly the people the Republicans are installing nationwide.

In Georgia, they are already rigging the system to allow refusing election certification. They are doing this by nefarious rule changes and installing corrupt election officials. Do you GOP'ers really want your votes to be thrown out? Whose side are you on?

Now we find out from reporter Bob Woodward that Trump sent Covid test kits and machines to Putin, just when we were starting to see thousands dying each day. A time when he was refusing to even acknowledge there was a pandemic. Doesn't this just prove how little compassion he has for his fellow citizens - even GOP'ers?

And Woodward has also found proof that Trump has violated the Logan Act at least seven times with unauthorized calls to Putin after leaving office. Just more felonies this idiot has committed, but will probably go unchallenged.

How can anyone vote for someone exhibiting dementia who spends his precious campaigning time, not running for office and explaining how he will make America better, but by peddling Bibles, watches and hats? This just proves how far from reality Trump views the world.

I've been writing these anti-Trump Op-ed letters since 2015, not to dissuade the die-hard MAGA members, but to convince Independent and Unaffiliated voters of the danger Trump presents to our very existence.

Oh yes, by the way, real men don't wear make-up.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

What is Anne Dauphinais afraid of?

To the Editor:

I don't believe for one single second that Anne Dauphinais is too busy to debate Samantha Derenthal in my hometown's state representative race. When I heard the news that she wouldn't be debating this time around it was the eye roller of the week for me. Am I really supposed to believe that her job has gotten any busier in this specific election cycle versus previous ones where she debated her opponents? Am I really supposed to believe that somehow with the pandemic in the rear-view mirror her job has gotten busier?

What is Anne Dauphinais afraid of? First, let's be blunt here. There is only one Donald Trump. Everyone else can only at best be a Trump knockoff. If Anne wants to blow off debates like Trump did, then she is at most the Kari Lake of Connecticut. I don't get where people think that copying Trump is anything respectable when it really just makes you look like you bring nothing new to the table and have to resort to being a sad

knockoff of someone else.

Most importantly, let's talk about the real problem with Trump setting this precedent of MAGAs blowing off debates. This sort of thing is only a thing in politics. It gets really ridiculous really fast if you apply it to other competitive environments like sports.

Imagine if the Killingly Redmen won a state championship one year and then the following year they were allowed to just blow off defending their title. Given the uproar over the whole mascot thing, I have a hard time believing that would in any way be tolerated.

Lots of countries have elections. The difference for us democracies is that our elections are contested. That means you show up and stand for what you believe in, or as the Bible says in 1 Peter 3:15, always be ready to give a defense of the faith that is in you.

Know what you believe and why you believe it. Take a stand instead of cowering behind bureaucracy.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

There is no more sacred duty than voting

To the Editor:

Registrars have the unique privilege of a front-row seat in our country's democratic process. We register voters, inform candidates of their requirements to run for office, and we are responsible for administering secure and accurate elections every year.

We are there through early mornings and late nights during municipal, state, and presidential elections, for every budget referendum and special election. We fulfill our duties no matter the time of year or the weather outside. We may be elected officials, but we're Americans first, and we proudly serve our communities.

We have performed — and continue to perform — our civic duty, and now it's time for everyone else to do theirs. Presidential

Elections are pivotal for democracy for many reasons, especially 2024. Please go out to vote this year. If you can't make it on Nov. 5 or want to avoid the lines at the polls, towns across Connecticut are holding Early Voting along with Same Day Registration for two weeks Oct. 21-Nov. 3 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Oct. 29 & 31 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.) and all eligible voters can vote in the General Presidential Election on Tuesday, Nov. 5 starting at 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. Refer to the Secretary of State's Website (<https://portal.ct.gov/sots>) for your Early Voting and Same Day Registration location for your town. There is no more sacred right and duty that Americans have than voting.

We can't wait to see our voters this year!

JO ANN GERARDI-VOCCIO
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
BROOKLYN

Let's send Trump back to firing fake executives

To the Editor:

When I was being exceedingly obstinate as a child, my mom used to say "You're all right, the world's all wrong."

This applies to today's Trump supporters: the way-out crowd with the giant truck flags and the seething hate in their hearts; not sure there is anything that could change their minds. They are, sadly, indoctrinated.

But today, as election day approaches, I would like to address the ones who quietly plan on pulling the trigger for Trump, either because they are life-long Republicans and just can't bring themselves to vote Blue, or have been conditioned by Fox News, their church, or their drunk uncle.

Donald Trump is no Republican. His only intent is to glorify himself and do the work of his evil Handlers (see: Steve Bannon, Vlad Putin) He has shown his colors clearly and repeatedly.

I beg of you: consider the list of prominent Republicans who have endorsed Kamala Harris. These are "real" Republicans; public servants who, not too long ago, you totally approved of. Reagan Republicans, Eisenhower Republicans, Kennedy Republicans. A simple Google search reveals 382 prominent Republicans who have put country over party and endorsed Harris (Washington Post;

Oct. 12). What Republican/NAY, American, would elect a man who openly admires the worst the world has to offer? Putin kills his own people and anyone who gets in his way. We all know this. This is what you want? In his last term, there were true patriots who kept Trump on a short(er) leash. Project 2025 promises no more of that foolishness, only the above-mentioned way-out crowd need apply. What do you think Trump will do, unfettered? It's horrifying to think about!

Almost no one wants an "open border." Congress had a good bill regarding border security and Trump squashed it, even from his private citizen status. Harris will address the border, protect human rights, and use her experience in government to promote America around the world. Economists everywhere (except Fox... change the channel!) are lauding the economic growth we are experiencing presently I too, am suffering from high grocery prices... but the blame does not fall in Biden's lap; it falls squarely in the lap of unfettered corporate greed. If he tried to cap corporate profits, Biden would be called a Communist, yet the real Communists are pulling Trump's strings from afar.

I am begging you: please consider voting for Harris/Walz on Nov. 5 and send Trump back to firing fake executives.

Thank you for reading.

NATALIE LANGLOIS
WOODSTOCK

Collaboration is key

As election season approaches, voters are faced with critical decisions that go beyond party labels. It's essential to understand the core values of both Republicans and Democrats, and more importantly, to consider how those values align with your own interests and the needs of your community. This election, one of the most important things voters must ask themselves is whether a candidate is willing to work across the aisle—because that's the only way real solutions happen in a democracy.

In times like these, collaboration is key. One of the candidates in this election has shown a willingness to work with people from both parties to solve real problems. That kind of bipartisanship is exactly what we need right now. Our country, and especially local communities, can't afford to be gridlocked by partisan infighting. When elected officials are willing to compromise and work with others, that's when meaningful change can happen.

The other candidate has made it clear that they are more interested in self-serving politics. They've proven time and again that they aren't interested in listening to or working with those across the aisle. This is not what democracy is about. Democracy thrives when ideas are debated and when leaders can come together to create solutions that work for everyone, not just their own base.

It's important to remember that your vote is your voice, and it's crucial to vote in line with your values and interests. Voting against your own interests because of party loyalty or negative campaign tactics can have lasting impacts on your community and country. What truly matters is having representatives who will work for the common good—people who prioritize problem-solving over political grandstanding.

This election, take the time to think critically about the candidates on your ballot. Who is willing to put in the effort to work with those on the other side? Who is willing to compromise for the greater good? The future of our democracy depends on leaders who will work across party lines to create a better future for everyone, not just a select few. Don't let divisive rhetoric or blind partisanship determine your vote—vote for the candidate who will work for you, for your neighbors, and for a stronger, more unified community.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote for Mae Flexer

To the Editor:
Mae Flexer fights for the people, is a courageous leader, a compassionate leader and a common sense legislator. Some facts about what Sen. Flexer has done for our towns:

- Helped secure a higher construction reimbursement rate for the KMS renovation project
- Secured \$17 million for Day Kimball hospital over the last three years - funding Anne voted against
- \$1.2 million in HVAC upgrade to Mansfield, Putnam, Thompson and Windham Schools
- \$80,000 to Mary R. Fisher Elementary School in Thompson to install a playground
- \$210,000 to provide make improvements at Owen Bell Park in Killingly
- \$100,000 to upgrade the Putnam Elementary School Playground
- \$1.5 million to make improvements to the Scotland Town Hall
- \$17 million to close the federal assistance gap in the Low Income Energy Assistance Program

- \$80 million more to support QVCC, ECSU and other state colleges and Universities
- \$140,000 to Windham schools before and after school programming
- \$450,000 to TEEG
- \$200,000 for an environmental study at the Putnam Mill Foundry Site
- Over \$1 million for improvements to the Pomfret Public Library
- Some statewide benefits:
 - Expanded paid sick leave to all workers in Connecticut - vital for the many hourly employees in our region
 - Expanded FMLA to the 12,000 workers at Foxwoods and Mohegan
 - Increased the minimum wage for employees across Connecticut to \$15.69/hr.
 - Eliminating property taxes for veterans with 100 percent disability status
 - Expanded free community college to all people with a high school diplomas
- Vote for Mae Flexer to keep our voices heard in Hartford!

JOHN LABELLE
KILLINGLY

It's time for a change in Hartford

To the Editor:
I am writing to express my strong support for Ethan Werstler as the State Representative for the 52nd District of Connecticut.

It's time for a change in Hartford, where the same faces have too often dominated the conversation. Passing the torch to a new generation like Ethan Werstler isn't just a symbolic gesture—it's a critical step toward breaking the cycle of stale politics and bringing fresh ideas to the table.

While some might point to Ethan's lack of "lived" experience, I see it as a true asset. His fresh perspective brings not only new ideas but also practical solutions that can benefit people directly—not just in their homes, but in their wallets. He's committed to working with all stakeholders—community members, business leaders, and local officials—to find solutions, not just talk about the problems. Ethan understands that maintaining the status quo or kicking the can down the street is no longer an

option, and he is ready to take action. At a time when many young people are leaving Connecticut in search of better opportunities, Ethan stands out as someone who wants to make our state a place to be proud of. He has chosen to build his future right here, showing a commitment to our community and its long-term prosperity. He is not afraid to call out that, for too long, the Quiet Corner and rural parts of our state have been overlooked by those at the Capitol, and he is ready to advocate for all residents of our district.

Ethan's enthusiasm and genuine desire to serve reflect a sense of duty and sacrifice that is crucial in our leaders. I encourage you to join me in supporting Ethan Werstler for State Representative on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Let's welcome this new perspective and move forward together to build a brighter future for Connecticut.

Sincerely,

IAN J. WEBSTER
WOODSTOCK

Jeff Gordon supports public education

To the Editor:

I know a lot about our public schools through my 13 years of service on Woodstock's Board of Education, including having served as Chairman for the last three. I know that State Senator Jeff Gordon has a long history of supporting public education.

It is why I strongly support Jeff for re-election as State Senator for the 35th District.

He is always working for us all in a bipartisan way to get things done. I have seen it. Now more than ever during this time of partisan divide in national politics, we need Jeff who spans this divide and works to bring people together. I have seen it.

Last year, there were plans that would have hit our towns with big cuts in public education support. Given the tough times our towns are facing with municipal budgets, these cuts would have caused property tax increases that we could not afford. These cuts would have hurt the school kids in our towns by underfunding their education.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Jeff opposed these cuts. He worked with his colleagues in the legislature to stop these cuts. Jeff won! Our public schools won! For the 35th Senate District, this saved \$2.5 million.

And Jeff did not stop there. He championed increases in the overall state support for public education, setting a new foundation for continued work to help our public schools and public school children. At the same time, he has proposed

better state support for the sky rocketing costs of special education. Our towns cannot afford these big costs. The state can help. Jeff has been there to push for help, and he is working in a bipartisan way to continue fighting for help in the upcoming legislative session that starts in January.

Jeff's opponent talks about things she wants to do. But where was she when the real work needed to be done? She was absent. She did nothing.

Jeff did the work that needed to be done and got it done. Jeff has a plan and he is working on it with others, across the aisle, to continue helping the school kids of our towns. Jeff's opponent has no plan to help our schools. Jeff knows that when we work together, we get things done as a community. The same in the legislature working with Republicans and Democrats a like. This is how we do things in our towns and on our Boards of Education.

But, Jeff's opponent pledged not to work with moderates in the legislature (this is how she got the endorsement of the Working Families Party). You cannot get things done for people by refusing to work with people. We do not need that!

We need to keep Jeff Gordon working for all of us, and the way that he works with everyone, as our State Senator. He is always on our side. He uses common-sense. During early voting and on Nov. 5, join me in voting to re-elect Sen. Jeff Gordon.

Sincerely,

HANS FRANKHOUSER
WOODSTOCK

Don't overlook the local races on the ballot

To the Editor:
With all of the attention being paid to the presidential election, I hope voters don't overlook our local state Senate and representative races. These legislators can have a huge impact on the many local day to day issues that affect our quality of life.

As just one example, our local state senator, Mae Flexer, has worked tirelessly to not only help make healthcare

more affordable by lowering the costs of some of the most needed drugs, but also making sure healthcare is locally available by ensuring that Day Kimball Hospital received the funding needed to stay open.

Sincerely,

JOHN FOLSOM
POMFRET CENTER

Jeff Gordon championed big state income tax cuts

To the Editor:
I know State Sen. Jeff Gordon. He is a hard worker who knows how to work with people in a bipartisan way to get things done. He is known for his work ethic. I have seen it. It is why I strongly support Jeff for re-election as State Senator for the 35th District.

One of the things that Jeff did was negotiate and get passed historic state income tax cuts. This had not been done since the '90s. An estimated one million low- and middle-income people and their families will benefit from this income tax cut. This is real help during this time of a high cost of living when everything costs a lot and many people are finding it hard to make ends meet.

Additionally, Jeff worked and got passed an increase in the earned income tax credit that will help working, low-income people. Too many hard-working people have fallen into poverty, so increasing the EITC will help more of them.

Also, Jeff worked to help the seniors in our communities who are living on fixed incomes. An expansion of tax exemptions for their retirement accounts, pensions, and IRAs will give a big boost for an estimated 100,000 seniors.

Jeff knows our towns and the issues

important to them. He takes the time to meet with people, listen to them, and get things done for us all.

Jeff's opponent talks about things she'd like to do, but Jeff is doing the work and getting things done for his constituents.

This is why we need to keep Jeff working as our State Senator. He works for us. He is always on our side. He uses common sense. During early voting and on Nov. 5, join me in voting to re-elect Senator Jeff Gordon.

BARRY SHEAD
WOODSTOCK

Dauphinais is a true representative of the people

To the Editor:
As a business owner for 35 years and a resident in Killingly for about 20 years, prior 50-plus in Foster R.I, I have known Anne Dauphinais many years.

Anne's small business upbringing has been a huge asset to all of us she serves. The values and concerns of individuals as well all small businesses have shown daily by her actions as a politician but most importantly in her personal life.

Her honesty and integrity are important assets that should be utilized while they are offered.

Anne Dubay Dauphinais is a true representative of the people whom I am proud to support.

Respectfully,

GEORGE LENTH
KILLINGLY

Additional Letters
to the Editor, see
Pages A10-11

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@
villagernewspapers.
com



OUR COMPREHENSIVE ORTHO CARE JUST GOT MORE COMPREHENSIVE.

The Day Kimball Ortho Group is expanding. Again. And we're excited to welcome five new highly skilled orthopedic surgeons to our team:



Victor Gennaro, DO
Orthopedic Surgeon
(DKH)



Douglass Weiss, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(DKH)



Brian H. Cohen, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



Sidney P. Migliori, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



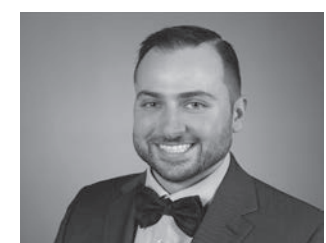
Michael P. Bradley, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



Alyson Hernigle, PA-C, AT-C
Orthopedic APP



David LaChance, NP-C
Orthopedic APP



Michael G. Olm, MS, PA-C
Orthopedic APP

These additions allow us to cater to patients throughout the region, including Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Our highly qualified orthopedic team is dedicated to managing our patients' continuum of care, empowering them to get back to their life as soon as possible. To schedule an appointment with our team, please contact us at **(860) 963-3883**.

Healthcare in motion.
daykimball.org/orthopedics



Disposing of problem plant debris

You've probably read you should remove and dispose of insect pest-infected and diseased plant material to reduce these problems in next season's garden. This is not as easy as it seems. Most compost piles do not heat up and maintain hot enough temperatures to kill weeds, weed seeds, disease organisms, and insect pests. In many locations burning is not allowed and it negatively impacts air quality. So, what's a gardener to do?



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

The seeds will sprout and then seedlings and other plants are killed by the high temperatures and lack of water. It is most effective when the days are long and hot.

This may be effective if the temperatures are hot enough to kill plant insect pests and diseases. Most plant pathogens are killed when moist soil remains at 145 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes, 160 degrees for bacteria, and 180 degrees for weed seeds.

If battling jumping worms, the University of Maryland has found creating a solarization package is effective for managing them in soil, compost, and mulch. Spread a sheet of clear plastic on the ground. Place a six to eight inch layer of mulch, compost, or soil on the plastic tarp, leaving enough excess to wrap and completely and securely cover the enclosed material. On a

sunny day, the material inside can reach 150 degrees. Research varies on the number of days needed to kill the jumping worms. Several University sources recommend three or more days of at least 104 degrees or 105 degrees to kill the eggs, cocoons, and adult jumping worms.

You may want to enlist this strategy when harvesting your compost before applying it to the soil. This extra step may help reduce the risk of introducing problems back into the garden.

Burying diseased material can help reduce the source of future infection of some diseases. Dig a hole, fill it with plant debris, mix it with soil, and then cover it with an inch or two of disease-free soil. Speed up the decomposition of buried material by shredding it before burying it. Avoid growing plants susceptible to the disease in that location the following season.

Remember to disinfect your pots, stakes, and tools that may have housed or touched diseased plants. Disease-causing organisms can survive on these items,



Melinda Myers

A peony plant infected with blight.

increasing disease risk in next year's garden. Soak pots for 30 minutes in a 10 percent bleach solution, rinse with clear water and air dry. Store in a clean location. This is much more effective with clay and ceramic pots than plastic. Consider rotating plantings as you would in the garden and changing display areas when using plastic containers if you do not want to dispose of them. Disinfect garden tools

by dipping them in a 70 percent alcohol solution using rubbing alcohol or something similar for at least 30 seconds. Or you can spray your tools with a disinfectant spray containing about 70 percent alcohol.

Investing time in prevention will result in fewer problems and better results in next year's garden.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening

books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

As Halloween approaches, I'm wrapping up my spooky season series with a tale that fits perfectly into the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious. We've explored unsettling phenomena in previous weeks, but for the finale, I'm diving into one of the most bizarre and mysterious places in the United States—Skinwalker Ranch. This 500-acre ranch in Uintah County, northeastern Utah, known for tales of supernatural occurrences,

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

es, has intrigued investigators, scientists, and paranormal enthusiasts for decades.

In 1994, the Sherman family purchased the ranch, hoping to lead a quiet life as cattle ranchers. When the Shermans arrived, they found the home oddly fortified with metal bars on the windows, heavy-duty door locks, and chains, presumably for guard dogs, on each side of the house. It was as if the previous owners were

preparing for an intrusion.

Soon after settling in, the Shermans began experiencing a series of unsettling incidents. One day, Terry Sherman spotted a huge wolf in the distance. The animal, which appeared to be nearly as tall as a human's chest, calmly approached the family and their cattle. With a muscular build and piercing blue eyes, the wolf seemed tame initially, but suddenly, it lunged at a calf and locked its jaws around the animal's neck.

Terry grabbed a rifle and shot the wolf several times, yet the bullets seemed to have no effect. Eventually, the wolf casually turned and walked away; as if it wasn't riddled with bullets, it trotted back into the woods.

This bizarre encounter was only the beginning. The Shermans began noticing heavy equipment disappearing or moving to strange places. On one occasion, a 70-pound post digger vanished and was later found high up in a tree.

One of the strangest incidents involved the sudden disappearance of four bulls, which were later found crammed into a locked trailer in a seemingly trance-like state. The trailer's latches were still locked, and there was no reasonable explanation for how the bulls could have ended up inside alone. It was as though something had teleported them there.

At times, they felt an invisible presence following them. On one occasion, they heard heavy breathing and saw brush moving like an unseen creature prowling nearby. It was as if a cloaked entity was stalking them.

Cattle mutilations became another terrifying issue. The family started losing cattle at

an alarming rate. These cattle were found dead with surgically precise incisions, with organs missing but no signs of blood anywhere near the scene.

The Shermans frequently heard strange, disembodied voices above their ranch, speaking in an unknown language.

Even more chilling were the glowing orbs that frequently appeared. The most unsettling encounter involved a bright blue orb that seemed to pulse with energy, giving off an almost electric crackle. These orbs filled the air with an inexplicable dread as if deliberately manipulating the family's emotions.

As they dug deeper, the Shermans learned that their property had long been considered cursed by local Indigenous tribes. The Ute people, in particular, believed the land was associated with Skinwalkers, creatures known for their shape-shifting abilities. Because of this lore, the ranch eventually became known as Skinwalker Ranch.

Unable to cope with the ongoing disturbances, the Shermans moved out. Before they left, they shared their experiences with the media, drawing the attention of billion-

aire Real Estate Tycoon Robert Bigelow, who had a longstanding interest in the paranormal. In 1996, Bigelow purchased the ranch to conduct his investigations, enlisting a team of scientists and researchers to study the strange phenomena.

Terry remained the ranch manager, eager to help Bigelow's team uncover the truth. The paranormal activity continued, with cattle mutilations, glowing orbs, portals, UFOs, and encounters with mysterious creatures.

In another chilling event, one of Bigelow's researchers claimed that a giant creature had "taken over his mind," leaving him with a message that they were being constantly observed.

Today's Skinwalker Ranch remains shrouded in mystery, heavily guarded, and off-limits to the public.

While I can't confirm the truth behind every tale I've shared this spooky season, the lingering mysteries at Skinwalker Ranch continue to warrant serious attention. As we enjoy the eerie delights of Halloween, remember that some of the strangest stories aren't found in horror movies—they're hidden in remote places like Skinwalker Ranch.

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

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9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas
- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

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JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

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Woodstock resident named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON, Mass. — Avery Halloran, Woodstock resident, was named to the 2024 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University
Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.

Legion Post 67 to hold pasta dinner

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — American Legion Family Post 67, Route 200, North Grosvenordale, will hold a Pasta Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m. Dinner includes pasta and sauce, meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, coffee & dessert all for \$15 per ticket. Tickets available at the door or by calling the post at 860-923-9203.

Putnam celebrates annual Pumpkin Festival

PUTNAM — The Great Pumpkin Festival has long been a staple of the season in Putnam and 2024 was no different with beautiful weather helping draw another large crowd to the center of town. The 2024 event contained many returning fan favorites as local businesses and organizations offered pumpkin- and Halloween-themed activities, goodies, and merchandise to fit the theme. While Main Street was filled with vendors, pumpkin carvers, and displays (including the town's official Great Pumpkin) the nearby Congregational Church of Putnam held its annual Harvest Fair and Luncheon while Rotary Park hosted a bounce house bonanza and many entries for the annual Scarecrow Contest. It was a true celebration of the season for all embracing all that is fun and spooky about Halloween



Jason Bleau

Wonderland Comics welcomed comic artist and writer R. D. Murphy to their shop during the Pumpkin Festival for a meet and greet. The artists also made his unique works available for purchase.



The crew from the Northeast Connecticut Relay for Life set up shop in Rotary Park offering Halloween crafts for the kids.



The folks from Sawmill Pottery brought their practice to the street of Putnam for the Great Pumpkin Festival showcasing how their products are made



AT RIGHT: Benjamin and Anna of Dudley made their way to Putnam to enjoy the festivities at the Great Pumpkin Festival.

AT LEFT: This massive sandcastle served as one of the icons of the day for the Great Pumpkin Festival embracing the theme of the Pumpkin King.



Cub Scout Pack 21 put together a large display called "Spooky Rotary Pond" for their entry into Putnam's Scarecrow Contest.



Bank HomeTown continued their Pumpkin Festival tradition of offering crafts and other Halloween activities for kids and families outside of their location on Main Street.



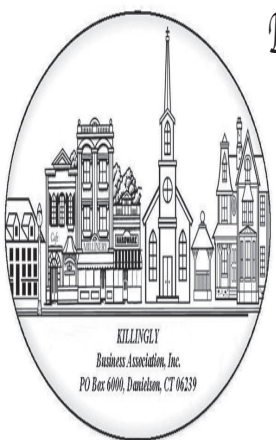
The official Great Pumpkin (left) of the 2024 Putnam Great Pumpkin Festival.



A pumpkin carver shows their skills in one of the many demonstrations throughout Main Street in Putnam.



One of many displays spread throughout Rotary Park as part of Putnam's annual Scarecrow Contest, this entry from Berkshire Hathaway embraced the popular movie character Beetlejuice who was the subject a hit sequel earlier this year.



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Harris & Trump lay out different visions for the US economy

With only a few weeks remaining before the presidential election, former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris have laid out how they plan to keep the economy growing. Many of their policies rely on tax breaks that curry favor with working-class Americans. The two candidates differ on their approach to corporate taxes, with Trump lowering them and Harris raising them. And neither candidate has provided much clarity on how they will fund the ballooning deficits their policies exacerbate. Let's jump into some of the details.



FINANCIAL FOCUS
LAURENCE HALE
INVESTMENT ADVISER

revenue. The cap is often far lower than what many residents in the tri-state area pay in local taxes.

Keeping food affordable Harris has announced a batch of policies she believes will reduce elevated food prices. She would instruct her administration to prohibit unfair mergers and acquisitions that create big corporations with the power to raise prices and she'd investigate reports of price fixing. She'd also propose a federal law prohibiting price gouging, which would be in addition to the rules that states already have on their books.

Reducing healthcare prices

Harris has referred to reducing American's health care debt, but hasn't given specifics. She'd like to extend the \$35 cap on insulin and \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket medical costs beyond seniors to all Americans. And she'd allow Medicare to "accelerate the speed" of drug price negotiations and "crack down" on the drug companies that block competition and the middlemen who raise costs for consumers.

While president, Trump tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) but so far he hasn't detailed any plans on the subject. Harris would uphold or even expand the ACA.

Building more houses Harris would help consumers afford their first home by providing \$25,000 toward a downpayment. She's also focused on increasing housing supply and lowering the cost of rent. She'd expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to incentivize private and non-profit developers to build 1.2 million new

affordable homes. She's also proposing a Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit to support the new construction or rehabilitation of more than 400,000 owner-occupied homes in lower income communities.

Another tax cut will incentivize homebuilders to build affordable homes for first-time homebuyers. She will also provide funding to state and local governments with the goal of building more affordable housing. She favors the Preventing the Algorithmic Facilitation of Rental Housing Cartels Act, which would "crack down" on companies that use pricing algorithms to boost rents too much. She'd also remove tax benefits for large investors that buy up large numbers of single-family homes that they plan to rent. Trump has promised not to build low-income housing developments in areas with single-family houses.

Corporations get goodies too

One of Trump's most expensive proposals involves reducing the corporate tax rate on companies that produce goods in the US to 15 percent, down from 21 percent currently. Here there is a stark difference between Trump and Harris, who has proposed raising the corporate tax rate to 28 percent. She'd also quadruple the tax rate on corporate stock buybacks to encourage companies to invest in growth and productivity.

Trump has proposed immediate writeoffs for capital expenses and an expanded tax credit for research and development to boost domestic manufacturing and corporate research.

Helping startups

Harris would expand the startup expense deduction from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and cut red tape like unnecessary licensing requirements in order to encourage the formation of small businesses. She plans to launch a small business expansion fund that will help small businesses make their loan payments when starting up or expanding. She'd like a third of fed-

eral contract dollars to go to small businesses along with a number of other programs. At the end of the day...

The reality is that the candidates can make proposals until the cows come home but the president doesn't have much control over the economy - or even tax policy. Most proposals need to be approved by Congress, which is currently split, with the Democrats controlling the Senate and the Republicans controlling the House of Representatives. If Congress remains split between the parties, many of the future president's policies may be nothing more than wishful thinking.

At WHZ, we're always focused on how national and world events are affecting portfolios as an essential component of the work we do to keep our clients' financial strategies on track. We're happy to answer any questions you may have about how the presidential election will affect your personal finances or your business, and share how we can help you to create a financial strategy in alignment with your specific goals. Contact us for a complimentary consultation on our website at whzwealth.com, or give us a call at (860) 928-2341.

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Drinking at Joel's Place



BEYOND THE PEWS
JOHN HANSON

Over three decades ago, the author heard a man give a speech titled, "Drinking at Joel's Place." It comes to mind often when observing our world culture as it searches for meaning. The speech was centered around an intriguing historical event recorded in the second chapter of the book of Acts. The story describes Jesus' disciples and followers becoming so overwhelmed by God that they appeared to be drunk. It was the Day of Pentecost; the day God gave the power of the Holy Spirit to His church. St. Peter preached a sermon explaining that those people were just experiencing something prophesied by the prophet Joel four years before. Thus, the title: "Drinking at Joel's Place." Those first century Christians went on to change the world, in spite of living in a Roman culture that was in a moral free-fall. The world was looking for love, joy and peace, and these people had experienced it.

In the thousands of years since that historical event, the world has continued to search for love, joy and peace. However, in spite of many great inventions, much scientific and medical progress, and much increase in knowledge, much of the world seems to ignore the source they discovered, in hopes of finding love, joy and peace without the need to commit to a sovereign God.

So, much of the world's population seems to increasingly drink and ingest chemicals in search of some kind of internal satisfaction. The world is becoming more and more drunk and high. Consider these statistics offered by non-religious, non-partisan groups.

"2.6 million deaths per year were attributable to alcohol consumption, accounting for 4.7 percent of all deaths, and 0.6 million deaths to psychoactive drug use. (World Health Organization)

The economic costs are staggering in America alone. "Societal costs of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drug use are nearly 6 percent of the nation's income — over \$532 billion a year." (The Health Policy Institute)

Why would the whole world choose to ban many mildly dangerous products like sugared drinks and red dyes but embrace, and even celebrate, substances that have proven to destroy families, cultures and nations? Why is the world getting drunk and high? Could it be that they are searching for the spiritual and emotional strength that can only come from God? Could it be that since God only gives His strength to those who make Him Lord, that many are seeking a substitute?

Thankfully, any believer can drink at Joel's place and find true love, joy and peace, rather than ingesting the deadly substitutes. All it takes is the same kind of genuine pursuit of God as described in the Biblical book of Acts. Millions around the world are discovering it. There are no associated hangovers or health risks. It is surprising that more of the world is not drinking at Joel's place.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. To watch a radio interview on this topic, please visit WIHSradio.com youtube channel and look for The Book of Acts interview.

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Help Wanted

ELECTION

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background in the medical field, from Scotland. Reddy soundly defeated fellow Republican and Thompson Selectwoman Suzanne Witkowski, who previously challenged Flexer in 2022, during a Republican primary earlier this year. Alice Leibowitz is also on the ballot for the seat as a representative of the Green Party.

Meanwhile Republican Senator Jeff Gordon, who won a close race in 2022 to claim his first term representing the 35th District, is seeking reelection with a new challenger. Gordon, a physician and longtime former chair of Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission, won by less than a percent in 2022 but hopes to carry the success of his first term into this latest election for a wider margin of victory. He faces newcomer and Democrat Merry Garrett, a longtime Tolland resident and business professional with a history of volunteerism who also carries the endorsements of the Independent Party and

Working Families Party.

There are five State Representative seats on the ballot in 2024, four of which feature contested elections. The one seat without a contest is for the 50th District where incumbent Democrat Pat Boyd has no official challenge according to the State of Connecticut Election Day website. The battle for the 51st District carries possibly the most intrigue with two new candidates seeking to succeed retiring Republican Rick Hayes. Republican Chris Stewart, a member of the Putnam Board of Education and local youth sports coach, is hoping to maintain his party's hold on the seat while Thompson Town Clerk and former Recreation Director Renee LaPalme Waldron serves as the Democratic nominee. The 51st District is comprised of Putnam, Thompson, and parts of Killingly. Previously a Democratic stronghold through longtime State Representative Danny Rovero, it has been a Republican seat since Hayes took office in 2019.

The 44th District race features incumbent Republican Anne Dauphinais of Killingly

seeking a fifth term in the seat she had held since 2017. Unseating Dauphinais has proven to be difficult for the Democrats, but it's a challenge their nominee Samantha Derenthal has taken head-on. Derenthal, a Plainfield resident and current member of that town's Board of Education, is making her first run for a seat in Hartford. The 44th District represents both Killingly and Plainfield. Other State Representative races with local stakes are the 47th District, which includes part of Brooklyn and features incumbent Republican Doug Dubitsky of Chaplin challenged by Democrat Aaron Spruance of Canterbury, and the 52nd District, which includes part of Woodstock and sees Republican incumbent Kurt Vail challenged by Democrat Ethan Werstler.

Election Day is Nov. 5. Voters should contact their Town Clerk offices for information on ballots, absentee voting, and election day voting times and locations.

the human spirit, resilience, and the drive to improve the world."

The Temple Beth Israel Community Archive will preserve documents, photos, and oral histories that paint a picture of the Jewish presence and contributions in northeastern Connecticut, and to the Jewish diaspora in general. The archive will offer a valuable resource for families, educators, and historians, ensuring that these stories and memories are available for generations to come.

Admission to the event

is "Pay What You Wish," but space is limited, and advance registration is required.

FUNDING

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The Westfield Avenue project is currently underway and will see the old high school transformed for a variety of uses including a new Community Center. The project will cost around \$27.8 million which was approved by voters in 2021.

OBITUARY

John David Pritchard, 89



John David Pritchard, 89, died in Little Rock, Arkansas on October 8, 2024. Born October 13, 1934, in Putnam, Connecticut to John Ellis Pritchard and Ruth Marcella (Johnson) Pritchard,

he was the middle child in a lively family, where he spent happy days at the family home in Pomfret, Connecticut.

He graduated from GF Pratt School, a two-room schoolhouse, and Putnam High School, where he was an outstanding athlete and scholar. He became an award-winning pole vaulter in state-wide and regional competitions. He attended the University of Connecticut and graduated in 1956, where he met his first wife, Joan Ellin Flavin. They married in 1956. Later he received a Master's degree from Trinity College, Hartford.

David enjoyed a career in manufacturing, which led him to move his family to Martin, Tennessee where he established the Miller Lighting Fixture Company. Later, he was offered a position in Little Rock, Arkansas with Essick Air Products, Inc., which was challenging and rewarding. He loved writing songs and playing his guitar, often for special occasions for family and friends.

Later in life he moved to the Atrium in Hot Springs. He enjoyed playing golf with a group of friends, who engaged in lively matches. Their friendship was a treasure to him. Golf provided many connections to family and friends.

He is survived by his children: Timothy Flavin Pritchard (Marlene), Jody Pritchard Kennedy, Kristin Ann Ward (Barry), his grandchildren: Timothy Miles Pritchard (Ericka Regan) Tara Marie Pritchard Parker (JT), Nicholas Andrew Pritchard, Mathew Kennedy, Michael Kennedy (Maya), Shannon Taylor (Kent), and 4 great grandchildren. David is also survived by his sister, Nancy Pritchard Weiss (Jim) and her daughters, Hadley Rosen (Todd) and Chelsea Baum (Michael), with whom he shared the deep bond of a wise and loving older brother and cherished uncle.

He was predeceased by his parents, his brother, his wife, Joan, and Carol Rodgers and Doris Baldrige.

The funeral was held Friday, October 11 at Gross Funeral Home in Hot Springs followed by a private burial at Forest Hills in Alexander, Arkansas. Visitation is at 9. Services are at 10.

Gifts in David's memory can be made to: Arkansas Hospice - Ottenheimer Inpatient Center, 2 St. Vincent Circle, 7 East Little Rock, AR 72205.

Send all obituary notices to Villager Newspapers, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news



ANCESTORS

continued from page A1

and pursuing her vision of a more just and compassionate world.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the launch of our Community Archive with the voice of someone as inspiring as Elsie," said Norman Berman, president of the Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society. "Her life and memoir remind us that history is more than just a timeline of events—it's also an inspiring story of

ANNIVERSARY

continued from page A1

today as our founders did over a century ago is a true privilege. The commitment and fortitude of this organization are as strong as ever."

Kyle Kramer also shared his gratitude stating, "The legacy of the Woman's Board is truly remarkable. Their unwavering dedication to Day Kimball Hospital has indelibly impacted the quality of care we provide. It is no exaggeration to say that this hospital would not be what it is today without the Board's vision and hard work that began with the Vinton sisters 130 years ago. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed group still working to support the hospital's mission and serve our community."

Currently working on a

pledge of \$250,000 for the da Vinci surgical robotic system, the Woman's Board has made numerous significant contributions over the years, including:

Purchasing the hospital's first ambulance in 1920 for \$2,500

Opening the hospital gift shop since 1950

Purchasing two state-of-the-art mammography machines for \$107,250

Purchasing three Anesthesia Carts for \$123,000

Purchasing a Baby Safe Monitoring System for \$40,000

\$200,000 for renovations in the Burdick Family Birthing Center

The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital continues to play a vital role in supporting the hospital's mission and enhancing patient care through fundraising and volunteer efforts. As it commemorates its 130th anniversary, the organization looks for-

ward to many more years of service to the community.

For more information about the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital, visit daykimball.org/womansboard.

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Health at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health's comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is www.daykimball.org.

Friends of Assisi hosting registration for annual food basket distribution

KILLINGLY — Thanksgiving is around the corner, and Friends of Assisi is preparing for its 34th annual food basket distribution. If you are a Killingly / Brooklyn resident Guidelines are simple:

Registration will take place at the Killingly Library Friday, Nov. 8, 9-11:30 a.m.

Last name:

L-Z (9-10:15 a.m.)

A-L (10:15- 11:30 a.m.)

*Must bring current proof of address for Killingly/ Brooklyn area and ID for all family members.

*If you are unable to make it, please send someone on your behalf with your information!

Please sign up with one agency only, to ensure enough for all.

Thank you and God Bless 860-774-2310 / or mail directorfoodpantry@gmail.com.

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Elfriede A Kern,

AKA Elfriede A Blackmer (24-00421)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 15, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Wayne R Blackmer, Jr.
c/o GAIL JESSEL ROOKE-NORMAN, ROOKENORMAN & ASSOC, 31 ACADEMY STREET, PO BOX 347, DANIELSON, CT 06239
October 25, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Robert F. Lee (24-00398)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dat-

ed October 18, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Robert D. Lee
c/o THERESA IMPERATO MADONNA, LAW OFFICE OF THERESA I. MADONNA, LLC, 110 MAIN STREET, JEWETT CITY, CT 06351
October 25, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Barbara J. Sochor (24-00390)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 11, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
NICHOLAS A LONGO & EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, 168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
October 25, 2024

TOWN OF THOMPSON Planning and Zoning - LEGAL NOTICE

At the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on September 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Thompson Public Library 934 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and via ZOOM, the following action was taken

PZC 24-30 JJS Construction, Wojciech Sudyka property owner of 1574 Riverside Drive, Map 55, Block 65, Lot 14, Zone TCDD, request a Gravel Operation Permit according to the Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations, Article 14, 275-14.3.

ACCEPTED FOR PUBLIC HEARING to be held on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 7 pm at the Thompson Pub-

lic Library, 934 Riverside Dr. North Grosvenordale
Respectfully submitted, Joe Parodi-Brown, Chairman
Files may be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Office
October 25, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Aune K. Karhu (24-00423)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 15, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Carol Karhu-Gryniewicz, 304 Christian Hill Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234
October 25, 2024

Jeff Gordon, working for the community

To the Editor:

During Jeff's short tenure representing the 35th district as a State Senator, he has worked to make Connecticut a more affordable state to live in. Jeff is currently on the Appropriations committee which tackles many budgetary concerns throughout the year. One of those concerns would be the cost of groceries, gas and other daily living necessities. As citizens in Connecticut continue to make difficult choices on what they can afford, Jeff has negotiated and helped in a bipartisan way to pass expanded tax exemptions for senior's retirement accounts and pensions. His continued ability to work with the Governor and other legislative colleagues has led to the restoration and support needed for public safety measures to recruit and retain law enforcement, and hold criminals accountable for their crimes against law-abiding residents.

There are two other strengths that should be highlighted when it comes to discussing Jeff's accomplishments. Jeff has continued the fight to lower electricity bills, a burden that has been recently elevated in the past few months. I know personally, I do not look forward to opening my monthly electric bill to see the additional costs that I am paying. I should be paying for electricity

I use and nothing else. As an educator for thirty four years, I also experienced the yearly challenges of working with a very low budget or a frozen budget while attempting to educate our children. Jeff has worked to increase education funding for towns with an overall increase of \$240 million.

The ability to work with others and his willingness to help the residents in the 35th District, is a clear indication of the qualifications an individual should possess while being a state Senator. I have also had the pleasure of witnessing the wonderful acts of generosity Jeff has displayed towards the local Fire departments here in Woodstock, Jeff's hometown. His continued work has led to creating a safer environment for our First Responders to work in, establishing funds to purchase exhaust ventilation systems for all three departments in Woodstock.

For these reasons and many more, Jeff will receive my support in the upcoming election. I will not be one to downgrade Jeff's opponent, as I feel there is already a sufficient amount of negativity within our press. Our town and our country need to do a better job of being nice and I strongly feel Jeff is a person who can lead us in that direction.

CHRIS MAYHEW
WOODSTOCK

Jeff Gordon is fighting for us to fix the electric bill crisis

To the Editor:

State Sen. Jeff Gordon is fighting to fix the crisis of the high electric bills we are all paying. It is one of many reasons why I strongly support Jeff for re-election as State Senator for the 35th District.

Jeff is often quoted as saying that "electricity bills should only be about the electricity you use and not anything else". I agree! Why do we have to pay extra taxes - big extra taxes - for things the state should and can fund? If the state wants to have certain programs, then great, it should fund them in the state budget. Don't we all already pay enough in taxes on everything?

Thanks to Jeff's bipartisan work, a law was passed that requires transparency in our electric bills. Now we see the taxes in our bills that previously were hidden. (I guess we can call that dinner?)

Some of these programs have merit, such as home energy efficiency and weatherization, and assistance for those experiencing financial or medical hardships. I've taken advantage of the energy efficiency credit for a new hybrid water heater. Most could be covered in the current state budget without raising taxes. But why do we have to pay our electric bills each month and at the same time pay for people who chose not to pay their bills during the 4-year long electricity shut off moratorium enacted by the Governor through executive order? 4 years of people not paying their bills, but could have paid and should have paid. We share this big cost on every bill while we try to pay for what our families need and that still cost a lot, such as groceries and medicines.

In February, Jeff worked with colleagues in the legislature to propose

serious ways to prevent the electricity rate hikes. He advocated for moving these taxes off our electric bills and into the state budget. But these proposals were ignored by legislative leaders. He warned us about the rate hikes and has never stopped working to fix the problem. He has a list of serious proposals to help us in the short and long terms. I hope that legislative leaders and the Governor accept Jeff's offer to work with them so that state government works for us. Jeff is fighting for that, and I appreciate his hard work.

One of the things he worked on, and was successful, was co-introducing needed rate reforms that keeps us the rate payers in mind when the state creates energy policy and enters into energy purchase agreements. Jeff did this by working with his fellow legislators, Republican and Democratic alike, to get it done. Despite what some people may say, this law did not increase electricity rates.

Jeff's opponent talks about things she hopes to do, but she has been completely absent and did nothing at all when the real work needed to be done about high electricity bills. She is still absent. She has no plan and no real proposals.

Jeff is doing the hard work, he has serious proposals, and he is getting things done. This is why we need to keep Jeff working as our State Senator. He works for us. He is always on our side. He uses commonsense. Jeff says profits over patient care is bad medicine and I would venture to guess that carries over to our "lovely" energy supplier. During early voting and on November 5th, join me in voting to re-elect Senator Jeff Gordon.

DEAN GOULD
WOODSTOCK

Plainfield needs a fighter like Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:

The town of Plainfield has been my family's home now for over 20 years, and as a resident, I feel compelled to share my observations.

Since the threat of COVID and the 2020 election, our freedoms and State Constitution have been under constant attack. Politicians used fear to overthrow our Constitutional rights. But there is always hope. We have a state representative that has a huge heart for our families, our children and our voice. That representative is Anne Dauphinais. She keeps the line of communication open with us, the local cit-

izens.

With Anne's encouragement more and more of us got involved over the past four years at every level, like town meetings, BOE meetings, rallies and protests.

Anne knows Northeastern Connecticut; she has lived here for decades. More now than ever, we need a representative that knows where we stand. Someone who has a strong voice at our state capital.

We need our fighter, Anne Dauphinais. Thank You,

ROBIN ANN URCINAS
PLAINFIELD

Be wise and re-elect Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:

It is my opinion that the citizens of this area must re-elect Anne Dauphinais to the Connecticut House of Representatives. Anne has worked diligently for all citizens in her district. She is a dedicated Representative.

I have witnessed this firsthand. She is always accessible to her constituents. That is the type of representative you want in the Connecticut State Legislature for the 44th district.

This state has been on the decline due to the policies of the governor and the democrats. It is imperative that you re-elect Anne to represent us in this northeast corner of the state. She has lived here all her life and has a real understanding of how best to serve the 44th district.

I say, be wise and vote to re-elect Anne Dauphinais!

DIANE SUMMA
MOOSUP

Dauphinais will protect our rights as American citizens

To the Editor:

For the past eight years, Anne Dauphinais has represented the towns in the 44th District. Some may ponder what she has accomplished in her four terms, and I will clear that up for you.

Anne has tirelessly defended our US Constitution and the First and Second Amendment rights that our forefathers worked so hard to establish and protect. I never imagined a time would come that we needed to stand up for these basic rights, but over the past years, it has become evident that these principles must be guarded, and Anne has done an exemplary job advocating for and defending these liberties. Regardless

of your political affiliation, you should be concerned about your rights, and Anne has a proven record of voting in Hartford to defend these rights.

Whether it was voting to allow parents the right to choose vaccinations for their children through religious exemptions or voting to stop the mandate madness during the pandemic.

Anne will always vote to uphold the Liberties our Constitution established for us. I challenge each of you to look within and vote for Anne Dauphinais, who will continue to protect your rights as a United States Citizen.

JENNIE KAPSZUKIEWICZ
PLAINFIELD

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Anne Dauphinais will get my vote

To the Editor:

Anne Dubay Dauphinais is running for State Representative in the 44th District. I am writing to tell you why she will get my vote.

Anne was raised in Killingly, in a home with a family run small business. She raised her four children in Killingly, and is very familiar with the Killingly School System, as well as the challenges of raising a special needs child. Anne knows what it takes to make ends meet.

She understands that the first steps in creating a balanced budget (family, small business or State) is to tighten unnecessary expenses, prioritize spending, and do not borrow beyond your means. We all know Connecticut is deep into tough economic times. Anne knows firsthand what it takes to keep small business afloat in hard economic times, and the struggles against the state.

I have had the privilege of working with Anne on projects and know her to be dedicated and immensely focused.

She is not afraid to seek out help if she is dealing with something she does not have personal experience with. She is a leader. A leader who had the ability and desire to resolve issues, to cut through partisan issues, and achieve a sound resolution without compromising her core values. This is the type of leadership we need in our state capital. Anne also knows the dedication and struggle that the Veterans and their families here in the 44th District experience. Her father was in the U.S Navy for 23 years, so you might say she grew up in the service. Her husband was a submariner for 10 years, and her son served in the U.S Air Force. She has been very active taking a leadership role in fundraising for the Killingly Veterans Coffeehouse at the Killingly Red, White, and Blue festival events.

Please come out on Nov. 5, and cast your vote for Anne Dubay Dauphinais for State Representative in District 44.

FRED RUHLEMANN
KILLINGLY

Dauphinais has my support

amongst her statehouse colleagues.

Anne has supported our small farm and others at this statehouse. She does a great job representing us, the silent majority, in the quiet corner. Anne does what she says and sticks to her promises.

She will again get my support this November.

Sincerely,

BRENT MCCULLOUGH
KILLINGLY

Let's keep Dauphinais fighting for us

To the Editor:

I would like to tell you how thankful I am for the hardworking job my state Representative, Anne Dauphinais, has done for our state. She is not afraid to stand alone for what is right!

As a Christian, husband, father of five children, farmer, and sole provider for my family, I feel my traditional views are often dismissed as outdated, but not by Anne. She is not afraid to stand for our shared values, even if it's unpopular

bills, researches them, listens to public comment, and the floor debate to make a well thought out decision. The name put on a bill isn't always as it seems. Most times it is like a bait and switch. Which gives the public a misconception.

Please support Anne Dauphinais, as I am, and let her keep fighting the good fight for us.

KEVIN KERTTULA
DAYVILLE

Return Anne Dauphinais to Hartford

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of, and to ask my fellow Killingly, Plainfield and Sterling neighbors to re-elect Anne Dauphinais to the Connecticut State Legislature. My decision to support Representative Dauphinais is quite simple. I have observed that she puts "ideas over ideology" and "principle over party."

How refreshing it is to have a true citizen representative unafraid to speak "truth to power" in Hartford. So often from the Democrats we hear platitudes appearing to be noble such as "we are doing it for the children" but this is nothing but an appeal to emotion. It is a simplistic response and a smoke screen to the number one problem facing all citizens of Connecticut:

We are broke!

Connecticut has gone from the 'land of steady habits' to very unsteady, kick the

can down the road habits. What we need now are more Anne Dauphinais citizen representatives who have the courage to stand and say "Stop!" It will not be easy, but Anne won't buckle. She will demand that all spending must be put on the table and that difficult decisions need to be thoroughly considered and made. Some of these decisions can easily make a representative unpopular. They are tough decisions, but Anne has the courage to get in the middle and stand her ground. She works hard and honestly for us, her constituents and for all the taxpayers in Connecticut.

Please vote and return Anne Dauphinais to continue the difficult work ahead as our representative in the 44th District.

DOUG HUEY
KILLINGLY

Jeff Gordon continues to fight to make CT more affordable for us

To the Editor:

I know State Sen. Jeff Gordon. I worked with during many years together on Woodstock's Planning and Zoning Commission. He was Chairman for 15 years. He is a hard worker who knows how to work with people in a bipartisan way to get things done. He takes the time to meet with people, listen to them, and get things done. He is known for this work ethic. I have seen it. Jeff knows our towns and the issues important to us. These are reasons among many why I strongly support Jeff for re-election as State Senator for the 35th District.

Jeff often says that we should upfront more of our hard-earned money. I agree, as we all agree. We know best how to spend our own money to buy the things we need for our families and ourselves. Nowadays, things still cost too much. And we pay too much in taxes, which is money taken out of our pockets.

Jeff promised that he would address the high cost of living in Connecticut. He kept this promise. And he continues to work to keep it. Here are examples:

Negotiated and helped pass in a bipartisan way (working also with the Governor), historic, big state income tax cuts for low and middle income people and families.

Negotiated and help pass expanded tax exemptions for seniors' retirement accounts and pensions.

Fighting to lower electricity bills by removing taxes on the bills. Electricity bills should only be about the electricity you use and nothing else.

Sponsored and got passed property tax exemptions for certified service-related 100 percent disabled veterans.

Got passed increases in the earned income tax credit for working low-income people.

Fighting against state unfunded mandates on our towns that we pay for in their property taxes.

Voted against legislation that would increase motor vehicle taxes.

Supported child tax credits for working families. Did not pass this year but Jeff is working on it for next year.

Voted to continue the bipartisan "fiscal guard rails" that limit state spending, which keeps on an even keel that state budget so that there are not big ups and downs in the budget that in prior years caused big tax hikes.

Voted to continue the bipartisan effort to keep paying down the state's big debt burden (billions of dollars) and big unfunded pension liabilities (billions of dollars). This has brought less money being spent to service the debt burden via interest payments, freeing up money that I pushed (and won) to stop big cuts in state public education funding to towns (and overall helped increase by \$240 million the state funding of public education).

How did Jeff do these things? He worked with his fellow legislators and the Governor in a bipartisan to find common ground and common purpose on important issues. This is how things get done. Working with people while working for the people to get good things done for us. This is strong integrity and character, which is what we want our State Senator to have.

Jeff's opponent talks about things she wants to do, but she has been completely absent and has done nothing at all when the real work needed to be done and still needs to be done. In fact, Jeff did the very work and got things done that his opponent only talks about. Also, Jeff's opponent has pledged to not work with moderates in the legislator. She promised this when she got the endorsement of the Working Families Party. Not working with moderates? Most legislators are moderates, so not working with them means not getting things done for us. Why would Jeff's opponent promise such a thing? Makes no sense! But Jeff knows that it is common sense to work with people in a bipartisan way. This is what he does, and the results show.

We need to keep Jeff Gordon working as our State Senator. He is always on our side. During early voting and on Nov. 5, join me in voting to re-elect Sen. Jeff Gordon.

JEFFREY M. MARCOTTE
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jeff Gordon stopped big cuts to state education funding

To the Editor:

State Sen. Jeff Gordon understands the importance of public education. He has been a strong supporter of K-12. He knows that supporting public education is a collaborative effort. It takes a team. Jeff is part of this community effort.

It is why I strongly support Jeff for re-election as State Senator for the 35th District.

He is a hard worker who works for us all in a bipartisan way to get things done. I have seen it. Now more than ever during this time of partisan divide in national politics, we need Jeff who spans this divide and works to bring people together. I have seen it.

Last year, there was a state multi-year process in place that would have hit our towns with cuts in public education support. Given the tough times our towns are facing with municipal budgets, these cuts would have caused property tax increases that we could not afford. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Jeff worked hard with his colleagues in the legislature to stop these cuts. For the 35th Senate District, this saved \$2.5 million.

And Jeff did not stop there. He championed increases in the overall state

support for public education, setting a new foundation for continued work to help our public schools. At the same time, he has proposed better state support for the skyrocketing costs of special education. Our towns cannot afford these big costs. The state can help. Jeff has been there to push for help, and he is working in a bipartisan way to continue fighting for help in the upcoming legislative session that starts in January.

Jeff's opponent talks about things she wants to do, but she has been absent and did nothing when the real work needed to be done. Jeff did that work and got things done. Jeff's opponent has no plan to help our schools. Jeff has a plan and he is working on it with others, across the aisle, to continue helping the school kids of our towns.

This is all part of the real work Jeff does as our State Senator. It is why we need to keep Jeff working as our State Senator. He works for us. He is always on our side. He uses common sense. During early voting and on Nov. 5, join me in voting to re-elect Senator Jeff Gordon.

CHANDLER PAQUETTE
WOODSTOCK

Renee LaPalme Waldron: A State Rep we can count on

To the Editor:

The Quiet Corner has been overlooked for too long in Hartford. It is crucial this November that we vote for candidates based on values and experience, not party affiliation. It's time to make progress again!

Renee LaPalme Waldron is an advocate for quality education, affordable housing & healthcare, and fair wages. She stands for fair labor practices and will implement policies that help the small businesses in our community thrive. This prosperity will fund needed services for our children and seniors while reducing financial burdens on families.

As a lifelong resident, Renee under-

stands the economic standing and needs of our community. Not only has she served Thompson for over 30 years as Recreation Director and Town Clerk, but she has also volunteered countless hours—she is present and helping out in our community at events year-round, not only during election time. Renee has shown throughout her time in Thompson government that she is able to navigate the system and bring results to our town, and she will do the same in Hartford. That is why I am voting for Renee LaPalme Waldron for State Representative for the 51st District.

KRISTIN SCHULTZ
THOMPSON

We can expect and achieve more with Ethan Wertsler

To the Editor:

I wish to endorse a candidate running for the 52nd District State Representative position—Ethan Wertsler. This amazing young person is a native Woodstockian whose family has been in town for three generations; he is a graduate of Woodstock Academy.

Ethan has exceptional credentials. A graduate of the University of Connecticut (political science and communication dual major), he served as the student body's representative to the UConn Board of Trustees. He was also the vice president-elect of the UConn Undergraduate Student Government. He and some friends started the Husky Market, a program aimed at addressing food insecurity issues on campus. The program worked within the legislative structure of the student government and raised more than \$782,000 to underwrite food costs for more than 2,600 students unable to afford traditional dining options as well as education costs. (UConn later took on the responsibility and the Husky Market turned into the Husky Food Bank.) Why is this UConn experience so important? The University's population exceeds the size of most towns in northeast Connecticut. Ethan's service and problem-solving on campus was a great way to prepare for future municipal and state public service, and many candidates running for office do not have such a foundation.

As a volunteer for previous Congressional campaigns, and through exposure to state house agendas through his government relations work,

Ethan has built a practical knowledge of the issues that face small towns in Connecticut. If you listened to the WINY Debate for the 52nd District race, then you know that Ethan Wertsler is articulate, knowledgeable, an engaging speaker. (Check out the website: ethan-wertsler.com where you can listen to the debate.) His opponent lacks luster, as well as specific answers to questions; he demonstrates the same old approach. It's time for a change in course.

Wertsler is a candidate that appears to be blessed with unlimited energy and capacity to listen...to anyone! Ethan has knocked on more doors, made more calls, attended more events, and engaged many more campaign volunteers than the usual candidate. Why? Because Ethan is not usual. His candidacy is creative, a refreshing change, a new perspective. He represents hope for the future, and it is infectious.

There has been a lot of talk this year about what kind of environment, what kind of a world, what kind of a country, we want to leave our children and grandchildren. It is about time that we let those children and grandchildren have a say and direct their own future. Let's elect someone from their generation!

Ethan Wertsler's campaign slogan is "Expect more, achieve more."

I think we should do both by electing him to represent the 52nd district.

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER
WOODSTOCK

Proud to support Renee LaPalme-Waldron

To the Editor:

Urge the voters of Putnam, Thompson and Killingly to choose Renee LaPalme-Waldron for State Representative for the 51st District. Renee is running because she cares deeply about our corner of Connecticut. She wants to fight for us in Hartford on issues that matter to us, and she knows how to get the job done.

Renee was born and raised in Thompson and raised her family here. She has been in public service for more than 30 years in the Town of Thompson, first as Recreation Director and now as their Town Clerk. She has also volunteered with many organizations that help make Thompson better and support the folks living there. At the municipal level, she is a member of the Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee, which works on projects to revitalize Thompson's historic core; she is the current Chair of the Recreation Commission; she served as Chair of the Branding Implementation Committee which led the efforts to update the town's publicity and marketing. Since its creation, she has also been on the Board of Directors for local grassroots non-profit Thompson Together, best known for organizing April Cleanup, Thompson

Community Day and the biennial municipal Candidates' Night. She has learned from each of these experiences and it all adds up to her being the most qualified person to become our next State Representative.

She's shown she cares by going door-to-door, making phone calls and participating in community events throughout the area, in order to have one on one conversations with as many residents as possible, to hear the issues that matter most to you. Over the last five months campaigning, she has knocked on 4,889 doors across Killingly, Putnam and Thompson. She has heard your concerns about the need for affordable housing, job creation, lower taxes, better wages, health care, and community and economic development. She's committed to working in Hartford, and across the aisle, to address these issues. Renee is bright, energetic, empathetic and will work to bring to our area the support we need from Hartford.

I'm proud to support Renee. I hope you'll join me in voting for her as our State Representative.

MARIE C. MONGEAU
PUTNAM

Earth — climate change migration has begun!

To the Editor:

In 1980, the U.S. experienced an average of three one-billion dollar weather disasters per year. Today we experience an average of 20. Most climate change disasters never even reach the headlines anymore. The events that do are quickly forgotten, like the Park Fire in Chico, California in July (430,000 acres burned) and the Texas Smokehouse Creek Fire in March (1,058,000 acres, the second largest fire in U.S. history). But how many of us even heard that in March half a year's worth of rain fell in just 10 days in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, home to 11 million people? Forty-five thousand businesses and 200,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. Or, were we aware of the four-year drought in Sicily and Sardinia, Italy, which included a one year stretch where it didn't rain even once? Water is now delivered there by the Italian Navy or private tankers at inflated rates, and the average cost a Sicilian family pays for fresh water is \$333 per month. Imagine spending \$4,000 a year for water.

Hurricanes Helene and Milton will soon be forgotten as the long list of devastating hurricanes grows and their names (Harvey, Sandy, Katrina, Andrew, Imelda, Ike, Ida, Ian, etc.) get jumbled up in our memory. Even the cost of Helene and Milton (\$200 billion) will be quickly forgotten, even though it's a stark warning of things to come.

Beyond cleanup and repairs, the secondary costs from climate change are also beginning to swell. An article in the New York Times dated Oct. 2, titled: "The People Fleeing Climate Disaster Are Going to Transform the American South" warns of changes to our world brought on by climate change. According to the article, 3.2 million Americans have already migrated out of high risk areas and 7.5 million more are expected to leave (primarily the Gulf Coast region) in the next 30 years. Where will these people go? In his 2023 book *The Great Displacement*, Jake Bittle writes that millions of Americans will "be forced inland and northward in what will be the largest migration in our country's history." And from the same Oct. 2 New York Times article: "All of this suggests a possible boom for inland and Northern cities. But it also will leave behind large swaths of coastal and other vulnerable land where older adults and the poor are very likely to disproportionately remain."

The Southern United States will be especially transformed by climate change as the young, mobile middle class (the region's tax base) leave risky areas behind and drive up the price of real estate in places like Buffalo, N.Y. and New England. Large counties in both Florida and Texas are forecast to see significant population declines as they become what is called "abandon-

ment zones". And with that, median ages for those areas will increase and affected towns could enter a population death spiral. With an eroded tax base, funding for schools, infrastructure and adaptation will fail to meet the community's needs.

For decades, this exodus has been forestalled by the presence of the U.S. home insurance market, whose financial backing allowed people to build, rebuild and remain in high risk areas - stabilizing an increasingly unstable situation. As losses increased, the industry stayed in the game by raising rates, not just in places like Florida, but also here in Connecticut, where we have subsidized Florida residents' sunny existence (my premium increased 30% this year!). But even with our continued help, the system won't hold up. According to a July 2 article in *Newsweek*, the average annual premium for a Florida homeowner in 2024 will reach \$11,759, and this obviously is unsustainable and contributing to climate migration. We read today about insurers pulling out of markets altogether, not just in Florida, but even here in Connecticut. Since 2021, nine carriers in Florida have gone bankrupt. And not only did my rates increase, but my local agent also expressed he had lost 10 carriers in the past year, as they no longer write coverage in Connecticut. One of them was my brother's home insurer, and he had to scramble to find a new one at renewal. Unlike the recent inflation we've experienced, which has substantially abated, insurance premiums will not go back down. Climate change inflation is here to stay.

We should be very concerned that the continued existence of the home insurance industry itself is under threat of collapse. A May 14 article by *Business Insurance Magazine* indicates some areas of the U.S. are "marching towards an uninsurable future" as "homeowners insurance was unprofitable in 18 states last year." As renowned climate scientist Michale Mann said in a CNN interview on Oct. 10: "the first stage of uninhabitability is uninsurability." With insurers pulling out from some areas of the country that have experienced the most population growth in the last half century, the dream of a warm comfortable climate year round has become a nightmare for many. This will change things not just for those who leave Florida behind, but for those who've stayed put here in New England, as many migrate back to the safer place they once left behind. The economic disruption climate change is bringing will be felt deeply by us all and Hurricanes Helene and Milton are just a preview of what's coming.

Vote Green for our children's future!

KEN WOLSLEGEL
WOODSTOCK

Early voting has started!

To the Editor:

What a blast at the Brooklyn Republican Town Committee's Annual Fundraiser at Hank's Monday night! Gracious hosts...thank you, Amy, and your fabulous staff!

Thank you to our friend Jocelyn for helping me with the first basket raffle I have ever done! It was super fun and we all had a lot of laughs!

Special thank-you to Joanne Eiler, BRTC's Chairman! Remember, this is all volunteer, folks. We all share a love of country and its values, foundation and hope for the future in a pretty crazy world.

Extra special thank you's to Chris Reddy, whose opponent sent out the hateful and untrue giant postcard that I received this week. It was great to receive his as well...not so giant, but reaffirming his values and stellar reputation as a true public servant.

With regards to the reproductive rights dialog you will read in your giant postcard, young women were lied to in the '70's and continue to be lied to instead of using the many opportunities to avoid conception. This would be identified as being responsible...by the woman and the medical provider. Believers place equal value on both lives.

Thank you, Mike France, Anne Dauphanais, Chris Reddy, Mike Morey, Michelle Garabedian locals...Austin and Caroline Tanner, Deb and Lance (I called him Vance last night...oops) and all of our supporters, Hank's customers who joined in the fun and contributed as well. We love and thank you all!

Please pray for America! And vote!

TAMI WYKES
BROOKLYN

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Publication of Stonebridge Press

2024 Meet Your Merchants!



Southbridge News

Spencer New Leader

Auburn News • Webster Times

Blackstone Valley Tribune

Charlton Villager • Sturbridge Villager



Jo-Ann Szymczak
REALTOR® EMERITUS
Re/Max Vision
c: 774.230.5044
o: 508.943.7669

With over 47 years of experience, I have a home office in Dudley. The RE/Max Vision office is located on 25 Union Street in Worcester. Being a real estate agent is more than just placing an ad in the newspaper or marketing online. I act as a counselor to my client (buyer or seller). I provide assistance in marketing, staging, inspections, negotiation, and educating them to real estate values. It is a full time job. In order to provide good service, I have a client coordinator, Vicki Bennett assisting me.

I was originally a math teacher and always had an interest in real estate. When I acquired a license I approached a local broker and began my real estate career. I am still actively involved in teaching. I have taught real estate licensing and conducted numerous real estate education classes in buying foreclosures and landlord/tenant classes in Night-life programs at Bay Path Vocational and Assabet Valley Technical School.

The business has changed because of technology and the information network making it easier for buyers to obtain much of their needed information through the internet. For sellers, environmental issues and more informed consumers has made it critical that sellers get professional assistance early to sell their home. Buyers are all watching HGTV and have very specific expectations. Sellers need guidance in staging and making sure they have prepared their house for home inspections. Professionals are able to make it a more pleasurable experience for both buyers and sellers by counselling them.

“HOME FOR HEROES”

The most recent changes I have made in doing business is I have partnered with Diane Casey-Luong the Massachusetts #1 Homes for Heroes Realtor.

We are participating in a program that recognizes those who serve our community. It's just one way to give back and say, “Thank You” for all you've done. Fire-fighters, EMS, Law Enforcement, Healthcare Professional, Teachers and Military Members and Veterans from across the country have saved over 90 Million Dollars!

COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT... PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT. If you need help in buying or selling I offer a hometown advantage along with regional experience. Feel free to call me to discuss your real estate options.



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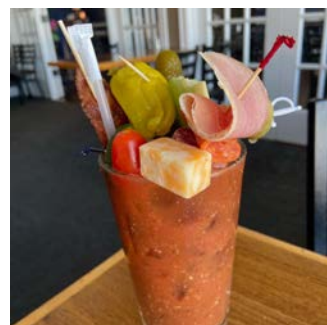
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All of our community newspapers are mailed by the U.S. Post Office to households who have requested the paper (nine of our publications are free to households and two by paid subscriptions). We have a circulation of approximately 43,000+ households in Massachusetts and 16,000+ households in Northeast Connecticut.

If you have any questions about our papers, please don't hesitate to contact Mikaela, 774-200-7308 who will be happy to assist you.

**MASSACHUSETTS: Spencer New Leader, Southbridge News, Auburn News, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Webster Times
CONNECTICUT: Killingly Villager, Putnam Villager, Thompson Villager, Woodstock Villager**

**One look at our name
gives away our aim!**

At Your Health Matters we have spent the last nine years supporting our community in its ongoing drive to improve health using the gifts that nature will always have to offer us.

With gratitude, we appreciate and thank you for joining us in this mission.

If you have yet to visit us we hope you will soon.

You can check out our quality line of supplements, body care without the unnecessary chemicals, and foods closer to what nature has always intended.

Drop in and say hello to Cello, but be careful as she is very cute and quick to offer a friendly lick. Keep yourselves well 'til we gather again,

David Termine, Your Health Matters



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Easy ways to support small businesses

It's easy to overlook how integral small businesses are to local, national and even global economies. The Small Business Administration and the U.S. Census Bureau indicate small businesses account for 99.7 percent of all American businesses, employing 56.8 million people. Similarly, according to Statistics Canada, local businesses classified as micro or small businesses made up 98.1 percent of all the employers in Canada in 2021.

Since small businesses are the economic engine of many neighborhoods and communities, it's in everyone's best interest to pitch in and ensure such firms' success. Thankfully, it's easy for anyone to support the small businesses that make their communities unique.

- Shop locally and online from small businesses as much as possible. If you cannot shop right away, consider purchasing gift cards to the retailer or service provider and share them as gifts to others.

- Before you immediately go with a well-known chain or e-commerce giant, find out if a local retailer offers the same items you need and shop there.

- Actively discover new brands, check them out, and then spread the word about your findings to others.

- Share posts from small businesses on social media. It's good exposure for them and can help to widen their customer base.

- Attend special events or promotions hosted by local businesses. Well-attended events may spark others' curiosity.

- Share a quick photo of something you bought at a small business or of a service they provided. For example, if a local landscaping company did a wonderful job putting in a new patio or pavers, share the before and after with those you know.

Communities can embrace various strategies to support the small businesses that make Main Street unique.

How communities benefit when consumers shop local

Ideas about shopping are never set in stone, and the pandemic illustrated just how quickly consumer trends and opinions can change. Many individuals are now reevaluating how they spend their hard-earned money, particularly since inflation has affected just how far a dollar can be stretched. When consumers think about which stores to patronize, locally owned businesses may be the smartest option for a number of reasons — not the least of which is the way such enterprises benefit the communities they call home.

More money kept in the community

Shopping locally means that more money will stay in the community. According to recent research from Civic Economics, local eateries return nearly 79 percent of revenue to the community, compared to just over 30 percent for chain restaurants. Overall, for every \$100 spent at a local business, around \$73 remains in the community, versus roughly \$43 when shopping at a non-locally owned business.

Get a personal touch

Local business owners typically are inclined to go the extra mile for their customers and are personally invested in the services and products they are selling. As a result, shopping locally tends to be a personalized experience. Furthermore, a local business owner may be more amenable to ordering products for specific clientele. Such personalized service is typically not accessible when shopping big box stores or other shops where owners are off-site.

Lines are short

Waiting in long lines for check-out or to pick up merchandise ordered online can drain consumers' energy and contribute to stress. Local businesses tend to have short lines and small crowds, which can lead to a more pleasant shopping experience.

Generates tax revenue

Local businesses generate more tax revenue per sales dollar, according to Rubicon, a digital marketplace for waste and recycling businesses. Taxes paid by local small businesses go to support schools, parks, roads, and other programs that benefit the community as well.

Support nonprofits

Local businesses often support good work in the community, such as nonprofit groups. These can include schools and sports teams, among other groups. According to Dr. Sue Lynn Sasser, professor of economics at the University of Central Oklahoma, studies indicate nonprofits "receive 250 percent more support from small businesses than larger ones."

Support other local businesses

Local business support other local businesses by buying and selling among each other. A local, independently owned restaurant may source its ingredients from local farms, which means visitors to such eateries are supporting multiple local businesses each time they dine out.

Small businesses are a boon to the economy, particularly local economies. These enterprises help their communities in a multitude of ways.



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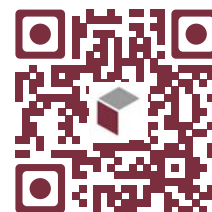


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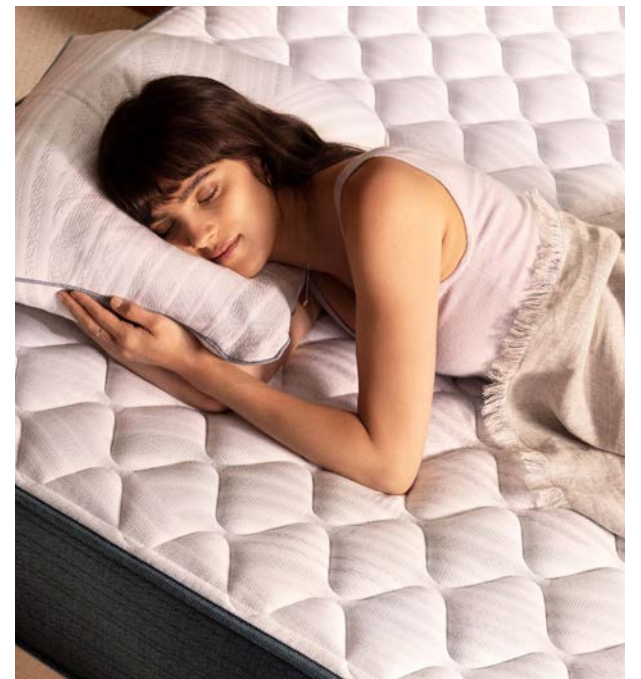


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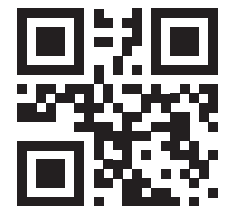
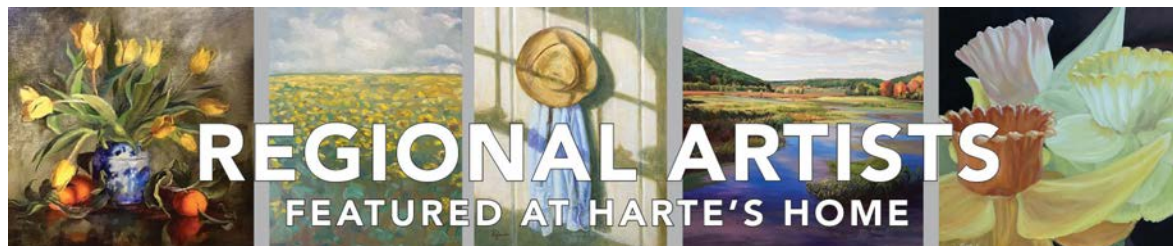
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