



PUTNAM VILLAGER

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Emerging author showcases debut novel in Danielson



Maggie Montville of Dudley shows off her debut novel during a signing and meet and greet at Pourings and Passages in Danielson.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON, Conn. — Becoming a published author is a dream many writers long to accomplish. For Dudley, Mass. native Maggie Montville, that dream has now become a reality with the release of her first book, “The Sideshow.”

Montville, who graduated high school earlier this year, officially released her first novel after a roughly two-year publication process, showcasing the finished product during a meet and greet at Pourings & Passages in Danielson, Conn. on Aug. 9. “The Sideshow” is described as a young adult horror-suspense thriller that takes inspiration from several different literary classics to create an engrossing mix of genres and characters. While the process from start to finish was long and required significant dedication, Montville said it was rewarding, and she plans to continue to expand on her bibliography with her second novel currently in the works.

“The Sideshow” started as a short story for Montville’s creative writing class, but she found enough inspiration to expand the tale into a full-fledged book. She called the novel a thrilling story driven by the experiences of her characters as a murder mystery unfolds around them.

“It’s more like a psychological horror story under the surface. It’s more about the characters, what drives them, and the actions around them and how that affects their behaviors. It’s based off a lot of stories. There’s a ton of literary allusions to stories like ‘Alice in Wonderland,’ ‘The Wizard of Oz,’ and ‘Frankenstein.’ Each of the characters are meant to be parallels to classic storybook characters but in a twisted way,” Montville said.

The original concept emerged in Montville’s junior year, sparking a multi-year process where she partnered with an editor to finalize the project earlier this year. She leaned on a close friend to create the art for the book. While to many the process may be daunting, Montville wants to encourage any other aspiring writers to follow their passion as she did.

“Persevere. Keep going. Take much needed breaks when you need to keep yourself invested in the project,” was the advice Montville wished to share. “The dream is so achievable and can definitely be done if you put in the time and effort.”

“The Sideshow” is now available on Amazon or through Montville’s website, maggiemontville.com. Montville plans to continue her writing career as she enters college, currently working on her follow-up book “Echoes in the Frame” expected to release in 2026.



Courtesy

Putnam Science Academy’s Drills and Skills just finished its second and final basketball clinic of the summer. The August three-day camp was very successful with 56 campers who attended. “Summer is the time to spend on your basketball game and to push yourself to get better,” said Putnam Science Head Coach Tom Espinosa. “I know the kids that attend our camps get better but also really enjoy the time working with our coaches and meeting other kids from the surrounding towns. We make the camp very competitive but also we make sure everyone is having a good time.” The Celtics, coached by Courtney Stanger, captured the NBA division championship and Providence won the NCAA division title, coached by Michael Therrien. The individual winners from the NBA include Drake Alvarez (MVP, Elbow Shooting and 1-on-1), Yianni Kotsalidis (Hot Shot) Jordan Ashton (Free Throw Shooting) , Nolan Lehto (Coaches Award) and Logan McEvoy (Hustle Award). Individual winners from the Big East include William Gustavesen (MVP and 1-on-1), Cooper Keenan (Hustle Award), Teagan Espinosa (Elbow Shooting and Hot Shot) and Bryce Proulx (Free Throw Shooting and Coaches Award).

Brooklyn Town Clerk to remain elected post

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — Brooklyn will maintain an elected Town Clerk for the foreseeable future after a town meeting voted down a proposed ordinance to change the position to appointed.

On July 24, voters decided to continue the tradition of electing a clerk with many opposed to the new ordinance sighting concerns about lack of transparency in the document concerning

salary and issues with the town removing the townsfolk’s right to vote. Town officials argued the change would help the town increase the pool of candidates for the job if and when the current clerk were to retire.

First Selectman Austin Tanner explained the logic behind the proposal, comparing the current format to the one included in the ordinance.

“Presently, the Town Clerk is elected with a slate with everybody else in the town for a two-

year term. The issue we have with that is not any reflection on the office or anybody yet. The issue is if we do lose the Town Clerk, we’re in a situation where our pool is limited because we can only elect somebody who is a resident in the town and the clerk is a highly specialized position with certification, and sometimes it’s hard to find somebody. We’ve been really lucky. We’ve had good clerks in town, and they’ve been great, and looking ahead it kind of limits our ability if something does happen to get a clerk qualified within being a citizen of the town. Also, as the Assistant Clerk who would normally be the logical choice to move up, if she doesn’t live in town, she couldn’t be elected either. So, we

might have to start over,” Tanner explained.

The ordinance would have made the clerk an appointed position answering to the Board of Selectmen. The position would have been non-union with a salary conforming to figures determined through a salary study previously conducted in the town. However, voters were concerned that a salary was not represented in the ordinance itself and the general vagueness of some of the language was a sticking point for many. Tanner explained that the town’s attorney cautioned officials against being too specific as it could constrict the limits of the job since any changes to the ordi-

Turn To **CLERK** page **A10**

EPA announces updated cleanup plan for Linemaster Switch Corp. Superfund Site in Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released an updated cleanup plan for the Linemaster Switch Corp. Superfund site in Woodstock, Connecticut. The revised plan outlines new actions to clean up soil and groundwater polluted by disposal activities that took place here between 1952 and 1979.

“This updated cleanup plan continues the important work of cleaning up the Linemaster Superfund site,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator Mark Sanborn. “This work exemplifies EPA’s core mission to protect human health and the environment and ensure clean air, land and water for every American.”

The new cleanup work will take two years to design and complete. EPA held a public comment period and public meetings to gather input on the agency’s proposed changes to the original cleanup plan. The estimated cost is approximately \$11.4 million and includes construction, operation and maintenance, and long-term monitoring. What’s included in the updated cleanup plan?

Transforming groundwater and/or soil contaminants into less harmful chemicals through chemical oxidation injections in the contamination source area;

Installing new wells to collect contaminated groundwater and prevent it from spreading;

Monitoring wells to ensure treatments continue to be effective;

Continuing and expanding existing land use restrictions; and

Reviewing the cleanup’s effectiveness every five years.

Site background

The Linemaster Switch Corp. site covers 92 acres in Woodstock,

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Turn To **PLAN** page **A10**

Benefit concert in Pomfret to support Horns for Kids

POMFRET — The East Woodstock Cornet Band will be performing a benefit concert for Horns for Kids, a nonprofit organization that provides musical instruments to school children in Connecticut. The concert will be held at the Clark Memorial Chapel, Pomfret School, 398 Pomfret St. (Route 169), Pomfret, at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 22. Tax deductible monetary donations will be accepted at the door and will help to refurbish donated used instruments, which are then given to requesting schools on a need basis.

Under the leadership of Vincent LaMonica, a multi-faceted performer, conductor and educator, the East Woodstock Cornet Band is a concert band comprised of approximately 35 musicians from Woodstock and the surrounding area, as well as Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Their repertoire is a wide variety of music from overtures and classical music to marches, show tunes and pop. As a special feature of this event, Vinny will be performing a bassoon solo entitled Concerto for Bassoon and Wind Ensemble, Movements II (Allegro Vivace) and III (Largo) by Eric Ewazen.

Parking will be on the east side of Pomfret Street (Route 169), opposite the Chapel. For further information, contact East Woodstock Cornet Band president, Maxine Marcy, at (860) 942-4628, or maxine_marcy@yahoo.com.

Ty Nilo earns Westview’s June Employee of the Month award

DAYVILLE — Ty Nilo earned acknowledgement as Westview Health Care Center’s Employee of the Month in June. Nilo provides operational support to multiple teams at Westview as an Administrative Assistant; aiding the healthcare, maintenance, and business systems throughout the Dayville skilled nursing facility. At times in this role, he specializes his duties to help complete the goals of specific departments and has excelled in adapting, asserting, and assisting in a great variety of Westview’s efforts. Through these endeavors, he has become well known among the staff at Westview Health Care Center, Country Living at Westview Commons, and Westview Child Care Center.

of his life, Nilo maintains connections with friends across the state. He is a graduate of The Woodstock Academy, and earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Nichols College. His father Terry is a carpenter, and his mother Phuong is a Doctor of Physical Therapy—specifically, the Director of Westview Outpatient and Aquatic Therapy. As a result, Ty has been mutually familiar with Westview facilities and staff for many years, and his present-day professional performance is a strong compliment to his narrative. This recognition signifies facility-wide praise for Ty’s myriad contributions since joining the staff in October 2023.

Among his outside interests, Ty has a keen sense of style and steady intentions for his fitness.

Ty asserts that spontaneously planned adventures he has with friends are celebrated the same as their long-scheduled trips and traditions. Concertgoing is another passionate pursuit for Ty. While is proud to have seen Blink 182 four times (he insists that he truly enjoys a diverse array of music!) he appreciates everything from pop hits to punk rock to film scores.

During his professional tenure at Westview, Ty has held many different responsibilities as a direct assistant to the Support Services Director, the Staff Education Director, and



Ty Nilo

the Infection Prevention & Control Director. In addition to those roles Ty has also served salutations and smiles at the reception desk for visiting guests of Westview. Throughout all the reconfiguration of duties and relocations around Westview facilities, Ty comports as calm, cool, and collected.

He welcomes the challenge of multidisciplinary understanding, and finds it to be a good application for his education in business management, commenting, “Working at Westview has presented me with a lot of different departmental perspectives, and I like to understand the organization’s structure through all of these contributing parts. There are so many different realms of operation at all of the Westview facilities—I really appreciate being able to experience as much of it as possible.”

Ty further detailed his gratitude for all of his interactions at Westview contributing to his success: “I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with

such an amazing and supportive team here at Westview. I thank my co-workers, friends, and all the wonderful community members who visit their loved ones here at Westview. You have all helped create a supportive and empathetic atmosphere that has really helped me continue to grow as a person. I truly am so grateful to you all, and I hope to continue making you all proud.”

Westview Administrator David T. Panteleakos appreciates all the adaptability, intuition, and interest Ty shows in his efforts, and said, “Ty combines an innate understanding of facility operations with a continued curiosity to learn more about all of the functioning aspects at Westview. I especially value his cohesion across multiple departments here, and I know that he has become a trusted teammate throughout our organization.”

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 17 years.

New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

POMFRET — The recently formed Together We Can Do It Al-Anon Family Group is meeting at Christ Church in Pomfret (Route 169) on Tuesdays at noon. Enter the lower level through the door by the flagpole in the pollinator garden. This is an open meeting, meaning not only family and friends of people suffering from the effects of addiction are welcome, but also professionals who may have clients they would like to recommend attend the meetings.

Al-Anon is a worldwide program for people just like you, who are worried about someone with a drinking problem. This Pomfret group will also welcome folks concerned about someone suffering from drug addiction.

Utilizing the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, the group will discuss the Steps, Concepts, and Traditions as well as offer support for your specific situation. No advice is given; understanding and support in a confidential setting are the largest benefits of membership in the group.

For more information about Al-Anon, visit www.al-anon.org. For information about the meeting in Pomfret, call 203-561-7954.

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ARTHRITIS?

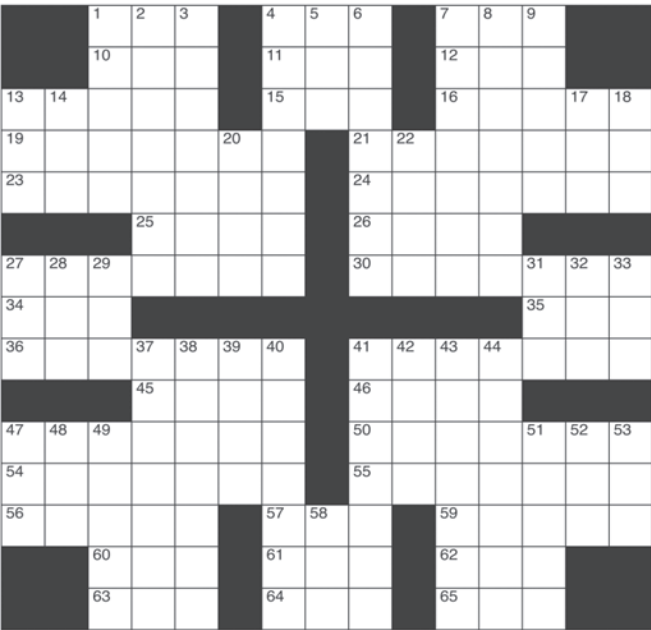
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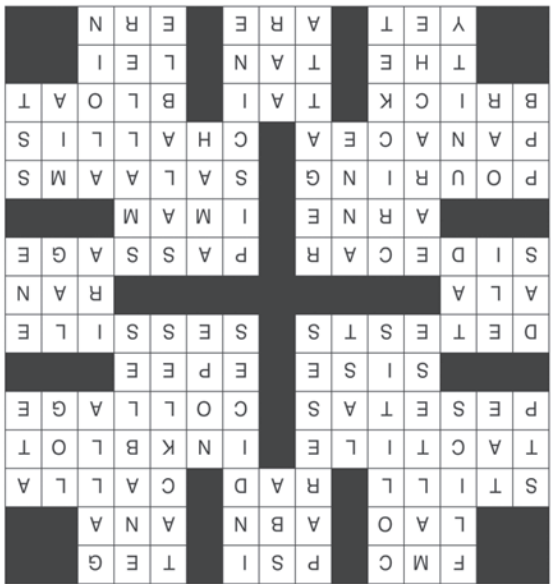
CLUES ACROSS

1. Auto manufacturer
4. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
7. Two-year-old sheep
10. Member of indigenous people in Asia
11. Airborne (abbr.)
12. Actress de Armas
13. Not moving
15. Cool!
16. Plants of the arum family
19. Perceptible by touch
21. Rorschach test
23. Monetary units
24. Art
25. Cardinal number
26. Dueling sword
27. Hates
30. Fixed in one place
34. Pie ___ mode
35. Moved on foot
36. Passenger’s spot on a motorcycle
41. A way through
45. “Rule, Britannia” composer
46. Leader
47. Flowing
50. Common greetings in Arabic countries
54. Solution for all difficulties
55. Soft clothing fabric
56. Building material
57. Sea bream
59. A way to cause to be swollen
60. One and only
61. Skin color
62. Wreath
63. Nevertheless
64. They ___
65. Sea eagle

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)
2. Toy dog
3. Inflamed colon disease
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Helps little firms
6. References
7. Takes down
8. Facilitates
9. One-time empress of the Roman Empire
13. Engine additive
14. Chemistry solution
17. Written account
18. Consumed
20. Coming after all others
22. No (slang)
27. Government lawyers
28. Super Bowl winner Manning
29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future
32. A way to travel behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Head pain
38. Loud lawn insect
39. Actress Hathaway
40. Boat race
41. About fish
42. Nursemaid in India
43. Marketable
44. Tinier
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Paddle
49. Oneness
51. Bitter compound
52. Not around
53. Very fast airplane
58. Swiss river

PUZZLE SOLUTION



VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Aug. 4: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Bobolink, Red-tailed Hawk, Wood Thrush, Bank Swallow, Goldfinch, Catbird, Mockingbird, Barn Swallow

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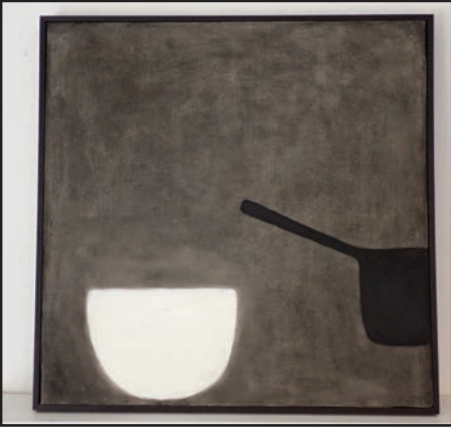
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Art



We’ve reached number 1 on the top 10 list of antiques and collectibles that regularly sell well for us. As a refresher, here’s the rest of the top 10 list that we’ve covered in previous columns.

10. Transportation memorabilia
9. Old Chinese antiques
8. Vintage and antique posters and advertising signs
7. Vintage and antique cars
6. Historical memorabilia
5. Comic books
4. Baseball cards and sports memorabilia



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

3. Gold and Silver Coins and Sterling Silver
2. Estate jewelry, gold, and diamonds, gold watches

And finally, art is number 1 on my top 10 list. Art encompasses a wide variety of styles and mediums. There are paintings, metal sculptures, stone sculptures, pottery, folk art in wood and metal, and many other forms. Art of course has a long and varied history ranging from cave drawings dating back to around 40,000 years ago to a 2019 piece of conceptual art featuring a banana taped to a wall.

Unlike most antiques, older isn’t always better when it comes to art. A 2019 Art Newspaper article reported declining sales in Old Masters paintings while contemporary art was seeing an increase in value.

In general, we have seen strong values for many works by listed artists over the past year. A J. L. (French sculptor Jean Leone) Gerome, “Gold leaf on Bronze Statue of Woman - Green Alabaster base” sold for \$6,300 last year. An Italian born artist Arnaldo Pomodoro “Gold Patinated Bronze Sculpture” brought \$7,800. Bessie Potter Vonnoh was born in S. Louis, MO, and worked in New York. Her “In Arcadia” bronze statue brought \$11,400 last year.

Paintings also brought good auction results last year. An untitled oil on canvas landscape by Charles Gruppe went for \$2,100. Gruppe was born in Canada but painted in Rockport, Massachusetts, a hotbed of artists. The Rockport Artist Association was formed in 1921, and the town is home to the Rockport Art Museum. An abstract oil on canvas painting by French born artist Jacques Doucet titled “La Promenade de Kafka” fetched \$5,400 last year. A Julian Onderdonk, a Texas Impressionist painter known for painting bluebonnet flowers, “A Glowly Sky” signed oil on board painting sold for \$9,600 last year.

A Boston estate modern art collection featuring many paintings by United Kingdom artists was part of our January 2024 auction. A 1967 Craigie Aitchinson fish still life oil on canvas brought \$16,800. Barbara Hepworth’s “Rhythmic Form” Abstract oil and ink on board sold for \$37,200. The two most valuable paintings were by United Kingdom artist William Scott. Scott was a Senior Lecturer at the Bath Academy of Art in Bath, England, from 1946 to 1956. During a trip to New York, he met Jackson Pollock, Elaine de Kooning, Mark Rothko, and Franz Kline. Their influence changed his painting method completely and he became an abstract impressionist like them. A William Scott “Grey Theme I” oil on canvas painting reached \$105,000. William Scott’s “Nine Pears on a White Plate,” c. 1956 oil on canvas fetched \$141,000.

Maurizio Cattelan’s “Comedian,” the artwork of a banana duct taped to a wall that I alluded to earlier, sold for \$6.2 million last year. The piece includes instructions on replacing the banana when it goes bad, although some have chosen to eat the banana before it rots.

Our online auction of the Harlansburg Transportation Museum in Pennsylvania starts this week. We continue to work on the Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction and Civil War memorabilia auction. We are accepting quality consignments for other upcoming auctions. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).



Poets at Large presents free event at Roseland Park Sept. 7

WOODSTOCK — Two seasoned poets will read on Sept. 7 at Roseland Park, 205 Roseland Park Rd. in Woodstock. This is part of the Poets at Large poetry series held in the barn from 2-4 p.m.

Poets at Large is a regional group of poets who read in Connecticut and Massachusetts, now in its sixth year. Featured poets will be authors Catherine DeNunzio and John Hodgen. The Sept. 7 event is free, and will include an open mic.

Catherine DeNunzio lives in Ledyard, and is the author of “Enough Like Bone to Build On” (Antrim House 2022). Her poems have appeared in “The Breath of

Parted Lips: Voices from The Robert Frost Place, Connecticut Literary Anthology,” Delmar Review, Connecticut River Review, Italian Americana, Marin Poetry Center Anthology, Scapegoat Review, and “Waking Up to the Earth: Connecticut Poets in a Time of Global Climate Crisis.” She has poems forthcoming in Delmarva Review.

John Hodgen is the Writer-in-Residence at Assumption University in Worcester, Mass., and Advisory Editor for New Letters at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Hodgen won the AWP Donald Hall Prize in Poetry for Grace (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005).

His fifth book, “The Lord of Everywhere,” is out from Lynx House/University of Washington Press, and his new book, “What We May Be,” is forthcoming also from Lynx House. He has won the Grolier Prize for Poetry, an Arvon Foundation Award, the Yankee Magazine Award for Poetry, the Bluestem Award, the Balcones Prize, the Foley Prize, the Chad Walsh Prize from Beloit Poetry Journal, the Collins Prize from Birmingham Poetry Review, and a Massachusetts Cultural Council Award in Poetry.

coordinator Karen Warinsky if you are interested in reading in the open mic at karen.warinsky@gmail.com. There is a five-minute limit for open mic readers and these events are recommended for ages 18 and up.

Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. Roseland Park is ADA Compliant. This series is sponsored in part by bankHometown, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, Linemaster Switch and The Putnam Area Foundation.

Contact Poets at Large

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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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Striving for a world free from stereotypes

In a world where information is at our fingertips and connections span continents, it is baffling to us that stereotyping still prevails. We pride ourselves on progress, yet we allow preconceived notions to shackle our understanding of each other. It's high time we collectively recognize the damage of assumptions and vow to liberate ourselves from the confines of stereotypes.

Stereotyping is the enemy of empathy, born from our innate need to categorize and simplify complex realities. It's natural for the mind to seek shortcuts, but these shortcuts often lead us astray, blinding us to the richness of human diversity. When we assume we know someone based on their appearance, background, or a single characteristic, we deny them the depth of their individuality and inadvertently perpetuate ignorance.

Let's face it, we've all been victims of stereotypes. Whether it's being judged by our nationality, gender, appearance, or hobbies, we know the frustration of not being seen for who we truly are. So, why do we continue this harmful practice? Fear, laziness, or perhaps a lack of awareness? Regardless of the reasons, it's time to shatter this cycle.

Consider the story of the introverted librarian who's also a salsa dancing champion, or the tattooed artist who spends weekends volunteering at a shelter or going to classical music concerts. These are glimpses into the lives that stereotypes fail to capture. It's not enough to say, "Don't judge a book by its cover." We must actively seek to turn the pages, engaging with the stories beneath the surface.

The path to change begins with acknowledging our biases. Recognizing that we all hold them allows us to confront them head-on. Education is a formidable weapon against stereotypes. By learning about different cultures, histories, and experiences, we open the door to a more inclusive perspective. It's a journey toward realizing that our world is a mosaic of vibrant, individual lives, each with its own colors and textures.

But this change isn't just about self-improvement; it's a societal shift. By resisting stereotypes, we create an environment where empathy flourishes. We extend the hand of understanding to those who've been marginalized and silenced. We pave the way for collaboration that's based on shared goals rather than preconceived judgments.

It's time to rewrite the script of our interactions. Let's ask questions and listen attentively. Let's engage in conversations that bridge gaps and build bridges. Let's be curious about the people we encounter, seeking to understand their unique perspectives.

As we strive for a world free of assumptions and stereotypes, let's remember that change is gradual. But every step taken is a step closer to a society where each person is seen, heard, and valued for who they truly are. Let's be the generation that breaks the chains of stereotype, forging connections that are genuine, lasting, and transformative.

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.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

Was Mary Kies your ancestor?

Putnam Library & Aspinock Historical Society: Wednesday, Aug. 20, 6-7 p.m. Author Talk and Book signing. Patricia Suprenant Behind the Scarlett Letter. "Based on a True Story. Inspired by the 1820 trial of Rev. Ammi Rogers, the novel unearths a scandal that not only shaped early American views on morality and justice, but also influenced the 19th century 'reverend rake' genre--including Nathaniel Hawthorne's the Scarlett Letter. This remarkable case also laid the groundwork for Roe vs. Wade. Patricia will share insights from her extensive research, explore the craft of historical fiction, and introduce the real-life Eastern Connecticut figures behind the story."

Killingly Grange #112 801 Hartford Turnpike Annual Agricultural Fair: Saturday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Entry Day: Friday, Aug. 15, 2025 4-6 p.m. Download forms and handbook at the Grange facebook page at www.facebook.co/KillinglyGrange/ For additional information call or text Terry Barton at 860-884-1813 or email her at tmbartonkillinglygrange@gmail.com



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

Ashley at the Killingly Town Manager's Office. The bench dedication is open to the public. Please come and help us celebrate Mary Kies's accomplishment on Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. at Lion's Park.


I haven't shared anything from the Diaries of Dr. (Edwin) Hill 1851-1896 (edited by Marcella Houle Pasay) in quite a while so I thought I would look at a few August entries. I always like to think about what life in Killingly was like years ago. Keep in mind that Dr. Hill lived on what is now Route 101 in East Killingly. On Monday, Aug. 17, 1868, he wrote, "Went to Danielsonville to get flour from Waldo's. (The store was located where the vacant lot is across from the present Killingly Town Hall). Harriet Potter came here today and her father came after her at night. Wrote letter to Sabbath school convention. Adelaide L. Brown died today, aged 15 years, seven months, and 21 days. Her sister Sarah G., died six months ago with almost exactly the same symptoms and disease. Parents were cousins. They have only one child now. Thomas, about nine years old. Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1868 Royal Arch Chapter**meeting at Dayville. Called at N. P. P. Brown's and saw his daughter Addie who died yesterday. (**See end of paragraph). Friday, August 21. Paid Thomas J. French in full for land bought last April. \$90, plus \$1.80 interest. Tuesday, Aug. 25. "Went to spiritualist picnic at Saunder's pond. (Alexander's Lake). Thursday, Aug. 27. "Went to Dayville for dedication of church. Exercises interesting. Had headache today. Charley began Latin at Mr. Brown's school." (From footnote, p. 42: "E.R. Brown was the principal of Danielsonville high school, and according to an ad in the Windham County Transcript (15 August 1867) terms ran for twelve weeks and classes were held in the Episcopal Church, on Broad Street, across from Academy Street". (**AI Overview --A Royal Arch Chapter is a Masonic body within the York Rite, often considered the completion of the symbolic Lodge degrees. It confers four degrees: Mark Master Mason, Past Master (or Virtual Past Master), Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason. These degrees delve deeper into Masonic symbolism and history, particularly focusing on the building of King Solomon's Temple and the search for the lost word).

Following are a few extracts from a few years later in August, 1872. Monday, August 5. "Cut my oats. Was at Dog Hill to see William Ross. He paid me and he is going to Omro, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. Tuesday, August 6 Attended Choral Union picnic at Kies Pond. Large number--300. Good time." The accompanying footnote said that Kies Pond was called 'Quinebaug Pond' in the August 8, 1872 Transcript. The guests were entertained with music and songs by the Choral Union. Next, a meal which included 'the usual picnic food' plus steamed oysters, clams, fish and clam chowder, and steamed green corn, was served by Messrs. Kies, proprietress of this fine resort. There was sailing on the lake in the afternoon and dancing in the evening..."The first gathering of our musical Society was an occasion so rich in social and musical enjoyment that many coming years will undoubtedly witness its repetition..."(p. 84-85). Wednesday, August 7, 1872 "Ordered Knight Templar Regalia from Bent & Bush of Boston." (It arrived August 28 and cost \$69 per express. C.O.D.; his "chapeau" from Bent & Bush arrived Sunday, Sept. 7 and his sword September 11th). Friday, August 23. Pleasant all day. Made cider with family mill.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, August 2025. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

The naps you take

A birthday card features a New Yorker cartoon of two dogs seemingly talking to each other. One dog says, "It's the naps you don't take that you regret the most."



NANCY WEISS

The cartoon by Bruce Eric Kaplan was drawn in 1998, and rings with more truth to me now that it did more than 25 years ago. Naps hold a special place in my life and I'm grateful for them. A 2018 AARP article discusses how napping increases with age, but it also increases when life finally provides an opening for us to grab a few minutes of exquisite rest.

In college I was fortunate to have a real mentor. I majored in political science at a time where there were relatively few girls in my classes. Max took me under his wing and provided me with tickets to classical music concerts, job interviews when I graduated and a steady stream of advice whenever we met. One thing was clear; however; Max took a nap every afternoon on a cot in his small office, and was not to be interrupted for any reason. Imagine if he were around today. He'd be viewed as a slacker at a minimum and a weirdo at the worst. Instead, he was a productive academic, who taught his classes with enthusiasm. He just needed a nap.

I've always had trouble sleeping at night. As a child, I read with a flashlight under the covers and recited poems and prayers over and over in my head. Yoga brought various breathing techniques and body scanning to tell each part to rest. One of the best techniques I learned is one also used by Navy Seals, according to the internet, which is resting with legs elevated or in my case, against the wall. If one doesn't fall asleep, at least the pose is a quiet challenge. A hypnotherapist in the area helped me long ago as did understanding the results of a night at the sleep lab at Day Kimball Hospital. A fairly intense exercise routine helps a bit, but like Max, I've learned nothing beats a nap.

Benjamin Franklin may be to blame for some of our aversion to naps. His maxims about "early to bed, early to rise, etc." helped make us a nation of people who say they don't need, want or get very much sleep. It is often a badge of honor to insist that one needs only four hours of sleep to function perfectly. We pay a price for not realizing when we are deeply tired.

A cataract operation led me to take naps. I developed dry eye from the procedure and was urged to put on an eye mask every day to improve the condition. With the mask on, I can't do anything, so I began putting a pillow in my closet and settling in for twenty minutes. No one can find me in the closet. It is completely dark and because it is carpeted, comfortable in a spartan way. It is often the middle of the afternoon. I set the timer on my phone and I drop off to an odd, but refreshing sleep. When I awaken, I'm more alert and my mood and memory seem better.

From what I've read, naps should be 10-20 minutes and no longer or they make us groggy or mess up nighttime sleep. After napping a few days each week, my brain learned to awaken about a minute before the alarm. In the darkness, there is a moment of unreality and then the realization that every phase of life has its gifts and napping is one.

Trying too hard

Sadie sat gloomily staring out her back window onto her garden.

"What's wrong?" queried her husband of 20 years, who already knew the answer.

She mumbles, "Well, first there was that late frost, and then the dry weather. And it looks like something is eating my grasses. I have tried so hard, but I just can't get my gardens looking like I want." Then she added, "If only I had a greenhouse."

I am sure a lot of gardeners can relate. And some studies show that greenhouses



BEYOND THE PEWS JOHN HANSON

are seven to twelve times more productive. But are greenhouses, and trying harder, worth the effort? Since I live in a part of the country with a short growing season and since we often deal with late frosts, animals and bugs, I have often imagined that a greenhouse would be a safer way to go. So, I did a little research and was surprised at my discoveries.

I was particularly interested in a study cited on a website called "The Seasonal Homestead." They see the value in greenhouses for those with specific goals, but

How to keep rising healthcare costs from killing your retirement

Healthcare costs have become one of the biggest wild cards in retirement planning. While you're diligently saving for your golden years, medical expenses are quietly working against you, threatening to derail even the most carefully crafted retirement plans.

The reality is sobering, but here's the thing: healthcare costs don't have to be a retirement killer. With the right strategies and professional guidance, you can build a robust defense against these rising expenses while still enjoying the retirement you've worked so hard for.

The healthcare cost challenge

Healthcare expenses in retirement encompass more than doctor visits and prescriptions. They include long-term care, dental and vision care, insurance premiums, and unexpected medical emergencies that seem perfectly timed for when you're living on a fixed income. What makes this particularly challenging is the unpredictability. Unlike other retirement expenses you can plan for with reasonable accuracy, healthcare costs vary dramatically based on your health, location, and changes in medical technology and policy.

HSAs: Your secret weapon for retirement healthcare

One of the most powerful tools we recommend is something many people overlook: Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). These accounts offer what we call the "triple tax advantage" – a bene-

fit so compelling that HSAs should be considered essential retirement vehicles, not just healthcare accounts.

Here's how the triple advantage works:

Tax-deductible contributions: Every dollar you contribute reduces your current taxable income, providing immediate tax relief.

Tax-free growth: Like a Roth IRA, money in your HSA grows without being taxed on dividends, interest, or capital gains.

Tax-free withdrawals: When you use HSA funds for qualified medical expenses, you pay zero taxes on the withdrawal.

For 2025, HSA contribution limits have increased to \$4,300 for individual coverage and \$8,550 for family coverage, with an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution for those 55 and older.¹ If you're nearing retirement, maximizing these contributions should be a priority. HSAs become even more powerful after age 65. While you can no longer contribute once you enroll in Medicare, you can use accumulated HSA funds for Medicare premiums, supplemental insurance, and long-term care premiums. After 65, you can even withdraw HSA funds for non-medical expenses (though you'll pay income tax, similar to a traditional IRA).

Bridging the gap: Healthcare coverage before Medicare

If you're planning to retire before 65, the period between employer-sponsored health insurance and Medicare eligibility



FINANCIAL FOCUS
• • • • •
JONATHAN MATHEWS
INVESTMENT ADVISER

can be financially treacherous. Individual health insurance premiums can easily cost \$1,500 to \$2,000 per month or more for comprehensive coverage. However, there are strategies to help manage these costs:

Connecticut Premium Tax Credit program: If you're a Connecticut resident with household income below certain thresholds, you may qualify for premium tax credits that can significantly reduce your monthly insurance costs. This program can provide coverage for as little as \$5 per month in qualifying situations, creating a crucial bridge to Medicare eligibility.

COBRA continuation: While expensive, COBRA allows you to maintain your employer's group health plan for up to 18 months after retirement.² Sometimes, this is more cost-effective than individual market plans, especially if you have ongoing medical needs.

Strategic timing: Working with a financial advisor to time your retirement can help optimize your healthcare coverage transition and minimize gap period costs.

Medicare and beyond: Planning for the long term

Medicare provides

important coverage starting at 65, but it's not comprehensive. Original Medicare doesn't cover dental, vision, or hearing aids, and has significant gaps in long-term care coverage. Medicare supplement insurance and Part D prescription drug coverage add additional costs to consider.

For those with lower incomes, programs like QMB (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary) can provide additional assistance with Medicare costs. And if Medicare doesn't fully meet your needs, understanding your state's Medicaid programs can provide important backup coverage options.

Policy changes on the Horizon

The healthcare landscape continues to evolve, with potential policy changes that could impact retirement healthcare planning. Proposed "most favored nations" pricing policies could affect prescription drug costs, while ongoing healthcare reform discussions may reshape Medicare and insurance markets. This uncertainty underscores the importance of working with financial professionals who stay current on policy developments and can help you adapt your healthcare strategy as the landscape changes.

A comprehensive approach

Effective healthcare cost planning isn't just about setting aside money – it's about creating

a comprehensive strategy that integrates with your overall retirement plan. This includes optimizing tax strategies, coordinating insurance coverage, planning for long-term care needs, building flexibility into your retirement plan, and staying proactive about preventive care.

Having a solid healthcare cost strategy can provide more confidence about your financial future. When you know you've planned for healthcare expenses, you can enjoy retirement without constant worry about how you'll afford medical care.

As Medicare open enrollment approaches this October, now is an ideal time to review your healthcare strategy and make necessary adjustments. Don't let healthcare costs be the wild card that derails your retirement dreams. With proper planning and professional guidance, you can build a strategy that protects both your health and your wealth. Contact our team at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors for a complimentary discovery session at (860) 928-2341 or whzwealth.com to see how we can help to provide you with "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life."

Authored by WHZ Associate Vice President, Wealth Advisor Jonathan Mathews. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Investments are subject to risk, including the loss of principal. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser: 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860.928.2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

SOURCES:

1 IRS Revenue Procedure 2024-25, HSA contribution limits for 2025

2 U.S. Department of Labor, COBRA Continuation Coverage guidelines

Annual flowers that take the heat

As temperatures rise, some annuals slow down or stop flowering due to heat stall. They will recover as temperatures cool but may leave your gardens or containers looking less colorful.

Take some time now to evaluate annual flowers that are thriving in your garden and those that may need to be left off the plant list for next year's garden.

Start looking for more heat-tolerant plants and cultivars to use in the future. A visit to your local botanic garden and viewing gardens in your neighborhood can help provide insight and inspirations for plants suited to your summer weather.

Zinnias are known for their heat and drought tolerance. These long-blooming annuals come in a variety of colors and heights. Wheat, plume, and crested celosia not only add color, but also interesting flower shapes to gardens and arrangements.

Angelonias, also known as summer snapdragons, are upright plants that make great vertical accents and add season-long color to containers and gardens. Granvia strawflowers are taller, more vigorous plants with larger flowers than older strawflower varieties. Enjoy them in the garden and for months after in arrangements, dried wreaths, and other decorations.

Annual vinca, Catharanthus, with its shiny leaves and long-lasting flowers, thrives in hot, dry weather. The dainty flowers of the Soiree® Hawaii series and the fringed, ruffled flower petals of the Soiree® Flemenco series provide a unique flare. Include pentas with their star-shaped flowers to help attract and support butterflies. You'll find plants with white, red, pink, lavender, violet, and bicolor flowers, and even a few trailing varieties.

Cupheas are not only heat tolerant but are magnets for hummingbirds. These season-long bloomers are covered with flowers and do not need deadheading. Mandevilla is another long-blooming, heat-tolerant plant that thrives in sunny locations. You'll find upright, trailing, and tall climbing varieties to include in gardens, containers, and hanging baskets.



GARDEN MOMENTS
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MELINDA MYERS



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Heat-tolerant Sun Parasol® Giant Peach Sunrise Mandevilla and Blue Tiara™ Supertunia®.

your garden and containers. Continue to water the heat-stressed plants as needed but wait for them to recover before fertilizing if needed.

Trim back leggy plants and once the temperatures cool, the plants will start flowering.

Continue to watch for, try, and evaluate new, more heat-tolerant additions for your gardens and containers. Finding the right plants for your growing conditions and garden design can help boost your garden's beauty and your enjoyment even as temperatures rise.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.



Jason Bleau

A 1965 Shelby Cobra sported a classic racecar style adding some fun flair to the Main Street Car Cruise.



This 1983 El Camino came sporting an actual grill called “The Party End” and several other add ons, and, like several other classic vehicles, was available for purchase.



A massive Peterbilt truck added something very different to the car cruise combining beautiful form with function.



Cars are lined up along the parking area on Main Street.



One of the flashier show pieces of the day was this golden DeLorean, a car made popular by the film “Back to the Future.”



The Make a Wish Foundation made its annual trip to the Main Street Car Cruise bringing along their massive monster truck.



While the day was all about the cars, some kids and families took a break from the festivities to enjoy some hands-on interaction with animals courtesy of Xen's Critters.



A dunk tank to benefit the Putnam Business Association's annual Pluck-A-Duck Raffle saw many local business owners and celebrities take part. Here Andrea O'Shea of Destination Events is dunked by the first contender of her 20-minute stay in the tank.

Putnam hosts Main Street Car Cruise

PUTNAM — Putnam’s Main Street area played host to hundreds of vehicles on Aug. 10 as part of the town’s annual Main Street Car Cruise. One of the most popular events on the town’s annual calendar continued to build on its reputation in 2025 bringing thousands of spectators to the area to gander at classic and modern classic vehicles from monster trucks to race cars, antiques, rat rods and everything in between. Accompanied by beautiful weather, the Cruise proved once again to be one of the most treasured annual marquee events not only for Putnam but for the entire region.



While many classic cars were showcased throughout the day, some modern classic also got the spotlight like this line of Dodge sports cars.



Cars make their way into the brand new municipal parking lot on Kennedy Drive that opened earlier this year. The area was filled with classic cars for show throughout the day.



The 27JR and its accompanying transport truck brought a legacy of tracing greatness and history to the Main Street Car Cruise.



Cars filled Rotary Park and many other local lots and street sides as countless vehicles joined Putnam’s annual Main Street Car Cruise.

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1851: Isaac Singer is granted a patent for his sewing machine.

1914: The United Kingdom and the British Empire declare war on Austria-Hungary.

1981: The IBM Personal Computer is released.

World FACT:

Thailand, the United States and the United Kingdom often appear on lists that say they have a lot of this.

Answer: Traffic

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

SREIT

1234

AFTS

56

NRUTK

789

RCSA

10

417109

28

13655210

Answer: Stuck in traffic

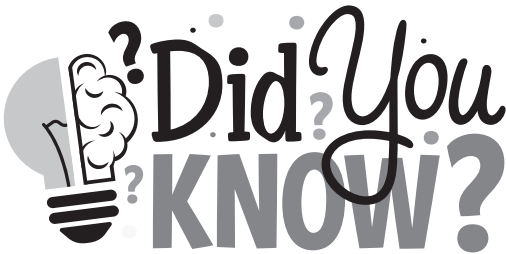
NEW WORD

CONGESTION

a state of crowding or accumulation

How they say that in...

- English: Traffic
- Spanish: Tráfico
- Italian: Traffico
- French: Circulation
- German: Verkehr



Traffic officers enforce traffic laws and help manage the flow of traffic.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Traffic cone



Solve the code to discover words related to farmers markets. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 =R)

A. 11 4 2 13 15 10

Clue: Merchant

B. 1 17 10 4 8

Clue: Products

C. 20 10 15 13 6 18 4

Clue: Fruits and vegetables

D. 18 10 17 14 22 8

Clue: Handmade items

Answers: A. vendor B. wares C. produce D. crafts

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from August 1925 (551 words, US, UK, CAN)

- The month of August has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in August 1925.
- The National Football League awards franchises to four new teams on August 1. Among the newly minted franchises is the New York Giants, a team that remains in the league today.
- The Fascists win local elections in Sicily on August 3. The Blackshirts, an all-volunteer militia loyal to Fascist leader Benito Mussolini, are stationed at voting booths throughout Sicily during the election.
- The last United States Marines are withdrawn from Nicaragua on August 4. The U.S. occupation of the country began thirteen years prior.
- The President of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal, divorces his wife of less than two years on August 5. Kemal is upset that his wife, Latife Usaki, publicly promoted emancipation of women and encouraged their independence in regard to choice of clothing.
- The Dallas Hilton opens on August 6. It is the first high-rise hotel to bear the Hilton name.
- Tens of thousands of Ku Klux Klan members march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. on August 8. Heavy rains force the cancellation of a planned ceremony that had been scheduled to begin at the conclusion of the march.
- Twin brothers Norris and Ross McWhirter are born in Winchmore Hill, Essex, England on August 12. The brothers would eventually create The Guinness Book of World Records.
- American sculptor Gutzon Borglum is invited to the Black Hills region of South Dakota on August 14. Borglum, who is now best known for his work on

- Mount Rushmore, visits the region to scout for a location for carving a monument on the side of a mountain.
- The Cuban Communist Party is founded in Havana on August 16. The party eventually merged with Fidel Castro's Integrated Revolutionary Organizations in 1961.
- The Fourteenth World Zionist Congress opens in Vienna on August 17. Protests by Austrian fascists outside the Congress turn violent and result in injuries to 30 people and 50 arrests.
- Fidel LaBarba defeats Frankie Genaro in a 10-round decision to win the vacant World Flyweight Championship in Los Angeles on August 22.
- A boxing match between welterweight champion Mickey Walker and William "Sailor" Friedman ends in a no-decision in Chicago on August 24. In a dressing room meeting prior to the match, Walker was advised by Al Capone to go easy on Friedman.
- A Spanish naval bombardment effectively levels the Moroccan city of Rif during the Rif War on August 25.
- African American singer Marian Anderson first achieves fame after performing with the New York Philharmonic orchestra on August 26. Anderson would go on to perform with renowned orchestras throughout the United States and Europe in a decades-long career, all the while serving as an important figure as African Americans struggled to overcome racial prejudice in the U.S. in the mid-twentieth century.
- Several notable Nicaraguan politicians are kidnapped in Managua on August 28. Armed men ultimately take the hostages to La Loma, a mountain-top fortress.
- Babe Ruth is fined \$5,000 and suspended for one week by New York Yankees manager Miller Huggins on August 29. Ruth was disciplined after failing to show up for batting practice.

What to do if your home is damaged in a storm



- Natural disasters and severe storms can leave a trail of devastation in their wake. When such events occur, people are left to pick up the pieces, and that may involve assessing damage to their homes.
- The aftermath of a storm is a difficult time for individuals whose homes were damaged or lost. Knowing what to do in the aftermath of a storm that damaged or destroyed their homes can start victims on the road to recovery that much sooner.
- Check to confirm everyone is alright. The first step anyone can take after their home is damaged is to confirm everyone is safe. That includes residents of the home as well as neighbors. Check to ensure elderly residents and neighbors or those with mobility issues made it through the storm safely. A 2011 study published in the journal Medical Anthropology found that the greatest mortality during and immediately after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 was among the elderly. The study noted individuals over age 60 accounted for 75 percent of the bodies found immediately after the storm.
- Assess and document the damage. Once everyone is safe, assess the damage from a reasonable distance. It's necessary to keep your distance because the property may still be vulnerable to further damage, including collapse. If it's safe to do so, you can then begin to document the damage, utilizing a smartphone to take photos and videos of the property. If it's safe to enter the property, take as many photos and videos of the interior of the home as possible, making sure to upload them to cloud storage soon thereafter. Photos and videos taken immediately after a storm can facilitate the claims process with your insurance provider.
- Contact your insurance provider. If conditions allowed for safe assessment and documentation of the damage, contact your insurance provider to report it and begin the claims process. Chances are many others will be contacting the same provider, so it's best to begin the claims process as soon as possible. It also helps to recognize patience will be necessary. Many insurance providers now allow policy holders to file claims through apps on their mobile phones, and doing so can be invaluable if tablets, laptops and other devices were damaged or destroyed during the storm.
- Ask your provider what you can do. Insurance policies may only cover damage that occurred during the storm. Post-storm damage, such as water issues that arise because windows or doors were damaged during the storm, may not be covered. That's why it's a good idea for homeowners and others to call their insurance providers and ask what to do to prevent further, potentially uncovered damage.
- Recognize criminals pose a new threat. The Federal Emergency Management Agency encourages survivors to be cognizant of fraudulent schemes that often arise in the aftermath of a storm. Examples of scams include housing inspectors claiming to represent FEMA, fake offers of local or federal aid and fraudulent building contractors. Always ask for identification and do not work with anyone asking for cash in return for assistance.
- Knowing what to do in the aftermath of a devastating storm can help survivors get on the road to recovery more quickly.

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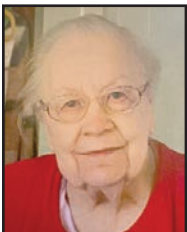
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Help
Wanted

OBITUARIES

Gisele M. Boulais, 98



Gisele M. Boulais (Bernier), 98, passed away peacefully on August 5, 2025 after a life filled with creativity, independence, and devotion to family and community.

Born on October 7, 1926, in Brooklyn, Connecticut, to Mathias Bernier and Irene Pelletier, Gisele was raised in nearby Danielson, where she graduated from Killingly High School in 1945. She went on to marry the love of her life, Richard Boulais on September 20, 1947. Together they built a home in 1963 where they raised their son, Dennis R. Boulais, and made a life full of love and memories. After Richard's sudden passing in 1997, Gisele remained in their family home for nearly three more decades, a testament to her fiercely independent spirit.

Gisele was a woman of many talents and interests. A master of acrylic painting, her art was a vivid expression of her soul—colorful, thoughtful, and cherished by all who were fortunate enough to receive one of her pieces. Her legacy lives on through her artwork, now lovingly held by her family.

Her passion for life extended beyond the canvas. Gisele had a deep love for animals and could recall every cat and dog she had ever owned. Flowers

brought her great joy, as did time spent cooking and sharing meals with friends and loved ones. She enjoyed lively visits, good conversation, and a warm kitchen.

Throughout her life, Gisele held a variety of jobs in the Danielson area, always eager to learn, adapt, and connect with her community. She was also a proud and dedicated volunteer at local election polls, driven by a strong belief in democracy and the importance of every citizen's right to vote.

Gisele will be remembered for her independence, her artistic gifts, her compassion for animals, and her unwavering dedication to the people and causes she cared about most. She touched many lives with her warmth and wisdom, and her memory will be cherished by those who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her son, Dennis, and his wife Phyllis. Two grandchildren, Jeffrey Boulais, Jennifer Beams (Boulais) and her husband Nicholas Beams, and two great grand-daughters, Magdalen Beams and Adelaide Beams of Pomfret. Gisele is also survived by her only sibling, her brother Raymond C. Bernier and his wife Marge of Florida.

A Chapel Service will be Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Holy Cross Cemetery Danielson, CT. Share a memory at [Gagnonandcostellofh.com](#)

Joshua Harris

May 1, 1972 - August 3, 2025



Worcester - Joshua Harris, 53, of Worcester, passed away unexpectedly on August 3, 2025, while visiting family in Woodstock, CT. Born in Worcester, Joshua was the son of Robert Harris (wife, Shirley Harris) and the late Joanna (Bourgea) Harris.

Growing up in Boylston MA, Joshua was a member of the Boylston Congregational Church, and a life member of the Boylston Graduates Association. He graduated from Tahanto Regional High School in 1991.

Joshua was a proud member of the United States Navy, serving on the guided missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones DDG-53 as an MS5, while based in San Diego. He was a plank holder on the original crew assigned to the J.P. Jones during its final construction and commissioning. The ship was an early deployment to the war in Iraq, Desert Storm. Joshua also had life membership in the Association of Tin Can Sailors, in which the J.P. Jones played a significant role. He got to see some of the world during his time in the Navy, and he cherished those memories beyond measure; especially his nights in Singapore.

Joshua had a kind and creative heart, and enjoyed many hobbies; watching horror movies with his girls, taking day trips to museums and exhibits, reading

Charles Bukowski, cooking the most delicious meals, long conversations, basketball games, visiting Maine, spending quality time with his family, friends, and multiple beloved pet rabbits over the years (especially his Minnie), secretly being a talented artist; and of course, heavy metal concerts. Music was his greatest passion and outlet, and he was never not listening; Motorhead, Pantera, Slayer, Wilco, and occasionally Maxine Nightingale, were some of his favorites. Joshua felt the world around him deeply, but despite the struggles that he faced, he wanted nothing more than to make the people around him laugh and feel loved.

In addition to his father and stepmother, Joshua leaves his wife and friend of over 35 years, Heather (MacLellan) Harris; his daughter, Serena Harris, and her partner Bryan Bromley; his big brother, Robert Harris II, and nieces Joanna and Maia Harris.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Joshua's name to The Wounded Warrior Project, at [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](#). Above all else, Joshua would ask that you give back to your community, and always help a friend whenever you can.

For memorial guestbook, visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](#)

Leonard Van Flatern, 87



Leonard Van Flatern, (Van to his friends) 87, of Brooklyn, died Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at home. He was born on November 4, 1937, to the late Eva and Leon Van Flatern.

Van was employed as a tool and die maker at Roger's Corp. and then at Whitcraft, where he became a Planner Engineer. In his spare time he enjoyed target shooting and family road trips (on bicycles and by car). He was a motorcycle enthusiast, and explored thousands of miles with his wife, June. He enjoyed the outdoors, caring for his home – he was able to fix just about anything. He was always the

life of our family parties. His sense of humor will be sadly missed.

Van leaves his wife of almost 65 years, June (Sulkowski), children Heidi (and Michael), Holly Barlow (and Walter), Tracy (and Amanda), and sister-in-law Diane Crozier (and Blair), of PEI, Canada. He also leaves grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as a cousin "Mickey" (and Ruth) Tracy of WA, who was like a brother to him, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Carol Dauphinais of Canterbury.

Services are private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to support cancer research in children to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude's Place, Memphis, 38105. Share a memory at [Smithandwalkerfh.com](#)

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stonebridgepress.news

CLERK

continued from page A1

nance would need to be approved at town meeting. He also explained that the salary is included in the salary study, which is readily available for anyone to examine, and that anyone hired would start at level one represented in that document unless they had qualifications that warranted a higher salary point.

"The salary that's in the study, whoever would start would be at step one. Unless they had a lot of experience, we would have the latitude to up them to a two or three

level. So that's the basis of the salary. I mean, it depends who we hire. But in general, when we hire somebody, we go to the salary study and your outline is there, what they would get for this position. Our only latitude is if they have some experience, we can start them higher than step one," Tanner explained.

Another concern was the idea of removing a position from the hands of the voters. It was also brought up that making the position an appointed posts could create conflicts if and when there are changes on the Board of Selectmen. Finally,

while current Clerk Katherine Bisson has run unopposed for roughly a decade, it was pointed out that she had also been cross endorsed by both political parties and that allowing outside applicants could bring someone into the town who may not have as close a connection to the community as someone chosen by the voters.

In the end, the decision was overwhelming, and the townsfolk decided to preserve the elected status of the Town Clerk. Bisson has once again been endorsed by both parties for the 2025 election in November.

PLAN

continued from page A1

Connecticut, and is still used for manufacturing electrical foot switches and wiring. Waste disposal practices between 1952 to 1979 caused chemicals to contaminate the soil and groundwater. The site was added to the Superfund National Priorities List in 1990, and a cleanup plan was selected for the site in 1993.

Since then, cleanup

activities have included the installation of soil and groundwater treatment systems. Although levels of contamination are decreasing, significant impacts to the soil and groundwater remain. EPA has proposed and finalized an amendment to the 1993 original cleanup plan with new actions to better address contamination.

Visit EPA's Linemaster Switch Superfund Site webpage or visit Woodstock's Town Hall

for help accessing EPA's online resources.

View documents in person at EPA's records center: 5 Post Office Sq., Boston, Mass., open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call (617) 918-1440 to make an appointment.

To receive a copy of the updated plan by mail, contact Liz McCarthy at [McCarthy.Elizabeth@epa.gov](#) or 617-918-1136.

BEYOND

continued from page A6

After perusing a number of sites, I came to this conclusion: While greenhouses obviously make sense for businesses and those wishing to grow plants year-round, the typical gardener will probably do fine without it. Just relax, do your best and take your chances.

That is also good advice for living. Even Jesus told people to live by principles, but not to try too hard:

"Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For My yoke is wholesome (use-

ful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne. (Matt 11:29-30 amp)

There are no guarantees in life as far as temporal outcomes are concerned. For example, in the Bible, Samson is immoral but does miracles, but Joseph is moral and goes to prison. So, we learn that good deeds and diligence provide a quality of life rather than a guaranteed outcome. But the only sure thing is a healthy relationship with God.

It worked for Noah when most of the world was wicked

It worked for Abraham as he wandered

It worked for the slaves in Egypt, the church in the wilderness and the

Israelites conquering Canaan

It worked for prophets who were killed

It worked for Christians who were persecuted

It has worked for people in third world countries, for people in anti-Christian nations, for prisoners, for the terminally ill...

Scripture teaches that believers should be whole-hearted and diligent but should not try too hard to control everything. The key is to find that good relationship with God and trust Him to make everything work together for good. Trying harder is not as important as simply trusting and obeying.

Bishop John W Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more information, please visit [www.ActsII.org](#).

Don't pray like a beggar!

Stop praying like you're begging for scraps.

That's why your plans fall apart. That's why the world ignores your voice.

You kneel, you whisper, you plead—but all it shows is a lack of faith.

You weren't made to beg. You were made to command.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them." That's authority! It's knowing reality bends to conviction.

He also said, "According to your faith, let it be done to you." In other words, you don't get what you want; you get what you expect.

And "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." That's the mental blueprint—see it done before it's done.

Begging mode doesn't just feel weak—it makes you weak. Neuroscience calls it a low-agency mindset. When you approach your goals from desperation, your brain flips into survival mode. You become less capable of spotting opportunities or making bold moves. You're programming your reality to deliver the same disappointments, over and over.

Flip the lens, and everything changes. When you speak and act with certainty, your nervous system recalibrates. Dopamine and serotonin rise, your motivation climbs, and your tolerance for risk increases. You start scanning for proof that what you've declared is already unfolding. It's not magic—it's chemistry.

Faith in command mode looks different. It's not passive, waiting on the sidelines for something to change. It steps onto the court and plays to win. It's the voice that says, "This will happen," instead of "I hope this happens." It's moving your feet before you see the finish line, because you know it's there.

Every great spiritual teacher, every revolutionary leader, every game-changer in business, art, or science—whether they spoke in the language of God, the universe, or the human spirit—operated with that same unshakable conviction.

Before David killed the giant, he declared it first. Standing in front of Goliath—armed with nothing but a sling, a few stones, and an unshakable belief—he didn't whisper a prayer of survival. He spoke a statement of victory: "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands!" It wasn't just a declaration; he was saying that his prayer was already answered, and the answer was yes!

You are not here to rehearse defeat in your mind. You are not here to train your nervous system for scraps. You are here to speak life into your own story—out loud, without apology, without retreat.

Every word you speak, every image you picture, every act you take is casting a vote for the reality you will live in tomorrow. Stop praying in fear. Stop reinforcing lack.

Pray like you own the place. Speak like the thing you want is already written in the book of your life, not from an attitude of pride, but from humility.

The truth is simple: reality doesn't give you what you hope for—it gives you what you command, and then work for like it's already yours.



OBITUARIES

Donald Briere, 86



Donald Briere, 86, passed away on August 3, 2025, at Villa Marie Nursing home while rehabbing from a recent surgery. Donald was born on February 23, 1939, in Killingly, son of the late Clarence and Beatrice (Gosselin) Briere. He was best friends with his beloved wife, Joyce, who survives him. They were married for over 65 years. Their marriage was built on friendship, laughter and love, and it grounded our family and inspired everyone who knew them. Don worked very hard his whole life in many of the local area mills during the day. At night, he was a self-taught dog groomer and businessman. Don built his own successful dog grooming business, Don's Dog House, from the ground up. A remarkable achievement fueled by hard work and determination. He had a genuine love for animals, especially dogs and worked in the area for over 50 years. He was very proud to teach his grooming skills to his daughter Denise and daughter-in-law Valerie, who worked beside him for many years. His legacy lives on with his daughter Denise taking over the family business. Don was a devoted father and grandfather. When his youngest son, Scott, was injured in a hit and run accident, Don dedicated the rest of his life to have Scott live with him and take care of him. As the true patriarch of our family, he led not with titles and awards but through patience and love and a presence that made everyone feel safe and at home. He was the one we turned to. The

one who gave us the soundest advice. The one that held everything together. Don enjoyed working in his yard landscaping and working in the house painting, wall papering and fixing whatever he could. He used to transform his home every Christmas Eve into a Christmas village straight out of a story book, complete with a real Santa. He liked music and was the best dancer at our family weddings and parties. He cherished every moment spent with family and friends around the kitchen table, always with a cup of coffee and conversation. His playful spirit, quick wit and warm heart made those times unforgettable. Don was a gracious host and someone who made everyone feel instantly welcomed. His kindness and generosity touched every person who knew him. Donald was predeceased by his brothers Ernest "Porky" Briere and Roland Briere, and nephew Ronnie Briere. He is survived by his brother and best friend Maurice Briere of Rogers, daughter Denise Billington and husband Joe of Danielson, son Randy Briere and wife Valerie of Plainfield, son Scott Briere of Danielson. He also leaves behind his granddaughter Sara Billington, the apple of Don's eye, of Danielson, many nieces and nephews but one special niece, Deborah Malboeuf, whom he cared for and treated liked a daughter, and her husband Troy of Danielson, and their three daughters whom he treated like his grandchildren, Heather Hubbard (Lee) of Chesapeake, VA, Melinda Tetreault (Mark) of Danielson, and Tara Conant (James) of Danielson. There will be no calling hours. Burial will be private.

Joyce Mary White, 92



Joyce Mary White, 92, passed away peacefully on August 3, 2025. Born in Hartford on January 14, 1933, the daughter of Carl and Grace (Besette) Brolin, she lived most of her life in Woodstock, CT. She is survived by her daughter Cindy Brown Colella (Jeff), her sons Windsor N. White III (Amy) and John W. White (Gail), and six grandchildren (Jennifer McCormick (James), Chapman, Nathan, Jameson, Daniel and Aaron White). She also leaves her brothers, Carl Brolin (Carol) and William Brolin (Grace), her sister Donna Matulis (David), and many cousins, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, George W. White and four children who died in infancy. A graduate of Woodstock Academy, Joyce worked as a secretary/bookkeeper. She married George on July 3, 1954. They raised their family in Woodstock where Joyce was a homemaker and was active in the community. When her children were older, Joyce entered and graduated from the LPN program at Windham Tech. She was a respected nurse at Day Kimball Hospital for many years. Joyce enjoyed traveling, taking many trips throughout the US over the years. She also loved lunches with friends,

theater, gardening, card games, reading, cooking and baking. Her wedding and anniversary cakes were admired among family and friends. Home and family were most important to her and she enjoyed her grandchildren immensely. Her home was open to all, with folks dropping by knowing the coffee pot was ready and "goodies" waiting on the table. Holidays and large family gatherings were frequently held at her home. Joyce was small but mighty and fiercely independent. She was thoughtful of others but wanted little fuss for herself. She lived her faith quietly and compassionately, caring for others in many ways. She never visited friends or family empty handed, sharing the bounty from her garden and kitchen. The family extends their gratitude and appreciation to those who cared for Joyce in her last years: her home caregivers and the staff at Pierce Memory Care and Maple View Manor. Calling hours were held on Friday August 8 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Potter Funeral Home, Willimantic CT. A Mass of Christian burial was held on Saturday August 9 at 10:00am at St. Philip's Church in Ashford, CT, followed by burial in Center Cemetery, Woodstock, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation in Joyce's memory.

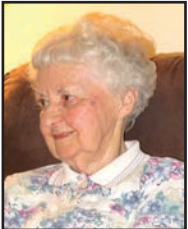
Eva Beausoleil, 90



Eva (Dutremble) Beausoleil (90) of Danielson, CT passed away on August 1, 2025. She was the loving wife of the late Roger Beausoleil and the daughter of Adelard and Eva (Marois) Dutremble. Eva grew up in Danielson and was employed at Arrow-Hart for over 35 years. She had a close relationship with her parents and Eva & Roger included them on their family vacations and other activities. She enjoyed cooking, baking, and trying new recipes. She was known for her signature spaghetti and meatballs, homemade Oreo cookies, and it wasn't a party without her chicken wings and country style ribs. Roger and Eva took pleasure in listening to country music, going to shows, and playing the slots at the casino. They enjoyed traveling, and Eva amassed many collector spoons from the various places they visited. They

camped in Narragansett, during the summers for many years where they made many life-long friends. She was a devout Catholic, a very kind person, and made friends easily. Above all else she loved her family and time spent with them. Eva will be missed by her children, Michael Beausoleil (Christine), Joyce Kingsbury, Bruce Beausoleil. Her grandchildren, Angela Harriott, Megan Haggett (Dave), Laura Beausoleil (Joseph LaCognata), Clint Beausoleil (Chelsea Dragon), Justin Beausoleil (Kayla), and Thomas Kingsbury. Her great-grandchildren, Camden & Kinsley Haggett, Carsen, Cole, and Carlie Beausoleil, and Cade Beausoleil. A mass will be held at St. James Church, Danielson, CT on Saturday, August 23, 2025 at 11:00am. The burial will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to a charity of your choice. To share a memory or offer condolences, please visit the memorial guest book at gagnonandcostellofh.com

Jeanne F. Leduc October 8, 1928 - August 4, 2025



Putnam – Jeanne F. (Pelletier) Leduc, 96, of Putnam, passed away peacefully on Monday, August 4 in the care of Day Kimball Hospital. She was the loving wife of the late Raymond B. Leduc, who died in 2004. She was the youngest of eleven children born to Odilon and Anais (Cloutier) Pelletier of Woonsocket, R.I. Jeanne graduated from St. Claire High School and married Raymond Leduc (literally the boy next door) on April 18, 1949, in Precious Blood Church in Woonsocket. After moving to Southbridge, Mass., they settled in Putnam in 1952. After raising her two children, she worked at Pevner Drug and Windham Medical as an orthotic fitter. Jeanne took pride in helping others regain comfort, mobility, and body image. Her care and passion left a lasting impact on both her patients and colleagues. She was a faithful Catholic who often attended daily Mass at St. Mary Church in Putnam, and she devoted much of her energy to helping the church. She became a eucharistic minister for the parish, bringing the Blessed Sacrament to homebound parishioners. She worked with the Rite of Christian

Initiation of Adults as a sponsor; helping people who wanted to convert to Catholicism. Jeanne had a quiet joy for life's simple pleasures. She decorated her meticulously well-kept home with family photos, including those of her three precious grandchildren. She found endless satisfaction in the challenge of a good jigsaw puzzle. In her later years, Jeanne found fellowship with many neighbors at Ella Grasso Gardens in Putnam, where she lived after retirement. Her final years were spent at Matulaitis Rehabilitation and Skilled Care in Putnam, where she was known as Mémère by the staff. Jeanne is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Karen (Bertrand) Leduc of Putnam; daughter and son-in-law, Monique and John Hornyak of Scotts Valley, Calif; and grandchildren Bertrand and André Leduc of Putnam, and Celeste Hornyak of Anaheim, Calif. She was predeceased by all ten of her brothers and sisters. Following a funeral Mass at St. Mary Church, she was interred beside her husband in St. Mary Cemetery. Gilman and Valade Funeral Home of Putnam was in charge of arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, Conn. 06260. A memorial guestbook is available online at www.GilmanAndValade.com.

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Guy Lemire (25-00313)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 8, 2025, 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:
Janet Lemire
c/o CHRISTIAN GEORGE SARANTOPOULOS,
SARANTOPOULOS &
SARANTOPOULOS, LLC,
143 SCHOOL STREET,
DANIELSON, CT 06239
August 15, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Alma M Mayo (25-00281)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 1 2025, 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:
Darlene M Murray,
307 Church Street, Apt. 16,
Putnam, CT 06260
August 15, 2025

Town of Woodstock IWWA

On August 4, 2025, the Town of Woodstock Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency made the following decisions:

- Approved permit #06-25-33, 0 Route 198 (MBL 5709/2/6), Roy Derosiers, Proposed Driveway Crossing
- Approved with conditions, permit #07-25-01, 11 Dupre Road (MBL 6397/62/04B), Sean & Lindsay Hartling, Piping of storm drainage through wetland.
- Approved, permit #07-25-02, 16 Indian Spring Road (MBL 5787/34/127) Robert Houlihan, Replacement of Septic Tank

Details of these approvals may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov
August 15, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Philip L Ireland (25-00244)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 5, 2025, 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:
Ronald G Ireland,
12 Lacerne Drive,
Willington, CT 06279
August 15, 2025



**Danielson
Veterans
Coffeehouse**

CELEBRITY BARTENDERS NIGHT
THURSDAY AUGUST 21 5PM to 9PM

Support Your Celebrity Bartender's Team
The Crossings Brew Pub
45 Main St. Putnam CT 06260



5:00 pm to 6:00pm Team 1 Veterans and Elks
Fred Ruhteman, Jim Eccelston, Marcet Morrissett Exalted Ruler,
Dave Lavoie Leading Knight



6pm to 6:45 pm Team2 PutnamBusiness
Pat O'Brien(Ameriprise)
Earl Rosebrooks (Fluid Coating Technology)
Dick Loomis (Bell Park Reauty)
LynnConverse(BellParkReality)

6:45pm to 7:30pm Team 3
Putnam American LegionPost 13
Mike Rocchetti (Commander)
BrianMaynard, Mike Vasser, TinaLajOltre,



7:30 to 815 pm Team 4 Putnam Republican Team
Chris Stewart (State Representative), Rick Hayes, Dave Coderre



8:15 pm to 9pm Team 5 The Closers
Gilmanand Valade Funeral Home
They be taking care of you in the end!
Bob Fournier, BillWerner, John Spratt





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WESTVIEW COMMONS
— 75 Unit Independent and Assisted Living Facility



What We Offer:

- EASY Month-to-Month Lease • NO Waiting List Fees • NO Assessment Fees •
- NO Community Fees • NO Up-Front Deposits • NO Draining Your Savings! •
- One and two-bedroom units (available up to 1,075 sqft.) with kitchenettes •
- specialty finishes, such as coffered ceilings, oversized bathrooms and walk-out patio doors •
- washer/dryer hookups • weekly housekeeping and linen service • three chef-prepared meals daily •

**Give us a call at 860-428-2230 to request
more information or schedule your personal tour.**

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