

KILLINGLY VILLAGER

©2025, Issue #2

Serving Killingly since 2006

Friday, January 10, 2025

Complimentary to homes by request

Day Kimball Hospital welcomes Northeastern CT's first baby of 2025!



Courtesy

Day Kimball Hospital's first baby of 2025, Judah Michael Lukoski with parents Emma and Jeffrey Lukoski.

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Hospital welcomed its first baby of 2025, Judah Michael Lukoski, on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 12:44 p.m. Proud first-time parents Emma and Jeffrey Lukoski of Lisbon, celebrated the arrival of their healthy baby boy.

Judah weighed nine pounds, five ounces, and measured 21.5 inches long. Both mother and baby are doing well. As Northeast Connecticut's "Baby New Year," Judah was gifted a basket of baby essentials by the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital.

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare 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 daykimball.org.

Woodstock approves funding for fire departments, culvert project

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The voters of Woodstock approved two proposals during a special town meeting on Dec. 17, including an expenditure to purchase new equipment for local fire departments.

The town meeting sought to expend $240,000 from the Reserve for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund to renovate the County Road Culvert, as well as $85,000 from the same fund for two extractors and two dryers for the Bungay Fire Brigade and Muddy Brook Fire Departments. Both items passed unanimously. The expenditure for the fire departments specifically received praise for the town's commitment to its first responders. Members of the Bungay Fire Brigade posted on social media thanking the voters for their support.

"This equipment is a game-changer for our department and Muddy Brook Fire Department, as it allows us to properly clean our turnout gear, helping to remove harmful contaminants and carcinogens

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Killingly bringing back middle school Athletic Director

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Board of Education has approved bringing back a middle school athletic director who will serve in a complimentary capacity helping alleviate some of the responsibilities of the district wide athletic director in the new year.

The Board of Education voted unanimously on Dec. 11 to once again fund the middle school athletic director position which had been zeroed out in the existing teachers' contract. Currently District Athletic Director Jim Lackner is charged with overseeing games for both the middle and high schools. Superintendent Susan Nash explained that after discussions with the Board of Education's Personnel Committee and Lackner the need for a middle school athletic director was apparent.

"There was always, and still is, a stipend in the teachers' contract for a position at the middle school for support for the athletic director, but when we had, through the budget process last year, created a district-wide full time athletic director, we did zero out that line using those funds for that position. In discussion with our current athletic director, there are some constraints. He certainly can't be at a middle school game and a high school game at the same time, many times they do play on the same day at the same time," said Nash.

The middle school athletic director will perform many of the same duties as the district director but specific to the middle school including breaking down and setting up equipment, organizing referees for games and other responsibilities. Board of Education member and former Killingly Athletic Director Kevin Marcoux spoke from experience as he supported the proposal.

"I share Jim's pain in what he does. There's no doubt he needs that position. He needs help. He can't be in two places at once. If we want to have supervision and cover liability and check all those boxes this is to me a must," Marcoux said.

The position is not a new addition to the teachers' contract as it was an existing item that was simply de-funded. The Board of Education's decision will fund the position as a Level 3 Stipend of $5,441, the same as it was before it was de-funded. Because it is a stipend within the teachers' contract the position will be filled by an internal candidate.

Renee Therrien named Thompson's Veteran of the Month

THOMPSON — Sgt. Renee A. Therrien has been chosen by the nominating committee to be recognized as the January 2025 Town of Thompson Veteran of the Month.

Therrien is the first female recognized as Veteran of the Month since this new program was initiated in August, 2024.

Therrien has served her Country for three decades, first joining the Air Force National Guard in 1987, and remained in that capacity for a four-year period thru 1990. She was stationed for most of that period of time at the Bradley Air Station in Windsor Locks. After a 12- year break from Military service, she re-enlisted into the Army National Guard in 2002 and was stationed at Camp Rell in Niantic, Ct. She remained in that capacity for five years through 2006.

While stationed at Camp Rell, she was activated and assigned to the 208 PSD for a one -year deployment in Kuwait, supporting the American efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Kuwait, at Camp Doha, she worked in the Post Office, checking mail for contraband to assure that packages being processed were safe to be mailed back to the States. Renee was then assigned to an administrative role at Camp Arifjan a welcome Center for troops preparing to come home from Iraq. There she assisted many war fatigued veterans and assisted them in preparing to return home from the horrors of the war and fighting that they had endured. During that time in Kuwait, Therrien also completed a security mission at Camp Virginia completing her tour of duty in Kuwait before being re-assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia where she eventually was separated from her active service time. She then was employed as an educator for the United States Department of Defense at the Yokota Air Force Base in Tokyo, Japan from 2006 to 2008.

Therrien comes from a long, rich military family history, as her dad, Norman, was drafted and served in Germany. Both brothers, Chad and Brian Therrien, enlisted into the Army National Guard. Chad served for 22 years, and Brian served for six years. Ironically, both her dad, Norman, and brother Brian were

Turn To ***THERRIEN*** *page* ***A9***

Courtesy



John Krot (center) was inducted into the Connecticut American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame on Friday, Jan. 3 during the annual Hot Stove Banquet at The Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. Krot was honored for his long time service to American Legion Baseball, where he has served (for more than 25 years) and continues to serve as the Zone VI Commissioner. Krot is the former head football coach and athletic director at Killingly High School and currently serves as AD at Parish Hill High School in Chaplin. More than 500 Legionnaires, players, parents and guests were in attendance at the event. Pictured with Krot is Ronald P. Coderre (left) the Past Commander of Post #13 in Putnam and Past District Commander of CT District #4 and Everett G. Shepard III who currently serves as American Legion National Sergeant-at-Arms. Shepard is the former Commander of Post #111 in Woodstock, Past CT Department Commander and Past CT Department Adjutant.

Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. announces promotions

PUTNAM — Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. is pleased to announce the promotion of two key employees, recognizing their exceptional contributions and commitment to the company's overall continued success.

Madilyn Smith, previously Corporate Counsel & Director of Human Resources at Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. dba Rawson Materials, has been promoted to Chief Legal and Administrative Officer (CLAO) for the parent company as well as all wholly owned subsidiaries and divisions of the business. This elevated role oversees all legal affairs and administrative functions for the Strategic entities, including legal strategy, compliance, risk management, oversight of corporate governance and human resources.

Smith states, "This opportunity represents a chance to build upon our already strong foundation of integrity and operational excellence. I am grateful for this opportunity and remain dedicated to working closely with our team to ensure we navigate the complexities and embrace the opportunities available in today's business environment while remaining focused on expansion, compliance, and collaboration."



Madilyn Smith



Jonathan Androlewicz

Additionally, Jonathan Androlewicz, previously General Manager of Rawson Manufacturing & DB Cotton, one of Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc's wholly owned subsidiaries, has been promoted to President of Rawson Manufacturing & DB Cotton. The Company firmly believes Mr. Androlewicz will provide strategic leadership, operational oversight, and pave the way for continued expansion of the manufacturing division of the organization.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to step into this role as President. I look forward to working with our incredible team to build on our successes, navigate new challenges, and drive our organization toward an even brighter future. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful impact," said Androlewicz.

Both promotions became effective Jan. 1, and are part of a corporate restructuring aimed at supporting continued growth, long-term vision, and strategic alignment. Jeffrey Rawson, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc., states "I am extremely excited to see both valuable team members utilize their expertise to further drive success for our entities in their new positions, as well as excel in their own careers."

Stop & Shop floral bouquet program to benefit Access Food Pantries for January

DANIELSON — Access Community Action Agency has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting hunger organization in the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program for the month of January at the Stop and Shop location in Dayville!

The Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, which launched in February 2021, is an easy way for shoppers to give back as part of the regular shopping routine. Every $10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker sold supports a hunger organization local to the Stop & Shop in which it was purchased. According to Feeding America, every $1

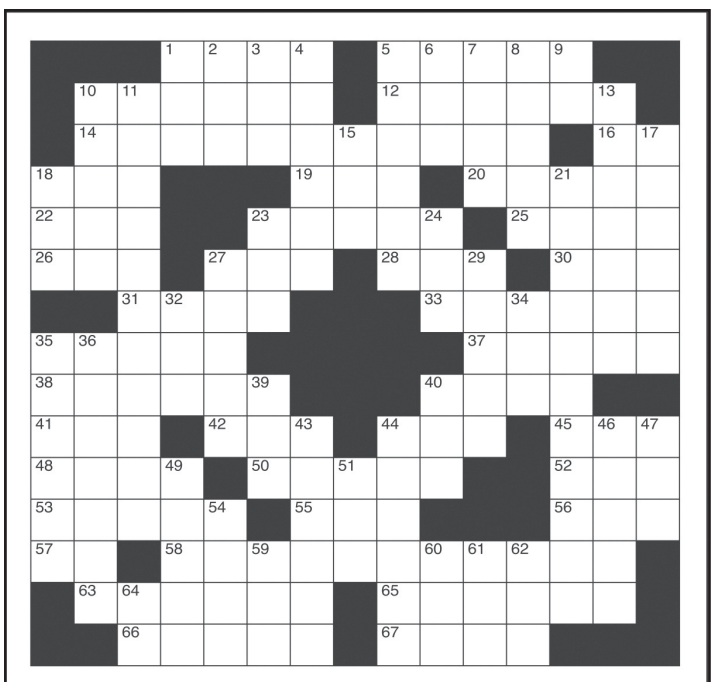
donation to a local hunger organization can provide 10 or more meals to someone in need.

As part of this ongoing program, every month at every Stop & Shop location a different local hunger organization is selected to benefit from the sale of the Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet. Access was selected as the January beneficiary by local store leadership at the Stop & Shop located at 1094 Killingly Commons Dr., Dayville. Access will receive a $1 donation for every $10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet purchased in January. All the funds raised will go directly to the Access Food Pantries located in Danielson, Willimantic, and the Mobile Food Pantry to help families in need this year.

"What a beautiful way to give back, help to fight hunger in our local community, and make a room, or home even brighter," said Kathleen Krider, Senior Director of Community Engagement and Resource Management of Access. "Now they can fight hunger too! We are thrilled to be chosen to benefit from this unique and impactful Stop & Shop Program, as the demands of those in need are higher than ever this year."

The Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting https://accessagency.org/

For more information about the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, please visit stopandshop.bloomin4good.com.



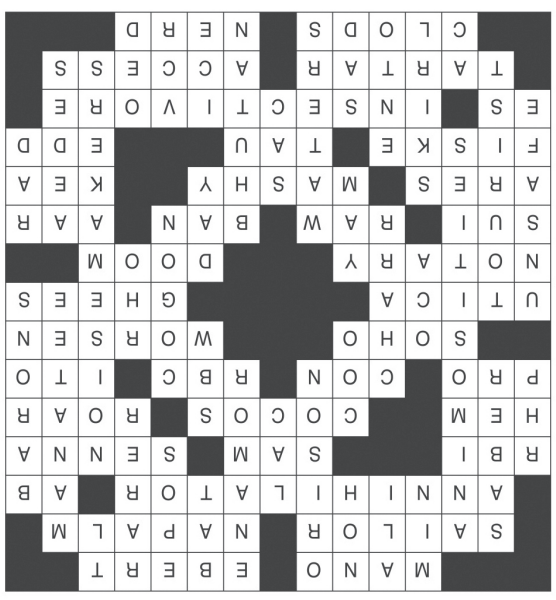
CLUES ACROSS

1. Hand (Spanish)
5. Siskel and __, critics
10. Seaman
12. Chemical weapon
14. One who eliminates
16. They precede C
18. Baseball stat
19. Americans' "uncle"
20. Cassia tree
22. Surround
23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
25. A sudden very loud sound
26. Affirmative
27. Disadvantage
28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
30. OJ trial judge
31. New York art district
33. Become more bleak
35. Upstate NY city
37. Clarified butters
38. One who witnesses
40. Condemn
41. __ juris
42. Natural
44. Prohibit
45. Swiss river
48. Greek war god
50. 5 iron
52. New Zealand mountain parrot
53. Scandinavian surname
55. Follows sigma
56. Doctor of Education
57. Spanish be
58. One that feeds on bugs
63. Tooth issue
65. Get into
66. Lumps of clay
67. Overly studious student

CLUES DOWN

1. Variety of Chinese
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Japanese classical theater
4. Prayer
5. Inspire with love
6. Ballplayers' accessory
7. Retailer payment system
8. More raw
9. Atomic #81
10. Fencing sword
11. Hostilities
13. Sea dweller
15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
17. Businessmen
18. Rest here please (abbr.)
21. Loud devices
23. Make a soft murmuring sound
24. One point west of due south
27. Trout
29. Type of grass
32. South American plant
34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
35. Not secure
36. Traveler
39. Sweet potato
40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
43. Some are choppy
44. Asian country
46. Genus of mosquitoes
47. Cool!
49. Shrill, wailing sound
51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
54. Within
59. Unhappy
60. Decorate a cake with frosting
61. Videocassette recorder
62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
64. It cools a home

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Local students named to UW-Madison Dean's List

MADISON, Wisc. — The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year, including Tatum Fisher of Pomfret.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor "dean's list", but some grant the "Dean's Honor List" and "Dean's High Honor List."

To view an online listing, visit https://registrar.wisc.edu/deanslist/. For questions or concerns about eligibility, please contact deanslist-registrar@em.wisc.edu

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Dec. 23: Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Junco, Carolina Wren, Brown Creeper, Hairy Woodpecker, Flicker.

Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp announces upcoming events

POMFRET — Visit the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp Open House from 1 – 3 p.m. Jan. 12 at 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret. Meet the director & other camp staff, take a camp tour, registration materials available. Take advantage of early bird discounts – details available at the open house or on the Web site, www.4hcampct.org

On Jan. 25, join us at our Sno-Ball Family Fun Dinner Dance at Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp from 5 – 8 p.m. Sit down baked chicken and mac and cheese dinner served by our amazing camp cook, and We-Lik-It Ice Cream Bar. DJ, dancing for all ages, door prizes, raffles, family pictures and a whole lot of fun. This new event is replacing our April 5K Race and all proceeds benefit the Jim Logee Campership Fund. Adults $20, Kids 10 and under $15. Call 860-974-3379 for tickets by January 20. Snow date Feb. 1.

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.

For Advertising Information
Call 860-928-1818 Ext. 326
email: mikaela@villagernewspapers.com

Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue comes to Pomfret



POMFRET — If one of your New Year's resolutions is to pet an opossum, we can help you with that. And even if that isn't on your 2025 list, admit it, now you want to do it!

The educational ambassador opossums of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue (FWR) in Woodstock will be at The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. Brandi, a real charmer, will be making her debut. Old hands Bob and Wendi will join her.

Registration for the program is appreciated but not required. Adult admission is $5 for CAS members; $10 for non-members; free for children 10 and under.

Pam and Bill Lefferts, who operate FWR, emphasize their opossums are not pets. Pam explains, "They are all non-releasable, wild animals. They have injuries that we could not correct or heal, and they would not survive in the wild. We are licensed to keep them and present public programs."

Before meeting the ambassadors, you will learn about the natural history of opossums and how you can help them survive the winter. Opossums are unique and gentle creatures. They are not native to the New England states, and with hairless ears, feet, and tails, they often suffer from debilitating frostbite. Hypothermia and starvation are also major problems.

Pam will share Brandi's remarkably interesting story, which she plans to turn into a children's book. She has already authored a book about her first educational ambassador opossum, Lavender. "From Pouch to Couch: Why Lavender the Opossum Lives in a House" will be available at the event.

Free Pathway to Homeownership workshops now available through Access Housing Education and Counseling Center

DANIELSON — Are you dreaming of owning a home? The Access Housing Education and Counseling Center (HECC) is thrilled to announce its "Creating a Pathway to Homeownership" workshop series, designed to help residents of Tolland and Windham counties take confident steps toward achieving their homeownership goals.

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT and the Northeast CT Chamber of Commerce, Access is offering a series of free homeowner education workshops and an exciting Homebuyer Resource Fair to equip aspiring homeowners with the knowledge and resources they need.

Workshop Details

Location: Access Housing Education and Counseling Center, 140 Main St., Danielson

Time: 5 – 6 p.m.

Upcoming workshops

Thursday, Jan. 16: The Finances of Homeownership – Presented by Cheryl Guillot, Centreville Bank

Thursday, Feb. 20: How Mortgages Work – Presented by Cheryl Guillot, Centreville Bank

Thursday, March 20: Budgeting for Homeownership – Presented by Cheryl Guillot, Centreville Bank

Thursday, April 17: Homeowner Responsibilities – Presented by Jessica Gervais and Alex Roberts, Girls N Tools

Thursday, May 15: Homeowner Readiness Assessment – Presented by Amy Brunet, Brunet Realty

Save the Date: Mark your calendar for the Homebuyer Resource Fair on June 18, 2025! Stay tuned for location details.

Register Today! Seats are limited, so don't miss this opportunity to start your journey to homeownership. To register, email Helen Scanlon, Program Manager – HECC, at helen.scanlon@accessagency.org today!

Join us and take the first step toward making your dream of homeownership a reality.

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Inaugural Putnam History Makers Award program online

PUTNAM — Historically the best ideas come from conversations. During a recent Aspinock Historical Society (AHS) board meeting discussion was about how so many have positively affected Putnam and beyond.

Hence, the Putnam History Makers (PHM) award was created.

A committee was formed, criteria was defined as "Resident or non-resident of Putnam, living or deceased, who made or is still making honorable and positive direct or indirect major impact through works, deeds and service in Putnam and/or globally with ties to Putnam, whether done in the spotlight or quietly behind the scenes."

Two recipients were chosen and will shine on the Putnam History Makers wall in the town complex, upper hallway at the entrance to the historical society.

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New Year's victory

Positively Speaking

Toby Moore

After their stunning victory on Christmas morning, 1776, Washington and his army held Trenton, aware that the British would not let the humiliation go unanswered. Just days earlier, they had achieved the impossible. After a daring midnight crossing of the icy Delaware River, Washington's army launched a surprise attack on the Hessians, overwhelming the enemy in a fierce battle. The victory saw over 900 enemy soldiers captured and reignited hope for the revolutionary cause.

But Washington knew the war wasn't over. The British, eager for revenge, sent reinforcements to crush the rebellion. Washington, outnumbered, outgunned, and with no easy escape, prepared his men for the inevitable showdown. Suspense hung in the frigid air as the sound of marching British troops grew closer each day, setting the stage for a desperate fight to survive.

On Jan. 2, the British arrived in Trenton with 8,000 men under General Cornwallis. "We've got the old fox now!" Cornwallis reportedly exclaimed, convinced there was no escape for the Continental Army. Throughout the day, Washington's men battled fiercely, holding the British at bay in skirmishes that pushed them to the brink. As night fell, the British, certain of their impending victory, settled in to rest, confident they would crush the rebels at dawn.

But Washington wasn't about to wait for defeat. Knowing that holding Trenton was impossible, he devised a bold plan. On New Year's night, under the cover of darkness, he ordered his men to quietly abandon their campfires, leaving them burning brightly to deceive the British into thinking the army was still there. Then, in a daring maneuver, Washington led his troops on a silent march toward Princeton.

Princeton, about 12 miles away, was strategically vital. It housed a smaller British force and was a key supply and communication hub. Striking Princeton would weaken the British and allow Washington to escape the trap at Trenton and keep the momentum of his campaign alive.

In the early hours of Jan. 3, Washington's army arrived at Princeton under the cover of darkness. The Redcoats caught off guard, scrambled to defend themselves as the Continental troops launched a swift and ferocious attack.

Initially, the element of surprise worked in Washington's favor, but the British quickly regrouped. Their disciplined volleys tore through the smoke-filled air, threatening to break the Continental line.

Amid the chaos, General Hugh Mercer, one of Washington's most trusted officers and a key leader, was surrounded by British soldiers and mortally wounded while leading a daring charge. His fall sent a ripple of panic through the American ranks, and the line began to falter. Soldiers hesitated, their resolve wavering as confusion spread across the battlefield.

At that critical moment, Washington rode to the front, a commanding figure on horseback. With bullets whizzing past him, he placed himself squarely in the line of fire, rallying his men with an unshakable display of courage. "Stand firm, men!" he shouted, his voice steady and resolute, cutting through the din of battle.

Inspired by their commander's fearless leadership, the troops surged forward with renewed determination.

The tide of the battle turned. The Continental soldiers pressed their advantage, outflanking and overwhelming the British forces. By mid-morning on Jan. 3, 1777, the town of Princeton was firmly in American hands. The victory was hard-fought and costly, but it proved once again that Washington's leadership and the army's tenacity could triumph against all odds.

The back-to-back wins at Trenton and Princeton reinvigorated the revolutionary cause at its darkest hour. Washington's daring maneuvers and ability to outthink and outfight the British proved that the Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with.

Cornwallis, upon discovering Washington's brilliant escape, was stunned. Across the colonies, news of the victory spread like wildfire across the colonies, inspiring hope and a new wave of recruits joining the fight for independence.

General Washington and his band of underdogs had prevailed. His New Year's resolutions were clear: defy the odds, outwit his enemies, and keep the dream of independence alive, no matter the cost.

Let this be the year you face your battles, big or small, with the same fearless resolve—proving that, like Washington and his army, you, too, can achieve greatness against the odds. What will your resolutions be this year?

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Contact Karen.Warinsky@gmail.com to be in the Open Mic

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BILL T. JONES
Dancer and Choreographer
Bill T. Jones is one of the most innovative dancers, directors, and choreographers of our time. His performances are eloquent expressions of movement and thoughtful thematic meditations. Since founding a dance company in 1982 with his late partner, Arnie Zane, Jones has used dance to explore contemporary ideas about identity, race, and sexuality. He often focuses on themes of grief and death, especially in his acclaimed 1994 performance "Still/Here," which included the participation of terminally ill men and women. Jones has received a MacArthur Fellowship, two Tony Awards, the National Medal for the Arts, and many other honors.
Sunday, January 26
7:00 – 8:00 PM
Pomfret School, Hard Auditorium
398 Pomfret St.
Pomfret, CT 06258
This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Register at pomfret.org/schwartz.

Villager Newspapers

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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Leave the phone 'til last in the morning

Most weeks, our Editorial space is typically some- thing our staff is curious about. While the subject of cell phone and screen addiction comes up often, this week, there was a noticeable shift in our view on the topic after receiving a wise tip.

That tip was to ignore your phone, don't even look at it, until 30 minutes after you wake up. In that time, sit down, have your morning coffee and read a book. When you start to scroll on your phone just after waking up, you put yourself into what's called a passive scrolling phase, which can derail your entire day and ward off productivity.

A few days into following this new advice, and there is a noticeable sense of comfort and relaxation that can carry you throughout your day. It's like taking 30 minutes every morning to get back to the basics and recall simpler times.

Most people feel like they are in control of their phone use, but are you? How can you determine if you have a phone addiction, or are just part of the modern era grind? We've said it before, and we'll say it again, nothing beats the days of watching Jeopar- dy uninterrupted, without the pressure of responding to a ding from your phone.

In 2011, only 35 percent of the population owned smartphones, now 81 percent do. It is our main form of communication, so much so that now there is a term called nomophobia, or the fear of going with- out your phone.

Excessive cell phone use is a huge problem for many. As far as addiction goes, some experts say the dopamine connection the phone offers can be linked to something akin to a drug addiction. The triggering of that chemical in your brain, reinforces compulsive behavior. When we can't predict when we will receive a text or a "like" on social media, we check our phones more often.

Adolescents are more vulnerable to this problem than any other age group. Excessive use in that age group is such an issue that most teenagers never turn off their phones. Experts say that the younger a child has access to a phone, the sooner the problems begin. Problematic cell phone use is linked to low self esteem, low impulse control, depression and anxiety.

Signs you may have a phone addiction could be that you reach for your phone if you're bored, you feel anxious or upset if you can't get to your phone, you wake throughout the night to check it, or your phone has caused you to get into an accident. Other signs could be that you spend most of your waking hours on your phone, and that it interferes with per- sonal relationships or work.

When trying to focus on work, or any task, you are significantly disrupted and your concentration is thrown off.

Ways to break the addiction in order to fix your relationships, your health and other responsibilities include figuring out if there is a larger issue as to why you're using your phone so much. Are you avoiding something else bigger? Resolving the larger issue at hand, could cause a decrease in phone use.

Change your settings to remove notifications and other alerts, set your screen to dark mode at night, keep your phone out of sight and never charge it in your bedroom. After a certain time, set your phone up so that only emergency contacts can get through to you, everyone else can wait. Try replacing games on your phone with real in person games, or devel- op a hobby you've been wanting to try. Too much cell phone use can develop into a loss of control.

There have been some experiments where people have gone two days without their phones. Some people choose to give up their phones all together, while others make significant changes to reduce use.

The potential risk of depression, insomnia and lack of productivity just isn't worth it. Think back to pre cell phone times. While there are safety bene- fits to having a phone, we don't need to be connected 24/7, and we don't need to respond or answer our phones just because they ding.

Your responsibility is to yourself and it's wild how much you can get done if you just unplug. Take a breather, shut your phone completely off for 15 minutes and see how you feel. If you do try this trick, send us an email and let us know what you find.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't hold your breath

To the Editor:

The latest threat of a government shutdown was like a broken record. We've all seen this partisan circus too many times to take it seriously, but the disturbing difference this time was how much influence Elon Musk had on the process. A billionaire businessman who hasn't been elected to any position in government shouldn't be able to leverage decisions in our Congress. He's looking more and more like the puppet-master to puppet Trump.

Both political parties have their share of "drama," but the dysfunctional mess of the first Trump presidency could be even worse the second time around. Republicans will have control, but they'll need to stop fighting among themselves to accomplish anything. Democrats may decide to just sit back and watch the opposition party implode. Both parties working together for the benefit of the American people is what's supposed to happen --- don't hold your breath.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Two steps back

To the Editor:

Breaking News: Trump Downgrades Soaring Rhetoric On Campaign Promises.

At an August rally in No. Carolina: (if you elect me) "Prices will come down, and they'll come down fast. Not only with insurance, with everything."

In a Time Magazine interview in December: "It's difficult to bring down the price of groceries once they've gone up."

One of his favorite talking points at rallies was that tariffs would fill the government coffers to overflowing.

During a recent post-election appearance on "Meet The Press," he said (you guessed it) he could not guarantee that tariffs would not lead to higher consumer prices. He added "I can't guarantee anything, I can't guarantee tomorrow."

He might also have added he could guarantee he wouldn't be going to prison thanks to voters he himself described as "poorly educated."

On the September debate stage, Trump promised to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict "before even becoming president."

At his first post-election press conference. Trump suggested (yep) ending the war in Ukraine "would be more difficult than easing tensions in the Middle East," another subject this buffoon has not a clue about.

This from Rex Huppke, opinion writer for USA Today:

"An entire community of legal immigrants in Ohio got labeled dog eaters to give stupid politicians something to fearmonger. A convicted felon who had been found liable for sexual abuse and charged with a multitude of other crimes, a guy who lies with such reckless abandon he has all but eradicated the idea of 'facts,' got elected president-again-on a promise of cruelty to others. Trump is irredeemable, and he brings out the worst Americans have to offer."

One comment about this article some of us can't argue with was from a man who said "The country is currently blanketed with some form of psychosis."

Trump has no conscience. You can kiss morality goodbye.

Those of us who voted for Kamala did so out of a sense of decency, a candidate to best preserve our values.

See what Trumpers voted for? A bonafide clown show starring Orange Bozo.

Keep in mind Trump received 49.81 percent of the popular vote while Kamala garnered 48.33 percent, a margin of 1.48 percent. But 1.7 percent voted for "other" candidates. There really was no landslide as Trump claims since 50 percent of Americans rejected Trump.

Trump hasn't even been given the oath of office by Chief dictator-maker Roberts and he's wasting no time creating havoc with our allies.

Start by making Canada the 51st State?

Prime Minister Trudeau wasted no time in heading down to Mara Lago to kiss up to Trump instead of saying what my Quebecois Memere would surely have told him- "Mange la Merde."

Canadian big guns have been flexing some muscle though, like considering shutting off electric power to some of our northern states. So there.

Let's continue messing with international order. How about threatening little Denmark (just like bully Trump's idol, Hitler) concerning Greenland, their sovereign territory. In recent days they've been showing some spunk by pumping up their defenses as a show of strength to their NATO ally, the USA! Trump, where's Greenland? He points to Australia.

Here's more of Donny's imperialistic expansionism plan. Why not the Panama Canal? We already have a treaty and fair-trade agreement with them. Not good enough, let's take it all back. Come on Panama, claim the Erie Canal.

It never ends. Two years ago, Trump orders his flock of sheep not to raise the debt ceiling limit so he can harm Biden's economy. Now he not only wants to raise the limit but eliminate it all together. This would accommodate more tax cuts for the ultra-wealthy and big corporations. This helped add $8Trillion to the debt in his last 4 years of nothingness. He also lost more jobs and had the highest unemployment since The Great Depression.

Joe Biden's administration created 16.1 million jobs, had record low unemployment, a manufacturing boom and a stock market increase of 50 percent. He capped Medicare and prescription drug costs for seniors, even for some of you, Trumpers. Your president wants to end the Affordable Care Act. But no, eating bottom round instead of top sirloin puts meathead back in the White House. Food prices are high because of food chain oligarchs' price gouging and Trump's screw up during Covid.

By the way, all the good things Joe Biden accomplished in his tenure, guess who in the next few years is going to take all the credit? The same guy who told his rally goers Biden was a disaster.

At least we can all sit back and enjoy the MAGA factions trying to tear each other apart thanks to co-president Musk and this H1 B Visa business.

MAGA cultists are screaming betrayal. Oh, it's wonderful.

Nicole Wallace of MSNBC put it this way: "This is what happens when a political movement is grounded not in a set of policies or even an ideology that's recognizable, but in one person."

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

Trump will make history indeed

To the Editor:

On Jan. 20, Donald Trump will make history in so many ways.

He will be only the second president elected to non-consecutive terms, after Grover Cleveland; historic. According to Bloomberg polls, in his first term, he was the most unpopular president going back to FDR, and his highest approval rating never got as high as 50 percent and his overall average approval rating was a mere 41 percent, lower than Biden's current 42 percent; historic. (Oh, and for the record, Biden's highest rating was 57 percent and his lowest was 36 percent, still higher than Trump's 34 percent.) He also won both times getting less than 50 percent of the popular vote; historic. The majority of voters voted against him in three elections, yet he still won the presidency for a second term; historic. He is the only convicted felon to win the Oval Office; historic. He is the only president to file for bankruptcy for six companies; historic. The only president to have his charity organization shut down for fraud; historic. The only president to have his university shut down for fraud; historic.

The closest analogy I can think of to explain how the most unpopular president to ever hold the office again won back the presidency after losing it is this. America took some ground beef out of the refrigerator, found it green with mold and a rotten smell. Put it back in the refrigerator, then took it out again a week later and used it to make meatloaf for dinner.

Enjoy the meal, America.

DAVE CLARK
THOMPSON

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January vices



NANCY WEISS

I've resolved to keep my vices for the New Year. I'm not going to give up Cape Cod reduced fat potato chips or inexpensive white wine from Pomfret Spirit Shoppe. The lower fat chips are crispier and the wine, with a handful of ice cubes tossed in the glass, equals a fine French Sancerre to my plebian palate. I'm at an age where I feel I should enjoy life, especially if it isn't off the rails, but a bit of self-improvement is welcome.

The people I really love who love me back give me more joy than ever. I don't want to criticism them, so I will resolve to bite my tongue when I could disagree, provide a salient point or just find fault. I can take private pride in being circumspect.

My brother died in October, and as time passes, I feel less sadness, but often more clarity at the quiet lessons he taught me by often not saying much. Don't get me wrong, I come from a family of prodigious talkers. We talked to each other. We talked to friends, strangers and the dogs. My husband and I talk constantly. He is a man of wide interests and a good sense of humor. He loves sharing what he just read, heard or thought, including observations on the stock market, politics and his annoyance at the term " natural flavoring". He and our daughter have a chocolate business, which requires extensive, precise labeling and "natural flavoring is entirely too vague for them to use. I'll continue to love talking by being natural, not artificial.

My brother often began phone calls with a detailed commentary on the weather. He watched the Weather Channel and knew more about our weather than I did. It took me years to understand why an intelligent, educated man watched the Weather Channel. Finally, I figured it out- the weather is beyond politics, beyond sad world stories, beyond the petty distractions of life because it is bigger than all of it. It is endless and timeless. We are all empowered to talk about the weather. The topic was his way to refrain from bemoaning lost friends and his aches and pains. It was a way of connecting through avoidance, a classic New England maneuver that I respect and practice.

A month or so ago I did a program at my library for people with memory issues and their caretakers. I was a fill-in for the real leader, who is trained in working with such groups. I read up on what to expect and copied out a number of poems to read. We sat in a circle and as I watched the caregivers help their people settle in I felt I was in over my head. The first poem worked as a caregiver, a former teacher, read it beautifully. Next came a Frost poem, then "Casey at the Bat", which was a home run. Two men, who had been distant, perked up and talked about the poem and baseball. We all laughed and for a moment it seemed we were as one.

I've just read "Time of the Child" by Niall Williams. In a small town in Ireland, every aspect of life is observed and commented on. The postmistress manages the gossip, but everyone has a role to play. They connect through understatement. In bleak January, the virtuous can keep their resolutions. I will keep my vices and embrace self-improvement by talking less and listening more. The challenges of 2025 are uncertain, but weather, conversations and memories are the natural flavorings for living a good life.

2025 Market & Economic Outlook: Maintaining strategic focus in a shifting landscape



Financial Focus

Laurence Hale
Investment Adviser

After two years of a strong bull market, 2025 begins on a positive note, with investors optimistic about the future. The Federal Reserve is expected to continue cutting interest rates, though more slowly than they did last year. Lower rates should benefit both the economy and corporate earnings. Earnings should also receive a boost from the incoming Trump administration's new policies, which are expected to include lower taxes and fewer regulations.

Of course, there are always things to worry about and this year at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we'd put high stock market valuations, large US deficits, and wars around the world on our list. But those concerns are overshadowed by the solid US government, growing economy, and technological innovation that continues to make the US the best place in the world to invest.

Peering into 2025 with Trump back at the helm.

2024 turned out far better than the naysayers feared when the year began. The highly anticipated recession never arrived and the economy grew by roughly 2.6 percent year-over-year. The presidential election came and went without any rioting or disruption. And equity investors had reason to be jolly after the S&P 500 rose more than 20 percent in 2024, bringing its two-year gain to roughly 50 percent.

Investors begin 2025 more bullish about the markets than they were a year ago and for good reason. Over the next 12 months, the stock market should be supported by a Federal Reserve that's expected to continue cutting interest rates. Corporate earnings should benefit from the new Trump administration, which is expected to cut taxes and regulation. Companies should also profit from the surge in demand for artificial intelligence products or because they're using artificial intelligence to enhance productivity. It's a backdrop that makes Corporate America the envy of the world.

Market momentum could certainly take a breather at some point given the S&P 500's forward P/E is north of 22. But there are so many positive winds propelling the US markets forward that we'd expect any pullback would be short lived. Here's a look at the important market drivers of 2025:

Fed's Still Cutting. One of the biggest changes in 2024 was the Federal Reserve's shift from a rate tightening cycle to a rate cutting cycle. Inflation decelerated during the course of the year, allowing the Fed to cut rates by half a percentage point in September and a quarter of a percentage point in each October and December.

In 2025, the Federal Reserve had indicated it will slowing its rate-cutting pace because the economy has been stronger than expected and inflation readings have been a touch higher than expected. Federal Reserve officials have signaled their intention to cut rates two more times over the course of the next 12 months. Doing so should help the economy continue to grow moderately.

Trump returns. President-elect Donald Trump returns to the Oval Office with a strong mandate to lead from voters and the latitude to get legislation passed in a Republican-controlled Congress. Trump's campaign promises included cutting corporate taxes for companies producing goods in the US to 15 percent, which should help those companies' margins and earnings improve.

Candidate Trump also promised to extend the tax breaks in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and to slash taxes on Social Security and tips. Homeowners in our area stand to benefit if Trump follows through on his promise to lift the $10,000 cap on state and local property tax deductions. These tax breaks should boost consumers' confidence and fatten their wallets, allowing them to continue shopping even after the holidays come to a close.

Though not officially in office, Trump has already announced the Department of Government Efficiency, to be headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, who have a mandate to dismantle government bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures and restructure federal agencies. The duo has already floated the idea of combining a number of financial regulators under one roof, a move that would certainly be cheered by bankers. Any savings could help pay for Trump's proposed tax cuts.

As 2025 progresses, we'll certainly be keeping an eye on US debt levels and bond investors' willingness to fund deficits. Even though the Federal Reserve has been cutting short-term interest rates, longer-term interest rates have remained elevated, potentially reflecting bond investors' nervousness over the deficit.

Continued US Outperformance. We continue to expect US markets to outperform the markets of other nations. In addition to a strong economy, the US boasts companies that are in the midst of a technological renaissance. Nvidia built the computer chip that's powering the calculations behind artificial intelligence. OpenAI, Meta Platforms and others have developed AI software that helps people work more efficiently. And companies that embrace these new AI tools have the potential to improve their margins and earnings

These companies also benefit from being headquartered in a country with a stable government. The US isn't facing early elections like France or Germany. It's not fighting deflation like China, nor is it in the middle of a three-year war like Russia. For this and so much more we are thankful as another year begins.

All of us at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors wish you a healthy and happy 2025. If you'd like to create a financial strategy aligned with your specific goals using our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process, contact us for a complimentary consultation on our website at whzwealth.com, or give us a call at (860) 928-2341. We work to provide all of our clients with "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is hydrogen the new diesel?

To the Editor:

In the midst of the usual kneejerk hatred towards electric cars, I may have come across as someone turning a blind eye to hydrogen, but that is not the case. I'm well aware that hydrogen has been a rival to electric cars in terms of future fuels for a very long time. In the '90s, when I was growing up and first learning about possible successors to gasoline, I definitely remember seeing hydrogen on that list, and it was the most futuristic of the bunch. A decade later, it seemed a lot less futuristic when I heard George W. Bush talking about a future with hydrogen cars in 2004 in one of his speeches during his re-election campaign.

Fast forward to today, and we just had a prototype hydrogen truck set a Guinness World Record for traveling about 1,800 miles without refueling. The truck's called H2Rescue, and is being developed for disaster response so it can deliver supplies to areas where diesel might be in short supply. It also can serve as a portable power generator and since the "exhaust" of a hydrogen vehicle is water, that water could also be collected, treated, and repurposed as well, though the truck only produces a gallon per hour via "exhaust."

This may sound like the funeral bells for electric cars since electric trucks have had major disadvantages due to limitations in battery tech being able to scale up for larger vehicles like semi trucks, but H2Rescue, like every hydrogen car I've checked out as the technology has developed, has an electric component as well. Hydrogen cars are essentially hybrids, and if built correctly can also have some of the same pluses as electric cars like being able to not need transmissions in vehicles (and their assorted costs). However, hydrogen has major problems related to the fuel still needing to be manufactured - and often using fossil fuels to do so via electrolysis. Manufactured fuel also needs to be stored too, adding to the problem where gas stations still need to be a thing because of needing huge tanks to store the fuel, as opposed to electric chargers being able to go wherever the grid goes.

I can only see hydrogen as a diesel of sorts, being used where electric tech isn't up to snuff yet, if it goes anywhere at all with all that baggage that's too similar to fossil fuels. I still say we will gain a lot by liberating the American consumer via fuel that can be generated whichever way we can rather than needing to be manufactured, shipped, and stored. Likewise, the end of the internal combustion engine and things like actually needing a transmission should also be a plus for consumers when there are less major parts in a car that could need to be repaired.

Hydrogen sounds cool, but I only see a niche future for it while the rest of the motoring world drives on lightning.

Jay Gerhart
Putnam

We need to do better

To the Editor:

In an unbridled display of sarcasm and anger in this space on Jan. 3 toward undocumented immigrants and two letter writers, Stephen Bibek missed a great opportunity to confront two very important issues facing our country: immigration and our bloated, unwieldy, inadequate, profit-driven healthcare system.

Of course, Dave Clark was not suggesting in his letter of Dec. 20 that 50 million migrants a year (the so-called "open borders," which is not, and never has been, a thing) would be an acceptable number to come to the United States. And Cris Cadiz, in the same issue, was simply pointing out that one of the major items on the new Republican administration's agenda is cutting Medicare and Medicaid funding, something which would affect untold numbers of people who are not enormously wealthy and thus would seem to be of more than passing interest to many of us. Mr. Clark was making the humane and obvious point that most of us are descended from immigrants (some willing and some not so) and to paint all recent undocumented immigrants or migrants with the same brush (that they are all rapists and criminals) is a sad replay of what was done to the Irish, Polish, Germans, Italians, etc., etc. He made no statement (either direct or implied) about how many immigrants/migrants we should accept. The decline in the number of small and rural hospitals is due to a number of factors, among them: low patient volumes, high fixed costs, staff shortages, changes in Medicaid and Medicare policy, including reimbursement, inadequate private insurance reimbursement (to make way for bigger profit), physician specialization (highly specialized physicians are difficult to recruit to rural areas), patient desire to go to the "mecca" medical center, and general changes in demographics. Simply put, migrants are not by any means a significant cause of small hospitals failing. Virtually no one across our political spectrum thinks that our immigration system is good; it is underfunded, it lacks an overriding philosophy and set of goals; it is, in a word, a mess. But the way to fix it is have all stakeholders hash it out, something akin to the bipartisan Senate border bill crafted by Republican James Lankford and Independent Kyrsten Sinema, but which was deepsixed by Donald Trump so that he could continue to run on a fear of migrants, a tactic which, as Mr. Bibek obliquely points out, seems to have worked. And, linking our messy healthcare system to the migrant issue does no one any good — it is more stone-throwing, anger without a purpose. We really can do better; we very much need to.

John A. Day, Jr.
Woodstock Valley

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.



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Killingly indoor track shines at third meet















BY MARK NEUMAN
HEAD COACH

KILLINGLY — This past Saturday, Killingly Indoor Track & Field team battled at The Coast Guard for our 3rd meet of the season. This New Years battle had 11 teams from around the state competing, so competition is never lacking!

As always, ladies first: Emerson Joly ran one of her best races this season in the 600m. Rebecca Gardner had the race of her life in the 300m putting up a SR! Marley Cusson jumped into the Shot Put game and put a PR as well as putting up a SR in the 300m! And Graciella Baulblitz competed in the 55m dash putting up a PR and almooost tying her PR in Shot Put! Absolutely incredible job ladies!

On to the gentlemen: In the 55m dash, we had 8 athletes competing in a field of 59. Everton Brown finished 1st and is .2s away from Nationals! Izayah Molodich finished 7th with a States time and Cooper Logee, Jon Palmer, Jake Sangasy, Elijah Ward, Casey Hamilton, and Jackson Olson raced hard to represent the team! In the 300m, Everton, Jon, Casey, Ty Crowley, and Wesley Sprouse all represented the team proudly! Our long-distance specialists, Caydan Jonasch and Calvin Vandale put in work. In the 1000m, Calvin put a PR while Caydan put a SR! They also both fought hard in the 1600m, and Calvin put up a new SR!

In Shot Put, we have three gentlemen that always represent! Calvin and Wes both got fresh PR's while Jackon continues to always improve and can be seen competing in maximum events! In High Jump, Jeremiah Smith finished 1st with a height of 5' 10" while Cooper hit PR after PR to finish at 5' 8" qualifying for States! In Long Jump, we have 5 that take on the competition! Jeremiah finished 3rd with a distance of 19' 1" while Jake put up a SR while Elijah and Ty put up fresh PR's, Cooper also fought hard in the Long Jump! And in the 55m Hurdles, Jermiah who is fighting for Nationals finished 1st with a time of 7.96s! Awesome job gentlemen!

Great third meet of the season all. Everyone left it all on the track and field and represented Killingly proud. We battle next Saturday [Jan. 11] at the Coast guard again... let's keep the train rolling!

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

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Interact keeps ringing the bells



Courtesy

Keegan Stall, left, and Ember Merrill raised money despite the brutal cold.

PUTNAM — Dec. 21 proved to be a challenging one for the Putnam Rotary's Interact Club with temperatures in the 20s.

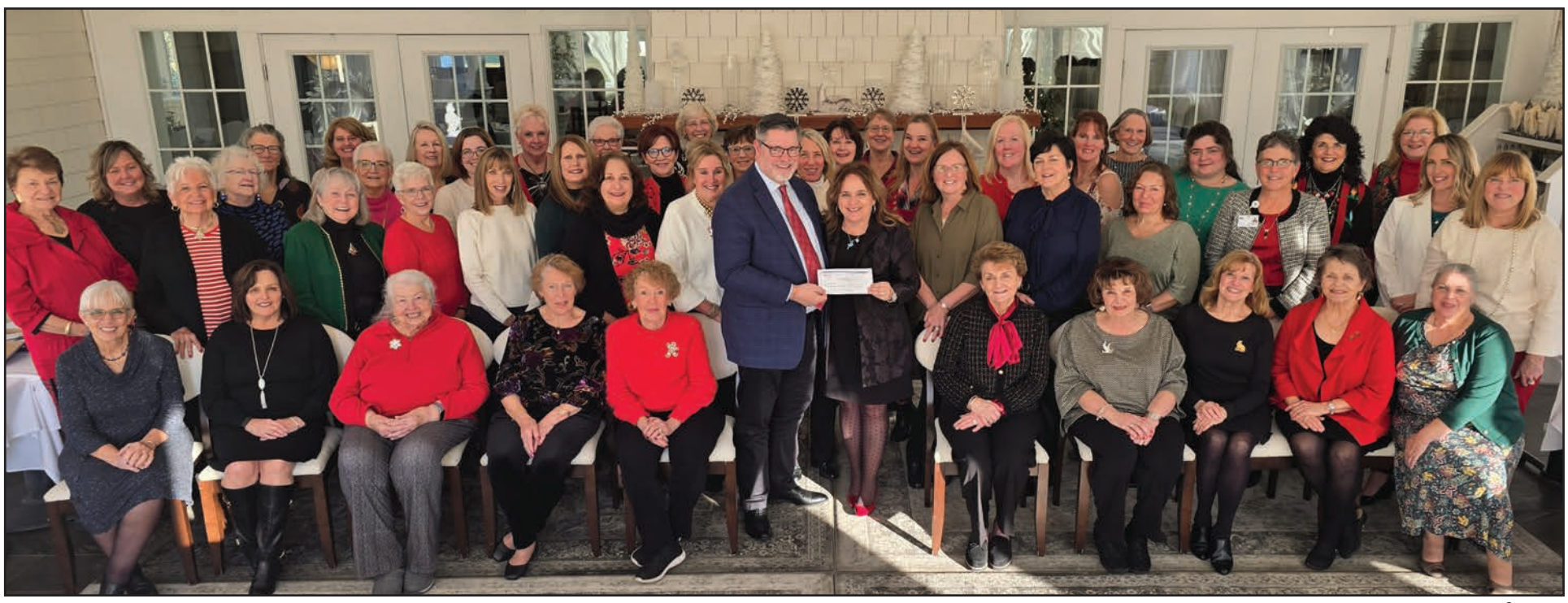
The Interact members and their classmates braved the cold — even colder than last weekend — and manned the Salvation Army kettles for one last time.

The Dec. 21 total kettle donations were $2,335.43 and the final tally for all donations was $11,447.75. The Putnam Rotary Club's donation of $500 is included in the grand total.

Interact Club Advisor Roberta Rocchetti thanks the volunteers from Woodstock Academy: Chyanne Machamer, Jackson Dorez, Abby Ditzel, Sophia Milardo, Gianna DiCola-Keddy, Eva Lusignan, Allie Boyd, Sophia Sarkis, Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain, Maddie Bloom, Mikayla Bessette, Maggie McHugh and Audrey MacPherson. The volunteers from Tourtellotte Memorial High School: Calleigh Levesque, Alexis Phav, Keegan Stall, Zahara Moore and Ember Merrill. The Putnam High volunteers: Kaylee Borders, Gabriell Cerasiello, Cora Desrosiers, and Ella Carota.

Thanks also went out to last year's Interact co-presidents: Eric Levesque and Jordyn Butler from UConn. Also: Leo Rocchetti from Stafford, Patty Gaffney from Putnam and Rotarians Joseph Adiletta, Doug Porter, Mike and Roberta Rocchetti.

Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital raises $25,000 towards $250,000 pledge



Courtesy

Woman's Board of DKH President Valentine Iamartino (center right) presents a check for $25,000 to Kyle Kramer, CEO, Day Kimball Health (center left) as Woman's Board members look on. The donation will go towards their most recent pledge of $250,000 to support the purchase of Day Kimball Hospital's da Vinci surgical system.

PUTNAM — The Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital (WBDKH) celebrated a year of fundraising during its fourth-quarter holiday luncheon and meeting held on Thursday, Dec. 12, at ANYA Restaurant in Thompson, CT. Led by Woman's Board President Valentine lamartino, the event brought together 55 members to commemorate their efforts and make a contribution to the hospital.

During the luncheon, Iamartino presented a $25,000 check to Day Kimball Health CEO Kyle Kramer. This donation is part of the Woman's Board's $250,000 pledge to support the hospital's da Vinci robotic surgical system, a cutting-edge technology that enhances the precision and outcomes of surgical procedures. With this latest contribution, the Woman's Board has donated $125,000 toward this commitment.

"The Woman's Board has had another remarkable fundraising year," said Iamartino. "Through steadfast commitment, dedication and hard work, our members continue to raise funds for the hospital and support healthcare programs and services that make a difference in our community. I am extremely proud of our work and our 130 years of staying power!"

The event featured guest speaker Sidney Migliori, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon with the Ortho Group at Day Kimball Health (DKH) through its partnership with Ortho Rhode Island. Dr. Migliori specializes in sports-related and age-related surgeries, including shoulder, knee, and hip replacements. She shared insights into advancements in orthopedic care now available to patients locally.

"The Woman's Board exemplifies the power of community collaboration and philanthropy," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, DKH. "The Board's dedication and generosity over the last 130 years has made a significant impact in helping us invest in expanding healthcare services for Northeast Connecticut. This latest contribution toward the da Vinci system is another example of their unwavering commitment to enhancing patient care, and we are deeply grateful for their support."

The Woman's Board has a legacy of supporting Day Kimball Hospital through fundraising initiatives that address the region's healthcare needs. Through the efforts of the 170 members of the Woman's Board, along with the community's support of their events, it is the mission of the Woman's Board to raise funds to enhance the quality and services of Day Kimball Hospital.

Established when Day Kimball Hospital opened in 1894, the Woman's Board has served the hospital and community in multiple ways for well over a century and has raised nearly $2 million to support important and necessary medical equipment needs at the Hospital, including the Hospital's first ambulance in the early 1900s.

For more information about the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital, visit daykimball.org/womansboard. To learn more about the da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot at Day Kimball Hospital, visit daykimball.org/da-vinci.

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare 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 daykimball.org.

Danielson foot bridge closed amid structural concerns

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — Visitors to Danielson's downtown may have noticed a significant change that will impact the accessibility of the area near Commerce Avenue and Water Street, as the footbridge over Fivemile Pond has been closed to pedestrians due to structural issues.

The footbridge is part of the Quinebaug River Trail and often serves as a way to access Main Street from Prospect Avenue on the other side of the pond. However, in December, Killingly Town Manager Mary Calorio told the Town Council the bridge had to be closed after it was deemed unsafe for continued use in its current condition.

"We became aware that on one of the structural footings on the bridge the concrete has let go so we're engaging with a structural engineer to begin the analysis of what needs to be done and what our true limitations are on it," said Calorio. "We recognize it's only a foot bridge. It's not having weighted vehicles going over it, but that side of the bridge, that abutment area is truly sagging. It has no structural reinforcement at this time."

Calorio said the bridge was closed after a visual inspection, not an official examination of its overall condition. The bridge is owned by the town, which means the municipality oversees maintenance and securing funding for its repair or replacement. The town isn't sure whether the bridge can be salvaged, or whether a whole new structure will be required and is utilizing available funding for professional services to cover the cost of a structural engineer.

Regardless of the extend of the wear and tear, the structure has been deemed unsafe for continued use at this time.

"Being a foot bridge, I don't know what the requirement is for duration of time in between inspections, but we generally would contract out for the thorough inspections that have to take place. Visual inspections are a different matter. It was visually noted by some of our emergency response that there might be a cause for concern, and we went out and did a visual inspection which is why we took the precautions that we did," said Calorio.

The town is working to determine as quickly as possible whether a full replacement or simple repairs could allow the bridge to reopen. Fences and signage have been erected to prevent pedestrians from using the bridge and the public is cautioned against ignoring these warnings due to the heightened risk of crossing the structure. Any repair would require capital investment funding. Calorio indicated it's unlikely the town would be able to cover the full cost for any repairs out of pocket and that there had been no official cost analysis as of the December Town Council meeting.



The Quiet Corner during the Carter era



KILLINGLY AT 300

MARGARET WEAVER

Inclement Weather: In case of inclement weather, check WINY or call the Center after 10:15 a.m. to see if it is open. (860-779-7250).

Happy New Year to you all. May 2025 be filled with happiness and good health for you and your families. To those of you who are grieving, my sincere sympathies. Several close family members passed away this time of year, so I can easily empathize.

As you all know, over the holidays, our oldest living President, James Earl Carter, the 39th U.S. President, went home to our Creator. Carter's one-term presidency (1977-1981) was not considered very successful; some considered it a failure. The Iran hostage crisis was a low-point. The Camp David Accords, with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, a high-point. "He made human rights a central theme of U.S. policy…Two cabinet-level departments ---Energy and Education--- were created under Carter." However, It was in his retirement that he went on to do his greatest good---as a great humanitarian. In his "retirement" years Carter and his wife worked hands-on for Habit for Humanity, helping build a house each year for many years. Instead of a normal presidential library, he established the Carter Center at Emory University from which "the Carters travelled widely on peacemaking and other humanitarian missions." In 2002 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "decades of untiring effort to try to find peaceful solutions to international conflict." (Nobelprize.org). May we imitate his goodness and compassion and reach out to those around us who can use our help. (Quotes from The Day, Monday, Dec. 30, pp. 1 & 6).

Do you remember who was governor of Connecticut in January 1977, as Carter was preparing to take office? It was Ella Grasso, who was a groundbreaker in this state, being the first female governor. A Democrat, she served from 1975-December 1980. Our 29th Senatorial district also had another female, Sen. Audrey P. Beck, representing us. Those of you who are young women may think, "So what?" Now women are commonly seen in high positions, but not then---not in politics; not in business; not in sports; not on television. I am so happy to see the changes that have occurred during my lifetime.

What was happening here in Northeastern Connecticut as Carter was preparing for his presidency? A few articles from the online Windham County Transcript provided some background. "Charles LaBrec, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger La Brec of Green Hollow Road, Danielson, was named winner of the annal Bausch & Lomb Science Award at Killingly High School. George Ridge, son of Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ridge of Route 12 Dayville has been named runner-up. The Science Award---a handsome bronze medal---is presented each year to winners at more than 8,000 participating schools." (WCT Jan. 6, 1977, p. 1;killinglypl.org).

A fun front-page photo by Lorents in the above Transcript showed the polar-bear-like individuals who braved the frigid January waters in Rogers. "Hardy Souls Celebrate New Year---The Monday Night Steam Bath Club, which meets weekly in a sauna in Rogers, frolics in the frigid waters of their Williamsville Road pond on New Year's Day. Taking a courageous plunge are Doug Rekola, Bob Weaver, Bob Vesely, Leo and Kathy Kauranen, and Dave Frechette." Do you remember the Monday Night Steam Bath Club? I had never heard of them. How many of you have taken a New Year's dip in an icy area pond or lake? Feel free to share your memories.

If you think back to 1977, you might recall that winter wonderlands blanketed the landscape then changed to a mess. The front page of the January 13 Windham County Transcript showed photos from the region. "Deluged by Snow: Killingly's deep drifts and frozen ponds sparkled under a bright sun last weekend, only to melt to ankle-deep slush in Monday's rain that became Tuesday's sheets of ice. Area residents agree we haven't seen a winter like this in quite a while."

Meanwhile, the Killingly Town Council was contemplating changes to the Sewer Authority. "Council to Study Changing Control of the Sewer Authority. Plans to bring the Sewer Authority under direct control of the Town Council were initiated by the Council Tuesday. The council voted to seek a response from the authority on a plan which would abolish the authority and create a sewer commission. The commission would be in the Department of Public Works and under direct council control. The present authority was created before Killingly instituted a Town Council form of government." Members of the Council mentioned in the article included Robert C. Hire, chairman, Joseph Collison, and Peter B. Mann." (WCT Jan. 13, 1977, p. 1; kpl.org).

Do any of you recall attending Greek Nite at the Elks that January, 1977-or other evenings? A small ad promoted the event, "Danielson Lodge of Elks #1706, Annual Greek Nite, Saturday, Jan. 22, Elks Lodge #1706, Center Street, Danielson. 7 p.m. A complete Greek menu---Roast Leg of Lamb dinner. 9-1 American and Greek dancing. Donation $7.50 per person. Members & guests." (Ibid, p. 2).

I'm sure a number of readers or family members attended Putnam Catholic Academy. It was advertising its placement test for Jan. 15, 1977. (Ibid). Please share memories and photos from that and other schools which are no longer in existence.

If you were inclined to take in a movie at the Danielson Cinema Woody Allen was appearing in The Front with two shows on Friday and Saturday evenings. The children's matinees on Saturday and Sunday featured Once Upon A Time. (Ibid).

"Killingly High School soccer stars Dave Chandler and Ed Hatzche have been chosen to both the All-Eastern Connecticut Conference and the All-State soccer squads. Chandler, the (team's) magnificent goal tender, finished the season with four shut-outs and five one-goal games… Hantzsche was one of the most dangerous forwards in the state." (I bid, p. 6)

Roast Pork Dinner: Support Killingly Grange #112, 801 Hartford Turnpike, one of the town's historic properties. Saturday, Jan. 11, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Roast pork, green beans, carrots, mashed potatoes and dessert. $15 per meal. Limited number of meals. To reserve a dinner call or text 860-884-1813 or visit www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. Boys and Girls, ages 9-14.

St. James School Gym, 120 Water Street, Danielson. Sunday, January 12, 2025. 12-2. Contact kofc2883@gmail.com.

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

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES JAN. 13 – JAN. 18

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

Monday the 13th

Fiscal Subcommittee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 14th

Vision Committee Workshop with Town Council (KPS Central Office – Conference Room A) 5:30 p.m.

Regular Town Council Meeting (KPS Central Office – Conference Room A) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 15th

Water Pollution Control Authority (Water Pollution Control Facility) 5 p.m.

Conservation Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Thursday the 16th

Historic District Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday the 13th

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+) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday the 14th

Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Bingo (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.

Wednesday the 15th

Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Adult Coloring & Greeting Cards (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Let's Get Crafting (Ages 13-18) (Library) 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday the 11th

Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS COMING UP…

Virtual High Five 2025 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 3 – Jan. 7 through Feb. 4 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Yoga for every "body" – Session 3 – Jan. 8 through Feb. 12 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Getting in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 3 – Jan. 8 through Feb. 12 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Thursday Yoga with Mary – Session 3 – Jan. 9 through Feb. 13 – Thursdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Tuesday Pound for Adults with Chris – Session 3 – Jan. 7 through Feb. 11 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Homeschool Art Club – 3 Month Session - Tuesdays

January – Drawing and Painting

February – Intro to Mixed Media

March – Maker Madness

Jan. 7 through March 25 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Zumba with Movement Magic – Jan. 27 through Feb. 10 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors Workshop – Jan. 27 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors Workshop – Feb. 10 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Beginner Salsa Dancing – May 5 through May 19 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing - Session 2 – March 3 through March 17 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 1 – March 3 through March 25 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Outdoor Spring Strength and Conditioning – March 11 through April 22 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 2 – April 28 through June 9 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website 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.

Do something for someone else



ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

MIKE BOGDANSKI

My New Year tip to readers is to do something for someone else.

I love the quote from motivational speaker Zig Ziglar, who famously said, "You can have everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want."

Overall, acts of kindness benefit both your mental and physical well-being. I know some of you are saying, "Mike, I am too busy, too stressed, too overworked, and overwhelmed." How can I help others when I can barely help myself? We can look to the late President Jimmy Carter. He served as president of the US and then quietly faded into the background, but he and his wife went on for decades to serve others.

Why? When you do something nice for someone, your body experiences several positive mental and physical benefits:

Random acts of kindness release serotonin (which improves mood), dopamine (which creates a sense of pleasure), and endorphins (which reduce pain and stress). Being kind can lower cortisol levels, your stress hormone, making you feel calm and relaxed. Helping others can release oxytocin, which benefits your heart by reducing blood pressure and inflammation. Positive emotional states from being kind can strengthen your immune system, making your body less prone to illness. Doesn't that sound great?

You start making your community a better place as one kind person with one kind act. Kindness can have a ripple effect, starting with one person at a time and one town at a time, by helping you focus on positive situations and giving you an opportunity to bring good to the world even when times are difficult or challenging. The way I spell love is t-i-m-e. You don't have to give money; you can just contribute your time and energy to make things better in our little quiet corner.

How?

Donate food, toys, or books. Volunteer to serve food at a homeless shelter or the Veteran's Coffeehouse. Leave an extra tip at your local restaurant. Drop off a meal to a family with a new baby or who just experienced a huge personal loss. Doing something to improve someone else's day, for no good reason, will enrich your day exponentially.

Where?

There are many local places where you can help. I will begin by saying I love this quote, "Act local, think globally," to mentally set your course. My suggestions include TEEG, Interfaith Human Services of Putnam(food donations, diaper bank, fuel, and more), the Putnam Resource Center, volunteering for your local historical society, and local boards (zoning, economic development, wetlands, etc.) or even shoveling the snow off a neighbor's sidewalk. There are many opportunities to lift up our neighbors and our towns.

Trust me. I could share study after study about how helping someone else improves people's moods more than getting a gift themselves, but I know this from personal experience. While running my business, I decided to do a community project and raised a few thousand dollars for Paul Newman's Hole In The Wall camp in Eastford. When I met with the staff, they showed me the million-dollar contributions that the camp had received. Even though they appreciated the donation, it felt like a drop in the bucket to this internationally funded group. It was then I decided to do something more local. I had a very good friend who struggled with drugs, so I thought supporting local children through D.A.R.E programs might be a better choice. All the money stayed local, and each school could receive money from the generous contributions of local businesses and people in our towns. To me, it was a win-win for our kids. I felt that if drugs started to ruin my friend's life, they could destroy anyone, and I was a person who could help.

Since retiring, I have had more time to give back to the community, and I absolutely love it. I am happiest when I help others. I love being busy and giving my time, advice, and experience to others. I have always tried to pass on the philosophy of having "an attitude of gratitude."

My favorite quote for the new year is, "If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life."

—Author unknown

President Carter recently passed away at age one hundred. For years after his presidency, he served his community with grace, humility, compassion, dignity, courage, and love. Let's be like Jimmy; together, we can lift up the world.

P.S.: I am helping to organize a celebrity bartender fundraiser for Interfaith Human Services of Putnam (daily bread/diaper bank/fuel assistance) on February 20 at Montana Nights Axe Throwing in Putnam from 5:30-8 p.m. if you want to kick off your generosity and have lots of fun. Hope to see you there!

Mike Bogdanski is a martial arts Grandmaster and anti-bully activist.



Did You Know

BY SANDRA AMES AND FAB CUTLERR

ASPINOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This picture depicts early RFD deliveries in Putnam.

Later came mail carriers using their personal vehicles to deliver mail.

This changed in 1983 when USPS trucks were introduced in Putnam, CT. These are the present day USPS vehicles that we see today.

Photo Courtesy (Helen Gibson Sheldon)

Thanks to Thelma Cutler and Doug Cutler, Jr for their comments

Researched by Fab Cutler

Sandra C.. Ames and Fab Cutler are members of Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam.

In July 1902 home delivery of mail begins in Putnam.

The Four carriers are: Henry Winfred Longden, Henry Nelson Benoit,

Lewis E. Richardson and Walter B. Atwood.

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In 1919 Elm Street is renamed Main Street

Page 23

Researched by Willie Zamagni

Transportation memorabilia



Antiques, Collectibles & Estates

WAYNE TUISKULA

Happy New Year! Thank you to those of you who reached out after my latest top 10 auction items column. As I mentioned in that column, there are many other categories of antiques and collectibles that are selling well in addition to those I listed, but we've had good results recently for the 10 items I mentioned.

We'll start in reverse order with number 10 on my list: transportation memorabilia. Before European settlers arrived, Native Americans traveled by foot, canoe, and some by horseback.

The colonists used many of those same methods to travel. Many of the trails used by Native Americans were widened to accommodate wagons. By 1735, stagecoaches were running between Boston and New York. Sailing ships were used in Egypt prior to 3000 BC. Steamship development started in the 1700s and Robert Fulton made the first commercial steamboat trip from New York to Albany in 1807. In 1830, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad ran the first train service for passengers and freight. As for aviation, the Wright Brothers made the first heavier than air powered aircraft flight in 1903.

Whether by plane, train, automobile, or ship, many collectors have an attachment to some form of transportation memorabilia. I'll start by discussing nautical memorabilia and trains. I'll cover additional methods of transportation in my next column.

Ship paintings by good artists are always popular. We sold a ship painting by Canadian artist John O'Brien for over $20,000 in 2016. Over a decade ago, we auctioned a book of trade cards, many related to the 19th century shipping trade, which brought a figure in the mid-thousands. Some of our more recent sales were for a brass ship's telegraph for $1,250, a model of the U.S.S. Constitution by Lannan Ship Galleries in Boston that brought $1,300, and a Chelsea Ship's clock for $550.

Some rarer pieces can bring even stronger auction results. A 1907 moonlight image of Cunard Lines Lusitania sold for over $15,000 in 2015. George Henry Hunt was planning his return to the United States on White Star Line's "Oceanic" in 1912. The Oceanic developed mechanical problems and he was transferred to the Titanic before its ill-fated journey. Hunt was lost at sea when the ship sank. The letter he wrote to his parents explaining the change in his travel plans sold for $275,000 at auction in 2022.

Railroad memorabilia collectors often like to collect items from their area. Others specialize in certain categories like railroad signs or lanterns. Railroad pocket watches are also popular with collectors. In 1895, railroads required that pocket watches contain 17 or more jewels so that they would be precise enough for workers in the industry. In 2020, we sold a Ball Official Railroad Standard 23 jewel gold filled pocket watch for $425. In 2023, an Elgin 10-karat gold railroad pocket watch brought $600. In 2011, we sold an Illinois Watch Co. "Railroader" 14-karat gold pocket watch for



$1,300. Other collectible railroad memorabilia we've sold includes a group of brass and nickel cap badges that went for $190 in 2011. Signs and broadsides are also popular with collectors. An enamel Newmarket, New Hampshire, railroad station sign fetched $400 last year. A sign with a map of stations along the Boston and Albany Railroad sold for even more. A Norwich and Worcester Railroad excursion broadside (sizable sheet of paper printed on one side) to see the Worcester professional baseball team play in 1881 brought $1,300 in 2022.

Railroad memorabilia has brought strong prices in other auction houses as well. A 1935 poster advertising trips to Atlantic City sold for $7,500 in 2023. A rare Kansas Pacific railway lantern from 1869 reached $41,900 in 2022. For those who like larger memorabilia, a New York Central System caboose that had been restored and described as a tiny house sold for $37,500 in 2018. That's some steep train fare.

We are still cataloging the Civil War memorabilia auction, an online auction of antiques in a Beacon Hill estate, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are also accepting consignments of items in my top 10 list for future 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).

2025 is the year of the Monstera

Kick-off 2025 with the addition of a monstera plant to your indoor garden. You'll join other gardeners observing 2025 as the Year of the Monstera. Each year, the National Garden Bureau (NGB) selects and celebrates one plant in each of the following categories: annual, perennial, bulb, edible, and shrub. The plants are chosen for their popularity, easy-care nature, adaptability, diversity, and versatility.

Monstera certainly meets the criteria and as NGB declared it is "the world's most iconic indoor plant." The large, glossy heart-shaped leaves have distinct perforations called fenestrations. Scientists speculate these holes allow tropical downpours to pass through, minimizing plant damage.

There are several different monsteras, ranging in size and leaf shape including some with variegated leaves. Some are easy to grow while others are a bit fussier. Always check the plant label for specifics on caring for the monstera you select.

One of the most popular and readily available is the Monstera deliciosa, commonly called split-leaf philodendron, even though it is not a philodendron. It's known for its large heart-shaped perforated leaves on thick stems. In its native habitat, it can grow 66 feet tall but typically grows up to 7 or 8 feet indoors. The flowers that seldom appear indoors are like a peace lily with a cone-shaped structure (spadix) surrounded by a cupped white sheath (spathe). The flowers may be followed by an edible fruit that tastes like a combination of pineapple, banana, and mango. This flavorful combination inspired its nickname, fruit salad plant, and the botanical name that translates to delicious monstrosity.

In general, these tropical beauties prefer growing conditions like that of their native habitat. They prefer bright, filtered indirect sunlight. Avoid direct sunlight that can scorch or cause leaves to turn yellow. Grow monsteras in a quality well-drained potting mix in a container with drainage holes. Water them thoroughly when the top two inches of soil are dry. Pour off excess water or place the pot on pebbles in a saucer. The pebbles elevate the pot above any water that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. As this water evaporates, humidity increases around the plant.

Further boost the humidity by placing your monstera with other plants. As one plant loses moisture or transpires, the neighboring plants will benefit.

Only apply houseplant fertilizer when the plants are actively growing, usually March through October. Let the plant and your garden goals be your fertilization guide. Fertilizers provide needed nutrients to plants in need of a nutrient boost or when you want to stimulate more growth.

Support the plant with a moss pole or trellis as it starts to climb. The large aerial roots attach to nearby surfaces to help them climb. In nature, these roots help monsteras to climb trees and have been used to make rope in Peru and baskets in Mexico.

Use these beauties to create an indoor tropical paradise or to provide some green relief. No matter your indoor décor, this unique plant will make a welcome addition.



Garden Moments

MELINDA MYERS

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including MidwestGardener's Handbook, Revised 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.



Melinda Myers

The National Garden Bureau has declared 2025 as the Year of the Monstera, calling it "the world's most iconic indoor plant."

THERRIEN

continued from page **A1**

activated and deployed to Iraq at the same time, serving together in Iraq for a period of time during 2003 and 2004. How ironic is that? Dad, Norman served for many years mostly in Germany during the Vietnam era, and was deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2004 as a heavy combat engineer.

Therrien is a long-time resident of the town of Thompson. She was educated in the Thompson School System, and after receiving her undergraduate degree from Worcester State University in Elementary Education she was employed by the Mary Fisher Elementary School in Thompson teaching grades Pre-K and Kindergarten for four years. She subsequently received her Master's degree from the University of Phoenix and her special Education Certification from the Granite State College while she lived in New Hampshire for a number of years. She subsequently moved back to her current home on Quaddick Road in Thompson. She and partner, David Suich, own and operate their family business, J. Suich Industry.

Therrien received many Military awards and recognition. Among them were the National Service Defense Medal, both the Army and Overseas Service Ribbons, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Thank you for your incredible service to your country from a very grateful community.





Courtesy

PUTNAM'S ESPINOSA SIBLINGS MOVE ON TO STATES

Last Saturday afternoon, UConn Avery Point held the 2025 Elks Hoop Shoot District finals for the local winners. Teagan Espinosa from Putnam won the 8-9 age group for girls making 16 for 25 free throw shots. In the boys 12-13 age group Bryce Espinosa won making 24 out of 25 shots to advance to the State finals. States will be held in two weeks, in Manchester on Saturday, Jan. 18.

WOODSTOCK

continued from page **A1**

that our firefighters are exposed to during emergencies. This is a critical step in preventing cancer and protecting the health and safety of our dedicated volunteer firefighters," the post read. "We deeply appreciate the commitment shown by our town leaders and the community in making this initiative a priority. Your support not only helps keep our firefighters safe, but also ensures we can continue to serve this community with the dedication and strength it deserves. Thank you for standing behind us in our mission to protect Woodstock."

The other expenditure, the culvert project, is part of a partnership between the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the town that will see work done on the bridge over Gravelly Brook on County Road including adding a culvert and widening the roadway. The project has been in the works for some time and is one of several culvert-related initiatives in progress in Woodstock. The town began work on replacing another culvert on Harrisville Road in October. CT DOT released a project plan in May which has been made available in the minutes of the July 1 meeting of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission on the Town of Woodstock website. That document shows the County Road project including the addition of a 10-foot-wide by nine-foot-high culvert under the road and widened the roadway from 21.7-feet to 24-feet.

OBITUARIES

Jane Anne (Becker) Norman
January 6, 1949 – January 1, 2025



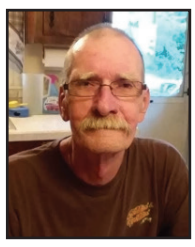
Jane Norman, 75, of Woodstock, CT, passed away peacefully on January 1st, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Born on January 6, 1949, Jane was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend whose faith and servant's heart left a lasting impact on everyone she met.

On October 28, 1972, she married the love of her life, Roy Norman and together they celebrated 52 years of a loving marriage. They built a beautiful family, raising their three children: Neil, Dawn and April. Jane was a fun-loving and adoring grandmother to her five grandchildren Madelyn, Roy, Leah, Bradley and Emily, who were such a joy to her.

Jane dedicated her life to serving her church and community. She worked at Camp Woodstock for 16 years. She served at the Evangelical Covenant Church, as a deaconess for 6 years, taught Sunday School for 21 years and coordinated countless weddings. She had a heart for helping others, leading the food pantry ministry at her church. She thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the Junior Department at the Woodstock Fair for over 25 years. Jane's strength was evident as she courageously faced Parkinson's disease. She leaves behind her loving husband Roy Norman; her 100-year-old mother, Anne Becker; her three brothers Ted Becker (wife Christine), Mark Becker (wife Suzi), and Don Becker; her children Neil (wife Kendall), Dawn Rettew (husband Michael), and April Spirito (husband Michael) and her five grandchildren Madelyn, Roy, Leah, Bradley, and Emily.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. A Memorial Service was held at the Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church on her birthday, January 6th, 2025 at 2:00 PM. Burial was private in Elmvale Cemetery, Woodstock, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Deacon Fund at the Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church, 24 Child Hill Rd, Woodstock, CT 06281 or to DKH Hospice, PO BOX 632, Putnam, CT 06260. Share a memory at www.smithandwalkerfh.com

Kenneth J. Carpenter, 81



Kenneth J. Carpenter, 81, of Danielson, died Thursday evening, December 26, 2024, at the William. W. Backus Outreach in Plainfield. He was the long-time companion of LyAnn Graff. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Myron and Cecile (Gagne) Carpenter.

After graduating from Killingly High School, Kenneth enlisted with the United States Navy serving during the early Vietnam era. He worked for many years as a lagger at Electric Boat in Groton.

Ken was a member and Ranger of The Last Green Valley and member of the Sunshine Wheelers Camping Club. He was an avid fan of the Minnesota Viking and Twins since 1961. He enjoyed photography, spending time with his family, sitting around a campfire with friends, kayaking around West Thompson Lake, RVing to various places across the country, and watching Joey Logano win NASCAR Championships.



Kenneth is survived by his daughters, Joan Gelinas and her husband Daniel of Gardner, MA, Melinda Grimshaw of Putnam, and Rebecca Gerst and her husband Joseph of Davin, WV; his siblings, Robert Carpenter of Plainfield, Wayne Carpenter of Danielson, Helene Ahnberg of Sterling, and Kathleen Acampora of Cheshire and their spouses; thirteen grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and partner, LyAnn Graff of Danielson.

Funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook, to send flowers to the family, or to plant a tree in memory of Kenneth, please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Leo Albert Blain Sr., 68



Leo Albert Blain Sr., 68, of Putnam, died on November 23, 2024, from a pedestrian accident. Leo was the first child of Lionel Blain (Pitu) and Lucille Ferron Blain. He was born in Rogers, CT on January 30,1956 and moved to Foster, RI to start the First Grade. Leo attended Ponaganset High School as a member of the class of 1975 until he left to join the U.S. Marine Corp in 1973, serving for 3 years and then 6 years as a Reserve. Leo is survived by his wife Marie Blain, his sister Linda Lemery Charron in Danielson, CT, his brother Lucien Blain in East Elmhurst, NY, sister Lori Fafard in East Setauket, NY. Sons Leo Blain Jr (Cat) and Curtis Blain (Erica), daughter Kayla Blain, Stepsons Brian and Kevin (Heather), Stepdaughters Kimberly (Tad) and Melissa. 11 grandchildren & 2 great grandchildren. Leo retired from Frito-Lay in Dayville. Leo also worked as a Teacher's Aid for the Killingly School system and at the Wal-Mart stores in Putnam and Brooklyn. Leo was an active Friend of Bill and served many individuals in their journey through life. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial for Leo will take on Saturday January 25, 2025, at 10:00 AM at St. Mary Church, 218 Providence St, Putnam, CT. with a Celebration of his Life to follow in the Church's Hall. tillinghastfh.com



Laurie (Smith) LeClair
1961 - 2024



Laurie LeClair, 63, formerly of Plainfield, CT, passed away after a brief bout with cancer in Austin, TX on December 8th, 2024. However, everyone who knew her knows she died from a broken heart. Born in Warwick, R.I. to Clifford and Laura (Nobriga) Smith on December 5, 1961, Laurie was one of five children. Many of her fondest childhood memories were spending time at her grandmother's house, traditional Christmas Eve and Christmas celebrations there, large family outings at R.I. state parks and at the ocean, playing games with her siblings and cousins, and time spent with her godparents.

She grew up in R.I. and CT., graduating from Plainfield High School in 1979. Along the way, she had numerous jobs and earned two Associate degrees. Her greatest career accomplishment by far was becoming a bestselling author, having started seriously writing when she was in her late twenties. With nearly 70 books written, she enjoyed writing with heart and humor and making a difference with her story telling.

However, nothing compared to the day when her world changed forever at the Plainfield Dog Track where fate intervened one June evening and she met the love of her life. Two years to the day later, Laurie married James LeClair in a beautiful ceremony at the Norwich Rose Garden. They were best friends and soul mates on a wonderful adventure together for over 41 years until his untimely death in 2021. After his passing, Laurie donated ten rose bushes and had a plaque created in honor of them and their love where it is placed permanently at the Norwich Rose Garden for all to see.

Laurie was predeceased by her beloved husband, Jim, both parents, godparents Clarence and Jeannine Smith, nephew Charles, niece Catana, and niece Bernell.

She leaves behind her brothers Mark Smith (wife Kathy), William Smith (wife Patty), and Matthew Smith all of Florida; sister Deborah McQuesten (husband Gary) of CT. Also, she leaves behind three generations of nieces and nephews, numerous cousins, in-laws, and friends.

The best way to honor Laurie's memory is to take a long drive somewhere, windows down, warm sunshine on your face, radio cranked up with '70s music playing, singing along as loud as you can, and enjoying the heck out of the moment knowing she's right where she wants to be—with her beloved sweet Jimbo.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice or to the Arbor Day Foundation where you can have trees planted in Laurie's name. For information go to: https://shop.arborday.org/trees-in-memory

Lorraine Phaneuf, 89



Lorraine Phaneuf of Woodstock, CT, passed away on December 20, 2024 peacefully at the age of 89 years.

Like her husband Fern, her greatest joy in life was her family, and she was surrounded by them as she passed. Lorraine is survived by her two children, Anne Falvey and Michael Phaneuf, and his husband John Moniz: her grandchildren, Christopher Syrek and his wife Tori, Gregory Syrek, Sean Falvey, Jessie Phaneuf-Moniz, and Anthony Phaneuf-Moniz, and her great granddaughters Grace Anne and Abigail Jess Syrek. She is preceded in death by her husband Fern Phaneuf, her best friend of over 50 years Marcella (Blaine) Goulet, and her son in-law, Daniel Syrek.

Born and raised in Putnam, CT to the late Romeo Riendeau and Irene (Beausoleil) Riendeau, she attended Putnam High School and graduated with the class of 1953. Shortly after marrying Fern in 1955, they started one of their entrepreneurial ventures, Fern's Radio & TV, later known as Fern's Radio, as the successful sales and service distributor of Motorola Products. They also owned and opened Guardian Answering Service, In-Touch Communications, and Tower Sites, Inc. Lorriane also was involved in real estate running her own property management company, Lorraine Phaneuf Realty.

She volunteered alongside her husband Fern at the Woodstock Fair, who served as General Manager for 27 years. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening and her flowers. However, her greatest joy was the time spent with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

The family would like to thank all the staff at Dwyer Home for their care and support of Lorraine.

Services will be held at a later date

Lorraine's family asks that you consider a donation in her memory to Dana Farber - Jimmy Fund (danafarber.jimmyfund.org) or Elevate Figure Skating Club (elevatefsc.org/donate)

Arrangements under the direction of the Doane, Beal, & Ames Funeral Home of Hyannis, MA – www.doanebealameshyannis.com

Peter E. Perry, 93



Peter E. Perry, 93, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2025, at Davis Place in Danielson. He was born in Ballouville, CT on September 25, 1931, the son of the late Edmond and Albina (Perron) Perry. Pete was the beloved husband of the late Grace (Tootie) Perry who predeceased him on December 23, 2012. They were married on October 30, 1954, and were married for 58 years until Grace's passing. Pete was drafted into the US Army on October 21, 1952, and served in the Korean War until his honorable discharge on September 4, 1954. During his service, he was issued several medals. Upon returning from the war, Pete worked in the textile mills, with his brother Gene in the sanitation field and finally at C.E.M. Corp which became Spirol retiring in 1995 after 28 years. Pete enjoyed playing horseshoes and bowling, winning many trophies, and also enjoyed golf, cribbage, plating pitch and quahogging. Pete also enjoyed music, especially country. In his later years, he spent hours gardening and caring for his yard, and always spending time with family. Pete was a member of the VFW Post 4908, East Killingly, CT. Pete leaves his two daughters Lynn and her husband Mark Rabitor of East Killingly and Rhonda and her husband Kevin Webster of Agawam, MA and one granddaughter Ashley Webster of San Francisco, CA. He also leaves behind several step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren, one sister Gloria LaPointe of Danielson, several very special nieces, nephews, and friends. He was predeceased by seven siblings Eugene Paris, Edward Perry, Arthur Perry, Richard Perry, EllaRose Couture, Beatrice LaBella, and Doris Creamer.



Visitation will be held in Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main St. Danielson, CT on Thursday January 9, 2025, from 10-11:30 AM with a funeral home service at 11:30. Burial in Bartlett Cemetery, Dayville will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Pete's memory may be made to VFW Post 4908, 1035 North Road Dayville, CT 06241. tillinghastfh.com

Dick Woodcock, 98



WOODSTOCK - SCIENTIST, INVENTOR, ALTRUIST, Dr. Richard F. Woodcock, 98, died December 12, 2024, at home with his family. Born in Lewiston, ME to Dr. Karl S. Woodcock and G. Hazel (Luce) Woodcock. He attended Gould Academy '44, Bates College BS '48, Wesleyan University MA '50 and Brown University PhD '55.

Dick married his college sweetheart, Mary Gibbs, in 1949. They brought their young family to Woodstock in 1956 when he joined American Optical in Southbridge.

As a research physicist at AO, he did groundbreaking work in: fiber optics, lasers, photochromic materials, night vision equipment, intraocular lenses (precursor to Lasix), pollution monitoring equipment, dyes for tagging blood cells, etc. He had over 33 patents and published over 34 scientific papers, delivering them in Europe, Egypt and the US.

Throughout Dick and Mary's many years in Woodstock they were very active members of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock. They participated in several community organizations including the Woodstock Historical Society, Northeast CT Concert Choir and volunteering for the WVFD turkey suppers and Fair booth. He was a member of the Lions Club,

Woodstock Cemetery Association and donated his time to Habitat for Humanity. As a subtle educator he served on the Woodstock Board of Education, the Woodstock School Building Committee, the Connecticut Community College Curriculum Committee (later QVCC), and taught Physics at Annhurst College.

In his youth he taught riflery, archery and skiing, and spent one summer marking part of the Appalachian Trail. He shared his love of the wilderness, travel and outdoor sports -hiking, canoeing, sailing, kayaking, skiing and tennis, with family and friends.

Dick was an inventor, fabricator and skilled artisan. His talents included carving a wooden 19th century style door lock for a friend's cabin and carving a chain bracelet from a piece of walnut.

He built his own kayak, and a dinghy for his sailboat. Friends and family knew he was more than willing to assist, plan and execute building projects of any kind.

Dick leaves his daughters: Debra (Ray) Bard, Kathryn (Paul) Woodcock-Lynn and Laura (Glenn) Boies. In addition, he leaves seven grandchildren, their spouses, and a handful of "adopted" children.

A Celebration of A Life Well-Lived, will take place in the Spring. Donations may be made to:

First Congregational Church of Woodstock, FINCA, Heifer International or OXFAM.

For complete obituary visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

Walter L. Vail, 94



Walter L. Vail, age 94, died early Christmas morning while surrounded by family. He leaves his devoted wife of 44 years, Eleanor (Brodeur) Vail, 2 sons: Doug Vail, of Blackstone, MA and Randy Vail, of PA; 8 daughters: Vicky Verge, of MA; Gail Connors, of Blackstone, MA; Tina Murphy, of Whitinsville, MA; Joanne Vail, of Cape Cod, MA; Judy Farrell, of CT; Andrea Forte, of RI; Nancy Brown, of Charlton, MA and Leeza Vail, of GA; a brother LIoyd Vail of New York and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Walter is predeceased by a son, Robert Farrell, Jr., and by his siblings: Harold, Robert, Ralph, Winslow, Donny, and Audrey.

Born in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, February 26, 1930, Walter was one of 8 children of Cecile and Viola (Ferris) Vail. As a young man living in Canada, Walter worked as a Lumberjack. After leaving Canada, he settled in the Framingham area, later moving to Hopkinton, and to Connecticut in 2009. Always a hard worker, Walter was somewhat of a "Jack of all trades". His professional career was spent with Fafard Construction, where he was the superintendent charged with overseeing the builders. He also was the property manager and caretaker for the Fafard's properties.

Walter was a Mason and loved animals, especially horses. Saturday nights were when he and Eleanor loved to go out dancing together.

Calling Hours at Carr Funeral Home, 24 Hill St., Whitinsville, MA were Sunday, January 5, 2025, from 1-3PM. Burial will be private at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105.

OBITUARIES

Frederick E. Wojick
July 6, 1928 - December 29, 2024



North Grosvenordale - Frederick Edward Wojick, 96, of North Grosvenordale, passed away on Sunday, December 29, 2024. He was the loving husband of Rachel (Dery) Wojick for 75 years. Born in North Grosvenordale, he was the son of the late Joseph Wojick and Anna (Pyzik) Wojick.

Mr. Wojick served in the Army during the Korean War. After his time in service, he taught drafting and architecture at Harvard Ellis Vocational School in Danielson, CT. He retired in 1979. He also worked 17 years for the Town of Thompson, CT as a commission member and Building Official. He then served another 18 years for the Town of Putnam in the planning, zoning and wetlands department. Finally retiring in 2018.

Frederick was a member of the State Board of Education as well as a member of the Saint Joseph Church.

Frederick is survived by his wife, Rachel and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister Mary and her husband, Lawrence Lebeouf, sister Stella and her husband, Richard S. Feige, and his nephew Richard W. Feige.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Frederick's family from 10am to 11am on Friday, January 3, 2025, in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. A service in the funeral home took place at 11am. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Community Fire Company of North Grosvenordale, CT P.O. Box 874, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Charles W. Alexander
August 30, 1950 - January 2, 2025



Abington - Charles W. Alexander, 74, of Drown Road, passed away on January 2, 2025, at Day Kimball Hospital, with his family by his side, following a brief illness. He was the loving husband of Mary (Brassard) Alexander for over 50 years. Born in Putnam, Connecticut, he was the son of the late Charles and Theresa (Guertin) Alexander.

Charles joined the Navy following high school. When his military service ended, he completed a postgraduate masonry program at H.H. Ellis Tech. Charles worked as a stone mason for several years before starting his career as a tractor trailer driver. He drove trucks for Idle Wild Farms for more than 18 years, and then Frito Lay for 25 years, before retiring. Charles was a member of the Putnam Lodge of Elks for over 50 years. He loved shopping and frequented all the local stores, visiting one just about every day. He enjoyed running into people he knew and always had time to stop and shoot the breeze with them. Charles loved working in his yard and garden, he enjoyed his pool, mowing the lawn, and just being outdoors on his backhoe rearranging his landscape.

In addition to his wife, Charles is survived by his daughter, Chelsea Alexander; brother, Michael Alexander; and two grandsons, Elijah and Phoenix. He was predeceased by two infant sons, Eric in 1980 and Nathan in 1990.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Charles' Family from 2pm to 4 pm on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260. Memorial donations may be made to Pomfret Community School Library or Athletic Department. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Helen Thomas, 96



FABYAN, CT – Helen "Penna" Thomas, 96, died Saturday, December 21, 2024 in Matulaitis Nursing Home, Putnam after an illness.

She leaves many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and dear friends Dianne Lenky, Ann Zayas and Susan Hill. She was preceded in death by her brothers, George and Charles Thomas and by her sisters Esther Parent, Pauline Angelo and Olga Petluch. She also leaves her collie Scott, a loyal and constant companion.

She was born at home in Fabyan on April 12, 1928, a daughter of Joseph and Christina (Chisto) Thomas and was a lifelong resident.

Helen worked as a dresser at her family's George Thomas & Sons woolen mill, retiring in her mid-seventies.

She was a member of Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Webster, MA. She enjoyed gardening and going to the beach. A day was not complete without several cups of coffee. She liked spending time with family and friends.

A graveside service was held Monday, December 30 at 11:00 AM in Mount Zion Cemetery, Route 12, Webster, MA with the Reverend Luke Veronis officiating (please meet at the cemetery). There are no calling hours. Donations in her name may be made to Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, PO Box 713, Webster, MA 01570-0713. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA 01570.

www.websterfunerals.com

Georgia C. Ballard, 95



Georgia C. Ballard, 95, of Robbins Rd, passed away Thursday, December 12, 2024 surrounded by the love of her family.

Georgia was born February 18, 1929 in Ellington, CT. She was the oldest daughter of George W. and Ruth (Barber) Coolidge. Georgia grew up in South Killingly, and moved to Thompson in 1947 where she spent the next seven decades giving to her community in a myriad of ways.

In 1968, Georgia married Clarence C. Ballard (1923-2022) at the Thompson Congregational Church. They met in the church choir and together had 54 years of joy.

She was a dedicated public servant throughout her lifetime, active in the Thompson Congregational Church, Thompson Historical Society, Village Improvement Society, Discovery Steering Committee (TEEG) and was a long time member of the Grange. She was instrumental in bringing the first daycare in Thompson to the church facilities where it served the town for 29 years. After retirement, Georgia devoted over 20 yrs. working at the polls and enjoyed being a moderator well into her late 80s.

Her working careers were all dedicated to serving people. She was a Telephone Operator in Putnam, CNA at Westview, Postal Clerk for approximately 12 years and finally Postmaster for the Town of Thompson for 21 years. While Postmaster, she was active in State work and her beloved National League of Postmasters. She was awarded Postmaster of the year, and served as CT State President, Northeast Regional Coordinator, and League National Historian.

Georgia was an unrelenting beacon of positivity, warmth, kindness and strength. Her life of giving to others was filled with patience, forgiveness and unconditional love. She embraced challenges with a grateful heart and cultivated joy in her everyday life. Georgia will be remembered as a kind hearted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend who leaves a legacy of compassion and love.

Georgia is survived by her daughter, Pamela Ballard-Ross; her sister, Kathleen Alex; her brother, Dwight (Judy) Coolidge; her granddaughters Tacey Gaudette, SaraBeth Ross, Katielyn Ross (Randy Adams); her great grandchildren Triston and Delila Gaudette and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

Georgia was predeceased by her husband Clarence C. Ballard, her son Jeffery Roy, two brothers, Theodore and Arthur Coolidge, and sister Carolyn Pikul.

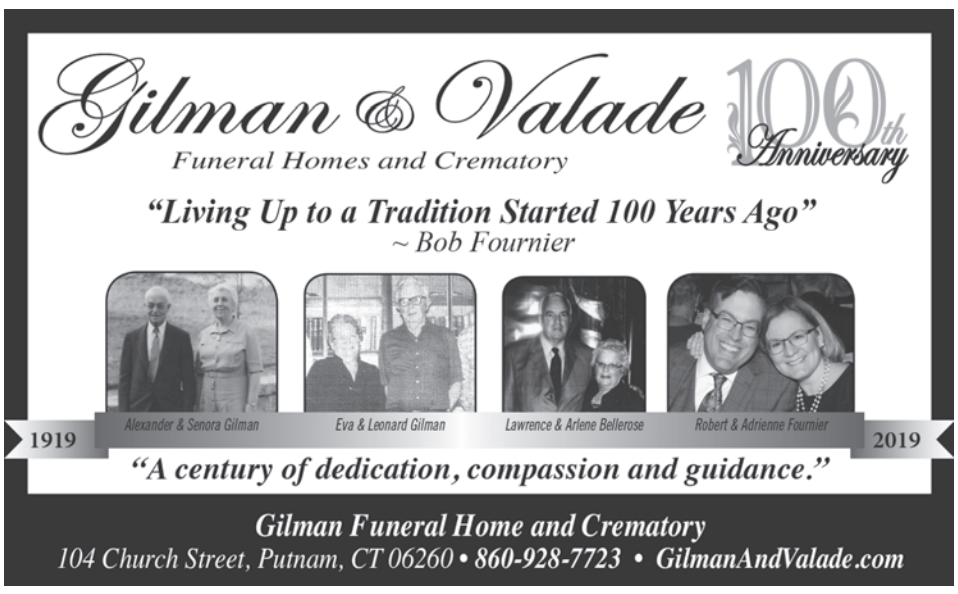
A memorial service will be held Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 2PM at the Congregational Church of Union 976 Buckley Hwy Union, CT 06076.

Jane M. Bethoney



Jane M. Bethoney passed away at home on December 26, 2024. Born in Hartford, CT, on September 24, 1943, Jane was the daughter of the late John and Ann (Flynn) Walsh and the sister of the late Joanne Walsh Surgeon. A graduate of Conard High School in West Hartford and Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, Jane was an intelligent, compassionate, and fiercely independent woman. Jane embarked on her career as a psychiatric nurse and instructor at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts. Following her marriage to the late Jabour T. Bethoney, she and her husband embarked on a journey across the country, raising their children in various locations. Ultimately, they settled in Dayville, Connecticut. Once her children were grown, Jane's passion for nursing rekindled. For 27 years, she dedicated herself to caring for children and adolescents at Natchaug Hospital in Willimantic. Though healthcare changed significantly, Jane's core values remained unwavering. She often reflected that what drew her to psychiatric nursing in 1965 – the importance of interpersonal relationships and hope– remained as vital as ever. Jane's compassion and belief in each individual's potential were the cornerstones of her legacy. Throughout her life, whether as a nurse, mother, friend, or neighbor, Jane's unwavering care, support, and guidance empowered countless individuals to navigate life's challenges and to "find their way." Jane leaves behind a loving family; her daughters and sons-in-law, Jessica & George Downey of Arlington, MA and Meghan & Brian Lee of Lahaina, HI and her son and daughter-in-law Justin & Heather Bethoney of Venice, FL. She was so proud of her six grandchildren, Matthew and Jeffery Downey, Chase and Emma Lee, and Lennox and Grey Bethoney. Jane will be deeply missed by all who knew her. A private service will be held at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery in Bloomfield, CT. Donations may be made in her memory to ECHO Cancer Foundation https://echoassociates.org/foundation/. tillinghastfh.com

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



LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Edward Paul Leavitt (24-00475)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated, 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:
CURRAN R MEAD,
LAW OFFICE OF BRIAN S. MEAD,
148 OLD TURNPIKE RD.,
P.O. BOX 508,
QUINEBAUG, CT 06262
January 10, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Kelly Anne Wilson,
AKA Kelly Anne Butt (24-00503)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated, December 24, 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:
Amy Wilson,
7506 Berwick Court,
Alexandria, VA 22315
January 10, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Napoleon J Gauthier (24-00496)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 23, 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:
Peter J Gauthier,
26 Briar Hill Road,
Norwich, CT 06360
January 10, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Jean Leavitt (24-00476)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated, 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:
CURRAN R MEAD,
LAW OFFICE OF BRIAN S. MEAD,
148 OLD TURNPIKE RD.,
P.O. BOX 508,
QUINEBAUG, CT 06262
January 10, 2025

TOWN OF KILLINGLY
BOROUGH OF DANIELSON
TAX AND SEWER USE NOTICE

The third quarter installment of real estate and personal property taxes for the Town of Killingly and the Borough of Danielson and the second half of the Sewer Use charge is due January 1, 2025. Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are also due January 1, 2025. Taxes and Sewer Use will become delinquent on February 3, 2025. All are subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of $2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST DUE.

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, during the posted hours, by mail, online, or in our drop box. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
December 27, 2024
January 10, 2025
January 24, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Terrence Wakeman (24-00450)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated, December 27, 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:
Robin Roy
c/o STEPHEN FRANCIS SUTTON,
KAHAN, KERENSKY & CAPOSSELA, LLP, 45 HARTFORD TURNPIKE,
PO BOX 3811, VERNON, CT 06066
January 10, 2025

New Year's WINDOW & DOOR Sales Event!

RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

2025



Say "YES!" to a more comfortable and beautiful home in 2025.

The ball has dropped, the new year has arrived, and we're still feeling festive. **So, we're keeping the celebration rolling throughout January with a tremendous sale on our windows and doors!**



Ends January 31

Buy 1 window or door, get 1 window or door

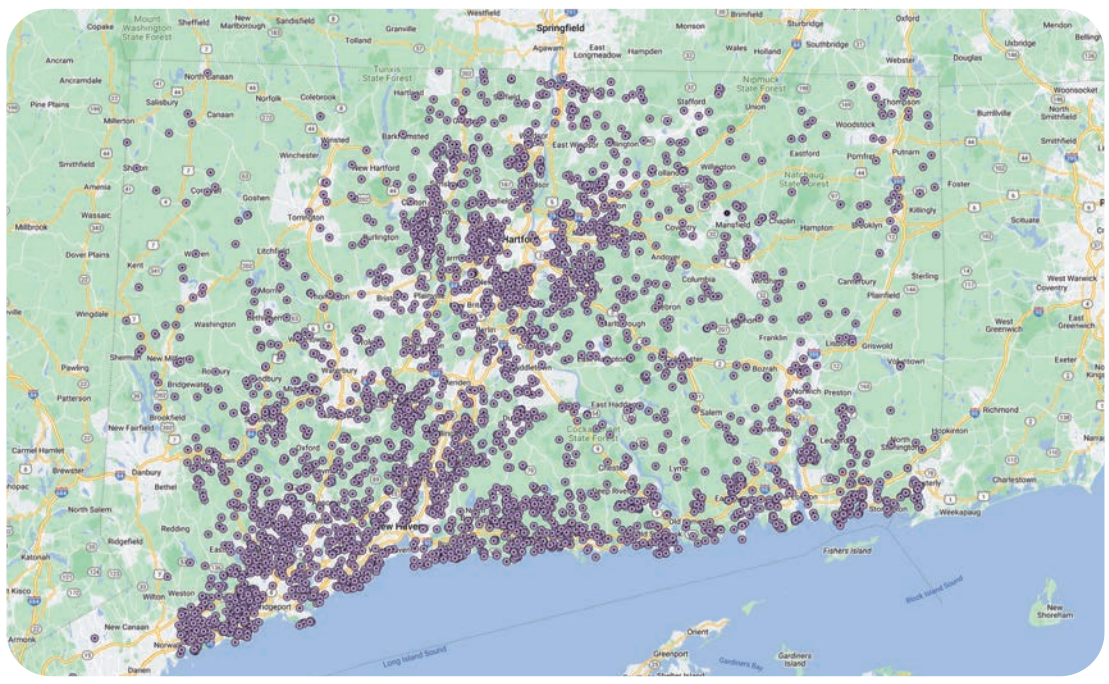
40% OFF[1]

with

NO Money Down
NO Payments
NO Interest for 1 YEAR[2] if paid in full

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 12-month promo period expires.

Plus Get an extra **$400 OFF** your entire project[1]



4,465 local Google reviews

4.8 out of 5 ★★★★★

Call before January 31 to book your FREE Window and Door Diagnosis.

RENEWAL by ANDERSEN FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT
CERTIFIED MASTER INSTALLER

959-456-0067

[1]Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. $400 discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 1/31/25 with the purchase then occurring on or before 2/10/25. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

[2]Plan 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.