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WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

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TEEG's Have a Heart celebrates 25 years

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK / THOMPSON — TEEG's annual fundraising event, Have a Heart, reached a milestone in 2026 marking its 25th year helping raise funds to allow the non-profit to provide resources for local communities and those in need.

Have a Heart has long been a major source of financial support for TEEG, a non-profit that provides a variety of programs including youth development, food security, and senior assistance to citizens of Thompson, Woodstock, and Pomfret as well as assisting partners in other local communities. The annual event includes raffles, a silent auction, and a live auction with all the money going back into the local community.

The 25th anniversary was especially significant as it comes at a time where cuts to federal money have left TEEG seeking new ways to fund its programs. Executive Director Carl Asikainen



TEEG Executive Director Carl Asikainen addresses the capacity crowd during the agency's annual Have a Heart on May 1, which celebrated its 25th anniversary.

touched on this during his address to those in attendance where he spoke about the resilience of the organization and the ever-growing support of the local community.

"We serve crises all the time with families to try to keep them healthy, to try to keep them fed and

housed, but we also do things more focused on long term, and we don't just address a crisis in isolation," Asikainen told the crowd that packed the host site, the Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock, to capacity on May 1. "We work with families consistently over time to

make sure they are stable and healthy and that they can contribute and work and be part of our fantastic communities. I'm really proud of our staff, our board, and the work that we do and you all are helping us drive this forward."

Recently, the organiza-

tion received a grant that will allow them to invest in food from local farms, creating a direct connection between these producers and those in need. TEEG has also recently launched a campaign to pay for a new truck with a cooler after having to retire its box truck. The agency is also continuing its push towards expanding its Thatcher Road facility after launching a campaign for that cause last year.

Events like Have a Heart are not only essential to reaching these goals but also support the smaller programs at TEEG. Asikainen acknowledged that they could not provide what they do without the community at large and Have a Heart has remained the finest example of that public support for 25 years.

"The community has stepped up and realized the work that TEEG does on a grassroots level," Asikainen told the crowd. "You're allowing us to continue to do our work, so thank you so much for that."

Thompson votes to return to split budget votes

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — A recent ballot vote in Thompson resulted in a significant change in how the town will vote on its town and education budgets for the foreseeable future while also approving a bond request for a series of capital improvement projects.

A referendum on April 29 saw two separate questions approved by the voters. One sought to separate the education and general government budgets into their own individual questions on the ballot, and passed by a margin of 716 to 323. The other regarded capital improvement projects and was approved by a closer vote of 573 to 463.

The change to budget referendums shifts Thompson back to a format it has not used since 2021, when it began presenting its full town budget as one number for a vote. Through a process called bifurcation, Thompson voters will now cast their votes for or against the education and general government spending plans separately when the budgets go to the ballot box.

Thompson has faced its share of struggles to approve budgets in recent years, including taking four referendums to approve the plan last year. The split budget approach was proposed through a citizen petition and, in concept, gives town officials direction on where cuts should be made by showing which of the two halves have more public support.

However, even if one of the two spending plans receives a majority approval, it does not guarantee that the budget is secure. Both votes still need to pass during the same referendum. While the separate votes might show preference towards one half over the other, town officials can choose to cut from either budget if one fails to better balance the spending plan.

The other question on the ballot established an investment in future town improvements. The capital improvement funding question approved and authorized the issuing of bonds, notes, and temporary notes not to exceed \$12 million, covering a variety of proposed projects benefiting a slew of town facilities and departments including building enhancements and equipment purchases. More than half of the money is expected to be invested in road reclamation, sealing, and repair projects.

Special day at Putnam Science features two signings

P U T N A M — According to statista, around seven million people have been displaced from their homes during the Russian-Ukrainian

war that began in 2022. Martyn Poliuchovic and his family were among those statistics. But that did not deter him from achieving great things.

Poliuchovic just signed his letter to continue his academic studies and basketball career at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. Nichols College competes in the Conference of New England at the Division III level. A challenging road led to this destination, but it was not a solo mission. "I got to this moment through hard work and the support of my family and coaches. Moving from Ukraine in 2022 because of the war was a big challenge, but I stayed focused, kept working, and trusted the process," Poliuchovic said.

It is a powerful moment when a goal becomes an achievement, especially in the case of Martyn Poliuchovic.

"This moment is very special to me because playing college basketball has always been a goal of mine. It means a lot to see my hard work pay off," he said.

He shot 39 percent beyond the arc for the Elite Team at Putnam Science Academy, he hopes to bring his impressive shooting acumen amongst other attributes to Nichols next year.

"I hope to bring a strong work ethic, competitiveness, and a team-first mindset. On the court, I'll help with my shooting and basketball IQ, and I'm ready to do whatever



helps the team win," he added.

Poliuchovic spent almost five years at the school overcoming immense obstacles and achieving greatness in the process. Martyn Poliuchovic serves as an inspiration to all.

"Martyn is a special one. I remember him joining us at the end of his 8th grade year. Can't believe how fast time goes. I will always support and root for Martyn," said Athletic Director Tom Espinosa. Max Pires also signed his letter of commitment to continue his basketball and academic career at St. Joseph's College of Maine. The school competes in the

Great Northeast Athletic Conference. A late addition to the Elite Team at Putnam Science Academy did not stop him from having an impact on the program. "Max brought a ton of energy. He brings a competitive spirit to practice and games that elevates everyone around him," said Head Coach Aaron Lorenzo. He made impacts on all three levels of the game through his scoring, defense and rebounding.

"I think he's going to go to St. Joseph's and have an instant impact. He does so many things that don't show up on the stat sheet and he's extremely coachable," added Coach Lorenzo. "He's an awesome young man."

Killingly Community Garden kicking off 12th season

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Community Garden committee has been active at their Westfield Ave garden site since they began in 2014. Each season, they rent out garden beds to people who may not have access to growing space. A separate portion of the garden space is maintained by volunteers, and they donate hundreds of pounds of produce per year to local food pantries – last year, they donated more than 300 pounds of produce!

Each year since the group's beginning, there has been tremendous growth – upgrading from rain barrels to irrigation systems, introducing new trellises, adding insect covers and frost covers... We need our volunteer base to grow with us. We are excited to welcome anyone willing to share their various talents, to help us continue to be a place for people to come together through gardening and sustain the community garden for the long term.

Ideal candidates may have a passion for gardening themselves. Or they might just be good at other things like finance or community organizing or social media or maybe even event planning. We really could use YOUR help!

For more information about the garden, please reach out to Killingly's Planning and Development Department, 860-779-5310.

About Killingly Community Garden

The mission of Killingly Community Garden is to lessen food insecurity in Killingly by giving our residents the education and resources they need to have greater access to healthier foods.

Illenys Martinez-Cruz earns Westview's Employee of the Month Award

DAYVILLE — Illenys Martinez-Cruz earned applause and appreciation as Westview's March Employee of the Month.

Martinez-Cruz is a teacher at Westview Child Care Center in the Two-Year-Olds classroom, where she has gained many fans among her colleagues, students, and their families. In teaching this age group, her efforts are as intentional as they are improvisational. She aims to maximize engagement and enhance her students' education through a wide range of early teachable moments.

In her classroom, Martinez-Cruz loves to see her students grow and gain confidence in a comfortable learning space. Preschool teaching is a familiar field for her, with four years of prior experience in public preschool settings before becoming a member of the original staff at Westview Child Care Center in 2023. She engages directly with her students and seeks meaningful moments to develop their communication skills through play. To relate to weekly classroom themes, she introduces elements with a "Mystery Box" and engages students to use clues to discover its con-

tents. She also sparks curiosity by reading stories with the lights dimmed while flashlights illuminate the action. Their interactions may be verbal, paraverbal, or still developing—but their trust in her brightens every opportunity for learning.

Teaching new words to her students is a noteworthy joy for Martinez-Cruz. She delights in the excitement on their faces when they understand a new phrase, expression, or concept. She integrates elements of Spanish language and culture into her teaching and often utilizes music as a gleeful learning tool. The familiar tune of "The More We Get Together" is frequently sung in both English and Spanish in the 2-Year-Olds classroom; merrily exhibiting the students' appreciation of the song's theme. She believes that music resonates deeply, imprinting lessons on both the heart and the mind.

Sign language concepts are often introduced in Martinez-Cruz's classroom, offering students another stimulating method of essential communication. Whether in

English, Spanish, or Sign Language, she and her colleagues ensure that some of the most important words her students learn are "please," "thank you," and "friend!" With gratitude and pride, she acknowledges the team of Teachers and Teacher Assistants she works alongside and cites their collective bond as a key strength at Westview Child Care Center.

Martinez-Cruz's advocacy for life-long learning reflects her own personal growth and passionate pursuits. She enjoys developing new skills, including "Wood Therapy," for which she has earned national certification and continues to



Illenys Martinez-Cruz
Teacher
Westview Child Care Center
March 2026 Employee of the Month

practice with friends and family. Bible study has become another meaningful commitment through her experiences. Above all, she values time spent with her "little family"—her husband, Alejandro Cardona, and her daughter, Angelica. Her devotion to her family is deeply rooted in lived experience. Martinez-Cruz and her family relocated from Puerto Rico to the United States in pursuit of greater access to care and educational opportunities for her daughter. Through that journey, she developed a strong understanding of the challenges families may face when navigating support systems and advocating for their children's needs.

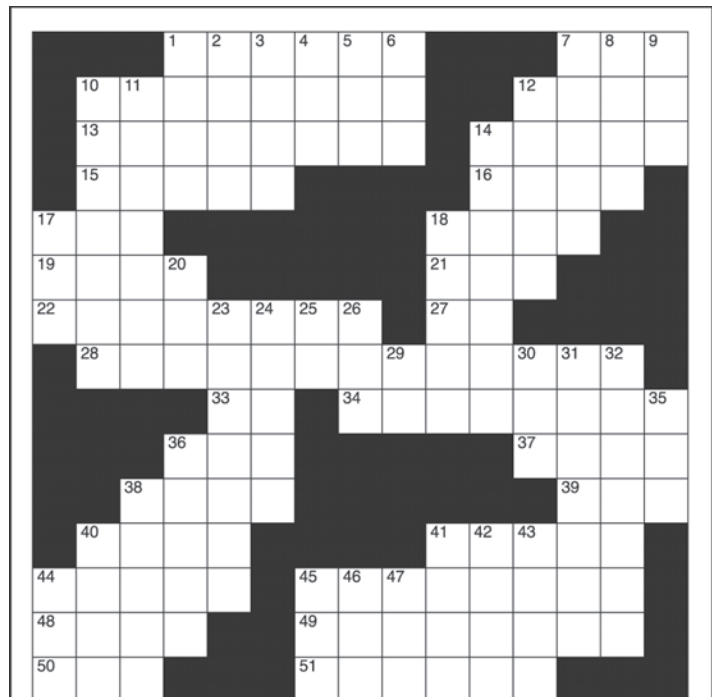
Perspective continues to shape how Martinez-Cruz approaches her role as an educator—guiding her patience, strengthening her compassion, and reinforcing her commitment to helping every child reach their full potential. She emphasized her passion for teaching as she received this award: "I love what I do and I am grateful to be recognized for my work. I truly enjoy helping toddlers learn through play, music, and lots of fun activities. Seeing how excited they get when they learn new things and try new words is truly rewarding!"

Katy Holzer, Director of Westview Child

Care Center, affirms what Martinez-Cruz means to Westview Child Care Center and her students: "Ms. Illenys brings a rare combination of warmth, attentiveness, and creativity to her classroom. At Westview, we believe in building rich, engaging learning environments, and she embodies that in every lesson she plans. Her expertise is evident in the excitement and confidence of her students, and we are so fortunate to have her on the team."

Westview Child Care Center is part of the Westview family, along with Westview Health Care Center and Country Living at Westview Commons. Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 18 years.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large dung beetle
- 7. Gambling game _-lo
- 10. Further along
- 12. Type of tobacco
- 13. Looked for
- 14. Silk fabric
- 15. Computer method to solve equations
- 16. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- 17. Tear
- 18. Brews
- 19. "Famous" cookie baker
- 21. Women's Army Corps
- 22. Front parts of an animal
- 27. It's causing quite a stir
- 28. Beloved March holiday
- 33. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 34. More impudent
- 36. Indicates center
- 37. Young woman (French)
- 38. A cause of distress
- 39. Santa's helper
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Many wombs
- 44. Is afraid of
- 45. Popular baked goods ingredient
- 48. Popular computers
- 49. Conceiving of
- 50. Google certification (abbr.)
- 51. Sturdy

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Peruse quickly
- 2. Automobiles
- 3. Razorbill genus
- 4. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 5. Consumed
- 6. A place to sleep
- 7. Small seeds
- 8. Legendary law man Wyatt
- 9. Female sheep
- 10. Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia
- 11. A place ships dock
- 12. Reciprocal of sine
- 14. Discomfort
- 17. British Air Aces
- 18. Exit sleep
- 20. Solar energetic particle
- 23. Plagues characterized by starvation (abbr.)
- 24. Short musical composition
- 25. Trauma center
- 26. Habitual twitching
- 29. A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
- 30. Decimeter
- 31. Hinged surface in a wing
- 32. Shouting
- 35. Sports official
- 36. Volcanic craters
- 38. Supportive device
- 40. It's part of a rosary
- 41. Two-toed sloth
- 42. Body art
- 43. Let out
- 44. Foreign medical graduate
- 45. Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
- 46. Couples say it
- 47. Bird's beak

Gardens get a boost from AMES Tools, Espoma Organic and Putnam Area Foundation

WOODSTOCK — The Quiet Corner Garden Club's Civic Committee is the recipient of \$250 worth of gardening tools from AMES Tools, \$250 worth of Espoma products, and a grant of \$2,500 from the Putnam Area Foundation. It will all be put to good use in the gardens the Club has planted and maintains throughout the Quiet Corner.

The Ames tools will be used in the maintenance of the TEEG Community garden (Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group, <https://www.teegonline.org/>).

The Espoma products (@EspomaOrganic) include fertilizer and plant nutrients that will be used throughout QCGC projects and gardens such as the TEEG Community Garden, the QCGC Memorial Garden in Putnam, the Eastford Municipal gardens, and gardens at the Thompson Library, the Center for Woodstock History, the Woodstock Middle School, and Roseland Park. National Garden Clubs (NGC) teamed up with The Espoma Company to provide products to NGC member clubs for projects with vision. The Quiet Corner Garden Club was one of only 20 clubs chosen out of more than 5,000 NGC member clubs.

The Putnam Area Foundation award will be used for fresh food production and preservation. Michelle Lengyel, chair of the QCGC Civic Committee said, "We are all feeling the pinch of rising food prices. The goal of this program is to provide area residents the skills they need to grow their own fresh food and preserve the food for future use and consumption." QCGC, in partnership with TEEG, will define and develop this program which includes activities throughout the 2026 growing season, to include canning and food dehydration classes and opportunities to create mini-gardens.

Proceeds from QCGC's Annual Plant Sale, to be held on Saturday, May 9 at the Woodstock Fairgrounds, fund our annual scholarships and Civic projects throughout the area. The Quiet Corner Garden Club's 100+ members reside in 14 towns in northeastern Connecticut and two in Massachusetts. Follow us on Facebook or at QuietCornerGardenClub.com.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION



Wyndham Land Trust hires first Executive Director



Lisa Hayden

POMFRET CENTER—The Wyndham Land Trust entered a new era in May as it welcomed its first Executive Director.

Lisa Hayden, a Putnam native, comes to the full-time role after 11 years working for the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF), where she led outreach and education initiatives for family forest owners in Southern New England to support conserving and stewarding woodlands.

“I’m thrilled to join the Wyndham Land Trust team to serve this region where I grew up, and that I love so much,” said Hayden, who currently lives in Sturbridge. “Twelve years ago, my family worked with former President Dick Booth to protect 30 acres of our forest in Putnam, part of a farm and homestead in the Hayden family for five generations. My roots are in the Quiet Corner.”

Hayden’s recent responsibilities included managing grants and programs for a 21-town partnership in northwest Massachusetts, and she previously held communications and philanthropy roles at The Nature Conservancy. With a Master’s degree in Urban &

Environmental Policy & Planning from Tufts University, Hayden has served on the Board

of The Last Green Valley, and earlier in her career covered local towns as a newspaper reporter for the Norwich Bulletin.

“We’re excited to hire our first executive director,” said President Mike St. Lawrence. “Lisa understands conservation and the importance of land preservation, but she also understands the character of the Quiet Corner region and the need to inspire people to join in our mission to protect this special place. We’ve been a volunteer-run organization for the last 50 years, but our rapid growth over the past decade prompted the Board to seek professional leadership to help manage the Land Trust and raise its profile in the community.”

“I look forward to working with the Board and learning from longtime volunteers, such as Andy

Rzeczniakiewicz, who have been instrumental in the Land Trust’s conservation successes,” said

Hayden. “I’m so impressed by the achievements of WLT over the last 50 years, and their work

protecting large blocks of connected lands for wildlife. I’m here to help carry on

that momentum into the next 50.”

The Wyndham Land Trust was formed in 1975 and now protects over 7,000 acres in Northeastern Connecticut. To learn more about the Land Trust visit wyndham-landtrust.org. You

can also follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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Day Kimball Health names Tammy Gottlieb Employee of the Month



Courtesy

Tammy Gottlieb, RN, has been named Employee of the Month for March.

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) has named Tammy Gottlieb, registered nurse at Day Kimball Medical Group’s (DKMG) Internal Medicine office in Dayville, as Employee of the Month for March, recognizing her dedication to patient care and her contributions to the clinical team.

Gottlieb joined DKMG in February 2024 and quickly distinguished herself as a compassionate and dependable nurse. With 17 years of experience, she brings a broad clinical background, spanning interventional pain management, neurology, and home care, along with a strong commitment to supporting patients across the continuum of care.

In her current role in primary care, Gottlieb plays a key role in patient support and care coordination, working closely with both patients and providers to ensure high-quality, accessible care.

“Tammy exemplifies the kind of compassionate, patient-centered care that defines our organization,” said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health. “Her humble and kind nature, combined with her experience, teamwork, and commitment to doing what

is best for each patient make her an invaluable member of our team.”

Gottlieb said she is honored by the recognition and credits her colleagues for creating a supportive work environment. “I feel honored and humbled to have been chosen,” she said. “I work with a wonderful team and truly appreciate being part of such a supportive group.” She added that the most rewarding part of her role is advocating for patients and making a difference in their lives each day.

Originally from Rhode Island, Gottlieb now lives in Danielson with her husband and son. She earned her associate’s degree from the Community College Rhode Island and is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree through Southern New Hampshire University. She has also been recognized with a Home Care Hero Award for her service.

Outside of work, Gottlieb enjoys staying active, spending time outdoors, and being with her family and dog, Coco.

About Day Kimball Health

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

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Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

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A community that shows up when it matters

In towns like Woodstock, Thompson, and Pomfret, success is rarely measured in headlines or grand announcements. It is measured in quieter ways. A neighbor helping a neighbor. A volunteer stepping forward. A room filled with people who understand that the well-being of a community depends on all of us.

For 25 years, TEEG's Have a Heart event has stood as one of the clearest examples of that spirit in action.

What began as a fundraiser has grown into something far more meaningful. It has become a reflection of who we are in Northeast Connecticut. Year after year, residents, businesses, and local leaders gather not only to give, but to affirm a shared responsibility. The raffles, auctions, and donations matter, of course. They keep programs running. They put food on tables, support seniors, and create opportunities for young people. But the deeper value lies in what those efforts represent.

They represent trust. Organizations like TEEG do not exist in isolation. They are built, sustained, and strengthened by the communities they serve. And in return, they offer something essential. Stability in uncertain moments. Support during times of crisis. And perhaps most importantly, a long-term commitment to helping families move forward, not simply get by.

That distinction matters. It is one thing to respond when a family is in immediate need. It is another to walk alongside them over time, helping them build a foundation that allows them to contribute, participate, and thrive. That kind of work is not quick. It is not always visible. But it is the kind of work that changes communities for the better.

This year's milestone comes at a moment when that work is being tested.

With reductions in federal funding, organizations like TEEG are being asked to do more with less. The need has not diminished. If anything, it has grown more complex. Food insecurity, housing challenges, and economic pressures continue to affect families across the Quiet Corner. The safety net that many rely on is under strain.

And yet, as it has for a quarter century, the community responded.

A packed room at the Mansion at Bald Hill is more than a successful event. It is a statement. It says that even when outside support becomes uncertain, local commitment remains steady. It says that people here are willing to step forward, to give what they can, and to ensure that essential services continue.

There is also something encouraging in the way TEEG continues to evolve.

The effort to connect local farms with those in need is not only practical; it is thoughtful. It strengthens the local economy while addressing food insecurity. Plans to expand facilities and invest in new equipment are not about growth for its own sake. They are about meeting real needs more effectively, both now and in the future.

That kind of forward thinking deserves recognition.

It is easy, in times of uncertainty, to focus on what is being lost. Funding gaps. Rising costs. Growing demand. But milestones like this remind us to also look at what remains strong. The relationships. The willingness to help. The understanding that community is not an abstract idea, but something built through consistent, collective effort.

Twenty-five years is a long time for any event to endure. It does not happen by accident. It happens because people believe in the mission, trust the organization, and see the results in their own towns.

The real success of Have a Heart is not measured in dollars raised on a single night. It is measured in the countless moments that follow. A family able to stay in their home. A child finding support and opportunity. A senior receiving the assistance they need to remain independent.

Those are the outcomes that matter. In Northeast Connecticut, there is a long tradition of communities taking care of their own. It is not always easy. It requires effort, generosity, and a willingness to stay engaged even when challenges grow. But it is a tradition worth preserving.

If the past 25 years have shown anything, it is this: when the need is real, this community shows up.

And that may be the most important resource of all.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is good? What is bad?

To the Editor:
 Most folks tend to know what is good and what is bad. I remember back in the '50s, when Hungarian refugees arrived in large numbers. They were escaping Soviet communism, and because they knew full well the evils of communism, most of them became productive free-market conservatives here. Good.

The same thing happened when large numbers of Cubans fled Castro's communism. Good. I was proud to be one who welcomed refugees and proud of my parents who sponsored Hungarians. Good. But what we experienced during the Biden administration with over 16 million folks being encouraged and allowed to enter the USA illegally got me worried. How can one think good of his country when the President and his party are giving illegals free run of our homeland. Bad. Clearly, the Democrat scheme was to pump up their voting constituency and their congressional representation(s) by any means...forget Federal Immigration Laws. Bad. And now the Democrats have put ICE and other Homeland Security functions financially out of business in order to protect their ill gotten 16-plus-million "new neighbors." Bad. And to add acid to the wound, they are pushing for "No ID Voting" and expanded "Mail In" voting to make easier constituent-cheating a favored way to win office(s). Bad. It is clear to me that my good old "JFK"- "WJC" Democrat party is now morally adrift and actually embracing the same socialism that put the Hungarians and Cubans on the move. Bad. And it floors me that so many supposedly intelligent and talented people support the current Democrat backsliding. Those wonderful Hungarian and Cuban refugees arrived to a smart,

caring America. Biden's 16+ million have come to a confused and divided country in dire need of sound finance, defense and human services management. You can hate Trump and think of Republicans as Neanderthals but real facts tell you that Republican management is far superior to modern Democrat mismanagement. Consider:

1. The Boom Belt (the mostly Red southeast quadrant of the country to include Texas) has absorbed 70% of all USA population growth of the past five years. The West and N.East "blue-coast" regions and major blue central cities are losing people and business' due to Democrat over taxation, over regulation and anti-business policies.
2. The Boom Belt annual GDP has grown to \$9 trillion - which makes it the #3 size economy only behind the USA and China.
3. Key Boom Belt states: Florida, Tennessee and Texas have no income tax and they run budget surpluses regularly.
4. No place ever taxed itself into prosperity - but our blue regions are increasingly adopting "tax the rich" and other wealth tax schemes. People and business' are fleeing from these policies but a more serious problem is that people and business' will not come in the future... economic failure guaranteed.

Modern hardcore Dems most certainly won't listen to facts like these let alone act upon them. So our future depends on folks who are aware of these Boom Belt kinds of results and believe they are the harbinger of preserving a thriving American democracy.

EDWARD CLEMENT THOMPSON

Trump's attack on free speech goes into overdrive

To the Editor:
 When our country was founded 250 years ago, it was a rebuke of the era's status quo in that it harkened back to the ancient Roman Republic, where the head of state was not placed there by birthright, but rather through free elections. It also enshrined that all citizens (which admittedly took years of reworking to get there) were equals and had guarantee of both free speech and a free press. This is what makes us different from autocracies and police states.

Criticize government in China, Russia, and scores of other nations and risk arrest. Creating an opposition means an attack by a rigged judicial system, false charges, and bogus detention. Americans, for most of our history, have been free from these restraints (save things like the Civil War and John Adams' Alien and Sedition Acts, to name a few). The current administration is dismantling these freedoms, and in the last week has gone into overdrive as President Trump seeks to both muzzle and jail his detractors and perceived enemies, just as a Putin or Kim would.

Last week had two new nasty actions by Trump. The first was leveled against TV talk show host and comedian Jimmy Kimmel, whom the President tried unsuccessfully last year to ban from the airwaves. Kimmel, in an obvious comedy segment on his show, tried to emulate past Correspondent Dinners in "roasting" those in power. Kimmel joked that the First Lady Melania Trump had the "glow of an expectant widow." Amusing in that it poked fun at their 24-year age difference. People laughed. Some may have felt it was in poor taste but mild compared to American roast standards. Most importantly there was no immediate backlash. That is until 2 days later when a would-be assassin tried to rush Trump's dinner, slipping as he ran, and never actually endangering the President. Trump's inane response was to accuse Kimmel of calling for his murder. OK that's the President's opinion. But since the President oversees the FCC, he immediately called for Kimmel's firing. And because his employer, Disney, would not comply, sicced the Commission on ABC stations and threatened to remove their licenses to broadcast, making a mockery of the right to free speech.

In the second case, Trump set out to arrest former FBI director James Comey, whom for some reason he blames for leading an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The thing is, it was Comey's job to look into these

things and despite what Trump claimed, did find evidence of Russia's influence. Last year, Trump tried to jail Comey on the phony pretense of making a false statement to Congress which was thrown out as nonsense by a Federal Judge. This also pushed the boundaries of hypocrisy as Trump pardoned both Roger Stone for the same charge and Michael Flynn for lying to the FBI. He also gave his former DHS director, Kristi Noem, a pass for misleading Congress about her inexplicable \$220 cowgirl ad campaign.

Trump's latest beef with Comey is for a meme from last year showing sea shells arranged to spell out "8647." Somehow, the President saw this as another call to kill him. But that is not what Comey intended nor what 86 typically means. Opening a thesaurus finds that the first several synonyms for 86 are "cast out, kick out, put out, chuck, drive out, evict, expel, let out, and oust." In fact, it's not until one reaches the second to last term that the word kill is mentioned. It's the 46th synonym listed.

It's obvious that Trump, despite the criticisms of his predecessor, President Biden, is not only weaponizing the DOJ, he is trying to weaponize the entire government bureaucratic structure to support his own fiefdom. This is beyond Un American. It is everything that the founders fought to prevent. At the same time, Trump has managed to make billions for both himself, his family and his friends while relegating the average American to flounder with rising inflation, rising gasoline prices, and rising food prices. All the while ignoring a government debt that for the first time exceeds that of the entire year's worth of the American economy. With no end in sight. With no long-range fiscal plan.

This has to be stopped. It is not a call for violence to want Trump's removal. And to hope for the Democrats to slaughter/destroy/annihilate//beat up on/burn the Republicans in this year's elections is just the use of a sport aphorism. A writer shouldn't have to explain this. One should be free to use the English language with words that can be perfectly tame. For those who believe otherwise, please explain the signs and T shirts saying F*** Biden. They were just as ominous, and far more offensive, than anything that has vexed our bilious, self-serving, egomaniacal, and incompetent Commander in Chief.

LEE WESLER WOODSTOCK

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.

Unsung heroes of the Revolution

Celebrate America 250/ Putnam. Putnam Public Library, Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m.



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

War hero. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society.

Celebrate America 250/ Brooklyn. Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Trinity Church Parish House (7 Providence Road-Route 6) the Brooklyn Historical Society will host "History to Legend to Myth", an illustrated "tour" of our state's monuments of the Revolution by Richard F. Donahue, Cromwell Town Historian. All are welcome. Refreshments served.

Support one of Killingly's Historic Properties. Killingly Grange No. 112 (801 Hartford Pike) will host a Pork Dinner on Saturday, May 16 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Roast pork, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, dessert. \$15. Dine in or take out. Limited number of meals. To reserve a dinner call or text 860-884-1813. Pay by cash, credit card, or check at the door. The Grange is collecting non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

Celebrate America 250/ Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Historical Society Museum will feature the exhibits of the General Putnam Gallery Wednesday, May 20th and Sunday, May 24th from 1-5 p.m. (The Museum & Daniel Tyler Law Office will be open every Wednesday and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. through October 11th and by appointment throughout Walktober. Handicapped-accessible.

Celebrate America 250/ Putnam. Putnam Public Library. Retired Connecticut State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni will present a program on Revolutionary War Archaeology in CT on Saturday, May 30 at 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society.

Celebrate America 250/ Killingly. Killingly Public Library will be presenting PBS's "The American Revolution" documentary directed by Ken Burns. Several have already been shown. The next one is Friday, May 8 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.---The times that Try Men's Souls: July 1776-January 1777. May 15 will be Conquer By a Drawn Game: January 1777-February 1778. May 22: The Soul of All American: December 1777-May 1780. May 29: The Most Sacred thing: May 1780-Onward. All programs are at the same time.

I needed stamps recently, so decided to see if any special ones had been issued in commemoration of America's 250th anniversary. The sheet which I purchased contained many familiar names, but also had a number of individuals who made significant contributions during our fight for freedom whom I hadn't read about or knew little about. I thought I'd mention two in this column. Have you heard of James Armistead (Lafayette) or Esther DeBerdt Reed?
 "Born into slavery around Turn To KILLINGLY page A9

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A \$400 million ballroom won't save us – but these laws might

To the Editor:

The April 25 White House Correspondents' Dinner exposed a serious failure in how we handle security and gun violence in America.

Consider that in February, the U.S. and Israeli forces launched strikes on Iran that killed Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh, Chief of Staff Abdolrahim Mousavi, and dozens of other senior Iranian officials. The U.S. is now in an active war with Iran. Any serious security planner would treat retaliatory strikes against American leadership as not just possible but likely.

A 31-year-old gunman, armed with a 12-gauge pump action shotgun, a .38 caliber semi-automatic pistol, and knives rushed the security checkpoint at the Washington Hilton, exchanging gunfire with Secret Service agents before being tackled to the ground. The President, Vice President JD Vance, Speaker Mike Johnson, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth were all in the same room. The following day, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche was unable to answer a simple question on Face the Nation: was there a designated survivor? The incident at the dinner speaks to a stunning lack of planning, but more than that, it speaks to a stunning failure of prevention.

Both firearms were purchased legally, and the gunman had passed background checks. He traveled by train from California to Washington with his weapons, encountering no screening along the way. These details indict our policies on gun legislation.

There have been several assassination attempts on Trump since July 2024. A 20-year-old gunman used a legally purchased AR-15-style rifle belonging to his father in an attempted assassination at a Pennsylvania rally. In September 2024, a 58-year-old gunman, was arrested near Trump's golf course in an attempted assassination with an illegal SKS semiautomatic rifle with a scope attached and an extended magazine.

Four U.S. presidents have been assassinated, and dozens of attempts have been made on presidents and candidates over 160 years. Legislation continues to fail to stop the pattern of gun violence.

The response from Washington? Sen. Lindsey Graham has introduced legislation to spend \$400

million in taxpayer money to build a ballroom, despite President Trump promising the project would be "fully financed" by private donors at zero cost to taxpayers. The pitch now is national security. Had the White House Correspondents' Dinner gunman been stopped at the point of original purchase or screened at the train station the way we screen airline passengers or screened at the Hilton, there would be no need for taxpayer funds to pay for Trump's lavish ballroom/bunker.

We invest billions in protecting our leaders after threats. We invest far less in stopping threats before they are armed. In fact, Trump slashed millions in federal funding for gun violence prevention.

Congress let the Federal Assault Weapons Ban expire in 2004, and has not renewed it. Universal background checks have repeatedly stalled. Red flag laws exist in fewer than half of our states. Non-existent restrictions on high-capacity magazines favor mass shooters. Train travel has zero firearms screening. On top of these failed policies, the Department of Homeland Security, which funds the Secret Service, went unfunded for 75 days while Congress fought over immigration politics.

The U.S. has the highest rate of gun violence among high-income countries in the world and has a gun lobby that prioritizes profits over public safety. "Americans support the right to own firearms, but they also overwhelmingly support laws that keep guns away from people who pose a significant risk of harm." No law will eliminate violence entirely, but it would raise barriers, and barriers save lives.

Congress needs to stop making it so easy to purchase deadly weapons and allowing them to be carried any and everywhere. Americans are being asked to accept that our leaders need a fortified gold-plated ballroom for their own protection, while the rest of us, at concerts, schools, grocery stores, and houses of worship simply need to accept the risk of gun violence in our daily lives. That is unacceptable.

Will the next shooting be the one that finally changes things? Contact your representatives. Say no to using taxpayer funds for Trump's ballroom and demand action on sensible gun legislation. It is time for Congress to stop wasting taxpayer funds and enact legislation that saves lives.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Innovation – where will it go?

To the Editor:

Without the progress America made by welcoming immigrants into our country, we lack diverse perspectives and the rich mix of creative, innovative thinking which keeps the USA on the cutting edge. Our culture - and our world - benefit from the inventions of courageous newcomers who bring with them fresh ideas, start-up businesses and the courage to build a better world. As short-sighted policies limit research funding and discourage

brilliant minds, the USA falls behind. It results in a new attitude: "Make America Dumb Again."

KAREN RYKER
WOODSTOCK

There is no excuse for continuing to support Trump

To the Editor:

In 2017, I wrote an OpEd letter about Tony Schwartz, who really wrote "The Art of the Deal." Here is a condensed rewrite. Schwartz spent almost every day for 18 months following Donnie-Dumbo around and even listened in on phone conversations. Schwartz felt he had gotten to know Donnie better than almost anyone outside the Trump family.

"In 1985, he published a piece in New York magazine called 'A Different Kind of Donald Trump Story.' This portrayed Donnie-Destructo not as a brilliant mogul but as a ham-fisted thug. Yet to Schwartz's amazement, Trump loved the article. He wrote 'Trump didn't fit any model of human being I'd ever met. He was obsessed with publicity, and he didn't care what you wrote.'"

So, why did Schwartz agree to write the book? For money – a lot of money. Several weeks after being offered the book by Trump, Schwartz "knew that he was making a Faustian bargain."

Schwartz deeply regrets having written the book. He has written: "He has no attention span." "It's impossible to keep him focused on any topic, other than his own self-aggrandizement, for more than a few minutes." "Trump's short attention span has left him with 'a stunning level of superficial knowledge and plain ignorance.'" "Trump is driven not by a pure love of deal making but by an insatiable hunger for money, praise, and celebrity." "Lying is second nature to him. More than anyone else I have ever met, Trump has the ability to convince himself that whatever he is saying at any given moment is true, or sort of true, or at least ought to be true."

Donnie-Destructo has recently said, "My supporters believe everything I say. I love the poorly educated." It is so sad his supporters don't even realize they've been insulted and degraded.

Tony Schwartz exposed Donnie-Dumbo years ago. We have no excuse for continuing to support this demented fool.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

TOWN OF KILLINGLY
VISION COMMITTEE INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Don't Be Left Behind!



Killingly Vision Committee

Let your opinions and voices be heard! We are preparing a comprehensive plan for the Town's future – shaped entirely by the responses from our community meetings and online questionnaire.

We are in the **final stages** and are ready to prepare our report. Your voice still matters.

Take a minute and scan the QR code to complete our online questionnaire. →



Last VISION Public Meeting at the Killingly Public Library - 25Westcott Rd
Saturday June 6, 2026 11:30am - Refreshments Provided

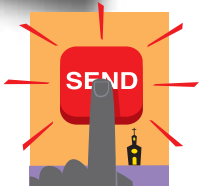
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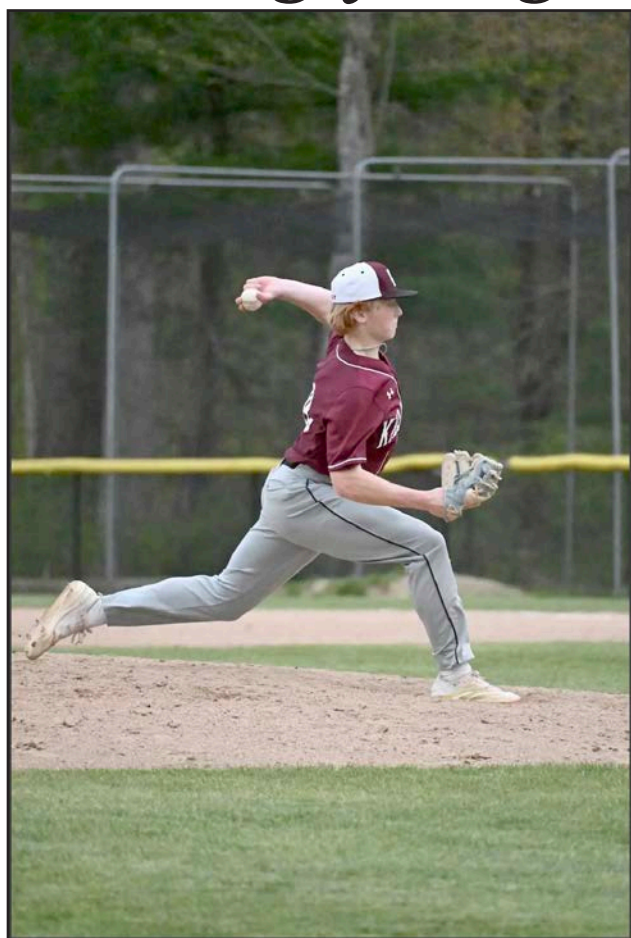
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Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up



Baseball

Vs. Woodstock
Killingly Baseball (5-6) took the win over Woodstock (4-7) on the road by a final score of 11-5!

Killingly put 5 across in the top 1st inning! Jake Voyer and Alex Murdock led off the game with back to back singles, before Michael Fabiano Jr reached on an error. Jake Beaudreault grounded out to give Killingly the lead. Gaighe DeBella and Jacob Long both added singles to tack onto the lead!

After Fabiano Jr sac fly to give Killingly a 6th run, Woodstock responded by scoring 2 in the bottom of the 1st and 3 in the 3rd to cut the Killingly lead to 6-5. Jake Beaudreault (4.2 inn 2 Hits 0 Runs 2 K's) entered the game and induced 2 outs to end the rally!

In the 4th inning, Jacob Long led off with a double before Michael DeAngelis drove him in with an RBI single! After back to back walks, Michael Fabiano Jr drove a 2 RBI double down the left field line! Jake Beaudreault followed it up with a 2 run triple to the left center field gap to push the lead to 11-5! Beaudreault cruised the rest of the way with great defense behind him to finish the game off for Killingly!

Vs. Windham
The boys (6-6) got back to .500 with a victory over Windham (1-11) on the road by a final score of 5-0!

Matt Poirier led Killingly on the mound by going the distance with a 7 inning 2 hit shutout performance with 10 K's, on 99 pitches!

Killingly broke through early with in the 3rd inning when Alex Murdock (2 hits,

the inning with a single, followed by walks to Michael DeAngelis and Jake Voyer. With the bases 1st, Braydee 2nd, and 2 outs, Alex Murdock cleared the bases with a three run double to center to give Killingly a 3-0 lead.

Killingly pushed their lead to 4-0 in the 3rd, before DeAngelis walked and Murdock added another base knock. Fabiano Jr. then lined a double to the gap in left center to drive them both in! Gaighe DeBella's base hit to center then drove in Fabiano Jr to extend the Killingly lead to 7-0!

Griswold added one back in the 4th, and then loaded the bases with no outs on Fabiano Jr. He then struck out a batter, and induced an inning ending 4-6-3 double play ball to hold the Wolverines there at 7-1!

Killingly tacked on a few more in the 5th, before Murdock capped the lead with another RBI single in the 6th to make it 12-1 Killingly. Joey Gould secured the last 4 outs to close the game out and secure Killingly's 4th win a row!

Vs. Bacon
The team (8-6) won their 5th game in a row in a victory over Bacon Academy (6-7) at Dodd Stadium under the lights!

Final Score 9-0!

Gaighe DeBella led the way for Killingly on the mound with a complete game shut-out 4 hit performance, striking out 15 Bacon batters!

The scoring started in the first inning when DeBella drove in Alex Murdock to give Killingly a 1-0 lead. Brady Girardin then hit a bases clearing 3 run double, before he was driven in on an RBI single by Jacob Long! This gave DeBella a quick 5-0 cushion early!

In the 2nd inning, DeBella added another RBI single to score Jake Voyer and make it 6-0 Killingly!

Killingly extended the lead in the 4th after a Jacob Long single on a perfectly executed slash play, followed by a double steal scoring Brady Girardin from third! Jake Voyer's double to left field drove in Long, before Alex Murdock RBI single drove in Voyer from 2nd!

The 9-0 lead was all DeBella needed as he took it the distance to finish off Killingly's 5th win in a row!

This win also qualifies Killingly officially for the State Tournament for the 7th year in a row!

Track & Field

On April 29, Killingly Boys Track & Field team battled away in a Divisional matchup against Lyman Memorial! So many personal records were made on a beautiful day, however, the Killingly gentlemen unfortunately took a close loss! We also want to thank all the parents and friends that showed up to make sure it got loud when Killingly was competing; we thank every one of you. We could see you and hear you!

In the 4x 100, it was a close race with all teams! Killingly A team finished 2nd with Cameron Deschamps to Ossie Lugo to Cyncere Perry to Liam LaMotte for a new Personal Record! Riiight behind then was Killingly B team which had Cooper Logee to Braydee Testa to Brandon Harrison Jr to Kaiden Cayer for 3rd!

In the 100m dash, Kaiden and Braydee were flying again to finish 1st and 3rd respectively while Cyncere, Ossie, Damien Seace, Brandon, Nate Comtois and Jackson Olson all ran for Personal Records!

In the 200m dash, Braydee and Kaiden were at it again finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively! Damien and Nate once again got a Personal Record!

In the 400m, it's a grueling race that Isaiah Benoit took on the challenge to finish tops amongst Killingly finishing 3rd! Williams Polanco, Costandinos Yoclas and Rylan Roethel all ran for Personal Records!

In the 800m, Williams was at it again as one of our rising Long-Distance specialists and was the top finisher for Killingly finishing 4th and was out there again for the 3200m finishing 3rd and getting his own Personal Record!

In the 1600m, our other Long Distance Specialist Calvin Vandale is finishing up his Senior year strong, he finished 3rd!

In the 110 hurdles, Senior Jeremiah Smith does what Jeremiah Smith does in the hurdles; he finishes 1st!

In the 4x400, Liam to Cam to Jon Palmer to Brandon for a fresh new Personal Record and finished 2nd!

Down by the jumping pits, at Long Jump, Jeremiah and Coop both put on a show flying through the air to finish 1st and 2nd! Monty Niyomkham, Kaiden, and Rylan all jumped for fresh Personal Records!

In the Triple Jump, Killingly dominated the top 5 spots with Monty finishing 1st, Cyncere finishing 2nd, Calvin 3rd, Isaiah 4th, and Wesley Sprouse 5th with a fresh Personal Record!

At High Jump, The Killingly gentlemen took the top 3 spots with Jeremiah finishing 1st, Braydee 2nd, and Coop 3rd!

At Pole Vault, Isaiah Benoit is back to Pole Vaulting form and finished 1st with a Season Best while Gabriel Covington continues improving every week and once again, got a fresh Personal Record!

Down at the throwing Pits, At Shot Put, Ezekiel Benoit was the top thrower finishing 2nd while Damien and Zachary Ferland both threw for fresh new Personal Records!

At Javelin, Zeke continued to be the top finisher finishing 3rd while Breydan Pearson finished right behind him with a fresh Personal Record, Larry Cote, Damien and Wes all threw for great new Personal Records!

Annnnd at Discuss, Zeke finished his throwing dominance finishing as Killingly's top thrower, throwing for a new Personal Record finishing 2nd!

Absolutely great job yesterday by all! Everyone represented Killingly and themselves proudly on and off of the track. Many compliments were given to sooooo many of you and the entire team and could not be prouder as coaches!

Girls' Golf

On Tuesday, April 28, the Killingly High School Girl's Golf team hosted Lyman Memorial High School and earned the victory. Killingly posted a score of 197 with Lyman posting a score of 219. Killingly was led by co-captain Mackenzie Pothier as she earned medalist honors with a score of 43. Kate Crowley was the runner up with a score of 46. With the victory Killingly improved their overall record to 3-1 on the year.

On Thursday, April 30, the girls hosted Tourtellotte High School and earned the victory. Killingly posted a score of 191 with Tourtellotte posting a score of 257. Killingly was led by Kate Crowley as she earned medalist honors with a score of 46. Addyson Larkin was the runner up with a score of 47. Mackenzie Pothier and Gracie Pekarovic-West also contributed to the victory by shooting a 49 and 50. With the victory Killingly improved their overall record to 4-1 on the year.

On Friday, May 1, the team hosted East Lyme High School and earned the victory. Killingly posted a score of 202 with East Lyme posting a score of 213. Killingly was led by Kate Crowley as she earned medalist honors with a score of 49. Gracie Pekarovic-West, Addyson Larkin, and Jaynie MacQuarrie all shot

a 51 to help secure the victory. With the win Killingly improved their overall record to 5-1 on the year.

On Monday, May 4, the girls traveled to Tourtellotte High School and earned the victory. Killingly posted a score of 221 with Tourtellotte posting a score of 272. Killingly was led by Kate Crowley and Addyson Larkin, both earning medalist honors with a score of 54. With the win Killingly improved their overall record to 6-1 on the year.

Girls' Lacrosse

The Killingly girls lacrosse team battled hard against Ledyard this morning. Catrina Turgeon put up 5 goals and an assist for Killingly, for a 6 point day. Lylah Connetti had 3 goals and an assist for a career high 4 point game. Riley Ritchotte added 2 goals and an assist for Killingly. The draw team was on fire today, Catrina Turgeon secured 6 on the circle, Lylah Connetti had 5, Riley Ritchotte and Lianna Hutchinson helped secure another 3 for Killingly. Alexa Gregoire was a wall in net coming up with 13 saves. The team efforts fell short ending in a 12-10 loss. We will be back out on Morgan Field Monday afternoon against Montville.

Boys' Tennis

Killingly 6 Montville 1

Will Clayton defeated Zach Thomas 6-2 6-0

Evan Kozey defeated Anthony Estelle 6-1 6-1

Jackson Santese defeated Austin Lin 6-2 6-0

Brady Brezniak defeated Abner Xu 6-1 6-2

Max Richardson & Tomas Gutierrez defeated Eric Li & Kevin Hu 6-2 6-2

Glenn Leveille & Riley Nolin defeated Nyima Tashi & Connor Hayes 6-4 7-6 (10-8)

Naitik Pandya & Garrett Walter's lost to Dawa Dhondup & Tenzin Yonden 4-6 3-6

4-6 3-6

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The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Girls Golf

Woodstock Academy 184
Putnam/Tourtellotte 256
Junior Reagan Scheck had her best outing of the season, a 3-over par 39 at the Quinnetis Country Club to lead the Centaurs (4-0, 3-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference) to the win. Senior Lily Moran added a 44 and Isabelle Tedisky posted a 50. Jordyn Poplawski finished with a 58 for the Putnam/Tourtellotte (0-3,0-3) co-op.

Woodstock Academy 184
East Lyme 208
Veteran Centaurs coach Earl Semmelrock was hoping he would see a match this year where four of his players finished in the 40's. He didn't have to wait long. Reagan Scheck led Woodstock Academy (5-0, 4-0 ECC) to the win with a 40 but also in the 40's were Lily Moran (47), Brianna Beck (48) and Colbie O'Connor (49) at the Quinnetis Country Club. Alaina Sartori led the Vikings (2-3,2-3) with a 48.

Coventry 177
Woodstock Academy 185
Junior Reagan Scheck was the medalist for the match as she recorded a 39 for the Centaurs at the Windham Club. Lily Moran added a 47 and Brianna Beck was one stroke behind Moran for Woodstock Academy (5-1). Mazie Cox and Chloe Shearer led the Patriots with a pair of 43's.

Boys Golf

Woodstock Academy 4 ½
Fitch 2 ½
It was a nip and tuck battle between the two Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I foes at the Shennecossett Golf Club. Brady Hebert fired a 37 and Aidan O'Connor added a 39 and Alec Nunes split his match. The Centaurs (2-2, 1-1 ECC Division I) got the other two points by one stroke, a 168-169, advantage in the team medal points. Austin Lelek led the Falcons (3-4, 1-2) with a 38.

Woodstock Academy 6
East Lyme 1
The Centaurs recorded their third straight victory as they overcame the challenge of the Vikings and the quirky Old Lyme Country Club. Three golfers for the Centaurs, Aidan O'Connor, Blake Hudock and Max Kopp all shot a 41 to lead Woodstock Academy (3-2, 2-1 ECC Division I) to the win. Caleb Trost shot a 40 and recorded the lone victory for the Vikings (4-3, 0-3).

Woodstock Academy 7
Montville 0
The Centaurs completed a rather busy week, four matches in four days, with four straight wins. Senior Aidan O'Connor led the way with a 2-over par 38 for Woodstock Academy (4-2) at the Quinnetis Country Club while Brady Hebert carded a 40. Elijah Ancil paced the Wolves (3-2) with a 44.

Woodstock Academy finishes 8th
Brady Hebert finished with an 83 and Aidan O'Connor added an 85 for the Centaurs who finished with a 346 total, good for eighth overall, at the Wildcat Invitational at the Norwich Golf Course. The event is one of the few 18-hole events on the high school golf calendar. Xavier finished first with a 286 total while host NFA was second with a 308.

Boys Volleyball

Farmington 3
Woodstock Academy 1
For the first time in 13 matches, the Centaurs (12-1) found themselves on the wrong side of the scoreboard. Farmington won the first set but the Centaurs rallied to tie the match with a 25-23 second set victory only to see Farmington rally to win the last two. Owen Budd had 15 kills for Woodstock Academy while Brayden Bottone and Evan Chernik added 12 each and Chernik had 11 service points. Christian Hart had 18 digs.

Woodstock Academy 3
Innovation 0
It was another fast afternoon for the Centaurs as they rolled past Innovation by the scores of 25-10, 25-12 and 25-10. Christian Hart had a big service day for Woodstock Academy (14-1, 10-0 Connecticut Volleyball League) with 23 points and six aces. The Libero also added six digs. Evan Chernik had eight digs while Brayden Bottone had eight kills and Gavin Hecker 16 assists.

Girls Lacrosse

Montville 12
Woodstock Academy 2
Kaylee Saucier and Clara Dowdle scored for the Centaurs (0-5-1, 0-4 ECC Division II) but it was not enough against the division-leading Wolves (7-0, 5-0).

Bacon Academy/East Hampton 15
Woodstock Academy 7
The Centaurs are still looking for that elusive

first win as the Bobcats (6-4, 3-2 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) doubled up on them. Kaylee Saucier had three goals for Woodstock Academy (0-6-1, 0-5) while Emma Forcier added a pair. Baylee Rosinski and Claire Anderson also scored for the Centaurs, it was the first career goal for Anderson.

Boys Lacrosse

Montville co-op 8
Woodstock Academy 7
The Centaurs took a one-goal lead into the final 12 minutes but were outscored by the Wolves 3-1, giving the co-op (5-3) the victory. Patrick Griswold had five goals and Corey Lafond added five assists in the loss for Woodstock Academy (3-5).

St. Bernard/Wheeler 12
Woodstock Academy 45-2.
Dylan Phillips scored three goals and Corey Lafond added a goal and three assists for the Centaurs (3-6) who came up short against the Saints (5-3).

Baseball

Killingly 11
Woodstock Academy 5
The Trailblazers scored five runs in the fourth inning to break open what was a one-run game. Jameson Costa led the Centaurs (4-7, 3-3 ECC Division II) with a pair of runs batted in while Rhys Asikainen and Drew Bundy had two hits each. The middle of the lineup produced for Killingly (5-6, 1-4) as third hitter Michael Fabiano had three hits, including a double, and drove in three runs. Right behind him, Jake Beaudreault had a three-run triple.

Woodstock Academy 5
Montville 4
The Centaurs took a 4-1 lead early, saw the Wolves tie the game with three runs in the top of the fourth and answered with the game-winning run in the bottom of the inning. Caleb Simoneau singled, went to second on a fly out and scored what proved to be the

winning run for Woodstock Academy (6-7,4-3 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) when Will Ellsworth singled. Simoneau finished with three hits for the Centaurs while Ellsworth had two hits and an RBI each. Eric Richmond had two hits and two RBIs for Montville (6-6, 2-2).

Softball

NFA 14
Woodstock Academy 2
Campbell Favreau tripled and scored on an error and Ellary Sampson had an RBI double to give the Centaurs (1-10) the 2-0 lead in the top of the third. The Wildcats (9-1) responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning, two in the fourth, five in the fifth and four in the sixth to walk away with the win. Olivia Bourdon hit a home run and drove in three runs for NFA and Sophie Miner added two hits and three RBI.

Woodstock Academy 3
St. Bernard 1
The Centaurs celebrated Senior Day with a victory on their home field at the Bentley Athletic Complex. Senior pitcher Kaylee Ziarko went the distance, allowed three hits and the one run and finished with six strikeouts in the circle for Woodstock Academy (2-12). Caroline Ethier and Faith Sortwell each had an RBI in the win. Keira Davila had two hits for the Saints (2-12).

Girls Track

Woodstock Academy 90
NFA 60
Elise Coyle led the way for the Centaurs (3-0, 2-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) as she accumulated 15 points by herself, getting first-place finishes in the long jump and 400m and joining Claire Bruneaux, Emme Langevin and Bella Amlaw for a first-place finish in the 4x400m relay. Emma Weitknecht captured 13 points of her own by winning both the 100m and 300m hurdles and a second in 200m while Teagan Maloney also finished with 13 points

with firsts in the 100 and 200m races and a second in the 300m hurdles. Senior Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain broke her own school record in the javelin by five feet with a first-place throw of 131-feet, 11-inches. She also took second in the high jump and third in the triple jump.

Boys Track

Woodstock Academy 102
NFA 48
A couple of Centaur athletes captured not one, not two, but three first-place finishes. Senior Eli Manning won the shotput, discus and javelin and was second in the 110m hurdles. Fellow senior Abe McGregor was best in the 100 and 200m races and the long jump and was a member of the winning 4x100m relay team for Woodstock Academy (3-0, 2-0 ECC Division I). Both seniors were competing in their final home meet of their high school career. Owen Williamson won the 110m and 300m hurdles and ran the anchor leg of the winning 4x100m relay. Collin Teal was best in the 400m and Sam Greene captured the 800m.

Boys Tennis

Lyman 4
Woodstock Academy 3
Aaron Rodriguez snuck away with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 victory at third singles and it was what the Bulldogs (6-1) needed to pick up the win as their doubles teams came through. Lyman Memorial swept doubles to overcome singles losses to Rodrigo Diez, Ryan Chabot and Heath White of Woodstock Academy (4-3).

Girls' Tennis

Woodstock Academy 7
Fitch 0
The Centaurs (8-1) were successful from top to bottom as they swept singles and doubles for the win on the road over the Falcons (2-6). Maria Oliynyk and Lillian Gregorzek guaranteed the sweep when they downed Fitch third doubles Avianna Fiengo and Clara Ferraro 7-5, 7-3 (tiebreaker),



Courtesy
Grandmaster Mike Bogdanski and Linda Garcia taught Northeast Connecticut-area seniors an introduction to martial arts. Basic self-defense was covered as well as Asian history and philosophy. Following the program, sponsored by the Putnam commission on aging, the participants enjoyed pizza and trivia.

The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra presents



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Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m., and

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Deferred compensation plans: Smart strategy or hidden risk?

FINANCIAL

FOCUS

JONATHAN MATTHEWS
ASSOCIATE
VP, CLIENT
EXPERIENCE &
RELATIONSHIPS

BY JONATHAN MATTHEWS

Deferred compensation plans are often positioned as a powerful tax and retirement planning tool, especially for high-income professionals and executives. On the surface, the concept is simple: defer a portion of your income today and receive it later, ideally when you're in a lower tax bracket. But like many financial strategies, the real value lies in the details.

Used correctly, deferred compensation can be a smart, strategic lever. Used incorrectly—or without full understanding—it can introduce meaningful risks that are often overlooked.

What is a deferred compensation plan?

A deferred compensation plan allows you to postpone receiving a portion of your income until a future date, typically retirement. The most common forms include Nonqualified Deferred Compensation (NQDC) plans (offered by employers to select employees) and Qualified plans, such as 401(k)s, which have contribution limits and regulatory protections.

This article focuses primarily on nonqualified plans, where both the opportunity and the risk tend to be greater.

The strategic advantages

For high earners, deferred compensation can serve several key purposes:

1. Tax deferral: By postponing income, you avoid paying taxes on that money today. If structured properly, distributions in retirement may be taxed at a lower rate.

2. Supplemental retirement savings: Unlike qualified plans, many NQDC plans allow you to defer significantly more income, helping close retirement savings gaps for executives who have already maxed out traditional accounts.

3. Timing flexibility: Some plans allow you to choose when distributions occur—retirement, a future date, or even staggered payouts—creating opportunities for tax planning.

4. Potential investment growth: Deferred amounts are often tied to investment options, allowing for tax-deferred growth over time.

From a planning standpoint, these benefits can be meaningful—particularly when integrated into a broader strategy that includes tax, retirement, and estate considerations.

The hidden risks

Where deferred compensation becomes more complex, and potentially problematic, is in the structure of these plans.

1. Lack of ownership and creditor risk: With most nonqualified plans, your deferred income is not held in a separate, protected account. It remains part of the employer's general assets. That means that if the company faces financial trouble or bankruptcy, your deferred compensation could be at risk. And that means that you are essentially an unsecured creditor. This is one of the most critical and often misunderstood risks.

2. Limited liquidity and control: Once you elect to defer income, you typically cannot access it early without penalties. This lack of flexibility can become problematic if your financial situation changes.

3. Tax timing risk: While deferring income may reduce taxes today, it introduces uncertainty about future tax rates. If tax rates rise or your income in retirement is higher than expected, you may not realize the anticipated benefit.

4. Distribution constraints: IRS rules around deferred compensation (particularly under Section 409A) are strict. Elections must be made in advance, and changing them later can be difficult or costly.

5. Overconcentration risk: Many executives already have significant exposure to their employer through salary, bonuses, stock options, and equity. Deferred compensation can further concentrate financial risk in a single entity.

When does it make sense?

Deferred compensation plans tend to work best when: you are in a high current tax bracket and expect lower income later; your employer is financially strong and stable; you have sufficient liquidity outside the plan; and the strategy is part of a coordinated financial plan, not a standalone decision.

In other words, it's not just about whether the plan is "good" or "bad," it's about how it fits into your broader financial architecture.

A planning-first perspective

One of the most important takeaways is this: deferred compensation is not purely a tax strategy—it's a risk management decision. Just as with emerging technologies like AI in financial planning, increased capability often comes with new layers of complexity and risk that require careful evaluation. The same principle applies here. The ability to defer income is powerful—but it must be weighed against liquidity, credit, and tax risks. This is where disciplined, integrated planning becomes essential.

Deferred compensation plans can be a smart strategy, but only when approached with clarity and intention. They offer tax efficiency and savings flexibility, but they also introduce risks that aren't always visible at first glance. The difference between a smart move and a costly mistake often comes down to how well the strategy is aligned with your overall financial plan.

If you're considering a deferred compensation plan, or are already participating in one, it's worth stepping back and evaluating how it fits into your broader strategy.

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Pomfret 250 Commission, Historical Society collaborate on concert series celebrating music of the Revolution



Tom Vaughn

POMFRET — The Pomfret Historical Society and the Pomfret 250 Commission will host a series of concerts featuring musicians who specialize in early American music as part of the America 250 Celebrations from May to October 2026. Three of the concerts will be held at the Old Town House, 11 Town House Drive, in Pomfret the third Sunday's of May, June, and August. The fourth concert will be held at the Vanilla Bean Café on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. as part of the welcome reception for the reenactors participating in the Revolutionary Pomfret Reenactment and Living History Event Oct. 3 & 4 at the Pomfret Recreation Park in Abington. On December 4th there will be a Community Carol Sing featuring early American and English carols in the historic Old Town House built in 1841.

Concerts are free and open to the public. Musicians include Tom Vaughn, "A Musical Sampler: music from the mid 1700's to the 1840's"; Rick Spencer

and Dawn Indermuehle, "From the Colonies to Independence: Songs of America's Transition"; and Richard Donahue, "What a Glorious Crash They Made: Music of Connecticut's Revolution." Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle will return for an evening of "Sea Shanties, Drinking Songs, and Ballads" at the Vanilla Bean for the Oct. 2 reception.

The Concert series was generously funded through donations from local civic organizations including: The Friends of Pomfret Library, Pomfret

Proprietors, Pomfret Lions Club, and the Pomfret Town Democratic Committee. Further donations are welcome to support the interpretive programming during the Revolutionary Pomfret event, including "Loyalist vs Patriot, a Debate between Godfrey Malbone and Israel Putnam"; "Recollections from the Battle at Breeds Hill with General Israel Putnam (Kenneth Noll)," and the laying of the wreath ceremony for the 60 Revolutionary War soldiers in Old Abington Burial Ground. Checks may be sent to the Town of

Pomfret/250, Pomfret Town Hall, 5 Haven Rd., Pomfret Ctr., CT 06259.

Tom Vaughn will perform "A Musical Sampler" for the first concert in the series on Sunday, May 24 at 3 p.m., at Pomfret Old Town House. An interpreter of music history, trained violinist, luthier, and clock-maker, Tom will demonstrate a variety of original historic musical instruments while dressed in period clothing. From instruments like the fiddle, flute, clarinet, guitar and rocking-melodeon, Tom will perform different genres of popular music ranging from the mid-1700s to the 1840s. Guests will learn about the original artifact instruments themselves and hear each instrument as it would have sounded over two centuries ago. The Old Town House, with its vaulted ceiling, provides the perfect atmosphere and acoustics for the Revolutionary Music Series. All are welcome.

For more information, contact Donna Dufresne at windsong@snet.net.

Eastern student Dylan Chamberlin of Woodstock presents on national stage

WILLIMANTIC — Eleven seniors at Eastern Connecticut State University presented their research to undergraduate scholars from across the country at the annual National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Richmond, Va., from April 13-15.

The group reflected a wide range of academic fields, ranging from visual arts displays and art history posters to analyses of learning patterns and complex computer operations.

Among the presenters was Dylan Chamberlin of Woodstock, a senior majoring in Computer Science. Chamberlin presented a project titled "Assessing Convolutional Neural Network Performance on Balanced and Imbalanced Image Datasets".

"It is truly an exceptional and rewarding experience for the students, gaining valuable insights, being inspired by fresh ideas, and embracing meaningful opportunities to learn, grow, and connect," said

art Professor Tao Chen, the faculty chaperone for the trip.

In addition to their studies, the students had ample time to go sightseeing in the historic city, bond over breakfast at Waffle House, visit museums, and play "Marco Polo" in the hotel pool.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential cam-

pus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2025-26 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

First Congregational Church of Pomfret to host "Our God Is Awesome" weekend of fellowship and renewal

POMFRET — The First Congregational Church of Pomfret invites the community to a special weekend event titled "Our God Is Awesome" scheduled for May 15 and May 16. This weekend event will be a time for fellowship and renewal.

You are invited to come and worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Each of the 5 sessions will be led by an area pastor or church leader, starting on Friday evening and continu-

ing throughout the day on Saturday.

The schedule includes:

- Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m. Our God is WISE
- Saturday, May 16 at 9 a.m. Our God is HOLY
- Saturday, May 16 at 10:30 a.m. Our God is FAITHFUL
- Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m. Our God is LOVING
- Saturday, May 16 at 2:30 p.m. Our God is SOVEREIGN

In addition to the sessions, the church will provide hospitality to all who attend; coffee and desserts will be served during the Friday evening session, and a lunch will be on Saturday.

Registration is required to attend this event, so the church can ensure there is enough seating and food. Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up by calling the church office at (860) 928-7381 or by emailing fccp@fccpomfret.org.

org.

About First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The First Congregational Church of Pomfret exists to help people to know Christ and make Him known. We are a dedicated and caring community of believers in Jesus Christ who seek to share His salvation message with others. We are family friendly and desire to share God's love with people of all ages.

Poets at Large presents Finnegan & Kaci May 16

POMFRET — Poets at Large will bring some new voices and their work to the area on Saturday night, May 16, at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret. The featured readers that night will be West Hartford's James Finnegan and Irena Kaci of Worcester, Mass. Admission is free and donations are welcome.

James Finnegan has published poems in Ploughshares, Poetry Northwest, The Southern Review, The Virginia Quarterly Review, as well as in the anthologies: Good Poems:

American Places edited by Garrison Keillor; Laureates of Connecticut;

Shadows of Things; Imagining Vesalius; Waking Up to the Earth; and Of Hartford in

Many Lights. For a decade he served as president of the Friends & Enemies of Wallace

Stevens (stevenspoetry.org). He posts aphoristic ars poetica on the blog ursprache.blogspot.com and maintains CT-lit, a state-wide email list that connects Connecticut poets to each other with updates on their achievements and activities.

Kaci is a poet and writer living in Worcester, Mass. with her spouse and two children and is a graduate

of Clark University. She writes for Pulse Magazine, and is a Poetry Editor in Residence for the Worcester Writers' Collective. She also serves as Executive Director for the Worcester County Poetry Association. Her work has appeared in the Worcester Review, Atticus Review, Blue Mountain Review and others.

Poets at Large has brought more than 120 published and awarded poets to the area since 2020 and dozens of people have participated in the open mic portions during that time. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant and are recommended for

ages 16 and up. Readings for the rest of the season are sponsored in part by donations from bankHometown, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic; five-minute max as time allows.



ELLIS TECH ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

DANIELSON — Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

9th Grade
 High Honors: Kaiden Andersen, Jason Armstrong, Jacob Aubertine, Leuxian Balcher, Isabella Badlwin, Amila Bauer, Lucas Beavan, Cayden Belsito, Isabella Bernier, Connor Blanchette, Benjamin Boledovic, Kaycen Boulais, Stryker Brisson, Matthew Carter, Timothy Charbonneau, Joshua Chausse, Jaycob Chevez, Justin Clark, Dylan Daignault, James Demers, Nadya Dimeco, Angeline Espinoza Nava, William Fenner, Amilia Fraser, Maximus Gaetani, Draven Garrity, Joseph Girard, Logan Glaude, Mason Haley, Ryder Heon, Emily Hernandez-Rivera, Sydney Jacobson, Matthew Johnson, Mackenzie Joly, Pyper Kata, James Keough, Ivan Kettle, Simon Kowalczyk, Gage Lacasse, Emmett LaColle, Mason Lee, Christian Lemire, Jacob McHugh, Nora Miller, Alexis Mongeau, Jonathan Montanez, Analisa Morales, Ava Moyer, Trinidadaya Muhammad, Mila Nazario, Josie Page, Carter Payette, Nathan Payette, Abigail Riabstev, Jayden Robidoux, Colin Rodriguez, Easton Sanders, Kaleb Scalpen, Paityn

Simonds, Gavin Sweatman, Baileigh Sweezey, Michael Szczepan, Mia Taylor, Miguel Vieira, Sophia Welpy, Marcus Wierzbicki
 Honors: Damiel Bachand, Averi Benson, Parker Bessette, Adeline Brousseau, Tyler Collelo, Jeffrey Coogan, Amani Cross, Camden Denbow, Braylen Drum, Clay Dunning, Declan Frye, Bryce Gagnon, Liam Gates, Landon Gaugh, Layne Gomes, Mercedes Heltke, Bryan Highley, Chase Jenkins, Amber Johnson, Ella Kettle, Deken Labby, Aiden Larose, Jayden Lavallee, Ashton Leffingwell, Brooke Mayo, Taryn Menard, Samantha Molloy, Nathaniel Murd, Giavanna Naprava, Elisa Perez Taha, Charlie Proseus, Brendan Stone, Walker Whipple, Darius Young, Micah Young

10th Grade
 High Honors: Khalan Abreu, Sarah Anger, Emily Barrow, Evan Bauch, Ryder Benoit, Kammy Boothby, Adam Boss, Christopher Bowen, John Brisson, Abigail Bruscato, Lyanah Chin, Alina Collette, Alexander Conti, Josslymar Cruz Llanos, Bree Czikowosky, Rory Darigan, Alyssa Daudelin, Olivia Denbow, Chloe Desjardin, Noah Devine, Brandyn Diaz, Cameron DiMartino, Vincenzo DiMeglio, Emma Dodd, Ioannis

Exarhoulias, Jace Fontaine, Riley Fusco, Kolden Garrison, Jackson Genay, McKenzie Gianquitti, Evan Gileau, Gia Gillespie, Noah Hall, Jeremy Hart, Makayla Herman, Patrick Holdredge, Makayla Horan, Noah Howlett, Blake Irace, Isabella LaBarre, Katelyn Lathrop, Skyelar LeDoux, Makenzie Lee, Parkeer Leveille, Krishna Lin, Kaiden Lopez, Emma Lussier, Jordyn Mackie, Dominic Marocchini, Maria Marocchini, Elizabeth Marshall, Justin Maschka, Lydia Mayo, Vincenzo Mazarrella, Chloe McDonald, Aaron Mesick, Nathan Messinger, Talon Miller, Evan Moran, Blake Murphy, Kyleigh Murphy, Jett Neri, Colin Noble, Kasey O'Brien, Brayden Ouimette, Brenden Ouimette, Sadie Paquin, Miguel Perez Parra, Aiden Picuch, Michael Plummer, Aiden Rafferty, Parker Ring, Erik Robert, Jade Roberts, Peyton Salley, Stone Shaw, Kahleiana Shear, James Silva, Kameron Simone, Jackson St.Hilaire, Jenna Stomberg, Rocco Texera, Caelan Thibodeau, Aleck Thurber, Auster Tindall, Sean Topinio, Noah Tudisco, Alivia Whitehouse
 Honors: HARRISAON Andrade, Camden Baribeau, George Beatty, Eric Bunn, Logan Dickinson, Athena Dube, Zachary Dusoe, Caleb Fafard, Lance Forrest, David Galstian,

Amaya Garcia, Colin Gendron, Jorge Hernandez, Bryson Hoffner, Levi Laisi, Luke Landry, Jailyn Martin, Katie Martin, Austin Montville, Cael Moran, Sophia Murray, Carsen Peters, Blake Porrazzo, Aiden Powell, Herbert Rathbun, Gabriel Resto, Zayden Reynolds, Samuel Richardson, Hailey Rourke, Trevin Rowland, Tayton Sajkowicz, Jason Serrine, Tyler Spinney, Griffin Tisler, Camille Vilchis, Dylan Walas, Logan Weems, Ivy Wentzel, Adela Wolczak, Blake Zevetchin

11th Grade
 High Honors: Cody David Bailey, Cody Mathew Baker, Victor Manuel Barrera Garcia, Julyanna Marilyn Barrows, Kyle Nathan Beaulieu, Chase Anthony Beavan, Aubri Bonin, Christopher Edward Boss, Collin Jeremiah Burdick, Aubrey Lane Butler, Haylee Paige Butler, Jack Soren Carlsen, Owen Michael Carpenter, Sarina Jae Champagne, Ayden Alan Ray Cholewa, Ayden Louis Coons, Avery Cruz, Ryan Jacob Desjardins, Natalie Barbara Despres, Aelia Sheffield Ditzel, Austin Robert Drumeer, Ava Faith Ethier, Cardyn Elizabeth Feen, Matthew Gallow, Carter John Gladue, Cogan Gosselin, Julia Guimont, Kaleb John Herrick, Autumn Lynn Kelly, Aiden James Kilmer,

Savannah Jet Kokinakis, Nickolas Kulla, Jacob Robert Lawrence, Julian Patrick Lawrence, Sophia Mae Mallett, Alexander Joseph Marisi, Kian William McKenna, Jaxon Patrick Medeiros, Casey Joseph Mercier, Taylor Raine Meseck, Daniel Michael Ormstead, Frank Henry Ormstead, Dakota Dillon Page, Cole William Passco, Ava Rose Pereira, Noah Rolland Pilsbury, Caidence Renee Constance Poisson, Ryan Thompson Rondeau, Elezar Phamich Sarandi, Tristchion Ivorey Speight, Hunter Joseph St. Jean, Khloe Nicole Volle, Kaydence Olivia-Aidali Wilson, James Christopher Winters
 Honors: William Alexander Bessette, Brooklyn Frankie Boulais, Charles Bourassa, William Douglas Chartier, Kierstin Marie Diaz, Cooper Stone Ducat, Richelle Jane Eaton, Jeffrey Flagg, Gabriel Girard, Beau Goulas, Hailey Marie Hagggett, Amaya Leigh Hart, Noah Wesley Heon, Trevor Louis Lamothe, Gabe Aaron LaPointe, Kaeden Daniel Mayo, Jade McCarthy, Connor Scott Moreau, Kathlynn Ann Osborne, Zachary Moore Payette, Nina Jean Poplawski, Hunter Daniel Sharp, Hunter David Stenhouse, Samuel Xavier Stone, Taylor Rayne Strickland, Adelina Kimora Tate,

Sullivan Stehele Tedford, Dylan S. Warren, William Bryce Whipple, Connor Jacob Zimmer

12th Grade
 High Honors: Ivan Cheng, Asaph Beauchene, Alexis Barton, Kayleigh Jaworski, Carson Evans, Cole Smat, Brody Bradley, Drew Gisleson, Yaideliz Grajales-Rivera, Kenneth Griggs, Gavin Jeffs, Gabriel Rivera, George Blanchette, Brady Campbell, Taylor Corson, Landen Davis, Ava Desjardins, Hernan Perez Taha, Cuahemoc Rosas Noriega, Brianna Ryan, Kolby Sanders, Olivia Bedard, Lincoln Jackel, Ava Long, Victor Bojarski, Caleb Geyer, Ava McClure, Kyle Parent-Cummings, Yaideliz Dessus Pesante, Juneisy Rodriguez, Sadie Johnson-Teed, Zachary Rodriguez, Jonathan Silva, Abigail Towne

Honors: Abigail Clark, Gavin Mancini, Quintin Zevetchin, Brett Lyon, Andrew Kuljancic, Dax Sforza, David Hedge, Mason Benoit, Cody Ciotola, Tanner Fortier, Aaron Gilfooy, Hannah Rainey, Brayden Deffley, Ryan Orr, Brody Porrazzo, Everett Stone, Payton Demers, Sam Giroux, Raymond Ducharme, Charles MacWilliams

KILLINGLY

continued from page A4

1760, James Armistead lived most of his life on a plantation in New Kent, Virginia. During the American Revolution, however, James received permission from his master, William Armistead, to enlist in the Marquis de Lafayette's French Allied units. Here, the army dispatched Armistead as a spy, playing the role of a runaway slave to gain access to General Cornwallis's headquarters. Because Armistead was a native Virginian with extensive knowledge of the terrain, the British received him without suspicion. As a result, Armistead accomplished what few spies could: direct access to the center of the British War Department. After successfully infiltrating British intelligence, Armistead floated freely between the British and American camps. As a double agent, he relayed critical information to Lafayette and misleading intel to the

enemy. Oblivious to his true intentions, the British assigned Armistead to work under the notorious turncoat, Benedict Arnold. By helping Arnold maneuver his troops through Virginia, Armistead gained significant insight into the Redcoats' movements. Several of Armistead's finest acts occurred in 1781, during a critical moment in the Revolution—the Battle of Yorktown. The spy informed Lafayette and Washington about approaching British reinforcements, which allowed the generals to devise a blockade impeding enemy advancements. This success resulted in the final major victory for the colonists when Lord Cornwallis surrendered on October 17, 1781. (<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/james-armistead-lafayette>)

"Esther de Berdt Reed (Oct. 22, 1746 – Sept. 18, 1780) served as first lady of Pennsylvania during her husband Joseph Reed's term as president of the Supreme Executive Council of

the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a role analogous to Governor of Pennsylvania, from 1778 to 1780. (Wikipedia). "(Esther) Reed was the first president of The Ladies Association of Philadelphia, the first female voluntary association in the United States. The public nature of The Ladies' activities was critical for the success of their fundraising efforts. The Ladies Association, with its well-defined roles, goals, and plans, was an inclusive organization that reached across classes and engaged all women as equally patriotic as men. The association's leadership divided the city into regions, assigning women to go door-to-door and solicit publicly, greatly increasing the visibility of their cause. By allowing all women to participate according to their means, the Ladies raised money from more than 1,400 residents. Less than a month after publishing her broadsheet, on July 4, Esther sent a letter to Washington informing him that the ladies had raised more

than 300,000 Continental dollars, with additional funds expected from other states. With this money, the Ladies produced over 2,000 shirts for soldiers in the Continental Army. Perhaps even more critically for George Washington, The Ladies' success re-energized women's support for the war as news of their campaign moved far beyond Philadelphia. Several contemporary letters echoed sentiments similar to those of a woman from Philadelphia, whose letter appeared in the Maryland Gazette: "I have learned more than ever to respect my countrywomen, and there is no title in which I shall hereafter more glory than in that of an American woman." (<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/ladies-association-philadelphia>).

The Killingly Historical Society recently had the pleasure of viewing a Native American program on the Mohegan Tribe by member Madeleine Hutchins. It is very sad to think that after European

contact in the 1500's, diseases decimated the Indigenous Peoples, killing at least 70 to 90 percent of them. Tribes in present-day Eastern Connecticut were severely impacted. An actual colonial presence beginning in the 1600's radically changed the lifestyle of the natives. The whites demanded they abandon their culture, their clothing, their language, and their religion. The Mohegans were a matrilineal society with family descent tied to the female line. Women were highly respected and made a number of important decisions for the tribe. That all changed. The video "Up and Down the River" clearly portrayed how difficult life became. Yet they persevered and today are able to pass along much that they have learned from their respected elders. I'll be writing a little more about them in a future column. Perhaps you would like to visit their museum in Uncasville. "The Tantaquidgeon Museum, operated by the Mohegan Tribe, offers free admis-

sion and tours conducted by Mohegan Tribal members. Groups of six or more are by appointment. For more info or to schedule a visit, call 860-235-8057 or email museum@moheganmail.com. Regular Business Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking Address: 1 Church Lane, Uncasville, CT (The museum is located just across the street)." (<https://www.mohegan.nsn.us/explore/museum>)

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, April 2026. Special thanks to Madeleine Hutchins. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistorical society.

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OBITUARIES

Mike Lambert, 70



Mike Lambert, 70, of Danielson, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on April 28, 2026, at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on September 15, 1955, in Putnam, Connecticut, Mike was the son of the late Kenneth Lambert Sr. and Theresa (Benjamin) Lambert. He grew up in North Grosvenordale and graduated from Tourtellotte High School in 1973. He went on to build a long and dedicated career, beginning at Jacob's Rubber and later at Putnam Plastics, where he worked as a process engineer for 28 years.

Mike was known for his kindness, generosity, and unmistakable sense of humor. If there was a moment that could be improved by a "corny dad joke," Mike was already one step ahead. He had a way of making people feel comfortable, valued, and—more often than not—laughing.

A devoted Red Sox and Knicks fan, Mike found some of his greatest joy in life's simple moments, especially fishing with his late brother, Mark. Those quiet days by the water reflected who he was at his core—steady, patient, and deeply loyal to those he loved.

He took great pride in both his work and his family, serving as a mentor to many coworkers and earning a reputation as the "go-to" person—someone you could always count on, no matter the situation.

At home, that same dependability made him the foundation his family leaned on, always putting their needs before his own.

Of all his roles, Mike was most proud to be a grandfather. His grandchildren brought him endless joy, and he treasured every moment spent with them.

Mike's life was defined not by grand gestures, but by consistent love, quiet strength, and the countless ways he showed up for others. His impact will be felt for generations by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Suzanne Lambert; his daughter Jennifer and her husband Jason Goyette; and his cherished grandchildren, Emily Goyette and Michael Goyette. He is also survived by his sister Donna Witkowski (Joseph), sister Sandra Walmsley (Joseph), brother Kenneth Lambert Jr. (Mary), and sister Tina Parreira, along with many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and extended family members.

He was predeceased by his father Kenneth Lambert Sr., his mother Theresa Lambert, his sister Linda White, his brother Mark Lambert, and his stepson Roger Morin Jr.

Services will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mike's memory to a charity of one's choice. Share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com

Rochelle E. "Rachel" Beaudry, 101



Rochelle E. "Rachel" Beaudry, 101 of Putnam passed away Friday, April 24, 2026 at Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam. Beloved wife of the late George Beaudry, he died in 2006. She

was born in Putnam, February 24, 1925 daughter of the late Joseph and Lillian (Labossiere) Gagne.

Rachel lived in Putnam her entire life, she attended St. Mary's School and Putnam Catholic Academy, she then worked at Belding Heminway Corticelli in Putnam until her retirement. Rachel was a communicant of St. Mary's Church of the Visitation in Putnam. After retirement Rachel and her husband traveled on many trips with the Royal Travelers.

She leaves her children Sandra Coult and her husband Edward of Danielson,

Richard Beaudry and his wife Elizabeth of Thompson, grandchildren Steven Coult and his wife Amanda of Griswold, Jason Coult of Danielson, Eric Beaudry and his wife Elisa of Canterbury, great grandchildren Jacob, Devan, Kaylani, Francesca and six great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her granddaughters Karen Beaudry and Jennifer Lehrer, siblings Annette Duval, Lucille Rhault, Theresa Johnson.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 10:30 AM at St. Mary's Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence Street, Putnam, CT, Burial to follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. Smith and Walker Funeral Home in Putnam has been entrusted with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her memory to Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 10 Executive Dr Suite 202, Farmington, CT 06032. Share a memory at Smithandwalkerfh.com

Ronald E. Dion

1948 - 2026

Putnam – Ronald E. Dion, Age 77, of Killingly Avenue, died Sunday morning, May 3, 2026, at Villa Maria Healthcare. He was the loving husband of Elaine M. (Kuppe) Dion. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Leo P. Dion and Madeline (Mandeville) Dion.

On May 11, 1972, at Sacred Heart Church in N. Grosvenordale he was united in marriage to the former Elaine M. Kuppe.

Mr. Dion worked at Electric Boat as a piping supervisor for many years.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Cargill Council of Putnam.

He enjoyed vacationing at the beach, gardening, and rooting for all the New England sports teams.

In addition to his wife, Ronald is sur-

vived by his sons, Nicholas J. Dion and his wife Jessica of New London and Zachary P. Dion of Putnam, his daughter Elissa M. Alvord of Dayville; his brother, Michael Dion and his wife Anne of Indianapolis, IN; and his grandson, Dillon Alvord of Dayville. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother, Mark Dion, and his sister, Annmarie Edwards.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit with Ronald's family from 4:00pm to 6:00pm on Thursday, May 14, 2026, followed by a service in the funeral home at 5:00PM in the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guest-book visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

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



Roland Demers, Jr. named Thompson's Veteran of the Month

BY RENE J. MORIN
VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER

TOWN OF THOMPSON

THOMPSON — Navy Second Class Petty Officer E-5 Roland A. Demers, Jr. of Bellerose Street in North Grosvenordale has been selected by the nominating committee to be recognized and honored as the May 2026 Veteran of the Month for the Town of Thompson. He becomes the first veteran of the Navy "Sea Bees" to be selected for our award and recognition.

On July 19, 1970, shortly after graduating from Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Class of 1970, Demers joined the United States Navy, and reported to Great Lakes, Ill. for his Basic Training and indoctrination to the Military Service. After completing his basic training, Roland was assigned to the 21st naval construction unit MCD-40 in Davisville, Rhode Island for a rigorous six months on the job training for "A" and "B" schooling in all things involving steel construction including rigging, forging, welding

and fabrication, and while at Davisville completed his orientation to the Sea Bees way of Military life.

Subsequent to his schooling at Davisville, Demers and his Battalion were assigned to his first overseas deployment on a very remote island named Diego Garcia, in the middle of the Indian Ocean. He recalls that this very small island was only a seven-mile long horseshoe shape island, and two miles wide. It was inhabited by a small group of natives who lived off the land consuming bananas, climbing coconut trees, lived in homemade huts and fished the ocean for anything they could catch to sustain their well-being. They were one of the first Battalions to ever occupy this island, and their assignment was to construct a small military base and build an airstrip. Ironically, earlier this year, this very island, Diego Garcia, was on the national news as having had that airstrip destroyed by missiles fired by the United States government as part of the ongoing war, and the issues and security surrounding the Strait of Hormuz.

Since there was no fresh water to drink on Diego Garcia island, the first order of business was to construct a distillery for safe water to consume and to prepare their food. After approximately nine months of isolation and fatigue and their work assignment completed, his Battalion was replaced by a new battalion unit. Petty Officer Demers was re-assigned to Camp Lejeune, N.C., and pleased to be back to a civilized society. At Camp Lejeune, he was instructed in use of heavy artillery, M-81 weapons, missile launchers, hand grenades during a short two-week assignment preparing him for his next deployment.

Demers was next deployed to the Philippines where he spent nine months building large "Wonder Arches" (similar to Quonset huts) for incoming and outgoing aircraft to be repaired and maintained from the constant rigors of the war in Vietnam.

Their work was critical in aiding the United States to maintain our effort in the ongoing struggles in Nam. These wonder arches were large, two times the size of a football field and many had to be constructed to stay ahead of the incoming aircraft traffic. Roland recalls that it was during his time in the Philippines that martial law was introduced by the Philippine Government which restricted all American Military personnel to a very strict 8 p.m. curfew or face the almost certain possibility of being incarcerated or neutralized by weapon of choice.

Demers' next assignment after returning from the Philippines and spending some time back home on a temporary leave, was his marriage to his high school sweetheart, Linda Howland. Their marriage was conducted at the St. Stephens Church in Quinebaug in 1973. Roland and Linda have been happily married for 53 years. Linda's Dad, Ralph Howland, owned and operated a very successful trash hauling business in the greater Thompson and Putnam area for many years that many of you might remember. The Howland's are a well-known and respected family in Thompson.

After a brief leave from duty, Petty Officer Demers was deployed to the Neamatery, Greece Air Force Base. During his six-month time in Greece, he assisted in building a Military post office and a Hobby Shop. Roland recounted that he enjoyed the History of the Acropolis and of the Gladiators that roamed those historic grounds centuries prior. During his tenure in Greece, Demers recounted that he was part of a welding team that produced numerous oil tanks for crude oil for the United States Reserve for shipment back to the United States during the 1973-1974 gasoline shortage. This brings back memories of the long lines waiting to fill up your tank, only if you were fortunate enough to make it to the pump before it emptied out.

At the conclusion of his final overseas

deployment, Demers was returned to Rhode Island to assist in the closing of the original Davisville Naval Sea Bees Base. The base was closed permanently in 1974. A final assignment sent him to the Camp Fogarty Armory in Rhode Island for four months to train and instruct the National Guard in small fire arms M-16 and M-45's before his honorable discharge on July 19, 1974 culminated his stellar military career.

For his exceptional service to his country, Demers was awarded the National Service Defense Medal, the expert Marksmanship Medal, the Vietnam Defense Medal along with numerous ribbons and citations.

Roland was born in Webster, Mass. to parents Roland, Sr. and Beatrice Demers. He attended the Thompson Public School System and graduated from TMHS class of 1970. He and his wife Linda have 2 adult sons, Brian a resident of Thompson and Kevin currently living in Arizona. They have 4 Grandchildren, Grandsons Payton and Collin and Granddaughters Aleyah and Harper.

After his military career with the Navy and the SeaBees ended, Roland was employed for 30 years at the Webster Wire Company in Oxford, Ma. Initially he began and remained as a supervisor for some 20 years. When the Webster Wire Company sold out to the fortune 500 Company Leggett & Platt, Roland traveled the world for 10 years with Leggett & Platt in a marketing and public relations role to such places as Germany, much of Europe and California. He retired from that role, when he had an opportunity to travel less and remain closer to home. Roland was approached by David Chaput and was offered a position with the Thompson Water, Pollution Control Authority. He remains with the TWPCA some 24 years later. With his military skills, background and supervisory experience, Roland was a natural for that position. Roland first became an operator of this very complex water and sewerage system and more recently has served as Chief Operator and Director of the Authority. Roland has also been employed as a part time maintenance worker at the Thompson Senior Center Gladys Green and Pineview Court where he has assisted many seniors with his expert hands on skills, and loved by all.

Roland was a coach in the Thompson Little League System with the T-Ball program, assisting Deb Spinelli for two years, and then with the Minor League program. In that capacity he coached the Toutant Auto Body team to a league championship. Among his hobbies Roland enjoys time with his Sons being involved in the "RC" Racing Cars circuit in Webster and in surrounding communities. He has also been very involved with his sons in their pursuit of paintball greatness. Roland has been a member and volunteer of the American Legion Post 67 for more than 20 years.

Roland will be presented with a Plaque by the Thompson Board of Selectman and the Veterans Officer at their May 5, 2026 meeting, honoring and recognizing his Military accomplishments.

Eastern student Audrey Windrow of Danielson presents at computing conference

WILLIMANTIC — Prior to this year, Eastern computer science Professor and Department Chair Garrett Dancik had never traveled with more than two students to the Annual Meeting of the Consortium for Computing in Colleges Northeast Region (CCSCNE). This year's group tripled that record, as Dancik brought six students to the conference at Smith College in Northampton, Mass., on April 10.

Each student presented an original research poster. Dancik clarified that while some students' work fell into the category of traditional research, others presented at a session new to the conference this year, titled "Application Development." This session was inspired by an increasing number of students developing apps.

"I was impressed with the diversity of the work carried out by the students," wrote Dancik. "The diversity of the work shows both the variety of skills and interests of our students, from AI to applications related to sustainability and curriculum development."

Among the presenters was Audrey Windrow of Danielson, a senior majoring in Computer Science.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2025-26 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Roland E Zuidema, Sr. (26-00116)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 24, 2026, 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:

Keith Zuidema
c/o EVELINA MONIKA
RUSZKOWSKI,

THE PRUE LAW GROUP, P.C.,
720 MAIN ST 4TH FL,
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226

May 8, 2026

Town of Woodstock

Water Pollution Control Authority
The Water Pollution Control Authority Notice is hereby given that the Water Pollution Control Authority of the Town of Woodstock has established a rate increase in the annual sewer rates as follows:

- Residential Customers new rate is \$12.88
- per thousand gallons.
- Metered Customers new rate is \$24.07
- per thousand gallons.

This rate increase was filed in the Woodstock Town Clerk's Office on April 30, 2026, and will go into effect July 1, 2026.

Any appeals from such charges must be taken within twenty-one days after such filing.
May 8, 2026

OBITUARIES

Andrew J. Kosiba, 38



Andrew J. Kosiba, age 38, of Danielson, CT passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at his home in Danielson, CT. Born in Worcester, MA and raised in Dudley, MA, Andrew was the son of the late John Kosiba and Kathleen (Peterson) Kosiba.

Andrew graduated from Shepherd Hill Regional High School in 2006 and later earned a degree in Jazz Studies from Western Connecticut State University in 2010. A pianist since the age of 7, he dedicated his life to mastering the instrument. Andrew shared that passion with others through music education, aiding many students in pursuing their own musical dreams.

Over the last 20 years, Andrew collaborated and played with musicians across Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts in multiple ensembles, bands, and projects. Through hard work and creativity, he recorded and was featured on 13 albums and toured all across the Eastern US. He was one of the first members of the New Haven Jazz Underground, a guild of musicians dedicated to performing and producing concerts in the Greater New Haven area. Andrew often accompanied special guests and jazz luminaries through his work with the Underground.

More locally, Andrew was the Music Director and Organist at Sturbridge Federated Church for 15 years. Under his direction, the Music Ministry used their musical talents to praise God weekly at church services. The Ministry also performed in the community, including holiday performances at Old Sturbridge Village, and participated in ecumenical community choral workshops. Andrew was always eager to bring in small groups

and solo musicians to church services throughout the year to do God's good work through voice and instrumentation.

Andrew's professional commitment to youth music education began 15 years ago and included various roles including Private Lessons Instructor, Jazz Clinician, Classroom General Music Teacher, Choral Director, Band Director, Jazz Band Director, and Pep Band Director, in the communities of Shrewsbury, Framingham, Uxbridge, Dudley-Charlton, and his most recent employment at Sutton Middle School. Andrew had turned his interest towards working in Special Education where he hoped to spend his future.

In his free time, Andy could be found boating with family on Quaddick Lake, playing a round of golf with his late father, listening to vinyl records on his favorite sound systems, or going for a drive to find and enjoy himself a solid cup of coffee.

He is survived by his mother Kathleen (Peterson) Kosiba of Woodstock CT; Uncle James and his wife Marylee Kosiba of Dudley, MA; Aunt Kathie and her husband Bernie Faucher of North Grosvenordale, CT; and his life long friends Nick Di Maria of New Haven, CT and Dave Macuga of Storrs Mansfield, CT. Andrew will also be missed by numerous cousins, countless friends and colleagues, his Pastor David Cote, and his beloved Church family at Sturbridge Federated Church.

A celebration of life will be held 10:00 am on Saturday, May 16 at Sturbridge Federated Church, 8 Maple St., Sturbridge, MA with Pastor David Cote officiating. Burial will follow in Oakridge Cemetery in Southbridge. Calling hour at the church will be Saturday, May 16 from 9:00AM to 10:00 AM. Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. is assisting the family with arrangements. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Henry B. Wilson 1941 - 2026



N. Grosvenordale – Henry B. Wilson, 85, of Denis Dr., died, Saturday, April 25, 2026, peacefully at home. He was the loving husband of the late Dale E. (Kelley) Wilson who died on April 6, 2024. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Burton and Florence (Latour) Wilson.

Mr. Wilson worked for over 21 years as a Connecticut State Trooper.

Henry enjoyed model railroading and going fishing with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his two daughters, Amy Wilson of Alexandria, VA and Caterina Gianelli of N. Andover, MA; his two sisters, Deborah Briere of Putnam and Donna Grkman of Wilmington, NC; his grandchildren, Erik Larsen, Meaghan Shiffrin, Zoe Atienza and Xavier Atienza and his great granddaughters, Alana Gianelli and Lyla Gianelli. He was predeceased by his wife, two daughters, and a sister.

Funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Letha A Roome

Letha A Roome of Davis Place in Danielson ct passed away unexpectedly March 29 at Day Kimball Hospital. Letha was born on July 24, 1948 to Priscilla and Richard Rosenquist. She graduated in 1966 from Charlton High School and David Hale Fanning Trade School where she became an LPN. Letha's passion was helping others and she worked in many local Nursing homes, home health care agencies and taught CNA classes. She was always advocating for her clients to ensure they had a better life. It was ironic that many of the nurses/aides that she taught at Davis Place was still there when she became a resident. Once Letha retired, she devoted her life to caring for animals and was a volunteer at Paws Cat Shelter in Putnam Ct.

Letha was a devoted mother and grandmother. She leaves two daughters, Jennifer of Lisbon Ct, Meredith of Ramsey Nj, 3

siblings Pauline of Thompson Ct, Richard of Cape Coral Fla and Fay of Danielson Ct. She leaves two grandchildren, Amber and Trey which were the light of her life, several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews and many friends especially, Bob, Victoria and Chris.

Letha never had many material things as whatever she had, she gave to others. She said that she never thought she would spend her final days in a nursing home, but she loved being at Davis Place. She was a friend and mentor to many of the residents and is greatly missed there.

Their will be a celebration of Letha's life on Saturday, May 9, 2:00 pm at Davis Place, Westcott Rd in Danielson ct.

The family asked that donations be made in her memory to Paws Cat shelter, 74 School st Putnam Ct. (woodstockcats.org) or to Davis Place Recreation Dept. , 111 Westcott Rd Danielson, ct. 06239

George Raymond Breckel, 82



George Raymond Breckel, 82, of Palominas, AZ, died peacefully on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at home surrounded by family. He was the devoted husband of Erika (Tilts) Breckel. Born in Providence, R.I. on April 30, 1943, he was the second son of Olive (Parenteau) and Carl Joseph Breckel Jr.

During the war years while George's father was serving in the Pacific Theater, George's early years were well lived in Mountindale, R.I. After the war, the family moved to Georgiaville, R.I. and subsequently to Danielson, CT. George finished his schooling in northeastern Connecticut and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1961. Concluding his military obligation in 1965, he remained in Denver, CO where he married and joined Lowry Air Force Base as a civilian.

George never entertained living in the cold climate of Colorado into retirement. Having divorced and having accepted an early retirement on his birthday, April 30, 1988, due to the Base Realignment and

Closure Act (BRAC) affecting Lowry AFB, George seized the opportunity to join his older brother in Sierra Vista, AZ. This is where this kindest, nicest, most decent chap, George, met his forever love, Erika.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Erika Breckel of Palominas, AZ; brother, Carl Joseph Breckel III (Louise), sisters, Pegi Breckel, Suzanne Carpenter (the late Kenneth); children, Veronica Greaney (John), George Breckel, Jr. (Kimberly), Ronda Denton, Ranece Breckel (Trevor); his grand- and great-grandchildren.

Friends and family are invited to a funeral Mass to be held at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 800 Taylor Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ on May 14, 2026 at 10:30 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Casa de la Paz Hospice, 174 S Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 would be appreciated. To sign the guestbook, please visit: www.hatfieldfh.com.

John Robert LaBelle, 81



John Robert LaBelle, 81, passed away peacefully overlooking the lake in his home in Dayville, CT, early in the morning of April 24, 2026. He is survived by his beloved wife, Janet; his daughters: Joanne Sward (Ross Sward) and Jacqueline LaBelle-Young (Joshua Young); his grandchildren: Caitlyn Sward (Christopher Vaudrain), Garrett Sward (fiance Ava Provolo), R. Louis Young, Marion Young, and Emmanuel Young; and four of his siblings: Irene Kennedy, Raymond LaBelle (Youngsoon LaBelle), Alice Rita LaBelle (Tom Zimmer), and Elaine LaBelle (Gayle Haskell). He is predeceased by his brother Paul LaBelle, brother-in-law Brian Kennedy, and parents Alice LaBelle and Zephriam LaBelle.

John was born in Putnam, CT on September 18, 1944. Being part of a large farming family, he juggled farm chores while attending Putnam High School as a young man, later completing programs in Carpentry and Architectural Drafting at Ellis Technical School in Danielson, CT. He met Janet Cormier through a cousin on the farm one day in June 1963, and she agreed to date him despite the fact that he'd been cleaning the chicken coops. They were married on June 17, 1967, and their first daughter came along 11 months later. John earned his architectural license in 1970, through the International Correspondence School.

John's legendary drive and ethical approach led to many accolades over the years, including recognition in Outstanding Young Men of America in 1974, and "Outstanding Person" recognition in Connecticut Architect Magazine in its December 1974 issue. He was part of the CT Army National Guard's 1109th Transportation Division, and served as an Aircraft Engine Repairman from 1966-1968.

John lived to help others, and was involved in many public service endeavors locally and nationwide. If there was an event he could contribute to, he showed up. He was involved in local politics, including the Putnam Chamber of Commerce, the Putnam City Council, the Putnam Master Plan Committee, and later the Killingly Democratic Town Committee, and was held in high esteem by people of all political stripes for his tendency to reach across the aisle.

John held various positions over the years. He was a department manager at JCJ Architects for seven years; he was the Assistant VP of facilities operations at CT Mutual Life Insurance for fifteen years;

and had a combined thirteen years experience in the gaming industry. John spent eight years at Foxwoods before moving to Niagara, NY, where he managed design and construction of various projects for the Seneca Falls Casino.

After his return from Niagara, John did architecturally related research for Andy Civitello, while at the same time embarking on his career as an artist. Beyond architectural drawings, John had a beautiful eye for texture and color, and loved to give repurposed materials new life with his unique vision.

Two of John's top superpowers were music and humor. Born with a set of pipes that could have rivalled Pavarotti, John loved listening to music and belting out tunes, especially hits by John Denver. His favorite instrument was the harmonica. He loved to accompany friends and family in just about any situation involving music. John used humor to charm, disarm, and cope with his many medical adventures. When he was literally on his deathbed, this is the joke he told in a whisper: "What happens when you give a horse an enema? ... He turns into a shitzu".

John lived by the deeply held philosophy that strangers are simply people you haven't yet met. Everywhere he went he made lifelong friends. Being John's friend/family meant that he would move heaven and earth for you if he need arose, whether you wanted him to or not! He treated everyone with equal respect and consideration, and was not swayed by status or titles. He saw and accepted people for who they are. He was chock-full of wisdom and curiosity, and everywhere he went, inspiration and joie de vivre spread from him like ripples on a pond. His loss will leave a tremendous void, but his legacy will continue on in countless ways.

A celebration of John's life will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2026 at Thompson Raceway Restaurant from 12:00-4:00 pm. He wanted a party with singing, dancing, and stories, so you're invited to be prepared to participate in any or all of those activities.

In accordance with John's wishes, his body has been donated to the Anatomical Gift Program for the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University for medical education and research. For more information on anatomical donations or to make a monetary donation in John's name, please write Mr. Jesse Gomes at the Anatomical Gift Program at 275 Mount Carmel Ave., Hamden, CT 06518, or visit their website.

Donations can also be made to Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut (daykimball.org/patient-services/hospice-and-palliative-care/).

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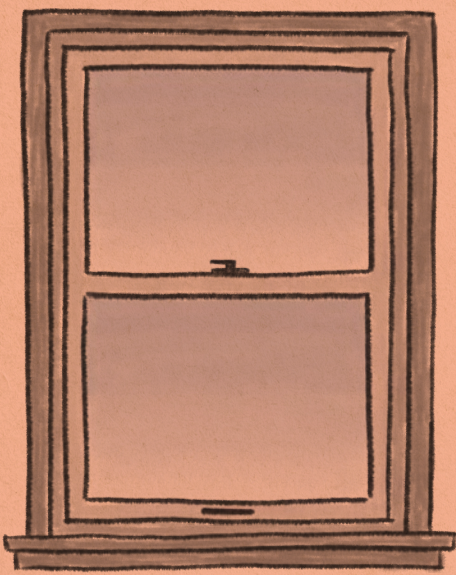
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