



# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Friday, October 18, 2024

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## Thompson celebrates opening of new track and playground



Officials cut the ribbon for the newly renovated track adjacent to Tourtellotte Memorial High School.



The ribbon is cut for the new playground at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Courtesy

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Thompson's annual Community Day on Oct. 5 was extra special in 2024, as it featured the officially opening of two long awaited new amenities for the Thompson Public Schools: the new Tourtellotte Memorial High School track and

the new Mary R. Fisher Elementary School playground.

Both projects resolve closed facilities that were once staples of the school community but were retired due to safety concerns. The track had been closed for official meets for decades and was the subject of replacement talks dating throughout the 2020s before grant

funding and a positive vote from the taxpayers in 2023 officially green-lit the \$1.5 million project. The playground, which was closed in 2022, was funded thanks in part to the efforts of the Mary R. Fisher Elementary School PTO who spearheaded a fundraising campaign that saw numerous local businesses and entities donate to

the cause while funding through the State Bond Commission helped reach the \$150,000 goal. Both facilities were installed over the summer.

The first ribbon cutting of the day was the new track which included a special mile run and walk complete with commemorative medals left over from the last official track meet held at the old facility. The new acrylic track now provides a full six lanes and will allow the school to hold local meets for the first time in 30 years. Tourtellotte Memorial High School Principal Thomas Mellen praised the support and investment in the new facility which he said will be an asset to not only the

school, but the town at large for years to come.

"This track will not only serve as an investment for our students, it is an investment that will positively impact the Thompson community and beyond. Through a \$1.5 million town bond this beautiful track went from a dream and concept to a reality. It was the citizens of Thompson that stepped up and voted to approve this beautiful campus. This track will serve future generations of Thompson residents for decades and beyond," said Mellen.

Thompson Schools Athletic Director Deb Spinelli, who saw several generations of student athletes practice on the old track, was ecstatic to

finally open the facility and officially welcome track meets back to Thompson.

"We were practicing out here, but we only had a few lanes we could use successfully and safely — Now we have the whole six lanes out there, we're ready to go, and I can't wait to see the improvements in our play," Spinelli said. "I expect any of our kids who are going to be participating on this track to not only be super successful, gaining their own personal bests, but as a team be more successful because we have the facility, we have the backing of the community, and we're going to have some home-

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## Subcommittee to finalize Vision Committee ordinance

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Following a public workshop on Sept. 21, the Killingly Town Council is moving to the next step in producing an ordinance for the formation of a Vision Committee. The appointed body would essentially act as an advisory committee examining the short- and long-term goals for the community at large.

Following the workshop, it appears the town will be proceeding with the formation of the committee. The Town Council was presented with a revised sample of the

ordinance during their Oct. 8 meeting which is only an example of what the ordinance could look like. Much of the brief discussion involved how the Council would move forward with finalizing that document. Town Council Chair Jason Anderson said they also need to work on maintaining public interest and involvement while that process takes place.

"I was happy with the turnout. I know one thing I brought up was we need to work to keep people who are interested engaged while we go through the process of creating the ordinance to create this commis-

sion. The gist of what I got coming out of that was our next step is setting the goals and the expectations for the commission that way people who are applying know what they're applying for and not just a title," said Anderson.

Town Manager Mary Calorio said applications for the commission have already been received, although she questions if the town wanted to proceed with advertising for membership before the ordinance was finalized. Anderson commented that the priority right now is to produce a final

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## American Legion donates to Veterans Park repairs



Courtesy

Left to right: Mike Vassar, Brian Maynard, Dave Gilbert, Barney Seney, Rob Challinor, Mike Rocchetti, Jim Bradley, and Alan Joslin.

PUTNAM — Several representatives from the American Legion Mayotte-Viens Post #13 presented a check for \$12,000 to the Putnam Veterans Advisory Committee during their monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, Oct. 8 at the Putnam Town Hall. The donation was made to help pay for the repairs

and upgrades to Veterans Park.

The check was presented by current commander Michael Rocchetti and past commanders Brian Maynard, Michael Vassar, Barney Seney, and Alan Joslin. The VAC Chairman, Robert Challinor, graciously accepted the donation and thanked the Legion

for their tremendous contribution, as well as the previous \$10,000 contribution that was made in March of 2024.

According to Rocchetti, "The Veterans Park is very important to the Legion — one of our organizational core values is 'remember our Veterans.' Our Veterans Park will help preserve the memories of their service and sacrifice."

According to Putnam Mayor Barney Seney, "The project is nearly complete and we've spent approximately \$211,000 dollars, and so far, the town of Putnam has only contributed \$11,000 — the rest of the money has come from donations and commemorative brick sales. The outpouring of support from the community has been phenomenal."

The work at the park included new pavements and landscaping, new monuments, a new flagpole, new lighting, new fencing, bollards, signage, and park benches.

## Fundraiser Fair introduces community to local healers

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — The term "healer" can be applied to many different practices whether it's medical professionals in a hospital setting or therapists helping patients deal with personal trauma. But sometimes recovery goes beyond the traditional definitions of healing. For many, healing involves a trio of focuses called the "trinity" encouraging balancing the mind, the body, and the spirit through a variety of means.

The Quiet Corner plays host to many professionals who embrace different modalities of healing from massage to meditation and beyond. Many of these healers came together for a special fundraiser fair in Danielson on Oct. 5 to help one of their own while also offering visitors the chance to explore the wide variety of healing practices available to them in their community.

The Holistic Healers Fundraiser Fair was held at the old Saint Joseph Church in Hartford Pike Road in Danielson to benefit Deb Crane, the owner and practitioner at Equine Sports Therapies who suffered an accident that has kept her out of work. More than 13 healers set up booths and offered their services free of charge to help visitors find better balance with their own trinities and provide insight into how their practices work.

Event co-facilitators Shelly Maguire and Lisa



Jason Bleau

Representatives of The Wholistic Collective in Danielson pose for a photo while setting up as one of the many vendors at the Holistic Healers Fundraiser Fair.

Ennis explained that not only was the fair meant to help their friend, it was also an opportunity to bring the healers together and allow the community to explore the different healing options available to them.

"We want to demystify

what healers do. I think a lot of people are very curious about what we are doing as healers, so this is a nice safe environment for the public to come out and see what we do. Maybe there are certain perceptions, and we

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# Become a citizen scientist and help protect the waters of The Last Green Valley

DANIELSON — Join TLGV Rangers Emma, Cassidy and Jean to learn about the Stream Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteer (RBV) Program and how you can play a vital role in the water quality of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor.

RBV sampling is a citizen science program TLGV has coordinated in the Heritage Corridor since 2006. With the help of our volunteers, we have provided the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) with valuable data on the water quality of our streams by searching for and cataloging aquatic macro-invertebrates. If the macroinvertebrates that are most sensitive to poor water quality are living in our streams, their presence indicates our streams are clean. Since 2006, the data TLGV's volunteers have collected has directly affected the work CT DEEP has done and the proof is the increasing number of those "most wanted" macroinvertebrates found across The Last Green Valley.

You can learn more about efforts across the state here: <https://ctdeep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/>

[index.html?appid=9265f117579546678b70ff9dbd6d0854](https://www.killingly.org/index.html?appid=9265f117579546678b70ff9dbd6d0854)

To participate in the RBV program you must attend one of the two training sessions being offered by TLGV from 9 am to 1 pm on either Oct. 18 or 19. Locations are TBD. Training includes classroom time and time at a stream collecting samples.

To register email Ranger Emma at [Emma@tlgv.org](mailto:Emma@tlgv.org).

After training, TLGV will work with volunteers to establish locations and timing for volunteers to do stream sampling.

The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is the last stretch of dark night sky in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. The Last Green Valley, Inc. is a member-supported, non-profit organization working for you in the National Heritage Corridor. Together we can care for, enjoy and pass on The Last Green Valley!

## Killingly Chronicles Oct. 21 – Oct. 26

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org))  
 Monday the 21st  
 Planning & Zoning Commission Workshop (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 6 p.m.  
 Tuesday the 22nd  
 Democratic Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 6 p.m.  
 Wednesday the 23rd  
 Board of Education Meeting (KPS Central Office) 7 p.m.  
 Thursday the 24th  
 Open Space Land Acquisition Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS  
 Monday the 21st  
 KPL Lit Talks (Library) All Day  
 An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day  
 Wonderful Ones and Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
 Homeschool Club (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon  
 Tuesday the 22nd  
 Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
 Lori Gottlieb: Virtual Author Talk (Library) 2 p.m.  
 Small Business Academy (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 6 to 8 p.m.  
 Wednesday the 23rd  
 Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.  
 Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:45 a.m.  
 DAR Book Club (Library) 1 to 2 p.m.  
 Senior Movie: Hubie Halloween (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
 Witches in Connecticut (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 5:30 to 6 p.m.  
 Thursday the 24th  
 Story Craft (Ages two to six) (Library) 10 to 10:45 a.m.  
 Create an Edible House (Ages eight to 12) (Library) 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
 The Hauntings of Downtown Danielson (Killingly Historical Society) 6 to 8 p.m.  
 Friday the 25th  
 Teen Lock-In (Ages 13-17) (Library) 4:30 to 9 p.m.  
 Hocus Pocus (Outdoor Movie) (Westfield Church Lawn) 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
 "Descendants: The Musical" (The Little Theater on Broad Street) 7 p.m.  
 Saturday the 26th  
 Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day  
 The Giant Room (Library) 10 a.m.  
 Descendants: The Musical (Sensory Show) (The Little Theater on Broad Street) 1 p.m.  
 Trick or Treat on Main Street or Trunk or Treat on Commerce Ave – 3 to 5 p.m.  
 DJ and Glow Stick Party on Commerce Ave – 4 to 6:30 p.m.  
 Halloween Block Party on Main Street – 4 to 6:15 p.m.  
 Spooktacular Parade on Main Street – 6:15 p.m.

## Jonathan Fritz's whimsical art featured at Putnam gallery

PUTNAM — An art exhibit and opening reception featuring the works of Jonathan Fritz, a Putnam resident know for his intricate acrylics from here to New York City, is being held at The Corridor Gallery in the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Putnam. The An Opening Reception will be held on Thursday, Oct. 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with free refreshments and a chance to speak with the artist.

Fritz art, a unique combination of tribal art and cartoon graffiti, has been inspired by his childhood memories and

significant past and present relationships. Collectors and admirers love the way his figurative images are brought to life through his unique, textured style of painting. The current show features acrylic paintings as well as some "reflective" art in the form of painted mirrors. All of the artwork is available for purchase.

The opening reception and gallery show, sponsored by the Putnam Arts Council, is free and open to the public. For hours and more information please visit [PutnamArtsCouncil.com](http://PutnamArtsCouncil.com).



## Putnam Knights of Columbus hosting fundraising dinner

PUTNAM — The Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam, is hosting a Steak Dinner Fundraiser to benefit Paws Cat Shelter on Friday, Oct. 25. Food will be served from 6-7 p.m. Eat in or take out.

\$30 per ticket includes sirloin steak, baked potato, green beans and a roll. Tickets are limited and can be purchased at Knights of Columbus, Paws Cat Shelter, 74 School St., Putnam and Joseph Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more info or how you can donate, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

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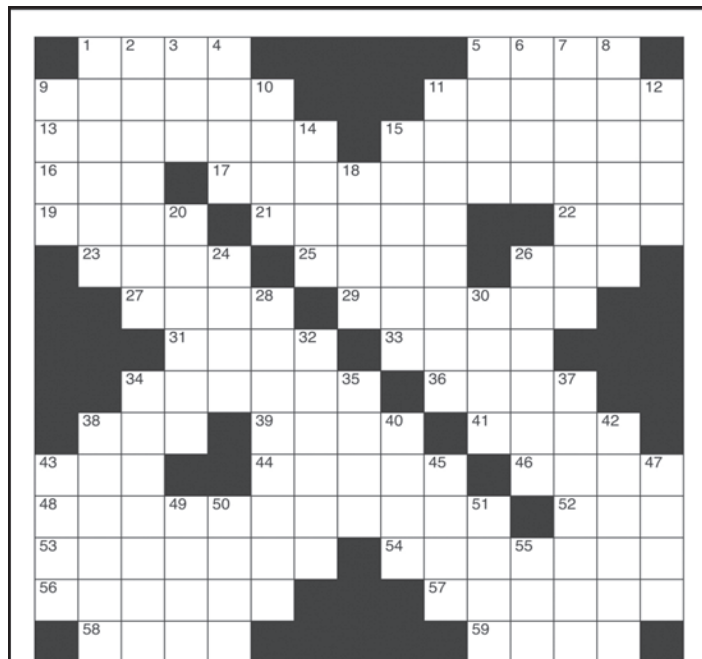
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### CLUES ACROSS

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Tall, upright post on a boat           | 33. Walk heavily                      |
| 5. Basics                                 | 34. About a wood                      |
| 9. Used to refer to cited works           | 36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate |
| 11. Folds                                 | 38. Political action committee        |
| 13. Former UK PM May                      | 39. SB19 hit song                     |
| 15. Cold region of Russia                 | 41. Scorch the surface of             |
| 16. Standard operating procedure          | 43. Moved quickly on foot             |
| 17. Separating                            | 44. Sacred state for a Muslim         |
| 19. Particles                             | 46. Growl                             |
| 21. A way to map out                      | 48. Pearl Jam frontman                |
| 22. Referee declares                      | 52. Irritating person                 |
| 23. Beginner                              | 53. Something requiring a solution    |
| 25. Water (Spanish)                       | 54. Firing                            |
| 26. Gov't lawyers                         | 56. Hazards                           |
| 27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism | 57. Taiwan capital                    |
| 29. Spanish friends                       | 58. Impudence                         |
| 31. A type of tree                        | 59. Rock frontman Durst               |

### CLUES DOWN

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. One who rides an elephant            | 26. A bend                        |
| 2. Absence of bacteria                  | 28. Fishes of the herring family  |
| 3. Soviet Socialist Republic            | 30. Antelopes                     |
| 4. Men's fashion accessories            | 32. Chaos                         |
| 5. "Honey" actress Jessica              | 34. Popular music app             |
| 6. Round red root vegetable             | 35. Cooking material              |
| 7. Latin term for "charity"             | 37. Musical instrument            |
| 8. Doesn't smell good                   | 38. San Diego ballplayers         |
| 9. Mental health issue                  | 40. Small amounts                 |
| 10. Millisecond                         | 42. Poured                        |
| 11. Hairstyle                           | 43. Fabric                        |
| 12. Edible starch                       | 45. Food option                   |
| 14. Middle Eastern military title       | 47. Finger millet                 |
| 15. Protein-rich liquids                | 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one |
| 18. Indian musical pattern              | 50. Alberta, Canada river         |
| 20. Cancer and Capricorn                | 51. Canadian flyers               |
| 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula | 55. Dry white wine drink          |

### PUZZLE SOLUTION



## Pomfret Board of Education Announcement of Vacancy

Pomfret Board of Education has an interim vacancy to fill. The appointed member will serve until the next Biennial Election (November 2025). Interested candidates please send a letter of interest to: The Pomfret Board of Education, Pomfret Community School, 20 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. Deadline 10/22/2024. Because of Connecticut minority representation rules, this seat is reserved for a registered Democrat or unaffiliated voter. **Open to Residents of Pomfret Only**



# Robert Cording named Woodstock's first poet laureate

WOODSTOCK — The Town of Woodstock is honored to announce Robert Cording as our first town poet laureate. We are so fortunate to have such an esteemed and experienced poet right in our community.

Robert Cording has published ten collections of poems, the most recent of which is "In the Unwalled City" (Slant, 2022). He has received two NEAs in poetry. He won three Pushcart Prizes in poetry, and his poems have appeared in publications such as the Georgia Review, Southern Review, New Yorker, Poetry, Hudson Review, Kenyon Review, Image, The Sun, The Common, Agni, New Ohio Review, Orion, and Best American Poetry, 2018.

Cording taught for 38 years at Holy Cross College where he was the Barrett Chair of Creative Writing and Professor of English. After he retired from Holy Cross, he taught poetry in the MFA program at Seattle Pacific University for five years. He has lived in Woodstock since 1983 with his wife, Colleen. Their three sons all graduated from Woodstock Academy.

This Fall, Mr. Cording is offering a poetry workshop

on "Ten Famous British Poems from the 16th to the 20th Century." Each week will feature a specific poem. Robert will explore how each poem was made and discuss, among other things, what makes a poem endure over time.

On Oct. 24, we will begin the program with a Reception & Reading to introduce Robert in his role to the community, and hear him read a selection of his poems.

All program events will be held at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, 543 -169, Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Dates include: Oct. 24 (Reception & Reading), Oct. 31, Nov. 7, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, and Dec. 12. For questions about the event and to reserve your spot, email [Towpoetlaureate@gmail.com](mailto:Towpoetlaureate@gmail.com). Space for the workshop is limited to 12 participants - don't wait to sign up! Free to all Woodstock residents.

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## Paws shelter to hold raffle basket 'purr-looza'

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a raffle basket purr-looza on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Knights of Columbus, 68 Providence St., Putnam, from noon to 5 p.m. More than 50 fantastic baskets to choose from. \$20 for 25 tickets or \$5 for six tickets.

Preview some of the baskets on Oct. 25 from 6-7 p.m. during our steak dinner fundraiser.

Skip the line and purchase tickets ahead, call/text 860-759-9984 or stop by the shelter at 74 School St., Putnam. All winners must pick up their prize between

5 and 6 p.m. on Oct. 26.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more information or how you can donate, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

## Spaghetti dinner to benefit Cub Scout Pack 21 activity fund

PUTNAM — Cub Scout Pack 21, of Putnam, will host its fall spaghetti and meatball dinner, including salad and garlic bread, this Saturday, Oct. 19, from 4 until 6 p. m., at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St., Putnam. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 12 and under eat for free. Take-out or eat-in. There will also be a

bake sale and raffles. Tickets are available at the VFW Post and at Joseph's Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam, or by calling (860) 928-5873. Please leave a message when you call. Proceeds will benefit the Cub Scout Pack 21 2024 Summer Camp Fund.

## Woodstock Legion post hosting breakfast and open house this weekend

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites the public to our free open house and breakfast on Oct. 19 from 8-10 a.m. Come to our post located at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, to see what we do for our veterans

and the community and see our newly renovated post home.

We are always looking for new members and due to the LEGION Act of 2019 all veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941 are eligible to join.

**TOWN OF POMFRET**  
**PART-TIME FINANCE PROFESSIONAL/TREASURER**  
 The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Finance Professional/Treasurer responsible for the management of Town funds. Responsibilities include receipt and deposit of town funds, reconciliation of accounts, investment of town monies, preparation of audit requirements and work with auditors during annual audits, perform any and all duties as may be required with this position and as required under CT General Statutes. Work in cooperation with municipal officials and provides financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently. Flexible work hours. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field or five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, municipal work is a plus. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 or email [Selectmansclerk@pomfretct.gov](mailto:Selectmansclerk@pomfretct.gov) Application and full job description is available at [www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office](http://www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office). Position is open until filled. EEO/AA

## Killingly High School celebrates veterans

KILLINGLY — The Killingly High School Music Department invites the community to a free reception and concert celebrating our local veterans Tuesday, Oct. 29. The reception will be held at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria, with the concert following at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Light refreshments and coffee will be served.

Please RSVP by Oct. 25 by calling (860) 774-4656.

## 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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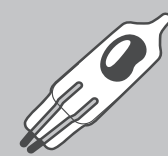
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 EDITOR

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

An especially hard blow

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Working for us!

To the Editor:

I want everyone in the Quiet Corner to know that in the upcoming local elections, we have great options this year. We don't have to settle for elected officials who only care about talking points – the politicians who don't really help us in our daily lives, who can't or won't reach across the aisle, and who do nothing for the towns who elected them. Instead, I support an energetic and industrious team who will improve the lives of all the residents they represent — Mae Flexer, Renee Lapalme Waldron, and Samantha Derenthal. You've probably heard a lot of lies about Mae Flexer's record, but have you heard about any of the things she has done for us? She was instrumental in ensuring that Day Kimball Hospital received \$12 million from the state of Connecticut. She also wrangled state funding for Pomfret Public Library. She has worked to strengthen women's reproductive health and ensure that healthcare professionals can provide the very best care for their patients. She helped improve voting rights protections. Mae helped create the Debt-Free Community College Program, which has helped high school seniors take advantage of QVCC without having to take out loans. And Mae has earned seniority on key senate committees – this gives the Quiet Corner legislative influence we don't want to lose! Renee Lapalme Waldron, running in the 51st District, has spent 30 years in public service for Thompson. She has given thousands of

hours over several decades as a volunteer on the Thompson Recreation and Economic Development Commissions, and for Thompson Together, Inc., Thompson Community Day, and April Roadside Clean-up. Renee is endorsed by the Independent Party and the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, the Building Trades union and several others. She has proved her energy and commitment by making herself available to voters at scores of local events. Samantha Derenthal, running in the 44th district, is a Human Resources professional with a proven record of civility and collaboration. Although she has not held public office before, Sam has also been endorsed by the Independent Party, SEIU, and the AFT. Sam has pledged to prioritize making basic expenses more affordable, enhancing public safety, supporting small businesses, improving educational opportunities, and increasing access to low-cost, high-quality healthcare. Her opponent, on the other hand, just likes to vote "No" on everything from Day Kimball funding to guaranteed insurance coverage of preventative care for women and children. Mae, Renee and Sam want to make the lives of all Quiet Corner residents more affordable, less stressful and rich in opportunities. Ideologues won't do that. I am confident these candidates will accomplish great things for our area. They have earned our trust and support, and most of all, our votes.

ROBIN LOFQUIST  
KILLINGLY

### I'm not sadistic, so I'm not voting for Chris Stewart

To the Editor:

The recent WINY state representative debate was a sobering reminder that it is long past time for the Republicans in this area to take a good hard look at their talent pool and who they can get to run for office at various levels.

I listened to the state representative debate between Chris Stewart and Renee Lapalme-Waldron with a healthy dose of skepticism for both candidates, but as the debate dragged on I noticed Coach Chris veering more and more into answers that resemble a common trick I see from people who run their mouths and try to "fake it 'til they make it" just to stay in a conversation. When you know how to spot this, you can spot when someone is in over their head and will say literally anything to avoid having to admit it.

Renee's answers had more details. Chris' answers were more talking around in circles or repeating talking points I can hear from any Republican pundit out there. Where's the original thought? Where's the plan? Where's anything significant? Then there was the wishful thinking along the lines of "oh wouldn't it be nice if."

That's not the way this works. A WINY debate is Little League compared to the back-and-forth that Chris will encounter in the state capitol.

These problems in the debate just showcase how Chris isn't ready for Hartford, and why should he be? He only recently got involved with the Board of Education in Putnam. Where's the town involvement? It would have been far better if he had picked up some experience as a Selectman or something first. This leap he's trying to make simply skips too many rungs on the ladder.

This entire situation happened when Rick Hayes decided to not seek re-election and wanted to spend more time with his family. I say go all-in and hang it up with the Putnam Board of Selectmen too. Have Chris pick up experience there before making the leap to the next level.

I believe in sending a representative to Hartford. I don't believe in throwing some inexperienced rookie to the wolves.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

### Harris is no lightweight

To the Editor:

Yea verily, "the lord thy god" hath said, "Let us have a National Day of Violence," to eliminate crime. And he hath also said about hurricane Helene, "This is one of the wettest hurricanes we've ever seen from the standpoint of water." And not to be outdone, during the 1/6 riot when told that VP Pence was in danger, he said "So what?" I've couched these in biblical terms to emphasize just a few of the thousands of stupid things GOP'ers have taken to heart as gospel to justify their support of the unsupportable. To follow Trump is to hold to a new religion dedicated to destroying our Constitution and way of life.

Another idiotic event was Trump recently meeting with Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Trump Tower. Just how stupid, insensitive and insulting was it for Trump to brag about his "very good" relationship with the warmonger Vladimir Putin while standing next to Zelenskyy? And let's not forget the International Criminal Court

issued an arrest warrant last year for Putin for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population in the Ukraine. It's clear that Putin is a war criminal and therefore it is abhorrent for Trump to support him. It just proves how incompetently Trump will handle international relations and put our nation at risk. Of course,

Many people believe that Harris is a "lightweight." I never see anyone justifying this with facts. The actual facts conclusively prove that Harris is not a "lightweight." Consider that she has been a District Attorney, Attorney General, US Senator and Vice President. These are not accomplishments that were merely given to her for political reasons. She earned them all through competency and experience. And she did all of these in spite of her demographics – name, being a woman of color. She has risen in spite of so many Americans being bigoted. Vote Blue.

STEPHEN ETZEL  
PUTNAM

### Will we become Trump's sandbox?

To the Editor:

Every day, Trump makes ever more draconian promises of actions he'll take "day one" of his next presidency. The country does not seem particularly alarmed. Why not? Use the Army to round up 30,000 immigrants from all over the country? Be a dictator? End abortion? "You will never have to vote again?" Use the Department of Justice as part of the White House to go after opponents and more, all on day one!

I think we just don't believe him or that this is even possible in America. Constitution and all that. Well, I for one, absolutely do believe him. Yes, he lies constantly but not about his

intentions. From Donald J. Trump this is not just "campaign talk." He will at least try to do all these things and this time there will be no seasoned civil servants and former generals as chiefs of staff and cabinet officers acting as "guard rails."

Add a Republican House and Senate and compliant Supreme Court and Baby Huey can do exactly what he wants. It will not be our country anymore, but his sand box. It's a very sobering thought.

Tim McNally  
Pomfret Center

Additional Letters to the editor,  
See Pages A8-A10

## Celebrating the spooky season

As the air turns crisp and the leaves crunch beneath your boots, there's something about this time of year that feels both cozy and a little eerie. Halloween is upon us, and with it comes the unmistakable pull of ghost stories, pumpkin carving, and a sense that maybe—just maybe—we aren't as alone as we think.

Halloween has roots that go way back, all the way to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Imagine bonfires lighting up the dark, chilly night, with people in animal skins and masks, hoping to keep the spirits from noticing them. It was believed that the veil between the living and the dead was thin on Oct. 31, and the spirits were out and about. Fast-forward a few centuries, throw in some Irish immigrants bringing their traditions to America, and here we are—still dressing up, still feeling that touch of magic (and maybe fear) in the air.

But there's something special about Halloween here in New England. Maybe it's the old houses, some of which seem to creak with secrets of their own. Maybe it's the fog that rolls in just right, making everything feel like the opening scene of a ghost story. New England has been the setting for some of the most chilling tales—stories that seem to hang in the cool, still air this time of year.

Take the eerie tale of the "Lady in White" of Union Cemetery in Connecticut. Picture it: a moonlit night, and a woman in a flowing white dress wandering the cemetery's edge. She's been spotted by countless people over the years, always disappearing into the mist just as quickly as she appears. Then there's "Emily's Bridge" in Vermont, where the ghost of a heartbroken young woman is said to linger, her presence felt by those brave enough to walk the bridge at night. And in New Hampshire, we have the haunting of the Mount Washington Hotel, where guests still report seeing the ghost of Carolyn Stickney, the original owner's wife. She's often spotted in Room 314, brushing her hair, or simply strolling the halls as if still watching over the grand hotel she loved.

But Halloween isn't just about the ghosts; it's about that cozy feeling that comes with the bright foliage and chilly air. There's something magical about this time of year. The world feels like it's slowing down, wrapping itself in the warm colors of fall—heavy sweaters, mugs of hot cider, the crackle of a fire. And yet, even as we snuggle in, we can't quite shake the feeling that we're sharing this season with something... otherworldly.

As you settle into the comforts of fall, don't forget to indulge in a few good ghost stories. Whether it's huddling around a bonfire or sitting by the fire with friends, these tales are as much a part of the season as the turning leaves. Maybe it's because they remind us that even in the coziest of moments, there's always a little bit of mystery in the air.

Enjoy your cider, carve your Jack O'Lanterns, and pull your sweater a little tighter; remember that you're part of something much bigger and older. And if you happen to catch a shadow out of the corner of your eye or feel a chilly breeze sneak in through the window, well, maybe that's just New England reminding you it's not just the living who love this time of year.

Tie presents us with many losses, but for me, the recent death of my brother is an especially hard blow. He was thirteen years and one day older than I, so often we shared birthday celebrations and bought each other thoughtful gifts. Once, I hired a recording studio in the southern city where he lived for him to record the guitar music he liked to write. He tried hard to outdo me on that one. This year, I planned to throw a party in his honor at the retirement community where he lived. It was not to be. Instead, my niece and I arranged his funeral and burial.



NANCY WEISS

Our parents have been gone for decades. Now I am the last member of my family of origin, and it is quite lonesome. As the youngest, this is how it

is supposed to be, but the hole his passing has created feels like a crater. He was the person to whom I sent pictures of me cuddling with my grandchildren, knowing that he would respond immediately with compliments about how lovely we all looked. Perhaps what I miss is the confidence that he was always there to affirm what I was doing, even when he thought my fascination with swimming with dolphins, living on an 18th century farm and recently hiking in Switzerland was a bit too much. He was more cautious and liked routine and order, but never cast judgments on my choices.

The last night he was lucid, I stayed for a long time in his room in the Critical Care Unit. We talked more or less as he drifted in and out. He wanted it all to end, but it went on and on. That seems to be how the end of life goes. It feels very cruel.

His bright blue eyes were tiny slits by then, but so similar to our mother's.

His thumb was a bit misshapen from an accident in childhood where our brother crushed it in a corn grinder. His high forehead was reminiscent of our father. The familiarity one has with a sibling is deep and physical. We know how they smell, the unique scent that belongs only to them. We know their little quirks and how they like their eggs. Siblings speak in a shorthand that only they share and agree and disagree over the same things for their entire lives. It hurts when that familiarity goes. It can't be replaced.

My brother moved away in the 1970's. Before cell-phones, we spoke almost every Sunday. He talked about his golf game, excellent by the way, and I told him about my job, my family and the state of the world. He was quick to embrace technology and had a computer and a cellphone early on. A few years ago he sent me an Apple watch. In recent years, we emailed and texted, sending photos back and forth. At the end, I sat by his bed reading poems aloud to fill the emptiness. After an hour or so, I felt the lightest touch on my arm. I knew what he was trying to say—enough with the poems!

Gratitude is a tough feeling to summon, but I feel it slowly creeping in. By this point in life, losing people is becoming quite common. The chance to grow old is a privilege that includes feeling pain. The relationship my brother and I shared was a gift and we knew it. He loved being the big brother, and I the younger sister. I wrote his obituary and delivered his eulogy. He would have approved.

### Letter submission policy

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

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



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A huge thank you to Linda Szykowitz

To the Editor:

Founder and CEO of fightVoterfraud.org... "One Vote For One Legal Voter" for speaking at a recent Brooklyn Republican Town Committee meeting. What a story...the results are disturbing, but evidence and definitely eye-opening with regards to our broken voting system.

Please check out her fightVoterfraud.org website to get up to speed on the objectives, vast inconsistencies, lack of follow-through and sadly...disregard for improving it with continued inaccuracies. However, her data system is amazing. The lack of compliance and accountability in our state and many others is staggering, but Linda's work will be of great help in fixing it.

Now is the time for US citizens to demand a true and fair accounting of our upcoming Senate and Presidential elections. Less than a month away... please vote. It is your right and privilege.

Don't like Trump? Well, a lot of us do

like how things were during his term. Way better than they are now. Not just prices of everything, but the border crisis, fentanyl crisis, crime...the list goes on and on. Much of the global chaos that we are experiencing is difficult for most of us to absorb and process, but attitude is everything. And when some Opinion writers call us "MAGA Republicans," it is a great compliment! Make America Great Again. Shouldn't we all be MAGA Americans? We appreciated Trump's first term as President and would prefer it over what has happened over the last four years. His hair and skin tone...not so much, but he was the global MVP, making America great! We have our priorities. If you don't see and feel the difference...you are very fortunate.

Demand honest elections and vote. I and most American citizens want honest elections! Please vote, thank you and God Bless America.

TAMI JO WYKES  
BROOKLYN

### I will be voting for Harris/Walz

To the Editor:

As I write this, there are 24 days until the Presidential Election. It will arguably be the most important vote I'll cast in my lifetime as the past doesn't count and who knows if I'll be around for the next election. I'll be 70 in two weeks.

I proudly served 30 years in the U.S. Army, retiring aboard the USS Constitution in 2006. I am an Airborne Ranger, fixed and rotary wing qualified. I flew surveillance missions over Nicaragua, along the DMZ in Korea, and Iraq. Spent 5 years in the Pentagon. Served in the first Gulf War (Desert Shield/Storm). Received more than 30 awards and commendations to include three Legions of Merit, a Bronze Star, an Air Medal and an Army Commendation

for heroism. I state this not to brag (okay, maybe just a little), but to say I'm more conservative than liberal, more aggressive than passive, more team focused than lone wolf.

I label myself a political Independent. I am a capitalist. I love America.

I believe our country is great and will only be greater when we work together for the greater good. My personal mantra is taken from Luke 12:48 - "To those whom much is given, much is expected."

For these reasons, I will vote Harris/Walz on Nov. 5.

LEN SAMBOROWSKI  
WOODSTOCK

### Let's truly vote for the person, not the party

To the Editor:

I often hear people declare that they always vote for "the person not the party," especially when discussing local politics. That's encouraging to hear. I hope that it's true.

This November, we have the opportunity to put that idea into practice: comparing candidates and choosing between them based on their demonstrated character and experience, rather than blindly following a party line. We have a candidate for State Representative who is a lifelong resident; who has worked for the Town of Thompson for over thirty years and has a long, deep history of civic/volunteer work; who was cross-endorsed for Town Clerk by both Democrats and Republicans in three successive elections; who is the endorsed candidate of the Democratic, Independent and Working Families parties; who has demonstrated knowledge and independent thinking in her ideas; and who has shown genuine concern for and understanding of the issues that affect this district in last week's debate on WINY. That person is Renee LaPalme Waldron.

Don't stop there. Mae Flexer has fought for years for the northeast corner, getting funding where it's needed most and supporting the community. She is often present to celebrate accomplishments and is ready to fight for our needs. Just

in the last two weeks she has visited Thompson to participate in the public workshops for the 65 Main project; and to commemorate the ribbon-cuttings at the completed Tourtellotte Memorial High School athletic track and brand new Middle School playground. Each of those projects was made possible through grant applications which Sen. Flexer supported, in the case of the Middle School playground by bringing the project directly to the Bonding Commission on Thompson's behalf. I can only speak directly to her support of projects in the town where I live, but I know that she shows that dedication to her constituents across all nine towns she represents. Finally, where would we be without Congressman Joe Courtney? His experience has influenced decisions that have been a boon to eastern CT in terms of federal funds and jobs. There is no one that can achieve what he has for his district.

I'm not here today to argue about national politics. I am here to say that ignoring the benefits of voting for accomplished candidates and incumbents is done at the peril of the future of Eastern Connecticut. Make a difference by doing the right thing, choose the person, not the party.

BRIAN LOFFREDO  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### Mea culpa

To the Editor:

Due to an error in my reporting, I wrote in this space last week that Ethan Werstler had knocked on a thousand doors. In fact, he has knocked on

over 4,000 doors in our area! Whew!

JOHN A. DAY, JR.  
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

### Feet to the fire

To the Editor:

I had the pleasure of speaking with State Rep. Anne Dauphinais at a sparsely attended town hall style meeting a while back. Rick Hayes was also in attendance (I dug the beach comber look). I was expecting a crowd akin to the one where pros and cons were tossed about concerning the Redmen school name. Not this night.

Before I spoke, a few topics were discussed by the attendees, which were met, as I recall, with the same conclusion: It's all the Democrat's fault.

When I addressed Ms. Dauphinais, it was about my concern whether or not Wauregan Reservoir, a state boat launch/swimming area, could be made Connecticut or local residents only. The reason being that on summer weekends, it is usually overrun by Rhode Island Spanish residents who as a rule leave behind a large amount of trash. I brought pictures. I was just curious to see if this was possible. She wasn't sure if anything could be

done. Fair enough. At least she didn't say they must all be Democrats, but I digress.

Usually during the local campaign season, many superlatives are spoken about Anne Dauphinais. Since I have not followed her career, I am not personally aware of her accomplishments in the Legislature. This is not to say she doesn't deserve the votes of those who

know of her better. She is obviously popular and anxious to serve her district, service being the key word.

With that in mind, Anne, are you willing to openly endorse the Republican Party's candidate for President in this publication? As a staunch (presumably) conservative, will you follow straight party line and say yes to someone who is immoral, incoherent, and unqualified? A man whose threatening rhetoric is violent, and who defames people on the basis of skin color or their chosen faith? I challenge you to endorse in this paper a person who stole classified documents or tell hurricane victims that the government doesn't care about their misery. Will you follow Trump off the cliff, he who endorses Project 2025 and is only out to serve himself?

I recently spoke to a woman who was passing out your literature at the Killingly Transfer Station. I very politely told her that, because of Trump and his cowards in Congress, I would not vote Republican even with a gun held to my head.

If you have the conviction to publicly denounce Trump in this paper, you will have earned my respect as well as my vote, and perhaps that of many others. For whatever it's worth to you.

We will be waiting.

RICK ROCHELEAU  
DANIELSON

### Fur reasons Merry C. Garrett must replace Jeff Gordon in the Connecticut Senate

To the Editor:

During the past two years, Republican Sen. Jeff Gordon has voted against or refused to vote for the best interest of our district dozens upon dozens of times, resulting in reduced funding for our towns and other needs. Here, I will talk about four of his votes. The legislation cited below clearly shows how Gordon's voting choices have increased utility costs and, had his votes prevailed on three other bills, endangered the reproductive rights and health of women; blocked the effort to make affordable housing more available in our community, and left residents exposed to gun violence.

1. Gordon co-sponsored bill SB 7, which increased Connecticut's electricity rates: This act, passed in 2023, made various changes in the energy laws governing electric, gas, and water utility regulation. Jeff Gordon has consistently maintained "I have never voted to saddle taxpayers with rate hikes, and I never will!" But voting records do not lie. Not only did he vote YES for this bill, he co-sponsored this complex bill, which, incidentally had broad support in both parties. There were some good reasons for this support - and also some unintended consequences like a 23 percent increase in rates. But what does it say about Gordon that in his ads and campaign literature he lies about his support for this bill?

2. Gordon's support for HB 5424 (2024) endangers women's lives. Saving a mother's life should not depend upon her religion. This bill, which protects health care workers who provide reproductive health services, was passed in 2024. Jeff Gordon voted against it as a member of the Public Health Committee, despite the fact that it will save the lives of mothers who have ectopic pregnancies, miscarriages, and other non-viable life-threatening pregnancies by allowing doctors to do their jobs and perform necessary medical abortions without prosecution.

3. Bill HB5474 (2024) - This bill includes several provisions that expand housing, such as requiring municipality to allow [not mandate] vacant nursing homes to be converted to multifamily housing, and prioritizing the conversion of surplus state property to low- and moderate-income housing. It also helps ensure that tenants are treated more fairly, such as requiring Landlords to provide tenants with at least 45 days' notice before increasing rent, and capping security deposits at two months' rent. The bill also adds flexibility for participants in the state's rental assistance program. By voting against this bill, Gordon shows his disinterest in addressing housing shortages and tenant-landlord fairness in our state.

4. SB 6667 (2023) - This bill was passed by Democrats over widespread Republican opposition - including Gordon's. It had two main provisions, as described in the Capitol Dispatch on

October 1, 2024:

The first limits handgun purchases to three per month for most residents. "Reasonable limits on bulk purchases have helped to curtail gun trafficking in states where they have been enacted and have helped law enforcement hold offenders accountable. For instance, on Sept. 3, attorneys general in Maryland and Washington, D.C., filed a lawsuit against three gun dealers for selling 34 pistols to a straw purchaser over a seven-month period despite a Maryland law limiting handgun purchases to one per month. At least nine of those weapons were later recovered at crime scenes in the Washington D.C. or Maryland area, according to the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. This is not uncommon. Handguns sold in bulk are as much as 64% more likely to be used in a crime than a gun purchased on its own, according to the Giffords Law Center, which estimated that between 20% and 25% of handguns found at crime scenes were originally part of multi-gun sales".

The second revises open carry laws. "Connecticut's prohibition on the open carry of firearms in public addressed tense situations that have resulted from the state's previous policies on the matter, which allowed open carry but did not allow law enforcement to compel a person openly carrying a gun to produce a permit. In 2017, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association submitted testimony to the legislature's Judiciary Committee, arguing that a "small number of pistol permit holders have purposely engaged in open-carry behavior and used the current statute language to create situations in which an officer cannot request a permit. These situations are unnerving to the public and have the potential to escalate into confrontations." Prosecutors have also lauded Connecticut's new open carry policy, which legislative Republicans sought to undermine. Last year, Connecticut's Office of the Chief State's Attorney submitted testimony supporting the provision to prohibit the knowing open carry of guns in public."

If you want to verify the voting records cited above, simply go to cga.ct.gov, "Bill Info," "Quick Bill Search", select year of bill at bottom of the page, enter the bill number, and look at the last Senate roll call vote.

In sum, we in the Quiet Corner don't need a candidate who lies about his voting record and who votes against protecting health care workers, expanding affordable housing, protecting tenants, and enhancing gun safety. We need Merry C. Garrett for State Senate. The Connecticut Democratic Party, Independent Party, and Working Families Party agree - they have all endorsed her. She can be trusted to vote Yes on these kinds of issues that matter to so many of us, and to stand by her record.

RANDAL CHINNOCK  
EASTFORD

### Renee Waldron — a common-sense candidate

To the Editor:

Renee LaPalme Waldron is the common-sense candidate for the 51st District. Renee has a history of serving all people no matter political affiliation, race or creed. She has steadfastly served the people of Thompson for decades.

Renee also was the only candidate who came to the table during the debate with actual ideas and plans rather than a "concept." It is Renee, who can work across the aisle to get what we need most in the northeast corner done. We need representation in Hartford that will represent all of us, not just one's friends or business partners. We need someone who is going to do

the hard work. That means someone who will work with others to get our fair share of the resources. Are you aware our current representative was one of only two legislators who voted against lowering the cost of insulin? He voted against the last budget as well which included additional funding for Day Kimball Hospital. For too long (six years), the 51st district's voice has been silent in Hartford. It's time to let them hear our roar!

Please join me in supporting Renee LaPalme Waldron for State Representative for the 51st District on Nov. 5.

Thank You,

JESSICA BOLTE  
N. GROSVENORDALE

To the Editor:

On Nov. 5, I will vote for women who get things done! We need strong voices in Hartford arguing and advocating for our communities in an area of the state that doesn't get a lot of attention. Look at Mae Flexer's record. As our state senator, she has accomplished much for our community and citizens during her tenure. Some examples of her work include bringing in \$12 million in funding to Day Kimball Hospital, securing funds for the Pomfret Public Library, shaping important legislation to protect survivors of domestic violence, and being a vocal advocate for veteran affairs. We need people like Mae Flexer in Hartford who know how to get things done.

Similarly, Renee LaPalme Waldron (51st District) has spent over 30 years serving the people and town of Thompson. As the saying goes, if you need something done, call Renee. With this sort of experience and deep knowledge of our region, I have no doubt that Renee will be a staunch, no-nonsense advocate for our community and the welfare of our citizens. I believe

### Flexer, Waldron, Derenthal — women who get things done!

Renee will do everything in her power to bring much-needed resources into our corner of the state.

Finally, Samantha (Sam) Derenthal (44th District) brings energy and know-how to this area. With her background in Human Resources, Sam has the knowledge and vision to advocate for job training and educational resources for the young people of this area, who are sorely in need of support. Sam is running against Anne Dauphinais, and I feel it is a much-needed change. What has Anne done for this area? She has voted 'No' to 86 percent of bills instead of working collaboratively with other lawmakers to enact legislation that actually might aid her district. She voted against the funding for Day Kimball and yet attended the ribbon cutting. She purports to support our veterans and yet votes 'No' on a bill to support their mental health.

Let's vote yes to people who will work together and know how to get things done for our community.

CHLOE MARKLEY  
KILLINGLY



# Daniel Martial Arts Academy brings numerous medals home from national tournament



**DANIELSON** — On Oct. 6, members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy attended the Connecticut Yankee National Tournament hosted by the Cheezic Tang Soo Do federation.

DMAA took home numerous medals in each division.

- 7-8 Year Olds:**  
**Girls:**  
 Tori Dellagiovanna:  
 1st Forms  
 2nd Sparring  
 2nd Breaking  
 1st Weapons  
**Liliana Huling:**  
 4th Forms  
 3rd Sparring  
 4th Weapons  
**Serenity Robbins:**  
 2nd Forms  
 1st Sparring  
 3rd Breaking

- 3rd Weapons**  
**Autumn St. Jean:**  
 3rd Forms  
 2nd Weapons

- 9-10 Year Olds:**  
**Girls:**  
**Lillian Antunes:**  
 1st Sparring  
 3rd Weapons  
**Aurora Huling:**

- 3 r d**  
**Forms**  
 3rd Sparring  
 1st Breaking  
 1st Weapons  
**Boys**  
**Isaac Sawyer:**  
 3rd Forms  
 3rd Sparring  
 2nd Weapons

- 11-12 Year Olds:**  
**Girls:**  
**Lorelai Tyler:**  
 1st Forms

- 1st Sparring**  
**2nd Breaking**  
**1st Weapons**

- Boys:**  
**Colby Densmore:**  
 4th Forms  
 4th Weapons  
**Orion Huling:**  
 1st Forms  
 1st Sparring  
 1st Breaking  
 1st Weapons

- 13-17 Year Olds:**  
**Girls:**  
**Claire Antunes:**  
 2nd Forms  
 2nd Sparring  
 1st Breaking  
 1st Weapons

- Under Blackbelt 18+ Men:**  
**Kile Gagnon:**  
 4th Forms  
 1st Breaking

- Under Blackbelt Seniors (35+) Women**

- Melinda Densmore:**  
 2nd Forms  
 2nd Sparring  
 3rd Breaking  
 2nd Weapons  
**Dawn Dionne:**  
 1st Forms  
 1st Sparring  
 1st Breaking

- Men:**  
**Scott Gardiner:**  
 2nd Sparring  
 1st Breaking  
 4th Weapons

- Junior Blackbelt 11-12 Year Olds:**

- Girls:**  
**Dakota St. Jean**  
 1st Forms  
 2nd Sparring  
 1st Breaking  
 2nd Weapons

- Boys:**

- Luke St. Jean**  
 1st Forms  
 1st Breaking  
 1st Weapons

- unior Blackbelt 13-14 Year Olds:**  
**Girls:**  
**Jaycee Adams**  
 2nd Forms

- Boys:**  
**Eli Petrarca**  
 3rd Forms  
 3rd Sparring  
 3rd Weapons

- Hunter St. Jean**  
 1st Forms  
 4th Breaking  
 4th Weapons

- Junior Blackbelt 15-17 Year Olds:**  
**Girls:**  
**Caryssa Adams**  
 4th Forms

- 1st Sparring**  
**3rd Weapons**  
**Blackbelts (18+)**

- Women:**  
**Elizabeth Walsh**  
 1st Forms  
 1st Weapons

- Men:**  
**Daniel Walsh**  
 1st Forms  
 1st Weapons

- Blackbelt Seniors (35+)**  
**Women:**  
**Melanie Branco**  
 2nd Forms  
 2nd Sparring  
 2nd Breaking

- Men:**  
**Brian Densmore**  
 5th Sparring  
 4th Weapons  
**Gary Fredericks**  
 2nd Sparring  
 2nd Weapons

## Get the most out of your pumpkin

It's pumpkin season and time to select and decorate pumpkins for your fall display. Keep pumpkins and Jack-o'-lanterns looking their best longer with proper selection and care.

Harvest or purchase pumpkins free of holes, cuts, and soft spots for decorating. Damaged fruit tends to rot faster, ruining your fall display. And always carry the fruit cradled in your arms, not by the stem. Once the stem breaks away from the fruit, the pumpkin is more susceptible to rot and its beauty fades.

Store carving pumpkins in a cool location until you are ready to start cutting. Extend the beauty of carved pumpkins by washing them with warm water and letting them dry before making the first cut. Try leaving the top intact and scooping the insides out through a hole in the back. This limits water



**GARDEN MOMENTS**  
 MELINDA MYERS

entering the carved cavity and helps extend the life of your Jack-o'-lantern.

Coat the cuts with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil to seal in the moisture and prolong your display. Take it one step further and use a commercial preservative or peppermint oil to keep your Jack-o'-lantern looking its best for as long as possible.

Don't give up when your Jack-o'-lantern begins shriveling. Instead, give it a cold bath to freshen up its appearance.

Or put away the knives and break out the paint, beads, decorations, cray-

ons, and your imagination to further extend your pumpkin's beauty. Turn your pumpkin into a creature, pet, or fun object. You'll find lots of creative inspiration in magazines and online.

Don't worry if you have limited artistic ability. Create a multi-colored crayon-dripped pumpkin. Wipe the pumpkin's surface clean and allow it to dry before you start decorating. Remove the labels from the crayons and break them in half if needed.

Glue the crayons to the top of the pumpkin to prevent them from rolling off while you work. Place one end of the crayon against the stem and the other end pointed away from the center of the pumpkin.

Cover your work surface and use your hair dryer to melt the cray-

ons so they drip down the sides of the pumpkin, creating a colorful waxy covering. A high heat setting will speed up the process but may make a bigger mess by splashing the melted wax all over the table.

To further dress up your landscape consider converting a few pumpkins into fall planters. Remove the top. Cut a hole large enough to accommodate the pot you'll be inserting. Remove the seeds and flesh, cut a few drainage holes in the bottom, and then set a pot of pansies, asters, mums, or ornamental peppers inside.

Or plant the flowers directly in the pumpkin planter filled with potting soil. When your pumpkins start to rot, move them, plants and all, to the compost pile. They will break down into a wonderful soil amendment for next year's gar-



Melinda Myers

Extend the life of pumpkins by creating crayon-dripped pumpkins rather than carving.

den.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant

video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Missing 411

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- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tallgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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Well, if you read my column last week, you'll know that for this Halloween season, I decided to venture into the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious—a bit of a departure from my usual focus on the positive. But I have to admit, I've always been intrigued by mysteries. And what better time than spooky season to dive into the things that freak me out?

Many of you will start looking for a logical explanation as soon as I bring up this topic. Our brains want to rationalize the strange and unusual. But sometimes, things defy explanation, and that's what drew me back to 2015 when I first heard David Paulides on "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noory.

Paulides, a former police officer turned researcher after his retirement. His focus? Missing person cases, often in the middle of nowhere and in our National Parks. As an avid hiker, I've been to many remote areas and forests, and I've only ever experienced their beauty. But according to Paulides, something else lurks in these wildernesses—a series of cases that are as baffling as they are unsettling.

Now, I know what you're thinking—people get lost, wander off

the trail, or are attacked by wildlife. And while these situations happen, a subset of missing person cases don't fit those typical explanations.

In his "Missing 411" series, Paulides doesn't speculate or offer wild theories. He presents the facts—just like a detective—and leaves the conclusions up to the reader. His work is compelling because he doesn't rush to label any disappearance as a "Missing 411" case. A specific set of criteria must be met before a case qualifies.

These are the disappearances where people seem to vanish without a trace—no signs of a struggle, no evidence of an attack, no clues. Search and rescue teams comb the area, and dogs are brought in—but in some of these cases, the dogs refuse to track the scent.

One case that stands out for its oddness is the story of Keith Parkins, a two-year-old boy who disappeared on April 10th, 1952, near his grandfather's cattle ranch in Ritter, Ore. Keith was playing outside with his older brothers near a barn when he suddenly vanished. A frantic search began when his mother realized Keith hadn't returned for

lunch with his brothers. The conditions were cold, with snow patches still on the ground.

Initially, locals and family members searched quickly spreading out in a line, covering as much ground as possible. As the day wore on, the search grew larger, and by nightfall, more than 200 people were involved, combing the area in hopes of finding the boy. Despite the cold and rough terrain, they were confident they'd see him nearby. But the search dragged on through the night, with no sign of Keith.

Then, at around 7 a.m. the next morning, searchers found footprints three miles away, walking through a herd of cattle—one set of footprints. Hours later, a searcher found Keith 12 miles away in Skull Canyon, lying face down in the snow, his hat and coat beside him. Remarkably, he was alive but suffering from exposure, unable to move because his body was stiff from the cold. His face was covered in scratches, and his clothing was torn. Keith made a full recovery, but his case left many unanswered questions. How did a two-year-old travel 12 miles in freezing temperatures overnight without shoes, food, or

water? Yet, against all odds, he survived. I have a hard time believing he could do this without help from someone or something.

This case has a happy ending—Keith was found alive—but he was two years old, and two-year-olds don't walk 12 miles, especially barefoot in the snow.

Parkins' case isn't an isolated incident. There are hundreds of cases that are even stranger and far more terrifying.

Mysteriously, these cases often occur in clusters—specific locations where disappearances appear more frequently. The patterns suggest that something strange is at play in these regions, though no one has been able to pinpoint a solid explanation.

The forests, mountains, and wilderness may hold more mysteries than we care to admit. So, as you carve pumpkins, watch scary movies, and enjoy Halloween, understand that real-life mysteries can be far more frightening than any old ghost story.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of *Emmy-Nominated A Separate Peace*, and the CEO of *Cubestream Inc*



# Auction news

It's been nearly a month since my last auction news update. Since then, a range of collectibles have hit the auction block, some items dating as far back as 1776 and some as recent as last month. I'll start by discussing an 18th century coin that just sold.

The coin dating back to the beginning of our nation just sold at a

British auction house. The 1776 coin was found in a toffee tin and sold earlier this month. It was a Continental Currency dollar which was one of the earliest U.S. coins. The coin features a sun and sundial and was designed by Benjamin Franklin. It was found in the toffee tin along with "jewelry, objet d'art and curiosities," according to Fox News. Around

6,000 of the pewter coins were minted and only around 100 are believed to exist now. It sold to a U.S. collector for \$25,000 (approximately \$32,000 U.S.).

Moving to an item from much more recent times, one of two Macintosh #M0001 prototype computers from 1984 is heading to the auction block this month, according to NewAtlas.com. The computer used a proprietary 5.25 "Twiggy" drive instead of the 3.5 drive that had previously been used. It's believed that Apple co-founder Steve Jobs ordered the pre-production computers to be destroyed because the Twiggy drives were error prone. A group of software developers had saved this PC from the crushers. This machine was exhibited at the Mac@30 Anniversary in 2014 where it was booted up by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. When an M0001 prototype last sold in 2019, it brought \$150,075, setting the record for a Macintosh computer. This sale is expected to surpass that previous auction record. Other Apple computers have brought even higher auction prices, though. A Lisa 1 sold for \$882,000 and an Apple-1 brought \$945,000.

A baseball from a game played last month is already making auction news. On September 19th, LA Dodger Shohei Ohtani hit his 50th home run of the season. He had already stolen 50 bases, making him the first Major League Baseball player to reach the 50/50 milestone. The ball was quickly put up for auction.



ANTIQUE,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

The ownership of the home run ball is in dispute though. When the ball left the park in Miami, Florida, fans scrambled for it in the stands. As the ball rolled between some flipped over lawn seats, video footage shows Chris Belanski on his knees holding the ball while 18-year-old Max Matus has his left hand on the ball. Belanski eventually stood on his feet and raised the ball to the crowd. Matus filed a lawsuit claiming that he had the ball first and that Belanski took it from him. The court has ruled that for now, "the ball cannot be sold, concealed or transferred until there's a ruling in

the case," according to ESPN.

Previously, the ball from Barry Bonds' 73rd home run of the season was the subject of a lawsuit and the \$450,000 it sold for was split between two owners. It will be determined whether the auction proceeds will be split again this time, but there is much more at stake than with the Bonds ball. As of Oct. 13, bidding had reached \$1.7 million. Some experts believe bidders will hit it out of the park and the ball will fly up to \$3 million or more.

We currently have two auctions running online. The auction with an eclectic mix of historical memorabilia, gambling memorabilia, glassware, and other items ends Oct. 22 and the art, jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, watches



and coins auction ends on Oct. 23. We will next be auctioning antiques in a Beacon Hill Boston estate and a large Civil War collection from a local estate. We are accepting consignments of all types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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



Courtesy

## 'COSTUMED' HELP

Oct. 11 was the Annual Halloween Costume Distribution at TEEG and the Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club was on hand to help. Sofia Thurber, Pavanny Phav, Paige Perry, Gabriell Cerasiello and Ashton Barrows worked hard to find just the right costume for the families that participated in the costume give-away. Elizabeth Perry, TEEG Volunteer Coordinator, was pleased with the turnout of local families to the event and was grateful with the donations the Interact Club's costume drive brought in. From left: Pavanny Phav and Paige Perry. The Interact Club meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month September - May. The next Interact Club meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22 in the Putnam Library. For more information, contact Roberta Rocchetti 860-933-8603 or roberta-rocchetti4@gmail.com.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A state Senate campaign needs to be more than a vanity project

To the Editor:

I am writing to support State Senator Mae Flexer's reelection for Connecticut Senate District 29. Why?

To my knowledge, Mae's opponent (Chris Reddy from Scotland) has never held - or even run for - any elected office in Scotland, including service on elected municipal boards (Chris, let me know if I am wrong). Lacking relevant experience, Chris's primary qualification for the Senate seems to be that, as described by his campaign materials, he is "just like us."

That doesn't cut it, Chris. I expect a District 29 senator to have more energy, smarts, and commitment to public service than the typical District 29 resident (myself included).

Mae Flexer does. Since her election in 2015, Mae has been a continuing and effective advocate for education, veterans' affairs, senior care, and reproductive healthcare. As Vice Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, Mae led the creation of the Debt-Free Community College Program. This program allows Connecticut high school

graduates attending community colleges to graduate without education-related debt. While Chair of the Veterans' Committee, Mae expanded veteran education benefits and state tax credits for veteran-owned businesses.

As a senator, Mae voted to strengthen protections for seniors, including expanding support for caregivers. And following the United States Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade,

Mae pioneered bipartisan bills strengthening women's reproductive rights, including laws protecting Connecticut doctors and nurses who offer healthcare to out-of-state residents.

These are important pieces of legislation. They have improved the lives of our citizens. It's hard to believe that, had Chris been sitting in Hartford instead of Mae, he would have played a positive role in any of them.

A run for state Senate needs to be more than a vanity project. Vote to re-elect Mae on Nov. 5.

BARRY REINGOLD  
POMFRET CENTER

## We have the power — let's use it wisely

To the Editor:

Women voters have tremendous power in this year's election, and we need to use it wisely.

According to Our National Conversation, a non-partisan organization, Promise #1 of Project 2025, the Republican playbook, is to "restore the family as the centerpiece of American life and protect our families." The article goes on to reveal that Project 2025 has "concerns that fatherless households are the main reason for poverty, crime, mental illness, teen suicide, substance abuse, church rejection, and high school dropouts in America." In other words, the blame is placed on households headed by women. This is nothing less than a war on women.

Since 1980, a higher percentage of women than men have voted in presidential elections, and they have not just voted like their husbands (Smithsonian). More women vote in midterms, too. Women vote based on their positions as caregivers - they want stronger healthcare, equal pay and benefits, housing, education, childcare and anti-poverty

programs. These are all the safety nets that Project 2025 plans to drastically reduce or eliminate.

How powerful is that women's vote? Since 2004, 10 million more females vote than their male counterparts (Center for American Women and Politics). Their political engagement crosses ethnic lines - white, Hispanic, black and Asian-pacific islanders.

Perhaps the Trump-Vance ticket thinks it is politically savvy with its anti-women, anti-family rhetoric. Maybe the candidates feel that female voters will still support them even at the risk of losing the rights and programs women have defined as most important.

I think not.

Ladies — we have the power in this election. Let's use it wisely to protect ourselves, our families, and our country. Women must be united on Nov. 5 in their support of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz.

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER  
WOODSTOCK

## Why I choose Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:

I was at the farmers' market a few years ago and wanted to speak with my representative. It was a simple question, nothing earth shattering. I just needed information, and that person could not be bothered with me. It wasn't an election year, so apparently, I wasn't worth her time, she actually looked down her nose at me. Well, I never voted for that woman again. I decided right there that I needed another candidate to support, I chose Anne because she talks to everyone, election year or not, she actually listens to her constituents. Anne asks "What are you concerned about?" or "What do you think about this?"

Another reason is because Anne knows how hard it is for small business owners, her family owns a small business. She has empathy for the little guy, she understands how hard it is to earn a dollar and how fast it goes. She under-

stands the struggle we all go through trying to balance it all and get ahead. She supports local as well.

Ask Anne. Why! If she voted for/against something and you are confused about why she did it just ask her and she will explain it to you. She is a genuine person and a voice of reason in a sea of chaos.

Anne doesn't stoop to the levels of some of the candidates either, when asked why don't you do this to retaliate, she says 'NO, I don't want to go down that road.' Anne would rather take the high road, the view is better, that is the type of person we need to get Connecticut back on track.

Go Tem Anne! I encourage everyone who would like a real voice in Hartford to choose Anne.

Get out there and vote on election day.  
VIRGINIA H. CHASE  
DANIELSON

## Anne Dauphinais is extreme in her dedication to us

To the Editor:

Anne Dauphinais is extreme — extremely dedicated to us.

Anne is the most independent voter in Hartford, and doesn't allow either party to keep her from doing the right thing—not the politically expedient thing. She is easy to approach and talk with when I have questions or concerns. She always does whatever she can to help, and if she can't, she'll connect you with someone who can.

Anne is actively involved in supporting our towns. She attends various town events, and has participated in many fundraisers within our commu-

nity. When called upon she has done whatever she can to help.

Anne is bold, honest, and transparent. She has never wavered in her commitment to fight for less government in our lives. She fights for parental rights. She fought against mandates; she fought to keep businesses open and residents employed during the pandemic. We need more voices like Anne's in Hartford.

Please consider joining me in voting Anne Dauphinais for State Representative.

ANGEL DAVIS  
PLAINFIELD

## What is wrong with us?

To the Editor:

This is a land of freedom and welcome...free speech and choice...and goodness.

I live on a major road, and display signs to express what I believe to be right and important. My opinions may be different from yours, but they have been thought through, reasoned out, and are worth expressing - and are open to dialogue.

Yet others in our community sneak out in the dark - sometimes in broad daylight - to rip the signs down, destroy them, and shout insults at me.

Where is our freedom of speech? And

integrity? And openness to difference and to dialogue? Where is our kindness?

And what will become of us if we allow dark forces to overwhelm us?

We are good people...all of us. And in our hearts, we know what is right and what is wrong. And we need each other. We need our differences as much as we are comforted by our similarities. That is what keeps us strong. And safe. And grows a nation we can continue to be proud of.

KAREN RYKER  
WOODSTOCK

## Anne Dauphinais will be there for you

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter of support for State Rep Anne Dauphinais.

I serve the Town of Plainfield as the First Selectman. Whenever we need support for issues in the Town of Plainfield, I don't hesitate to contact Anne for her input and support. She has carefully reviewed each town issue and each bill that has been placed in front of her for an educated vote for or against issues. That means so much to our residents in not only Plainfield, but in the state of Connecticut.

I will not write anything negative about her opponent, except to say that Anne will constantly reach out to me

while keeping up with the needs of our towns, and while campaigning for a job that represents all of her constituents is of the utmost importance, I have yet to receive a call or visit from her opponent. Why? I believe that tells me all I need to know about who has your interest at heart.

For the voters of the 44th District, there is only one candidate that will stand up for you, be there for you, and have your interest at the forefront. That person is Anne Dauphinais.

KEVIN M. CUNNINGHAM  
PLAINFIELD

## Vote with me for Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:

If you care about the values this country was founded upon and want safety and security in your community, then you must join me on Nov. 5 and cast your vote for Anne Dauphinais. She is the clear, logical choice.

Anne stands up for all of us every day. She has integrity, and stands by her values and those of her constituents. When you speak with her openly and frankly, you get candid dialog back which is so very difficult to find these days especially in a public official.

She supports the Constitution, and she believes in keeping our Republic intact. Her focus is protecting our freedoms and she is committed to defending us from government overreach. Anne represents the principles upon which this country was founded on. Her passion for our country and her patriotism is genuine which is obvious when you see her at community events.

I have had many conversations with Anne regarding Constitutional freedoms, and instilling values in our children which include respect for our law

enforcement. Anne is on the correct side of all these issues.

She supports our police, which means she is truly invested in the safety of the members of her community and values the dedication of the police officers and their families. She also knows the importance of educating our students honestly and factually. These are qualities that are important to me as an educator.

Anne makes well-informed, educated choices when she legislates. She looks at the entire picture and doesn't sacrifice the rights of her constituents for her own benefit. She can explain logically all her decisions and makes herself available to anyone who asks.

As far as I can see, Anne is not only the logical choice, but she is clearly the only choice. I appeal to my fellow citizens to vote for the protection of your freedoms, the safety of your community and for keeping the government accountable. Vote with me for Anne Dauphinais.

JENNIFER HEGEDUS  
KILLINGLY

## Jeff is fighting to fix the electric bill crisis

To the Editor:

State Sen. Jeff Gordon is recognized as a state leader fighting to fix the mess of the high electric bills we are paying. It is why I strongly support Jeff for re-election as State Senator for the 35th District.

Jeff believes, and I agree (in fact, we all should agree), that "electricity bills should only be about the electricity you use and not anything else." This is common sense. In fact, last year, Jeff supported legislation that required transparency in our electric bills. We can now see the taxes that add up in our bills.

Why do we have to pay extra taxes - big extra taxes - for things the state should fund? If the state wants to have certain programs, then it should fund them in the state budget. Don't we already pay enough in taxes on everything?

Some of these programs may have merit, such as home energy efficiency and weatherization, and assistance for those experiencing financial or medical hardships. They could be covered in the current state budget without raising taxes. But why do we have to pay our electric bills each month and at the same time pay for people who chose not to pay their bills during the four-year-long electricity shut off moratorium enacted by the Governor through executive order? Four years of people not paying their bills, but could have paid and should have paid. You and I cover this big cost while we try to pay for what our families need and that still costs a lot, such as groceries and medicines.

In February, Jeff worked with colleagues in the legislature to propose serious ways to prevent the electricity rate hikes. He advocated for moving

these taxes off our electric bills and into the state budget. But these proposals were ignored by legislative leaders. He warned us about the rate hikes and never stopped working to fix the problem. He has a list of strong proposals to help us in the short-term and in the long-term. He has held many office hours, provided updated information, spoke at a rally at the Capitol, and worked in a bipartisan way to help us. It takes two to tango. I hope that legislative leaders and the Governor accept Jeff's offer to work with them.

Jeff was successful earlier this year in co-introducing changes to a big energy reform bill that much better keeps us rate payers in mind when the state creates energy policy and enters into energy purchase agreements.

Jeff has met with leaders of Eversource and the Chairwoman of the Public Utilities Regulatory Agency. He will be meeting with the Office of Consumer Counsel. He is fighting to make the state government work better for all of us. We need such reforms. Don't you agree?

Jeff's opponent talks about things she wants to do, but she has been absent and did nothing when the real work needed to be done about high electricity bills. She has no plan and no real proposals. Jeff is doing the hard work, he has serious proposals, and he is getting things done.

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

Thank you.

DWIGHT RYNIWICZ  
CHAIR, WRTC

## We can't ask for stronger representation than Renee Waldron

To the Editor:

Renee LaPalme Waldron is running for State Representative for the 51st District, where I live, and I am supporting her for this position.

Renee has worked for my town, Thompson, for about 30 years. Her impact on our town's recreation department and town clerk's office has always shown her willingness to go above and beyond the job descriptions and to respond to our community's needs. She has vision and then works with townspeople, especially parents and senior citizens, to bring about solutions to everyday problems, such as initiating an after-school program while she was recreation director.

Renee's priorities match my own for our part of the state. Keeping Day Kimball Hospital open and offering what our people need is vital, and having Renee's voice in Hartford on behalf of our area's largest employer can ensure its financial survival. Her fresh thinking and commitment to safe and affordable housing will help seniors, working families, and those living on fixed incomes.

Economic growth is tied to our education system, and Renee is committed

to the creation of a skilled workforce to increase the employment possibilities for our local young people in order for them to have the chance to make a good enough living here that they do not need to leave to have successful livelihoods. Investing by state, not just local budgets, in our public education institutions means a change to the way state funding is allocated. Our 51st District can benefit from a more equitable allocation to bring our students, teachers and staff more in line with the much wealthier towns to the southwest of us.

Finally, our neighboring town of Killingly is in desperate need of funding and other state support to remedy the significant sewer plant problems that have persisted for years now. Renee is a person who I believe will gather the facts, seek input from all stakeholders and come up with an intelligent plan to address this important improvement that Killingly needs. Because that is how I have seen Renee tackle any issue that confronts our community.

We can have no better or stronger representation in Hartford than Renee LaPalme Waldron for the 51st District.

ROMAN JAMIESON  
THOMPSON

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### If you want an America that looks ahead, vote Harris

To the Editor:

Now that the presidential election is just a few weeks away, I thought a checklist evaluating the state of our nation might be helpful for those still on the fence.

Gas prices under \$3. Check. While there has been a momentary uptick due to the conflict in the Middle East, some gas stations in Connecticut and many just across the border have fallen below this noteworthy metric. What's more, the price should continue to fall as warmer winter weather in the Northeast leads to less oil consumption and in turn an excess of petroleum.

Inflation is falling. Check. The Fed has begun lowering its key interest rate. The most recent gauge was at 2.4 percent, just a few ticks above the Fed's 2 percent goal.

Job creation is robust. Check. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 254,000 in September with an unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, indicating a robust economy and defying fears of a recession.

Wage growth increasing. Check. While we all have seen the rapid price increases at the grocery stores, take home pay has outpaced inflation the last two years meaning that the average worker has more to spend.

Illegal border crossings are falling. Check. Illegal border crossings have dropped to its lowest levels since Mr. Biden took office and are now lower than when Mr. Trump left the White House.

Fentanyl deaths down. Check. The number of Fentanyl overdose deaths. CDC statistics indicate a 10.6 percent decline with some states down 20-30 percent. In addition Fentanyl seizures are at a record high ensuring there is less drug on the streets. Of interest is that the vast majority of those caught at ports of entry are US Citizens (80.2 percent).

Crime is down. Check. FBI statistics for the first six months of 2024 show that violent crime fell 10 percent, murder 23 percent, rapes 18 percent, aggravated assaults percent, robberies 14 percent and property crime 14 percent. And while crimes by noncitizens has ticked up marginally, the 2024 numbers do not support any assertion of an overwhelming criminal wave (991 assault and batteries, 626 burglary/robberies, 27 homicides).

Most Americans have health insurance. Check. While 2024 may see a slight uptick, the number of Americans without health insurance remains at record lows.

The Stock Market is at record highs. Check. All three of the major indices continue to hit new record levels insinuating the future economic outlook remains vibrant.

America remains committed to its role as a world leader. Check. We have supported the goal of neutralizing Russian aggression by continuing along with our European NATO allies to support the Ukrainian effort to quash Mr. Putin's dreams of a Soviet Union rebirth. We have steadfastly supported Israel with military aid and spearheaded a regional effort to repel not one but two attempted Iranian missile barrages. At the same time, we have preached restraint recognizing that the vast majority of Gazans are innocent Hamas

pawns and that it is in the interest of all our allies in the region to avoid an all-out war. And we continue to spearhead our Asian partners in limiting Chinese expansion.

America is producing oil and natural gas at record levels. Check. We are by far the leading producer in both fossil fuels. There is no need to ramp up production. We are already there.

At the same time America is one of the world leaders tackling climate change. Check. The 2022 Inflation Reduction act included the largest climate spending bill ever.

There are also my opinions which help in my choice. The Democratic candidate, Ms. Harris, is committed to reinstating a woman's right of reproductive choice. She is committed to a reduction in gun violence without infringing on responsible gun owner's rights. She believes in changing the tax code so that the wealthy pay a larger share to fund our nation, a tenet suggested by Benjamin Franklin, while shifting more help to those in need.

Age is also an issue. Ms. Harris has released her medical records. She is sharp and in her prime. Mr. Trump on the other hand has avoided making his medical records public for three election cycles. He already is showing signs of cognitive strain and if elected would be the oldest president on record. We saw how four years in office affected Mr. Biden. Let's not make the same mistake twice.

Most importantly, Ms. Harris does not enshroud herself in mistruths, childish name calling, and urban legends nor does she wink at those who believe in an America that is a White and Christian only nation. Let's once and for all put the cock and bull story of election interference to rest. If it really existed how did Mr. Trump win in 2016. Remember he set up a commission to find the three million illegal Hillary votes which disbanded due to lack of any evidence. In addition, if such a Deep State did exist, why has it not changed just a handful of Senate and Congressional elections to tilt both houses Democratic?

Then there are the pure crazy conspiracy theories. Government weather control to make a land grab and mine lithium in central Florida, Haitians eating pets, and Venezuelan gangs taking over towns. In the past if a schoolkid brought any of this up in class, they would be told to wear a pointy hat and be relegated to a classroom corner. Now they get their own podcast or a show on the Fox News Channel.

Finally, last week, the Jewish community celebrated Yom Kippur and one of the prayers is for the United States. Here is an excerpt. "...Uproot from our hearts hatred and malice, jealousy and strife. Plant love and companionship, peace and friendship, among the many peoples and faiths who dwell in our nation." I believe that Mr. Trump embodies the antithesis of this appeal.

I therefore would suggest that anyone who wants an America that looks ahead to meet our future challenges and grow, rather than look to our past for faulty and neolithic solutions, vote for Ms. Harris.

LEE WESLER  
WOODSTOCK

### More beer summits?

To the Editor:

Isn't it funny that you don't even have to mention his name to get Billy Taylor running for the keyboard, but that's happened before. And just like Harris, who flip-flops on her flip-flops, last week he again continued parroting what he's continually been parroting, and he talks about following a pattern. He said that I won't accept "reality," but of course reality is what he says it is, which reminds me of a line from the movie "The Shooter" where Ned Beatty, playing the part of a politician, said: "The truth is what I say it is!" And seeing that you're in dire need of some new material, allow me to hand you one by mentioning something that's right up your alley; while on an appearance on MSDNC, a Democrat rep claimed that Trump supporters and white supremacists, rather than criminal illegal immigrants, are responsible for the growing crime in cities like Springfield, Ohio. (No need to thank me.)

It was said that voting for Harris is a "no-brainer"; also that people are willing to pay whatever it costs in order to save our democracy. And with no offense meant, and yes it goes both ways, nobody is going to convince me that the brainwashing, the indoctrination or whatever else you'd like to call it isn't working, or perhaps that's your version of what reality is? However, another no-brainer is that while some don't mind paying those higher costs, other people are sick of it, and grocery prices rose again in September. However, I totally agree that it has to be addressed. If you don't mind spending your money to aid their cause, how about the democrats send some of these migrants - along with whatever excess baggage they bring with them - to the homes of everyone who has a Harris for President sign on their lawns so you can personally pay to feed them, keep them warm and let them sleep

in your beds? But if that was ever to happen, I'd bet that those signs would come off your lawns real fast. Did you know that some migrants admitted that they're sending our money to their relatives back home instead of spending it here, so how about we reduce their dole and use that money to feed hungry Americans instead? Our northern border has seen a record illegal crossing in 2024, which has surpassed the total from the last 17 years combined. And while we're still waiting for that problem to be addressed, so far, all we've gotten from the democrats is that they need more of our money.

So now Harris has made appearances on "The View," the Howard Stern Show and with Stephen Colbert, which all are nothing more than liberal butt-kissing, safe zones, and I'm surprised that the hosts didn't grovel down on their knees and wash Harris's feet when she arrived. One of the left's media mouthpiece idiots said that Harris would face tough questions while on the View, and does anybody believe that? Anyhow, I didn't watch a minute of any of it, but one thing I learned from the Colbert appearance was that Harris drank a beer there, which resulted in opinions about the motives behind her doing that, and even about the beer she drank. (Yes, more pettiness.) And while I'm on the subject, do you remember when President Obama and VP Joe Biden had a "beer summit" on the lawn of the White House in an effort to help solve a problem between two parties? I was at the opening of the Bear Hands Brewery in Putnam, and in attendance that day was both Rick Hayes and Mae Flexor. I took that opportunity to tell them that today, there is one thing you politicians can agree upon, and it's beer - and they both agreed. Maybe there should be more beer summits?

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### Ask yourself what America deserves to have in our highest office

To the Editor:

I am writing out of puzzlement. What puzzles me is how so many Americans could plan to vote for a criminal conman and sexual predator.

Could we review Trump's history? Six bankruptcies involving casinos and hotels, which left a lot of small businesses unpaid. A charitable foundation which he used as a private piggy bank until he settled lawsuits for millions and agreed not to serve on the board of a nonprofit for 10 years. There was Trump University, which didn't really exist and he agreed to a \$25 million settlement to avoid trials. Then there were both criminal and civil findings of Trump Organization's tax fraud and fraudulent business practices. And most recently, a jury found him criminally guilty of 34 counts of felony fraud to cover up hush money payments to a porn star.

Which brings us to his history as a sexual abuser. He bragged on tape that because he was a celebrity he could grab women by their private parts. When in 2016, this tape became public he warned his campaign staff that several women may make more accusations. And

indeed, over 2 dozen did. Bravely, E. Jean Carroll sued, and won in a jury trial.

I love America and have faith in our judicial system. Trump had access to teams of lawyers who participated in the trials including in jury selection. I trust the juries which found against Trump.

I remain puzzled as to why anyone would vote for this criminal. He was a terrible president who made the USA a pariah internationally, who gave us the highest death rate from Covid in the industrialized world. Were you really better off when corpses were being piled in refrigerator trucks and you were wiping your private parts with coffee filters? He gave us a budget deficit of \$6.6 trillion. Was inflation lower? Yes, but since 2021 the USA has had the lowest inflation rate in the industrialized world. The economy has grown faster under Biden/Harris than Trump. The stock market has set new records. Unemployment has been low. Middle class wages are up.

Please ask yourself if you love America and believe we deserve honest and honorable people in high office before you vote.

GAIL DICKINSON  
WOODSTOCK

### Get out there and vote for Chris Reddy

To the Editor:

I'm fully behind the Chris Reddy campaign for Connecticut Senator representing the 29th District.

Mae Flexor has had a lock on that seat for far too long. Everyone that has had enough of it needs to get out and vote for Chris Reddy.

Chris has been working tirelessly to meet as many people in the 29th as he possibly can, discussing the issues, and stating his positions.

Chris will be available to all constituents, unlike Mae who only responds to her supporters.

Her dodging of constituent inquiries on tough issues, like our current outrageous electric bills, is legendary.

This race is an easy one, look at what "one party" rule and Mae Flexor have done to Connecticut, ignore the noise from Mae's campaign, and vote accordingly.

We have a chance to be represented by somebody that actually represents our values.

Please get out there and vote Reddy for the 29th!

NORM FERRON  
DANIELSON

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# Navigating the financial impact of a serious diagnosis: Strategies for peace of mind

As we observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it is an important reminder to reflect not only on prevention and early detection of breast cancer, but also on the broader impacts that a cancer diagnosis of any kind, or a diagnosis of any serious illness, can have.

While the physical and emotional toll is of course most impactful, the financial implications can also be overwhelming, adding additional stress at an already difficult time. But with some advance planning, you can be prepared to better navigate these challenges so that you can focus on your health and healing.

The financial toll of serious illness

A cancer diagnosis often brings a perfect storm of increased expenses and reduced income. Treatment costs can be astronomical even for those with health insurance, with high deductibles, copays, and out-of-pocket maximums quickly adding up. One study found that cancer patients are over two and a half times more likely to file for bankruptcy than those without cancer.

At the same time, patients may need to reduce work hours or stop working altogether during treatment, leading to lost wages. Family members providing care may also face reduced income. The combination of higher costs and lower earnings can rapidly deplete savings and lead to mounting debt.

Beyond the direct med-

ical expenses, patients often face many other costs:

- Transportation to frequent medical appointments
- Childcare during treatments
- Special dietary needs
- Home health care
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Alternative treatments not covered by insurance

All of these can add significant financial strain during an already stressful time.

Strategies for financial planning

While the financial impact of a serious diagnosis can be daunting, there are several strategies that can help:

**Understand your insurance coverage:** Carefully review your health insurance policy to understand what is and is not covered, as well as your out-of-pocket responsibilities. Consider adding supplemental insurance if needed.

**Explore financial assistance programs:** Many hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and nonprofit organizations offer financial assistance for medical treatments and medications. Social workers or patient navigators at your treatment center can often help identify resources.

**Negotiate medical bills:** Do not be afraid to ask about discounts or payment plans for large medical bills. Many providers will work with patients on more manageable pay-

ment terms.

**Consider disability insurance:** If you are still working, short-term or long-term disability insurance can help replace lost income during treatment and recovery.

**Organize your finances:** Get your financial documents in order, including insurance policies, bank accounts, investments, etc. Consider granting power of attorney to a trusted family member in case you become unable to manage finances yourself.

**Seek professional help:** A financial advisor experienced in dealing with serious illness can help create a comprehensive strategy for managing expenses and protecting assets.

**Look into clinical trials:** Participating in a clinical trial may provide access to cutting-edge treatments at reduced or no cost.

**Planning ahead:** Healthcare considerations for retirees

For those approaching retirement, the possibility of future health challenges makes it especially important to factor healthcare into any relocation plans. While many retirees dream of moving to idyllic small towns or beachfront communities, it is crucial to consider the local healthcare infrastructure.

Some key factors to evaluate include:

- Proximity to high-quality hospitals and special-

ists

- Availability of cancer treatment centers
- Access to clinical trials
- Insurance options and costs in the new location
- Availability of in-home care services

**Transportation options for medical appointments:** A serious diagnosis like cancer often requires frequent appointments with various specialists. Living in an area with robust medical resources can make treatment much more manageable and reduce travel-related expenses and stress.

**Additionally, being near family or having a strong local support system is invaluable when facing health challenges.** The practical and emotional support of loved ones can make a world of difference during difficult times.

**Key takeaways:** Taking steps now to shore up your insurance coverage, build an emergency fund, and understand your employee benefits can provide greater

peace of mind and financial stability should health challenges arise. For those nearing retirement, carefully evaluating potential locations through the lens of healthcare access and costs is an essential part of planning for a secure future.

While we hope to never face a cancer diagnosis or other serious illness, being financially prepared can ease some of the burdens and allow patients and their families to focus on what matters most - healing and supporting one another through difficult times. At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we are here to help ensure you have the best plan for long-term care and all your financial needs, giving you "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life." Visit our Web site at [whzwealth.com](http://whzwealth.com) to schedule your complimentary consultation or give us a call at (860) 928-2341.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS  
LEISL L. LANGEVIN

## Tidbits from the news

NEW BOOK FOR SALE:

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

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

**Haunted Main Street Danielson.** Thursday, Oct. 24. Sponsored by the Killingly Business Association. The tour begins at 6 p.m. at the Killingly Historical Center, 196 Main St., and ends at Sparks Cemetery on Hutchins Street. Wear appropriate clothing and bring a flashlight.

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

There will be a short membership meeting at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome! Putnam Library Presents A musical Program, "Ovation Guitars & the Singer/Songwriter Movement of the '70's with Jim Lenn. Wednesday, Oct. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School Street, Putnam. Register today by calling 860-963-6826.

I continue to receive memories about the Budd Car. I had to smile at this latest one, for I first read it while on was on the Amtrak train from New London to Philadelphia, and I have rarely travelled by train. Margaret Anderson wrote, "For four years in the 1960's, I took the Budd Car on the first leg of my journey to college in New Jersey. My parents drove me to Drew University in Madison, New Jersey at the beginning of the school year and picked me up again at the end.

For the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring breaks, I travelled on the Budd Car both ways. My parents drove me to Putnam (or picked me up on my return home), I took the Budd Car to New London then took the train to Grand Central Station. From there I took the commuter train to Madison and from there I carried my suitcase

(no wheels on suitcases then) to my dorm at Drew. If I remember right, the whole trip took around five hours." (email Oct. 4).

Did you know that there are many notebooks of newspaper clippings at the Killingly Historical Center? Gone are the days when you find engagements and wedding pictures in our local papers, but we have many from the old Transcripts. Perhaps yours is among them. Even obituaries seem to be going by the wayside as fewer and fewer appear in the paper. It is wonderful to have so much information online, but that doesn't bode so well for historians and families who want "archives". Anyway, I digress.

I was looking for interesting items in the Windham County Transcript Tidbits Notebook from 1950, and came across an article entitled "South Killingly Fire Company Celebrates 1st Anniversary. (Perhaps you'll recognize some of the names). Last Monday evening the South Killingly Fire Company celebrated the first anniversary of its organization at a supper held at Highland grange. The business meeting followed with Milan Whitaker as moderator. A new board of directors was elected with Charles Griffin named chairman. On the board are R. D. Daly, Kirk Everson, John Roberts, Henry Mazarella, Charles Pike, Milan Whitaker, John Zumwalt and Armand Ricard. The officers of the company are chief: R. D. Daly, Deputy: Raymond Lemieux, captain, John Zumwalt, lieutenant, George Woodmancy...It was in November, 1956 that the first regular meeting was held in the grange hall... In January, 1957 the company received the gift of a piece of land from Frank and Josephine Davis. The company also sponsored its first supper that month when the Mazarella family put on a successful spaghetti supper...In March the company started filling in the fire house lot... In April the members of the company stated building the house...They purchased a truck in June for the tanker which was donated by Danielson Oil Company. A fire truck

was bought in July from the Pascoag fire company. The firemen started going to school in September at the Connecticut firemen's college in Willimantic so as to qualify in giving the best service possible to the community... (WCT Oct. 10, 1957; WCT Tidbits, Vo. I, 1950).

Did you know that the Killingly Town Hall was built in 1876 as the Music Hall building? It was not until 1906 that Killingly acquired the building for town offices. The Windham County Transcripts of October 1907 mentions several alterations which were being made to the facility. "Manager Carpenter of (the) Town Hall has made improvements on the Town hall stage that will admit of the using of the largest sized scenery. Mr. Carpenter has also made other improvement on the stage that will enable a better representation of the different dramatic productions which he has engage to appear here this winter. " "Manager Carpenter has leased Town Hall for 50 nights to Norwich parties, who are to conduct a 'dime theatre three nights a week, the coming winter, giving picture and vaudeville shows. It will be an experiment that is meeting with success in other places and probably will be received with favor in Danielson." (both WCT Oct. 17, 1907; extracted to notebooks by Marilyn Labbe). The Oct. 31, 1907 Transcript noted, "The roof of the Town Hall Building is being newly slated."

If you are a tidbit and trivia lover, do stop in and see what these Windham County Transcript notebooks contain. I'm sure you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Grange to hold turkey dinner: Killingly Grange #112, 801 Hartford Pike, will hold a roast turkey dinner on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, butternut squash, rolls, pie \$17 per meal. Dine in or take out. To reserve a dinner call or text 860-884-1813 or go to [www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/](http://www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/). Whole apple and pumpkin pies \$16 each.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, October 2024. Special thanks to Margaret Anderson for sharing memories of the Budd Car. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or [www.killinglyhistorical.org](http://www.killinglyhistorical.org). or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety). Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Anne Dauphinais is my choice

To the Editor:

Anne Dauphinais is my choice. She is an individual rights and freedom fighter.

She will never vote to increase my taxes, ever.

She is a huge defender of parental rights and will never be of the notion that children belong to the state.

Anne defends our Second Amendment rights, and will never vote to infringe. She supports our veterans, raising thousands to support them at the Danielson Veterans Coffee House.

She supports our police; and has no interest in de-funding.

Believing in fiscal responsibility, constitutional rule of law, free markets and your oath of office is not extreme.

Anne has voted against her own party

more than any other state legislator in our General Assembly. That, my friends, is what an "independent" politician actually looks like. She could care less about what her party thought. None. Zero. If what they wanted to do hurt the 44th District, she voted against it.

As our State Representative, Anne has shown principal and moxie. If you are aggrieved by the state, Anne will go to the mat for you. Afraid of no one in the state administrative cesspool of "no one cares."

I urge you to vote for Anne Dauphinais this November.

RON VARGAS  
KILLINGLY

### Proud to support Renee LaPalme Waldron

To the Editor:

For many, the idea of food insecurity probably seems like a far away problem. It can be hard to imagine, in a part of the state where we have so many farms, that families in our communities could ever lack access to fresh foods. However, my experience volunteering with area non-profits has taught me that food insecurity is an unfortunate reality for many of our neighbors. This is not a problem that any one legislator can solve alone. It requires compassion, and cooperation with experienced non-profit agencies and with communities. Based on her decades of experience serving families and senior citizens in Thompson and surrounding towns, I have confidence that Renee LaPalme Waldron is the best candidate to address the needs of our neighbors who are struggling.

Renee's determination to help local

families in need has never been limited to "office hours". During the pandemic, when a local grassroots non-profit organized meal deliveries for isolated senior citizens, Renee stepped up to volunteer. She supports programs that make it easier for families to access nutrition programs, she recognizes the benefits of farmers and farmers markets. She also understands that families shouldn't choose between getting a nutritious meal or paying the electric bill.

As a lifelong resident of northeast Connecticut, Renee gets these concerns, and knows how to get the job done. I'm proud to support Renee LaPalme Waldron for State Representative, and I hope you'll join me in backing her on Nov. 5.

ERICA GROH  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### The most dangerous person to America

To the Editor:

Now, former President Donald Trump is spouting off about a domestic threat being a greater threat to America than foreign ones and pledging to use the National Guard or the military to round up opponents if necessary. He's at least partially right about the domestic threat even though he misidentifies it.

Former Joint Chief of Staff in the Trump Administration and retired General Mark Milley is in a unique position to know and understand Trump. He told writer Bob Woodward that Trump is, "a fascist to the core."

General Milley recently went on to say, "He is the most dangerous person ever. I had suspicions when I talked to you about his mental decline and so forth, but now I realize he's a total fascist. He is now the most dangerous person to this country."

Milley is hardly alone. About half of the cabinet members of Trump's

administration have said they will not vote for the felonious former president. Milley has put himself at great personal risk because if Trump is elected again, he could recall retired military personnel to active duty and court martial them. Trump has vowed "revenge" on those who have spoken against him and even suggested that Milley deserves execution.

Trump is asking voters to elect him again, an adjudicated rapist and convicted felon who wouldn't even pass a background check to chaperone a school field trip or coach a school football team. Please ask yourself why you would elect a man President of the United States when you wouldn't even consider hiring him to be a police officer or a teacher in your school or leave him alone with your daughter.

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY



# OBITUARIES

## Forest Sears, 96



Forest (Creek) Sears, 96, died of complications from Covid on September 30, 2024 while in Westview Health Care Center. She was born on July 18, 1928 in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. She was the only daughter of Floyd and Floss (Chandler) Creek and was predeceased by her four brothers.

Forest was married for 57 years to Robert Sears, Sr. who died in 2003. They owned and operated a modern 200 head dairy farm on Allen Hill Road in Brooklyn for many years.

She is survived by her children, Marilyn Veilleux, Mae Lyons and husband Robert (Al) Lyons, Robert Sears Jr. and wife Cynthia (Long) Sears, and Randall Sears, Sr. and wife Arlene (Lefevre) Sears. Her son-in-law Bruce Veilleux predeceased her. She also was a loving grandmother to 9 grandchildren, Lori (Sears) Larkin, Scott Sears, Robin (Sears) Bibeault, Randy Sears Jr., Ricky Sears, Seth Lyons, Amy Lyons, Alli (Lyons) Gilbert, and Ethan Lyons (who predeceased her) plus 19 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great

grandchildren.

Forest worked, mostly in retail, outside the house at times. But most of her years were spent at home being a great Mom, cooking and baking for her family, running for that part for whatever machinery was down and just being present when she was needed. She was famous for her donuts, chocolate chip cookies and Rice Krispies Squares.

She loved ten pin bowling (won some tournaments too). She and Bob also loved to play cards and played often with their friends and family. Their house was always open to everyone. They owned a small seasonal cottage on Quaddick Lake where family and friends got together on weekends to make wonderful memories. After retiring and selling the farm, they were able to travel a good part of the country in their RV. Even at 96, she still loved being on her computer laptop everyday playing Scrabble, solitaire, and doing jigsaw puzzles.

A Celebration of her life will be held on October 20th at Colonial Woods Club House, off Dow Road in Plainfield, from 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm for family and friends to share memories and stories.

Funeral services will be out of state at a later date.

## Michael Edward Harrington, 92

Michael Edward Harrington, 92, of Brooklyn, CT passed away Friday 10/04/2024 at Davis Place. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was born at home in Brooklyn, CT on March 16, 1932, to the late Michael E. Harrington, Sr. and Vera (Copeland) Harrington. He was known as "Whitey" and was a jack of many trades. He retired from Jolley Concrete in December 1994. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Judith (Friesse) Harrington; 3 daughters:

Debra Dupont and husband Ray, Donna Matthews and boyfriend Steve, and Lori Gettig and husband Rob; 7 grandchildren: Christopher Walzer, Stephanie Snyder, Chad Benoit, Trevis Benoit, Brandy Logee, Alex Harrison and Aaron Harrison; 8 great grandchildren and 5 nephews. He is predeceased by his brothers: Royal, Howard and Paul Harrington; and sisters Agnes Staskevitch, Francis Clark, Ruth Blanchette and Alice Hartmann. Services are private.

## Robert John Aulie, 82



Robert John Aulie, 82, of Danielson, CT passed away at home peacefully on Monday, September 30, 2024. He was born in Berlin, NH on September 27, 1942, son of the late William and Margaret (Travers) Aulie. Robert was the beloved husband

of Cynthia A. (Yeo) Aulie who passed away in 2020 after over 54 years of marriage. Robert was a proud US Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War era and did a substantial amount of traveling during that time-period. He then returned home and was married to Cynthia in 1966. Robert had his private pilot license and owned a small plane while in NH. Robert worked in banking for most of his career and later went to work on his own as a mortgage broker until his retirement.

Robert enjoyed airplanes and when he was out-doors he could always be found looking up to the sky and listening for airplanes overhead. Robert also began volunteering at a local food pantry in 2021 after he lost his wife and enjoyed working with other volunteers and giving back to his community a few times a week.

Robert is survived by his two daughters, Marian J. Bigelow (husband Michael) and Melinda Dion French (husband Harmon) as well as his two sisters, Nancy Wachholtz (husband Otto) of Papillion, NE and Joan Hazelett (husband Thomas) of Cambridge, MA. Robert had several grand-children as well as great-grandchild.

The burial services will be private and memorial donations may be made to Friends of Assisi Food Pantry, 77 Water Street, Danielson, CT 06239. till- inghastfh.com

## THOMPSON

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town people here to help support them."

Roughly an hour after the track ceremony began, the crowd only had to move a short distance for the next event of the morning, the ribbon cutting for the new Mary R. Fisher Elementary School playground. Laurence Prentiss, Principal of Mary R. Fisher Elementary, thanked the school's PTO and all the donors for making the new facility a success and providing an asset to the growth and childhoods of generations of students still to come.

"We not only recognize that playgrounds offer students a break in the day, but they can help children improve their mental health and brain development. Playgrounds can help children develop social skills by teaching them how to communicate, how to cooperate, share, and interact with others. They can also help children learn how to regulate their emotions and

relieve stresses. Finally, playgrounds can help children develop a sense of autonomy and certainly increase self-esteem," said Prentiss.

Several members of the Mary R. Fisher PTO thanked the donors, both public and private, for making the playground a reality. The PTO itself collected over \$59,000 through several events while State Senators Mae Flexer and Jeff Gordon helped procure State Bond Commission funding to close the funding gap. PTO Treasurer and Chair of the Playground Subcommittee Marci Seney expressed her gratitude and excitement prior to the ribbon cutting.

"For the last two and a half years, the first-through fourth-grade students have been limited to playing on the blacktop or out in the soccer field for recess due to the closure of our former playground back in April of 2022, but thanks to the efforts of our PTO and all of your support that all changes. During this time our PTO's Playground Subcommittee worked tirelessly towards the

goal of raising \$150,000 to rebuild a playground space and now we have a safe, age-appropriate, and accessible playground that will serve our students as well as the youth and families of our community," she said.

Both ceremonies served as a reminder of the unity and commitment to family and children that permeates Thompson and served as fitting kick-off celebrations for a day dedicated to that community pride. Few people summed up that sense of accomplishment better than Board of Education Chair Kathleen Hebert, who expressed her gratitude and acknowledged the overall significance of the day.

"This is just a wonderful day for Thompson. Two ribbon cuttings and a Community Day. Thompson has enjoyed such a great year. We should all be so proud of our town and our town administrators for helping this happen. Community is unity and we got together to make all this happen. I'm just so proud of us," Hebert said.

## ORDINANCE

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ordinance that will serve as the guiding document for how the commission is filled and what they are charged with exploring. While the Town Council does have the ability to formulate the ordinance on their own, they also have an Ordinance Subcommittee that traditionally manages that process. Town Council member Kevin Kerttula advised that the Council stick to its traditional formula for drafting the document.

"I'd personally would rather see it go before the Ordinance Subcommittee

and have it presented to the Council with their recommendations," he said, with support shown from several Council members.

Another question posed during the meeting was membership and who would and wouldn't be allowed as voting members which remains unclear in the current draft document. It was noted that at the workshop there were recommendations that Town Council members, staff members, and former or acting Town Administrators be excluded from serving as voting members on the committee. Calorio explained that

all this will be decided through the Ordinance Subcommittee process.

"This is only a draft. This was just an example. The Ordinance Subcommittee can completely change all of that so it's just a sample," said Calorio.

The document will now officially move to the Ordinance Subcommittee which is comprised of Council members Ulla Tiik-Barclay, Michelle Murphy, and Patti Larrow George. Their recommendations will then be brought to the Council at large for further consideration.

## FAIR

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hope this can show people what we're all about. Deb is a healer herself so that's why we're coming together," Maguire said. "Most healers revolve around the mind, the body, and the spirit so we strive for balance. Everybody is doing their specialty of healing in those aspects. It's to help people find themselves again, find their purposes again, heal their past pain and trauma."

Lisa Ennis added that

the event helps open peoples' minds to the many different kinds of healing there are. While many think of healing as a more bodily process, there's much more to it and these healers are there to help everyone through that process.

"We're healing through different modalities whether it's energy healing, reiki, tuning forks, we have shamanic healing, so it's a way to help Deb but also bring the community together," Ennis said. "Going to a holistic healer allows you to send a message

to your mind, body and spirit to just release it so that you can heal and be connected."

The fair not only offered free services and demonstrations from the vendors, but also included a silent auction with prizes beyond the healing community donated by other local businesses and organizations. Visitors could also purchase raffle tickets for services from any of the healers on hand. The final funds raised were not available for this article.

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## LEGALS

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On October 10th, the Agent conditionally approved applications in Upland Review Area: #09-24-39, 205 Roseland Park Road, Marc Cotnoir for Roseland Trustees, repave existing gravel & asphalt driveways. #02-24-07m, 429

Child Road, Robert Page, modification of 36x24 garage to 40x30. #10-24-46 24 Beaver Dam Road, Paul Bordage, 40x30 deck. Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent October 18, 2024

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK NOTICE OF STATE ELECTION November 5, 2024

The Electors of the Town of Woodstock are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, for the following purposes:

- I. To cast their votes for Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, and
- II. To vote on the following question for the approval or disapproval of a proposed Amendment to the Constitution of Connecticut, a vote of "Yes" being a vote for approval, and a vote of "No" being a vote for disapproval:

1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?

1. Deberia enmendarse la Constitución estatal para permitir que la Asamblea General permita a cada votante votar en ausencia? The full text of such proposed question with explanatory text, printed in accordance with Sec. §2-30a of the General Statutes, is available at the Town Clerk's Office for public distribution.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:

**Election Day Voting District 50 & 52  
Election Day Polling Place  
Woodstock Middle School 147B Route 169 Woodstock CT 06281**  
Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following central location: Woodstock Town Hall 415 Route 169 Woodstock CT 06281  
Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).  
During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).

**Early Voting Day: Hours**  
October 21-28 & 30, 2024: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
October 29 & 31, 2024: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
November 1-3, 2024: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
On Election Day, the hours and location of SDR will be as follows:  
**Election Day: Hours**  
November 5, 2024: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Early Voting / SDR Location**  
Back Entrance of Town Hall  
415 Route 169  
Woodstock CT

Dated at Woodstock, Connecticut, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.  
Attest: Judy E. Walberg, CMC, Town Clerk, Woodstock CT  
Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent  
October 18, 2024



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