



# THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, September 15, 2023

Serving Thompson since 2005

Complimentary to homes by request

## Woodstock Academy baseball star Ericson commits to UConn



Photos courtesy Woodstock Academy

Woodstock Academy junior Brady Ericson committed to play Division I baseball for the UConn Huskies over the weekend.

congratulate him and his family," said Woodstock Academy baseball coach Brian Murphy. "Brady is a unique talent. I think this is a great move on his path. UConn is in the top 20 (in college baseball) every year. Making a commitment to your home state and home state school is just tremendous."

Ericson is not a one-trick pony. He also hit .343 for the Centaurs with three homers, five doubles, two triples and 19 runs batted in. He expects to be both a pitcher and an outfielder in Storrs.

Ericson said Jim Penders, who will enter his 21st season as UConn head coach in 2024, was a big reason why he chose to be a Husky.

UConn showed its interest early and often.

"I do like Coach Penders. I've talked with him over the phone a couple of times. He has come to watch a couple of games and I got to meet him. He's very genuine, a good coach. He does it for the team. He's not selfish, doesn't do it for the money and I really feel like he can help me go in the right direction," Ericson said.

In addition to the attraction of the coaching staff and the school itself, UConn does offer Ericson another advantage. He will be close to home.

"I think that matters. When you can play the high-level, caliber of baseball at home and don't forget, UConn travels. One of those trips is usually to Hawaii. He will get around and see the best teams but I think it will be good for the fam-

ily and good for Brady to be local. Coach Penders runs a Class A program so I think it's a great fit for Brady and his family," Murphy said.

It also means it takes the pressure off as far as finding a school after high school.

It doesn't relieve the pressure of "the grind" as Murphy calls it – the work that is needed for a Division I college player to prosper.

"I'm able to compete at the high school level now, but I have to make sure I keep getting better. If I stay at this same skill level, I will not be able to compete at the college level. I have to keep improving, working hard, and just not giving up on the work I'm putting in," Ericson said.

There is also good news for Woodstock Academy boys' basketball coach Donte Adams.

Ericson plans to continue to play hoops for the Centaurs.

"I'm still playing. I've talked to the (UConn) coaches and they have told me that basketball is good, just to work on being part of a team, being a leader. Basketball will be good for my athleticism and gives me a break from baseball. I'm going to keep on playing," Ericson said.

Two years is a long time.

"It might feel like a long time but people always say high school is the best time of your life so I'm going to try and enjoy every part that I can whether it be baseball, basketball, academics, anything, but I'm excited to be going to UConn," Ericson said.



Photo courtesy Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library

### CHARLEY READS 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Charley of Thompson finished 1,000 books before kindergarten in August 2023. Congratulations!

Woodstock Academy junior pitcher/outfielder Brady Ericson committed on Sunday to play Division I baseball for the University of Connecticut come 2025-26.

"I'm very excited," Ericson said. "It's an opportunity that not too many people get. I'm proud of it. I know it's still two years away so I'm not going to let off the gas. I have to finish high school first but I'm very excited to go there."

Ericson said the reason why he decided to commit so early was the opportunity that was offered was just too good to be passed up.

A chance to play Division I baseball and attend school on a scholarship.

"It was very good. It helps my parents save a lot of money, helped me save a lot of money

and it just works out very well," Ericson said.

Ericson had a phenomenal sophomore year for the Centaurs.

He finished with a 6-0 record with an earned run average of 0.70.

In 39 2/3 innings, the southpaw allowed only four earned runs, gave up only 15 hits and struck out 76 hitters while issuing only 19 walks.

He opened a lot of eyes when he pitched a no-hitter with 20 strikeouts against Ledyard.

His success carried into the AAU season over the summer.

"First of all, I want to

## Green Valley Crossing Celebrates 10 Years in Putnam

BY JASON BLEAU

NEWS STAFF WRITER

PUTNAM — Green Valley Crossing marked a decade in Putnam on Saturday, Sept. 9 with its Tenth Anniversary Family Party bringing together not only members of the church but also the community at large to celebrate.

Green Valley Crossing was launched in 2013 and was previously housed on the corner of Front and School Streets in Putnam before moving to their current home at 75 Railroad Avenue in 2020.



Green Valley Crossing recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

While the church experienced some hardships maintaining members during the temporary

move to digital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Turn To **CROSSING** page **A10**

## Sawmill Pottery and TEEG filling Empty Bowls

BY JASON BLEAU

NEWS STAFF WRITER

THOMPSON — Empty Bowls returns with a new look later this month continuing a longstanding history of helping fight hunger in Northeastern Connecticut. The annual fundraiser, hosted by Sawmill Pottery, allows guests to purchase a hand-crafted bowl and enjoy a variety of soups made by restaurateurs and chefs from throughout the region. The 2023 event will have a new look

and location, moving to TEEG in Thompson for the first time with proceeds benefiting the agency's Thompson and Pomfret Food Markets and the Woodstock Mobile Market.

TEEG Executive Director Anne Miller said she was approached by Sawmill Pottery owner Dot Burnworth in the spring about partnering with TEEG to continue the Empty Bowls tradition. The event has been a staple of the region for

18 years, but for 2023 the event will have a new home after being paired with Putnam's Savor the Flavor event since the COVID-19 pandemic. Miller and Burnworth issued a joint statement about why TEEG was chosen as the new partner for the event.

"TEEG is very fortunate to have a walk-in cooler and freezer in their building in Thompson, however, they often receive large donations that they share

Turn To **BOWLS** page **A10**

## Killingly community comes together for celebration



Jason Bleau Photos

Paws Cat Shelter, who is preparing to move to their new location in Putnam, appeared at Celebrate Killingly to raise awareness of their programs

BY JASON BLEAU

NEWS STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — The town of Killingly joined together to celebrate everything the town has to offer on Saturday, Sept. 9 during the appropriately named Celebrate Killingly event at Owen Bell Park. The event serves as a replacement for the town's Tomato Festival with a larger focus on Killingly as a

whole including music, demonstrations, vendors, and food mostly connecting to Killingly in some way. The event proved to be a display of the pride that Killingly citizens

Turn To **KILLINGLY** page **A12**

Cub Scout Pack 43 of Killingly set up a booth to sell delicious goodies during the celebration





# Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut announces increased multi-year scholarship awards

NEW LONDON — The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut awarded over \$1 million in scholarships to 287 students for the upcoming academic year. Students from throughout eastern Connecticut were recognized with one-time and multi-year awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$32,000.

Scholarships are a critical tool in creating brighter futures for youth in Eastern Connecticut. “Over the past several years, we have made an effort to increase both the number and size of multi-year awards to help students complete their degrees. Many of these students are the first in their families to attend college,” stated Program Director Jennifer O’Brien.

The Community Foundation, in partnership with local nonprofits and school systems, identifies and supports a variety of organizations which benefit vulnerable youth. Funding for after-school programs, mentoring, and college and career readiness programs helps prepare eastern Connecticut young people for a fulfilling future.



Courtesy photo  
**Kate Landis, Brooklyn:** A 2023 graduate of Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, Kate is attending Colorado State University to study forestry/forest management. She is the recipient of the Jake T. Watson Memorial Scholarship.

The Community Foundation’s scholarships are made possible through the generosity of donors who understand the value of opening doors for students and investing in the future. These caring donors have established 131 scholarship funds at the Community Foundation, awarding over \$10.8 million to more than 3,375 students since 1983.

About the Community Foundation  
Serving 42 towns and comprised of over 600 charitable funds, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut puts philanthropy into action to address the needs, rights and interests of the region, focusing on four priority areas: empowering youth, promoting basic needs and rights, preserving the environment, and advancing animal welfare. The Foundation stewards net assets of over \$115 million and has awarded over \$92 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofits and students since its founding in 1983. To learn more, visit [cfect.org](http://cfect.org).

# CorePlus Credit Union appoints Raymond J. Currier as next President, CEO

NORWICH — The Board of Directors of CorePlus Credit Union (CPCU) is announcing the appointment of Raymond J. Currier as its new President and Chief Executive Officer. Currier replaces retiring CEO Nicholas K. Fortson, who will be retiring after nine years as President and CEO. Currier will assume the role of CEO on January 1, 2024.

Upon the announcement that Fortson planned to retire at year end, the CPCU Board of Directors conducted a CEO search with assistance from The Credit Union League of Connecticut to identify a qualified candidate to lead the nearly ninety-year-old federally chartered, member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative. After considering several worthy candidates, the board determined Currier’s dedication, exceptional leadership, and significant contributions as Chief Operating Officer and overwhelmingly approved Ray’s promotion to the role of CEO. Currier has been with the credit union since 2005 and has close to 30 years of experience in the credit union industry.

“We are extremely pleased that after performing our due diligence to find the most suitable leader, our own Ray Currier emerged as the best candidate to take the reins and carry on Nicholas Fortson’s legacy,” said CPCU Board of Directors Chair Jean Swift. “We believe Ray possesses the strategic vision, business acumen, and commitment to lead CorePlus Credit Union into a prosperous future. His demonstrated ability to drive innovation, foster collaboration, and deliver exceptional results made him the ideal candidate for this important position.”

Currier said he is excited by the challenge of his new role and looks forward to a continuation of the success he and Fortson shared with the growth, expansion of service offerings and financial achievements the credit union has experienced over the last decade. “I am incredibly honored to have been appointed President / CEO, and I am excited to lead our talented team in continuing to bring exceptional service and innovation to our membership. CorePlus is well positioned for continued growth and success in the coming years,” said Currier. “I am also very fortunate to have the support and guidance from such an incredible leader as Nicholas Fortson to assist in the transition.”

Fortson, who has been CEO of CPCU since 2014, announced his retirement effective December 31, 2023 — in January 2023. As part of the transition, he is committed to working closely with Currier throughout the rest of the year to ensure that the transfer of leadership is seamless and that the new CEO is in the best possible position to guide CPCU into the future.



Courtesy photo  
**CPCU’s newly appointed President/CEO Raymond J. Currier with retiring President/CEO Nicholas K. Fortson** outside of CPCU’s headquarters in Norwich.

“Nicholas Fortson has been and continues to be an amazing leader and mentor,” Swift said. “The board wishes to recognize Nick for his remarkable leadership, particularly throughout the pandemic, as well as his ability to select and develop a stellar management team. He will be greatly missed, but we know he leaves us in Ray’s very capable hands.”

In honor of his tremendous leadership and commitment to his community, the board has approved a gift of \$10,000 to support two non-profits. A gift of \$5,000 will be made in Fortson’s honor to the Otis Library to fund a multi-lingual financial literacy program. Fortson is the former board president of Otis Library, and he and his late wife, Peggy, have been avid supporters of the library. A second gift of \$5,000 will be made to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, where Fortson is also a board member.

About CPCU  
CorePlus Federal Credit Union (CPCU) was founded in 1936 as the Norwich Connecticut Teachers Federal Credit Union with 27 original members. Today, CPCU is a full-service credit union offering savings, loans, mortgages, investment products, and safe deposits. At present, CPCU has more than 28,000 members, \$332 million in assets, and seven full-service branches in Norwich, East Lyme, Waterford, Groton, Pawcatuck, Plainfield, and Foxwoods.

CPCU, with its mission of “financial wellness for all,” has a longstanding commitment to philanthropy and community. CPCU is a federally chartered, member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative. For more information, call 860-886-0576 or visit <https://www.coreplus.org/>.

CPCU, where everyone, everywhere can become a member.

LEONARD ZADORA & SONS, LLC  
DEMOLITION, SEPTIC SYSTEMS & EXCAVATION  
FREE ESTIMATE

- New & Repaired Septic Systems
- Landscaping
- Stumping • Drainage Systems
- Sewer Connections
- Frost Walls • Cellar Holes
- Snow Plowing
- Loam • Sand • Gravel • Fill

860-774-1737




108 Thompson Pike, Dayville, CT 06241  
40 Years Experience • Licensed & Insured

THE SIDING STORE INC.  
Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms  
SUMMER SPECIALS  
NOW IN EFFECT  
\$\$\$\$  
Financing available to qualified customers!  
thesidingstoreinc.com  
860.423.7771 860.963.9035  
860.886.1718 860.564.7088  
References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

AFFORDABLE!

We take pride in our customer service!





ARTHRITIS?

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?  
If not we may be able to help.

Osteoarthritis  
of Hands - Knees- Hips.  
Back and Shoulder Problems  
Rheumatoid Arthritis  
Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout

Charles A. Birbara, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School  
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674  
“Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis”

## Putnam volunteers launch global campaign offering message of hope

PUTNAM — At a time when the desire for better government is on the minds of people the world over, Jehovah’s Witnesses will launch an international campaign to bring attention to a universal solution. The Witnesses will feature a special edition of “The Watchtower” magazine, available in over 780 languages in print and online, with the theme “What Is God’s Kingdom?”

Local volunteers from Southern New England will distribute this special-edition

magazine during the month of September. “I think it’s important for people to have an answer to the challenges they face in the world, both locally and globally. There is obviously a desire for good government,” said Benjamin Swain, a resident of Putnam. His wife, Bethany, added, “We have something to share with people – the hope that there will be a perfect government that will soon solve all their problems. I’m excited because we have that information

and I want to help others.” Throughout the centuries, millions of Jesus’ followers have prayed the words “thy Kingdom come” but wonder what that Kingdom is, what it will accomplish and when it will come. To answer those age-old questions, the Witnesses’ special-edition magazine will reference key Bible passages. The clear and simple explanations have been designed to appeal to both new and experienced Bible readers.

Understanding what that Kingdom is and how it will solve this world’s mounting problems is a message that provides a solid, realistic hope. We look forward to bringing this message to our neighbors.”

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jehovah’s Witnesses distributed millions of this special-edition magazine through letters, even sending copies to thousands of government officials worldwide. Now that they have returned to their door-to-door public ministry post-pandemic, this will be the first in-person campaign where they will have the opportunity to discuss the important and very timely subject with their neighbors.

A free digital copy of this special issue of “The Watchtower,” as well as information about the activities of Jehovah’s Witnesses, is available at [jw.org](http://jw.org). The Witnesses’ site offers practical Bible-based content for people of all ages and beliefs in over 1,070 languages.

Showplace Cabinetry is made in America by employee-owners who take great pride in every cabinet they craft for you. Your creative choices are nearly unlimited, and it's all backed by the assurance of a lifetime warranty. Call us to learn more about what we can do for your dream.



189 Eastford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242  
ph: 860-974-1924 • fax: 860-974-0099  
eastfordbuildingsupply.com

Monday-Friday 7am-5pm  
Saturday: 8am-12pm  
Sunday: Closed

THE LAW OFFICE OF  
GABRIELLE LABONTE  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

WILLS AND TRUSTS  
MEDICAID PLANNING



5 VINA LANE • P.O. Box 709  
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234  
PHONE: 860-774-3700 • FAX: 860-774-6300



# Connecticut Water awards \$16,000 to local firefighters



Courtesy photos

Bessie Haynes, Kevin Jones and James Connors of Connecticut Water present a check to Dayville Fire Chief Michael Shabenas and fire fighter Keri Vanasse on behalf of Connecticut Water. From left to right, Fire Chief Michael Shabenas, fire fighter Keri Vanasse, Bessie Haynes, Kevin Jones and James Connors.

CLINTON — Connecticut Water recently announced the recipients of its 2023 Firefighter Support Grant program.

The program, launched in 2020, provides financial support for equipment or training for fire departments within Connecticut Water’s service communities. A minimum total of \$15,000 is awarded annually with individual grants of up to \$1,500 made based on program criteria. The grants are funded by the company and not recovered in customer rates.

“Local firefighters and their departments have dedicated themselves to protecting lives and property in their local communities and provide an essential service,” said Craig J. Patla, president of Connecticut Water. He added, “We are committed to supporting them through this grant program that provides training and equipment so they can be safe and effective when fighting fires.”

In many communities served by Connecticut Water, the hydrants used by

local firefighters are connected to, and take water from, Connecticut Water’s water systems. Fire Departments receiving grants in 2023 include:

- Broad Brook Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Coventry Fire & EMS
- Crystal Lake Fire Dept.
- Dayville Fire Dept. (Killingly)
- Tunnix Hose No. 1, Unionville (Farmington)
- Hebron Fire Department
- Killingworth Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Old Lyme Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Prospect Volunteer Fire Dept.
- South Killingly Volunteer Fire Dept.
- North Thompsonville Vol. Fire Dept. (Enfield)

Applications for the 2024 Firefighter Support Grant Program will open in late 2023. More information on the Firefighter Support Grant Program and Connecticut Water’s other charitable giving programs is available at [www.ctwater.com/giving](http://www.ctwater.com/giving)

Connecticut Water has awarded more than \$63,000 in firefighter grants since the inception of the program.



Kevin Jones, Bessie Haynes and James Connors of Connecticut Water present a check to South Killingly Fire Chief Travis Vandale and Captain Joseph Lee on behalf of Connecticut Water. From left to right, Captain Joseph Lee, Fire Chief Travis Vandale, Kevin Jones, Bessie Haynes and James Connors

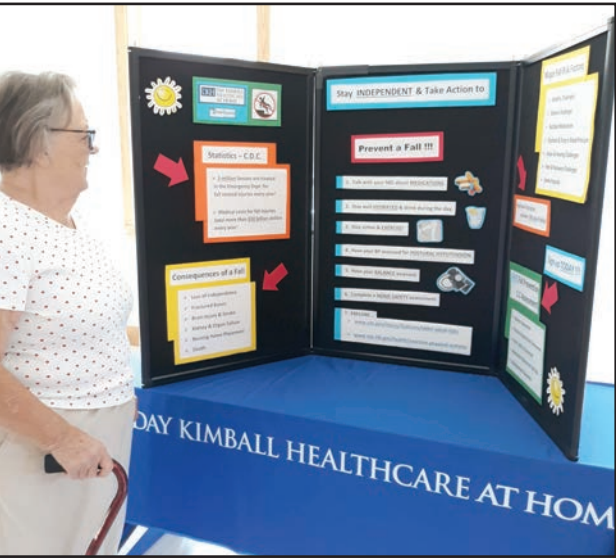
About Connecticut Water  
Connecticut Water is a public water utility that is regulated by the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. The company provides water service to more than 107,000 customers in 60 Connecticut towns and wastewater services to 3,000 customers in the town of Southbury, Connecticut.

The towns served are Ashford, Avon, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Bolton, Brooklyn, Burlington, Canton, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Deep River, Durham, East Granby, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Essex, Farmington, Griswold, Guilford, Haddam, Hebron, Killingly, Killingworth, Lebanon, Madison, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Oxford, Plainfield, Plymouth, Portland, Prospect, Simsbury, Somers, Southbury, South Windsor, Stafford, Stonington, Suffield, Thomaston, Thompson, Tolland, Vernon, Voluntown, Waterbury, Westbrook, Willington, Windsor Locks and Woodstock.

**CARPENTRY SERVICES CT, LLC**  
**Remodeling  
Kitchens, Baths  
and More!**  
**CALL Gene Pepper at 860-230-6105**  
**[carpentryservicesct.com](http://carpentryservicesct.com)**  
CT #0606460 • #MA-HIC#196807 • RI #763  
*Veteran owned and operated since '89*

**A/C & HEATING**  
**MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC  
DUCTLESS SPLIT  
HEAT-PUMPS**  
HEATING  
AIR CONDITIONING  
**Michael J. Williams**  
SHEET METAL  
FABRICATION  
**MITSUBISHI  
ELECTRIC**  
COOLING & HEATING  
**M.J. Williams Heating & AC, INC.**  
*Serving the community since 1988*  
**High Quality work at an affordable price**  
**508-949-0035**  
**[www.mjwhvac.com](http://www.mjwhvac.com)**  
Mass save hvac  
approved vendor  
Energize CT hvac  
approved vendor

## DKH at Home offers free Fall Prevention Program



Courtesy photo

COA Board Member Ann Russo has already signed up for this valuable program and urges you to do so, too.

## SNHU Announces Summer 2023 President’s List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2023 President’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Melissa Parr of Danielson  
Emilee Curtin of Danielson  
Melisa Moone of Brooklyn  
Katherine Perry of Danielson  
Cody Chapman of Danielson  
Jean Foraker of Danielson  
Rena Stevenin of Killingly  
Bethany Paul of Brooklyn  
Amma Ofosu of Danielson  
Kacper Gruszka of Quinebaug  
Lissette Hernandez of Putnam

The Fall Season is around the corner, but so may be the other kind of fall – the falling down kind of fall.

Joslyn French, MSPT Certified Fall Prevention Specialist of the Day Kimball Healthcare at Home Fall Prevention Team visited the Seniors in the Town Community room recently to discuss the upcoming FREE “Fall Prevention in our Quiet Corner” Program, Wednesday, September 27th from 1:30-2:30pm in the Putnam Town Complex.

Spots are still available, and there is a simple form required. Sign up now and learn how you can stay safe and independent with strategies to reduce your risk of falling.

Contact the Putnam Recreation Department at 860-963-6800 ext 140 or [marcy.dawley@putnamct.us](mailto:marcy.dawley@putnamct.us) to sign up, with any questions on this program and to learn more about what the Commission on Aging has to offer our community members aged 50 and over.

Samantha Miller of Putnam  
Kacper Gruszka of Quinebaug  
Elizabeth McLean of Thompson  
Elizebeth Benoit of North Grosvenordale  
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).

**THOMPSON VOTERS:**  
**On November 7th, 2023 vote for the slate of candidates that will work TOGETHER for Thompson. Vote for the Democratic Slate.**

Office	Name
First Selectman	Ken Beausoleil
Board of Selectman	Geoffrey Bolte
Town Clerk	Renee Lapalme Waldron
Tax Collector	Scott A. Antonson
Board of Finance	Nathaniel Lenky
Board of Finance	Jennifer Baublitz
Board of Education	Sheryl Horniak
Board of Education	Kristin Schultz
Board of Assessment Appeals	Daniel Santerre
Planning and Zoning Commission	Michael J. Krogul
Planning and Zoning Commission	David Poplawski
Planning and Zoning Alternate	David Poplawski
Zoning Board of Appeals	Brian Loffredo
Zoning Board of Appeals	Daniel Santerre
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate	Dianne Lenky
Water Pollution Control Authority	Michael J. Krogul
Library Board of Trustees	Bernadette Quercia
Library Board of Trustees	Linda Charlton

Paid for by the Thompson Democratic Town Committee

**Privacy Hedge!**  
**6 ft arborvitae (reduced \$125)**  
**Free installation free delivery**  
**A grade! Order now for fall delivery. Limited supply.**  
**[lowcosttrees.com](http://lowcosttrees.com)**  
**518-536-1367**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH**  
**8AM-1PM**  
**45th Antique and Classic Bicycle Show**  
Bring your bikes for free appraisal, cash buyers on hand  
929 Riverside Dr. Rt 12  
North Grosvenordale (Thompson, CT)  
Admission free, vendor space available.  
**800-336-2453 for info**

**Enjoy Life with Better Hearing!**  
  
**Call 860-315-9656 to schedule a hearing evaluation.**  
**[amplisound](http://amplisound.com)**  
**HEARING CARE CENTERS**  
Does your insurance cover hearing aids? Let us check for you. We work with Anthem BCBS, United Healthcare, Hearing Care Solutions, Amplifon, Nation's Hearing, American Hearing Benefits, and CT Medicaid.  
19 Quinebaug Ave, Putnam  
351 Merline Road, Vernon  
[www.amplisound.com](http://www.amplisound.com)  
**Hearing Solutions for all Lifestyles and Budgets since 1981**



# Hitting all the notes! Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the performing arts



Betty Hale receiving a letter of commendation from Selectman Tony Emilio in 2010.

Courtesy photo

Fifty years is a long time. Much of what inspired action, hard work and creativity of those involved along the way is forgotten. Happily, such is not the case with Opera New England of Northeastern Connecticut, now Performing Arts of NECT. The name was changed to reflect the broader reach of the volunteer group, which is devoted after half-a-century to the same fundamen-

tal mission: bringing professional arts events at affordable prices to people in northeastern Connecticut. Free performances for area children were a cornerstone then as now with a total of about a quarter of a million kids attending a show over the years! But what remains in our memory and the archives Betty Hale stored in her commodious attic all these years? What can we learn from a group that has survived

and thrived through countless changes of membership, leadership, funding, parties, performances, contracts, ups and downs? Not to mention Covid, when schools were closed. The original organization was started by a cast of lively local characters, who wanted to bring more culture to our area. Back then, Annhurst College, a Catholic women's school in Woodstock, was thriving and had a fine auditorium that seated 1,018 people at a performance. The founders met over lunches at the Golden Lamb in Brooklyn, and drinks in private homes to chart a course: What could we present here? How much would it cost? Who would pay? The stars aligned.

Sara Caldwell had taken the helm of the Opera Company of Boston. She was a powerhouse at the podium and in person. Her deep voice, talent as a musical impresario, forceful personality and singular spot as the first women to direct and conduct opera created enormous publicity. Caldwell, whose charm brought in donors, directors and singers, wanted to expand the reach of opera from the confines of the city. She created Opera New England, starting programs in five states. Northeastern Connecticut was ready and soon hosted two adult operas and one children's opera every year. Hundreds of area residents saw live opera for the first time. Countless singers found comfort as guests in area homes, creating friendships and connections that lasted for decades. Soon Caldwell declared northeastern Connecticut the real home of Opera New England. The affection was mutual. Caldwell spent holidays in the area. Local representatives trooped

to Boston to rub elbows with donors to the Opera Company and get in-depth looks behind the scenes. Lunches at private clubs and children's fashion shows added to the excitement. Through it all, the organization functioned due to the talent and hard work of countless volunteers and a committed board of directors. In the pre-internet age, meeting notices, agendas, invitations, posters, sign-up sheets and school commitments flowed on paper as members sat down, generally at someone's home to collate, stuff and mail endless pieces of paper. Friendships were formed that lasted for lifetimes. Children who as youths may have played under the dining room table later became ushers and set loaders. A few embarked on careers in the arts.

Connections and conversations passed from person to person and town to town. No credentials were required to be part of the group, just an interest in the arts, a little time to share, a check for a fundraising party, often less than dinner for two at a restaurant, and the purchase of a ticket for an opera. Costs were relatively low back then with one contract season for two adult operas and two children's opera booked at the rate of \$13,000. Bill St. Onge did the legal work to formally incorporate the group pro bono. Nonetheless, it was not easy to fill the house and one year the coffers offered up the grand total of \$3.85. Betty met with Cy Harvey and QVCC's Bob Miller. The show must go on, they agreed. It did by adapting and expanding along the way. The group obtained a grant for \$50,000 over two years for Dancing in the Schools, including a training program for teachers at Duke University. Teachers, parents and children got involved. A long-term spinoff, The Three C's brings live shows to

schoolchildren at the Loos Center. It began through the efforts of Mary Patenaude, Bob Miller, Mary Fisher, Fran Stevens and Betty Hale. It continues to serve area children. There were no secrets to the fundraising formula. Parties in private homes or in new restaurants were the standard. Donald Froelich and his family, talented caterers from Woodstock, made the food, brought the dishes, cutlery and cloth napkins and served up good, traditional meals that everyone liked. When the parties were over, the hosts exclaimed that their kitchen was cleaner than ever. Invitations to an ONECT or P/Arts party were tied to themes in the operas and often included entertainment by performers. The Hospitality Committee, originally composed of Elsie Neumann, Phyllis Smith and Doris Harper, created gigantic floral arrangements and merrily reorganized tables and registration to everyone's delight. Later, Edith Rotival and currently Susan Horn and her team arrange for these wonderful parties. Central to it all was the professional eye of Bob Sloat, who worked with the professionals from Boston, hired local people as set loaders, operated all the technical aspects of stagecraft while singing the entire libretto under his breath. Of course, the financial operation didn't operate solely on parties. John Ostrout, Executive Director of the CT Commission on the Arts, and his staff reviewed yearly fundraising requests for the opera. Often the appeals were met, at least in part. Other foundations were approached as well. Annual gifts were sought from individuals, local businesses and corporations as is the current practice. Private support is the mainstay, but as with every non-profit, all gifts are

needed. Through the years there were fashion shows, spa treatments, poster contests and raffles for travel excursions. Variations on the traditions continue. From the beginning when Jimmie Booth from Brooklyn and Kay Holt from Mansfield Center formed a committee that included Phil James and Betty Hale from Pomfret, the group blossomed. Betty's drive, innate leadership and commitment to the arts and children led to a dynamic group that could grow and change. There are scrapbooks recording special moments, countless photographs and newspaper clippings, but the most important legacy is that ONECT— now P/Arts goes on with its mission to “enrich, engage, inspire.”

The current board will soon be sharing news of the latest season — with a diverse series of live performances for school students and the community, primarily at the Loos Center. First grade and kindergarten children will enjoy classroom programs on creating sounds and music. A dream by a handful of people to bring opera to our corner of the world took root and spawned decades of performances, friendships, parties, school programs, and enrichment activities that live on. In the special moment when the curtain goes up and the audience takes a collect deep breath, the joy of live music links the past to the present as it opens into the future.

By Nancy Pritchard Weiss  
Courtesy of The Pomfret Times

## American Legion Post 111 breakfast and open house

The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites the public to our free open house and breakfast on Sept. 23 from 8:00-10:00 AM. Come to our post located at 22 Stone Bridge Road, 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 12/7/1941 are eligible to join.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Sept. 4: Common Nighthawk, American Kestrel, Bobwhite Quail, Bobolink, Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hummingbird, Barn Swallow, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, Turkey Vulture. Visit [ctaclub.org/Pomfret-home](http://ctaclub.org/Pomfret-home).

FOSTER'S

15th ANNUAL COMMUNITY

YARD SALE

and

RI Cowboy Cruisers CAR & BIKE SHOW

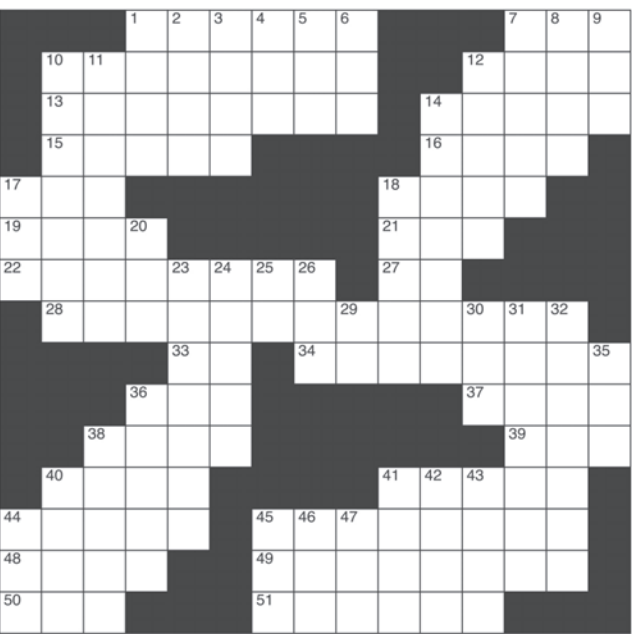
Saturday, September 16 • 8am - 1pm

(Town Fairgrounds)

Food available for purchase

provided by ARCC Veterans

50+ Households!! Rain Date: Sept. 17th



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of crayon

7. Fashion accessory

10. Most cerebral

12. Incline from vertical

13. Dependent on

14. Broken in

15. Strongly desires

16. Mounted soldier

17. Ad \_\_\_\_ when necessary

18. Cattle

19. Ottoman military commanders

21. \_\_\_\_ student, learns healing

22. Composed in poetic meter

27. Promotional material

28. Where people live
33. Sodium

34. Embarrassing

36. Medical man

37. Mother of Hermes

38. One who saves the day

39. Tooth caregiver

40. Not clothed

41. Slope covered with loose stones

44. Used to cook

45. Praises enthusiastically

48. Rooney is a famous one

49. Beekeeper

50. Pigpen

51. Potato chip brand

### CLUES DOWN

1. Living quarters

2. Horizontal passage

3. Attacks

4. Vietnamese offensive

5. Midway between east and southeast

6. Confined (abbr.)

7. Book of Esther antagonist

8. Port in Yemen

9. CNN's founder

10. Type of bulb

11. Prepare

12. Promoted

14. Dinner jackets

17. Partner to cheese

18. Nebraska city

20. Human gene

23. Pays no attention to
24. Lowland South American plain

25. Blood group

26. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano

29. Atomic #37

30. Unit of electrical resistance

31. Jeweled crowns

32. Nastiest

35. Traditional cars need it

36. Bowler hat

38. Robust

40. Not straight

41. Stony waste matter

42. Have an interest in

43. Jacob \_\_, journalist

44. Maintains possession of

45. Swiss river

46. Average cost of market goods

47. Spanish soldier: El \_\_



GIVE YOUR CHILD AN EDGE THIS SCHOOL YEAR MARTIAL ARTS!

BUILDS

✓ FOCUS

✓ CONFIDENCE

✓ SELF DISCIPLINE

\$99 AND A FREE UNIFORM

NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL !

USE CODE: BACK2SCHOOL

WWW.QUESTMARTIALARTS.US

860-928-9218

Villager Newspapers

TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD: MIKAELA VICTOR RETAIL ADVERTISING 860-928-1818 EXT. 313 mikaela@stonebridgepress.news LEGAL NOTICES: 860-928-1818, EXT. 183 SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: KERRI PETERSON 860-928-1818, EXT. 303 kerri@stonebridgepress.news TO PRINT AN OBITUARY: E-MAIL: obits@stonebridgepress.news CALL: 860-928-4215 OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550 TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS RELEASE E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER FRANK G. CHILINSKI 860-928-1818 EXT. 103 frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER RYAN CORNEAU 860-928-1818 EXT. 102 ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JIM DINICOLA 508-764-6102 jdinicola@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR BRENDAN BERUBE 860-928-1818 X 323 news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE 860-928-1818, EXT. 305 julie@villagernewspapers.com

The Putnam Villager (025-154), The Thompson Villager (024-998) The Killingly Villager (025-004) and The Woodstock Villager (024-999) are published weekly by Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Woodstock, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.



# ‘Remembering John Noel Dempsey: A Man Who Did Good’ released today

How many of you remember when John Dempsey was mayor of Putnam during the 1955 flood? Perhaps you recall when he was governor of Connecticut. He certainly was a blessing to Northeastern Connecticut and then the State.

I was delighted recently to receive an email from his son Reverend Edward Dempsey announcing the publication of a book of his memories of his father, which is being released today, September 15th, by the publisher. I quote Rev. Ed's email, "On 9/15, Austin Macauley Publishers will release Remembering John Noel Dempsey: A Man Who Did Good. John Dempsey lived in Putnam from 1925 to 1961, where he served as Alderman, Alderman-at-Large, Mayor, State Representative, and Lieutenant Governor. In 1961 he became Governor of Connecticut, an office he held for the next ten years. He died at his home in Dayville in 1989. This book of memoirs, written by his eldest son, shares a personal side of this pub-



KILLINGLY  
AT  
300  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

lic figure. The author writes: 'At a time when governors have been sent to jail, presidents have been impeached, and legislatures seem dedicated to gridlock, and adherence to blind partisanship trumps all else, it's not hard to fathom why American people have become skeptical about politicians and cynical about the entire political process and downright disgusted at what is seen to be governmental shenanigans. It may come, then, as comfort to some and dubious to others to read about a politician who has been dubbed 'the genuine article,' a man who personified the adage "what you see is what you get," a person who believed that life was about giving and not about getting. That's the kind of man I grew up knowing, the kind of politician, who would no longer fit the current mold, the person I am honored to call 'my father.' As a once well known figure in The Quiet Corner, there may well be people still interested in him and

in his public life, shown through a more personal lens." (email, 9/2/23). Many immigrants who came to this area already had relatives here who helped in their transition to a new country, a new culture, and a new way of life so I sent Father Ed an email about that. "They were welcomed and housed by siblings of my grandmother at their home on South Main Street. My grandfather, my grandmother and my father all worked in the former Putnam Woolen mill; they lived in mill housing right up the street." (9/7 & 8//23). I had included a short biographical sketch about Governor Dempsey when I wrote Perspectives of Putnam in 1980 so pulled that out to check a few dates. John Dempsey was born in the Irish countryside of Cahir, County Tipperary on January 3, 1915 to Edward and Ellen (Looby) Dempsey. "My grandmother always preferred the way the family name was spelled back home in Ireland., i.e. Looby, wrote Ed Dempsey." John completed his primary and high school educations in Putnam then attended Providence College-- "but only for one year. His father's illness caused him to leave college and enter the Putnam Woolen Mill." He

married Mary Frey of Barrington, RI and was the father of four children: Reverend Edward, John, Jr, Margaret, and Kevin. (p.110). Governor John N. Dempsey died July 16, 1989 and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Putnam. His widow Mary is still alive and has been living in Dayville since 1988. (email 9/8/23). Fr. Ed wrote, "I have not yet found a local outlet for the sale of the book. However, Remembering John Noel Dempsey: A Man Who Did Good will be available as of 9/15/23 at Amazon.com." (9/8/23). Although it's only September, The last Green Valley's Walktober events are beginning. Many of you have enjoyed walks with Nick Bellantoni, State Archaeologist Emeritus, and you are sure to find Exploring Ashford Woods--Hidden Quarries, Graveyard, and a Forgotten Community in Eastford's Natchaug Forest (#39) on Saturday, September 16th at 10 a.m. another treat. Local Historian Donna Dufresne, who has conducted many previous walks, will co-lead the walk. She provided a few details about the walk in an email. "Ashford Woods is featured in Nick Bellantoni's upcoming book about Historic Walks in CT. We will

begin at the Cat Den Quarry, once owned by Daniel Griggs, and sold to Joseph Weeks in 1806. Across the road from the quarry is the Weeks Cemetery, where Sylvester Weeks, a Civil War soldier, is buried. Heading South on Fayette Rd. in the forest, we will talk about charcoal burning which fueled local foundries and blacksmith shops, and the Chester Webster/Bates homestead where Charles Webster, a CT 29th Colored Regiment and Infantry soldier is buried. Guests will learn about the people of African and Nipmuc descent who lived in a small community in what was known as Ashford Woods." (9/8/23). If you are interested in joining the walk, contact Donna at windsong@snet.net or 860-465-7228. She will provide additional directions to the site. Park on Fayette Wright Road north of Pilfirshire Junction of Fayette Wright and Pilfirshire Roads, Eastford, Ct. Many of you might not be physically able to walk in Natchaug Forest, but there are many easier walks and events to enjoy this coming weekend. The Huntington Homestead (museum) in Scotland is celebrating the 300th anniversary of the home built by Nathaniel Huntington with an Encampment on September 16 from

10-4. His son Samuel Huntington was not only a signer of the Declaration of Independence, but also could be considered the first president of the United States since he was president of the Continental Congress when the Articles of Confederation were ratified. There will be both American and British re-enactors. (#40). Call 860-4423-1547 for additional information. There are a number of additional events/walks this weekend from Norwich, Willimantic, Woodstock, to Dudley. Visit the lastgreenvalley.com for an up-to-date listing. Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, September 2023. Special thanks to Rev. Ed Dempsey and Donna Dufresne for their assistance. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329.



Courtesy photo  
From left, Edward Morissette, Michael Rocchetti, Eric Quinn, Traci Lefebvre, Brian Maynard, Michael Vassar and Charles Mackenzie

## Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post 13 recently held their annual golf tournament at Connecticut National in Putnam

Putnam's Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post 13 held their annual golf tournament on Monday Sept. 11 at the Connecticut National Golf Course in Putnam. Despite the hot muggy conditions, about 140 golfers completed the 18 hole course just before the rains came. According to Post 13 Commander Michael Rocchetti "while the outpouring of rain may have dampened a few golfers, it did not dampen their enthusiasm - and was a fitting end to a day characterized by another outpouring - namely the support and generosity of our local community!" This year, the focus of the golf tournament was twofold - to honor the legacy of Putnam's only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient - US Navy submariner Henry Breault, and to raise awareness of the suicide problem amongst our veterans. Many of the victims unable to endure the pain of traumatic brain injuries - a hidden wound usually caused by the improvised explosive devices which were an ever-present danger during the prolonged conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Proceeds from the tournament will help support suicide awareness and prevention programs for our veterans in Northeastern Connecticut. Brian Maynard, a past Post 13 Commander, served as the Chairman of the Golf Committee and put together a team that included past Post 13 Commander Michael Vassar, Eric Quinn, Edward Morissette, Traci Lefebvre, Earl Rosebrooks, Mark Brule, and Charles Mackenzie. According to Mr Maynard "This was an all-star team - highly motivated and very dedicated to making the event a success." Since the event coincided with the 22nd anniversary of the 9-11 attacks, Maynard kicked-off the event with a moment of silence in honor of those first responders who lost their lives on that day, and paid a tribute to representatives from the Putnam Police and Fire Departments. Maynard also expressed sincere gratitude for the primary tournament sponsors which included Big Gary's Discount Liquor Store in Putnam and the Supported Living Group Rehabilitation Center in Danielson. "The level of generosity exceeded our expectations. There are so many other major sponsors I would like to recognize, including Northeast Flooring & Kitchens, Roger Franklin, Gerardi Insurance, Fluid Coating Technologies Inc, RPC Associates, Downes Construction, Jewett City Savings Bank, Venture Communications, Antinozzi Associates, BW Dexter Masonry, Windham County Heating and AC, Rawson Materials, and many more tee sponsors. We are also thankful for the many donations we received for raffle prizes, and for the people who came out today to golf at our tournament. It's just overwhelming! How lucky we are to live in such a great community!" Putnam's American Legion Post 13 has been active in our community since 1919. This veteran's organization stands on four pillars - Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. The Legion has a wide variety of related programs that directly support our local community.

## Karen Lunt earns Westview's Employee of the Month Award



Courtesy photo  
Karen Lunt

DAYVILLE — Karen Lunt gained recognition as the July 2023 Employee of the Month at Westview Health Care Center. Since July 2008, she has been a highly valued member of the Dietary Department of the Dayville, CT skilled nursing facility during her duty. Upon her first few years at Westview, she performed as an evening cook—and now—she prepares meals during the daytime hours. This is Karen's second time earning this company commendation; having been declared as the Employee of the Month in May 2009. Her most recent award signals the consistency of her importance on the Westview team from the beginning of her tenure there. Karen's love of cooking exists at work and at home. She and her husband of 46 years, Michael, love to cultivate their own vegetable garden at their home in Scotland, CT so that they can provide fresh produce for themselves. Her kitchen passion extends towards others as well; often offering her home-cooked cuisine to her colleagues at Westview. A self-taught chef, Karen's abilities are described as amazing by those who have devoured her dishes and delicacies—like canning her carefully cured vegetables and preparing her own jams. She especially likes to prepare Italian-style food while using her

forementioned garden harvests. The generations following Karen and her husband include their daughter Stephanie and her partner Kelly, their son Thomas and his wife Carole, and Karen's grandchildren: James, Alison, and Honora. She describes them as her pride and joy. Among Karen's recreational interests are reading, gardening, and travelling. She greatly enjoyed her visit to Iceland last year and her trip to Cuba 4 years ago. The colleagues that Karen work with truly think she deserves high praise. One kitchen teammate described her as an endearing matriarchal figure, and a strong person to have in your corner. She feels the same way about them. "There's a lot of great people down in our kitchen, I love them. Everybody is helpful. We all get along—and best of all, we have fun! What an honor to know that the people here find me worthy to be Employee of the Month!" Karen further elaborated about her occupational occupancy with her team: "All of my years that I have enjoyed at Westview are only possible because of my fellow colleagues in the kitchen and across every department." Westview Health Care Center's Administrator, David T. Panteleakos, conveyed his gratitude for Karen's work: "Karen is a pivotal player in our Dietary Department and a valued member of our team at Westview. Her service here is greatly appreciated by myself and our organization. Congratulations to Karen on her well-deserved recognition!" Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 15 years.

### MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

Mercury is found in products such as:

Thermometers

Fluorescent Lamps

Thermometers

Fluorescent Lamps

Thermometers

Fluorescent Lamps

Thermometers

Fluorescent Lamps

Please contact your local Board of Health or Department of Public Works for information on where to safely dispose of these items.

SPONSORED BY

WASTE INNOVATIONS



HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Ellis Tech

Boys' Varsity Soccer (1-0)

The boys won their season opener against Putnam 7-1 on 9/7 to start the season. Five players contributed goals. Ellis Tech had 11 shots and keeper Sam Stone had 3 saves.

Ellis Goals  
Cody Cramer (2)  
Cameron Fulone (2)  
Hunter Giovanni  
Tyler Sears  
Isaid Galdamez  
Ellis Assists  
Hunter Giovanni (4)  
Trevor Lamothe  
Cameron Fulone

Girls' Varsity Soccer (1-0)

The girls began the season with a convincing 8-3 win over Grasso Tech on Thursday 9/7. Final Stats.

Ellis Tech/Putnam  
Tori Iozzi: 4 goals, 1 assist  
Ava Morrison: 1 goal  
MacKenzie Sessums: 1 goal, 1 assist  
Lily Goyette: 1 goal, 2

assists

Marina Eaton: 1 goal

Killingly High School

Girls' Volleyball (1-1)

The Killingly Volleyball team traveled to New London on Thursday, 9/7. The Varsity team also started their season defeating New London 3 sets to 1, 25-20, 25-16, 23-25, 25-15. Shanaya Brown had 5 kills; Chloe Yip had 9 digs, 8 aces; Shyah Baker had 8 assists; Jayden Durand had 4 aces; Jocelyn Crowley had 2 aces, 3 kills; Emma Miller had 3 kills; Emma Rainville had 7 aces; 3 kills; and Addison Montville had 4 assists to lead Killingly.

The girl's volleyball team hosted Montville High School on Saturday, 9/8. Varsity fell to 1-1, losing to Montville 0 sets to 3, 24-26, 14-25, 21-25. Shyah Baker had 5 assists; Jocelyn Crowley had 3 digs, 7 kills; and Addison Montville had 3 digs, 8 assists to lead Killingly.

Field Hockey (0-1)

First game of the season away at Westbrook, non-conference game.

Lost 0-3. With only 3 returning starters from last year's team, the team played well and made several defensive stops. Senior goalie Jill Beach made 12 saves. Westbrook scored all three goals on corners.

Boys Varsity Soccer (0-0-1)

Killingly and Montville ended with a 2-2 tie in a season opening, divisional match up. Both goals were scored by Landon LeSage (assisted by John Fitzgibbons). Trent Pichie had 9 saves in net, while Joe Cozza had 6 saves.

Woodstock Academy

Girls Varsity Soccer (1-0)

Woodstock Academy 1  
Rockville 0  
ROCKVILLE – Freshman Rita Rawcliffe

scored her first varsity goal with 25 minutes left in the match to lift the Centaurs past their hosts in the season opener for both.

Girls Varsity Volleyball (0-1)

Newtown 3  
Woodstock Academy 0  
NEWTOWN – The Centaurs made the long trek down to the southwest portion of the state for their season opener but came back empty-handed. Newtown held off Woodstock Academy 25-23 in the first set and captured the win by taking the next two, 25-18 and 25-13. Cassidy Ladd finished with 13 digs, Sophie Gronski had 12 assists and Liliana Bottone added six kills in the loss for the Centaurs.

Varsity Football (1-0)

Woodstock Academy 42  
Quinebaug Valley 0  
WOODSTOCK – The Centaurs scored 35 second quarter points to roll past the Pride in the sea-

son opener for both teams at the Bentley Athletic Complex.

The Pride had 95 of its 127 total yards in the game in the first 10 minutes as it held on to the football but failed to score as its drive was stopped at the 7-yard line. The Centaurs answered in quick fashion going 93 yards in only six plays which ended in a Teddy Richardson (6-for-7 passing, 131 yards) 20-yard touchdown pass to Sam Clark. Quinebaug Valley fumbled on the next play from scrimmage and one play later, Richardson found Lucas Theriaque for a 19-yard score. Richardson added another touchdown pass to Clark and one to Henry Wotton in the second quarter. The senior quarterback, who finished with 107 yards rushing in eight carries, also scored on runs of 22 and 2 yards. Deven LaMothe led the Pride with 63 yards in 12 carries.

Boys Varsity Soccer

(0-1)

Granby 7  
Woodstock Academy 3  
WOODSTOCK – The new-look Centaurs proved they could score in their season opener, but Granby had even more offensive firepower. Austin Byer tied the match early in the first half for Woodstock Academy, which trailed only 2-1 at the break. Granby scored four unanswered goals before Matt Johndrow scored his first career high school goal for the Centaurs off an assist from Byer Trevor Gold added the final Woodstock Academy tally thanks to a Nate Faucher assist.

Field Hockey (0-1)

Somers/Rockville 6  
Woodstock Academy 1  
SOMERS – Mikayla Bessette scored the first goal of the season for the Centaurs and Madison LaVallee made 11 saves in goal, but the home team prevailed.

Masuk exacts revenge on Killingly football team

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY —

Killingly High varsity football hosted Masuk High on Friday, Sept. 8 for a rematch of last year's state semifinals where Killingly bested Masuk 54-51 in an offensive thriller. Returning most starters, Masuk came in with high energy of revenge and got out to a quick 14-0 lead a couple minutes into the second quarter.

Despite the initial surge

of energy by Masuk, Killingly fought back. They countered Masuk's scoring drive that gave them the two-touchdown lead with a scoring drive of their own propelled by a 52-yard powerful run by senior Soren Rief. The drive was capped by a 6-yard passing touchdown from first-year starter Quinn Sumner to sophomore tight end Hunter Allard. They also converted a two-point conversation to make it a six-point game, 14-8.

Following the scoring drive the Killingly defense did their job and forced a quick three-and-out giving the offense 3:30 minutes to work with. Killingly took advantage and drove down the field and capped a nine-play drive with an eight-yard beautiful fade ball to the corner of the end zone from Sumner to sophomore Payton Wallace for a touchdown as time expired in the half. Killingly with all momentum went into the half

tied, 14-14, after 14 unanswered points.

Unfortunately for Killingly, the momentum didn't last long. Masuk possessed the opening second-half kickoff and returned it for a touchdown. This began a downward spiral and Masuk scored 29 unanswered points in the second half before a late Killingly touchdown. Killingly fell to Masuk by a final score of 43-20.

"That was crucial because we had momentum at that point," stated Killingly head coach Chad Neal. "We needed to cover the kick a lot better, something we work on a lot. We had a couple of key guys off the field cramping on the kick-off converge and unfortunately, they made a great play returning it, but we still drove back down the next possession. We

just had a couple of plays that we just didn't do a good enough job. Just one block away. We are a young team in a lot of areas and those are going to learn from that and not make that same mistake again."

The final score does not tell the story of how close this game truly was. Self-inflicted mistakes in the last two quarters and turning the ball over on downs, on their counter drive following the Masuk kickoff return in Masuk territory was the reason for the second-half collapse.

"It is the little things," expressed Neal. "If we do that, we are going to be fine. We are 0-1, but Masuk is a great football team, let's not kid ourselves there. We played them in the semifinals and we won last year and pretty much everyone is

back, and I thought we battled with them. We play a lot of sophomores and they're going to go through some growing pains, but they're going to get better."

Killingly is going to build on this loss and progressively get back week in and week out. Growing pains are going to happen when you lose six starters on offense and nine on defense. On Friday night Sumner threw for two touchdowns, to two fellow sophomores. Sophomore Hayden Allard capped the night's scoring with a 69-yard touchdown run and junior Everton Brown showed a good change of pace alongside senior Soren Rief who paced the offense with 97 yards on the ground. Brown added 59 yards rushing.

Fast start helps Killingly girls' soccer to season opening victory

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY —

The Killingly High girls' soccer team started quickly in their season debut on Thursday, Sept. 7. Less than two minutes into regulation, senior captain Laura Farquhar made a run down the left wing, cut into New London's penalty box, and stuck a strong pass to a cutting Morgan Blanchard. Blanchard timed the cut perfectly and pierced the back of the net with a beautiful one-timer to not only give her team an early 1-0 lead but to also record her first-ever varsity soccer goal.

"Laura is one of the main playmakers," explained Killingly head coach Megyn Asselin. "She makes things happen and works it up the field. That midfield in general, everything goes through them. They do a

good job playing it up and working it off the three of them in there."

Killingly didn't slow down after getting an early lead and played dominating defense throughout. They focused on their game plan coming into the contest and it helped them start the season with a team-oriented 8-0 win over New London.

"It is very exciting we came from a hard season last year, so opening with a win like this is very exciting and uplifting for the girls," Asselin stated. "Our main focus was to work on maintaining possession and I think they did a very good job at doing that."

Killingly maintained possession much of the contest and it was due to methodical passing and slowing the pace of the game. The patience created many scoring opportunities and allowed many

players to make a presence in the game.

"We really tried to focus, just getting the ball to feet, especially with the heat at the beginning of the game," explained Asselin. "Our main goal was to reserve our energy and work it up the field and a lot of our goals were playing it, pass, pass all-the-way up the field. That was our main focus and it worked out for us today."

Killingly had seven different goal scorers in the game, including captain Laura Fraquhar who scored twice and assisted on three others. Four players tallied their first-ever varsity goal. Those four were Molly Crabtree, Catrina Turgeon, Ella Marceau and Morgan Blanchard as mentioned above. Illy Malarkey and Spencer Chivek also scored.

Woodstock poet to read at Arts Center East in Poetry Rocks series Sept. 17

Woodstock poet Karen Warinsky will be a featured reader at the September 17 Poetry Rocks event at Arts Center East, 709 Hartford Turnpike in Vernon. This event is free to the public and begins at 3 p.m. There will be an open mic segment and refreshments will be served.

Warinsky will launch her new book, Dining with War (Alien Buddha Press), which is a deep look at how we often take a meal with the evening news. Warinsky says, "The idea for this collection also came from the

realization that I often eat while watching horrific events unfold, and the remembrance of times in my personal life where a battle took place over a meal. Some of the pieces are humorous, some serious, but I think many of us can relate."

Retired from careers in media and teaching her poetry appears in several anthologies. She has two other collections of poetry, Gold in Autumn and Sunrise Ruby from Human Error Publishing.

She is a former finalist of the Montreal

International Poetry Contest, and just learned one of her poems is nominated for the 2023 Best of the Net Award. She is coordinator of CT-based Poets at Large which produces spoken word readings in CT and MA.

Reading with Warinsky will be Dennis Barone, former poet laureate of West Hartford with many publishing credits. He is the current editor for the Wallace Stevens Journal and is Professor Emeritus of St. Joseph University. Also reading will be Rockville High student Lauren Tedford.



Community

Connection



Buy Local • Dine Local • Invest Local • Think Local • Support Local

SHOP LOCAL

SHOP KILLINGLY

Nathan's Lawncare

Services

- Mowing
- Mulching
- Seeding
- Fertilization
- Clean Ups

Free Estimates!

Call/Text

860-234-7496

nathanbuddlawncare@gmail.com



Morin JEWELERS

Fine Jewelry & Gifts

The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs

All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™

BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA

morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250

Located at CVS Plaza



TAILORED KITCHENS

Ann-Marie

Planning your new kitchen?

Give us a call!

We offer all-wood cabinetry, countertops, tile, plumbing fixtures, bar stools and more.

Great service too!



STARMARK CABINETRY

Jolley Commons Plaza

144 Wauregan Rd (Rte. 12) • Danielson, CT • 860.774.5554


TAILOREDKITCHENSANNMARIE.COM









P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818  
FAX: (860) 928-5946  
WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# Governing Beyond Faith: Elected Officials Must Serve All

In a diverse and pluralistic society, the principle of separation between church and state is fundamental to preserving individual liberties and ensuring that government serves the interests of all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs or lack thereof. Elected officials have a solemn duty to represent the entire community, making decisions that respect the rich tapestry of religious beliefs that exist in our nation. However, there have been instances where some officials have allowed their personal religious convictions to guide their governance, raising concerns about the fairness and inclusivity of their actions.

One of the cornerstones of democracy is the idea that elected officials are entrusted with the responsibility to serve the interests of all their constituents, not just those who share their religious beliefs. Our society is incredibly diverse, with individuals from various faiths and belief systems coexisting harmoniously. It is imperative that our elected representatives reflect this diversity in their decision-making processes and refrain from imposing their own religious beliefs upon the broader population.

When elected officials allow their personal religious convictions to dictate policy, it can lead to the exclusion of those who hold different beliefs. This is not only unjust but also undermines the very essence of a democratic society that values religious freedom and tolerance. Our nation's history is replete with instances where religious intolerance and discrimination have caused immense harm, and we must not forget the lessons of the past.

Furthermore, the potential for religiously driven governance to teeter into radicalism is a grave concern. While most people practice their faith peacefully, there is a risk that individuals with extreme religious views may seek to impose their beliefs on society through the political process. Such radicalism can lead to policies that not only infringe on the rights of those outside the particular faith but also create an environment of hatred and divisiveness.

It is crucial for elected officials to remember that the separation of church and state is not an attack on religion but a safeguard for both government and faith. It ensures that religious institutions remain free from government interference and that government remains neutral and inclusive. This principle allows people of all faiths and none to coexist peacefully and participate fully in our democracy without fear of discrimination or marginalization.

To uphold the values of fairness, inclusivity, and religious freedom that our nation holds dear, elected officials must commit themselves to serving all their constituents, regardless of their religious beliefs. They must resist the temptation to govern based on personal religious convictions and instead prioritize policies that promote the common good and respect the diverse beliefs of the people they represent.

The importance of elected officials serving all people, irrespective of their religious beliefs, cannot be overstated. Our democracy thrives when it respects the principles of religious freedom, tolerance, and inclusivity. Elected officials must uphold these principles by governing without bias and ensuring that their decisions reflect the diverse and pluralistic nature of our society. By doing so, we can build a stronger, more united, and truly democratic nation where every citizen is valued and protected.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Money is power

To the Editor:

Lately there has been a little talk about term limits, ageism, but no talk of the root of the problems with government. Simply, \$\$\$\$\$. It makes politics go round. From Supreme Court Justices to Congressman, Senators and companies/corporations. All need and want THE Money. You will NEVER get Term limits, simply you will be asking the people that benefit from the spigot being on to turn it off. Good luck with that. Money may not get you what you all the time but it will get into the room where all those decisions are made. Having been an intern in Washington many years ago, you quickly become aware of this fact when a call came into the office one call would go to the intern and one would go to the Legislative Aides, can you guess which call the intern got and which one the L Aide would get. The average Joe Citizen gets the intern and the lobbyist gets the L Aide. One gets to go lunch/dinner and one gets bupkis. Until there is a change in how much money and/or who contributes to a politician's campaign the status quo will remain. Putting caps on how much a Congressional, Gubernatorial or a Senator could spend on an election other than their own money, we will get what we have now. This is not to say, ask Linda McMahon, that money will not get you a Senate seat. She spent millions and got nothing. The U.S. Senate has become an old age home for people wanting power. They do very little for it. They enjoy the trappings of power and wait for it THE money.

Speaking of Senators doing nothing good, how about the Senator from Alabama, using

### Coach Huhn a hero for stepping in during medical emergency

To the Editor:

On Monday, August 28, my granddaughter, Kayla, experienced a potentially life-threatening medical emergency during volleyball tryouts. Her coach, Fred Huhn, who thankfully happens to be an EMT, stepped in to help. Not only did he help to save Kayla's life, but he made the trip to Children's Medical Center in Hartford to check on her during the week that she was a patient in the PICU.

Now that Kayla is back in school, she's not sure whether she'll be cleared to play volleyball. However, Coach Huhn has told her that if she's unable to play, he'll involve her in a

### Gates supports Ferron for Killingly Board of Education

To the Editor:

I fully support Norm Ferron for reelection of the Killingly BOE. Norm has shown time and time again he is an effective member of the board through his integrity, transparency, being agile, connecting with the community (parents/students), and strategically using

### Lanoue: Laura Lawrence for Killingly Board of Education

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of the Quiet Corner for 20 years, living in Killingly, Brooklyn and most recently Pomfret. I have been an educator in Rhode Island for 24 years. My most important and cherished role is as a parent, having sent children through the Killingly School District and the Woodstock Academy.

I met Laura Lawrence about 8 years ago when our children went to elementary school together and I coached soccer for Killingly Recreation. I quickly found out that Laura and I had a great deal in common as we had children the same ages and we both loved being parents.

Laura is not only a dedicated, loving parent, and an important part of the community. One attribute that impressed me about Laura upon meeting her was her love for her family.

Over the years Laura and I developed a friendship as we raised our children together in the community. We did not always see eye to eye

#### 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.

his position to adversely affect the US military. He is holding up assignments to top military jobs, thus weakening the readiness of the services to protect our country. Remember when the Republicans were pro US defense throughout the world. He was not even a good football coach. How about US Supreme Court Justices taking trips and gifts from lobbyist friends without reporting them or paying taxes on them. Money and influence!!!! There is no oversight on this body. Job, money and privilege for life. Citizens have no vote or recall on these people. Where do sign up for that job?

Question: does anyone remember when the United States had a surplus in the federal budget?. Google it. We are now over 30 trillion in debt. Some Republicans want to shut down the government, your social security checks, military pay and more. People serving this country will have their pay held up, wonder why we are having trouble recruiting citizens to defend our country. The reason will make you sadder. Answer below. The debt grows daily and a tax cut for the rich will take care of the deficit. History shows that it does not work. All about THE money, for a few.

Answer: Some Republicans want to open an impeachment proceeding on the President, most do not. Do something for the people not to the people. After all it is all about THE money.

This one's for you Chris.

DAVID CASSETTARI  
KILLINGLY

management role so that she is assured of having a place on the volleyball team.

We couldn't be more grateful to Coach Huhn both for his expertise and his kindness to Kayla at an extremely difficult time. This was a terrifying experience for everyone involved, but something very good has come out of it.

From all of Kayla's family, kudos and thanks to Coach Huhn!

KATHY FAHY  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

school resources. Norm provides a leadership skill set to each decision he handles on the board and will continue to look out for the best interests of the parents/students in this community.

JOSHUA GATES  
DANIELSON

on issues, but Laura was always willing to not only listen, but to try and understand. Laura was always willing to be open minded and at the end of the day, her family, friends and community are what is most important to her.

Laura will be an asset to the Killingly school board because she truly wants what is best for the kids in the community. She selfishly not only puts her family first, but she puts the best interest of kids first.

Laura is not only a parent and community member but a fresh voice. Laura and I have had many conversations regarding education and what should happen for our kids. Laura has always focused on what is not only the best for her kids but for all kids.

In closing, I would like to formally endorse my support for Laura Lawrence for the Killingly Board of Education. Laura's dedication, willingness to listen and her desire for wanting what is best for children makes her an ideal candidate.

KERI A. LANOUE  
POMFRET CENTER

#### SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



**brendan@villagernewspapers.com**



*‘If you don’t use it, you’ll lose it’ when it comes to the brain*

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
TOBY  
MOORE

The maxim “If you don’t use it, you’ll lose it”—heard so often—its practically a background track to our lives. But wait! Before you glaze over, have you ever considered the gravity behind this statement? It’s not just a snappy saying—it’s a golden nugget of wisdom with far-reaching implications.

The workings of the brain are spellbinding. Picture your brain as a thriving tree in a lush forest. Each new piece of knowledge you gain is like planting a seed that eventually sprouts into branches and leaves. This isn’t poetic license; it’s backed by the science of neuroplasticity—the brain’s incredible ability to form new neural connections throughout life.

Each time you learn or practice a skill, you reshape your brain and strengthen neural pathways, fortifying those branches and leaves on your cerebral tree. In this way, your brain doesn’t just store information—it evolves, hardwiring itself to flourish when you practice or learn something over time.

I began competitive swimming as a child, which was far from natural, but I was determined, and every lap I swam was like adding another leaf to a growing branch in my “swimming tree” in the brain. Each practice session was a mental workout, a “branching out” in my neural forest, solidifying the pathways that would improve my abilities.

I was learning to cut through the water more efficiently and grasping intricate techniques that required keen mental focus. While athletics is primarily seen as a physical endeavor, the cerebral component is enormous.

If you find the “learning tree” concept captivating, you’ll be equally intrigued by the neuroscience of “pruning.”

When you neglect other learned abilities or information, those corresponding branches in your brain don’t get the same nourishment. Just as a gardener would trim away the dead or overgrown branches to let a tree flourish, your brain also conducts selective maintenance.

Pruning is when the brain cuts out extra connections between neurons. This helps the brain work more efficiently by eliminating pathways it doesn’t need.

This is one reason why we forget things that we haven’t thought about in a long time.

Every so often, I feel the urge to get in swimming shape again, but let me tell you, those first few laps? A downright battle!

So, while my brain still holds the blueprints of a capable swimmer, the lack of recent practice means those finely tuned circuits are no longer firing on all cylinders.

Have you ever had that frustrating “tip of the tongue” moment when you can’t recall a word or name?

What about long division after years of not thinking about math? It’s like trying to crack the Da Vinci code without a cipher. For me, those branches have been pruned.

If you don’t regularly engage your mind and reinforce what you’ve learned, your mental acuity in those specific subjects may decline.

Brain pruning extends beyond mere skills and talents; it touches the very core of our dreams and ambitions. Your deepest aspirations require constant nourishment and attention. Whether penning poetry, mastering the guitar, or revolutionizing digital design,



# Important updates on Student Loan Forgiveness and 529 Savings Rules

If you have student loans for you or your children, recent developments in the attempt to provide borrowers with some student loan forgiveness have brought about significant changes that impact borrowers' financial planning. There's also a significant change to the rules regarding what you can do with funds in a 529 college savings fund.

Whether you're a borrower or a parent planning for your children's education, understanding these developments is crucial for making informed financial decisions.

As federal loan interest accrues again starting September 1 and payments resume in October, borrowers should be aware of the shifting landscape.

**What to Know About Student Loan Forgiveness Now**

On June 30, the Supreme Court struck down President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan, which had put a pause on federal student loan interest and payments and offered up to \$20,000 in student loan forgiveness to qualifying borrowers. As a result, that potential debt relief is no longer available.

In addition, the pause on the accrual of interest on federal student loans was lifted, and interest began to accrue on those loans beginning on September 1, and many borrowers will need to resume making payments in October. However, the Department of Education has implemented a 12-month "on-ramp" period for

financially vulnerable borrowers whose payments will resume in October, providing some relief during this transitional period.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision, the Biden administration introduced the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) plan. This income-driven repayment plan aims to make payments more affordable for borrowers. President Biden has also announced a potential path forward for nationwide student loan forgiveness under the Higher Education Act of 1965, but further details have yet to be provided.

The takeaway here is that if you have federal student loans for yourself or your children, plan on making payments beginning in October and

assume you'll be paying the entire debt off.

For more information and assistance with federal student loans, borrowers can visit the Federal Student Aid website, their loan servicer's website, or reputable third-party resources. Financial websites like NerdWallet and organizations like the Student Debt Crisis Center offer valuable resources for borrowers seeking guidance on repayment options and loan forgiveness programs.

Good News for Those With Excess 529 College Fund Savings

Funds in a 529 account can only be used for qualifying educational purposes. Any funds withdrawn for uses other than those purposes are subject to a 10 percent penalty as well as federal income tax. But what if the beneficiary of the account decides not to attend college, or doesn't end up needing all of the funds for his or her education?

Up until now, options for excess 529 funds were limited to changing beneficiaries, nonqualified distributions, or waiting for future educational needs. But that will change beginning in 2024, thanks to provisions in SECURE 2.0.

As part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, 529 account beneficiaries can roll over unused 529 account funds to a Roth IRA, tax-free and without penalties, beginning in 2024. This encourages families to contribute more to their 529 accounts while also allowing for greater retirement savings for those individuals

who don't end up using all of those 529 funds. Another important factor is that high earners, typically restricted from Roth IRAs due to income limits, can take advantage of this opportunity without those limitations.

There are rules and limitations for this new 529-to-Roth rollover opportunity though: Recipient Roth IRA must be in the 529 beneficiary's name.

The 529 plan must be open for over 15 years. Rollover amounts cannot include recent Roth IRA contributions or earnings.

A lifetime maximum of \$35,000 applies to rollovers.

Roth IRA contribution limits still apply, requiring staggered rollovers within annual limits.

But, there are some uncertainties about the 15-year rule.

While the new provision stipulates that the 529 plan must be open for at least 15 years in order to roll over to a Roth IRA, it's unclear whether changing a 529 beneficiary restarts that 15-year clock.

So for example, if you had a 529 plan for 20 years but rolled it over to someone else – say your child – 5 years ago, it's unclear whether that child would be eligible to roll it over to a Roth IRA immediately, or if they would have to wait another 10 years.

This has implications for strategic planning. For instance, you could: Start a 529 account to initiate the 15-year clock before having a child. Change beneficiaries to potentially exceed the \$35,000 rollover limit. Address changes in

beneficiaries based on educational needs or expense disparities.

The ambiguity surrounding the 15-year rule may be addressed by guidance from Congress or the IRS. However, due to past delays and uncertainties, resolution might not come before the rule's 2024 implementation. While awaiting the introduction of 529-to-Roth IRA rollovers, understanding the new rule's implications and limitations is vital for effective financial planning.

If you'd like to learn more about our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ strategic process and how we can put it to work to help you create an investment portfolio tailored to meet your goals and reflect your values, contact us at (860) 928-2341 or request a complimentary consultation on our website at [whzwealth.com](http://www.whzwealth.com).

Presented by Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor Leisl L. Cording CFP®, CDFA®, Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Road, Tolland, CT 06084, 860.928.2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com> These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Chloe Markley to run for Town Council in Killingly District 4

To the Editor:

I would like to introduce myself and tell you why I am running for Killingly Town Council in District 4. I'm Chloe Markley and I grew up in a rural western Massachusetts. I moved to Killingly in 2015 when I married Joe Markley, whose family has lived in the area for generations. Together we have one daughter, Madelyn, who attends St. James (a family tradition). I've worked in the tech field as a user researcher for 15 years. I intend to bring my extensive skills in user research to my work on the town council. My job, in addition to managing a team, involves listening to users of software and services to understand what is not working and then fix those issues. As a town council member, I pledge to listen to the people of District 4 and solve the issues they care about.

I'm not much for politics, but I've been fairly unhappy with the direction that the town and school district has taken in the last few years. I strongly believe that we have a great community. We live in a wonderful area that's the best of both worlds: it's rural and quiet; but we also have easy access to lots of great small businesses, shops & restaurants. Our town also hosts many fun events throughout the year.

I'd like to see Killingly continue to grow and thrive; attract new families and businesses to the area. This sort of growth will not only boost stagnant tax revenue, but act as a fly wheel for the success of the town. If we can improve the image of our school system, provide support for our children, encourage new families to settle here, and ensure the retention of our teachers and administrators – we will entice new businesses to the area, which will serve the community. It becomes a virtuous circle that continues to feed itself and support positive growth.

I know I'm relatively new to this area and to the community development scene. However, I am a fast learner and a hard worker. I've been working since high school, and I self-funded two graduate degrees. I am confident that I will learn from those around me on the town council and come up-to-speed quickly on the work we need to do. I am passionate about this community and dedicated to helping the people of Killingly.

If you are in district 4, I humbly ask for your vote. And to everyone, please vote on November 7th and make your voice heard. Thank you!

CHLOE MARKLEY DANIELSON

### The real reason

To the Editor:

Here's a question that probably never crossed the minds of all the die-hard Trump supporters: How many of you would love to see your sons grow up to be just like Donald Trump? He who brings out all the worst in human nature. Do his "rallies" bring the mind back to 1930's Germany?

A few years ago I read the book "With the Old Breed." It was an account of one United States Marine and his experiences in the invasions of the Japanese held islands of Peleliu and Okinawa in the South Pacific Theatre during World War 2. A most painful read for me since the horrors that he recalled were actually being lived by my father who was there as well with The 1ST Marines.

Dad left a new bride and baby son,

### Tetreaults will vote for Dombkowski for Killingly Board of Education

To the Editor:

As we enter the election season, we should note the importance of casting our votes. Voting, not only for state and federal officials, but especially our local boards of education, is how, we, the people, can make our voice heard.

Laura Dombkowski filled a vacancy on the Killingly Board of Education 15 months ago and is running for re-election this November. She grew up in Killingly, today resides here with her family, and her children attend Killingly schools. She will have our votes for several reasons.

In the short span of time served, Laura has prioritized our children's and staff's safety in Killingly by providing armed Security Resource Officers in the schools. Laura help negotiate pay raises for staff district-wide to ensure Killingly was competing with surrounding towns. She has help provide mental health support at KHS and

took an oath to defend The Constitution of the United States, and fought to fulfill that oath. Why? For the freedom of my mother, brother, his country, and, if he survived, the freedom of his children yet unborn. This is the same oath Trump took and spit on. Of all the reasons to despise this person, this is my deepest.

There is a series on Amazon Prime TV called "The Man in the High Castle." It's a fictional account of what might have been if we had lost WW 2: Nazi Germany controlling our country west to the Rocky Mountains, Imperial Japan occupying the Western States. A chilling reminder of what another Trump Presidency might hold.

RICK ROCHELEAU DANIELSON

KIS for students as well as maintaining parental rights. Laura also introduced "Rachel's Challenge" which will address and curb bullying and promote empathy for others.

In closing, a vote for Laura Dombkowski will mean that our children will receive a robust education in civics, history and economics ensuring they will become productive, well-informed and engaged citizens. And, she will help maintain parental rights and authority which is extremely important today.

Please vote for Laura Dombkowski for the Killingly BOE this November. Her presence on the BOE will ensure that things actually get done with transparency, and, most importantly, the welfare of everyone in our school system will be first and foremost.

PATRICIA AND STEVEN TETREULT DAYVILLE

### POSITIVELY

continued from page A8

each dream has its dedicated neural pathway that thrives on focus and diligence.

Another way to think of it is that our brains are like librarians, constantly deciding which books—skills, memories, abilities—deserve prime shelf space and should be stored in the attic.

When you choose not to follow your dreams, you're pruning a part of yourself that once flourished. Keep those neural pathways strong and connected, and watch them grow into full-fledged realities.

The lesson here is to actively nurture the pathways in your brain that matter most to you, whether that's your

dreams, goals, or cherished friendships. If you neglect them, your brain might prune these connections away, making it seem as if they never existed.

The "use it or lose it" principle is life's ultimate maintenance guide. It's a nudge to action. Your skills, your relationships, your dreams—think of them as a cherished garden. Left unattended, even the prettiest rose bushes turn to weeds.

So? What are you waiting for? Exercise that grey matter! You've got nothing to lose but everything you don't use.

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

### Jewett City Savings Bank Foundation makes donation to Aspinock Historical Society



Courtesy photo

From left, John Miller, Aspinock Historical Society President; Pat Hedenberg, Chair of the Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Children Museum with Michael Alberts, President and CEO and Skye Wilcox, Putnam Branch Supervisor of Jewett City Savings Bank.

JEWETT CITY — Michael Alberts, President and CEO of Jewett City Savings Bank, announced that the Jewett City Savings Bank Foundation awarded a grant to the Aspinock Historical Society.

The Aspinock Historical Society was established in 1972 by Putnam residents to conserve the town's local and regional history. Presently, it operates as both a research center and a museum, offering guided tours and illustrated lectures on local and national history. The donation will help the historical society replace the railroad ties under the Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Children Museum. The Boxcar Children Museum, located in Putnam, CT pays homage to Putnam native Gertrude Chandler Warner, original author of The Boxcar Children series of books.

"As a result of the Aspinock Historical Society's dedication, the local community can retell stories and further educate neighbors on the historical importance of the community they live in. We are thrilled to help support the historical society and their dedication to keeping the community's history alive," said Alberts.

Jewett City Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank operating full-service offices in Jewett City, Brooklyn, Dayville, Pawcatuck, Plainfield, Preston, and Putnam with online and mobile banking services at JCSBank.com. Established in 1873, the Bank is marking its 150th anniversary throughout the year with special events and donations. Visit [JCSBank.com/150years/](http://JCSBank.com/150years/).



CROSSING

continued from page A1

ic, it has rebounded and thrived. Lead Pastor Riley Prather said he took a chance moving from Oklahoma to Putnam to spread the word of the Bible. While religion is a staple of many communities in Oklahoma, Prather acknowledged New England is one of the least religious parts of the country so many of his friends and family initially questioned his move. However, Prather followed his heart knowing he had something special to bring to the Quiet Corner.

“I wanted to go somewhere to make a difference for people who have never encountered Jesus the way that I have. Our whole vision here is five words: ‘Encounter Jesus, Live Him Daily’. It’s printed on our wall for everybody knows that’s what this church is about. If we truly believe what the Bible says, that Jesus is alive and that we can have a relationship with him then that changes things. That’s a different dynamic than most people encounter,” said Prather. “We’re preaching a mes-

sage that’s really old and has stood the test of time for 2,000 years, we’ve just only been doing it here for ten years.”

While the Family Party was a celebration of 10 years in Putnam, Prather stressed that it wasn’t all about the church. It was also about giving the community a place to celebrate and to have a little fun on possible the last summer weather weekend of the year. “It’s not for ourselves. It’s kind of a reverse birthday.” We asked, “what can we do to bless the community?” and we just wanted people to have fun. Jesus was fun. He said some very fun things when you look at the scriptures - We asked how we could be a picture of how Jesus would have fun and do things to bless the community around him and show people a good time. What better way to do that than having a celebration here,” said Prather.

Green Valley Crossing holds services every weekend, both online and in-person. Information on services and events can be found at [www.gvc.church](http://www.gvc.church) or by visiting the Green Valley Crossing Facebook page.

BOWLS

continued from page A1

with other pantries in the northeast corner of the State. Dot understood that supporting these efforts would be a way to share some of the proceeds of the event, thereby supporting more than one program through this effort,” they said. “There has also been a significant increase in demand for food. In August, TEEG’s three markets fed 247 households or 607 individuals. In comparison, last August we served 134 households or 309 individuals, doubling the numbers served. Many of the products available through Connecticut

Foodshare that were free in the past we now must purchase.”

All of the bowls for the event will be hand-crafted and provided by Sawmill Pottery and its students. The bowls will be in a variety of shapes and colors giving each one a unique look with some painted by TEEG’s staff and board members. Some of the bowls were also painted by patrons of the Pomfret Senior Center, where TEEG’s hosts weekly events and gatherings, as well as TEEG’s Hand-in-Hand mom’s and Expressive Arts Group. Over 220 bowls will be available for the event.

Empty Bowls 2023 will be held on Sept. 30

at TEEG’s 15 Thatcher Road campus in North Grosvenordale. There will be two timeframes, one at 5:00 p.m. and another at 6:30 p.m. each costing \$25, with soups and bread available as well as ice cream for an additional \$5. Visitors can also purchase an extra hand-made bowl for another \$20. Soups will be donated by 85 Main, 85 Main, Anya, Chef’s Table at Little Dipper Farm, The Courthouse Bar and Grill, G Seven Catering, Grill 37, Jessica Tuesday’s, Marianapolis Preparatory School, Metro Bistro, Mill Town Grill, Jim Nowak, Sassy Soup Sisters, Renee’s Bistro and Catering Service, The

Broken Crust, The Inn at Woodstock Hill, The Vanilla Bean Café, and Woodstock Academy Culinary Arts. The Ice Cream is being donated by Alamode Specialty Foods Market, Bogey’s Ice Cream and Snack Bar, Buck’s Soft Serve, Main St Gelato, Ra Ra’s Ice Cream Shop, The Ice Box and Suto, and Woodstock Creamery at Valleyside Farm. Finally, the bread is donated by Little River Bakery Company and Soleil Bakery.

Tickets may be purchased on TEEG’s website [www.teegonline.org](http://www.teegonline.org) or at Sawmill Pottery in Putnam and TEEG’s Thatcher Road campus.

Two lighthearted poets perform at The Vanilla Bean

POMFRET — The Quiet Corner is in for a treat on Saturday, September 30 when Fusco & Fusco take the stage at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Road, Pomfret. Worcester funny man/poet Joe Fusco, Jr. and West Haven Poet Laureate Tony Fusco will share the bill in a show that starts at 7 p.m. Admission is \$15.00 which includes a chance at a prize. There will be an open mic as time allows. This is the first in a series of fall spoken word events to be held at The Vanilla Bean, organized by Woodstock-based Poets at Large. Contact [karen.warinsky@gmail.com](mailto:karen.warinsky@gmail.com) for more info.

Joe Fusco, Jr. is the author of four books of amusing and poignant poems and essays, his most recent work being Pondering the Pandemic during The Rust Years (2021). He is a humor columnist for Worcester Magazine and hosts spoken word events. Find more info on Joe at [joesyellowpad.com](http://joesyellowpad.com). Tony Fusco is past president of the Connecticut Poetry Society, and is a past Sunken Garden prize winner, among other accolades.

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE OF Marie O Miller  
(23-00322)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Eric Fiske,  
191 Modoch Road, Putnam, CT 06260  
September 15, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE OF Anthony L. Satalino  
(23-00328)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

James A. Satalino  
c/o THOMAS A BORNER,  
BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG  
& CERRONE, LLC,  
155 PROVIDENCE STREET,  
PO BOX 166, PUTNCNAM, CT 06260  
September 15, 2023

**BOROUGH of DANIELSON  
DANIELSON FIRE STATION-  
SECOND FLOOR HVAC UPGRADES  
INVITATION TO BID**

The Borough of Danielson will receive sealed bids in triplicate on or before **4:00 p.m. EST., Wednesday, October 11, 2023** at the Office of the Killingly Town Manager, 172 Main Street, Danielson, CT 06239. Said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 4:30 p.m. at the Danielson Fire Station, 47 Academy Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Danielson, CT 06239. Bids received after the posted cutoff date and time will not be accepted or opened. Bidders may be present at the opening of bids.

Bids will be received for furnishing all labor, materials, tools and equipment necessary to complete the SECOND FLOOR HVAC upgrades of the Danielson Fire Station, 47 Academy Street, Danielson, CT 06239. The contract will include HVAC upgrades and the addition of an Air Conditioning system on the second floor of the building, including all related electrical and mechanical work associated and all other work necessary for or incidental to completion of the project. The successful bidder will have until **April 11, 2024** to complete the project, subject to equipment availability. All bidders will be required to submit a security deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the base bid, (Bid Bond or Certified Check made payable to the Borough of Danielson) which must accompany their bid. A 100% Performance, Labor and Material Bond is also required. All sureties must be listed on the most recent IRS circular 570. Attention of bidders is directed to certain requirements of this contract which require payment of CT Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates.

The successful bidder along with the subcontractors shall make a good faith effort, to the greatest extent feasible, that they employ, and contract small and minority contractors as defined by the State of Connecticut with regards to small and minority business enterprises. In compliance with the State of Connecticut regulations, the bidder must be an affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women’s business Enterprises are encouraged to apply. The Borough of Danielson is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

All bidders are required to attend a pre-bid walk-through to be held on **Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Danielson Fire Station, 47 Academy Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Danielson, CT 06239.

Contractors may obtain copies of the Plans and Specifications on the Borough of Danielson website at <https://www.boroughofdanielson.org/rfps> or by email to [duchesneau.b@boroughofdanielson.org](mailto:duchesneau.b@boroughofdanielson.org)

The Borough of Danielson reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in bidding, when such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the Borough of Danielson and Danielson Fire Station. All Bid Documents must be completely filled in when submitted. Any incomplete bids will be disqualified. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids, without the consent of the Borough of Danielson. Partial funding for this project is provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and is administered by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. Additional funds from the Borough of Danielson will be utilized to ensure completion of the project.

For further information, please contact Lucian Dragulski, Bemis Associates LLC at 860 667-3233 x 113.

Dated: September 8, 2023  
Brenda Duchesneau, Administrator  
Borough of Danielson  
September 14, 2023  
September 15, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE OF Oleg Y Rayskiy  
(23-00320)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 29, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Natalia Zhaliy,  
c/o Gabrielle G. Volshteyn, Attorney  
At Law, 1600 Sheepshead Bay Road,  
Suite 201, Brooklyn, NY 11235  
September 15, 2023

Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I, RASHMI PATEL  
180 MAIN ST  
MARSHFIELD, MA 02050-2812  
Have filed an application placarded 09/13/2023 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a GROCERY

BEER PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor off the premises at  
615 QUINEBAUG RD  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE CT  
06255-1139  
The business will be owned by: QUICK MART & SMOKE INC  
Objections must be filed by:  
10-25-2023  
Visit:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/remonstrance> for more information  
RASHMI PATEL  
September 15, 2023  
September 22, 2023

PROPERTY AUCTION

The tax collector of the Town of Thompson has levied upon the following properties in Thompson and slated them for public auction to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges under C.G.S. § 12-157. Volume and page numbers refer to the Town’s land records. Unless paid, these properties will be auctioned in “as is” condition at 10:00 a.m. on October 3, 2023 at the Thompson Town Hall at 815 Riverside Drive in North Grosvenordale.  
12 Buckley Hill Road (Volume 493 Page 242) owned by Michael Eugene Blais, owing \$10,965.85.  
0 Porter Plain Road (“First Tract” at Volume 158 Page 16) owned by Alfred Costa, owing \$4,450.56.  
669 Quaddick Town Farm Road (Volume 881 Page 297) owned by David V. Fregeau and Barbara A. Fregeau, owing \$13,007.20. Charles Kearns may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.  
141 Old Turnpike (Volume 831 Page 310) owned by Michael M. Houston, owing \$11,653.77.

The dollar amounts listed are through the end of last month. Additional taxes, interest, fees, and other charges authorized by law accruing after the last day of the month immediately preceding this notice are owed in addition to the amount indicated as due and owing in this notice. Bidders must present \$5,000 per property in certified funds payable to “Pullman & Comley, Trustee” on the day of the sale, and the winning bidder must pay the balance of the sale price within 5 days or forfeit that deposit and the property. Absent a redemption, the purchaser will take title “free and clear” six months after the auction except for certain encumbrances. Details at [www.cttaxsales.com](http://www.cttaxsales.com).  
September 15, 2023

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On September 7, 2023, the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the following subdivision modification application: #623-12-14M Melissa & Nathaniel Philbrick, 79 New Sweden Rd - Lot line adjustment (map 5783 block 69 lots 03 & 03-2)]. Jeffrey Marcotte, Chairman  
September 15, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF THOMPSON  
ORDINANCES

At a Special Town Meeting on August 30, 2023, the following ordinance was adopted:  
Ordinance for the Control of Vacant, Abandoned and Tax Delinquent (VAD) Structures in Certain Districts.  
Copies of the ordinance are available

for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk during normal businesses hours and at [www.thompsonct.org](http://www.thompsonct.org).  
At a Special Town Meeting on August 30, 2023, the following ordinance was amended:  
Flood Damage Prevention  
This notice is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This notice does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Thompson for any purpose.  
Renee Waldron  
Town Clerk  
September 15, 2023

Town of Eastford  
Connecticut  
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses  
Commission  
Notice of Decision

On August 24, 2023 the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission made the following decisions:

• **File # 23-003 Colin & Keri Garry, Kozey Road Map 66, Block 3, Lot 1, Eastford, CT. New construction of single-family residence. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Details can be found in the minutes filed at the Town Clerk’s Office, Town Office Building, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT.

Dated at Eastford this 5th day of September 2023.  
Susan Welshman  
Recording Secretary  
September 15, 2023

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

The Zoning Board of Appeals has scheduled a Public Hearing for Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., for Parcel #5126-17-18, Brickyard Road – variance for front yard setback – to be held at the Woodstock Town Hall, Meeting Room 1. Owner: Jeffrey Williams. Applicant: Karl Kuhn. The application is available for review at the Town Hall Land Use Office. Questions may be directed to [zeo@woodstockct.gov](mailto:zeo@woodstockct.gov)

Chairman Martin Nieksi.

September 8, 2023  
September 15, 2023

Legal Notice

Pursuant of Connecticut General Statute Sec. 8-3(f), Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Official of the Town of Woodstock approved a Zoning Permit for construction of a Second Floor Addition at 11 Laurel Hill Drive, Woodstock, CT 06281 a.k.a. Assessors Map 7272 Block 34 Lot 0F31. Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Woodstock Zoning Board of Appeals within 30 days of the publication of this Notice in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-7 as amended. Contact Building Office at (860) 928-1388 for details on filing an appeal with the ZBA.  
Dated at Woodstock, Connecticut, this 8th day of September 2023  
Woodstock Building Associates, LLC, Applicant  
September 15, 2023



# Day Kimball Health’s Hospice Agency earns second Five-Star CMS Rating

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) announced today that Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, a service division of Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, has achieved a prestigious five-star rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a second time. The CMS star ratings for hospice agencies are based on the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Hospice Family Caregiver Survey.

As the sole organization in the state of Connecticut to receive a five-star rating, Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut has demonstrated its commitment to delivering exceptional care and support to patients and their families.

The Windham County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental

illies. This accomplishment places the agency among the top 11 percent of all hospices nationwide. Of the more than two thousand eligible hospices, only 236 were awarded the five-star distinction.

“We are immensely proud of the exceptional care and support our hospice team provides, and this five-star rating from CMS is a reflection of our commitment to excellence in end-of-life care,” said Renee Smith, vice president, Post-Acute Services, Day Kimball Health. “We remain committed to ensuring that every patient and family we serve receives the highest level of comfort, dignity, and compassion during their hospice journey.”

The star ratings are calculated from data collected through the CAHPS

Hospice Survey, a comprehensive 47-question survey administered via mail and telephone and completed by family caregivers of patients who received hospice care before their passing. The survey assesses various aspects of care and support provided by hospice agencies for eight publicly reported CAHPS measures including communication with the family, timeliness of help, and treating the patient with respect amongst others. CMS updates the star ratings every other quarter to ensure the information remains current and relevant.

“Receiving the five-star

rating from CMS is a testament to the dedication of our exceptional team at Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut,” said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Healthcare. “We are honored to be recognized as a top hospice agency, and this achievement confirms our commitment to providing compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life care to our patients and their families.”

Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut is a program of Day Kimball Homecare, a Medicare certified home health care agency licensed by

the state of Connecticut and accredited by The Joint Commission. Its mission is to enhance the lives of individuals and families through a personalized plan of care that meets physical, psychosocial, spiritual and emotional needs throughout the end of life.

For more information on Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut visit [daykimball.org/athome](http://daykimball.org/athome).

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball

Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is [daykimball.org](http://daykimball.org).

## Free education and support for families and friends of people with mental illness

27 until November 15, 2023, at the Danielson Campus of Connecticut State Community College (QVCC.) The class will run from 6:30-9:00 P.M. on Wednesday evenings.

The class is for friends and family of those living with mental illness. The 8-week series of classes is free and confidential.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support, and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

tion program for family members, partners, or friends with a relative or loved one with a mental health condition, even if the condition is not diagnosed.

Available free to participants.

Taught by trained family members of people with a mental health condition.

Offers insights into the impact mental health conditions have on the entire family, combats discrimination and promotes healing.

Designed to help family members and friends understand and support their loved one while maintaining their own

well-being.

Current information about schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder (manic depression), panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, personality disorders, and co-occurring brain disorders and addictive disorders.

Up-to-date information about medications, side effects, and strategies for medication adherence.

Gaining empathy by understanding the subjective, lived experience of a person with mental illness.

Problem solving, listening, and communication techniques.

Acquiring strategies for handling mental health crises and relapse.

Guidance on locating appropriate support and services within the community.

Information on advocacy initiatives designed to improve and expand mental health services.

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program has been added to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP).

For more information and to register, call NAMI Windham County at 860-281-1402 or email [info@namiwindhamct.org](mailto:info@namiwindhamct.org).



Courtesy photo

Master Duethorn with Jr Black Belt, Peyton Salley

## Quest Martial Arts announces summer graduation results

Master Kristin Duethorn of Quest Martial Arts announces the summer 2023 graduation results below.

Quest is located in Thompson and has been serving the Northeast Community for 35 years.

Orange Dragon Belt: Lilah Alexander, Mason Amaral, William Brian, and Lennox Gomes.

Blue Dragon Belt: Vidhi Joshi, Nolan Seney, and Asher Silva.

Green Dragon Belt: Angus Chalmers and Ryken Johnson.

Red Dragon Belt: Emma Bourbonniere, Jackson Bruce, Noah Poirier and Isabella Reyes.

Yellow Belt: Jordan Duff, Killian Gould, Lincoln Hardell, Preston Nguyen, Nicholas Olivo, and Atticus Pihl.

Orange Belt: Jackson Bowen, David Cherenfant, Jonathan Cherenfant, Giana Feroce, Raleigh Fortner, Russell Jennings Cailey LaCourse, Noah Lombardy, Gnan Patel, Israel Ramos, Gabriel Ramos, Samuel Ethier.

Orange-Black Belt: Mason Bourbonniere, Brynn Campbell, Nella Copeland, Claire Donaldson, Ezerik Johnson, Emme Lopes, Lily Olson, Dorothy Paul, Justin Stately, Benjamin Wolslegel, and Cody Zablocki.

Blue-White Belt: Ibrahim Aziz, Olivia Bourbonniere, Henry Rivers, Jude Travinski, Clayton Yong, Bailey Yong.

Blue Belt: Alexander Hermonot.

Blue-Green Belt: Frederick Zangerl.

Blue-Black Belt: Joshua Osborne, Asher Jarvis, Piper Vose.

2 Stripe Blue Belt: Lorali Fish, Sarah Poirier, Julian Thorn, Evan Shaughnessy, and Robyn Webster.

1 Stripe Blue Belt: Robert Petrowsky and Nevaeh Youssef.

Green-White Belt: Addie Lopes, Mahalia Winsey, Charlot Rochette-Stanger.

Green-Red Belt: Grant Donaldson.

Green-Black Belt: Miloh Brooks.

3 Stripe Green Belt: Alexandria Baron, Nicholas Helwig, William Magee, and Sheena Parker.

2 Stripe Green Belt: Nathan Adams, Natalya Benoit, Nathan Olson, and Lucas Staskivitch.

1 Stripe Green Belt: Raffaele Mondarte and Angie Seraphin.

2 Stripe Red Belt: Blaise Bollig, and Douglas George.

1 Stripe Red Belt: Alisa Libby and Melissa McGovern.

Jr. Apprentice Belt: Sophia Benoit, Aiden Kilmer, Victoria Salley, Jude Sargent.

Jr. Black Belt: Peyton Salley.

Nearly 10 years ago, on December 7, 2013, a fire destroyed the historic meetinghouse of the First Congregational Church of Pomfret. Thanks to the love, support and encouragement of the Pomfret community, a new house of worship now stands in place of that earlier one. Quite naturally, as those familiar with the grief precipitated by such a loss and the rigors of the efforts expended to rebuild during the next several years, the hearts of the entire congregation in Pomfret were touched deeply this past April when their friends and neighbors at the Congregational Church of Eastford faced the devastating fire that

destroyed their building.

On Saturday, September 30, from 9:00-2:00, First Congregational Church of Pomfret will sponsor a sale of quilts fashioned by the late Judy Black to raise funds for the rebuilding of the Congregational Church of Eastford. Judy Black, who passed away in February of 2022 left behind a large collection of finished pieces including handmade quilt squares, table runners, wall hangings, and quilted stuffed animals. In the same way that Judy worked tirelessly during her lifetime to touch the lives of countless children who attended Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

in Ashford as each child was sent home at the end of their visit with a full-sized quilt, Judy wished that the works she left behind would continue to provide a blessing and be of benefit to others in need.

As far back in history as ancient Egypt, quilters have labored to meet practical needs with works of extraordinary beauty. Quilts are more than scraps of material pieced together with a needle and thread. They are works of art born out of love, creative kindness and a desire to capture memories and dreams in a form that often becomes a lasting legacy and cherished heirloom. With the advent of the Fall season

and as thoughts turn naturally to the holiday season ahead and the giving of gifts, you are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall of First Congregational Church of Pomfret on September 30 to enjoy the artistry of Judy Black’s quiltings and to find something unique and beautiful that will become a cherished heirloom for that special person on your gift-giving list. As you do so, you will also be benefiting our extended community as all proceeds from this event will go directly to the Congregational Church of Eastford to assist them in their rebuilding process.

## Economic gardening in Thompson; 65 Main St. planning project launches in October

The Town of Thompson Department of Planning and Development has been awarded funding from the USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) grant program to develop a Small Business Support Center with a focus on food system and agriculture start-ups at the Town-owned building located at 65 Main Street in the North Grosvenordale neighborhood. Public input is a critical component of the planning process for the planned facility and the adjacent 3.2-acre parcel. Thompson will be holding 12 monthly public workshops, the first being held on October 4, 2023. The planning grant project will be underway as the building is renovated under a separate grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration. All activities related to the 65 Main St project are fully grant-funded, with no matching requirement

from local tax dollars.

For some time, Thompson has been poised at the threshold of opportunity. As with many comparable communities in Northeastern Connecticut, recovery in Thompson from the collapse of the mill-based economy has been slower than in more tech-oriented regions; and the economic drain was exacerbated when construction of I-395 diverted much of the traffic away from the traditional village center. Despite these challenges, Thompson is not without its assets. The community has an agricultural history that has always run parallel to the boom-times of the mill era and has since outlived those industrial giants. Several family farms persist within the town, which is designated by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture as a Farm-Friendly Community. At the same time, the bones of the mill area remain

and are ripe for redevelopment to meet 21st Century needs. The UAIP planning project will capitalize on these traditions and local resources.

A key component of the planning process is a year-long public workshop series, meeting monthly, to determine the specific needs of Thompson’s small business community, identify deficits in local food security and imagine ways in which the future facility at 65 Main Street can show the highest community utility. The workshop sessions will present all aspects of the project and solicit input from residents and stakeholders to be considered as part of the final master plan for the facility.

Four of the project partners will appear on the WINY Talk Show on Friday, 15 September at 9 a.m. to discuss their roles in the project. Joining the host in-studio that morning will be Tyra Penn,

Director of Planning & Development for the Town of Thompson; Anne Miller, Executive Director of TEEG; Jocelyn Leahy, Executive Director of CT Resource Conservation and Development; and John Guskowski, Co-Founder and Principal of Tyche Planning and Policy Group.

The public workshop will launch on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 from 6-8PM at the Thompson Public Library/Louis P. Community Center, 934 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. Project partners will discuss all elements of the project, answer questions, outline the schedule for the workshop series and solicit participants for the year-long process. All are invited to attend. Registration is encouraged but not required: <https://tinyurl.com/65Main-Meeting1>



KILINGLY

continued from page A1

have in their town with nearly every aspect of the

community represented in some way proving that it has the potential to become a new annual tradition.



The Catnip Junkies, a unique traveling musical act, make their way through Owne Bell Park entertaining guests to Celebrate Kilingly



The staff of United Services, Inc. Was on hand to share details about their organization



Wreaths Across America, which will hold a special event on Sept 30 in Kilingly, held a raffle to support local veterans



The Killingly Youth Substance Prevention Coalition took the time to spread the word about their cause during Celebrate Kilingly



Members of the Killingly Conservation Commission set up a booth to meet with citizens and answer questions about their town



The Staff of the Killingly Public Library turned out to inspire visitors to get their library card



Danielson Martial Arts Academy put on a display of their students' skills at Owen Bell Park



The crew of Westfield Church baked up some goodies to share with the local community



The Danielson Lions cooked up some good eats in their kitchen trailer which is now back up and running thanks to the public's efforts to help purchase new propane tanks



The Killingly Recreation Department was set up near the entrance of Owen Bell Park to help raise awareness for upcoming events including the Spooktacular in October

[www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com](http://www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com)

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS

Please Support Our Local Advertisers

Northeastern Connecticut is such a special place.

As your local advertising rep for our Villager Newspapers, it brings me great satisfaction to help local merchants in Northeastern Connecticut generate more business.



Now more than ever, it is so important to shop local. Your local Villager Newspaper is delivered free to you every week, thanks to the local advertisers who are in this issue. Please support them. Without them, there would be no Villager.

Our readers trust our advertisers, and our advertisers trust us!

Reach out anytime, Mikaela

Mikaela Victor

Advertising Account Executive

mikaela@villagernewspaper.com

(860)928-1818 Ext. 326

+

+

WE ARE HIRING



Open Nursing Opportunities:

- CNA's, Full Time & Part-Time, Skilled Nursing
- \*Up to a \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus
- Resident Care Associates, Full Time, & Part-Time, Skilled Nursing
- \* Up to a \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus
- Responsible Person, Full Time & Part-Time, Skilled Nursing
- \* Up to a \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus
- LPN's, Full-Time and Part-Time, Skilled Nursing and Home Health & Hospice
- \* Up to a \$7,500 Sign-On Bonus
- RN's, Full-Time and Part-Time, Skilled Nursing and Home Health & Hospice
- \* Up to a \$12,500 Sign-On Bonus
- Physical Therapists, Full-Time, Home Health
- \* Up to a \$10,000 Sign-On Bonus

We deliver for our team:

To Apply Scan Me



- Competitive Pay
- Health Benefits Starting Day 1!
- 401k w/Company Match!
- Tuition Assistance!
- Free Meals, daily!
- Onsite Fitness Center Memberships!
- Team Member Referral
- Team Member Assistance Programs!
- A Culture of Excellence w/ our 28 Guiding Principles

(508) 434-2325

[www.overlook-mass.org/careers](http://www.overlook-mass.org/careers)

[DL-Recruiting@overlook-mass.org](mailto:DL-Recruiting@overlook-mass.org)





