

THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Northeast CT Relay for Life to be discontinued



Courtesy

Marchers take to the track during the Relay for Life in Putnam in 2024. The event, which is a decades long tradition in the region, has been discontinued and will not return for 2026.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The American Cancer Society has announced that the Northeastern Connecticut Relay for Life will be discontinued, ending a decades-long fundraising staple in the region.

An e-mail posted online by local radio station WINY included confirmation from American Cancer Society and Relay for Life Vice President of New England Development Louise Santosuosso that the Northeastern Connecticut Relay for Life will not return for 2026. The annual walk was one of many across the country that have worked to raise money and awareness for cancer research through the American Cancer Society.

The Northeastern Connecticut Relay has been a constant for decades previously calling the Woodstock Fairgrounds its home until merging with the Plainfield Relay for Life and moving to the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. In recent years the event had move back to Woodstock at Roseland Park before finding its most recent home in Putnam.

The news of the event's end was sad for many who walk each year to support victims of all kinds of cancers and help raise money to support cancer research. In an e-mail to the Villager, Santosuosso said the decision wasn't easy, and was part of an annual examination of Relays that unfortunately often results in consolidating or ending certain programs.

"This decision is rooted in stewardship — our

Turn To ***RELAY*** *page* ***A11***

Killingly Business Association to host inaugural "Bark Harvest" event Nov. 2

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Business Association (KBA) is proud to announce the inaugural presentation of Bark Harvest on Sunday, Nov. 2, from noon to 4 p.m. at the site of the former St. Joseph's Church, located at 350 Hartford Pike in Killingly. The festival offers both pets and people an afternoon of fun activities in support of local animal shelters, all while experiencing what makes Killingly uniquely and "Pawsitively" appealing to both dog lovers and tourists alike.

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Presentation to showcase plans for Riverside Drive Mill site

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Town of Thompson will host a special presentation next month giving locals insight into the planned renovations of the old Belding Corticelli Mill site on Riverside Drive. The presentation comes after months of discussion between a private investor and the Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee (MSRAC).

The old mill site at 630 Riverside Dr. is long past its prime, with only a smokestack and a guard house remaining from the original structure. It has sat unused for year but a recent push to see the town's historic mill properties revitalized for more modern use led to interest from Refined Northeast LLC, also doing business as Refined Living, a company owned & operated by Robert Letskus. The company has partnered with its own licensed environmental professional (LSP) to determine how to proceed with developing the site into mixed-use structures for restaurants, retail, and modern townhouse condominiums.

While most of the discussion about the project has been confined to MSRAC, the Board of Selectmen addressed the proposal at their meeting on Sept. 16 where First Selectwoman Amy St. Onge expressed her excitement.

"I would like to see this move forward and see progress. It'll bring some additional business to our community, and it will really revitalize and area in town that's sort of the gateway to our downtown area that's just in ruins at this point," said St. Onge.

The First Selectwoman said she would like to see a town meeting to potentially sell the property to the developer. In the days following the Board of Selectmen's discussion, the town's Planning & Zoning Department coincidentally announced a public presentation on Oct. 1 which will bring the developers plans to forefront.

In a press release from Thompson Planning & Zoning Office Robert Letskus expressed his own enthusiasm for the site and as he eagerly awaits his opportunity to

Turn To ***RIVERSIDE*** *page* ***A11***

2025 Mustangs receive national championship rings

PUTNAM — A special gathering was held in the Putnam Science Academy auditorium to honor an exceptional group of coaches and players last Thursday night.

During the ceremony, the staff and players received their championship rings, honoring their 2025 National Prep School basketball championship season. President of IAABO Board 35 Christian Sarantopolis presented the Board's plaque in recognition of the Mustang's success after speaking about the program and team. Sarantopolis's officiating crew saw early on that this team was different. He acknowledged how tenacious the team was defensively, though lacking a superstar on the team. Regardless, the players came together as one. Sarantopolis highlighted the incredible depth of the Mustangs as they continuously overwhelmed opponents with size and skill all season.

It was a record year for the program, as they accumulated the most wins in program history with 41.



Players from last year's team attended in person and through FaceTime, thanks in part to the technological advances of the 21st Century. Among the FaceTimers was Tony "Butta" Williams, whose career began on the Elite Team. Head Coach Tom Espinosa was impressed with Tony's play during the first half of his 23-24 season at PSA, however, questioned whether he could effectively run an offense at the prep level. With some key moves over winter break, Tony's chance had come. He was elevated to the Prep Team providing an instant impact to the program, ultimately leading to a starting role in 24-25. Through his success, Tony was able to earn a scholarship to Fairfield University. Big men like Adbou Yadd, now playing basketball at Sacred Heart University, and Ben Ahmed, who became the program's all-time leading scorer and rebounder last season, pushed the program to the top of prep basketball. Ahmed's exceptional play at PSA landed him a spot on the Oklahoma State University basketball squad. Although the whole team could not attend, it was very apparent that every player was appreciated for their involvement in the team's success.

Head Coach Tom Espinosa said the season was not always a smooth ride. The team faced adversity early, suffering two losses in Boston to New Hampton and Newman in the NEBL Tipoff. Players, like returners Parrish Edmond and Adama Tamedou, questioned whether Putnam Science was the right place for them. After receiving his championship ring, Adama Tamedou addressed the audience. He spoke about the early struggles he faced while transitioning from Senegal. Playing limited minutes, Tamedou changed his original mindset and became an integral part in helping the team secure its fifth national championship. After those two losses in Boston, the Mustangs never looked back. They embarked on a 33-game winning streak, winning the Power 5 AAA Championship en route to the National Championship. Through trials and tribulation, the Putnam Science Academy men's prep team never wavered, never quit. And once again, ultimately climbing to the top of the prep basketball mountain as 5-time national champions.

Pomfret Historical Society announces Walktober events

POMFRET — Pomfret Historical Society has organized several interesting historical events and walks in collaboration with The Last Green Valley Walktober 2025, the America 250 Commission, and other local organizations. Please see the descriptions below which can also be found in the Walktober Catalogue https://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore/walktober

Contact Donna Dufresne windsong@snet.net for pre-registrations and more info or visit https://pomfret-historical-society.org/

Sept. 27, 3 p.m.: Jordan Freeman: Black Revolutionary War Soldier. Performance by Kevin Johnson, CT State Library Archivist & Genealogist. Old Town House, 11 Town House Dr., Pomfret Center (Last Green Valley America 250 Grant)

RSVP recommended. Contact Donna Dufresne

Oct. 4, 1 p.m.: The Pomfret Train Wreck of 1918

Local railroad historian Stewart Chute will cover the events leading up to the tragic accident of April 1918 and place the event in the larger context of early 20th century railroad history. He will recount winner-take-all corporate rivalries, the struggles of workers to gain better working conditions, and speak of the trainmen who, through devotion to duty, made the ultimate sacrifice. The Old Town House, 11 Town House Dr., Pomfret Center.

RSVP recommended. Contact Donna Dufresne

Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m. (Rain date Sunday, Oct. 12 at 10 a.m.)

Digging the Understory in Nightingale Woods: Evidence of textile production during the Revolutionary War. Join local historian, Donna Dufresne in a walk to the ruins of the Higginbotham farm and the Randall/Higginbotham Burial Ground. Learn about the Randall/Higginbotham experimentation with growing and processing flax and other textiles as part of the non-importation movement during the Revolutionary War. We will visit the memorial for the enslaved Randalls who likely built the stonewalls, the dam for the mills, and labored on the Randall farm.

Pre-registration and parking directions: Maximum 30. Contact Donna Dufresne windsong@snet.net ; 860-465-7228 (Wyndham Land Trust, Pomfret Historical Society)

Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.: Revolutionary Remnants in Wolf Den Park. Walk led by Former Park Ranger, John Folsom. We will start at the visitors parking lot of Wolf Den Campgrounds, 147 Wolf Den Dr., Pomfret. We will hike about three miles in Mashamoquet Brook State Park visiting the grave of revolutionary war veteran, Stephen Averill Avery; stopping at the former site of the Sproul House (also known as the Wolf Den House); and finally, we will stop at a stone quarry. At each stop, we will spend about 20 minutes discussing the history of the site, answering some questions, and posing some questions that we do not know the answers to. We will hike at a casual pace of one and a half to two miles per hour. The hike will be over some trails that are rock, and root covered; possibly muddy; has one small stream that we will rock hop across; and has a few short but steep hills. Hikers should wear appropriate footwear, be dressed for the weather, bring water and a snack. The total adventure will take about three hours.

Meet at the Wolf Den Campgrounds Office; 147 Wolf Den Dr., Pomfret.

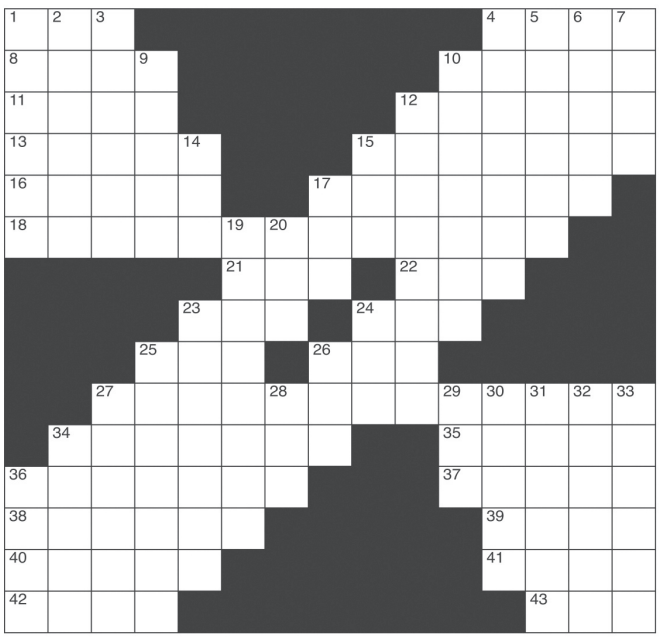
Saturday, Oct. 25, 1 p.m.: Rebels, Reverends, and Reformers: The History of Abington: visit Connecticut's oldest Congregational Church still standing and in continuous use since 1753 and enjoy a slideshow lecture about Abington's history. Afterwards we will walk the Abington section of The Old Kings Highway from the Recreation Fields to Easter Hill. (Pomfret Historical Society, Abington Congregational Church, Wyndham Land Trust)

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. 15: Northern Parula Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Black-throated green Warbler, Palm Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Bluebird, Red-shouldered Hawk, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Barred Owl, Hummingbird, Bobolink, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Catbird, Field Sparrow

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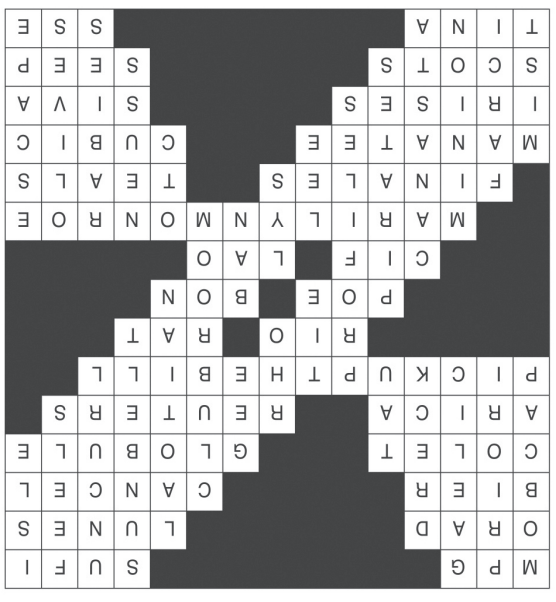
CLUES ACROSS

1. Gas usage measurement
4. Muslim mystic
8. Towards the mouth or oral region
10. Monday (Spanish)
11. Frame for a coffin
12. Rub out
13. John __, English educator 1467-1519
15. Small round particle
16. Chilean seaport
17. News service
18. Pay for dinner
21. Glamorous city
22. Subway rodent
23. "The Raven" author
24. Buddhist festival
25. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
26. Indigenous person of Thailand
27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
34. Series-ending episodes
35. Bluish greens
36. Aquatic mammal
37. Unit of measurement
38. Eye membranes
39. Indian god of dissolution
40. People of Scotland
41. Leak slowly through
42. Rock icon Turner
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Large hat covering
2. "From what is earlier" (Latin)
3. Celtic
4. Retirement region
5. A way to change posture
6. Touches
7. A small island
9. Rubbish
10. A citizen of Laos
12. A place to dance
14. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
15. Mild expression of surprise
17. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
19. Descriptions
20. Men's fashion accessory
23. Thieves of the sea
24. Prohibit
25. Card game
26. French and Belgian river
27. Underling
28. Downwind
29. Type of medication
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away from
34. Stuffed (French)
36. Type of precipitation

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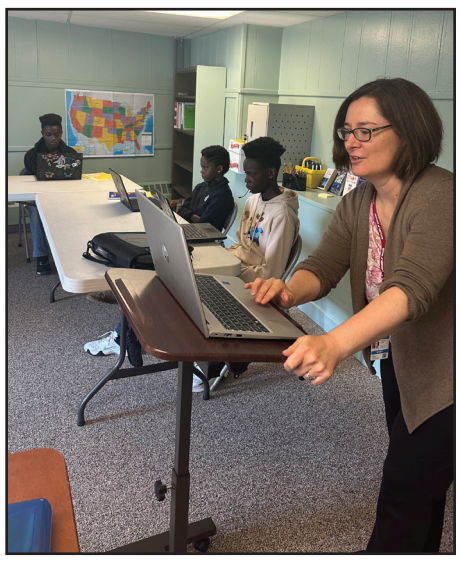
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EASTCONN Adult Education opens new downtown Putnam location



PUTNAM — EASTCONN Adult Education has opened a new location in downtown Putnam, expanding free educational opportunities for area residents seeking to complete their high school education or improve their English language skills.

The new site, located at Putnam Congregational Church, 175 Main St., operates through a partnership with Putnam Schools and offers both morning and evening class sessions to accommodate various schedules. On-site childcare will be available to help parents attend classes.

"We are very excited to have EASTCONN's adult education programs in our building," said Pastor Pam Briddle. "We are especially thrilled to provide a happy, safe and welcoming space for children as their parents work to further their education and pursue opportunities that will improve and enrich their family's futures."

The downtown location will focus on high school completion and English Language Learning (ELL) classes, while Putnam Library will continue hosting EASTCONN's U.S. Citizenship preparation classes. These in-person offerings complement EASTCONN's existing virtual classes conducted via Zoom and in-person classes at other regional locations.

"We're thrilled to bring these essential educational services directly to the heart of Putnam," said Kristin Hempel, Director of EASTCONN Adult and Community Programs. "By partnering with local institutions like Putnam Schools and the Congregational Church, we're removing barriers and making education more accessible to our community."

Beyond core academic programs, EASTCONN offers industry certification training in customer service, healthcare, childcare, food service, and construction. These free training programs are available to qualified participants at locations throughout the region.

Prospective students can register online at www.eastconn.org/getstartedtoday or by calling 860-779-3770, or by email at aded@eastconn.org. EASTCONN staff will help determine the best program fit based on individual goals, schedules, and academic preparation.

Classes at the new Putnam location enroll on a monthly basis and registration is now open.

For more information about EASTCONN Adult Education programs, visit http://eastconn.org/divisions/adult-community-programs or contact aded@eastconn.org.

Calleigh O'Brien earns Westview's July Employee of the Month Award

DAYVILLE — Calleigh O'Brien was praised as Westview's Employee of the Month in July. Calleigh connects with students of Westview Child Care Center as a Teacher Assistant in the two-year-olds classroom. The "Turtle Room" is designated for this age group, and this is where Calleigh and her colleagues develop daily plans that gently introduce new ideas into an otherwise comfortably-predictable environment for toddlers. As minds are expanding for little learners, Calleigh knows the importance of creating educational incentive for the children through excitement, encouragement, and entertainment.

Since her own early childhood, O'Brien has felt a mutually-magnetic connection to pediatric care.

"I feel like I've been babysitting since I was 6 years old! I've always been very kid-oriented," she expressed. "Children just seem to gravitate towards me in public!"

It is no surprise that she thusly began working at Westview Child Care Center during her senior year of high school. O'Brien began working in the infant room; taking responsibility for four of these littlest students at the Dayville child care facility. When she realigned to work with the two-year-old group, she found this demographic of students to be an ideal fit for her as an educator. She delights in their developing sense of humor, how outgoing they can be, and hearing new words enter their vocabulary. Of course, she adores seeing all of the interactions between the teachers and students—but there is a certain joy that she experiences while witnessing her students' interactions among each other.

Considering that Pre-K is the school before school, O'Brien and her teaching colleagues like to generate a yearning for learning to promote students' progress. They utilize a lot of hands-on lesson approaches to activate excitement within the young pupils. She prepares the schedules for the Turtle Room, and collaborates with her teammate Illenys on art projects. Finding bright, visual ways to make all of the lessons impactful, the teachers involve flash cards, finger puppets, and stuffed animals to stoke curiosity. Throughout most of the day, she and the teachers keep the lights off and utilize only natural sunlight—even closing the blinds and reading with flashlights to pretend it's nighttime to, again, make the moment more fun.

A 2025 graduate of Killingly High School, O'Brien sees herself going into a Pediatric medical field. She is strongly considering the pursuit of a Nursing Degree; citing the knowledge she has already gleaned through understanding students' medication certifications at Westview Child Care Center as an entry point. Clearly, there is a high level of parent interaction in child care, child education, and pediatric medicine, and Calleigh already feels confident in that regard. A personal passion for Calleigh is Competitive Dance: she challenged herself and other competitive dancers for more than 13 years, travelling to competitions from New England to the Florida coast. As a fun anecdote, O'Brien actually had a few current and already-graduated students of Westview Child Care Center as her dance pupils before the facility opened.

"I taught them dancing when they had just learned to walk, so I loved seeing them graduate preschool! It makes me so proud to see all these stages of their growth," O'Brien chimed.

A resident of Brooklyn, O'Brien is close with her family. Her mother Corissa, father Aaron, and sister Aby enjoy their time together as a unit. Calleigh holds cherished bonds with her grandfather Chris and grandmother Sue—a fellow teacher, and no doubt, an inspiration to Calleigh's efforts as an educator. While away from Westview Child Care Center, Calleigh continuously seeks opportunities to render care as a babysitter, nanny, or even as a dogsitter; having First Aid and CPR Certification for dogs of all sizes. As a volunteer Sunday School Teacher, she is quite involved in her Church and helps to coordinate Vacation Bible School there. She maintains gratitude for all of the support received from her kith and kin, with O'Brien especially highlighting her good friend Lauren as a treasured connection and key contributor towards her successes. Receiving this award presented Calleigh with a moment to reflect on her accomplishments since joining the team at Westview Child Care Center:



Calleigh O'Brien

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that Westview has provided me, along with all of the memorable relationships that I've made along the way," O'Brien commented. "I am incredibly surprised that I have been chosen as employee of the month! I am so proud of how far I have come as a Westview employee, and hope to continue growing!"

Katy Holzer, Director of Westview Child Care Center, identified O'Brien's multiple contributions to Westview Child Care Center: "Ms. Calleigh has been an integral part of our team since our grand opening and continues to shine every day. Over the past year, she has shown tremendous growth, truly finding her home in the Turtle (2-year-olds) classroom—while still being the first to jump in and lend a hand wherever she's needed. Her willingness to step up and support her peers embodies what makes our Westview team so special. We are so grateful for Calleigh's energy, flexibility, and dedication to our children and classrooms!"

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

Paws to hold annual Blessing of the Animals

KILLINGLY — Paws Cat Shelter is holding their Annual Blessing of the Animals at Petco in Killingly Commons on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Reverend Jane Emma Newall will be officiating. All pets must be secured by leash or carrier. Pet food and cash donations always welcome and greatly appreciated.

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

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Preserving our rural character while planning for growth

In the Quiet Corner, residents know the value of peace, open land, and community ties that run deep. It is why families stay, why new ones move in, and why so many who leave eventually come back. Yet every town meeting, zoning board hearing, or budget discussion now seems to circle the same dilemma: how do we grow without losing the very qualities that define us?

Across Northeastern Connecticut, towns face new pressures. Housing costs are rising, and developers see opportunity. Families want updated schools and community services. Small businesses seek modern infrastructure. At the same time, there's an understandable desire to safeguard farmland, forests, and the sense of history that sets this region apart from suburban sprawl.

The good news is that growth and preservation do not have to be at odds. Other rural communities in Connecticut have shown that careful planning, rooted in transparency and community input, can guide development in ways that strengthen rather than erode local identity. Tools such as farmland preservation programs, historic district protections, and mixed-use zoning can balance new housing or commerce with the protection of open space and character.

But policy only goes so far. The real strength lies in public participation. Residents must take an active role in shaping town plans, attending hearings, serving on commissions, and making their voices heard. Too often, decisions of lasting importance are made in rooms that are sparsely attended. Silence leaves the future to a handful of decision-makers, when it should belong to the entire community.

Growth is coming to Northeast Connecticut whether we plan for it or not. The choice is whether it unfolds in ways that respect the values of the people who live here. We can honor farmland and village centers while also ensuring our children have schools that are safe and modern. We can welcome new neighbors without losing the traditions and landscapes that make this part of Connecticut unique.

As a region, the challenge is clear: preserve the Quiet Corner's rural soul while adapting to the realities of a changing state. With foresight, involvement, and pride in place, we can do both.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump was elected to serve the country, not enrich himself

To the Editor:

In 1623, John Donne wrote "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee." Charlie Kirk's murder is certainly not something to be lauded, regardless of your political views.

What is to be vilified is Donnie Dictator's reaction. Not so much regarding Kirk's murder, but his lack of reaction to the murders of Minnesota's legislator Melissa Hortman, her husband and dog in their home. And that same night, state Sen. John Hoffman and his wife survived being shot – John shot nine times in their home.

All these people, including Kirk, were shot by far right MAGA supporters. Did Donnie Dictator show any remorse or anger to these other shootings? No, of course not, because they were not GOP'ers. Are you GOP'ers proud that Dictator did not order flags to be lowered, no special federal transport and not even a single condolence? What a hypocrite.

Are you GOP'ers proud that Donnie Dictator's personal net worth has ballooned from $1 billion to $3.4 billion in just eight months in office? Are you proud that he is there just to make money? Oh yes, let's not forget he is asking for $15 donations so he can get into heaven. Just how does that work? I was never taught that you could buy your way into heaven. Just another proof of his monetizing everything.

A person is presumably elected President to govern America. Not to use the office to enrich himself or, what's even worse, to use it to destroy the very fabric of our Republic and economy. Or, to my mind, to illegally put not only National Guard, but also armed regular military into our cities. Is Putnam next? Shame, shame to support Dictator or the GOP, even at the local level.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Killingly Swear House Guy is a constitutional hero

To the Editor:

I really have to wonder these days if anyone in the town of Killingly can be level-headed about anything anymore. Both the parties have their caricature moments and then there's the whole thing with Killingly Swear House Guy and how quickly people in their hysteria will throw the Constitution out the window.

What Killingly Swear House Guy had on his house was practically a liberal parody of QAnon. Likewise, growing up near Moosup with the whole God's House fiasco I'm familiar with preachy houses with big signs, and of course Trump's re-election has brought MAGA houses onto Google Earth, one of which I'm familiar with in Plainfield. Let's also not forget the "F Joe Biden" signs in Killingly that I saw but didn't really care about because free speech is a core tenet of my culture here in the West.

Other than our outspoken homeowner here being liberal, what he was doing what normally the sort of thing Republicans go wild about. The First Amendment with free speech. The Second Amendment with responsible gun ownership. Lastly, private property rights. I question the hysterical stuff I've seen on the internet about this sort of thing. Since we've raised a generation of smartphone addicts if he was doing something that he shouldn't then he should have been arrested by now. There should be smartphone video somewhere - anywhere - that was turned in to the police that led to a warrant for his arrest. Absent that, the fiery tempers I hear about his message are little more than a desperate brigading campaign.

If anything, we need to have a conversation about brigading. Something doesn't become more true just because you scream it louder and louder. Likewise, what's right is not always popular and what's popular is not always right. Ganging up to destroy someone's life like this is a form of harassment, and a clear conservative parody of the woke cancel culture that the Right is always going nuts about.

There are few skills that benefit our citizens quite like the ability to properly work with people who are different from them. These woods, however, have fish bowled some people pretty badly that we'll have to go back to basics on some of that.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Schroth will promote fiscal responsibility at Killingly's schools

To the Editor:

We have known Steve Schroth for over 20 years, and know him to be a man of great integrity and conviction. He is a great father, grandfather, and friend. Steve is extremely generous with his time and is the man who will always give you the shirt off his back.

Steve is a proud graduate of Killingly High School. He lettered in wrestling and participated in gymnastics. Prior to retirement, Steve had a long and successful career in engineering and design. Steve owned a gym in Maine and coached girls' gymnastics for about 10 years.

His goals as a Killingly Board of Education member are to protect girls in sports and locker rooms and support a curriculum for reading, writing, and arithmetic. Steve will promote fiscal responsibility and budget transparency.

When you head to the polls in November, please vote for Steve Schroth to the Killingly Board of Education.

Thank you,

JACK AND MARY JANE BURKE
DAYVILLE

Kelly Martin has earned our trust

To the Editor:

I am proud to support Kelly Martin in her bid for reelection to the Killingly Board of Education. Over her time on the board, Kelly has proven to be a thoughtful, hardworking, and student-centered leader. She has consistently put the needs of our students first, while also respecting the voices of parents, teachers, and the wider community.

Kelly has shown a clear commitment to strengthening our schools by advocating for academic excellence, responsible budgeting, and programs that support both student achievement and well-being. She understands the importance of preparing our students for the future while maintaining transparency and accountability in every decision she makes.

Her dedication, fairness, and vision have already made a positive difference in Killingly schools. Reelecting Kelly means continuing the progress and ensuring our schools remain places where every student has the opportunity to succeed.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend casting your vote to reelect Kelly Martin to the Killingly Board of Education. She has earned our trust, and deserves the chance to continue serving our community.

LAURA LAWRENCE
SOUTH KILLINGLY

Kevin Gudreau is the watchdog Killingly's taxpayers need

To the Editor:

If you have ever felt that you have been unreasonably taxed on your property by your town, you should know and trust the members on your Board of Assessment Appeal.

In Killingly, our Board consists of three regular members, and they are there for us. I have been a Lake Alexander resident for 27 years, and reevaluation companies that have been hired by our town have had a field day raising our assessments just because they thought they could get away with it.

If it were not for the members of our Board of Assessment Appeals who are willing to fight for us, the taxes we'd be paying would be nothing shy of ridiculous.

One of those members is Kevin Gaudreau. He is up for re-election this November.

Kevin has deep roots in this town and takes his duties seriously. He's a dedicated EMR and has been a member of the Williamsville Fire Department for 48 years. He grew up in KIllingly, raised his family here, runs his business here and has served on the Killingly Board Assessment Appeals for six years.

Kevin is a born leader, and can be found helping people on a daily basis. If you don't know that personally, and if you have lived in this town for more than two minutes, you know someone who does.

With facts and figures and common sense, he's there for us. He has the experience and passion for helping others, and I know he is the best fit for this position that he already holds. I know if I felt I was taxed unfairly, the face I would want to see over my tax bill would be that of Kevin Gaudreau.

HOLLY BARLOW
DAYVILLE

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Even Downton Abbey must face change



NANCY WEISS

"Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale" was playing at a nearby movie theatre last week and a friend and I decided to see it. The theatre had about eight people in attendance on a late afternoon, but once the noisy previews were finally over, the main feature opened to the familiar music and the scene of the castle we all know well, and the magic began. The show was a mainstay of our Sunday night viewing on PBS for ages and the characters feel like old friends, if rather ritzy ones, who are changing with the times. Change is the message of the movie.

My town has a lively Friends of the Library group, which holds one meeting and one sale a year. Imagine if more organizations met when something important needed doing. They did it, had a few interesting conversations and went home. Perhaps the future of volunteer organizations wouldn't look as bleak if the focus was on action, enjoying the process and making friends. The group raises funds to pay for children's programs and extra items that make the library a 21st century entity people want to use, including Ebooks and audiobooks. Most towns have something similar. Libraries are changing in fundamental ways.

News reports indicate people aren't reading as many books. There is a decline, but there are many other compelling ways to enjoy fiction and non-fiction. I read twice as many audiobooks as print. A professional reader brings a book to life in creative ways. I get more from dialogue by hearing than by reading. We can bemoan the lure of cellphones, but we can read on them, too. Books will last, but change makes it possible to engage with words in ways that suit the times.

My husband and I spent a long weekend in Dripping Springs, Texas to attend a family wedding. The rolling hills and wooded vistas, some dotted with brightly colored autumn leaves, were a charming change from other parts of the state we have visited. We were struck by several things –the population on average is young. There were no political lawn signs or even bumper stickers on cars and trucks. The only flags were the state flag and the American flag. Housing of all types was being constructed everywhere. There were 80 vineyards around Fredericksburg and two excellent chocolate shops. Almost everyone we met had moved from elsewhere and was pleased by the change.

Lady Mary gets divorced in the "Downton" movie and is shunned by society because divorce made women pariahs. Her sister, Edith, hatches up a way to get the snobby neighbors to come to a party by inviting the playwright Noel Coward and introducing Jazz and show music to the scene. Playwright Vinton Freedley lived in my hometown where he entertained Cole Porter and wrote blockbusters of the time including, " Anything Goes." The themes and the music represented as much new thinking as current offerings examining societal changes.

Changes in language pop up everywhere. The Dowager Countess jokingly wonders about the meaning of the word, week-end. I object to vulgar words being used freely, but change has come and the expressions are accepted as part of life.

The changes the Crawley family faced in the movie seemed immense to them, and rather trite to us. My generation believed that we were the harbingers of radical change in personal freedom and rights of individuals. I embraced new literature, new theatre, new clothes and new ideas and believed the changes would evolve. I fumble with my ear pods and forget my passwords and try to make peace with change.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's time we heed the words "Love thy neighbor"

To the Editor:

The heinous murder of Charlie Kirk marks yet another milestone in America's violent tapestry. From the genocide of its indigenous population to the profitable commercialization of slavery, to the lynchings, school shootings, political assassinations, mass murderers, riots, and gang violence our history is littered with vile events. Mr. Trump, of course, is in the process of whitewashing all this from our parks and museums.

Mr. Kirk's killing was more unique and, in many ways, similar to that of Martin Luther King (even though Kirk has disparaged the Civil Rights Act) in that both were killed because of ideas. His killer though may find that trying to destroy an idea in most cases fails and more often emboldens a movement. Mr. Kirk's widow has already stepped in and pledged to make Turning Point USA stronger.

Whether or not one agreed with Mr. Kirk, he deserved admiration for open discourse. His vision of a Christian White nation, where women are subservient to men and queers are put back into closet appeals to many including our President. He opposed a woman's reproductive rights. He opposed Critical race theory. And God forbid if one was transgender.

That minutes after his murder Mr. Trump blamed the "Radical Left" is disappointing and demonstrates we have an administration that chooses to represent only part of its constituents. Still more perplexing is the question of what exactly is the Radical Left, and what makes it "radical?" What organization represents them? Who is their leader? And by default, is Turning Point USA right wing simply because it interprets Christianity to suit it needs?

Common wisdom says that the Radical Left are those who support a socialist or even an anarchistic state over a capitalist one. Mr. Trump uses it as the bogeymen who disagree with him. He points fingers at Antifa and George Soros. The former though is not an organization. There is no leader. There is no antifa.com Web site. Indeed, Antifa is short for "anti-fascist." Billionaire George Soros founded Open Society Foundations. A visit to its Web site finds how it countered government suppression in China, the Soviet Union, and Afghanistan, created programs to fight diseases such as TB, HIV, and drug addictions. It promotes childhood education in countries where little exists. I would challenge anyone to call this left wing let alone radical.

Perhaps most egregious is the Trump administrations' attempt to silence critics. Already we have high profile sackings of Trump "enemies," with the firing of educators and entertainers, and the expulsion of students who were called out for saying anything negative regarding Mr Kirk. Vice-President Vance has gone so far as to task people with going to HR should they hear someone speak ill of Kirk. News networks have been warned not to promote reports that disagree with the President.

This is wrong. America does not suppress opinions nor ideas. Kirk stood for this. The time may come when this writer could lose his job over a letter like this, or the Villager lose its license for what could deemed antigovernment rhetoric.

Mr. Trump needs to stop demonizing his opponents. This needs to be the first step for Americans to follow. One can disagree without name calling and threats. Everybody after all is entitled to their opinions. It's up to society to find a way to accommodate them. Peacefully. Respectfully. The violence must end. Charlie Kirk, however disagreeable his opinions may have been to some, had the fortitude to talk. He was no saint, but he died for this.

It is best that we heed the words of another legendary leader who was tortured and killed for his antiestablishment rants over 2,000 years ago. He was considered a radical. Both America's Left and Right think he as one of them and that he should confute the other side. Not true. He was a champion of the downtrodden. He preached tolerance and compassion. And hope. He implored us all to "love thy neighbor." It is time for our nation to take a collective deep breath and abide by these simple words. Especially our President.

Lee Wesler
Woodstock

The First Amendment belongs to the people, not the President

To the Editor:

Most Americans take for granted the freedoms enshrined in the First Amendment: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right to peacefully assemble. These rights are not partisan; they are the foundation of our republic. Yet today, they are under direct assault from the very government that swore to uphold them.

President Trump campaigned as a defender of free speech, even signing an executive order "restoring freedom of speech" on his first day in office. But his actions tell a very different story. Time and again, his administration has used the power of the federal government to intimidate, punish, or silence those who dare to dissent. Universities, law firms, newspapers, media outlets, comedians, peaceful protesters, and political opponents have all found themselves in the crosshairs. This weaponization of government power is an affront to the Constitution and a danger to democracy itself.

History reminds us of the stakes. On the final day of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Elizabeth Powel asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" Franklin famously replied, "A republic, if you can keep it." His warning was clear: the survival of our system depends not only on the framework of laws, but on the vigilance and courage of citizens willing to defend them.

Today, that vigilance is required. The Trump administration has attempted to bend institutions to its will, threatening FCC action against television networks critical of the president, filing meritless lawsuits against major newspapers to silence coverage, and deploying federal forces against peaceful protesters. Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller recently declared "The Democrat party is not a political party. It is a domestic extremist organization." When top officials state that political opposition itself amounts to extremism that rhetoric and action erode the very idea of legitimate debate, replacing it with fear and coercion. What happens to the country when there is a change in administration?

The danger is real. When government power is used to decide which voices may be heard, no one is safe. If comedians can be threatened, if journalists can be silenced, if protesters can be met with troops in the streets, then the freedoms guaranteed to every American are reduced to privileges dispensed at the whim of those in power. That is not democracy, it is authoritarianism in the making.

The responsibility to resist this abuse lies with us. Citizens must demand that our representatives act to defend the First Amendment and restore the checks and balances that protect us all. Congress should:

Condemn the administration's exploitation of political violence to justify curbs on free speech.

Investigate the misuse of agencies like the FCC and Justice Department to intimidate the press.

Hold accountable those officials, including FCC Chair Brendan Carr, who have violated their duty to uphold constitutional rights.

Support impeachment proceedings against a president who persistently defies the Constitution.

Our republic is only as strong as our willingness to protect it. The First Amendment was not written for convenience or comfort, it was written to safeguard dissent, debate, and difference of opinion, even when those in power dislike what they hear. To remain silent now would be to surrender the freedoms generations before us fought to secure.

The choice before us is simple. We can either defend the Constitution, or watch it erode before our eyes. For the sake of our democracy, we must choose to defend it.

Lisa Arends
Brooklyn

Committed to leading with care

To the Editor:

I am honored to be running for re-election to the Killingly Board of Education. It has been a privilege to serve a four-year term, including the past two years as Chair. During that time, I have worked to foster open, honest dialogue and an environment that puts students first while supporting staff and families.

If re-elected, I will continue to lead in a steady, transparent, and committed manner—always making decisions with students at the center. After all, our children are watching how we lead, how we listen, and how we respond.

Over the past four years, I have been proud to advocate for expanded mental health resources, build stronger trust in the budget process, and support both students and staff in meaningful ways. Through collaboration, I have developed strong relationships with district leadership and our community, helping to bridge gaps and strengthen mutual trust. I have worked intentionally to enhance the well-deserved reputation of Killingly and our schools.

Looking ahead, my priorities remain clear:

- Advocating for strong academic and extracurricular programs
- Supporting the social and emotional well-being of students
- Building trust and collaboration with staff, families, and the community
- Encouraging innovation and teamwork
- Showcasing successes that strengthen Killingly's reputation
- Ensuring fiscal responsibility while keeping schools vibrant and safe

I am proud of what we have accomplished together, but there is more work to be done. With your support, I hope to continue this important work for Killingly's students, families, and community. Strong schools build strong communities—and I remain committed to leading with resilience, transparency, and care.

In partnership,

Susan Lannon
Killingly

Some very good citizens

To the Editor:

I am writing to highlight two outstanding individuals, Mayor Barney Seney and Geoff Bolte, who have demonstrated exceptional community spirit and helpfulness to me.

A few years ago, while I was running my business in Putnam, I encountered a persistent issue with an abandoned couch left curbside by a neighbor for several weeks. Despite repeated attempts to resolve the matter through the zoning official, the couch remained. Upon running into Mayor Barney Seney at a downtown event, I mentioned the situation. He promptly offered to personally remove it if it was still there by the weekend. True to his word, Mayor Seney arrived on that Saturday and, together, we loaded the couch into his pickup truck, and he drove it away. His willingness to go the extra mile to address a community nuisance was outstanding.

During Covid, I faced significant technical challenges while transitioning to teaching martial arts classes via Zoom. My camera and laptop were not cooperating, and I was struggling to set up my virtual classroom effectively. After posting a desperate request for assistance on Facebook, Geoff Bolte, whom I had not previously met, arrived at my door within 30 minutes. He identified himself as an audio-video expert and quickly resolved my technical issues. Within half an hour, he had my equipment tuned up, enabling me to conduct my Zoom classes professionally. His swift and expert assistance was invaluable during this challenging time.

These two instances highlight the incredible dedication and willingness to help that these two great citizens, Mayor Barney Seney and Geoff Bolte have demonstrated. Their actions went above and beyond what was expected, significantly impacting my experience and the community. I am very grateful for their exceptional contributions.

Sincerely,

Mike Bogdanski
Putnam

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Additionl Letters to the Editor, See Page A-8

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SPORTS

Killingly High School sports wrap-up





Football

The Killingly Trailblazers (2-0, 1-0) jumped out to a 35-0 halftime lead and finished with their first shutout of the season with a 42-0 win over East Lyme (1-1,0-1). Hunter Allard had an Interception on the 2nd play of the game, and Quinn Sumner (8-12, 177 yds, 3 TD's) hit Payton Wallace (4 Rec. 93 yds. 1TD) with a 2-yard touchdown pass to take an early 7-0 lead. Sumner then threw his 2nd touchdown pass of the game on a 66-yard strike to Hunter Allard (3 Rec. 83 yards, 2 TD's).

Hayden Allard added a 66-yard interception for a Touchdown to start the 2nd quarter and added a 78-yard run for a td in the 2nd quarter. Hunter Allard added a touchdown reception from Sumner before the half. Hayden Allard finished the scoring in the 3rd quarter with a 15-yard run.

Defensively, Killingly held the East Lyme offense to 41 total yards on the night. Kaiden Guertin led the way with 8 tackles, 1 sack, 2 tackles for a loss, and 6 QB hurries. Joseph Mackie and Joseph Gould each finished with 7 tackles, and Trevor Galarza had 6 tackles and 1 sack.

Killingly returns to action tonight, as they visit Jonathan Law of Milford.

Volleyball

The Killingly Volleyball team hosted ST. Bernard High School on Tuesday, Sept. 16.

The JV record rose to 6-1, defeating St. Bernard 2 sets to 1, 25-12, 12-25, 25-22. Emily Zadora had 4 aces; Lillian McDonald had 3 assists; Hailee James had 2 aces, 5 assists; Anna Kelly had 3 aces, 2 kills; Loretta Lannon had 3 kills and Ella Adams had 4 digs, n7 aces, 5 kills to lead Killingly.

Killingly 3, St. Bernard 0
Killingly 5-2
St. Bernard 0-6
23-6, 25-16, 25-16

The Varsity record rose to 5-2, defeating St. Bernard 3 sets to 03, 23-6, 25-16, 25-16. Danielle Veillette had 8 digs, 3 aces, 3 kills, 2 assists; Kalynn Dombkowski had 4 assists; Lyla Rondeau had 4 digs, 4 aces; Kayla Drinkwater had 2 kills; Teagan Klewin had b2 kills; Anna Kelly had 2 aces; Kendall Rosen had 2 aces, 4 kills; and Shyah Baker had 6aces, 4 kills; and Jayden Durand had 4 aces, 5 kills to lead Killingly.

The team hosted Norwich Tech on Friday, Sept. 19.

The JV record rose to 7-1, defeating Norwich Tech 2 sets to 0, 25-13, 25-14. Lillian McDonald had 3 assists; Violet Schafer had 3 kills; Lyla Rondeau had 4 digs, 3 aces; Hailee James had 5 assists; Loretta Lannon had 5 aces, 2 kills; Ellsie Antobenedetto had 3 kills, and Ella Adams had 3 kills; Kairah Guertin had 3 aces and Natalya Benoit had 4 aces to lead Killingly.

Killingly 3, Norwich Tech 0
Killingly 6-2
Norwich Tech 4-4
23-21, 25-23, 25-18

The Varsity record rose to 6-2, defeating Norwich Tech 3 sets to 0, 23-21, 25-23, 25-18. Danielle Veillette had 8 digs, 5 aces, 3 kills; Lyla Rondeau had 4 digs, 4 aces; Kayla Drinkwater had 3 kills; Teagan Klewin had 2 blocks, 3 aces, 2 kills; Kendall Rosen had 4 aces, 3 kills; Jaliyah Blair had 3 blocks, 3 aces; Shyah Baker had 7 aces, 3 kills; and Jayden Durand had 3 aces, 2 kills to lead Killingly.

Killingly was next scheduled to host Waterford High School on Tuesday, Sept. 23, after this week's press deadline.

Girls Soccer

Killingly hosted Wheeler in a Thursday afternoon, Sept. 18 ECC showdown. Freshman Kezlee Morrarty, netted her first varsity goal just four minutes into the match—and then striking again three minutes later to give Killingly an early 2–0 lead. Madison Perry and Ashley Boudreau each tallied an assist.

On the defensive end, the back line of Lianna Hutchinson, Hazel Clavette, Kate Crowley, and Lylah Connetti held strong all game, securing a clean sheet and keeping Wheeler off the scoreboard. Killingly is now 3-1-1!

Killingly traveled to East Hampton on Saturday morning, ready to battle. Amidst a challenging match, freshman Mabel Peterson netted her first varsity goal with a well-placed assist from Kezlee Morrarty. The girls showed grit and determination, playing hard until the final whistle. Despite their efforts, East Hampton came out on top with a 6-1 victory.

The team soccer hosted New London on Monday night and delivered a dominant performance. Ri'Niyah Couillard opened the scoring with her first varsity goal, setting the tone early. Sam Bourque added another before halftime.

In the second half, Couillard struck again with her second goal of the night, and Rowan Frazer capped off the evening with a fourth. Assists came from Kezlee Morrarty, Olivia Cabral, and Gracie Pekarovic-West.

With this win, Killingly improves to 4-2-1 on the season. The team was slated to travel to Windham on Wednesday evening, after this week's press deadline.

The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Boys Cross Country

Woodstock Academy 27
Ledyard 28

Sophomore Lucas Hecker led the way but the Centaurs pack wasn't far behind which allowed Woodstock Academy (3-0, 2-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) to sneak away with the close win.

Greyson Stephenson of the Colonels (2-1, 0-1) crossed the line first at the Woodstock Fairgrounds in 17 minutes, 46 seconds but Hecker was just eight seconds back in second place.

Ledyard's Lucas Heide placed third but the Centaurs trio of Bronson Eddy, Sam Greene and Harrison Durand finished 4-5-6 to clinch the victory.

Girls Cross Country

Woodstock Academy 26
Ledyard 33

Freshman Emelia Langevin won her first high school race as she toured the new Woodstock Fairgrounds course in 20 minutes, 54 seconds to establish a course record and led the host Centaurs (2-1, 2-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) to the win.

Fellow freshman Claire Bruneaux was fourth for Woodstock Academy which also took places six through 10 to guarantee itself the dual meet victory.

Maggie Littler was second and Clara Shelton third for the Colonels (2-1, 0-1).

Boys Soccer

Woodstock Academy 3
Ledyard 3

Matt Johndrow scored two goals and Zach Armbruster added a goal on a penalty kick and two assists for the Centaurs (2-1-2, 1-0-1 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) in the tie against the Colonels (4-0-1, 1-0-1).

Xavier LaFleur added an assist for Woodstock Academy.

Woodstock Academy 1
NFA 1

Ties have become more the rule than the exception in the Eastern Connecticut Conference this season and this Division I battle was another example.

The Centaurs (2-1-3, 1-0-2) scored five minutes into the match when Matt Johndrow tallied off a Ronan Curran assist. But the Wildcats (2-2-2, 2-1-1) tied the match before the half and neither side was able to find the back of the net in the last 40 minutes.

Girls Volleyball

Woodstock Academy 3
Bacon Academy 1

The Centaurs made it five straight in the win column as they held off the Bobcats 25-16, 23-25, 25-19, 25-23 on the Woodstock Academy South Gym home floor.

Senior Libero Gianna Musumeci had 23 digs and 15 service points in the win for the Centaurs (7-1) while senior setter Lily Morgis had 31 assists.

Kaylee Bundy led Woodstock Academy with 14 kills and Kennedy McCooey added 12 against the Bobcats (2-5) who have now lost four straight.

East Lyme 3
Woodstock Academy 0

The Vikings easily took the showdown between the two top teams in Division I of the Eastern Connecticut Conference as they rolled past the Centaurs in straight sets, 25-10, 25-11 and 25-19 to improve to 4-0 in the Division and 7-1 overall.

The loss was the first for the Centaurs (7-2, 3-1) in the last six matches.

Gianna Musumeci had 10 digs and Lily Morgis had 11 assists for Woodstock Academy.

Newtown 3
Woodstock Academy 0

It was a long trip to come back empty-handed from but that's what happened to the Centaurs as host Newtown posted the 25-16, 25-17, 25-22 straight set victory.

Kaylee Bundy had nine kills and Lily Morgis contributed 15 assists for Woodstock Academy (7-3).

Kennedy McCooey had eight digs and Gianna Musumeci delivered seven service points for the Centaurs.

Football

New London 24
Woodstock Academy 13

The defense provided all of the offense for the Centaurs as sophomore defensive back Caydem Herlihy scored on a pair of pick-6 plays but it wasn't enough to cappy Woodstock Academy (0-2) past the host Whalers (1-1).

Herlihy put the Centaurs on the board first for a second time in two games as he intercepted his first pass and scored in the first quarter.

New London responded with 18 unanswered points as it tied the game on a punt return late in the first quarter and went ahead to stay on a pick-6 of their own halfway through the second quarter.

The Whalers scored again before the half but Herlihy made it a one-possession game when he returned his second interception for a score with 7 minutes, `19 seconds to play.

The Whalers sealed the deal when they scored with just under two minutes to play.

Girls Soccer

Bacon Academy 3
Woodstock Academy 2

The cENTAURS put a little scare into undefeated Bacon Academy but the Bobcats managed to sneak away with the victory at home on Thursday.

The Centaurs took the early two-goal lead, scoring twice in the first 20 minutes of the match.

Lily Mioduszewski scored her second goal of the season off an assist from Elise Coyle. Kaitlyn Teal followed with her first goal of the season off a corner from Avery Danis.

But that's where the good news came to an end for Woodstock Academy (0-4-3, 0-1-3 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I).

The Bobcats (5-0, 4-0) pulled within one before the half, tied the match with 15 minutes to play and put home what proved to be the game winner with seven minutes left.

Farmington 3
Woodstock Academy 0

Farmington continued its undefeated ways as it made it six straight in the win column thanks to three second-half goals.

Brooke Hacker, Sia Sharma and Neve Hunting scored for Farmington which had 13 shots in the second half.

Ellary Sampson made nine saves in goal for the Centaurs (0-5-3).



Quiet Corner Garden Club to host ribbon cutting, open house Oct. 4

WOODSTOCK — The Quiet Corner Garden Club is delighted to welcome garden lovers and other members of the public to the opening of its new office at the Center For Woodstock History at Palmer Memorial Hall, 523 Route 169 in Woodstock, on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

We will begin the festivities at 10 a.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Then guests can see our new permanent office housing the Club's historical albums and library of garden books.

The Center For Woodstock History invites you to also view its exhibition "Woodstock-Through the Camera's Eye in Post-Civil War America". In addition, there will be a docent-led tour of the adjacent Palmer Arboretum, a historic "hidden treasure," established in 1914.

Refreshments will be served.

Friends Book Sale is here

BY JARED JACAVONE
DIRECTOR
THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

After weeks of preparation the annual Friends of the Thompson Public Library Book Sale has finally arrived! Doors open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27 and runs until 1 p.m. in the Community Center. This year promises to be one of our largest book sales as we are overflowing with books, DVDs, puzzles, board games, and much more!

It is thanks to the tireless work of our Friends of the Library that this was made possible. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Friends of the Library Board for planning and implementing this annual event while coordinating volunteers for the event. I would also like to extend a thanks to Liz Rooker, Fiona Celli, Terry Gendron, Donna Rumrill, Christina Fontaine, Jennifer Andrews, Kim Flynn, and Bob Corvieau for working closely with the Friends and coordinating the logistics for setting up this book sale. Lastly, I would like to thank all our volunteers coming out from the community and Tourtellotte Memorial High School to help run this event.

Make sure to swing by this Saturday for some wonderful deals on your favorite reads. Have a great week!

Transportation museum auction update



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

I hope those of you shopping at Brimfield found some additions to your collection, and that those selling had great success.

As I've shared in past columns, we held a transportation auction in Pennsylvania that ended during the week of Brimfield. It made me think back to some of the factors that I've seen make a successful auction, gathered over nearly a quarter century in the business.

There's some advice I've heard that's stuck with me over the years. When I was in my 30s, an antique dealer said, "if you have the horses, they will come." His point was that if you offer valuable and desirable items, bidders will be sure to attend your auction.

Another auctioneer suggested to me that an auctioneer's job is to create an event. As an auctioneer, you want to have desirable pieces that bidders will be interested in and have a story to tell. An auctioneer also has a responsibility to promote the sale well for their consignors.

When we were engaged to sell the contents of a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area transportation museum, we had the horses. There was a large collection of railroad, nautical, aircraft, automobile, trolley, and bus memorabilia, along with some local advertising and other pieces. There were thousands of items that were grouped into over 1,100 auction lots.

Offering a large number of similar items can draw bidders from a wider geographical range. We had winning bidders from as far away as Alabama, Georgia, and Minnesota for the Pennsylvania auction. When you offer a larger number of items, bidders increase their chance of winning multiple items. A bidder from North Carolina would be more likely to drive to pick up 25 items, but might not make the trip for four items.

We were also able to create an event for this sale. We advertised in multiple publications, and the online auction platform we use has a large reach, helping many bidders find the auction online. Additionally, we issued a press release that was picked up by Yahoo News and some local newspapers. A Pittsburgh television news station sent a reporter to cover the auction along with a station from nearby Youngstown, Ohio.

Among the aircraft related items that sold was a circa 1920s rotating airport beacon that brought $4,800. A bronze plaque from the "Greater Pittsburgh Airport" sold for $2,400. A flight suit worn by a Korean War/Vietnam War era Marine Corps pilot went for $2,700. A Delta metal travel agent model prop plane brought $2,400.

Nautical related memorabilia also brought some good results. A Robinson & Co. LTD Ship's brass Telegraph fetched $3,600. A large brass ship's wheel went for $2,400. A large wooden freighter ship model brought $1,800 and a "Titanic" movie prop life vest also went for $1,800.

Most of the items in the museum were railroad related and brought strong prices. A steam engine headlight brought $2,100. An old train station baggage cart sold for $2,700. A railroad passenger car by the Budd Corporation fetched $4,200 and a large-scale electric steam locomotive replica went for $3,900.



Cars, buses, and a motorcycle brought some of the best results. A "U.S. 41 Coach Line" flanged ticket office sign sold for $4,200. A large Gulf gas station sign and a Gulf gas pump each fetched $4,200. An antique "Kirkwood Traffic Indicator" Light brought $4,200, and a 2001 Kawasaki KZ1000 Police Motorcycle went for $4,200. A "Slow Keep Right" Supreme Motor Oil metal sign didn't slow the bidding down when it also sold for $4,200.

We are offering film props, autographs, and screen used clothing in a single-collector Laurel and Hardy memorabilia online auction that ends October 7th. Our single-collector Civil War memorabilia auction will be online next month. We are always accepting quality consignments for future auctions. Please visit our website https://centralmassauctions.com for links to upcoming events.

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

Making peace with life

BEYOND THE PEWS

BY BISHOP JOHN W. HANSON
ACTS II MINISTRIES

Every week, this guy comes to our neighborhood making a considerable racket. I don't know his name, and he doesn't seem to come at the same time of the day. But he slams things around so violently that you can hear him for blocks. Many times, he will cause a ruckus for 20 or 30 minutes. I'm sure everyone in the neighborhood hears it. It's a disturbance of the peace! There have been times when he has added insult to injury by revving his engine (he drives a very large truck) and honking his horn. To make matters worse, since our road is rough, his rig rambles and clanks and roars through our usually quiet neighborhood - to the point that everyone is impacted.

This commotion has been taking place regularly for years. But, to my knowledge, no one has ever called the authorities. In fact, to be honest, people are actually paying him to do it. Even I fall into that category. The "guy" I referred to is the garbage man. Or to be more politically correct, the sanitation collector. Everyone in the neighborhood understands that we can't have our garbage picked up unless we are willing to give up a few minutes of quiet time each week.

This is a principle that can be applied to many things in life. Scripture put it like this in Proverbs 14:4 (nlt): "Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest." In other words, there are some realities in life that we just need to accept.

Practically speaking, we all would do well to make our peace with things in life that are unpleasant but necessary:

We can't have a garden without tilling, planting, watering and weeding.

We can't have a good marriage or family life without sacrifice, hard work and selflessness.

We can't even be eternally saved without denying ourselves, picking up our cross and following Jesus.

Making peace with life and making peace with God are synonymous for believers. Most of mankind's history has been plagued with situations where man was not willing to live life as God designed. But if one can make their peace with God and with the path that He allows them to walk, they will experience a peace and a joy that makes that life far more enjoyable and fruitful.

While there are times to fight, and times to persevere for things we desire, there are also times to accept the inevitable and learn to live at peace with things over which we have no control. For those who are wondering when to fight and when to rest, I would recommend a consultation with God and His Handbook. God didn't promise life would be easy; He just promised to be a good Heavenly Father. He is faithful, and He has prepared an eternal place for those stay close to Him and trust Him, as they journey through this broken world. I have found that a daily talk with Him helps me find perspective and make peace with life - in real time.

Bishop John W Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more information and to find online sermons, please visit www.ActsII.org.

Boomerang!

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

Life has a way of throwing back to us whatever we send out. It's less like a straight line, and more like an echo. Whatever you release—kindness, anger, pride, hope—doesn't vanish. Like a boomerang, it circles back, sometimes years later, sometimes in an instant.

I think that's why musicians, actors, and athletes rise to such incredible heights of fame. Beyond their talent or skill, the real magnet is how they make people feel. The biggest stars don't just perform; they stir something inside—joy, awe, inspiration, even belonging. People may not remember every lyric or every play, but they never forget the rush of emotion that washed over them in the moment.

The moment the singer hit the soaring note, the stadium shook. The moment an actor delivered a performance so raw, it left people in tears. The moment an athlete drained the shot that lifted an entire city to its feet and reminded them of who they were.

Those flashes of feeling are what stick. Long after the details fade—the words, the stats, the headlines—what endures is the emotional imprint. That becomes the true legacy, the boomerang effect of their work: sending energy out into the world and having it return multiplied in the hearts of millions.

It works the same with politicians and influencers. The weak ones fade fast because they don't stir anything inside people. But the powerful ones—love them or hate them—spark something. For some, their words affirm values and bring confidence. For others, those same words ignite anger or resistance. Either way, they make people feel. And that's the point—the boomerang effect doesn't care if the feeling is love or hate. When you make people feel deeply, you live on in their hearts long after the words fade.

In an interview, Robert Herjavec once said, "Good salespeople sell features, great salespeople sell outcomes, and really great salespeople sell feelings." That last part is the real boomerang. People may forget the pitch or the numbers, but they never forget how you made them feel.

When you sell a feeling—hope, pride, belonging—that's what sticks, and that's what circles back as loyalty, reputation, and long-term success.

That's why the best salespeople don't stop at features or even outcomes—they tap the deeper current of human experience. A decent pitch might convince the mind, but a great one moves the heart. You don't buy the car because it has 300 horsepower—you buy it because it makes you feel free. You don't sign up for the service because of the bullet points—you sign up because it makes you feel secure, valued, or ahead of the curve. The transaction isn't just about the product; it's about the emotion wrapped around it.

And here's where it gets bigger: this principle doesn't stop at sales. It applies everywhere—your career, your leadership, your relationships. People may forget what you offered or even the exact words you said, but they'll never forget how you made them feel in the process. That feeling becomes your reputation. It becomes your legacy.

In the workplace, this plays out every day. A manager who rules by fear might get quick compliance, but it's followed by silence in meetings, clock-watchers at 4:59, and turnover the moment a better offer appears. Contrast that with the manager who makes people feel respected and seen—what comes back is loyalty, energy, and effort that money alone can't buy. The boomerang always returns.

At home or in leadership, it's the same. Correction without encouragement breeds resentment. But when guidance is mixed with recognition, people rise to the occasion. The feeling you give becomes the environment you live in.

And in business, it's rarely the shiniest features or the lowest price that create raving fans. It's the moment a customer feels understood. Pride, trust, belonging, hope—those are the boomerangs that return again and again as referrals, repeat business, and opportunities you couldn't buy if you tried.

So here's the call: pay attention to the energy you're sending out today. The tone of your voice, the weight of your words, the way you make people feel. Because it's all coming back. The only question is: will it return as resentment—or as respect?

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc. He lives in Bourbonnais and can be reached at feedback@shawmedia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump is a dangerous embarrassment

To the Editor:

Political violence is a dark stain on our nation's history. Unfortunately, there's never been a shortage of violent extremists from both the right and the left. All public figures are potential targets, but anyone who spews hate speech and racist rhetoric put themselves on the radar of the worst members of society.

A true national leader would do everything possible to calm and unite the American people. That's not who our current President is or has ever been. Trump has done nothing but encourage more hatred, distrust and violence. He's too obsessed with political revenge to worry about protecting our country from slipping into a state of chaos. Silencing comedians that make fun of him seems to be a bigger priority. Donald Trump is a dangerous buffoon, a threat to our democracy, and a total embarrassment as a president.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Free speech has consequences

To the Editor:

Yes, nobody had to like Charlie Kirk, or what he had to say, but did you see us conservatives rioting after he was killed? Or perhaps your idea of a hero, or somebody to stand with, was a career criminal slimebag like George Floyd? And to those beyond pathetic hate-filled cretins that said Mr. Kirk should rot in hell, and to those same punks who vandalized his make-shift memorials, just remember that what goes around comes around.

Does speaking out from behind that shield known as "free speech" mean that you can say anything that you want to? In my last letter, if I had specifically mentioned what was posted on that house, would including those vulgar obscenities be accepted here? (I'd hope not.) I could claim it was my First Amendment right to do so, but then, free speech does have its consequences, and I'd say that Kimmel has joined a list of people who found that out the hard way.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE



Courtesy

The Putnam Rotary Club is making a $3,000 commitment to the Roseland Park-Golf renovation project to be paid over a three-year period. At the Sept. 9 meeting of the Putnam Rotary Club, the club's immediate Past President, Doug Porter, current President, Kathy Kirk and incoming President Martha Paquette presented the Roseland Park Trustees with a $2,000 check fulfilling the first two years of the commitment. Marc Cotnoir, Martha Beckwith and John Rauh accepted the check for the trustees. From left: Doug Porter, Marc Cotnoir, Martha Paquette, Kathy Kirk, John Rauh, Martha Beckwith and Rotarian Ron Coderre.

Why Q4 portfolio positioning matters more than ever



FINANCIAL FOCUS

LAURENCE HALE INVESTMENT ADVISER

September is often a tough month for investors. The S&P 500 has declined during September 55 percent of the time since 1928, far more often than any other month of the year. This year's setup is potentially perilous, with the S&P 500 at record-high levels and sporting lofty valuations despite economic and political uncertainty.

So, perhaps now more than ever, investors should review their portfolios to ensure they have recently been rebalanced and reflect their risk tolerance. In the meantime, here are some of the worries the market will have to surmount in the second half of the year in order to continue climbing.

Interest rate cuts

As expected, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point (0.25 percent) at its meeting on Sept. 17. The outcome was less than certain, given that inflation has been running slightly hotter than the Federal Reserve's target in recent months. Fed officials ultimately decided that lower rates were justified due to the softer employment environment and the expectation that inflation will moderate after the impact of tariffs has passed.

Now investors can look forward to the next Fed gathering on Oct. 28 and 29. Most economists believe the Fed will cut interest rates one more time this year. That's certainly what President Trump would like. He has been extremely public about his desire for lower interest rates to boost the housing market and the economy. The President has threatened to fire Fed Chair Jerome Powell if he doesn't cut rates or step down voluntarily before his term as chairman ends in May 2026. It's certainly a developing situation worth watching.

Tariff chaos continues

Investors were just getting used to President Trump's tariffs. He'd propose large tariff hikes with our trading partners and then negotiate a trade agreement that often included a much lower tariff rate.

Then in late August a federal appeals court decided that the President didn't have the authority to use emergency powers to declare many of the new tariffs he announced this year. In a seven-to-four ruling, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit upheald a lower court decision on the matter. President Trump's camp will likely appeal the most recent decision, sending the case to the Supreme Court.

The recent court decision creates a tremendous amount of uncertainty about both trade deals that have and have not been struck. Companies have no way to plan where to import products from, nor do they know what their imported goods will cost. And if there's one thing markets don't like, it's uncertainty.

Tax cuts have arrived

One powerful tailwind is President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which was recently passed into law. The OBBBA offers a little something for just about everyone. It prevents personal tax rates from rising and offers additional tax breaks for seniors, parents, and workers who receive tips. The law reinstates the state and local tax (SALT) deduction. And under the OBBBA, companies can once again enjoy 100% bonus depreciation for property acquired after Jan. 19.

Geopolitical tensions

The ongoing wars between Ukraine and Russia and Israel and Gaza could increasingly involve the US. Both Israel and Russia have ignored President Trump's urging to end the wars. Trump's tariffs have also increased the tensions between the US and China and the US and the European Union. While shots aren't being fired, the barbed language between the trading partners should be monitored.

Little room for error

Meanwhile, the S&P 500 has recently hit new record levels and its forward P/E is roughly 23.4x. That's below compared to its record level of roughly 28–29× in mid-2024. In addition, the index remains extremely concentrated. The Magnificent-7—Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla—still make up about 34 percent of the S&P 500's market capitalization. It's an abnormally large concentration that leaves investors who own stock indexes exposed to the Mag-7's performance. So far, earnings growth by companies in the S&P 500 and the Mag-7 have justified their lofty valuations. Looking forward, Wall Street's analysts expect the S&P 500 earnings to grow roughly 14 percent in 2026.

Investors should always aim to make informed decisions that weigh the risks and opportunities in the market. Our team at WHZ is here to help. Call us at (860) 928-2341 or book online at whzwealth.com to schedule a complimentary discovery session with our team. Together, we can create a strategy designed to give you Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Authored by Senior Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Laurence Hale AAMS, CRPS®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084. 860-928-2341. All indices are unmanaged, and investors cannot actually invest directly into an index. Unlike investments, indices do not incur management fees, charges, or expenses. Past performance does not guarantee future results. 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.

A snapshot of September 1776



KILLINGLY AT 300

MARGARET WEAVER

Mary Kies Bench Dedication: Saturday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m. Lions Park, Lewis Blvd., Danielson. Sponsored by the Killingly Historic District Commission. Mary Kies is considered by many to be the first woman to be granted a U. S. patent in her own right. All are welcome. Visit the Mary Kies exhibit at the Killingly Public Library during regular business hours.

DAR Book Discussion. You do not have to belong to the DAR to participate. Killingly Public Library. Friday, Oct. 17, 1-2 p.m. "Rosa Parks, My Story" will be discussed. Stop at the library desk for a copy of the book.

Author Talk and Book Signing sponsored by Putnam Public Library and Aspinock Historical Society. Saturday, Oct. 4, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Before Salem---Witch Hunting in the Connecticut River Valley 1647-1663 by Richard S. Ross III. 200 School St., Putnam. All are welcome.

Abolition and Underground Railroad in Northeastern Connecticut. Saturday, Oct. 11. 1-2:30 p.m. Putnam Public Library. Margaret Weaver, Killingly Municipal Historian and author of Perspectives of Putnam will do a PowerPoint presentation that covers people and sites from Canterbury to Woodstock. Special focus on Putnam's Asa Cutler and Killingly's Henry Hammond. There will be time for discussion. This is Walktober event #129.

Following the above presentation on Saturday, Oct. 11, at about 2:45 p.m., Putnam's Municipal Historian Bill Pearsall will do a companion walk pointing out several houses and sites which were used by the underground railroad in Putnam. This is Walktober walk # 134.

The Killingly Conservation Commission will sponsor a walk at Cat Hollow Park, 25 Cat Hollow Road, Killingly (enter off Dog Hill Road) on Sunday, October 12 from 1-3 p.m. View the 35-foot-high waterfall and bubbling Whetstone Brook. Learn about mill history and unique plantings in the park. Easy, handicapped accessible, about 1 mi. Those who wish a longer hike can cross the bridge to moderately rough woodland. This is Walktober walk #138.

Dennis Landis will present a walk/talk entitled Social Ferment and the Old Meeting House at the 1771 Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 7 Canterbury Rd., Brooklyn from 3-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12. Learn about religious crises and impassioned social movements. Subjects include Israel Putnam, Josiah Whitney, Rev. Samuel J. May, Bronson Alcott, and Celia Burleigh. Find the Unitarian Universalist Society on Facebook. This is Walktober walk # 140

I recently had the pleasure of attending author Robert Ernest Hubbard's book talk on Major General Israel Putnam, Hero of the American Revolution, at Putnam Public Library. The book is excellent and is available through Amazon.com. This was the initial presentation of the Putnam's 250th anniversary presentations sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society. Putnam Library has received a grant for programming from PBS/WETA Studios in conjunction with the release of "The Revolution" by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. There will be a showing of an exclusive preview of the docuseries on Oct. 25 at 12:30 p.m. at Putnam Library.

As we approach 2026 and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, I like to pause to reflect upon what was happening in the war and here in Northeastern Connecticut during September 1775, 250 years ago. A quick internet search provided the following summary: "In September 1775, the American Revolution was escalating with the initiation of the Invasion of Canada by Continental Army forces led by Brigadier General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold. The Americans also began the Siege of Fort St. John as part of this offensive, a crucial step in capturing Quebec City. Meanwhile, General George Washington was focused on organizing the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts, and British forces under General Thomas Gage were still bottled up in Boston by the American siege of the city that began in April." (AI).

I think the residents of Killingly's First or Middle Church Society (present-day Putnam Heights area) had the War much in mind as their husbands/sons/brothers marched to various battles, but they must have been in a state of shock and grief as well about events much closer to home. The Aug. 25, 1775 death in Hartford of young Reverend Joseph Howe, son of Damaris (Cady) Howe Brown of the Cady-Copp Cottage, surely saddened many. A promising young minister had passed away. What a loss! According to Ellen Larned's "History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vo. II," Howe had been the pastor of the New South Church in Boston until it was forced to close due to the War as its members dispersed. She described him as "of a frail, weak, and crazy constitution, enfeebled by hard study and labor", but he had been in much demand as a pastor after he was graduated from Yale in 1765. After the church in Boston closed, Howe journeyed to the Hartford area to be near his betrothed, Elizabeth Whitman, daughter of Rev. Elnathan Whitman, and he passed away while there. He was interred in the Ancient Burying Ground in Hartford (Larned, p.132, 133-Swordsmith edition; CT U.S. Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629-1934; Hartford, CT, U.S., List of Burials, Center Church Burying Ground (both Ancestry.com; for more on Joseph Howe see Larned, Vo. II, p.75).

And then, matters got worse. Joseph Howe's step-father, Reverend Aaron Brown, pastor of the Congregational Church in Killingly's First or Middle Society, took ill on his way home from the funeral and passed away in Ashford September 12, 1775. Brown's children had predeceased him, but he did leave his bereft widow Damarais and other Howe stepchildren in addition to siblings Elizabeth Loomis of Torrington, Titus Brown of Norfolk, Rachel Shelps of Canaan, and Huldah Griswold of Windsor. Several of Brown's siblings had already passed away: Cornelius, Abigail (Barber), and Hepzibah (Brown). (CT U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999 at Ancestry.com).

Now the Middle Society was without a pastor in war time when one was greatly needed for emotional and spiritual guidance. Keep in mind that in colonial Killingly, the churches/meetinghouses were the focal point of society---the hub around which the community revolved. It would be many years before a satisfactory pastor was settled. Oh, how disruptive and stressful the war years were! (Larned, op. cit., p. 273).

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

Putnam Library awarded grant for preview screening of new Ken Burns documentary

PUTNAM — On July 21, Putnam Public Library was selected to receive a grant as part of PBS and WETA's national engagement campaign for "The American Revolution," a sweeping six-part, 12-hour series from Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt that explores the rich, complex origins of the United States, as we enter our nation's observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The award letter stated, "Your proposal stood out among more than 440 applications from libraries across the country. We're thrilled to support your efforts to create meaningful programming that connects your community to the series' central themes of liberty, democracy, civic engagement, and storytelling."

A total of 42 grants were awarded nationwide, and only two were awarded in Connecticut. We received a $750 programming grant and access to multiple series screening event reels and related educational resources.

Putnam Library is well into Revolutionary/America's 250th program planning process, and we are especially excited to share the news of our exclusive "The American Revolution" preview screening event Saturday, Oct. 25 at 12:30 p.m., to be followed by a post-viewing discussion. Location: Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Room 109. No registration is required. For more information, please contact Nicole Flagg Nichols, Adult Services Librarian at adultservices@putnamct.us or call the library: 860-963-6826.

About the series: "The American Revolution," a new six-part, 12-hour documentary series that explores the country's founding and its eight-year War for Independence, will premiere on Sunday, Nov. 16 and air for six consecutive nights through Friday, Nov. 21 from 8-10 p.m. on PBS. The full series will be available to stream beginning Sunday, Nov. 16 at PBS.org and on the PBS App.

The much-anticipated series, which has been in production for eight years, was directed and produced by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt and written by long-time collaborator Geoffrey C. Ward. The filmmakers and PBS scheduled the broadcast for 2025, the 250th anniversary of the start of the war, which began in the spring of 1775, more than a year before the Declaration of Independence.

New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

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

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

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

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

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

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MORE INFO:







JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal
508-769-5007
jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President
508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

Add a fall display to your garden, front steps or balcony



Melinda Myers

An autumn display of mums, straw bales, pumpkin and ornamental squash dress up this landscape

Cooler temperatures signal a change of seasons and an opportunity to add some fall décor to the landscape. Garden centers are filled with fall favorites like pumpkins, ornamental squash, pansies, mums, asters and more. Don't stop there, look for new ways to add a bit of fall to your front steps, balcony and garden beds.

Set the stage with small or large straw bales. They make nice backdrops and stands for potted plants, pumpkins, decorative squash and more. Once fall has passed, use them for winter mulch in garden beds and insulation for hardy plants overwintering in containers outdoors. Or save them for next summer to use as garden mulch or convert them into a straw bale garden.

Use corn stalks and broom corn to frame an entryway or add vertical interest in the garden. Secure them to a nearby post, tree trunk or sink a stake in the garden to use as a support.

Set pumpkins and large ornamental squash in the garden among perennials or to cover fading summer annuals. Place a few small pumpkins or gourds in containers or hanging baskets that are getting a bit thin on top. You'll enjoy the added color and fall décor they provide.

Look for other ways to include pumpkins in your fall landscape.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Remove the top, scoop out the inside, add some drainage holes and use it for a planter. Fill the pumpkin with potting mix and plant or set a potted plant inside. Trailing pansies like cool wave pansies, small mums and asters, ornamental cabbage, or other fall favorites work well. When the plants fade and winter arrives, you'll have a biodegradable pot ready for the compost pile.

Stack a few pumpkins or squash, one on top of the other, for added vertical interest. Or stack and fill baskets, pots and colanders and fill each layer with pumpkins and gourds. Add a few fall leaves or American bittersweet to the display.

Carve an opening in the side of your pumpkin and scoop out the insides. Create a fall or Halloween display or gnome house. Use faux moss, figurines and your imagination.

Welcome family and guests with a basket or container of dried plant material collected from your landscape. Scour your landscape for trees and shrubs with colorful berries. Collect a few flowering stems of ornamental grasses, dried flowers, and seedpods. Include some interesting twists to the arrangement with corkscrew willow, Harry Lauders Walking stick or grape vines. Anything that looks good in the garden will add to your arrangement's beauty.

Wire the stems together and secure onto a wire basket. Or secure your arrangement in pots and baskets that drain. Use chicken wire at the bottom and crisscrossed wires over the top of the container to form a secure base for the arrangement. Add a few rocks in the bottom, if needed, for a counterweight. Avoid windy locations that may topple or destroy your creation.

Once your display is in place, relax and enjoy a cup of hot cider or cocoa. Then start planning for your winter garden display. Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Area residents graduate from University of Connecticut

STORRS, Conn. — Following is a list of local students who complete requirements for degrees and graduated from the University of Connecticut following the summer 2025 term.

Undergraduate

DANIELSON-Makailah Shaw.

MOOSUP-Emily Roberge.

MYSTIC-Hassan Saiyed.

PLAINFIELD-Gianna Ranieri.

POMFRET CENTER-Remi Benton.

STORRS-Jasaiah Gathings, Braden Goodale, Sr.,, Guangrui Guan, Xuanang Lu, Jensen O'Meara, Yining Shang, Colby Soroka.

TOLLAND-Alexandra Bradley, Madeline Buske, Caitlin Coonan, Aaron Lange, Harrison Schubach.

WILLIAMNTIC-Anthony Mensah, Awa Modi, Ryan Stollman.

WOODSTOCK-Kathleen Campbell.

Graduate

POMFRET CENTER-Thomas Bergendahl.

STORRS-Rebecca Gonzalez, Ozcan Karabag, Devi Khaindrava, Veeravenkatapraveenraja Kosuri, Dilshanmadhusanka Silvakannangarage, Zhikun Xing, Jinghang Zhuo.

TOLLAND-Jennifer Deragon, Farnaz Khosravi.

WILLIMANTIC-Zahir Aghayev, Rahul Anand, Guilherme Bertola, Marcos Garciabarrero, Johan Jarl, Chuiyi Lee, Hyosun Lee, Luis Mercadodiaz, Kiarash Naghavikhanghah,

Mayowa Oladele, Kiran Paudel, Juliette Stecenko.

Free live puppet show for children and families in Putnam

PUTNAM — Children and their families are invited to a free, live puppet show on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m. at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St., Putnam. No tickets are needed. Just show up. Children will be able to make their own free paper bag puppets after the show. It's all sponsored by the Akela Club Players and Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam.

For information, call (860) 928-5873. Parking is available behind the building and in the municipal parking lot at 175 Providence St.

BARK

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Event highlights

Bark Harvest will feature activities designed for both pets and their human companions. Event-goers will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite dog photos to be included in a 2026 Bark Harvest Studio calendar. Those interested in entering their furry friend in the contest (dog or otherwise) can do so by scheduling a photo shoot with Charlene's Portrait Studio. The $40 fee will be donated to local animal shelters and future Pawsitively Killingly initiatives. Sessions can be booked online from the event website at killinglyba.org/BarkHarvest.

For the pets, there will be a dog costume contest and pet parade, a dog "pie" eating contest, Trick-or-Dog-Treat Trail, bobbing for pumpkins, paw painting art station, and an agility course hosted by Ocean State Agility Club. Pets must be leashed at all times while at the event.

For the people, there will be a dog and pet-related vendor marketplace featuring an array of vendors including Kuhl-K9 Training, Strout's Custom Acrylics/Happy Hounds LLC, Spicy Leashes, author Julia Kneeland, Fetch dog treat bakery and more.

Eventgoers can also snap a "pumpkin patch pup photo" with their furry friends, watch a dog adoption parade, participate in a scavenger hunt, take part in a dog yoga demonstration, and purchase tickets for fun pet- and fall-themed raffle prizes. Fall-themed food and beverages will also be available and music will be provided by C. Hamilton Studios.

All proceeds from Bark Harvest will directly support local pet shelters and fund future "Pawsitively Killingly" initiatives. For more information about Bark Harvest, including volunteer opportunities, sponsorship packages, and event updates, visit killinglyba.org/BarkHarvest.

Celebrating Killingly's unique dog-friendly environment and "Country Chic" appeal

Killingly has developed a distinctive identity as a destination for dog enthusiasts, particularly along Main Street, where visitors can find an impressive array of canine-focused or themed establishments. Within a single mile, the town's Main Street boasts businesses such as BarkSociety grooming and pet gift shop, Two Dogs Coffee Shop, Chubby Dog Coffee Co. & Gaming Bar, and CrossFit Underdog Union – creating a one-of-a-kind cluster of dog-themed businesses that reflects the community's love for four-legged companions.

This exciting new event marks the first initiative in the Association's new "Pawsitively Killingly" campaign, designed to highlight the town's remarkable concentration of dog-related and dog-themed businesses while also celebrating its unique combination of small-town Americana charm and cultured, craft-style breweries, restaurants, and retail experiences.

"We recognized that Killingly has something truly special with our concentration of dog-related businesses," said KBA President Amy Brunet. "The 'Pawsitively Killingly' initiative aims to celebrate this unique aspect of our town while bringing together both local community members and tourists from across the region to enjoy all that Killingly has to offer."

In addition to the town's numerous dog-themed establishment, Killingly is also home to the world-famous Logee's Greenhouse, gift and flower shops featuring local artisans, a sweets shop for the kids (and kids at heart), and craft breweries. Killingly is also home to a wide variety of cuisine options including Thai, Lao, Chinese, African, Greek, and Mexican restaurants as well as artisanal bakeries and establishments that cater to vegan, gluten free and healthy, whole food options. Nestled in the heart of "The Last Green Valley," the town also offers plenty for outdoor enthusiasts, from hiking trails, kayaking and forested state parks to orchards, skydiving and, of course, a dog park.

OBITUARY

Denise O. Allen, 69

Denise O. Allen, 69 was born June 12, 1951. She was the daughter of Omer Poirier and Claire (Savoie) Poirier of Danielson Ct. She was 69 years old and passed away from a long illness at UMASS Hospital. Denise was a 1968 graduate of Putnam Catholic Academy. From 1969-1973 she was employed at Southern New England Telephone . After that she was employed at Beit Bros. grocery store from 1978- 1988. She also worked for the Town of Killingly from 1988 until she retired. At the Town of Killingly she was a social worker, also receiving her Associate Degree in Social Work from QVCC. She then worked for the planning and zoning department for the Town of Killingly until retirement. Denise was also a member of the East Killingly Fire Department from 1984-1995. Gaining her EMT license and moving from a rank firefighter to Lieutenant. She was predeceased by her son Brent S. Allen, a niece Penny Allen and her brother Richard Poirier. She is survived by her two sons: Eric Allen of Danielson, and Brent E. Allen of Brooklyn Ct. She also leaves behind her two grandchildren Jeremy Allen of Plainfield and Macy Allen of Griswold. Also Scott Allen of Plainfield, Nikki Grow or Fort Pierce, FL., and Elise St. PIerre of Rockledge, FL. Graveside services will be held Friday October 3, 2025, 10am at Holy Cross Cemetery in Danielson Ct. Denise loved knitting and crocheting and spending time with her grandchildren. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the PKD Foundation P.O. Box 871847 Kansas City. Mo. 64187. tillinghastfh.com

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

RELAY

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responsibility to ensure that the time, energy, and generosity of our donors and volunteers deliver the greatest possible return and impact," said Santosuosso. "Each year, we conduct a thoughtful review of all events, considering factors such as fundraising performance, potential for growth, associated costs, volunteer recruitment, staffing, and overall community engagement. By focusing our resources where they can help the most people and save the most lives, we remain true to our mission."

Santosuosso said the effort of local event organizers and teams have not been in vain. The money raised over the years has helped contribute to groundbreaking cancer prevention, detection, and treatment research, patient services, public advocacy and education. While the Northeastern Connecticut event will be no more, Santosuosso said there are plenty of other opportunities for locals to contribute to larger continuing Relays and that the dedication of the Quiet Corner's participants will not be forgotten.

"We are sincerely grateful for everything this community has done and the difference they have made," Santosuosso concluded.

Those interested in continuing their involvement in Relay for Life are encouraged to join other local events in 2026 including the Relay for Life of East Central Connecticut or Relay for Life of Southeastern CT.

RIVERSIDE

continued from page A1

share his concepts with the town.

"Today, the 33-acre site sits overgrown, contaminated, and littered with debris: a reminder of both what Thompson once was and what it has lost. This is not the face of Thompson. The people of this town deserve better. And now—after decades of waiting—better is finally coming," Letskus said. "At 630 Riverside Drive, a bold vision is taking shape. Instead of ruin and neglect, a new, vibrant hub of life, culture, and community will rise."

In addition to Letskus, the meeting will also feature St. Onge, Thompson Economic Development Commission Chairman Brian Yacino, Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek, and Wayne Bugden of One Earth Environmental.

The public informational presentartion is set to take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center at the Thompson Public Library on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Town officials have released several videos of the MSRAC meetings, which include conceptual plan presentations, on the Town of Thompson YouTube Channel.

Master wildlife conservationist to speak at CT Audubon Center

POMFRET — Paul Colburn, a CT DEEP master wildlife conservationist, will present "The Fisher in Connecticut" on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m. at The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd., Pomfret Center. Adult admission is $5 for CAS members, $10 for non-members. There is no charge for children aged 12 and under.

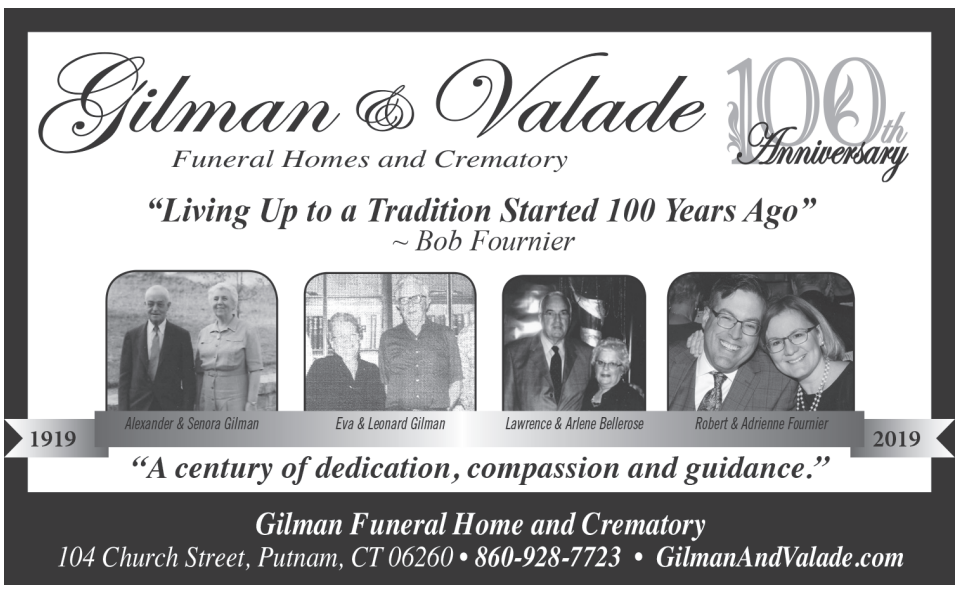
Colburn will review the natural history of the fisher, including its habitat needs, diet, behavior, and reproduction. The fisher is native to Connecticut but was extirpated from the state by the early twentieth century, due to over-trapping and habitat loss. While the fisher was reintroduced to northwestern Connecticut, it repopulated the northeastern corner of the state naturally.

The U.S. National Park System's Northeast Temperate Network (NETN) initiative monitors biological communities in thirteen member parks. It reports fisher success is indicative of a mature, healthy forest ecosystem. Its biologists suggest the fisher may to a degree be filling the position of the top tier predator in forests.

In Connecticut, there is concern that the fisher population has been declining for about the last ten years. The same is true in New Hampshire. Both states are trying to discover an explanation for the falling numbers. Paul will describe the three-year DEEP/UConn research study underway to determine why this is happening.

A question and answer period will follow Colburn's presentation.

The Connecticut Audubon Society protects Connecticut's birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through conservation, education, and advocacy.



LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY
METERED USE
LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-4:30pm, Tuesday 8-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. By mail, online, or in our drop box.

The first installment of metered use is due September 1, 2025. If payment is not received on or before October 1, 2025 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month, or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of $2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
August 29, 2025
September 5, 2025
September 26, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Hazel M Johnson (25-00319)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 10, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Mark M Blake ,
c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE,LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260
September 26, 2025

NOTICE

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50p (a), the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) announces that, on September 18, 2025, the Council issued Findings of Fact, an Opinion, and a Decision and Order approving an application from The Towers, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and associated equipment located at 90 Woodstock Avenue West (Route 171), Woodstock, Connecticut. This application record is available for public inspection in the Council's office, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut.
September 26, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Robert Eugene Cottrell (25-00326)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 16, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Susan J Law,
116 Old Snake Hill Road, Chepachet, RI 02814
September 26, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Paul B Mclain, AKA
Paul Byron Mclain (25-00357)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 16, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Tammy Smith
c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE,LLC,
155 PROVIDENCE STREET,
PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260
September 26, 2025

TOWN OF KILLINGLY/BOROUGH OF DANIELSON/SOUTH KILLINGY FIRE DISTRICT TAX COLLECTORS
LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in our drop box.

The second quarter installment of taxes for real estate and personal property becomes due on October 1, 2025 and becomes delinquent after November 3, 2025 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month with a minimum interest charge of $2.00.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killinglyct.gov.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
September 26, 2025
October 10, 2025
October 24, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Rodney R Munger (25-00002)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Barabara Munger,
203 Brickyard Road,
N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255
September 26, 2025

Pomfret holds Fall Festival and 5K

POMFRET — Pomfret Recreation Park was the site of two events to kick off the fall season, the town's fall festival and the PCS Harvest Hustle 5K & Kids Run. Both events were a huge draw for the community, showcasing areas best runners who took to a trail around the Recreation Park grounds while also putting a spotlight on many local organizations that help make Pomfret the wonderful community to live and grow. The event also featured kids games, a photo booth, and a pie eating contest bringing Pomfret together for an afternoon of fun and community.



Jason Bleau

The Pomfret Lions Club had a big presence at Pomfret Fall Festival.



Pomfret First Selectwoman Maureen Nicholson poses for a photo at a photo booth that produced bookmarks to commemorate the day.



Rebecca Byler and Brian Westler were the top female and male runners to finish the PCS Harvest Hustle 5K & Kids Run. Werstler was the overall winner and Byler was third overall.



The New England Mountain Biking Association, who hosts an adventure series in Pomfret, attended the Fall Festival to spread the work about their organization.



The Pomfret Green Team and Pomfret Conservation Commission had a joint booth to spread the word about Pomfret's natural beauty.



Flat Rock provided plenty of classic covers to entertain visitors to Pomfret's Recreation Park.



The runners of the Run 169 Society pose for a photo following the PCS Harvest Hustle 5K & Kids Run.



Young visitors to the Fall Festival take part in a classic game of Duck, Duck, Goose.