



WHAT?

KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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Killingly plans ceremony to retire "Redmen" Mascot

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — After the Board of Education voted to once again retire the "Redmen" mascot over the summer, plans are taking shape for officially move on from the moniker as the search for a new name continues.

The mascot has long been a contentious issue for Killingly with the Board of Education initially retiring the name in 2019 amid national movements to retire Native American labels for both municipal and national sports teams. Voters elected a Republican majority who swiftly reinstated the "Redmen" label. The use of the name has cost the town more than \$94,000 in state grant funding for violating a state law prohibiting the use of Native American mascots. The name because a talking point once again earlier this year after voters elected a Democratic majority in 2023. An ad-hoc committee was established at the start of the year to discuss the transition and in June the Board of Education officially voted to retire the mascot again, this time deciding to bring members of the public and stakeholders into the fold to be a part of the decision.

After months of discussion, it appears plans are now in motion to finally bid the "Redmen" farewell. Kevin Marcoux, a Board of Education member, former Athletic Director for Killingly High School, and Chair of the mascot ad-hoc committee, updated the School Committee on Sept. 23, revealing that at the recommendation of Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash-Ditzel the committee will be turning to Killingly's historic roots to seek a new team name.

"Dr. Nash shared an idea to arrange a meeting with the Killingly Town Historian and stakeholders from town. The objective of the meeting or meetings would be to learn more about the history of Killingly and possibly identify potential mascot ideas. Those ideas would then be vetted at a later date," said Marcoux.

Stakeholders receiving invitations for that meeting will include coaches, teachers, student athletes, Board

Turn To **MASCOT** page **A11**

Siblings launch Neighbors Against Cancer initiative

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — A new group is making its mark in the Quiet Corner to help ease the financial burden of those with cancer with a few familiar names leading the charge.

Neighbors Against Cancer (NAC) is a relatively new organization working to create a fund to offset expenses that insurance or larger fundraising organization can't cover for those recovering from or receiving treatment for different cancers. The group is led by sisters Patty and Gail Erskine known for their years of service as co-chairs for Relay for Life of Northeastern Connecticut. The long-time advocates of cancer research and fundraising have started their new initiative to focus on the hidden expenses of recovery.

"These big organizations do fabulous work, but even with insurance and these companies there are so many holes to fill, and we want to help with that," said Patty Erskine. "We spoke with someone at Day Kimball who told us some of the things insurance doesn't cover like a wig could cost anywhere between a few hundred to a few thousand dollars or someone who had breast cancer and had both breasts removed, they don't cover the prosthet-



Courtesy

Sisters Parry and Gail Erskine have launched a new cancer relief organization called Neighbors Against Cancer (NAC).

ics, and they could cost up to \$10,000. We want to be the people that help that person."

Erskine added that for many cancer patients these expenses can interrupt their ability to pay for everyday expenses like food or gas, so providing a fund to help pay for these hidden costs can be an essential tool to preserving these patients' abilities to live a normal and functional life.

NAC recently held a fundraiser at 4G's Pizza in Danielson, a craft fair inspired by similar events the sisters led when they worked with Relay for Life. The group is planning future events as well including holiday giftwrapping, a medium at Westfield Church in Danielson in December, and a Halloween party on Oct. 26 at 4G's Pizza. All the money raised from these events is being kept in a trust while NAC is working towards being certified as a non-profit. The funding will be made available to qualified applicants who reside in Windham County. However, applicants do not need to receive their treatment in Windham County. The organization is also establishing their social media presence and website as they finalize their non-profit status. Information regarding their funding and events will be made available through these channels.

Day Kimball Hospital Centreville Bank Golf Classic raises more than \$126,000



PUTNAM — The 40th Annual Day Kimball Hospital (DKH) Centreville Bank Golf Classic, held at the Connecticut National Golf Club on Friday, Sept. 13 raised more than \$126,000 with over 260 participants and volunteers in attendance. Net proceeds benefit DKH's efforts in enhancing critical patient care initiatives focused on cardiology, orthopedics, and diagnostic imaging services.

More than 125 local and regional businesses and organizations, as well as individual community members and families, participated in sponsoring the event to support expanding access to healthcare in Northeast Connecticut. This is the eighth consecutive year that Centreville Bank has partnered with DKH as the title sponsor, contributing \$25,000 toward Day

Kimball Hospital initiatives throughout the year.

Other major sponsors of the event included Gold Sponsors Ensemble Health Partners, Garfunkel Wild, P.C., and WIN Waste Innovations; and Silver Sponsors America's First Network Credit Union Northeastern CT Healthcare Division, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Colonial Health & Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC, Downes Construction Co., LLC, Linemaster Switch Corp., NES Health, Pinnacle Healthcare Consulting, Putnam Plastics Corporation, Reid & Riege, P.C., The Wagner Law Group, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors.

"Centreville Bank is a committed partner of community events like

Day Kimball Hospital's Golf Classic," said Harold M. Horvat, president, CEO, and chairman of the board, Centreville Bank. "As a community bank, we know how important Day Kimball Hospital is to the people of northeast Connecticut, and we are proud of what we've been able to help accomplish through our long-standing partnership."

Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health, underscored the importance of Centreville's commitment and thanked all who participated: "We couldn't have asked for a more successful turnout to celebrate our event's 40th year. The generosity and dedication of our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers make all the difference in our ability to expand access to care in the community. Events

like these exemplify the spirit of collaboration and commitment that fuels our mission to deliver high-quality care, close to home. It's more than just a golf tournament—it's an investment in the health and well-being of our region."

Tournament highlights included several hole-in-one contests, a mid-day presentation and salute by the American Legion L'Homme Burdick Post 21 Danielson Color Guard escorted by the Manchester Pipe Band, and a special performance of the National Anthem by Kathryn Bargnesi, Corporate Admissions & Marketing Director, Davis Place Healthcare Center.

"We are incredibly grateful to have such a generous community of individuals and businesses who come together each year to support our hospital and its mission," said Kristen Willis, director of development, Day Kimball Health. "It was a phenomenal day of fabulous weather, great course conditions, and most importantly, an atmosphere filled with excitement and a level of community support and spirit that makes us extremely proud and privileged to be Northeastern Connecticut's community hospital."

From its modest beginnings 40 years ago at Harrisville Golf Course sponsored by Steve Bousquet and Jumbo

Turn To **GOLF** page **A11**

Thompson concludes 65 Main public workshop series

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — After a year of discussion and presentations Thompson's 65 Main St. project is ready to move into its next phase which involves seeking grant funding and continuing the physical renovations of the facility.

Thompson officials and project stakeholders have hosted twelve informational sessions over the last year as part of the requirements of a USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) grant allowing Thompson to garner feedback from members of the community and better inform them on multiple aspects of the project. The end result will see 65 Main St., the former home of the town's Superintendent of Schools and TEEG, repurposed as a Small Business Support Center with a permaculture food forest and education elements on site. Thompson Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek said the workshops have been a vital part of the long-term planning and execution of the initiative.

"Getting direct feedback from Thompson residents, business owners and officials regarding the future function of the facility at 65 Main helped to narrow down our areas of focus and create an 'order of action' for bringing programming for the facility to life. For example: feedback from the planning games, both in the regular workshop and at an abbreviated version for the Tourtellotte Memorial High School leadership students, and from the survey to farmers clarified that local businesses owner and farmers all believe they would benefit from access to marketing services and internships through the high school career pathways. That is just one example of many that arose through the year, where the discussion in the monthly workshops led to a refinement of the plans to launch the facility after renovations are complete," Penn-Gesek said.

Now the project enters two different phases that will unfold simultaneously. The first is the town's USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grant which will span the next six months incorporating writing the full master and business plans. The master plan will include a breakdown of how the different elements of the project will be prioritized and brought online. The second element is renovations and building around the 65 Main project which has already begun.

Turn To **SERIES** page **A11**

Rectory School announces Julie Anderson as next Head of School

POMFRET — The Rectory School Board of Trustees announces the appointment of Julie Anderson as the next Head of School, effective July 1, 2025. Following a rigorous selection process, Ms. Anderson will be the institution's first female Head of School and the sixth in its history.

Anderson, who currently serves as the Head of School at Cheshire Academy, was selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates due to her extensive background in independent school education, strong leadership experience, and unwavering dedication to fostering an inclusive and dynamic learning community. Anderson brings a wealth

of experience from her career as an educator and administrator, making her a fitting choice to guide Rectory School into its next chapter.

Anderson holds a Bachelor's and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University, as well as a Master's in Education from Southern Connecticut State University. Her earlier career includes a variety of roles in education, from teaching middle and high school Spanish to mentoring student affinity groups. Since 2010, Anderson has held key leadership positions at Cheshire Academy, including Middle School Head and Academic Dean, before stepping into the role of Head of School, which she has

held for seven years.

Anderson has demonstrated exceptional leadership in financial management and strategic planning, leading to significant growth in both enrollment and student retention. Working closely with the Board of Trustees, she developed innovative, long-term strategies to secure the school's financial stability and future success. Beyond her administrative achievements, Anderson is deeply committed to building a vibrant school culture where students

thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Her passion for student success—whether in the classroom, on the field, or on stage—aligns perfectly with Rectory's mission to foster well-rounded, engaged learners.

Anderson's appointment marks an exciting new era for Rectory School. Her strong regional ties, leadership experience, and dedication to inclusion and belonging are in perfect alignment with the school's values and goals for the future. Her financial acumen and strategic vision posi-

tion Rectory for continued success and growth in the years ahead.

"We are thrilled to welcome Julie Anderson as our next Head of School," said Kevin T. Lewis, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Her expertise and passion for education will be instrumental in leading our school into its next phase of excellence."

Julie Anderson will officially step into her role as Head of School on July 1, 2025. In the meantime, a Transition Committee will be formed to play a pivotal role in guiding

her transition as Head-elect, while also organizing celebratory events for Fred and Marcia. Supported by RG175, the Transition Committee will coordinate two to three campus visits and will maintain consistent communication between current Head of School Fred Williams and Julie Anderson. Additionally, RG175 will mentor Julie throughout her first year as Head, through June 2026.

The Rectory School community eagerly anticipates the positive impact that Anderson will bring to the school.

Charlie Panu named Thompson's Veteran of the Month

THOMPSON — Charlie Panu, of Gawron Road on Thompson Hill has been chosen by the nominating committee as the Town of Thompson's third recipient of the newly formed Veteran of the Month Program.

Panu is the October, 2024 awardee, and the community is proud to honor him in that capacity. He served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969 as an infantryman training at Fort Hood, Texas and was a Sargent in the 4th Division serving in the Vietnam War.

Panu was a Point Man, serving on the dangerous front lines where it was commonly known that a very large percentage of Point Men in Vietnam never returned home to their families. He also witnessed the ugly and gruesome side of the war on a daily basis.

He is a well decorated Vietnam veteran, having been awarded many awards. Among them are the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation Medal,

Expert Marksman and expert Pistol Marksman, and the Connecticut Veterans Service Award.

Panu is married to Henrietta Groh Panu, and the couple just recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations on this great milestone as well to both Charlie and Henrietta.

Thank you for your service, from a very grateful community.

Each month, an Advisory Committee of the Veterans Affairs Office will choose a deserving Veteran who has honorably served in our Armed Forces. The honoree will be presented with a commemorative plaque at a Board of Selectman meeting by the members of the Board of Selectman and the Thompson Veterans Officer, along with other public recognition. Please send us your nomination to the Thompson Veterans Office. You may also download the nominating form from our Thompson Website or by clicking on this link: www.thompson.org. You may also pick a form up at the Veterans Office in the Town Hall. Thank you for your assistance with this important endeavor.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Exclamation
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. Popular type of device
- 18. Alcoholic beverage
- 19. Ancient Olympic Site
- 20. Sharpshoots
- 21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Measuring instruments
- 26. Midsection body part
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted
- 32. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 33. Yell
- 34. Civil rights city in Alabama
- 39. Young boy
- 42. Type of sea bass
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Spy group
- 51. Florida is famous for them
- 56. Irritating individuals
- 57. Luck
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. WWII diarist Frank
- 60. Peyton's younger brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Type of overseas tax or levy
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Wake up

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Works of body art
- 2. Israeli politician Abba
- 3. Renowned desert
- 4. Eat greedily
- 5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution
- 6. Beat
- 7. Bloodsucker
- 8. From a place already noted
- 9. Counted on
- 10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
- 11. Something one can make
- 13. One who abstains
- 17. Wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Bacterial infection of the skin
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What engaged couples ultimately say
- 28. Crony
- 29. Where one begins (abbr.)
- 35. Architectural designation
- 36. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 40. Indigenous peoples
- 41. Deflections
- 42. Circulating life force
- 43. Executes with a rope
- 44. Natives of an island nation
- 45. Girls
- 47. Logician and philosopher
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Form of Persian language
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Mathematical designation

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Woodstock Lions Club elects youngest ever president

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Lions Club is thrilled to announce the election of its youngest president, Nicholas Webster, who, at just 19 years old, is already making waves in our community. Currently studying Music at the School of Fine Arts at the University of Connecticut, Nicholas joined the Lions at age 18, having begun his volunteer journey at just 14.

"I am honored to lead such a dedicated group of individuals," Webster said. "I invite everyone to join us and experience the joy of giving back to our community."

Webster encourages all community members to attend a meeting to see firsthand the positive impact we're making. Founded in 1956, the Woodstock Lions Club is a small but dedicated group of volunteers with ambitious goals, including conducting photographic eye screenings at Woodstock Public Schools and Woodstock Academy and offering college scholarships to high school seniors of Woodstock.

Our fundraising efforts directly benefit the community and support local nonprofits. One highlight is our ice cream booth at the Woodstock Fair, featuring delicious soft serve and shakes. We also provide tent rentals (20x20 and 20x30) for various events.

In the past year alone, we awarded two scholarships and donated to many community service projects, impacting countless lives in Woodstock and the surrounding towns.

Join us in our mission to serve and uplift our community. Nicholas challenges you to attend a meeting and discover how you can make a difference alongside us! For more information about becoming a member, visit our website at https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/woodstock_ct/.

Help keep the community warm at Fuel Fund benefit concert

Killingly High School Class of '69 planning reunion

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School Class of 1969 is holding its 55th Class Reunion on Nov. 2. For details, contact Ted Haveles at 860-978-0316 or via email at KHST69@gmail.com.

BROOKLYN — For the past 25 winters, the Danielson Methodist Fuel Fund has assisted dozens of low and fixed-income households in the Killingly, Plainfield, Brooklyn and Sterling communities with heating assistance to get them through the winter when state and federal heat assistance funds were not available or have been exhausted.

The Fuel Fund receives no governmental money relying totally on private donations from area faith communities, businesses, organizations and individuals who want to make a difference in their communities. We also dedicate up to 10% of our funds to assist the homeless in our area with tents, sleeping bags, and cold weather necessities.

On Sunday, Oct. 27 at 3 p.m., the acclaimed a cappella ensemble, Take Note! will perform an afternoon benefit concert for the Fuel Fund at the Federated Church of Christ in Brooklyn. A free will donation will be accepted at the door and a reception will follow the concert in the fellowship hall.

This is the second year that Take Note! has graced us with a concert. Last year's concert was very well received by a "packed house" who thoroughly enjoyed the ensemble's treatment of jazz, gospel, classic, swing and do wop favorites. To hear a talented group of twenty or more singers in person is a rare treat and not to be missed!

You are most cordially invited to attend the concert and to assist us in making sure that on the coming cold, winter nights, dozens of our neighbors will be able to stay warm.

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Thompson teachers earn multiple professional recognitions

THOMPSON — Tucked away in the upmost northeastern corner of Connecticut, several teachers in Thompson Public Schools have earned national and state recognition for their high teaching talent. It is no secret that all Thompson teachers are skillfully dedicated to the students in our school system, but it is exciting that teachers are now being recognized statewide and nationally.

With great Tiger pride, we wish to highlight the following teachers for their accomplishments:

Awards

Lindsey-Ann Calarco
Lindsey Ann Calarco, Thompson Public School's Literacy Coordinator, was nominated by Dr. Sandra Donah to receive the prestigious Innovator Award from the International Structured Language Education Council. This award will be presented to Ms. Calarco at the International Dyslexia 2024 Annual Reading, Literacy, and Learning

Conference in Dallas, Texas on October 24-26.

Lindsey has been leading the development of the reading language-based classrooms at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School to best support students with dyslexia. Four K-3 classrooms have been established to provide classroom-embedded intensive reading instruction for students from certified Orton Gillingham-trained teachers.

Michael Joyce
Michael Joyce, Tourtellotte Memorial High School's Technology Education Teacher, received the 2024 Pathway Award for Excellence in Manufacturing presented by TD Bank at the CT Manufacturing Summit held on Oct. 2. Michele Walworth nominated Mr. Joyce from ReadyCT.

The recipient of this award is an educator who has displayed a commitment to advancing students in the K-12 system for careers in manufac-

turing. Mr. Joyce has created unique pathways for students to pursue continuing education opportunities beyond the scope of the classroom.

ReadyCT has only been working in eastern Connecticut, including at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, for a year or so, yet in that short amount of time, their team has singled Michael Joyce out for excellence in this field.

In addition to manufacturing, Mr. Joyce is spearheading the new welding program at TMHS in partnership with Electric Boat, SENEDIA, and the American Welding Society.

Professional Presentations:

Patricia Chenail:
Patricia Chenail, Thompson Public School's Mathematics Curriculum Leader, has been asked by the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE) to lead two workshops at Performance Matters

Forum 2024, held on October 10th in collaboration with CSDE and other districts. Ms. Chenail shared her expertise in two workshop sessions: Harnessing Interim Data to Elevate Classroom Instruction CSDE and The Promise of High Dosage Tutoring.

Ms. Chenail has been instrumental in working with teachers to improve mathematics instruction, revise the curriculum, integrate interim assessments into daily classroom practice, and coordinate the high dose tutoring program in grades six through nine.

Photo: Patricia Chenail

Courtney Sobanski:
Ms. Sobanski is in year four of a five-year professional study with nineteen other teachers across the state to enhance her knowledge of secondary mathematics instruction. Connecticut NOYCE Math Teacher Leaders engages effective secondary math teachers

in Alliance districts by developing professional learning units, implementing the practice of "Building Thinking Classrooms," and attending and presenting at national conferences. Ms. Sobanski was selected in a competitive process to participate in the NOYCE program.

Ms. Sobanski will present at the 2025 Teacher Conference CPM Educational Program in February 2025. Ms. Sobanski will share her knowledge in secondary math instruction by presenting two workshops, Creating Professional Learning Collaborative Groups in Small Districts and Enhance Student Understanding of

Mathematical Topics by Providing Fun Real-Life Experiences for Students.

Ms. Sobanski has taken on the Secondary Mathematics Curriculum Leader role and will work closely with Patricia Chenail to improve math instruction district wide.

Photo: Courtney Sobanski

Thompson Public Schools may be in the "quiet corner" of Connecticut, but our teachers are making an impact nationally and statewide. We could not be prouder of our educators!

Quiet Corner Garden Club to take part in Walktober event

REGION — Save the dates! Oct. 12 & 13 and 19 & 20, there are more than 250 Walktober programs for you to explore along Connecticut's Heritage Corridor.

With the help of more than 130 partner organizations and countless volunteers, this Walktober has an amazing lineup of hikes, bikes and paddles for you to enjoy in the Quiet Corner.

The Quiet Corner Garden Club will be participating in The Last Green Valley's Walktober Event this year on Oct. 12-13 and Oct. 19-20, coordinating with the Palmer Arboretum and the Center for Woodstock History.

Multiple displays highlighting the accomplishments and presence in the Quiet Corner Garden Club (originally called the Woodstock Area Garden

Club) will be featured, covering the garden club's beginning activities from 1978 and continuing for 45 years up to 2023. Fourteen volumes of the garden club's historical Archi vArxchuv Aarchives will be on display.

Visitors can have a guided tour of the Palmer Arboretum and visit the Center for Woodstock History, located in Palmer Memorial Hall, to view the

garden club's display and see a pictorial display of Woodstock History. Check us out at <https://quietcorner-gardenclub.com/> for more information on the club. Also visit www.thelastgreenvalley.org for more information about their fall calendar and activities. Those who use Facebook can view the Quiet Corner Garden Club and Palmer Arboretum as well.

Dylan Lawson named to Dean's List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Dylan Lawson of Brooklyn was named to the Dean's List for the summer 2024 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of post-secondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 125 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp to hold tag sale

POMFRET — On Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., a tag sale will be held at the Horse Barn at Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp. Gently used furniture items (large and small), glassware, dishes, lamps, electronics, records, books, toys, lots of bicycles, holiday decorations, antiques and collectibles. Cash only. Horse barn entrance, not main camp entrance. Watch for signs.

The barn is located at 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret Center.

Pet Pals holding low cost rabies clinic

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospital, Route 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line on Oct. 19 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$15 cash per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please.

This is the last clinic for this year. For information, registration and appointment contact PET PALS at 860-317-1720.

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Blood rain

While I focus on the positive, I'm a fan of the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious. Who doesn't love a good mystery? I'm dedicating a series to some unsettling tales for this year's spooky season. There's no better way to start than with the chilling phenomenon of blood rains, documented by the legendary Charles Fort.

Fort once wrote, "There have been red rains that, in the Middle Ages, were called 'rains of blood.' Such rains terrified many persons and were so unsettling to large populations that Science has sought to prove that 'rains of blood' do not exist."

Scientists have documented red rains caused by sand and dust particles from the Sahara Desert. When strong winds sweep the desert,

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red sands mix with rain clouds, creating a reddish downpour. This phenomenon, known as "blood rain," is fairly common and has been analyzed to show high iron oxide concentrations, giving it a rusty hue. But what Charles Fort documented is far stranger. We're not talking about dusty rain, but actual blood-like rains—thicker, darker, and containing organic matter that defies simple explanations.

One of the most unsettling accounts of red rain comes from Fort's research on an incident in France on October 16 and 17, 1846. During this period, a vivid, crimson rain fell across several towns, staining the streets, rooftops, and fields in a disturbing shade of red. Locals were terrified, describing it

as if the sky itself were bleeding.

Scientific journals of the time, such as Comptes Rendus, noted that the rain was so vividly colored that it looked more like fresh blood than mud or dust.

Two separate chemical analyses were conducted to determine the nature of the strange rain. One scientist reported the presence of "blood-like corpuscles" in the samples, while another confirmed that up to 35 percent of the rain's composition was made up of organic matter—substances usually associated with living organisms. This appeared to be no ordinary storm.

Despite these findings, it was dismissed as a natural event, attributing it to dust swept up from the earth.

Was it really blood?

If so, where did it come from? No birds or other animals were found dead in the area, and no other plausible sources of organic material were identified. And eerily, this wouldn't be the last time such rains were reported in Europe, leaving a question mark that lingers to this day.

Take the terrifying incident on May 15, 1890, in Messignadi, Calabria, Italy. According to Professor Luigi Palazzo, head of the Italian Meteorological Bureau, something the color of fresh blood fell from the sky over this small town.

Naturally, the locals were horrified. Supposedly, this wasn't just a light drizzle—it soaked their homes, fields, and streets in thick, crimson droplets. Samples were quickly collected and sent to the public health laborato-

ries in Rome for analysis. The result? It was confirmed to be blood. Human? Animal? The scientists couldn't say.

What could cause blood to fall from the sky?

As documented in Popular Science News, the official explanation was that a flock of migratory birds—quails or swallows—had been caught and torn apart by a violent windstorm high above the town.

But here's where the story gets even stranger: Not a single feather was found. No bird remains were recovered, and no witness recalled seeing birds struggling in the sky. It was as if the blood had appeared in the clouds, only to rain down on the terrified townspeople.

This eerie event should have been a one-time occurrence, but Fort's

records show that blood rained again in the same town months later.

Twice, in the same location—each time with no sign of birds, storms, or any logical explanation.

Could some unknown atmospheric phenomenon cause these bloody downpours, or are they evidence of something much darker?

Whatever the cause, the tale of the blood rains remains one of the most disturbing and unexplainable mysteries in Fort's work. So, the next time you find yourself caught in a storm and notice something red in the raindrops—don't assume it's mud or dust. Look closer. You might be witnessing something that has terrified and baffled people for centuries: blood from the sky.

Day Kimball Health hosts Northeastern CT Chamber Business After Hours and Heart Group ribbon Cutting



PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) marked two significant occasions on Thursday, Sept. 12 with the official ribbon cutting for its new Heart Group and a special tribute commemorating the organization's 130th anniversary.

The ribbon-cutting drew support from

Courtesy

Day Kimball Health CEO Kyle Kramer, center, cuts the ceremonial ribbon alongside members from the Northeast Chamber of Commerce, local legislators, community leaders, and hospital staff. To his left is Andrea Meyer, PA-C from The Heart Group.

the community with local legislators, community leaders, and hospital staff gathered as DKH's CEO Kyle Kramer and Board Chairman Peter Deary led the event, symbolizing a significant step forward in enhancing cardiac services for Northeast Connecticut.

The Heart Group, located across from Day Kimball Hospital at 309 Pomfret Street, offers a comprehensive range of cardiovascular services and treatments. The facility's opening allows patients to receive comprehensive, high-quality cardiac care without having to travel long distances, making it more convenient for those seeking early diagnosis, treatment, and preventive care.

"The Heart Group will provide comprehensive cardiovascular care right here in our community," said Kramer. "Heart disease remains one of the most critical health challenges we face, and this facility allows us to offer advanced diagnostics, treatments, and preventive care close to home. It's a major achievement in patient access and care Northeast Connecticut."

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the celebration continued as DKH hosted more than 150 guests for the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, which also served to commemorate DKH's 130 years of service to the region. Guests enjoyed networking opportunities as well as reflections on DKH's journey highlighting its role as an essential part of the region's healthcare landscape and a special presentation of two Legislative Proclamations from the State of Connecticut given by State Sen. Mae Flexer from the 29th District.

In his remarks during the event, DKH Board Chairman Peter Deary reflected on the hospital's long-standing commitment to the community.

"For 130 years, Day Kimball Health has been a cornerstone of healthcare in Northeastern Connecticut, growing and evolving alongside our community," Deary said. "Today, as we celebrate the opening of our Heart Group and this milestone anniversary, we look forward to another 130 years of delivering on our promise to provide quality access to healthcare in Northeast Connecticut."

The event was a fitting tribute to the hospital's legacy of 130 years of growth, service, and community-focused healthcare and its ongoing commitment to access, innovation, and patient care.

For more information on The Heart Group, visit daykimball.org/heart-group

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

Thompson Warning of Election November 5, 2024, State Election

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

- I. To cast their votes for Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, and Registrar of Voters.
- II. To vote on the following question for the approval or disapproval of a proposed Amendment to the Constitution of Connecticut, a vote of "Yes" being a vote for approval, and a vote of "No" being a vote for disapproval:
 1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?

The vote on the proposed question is taken pursuant to the Constitution of Connecticut.

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

Election Day Voting District	Election Day Polling Place
District No. 1 — Thompson Library/Community Center, 934 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale	
District No. 2 — Town Hall Office Building, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale	
District No. 3 — Quinebaug Fire Department, 720 Quinebaug Road, Quinebaug	
District No. 4 — East Thompson Fire Department, 530 East Thompson Road, Thompson	

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following central location: Conference Room, Second Floor, Town Office Building, 815 Riverside Dr., North Grosvenordale. Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.). During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).

Early Voting Day: Hours Early Voting / SDR Location

October 21-28 & 30, 2024: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Merrill Seney Community Room,
October 29 & 31, 2024: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Office Building,
November 1-3, 2024: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	815 Riverside Dr.
	N. Grosvenordale.

On Election Day, the hours and location of SDR will be as follows:

Election Day: Hours	SDR Location
November 5, 2024: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Registrars' office, Town Office Building, 815 Riverside Dr., N. Grosvenordale

Dated at _____, Connecticut, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Gail Livingstone, Assistant Town Clerk
Town of Thompson

www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

Teaching the difference between discipline and self-discipline

Thousands of books have been written on being the best parent ever. However, in my experience, teaching self-discipline is the foundation of building success in any person.

The dictionary defines discipline/self discipline as the ability to control one's feelings and overcome one's weaknesses; the ability to pursue what one thinks is right despite temptations to abandon it.

Discipline is the exerting of external control, like when you tell your kids to brush their teeth. This is how we as parents teach the littlest children the right and wrong ways to do things. Self-discipline is when children utilize an internal guide to direct them to do the right things. Self-discipline is the foundation of success in life and using character will give them a direction. In my years of working with

children I often asked if they made their own bed. Then I asked, did they do it on their own or after being told. Then I highlighted to them the difference between discipline and self-discipline.

Here are my top tips on teaching self-discipline.

One of the greatest well-known successes in athletics is Tom Brady. His recommendation is; "Quit focusing on all the things you can't control. Focus on being the best version of yourself. Work as hard as you can."

Succeeding with small goals eventually can turn into successes building great lifetime habits. Studies have shown that people with written goals have greater success on tasks. I also suggest posting them around your house so you can see them every single day. My suggestion is that the goals be very specific (I will do a future article on

S.M.A.R.T. Goals. You can google this if you are curious)

With the technology of today it would be easy to start with a video of how to brush with detailed cleaning of each tooth. Many electric toothbrushes have a handy 2-minute timer. When kids are done brushing, you can be their success coach and give your child feedback, finishing with a smile and praise. Create a routine (specific time of day) where you log your goals and build your habits.

Accountability and support.

If you want to succeed in a certain area, tell your everyone. Then every time you see your friends, they will check in on your progress and give you support. Your



LESSONS FOR LIFE
MIKE BOGDANSKI

friends and family want you to succeed, especially on tough, long term goals. Parents, if your child is not immediately good at developing self-discipline don't worry, it's a journey, not a destination. It is perfectly fine to fail as long as you take this as

a lesson in course correction.

Teach delayed gratification - I love the saying "Dig your well before you are thirsty". When I was in grammar school, the local bank got all the fourth graders to start a bank account. Each week, we brought in change to be deposited into our account. Week by week we could see the interest displayed on our passbook and watch our money grow. It was

very exciting. I am sure you can do a digital version today to help get the concept of waiting for rewards. (For teens or young adults, if you contribute \$135.00 a week, each year, to an IRA, it could take about 28 years to reach one million dollars)

Be consistent, and determined, and work for it. Don't sweat it if you fall back a little. Even elite athletes who eat right 6 days a week build in a cheat day where they can eat something not on their strict regimen.

I have learned that the difference between a dream and a goal is a timeline. When I was in college I knew the semester had a beginning and end and I needed to fulfill requirements week by week to succeed. I have met so many people that tell me "I should have started (their dream) twenty years ago". My response is, "then today

is the next best day!" I want to remind you that "someday" is not a day of the week.

Parents - reinforce and praise the behaviors you want to see. My recommendation is, If you can't praise the act, praise the effort. Highlight and recognize others you run into showing good self-discipline. It would be so great if you could model this skill with your own actions. How we conduct our lives will always speak louder than our words. In time all habits, good or bad, will be "built" in.

I will leave you with this thought written in the 6th century- "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." (Lao Tzu)

Mike Bogdanski is a martial arts Grandmaster and Anti-bully activist. mikebogdanski.com.

Use fresh herbs to flavor holiday meals

Grow, harvest and season your holiday meals with fresh herbs grown indoors in a windowsill garden. Add to the experience by using potted herbs and a few holiday adornments to dress up the table. You and your family will enjoy snipping a few fresh herbal sprigs to season your meal to your own taste.

Include herbs your family likes, those that complement your menu and are easy to grow indoors like basil, oregano, parsley, chives, thyme, and sage. Purchase plants so they will be ready to harvest for the holidays. Many garden centers now carry herb plants year-round; some grocery stores sell them in their produce department.

Grow plants in individual containers or plant several in one larger decorative pot. Select a container with drainage holes and one that complements your table setting. Use a quality, well-draining potting mix when transplanting herbs into another container.

Place a saucer or tray under pots with drainage holes to protect your furniture. Or double pot plants when using a decorative container that lacks drainage holes. Plant herbs in a smaller pot with drainage holes or set several pots in a larger container. Place pebbles in the bottom of the decorative pot. This elevates the inner pots above any excess water that collects in the bottom of the decorative pot, helping avoid root rot and the need to empty the water in the saucer.

Dress up any meal by creating an edible centerpiece with your herb plants. Set them on a decorative placemat to protect the tabletop and add a few seasonal items to complete your display.

Grow herbs in a sunny window such as an unobstructed south-, east-, or west-facing window when they are not decorating the table. Consider adding artificial lights if sunlight is limited and the plants have leggy stems and pale leaves. Keep the lights about six to 12 inches above the tops of the plants and leave them on for six to eight hours if supplementing the natural light. Leave them on for 14 hours a day, if this is the only light source. Set the plants on a reflective surface to help shine light back up into the bottom of the plants.

Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and water thoroughly as needed. Some herbs like basil, oregano, parsley, and marjoram like soil to be slightly moist but not soggy while chives, thyme, and sage like it a bit drier.

Grow basil to dress up a pizza, salad, or soup with a few leaves. Add some oregano to season any tomato-based dish-

es such as pizza and pasta. Use fresh t h y m e to flavor c h e e s e , eggs, tomatoes, and lentils.



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

Chives' mild onion flavor is great on potatoes, but consider adding it to soups, dips, seafood dishes, and omelets. Just snip a few leaves and cut them into smaller pieces before adding them to your dish.

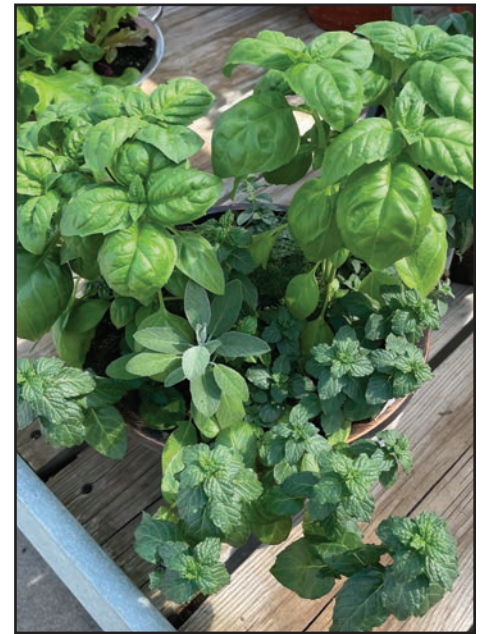
Parsley is high in Vitamin C, and is often added to soups, pasta, salads, and dressings. Harvest a sprig at the end of the meal to freshen your breath.

Add several pairs of snips and let everyone add their favorite herbal sea-

sonings to their meal. You may need to show your guests how to harvest and use the herbs to get them started. Let them know that harvesting the herbs encourages new growth for future use.

Make this year's holiday meals memorable. Invite your guest to enjoy the fresh flavor and fun of seasoning their meals right at the table.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Melinda Myers

Grow herbs that complement your family's favorite recipes and are easy to grow indoors.

OUR COMPREHENSIVE ORTHO CARE JUST GOT MORE COMPREHENSIVE.

The Day Kimball Ortho Group is expanding. Again. And we're excited to welcome four new highly skilled orthopedic surgeons to our team:



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Orthopedic Surgeon (DKH)



Douglass Weiss, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon (DKH)



Brian H. Cohen, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon (Ortho RI)



Sidney P. Migliori, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon (Ortho RI)



Michael P. Bradley, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon (Ortho RI)



Alyson Hernigle, PA-C, AT-C
Orthopedic APP



David LaChance, NP-C
Orthopedic APP



Michael G. Olm, MS, PA-C
Orthopedic APP

These additions allow us to cater to patients throughout the region, including Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Our highly qualified orthopedic team is dedicated to managing our patients' continuum of care, empowering them to get back to their life as soon as possible. To schedule an appointment with our team, please contact us at (860) 963-3883.

Healthcare in motion.
daykimball.org/orthopedics



Grants available to Putnam businesses

PUTNAM — The Putnam Arts Council currently accepting applications for its first annual round of grants. Businesses located in the Putnam community are eligible for a grant of up to \$500. The grant will be awarded to one project for an art-related class, project, etc. that will benefit the Putnam community. Application deadline is Nov. 30. The grant will be awarded early January, 2025.

For more information, visit www.putnamartsandcouncil.com.

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

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9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE

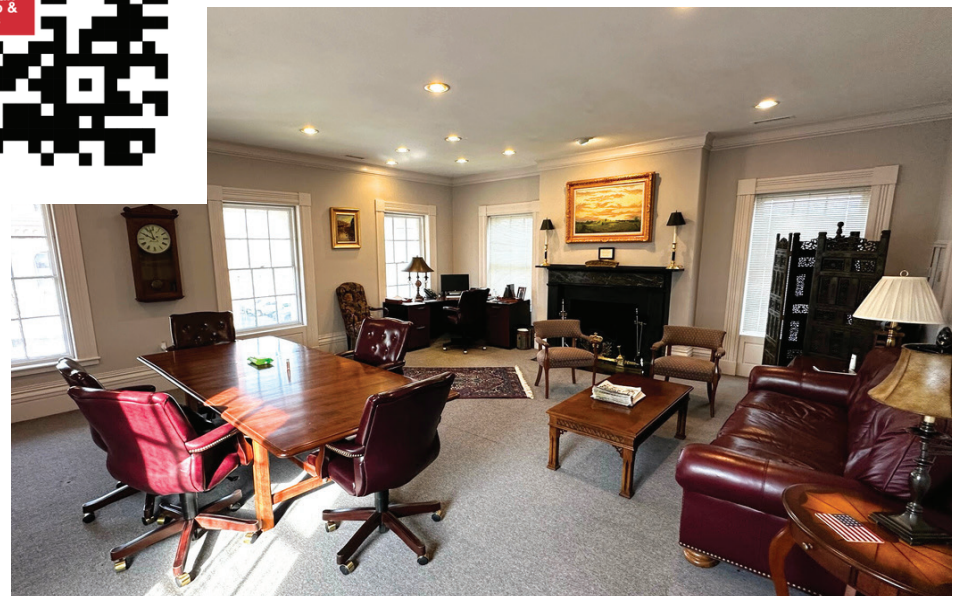


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MORE INFO:



JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007

jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765

jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

Day Kimball Health names Linda Branch Employee of the Month for August



Linda Branch

Linda's hard work and dedication by naming her our August Employee of the Month."

Originally from Warwick, R.I., Branch lived in Killingly for 20 years before settling in Thompson with her family. Outside work, she enjoys gardening, spending time outdoors, and making cherished memories with her husband, sons, daughter-in-law, and grandson.

Day Kimball Health's employee of the month program is sponsored by Foxwoods Resort Casino and the Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation in appreciation of our healthcare workers and all they do for our community.

About Day Kimball Health
Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson,

PUTNAM — Linda Branch, cashier and server for Day Kimball Hospital's nutritional services department, has been named employee of the month for August by Day Kimball Health (DKH).

Branch began her career with DKH in 1997 as a tray passer and morning cook. Today, she works as a cashier and server, providing exceptional service to employees and patients in the cafeteria and at catered events. She finds joy in

building meaningful personal and professional relationships through daily interactions.

"Linda brings such warmth and positivity to our Day Kimball family. Her friendly presence in the cafeteria creates an inviting environment for staff and patients," said Kyle Kramer, DKH chief executive officer. "She goes above and beyond to make every interaction memorable, and her contributions over the years have been invaluable. It's a pleasure to recognize

Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts

and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health's comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff includ-

ing nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is daykimball.org.

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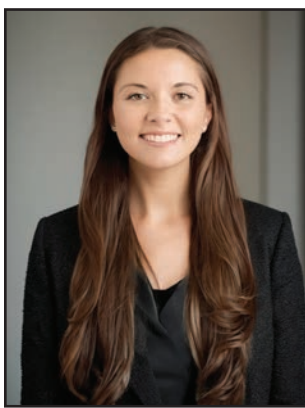
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Dunn Marketing welcomes Samantha Prario as Digital Marketing Specialist



Samantha Prario

KILLINGLY — Dunn Marketing, a fast-growing branding and omnichannel marketing agency based in northeastern Connecticut, has welcomed Samantha Prario to its team as Digital Marketing Specialist. Prario will assist in executing social media and paid digital campaigns as well as email marketing initiatives for the agency's clients.

Prario, a recent graduate of Assumption University with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing, brings a fresh perspective to the role. She also brings experience in B-to-B, B-to-C, and financial services marketing through prior internships at Cornerstone Bank, East Commerce Solutions, and Challenger Sports.

Dunn Marketing Founder, CEO, and Chief Brand Strategist Laura Dunn says that Prario's previous experience, positive energy, and focus on helping clients achieve success through person-centered marketing make her a perfect fit for the agency.

"We're thrilled to welcome Samantha to our team. Her passion for digital marketing and her collaborative personality align perfectly with our mission of fueling the success of good people doing great work. She will be a real asset to our team in delivering innovative, empathy-driven marketing campaigns that connect, inspire, and convert," Dunn said.

Prario's appointment extends Dunn Marketing's existing broad capabilities in digital marketing, a significant portion of the agency's comprehensive service offerings. The agen-

cy has developed its own 6-step Empathy-Driven Brand Building™ process, which underpins its strategic marketing services and tactical execution across both digital and traditional channels.

"I'm excited to join the Dunn Marketing team and contribute to their mission of empathy-driven brand building," said Prario. "I look forward to applying my skills and experiences to help our clients achieve their business goals while truly serving their clients, customers, and communities."

Prario is a native of Burrillville, R.I. When she's not working she enjoys traveling, outdoor activities, and spending time with family and friends.

For more information about Dunn Marketing and the agency's services, visit dunnmarketing.com.

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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- Healthy Eating**
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- Regular Checkups**
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- Get Enough Sleep**
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- Stay Up to Date With Immunizations**
Preventative vaccines such as Influenza, Pneumococcal, COVID, and Shingles will help your immune system fight common illnesses.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

Why fall is the best season of all

Fall in New England is something else. It's the kind of season that makes you stop and take it all in—the crisp air, the explosion of colors, and the cozy feel of it all. After a busy summer, it's the perfect shift into a slower, more connected way of life.

There's just a lot to love about a New England fall. The trees light up with reds, oranges, and yellows, creating landscapes that look straight out of a postcard. And it's not just the scenery, it's the traditions, too. Fall is when small towns come alive with festivals, harvest fairs, porch concerts, and outdoor markets. It's an invitation to gather with neighbors, whether around a bonfire, at a farm stand, or during a weekend spent raking leaves and chatting over cider.

Fall in New England also has that perfect balance. The days are cool but not too cold, just right for a hike, a stroll through town, or picking apples in a local orchard. As the leaves change, they remind us that nothing stays the same forever, and that's okay. This season encourages us to embrace change while appreciating everything we've got right now.

It's also a time for reflection. With winter coming, fall feels like a last big celebration of the year before things quiet down. It's a chance to be thankful for what we have and to focus on what really matters, time spent with family, friends, and neighbors.

So, while the pumpkins, apple picking, and Halloween costumes are fun, the real magic of a New England fall is how it brings people together. It's about enjoying what's around us, building connections, and making the most of this cozy season before the snow flies. That's what makes fall in New England so special.

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OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Renee Waldron will fight for us in Hartford

To the Editor:

I write to endorse Renee LaPalme Waldron, running for State Representative in the 51st District. I know Renee to be a hard-working, intelligent, and compassionate person. Her life-long residence in Thompson, as well as her years spent as Thompson's Recreation Director, Town Clerk, and perennial volunteer have given her first-hand knowledge of the experiences and problems faced by local residents.

Even though I no longer have children in Thompson's schools, I am still concerned that we maintain well-funded schools that can offer modern educational and job training paths which will make our graduates more attractive to employers. To do this, we'll need the latest technology and adequately paid teachers in our schools. This cost is difficult for many taxpayers to bear because of the disparity in State funding allocation between rural and urban areas. We have many of the same problems of housing availability, pricey

utilities, and other high costs across the board as urban areas have, but this problem for rural towns gets less attention at the State level. Renee intends to fight to rectify this unfair allocation so that we can afford to improve upon our region's existing assets and our insufficiently funded school systems in order to attract more businesses and to give our residents a reason to want to stay and raise their families here.

Jobs, education, housing, and taxes are among the most critical issues of concern to our residents. As a senior citizen, I would add easy access to affordable and quality health care. Renee is sensitive to all of these problems, and I believe that she is well equipped to fight for us in Hartford. I urge you to vote for Renee LaPalme Waldron on Nov. 5.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH GOLDSMITH
THOMPSON

I choose Harris/Walz

To the Editor:

I will vote for Harris/Walz. Not because I'm a Democrat (only since 2016), but because I believe strongly in two issues. I know they will work hard to support my values.

I normally would not be so public about my vote. I know people are worried about many things well worth considering in this election. But I think the big picture is more crucial than the details. If we get it wrong in 2024, we might suffer far more in the future.

On Nov. 5, I will vote based on

A woman's right to control her body and make choices about her own health and life. Our country supported this right for nearly 50 years. A minority group has taken away every woman's constitutional right to privacy and liberty. I want it back. Women deserve to be treated with trust, dignity and respect.

Democracy. I want our country to remain the most respected democracy on this earth. I do not want a small group of people with very specific values making decisions for the rest of us without rule of law, checks and balances and citizen participation.

These two things are more important to me than the price of eggs, gas, rent (which need addressing!) or the value of my retirement account (I feel lucky to have one!). They are more important than fear of our country shifting in color, gender, and language. They are more important to me than climate change, foreign wars or problems with crime, guns or drugs.

These are all problems that need solutions, but my decision in 2024 is simple. If we lose democracy and a woman's right to determine her own path in life, we lose something extraordinary. We lose basic values that have made our country admired and desired by the rest of the world. We lose principles people have fought and sacrificed for over generations and throughout history. We lose ourselves as Americans.

I choose democracy. I choose women's rights. I choose Harris/Walz.

CRIS CADIZ
POMFRET

We need to elect representatives who lead

To the Editor:

Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson's share of the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant from state funding for education has been held flat over the past five years!

How can that be when state Democrats are touting the single largest investment in public school education in state history, which adds up to hundreds of millions of dollars?

It is also true that all three towns did receive money for education from the state during COVID as did every town in Connecticut. However, Killingly, Putnam and Thompson are Alliance Districts (30 lowest performing districts in the state), the ECS grant for Alliance Districts has been frozen.

In 2024, the Connecticut General Assembly passed landmark legislation that — for the first time in state history — funds all public school students based on their individual learning needs, no matter where they live or the type of public school they attend.

Maybe it's not the fault of the Democrats in charge.

Maybe our problem is, we keep electing people like Rick Hayes who don't know how to advocate for their district. Rick Hayes has not been a vocal advocate for educations

funding for the three towns nor has he been promoting the needs that poorer, rural, and agricultural areas of our state have now.

People like Rick don't know how to work to bring back our fair share. Will electing another Republican to the State Legislature change anything? Do we really think electing his son-in-law is going to get us a different result? We aren't sure if Albert Einstein really came up with this definition of insanity, but it still works: "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results"

We need to give candidates like Renee LaPalme Waldron a chance to lead, because when we pick someone with no ability to get things done, we're the ones who get left out. Renee's 30 years of experience working for the people of Thompson, developing the first before and after school childcare programs, and establishing Summer Adventure Camp for affordable, high-quality childcare during school breaks demonstrates her ability to get the job done.

ARTHUR F. FAIRTHORNE
PUTNAM

The Quiet Corner needs problem solvers in the state legislature

To the Editor:

Killingly has a major problem with a maxed-out water treatment plant. The solution is going to be costly. The town, the state and the federal government will need to work together to expand the capacity as quickly as possible and maximize the state and federal share of the cost.

The question for voters is, who is best to work collaboratively to make these different entities work to benefit local taxpayers? There are those whose career is based on complaining about problems or those who will work to fix them. This is not an abstract question but one that will impact the finances of the town and the taxpayers.

Mae Flexer, our State Senator for the last 10 years. Mae Flexer is Deputy Pro Tem of the Connecticut Senate and Federal Relations Liaison. She serves as Senate Chair of the legislature's Government Administration & Elections committee and as Senate Vice-Chair of the Higher Education & Employment Advancement committee. She also serves as a member of the Appropriations, Judiciary, and Education committees. She is highly respected in Hartford and with 10 years of seniority has a voice that is heard. So when a town, like Killingly, has a major project, such as expanding

its sewer water treatment plant, Mae is going to get calls answered at the state and federal level to get aid for the town.

Visit <https://www.senatedems.ct.gov/senator/mae-flexer> to see the results Mae delivers for towns in her district.

In the 44th, Samantha (Sam) Derenthal is running for state rep. on a platform of collaboration to meet community needs. Sam's profession is in human resources, a job that requires working with various stakeholders in an organization to resolve obstacles, build a consensus and successfully move forward. Sam will be heard in the legislature, the Governor's office, and Federal officials which benefits each town in the 44th district.

Learn more about Sam at https://www.facebook.com/SamanthaforStateRep/?_rdr

In the 51st House district voters have an opportunity to elect a knowledgeable public servant with decades of experience in town government. Renee Waldron knows first hand what towns need from the state and who to reach out to to get it. Get to know Renee at: https://www.facebook.com/p/Renee-for-State-Rep-61559557103653/?_rdr.

DAVID SMITH
DANIELSON

Trump is mentally deficient

To the Editor:

The media obsessed about President Biden's signs of cognitive decline but mostly ignored Donald Trump's. Yet Trump's unscripted remarks at rallies and his answers to questions are increasingly incoherent and starkly reveal his severely declining mental fitness and narcissism.

Voters who still consider Trump fit to be president might want to consider his answer to a question he was asked recently in Michigan. When asked what he would do to keep autoworkers jobs in America, he began his response as follows:

"So pretty much, as we've been saying — and what I want to do is, I want to be able to — look your business. Years ago in this area, I was honored as the Man of the Year. Was maybe 20 years ago, and the fake news heard about it. They said, 'It never happened. It never happened.' And I didn't know who it was. It was a group that honored me as Man of the Year. The fakers back there — see the fake news — but they said, they said, Oh. And they looked at it you know, they said it never happened. But I said, 'I swear to you, it happened. It did happen.'

"I was Man of the Year, and I came and I made a speech and said, 'Why do you allow them to take your car business away? Why do you allow it to happen? They're taking your business away.' And I didn't know too much about — all I know is they

were taking your car industry away from you. They said it never happened, and lo and behold, somebody said, 'I remember the event,' and then we found out, and we had everything. We got the awards. We had everything. It did happen, but I gave a speech, which at the time was pretty controversial ..."

Wow. If a loved one rambled like that, you'd be scrambling to find their car keys and get them a mental health exam. Why would unquestionably follow such a person and vote for such an obviously diminished person for president? Hint — cultism.

When confronted with Trump's misogyny, cruelty, depravity, racism, lying, hate- and fear-mongering, and adulation of dictators, Trump apologists such as Ed DeLuca react just like Trump did when informed his Vice President was rushed out of the Capitol under threat of Trump's mob — "so what?" No doubt they will have the same reaction to Trump's increasing inability to think clearly and express a coherent thought. They don't care how many lives are lost or affected by Trump's and Vance's nonstop lies.

The constant lies, the childish insults, the refusal to acknowledge reality, the justification of violence against perceived enemies, and the parroting of the leader's every word are characteristics of cults. Mr. DeLuca's letters to you follow the pattern.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Letter submission policy

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Join me in voting for Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:

I'm asking residents of the 44th District to vote for incumbent Anne Dauphinais on Nov. 5.

Anne puts 110 percent into everything she does. Connecticut needs more voices like Anne's in Hartford. I've seen Anne cheering on her child and others at the Special Olympics, and she advocates for people with special needs in Hartford.

Anne's common sense and work ethic are second to none. We in Northeastern

Connecticut are lucky to have her "in our corner." Anne's fiscally conservative, and, unlike many in Hartford, Anne understands intended and unintended consequences of bills before she votes. Anne has the vision to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Again, I ask you to vote for Anne Dauphinais on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

DOUG FARROW
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

We need Anne Dauphinais now more than ever

To the Editor:

Now more than ever, we need to support Anne Dauphinais for re-election to the Connecticut General Assembly.

Anne's unwavering commitment to the conservative ideals of her electors are defined by her impeccable voting record... no political agenda... just

doing the right thing.

I'm Monique Bouley Allard, and as a resident of Plainfield, I urge you to vote for Anne Dauphinais on Election Day.

Thank you,

MONIQUE BOULEY ALLARD
PLAINFIELD

This lifelong Democrat is for Chris Reddy

To the Editor:

I am writing to support Chris Reddy for State Senator for Eastern Connecticut.

Chris has been a good neighbor for many years. I have a serious mobility problem. After a snowstorm, I fell in my yard, and could not get back up! I waited too long to call 911. Lucky for me, Chris and Heather had their scanner on, they heard the call, trudged up my driveway and found me in snow. They brought me into my house and got me into a warm bath, and saved the day! I was rescued before the fire department even arrived.

Now Chris Reddy is running to save all of us from some of those overreaching state government proposals. From those mandated laws, that are taking away our local control.

Developers are trying to use the new law CGS Sec. 8-30g to bring in oversized developments, with inadequate parking, close to wetlands, etc. These developers are now suing towns that won't approve of their development plans.

Chris Reddy will fight these kinds of proposals that don't fit our rural towns. Local control is needed, Chris is needed, to stop this and also fight for individual freedom and enhanced police support.

He is a person of honor, with 25 years serving as a paramedic and educator. He will put our small towns first.

I'm a lifelong Democrat, but this time, I will be voting for Chris Reddy for State Senate.

I hope you do too!

THOMAS H. PELC
SCOTLAND

Ethan Werstler is going places — let's help him get there

To the Editor:

I need to tell you about Ethan Werstler.

If you don't know or haven't heard of him, he is the 24-year-old dynamo and third-generation son of Woodstock who is running for State Rep from the 52nd District as a Democrat.

Right about the time I've grown a little depressed and pessimistic about the sorry state of political leadership and lack of talented young people choosing politics as a career, along comes this guy, reminding me of nothing so much as stories of John F. Kennedy traipsing through the 11th Congressional District in Massachusetts, wearing out his shoes in East Boston, Charlestown, the North End, Brighton, and Somerville in 1946.

In the past few months he has knocked on a thousand doors (a thousand doors in Woodstock, Stafford, and Somers is arguably a lot harder than in Boston) and participated in dozens of events, all because he thinks this district needs new, enthusiastic, dedicated, and knowledgeable leadership.

I had the pleasure of talking to Ethan on a beautiful fall afternoon last weekend where he told me of things which concern him about our Northeast Connecticut small towns, why he wants to run, and a little bit about his background.

He is acutely aware of the trouble lots of people have in being able to stay here as they grow older. His own grandparents, Bob and Jeanette Werstler, have had significant difficulty in downsizing; they still live in the same house where they raised their family, which they bought at age 24. Perversely, young people have quite similar problems in finding a place to live here: both apartments and starter homes are incredibly scarce. Transportation is another bugaboo which complicates matters for both groups. Ethan would like to see a Woodstock and Northeast Connecticut able to attract young, talented people who would want and be able to stay here throughout their lives. He is sanguine about these problems, brimming with ideas, and says that "we just have to dig in, get to work, figure out how to fix it, and not bury our heads in the sand."

Another issue which he thinks about a lot and imagines would keep him awake at night if he wins is how to deal with unfunded state mandates. He points to Special Education programs which are an enormous burden on small town budgets. Much of the reason for these costs are the mandates, which Ethan feels should be covered by the State.

He feels that small towns have had trouble advocating effectively for themselves in those meetings where the important work gets done and decisions made, largely because small town representation is commonly Statehouse minority (currently Republican), a situation which would be ameliorated by having more Statehouse majority representation from small towns.

Ethan told me about spending four

years at Woodstock Academy, playing soccer and participating in a number of extracurricular activities, and then graduating UConn in 2022, where he was a Political Science and Communications major, instrumental in starting a program for students who were having trouble putting food on the table. Initially, groceries were provided directly to eligible needy students, then, when the pandemic hit, the program transitioned to a "touchless" card system that students could use at local supermarkets. When describing the program to me, Ethan was modest, generously doling out credit to his fellow students.

Later, in checking some facts, I googled "Ethan Werstler food insecurity," and came across an article in UConn Today, in which it was made clear that the co-founder of the Husky Market program was Ethan Werstler. The article also told me that Ethan was at the time the Vice-President of the Undergraduate Student Government and the student-elected member on UConn's Board of Trustees. Anyone interested in finding out more about Ethan would do well to read the article.

This young, charismatic, energetic, incredibly hard-working guy, Woodstock's own Ethan Werstler is going places. This November, we have a chance to be among the first to help send him there.

John A. Day, Jr.
Woodstock Valley

I stand with Anne

To the Editor:

Rep. Anne Dubay Dauphinais stands out as an ardent protector. Rather than being a recent transplant to this area, she remains a longtime Killingly resident.

My wife and I have lived in Killingly for 40 years. I worked at Frito Lay for over three decades, and raised three boys who attended the local public schools. Our community has changed a lot since I moved here in 1982, but that hasn't all been for the better. Some ill-considered decisions have happened simply because of inaction and indifference. Yet we all must still live with the consequences of bad decisions. Anne's constituents are neighbors, fellow parents, and concerned citizens who, like Anne, care deeply about this country's future. Our community is better off being represented by someone who knows the pulse of this region firsthand.

The foundation for a society to thrive begins with what happens at home. Anne empowers veterans, faithfully attending commemorative events and listening to their stories at local Veterans Coffee Houses. She supports ongoing preservation of veterans' final resting places in cemeteries throughout her district. She believes that those

sacred sites must be celebrated as a window into yesterday.

Given her respect for history, Anne weighs policies' more immediate impacts with long-term consequences. Instead of making assumptions from afar, she makes site visits to understand district needs, bringing a welcome human touch into her current role. That's increasingly rare during this age of social media and competing priorities.

This legislator doesn't sugarcoat issues either. She speaks candidly about what's possible. She's unafraid to exercise her independent judgment and does so constructively based on my own personal interactions.

I admire her integrity, passion, and grit. All are tremendous assets when giving our community a voice in Hartford.

Anne Dauphinais has consistently distinguished herself out of all elected officials I've witnessed serving this community for the past 40 years. She's running for reelection on Nov. 5 so that she can continue this important work.

Too much is at stake, and that's why I stand with Anne.

BILL BOWNS
DANIELSON

Anne Dauphinais is a true advocate

To the Editor:

My name is Jack Burke, and I live in Killingly. I am a veteran and a 25-year member of law enforcement. I am supporting Anne Dauphinais for re-election in District #44.

Anne is from a veteran family. She is very dedicated to the needs of veterans and is an untiring advocate for veterans' benefits.

As a retired member of the CT State Police, I am very interested in legisla-

tion in support of police and Anne is a staunch supporter of law enforcement.

In a time of escalating crime and disrespect for law and order, we need an aggressive advocate in Hartford to protect our constitutional rights. Anne is that person! She is a voice in the dark in a one party state.

I ask the people of District #44 to cast their vote for a true advocate — Anne Dauphinais.

JACK BURKE
KILLINGLY

A popular vote is the only logical approach

To the Editor:

"Battleground States," "Swing States," "Purple States" — every four years, we're bombarded with these terms because of our antiquated and obsolete system of electing a president. I believe most Americans agree that we should pick our presidents by popular vote and eliminate the Electoral College. But both political parties seem to like our outdated system, maybe because it can be "massaged" and manipulated.

In 2016, candidate Donald Trump pre-

dicted that if he lost the election, it would be because of the "corrupt" electoral system. He lost the popular vote (as he has in every race) but became president with the electoral count. So the only election he's ever won was because of a system that he said was corrupt. He stopped talking about it after that.

There's no logical reason to use anything but the popular vote, but I don't see any evidence of change on the horizon.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

The Biden/Harris media driven phenomenon

To the Editor:

This has to be the first presidential race in history where the media utterly and completely creates a new persona for the candidate of a major political party, devoid of any reality of what they actually are, although they also did it to a slightly lesser extent for Biden, vouching for and flat out lying about his mental state until the undeniable revelations from the debate with Trump made it impossible to continue the farce.

Kamala Harris was the hand selected VP candidate of the same dementia ridden presidential candidate... Biden...based on his exclusive DEI search criteria of black and female, and already in the public eye. That was a pretty small pool of candidates, and resulted in the worst vice president in modern US history. She came in dead last in the presidential selection process for the Democratic party, as she is incredibly annoying and unlikeable, not to mention not very bright, so they market her as the candidate of "joy" and "change."

The disaster of unvetted illegals storming over the border in numbers up to 600 percent higher than during the Obama and Trump years is shocking, all while she was in charge as "border czar." The recent revelations from the federal government in response to inquiries as to the numbers of convicted criminals, and criminals cur-

rently under indictment enabled and encouraged by the Biden and Harris administration to enter into the United States and also allowed to stay here is shocking. Is it intentional? Is it incompetence? It's a disaster for America either way. The mishandling of the Maui disaster and Hurricane Helene demonstrates that their disregard for their fellow Americans is not limited to their political enemies, nor does it make their allies immune. Is that intentional, or is that too, incompetence? Again, the results for those affected are the same. This is the gang that can't shoot straight.

Whether it's opening up and failing to protect our border, mismanaging disaster relief, spending insane amounts of borrowed money, creating crises all over the globe, hiring based on DEI instead of merit, or attacking the rights of law-abiding gun owners while ignoring the criminals and supporting defund movements. As is easily deduced from reading the Harris supporters on these pages, the entire campaign is based on nothing but TDS, and the hope that if they yell loudly enough, all of the time, you won't look at Harris and Walz and the policies that they are backing. Please use your own observations and intellect, ignore the noise from the left, and vote accordingly.

NORM FERRON
DANIELSON



Community Connection

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Three ways business owners can maximize generational wealth

As a business owner, you've worked hard to build your company and accumulate wealth. Now, you may be thinking about how to efficiently transfer that wealth to future generations while minimizing taxes. There are several sophisticated estate planning strategies that can help you maximize the transfer of generational wealth. Here are three powerful options to consider:

1. Spousal Lifetime Access Trust (SLAT)

A Spousal Lifetime Access Trust (SLAT) is an irrevocable trust that allows you to gift assets to your spouse and future generations while removing those assets from your taxable estate. Here is how it works:

You create trust and transfer assets (like business interests) into it.

Your spouse is named as a beneficiary, along with your children or other heirs.

You can serve as the trustee, maintaining some control over the assets.

The assets grow outside of your estate, potentially saving significant estate taxes.

Your spouse can access trust assets if needed



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during their lifetime.

The key advantage of a SLAT is that it allows you to make a significant gift for estate tax purposes while still maintaining indirect access to the assets through your spouse. This can provide peace of mind that you won't be left without resources if circumstances change.

2. Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT)

A Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT) is another powerful wealth transfer tool, especially well-suited for business interests or other assets expected to appreciate significantly. Here is an overview:

You transfer assets into an irrevocable trust for a specified term (often 2-10 years).

You receive annuity payments from the trust during the term.

At the end of the term,

any remaining assets pass to your beneficiaries.

The gift's value for tax purposes is reduced by the value of your retained interest.

If the assets appreciate more than the IRS assumed rate, the excess passes tax-free.

GRATs can be particularly effective in a low-interest-rate environment. They allow you to transfer future appreciation to heirs with minimal gift tax impact. For business owners anticipating significant growth, a GRAT can be an excellent way to transfer that future value efficiently.

3. Sale to an Intentionally Defective Grantor Trust (IDGT)

This strategy combines elements of a traditional sale with the tax benefits of a grantor trust. Here is how it typically works:

You create an irrevocable trust, but it's "defective" for income tax purposes (you pay the income taxes).

You sell assets (like business interests) to the trust in exchange for a promissory note.

The trust pays you back over time with interest.

Any appreciation above the interest rate passes to heirs free of gift

and estate tax.

You continue to pay income taxes on the trust's earnings, allowing more growth for heirs.

This strategy can be particularly powerful for rapidly growing businesses. It allows you to freeze the value of the asset for estate tax purposes at the time of the sale, while future growth occurs outside your estate.

Considerations and next steps

While these strategies can be incredibly effective, they're also complex and come with various pros and cons. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

These techniques often work best when implemented early, allowing more time for assets to appreciate outside your estate.

Proper valuation of business interests is crucial, especially for GRATs and sales to IDGTs.

Changes in tax laws could impact the effectiveness of these strategies, so timing and flexibility are important.

Each strategy has specific rules and requirements that must be carefully followed.

Given the complexity of these wealth trans-

fer techniques, it's crucial to work with experienced professionals. A team including an estate planning attorney, CPA, and financial advisor can help you determine which strategies align best with your goals and implement them correctly. By leveraging tools like SLATs, GRATs, and sales to IDGTs, business owners can significantly enhance their ability to transfer wealth to future generations while minimizing tax burdens.

The key is to start planning early. To get started, check out our free guide, "Smart Strategies for Maximizing Generational Wealth" at bit.ly/max-gen-wealth.

Once you understand the basics of what needs to be done, work with a knowledgeable financial advisor to create a comprehensive strategy tailored to your unique situation. At WHZ, we are committed to helping business owners achieve financial success with "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life." Contact us for a complimentary consulta-

tion to learn more about how we can support you on your journey to greater profitability and growth.

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KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

OCT. 14 – OCT. 19

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

Monday the 14th

Columbus Day – All town buildings will be closed to observe the holiday.

Tuesday the 15th

Housing Authority Meeting (Birchwood Terrace) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 16th

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

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

Thursday the 17th

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday the 14th

Columbus Day – All town buildings will be closed to observe the holiday.

Tuesday the 15th

Teen Program Totes (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day

An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day

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

Chubby Chats (Ages 18 and up) (Chubby Dog Coffee and Gaming Bar) 10 to 11 a.m.

Small Business Academy (Ages 18+) (Library) 6 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday the 16th

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

Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:45 a.m.

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

Let's Get Crafting (Ages 13-17) (Library) 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday the 17th

Story Craft (Ages two to six) (Library) 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Friday the 18th

Fall Family Hike (All Ages) (Library) 10 to 11 a.m.

Saturday the 19th

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

Coffee with the Council and Board of Education (Two Dogs Coffee Company) 9 to 10 a.m.

Friends of the Killingly Library Meeting (Library) 9 a.m.

Halloween Costume Contest (Davis Park) 10 a.m. to noon

Killingly Public Library Building 30th Anniversary Celebration (Library) noon to 2 p.m.

"Descendants: The Musical" (The Little Theater on Broad Street) 7 p.m.

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/ EVENTS COMING UP...

Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing – Nov. 18 through Dec. 2 (Mondays) (Killingly Community Center)

Pre-Season Basketball Skills Clinic – Nov. 4 through Nov. 7 (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) (Killingly Community Center)

Tuesday Art Club Classes with Tunk City – Sept. 10 through Dec. 17 (Tuesdays) (Killingly Community Center)

Virtual High Five 2024 (Killingly Community Center) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Senior Yoga October – Oct. 4 through Oct. 25 – Fridays at 9 and 10:30 a.m. (Killingly Community Center)

Let's Get Moving October – Oct. 1 through Oct. 29 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center)

Stew and Story – Oct. 17 (Killingly Community Center)

Spooktacular Parade – Oct. 26 (Davis Park and Main Street)

Thursday Yoga with Mary – Nov. 7 through Dec. 26 (Killingly Community Center)

Getting in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 2 – Nov. 6 through Dec. 18 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center)

Youthoop Girls and Boys – Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Youthoop Instructional - Grades 1 and 2 – Dec. 21 through Feb. 8

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killingly.org.

Walktober is here

NEW BOOK FOR SALE:

The Killingly Historical and Genealogical Society now has "Ghosts of King Philip's War" by Thomas D'Agostino and Arlene Nicholson for sale for \$20. It includes tales from our region... Please add \$5 if you wish to have a copy mailed.

The books are available at the Killingly Historical Center during regular Wednesday or Saturday hours (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) or may be purchased by mail. Please send a check to P.O. Box 265 Danielson, CT 06239.

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

Walktober is here!

The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor once again has several hundred walks and events to choose from in the coming weeks. For a complete listing visit the website: thelastgreenvalley.org. Walktober calendars are available at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center, public libraries, and town halls. Some walks require registration so you might want to check a week or two in advance to see what might interest you.

#136 Brooklyn. Social Ferment and the Old Meetinghouse. Saturday, Oct. 12 3-4:30 p.m. 7 Canterbury Rd. (near the intersection of Routes 6 and 169. Walk. Visit the restored 1771 meetinghouse and hear about its history and this part of Windham County. Learn about religious crises and impassioned social movements (1815-1873) that emanated from the meetinghouse and nearby citizens' home. Subjects include Israel Putnam, Josiah Whitney, Samuel May, Bronson Alcott and Celia Burleigh. Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Society. Parking at bank and churches. 860-779-2623.

Putnam Library Presents A musical Program "Ovation



**KILLINGLY
AT
300**
.....
**MARGARET
WEAVER**

I love memories!

Please keep them coming!

On September 29th Claire LaPorte sent an email reminiscing about using the Budd Car. "Your article on the Budd Car brought back many happy memories. In the late '50's and early '60's, my friend, Pauline Turgeon, and I would take the Budd Car for week-end excursions to New York City. We would leave from Putnam, switch to a 'regular' train in New London, get off at Grand Central Station, and walk a mile to our hotel. It was a wonderful way for two small town girls to experience Broadway shows, big-city dining, and seeing the Rockettes."

Susan Jankot also sent memories of the Budd Car, but they were of a much scarier nature. "I moved from Putnam to NYC after UCONN in '68 I would visit my family monthly taking a train from Grand Central that stopped at New London on route to Boston. And then take the Budd to Putnam. I met the engineer and conductor and could ride up front to watch and talk. One weekend I had a co-worker join me. On the way back to New London, near Norwich, someone had tampered with a connecting switch.. The conductors told us to hang on tight; the train was derailed, bounced off the track but fortunately stopped short of plunging into the river. An engine came up from New London and we were loaded into a freight car to continue the trip. " (email Sept. 29)

Have you ever been to Old Furnace State Park? My family went a number of times when I was much younger and more agile. The Killingly Historical Center recently had a request from John Kostrewa, a former editor and reporter for the Providence Journal who now writes a hiking column, asking for some information about

Guitars & the Singer/ Songwriter Movement of the '70's with Jim Lenn. Wednesday, Oct. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School Street, Putnam. Register today by calling 860-963-6826.

it. I sent some from a previous Villager article; Lynn LaBerge sent some from an early Killingly Historical Society Journal. I did discover a copy of a very interesting December 16, 1891 Windham County Transcript article in the files. Did you know that there was once a huge rock perched on top of the summit at what was then called "Half Hill"? "The Rock Fall at Half Hill. A successful attempt was made on Monday to dislodge and precipitate from the crest of the precipice of Half Hill a huge flat rock that partially hung over the cliff... There was a large gathering, viz. of families, O.A. Bowen, Rev. E. Anderson, W. S. Hume, Jeremiah Hill, Frank Willard, Hon. Arthur Bill and their wives, Mrs. Simon S. Waldo, Mr. Chapman and daughter and Mill Morse, and besides Drs. W. E. Hyde and A. C. Sharpe, Revs. Knapp and Bristol, and Messrs. S. B. Crofut, E. S. Carpenter, Thos. Day, H. A. Brown, Henry Church, S. P. Davis, and Russell Smith. But active as any and full of enthusiasm in the projection of the great rock was Mr. Lysander Warren, who was as young and busy as one could imagine. The rock lay on the verge of the cliff, which rises sheer some fifty feet from the slope that at a sharp angle falls thence to the bed of the stream which formerly fed the wheel of "The Old Mill". It was some 20 feet by 6 inches width, and 3 feet thick. Pushed away by the action of the elements it left a cleft for purchase of jack-screws, and those applied with other mechanical purchase, the great slab toppled over the brow of the frowning precipice and sand (?)wedged out of sight into the trees and rubbish. It was a great disappointment, as we had hoped to see it bound, shivered and shivering in great crash and with the sound of thunder. (But that was not the end of the story or adventure. Apparently a ledge was partly responsible for the lack of thundering roar). "Finding a ledge part way down the cliff where a shoulder of rock gave opportunity for purchase by a jack-screw, Dr. Hyde was lowered with a rope, and applied the force to push off what seemed the face of the cliff. He sat upon a small, saddle-like projection which clinging to the rope with one hand

(the rope that was tied to the jack-screw) he began to open its invincible jaws . A clock of some fifteen feet in length started, and set free a drift of the ledge, yawning beneath and about the dauntless engineer, who clinging to his rope, seemed to see the who mountain going under his feet. White faces peered over the cliff above, and nervy hands held the rope, expecting each moment to see the Doctor hurled to destruction. But calm as in his office he sat and surveyed the awful destruction he had precipitated. But the fearful crash! Tons of rock rolled away from the face of the precipitous cliff, and fell in solid mass, till striking, shivering, splintering on the steep declivity below they poured an avalanche upon rocks and trees, sweeping all before them..." That rock would have been something to see! (The entire article may be seen online by going to the back issues of the Windham County Transcript at the Killingly Public Library site, www.killinglypl.org, Dec. 16, 1891, p.2).

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

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, October 2024. Special thanks to Claire LaPorte and Susan Jankot for sharing memories of the Budd Car and John Kostrewa for posing the question about Old Furnace. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killingly-historical.org. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

OBITUARIES

Ashley D. Smith 1985 - 2024



Dayville – Ashley D. (Webster) Smith, 39, formerly of Upper Maple St., beloved wife of the late Ryan Smith, died Sunday, September 22, 2024, at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of Betty J. Lucier-Mayo of Dayville and the late Ronald P. Webster. She was a graduate of the Woodstock Academy, received her associate's degree from Quinebaug Valley Community College, and attended nursing school in St. Kitts.

Mrs. Smith was a former member of the Putnam EMS, American Medical Response of West Hartford, and the Bungay Fire Brigade and Ambulance.

Ashley was an avid reader and enjoyed watching the Walking Dead on television and playing the flute. But, above all she cherished the quality time that she spent with her Nephew Dawson Webster.

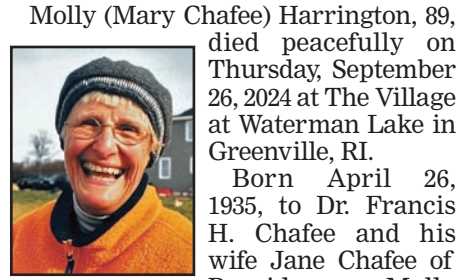
She is survived by her mother, Betty J. Lucier-Mayo and her life partner Brenda Vivlamore of Dayville; her step-mother, Becky Webster of Woodstock; her siblings, Nicholas Webster and

his fiancé Angela Deskus O'Connor of Woodstock Valley, Katie Webster of Putnam, Robyn Webster of Putnam, Erica Brimberry of Woodstock, and Tiffany Brimberry of Woodstock; her paternal grandmother, Carole Webster of Lebanon; her devout Godmother, Heidi Clifford of Danielson, her cherished nephew, Dawson Webster of Putnam, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was predeceased by husband, Ryan Smith; her father, Ronald P. Webster; her paternal grandfather, Robert Webster; and her maternal grandparents, Jesse and Dorothy Mayo, Sr.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Ashley's family from 10:00AM to 12:00PM on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, in the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260, followed by a funeral service in the funeral home at 12:00 noon. Burial will follow in Pomfret South Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Ashley's memory may be made to Putnam EMS, P.O. Box 365, Putnam, CT 06260 or Bungay Fire Brigade, 1256 Rte. 171, Woodstock, CT 06281. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Molly (Mary Chafee) Harrington, 89



Molly (Mary Chafee) Harrington, 89, died peacefully on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at The Village at Waterman Lake in Greenville, RI.

Born April 26, 1935, to Dr. Francis H. Chafee and his wife Jane Chafee of Providence, Molly graduated from Walnut Hill School in Natick, Massachusetts. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Vassar College in 1957, and pursued some post graduate education at Brown University before meeting and marrying the love of her life, Carroll, on July 11, 1959, a marriage that lasted more than 65 years.

Together, they purchased Country Corner Farm on Long Entry Road in Chepachet in November, 1961. There, they raised beef cows, chickens, sheep, ducks, cats, and at one time, a goat. Molly embraced farm life with enthusiasm. She also raised four children, Nathan, Hayley, Chris, and Alex, and was a second mother to many more, including several neighborhood children and five exchange students from Japan and Germany, studying an academic year in America. There was always room at the table for another place setting, and Molly, an excellent cook, could brew up an army of food and make it look easy.

Additionally, Molly worked at the Golden Lamb Buttery, a four-star restaurant in Brooklyn, CT, for 25 years. To say she waitress would be an understatement of the welcome and comfort she provided customers, who requested her again and again for her joyful demeanor.

She also learned the art of bookbind-

ing, and volunteered her time binding books at the Providence Athenaeum for many years. For 35 years she was also the chairperson of the donations committee for the Mary Dexter Chafee Fund, and found immense satisfaction in this charitable work. Molly was also involved locally, including helping to form the Glocester Heritage Society, of which she was president for a short time, and with the Glocester Recreation Commission. She and Carroll also took to bicycling, and Molly completed the Narragansett Bay Wheelmen 100-mile "Century" ride in 1981. Later on she and Carroll would take their energies toward the White Mountains of New Hampshire, hiking many mountains and visiting every hut.

Molly was also an avid sewer, water-color artist, and gardener. She and Carroll planted up to 1000 daffodils every autumn in the field across from their farmhouse, drawing awe from passersby as they bloomed each April.

Molly is survived by her husband, Carroll S. Harrington of Greenville, RI; daughter Hayley C. and son-in-law David S. Robinson of Jamestown RI, son Christopher C. Harrington of Japan, daughter Alexandra H. and son-in-law William P. Pepin of Lincoln RI, and grandsons Michael E. Robinson and his wife Holly S., Noah T. Robinson, Joshua D. Robinson, Neil J. Pepin, and Jack C. Pepin. She is predeceased by her brothers, Richard S. Chafee and Nathaniel Chafee, and son Nathan S. Harrington. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Molly's memory to the Harmony Library, 195 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI 02814. For messages of condolence, please visit www.andersonwinfield.net

MASCOT

continued from page A1

of Education members, Town Council members, the Athletic Director, members of the Killingly Business Association, Killingly alumni, and members of the Economic Development Committee.

As for retiring the "Redmen" name, Marcoux explained a plan to acknowledge the history of the mascot while officially putting it to rest.

"[Athletic Director] Jim Lackner shared the idea of having a ceremony during halftime of a basketball game this winter. The ceremony would involve suspending a banner from the rafters recognizing the Redmen mascot's retirement but also acknowledging its years serving as the mascot. The intent of ceremony will be to provide

closure as the process of choosing a new mascot moves forward," said Marcoux.

Members of the Board of Education inquired about why the ceremony would take place during a basketball game rather than a football game. Marcoux noted it is simply a matter of timing as the banner wouldn't be completed before the end of the football season and they would want the ceremony to take place prior to winter sports playoffs.

The new approach to the mascot transition received positive feedback from Board of Education members on both sides of the debate. BOE member Kelly Martin, who was opposed to the change earlier this year, commended Dr. Nash's recommendations to have a more involved transition plan.

"You're doing some-

thing nobody has done before by getting the historian and approaching it slowly and getting everyone else involved, having the celebration. It's an amazing idea," said Martin.

Board of Education Vice Chair Danny Rovero said he feels the approach is better than the previous retirement in 2019 but acknowledges not everyone will be happy with the outcome.

"I like the idea that we're going to get everybody involved. Let's make sure we do it right this time and when it's done at least ninety percent of the people are happy. You're never going to get a hundred percent happy no matter what," he said.

Dates for the meetings with the town historian and the mascot retirement ceremony were not made official in time for this story.

Inc. Team of Andrew Whittenburg, Eric Whittenburg, Hayden Yawarski, Rich Burns

Closest to Pin #4 – Roger Hammond, 10'10"
Closest to Pin #9 – Dennis Rinaldi, 4'4"
Closest to Pin #11 – Ray Elliotte, 3'1"
Closest to Pin #15 – Bob Ayotte, 9'

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff

including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

2024 DKH Centreville Golf Classic

Day Kimball Health welcomed participants at the 40th Annual Day Kimball Hospital Centreville Bank Golf Classic, held at Connecticut National Golf Club on Sept. 13, 2024. The event raised over \$126,000 to support patient care initiatives in cardiology, orthopedics, and diagnostic imaging services. Pictured from left to right: Harold Horvat, President & CEO, Centreville Bank; James Zahansky, Principal/Managing Partner, Weiss, Hale, & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors; Kyle Kramer, CEO, Day Kimball Health; David White, Partner, Pinnacle Healthcare Consulting; Anthony Long, Partner, Pinnacle Healthcare Consulting.

a real effort to reverse the stubborn cycles of decline that had persisted since the loss of the mills," said Penn-Gesek. "Mary Ann brought in multiple brownfield grants for environmental assessments and for district-wide community planning. Her efforts set me up well to continue the work to revitalize the mill district with grants to improve infrastructure, the Riverside Drive sidewalks, and also initiate cleanup of the River Mill. The 65 Main project will be successful because it will benefit from the infrastructure improve-

ments while capitalizing on Thompson's strengths: its location in our densest neighborhood with the highest potential for local small business infill, Thompson's long history of and affinity for farming and agriculture, and the innovative career pathways being developed for our public school system."

Information regarding the 65 Main initiative and all twelve of the public workshops have been made available on Thompson's town website and on the Town of Thompson CT YouTube channel.

GOLF

continued from page A1

Appliances, to today's field of more than 60 foursomes at CT National and in partnership with Centreville Bank, the golf tournament has raised more than \$2,569,000. These funds have been instrumental in ensuring access to high-quality medical care in Northeast Connecticut.

For more information about the Day Kimball Hospital Centreville Bank Golf Classic, visit daykimball.org/golffclass or call the Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation Office at (860) 928-7141.

2024 DKH Centreville Bank Golf Classic Results:

1st Place (56 w/matching cards) - Roger Noll, Sean Vigue, Scott Vose, Pat Kozelka

2nd Place (56) - NES Health Team of Rebecca Ladyka, Deb Yakis, Mike Jezierski, Nick Kobel

3rd Place (57) - ERW,

SERIES

continued from page A1

Exterior renovations are expected to be completed by the end of the fall if not the end of October.

With the project now proceeding into possibly its most important phase, Penn-Gesek reflected on all the work performed so far and how significant this project will be to Thompson's future economic growth.

"For the past five years of my time working for the town, and before me when Mary Ann Chinatti was Thompson's planner, the Town has made

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LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
On September 30th, the Wetlands Agent approved application #09-24-44, 101 Tripp Road, Rioux Builders LLC, for 20x15 breezeway in Upland Review Area. Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent
October 11, 2024

ed October 2, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
John Richard, Jr. (24-00336)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 25, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kathleen A. Richard
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS,
168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
October 11, 2024

The fiduciary is:
Aislin Baihe Tracey
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN,
ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD,
50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
October 11, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Gerald H Ducharme (24-00369)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 11, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Judith Folkerts
c/o ERNEST J COTNOIR,
MAHER AND COTNOIR,
163 PROVIDENCE STREET,
P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260
October 11, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Dorothy T. Tracey (24-00357)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dat-

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