



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

©2025, Issue #25

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Friday, June 20, 2025

Complimentary to homes by request

BY RON P. CODERRE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — The National Prep School Champion Putnam Science Academy Mustangs inducted the 2024 Hall of Fame Class in a ceremony conducted on campus on Saturday, June 7. Assistant Head of School Kevin Donovan, who was joined on stage by Athletic Director and Head Coach Thomas Espinosa and Assistant Coach Josh Scraba, served as Master of Ceremonies for the program.

In what Espinosa noted as “One of the most talented group of players in the history of the school,” the Class of 2024 was comprised of six players, one contributor and the team of 2017-2018. The player inductees were Hassan Diarra, Tyson Etienne, Osun Osunniyi, Kyle Lofton, Jose Perez and Daniel Upchurch. Donald Cushing, who has served as Head of School was inducted as a Contributor. The newest inductees bring the total number of players to 14, two coaches, three teams and four contributors.

Hassan Diarra, recognized as the spark-plug of Coach Danny Hurley’s University of Connecticut Huskies, joins his brother Mamadou Diarra of the Class of 2021 as a Hall of Fame member. Hassan Diarra led the Mustangs to National Championships in 2018 and 2020 prior to moving on to Texas A&M for two years and his final three years at UConn, where he was part of the 2023 and 2024 NCAA National Championship teams. He’s currently the 2nd leading scorer in PSA history (1469 points in 118 games), all-time career assist leader with 470, and 2nd all-time steal leader with 193 thefts.

Tyson Etienne, cur-

Putnam Science Academy inducts third Hall of Fame Class



Courtesy

Previous inductees to the Putnam Science Academy Basketball Hall of Fame (l to r) Mamadou Diarra, UConn Director of Basketball Operations, Ronald P. Coderre (Contributor), and Coach Tom Espinosa and Class of 2024 inductee, UConn standout and two-time NCAA National Champion Hassan Diarra got together prior to the induction ceremony.

rently a member of the NBA Brooklyn Nets, was a prominent member of the 2019 Prep National Final Four team that posted a 38-2 record. Following his time in Putnam, Etienne moved on to Division I Wichita State University where he was recognized

as first-team American Athletic Conference and AAC Co-Player of the Year. He ranks in the top-ten at PSA in single season scoring (571 points) and three-pointers made (80).

Kyle Lofton, led PSA to its first National Prep Championship (2017-

2018), prior to moving on to four outstanding years at St. Bonaventure and a season at the University of Florida. He’s in the Mustangs’ top-ten in career and single season assists (241) and career steals (77). Lofton currently plays professionally in Germany.

Daniel (Danny) Upchurch holds the school’s single game assist record (14), which he accomplished twice in his career. He’s also recognized in many of the schools scoring and assists categories. He played two years on the collegiate level at

Charleston Southern University and also at the University of New Haven. He played on the professional level in the country of Georgia. He’s currently employed by the State of Connecticut working with underprivileged individuals in the Bridgeport area.

Osun Osunniyi, who was unable to attend because his professional team was playing in the finals in Germany, had a brilliant four-year career at St. Bonaventure University prior to concluding his college eligibility at Iowa State University. Osunniyi led PSA to its 1st National Prep Championship as part of the 2017-2018 team, and was named National Tournament MVP. Known for his rugged play in the middle, he holds the school record for taking 31 charges. He’s also among the leaders in career blocks at PSA.

Jose Perez, who ranks in the top-ten in many categories at PSA, went on to a college career at five schools. Perez initially went to Gardner Webb University and ended his vagabond collegiate career at Arizona State. In between he had stints at Manhattan, Marquette University and West Virginia University. He played professionally in Puerto Rico.

Donald Cushing, a Dudley, Massachusetts resident, enters the Hall of Fame as a contributor. He became the first PSA Head of School (2015-2020) and returned in 2023. A collegiate player in his day, “Cush” starred at Worcester State University, where he garnered hoop notoriety that enabled him to be elected into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame. A huge fan of the PSA basketball program Mr. Cushing is

Turn To **HALL OF FAME** page **A8**

Killingly partners with Wright-Pierce for WPCF Scope of Work plan

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — While a moratorium remains in place for new connections to the Killingly Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) town officials have confirmed they are working with a contractor to determine the size and scope of upgrades needed to increase capacity.

The Killingly Water Pollution Control Authority issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in December of 2024 and interviewed three parties in April. According to minutes from the WPCA’s May meeting, members voted 3-1-1 to authorize partnering with Wright-Pierce for a Facilities Plan Scope of Work. Wright-Pierce previously worked with the town on a capacity analysis that eventually justified the moratorium.

Acting Town Manager Francis Conroy provided a brief update to the Town Council on June 10 from a memorandum submitted by Town Engineer David Capacchione. The document confirmed that the process is moving forward.

“The contract for the scope and services identified in the RFP is being completed,” Conroy read. “Once it’s completed, it will be submitted to the town attorney and CT DEEP and then executed. Once executed, the work will identify any upgrades to the WPCF which will most effectively meet the needs of the community. So, it’s still a work in progress.”

At the Town Council’s May 13 meeting, Capacchione himself explained that the process will include input from numerous stakeholders to assess the need for not only the present, but also the projected future growth of Killingly.

“Basically, we’ll talk to everybody, all the contributors to the system, to see what the future needs are and

Thompson launches new EDC Web site

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Town of Thompson recently debuted a new website for its Economic Development Commission focused on putting local businesses front and center

while also advertising Thompson as a great place to work and live.

The new site includes success stories and business highlights while serving as a gateway for potential new businesses to learn about the town and its permitting processes. The site also fea-

tures a community calendar and the option of subscribing to an e-newsletter which will detail goings-on in the town and updates on commercial real estate and projects. Special focus has been put on bringing awareness to Thompson’s Downtown Mill Development

District (DMRD) and the Thompson Corridor Development District (TCDD) and providing updates on current economic development initiatives like the development of River Mill and the ongoing 65 Main St.

Turn To **WEB SITE** page **A8**

Goodyear embracing nature-based learning initiatives

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Over the last five years, the Goodyear Early Childhood Center in Killingly has worked to embrace an increasingly popular approach to teaching called nature-based learning which takes children out of the confines of a classroom to learn about the environment firsthand.

What started as a temporary solution for COVID-era distance learning has turned into a full-fledged part of Goodyear’s curriculum with the school recently debuting its new outdoor trail called “the beyond.” Goodyear Principal Sally Sherman said both teachers and



Courtesy

Goodyear students have a scientific discussion regarding the world around them.

Turn To **PLAN** page **A8**

Turn To **GOODYEAR** page **A8**

A recipe for success

85 Main Celebrates 20 years June 21 & 22

PUTNAM — 85 Main, a cornerstone of Putnam’s vibrant dining scene, is proud to announce its 20th Anniversary Celebration—a special weekend, June 21 & 22, honoring two decades of exceptional dining, community connection, and culinary craftsmanship. Since opening its doors in 2005, 85 Main has become synonymous with American fusion cuisine served in a relaxed, casual fine dining setting. The restaurant’s longevity and success reflect not only its ability to evolve with the times but also its unwavering commitment to quality, innovation and local partnerships.

To commemorate this milestone, the anniversary weekend will feature special giveaways, as well as a throwback menu - a curated selection of beloved dishes from the past, thoughtfully reintroduced to celebrate how far the restaurant has come while honoring where it all started. It’s a culinary journey that reflects the theme of the weekend: “Defining the Taste of Time.”

“Reaching 20 years in this industry is something truly special,” said Owner, Executive Chef & General Manager James Martin, who, along with partners Barry and Brian Jessurun, helped

shape Putnam into the culinary destination it is today. “We’ve grown with our guests, evolved our menu, and remained committed to delivering an experience that blends creativity with comfort.”

A defining element of 85 Main’s culinary philosophy has always been its dedication to locally sourced ingredients. From fresh seafood and seasonal produce to locally raised meats and artisan goods, the restaurant has forged strong relationships with area farmers, and fishermen—bringing the best of New England to each plate. This commitment supports the local economy while ensuring the highest standards of freshness, flavor, and sustainability.

Their forward-thinking vision helped lead local trends long before they became mainstream — including the introduction of alfresco dining and outdoor patio seating at 85 Main in 2008, which set a new standard for downtown dining in Putnam.

Over the years, 85 Main and Chef James Martin have received numerous honors that reflect both critical acclaim and community recognition for its contributions to the culinary scene in Putnam. These include, but are not limited to:

Connecticut Magazine Awards

85 Main and James Martin have received numerous Connecticut Magazine Awards over the past 20 years, including:

- Best Macaroni and Cheese
- Best Sushi
- Best Outdoor Dining
- Best Continental
- Best Seafood
- Best Bar (all in Windham County)
- Runner-up for Best Bar in the State of Connecticut

Connecticut Restaurant Association

- James Martin



named “Restaurateur of the Year,” 2015 - James Martin, a finalist for “Chef of the Year” at the Connecticut Restaurant Association’s Salute to Excellence Awards, 2011

Tripadvisor Travelers’ Choice Award - 85 Main, recognized with the Tripadvisor Travelers’ Choice award, placing it in the top 10% of restaurants based on customer reviews

And November 2025 Chef Martin will be presented with the Escoffier Award - symbolizing mastery achievement and recognition within the culinary world. From fresh, locally inspired seafood and sushi to inventive spins on American classics, 85 Main continues to define what it means to deliver approachable yet elevated cuisine.

The 20th Anniversary Weekend promises more than great food—it’s a celebration of community, legacy, and the passionate team. Come join us as we honor a milestone – 20 years of culinary excellence. Raise a glass to the memories we’ve shared and the exciting chapters still to come.

We want to hear from you!

As part of the 20th Anniversary celebration, patrons are invited to share their favorite dish from the past years. From unforgettable appetizers to a classic entree, your most memorable meal could make a comeback on our special throwback menu during the anniversary festivities! All submissions should be sent to jenneratepro@gmail.com Subject: 85 Main Recipe for Success!

For reservations please visit: 85main.com and/or follow @85main on social

media.

For press inquiries and interviews please contact: james@85main.com

85 Main is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Monday–Thursday: 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m. Friday–Saturday: 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m. Sunday: 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m.

Local student graduates from Northfield Mount Hermon

MOUNT HERMON, Mass. — Beatrix Donovan of Woodstock was among 192 students, from 24 states and 25 nations, who graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon on May 25. Alumni Mariah Calagione Draper, NMH class of 1989, and Sam Calagione III, class of 1988, co-founders of Dogfish Head Brewing, delivered the keynote address. The Calagiones, whose two children also attended NMH, are longtime, dedicated supporters of the school.

“Class of 2025, you are taking the NMH community with you from this hill, which is why you will naturally lean in, you will automatically roll up your sleeves, you will become a part of your communities without a second thought, you will be a part of bringing people together,” Mariah Calagione told the students. “It’s when we are together in community that we learn from each other. We build community with our actions, our human experiences, and by sharing our stories.”

“I am so excited for each of you as you embark on your own adult journeys, nourished by the unparalleled community that is Northfield Mount Hermon,” Sam Calagione added. “The best of this school is now coursing through your heads, your hearts, and your hands, like the sweet sap running through the maple trees across this campus.”

Class Orator Shai Lipton-Ferguson of Westwood, Massachusetts, found inspiration for his Commencement address in the lyrics of the school song, William Blake’s “Jerusalem”: “I will not cease from mental fight, nor shall my sword sleep in my hand, till we have built Jerusalem, in every green and pleasant land.”

Over his four years at NMH, Lipton-Ferguson said, he and his classmates built their own Jerusalem. “I want each of us to think of the people in this class who have helped make this place your Jerusalem. The first few people that pop into your head: a roommate, a teammate, a classmate, a friend,” he said. “Think about what they have done for you, how they have made you feel. Capture that feeling. Capture their actions. Capture your emotions. That is what Jerusalem really is. That is how we have built Jerusalem. Jerusalem is how we have helped each other, how we have loved each other.”

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of bread

5. Range of mountains

10. Ended

12. Musical forms with a recurring theme

14. On the nature of being

16. Law enforcement agency

18. Australian flightless bird

19. Subvay rodent

20. More dried-up

22. A beaver might build one

23. Suggestive of the supernatural

25. Art __, around 1920

26. American rocker Snider

27. Not or

28. Earliest human: __-Magnon Man

30. Firearm

31. Tough outer skin of fruit

33. Alternative form of a gene

35. Low shrub some call “fat pork”

37. Plants in the chamomile tribe

38. Revolutionary War era spy

40. Portion of a book

41. Hoover’s office

42. Title of respect

44. Tax collector

45. Cool!

48. Real estate

50. Boy’s name

52. Airborne (abbr.)

53. Strongly recommends

55. Hit lightly

56. Bar bill

57. Atomic #54

58. Devotes again

63. Fish sauce

65. French stock market

66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

67. Tense

CLUES DOWN

1. Retired game show host Sajak

2. Equal (prefix)

3. Israeli city __ Aviv

4. Loved

5. A type of analyst

6. Ad __

7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

8. Ran without moving

9. Opposite of yes

10. Diffuse clouds of gas

11. Mentioning one by one

13. Instruments used to dilate

15. Freshwater fish

17. Remotely-manned flying objects

18. Doctor of Education

21. Renews

23. Not the start

24. Pitching stat

27. Small water buffaloes

29. Ceramic jars

32. I (German)

34. Something to toss on a fire

35. The process of flowing in

36. A series of acts at a night club

39. Egg of a louse

40. Inquire too closely

43. Travelers

44. Drink

46. Behave in a way that degrades

47. Electronic music style

49. Northern Ireland city

51. Upset

54. Stiff structure resembling a hair

59. Father

60. North Atlantic fish

61. 8th month (abbr.)

62. Make an effort

64. Commercial

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Week of June 9: Bobolink, American Kestrel, Eastern Meadowlark, Veery, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Wood Thrush, Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, Goldfinch, American Redstart, White-eyed Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, Barred Owl.

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PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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The Woodstock Villager (USPS 024-999) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 10A Beeches Ln, Woodstock Ct 06281. Periodical postage paid at Putnam, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to Villager Newspapers c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Samuel Hagan named to College of Charleston President’s List

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Samuel Hagan, of Woodstock, was named to the College of Charleston Spring 2025 President’s List. Hagan is majoring in Accounting

To qualify for the President’s List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Located in the heart of historic Charleston, S.C., the College of Charleston is a nationally recognized public liberal arts and sciences university. Founded in 1770, the College is among the nation’s top universities for quality education, student life and affordability. Its beautiful and historic campus, combined with contemporary facilities, cutting-edge programs and accessible faculty attracts students from across the U.S. and around the world.

Community Kitchen holds volunteer appreciation day



Longstanding Community Kitchen volunteers Earl McWilliams (left) and Pat Monahan (right) were presented with embroidered aprons by president Bob Kirk at Saturday's Volunteer Appreciation Day at Owen Bell Park.

DAYVILLE — Last Saturday's drizzly weather did not dampen the spirits of the Community Kitchen volunteers who gathered beneath Pavillion #1 at Owen Bell Park to enjoy a cookout and celebrate the important work they are doing together feeding neighbors in need.

The gathering consisted of cooks and kitchen helpers, site coordinators and board members. They shared a noontime meal of hamburgers and hot dogs and side dishes.

A brief program followed the meal during which time each site coordinator introduced volunteers from her respective site. Two longtime volunteers—Earl McWilliams and Pat Monahan—were singled out for special recognition.

Earl McWilliams joined the Community Kitchen board of directors back in 1984, one year after the organization was founded. At present Earl volunteers each Wednesday at the United Methodist Church of Danielson, where he can be found washing pots and pans, mopping floors, and doing whatever else needs doing.

Pat Monahan joined the board of Community Kitchen in 1997. She has held every executive office of the organization from secretary and treasurer to vice president and president. As president for over a dozen years during lean times, Pat held the nonprofit together by sheer force of will. She is currently the site coordinator of the Friday meal in Moosup.

"I am inspired by the commitment and compassion of our many volunteers," commented Bob Kirk, president of Community Kitchen. "These folks show up week in and week out. Not only do they prepare

delicious meals, they treat our guests with kindness and respect. Our volunteers are quiet unsung heroes."

Community Kitchen of Northeastern Connecticut is a nonprofit that serves a free nutritious noontime meal Monday through Friday at a different church or meal site in our region of the state. These five meal sites are located at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock on Mondays, Central Village Congregational Church on Tuesdays, United Methodist Church of Danielson on Wednesdays, Creation Church of Thompson on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, and the Moosup Firehouse on Fridays. Together these five meal sites serve or distribute an average of 2,500 meal each month, approximately 30,000 meals annually. Everyone is welcome.

Donations to Community Kitchen of Northeastern Connecticut, Inc. can be made by visiting their website at communitykitchensnect.org and clicking on the donation tab, or by mailing a check to P. O. Box 502, Danielson, CT 06239.

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UConn professor offers illuminating look at fireflies

POMFRET — While the singing of katydids announces the end of summer, the blinking of fireflies signals its arrival. One of the most pleasant associations with summer is going outside on a warm evening and watching fireflies. Many of us have childhood memories of playing in our backyards, chasing fireflies, catching them in a glass jar to watch them flash, and then releasing them. But why do fireflies flash? What are they 'saying'?

The University of Connecticut's Dr. Andrew Moiseff will answer these questions and more when he shares an illuminating look at fireflies on Wednesday, June 25, at 7 p.m. at The Connecticut



Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd. Admission is \$5 for CAS members and \$10 for non-members. While program registration is requested (call 860-928-4948), it is not required.

Dr. Moiseff will cover the biology and life cycle of the firefly, the behavioral role of flashing, how flashes are generated, and a couple of behaviors unique to fireflies. He will

also discuss reports of declining numbers of fireflies. By understanding the life cycle and behavior of fireflies, we can discuss the human and natural factors that might be contributing to these concerning reports.

After the presentation, walk outside with Dr. Moiseff and enjoy a June evening at the Bafflin Sanctuary. Reflect on firefly science, wax nostalgic, enjoy a magical lightshow.

ECARA taking part in national amateur radio Field Day

THOMPSON — The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (ECARA) will be participating in the annual national Field Day event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) the weekend of June 28 & 29. The members of ECARA will be operating from a portable Amateur Radio station they will set up at Gawron Farm, 200 Gawron Rd. in Thompson, from noon Saturday to noon Sunday.

This exciting event showcases ham radio operators' ability to serve the community with emergency communication capabilities, and challenges ham radio clubs all over the country to contact as many other stations as possible in a 24-hour exercise. The public is invited to observe, learn about Amateur Radio and even participate hands on. It's open to all ages, family friendly, and refreshments will be available. More information is at ECARA.net.

Legion Post 111 hosting open house Saturday

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites the public to our free open house and breakfast on Saturday, June 21 from 8-10 a.m. Come to our post, located at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, to see what we do for our veterans and the community and see our newly renovated post home.

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

This is your brain on fun

When’s the last time you had some real, stupid, joyful fun?

Not the kind that’s scheduled on a calendar or costs \$85 a ticket. I mean the kind of fun that sneaks up on you and reminds you life isn’t all stress and headlines. A kitchen dance-off. A late-night ice cream run. A ridiculous game of charades where everyone ends up crying from laughter.

We forget how much we need that.

The world’s heavy enough. People are tired. Disconnected. But fun, real, low-stakes, no-reason fun brings us back to life. It connects us and reminds us we’re human.

And there’s science to it. Research from Harvard found that playfulness, humor, and spontaneous joy reduce cortisol levels, improve brain function, and increase our capacity for empathy and resilience. Even the Harvard Law Review has noted how community and levity can improve public well-being and reduce conflict which sounds pretty good right about now. Fun doesn’t fix everything. But it makes everything easier to carry.

Harvard Study on Happiness: A long-term Harvard study on adult development found that close relationships and shared joyful experiences are the strongest predictors of health and longevity more than money or fame. Fun, especially when shared, strengthens those bonds.

Stanford Neuroscience Research: Engaging in fun and playful activities increases dopamine levels, which improve mood, motivation, and focus. It’s your brain’s natural “reward” system.

National Institute for Play: This institute emphasizes that play reduces stress, boosts creativity, and improves overall well-being, especially when it includes laughter or spontaneous moments.

American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine: Reports that people who prioritize leisure and play have lower levels of cortisol (the stress hormone), improved immune function, and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease.

More examples of everyday fun:

Hosting a “bad movie night” with neighbors and popcorn.

Setting up a spontaneous water balloon fight on a hot day.

Having a board game potluck everyone brings a snack and a game.

Organizing a “slow bike ride” zero competition, just cruising.

Creating a temporary sidewalk chalk gallery on your street.

Starting a DIY music night a few instruments, no expectations.

Holding a “try something new” night. People teach each other random skills like yoyo tricks, juggling, or how to whistle with fingers.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scenario posed by Wong has happened

To the Editor:

I would also like to add to Judith Wong’s comment published May 30. She states, what if the three mailboxes that had been wiped out was instead someone picking up their mail from one of them at that moment?

My friend and I were witness to just that tragedy coming home on the school bus. The hit and run happened on Hartford Pike (Route 101) in Rhode Island, a few miles from the Connecticut line. This section of road has two travel lanes and two full breakdown lanes.

To the Editor:

Once again, thanks to the 824 voters who turned out to vote an emphatic no on June 10 on the most recent Budget proposal, beating out the Yes vote by 40 votes. Of course, again, the BOF response is refusing to do their jobs and simply putting forward a new proposal with a 3.5 percent increase in spending as compared to the last one of 4 percent. Hey, why do your actual job when you can simply keep running it up the flagpole again and again and hope the No’s get tired and you can get even one more Yes than No’s. So, what does this mean to you? Well, with the revenue shortfall and an ever-declining general fund, how’s a 6.5 percent tax increase... And as I have previously pointed out this is on top of 5.8 percent and 7.48 percent the previous two years since the repeal of Prop 46. This is simply unsustainable.

Since my last letter you may have read in this paper and, I’m told on social media, that the school is under a great deal of pressure with something like nine specific positions having been eliminated over the last few years. Let’s get real – since 2018, WPS staffing has varied from 125.6 to 126.6 with a high of 128 in between. Unless you’ve been stuck in WPS’s fourth grade math class where less than 50 percent of the students can do math at grade level, it’s a little hard to figure out where those nine positions came from or where they went. All that was done was to shuffle the deck. Over the same time student enrollment has dropped more than 7 percent and is now down more than 25 percent from its peak in the early 2000’s – but staff keeps growing and test scores keep dropping. Maybe they need to focus more on actual education and less on how to build empires and spend more. Where did these numbers,

A woman retrieving her mail from her box on the edge of the eastbound lanes was hit and killed by a drive traveling west. He crossed over three lanes, including his own. After removal of her body, EMS returned to pick up the remains.

All that my friend and I saw was flesh, flesh, flesh everywhere, including a piece of her scalp with hair intact. These pieces littered all four lanes.

Not much of a childhood memory, huh?

Lauri A. Barrette
Quinebaug

Woodstock Redux II

and all my other numbers, come from? They are all from public documents that any citizen can get through CT FOIA or just for the asking – this goes for all towns not just Woodstock. School staffing and attendance numbers were supplied by the school after I suggested that the BOF request those numbers back in March – they, the BOF, to the best of my knowledge didn’t but the school provided them anyway without the FOIA request. But you have to ask!

I want to be clear, managing the town’s finances is not simple or easy, you actually have to put in the time and effort to do the job properly, but that is what the BOF is responsible for. If you don’t want to do the job, don’t volunteer for it. Get a hobby... In the meantime, the management of over \$30 million dollars is being dropped on the voters with as little real information as possible in the most inefficient way possible – through referendum. Also, in the meantime, the town will need to figure out how to finance for the short term. Options are to push tax bills until Aug. 1 or send out bills based on this year’s mill rate with supplemental bills when a final budget is passed. With the General fund down more than one million dollars, time for the BOF to get off their collective butts and actually do their jobs and give the taxpayers a budget that is reasonable and sustainable.

This budget needs to go down, and down hard. If not, next year is going to be even worse as the hole only keeps getting deeper. The new proposed date for the next referendum is July 1. We need every one of the no votes again, and more, as there will be a hard push for more Yes votes.

Dave Richardson
Woodstock

Small people can bring about big change

To the Editor:

I am writing this on Saturday, June 14, Flag Day, following participation in a No Kings protest at Killingly Commons, one person among an estimated crowd of 600 participants. Yes, 600 citizens who love our country without a king and who are watching the U.S. Constitution being shredded daily.

The latest outrage at this writing–but I know there will be more tomorrow or even later today–is the man-handling and wrestling to the floor of California U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla as he attempted to ask a question of Homeland Security Secretary Noem at a press conference she had called down the hall in the Federal Building where Senator Padilla was exercising his oversight responsibility as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Security. He had to wait for some of Secretary’s Noem’s press conference participants in order to begin the pre-scheduled meeting, and after seeing the Secretary walk by the door, decided to listen in, as her department is part of his oversight duties. As he raised his hand and began to ask her a question, he was instantaneously set upon by three men who ignored his identifying himself as U.S. Sen. Padilla; they violently shoved and pushed him into the hallway where he was forced to the floor and his hands cuffed behind his back. For trying to ask a question.

This does not happen in a civilized nation. The Secretary later promoted lies–if you watch the video of this incident, the lie is blatant–and stated that the senator had not identified himself and that he had “lunged” at her. Now, let’s remember that Ms. Noem had testified at least twice during Senate confirmation and other hearings that included Sen. Padilla. And one would think that she might have refreshed her memory about the names of the two U.S. Senators whose state she was inspecting–or whatever her mission was. But, even then, can anyone else recall a time when such an unceremonious and brutal removal–of anyone–from a press conference has taken place?

That is one reason why I decided to be

part of the No Kings Day protest. There are many other reasons that I will not list here.

Instead, I want to take a moment and indulge in the relief, gratitude and fulfillment I experienced standing shoulder to shoulder with those I consider “my people,” who refuse to allow our beloved nation to careen down this path to authoritarianism without speaking out and pointing out that that is wrong! This is not how we treat each other in the United States of America. I do not know the political party affiliation of most of the other protesters. Indeed, most of those at the protest were strangers to me. But we all agreed on one core value: that we all owe the privilege of freedom and justice to the content of and adherence to the U.S. Constitution. Not to a person, a political party or even to any public official who has sworn an oath to protect and defend it. We all need to be on this same page, regardless of our opinions, preferences or economic status. And this must include the leadership in the highest and most powerful public offices in the U.S.

In every time of struggle, there are targeted groups or individuals. And there are those who stand by silently, those who participate in persecuting those targeted, those who are not aware of the seriousness of the situation, and those who face the problem and decide to do something about it, even if they are not sure what needs to be done.

I am grateful to my toes that we live in a nation that protects dissent, requires due process for the accused, actually has in writing in its founding document that “all men are created equal” and has a long list of heroes and sheroes who did what needed to be done to protect those values. For a couple of hours on that Saturday, I felt that I was part of that group of people who are trying to make things better, even when we are not sure of what lies ahead. A small part, for I am a small person. But enough small people, when committed to something bigger than themselves, can sometimes bring about change for the better. And I hope we can.

Respectfully,

Claudia Terwilliger Allen
Thompson

Disappointing response

To the Editor:

It is so disappointing to realize that a good number (nearly 75 percent) of our Town of Woodstock voters did not turn out to vote on the second budget referendum! Woodstock is way behind in supporting our schools and town services, and key teacher/staff positions are being lost already.

I have no children, but know that our future lies in the solid education of our young peo-

ple, and I want the best for Woodstock youth. And I so appreciate the services that our town offers, and hate to see them cut because many voters did not turn up to approve the referendum.

Please vote yes in the upcoming third attempt...July 1. This could be decided by one vote, and it could be yours!

Karen Ryker
Woodstock

Pretend!

In 1979, a Harvard psychologist named Ellen Langer conducted a study that still raises eyebrows today. She gathered a group of men in their 70s and 80s and asked them to do something radical: pretend they were 20 years younger. For five days, these men lived in a recreated environment styled entirely from two decades earlier. The furniture, the magazines, the music, even the way they spoke—all designed to transport them back in time.

They didn’t just reminisce about the past. They were asked to live it. To speak in the present tense, as if 1959 wasn’t a memory but their current reality.

“Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life’s coming attractions,” said Albert Einstein.

What happened next sounds like fiction: Their IQ scores jumped by an average of 60 points. Their posture improved. They stood taller. Their posture and joint flexibility improved. Even finger length increased—an observable biological response. Some tossed their canes. A few played touch football on the lawn. All without medication. No surgery. Just belief, imagination, and embodiment.

Draw from that what you will. But here’s the question worth asking:

Who are you pretending to be?

We don’t always think of ourselves as actors. But we are. Every day, we step into roles—some conscious, many not. The tired one. The anxious one. The too-late one. The responsible-but-forgotten one. The victim. The almost-was.

We play them so well that we forget we’re performing until it becomes our truth.

Some would look at that Harvard study and scoff, “They were putting on a facade.” But that’s not what happened at all. I think they were peeling off the facade.

I think, for five days, they stopped pretending to be old—and remembered who they really were. They told a new story in their heads. And their bodies followed. Their minds led. And biology responded.

That’s the power of identity.

“We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be,” wrote Kurt Vonnegut.

Because here’s something most people never consider: every one of us is pretending. All the time. Based on what we believe. Based on what we’ve agreed to about ourselves. Based on what we were told—and accepted—about what’s possible.

So ask yourself: Are you really who you’ve been pretending to be?

Because if you want to know who you’re acting like, just look at your results. Your life is the clearest revelation of who you’ve agreed to be. And if you want new results, you don’t need to push harder—you need to play a new role.

That starts with changing your internal I Am. From “I’m too late” to “I’m right on time.” From “I’m stuck” to “I’m growing.” From “I’m not enough” to “I’m becoming.”

It’s not about faking it ‘til you make it. It’s about embodying what’s already inside you. Athletes do it. Performers do it. Therapists teach it.

Visualization. Rehearsal. Mental reprogramming. To the brain, there’s little difference between real and vividly imagined experiences—when you’re fully immersed, your biology plays along.

So, who you imagine yourself to be—over and over—becomes your lived experience.

Do you have the courage to be yourself?

Or have you been playing a role for so long you forgot there was a difference?

You don’t need to wait for someone to recreate your environment. You don’t need to wait for permission. You can create the shift now. Change the channel in your mind. Step into the role you

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A9**

What example of “like it is” are Trump’s supporters in favor of?

To the Editor:

Hoorah for our side. Five to six hundred showed up for the No Kings rally in our small Quiet Corner of Dayville. And perhaps as many as five million nationwide at over 1800 locations in all 50 states. And with no violence or arrests. And let's not forget that there were demonstrations in at least 12 other countries.

Curious that I cannot find any definitive estimates of the attendance in D.C. Just looking at the pics it is apparent that nowhere near the 200,000 Trump is claiming were there. A lot of empty bleachers and open acres around the Washington Monument. One estimate is as low as 20,000. And did you see the possible subtle message from the soldiers that they did not march in step?

When Trumpers are asked why they continue to support this idiot, the most frequent excuse is “because he says it like it is.” Just what “like it is” are they supporting? Every day, Trump contradicts himself. For instance, 20 years ago he said that the Democrats do a better

job of governing than the Republicans. He also promised that when inaugurated he would end the war in the Ukraine in 24 hours and solve the Gaza war. Just another of his daily lies. Is that “like it is” GOP'ers are now agreeing with? Hah.

They also ignore the “like it is” illegal outrages being committed on We the People. The latest outrage is Stephen Miller advocating abolishing habeas corpus. He justifies this by saying we are being invaded by illegal immigrants. Somehow he equates this with being at actual war and therefore it is possible to invoke war powers. The major flaw in all of this is that Congress has not declared war and therefore Trump cannot legally invoke war powers.

Another outrage is Sen. Joni Ernst, in replying to a question whether cutting health care will kill people, said, “Well we all are going to die.” What compassion. What “like it is” can anyone support?

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Trump’s claims to be for the common man are a myth

To the Editor:

One of the enduring myths of the Trump era is that the MAGA movement is most especially for the common man, an uplifting of regular hard-working Americans who are supposedly being [walked over] by “elites.” Of course, that isn't true, and perhaps nowhere is it more obvious than in the One Beautiful Bill which was recently passed by the House. If ultimately passed by the Senate, the Bill would see 16 million people lose their health insurance, the end of clean energy tax credits that have spurred a manufacturing boom in the US, and dramatic cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Bill would, according to the Congressional Budget Office, result in a 4 percent drop in income for the 10 percent poorest Americans but at the same time yield a 2.5 percent increase in the income of the top 1 percent of earners. Those numbers are even more dramatic when you add the effect of tariffs on income: the poorest Americans would see an 8 percent drop in household resources. Likewise, consider the cuts being planned for the Veterans Administration (VA). A leaked internal memo published in March indicated that over 80,000 jobs were going to be cut in the face of increases in the Pentagon budget and the \$45 million spent on last weekend's Trump Birthday Parade. What that means in real terms is that over 1,000 veterans would lose access to treatment in clinical trials for head and neck cancers, lung cancers, kidney disease, and traumatic brain injuries. Of course, the cuts would impact lots more than cancer treatments. So too, cuts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) include staff who were fired and 1000 employees who are expected to take buy-outs on top of a staffing gap that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) put at 35 percent in 2022. Said Michael A. Coen, Jr. the Chief of Staff to former FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell: “With the reduction of over 2,000 FEMA employees since January

20th, I am worried about the capacity for FEMA to support the increasing number of disasters and increased intensity of disasters that will affect people across the country. Much is expected of FEMA when Americans are experiencing the loss of their home or community following an earthquake, fire, or flood. With continued ongoing response and recovery operations supporting the California wildfires, Kentucky flooding, 2024 disasters, and events from years past including the Maui fires, FEMA is stretched.” And, on April 4, the Trump Administration ended the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, considered one of FEMA's most effective and popular programs. There are numerous other initiatives the Administration has taken that will significantly weaken FEMA's ability to do its job effectively. The increasing numbers of billionaires in the US probably don't have to worry about help from FEMA but the rest of us certainly do. These are only a few of the cuts that will affect everyday, “regular” Americans like you and me. That the BBBA is expected to add some \$3-\$5 trillion to the national debt, largely so that the richest 1% can have tax cuts, is an inconvenient, but nasty, little fact. You look at all of the firings, program cuts, tariffs, attacks on law firms and universities, ICE raids, sending people to foreign countries without due process, abandonment of our European allies, waning support for Ukraine, talk of annexing Canada and Panama, our fecklessness in getting Israel to behave, and it is extremely hard to see where all of this is going. What kind of country does this Administration want? What do they think it will look like in a few years? What will the world look like? That so much of this is being done in the name of “the regular people” of America, while mainly benefiting the richest among us is shocking and deeply troubling.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

What happens to our region if Day Kimball Hospital closes?

To the Editor:

Day Kimball Hospital (DKH) is more than a healthcare provider; it's the backbone of Northeast Connecticut. As a nonprofit community hospital, DKH serves over 70,000 people in a region with just 100,000 residents. It's also the area's largest employer, supporting over 1,000 jobs. If it closes, the consequences won't just be medical, they'll be economic, social, and deeply personal for thousands of families.

The proposed \$880 billion in federal healthcare cuts under the One Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) threaten the very survival of rural hospitals like DKH. According to the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, these cuts could force over 300 rural hospitals nationwide to downsize, convert, or close entirely. That's not politics. That's data.

If passed, this bill will slash Medicaid and Medicare funding, lifelines for rural communities. The Office of Policy and Management projects Connecticut will spend nearly \$11.6 billion on Medicaid for healthcare services this fiscal year. Over half (59 percent) of that comes from the federal government. Strip that

funding, and hospitals like DKH are left financially exposed and vulnerable.

This isn't just about numbers. It's about losing maternity care, emergency services, cancer treatment, mental health support, and more, right here in our community. It's about forcing residents to drive an hour or more for basic care. And it's about what happens to 1,000 workers, from doctors, nurses, technicians, support staff, etc. if DKH closes its doors. I am very concerned about these cuts in our region.

We can't afford to be silent. Call your legislators. They are voting on this bill now. Tell them to oppose the \$880 billion in healthcare cuts. Tell them rural lives matter. Tell them that rural hospitals like Day Kimball Hospital must stay open.

Working together we can make a difference by speaking up. Our community's health and future depend on it.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Thanks to all who supported Pomfret Library project

To the Editor:

Thank you for the great article on the groundbreaking of the Pomfret Public Library addition. Congratulations to all those who are making this happen. The library staff, the elected Pomfret Public Library Board of Trustees, the library building committee, the board of selectmen, and all those who donated dollars, time and, in one case, land to this cause.

This project, like many good things, are the result of one percent of the residents putting in great work for the benefit of all of us.

I could have attended one of the Pomfret Public Library Board of Trustees meetings, but I didn't. I could have gone on the Pomfret Public Library's Web site to follow along with the progress, but I didn't.

Again, thanks to all those did such a great job planning for both the present and future, are making this happen and keeping us informed. I look forward the grand reopening.

Sincerely,

JOHN FOLSOM
POMFRET CENTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How far are Republicans willing to let this go?

To the Editor:

Once again, Trump has overstepped his bounds by sending the National Guard in to stir up a mostly peaceful protest, even though state officials did not ask for or require his help.

Most reasonable people are aware that when there is a protest or march, there will be some bad elements who will take advantage. This does not require a call to deploy the military. My question is, where was his itchy trigger finger when the right wing nuts attacked the capital on January 6th? He just watched it unfold because they were on “his side.” Oh, that's right he then pardoned the criminals responsible. This is his form of accountability? I hear that word frequently from this administration. They use it a lot but they don't actually show any accountability for their actions. Meanwhile, he calls out the big guns when American citizens exercise their first amendment rights. And why are the ICE personnel acting and dressing like cat-burglars? Not showing ID or arrest warrants? Sweeping people up off the streets before they even know who they

are?

Is authoritarian rule what you voted for? People of this country can't even protest for a cause without being hounded by the military. When does it all end? When the educational institutions are forced to burn all the books that tell the truth? When martial law is declared and we are forced to get used to the military roaming the streets like some third-world country? When women, non-whites, LGBTQ and handicapped people are shoved back in a closet and their rights taken away?

How far are the Republican representatives willing to let this go? How many times can they turn a blind eye to the illegal and immoral acts committed by this president and his toadies? At this point the Republican Senate and the House are just rubber stamps. With each contemptible act they just keep backing toward the edge of an abyss. Once there is no solid ground left for them, the fall will signal the end of democracy as we know it. How many generations will it take to salvage the wreckage?

JEAN McNALLY
WOODSTOCK

We the people

To the Editor:

I attended two No Kings protests last week. I am glad to report that it had been too long since I felt as proud to be an American as I did in Dayville and Willimantic. Two thoughts crossed my mind in both places: how many like-minded writers from these pages may have been in attendance, and how many disgruntled Trump voters were here in anonymity.

Even the idiot in Dayville who raced by on 101, blasting us with thick black exhaust from his diesel pick-up couldn't dampen our spirit of solidarity. It did, however, represent the poisonous black cloud that has descended on our country due to the toxic brain rot of Trump. Even in such times of Trump's darkness, the one way to describe how we all felt here was joy!

At his propaganda rallies, so long ago it seems, Trump touted himself as “The Great Unifier.” This was farcical theater that the curtain should have dropped down on. He is nothing more than a great divider: of a country; of neighbors and allies; of families, and sadly, of brothers. We take our stands.

Trump Communication Director Steven “Jabba the Hut” Cheung (oh, I don't care) Tweeted “Leftist ‘NOKINGS’

protests were a complete and utter failure”. Poor stooge must have seen the aerial coverage of the hundreds of thousands of us in countless cities and communities nationwide. What else could he say but prove without a doubt the unabashed cravenness of this administration's endless attempt to gaslight their still deluded followers.

My favorite clip of birthday boy's Tonka party was the creaking of the tanks as they crawled through Dullsville. Even Drowsy Don seemed to be nodding off amidst all the excitement of the hundreds of, no tens of, no, just a thousand party goers. Melania seethed and Rubio yawned while the world laughed at them. Hegseth may have gone into the tank when all was said and done.

Wait a minute- people wringing their hands about waste in government, the hallmark of DOGE, ask how will we cover the \$45 million spent on this humiliation? Easy, just cut SNAP benefits and nutritional aid for school-age children. Yeah, that's it!

One more thing I took away from No Kings and mingling with hundreds of pro-Americans was a cold. It was worth it.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

Dimwitted Democrats in the news

To the Editor:

In this letter, I'll forgo my usual mentions of illegals in the news and about how the Democrats love their criminals, but instead, I'll mention “dimwit Democrats in the news.”

I'll start off with “Duncy” Pelosi who, in a recent squawk, made reference to “Article 10” of the U.S. Constitution when speaking against President Trump after he ordered the California National Guard and U.S. Marines to LA to help protect federal agents. However, there is no Article 10 in the Constitution, but her goof didn't stop the bobble-headed puppets in attendance from nodding in agreement. That deranged moron Mad Max Waters actually said that there is no violence going on in LA, and how many times has she had doors slammed in her face while attempting to push her position as a member of Congress? That dullard claimed she was “out on the street” and that she saw no violence, but more likely she was at Pelosi's winery. And can anybody even try to convince me that these two aged fossils are in any way in touch with today's Americans? “Looney Liz” Warren complained about the price tag for “Trump's Parade” (celebrating the Army's 250th Birthday), but apparently the damage cost of the rioting and the looting in LA is not a concern for her.

In a letter here, Murphy was referred to as “our great senator,” and that was no doubt only because he's anti-Trump. Now he's called for nation-wide protests and I'm sure that the disgruntled will jump to just because he says so. And if any

of those pawns get their heads busted, do you think he'll send them a sympathy card, or will he (continue to) just blame Donald Trump? Ron DeSantis offered to send the state guard to California to help with the recent unrest in Los Angeles, but the offer was declined. But then Newsom and Bass claimed that they had it “under control.” So, what's our “great senator” doing toward that effort other than attempting to grab the spotlight?

The twin daughters of a top Los Angeles official were arrested after their involvement in attacking a police officer during a protest in Pasadena, and when Daddy bails them out of jail I hope he slams their heads together. LaMonica McIver has been charged in a three-count indictment for forcibly impeding and interfering with federal officers, and then there was Alex Padilla who found himself kissing the floor and being taken out in handcuffs during a Kristi Noem media event related to immigration. So, before you anti-Trumpers bombard me with your opinions, maybe somebody should remind those girls, and the likes of McIver, her New Jersey cronies, and Padilla, that there's a new sheriff in town? And when protesters become violent, refuse to disperse, or they disobey a curfew order, they won't be getting any sympathy from me when they suffer the deserved consequences.

And to end this, I'll mention a funny thing that I saw on Facebook; it said: “Congratulations libs, I woke up this morning and there is still no King.”

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

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

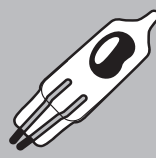
Mercury is found in products such as:



Thermostats



Thermometers



Mercury Switches



Fluorescent Lamps

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

SPONSORED BY



Help shape an age-friendly Woodstock!

WOODSTOCK — Time is running out to make your voice heard! If you received the blue Age-Friendly Community survey in late April, please complete it by the end of June. This quick

survey is your chance to help make Woodstock an even better place to live for everyone, especially as we age! The Woodstock Commission on Aging, our town's newest com-

mission, is dedicated to enhancing the lives of older Woodstock residents. Our mission is to promote and provide resources and opportunities that encourage a healthy, independent quality of life.

Last August, Woodstock proudly joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. This network connects us with other towns committed to becoming more age-friendly by sharing resources, ideas, and insights. Year one of this program is dedicated to developing and conducting a needs assessment – and that's where your survey comes in!

We've spent a considerable amount of time developing this survey around the AARP's eight domains of livability. These domains include not only crucial areas like housing and transportation, but also

vital aspects like social and civic engagement, communication, and health services. By understanding and addressing the needs and priorities of our older residents and their caregivers, we make Woodstock more livable and enjoyable for everyone.

This is where your survey response comes in! Your feedback is essential for developing an action plan that truly reflects the needs of Woodstock's seniors, helping them age in place within our community. It will also help inform town policies and priorities for years to come.

We need this data to make a real difference. Don't wait! Completing the survey only takes five to 10 minutes. You have several options: -The blue mailer survey: If you received the abbreviated version in your mail, please fill it

out and return it. It includes a QR code for those who prefer to take the longer survey online.

-Online survey: available at tinyurl.com/2025WCOASurvey.

-Paper versions: Available at our town libraries and Town Hall. Please encourage your friends and neighbors – of ALL ages – to participate as well! Every voice counts.

More About the Commission's Work: The Commission on Aging is actively working to support our senior community. Before launching the survey, we assessed existing resources and created a trifold brochure with a comprehensive list of available services. This brochure highlights important areas like food, transportation, medical resources, financial assistance, and social opportunities, and it's now available on the Town of Woodstock Web site.

We are proud to offer the "File of Life" – a crucial medical information resource designed to provide first responders with immediate access to vital health details during an emergency. This important initiative was created in part-

nership with Woodstock EMS and generously sponsored by local businesses: CR Premier Properties, Linemaster, Peake Brooke Veterinary Center, St. Onge and Brouillard, and Spicer Energy Services.

In addition, we started hosting monthly informational sessions covering a range of topics relevant to seniors and caregivers. To date, these have included the Warning Signs of

Alzheimer's, a Fall Prevention Clinic, Fraud Prevention, Downsizing Your Home, Peace of Mind Seminar, and AARP Driver Safety Course.

Our next event is a Senior Social and Walk at Roseland Park on June 18, from 9 to 10

a.m. You don't need to be a Woodstock resident to attend! These events are currently

advertised on the Town of Woodstock Web site, Facebook, via email, and at the libraries and Town Hall.

Connect With Us! For more information about the Woodstock Commission on Aging, please visit the Town of Woodstock Web site or email us at AgeFriendlyWoodstock@gmail.com.

Brooklyn student recognized as winner in the 20th Annual eesmartsmTM Student Contest

BROOKLYN — Brooklyn student Penelope Bergen was recently honored as a winner in the 20th Annual eesmartsmTM Student Contest.

Presented by Energize Connecticut in partnership with Eversource and Avangrid subsidiaries, United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas, the eesmartsm Student Contest invited Connecticut students in grades K-12 to showcase their energy smarts. Participants chose from a variety of project formats based on their grade level, including poems, essays, posters, billboard advertisements, comic strips, short videos, persuasive images and more.

Additionally, to celebrate the 20-year milestone, a teacher prompt was introduced for the first time, inviting educators to gather their students and friends and create a song or video about saving energy in their own classrooms.

Bergen, a sixth grade student at Brooklyn Middle School, won first place for her persuasive letter to her parents explaining how being more energy efficient can help their family save money.

In her letter, Bergen outlines several energy efficiency tips like burning less fossil fuel, unplugging devices and appliances, utilizing the automatic shut-off timer on the TV, switching to LED lighting and installing solar panels. In addition to reducing greenhouse gases and lowering the family's energy consumption, she concludes the letter by highlighting that these savings could go toward a vacation.

More than 500 students throughout Connecticut submitted projects for consideration. Thirty-five entries from 26 schools in 25 Connecticut communities were selected as this year's finalists.

Finalists attended an awards ceremony on May 13 at the Connecticut Science Center and received their prizes and certificates.

For more information on the student contest and the eesmartsm program, please visit www.EnergizeCT.com/eesmartsm.

About Energize Connecticut

Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, Eversource, UI, SCG and CNG with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at EnergizeCT.com or by calling 1-877-WISE-USE.

Nicholas Betschmann named to SUNY Oneonta's Dean's List

ONEONTA, N.Y. — Nicholas Betschmann of Woodstock was one of more than 1,175 SUNY Oneonta students who earned Dean's List honors for the spring 2025 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

SUNY Oneonta is a public, four-year university in Central New York, enrolling about 5,300 students in a wide variety of bachelor's degree programs and more than a dozen graduate certificate and degree programs. Celebrating its 135th anniversary, the university is known as both an exemplary residential campus that values inclusion, service and sustainability, and a nurturing community where students grow intellectually, thrive socially and live purposefully. Learn more at <https://suny.oneonta.edu>.

Local students graduate from Nichols College

DUDLEY, Mass. — Nichols College proudly congratulates the spring 2025 graduating class, who earned their academic degrees at the College's commencement ceremony on May 3, 2025, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Anne F. Ackerley, a senior advisor to the retirement business at BlackRock and former head of the firm's U.S. Retirement Group, delivered the commencement address.

The following local students earned the degrees listed:

Timothy Billings, of Woodstock, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Ashleigh Duval, of Woodstock, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Dominick Kollbeck, of Woodstock, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Kaitlyn Lamontagne, of North Grosvenordale, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Angel Lewis, of Danielson, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Stephen Scrapchansky, of North Grosvenordale, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Robert Voght, of Woodstock, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Chelsea Giampietro, of Woodstock, earned a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership

We applaud these students for their achievement.

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Local students earn degree from Clark University

WORCESTER — Clayton Warren Singleton, of Eastford and Katie A. Ben of Brooklyn received degrees from Clark University on Monday, May 19.

Singleton graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts.

Ben graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts with honors in History.

Clark awarded 468 undergraduate degrees and 1,014 advanced degrees during two ceremonies as part of the University's 121st Commencement exercises, held at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass.

President David B. Fithian '87 urged the graduates to celebrate their accomplishments.

"For this day, smile upon yourself, applaud your achievements, reflect upon your growth, celebrate your friends and classmates and, perhaps most importantly, bask in the love of those here with you and for you," President Fithian said.

"All of us up here representing the trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and alumni are so proud of you, especially for overcoming all that you have had to in the past four years. We are smiling upon you, we applaud you, we celebrate you, and we thank you for sharing these years with us."

Esther Duflo, the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, delivered the Commencement Address during the bachelor's degree ceremony and was presented with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

"I have no advice for you as you embark on this task, but I have one plea. Do not let anyone convince you that the world is a Hobbesian dystopia where everything is zero-sum and wealth is the ultimate metric of success. It's not a place where there is a concentric center of caring, and beyond some radius, the value of others is zero. Think about this day, about how you got here, remember the kindness of many, and ask yourself what you can do to keep that going," said Duflo.

Temera De Groot, a first-generation college student who emigrated from Guyana when she was 10 years old and plans to pursue law school, spoke to her peers at the undergraduate ceremony.

NPR journalist Ari Shapiro spoke to the students receiving master's and doctoral degrees, and encouraged them to prioritize connecting with and helping those around them.

"All of us carry a baton that our ancestors handed us. And all of us will pass it to those who come after us. Wherever we are in that relay race, there are people we can help. So the question we need to ask is, 'How can I be helpful?'" Shapiro told the crowd.

Shapiro was presented with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the afternoon ceremony.

Kumar Gaurav, a first-generation college student from India who received his MBA, also spoke at the graduate ceremony.

President David Fithian concluded the day's celebrations and told the graduates, "I applaud you. I congratulate you. And I urge you to put to work - anywhere in the world you find yourself next - the knowledge you have developed and the skills you have honed here to address the challenges and opportunities we face as global citizens."

The University conferred 975 master's and 39 doctoral degrees to a class that included graduates from 41 states and 35 countries.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Lila Henderson graduates from College of Charleston

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Lila Henderson, of Pomfret, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in International Business from the College of Charleston. Henderson also earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing.

Henderson was among more than 1,700 Bachelor's degree and master's degree candidates who participated in the 2025 College of Charleston Spring Commencement ceremony.

Located in the heart of historic Charleston, S.C., the College of Charleston is a nationally recognized, public liberal arts and sciences university. Founded in 1770, the College is among the nation's top universities for quality education, student life and affordability. Its beautiful and historic campus, combined with contemporary facilities, cutting-edge programs and accessible faculty, attracts students from across the U.S. and around the world.

Eastern releases spring 2025 Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester, in which 1,302 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among the students were:

Olivia Hassett-Mellen of Putnam, a full-time senior who majors in Theatre and Performance Media and Political Science

Makayla Tackson of Thompson, a full-time senior who majors in Elementary Education and Mathematics

Sophie Hanlon of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Communication and Accounting

Gabrielle Lemery of Danielson, a full-time sophomore who majors in Sociology and Criminology

Timothy O'Sullivan of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore who majors in Pre-Secondary Education Certification and History

Sierra Bedard of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Political Science and Philosophy

Iryna Huling of Pomfret Ctr, a full-time senior who majors in Criminology and Sociology

Payton Cathell of Danielson, a full-time senior who majors in Pre-Early Childhood Education and Sociology

Grace Gronski of Woodstock Valley, a full-time senior who majors in Elementary Education and Spanish

Cassidy Fortier of Pomfret Center, a full-time senior who majors in Accounting

Yves Tercius of Eastford, a full-time junior who majors in Accounting

Iris Bazinet of Pomfret Center, a full-time senior who majors in Art

Ty Collige of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Art

Ethan Campbell of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Biology

Emily Cournoyer of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore who majors in Biology

Caleb Hall of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Biology

Hannah Dean of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Business Administration

Nikki Flynn of Danielson, a full-time senior who majors in Communication

Abigail Brown of Woodstock, a full-time junior who majors in Communication, Film, & Theatre

Dylan Chamberlin of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Computer Science

Joshua Larkin of Danielson, a full-time senior who majors in Computer Science

Adam Schimmelpfennig of Pomfret Center, a full-time senior who majors in Computer Science

Christopher Windrow of Danielson, a full-time senior who majors in Computer Science

Selina Metzermacher of Danielson, a full-time sophomore who majors in Criminology

Stefan Chervenkov of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in English

Grace Herindeen of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in English

Maxine Dietrich of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Exploratory - Undecided

Sawyer Stewart of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore who majors in Exploratory - Undecided

Benjamin Green of Woodstock, a full-time junior who majors in Finance

Sophia Petrella of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore who majors in Health Sciences

Rachael Hutchinson of Danielson, a full-time sophomore who majors in Music

Allison Griswold of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore who majors in Nursing

Ethan Craig of Woodstock, a full-time junior who majors in Political Science

Sierra Duplisea of Woodstock Valley, a full-time senior who majors in Psychology

Payton Keefe of Woodstock, a full-time senior who majors in Psychology

Katherine Collin of Pomfret Ctr, a full-time senior who majors in Social Work

Julia Magao of Danielson, a full-time junior who majors in Social Work

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Marianapolis presents students and faculty with honors on Prizes and Awards Day

THOMPSON — On Friday, May 30, Marianapolis celebrated the academic achievements of its junior, sophomore, and freshman classes with a prestigious awards ceremony. A distinguished faculty member was also honored for their exceptional teaching, highlighting their significant impact on the Marianapolis community. This event recognizes not only academic excellence, leadership, and service but also the character and dedication that define what it means to be a Golden Knight. As students, faculty, and families gathered to reflect on the year's accomplishments, the ceremony shone a spotlight on the hard work and dedication behind each success story. From quiet determination to bold leadership, every award presented is a tribute to the values that unite and uplift the Marianapolis family. The recipients are listed below.

Class of 2028 Awards

Father Mark Garrow, MIC Award: Eleanor Smith, Grafton, Mass.

Father Stanley Saplis, MIC Award: Rafaelle Mondarte, Thompson
Father Timothy Roth, MIC Award: Isabella Paglione, Plainfield

Class of 2027 Awards

Father Albin A. Sheputa, MIC Award: Mary Kate Barnwell, Danielson
Friends of Marianapolis Award: Samuel Hachigian, Thompson

The Leonard George Budelis '38 Award: Graham



Courtesy

Robert Hess, recipient of Trinity Foundation Faculty Bowl (left) with David DiCicco, Head of School (right).

Peckham, Woodstock Tiana Chahine, Dudley, Mass.

Class of 2026 Awards
Brandeis University Book Award: Luke Landis, Brooklyn

Rensselaer Medal: Charles O'Brien, Dayville
Harvard Prize Book: Charles O'Brien, Dayville
Saint Anselm College Book Award: Tiana Chahine, Dudley, Mass.

The Grace Rett Philippians 4:13 Award: Sienna Stawiecki, Webster, Mass.

University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award: Emma Clifford, Holden, Mass.

University of Rochester Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award:

University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation & Information Technology: Adam Podgorny, Oxford, Mass.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute Innovation Award: Charles O'Brien, Dayville

The Furmansk Scholarship: Samantha Maurice, Pascoag, R.I.

Faculty Trinity Foundation Faculty Bowl: Robert Hess

Summer training events with Tackle the Trail



Courtesy

2024 TackleJR Finishers with Northeast Opportunities for Wellness staff members.

PUTNAM — With just four months to go before Tackle the Trail, now is the time to start training for Northeast Connecticut's unique race in an amazing place. Held the third Saturday of October each year, event options include marathon, half-marathon, 10K, relay team marathon, and a half-mile TackleJR. To help get runners started on their training, Tackle will offer several opportunities to attend free events for all ages during the summer months.

On June 19th at 6:30pm, Tackle the Trail will join friends and partners Sneakerama for their Thursday night fun run and block party. The evening starts with a three-mile group run, followed by a celebration that includes live music, vendors, and giveaways. All ages and abilities are welcome to this free event at 12 Lake Ave. in Worcester.

Following up on Monday, June 23 at 5:30 p.m., Tackle will team up with partners Northeast Opportunities for Wellness (NOW), and the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center for a Summer Kick-Off Kids Running Clinic. Race Director and former Cross-Country Coach Monique Wolanin will share her love and knowledge of running with children aged 2-12 and their families at this free event. To learn more and register, visit www.nowinmotion.org/events. There will be a follow-up running event held with NOW in August, details to follow.

Tackle the Trail™ is sponsored by the Northeast Connecticut Education Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit whose mission is to provide scholarships and other financial support to residents of Northeast Connecticut who want to pursue higher education. Learn more about Tackle the Trail and ways to participate at www.tacklethehtrail.org. For questions about the race, please contact Monique Wolanin at monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu or 860-932-4174.

Area resident named to dean's list at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN — Ava Simoes of Woodstock Valley was named to the dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester at Quinnipiac University.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester; with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

About Quinnipiac University
Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,400 students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review's "The Best 388 Colleges." The university is in the midst of program expansion and renewal for both traditional and adult learners, attraction of diverse communities, development of innovative corporate partnerships and construction of an ambitious set of capital projects. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

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Info: PutnamCtArtsCouncil.com

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Paul Harris Award winners: Always looking for more ways to serve



Courtesy

Nominator Gary Osbrey, left, and Rob Challinor.



From left: Jackie Lajoie, nominator Rachael Johnston and Jeff Rawson.



From left: Nominator Maddie Smith, Crystal Simonson and Jeff Rawson.

PUTNAM — Service to their communities earned three local residents a prestigious Paul Harris Fellow award. At the Putnam Rotary Club's induction and awards ceremony, Robert Challinor, Jr., Jackie Lajoie and Rotarian Crystal Simonson received the awards. And it was kept as a surprise. Challinor, president of Putnam's Veterans Advisory Committee and the town's veterans agent and more, is involved in nearly aspect of veterans services. Were it not for Challinor's energy and drive, the reborn Putnam Veterans Park would not exist. And he's always looking for more ways to help veterans. Lajoie was honored for her service to the St. Joseph's Church community in North Grosvenordale. It started with organizing bingo to help St. Joseph's school. When the school was closed, the bingo games continued helping the church. And her help widened to help feed those



All officers, from left: Fred Chmura, Martha Paquette, Kathy Kirk, Linda Lemmon, Emily Barnes, Crystal Simonson, Jenn Brytowski, Jonathan Tremblay, Scott Pempek and Doug Porter.

in need and much more. Simonson won the award for her energy, enthusiasm and work on programs and speakers for Rotary all year long. She's always upbeat, always smiling — and always looking for more ways to help. The Paul Harris, named after the founder of Rotary Club, is the Rotary's highest honor. The awards were given out by committee chair Jeff Rawson. In addition to the awards, new officers were inducted including Kathy

Kirk, president; Martha Paquette, president-elect; Emily Barnes, secretary; and Fred Chmura, continuing as treasurer; and Doug Porter, immediate past president. Three sergeants-at-arms: J. Scott Pempek, Jonathan Tremblay and Jonathan Sturdevant. The board of directors includes Jennifer Brytowski, Linda Lemmon, Crystal Simonson and Cheryl Guillot.

Fairfield University congratulates Spring 2025 Dean's List

FAIRFIELD — Sydney Lundt of Woodstock received Deans List Honors for the Spring 2025 semester at Fairfield University.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

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Business interruption insurance: What every owner needs to know

When unexpected events force your business to temporarily shut down or operate at reduced capacity, the financial impact can be devastating. Business interruption insurance serves as a critical financial safety net, but understanding what it covers, how much you need, and what it costs requires careful consideration. As a financial planner for business owners, here's what I recommend every owner know about this essential protection.

Understanding business interruption insurance

Business interruption insurance, also known as business income insurance, is coverage that helps replace lost income when an insured event disrupts your business operations. Unlike property insurance that covers physical damage to your building or equipment, business interruption insurance covers the income you lose during the recovery period following a covered event.

This coverage becomes active when a covered peril—such as a fire, natural disaster, or other



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insured event—forces you to temporarily suspend operations or significantly reduce your business activities. The insurance helps cover ongoing expenses and lost profits while you work to restore normal operations.

Weighing costs against protection

Business owners today face increasing premiums for business interruption coverage. Several factors contribute to these rising costs. Climate change has led to more frequent and severe weather events. Supply chain disruptions have become more common. Cyber threats pose new risks to business continuity. And inflation affects both the cost of coverage and the amount of coverage needed.

To determine if the cost is justified, consider the potential financial impact of an interrup-

tion to your specific business. To do this, estimate your daily revenue loss by calculating your average daily income and multiplying by the estimated recovery time. Then add in fixed expenses like rent, loan payments, insurance premiums, and employee salaries that continue during closure.

Next, factor in costs for temporary locations, overtime pay, or expedited delivery of materials. Finally, consider the long-term impact of losing customers during closure.

The total potential loss of all these factors combined often far exceeds the annual premium cost, making business interruption insurance a valuable investment for most businesses. If you need help tabulating the total cost to your business, you should consider working with an experienced financial advisor for small businesses.

Determining appropriate coverage types and amounts

Key coverage considerations

Coverage period: Most policies offer coverage periods ranging from 12 to 24 months. Choose a period that reflects realistic recovery times for your industry.

Business income limits: Coverage should reflect your actual income and operating expenses. Many businesses underestimate these amounts, leaving them vulnerable during a claim.

Extra expense coverage: This covers additional costs incurred to minimize the interruption period, such as renting temporary space or paying overtime to employees.

Contingent business interruption: This covers losses when disruptions affect your suppliers or key customers, even if your property isn't directly damaged.

Industry-specific considerations

Remember that it's important to get insurance that matches your specific needs, because different businesses can have varying needs. Manufacturers may need extended coverage periods for complex equipment replacement, for example, while retail businesses might need to focus more on seasonal considerations and customer retention. Service businesses often require coverage for data recovery and client communication, while restaurants need to consider perishable inventory and health department requirements.

Key person insurance: Protecting your human assets

Key person insurance is a specialized form of business protection that deserves special attention. This coverage protects your business against the financial impact of losing a critical employee, owner, or partner. This type of insurance is critical because it helps to compensate for lost income due to the absence of a key individual. It also covers expenses for finding and training a replacement for that person, which can often be an expensive and time-consuming endeavor, and it also provides a financial cushion during that transition period. Finally, many lenders require key person coverage to protect their investment, so not having this insurance in place could mean losing out on a business loan.

A common rule of thumb is to secure coverage equal to five to 10 times the key person's annual salary, though actual needs vary by business. Consider these factors when calculating key person insurance needs:

Annual compensation: Start with the person's

yearly salary and benefits

Revenue generation: Estimate the person's contribution to business income

Replacement costs: Factor in recruitment, training, and learning curve expenses

Loan obligations: Include any personal guarantees the key person has made

Best practices for business interruption insurance

1. Conduct regular business impact assessments: Regularly evaluate your business's vulnerabilities and update your coverage accordingly. Consider new risks like cyber threats or changes in your business model to ensure you're not carrying too little coverage for your actual risk exposure.

2. Maintain detailed financial records: Insurance companies require documentation of your income and expenses to process claims. Keep comprehensive financial records and update them regularly.

3. Review coverage annually: Review your policy annually with your insurance agent. Business growth, new locations, or changes in operations may require coverage adjustments. Remember to also adjust coverage amounts for inflation.

4. Understand policy exclusions: Pay close attention to what your policy doesn't cover. Common exclusions include: pandemics (though some insurers now offer separate pandemic coverage); cyber attacks (may require separate cyber insurance); and government-mandated closures not related to property damage. You should also remember that most policies have a waiting period before benefits begin.

5. Create a business continuity plan: While insurance helps finan-

cially, having a plan to resume operations quickly minimizes the interruption period and reduces overall losses.

Making the right decision for your business

Business interruption insurance isn't just another business expense—it's a crucial component of your risk management strategy. Consider it as part of your overall financial strategy. Just as you plan for growth and investment, planning for potential disruptions protects your business's financial stability.

Work with qualified professionals who understand your industry's specific risks and needs. A comprehensive approach to business protection includes not just insurance, but also emergency funds, business continuity planning, and regular financial planning.

At WHZ, we have a long history of experience partnering with business owners and entrepreneurs to create and maintain a comprehensive and strategic financial plan designed for both business and personal financial success. See how we can help you to both protect and grow your business by scheduling a complimentary discovery session on our website at www.whzwealth.com, or by calling us at (860) 928-2341.

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continued from page A4

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It's something you choose.

Because your identity isn't written in stone—it's written in action. And today is as good a day as any to begin the rewrite.

Kaylynn Horan of Putnam named to University of Alabama Presidents List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Kaylynn Horan of Putnam was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for Spring Semester 2025.

A total of 14,289 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2025 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit news.ua.edu.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

Free June poetry reading at Abington Social Library

POMFRET — Three area awarded poets will read at the Abington Social Library, 536 Hampton Rd., Pomfret on June 29 at 4 p.m. Reading will be Thompson Poet Laureate Steve Veilleux, novelist and poet Sarah Blanchard and poet Karen Warinsky, both Woodstock residents. The event is open and free to the public.

Veilleux was named Thompson's poet laureate in 2023 and he is the author of the book "Event Horizon." Besides his work in pho-

tography and poetry, Steve also hosts a poetry reading series at The Dye and Bleach House in Willington and a second series at Wolperdinger's Bookstore in Putnam.

Blanchard is a multi-genre writer whose most recent work is the poetry chapbook, river, horse, morning. She is the author of the short story collection "Playing Chess with Bulls," which was a finalist for the 2021 Doris Betts Fiction Prize. Her story "Witnessing" was a finalist for the 2024 Porch Prize for Short Fiction,

and her story "Not a Burden" was awarded the 1993 Dorothy Daniels Fiction Award by the National Association of American Pen Women's Simi Valley Branch. Her debut novel, "Drawn from Life," was released in 2024 award and has won several awards including Independent Press Awards silver medal and a Readers' Favorite honorable mention.

Warinsky has published poetry widely since 2011. She is the author of four collections: "Gold in Autumn"

(2020) and "Sunrise Ruby" (2022 Human Error Publishing.) "Dining with War" (2023 Alien Buddha Press) and "Beauty & Ashes" (Kelsay Books, 2025). Her poem "Mirage" won first place in the 2024 Ekphrastic Poetry Trust, she is a 2023 Best of the Net nominee and a former finalist of the Montreal International Poetry Contest. Warinsky coordinates Poets at Large, a group that performs spoken word in Massachusetts and Connecticut.



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There’s a dragon in the library!



BY JARED JACAVONE
DIRECTOR

THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Thompson Public Library’s Children’s Department has a special new arrival! 12 feet tall and ready for scales, Floyd the Dragon is our official mascot for this year’s Summer Reading Program! Floyd is a friendly dragon who loves to read books, and he’s helping us celebrate this year’s Program theme of “Level Up at Your Library” by bringing games and adventures to life. Program participants can show off their gaming prowess during our fun schedule of events, and can even track their reading progress by adding a new scale to Floyd for each book they complete! I’d like to thank our awesome Library team members Kim, Liz, Terry, Donna, Christina, and Jennifer for bringing Floyd to life, and a special shoutout and thank you to Myra for providing the artistic eye and design for Floyd’s magical appearance.

Registration for this year’s Summer Reading Program is open through the end of July. Our Summer Reading events officially start on Monday, June 23, and will run through Thursday, July 31, and Program participants of all ages can read their way to some awesome prizes!

For ages 17 and under, this year’s Summer Reading Program challenge has three levels of reading completion. Participants who log 1-9 completed books will earn Level 1 prizes, including a free book at the end of the Program, special dragon gaming cards for each book read, and some Summer Reading Program swag. Level 2 is 10-19 completed books, which in addition to the previous prizes receives special treasures from Floyd’s dragon hoard. Finally, Level 3 is 20+ completed books by the end of the Program, which in addition to all of the previously mentioned prizes receives a free ice cream from Bogey’s and a free doughnut from Dunkin’.

The Adult Summer Reading Challenge for ages 18 and older will run through Aug. 15, and participants who log 10 or more completed books will receive an entry for the Summer Reading Prize Drawing! Participants who submit five or more book reviews along with the completed reading log, you will receive an extra entry. This year’s prizes range from \$5 Dunkin’ gift certificates to new books, coupons, and gift cards worth up to \$50!

Special thanks to the Friends of the Thompson Public Library, Nikki’s Dog House, Thai Basil, Deary Brothers, Sawdust, The Baker’s Dozen, Milltown Grille, Thompson House of Pizza, Thompson Pizza Company, Woolworks Ltd., New Boston Beef, LB’s Family Restaurant, and all of our Program sponsors for making this year’s Summer Reading prizes possible!

Check out some of our new arrivals below, and be sure to stop by to sign up for the Summer Reading Program and to meet Floyd! Have a great week, and we hope to see you at the Library!

- Adult Fiction
- “Last Session,” by Julia Bartz
“Fun Home: a Family Tragicomic,” by Alison Bechdel
“Make the Season Bright,” by Ashley Herring Blake
“Battle of the Bookstores,” by Ali Brady
“All the Water in the World,” by Eiren Caffall
“Surf House,” by Lucy Clarke
“Nightshade,” by Michael Connelly
“Cat Fight,” by Kit Conway
“The River Has Roots,” by Amal El-Mohtar
“Love you a Latke,” by Amanda Elliot
“The Missing Half,” by Ashley Flowers
“One Golden Summer,” by Carley Fortune
“Silver Elite,” by Dani Francis
“The Night and the Moth,” by Rachel Gillig
“The Safari,” by Jaclyn Goldis
“Cat’s People,” by Tanya Guerrero
“The Other Side of Now,” Paige Harbison
“The Library of Lost Dollhouses,” by Elise Hooper
“Martha’s Vineyard Beach and Book Club,” by Martha Hall Kelly
“Knave of Diamonds,” by Laurie King
“Night in the City,” by Michael McGarrity
“The Summer that Changed Everything,” by Brenda Novak
“What Happens in Amsterdam,” by Rachel Solomon
“Emperor of Gladness,” by Ocean Vuong
“Murderbot Series,” by Mary Wells

- Non-Fiction
- “Ocean: Earth’s Last Wilderness,” by Sir David Attenborough & Colin Butfield
“Retirement 101,” by Michele Cagan
“The Many Lives of Mama Love,” by Laura Love Hardin
“A Clean Mess,” by Tiffany Jenkins
“Matriarch,” by Tina Knowles
“Apple in China,” by Patrick McGee
“Good Energy,” by Casey Means
“Empire of AI,” by Karen Hao

Traveling back to June of 1885

Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Now Open for the Season: The Boxcar is open every Saturday & Sunday from May through October from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For special tours call 860-207-6044.



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

Grange Lasagna Dinner: Killingly Grange 112, 801 Hartford Turnpike, Dayville, will hold a lasagna dinner on Saturday, June 21 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Baked meat lasagna and bread \$15. Dine in or take out. Limited number of meals. To reserve a dinner text or call 860-884-1813. At the door, pay by cash, credit card or check. Thank you for supporting one of Killingly’s Historic properties.

I was again perusing the old Windham County Transcripts in search of interesting tidbits and came across the following in the June 24, 1885 issue. “Died in Danielsonville, June 19th, 1885, Joseph R. Green, aged 75 years. Mr. Green was born in Charleston, RI, in 1810 and came to Brooklyn, CT in early life, and for many years was a carpenter and builder, having built many of the first houses in Danielsonville, and also built the Tiffany cotton mill here, and the large Wauregan mill in Plainfield, and subsequently for many years was a merchant, and in his later years employed his time in the care of his property...in all of which pursuits his success resulted in more than a competency for himself and family. Mr. Green as a neighbor was obliging and kind always ready to aid and assist even to personal inconvenience to himself and as a citizen was public spirited and foremost in whatever promoted public interests.” He served as a representative from Brooklyn to the Legislature, a Deputy-Sheriff and County Commissioner; and member of the Democratic State Central Committee for more than 12 years. (p. 2).

Transport yourself back to June 1885 in

Northeastern Connecticut. Here are a few of the various happenings in that edition of the Transcript under “Local Whittlings.” “The Pomfret Creamery is gaining in popularity, and its business success seems assured.” “W. C. T. U. meeting at 3 o’clock, Friday afternoon, at the Advent chapel.” “The Knights Templar are having a fine day for their celebration at Willimantic.” “The section of the Salvation Army that came here only remained a day or two. Was it a compliment, or otherwise?” The barber shop in Dexter’s Block has been rented to a barber by the name of McMann.” (The Dexter Block was located adjacent to the present Killingly Town Hall). “The strawberry tea and sale of fancy articles, by the ladies of the Methodist church, Pomfret, occurs Thursday. It will be a pleasant occasion to visit the attractive ‘Street.’” “The Nat. P. Smith Concreting Co. are laying sidewalks around Agent Bailey’s new house, and also in front of E. H. Jacobs’ house on School Street.” “Arrangements are being made for a basket meeting and Band of Hope picnic, the Fourth, in Mr. Danielson’s grove. The Danielsonville Band of Hope and their friends will meet at the chapel on Academy Street, and march to the grove.” Does anyone know what a Band of Hope Picnic was?

I also decided to check another year that many of you will recall--1965. The June 17 issue showed group photos of the 1965 graduates of Killingly High School--males and females each being in separate photos. If you graduated in that year, you might want to go to the Killingly Public Library website to see if you can locate yourself in one of the shots.

A front-page article which quickly caught my eye said,

“CEM Firm Here Lauded for Aiding Astronauts’ Flight. Because of its vitally important service in supplying materials that were used in the fabrication of the space suits worn by the astronauts Major James McDivitt and Major Edward White on their history-making flight, the C.E.M. Company, Inc. has received a ‘thank you’ for its contribution...C.E.M., which is a producer of spirol pins, supplied miniature stainless steel pins which were used in the helmet assembly of the space suits where ‘positive mechanical locking is absolutely necessary.’”

Ads reveal a lot about the social life of the community at this time. “Father’s Day Party. Polish Citizens Club. Water Street. Sunday, June 20, 2 p.m. Buffet, Dancing. Admission \$1.00 Members & Guests.” “Mortlake Fire Co. Annual Chicken Barbeque. Brooklyn Far Grounds. Sunday, June 20, 5-7 p.m. Adults \$1.00 Children 75 cents. Tickets available from any member.” Did you ever go to the Parkway Drive-In on Route 12 in Plainfield? It was showing It’s A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World. How the West Was Won was playing at the Orpheum in Danielson. (p.2). “Swim, Swim. Wildwood Park, Sundown Beach. Lake Road Dayville. Waterwheel, slide, diving board. Roller skating every Wed. & Sun. at 7.00.” (p.3). Please feel free to share memories of the theaters and Wildwood Park by emailing me.

Do you remember Cloutier’s Delicatessen at 52 Main Street in Danielson? Euclide Cloutier, proprietor. “Potato Salad, Cole slaw, Swedish Meatballs, Tossed Salads, Custards, Stuffed Cabbage & Peppers, fruits, vegetables, groceries, fresh ground hamburger, cold cuts...”(p. 2). The large ad for Keech’s Dept. Store featured presents for Father’s Day. “Manhattan Dress or Sport shirts \$5.00. Ties \$1.00; \$1.50. Sterling Silver tie tacks \$2.50. (Do men wear tie tacks anymore?)

I didn’t arrive in Northeastern

Connecticut until 1969 so didn’t realize that there was a local semi-pro baseball team. Perhaps you were fortunate enough to see them play.

“Moose Club Noses Out Local Cits. The local baseball semi-pro nine, sponsored by the Polish Cits, made an impressive start to their initial game even though they went down to defeat by a 2 to 1 score against the Moose Club. A Perry of the Cits and B. Muttari of Moose both pitched five hitters.” Other Cits mentioned in the article were A. Derosier, M. Castagna, and N. Burns. No box score listing all the players was given. (p.17). If you have names of players from either teams, please let me know.

“Winning both its games this past week has put Attawaugan in first place in the men’s softball league. K of C is in second with one win and the Bees are in third ...” Other teams were VFW Knox, and Dayville. The season was quite young as no team had played more than three games (p.17).

“Mr. and Mrs. John Paskavitch of New Britain are leaving this weekend for England where they plan to see the tennis matches in Wimbledon from June 20 to July 3. Mr. Paskavitch, who coaches tennis at Newington High School and is owner and operator of the Brooklyn Tennis Club on Church Street, has applied to play in the senior doubles as an alternate...” (p. 17). Does anyone recall the Brooklyn Tennis Club?

Next week I’ll try to include some tidbits from past Fourth of July celebrations. If you have memories to share about that holiday, please email me.

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

Create, plant, and maintain a pollinator garden

Celebrate National Pollinator Month this June by creating and maintaining a garden that attracts and supports these important members of our ecosystem. Pollinators are responsible for about 75 percent of the food we eat and play an important role in producing food, fiber, medicine and more. The European honeybee is the most well-known but our native bees along with moths, wasps, beetles, flies, bats, and some birds also help pollinate our gardens.

Just like the honeybees and Monarch butterflies, many pollinators are struggling with their populations dwindling due to pesticides and loss of habitat. You can make a difference by creating pollinator gardens filled with their favorite plants.

Start helping all pollinators and the environment by reducing or better yet eliminating the use of pesticides. If you opt for a chemical solution, look for the most eco-friendly product and as always read and follow label directions to minimize the negative impact on the environment and pollinators.

As you create your pollinators’ paradise include shelter from predators and the weather. Include trees and shrubs, if space allows, providing you with year-round interest and nectar, pollen, and tasty leaves as well as nesting sites and safe havens for



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

the various life stages. Leave patches of open soil for ground nesting bees and some leaf litter to shelter some butterflies, bumblebees, and other pollinating insects.

Plant a variety of native plants, herbs and other pollinator favorites that provide nectar and pollen throughout the season. Spring bulbs, early blooming wildflowers and perennials provide essential food that is often in limited supply early in the season. Fall flowering plants provide needed energy supplies as the bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators prepare for winter.

Include plants with different colors and shaped flowers to attract and support a variety of pollinators. Plant flowers in mass. You will enjoy the display, the garden will require less maintenance, and the pollinators will use less energy when they can gather lots of food from a smaller area.

Plant masses of flowers like columbine, sweet alysum, annual and perennial salvia, cupheas, cosmos, phlox, zinnias, bee balm, liatris, sedum, asters and more to help attract these

beauties to your landscape. Fuchsias, begonias and impatiens are perfect for shady locations. And don’t let a lack of space dissuade you; even a window box of flowers can help.

Bigger flowers are not always better. Double flowers may be showy, but they have less nectar and pollen. The multiple layers of petals may hinder access to the nectar and pollen they contain.

Grow some herbs in the garden and containers for you, the bees, and other beneficial insects. Let some go to flower and watch for visitors on thyme, borage, oregano, and other herb flowers. Tolerate a bit of damage on parsley, dill and fennel as the swallowtail caterpillars dine on the leaves. These vigorous plants will recover once the caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies.

Add some native plants to your gardens whenever possible. They are a richer source of nectar and pollen than cultivated plants. Pollinators and other beneficial insects have evolved with these plants, providing a mutual benefit.

Puddles, fountains, bird-baths and even a damp sponge can provide needed water. Include water features with sloping sides or add a few stones for the visitors to sip without getting wet. Sink a shallow container of sand in the ground. Keep it damp and add a pinch of sea salt for the butterflies and bees.



Courtesy

A Hemaris Hummingbird Moth on a Monarda flower.

Add a flat stone for warming and be sure to watch for and snap a few photos of visitors as they sip and sun in your garden.

If you create it, they will come. Be patient, make note of their favorites, and keep growing to attract, support and enjoy these important garden visitors.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers hosted “The Plant Doctor” radio show on WTMJ radio for more than 20 years and seven seasons of Great Lakes Gardener on PBS. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com which features gardening videos, free webinars, monthly gardening tips, and more.

Dominique Sortwell earns Westview’s May Employee of the Month Award



Dominique Sortwell

D A Y V I L L E — Dominique Sortwell attained Westview’s May 2025 Employee of the Month recognition. Sortwell performs her responsibilities as a teacher at Westview Child Care Center—specifically, in the Infant Room. She started at the Dayville child care facility in September 2023, and feels thoroughly prepared for this role as a result of her own experiences growing up. Being the eldest grandchild in her family offered many opportunities over many years to shepherd over her younger kith and kin. Looking after little ones is a natural instinct to her, and her understanding of the professional protocols in a child care setting has been strengthened throughout her employment experiences. Ever since Sortwell became a big sister at age 10, she has been accumulating a caring predisposition towards young children. As the years carried forth, she acknowledged an emergent desire to pursue childcare as a career path. She knew her ultimate goal was to work in a daycare facility, but first wanted to gain experience through

children’s extracurricular activities. One of her first experiences working within a children’s setting came through an after-school program promoting youth soccer while she lived in Virginia. As a result, she spent time around elementary school children promoting active lifestyles within a wholesome structure, and she became further inspired to work in youth development. When Sortwell and her family moved to Massachusetts, she continued working with kids in an after-school capacity through the area’s YMCA. Here she nurtured Kindergarten through 5th Grade groups during the school year, and was heavily involved in the facility’s summer program. All the while, Sortwell was gaining the understanding that working with children means working with families. When her own family moved to Connecticut, she started her professional tenure at Westview Child Care Center and felt confident about her abilities to work with younger students there.

Sortwell knows that

caring for infants surely calls for clear and coordinated communication with the families: “You get to know the parents as well as well as the children over time, so it gets easier and easier. It’s wonderful to build those relationships as the year goes on. It really helps to understand where they are coming from.” In receiving this designation, Sortwell elaborated on the personal joy she receives as a supportive spectator, adding, “I’m honestly very surprised and very honored to receive the Employee of the Month recognition. Watching our students grow is my favorite thing to do. Seeing these children develop from a little human being to a person that is sitting up, crawling, standing, walking, talking—it’s amazing to watch! I get so excited every single time I see a new stage.” Currently living in Brooklyn, Sortwell is close with her mother and father, Crystal and William, and she is very proud of her aforementioned sister Lillian. Han, the family’s beloved Husky-mix, has been a comforting canine companion to them since their time in Virginia. Dominique carefully curates a personal collection of Japanese cultural items consisting of numerous katanas, chopsticks, and art pieces; some artifacts being handed down through generations of family. To nurture her creative side, Dominique likes to draw, paint, and photograph scenes in nature. She looks for any opportunities to apply bold uses of color and creative designs to decorate the infant classroom at Westview Child Care Center as a further

expression of her artistic ideas. Her notable window designs show seasonal concepts and themes with playful imagery and brighten the spaces. Westview Child Care Center Director Katy Holzer appreciates Sortwell’s focused efforts in the child care setting, commenting, “Dominique brings such a thoughtful, steady presence to our Infant Room. She blends her natural instinct for nurturing with professionalism, creativity, and an incredible attention to the individual needs of each child in her care. From supporting early milestones to maintaining an impeccably clean and welcoming space, her work reflects true dedication. We are so fortunate to have her on our team.” Westview Child Care Center is part of the Westview family, along with Westview Health Care Center and Country Living at Westview Commons. Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 17 years.

Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus, to hold 133rd anniversary celebration

PUTNAM — On Sunday, July 20, everyone is invited to celebrate the 133rd anniversary of Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus. The celebration will begin with a public, regular Sunday Mass at St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St. in Putnam, at 9 a.m. This will be followed immediately, shortly before 10 a.m., with the dedication of the new St. Therese Parish sign, outside, in front of the church. The sign was recently commissioned by and purchased for the parish by Cargill Council. Celebrations will conclude with a short, public memorial prayer service at St. Mary’s Cemetery on Providence Street, at the intersection of Woodstock Avenue, at 10:15 a.m., at the grave of Cargill Council’s first Grand Knight, Edward Mullan. He served as the Catholic family fraternal group’s first elected leader, starting from its beginning, on July 26, 1892, and continuing in the position until 1895. Mullan died in 1916, at the age of 61. Council officials are holding the service at his grave, to symbolize all the council’s members down through the organization’s first 133 years. The three events will be conducted by St. Therese Parish’s Pastor and Cargill Council’s Chaplain, the Very Reverend David P. Choquette. With almost 200 members and operating continuously since 1892, Cargill Council 64 serves the four churches of St. Therese Parish, including St. Mary’s in Putnam, St. Joseph’s in North Grosvenordale, St. Stephen’s in Quinebaug and Most Holy Trinity in Pomfret.

Free June poetry reading at Abington Social Library

POMFRET — Three area awarded poets will read at the Abington Social Library, 536 Hampton Rd., Pomfret on June 29 at 4 p.m. Reading will be Thompson Poet Laureate Steve Veilleux, novelist and poet Sarah Blanchard and poet Karen Warinsky, both Woodstock residents. The event is open and free to the public. Veilleux was named Thompson’s poet laureate in 2023 and he is the author of the book “Event Horizon.” Besides his work in photography and poetry, Steve also hosts a poetry reading series at The Dye and Bleach House in Willington and a second series at Wolperdinger’s Bookstore in Putnam. Blanchard is a multi-genre writer whose most recent work is the poetry chapbook, river, horse, morning. She is the author of the short story collection “Playing Chess with Bulls,” which was a finalist for the 2021 Doris Betts Fiction Prize. Her story “Witnessing” was a finalist for the 2024 Porch Prize for Short Fiction, and her story “Not a Burden” was awarded the 1993 Dorothy Daniels Fiction Award by the National Association of American Pen Women’s Simi Valley Branch. Her debut novel, “Drawn from Life,” was released in 2024 award and has won several awards including Independent Press Awards silver medal and a Readers’ Favorite honorable mention. Warinsky has published poetry widely since 2011. She is the author of four collections: “Gold in Autumn” (2020) and “Sunrise Ruby” (2022 Human Error Publishing,) “Dining with War” (2023 Alien Buddha Press) and “Beauty & Ashes” (Kelsay Books, 2025). Her poem “Mirage” won first place in the 2024 Ekphrastic Poetry Trust, she is a 2023 Best of the Net nominee and a former finalist of the Montreal International Poetry Contest. Warinsky coordinates Poets at Large, a group that performs spoken word in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

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