



THOMPSON VILLAGER

Serving Thompson since 2005

Friday, March 27, 2026

Complimentary to homes by request

Woodstock Academy Boys Hockey celebrates local veterans



Courtesy

The Woodstock Academy Boys Hockey Team visited the Veterans Coffeehouse on March 17 to donate the proceeds from their annual Military Appreciation Night.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Military Appreciation Night has become one of the Woodstock Academy Boys Hockey Teams most prominent annual traditions seeing the players embrace the spirit of teamwork while honoring members of one of the most important teams

in our nation, the U.S. Armed Forces. The special night sees the boy don camo jerseys in honor of veterans and current service members with proceeds from the game donated to the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse. Bob Donahue, who retired as Assistant Coach of the Woodstock Academy Boys Hockey Team last year after 11

years, is still heavily involved with the program especially when it comes to the Military Appreciation Night which he helped create as a way to teach the boys about the importance of recognizing the nation's heroes. That tradition continued in 2026 with an appearance at the Danielson Coffeehouse's Tuesday breakfast on March 17

where they met with Coffeehouse President Fred Ruhlemann and a room full of veterans from different eras, ranks, and branches of the military to show their appreciation for their service. "They usually have 85 to 100 vets for their Tuesday breakfast. We've done this I think five years in a row now, we joined them for the breakfast, and the

boys were all there in their camo jerseys and we did a very nice speech about why we're there and how much we appreciate the veterans," said Donahue. "We teach these kids that veterans are the real heroes. It's good to have hockey heroes, we've all had sports heroes, but we want them to look around

Turn To VETERANS page A10

Killingly Parks & Rec presents 2025 Volunteer Awards

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Parks and Recreation Department presented their volunteer of the year awards during the Town Council's March 10 meeting recognizing individuals for their outstanding contribution to Killingly recreation programs and the town's iconic Little Theater on Broad Street.

Recreation Director Bucky Lohbusch revealed the Killingly Parks and Recreation 2025 Volunteer of the Year honoree Suzanne Easterly and The Little Theatre on Broad Street 2025 Volunteer of the Year Keri Danner commending both individuals for their commitments to their community. Both were recognized as longtime residents of Killingly who have provided decades of volunteer work to help create a fun and enjoyable environment for their town.

The first honoree was Suzanne Easterly who was recognized as the Killingly Parks and Recreation 2025 Volunteer of the Year for her role as a storyteller through Killingly's senior programs. Lohbusch noted how Easterly's readings have become a popular pastime for many.

"If you ask, 'How good is Suzanne?' try and get a ticket or a reservation to our 'Stew and Story' programs. They're always sold out with a waiting list," Lohbusch said.

Easterly herself called Killingly her adopted community. While she comes from New Jersey, she has lived in Killingly for 50 years, growing her family in town. She and her husband also ingrained themselves in local education as a teacher and local principal respectively.

"We have been very proud to make Killingly our home. We have been educators in the town — We raised our daughter. We raised our grandchildren who attended schools here. We are very proud to be here," Easterly said.

The second honor of the night was The Little Theatre on Broad Street's 2025 Volunteer of the Year award to Keri Danner, the theater's longtime volunteer choreographer. While Lohbusch acknowledged Danner's more than 30 years contributing to local dance and theater, it was Theater Director Holly Blade that provided the biggest tribute to Danner's career crediting her with shaping local productions and contributing her artistry to theaters throughout the region.

"The people who know Keri know that the resume is only part of her story. What truly sets Keri apart is who she is in the theater space and in the rehearsal room. She brings her spirit and positivity, and she lifts up everyone around her. She walks in every single day prepared, organized, and ready to solve whatever challenges the production throws at her, and she's one of the most capable, thoughtful,

Turn To AWARDS page A10

Woodstock Troop honors four Eagle Scouts



Courtesy

MuralFest Putnam organizers welcomed donors on a special "Night of Giving, Night of Gratitude" held in February. Pictured, left to right: Marketing & Communications Chair Linda Colangelo, "Top Dog" Sponsors Joseph Carlone, Jr., Timothy Carlone, and Joseph Carlone, Sr. from Linemaster Switch in Woodstock; Sponsorship Chair Laura Crosetti, Community Coordinator Elaine Turner, and Paul Grenier representing the Putnam Economic Development Trust Fund.



Courtesy

Pictured, left to right: Sen. Jeff Gordon, Eagle Scouts Greyson Magnan, Spencer Mayo, Matthew Letourneau, Cameron Robida, and Rep. Pat Boyd.

BY VICKI EMBREE
BSA TROOP 27

WOODSTOCK — Scouting America Troop 27 recently celebrated four of its members who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. A Court of Honor was held on March 7 to recognize the achievements of Cameron Robida, Matthew Letourneau, Spencer Mayo, and Greyson Magnan. On hand to offer words of wisdom and certificates of commendation were State Representative Pat Boyd and State Senator Jeffrey Gordon, as well as Woodstock First Selectmen Chandler Paquette, and several members of the American Legion including Commanders Glenn Boies and Everett

Shepherd (Post 111) and Commanders Manny Rodrigues and Carl Zetterstrom (CT Chapter Representatives).

The Eagle Rank is the highest rank in the Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts) program, the culmination of several years of dedicated effort and training in skills such as camping, hiking, first aid, citizenship, leadership and community service. This rank entails carrying out a major community service project, involving many hours of planning, organizing, and leading volunteer helpers to complete the work.

Cameron Robida's project took place at the Little League baseball field in Roseland Park; he and his team

Turn To SCOUTS page A10

MuralFest Putnam proving Walldog worthy

SUPPORT SOARS FOR HISTORIC PUBLIC ART PROJECT

PUTNAM — Funding support for a historic public art initiative coming to Putnam in 2028 has more than doubled since event organizers were awarded a project date two years earlier than anticipated.

MuralFest Putnam is a public art collaboration that will welcome "The Walldogs," more than 200 sign painters and muralists from across the country and around the world, who will spend four to five days in June 2028 painting Putnam's rich history in a series of privately funded, stunning, storytelling murals. These vintage-style murals mimic early 20th-century advertising, featuring hand-painted let-

Turn To MURALFEST page A10

Kitty Krew Cycling Club celebrates 10th anniversary



THE SIDING STORE INC.
 Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms
WINTER SPECIALS NOW IN EFFECT
\$\$\$\$
 Financing available to qualified customers!
thesidingstoreinc.com
 We take pride in our customer service!
860.423.7771 860.963.9035
860.886.1718 860.564.7088
 VISA MCGRAW
 References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

PUTNAM — Nearly every Saturday morning from spring through fall, you can see a group of bicyclists ride out of the Putnam Municipal Parking Lot. They are hard to miss, riding in a group, wearing bright pink and blue polka dot jerseys with a cat and a coffee cup logo. They are also all women. After each ride, they gather for snacks and beverages in downtown Putnam. This is Northeast Connecticut's "Kitty Krew" and they are celebrating their 10th year as a grassroots group dedicated to fitness, fun, camaraderie and supporting female cyclists.

The Kitty Krew starts their season in March with the O'Kitty Ride—this year on Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 a.m. Most years, despite the usually chilly weather, over a dozen cyclists — some wearing green tutus or beads or shamrock headgear to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day — show up for a short, 12-mile ride from Putnam, circling West Thompson Lake. They might not be fast but they have fun. The goal is for every rider to enjoy the ride. No one is left behind or rides alone. Every ride involves chatting and stopping to take photos of scenic surroundings. Many rides are themed: the Daffodil Ride, the Waterfall Ride, the Covered Bridge Ride, the popular Wine Ride, and more. The Kitty Krew motto is "If you can't talk, you're riding too hard." Post-ride socializing is important, sharing coffee or cake or sometimes cocktails. The après ride venue varies depending on the route.

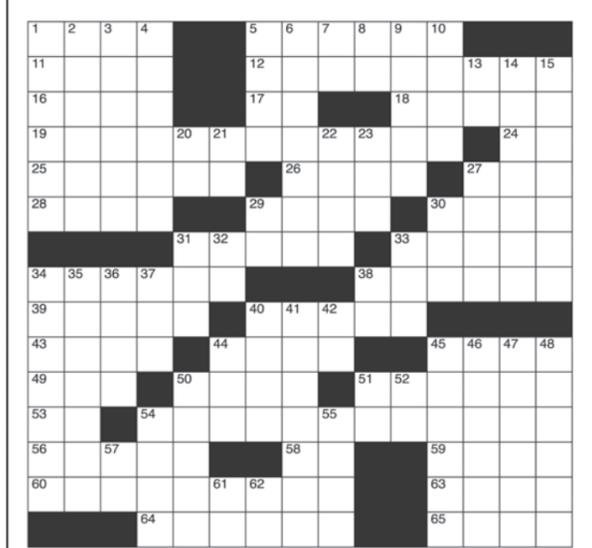
Over the season, routes may build up to more than 50 miles,

but most Saturday rides average 20 miles. There are field trips to different locations, all involving scenery and snacks. Kitties take turns leading and "sweeping" (riding last to make sure no one gets lost or has a mechanical issue). The Kitty Krew includes all levels, from advanced/experienced cyclists (some of whom have raced or participated in endurance rides or multi-day bike trips) to beginners who last sat on a bicycle in childhood. Some kitties train for century (100-mile) rides or bikepacking trips while others are happy to hop on their bike once a week. The Kitties teach each other safety, ride etiquette, bike maintenance, training techniques and more. They try to organize rides to accommodate different levels and interests. As "gravel" riding becomes more popular, they are building this into their repertoire, exploring the Air Line Rail Trail plus dirt roads in Woodstock, Eastford, Ashford, and other towns. Some kitties also mountain bike and there are opportunities to ride singletrack with women only.

Most cyclists are from northeast Connecticut, a few from south central MA and RI, and one devoted kitty drives an hour from the shoreline because she loves the camaraderie of this group. The Kitty Krew welcomes women riders of all ages and abilities. There are no membership dues. The only requirements are to show up with a working bicycle, helmet, positive attitude, sense

of adventure and desire to have fun with a group of supportive women. To learn what the club's name means, you'll have to join them and find out.

For more information, ask to join the private Facebook group (search for Kitty Krew, Quiet Corner Ladies Cycling) or show up Saturday morning at the Putnam Municipal Parking Lot on Kennedy Drive (8 to 10 a.m., depending on the month).



- CLUES ACROSS**
- "Bird of Paradise" constellation
 - Red Sox WS winner Bronson
 - Whirl
 - The State Dept. has a notable one
 - Energy, style and enthusiasm
 - Part of the mind
 - Mountainous country
 - Type of beverage
 - Atomic #109
 - Opposite of falsities
 - Female sheep
 - Rocky peak
 - Sensitive information sharing environment
 - Ethnic group of Thailand
 - Patron saint of Rome Philip
 - Psychedelics
 - Japanese pine
 - Have an impact on
 - Violent disorder
 - A French river
 - Early Mesoamerican civilization
 - Messenger ribonucleic acid
 - Musician Clapton
 - Ancient Greek sophist
 - Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
 - Valley
 - A way to unwind
 - Atomic #93
 - Recommending
 - Indigo bush
 - Larry and Curly's pal
 - Off-Broadway theater award
 - Fencers
 - Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
 - Relating to songbirds
 - A way to assign
 - Partner to cheese
 - Snack nuts
 - Quadruped's body part
 - Locate
 - Pitching statistic
 - "... myself and I"
 - Utah city northwest of Provo
 - Football players in the trenches
 - One who runs the show
 - Wood
 - Performing artists
 - Slang for a cut
 - More breathable
 - Most crafty
 - Provokes into action
 - University of Dayton
 - Sodium
 - Large fish of the mackerel family
 - Not one
 - ... and behold
 - Sports highlight show
 - "The Great Lakes State"
- CLUES DOWN**
- Some are "secret"
 - Intestinal openings
 - Distant planet
 - Assembly possessing high legislative powers
 - Genus of typical owls
 - One with distinctively colored hair
 - Red cross
 - An alternative
 - Abominable snowmen
 - About ear
 - The opening letters
 - Feeling of regret
 - Atomic #39
 - Luteinizing hormone
 - Atomic #55
 - Carries a debt
 - Albanian monetary unit
 - Semitic abjad letter
 - Yes
 - Negative
 - Earn a perfect score
 - Connecticut

Danielson sets spring schedule for budget vote, council meetings

DANIELSON — Borough residents will have several opportunities this spring to weigh in on local spending decisions and follow municipal business as officials prepare for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Borough of Danielson has announced a series of public meetings between April and June, including its annual budget meeting, regular council sessions, and monthly Fire Commissioners meetings. All sessions are scheduled to take place in the second-floor meeting room of the Danielson Fire Department, 47 Academy St.

The annual budget meeting is set for Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. During that session, taxpayers will vote on the borough council's proposed budget. The meeting represents one of the most direct opportunities for residents to influence borough finances, as the spending plan must be approved by voters before it takes effect.

Regular monthly council meetings will follow on Wednesday, April 15; Wednesday, May 20; and Wednesday, June 17, each beginning at 7 p.m. Borough officials typically use these meetings to conduct routine business, review reports, and address issues affecting services within the borough.

The Fire Commissioners also will meet Tuesday, April 28; Tuesday, May 26; and Tuesday, June 23, with each session scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The commissioners oversee fire service operations and related administrative matters within the borough.

Officials encourage residents to attend the upcoming meetings, particularly the April 13 budget vote, which directly determines the borough's financial plan for the coming year.

Residents seeking additional information about meeting agendas and borough business can consult materials posted by borough officials ahead of scheduled sessions.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION
 CALL 860-928-1818
 EXT. 326

EMAIL: MIKAELA@

VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

ARTHRITIS?
 Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?
 If not we may be able to help.
Osteoarthritis of Hands - Knees - Hips. Back and Shoulder Problems Rheumatoid Arthritis Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout
Charles A. Birbara, MD
 Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School
 25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674
 "Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"

Villager Newspapers
 TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:
 MIKAELA VICTOR
 RETAIL ADVERTISING:
 860-928-1818 EXT. 313
 mikaela@villagernewspapers.com
 SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
 KERRI PETERSON
 860-928-1818, EXT. 303
 kerri@stonebridgepress.news
 TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
 E-MAIL:
 obits@stonebridgepress.news
 CALL: 860-928-4215
 OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90,
 Southbridge, MA 01550
 TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS RELEASE
 E-MAIL:
 brenndan@villagernewspapers.com
 OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90,
 Southbridge, MA 01550
 The Thompson Villager (USPS 024-998) 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.
 VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS
 PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
 FRANK C. CHILINSKI
 860-928-1818 EXT. 103
 Frank@salmonpress.news
 BUSINESS MANAGER
 RYAN CORNEAU
 860-928-1818 EXT. 102
 ryan@salmonpress.news
 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
 JIM DiNICOLA
 508-764-6102
 jdnicola@stonebridgepress.com
 EDITOR
 BRENDAN BERUBE
 860-928-1818 x 323
 brenndan@villagernewspapers.com
 PRODUCTION MANAGER
 JULIE CLARKE
 860-928-1818, EXT. 305
 julie@villagernewspapers.com

PUZZLE SOLUTION

A	P	U	S		A	R	R	O	Y	O								
G	Y	R	E		S	E	C	R	E	T	A	R	Y					
E	L	A	N		I	D		T	I	B	E	T						
N	O	N	A	L	C	O	H	O	L	I	C	M	T					
T	R	U	T	H	S	E	W	E	S		T	O	R					
S	I	S	E		S	A	E	K		N	E	R	I					
					A	C	I	D	S		M	A	T	S	U			
A	F	F	E	C	T					M	A	Y	H	E	M			
L	O	I	R	E		O	L	M	E	C								
M	R	N	A		E	R	I	C			A	B	A	S				
O	E	D			G	L	E	N		U	N	C	O	I	L			
N	P				C	O	M	M	E	N	D	A	T	O	R	Y		
D	A	L	E	A						M	O				O	B	I	E
S	W	O	R	D	S	M	E	N							R	O	E	S
					O	S	C	I	N	E					S	O	R	T

Interactors hard at work



From left: Calleigh Levesque, Alyssa Daniels, Paige Perry, Gabriel Cerasiello, Mable Perreault.

Courtesy



From left: Matthew Rybacki, Sam Hachigian, Paige Perry, Gabriel Cerasiello, Calleigh Levesque.

PUTNAM — March is a busy month for the Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club.

They created St. Patrick's Day cards for the elderly shut-ins in Putnam.

Then they helped the Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club at its Trivia

night fund-raiser. The Interact members served pizzas and subs and were table runners during the trivia game.

The Interact Club is excited to attend the District 7890 Interact conference in Holyoke, Mass., March 28. There, they will present a

slide show of all their community service projects and events.

For more information about the Interact Club contact Roberta Rocchetti at 860-933-8603 or robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

Main Street, Danielson to Host family-friendly Spring Celebration March 28

DANIELSON — The community is invited to celebrate the arrival of spring with a fun-filled day on Main Street in Danielson on Saturday, March 28, starting at 10 a.m. The event promises a range of family-friendly activities from a scavenger hunt to crafts and even a dog adoption event!

The festivities will kick off after The Incredible Killingly Egg Hunt at Davis Park, hosted by Killingly Parks & Recreation Dept., the Westfield Church and the Killingly Public Library. Community members are encouraged to stroll down Main Street and explore local shops offering coffee, snacks, and special activities throughout the day.

Main Street Scavenger Hunt

Grab a scavenger hunt sheet from the KBA tent at The Incredible Easter Egg Hunt at Davis Park or from any of the participating businesses on Main Street, then pop into each shop to find the special egg! Find all eggs and return the sheet to Mountain Laurel Floral Designs to be entered to win fun raffle prizes from Main Street businesses. The scavenger hunt will run from 10 a.m.-noon.

Main Street kids' activities

Mountain Laurel Floral Designs will be celebrating its one-year anniversary and hosting a variety of hands-on crafts for all ages from 10am-3pm. Craft options will include adorable bunny headbands, painted garden pots, and paper egg wreaths, with crafts starting at just \$2. Plus, Mountain Laurel is partnering with Art by Simone to offer festive face painting.

Pet lovers won't want to miss the activities at Bark-Society, who will host a fun photo booth and

host a dog adoption event in partnership with Doggoholic Rescue from 10 a.m.-noon, a great opportunity to meet adoptable dogs looking for their forever homes.

Two Dogs Coffee Shop will be hosting a kids scavenger hunt – find all of the mini chickens and win a prize! Plus, stop by NorthStar Home Loans and Chubby Dog Coffee Gaming Bar for fun activities such as sand art and coloring sheets. Lastly, the Easter bunny will be visiting Lilium for pictures with kids!

With family-friendly activities, local shopping, delicious food, and opportunities to support small businesses and an animal rescue, the Main Street Spring Celebration is set to be a highlight of the season in Danielson!

WANTED TO BUY Antiques & Old Stuff

- Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys
- Pewter • Glassware •Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
- Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines
- Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns •Lamps • Kitchenware
- Cookware •Knives •Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
- Fire Dept • Advertising Signs & Much More

CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396



Street SMART Self Defense

- Self Defense Techniques
- Situational Awareness
- Confidence Building
- Mental Toughness
- Boundary Setting

Spring Special \$99 /1st Month

Quest Martial Arts



Thompson, CT
860.928.9218

questmartialarts.us



Woodstock • Public • Schools

2026 – 2027 Kindergarten Registration

Woodstock Elementary School invites all Woodstock families with Kindergarten eligible students to register for the 2026-2027 school year. All students turning five years old before September 1, 2026 are eligible for entry into our full-day Kindergarten program.

Registration packets can be obtained by calling the main office at 860-928-0471 or by email at officewes@woodstockschools.net

Completed registration packets can be submitted in person at Woodstock Elementary School or mailed to:

Woodstock Elementary School
24 Frog Pond Rd.
Woodstock, CT 06281

Better Hearing Dream Team!



Ralph Campagna, BC-HIS

Stephanie Balducci, AuD
Doctor of Audiology

Jim Verge, BC-HIS

Call **860-315-9656** to schedule a hearing evaluation.



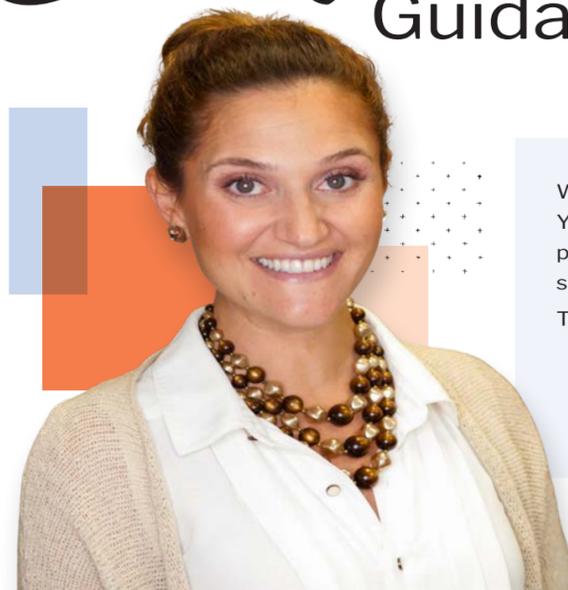
Let us check your insurance benefit. We are providers for: Anthem BCBS, United Healthcare, Aetna, Connecticare, Humana, Wellcare, Care Partners, Cigna, CT Medicaid, etc.

HEARING CARE CENTERS

19 Quinebaug Ave, Putnam
351 Merline Road, Vernon
www.amplisound.com



Strategic Guidance



WHZ,
You've given me confidence to pursue business goals I wasn't sure would be possible before.
Thank you!

Allie

Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Visit whzwealth.com to read more about Alexandra's story.

(860) 928-2341
697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259
392-A Mellow Road, Tolland, CT 06084



This statement was provided 3/7/2025 by Alexandra Robin who is a client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee of future performance or success. For additional reviews, search us wherever local businesses are reviewed. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.



P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818

FAX: (860) 928-5946

WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHERBRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Lessons from a team that understands what teamwork means

In many communities across Northeast Connecticut, traditions form quietly. They begin with a simple idea, gain support year by year, and eventually become something people look forward to because they reflect the best of who we are.

Military Appreciation Night hosted by the boys' hockey team at The Woodstock Academy is one of those traditions.

Each season, players take the ice in camouflage jerseys, raising funds for the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse while taking time to meet face to face with veterans who have served in conflicts spanning generations. It is a gesture that is both symbolic and practical. It supports a local organization that provides connection and companionship for veterans, and it gives students an opportunity to understand service in a way no textbook ever could.

That combination matters.

High school athletics are often measured by wins and losses. Championships, standings, and tournament runs tend to dominate headlines. Yet some of the most meaningful lessons teams can offer their players happen far from the scoreboard. They take place in moments when young people begin to see their place within a larger community.

The Woodstock Academy players' visit to the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse breakfast earlier this month is a good example. Sitting in a room filled with veterans from different eras and branches of service is not something most teenagers experience. Listening to their stories, shaking their hands, and simply being present creates a bridge between generations that too often remain separate.

That kind of connection leaves an impression.

Former assistant coach Bob Donahue helped establish Military Appreciation Night more than a decade ago, and his reasoning still holds true today. Young athletes naturally admire sports heroes. There is nothing wrong with that. But learning to recognize the quiet sacrifices made by those who served the country adds depth to how students understand the word "hero."

It also reshapes what teamwork looks like.

Hockey, like military service, depends on individuals working toward a shared goal. Players rely on one another's discipline, communication, and trust. When students begin to see that same structure reflected in the lives of veterans sitting across the breakfast table from them, teamwork becomes something more than strategy. It becomes responsibility.

That lesson carries well beyond the rink.

The team's involvement with Toys for Tots and the Marine Corps during the holiday season shows that Military Appreciation Night is not a single event placed neatly on a calendar. It is part of a larger effort to encourage students to think about service, generosity, and community as habits rather than obligations.

Those habits shape character.

Just as important, this tradition strengthens the connection between local schools and the people they serve. In towns like Woodstock, Putnam, Killingly, and Thompson, schools are not separate from community life. They are part of its foundation. When students step into spaces like the veterans coffeehouse and participate with intention, they reinforce that bond.

There is something reassuring about that continuity.

The Woodstock Academy hockey team's season ended earlier this month in the Nutmeg Conference semifinals. For many teams, that would be the final note of the year. But what these players carried forward through their Military Appreciation Night effort is something more lasting than a playoff result.

It is a reminder that success is not always measured in standings.

Sometimes, it is measured in whether young people leave a season understanding that the strongest teams are built not only on talent, but on respect, gratitude, and the willingness to stand beside others working toward a common purpose.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iran is not a Trump war either

To the Editor:

Dave Clark responded to my letter about Iran, but I'm not looking to start any intellectual tennis matches like some folks do here. It'd be nice to expand on some ideas in light of all of this.

Donald Trump's malignant narcissism is clearly getting the better of him with what I've seen with Iran so far, but if there's a way to have something good come of this little cowboy romp in the Middle East, I say why not? We screwed up Iran and took a rain check on being responsible for half a century. I'd say we should pay this one back with interest.

As much as President Trump might want to wrap himself around this war of his, it's really nothing all that bizarre. We developed the technology that allowed for taking out the Ayatollah 15 years ago, when President Obama greenlit the assassination of Osama Bin Laden. This is why I don't go around saying Make America Great Again. We're already there. In sharp contrast, Russia has been grinding itself up in Ukraine for how long now?

"War" might be too generous of a term as well. Our current separation of powers limit executive military action to 60 days unless

Congress gets on board. Even if the Republicans bring Congress on board after the fact, the midterms can eliminate their majorities if things get too ridiculous over here. Diesel in Connecticut has passed \$5/gallon now, which is where it was when Russia invaded Ukraine. That raises the cost of goods sold and prices in general, as well as people's discontent at the ballot box.

We had nothing to do with Ukraine. Vladimir Putin flexed his KGB past but the effects on the global markets messed with our economy. This time around though, President Trump's fingerprints are all over it, just like they'll be all over the ripple effects on our economy if he really is stupid enough to destroy the Iranian gas field responsible for 20 percent of the world's liquefied natural gas.

I don't see any real lasting power to this war. It either does its job or it doesn't and we move on. The world has changed quite a bit since Afghanistan and Iraq. Trump's hot air is nothing more than that.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Woodstock Budget '27, Part II

To the Editor:

In my previous letter, I warned about the tax bomb about to drop on weary Woodstock taxpayers. I also suggested watching the video of the March 10 Board of Finance meeting. Well, it turns out the video is not available, at least according to the minutes of the meeting — seems someone forgot to push the button. Videos of BOF meetings are, in general, the most popular, as they should be considering they directly impact every taxpayer in town. By the time you read this, the Public Hearing will have been held and we will see if the issues outlined below are addressed. The BOF will be meeting again on April 7 to finalize the budget that will go forward, by statute what they "recommend/approve" will be what voters will consider at the annual town meeting and referendum.

Of the \$1,356,000 increase in spending being put forward, 87 percent is for the BOE. While there was a lengthy presentation of "needs" at the March 10 meeting, the heart of the budget is contained in the "10" account which the BOF had, or should have had, ahead of the meeting and most of you have never seen. It's a spreadsheet eight columns wide and some 500-plus lines long, and would appear to have received little scrutiny by the BOF ahead of the budget review, and while a lot of time was spent talking about High School and Special Education here's what is actually buried in it:

Of the \$24,773,374 request, \$9,151,700 has to do with High School expenses including tuitions and High School level Special Ed. That's an increase year over year of \$64,061. Also included is \$3,309,792 for non-high School Special Ed.; that's a decrease

year over year of \$162,591, so between the two, High School total and SPED non-HS, expenses are planned to be down \$98,530. That's \$98,530 that will be available for other WPS expenses. On top of that the BOE/School Admin is requesting an additional \$1.174 Million. If you take the \$9,151,700 for all HS expenses and the \$3,309,792 for non-High School Sped from the proposed budget you have \$12,311,882 an increase over the previous year of a whopping 11.5 percent - the \$1.174 million. Somehow this didn't come out during the budget review — we'll see if it comes out in the Public Hearing. In any case, this budget is outrageous and should be cut by at least \$800,000 and would still leave a better than 4 percent increase for WPS. You also have to ask yourself, "why didn't the BOF pick up on this?" Because they didn't want to! They seem to have no interest in actually managing the town's \$30 million-plus budget — which is their job by state statute — their attitude is "we'll just pass it on to the taxpayers/voters and let them decide" - with little or no real information. As I said, this is being written before the Public Hearing, and the BOF's "Final" meeting on April 7. We'll see if they step up or just crumble as usual. But the final say will be with the voters on April 28. For those who don't have mid-six- or seven-figure family incomes, this matters, for as you know, in this case "what goes up never comes down". Please show up and vote, it is in the town's interest.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

Republicans' tolerance of Trump is a danger to America

To the Editor:

It is rumored that Republicans who are monitoring their portfolios and household finances would, if permitted, be fuming. However, a fundamental failing of their party affiliation, which prevents divergence by word or deed from a Trump utterance, precludes any form of disapproval. The closer to seats of power, the more keenly aware they are of the retribution awaiting behavior disloyal to the president.

Witness, at the highest levels of government, the weak-in-the-knees pandering of officials whose political survival is contingent on the whims of a self-serving narcissist. Electees and appointed officials who swore an oath to the constitution find it far wiser to meekly surrender it for a silent oath to Donald Trump.

Further down the line, and even though less vulnerable, the rank and file mostly hew to the party line embracing the "Trump First" strategy, which, by all accounts, has generated billions in his private coffers. He went to war with an inability to articulate Plan A and no Plan B, but with the full-throated support of the Maga band, directed by Fox News drum majors, cheering for a conflict which they did not want and which he repeatedly promised he would not start. We have come to the point where his prevarications are blithely tolerated, a situation dangerous for America. He is now requesting that taxpayers fund his war to the tune of \$200 billion, a ditty that will have Americans singing the blues.

WILLIAM ZAMAGNI, JR.
PUTNAM

Let's turn the chaos around

To the Editor:

What has the Trump administration done for us so far? Let's look at the campaign promises roster.

Border security: Although there have been arrests and deportations the methods have been so rabid and indiscriminate that at least two innocent citizens have been murdered by ICE and many more wrongfully detained and deported. Past administrations have been able to round up and deport criminal illegals without killing, terrorizing or trampling on the rights of citizens and legal immigrants. FAILED

Cost of living: Promised to reduce living costs on "day one." So far inflation is still plaguing people. Gas prices are soaring and sure to get worse. Groceries (a word Trump is unfamiliar with) and other consumer goods are also on the rise based on the bad decisions made by Trump. FAILED

Foreign Policy: Promised to end the Ukraine-Russian war within 24 hours. Not only did he fail to do so but managed to start a new war in Iran for reasons no one seems to be able to determine and has alienated most of our allies. FAILED

Debt: Promised to eliminate the national debt. In spite of reducing the federal work force drastically and cutting much needed programs such as USAID at the expense of innocent people, the debt continues to rise and our lives have not improved financially

or otherwise. FAILED

We, as citizens, need to do all we can to interrupt the carnage that is taking place due to the Trump regime. Now is the time to re-affirm our determination to fight against the poor decisions and actions of the current administration. It can be tiring and even discouraging to keep a positive outlook on the future of this country. Besides the failure of campaign promises, the interference with media coverage, the judicial system, voting rights, freedom of speech and women's rights are all reasons to keep fighting against the destruction of democracy in this country. We have enjoyed this freedom for 250 years. Now is the time to double-down on our efforts to turn the tide. Call or email your senators and representatives, join the rallies scheduled across the country, and most of all, vote. Get the democrats back in to get the majority back from the do-nothing republicans and bring our country back to the one we, as Americans, loved and the rest of the world respected and honored. Don't be discouraged by the far-right who would have you believe that we are in the minority. Right now, somewhere around 70 percent of the people in this country hate what is going on in the Whitehouse. That's a pretty big number. Join with me in this historic year to turn this chaos around and start moving in the right direction. Don't lose hope.

JEAN McNALLY
WOODSTOCK

We're in trouble

To the Editor:

The United States is in a very dangerous place. Our dishonest President is a narcissistic "dictator wannabe" who continues to show signs of dementia. That would be bad enough if he was surrounded by decent, qualified advisors keeping him in check. But instead, we have a sitcom-like cast running the government. Let's look at a few of these misfits.

Pete Hegseth: anyone who has served in the military knows this type of clown. Big mouth, lots of bravado, but not someone you can count on when it all "hits the fan." As the old saying goes --- "all front and no back". Pam Bondi and Kristi Noem; arrogance and combativeness are the classic defense mechanisms they use for feeling incompetent and in over their heads. Kash Patel and RFK Jr.; it's hard to imagine two people less qualified for their jobs than these cartoon characters. They'd actually be fun to watch if it wasn't so scary.

Our country is in the hands of morons who got their jobs only by agreeing to bow down to the chief moron, Donald Trump. We're in big trouble.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Washington to Connecticut: The real cost of war

The means do not justify the ends

To the Editor:

When we talk about the cost of war, we too often limit the conversation to dollars and cents. But the human, financial, economic, and political consequences are felt here at home, in Connecticut communities, households, and budgets.

Connecticut families know the human cost firsthand. Our neighbors, friends, and relatives have served in uniform, and many return carrying lifelong physical and emotional wounds. Tragically, others never return at all. The impact extends beyond service members to spouses, children, and caregivers across our towns, who live with the lasting effects of war long after the fighting stops.

There is also a heavy financial cost borne by Connecticut taxpayers. Trillions of federal dollars have been spent on wars overseas, money that comes from working people here in our state. The Iran war is estimated to be costing \$1 billion per day. Those dollars could instead fund our schools, expand access to health care, repair aging infrastructure, invest in green energy, support childcare, and create good-paying jobs in our local communities. At a time when municipalities struggle to balance budgets and residents face rising costs of living, these trade-offs have substantial consequences. Ultimately, the American taxpayers bear the burden of war.

War's economic impact reaches Connecticut in other ways as well. Global instability drives up energy prices, transportation costs, and consumer goods, straining household budgets and small businesses alike. Have you noticed the price at the pump lately? These pressures are felt especially hard by Connecticut families already stretched thin and unable to absorb the impact.

The environmental consequences of war also affect us locally. Pollution and climate impacts do not respect borders. Armed conflict pollutes air, soil, and water, exposing both people and ecosystems to long-term harm. Burning oil and gas facilities release massive amounts of greenhouse gases, while contaminated land and groundwater create lasting health risks. As a coastal state, Connecticut is already vulnerable to pollution, rising sea levels, and extreme weather. War is both a humanitarian disaster and an environmental one.

There's also the political cost. Congress has the responsibility to decide whether, when, and where the U.S. chooses war. Yet the republican congress has ceded this responsibility to the President. A healthy democracy requires that the choice to go to war be made carefully, with full consideration of the long-term human, financial, and economic consequences. The President, alone, should not be allowed to make this decision for all of us. Connecticut residents deserve a congress that represents us and how we want our tax dollars to be spent. Remember that when you vote in the mid-terms.

What if, instead of tax breaks for billionaires and endless wars, taxpayer money supported affordable housing, health care, childcare, green energy, jobs, and infrastructure for Connecticut families? These decisions affect our lives and our state's future.

Finally, if our politicians can't hold each other and the President accountable for human rights abuses at home (like the Epstein cover up and the killing of Americans by I.C.E.) who are we to invade, start wars and police other countries.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

To the Editor:

As the unneeded war expands from days to weeks to months, it becomes clearer, as with President Trump's previous (mis)adventures, the means do not justify the ends. That Iran could never have an atom bomb is without question. The IRGC, like the Al-Qaeda and ISIS, are religious zealots who care more the world domination by a global caliph than the people under their watch. There is no doubt that they would have annihilated Israel despite the reality that Armageddon would have been unleashed in Iran. They believe that that these events would herald the return of the hidden Iman ushering in a world of strict Islam, not unlike some in the Pentagon, such as Secretary Hekseth, who see this as the final war foretold by the Christian Bible.

But there was no imminent danger to Israel, and certainly not to the US. Trump has claimed force was needed because negotiations had reached an impasse. This would obviously counter the assertion that it was done because of Israel's planned attack. Nor would or could have the Israelis done this with America's consent.

In retrospect, and from Tehran's standpoint, one can certainly understand their caution. After all it was Trump who unilaterally tore up the original agreement. If serious, he could have simply made sure it was fully enforced. The prior treaty also included China, Russia and the EU. Not so this go round. Rather than seasoned veterans at the table, Trump used businessmen Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. Not quite Henry Kissinger material. Neither with any political background or training in Middle East studies. Neither with experience in the US diplomatic corps. These important talks lasted less than a year. But Trump has the patience of a petulant child. Negotiations take tact and finesse. In Trump's mind it's "my way or the highway." There was a way to avoid the current morass.

First involving experts in Islam and the

region could have helped see things from the Iranian side. Second, any military plan should have anticipated Iran's attack on ships sailing past them in the Strait of Hormuz. After all, Iranian proxies, the Houthis, did the exact same thing in the Red Sea. Forming a large coalition like in the Iraq wars, not only would have kept Iran at the negotiation table, it would have allowed for preemptive boots on the shore to preclude any hostilities to the shipping lanes.

Sadly, we are past this point, and to once and for all eliminate their nuclear threat, we need to terminate their weapons grade uranium by either burying it deeper, mining the surrounding area, or physically removing it. This should involve a global effort, but Trump has estranged us from our partners. Doing it alone will involve tremendous sacrifice both in lives and money. The national debt is up \$1 trillion in the last five months alone. Now the Defense Department is asking for another \$200 billion. Americans are about to foot a bill that will see our debt reach record levels. And the inflationary hit that this war is causing threatens to cripple the economy. This will be more than "a little pain" that billionaires like Trump can shrug off.

There may be a longterm silver lining, if not for America, for the rest of the world. This should serve as a wake-up call that a country dependent on fossil fuel risks future turmoil. So as the price of oil and natural gas soar, green energy offers a safer and cheaper alternative. Trump has not only ignored this, he has reversed America's leadership as China has taken over the world markets. But even in America, commercial forces will, despite Trump, see an expansion of home solar panels and a resurgence of EVs along with energy efficient buildings and windmills. This will eventually lower inflation. It will take years. And it will be a painful slog between now and then.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

Time for the negativity to end in Pomfret

To the Editor:

I have lived in Pomfret for almost 48 years. In addition to raising my two children and working for 25 years at Quinebaug Valley Community College, I have done my part to help make Pomfret one of the best places to live by being involved in the community. I have served on the PTO and Booster Club, Library Board of Trustees, and Democratic Town Committee, helped establish Pomfret Horse & Trail Association, and recently completed 20 years on the Board of Finance, including the past eight years as chair. Why? Because I believe in giving back to my community.

I think the majority of Pomfret residents love living here, and are proud of what it has to offer: an excellent school system, hundreds of acres of open space, State Parks, the Connecticut Audubon Society, two libraries, excellent restaurants, a new bulky waste facility, dedicated Town employees, a first rate volunteer fire department, and a government run by capable, knowledgeable, and hard-working residents, including all those who volunteer their time to serve on boards and commissions.

Unfortunately, a small number of folks from the Republican Town Committee have decided to sabotage the work of the first selectman and try to find something, in fact as many things as possible, to discredit her, as well as the Board of Finance. The

continual harping on topics such as Pomfret Forest, filling of vacancies on town boards, and the budget process, as well as the spreading of misinformation, has negatively impacted the morale of many elected officials and town employees. It is sad and discouraging to see other residents criticizing, making false claims, submitting a barrage of Freedom of Information requests, and implying that Town government is poorly run by greedy, unethical citizens who don't care about Pomfret's future or its residents. That is so far from the truth!

I am proud of my service on the Board of Finance. We worked diligently to keep Pomfret fiscally healthy, approve responsible budgets that avoided costly referendums, and keep tax increases as minimal as possible. We operated with honesty and integrity, following state statutes and making decisions that were in the best interest of the Town.

Pomfret is a wonderful place to live! That's why people want to move here. That's why there are relatively few homes on the market. I have been here for 48 years, and have no plans to leave. I hope the small group of naysayers can stop their petty campaign of negativity, start focusing on the positive, and help make Pomfret an even better place to live.

MARGIE HUOPPI
POMFRET

Another valuable service

To the Editor:

Every now and then, you publish a letter from a reader that can not only be described as astonishing but also very illuminating. Such a letter in your March 20 Villager came from Thompson resident Keith Elliott.

Mr. Elliott appears to be enamored with the term "Trump Derangement Syndrome," which he attributes to critics of Donald Trump completely without any evidence to back it up. He disparages those critics without providing a single example of how the criticisms are "uncontrolled rage" or "misguided" or constitute "hate." He doesn't seem to understand the difference between criticism and "rabid" hatred.

Reasonable citizens would rather engage in an exchange of ideas. Reasonable people fail to see how criticism of Trump's policies is somehow unfounded or "insane." Trump ran for election promising to "lower prices on Day One" but has increased costs with his illegal tariffs and indiscriminate deportations of workers on farms and in meat packing plants. His signature "achievement" is legislation that gave tax breaks to billionaires and increased the cost of healthcare for millions of ordinary folks. What's "deranged" or "hilarious" about criticizing such an obvious deception?

Is it somehow "insanity" to deplore Presidential conduct that most

decent folks wouldn't tolerate from their employees, employers, coworkers, or relatives? Apparently, when the President of the United States celebrates the death of a decorated former Marine who served his country with honor and distinction for several decades by posting, "I'm glad he's dead," that's just fine with the MAGA crowd. And I'm supposedly "deranged" to call out such abhorrent behavior that was below the dignity of a president prior to 2016? Trump's behavior is a stain on our country and an embarrassment to every decent American.

Critics have cited too many dumb Trump actions, pronouncements, and unhinged behaviors to regurgitate them all here. Perhaps it is the Trump sycophants to whom the TDS description is more appropriate. Maybe they should engage in some self-reflection if they can't admit that their exalted leader has some severe character flaws and has done or said something unwise even once. They might want to reflect on Trump's destruction of USAID that has already resulted in over a half million deaths due to disease and starvation.

I'm quite sure your readers can see through Mr. Elliott's illogical smokescreen. Thanks to him for providing your readers with another valuable service.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Additional Letters To The Editor,
See Page A-8



Community Connection

Cormier JEWELERS
WE BUY GOLD
Trusted with Appraisals, Custom Design, Repairs, and more since 1947!
42 Central St, Southbridge MA
(508) 764-7415 | www.Cormiers.com

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts



Stock up now!
Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!
To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.crookedcreekfarmma.org
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence
WE BUY GOLD
Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs
MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®
409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza



Courtesy

Grandmaster Mike Bogdanski recently gave a self defense seminar in Warsaw, Poland. He was hosted by Master Marvin Kostyra of Klub Tang Soo Do & Kickboxingu Warszawa. Students from across Poland learned street smart self defense and urban combat.

Putnam Science has successful trip to South Carolina



MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Myrtle Beach, South Carolina is the epicenter of the Grand Strand — a 60-mile stretch of beaches. If runs were measured in beach miles, the Putnam Science Academy baseball team would nearly cover the Strand. The team scored a total of 54 runs in South Carolina to open the 2026 season, averaging nine runs a game, returning home with a 6-0 record.

The offensive explosion was by design, according to Justin DeJesus, who said, “Everybody was on the go, nobody was taking bad takes. We were ready to swing and it worked out for us.”

The strong showing by the team has instilled great confidence up and down the roster, according to DeJesus.

“We played great out there, and I feel like that started a good season for us,” said DeJesus.

The pitching staff was outstanding, to say the

least. Jacob Mondo threw five perfect innings, with 6 strikeouts, for the Mustangs in the 13-0 win against West Greene High School last Thursday. Andres Jurado followed that up by stifling the Jefferson-Morgan offense in four innings of work. Jurado gave up 0 runs and struck out 6 in his outing. In Game 1 against West Greene High School, an 18-2 Putnam Science Academy win, Omar Rodriguez kept the pristine pitching performance, going with a 4-inning, 10-strikeout performance.

During the six-games the Mustangs played, Jayson Serrano learned the team is only scratching the surface of what it can become throughout the season.

“We have a really good team overall. We worked a lot together, there’s definitely a lot of chemistry. There’s so much more we could do better as a team. But, so far, for the first six games it looks great,” Serrano said.

The key to driving this

success forward, according to Serrano, is to not underestimate the opponents ahead for the Mustangs.

PUTNAM — The 2026 Putnam Lions Volleyball Pickleball Challenge took place at the Strong Field House on the campus of the Pomfret School on Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15. There were eight volleyball teams that participated on Saturday.

The competitive division was won by the Deuces and corporate division was won by Weiss Hale and Zahansky. The competitive division competed for a cash prize and the corporate division competed for a traveling trophy. There were 14 teams that participated in pickleball on Sunday that were placed into two divisions. The two division winners were Paddle Duo and Shake and Bake.

As well as the basics, “to play hard every game. If we have the chance to mercy every team that we play, we’ll try our best to accomplish that goal.”

The Mustangs play a double-header against Eastern Connecticut State University today at 4:30 for Game 1. Game 2 will be at 6:30 p.m.

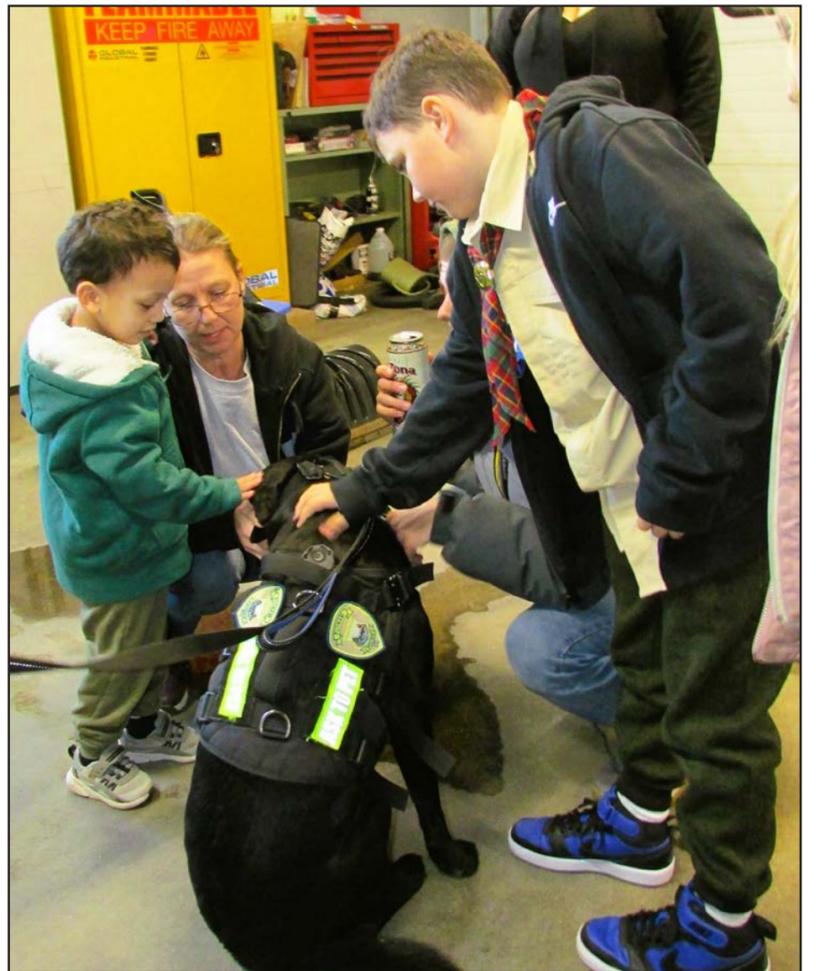
More than \$10,000 was raised to benefit the more than 40 organizations to which the Putnam Lions Club donates. These funds will be distributed during our Annual Night of Giving which will be held on April 10 this year.

The Lions want to thank all of our players, sponsors, and Lion volunteers who made this year’s tournament such a success. Special thanks go to the Putnam High School girls’ and boys’ volleyball team, who did the refereeing for

the entire tournament and the Putnam II Leo Club for helping with set-up and breakdown. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to The Pomfret School for allowing us to host at their facility.

The Deuces volleyball team is shown in a photo on the right side of the page. They are wearing black jerseys with 'DEUCES' and the number '9' on them. They are standing on a court with other people.





Courtesy

Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam visited the Putnam Police Station on Church Street on Wednesday, March 18. Police officers talked to the Cubs about what they do to help keep the town safe. This is just one of many fun and challenging activities Cub Scout Pack 21 does throughout the year. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan, at (860) 928-5873.



HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Commercial/Industrial sand blaster opening available in Oxford, MA.

Duties include high pressure manual blasting of steel shot, grit and garnet. Experience a plus.

Will train

**Call BC Industries
508-987-3042**

HELP WANTED

Industrial painter opening available in Oxford, MA

Duties-include priming and painting of machine parts and structural steel. Experience a plus. Will train.

**Call BC Industries
508-987-3042**



Economic impacts of the war in Iran – where we're at, what could be ahead

The war in Iran has sent oil prices higher and stock prices lower. But the United States has lived through wars and energy crises before, and historically the stock market has recovered and moved higher once those situations resolved. Will this time be different?

This time around, the U.S. has some advantages that may reduce the conflict's negative impact on the economy and financial markets. Unlike in the 1970s, when the U.S. relied heavily on imported oil, the country is now a net exporter of oil. The U.S. economy is also far less energy-intensive than it was during the first oil crisis that sent markets tumbling in the 1970s.

In uncertain markets like these, it can also be valuable to work with a seasoned financial advisor, like our team at WHZ, who can help to ensure investment portfolios remain diversified and positioned appropriately during both strong and challenging environments.

Stocks & the War in Iran
One of the toughest aspects of investing is staying the course when markets become volatile. Recently the market has faced its share of anxiety-producing headlines, and the war in Iran and its impact on oil markets has added to that uncertainty.

Rising energy prices, concerns about inflation,



**FINANCIAL
FOCUS**
.....
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

and fears about the war's economic impact have weighed on stocks. As of March 18, the S&P 500 has fallen about 4% from its all-time high of 7,002.28, reached in January.

While every crisis is different, markets have endured wars and oil shocks before and ultimately recovered to new highs. Periods of uncertainty often reinforce the importance of maintaining diversified portfolios and avoiding emotionally driven investment decisions.

Energy markets take a hit
Iran responded to U.S. and Israeli attacks by threatening to bomb ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a 21-mile-wide waterway between Iran and Oman. Traffic through the Strait has largely ground to a halt, disrupting exports of oil, natural gas, and fertilizer from producers across the Middle East.

Oil prices reacted quickly. The price of a barrel of oil in the U.S. jumped to about \$101, up from roughly \$67 before the conflict. Meanwhile, the nationwide average price of gasoline increased to about \$3.58 per gallon, compared with

roughly \$2.94 before the attacks (as of the time of this writing on March 18).

Governments have taken steps to soften the blow. The International Energy Agency announced plans to release 400 million barrels of oil from strategic reserves, and the U.S. temporarily waived sanctions on Russian crude exports. While these actions may help stabilize markets, they cannot fully offset the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20 percent of the world's oil supply normally flows.

Extended high energy prices present two major risks. First, they could push inflation higher as companies raise prices to offset rising costs. Airlines, for example, may increase ticket prices to cover higher fuel expenses.

Second, high fuel costs could slow economic growth or even trigger a recession. When consumers spend more on gasoline, they have less money available for discretionary purchases. Meanwhile, companies facing higher energy costs may delay hiring or reduce their workforce.

A look at past wars
Historically, many conflicts in the Middle East have had only temporary effects on markets. For example, stock market weakness ahead of the Iraq War in 2003 reversed once

the invasion began, and the S&P 500 finished the year up about 26 percent. Similarly, after an initial sell-off during the 1979 Iran hostage crisis, the S&P 500 rose 25.9 percent over the following 12 months.

There are exceptions. After the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the market fell 26.7 percent over the next 23 months, although much of that decline is attributed to the bursting of the technology bubble in 2000.

The most concerning historical example is the Arab Oil Embargo of 1973, when OPEC nations halted oil exports to the U.S. and other countries supporting Israel during the Yom Kippur War. Oil prices surged from \$3 to \$12 per barrel, and the S&P 500 fell 34.3 percent in the year after the embargo began.

Could this time be different?

Today's U.S. economy is far less vulnerable to oil shocks than it was in the 1970s. The country now produces more oil than it consumes, exporting roughly three million barrels per day, whereas in the late 1970s the U.S. imported as much as six million barrels per day.

The economy is also far less energy-intensive. Cars and appliances are more

efficient, and services now make up a larger share of economic activity than the manufacturing sector once did. While the U.S. economy has nearly tripled in size since 1970, oil consumption has remained relatively unchanged.

Could this be brief?

High oil prices and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz hurt nearly every country in the world. That global pressure could push Iran toward negotiations with the U.S. and Israel sooner rather than later.

If the Strait reopens, oil prices could fall quickly and stocks may rebound. Because it is nearly impossible to time market recoveries, staying invested through periods of volatility remains one of the most reliable ways to participate in the market's long-term gains once conditions improve.

At WHZ, we consistently work with our clients to ensure their portfolios are diversified and reflect their risk tolerance. By doing so, clients can be reassured they're appropriately positioned when unexpected global events cause market disruptions and when bull markets resume. Our goal is to provide you with "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life." Call us at (860)

928-2341 or schedule a complimentary discovery session now with our team.

Authored by WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors Senior Partner & Chief Investment Officer Laurence Hale. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets, and diversification cannot guarantee that any objective or goal will be achieved.

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putting fantasy ahead of facts

To the Editor:

When I've asked GOP'ers why they vote Republican, the usual response is "I can't bring myself to vote for the liberal Democrats. They will destroy the US. The GOP stands for progress, peace, economic growth and the general well-being of America."

If so, explain to me why you vote GOP in spite of the following provable "fake" facts. Ninety-five of 100 poorest counties are GOP. 9 out of 10 poorest states are GOP. 10 of the last 11 recessions started under GOP Presidents. These wars were all started by GOP'ers: Eisenhower – Vietnam; Nixon – Laos/Cambodia; Reagan – Granada/Iran/Contra; Bush 1 – Iraq 1.0; Bush 2 – Iraq 2.0/Afghanistan; Trump – Iran.

Elliott has it dead wrong

To the Editor:

Last Friday, March 20, Robert Mueller died at the age of 81. Mueller had led a platoon in Vietnam, where he received a Bronze Star for heroism under fire, a Purple Heart, and two commendations for valor. After years as a federal prosecutor, he then, right after 9/11, took charge of the FBI, reconfigured its relationship with the CIA, and led it for the next 12 years, after which he volunteered as a line homicide prosecutor in Washington, D.C., until he was called to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election. There, he headed a team that found that Russia had, in fact, systematically sought to help Donald Trump in the election and that his campaign had encouraged this clandestine aid. The investigation led to the conviction and jailing of Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign manager, for fraud, and of Roger Stone and Michael Flynn for lying to investigators, all of whom who were subsequently pardoned by Donald Trump.

The day following Mueller's death, Donald Trump, who had received five draft deferments during the Vietnam era, posted on Truth Social: "Robert Mueller just died. Good, I'm glad he's dead. He can no longer hurt innocent people." This brought to mind several other comments he had made. The first, in reference to John McCain: "He's not a war hero. He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who haven't been captured." The second, when in France in 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, Trump said when canceling a visit to the Aisne-Marne American cemetery near Paris: "Why should I go to that cemetery? It's filled with losers."

On the same day as Mr. Mueller's death, the Woodstock Villager published a letter by Keith Elliott where he pays tongue-in-cheek tribute to the newspaper for "providing a valuable service to the local com-

unity...allowing for the public release of uncontrolled rage by several local Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS) sufferers who are compelled to express their deep, mostly unfounded, hatred of the President on a weekly basis." He goes on at some length in this amused vein but makes no attempt to counter these writers' criticism, nor does he make any effort to explain, defend, or praise the President's actions, preferring to focus on the letter writers' "hate," something which he implies has arisen for absolutely no reason.

Mr. Elliott has it dead wrong. These writers (Mr. Elliott calls them out: Billy, Lee, Stephen, and Lisa), in the 250th anniversary year of the nation's founding, see the unmitigated train wreck taking place in Washington, see the destruction of everything that the nation has stood for over the years, see the diminishment of the nation's stature in the eyes of the world, and see that we are lurching headlong toward a dystopian future where might and money make right, that those without are despised and discarded, where we have no friends in the world, and where our enemies will find us all too easy to destroy. They see this and they make an effort week after week to bear witness to and object to the horror taking place. These writers are not writing out of hate. They are writing out of love, love for a country that sees and values the courage and sacrifices of people like Robert Mueller, and recognizes and does not reward the cowardice, venality, and abject immorality of a man like Donald Trump, who, when asked about the fact that the United States had mistakenly killed over 120 schoolchildren in Minab, Iran, in a direct guided missile attack on a school, said only, "I don't know anything about that."

STEPHEN EITZEL
PUTNAM

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

When the KKK came to Connecticut

Note: The Killingly Historical Center will be CLOSED Saturday, April 4, Holy Saturday. It will be open as usual on Wednesday, April 8. Happy Easter!



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

The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open by appointment. For additional information, please call (860) 207-6044 and leave a message.

Fish Fridays: Support Killingly Grange #112, an historic property (the old Killingly Centre schoolhouse) 801 Hartford Turnpike. March 27, and April 3 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Meal 1: Baked or Fried Fish dinner \$18-10 oz. fish fillet, potato, coleslaw, roll, dessert, drink. Meal 2: Clam cakes & chowder, \$12-6 clam cakes and 1 bowl of clam chowder. Al la Carte while supplies last: clam strips \$10; Clam cakes: 6 for \$8, 12 for \$14; clam chowder, \$6/bowl; Fried fish sandwich-\$5; Onion rings-\$4; French fries-\$3; Cheese sticks-\$3. Limited number of meals. Call or text Terry at 860-884-1813. At the door pay by cash, credit card or check payable to Killingly Grange.

\$1 per meal discount if you bring a nonperishable food item for the food pantry.

Celebrate America 250. "The Sons of Liberty in Windham County." Saturday, April 11, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Putnam Library. Bev York of The American Museum will speak of "Some of the same patriots who served on the Connecticut Assembly and the Governor's Council of Safety were radical rebels by night." Co-sponsored by the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam.

America 250. Quiet Corner Garden Club Book Discussion. "Founding Gardeners-The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation." Wednesday, April 15, 4-5 p.m. Putnam Public Library. Hosted by Lanette Lepper. Copies of the

book are available to borrow at Putnam Library with a valid Connecticut, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island Library card. Call 860-928-6826 for additional information.

Have you been following UConn in March Madness, like I have? One hundred years ago local basketball was a big topic in late March in the Windham Country Transcripts. The Thursday, March 25, 1926 issue carried the following article, "Danielson Hi-Y is County Champion... The Danielson Hi-Y Club won the right to represent Windham County in the State championship series by defeating both Putnam and Woodstock at the county tournament held at the Town Hall last Thursday evening. Putnam was very handily disposed of by the local aggregation, which included almost the entire Killingly High squad, but the second game, between Danielson and Woodstock, was not decided until the last minute of play... Beginning the last quarter the home team had an advantage of 15 to 12, but immediately Woodstock crept up on even terms and took a single point lead. With about two minutes to play, and Danielson leading by a margin of 18 to 17, Johnson shot a neat long basket to give his team a lead. At this point Conklin opened up some of his old time stuff, rustled the net from the center of the floor, shot a foul and then made another long distance double decker...Players for Danielson for that game: Conklin rf; Barrett, lf; Gallup, c; Spender, lg; Fulton, rg; Stoddard, rg; Woodstock: Goodell, rf; Anderson, lf; Johnson, c, rf; Wetherell, c; Morse, rg; Johnson, lg. Players for Putnam in the first game:

H. Bugbee, rf; Cushman, lf; K. Bugbee, lf; Aldric, c; King, lg; Barber, (p. 7).

I had never heard of a Hi-Y Club, so Googled it and learned that it was part of the YMCA. "The Hi-Y Club, a YMCA program for high school students, was founded in 1889 in Chapman, Kansas, to promote Christian character, leadership, and service. Originally for boys, it expanded to include Tri-Hi-Y (girls), Jr. Hi-Y, and Gra-Y, spreading nationally and remaining active into the early 21st century to strengthen school and community character." "The term "Hi-Y" specifically meant "High School YMCA". (AI & Britannica for Kids)

"Hi-Y Ladies Night. The Danielson Hi-Y club held a social and dance last evening in place of their regular meeting. The affair was given in the parish house of the Congregational Church. Members brought their girl friends and dancing and games were enjoyed. There was music by violin and piano, augmented by the victrola. Refreshments were served. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tyrell were the chaperones." (WCT, March 25, 1926, p.1).

Do you look for geese flying overhead as spring approaches? "Wild Geese on the Wing. Two large flocks of wild geese were observed flying northward over Danielson shortly after eight o'clock this morning. The geese are said to be infallible weather prophets and their appearance here has aroused the stock of the Early Spring Company, Inc. to rise several points on the local curb." (Ibid.)

Did you know that the Ku Klux Klan was in Northeastern Connecticut in 1926. A front-page article of that same Transcript had the following headline, "First Klan Funeral for Frank E. Hill. The funeral of Frank E. Hill was held Saturday afternoon from his late home on School Street, with services at the

Turn To KILLINGLY page A9



Devlin caps off outstanding career with Putnam Clippers

PUTNAM — Senior Nick Devlin has officially closed the chapter on a remarkable four-year career with the Putnam High School Clippers basketball team, leaving behind a legacy defined by leadership, versatility, and dedication.

A two-year captain and starter, Devlin played a pivotal role in the Clippers' success this season, helping lead the team to an impressive 11–10 record. The team also secured a second-place finish in the ECC and earned a berth in the 2026 state tournament.

Individually, Devlin's efforts did not go unnoticed. He was named

Second Team All-ECC and earned Scholar-Athlete of the year honors. Notably, he achieved All-ECC recognition in back-to-back seasons, further solidifying his impact on the court. Devlin averaged 14 points, 8 rebounds and 2 assists per game while shooting a team high 48% from the floor. Devlin also recorded 6 double doubles throughout the season.

Head coach Sean Deary emphasized that Devlin's contributions extended far beyond statistics.

"Nick is just a wonderful young man. I couldn't ask for anything more—not just

as a basketball player, but as a captain of the team," Deary said. "He keeps everyone focused and ready to go. It's like having a player-coach on the court."

Deary also praised Devlin for how he represented the program, adding that he "wears the blue and white the right way."

A true multi-sport athlete, Devlin excelled not only in basketball but also stood out on the soccer field and baseball diamond. His involvement in numerous extracurricular activities made him one of the most well-rounded student-athletes at the school.

Following graduation,

Devlin plans to attend a four-year college in New England, where he will undoubtedly continue to build on his academic and athletic success.

Devlin's legacy at Putnam will endure. Teammates consistently describe him as unselfish, hardworking, smart, and tough—qualities that defined his time as a Clipper.

Thank you, Nick Devlin, for four outstanding years. The Putnam community wishes you nothing but the best in the future.

Accounting student Yves Tercius of Eastford brings free tax savings to Willimantic residents

WILLIMANTIC — Students from Eastern Connecticut State University's College of Business are providing cost-free tax preparation services to local community members through the

IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) this tax season. The national program offers free tax preparation services through mid-April for households making less than \$69,000 annually.

This tax season, Windham's VITA location is staffed by 18 student volunteers who provide income-tax preparation services to community members. The students practically apply skills learned in class, having completed IRS tax certification prior to the site's opening.

Among the volunteers is Eastern student Yves Tercius of Eastford, a senior studying Accounting.

Willimantic's VITA site, located at the Windham Heights Learning Center, is a partnership between Eastern's Small Business Resource Center, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, and The Village for Families and Children. For more than 20 years, Eastern VITA volunteers have helped steer hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax refunds back to the local economy.

According to VITA, each volunteer hour results in an average tax refund of more than \$2,100. The extra net income provides families with resources for necessities and discretionary

spending.

Site coordinator and accounting Professor Chelagat Misiko said: "Experience in the VITA program helps students bridge the gap between theory and practice in the real world. Students learn what it really means to be in the work environment. Their role as tax preparers allows them to gain knowledge on tax law at a basic level, and some even acquire advanced knowledge through training provided in the program."

Services provided at VITA are offered in both English and Spanish. "Tax assistance should not be limited by language," said Miles Lovell, graduate intern in the dean's office for the School of Education and Professional Studies, and one of three site coordinators for Windham's VITA

location. "Providing multilingual services ensures accessibility, reduces barriers, and allows clients to feel comfortable asking questions about sensitive financial matters in their preferred language."

"Programs like VITA ensure that working families, senior citizens, and multilingual households receive the refunds and tax credits they are entitled to. ... For many individuals, those refunds can make a meaningful difference."

According to Eric Harrison, President and CEO of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, more than 40 percent of Connecticut households face working or extreme poverty, and tax savings provided by VITA are often reinvested into local businesses and communities.

Rotary scholarships offered — deadline March 31

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club just opened its application process for the club's scholarship program. This year, according to Scholarship Committee Chair Rachael Johnston, \$38,500 will be awarded. Applicants must be a high school senior in good standing and must live in the club's service area — Putnam, Thompson, Woodstock, Pomfret or Eastford. The applicant must be pursuing post-high school education at an accredited institute of learning. This can include two- or four-year colleges, trade schools or specialty training institutes, among others. She said the online application access has been provided to all the local school guidance counselors; applicants can also go to putnamrotaryclub.com and click on the link "2026 Scholarship Application." Handwritten applications will not be accepted. Applications are due March 31. The scholarship checks will be presented later in the year, after the recipient shows successful completion of their first semester (or equivalent) For questions, contact Johnston at johnstonre@sbcglobal.net or call 860-450-9562. Johnston said "Since we are a service-based organization, our evaluation is more heavily weighted on community service so we encourage all to apply." In the past five years, she said, more than \$160,000 in scholarships has been awarded. Just some of the recipients' majors include: Biology, mechanical engineering, education, social work, dental hygiene, engineering and physical therapy. The club's scholarship money has been funded by club fund-raisers, donations and endowments.

Old Trinity announces Easter week services

BROOKLYN — The public is invited to a 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service at Old Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church St., on Sunday, April 5. Dress warmly and come to sing!

The following Holy Week service will be held at the current Trinity Episcopal Church location, 7 Providence Road (intersection Routes 6 and 169): Palm Sunday Eucharist, March 29, 10 a.m.; Maundy Thursday Eucharist/Foot Washing, April 2, 5:30 p.m.; Good Friday, April 3, 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3 p.m. Meditation on the Cross (online only), 7 pm Voices from the Foot of the Cross; Holy Saturday, April 4, 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer; Easter Festival Eucharist, April 5, 10 a.m. followed by our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Trinity's services are available online at <https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchbrooklyn>. For more information, visit <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurch.org>.

Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to benefit Quinebaug Valley Senior Center

BROOKLYN — Quinebaug Valley Senior Center will be hosting a Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner which will include salad, bread, coffee, tea, and bottled water. The event will be held on Saturday, April 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the senior center located at 69 South Main St., Brooklyn.

Tickets are available for 15 per person, eat in or take-out. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the senior center or at the door.

Call QVSCC at (860)774.1243 for more information. Please come out to support us so we can continue to help the seniors in our communities.

Quinebaug Valley Senior Center to host fall prevention program

BROOKLYN — Quinebaug Valley Senior Center is excited to present a free program titled "Fall Prevention in our Quiet Corner" on Wednesday, April 29 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. The presentation will be held at Quinebaug Valley Senior Center at 69 South Main St., Brooklyn.

A Certified Fall Prevention Specialist from Day Kimball Healthcare at Home will conduct this comprehensive and interactive session. Participants will identify their individual risk factors for falls and learn proactive measures to minimize the risk of fall and fall-related injuries.

Supported by Day Kimball Homecare and the Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds from the Older Americans Act, "Fall Prevention in the Quiet Corner" aims to prevent falls and enhance the safety and independence of seniors.

Please register for this event to take advantage of this chance to focus on your safety, independence and well-being!

To register, please contact QVSCC at 860-774-1243 or email Director@QVSCC.org.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

KILLINGLY

continued from page A8

Pentecostal Church. Rev. Almer E. Gallup, pastor of the church, officiated, assisted by Rev. H. N. Brown, former minister. Many friends of Mr. Hill attended including members of the Ku Klux Klan... The funeral was the first in this town in which the Ku Klux Klan has participated. Burial was in Parker Hill cemetery at Sterling where the Klansmen conducted a service, wearing their ceremonial robes." (WCT, March 25, 1926, p.1)

I always associated the KKK with the South, but had heard that it was present in Connecticut. An article at ConnecticutHistory.org provided some background. "The former Confederacy was always the base of the various Klans, but when the KKK experienced a dramatic revival in 1920, chapters emerged in northern and western parts of the United States as well, including in Connecticut. The remarkable increase in Klan popularity—its membership reached five million during the 1920s—came largely from its branding itself as nativists defending an embattled pure American white race against Black people, Jews, Catholics, Bolsheviks, and immigrants who came to

US shores in large numbers in the preceding two decades. Always, though, the Klan's primary animus was toward Black people. The KKK Comes to Connecticut. The first reports of individuals in the ubiquitous white robes gathering in Connecticut, as well as of cross burnings (a telltale sign of an organized Klan presence) in the state, date to as early as 1924. The Klan regularly organized field days, and one held in Greenwich in 1928 attracted 200 people. One estimate placed the Klan's peak membership in Connecticut in the 1920s at 18,000. The KKK declined in Connecticut as dramatically as it rose, however, and its membership by the 1930s was a fraction of its peak. Klan activity in Connecticut proved virtually nonexistent." (<https://connecticuthistory.org/the-ku-klux-klan-in-connecticut>).

Margaret M. Weaver *Killingly Municipal Historian, March 2026. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main Street Danielson Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.*

AWARDS

continued from page A1

and prepared people you'll ever meet," Blade said.

In her brief speech, Danner spoke about the significance of theater as a unifying factor in all communities.

"I say often, not just theater but in this case for sure, theater saves us all in some way. There's a place for everybody in the-

ater. Whether it's on stage, off stage, in the audience, there's just so many ways that people can be included and feel like they're part of something special," Danner said.

Both recipients received a round of applause from the Town Council and those in attendance who continue to be grateful for volunteers that are essential to making local programs so successful.



Courtesy

The Killingly Parks and Recreation Department presented their volunteer of the year awards during the Town Council's March 10 meeting. The Killingly Parks and Recreation Volunteer of the Year was Suzzane Easterly, and The Little Theatre on Broad Street's 2025 Volunteer of the Year was Keri Danner.

MURAL FEST

continued from page A1

tering and illustrations on brick buildings. They evoke nostalgia and often depict local history and historical brands with a high-detail, realistic "sign-painter" aesthetic.

In exchange for the donation of time and talent by The Walldogs, the town will host a multi-day festival celebrating public art, community spirit, town pride, and the people, places, and events that have shaped the town's history. The inter-generational event brings The Walldogs together with local artists, supporters, businesses, organizations, donors, and the community-at-large.

"We knew that we would be challenged to keep up the momentum for five years given the original project date of 2030," commented MuralFest Putnam Marketing & Communications Chair Linda Colangelo. "We had one chance in January of this year to convince The Walldogs that Putnam possessed everything needed to host a successful Walldog meet in 2028. It didn't take long for them to realize that there's a special pride and passion that exists here, so they gave us the go-ahead, and we were off and rolling."

The official MuralFest Putnam kick-off was held on May 29, 2025. In a few short months, \$45,650 in donations and pledges were raised. Following word of the Walldogs arriving in 2028, Colangelo, along with Sponsorship Chair Laura Crosetti, hit the ground running to approach sponsors. In the past two months, another \$92,663 has rolled in, bringing the project total to date to \$138,313 – that's already 55% of their minimum goal of \$250,000.

"We typically meet with a potential sponsor for about an hour to provide a comprehensive presentation that visually does all the talking...and by that, we mean The Walldogs' tremendous artistic talent speaks for itself," explained Crosetti. "It's an engaging and emotional experience when people realize the magnitude of the project, the sense of community it fosters, and the opportunity they have to become part of the legacy it will be for future generations. It's been compelling and convincing

enough that everyone has said 'yes.'"

MuralFest Putnam sponsors to date include:

- Betty & Joseph Carlone, Sr.
- Matthew Desaulnier & Family/The Hilb Group
- Phyllis Emigh & Martha Lundgren
- Erica & Larry Groh/Nikki's Dog House
- Jewett City Savings Bank Foundation
- Leona's Bakery
- Linemaster Switch Corporation
- Laura & Scott Moorehead
- Nicole Ouellette Riegler & Family
- Cherie Poirier
- Putnam Area Foundation
- Putnam Arts Council
- Putnam Business Association
- Putnam Economic Development Trust Fund
- Eric Quinn & Family
- Putnam Mayor Barney Seney
- Steven & Marjolaine Townsend
- Elaine Turner

"It's going to be an unforgettable experience," commented MuralFest Putnam Community Coordinator Elaine Turner. "Everyone who wants to participate is welcome to join us. Over 30 other small towns that hosted the Walldogs can attest that the beautiful artwork elevates community pride, drives economic development, and boosts tourism. This is truly a project that will be one for the history books."

In addition to fundraising, the MuralFest Putnam Planning Committee is working on mural selection and locations, lodging, meals, transportation, legalities, and other logistical planning. Information is available at <https://www.putnamct.us/departments/economic-and-community-development>.

Learn more about The Walldogs at <https://thewalldogs.org/>, and on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/TheOriginalWalldogs/>. To join the movement, contact MuralFest Putnam Community Coordinator Elaine Turner at

eturner245@gmail.com, or attend a monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in Room 201 at the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., in Putnam. Upcoming meetings are April 16, May 21, and June 18.

SCOUTS

continued from page A1

of volunteers renovated an abandoned set of bleachers, and then built a large shelter to go over it. This provides much needed permanent seating and shelter from sun and inclement weather for the families watching their kids play baseball. Robida graduated from Woodstock Academy in June 2025, where he participated in football, lacrosse, and wrestling. He is currently enrolled at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C. as a freshman majoring in Business Finance in the Wall College of Business Honors Program. In addition to his academic studies, Cameron is in the process of obtaining his South Carolina real estate license and is an active member of a CCU business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi.

Matthew Letourneau's project, entitled "Canopy Overlook," involved the creation of a bird and wildlife observation area in Roseland Park. This entailed clearing a spot in the woods at the edge of a steep drop-off, including stump grinding and surface amendments; then a safety fence was built around the perimeter, and benches were installed. In addition, a wrap-around table was built around a central tree, with an engraved sign that includes a QR code leading to a bird identification Web site. The site provides a view into the canopy of the nearby woods, thanks to the location on the edge of the drop-off. Letourneau graduated from Woodstock Academy in June 2025, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and the Robert Holland Chapter of the English National Honor Society. He is currently enrolled at the University of Connecticut (Storrs Campus), where he is majoring in Marketing.

For his project, Spencer Mayo led his team of volunteers in the construction of six American Flag retirement boxes for American Legion Post 111 in Woodstock; this involved many hours of cutting lumber, assembling the pieces, and working with careful attention to detail in painting the stripes and the placement of the stars. These were placed at several locations around town for the respectful and dignified collection of worn out American flags. Mayo is currently a senior at Woodstock Academy and will be graduating in June 2026. He has been a three-season athlete, playing soccer and running indoor and outdoor track. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Science NHS, Math NHS, Scholar Athlete HS, and Tri-M Music Honor Society, as well as participating in several clubs such as Amnesty International, WA Kindness Club, Robotics, and Ocean Bowl. He will be graduating in June 2026, and plans to pursue studies in the field of Biology at a four-year college (final choice pending).

Greyson Magnan's project involved the renovation of the Nature Trail behind the Woodstock Elementary School; this took place along a section of the trail that had become unusable, and in places, dangerous due

to erosion of the banks of the stream that runs through the area. First, he led his team of volunteers in rerouting the trail away from the dangerous section along the eroded bank. Then, bridges were built over the stream in two places; one was a low foot bridge, and the second was a more complex bridge with handrails, high above the stream. Lastly, a set of six box steps was installed down the steep bank leading to the second bridge. These improvements will benefit the children of the school and the community for years to come. Morgan is currently a senior at the Woodstock Academy, and will be graduating in June 2026. Future plans involve enrolling at Three Rivers College in southern Connecticut, in the Nuclear Engineering program.

All four Eagles reminisced about their favorite experiences and adventures during their years in

Scouting, which included wilderness canoe camping trips in Maine, back-packing trips at Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico, a trip to Florida Seabase, and numerous hikes and camp-outs in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. During the ceremony, they had words of wisdom and encouragement for their younger troop-mates, and expressed great appreciation for their leaders, especially their Scoutmaster Emeritus, Tony Listro, who was the keynote speaker. Troop 27 is extremely proud of them!

For further information about Troop 27, call Craig or Vicki Embree at 860-974-1345 and leave a message.

VETERANS

continued from page A1

the room and see men and women who have defended this country and provided them with the freedom they have right now. This is what a hero looks like. It's particularly important now."

Donahue, whose family history is filled with veterans, understands the importance of passing on that respect for the armed forces, especially to his young athletes. Beyond the Military Appreciation Night, the team also works with Toys for Tots and the Marine Corp every Christmas season to collect toys to help families in need.

There's also the added benefit of teaching the kids the importance of working together from possibly the best team they could emulate.

"These guys look around the room, and they see everyone who served the country in different divisions, but they all have the same goal in mind to protect the freedom of this country. They look at that as a team goal," Donahue explained. "All of these people played on a real team, so it teaches these kids to look at themselves, that they might be an individual, but together they can really do something special and that's what we try to teach these kids. Being together and working for a common goal."

The Woodstock Academy Boys Hockey Team recently concluded their season on March 4 with a loss in the Nutmeg Conference Semifinals.



Left to right: Commander Glenn Boies, Eagle Scouts Greyson Magnan, Spencer Mayo, Matthew Letourneau, Cameron Robida, Commanders Manny Rodrigues, Carl Zetterstrom, and Everett Shepard.



Matthew Letourneau's Eagle project: "Canopy Overlook" bird and wildlife observation area, Roseland Park.



Spencer Mayo's Eagle project: Six Flag Retirement Boxes; shown here at the Woodstock Town Hall with Commander Glenn Boies (American Legion Post 111) (left) and First Selectman Chandler Paquette (right).

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Nancy Driscoll (26-00097)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 17, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim. The fiduciary is: Michael Gibson, 58 Charlotte Drive, Plainfield, CT 06374 March 27, 2026

Town of Woodstock PZC

On March 19, 2026, the Town of Woodstock Planning & Zoning Decision made the following decision: Approved with Conditions, Application: #674-02-26, 253 Route 169 (MBL#577/63/20) Change of Use to Tattoo/Art Gallery/Permanent Makeup Personal Services. Applicant: Hayley Kuhn.

Details of this approval may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov March 27, 2026

TOWN OF KILLINGLY/BOROUGH OF DANIELSON/SOUTH KILLINGLY TAX COLLECTORS LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in our drop box. The fourth quarter installment of real estate and personal property taxes becomes due on April 1, 2026 and becomes delinquent on May 1, 2026 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killinglyct.gov. April Lamothe, CCMC

Revenue Collector Town of Killingly March 27, 2026 April 10, 2026 April 24, 2026

TOWN OF KILLINGLY METERED USE LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-4:30pm, Tuesday 8-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. By mail, online, or in our drop box. The second installment of metered use is due March 1, 2026. If payment is not received on or before April 1, 2026 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month, or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org.

April Lamothe, CCMC Revenue Collector Town of Killingly February 20, 2026 March 7, 2026 March 27, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Heidi Ann Gregory (26-00051)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 17, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim. The fiduciary is: Jo-Anne Joslin c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, EDWIN C. HIGGINS III, 168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260 March 27, 2026

OBITUARIES

Colleen O'Brien

July 5, 1953 – March 17, 2026



Plainfield – Colleen (Ventetuolo) O'Brien, 72, of Plainfield, passed away Tuesday, March 17, 2026, peacefully at William W. Backus Hospital, surrounded by her children and husband. She was the loving wife of Patrick O'Brien. Born in Providence, RI, she was the daughter of the late John and Barbara (McMehan) Ventetuolo.

Mrs. O'Brien was raised in Chepachet, Rhode Island, alongside her brothers. She attended and graduated from Ponaganset High School. She went on to marry her husband, Patrick. They spent 46 years together raising their 4 children and enjoying time together as a family. Colleen loved gardening, cooking, nature, camping, and water skiing (even backwards sometimes) on the back of her father John's boat. But most importantly, her favorite times were spent around a table with lots of good food and her loved ones.

Everyone that knew her would describe her as a regular fireball. She was full of personality, love, and fun times.

In addition to her husband, Patrick, Colleen is survived by her children, David O'Brien of Eastford, CT, Jeremiah O'Brien of Rochester, NH, and Colleen Middleton of Norton, MA; along with her 9 grandchildren, Nicholas O'Brien, Leah Hooker, MaKayla O'Brien, Angelina Middleton, Isaac Middleton, Graycee O'Brien, Matthew Middleton, Jeremiah Middleton, and Abigail Middleton. She is also survived by her two great grandchildren, Ivory and Damian Hooker. She is predeceased by her son, Sean Patrick O'Brien.

Relatives and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 10:00 am in Most Holy Trinity Church, 568 Pomfret St, Pomfret, CT. Burial to follow in Abington Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Daily Bread Food Pantry in Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook, visit www.DoughertyBrothers.com

Barbara A. Podedworny, 86



WEBSTER – Barbara A. (Pellegrino) Podedworny, 86, died peacefully in the presence of her family on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 in the Life Care Center of Auburn.

She leaves her husband of almost 65 years, Francis "Frank" Podedworny; 3 children, Gary Podedworny and his wife April of Webster, Brenda Olson and her husband Ron of Thompson, CT, and Lynn Rodriguez and her husband Pedro of Natick; 9 grandchildren, Tara Lee, Jenna Cregg, Nicholas Olson, Alexis Podedworny, Zachary Podedworny, Madison Podedworny, Julia Podedworny, Peter Rodriguez and Maya Rodriguez; 5 great-grandchildren, Connor and Grayson Lee, Keagan and Ryan Sullivan, and Olivia Olson; a brother, Robert Pellegrino and his wife Carol of Uxbridge; a brother-in-law, Paul Gosselin of Uxbridge and her late sister-in-law, Mary, and several nieces and nephews.

She was born on February 11, 1940 in Milford the daughter of Daniel and Leona (Murray) Pellegrino and was a graduate of Saint Mary's High School in Milford.

Barbara worked as a bank teller for Commerce Bank for 21 years, retiring in 1999.

She was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica. She enjoyed reading, spending time with her grandchildren, and attending antique car shows with her husband and their tight knit cruising friends, where they were members of the Tri-State Cruisers Car Club.

The family would like to thank the wonderful people from the Life Care Center of Auburn for treating Barbara as a member of their family and involving her with various activities like Bingo and live entertainment, specifically Elvis performances.

Her funeral service were held on Tuesday, March 24 at 11:00 AM at Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. Burial followed at Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. A visitation was held from 9:00 to 11:00 in the funeral home before services. Donations in her memory may be made to either New England Hospice, 190 Old Derby Street, Suite 304, Hingham, MA 02043 or to Life Care Center of Auburn Patient Activities Fund, 14 Masonic Circle, Auburn, MA 01501. www.websterfunerals.com

Fabiola M. Cutler

1929-2026



Putnam – Fabiola M. (DuBois) Cutler 96, of East Putnam passed away on March 10, 2026. Born in Putnam, Connecticut, she was the daughter of the late Isidore and Mina (Bazinet) DuBois. She

was the loving wife of the late Robert W. Cutler for 39 years. Robert died July 1987. Fab worked at EASTCONN as a GED registrar and did data entry retiring in 2000.

She enjoyed compiling family genealogies and research for the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam, and was a Charter member serving as its Archivist.

Fab is survived by her son Russell Cutler and daughter-in-law Annemarie of East Putnam; her grandchildren, Gary Cutler of Seattle, WA, Crystal Ethridge of East Putnam and Shawn Cutler of Gardner, MA; and two great grandchildren; Nathaniel and Jacob Cutler. She was predeceased by

her son John Cutler and his wife Linda of East Hartford.

Fab was predeceased by five sisters; Rita Landry, Loretta Starzyk, Gertrude Vaillant, Yvette Lapointe, and Jeanne Charron and five brothers; Isidore, Armand, Stewart, Robert and Richard DuBois. Fab was the last surviving sibling of the 11 children born.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Fabiola's family from 4pm to 6pm on Friday, April 10, 2026 at the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT.

Burial will be held in Munyan Cemetery, Munyan Road, Putnam, CT at a later date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Gilman and Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church Street, Putnam CT. Donations may be made to the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam, CT, 200 School Street, Suite 250, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Beatrice M. Demers

May 12, 1932 – March 7, 2026



Thompson - Beatrice (Wetherbee) Demers of 11 Forest Hill Drive, Thompson, CT, passed away Saturday, March 7th, 2026, at Southbridge Rehab Center after a long illness. She was born May

12th, 1932, in Pelham, MA. She was the daughter of the late Alfred and Anna (Gibbs) Wetherbee.

Bea worked in the manufacturing industry employed by Bates Shoe Co., Putnam Manufacturing and retiring from Belding Hemingway Co.

In 1950 Bea married her husband Roland Demers who was the love of her life and best friend. They did everything together. Roland passed away in April 2021. Before Roland's passing they were avid travelers. They visited Las Vegas, The Bahamas, Atlantic City, Hawaii, and Grand Ole Opry. They also went on numerous day trips with the Putnam Travelers. Bea enjoyed playing cards, playing bingo and taking a ride to either Foxwoods or Mohegan Sun to do a little gambling. She was a member of the Webster Senior Center and a devoted member of St. Joseph's Parish. Bea was a

very family-oriented person. Her husband, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends were always her main concern. She was at her happiest at holiday gatherings, birthday parties and cookouts. She loved spending quality time with her family. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

She is survived by her sons, Roland Demers Jr. and his wife Linda (Howland) Demers, Todd Demers and his companion, Maureen Brown; her daughter Debra Despelteau and her husband John. She is also survived by five grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by a son Michael Demers, a granddaughter Karen Beaudry, her siblings Harold, Roland, Richard and Gladys.

Relatives and friends of Bea are invited to celebrate her life on Saturday, March 28th, 2026, at 1:00pm at St. Joseph's Church in North Grosvenordale, CT. Please meet directly at church. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in Bea's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd. Southington, CT 06489. For memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Kenneth C. Carpenter, Sr. Ret. PPD

1943 - 2026



Boulder City, NV – Kenneth C. Carpenter, Sr., 82, of Boulder City NV, formerly of Putnam, Died on Wednesday March 11, 2026, at Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas, NV. He was

the loving husband of Suzanne (Breckel) Carpenter. Born in Dudley, MA, he was the son of the late Clinton B. and Elsie (Bates) Carpenter.

Mr. Carpenter was a graduate of H.H. Ellis Technical School. He retired from his dream job as a patrolman for the Putnam Police Department in 1983 at the age of 39 due to heart issues.

Ken was a man who spent the rest of his life helping anyone he could in any way possible and because of this he was well loved by his neighbors and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Suzanne Carpenter of Boulder City, NV; his son, Kenneth C. Carpenter, Jr. and

his companion, Evelyn Lawrence of N. Grosvenordale; his sister-in-law Connie Carpenter of Thompson; and his nieces and nephews, Brad Carpenter, David Carpenter, Jane Howell, Dawn Dowd, Adrienne Rafferty, and Dale Weiner. He was predeceased by his siblings, Donald Carpenter and Harriette Dowd, and a niece, Elizabeth Santerre.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit with Kenneth's family from 4:00PM to 6:00PM on Thursday, March 26, 2026 and Friday, March 27 from 10:00AM to 11:00AM, in the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church St., Putnam CT 06260, followed by a service in the funeral home at 11:00AM. Burial will follow in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster, MA.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Kenneth's memory may be made to the Putnam Police Department, Crime Prevention Fund, 189 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

Patricia M. Regis

1940 - 2026



Danielson – Patricia (Renaud) Regis, 85, of Maple Courts, died Friday morning, March 20, 2026, at Matulaitis Healthcare Center. Born in Dayville, CT, she was the daughter of the late Charles Renaud

and Ruth (Tigue) Renaud.

Patricia is survived by her daughter, Brenda Cotnoir and her husband Jeffrey of The Villages, FL and her son, Gary Regis and his wife Bonnie of Woodstock; her brother, Robert Renaud of Brooklyn; her granddaughter, April Regis of Woodstock; her sister-in-law, Gail Renaud of Woodstock, and several nephews and

nieces. She was predeceased by her son, Michael Robert Regis, her brother, David Renaud, and her former husband Robert A. Regis.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Monday, March 30, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Patricia's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Tribute Program, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

SMITH AND WALKER
Funeral Home and Cremation Service
148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT 860-928-2442
www.smithandwalkerfh.com

GAGNON AND COSTELLO
Funeral Home and Cremation Service
33 Reynolds Street, Danielson, CT 06239 860-774-9403

Funeral Directors
Timothy Farner, Steven Farner, Andrew Farner
Serving ALL Faiths with Dignity

Gilman & Valade 100th Anniversary
Funeral Homes and Crematory

"Living Up to a Tradition Started 100 Years Ago"
~ Bob Fournier



1919 2019
"A century of dedication, compassion and guidance."

Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory
104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260 • 860-928-7723 • GilmanAndValade.com

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





RENEWAL
by **ANDERSEN**
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

MASSIVE

MARKDOWN SALE!

WINDOWS & DOORS



\$600 OFF
every window¹

Ends
March
31

\$1,500 OFF
every door¹

Pay **NOTHING** for 18 MONTHS!² If paid in full
NO money down • NO payments • NO interest

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 18-month promo period expires.



Keep the seasonal temps outside!

The combination of our custom-built windows made with our exclusive Fibrex® composite material and precise installation helps **eliminate drafts and lock in year-round comfort.**

We have the 'never-paint-it-again' window.

Why choose between a color you love and a window that's built to last when you can have both? **Our Fibrex material is available in nine exterior colors, and the finish is 12x thicker than painted vinyl finish.** So, it's guaranteed not to flake, peel or chip.*

Everything included. Except the stress.

Our exact price quote includes everything – inspection and design consultation, custom-built windows and doors, expert installation, and the Nation's Best Warranty coverage[†].

Call to meet with your local Design Consultant!



RENEWAL
by **ANDERSEN**
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Superior Products. Exceptional Service.®

Appointments available 7 days a week.

959-456-0067

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 6 or more windows and/or 2 or more entry or patio doors. \$600 off windows and \$1,500 off doors discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 3/31/26 with the purchase then occurring on or before 4/10/26. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2026 Andersen Corporation. ©2026 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

²Plan 4531. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 13.63% - 19.90% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders. *See Renewal by Andersen® Products and Installation Transferable Limited Warranty for details. †It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details.