



PUTNAM VILLAGER

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Friday, October 2, 2026

Complimentary to homes by request



Courtesy

Betty Heath presents the Defenders of Charity a check for \$365 that was raised at the breakfast at St. Joseph Church, North Grosvenordale, on Sept 20 to benefit Camp Quinebaug.

*Thompson
receives Full
NEASC
accreditation
following
10-year review*

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Tourtellotte Memorial High School received a glowing review following its ten-year accreditation review by the Commission on Public Schools earning continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Thompson Public Schools posted the full letter received by Tourtellotte Memorial High School Principal Thomas Mullen from the NEASC on Sept. 17, presenting the results of the school's Decennial Accreditation Report. This

Turn To ACCREDITATION *page* A11

- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas



- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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Principal

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Marcotte joins Killingly Board of Education

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Board of Education has filled a vacancy bringing in a familiar name for students of the district with decades of dedicated service as an educator under her belt.

The board approved accepting Democrat Maria Marcotte as their newest member on Sept. 9 after she joined their meeting via video conference for an inter-

Turn To MARCOTTE *page* A11

TEEG celebrates success of Empty Bowls event

THOMPSON — Despite the weather on Saturday, Sept. 26, more than 160 people enjoyed seven all-they-could eat soups, fresh bread, and ice cream at the annual Empty Bowls event, which raised \$6,350.

“We are so grateful to Melinda Smith, Superintendent of Thompson Schools, for allowing us to use the Tourtellotte culinary arts kitchen and cafeteria to host this event, which we usually hold under a tent on the TEEG property. It was scary to think about

Turn To BOWLS *page* A10

Revolutionary Pomfret reenactment features renowned traditional and folk musicians



Courtesy

Atwater and Donnelly

POMFRET — The Revolutionary Pomfret Reenactment and living history event will be a multi-media experience including music, theater, and the precise choreography of military training exercises ala 1776 in a local history package. The weekend festivities will begin at the Vanilla Bean Café at 6 PM on Friday, Oct. 2

with a local brewery tasting and the Reception for the Soldiery Tavern Night. Step back in time to meet and greet the reenactors coming to Pomfret for the weekend. Learn about their uniforms and their units as you mingle during the tasting. A special tavern menu featuring beef stew, cornbread, and ales will be offered along with the reg-

ular VB menu items we all love.

At 7 p.m., there will be a concert by Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle who specialize in music from the Revolutionary period up to the 1840's. The theme for the evening will be tavern songs and sea shanties and perhaps a bawdy song or two that would have been enjoyed in both the British and American Camps. Rick and Dawn are music historians known for their well-researched repertoire that takes the audience on a journey through American History. Tickets for the concert are \$10. The Vanilla Bean Café is located at 450 Deerfield Rd., Pomfret Center, CT 06259.

If you are interested in some truly New England photo ops, join the reenactors at the Abington Congregational Church (542 Hampton Rd., Pomfret

Turn To POMFRET *page* A10

Hometown Heroes: Elihu Sabin and the wound he carried home



BY MICHAEL ROCCHETTI
COMMANDER
MAYOTTE-VIENS AMERICAN
LEGION POST #13
PUTNAM

When the alarm from Lexington and Concord reached Elihu Sabin in April 1775, he was a 25-year-old blacksmith living in Pomfret with a wife, Hannah, and a growing family. Like thousands of other New Englanders, he answered the call to arms. Before the Revolutionary War ended, Sabin would serve in both the Connecticut militia and the Continental Army. He would also carry home a terrible wound from the Battle of Bunker Hill, an injury that continued to trouble him for more than half a century.

Born in Pomfret on Dec. 6, 1749, Elihu Cummings Sabin was the son of Martha Sabin, an unwed mother. On April 18, 1770, he married Hannah Bacon of Pomfret. Together, they raised a family that eventually included eight children: Levina, Martha “Patty,” Selinda, Ebenezer, Timothy, Abel,

another daughter named Martha, and Rufus.

Sabin earned his living as a blacksmith, one of the most indispensable trades in an 18th-century community. A blacksmith made and repaired the iron tools and hardware needed by farmers, craftsmen, teamsters, and soldiers. Sabin’s skill at the forge would later become valuable to the Continental Army as well as to his neighbors in Pomfret.

Following the fighting at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, militia companies throughout Connecticut hurried toward Massachusetts. Sabin was a Private in Israel Putnam’s Pomfret company, then commanded by Captain Zebulon Ingalls. They marched to Boston and laid siege to the city.

On June 17, 1775, British troops crossed from Boston and attacked the hastily constructed American defenses on Breed’s Hill and nearby Bunker Hill. The colonial defenders repulsed two assaults before dwindling ammunition forced them to retreat during a third British advance. Sabin then served in a company commanded by Captain Elijah Waterman in Lieutenant Colonel Experience Storr’s Connecticut regiment. During the battle, a musket ball passed through his right leg. Although the wound did not kill him, it never healed properly and left him permanently lame.

Local tradition preserved a story that Sabin enjoyed telling about the retreat from Bunker Hill.

According to the account, he had saved one final charge of ammunition when a mounted British officer pursued him. Sabin fired his last shot at the officer. “And did you kill him?” eager young listeners reportedly asked. “Well, I don’t know exactly,” Sabin would reply, “but the last I saw of him he was getting off his horse.” The humorous ending could not disguise the lasting consequences of the battle. Sabin carried the musket-ball wound for the remainder of his life.

Despite his injured leg, Sabin returned to military service. On Feb. 26, 1776, he enlisted as a private in Captain Thomas Grosvenor’s company of Colonel John Durkee’s 20th Continental Regiment. He served in the New York Campaign until Jan. 1, 1777, when he was honorably discharged at Peekskill, N.Y.

Josiah Gary of Pomfret, a comrade, later testified on Sabin’s behalf, stating that Sabin served faithfully, and a part of that time as a blacksmith making axes and pickaxes for the troops. Although this work removed him temporarily from the company’s ranks, it was essential military service. Armies needed axes to cut firewood, build shelters, clear roads, and construct fortifications. Pickaxes were required to dig trenches and prepare defensive positions. Sabin’s ability to manufacture and repair these tools made him especially useful to the Continental cause. Gary described him as a faithful soldier whose reputation for “truth and integrity” was

good and unimpeachable.

Later, Sabin served as a corporal in Captain Daniel Tilden’s company of Colonel Samuel McLellan’s regiment. McLellan’s provisional Militia regiment had been raised in March 1778 for one year, and served in General John Tyler’s brigade during Major General John Sullivan’s Rhode Island campaign in August and September 1778.

The gunshot wound in Sabin’s right leg became a constant source of pain, weakness, and disability. His name appeared on a 1792 list of applicants for federal invalid pensions. The official record stated that a musket ball had passed through his right leg at Bunker Hill. He initially received a pension of \$3.33 per month, with \$150 in arrears owed to him. By 1819, his disability pension had risen to approximately \$5.34 per month. In 1820, when Sabin appeared before the Windham County Court of Common Pleas, he was 70 years old and in poor health. His declaration contained a heartbreaking description of his condition: “My health is infirm, and by reason of a wound received at the Battle of Bunker Hill, now open, I am able to labor but little.”

It is medically plausible that a musket wound could reopen or remain chronically infected many decades after the initial injury. A lead ball could shatter bone and carry pieces of clothing, dirt, and other contaminants

deep into the leg. Without sterile surgery or antibiotics, damaged bone or foreign material could remain inside the wound. A chronic infection might then produce an ulcer and a continuously draining sinus tract.

By September 1828, more than 53 years after the battle, Sabin’s condition had become dire. He was living with one of his sons in Jamaica, Vermont, a small community in the Green Mountains. Two local Vermont physicians, Dr. Waitstill R. Ramsey and Dr. Amos Allen, examined him and described the old wound as a “foul ichorous ulcer” that discharged profusely and was undermining his constitution. They considered him totally disabled and recommended an increase in his pension. The pension records also reveal the modest circumstances in which this veteran and his wife lived with an inventory of his land, house, barn, tools, household goods and livestock – all valued at \$215.

Thomas Grosvenor, his former Continental Army captain, testified that Sabin was poor and could no longer support himself through his labor. Josiah Gary similarly declared that, because of Sabin’s “reduced circumstances in life, he needs the help of his country for support.” These statements offer a sobering reminder that many veterans of the Revolution did not return

home to comfort or prosperity. Sabin had sacrificed his health for the cause of independence, yet in old age he had to appear in court, list nearly every object he owned, and prove his poverty before receiving assistance from the nation he had helped create.

Elihu Sabin died in Jamaica, Vt. on Nov. 10, 1828, at the age of 78. His widow, Hannah, remained in Jamaica and applied for a widow’s pension in 1836. Her claim was approved, but she enjoyed its benefits only briefly. She died on March 22, 1837, at the age of 87.

Elihu Sabin’s final resting place remains unknown. He may have been buried in Jamaica, Vt., or his body may have been brought back to Pomfret. Nevertheless he left behind something more enduring than a stone marker. His service is preserved in Connecticut’s military records, in the testimony of the men who served beside him, and in the pension papers that recount both his sacrifice and his struggle. For more than half a century, he endured the physical consequences of the musket ball that tore through his leg on June 17, 1775. The location of his grave may have been lost, but Elihu Sabin’s service should not be forgotten. He was a blacksmith, a husband and father, a wounded soldier, and one of the Quiet Corner’s true Hometown Heroes.

Historic Southbridge newspaper building heads to auction

OPENING BID: \$25,000

SOUTHBIDGE, Mass. — A nearly 200-year-old Southbridge landmark is heading to auction with an opening bid of \$25,000, offering prospective buyers an opportunity to acquire a substantial historic property.

Stonebridge Press is selling its building at 25 Elm St., known as the Tiffany-Leonard House and long associated with the Southbridge News. Online bidding through Crexi.com is scheduled to begin at noon on October 5, 2026, and run for two days. The listing describes approximately 9,536 square feet on a 0.32-acre lot.

Stonebridge Press says the decision reflects how its employees now work. Staff members operate remotely from home offices, on the road and throughout the communities the newspapers serve. Digital tools allow them to coordinate their work without gathering in one central office, leaving the company with more building than it needs.

The company continues serving its readers and advertisers through that arrangement, with employees working in their local markets. Selling the Elm Street property will allow another owner to make use of space that no longer fits the publisher’s daily operations.

“We’d love to see someone in our communities get this property at a bargain price and put it to good use,” said Frank Chilinski, President and Publisher of Stonebridge Press.

Purchased by the local newspaper company in 1997 for \$190,000, the building has been vacant and for sale since January 2024. The most recent asking price was \$295,000. Its municipal assessment is \$480,300.

Built around 1832, the Tiffany-Leonard House has a history reaching back to the region’s early manufacturing economy. Its original owner, Bela Tiffany, was a business partner of Samuel Slater in establishing a cotton mill in nearby Webster. The property later belonged to Manning Leonard, another prominent local businessman. Bela Tiffany’s lineage was the renown jewelers on 5th Avenue in New York City.

The two-story brick house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Its Greek Revival architecture includes four tall columns supporting a triangular pediment, giving the front of the building the appearance of a classical temple. The brickwork and graceful proportions offer the kind of character that may appeal to a buyer who values older buildings.

Located near downtown Southbridge, opposite the Elm Street Fire House, the property is listed as an office building. Crexi’s description includes central air conditioning and two bathrooms identified as ADA compliant. Buyers considering a different use should review the property’s suitability and any required approvals.

The bidding will open at \$25,000, subject to reserve and auction terms. Prospective bidders should review all auction terms and property documents. This will be a non-contingent sale closing in early November.

Photos, property information and registration details are available at Crexi.com by searching for 25 Elm St., Southbridge. For more information or a building tour, contact Jonah Glickman at 508-868-3765 or email Audrey Hanna at ahanna@crexi.com.

Heidi Clyne named to Dean’s List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Heidi Clyne of Woodstock was named to the Dean’s List for the summer 2026 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military service-members. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of post-secondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid, courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 100 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Accreditation offers Tourtellotte a milestone, not a finish line

There are few better measures of a school than its willingness to take a hard look at itself. That is one reason the results of Tourtellotte Memorial High School’s 10-year accreditation review deserve recognition throughout Thompson.

The school has earned continued accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, but perhaps more significant than the accreditation itself is what the review says about the work that has taken place inside the school.

The Commission on Public Schools found that Tourtellotte met all eight Foundational Elements contained in the Standards for Accreditation. That is no small accomplishment, particularly because accreditation is not intended to be a ceremonial stamp of approval. The process requires schools to examine their practices, identify weaknesses, establish priorities and demonstrate progress. Tourtellotte appears to have taken that process seriously.

Several of the accomplishments highlighted in the review are particularly encouraging because they deal directly with the everyday experience of students.

The school’s “Tiger Block,” for example, guarantees time for teachers to address students’ academic needs while also providing opportunities for enrichment. Tourtellotte has also created a tiered intervention system intended to identify students who need additional assistance before problems become more difficult to overcome.

The freshman team is another promising development. Meeting monthly to examine academic performance, behavior and possible reading difficulties gives educators an opportunity to identify problems early in a student’s high school career.

None of these initiatives carries the excitement of opening a new building or unveiling a major program. They are instead the less visible work of education: teachers comparing notes, administrators examining data, staff members identifying struggling students and educators asking what can be done differently. That work matters.

High school is a relatively short four years. A student who begins falling behind as a freshman cannot afford to wait until junior or senior year for someone to recognize the problem. Systems designed to identify difficulties early can make an enormous difference.

There is also value in Tourtellotte’s effort to make its “portrait of a graduate” understandable to students. Education should involve more than accumulating enough credits to receive a diploma. Students should understand what their school hopes they will know and be able to accomplish when they leave it.

The NEASC review also recognized work involving career pathways, assessments, school culture and authentic learning experiences. For a small high school, providing students with meaningful opportunities while maintaining rigorous academic standards requires creativity and cooperation.

The encouraging part of this accreditation report is that it does not represent an ending. Tourtellotte must submit its first Progress and Planning Report by May 1 and revise its School Growth and Improvement Plan around priorities identified through the accreditation process. That means the same self-examination that helped the school reach this point must continue. That is exactly how accreditation should work.

Schools are never finished products. Students change. Technology changes. Workforce expectations change. Educational practices evolve. A successful school cannot assume that what worked five or 10 years ago will automatically meet the needs of students tomorrow.

The best outcome of an accreditation review, therefore, is not simply receiving continued accreditation. It is developing a culture in which improvement becomes routine.

Tourtellotte’s review gives Thompson reason to recognize the administrators, teachers, staff members and students who contributed to the progress documented by NEASC. It should also provide momentum for the work ahead.

A favorable outside review is worth celebrating. The greater accomplishment will be making certain the next decade is even stronger than the one NEASC has now evaluated.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two years later, Chris Reddy is back — and even less qualified to serve in the Connecticut Senate!

To the Editor:

Chris Reddy is back running against Mae Flexer for the 29th Senate District. To my knowledge, Chris still has never held (or even run for) any elected office in his hometown of Scotland, including service on an elected municipal board (Chris, let me know if I’m wrong).

Lacking relevant experience, Chris’s primary qualification for public office seems to be that, while an emergency medical technician, he “listened to people.” (Two years ago, his key qualification was that he was “just like us.”)

I don’t know how Chris has been spending his time since he handed in his EMT license years ago. But I know he recently found time to support (and listen to) Jadon MacCormack, the Connecticut Republican Party’s endorsed candidate for the 50th House District, who repeatedly called

for the death penalty for all LGBTQ people.

What has Sen. Mae Flexer been up to the last two years? A lot. She was named a 2026 Legislative Champion by the Connecticut League

of Conservation Voters.

She played a key role in the lengthy negotiations that created a partnership between UConn and Day Kimball Hospital, protecting access to quality healthcare in Northeastern Connecticut and addressing years-long fears about the future of women’s health care in the Quiet Corner. She co-sponsored legislation that protects Connecticut residents from the harms of artificial intelligence by requiring AI chatbot operators to notify workers when AI is used in hiring decisions and increasing protections against AI-driven discrimination.

She supported relief for Connecticut’s struggling dairy farmers through new legislation that creates a Dairy Modernization Grant Program to help farms invest in infrastructure and enjoy expanded eligibility for farm investment tax credits. And she did all this (and more) while listening to people throughout her district.

Vote for Mae Flexer for the 29th Senate District.

BARRY REINGOLD
POMFRET CENTER

Should we be sharing space with hunters at West Thompson Lake?

To the Editor:

My wife and I have walked the trails at West Thompson Lake almost daily for more than a decade. We are deeply grateful to the Army Corps of Engineers and the park staff for maintaining this remarkable public resource so well.

During those years, we have watched the property become an increasingly popular destination for walkers, runners, cyclists, dog owners, families, anglers, and others. I believe this growth makes it appropriate to reconsider whether hunting with firearms and bows should continue in areas where hunters and other visitors share the same trails and fields.

Hunting is permitted at West Thompson, and Connecticut DEEP stocks pheasants in fields on the west side of the lake. These same areas contain some of the property’s most popular and accessible walking trails. The Corps’ own maps show trails passing directly through areas open to hunting.

This is not a criticism of hunters. In my experience, the hunters at West Thompson are responsible people engaged in a lawful activity. Nor am I arguing against hunting on public land generally. To my knowledge, there has never been a hunting related injury to a visitor at West Thompson.

But the absence of a past accident should not be the standard by which we decide whether a preventable risk is acceptable. People carrying and discharging firearms or using bows should not needlessly share a relatively confined recreational space with people walking, running, cycling, or pushing children in strollers. The simplest way to reduce the possibility of an accidental encounter is to separate these activities.

Federal regulations already allow the Army Corps of Engineers to restrict hunting in particular areas or during particular periods. I believe the time has come for the Corps to reconsider hunting in the heavily used recreational areas surrounding West Thompson Lake, while preserving hunting opportunities on public lands better suited to that activity.

West Thompson has evolved into an extraordinary community recreational resource. Its policies should be allowed to evolve as well. I hope the Corps, our elected officials, hunters, other users, and members of our community can begin a respectful discussion about whether the current arrangement still represents the safest and most appropriate use of this shared public space.

PAUL COTNOIR
PUTNAM

Attorney Cerrone for Judge of Probate

To the Editor:

I have known Attorney Kate Cerrone for decades as a friend, neighbor, legal colleague and fellow member of Rotary and Lions Club. Perhaps most importantly I have admired her years of service on the Pomfret Board of Education the last ten of which Kate served as Chair. The meetings were long and issues divisive. Never enough money, rising special education numbers and cost, personnel issues.

She dealt with all with common sense, compassion and understanding of others’ point of view. Exactly the qualities I would want in a Judge of Probate after the death of a family mem-

ber for which no one is ever adequately prepared.

In addition to being a prominent attorney Kate Cerrone is known throughout many of the seven towns of the 26th Probate District through her service as President of the Putnam Business Association.

We would all be very fortunate to have some one of Kate Cerrone’s unique experience and background serve in such a critical and sensitive position as 26th District Judge of Probate.

TIM McNALLY
POMFRET CENTER

With Flexer and Boyd, Pomfret is well represented

To the Editor:

Over the years, I have watched Mae Flexer and Pat Boyd work with local leaders to address issues important to Pomfret and Northeastern Connecticut. They consistently demonstrate why they are so valuable to our town – they are there when we need them.

and communities they represent.

Good representation is about more than what happens at the Capitol. It is about knowing your communities and being accessible to the people back home.

I am grateful for the relationship Mae and Pat have built with Pomfret and for their continued service to our town and northeastern Connecticut.

We are fortunate to have these two outstanding individuals who remember why they were sent to Hartford. Northeastern Connecticut needs leaders like them. I hope voters in this area will send them back to the Capitol. There is work to be done.

BARBARA RILEY
POMFRET

Anne Dauphinais is a voice in the one-party dark

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my support for the re-election of Rep. Anne Dauphinais.

I am a constituent of Killingly, a veteran, and a twenty-five-year member of law enforcement, which is why I will be voting for Anne Dauphinais for re-election in the 44th District in November.

She comes from a family of veterans, is extremely dedicated to our needs, and is an untiring advocate for veterans’ benefits and well-being. As a retired member of the CT State Police, I am always interested in legislation being introduced in support of our police, and Anne is a

staunch supporter of law enforcement. In a time of escalating crime and disrespect for law and order, we need an aggressive advocate such as her in Hartford to protect our constitutional rights. Anne has shown to be that person, and will continue to do so. She is a voice in the dark in a one-party state.

I ask the people of the 44th District to cast their vote for a true advocate, Anne Dauphinais!

Sincerely,

JACK BURKE
DAYVILLE

A study in silk

Walktober, sponsored by the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is underway. There are events and walks for people of all ages and physical ability. Calendars of events (258 this year) are available at local town halls and libraries. The brochure encourages use of the calendar “in conjunction with our website, TheLastGreenValley.org. to ensure you have the most up to date information. You’ll find additional Walktober experiences, weather updates and more on the website.” For additional information call 860-774-3300.



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America 250. Oct. 3 & 4. Walktober Walk #84. Revolutionary Pomfret in Historic Abington Village. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Reenactments, performances, educational programs, music, sutlers & crafts, Food court. Bean supper at Abington Congregational Church followed by a debate between Loyalist Godfrey Malbone and Patriot Israel Putnam. Visit pomfretct.gov/pomfret-america-250-commission for a detailed program schedule.

America 250. Oct. 10. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Walktober Walk #134. Fashions of the Colonial Period with Ren Antonowicz of Spirits of Fashion. Putnam Municipal Complex. 200 School Street Putnam. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, Oct. 17. Killingly Grange #112. 801 Hartford Turnpike Dayville. Roast Turkey Dinner. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, butternut squash, rolls, & slice of pie. \$17 per meal. Dine in or take-out. \$1 discount if you bring a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry. Whole apple & pumpkin pies \$16. To reserve a dinner call or text Terry at 860-884-1813 or Penny at 860-230-7367. Pay at the door by cash, credit card or check.

In last week’s column, I wrote about some of the new inventions seen at the 1876 Centennial in Philadelphia. Neither my sister, Fran Markunas, nor I had ever heard of the electric pen. Had you? I decided to do a little research and even took a biography of Edison out of the library — “Edison: Inventing the Century” by Neil Baldwin. The patent, filed on March 13, 1876, was for “‘An Improvement in Autographic Printing’ more familiarly known as the electric pen.” It was “An experimental work in document copying and multiple duplication...It relies upon significant analogies from embroidery and fresco painting...puncturing holes in the surface of a sheet of paper to make use of it as a stencil. The key to Edison’s method was, once again, speed. You held the ‘pen’ perpendicular to the surface of the paper, as you would any conventional writing implement, except this one contained a needle that ‘reciprocated [i.e., moved up and down] with great rapidity.” “The needle made miniscule holes in the paper...Once the sheet had been perforated, its tiny holes were filled using a felt-covered roller impregnated with semiliquid printer’s ink thinned with castor oil.” Ads said that it could be used to duplicate letters, circulars, price lists, catalogues, etc. “The pen sold well. Charles Batchelor, who had assisted in the invention, received a portion of the royalties...Finally the patent was sold to A. B. Dick of Chicago, pioneer of the mimeograph.” (p. 69-72).

On Sept. 25, I had the pleasure of showing my Mary Kies PowerPoint to Learning in Retirement. You may remember that Mary Dixon Kies, of Killingly, is considered the first U.S. woman to receive a patent in her own right. It was

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump vs. the Founding Fathers

To the Editor:

Following the American Revolution, after enduring the excesses of a foreign monarchy and the violation of individual rights by unchecked authority, the guiding principle of the Founding Fathers was the establishment of a government sufficient to oversee and regulate the affairs of its citizens while also safeguarding their liberty through the limitation of government power; i.e. strong enough to govern effectively but not so strong as to become authoritarian; precepts without which a legitimate democracy cannot survive.

The founding fathers understood the propensity of men to act in their own self-interest and tried to thwart such behavior. Their greatest fear was the accumulation of excessive power by a chief executive. To prevent its concentration, power was divided equally among three branches – the executive, legislative and judicial, each given powers to hold the others in check. As society developed in complexity, government evolved correspondingly, and when attempts were made to evade limits and safeguards, structural countermeasures were instituted.

As long as the vital assumption of the Founding Fathers, that each branch of government would function as devised, has been true, the U.S. democracy has been able to function as intended. This is no longer true. The founding fathers were unable to anticipate Donald Trump.

We are witnessing the preternatural dissolution of our federal democracy perpetrated by a narcissist animated by a deep psycho/sociopathology. As president, Trump has managed to alter the nature and function of the federal government for his own benefit, an adversity which could only occur with a compliant, deferential supreme court and a legislative branch cowed into complicity as Republicans in congress abandoned legislative oversight after realizing that their political destiny was entirely in the hands of the president.

The conditions for the attack on democracy were set by the ill-fated combination of a political party seeking a path to enduring power (see Project 2025) and a man with a long history of degeneracy seeking unconstrained power to obtain extreme wealth and personal glorification. The methods used to achieve those ends, the object of which is to cripple any restraints on the president, strike at the very heart of the safeguards employed to maintain the impartial, lawful democratic operation of government.

Inspectors General, permanent, expert, non-partisan government watchdogs

attached to government agencies to guard against waste, fraud and abuse, have been fired; seventeen in one night, mostly replaced by former executive branch workers. The administration has reorganized, diminished, cut funding or eliminated critical federal agencies.

Whistleblower protections have been abolished.

Competent department heads have been replaced with unqualified cronies.

Officials have been fired in violation of statutory protections.

Merit based positions are being filled by political appointees.

The president has illegally assumed control of federal funds and cancelled spending approved by congress.

Protections against political retaliation have been eliminated. The operative principle of the oval office, abetted by the Justice Department, has become retribution for any word or deed that questions or defies the president.

Defiance of court orders by the administration has become routine.

The Supreme Court is fostering the consolidation of executive power by reversing lower court rulings that halted policies or executive orders in violation of the constitution and then granting the president immunity from prosecution.

The threat to democracy is real and its survival is in jeopardy. The Founding Fathers foremost fear is manifest. We now have a government, although, as yet, unrecognized by many, that is severely misaligned with the public interest and the constitution as the three branches of government work in concert to impose and execute Donald Trump’s will. Constitutional boundaries, which in the past may have been blurred, have been obliterated. Consequently, we are left with an executive branch operating outside the rule of law without institutional restraint and a level of corruption not seen since the Robber Baron Era, a period of systemic graft and bribery. How else could a sitting president and his family see their wealth increase by billions, an amount unfathomable to most of us, in a single year?

Listen to Donald Trump speak for five minutes, with or without a teleprompter, and his disordered mental state becomes obvious. I would urge voters in the mid-terms and in 2028, even if you must cross party lines, to do what is necessary to stop Trump and his enablers.

WILLIAM ZAMAGNI, JR.
PUTNAM

The work ahead

To the Editor:

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as the State Representative for the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Mansfield, Pomfret, and Woodstock in the Connecticut General Assembly. As we look ahead to the upcoming term, I am asking for your confidence and vote on November 3rd so we can build on our progress and complete the vital work still ahead for our communities.

In just a few short years, Connecticut has transformed from a state struggling to maintain its fiscal house to one with an actionable financial plan that is working. Back in 2017, I cast a key vote to establish Connecticut’s historic fiscal guardrails, statutory controls like the Volatility Cap, the Spending Cap, the Revenue Cap, and the strict Bonding Cap, to ensure our state remains fiscally responsible. Because of that structure, we have paid off \$11 billion in extra payments toward our long-term legacy debt since 2018. These supplemental deposits are projected to save Connecticut taxpayers between \$18 billion and \$21 billion over the next two decades. After years of tax hikes during the Malloy administration, this financial discipline enabled us to cut income tax rates in 2023 for middle-class tax brackets and imagine what more we can accomplish once we are fully out from under the cloud of legacy debt. I intend to remain a strong voice in Hartford

to ensure we keep making progress, while reducing the burden on taxpayers and smartly investing in our communities.

We still have significant work to do, particularly on rural healthcare, local schools, and public safety. In the next session, we must finish the UConn Health and Day Kimball Healthcare partnership, securing accessible medical care for the Quiet Corner while navigating the state’s response to federal Medicaid reductions. On education, we must build on past legislative work to make state funding more equitable for our towns, especially as Special Education costs rise. Additionally, I will remain focused on my ongoing projects to bolster the First Responder infrastructure in Northeastern Connecticut, including the recruitment and retention of our law enforcement officers, EMS professionals, and firefighters, both volunteer and career, who keep our communities safe.

Addressing these serious issues requires leaders committed to sound, practical policy rather than partisan gamesmanship. Our state has proven that responsible governance yields real results, and I am eager to keep partnering with folks to move us forward. I humbly ask for your vote on November 3rd so we can continue this important work together. Thank you!

REP. PAT BOYD
POMFRET

Dauphinais is a determined advocate for our community

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my support for the re-election of Rep. Anne Dauphinais.

I am just one voter in a part of the state that often feels forgotten and ignored by politicians in Hartford. Anne Dauphinais is a relentless advocate for our community. She is our voice when our concerns go unheard and our advocate when we feel overlooked.

Anne is a wife, mother, daughter, grandmother, and friend who shares the same small-town values that so many of us were raised with. She is part of our community, not just during elections, but throughout the year. When she is not in Hartford reading bills, attending Session, or meeting with constituents, she is here in town attending local fundraisers, participating in civic organizations, and supporting small businesses. She is always willing to listen

Voting: The one tool no one can take from you

To the Editor:

Voting is a tool you own that no one can take from you without your consent. The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. Voting rights have been secured over generations by a series of constitutional amendments.

The 15th Amendment (1870) prohibits the denial of the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

The 19th Amendment (1920) gave women the right to vote.

The 24th Amendment (1964) bans poll taxes in federal elections, and the Supreme Court applied the principle to state elections in 1966. (Courts have held that states cannot impose voting rules that function as a de facto poll tax-for example, requiring documents that cost money to obtain.)

The 26th Amendment (1971) lowered the voting age for all elections to 18.

That history frames today’s debate over voter ID requirements. Supporters say ID rules protect confidence in elections, though documented voter fraud is extremely rare. Voter ID laws are determined and implemented by individual states. If the U.S. government wanted all eligible voters to participate in elections why not make it easier for voters to exercise their right to vote by providing IDs that are free and easy to get for life, the way a Social Security card is free at birth? Fees, costly paperwork, confusing online systems, or a trip to an office during work hours falls hardest on people with less money and less flexible schedules and results in disenfranchised voters.

Confidence in voting is under more strain than ever in past election cycles. At a time of heightened concern about election interference and intimidation, a strong turnout will help ensure a decisive result. The people we elect directly shape the laws and policies that govern our schools, taxes, workplace protections, women’s health decisions, environment, and economic security.

Here in Connecticut, struggling household budgets are hard to ignore. Consumer prices in August rose 3.9 percent in the Northeast, the highest of any region. The

Tax Foundation estimates Trump’s tariffs are increasing the tax burden on U.S. households. Everything from clothing, groceries and cars have all gotten more expensive. The Yale Budget Lab data estimated clothing and footwear prices rose roughly 14 to 15 percent due to tariffs, with shoe prices expected to stay 19 percent above pre-tariff levels, that’s not good news for back-to-school shoppers. The cost of living is crushing families as a result of the policies coming out of Washington from tariffs, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) that give billionaires unnecessary tax breaks to the war on Iran. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told Congress that the Iran war has cost \$37.5 billion so far, and Brown University researchers estimate the average household continues to pay higher costs for fuel because of it. The Congressional Budget Office projects the OBBBA will add trillions more to the growing \$1.97 trillion deficit. The Republicans control the House, the Senate and the White House and their policy decisions are on the ballot in the upcoming elections.

Voters need only to look at their grocery, gas, housing, and medical bills and ask themselves, am I better off now than I was two years ago?

In Connecticut, voters have three ways to Vote:

1) Absentee Ballot – The online application portal opened on Sept. 19 at MyVote.CT.gov

2) Early voting In Person – Oct. 19 through Nov. 1

3) Election Day – Nov. 3

Use the tool that belongs to you to make your voice heard. Mark your calendar. Make a plan to vote. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to vote. No one can vote for you. Your right to vote is your voice in the upcoming elections.

Election security matters to all Americans. Please consider supporting elections in your community by becoming a poll worker. Contact your local Registrar of Voters office to sign up.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

I watch her talk and, more importantly, listen to the people, even those who may have a negative comment. During these crazy times, Anne is exactly who we need in Hartford, and I’m proud to say she is my State Representative and friend.

I encourage voters to consider supporting Anne Dauphinais for re-election.

Sincerely,

KYLE NAPIERATA
DANIELSON

Now more than ever, we need to support Anne Dauphinais

To the Editor:

I’m Monique Bouley Allard, and as a resident of Plainfield, I am writing to express my strong support for the re-election of Rep. Anne Dauphinais.

Anne’s unwavering commitment to the conservative ideals of her electors is defined by her impeccable voting record. There is no political agenda; she just does the right thing. She has also been a strong advocate for the residents of Plainfield regarding the proposed trash plant. She has made it clear that she strongly opposes the proposal and is committed to standing with our community, raising residents’ concerns, and doing everything within her ability to oppose it.

Now more than ever, I urge you to vote for Anne Dauphinais on Election Day!

Sincerely,

MONIQUE BOULEY ALLARD
PLAINFIELD

act which paid ten shillings bounty for every one hundred trees planted and three pence per ounce for raw silk. The legislature further encouraged the culture of silk by sending a half ounce of mulberry seed to every parish in Connecticut. (So communities in our area should have received mulberry seeds prior to the Revolution). Silkworms were raised throughout the state in the late 1700’s but only in Mansfield and some of the surrounding towns did the home industry continue much beyond the turn of the century. By 1800, three quarters of the people in Mansfield were raising silkworms in their homes. The men probably planted the trees, then women and children gathered the leaves, cared for the worms and reeled and spun the raw silk. A spare room, an attic, a barn loft or an out building was used as a cocoonery... In the early days of Mansfield’s silk industry, the silk cocoons were unwound in the home using a simple hand reel — the same as was also used for measuring skeins of woolen yarn or linen thread. The cocoons were placed in a kettle of hot water, and then were stirred with a brush. The silk fibers which adhered to the brush were then attached to the reel. Usually about ten cocoons were unwound (reeled) at a time. The fibers were pressed together to form a single strong thread which could then be easily wound as the reel turned.” (https://mansfieldct-history.org/history-of-silk-production/). This cottage industry may well have been affected by the opening of the Hanks water-powered silk mill in Mansfield in 1810. Although that venture was unsuccessful, it has been considered the first such mill in the country and is now at the Henry Ford Museum.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, September 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. For Windham County Transcripts visit killingly.historyarchives.online courtesy of the Killingly Public Library. For Putnam Patriots and Windham County Observers visit the home page of the Putnam Public Library and look on the right hand column for links.



Courtesy

The Town of Putnam hosted a Regional Economic Development Roundtable, organized by NECCOG and the CT Main Street Center. Connecticut Main Street Center (CMSC) and NECCOG have announced a USDA Grant for the towns of Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, and Thompson which includes a total of \$21,000 from the USDA for “rural” towns, which officials say the four selected towns officially meet. The project aims to encourage travelers along I-395 to visit the four towns, and consider living in the Northeast Corner. Officials hope the project will help recruit local developments and encourage redevelopment projects, with a “vision for the town brand,” according to the CMSC. Pictured, left to right: Jim Rivers -NECOGG director, Attorney Kate Cerrone PBA president, Putnam Selectman Mike Bogdanski, State Senator Mae Flexer, Pomfret First Selectwoman Maureen Nicholson.

Interact Club creates ‘Happy Birthdays!’

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club’s Interact Club created 23 birthday kits for kids who otherwise might not have a birthday celebration.

The birthday kits were originally created by the late Lorna Wade. Rotarian Jay Wade told the Interact members about his wife and what a loving and generous person she was.

These birthday kits consisted of a cake mix, frosting, a can of Sprite (used in place of milk and eggs), plates, napkins, candles and sprinkles.

They will be delivered to Daily Bread so children in need will have access to these birthday kits.

Halloween Costumes
The Interact Club will have a bin at the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center to collect Halloween costumes until Oct. 8. They will set up a Halloween Costume give-away at TEEG (15 Thatcher St, N. Grosvenordale) from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 12.

Next Meeting
The Interact Club’s next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Putnam Public Library. For more information contact Roberta Rocchetti 860-933-8603 or robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

For Advertising Information
Call 860-928-1818 Ext. 326
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Courtesy

From left: Kayla Morin, Caleb LaFrance, Mabel Perreault, Calleigh Levesque, and Penelope Dang.

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Courtesy

Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 recently spent an evening in a spooky old barn, building their entries for The Putnam Business Association's annual scarecrow contest in October. Then they took a break to hear a ghost story from California author, historian and Eagle Scout Charles Coulombe, who was visiting Putnam. This past Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 6 p.m., Pack 21 invites the public, including children and adults, to its Mad Scientist Show, with all kinds of fun experiments, at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence Street in Putnam. Building scarecrows is just one of dozens of fun things Pack 21 does throughout the year, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.



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.

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*Help
Wanted*

Local students enroll at Eastern

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University welcomed 1,444 new students to campus this fall 2026 semester. The new Warriors are among the largest incoming classes in the University’s 137-year history, with 1,180 first-time students and 264 transfer students enrolled in full-time undergraduate and graduate-level programs.

Among the students are:
Ember Merrill of Putnam, a full-time first-year student majoring in Nursing
Julia Trainor of Putnam, a full-time graduate student majoring in Secondary Education
Ava Wolinski of Putnam, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences
Jenny Boriboun of Putnam, a full-time junior majoring in Art
Jonathan Racine of Putnam, a full-time junior majoring in Social Work
Shawna Cudworth of Putnam, a full-time senior majoring in English.
Nathan Rauls of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in Data Science and Computer Science.
Samantha Baker of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Samantha Bourque of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Neishalie Delbrey of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Social Work.
Morgan Deojay of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Nursing.
Jenna DiFusco of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Communication, Film, & Theatre.
Emily Fishman of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Psychology.
Jenna Forcier of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in Nursing.
Sara Forcier of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in English.
Lindsey Hanlon of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in Nursing.
Sadie Johnson-Teed of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in Nursing.
Andrew Landreville of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in Criminology.
Lilyanne Mercier of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Jayzlyn Miller of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Thomas Nuccio of Pomfret Ctr, a full-time first-year student majoring in Exploratory STEM.
Sophia Rattray of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Business Administration.
Kaedynce Reggione of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Klaus Resulaj of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Biochemistry.
Laci Sinni of N Grosvenordl, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Collin Teal of Woodstock, a full-time first-year student majoring in Exploratory - Undecided.
Anthony Beaudreault of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore majoring in Psychology and Business Administration.
Julian Baracz of Woodstock, a full-time graduate student majoring in Secondary Education.
Antonia Carminati of Woodstock, a full-time graduate student majoring in Early Childhood Education.
Stefan Chervenkov of Woodstock, a full-time graduate student majoring in Secondary Education.
Nicole Cicchetti of Pomfret Center, a full-time graduate student majoring in Elementary Education.
Cassidy Fortier of Pomfret Center, a full-time graduate student majoring in Accounting.
Grace Herindeen of Woodstock, a full-time graduate student majoring in Secondary Education.
Hailey Klar of Woodstock, a full-time graduate student majoring in Elementary Education.
Leilanie LaPrade of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Communication, Film, & Theatre and Elementary Education.
Everton Brown of Danielson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Kaitlyn Erskine of Eastford, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Summer Ko-Szych of Woodstock, a full-

time first-year student majoring in Political Science.
Brooke Deorsey of Danielson, a full-time junior majoring in English and Elementary Education.
Madison Bates of Danielson, a full-time junior majoring in Business Administration.
Hannah Fitzsimmons of Danielson, a full-time junior majoring in Business Administration.
Lila Fortin of Danielson, a full-time junior majoring in Business Administration.
Sophie Lurz of Eastford, a full-time junior majoring in Art.
Katelyn Bruce of Woodstock Vly, a full-time sophomore majoring in Health Sciences.
Kaitlin Cicchetti of Pomfret Ctr, a full-time sophomore majoring in Business Administration.
Zach Majewski of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore majoring in Health Sciences.
Sarah Goodier of Pomfret Center, a full-time senior majoring in Social Work.
Manny Santos of Thompson, a full-time first-year student majoring in Criminology.
Laci Sinni of N Grosvenordl, a full-time first-year student majoring in Health Sciences.
Brendan Parmentier of Thompson, a full-time junior majoring in History and Social Science and Secondary Education.
Madilyne Ead of Brooklyn, a full-time first-year student majoring in History and Social Science and Political Science.
Evan Anderson of Brooklyn, a full-time first-year student majoring in Business Administration.
Nathan Faucher of Brooklyn, a full-time first-year student majoring in Physical Education.
Shelby Geragotelis of Brooklyn, a full-time first-year student majoring in Business Administration.
Hannah Highley of E Killingly, a full-time first-year student majoring in English.
Grace Main of Dayville, a full-time first-year student majoring in Political Science.
Hailey Therrien of Brooklyn, a full-time first-year student majoring in Finance.
Morgan Beaudreault of Dayville, a full-time graduate student majoring in Elementary Education.
Christopher Mcallister of Brooklyn, a full-time graduate student majoring in Management.
Madison Tatro of Brooklyn, a full-time graduate student majoring in Elementary Education.
Catherine O’Brien of Brooklyn, a full-time first-year student majoring in Exploratory - Undecided.
Italia Burgio of Brooklyn, a full-time junior majoring in English and Secondary Education.
Hunter Eddy of Brooklyn, a full-time junior majoring in Finance.
Anya Oliverson of Brooklyn, a full-time junior majoring in Psychology.
Jennafer Perez of Brooklyn, a full-time junior majoring in Accounting.
Katelyn Bruce of Woodstock Vly, a full-time sophomore majoring in Health Sciences.
Ana Davis of Brooklyn, a full-time sophomore majoring in Psychology.
Darin Exarhoulias of Brooklyn, a full-time sophomore majoring in Nursing.
Jacqueline Medeiros of Dayville, a full-time sophomore majoring in Psychology.

The new students join an overall student body of 3,850 full-time matriculated students and a residential campus that is 100 percent occupied. The cohort represents 145 of Connecticut’s 169 towns and comes from 20 U.S. states - the farthest student coming from Turlock, CA, 3,044 miles from Eastern’s Willimantic campus.
“We are tremendously excited to welcome our newest students this fall,” said Eastern President Karim Ismaili. “They will experience what makes Eastern so distinctive: the rigor and breadth of a public liberal arts education within a vibrant, primarily residential campus community located in the vibrant Town of Windham. Their arrival brings tremendous energy to Eastern, and I cannot wait to see how they learn, grow, and contribute to our community.”
The new students are a scholarly bunch with an average GPA of 3.3, and top declared majors being health sciences, business administration, psychology, nursing, and criminology. Fifty-four percent are the first in their families to attend college, 172 are student-athletes, and 25 are enrolled in the academically competitive University Honors Program.

First-ever Layalaya Global Arts Festival coming to Woodstock Oct. 10

WOODSTOCK — On Oct. 10, Woodstock, in the northeast corner of Connecticut, will become a hub of artistic activity with the first annual Layālaya Global Arts Festival—a World Music & Cultural Dialogue Festival—featuring music, art, and dialogue from Argentina, China, India, Japan, Korea, Mali, and the United States.
Conceived and curated by artistic director Sandeep Das, the festival aims to create opportunities to engage with new ideas, global traditions, and diverse perspectives through artistic and cultural encounters, expanding perception and deepening community connection.
In its inaugural year, the festival theme is A World Unboxed: where cultural difference is a source of discovery and connection, revealing our individuality and shared humanity. The program centers around interdisciplinary excellence—arts and human performance side by side—exploring what it takes to perform at the highest level, whether on stage or on the court.
“I’ve learned that curiosity isn’t just for conversation, it’s about being willing to experience new or unfamiliar things, as well,” said Sandeep Das, Guggenheim Fellow and founding member of The Silk Road Ensemble. “Every time I’ve sat across from a musician whose tradition I didn’t grow up with, I’ve found the same thing: the differences that seemed so wide from a distance become the very ground we meet on. That’s what I want Woodstock to feel like this October—not a stage where different cultures perform side by side, but a room where they actually talk to each other. In a world where cultural divides seem wide, the arts can create a source of discovery and connection where there may otherwise be none. This is a world without boundaries.”
In its inaugural year,

the Layālaya Global Arts Festival will offer a multi-day residency starting Oct. 7, with open rehearsals, speaker spotlights, master classes, and a local student showcase, with students being mentored directly by Grammy-winning and internationally acclaimed artists, and world-class learning opportunities & cultural experiences for community members. These activities lead up to October 10, the culminating full-day public festival, featuring keynote speakers; performances and original work by international world-class artists, including several Grammy Award winners; and global dialogue—a platform for nationally recognized educators and thought leaders together exploring the ideas shaping our world.
Events take place all afternoon and culminate in a special evening performance at the Loos Center for the Arts.
Participants include:
Artistic Director, Tabla Maestro, GRAMMY® Award-winner Sandeep Das
President of The Juilliard School, Damian Woetzel
UConn Women’s Basketball’s Director of Sports Performance Andrea Hudy
Gaon Soloists, a specially abled Korean youth ensemble, performing with their families
Kaylynn Cho, young nationally-renowned Korean poet
Argentinian singer Solange Merdinian
Indian sitarist Rajib Karmakar
Malian balafon player Bella Kouyate
American cellist Jake Charkey
Chinese suona player Guo Yahzi
Japanese taiko drummer Kaoru Watanabe
Tickets for Oct. 10 events at the Loos Center for the Arts in Woodstock are available for the afternoon session at 1:30 p.m. (\$25) or the evening performance at 7:30 p.m. (\$35-\$85).
Tickets for both (\$55-\$85) can also be purchased;

all are available online.
Layālaya is immensely grateful for federal, state, and community support of the festival. The 2026 Layālaya Global Arts Festival is funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development, Office of the Arts; CT Eastern Regional Tourism District; SBM Charitable Foundation; and the New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the six New England state arts agencies. Festival community partners include Loos Center for the Arts and The Woodstock Academy.

About Layālaya Global Arts Festival
Created in 2025 by international renowned tabla artist, composer and educator Sandeep Das, Layālaya Arts Initiative is a creative laboratory and cultural platform where global artistic traditions, diverse philosophies, and distinct perspectives come together in dialogue through artistic process, cultural exchange, and experimentation. In a world that often reduces human complexity to simple categories, Layālaya stands for a world unboxed, embracing the richness that emerges when people engage deeply across differences. The Layālaya Global Arts Festival is the public expression of this mission: through an embedded residency model, artists work alongside students through mentorship, workshops, collaborative creation, and shared artistic process, then open this work to the broader community through conversations, rehearsals, performances, and cultural exchange.
Layālaya is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization (EIN: 39-3075557) based in Massachusetts. Contributions made to Layālaya are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Robert Olson’s Magic Collection goes up for auction

PUTNAM — A longtime resident of Putnam, Robert Olson’s early years were shaped by a strong academic foundation. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School and went on to study Electrical Engineering at Brooklyn College. He always said his technical training at Brooklyn Tech allowed him to land the job at Old Sturbridge Village, (OSV) and made him indispensable as an interpreter early on in his career. It was, however, his insatiable passion for history and learning, paired with his energetic love of performing, that ultimately defined his life’s work and legacy. From the moment he joined Old Sturbridge Village as an interpreter, Olson found his true calling. For over five decades, he dedicated

himself to the living history museum, immersing himself in the stories of America’s past. It was there that he discovered Richard Potter—America’s first magician—and this discovery would change the course of his life. He often stated that he owed everything to Richard Potter. For more than 50 years, he performed as Richard Potter, captivating generations with historical magic shows that blended education with wonder. With meticulous research and heartfelt dedication, Robert recreated Potter’s performances and brought them back to life for modern audiences. He brought joy, laughter, hope, and wisdom to all that watched. Through this persona and performance art, he found a way to connect deeply with people of all ages. Through humor, precision and whimsy, he taught history while evoking awe. His work at Old Sturbridge Village allowed him not only to follow his passion but also to become a beloved figure in the world of historical entertainment.
In addition to his professional pursuits, Olson served his country honorably from 1961 to 1963

as part of the U.S. Army’s military intelligence division in New York City.
After retiring from Old Sturbridge Village, he kept connected to both his passions. He never stopped sharing his love for the past; he continued to research, learn, and perform magic. Getting together with fellow magicians and attending New England Magic Collectors Association meetings and gatherings. He stayed connected with his OSV friends and continued up until December 2024 performing Richard Potter at OSV’s Christmas by Candlelight. His last magic show was Father’s Day 2025 at George Washington’s encampment in Newburgh, New York. Those who knew Robert will remember him as someone who made life more magical simply by being present. He had a rare gift in teaching others how to grow up without ever losing their sense of childlike wonder.
The auction takes place at Haversat & Ewing Galleries, LLC on Oct. 2 & 3 online at: www.haversatewing.com.

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Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up

Girls Soccer
Killingly Girls Soccer earned an impressive 5-0 victory over Wheeler on Tuesday night, Sept. 22. The scoring started early when Lylah Connetti found the back of the net just three minutes into the match off an assist from Adalyn Malarkey. Less than ten minutes later, Kezlee Morrarty doubled the lead, finishing a beautiful cross from Nina Purcell.

The Trailblazers kept the momentum rolling after half-time. Just two minutes into the second half, Kezlee struck again, this time off another assist from Adalyn. Freshman Maya Panteleakos then scored her first varsity goal, finishing a setup from Gracie West. Nina capped off the scoring with the final goal of the night.

With the win, the girls improve their record to 3-0-1 on the season.

The girls traveled to Ledyard on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 24 for a hard-fought matchup that remained scoreless through the first half. Just 10 minutes into the second half, Adalyn Malarkey broke the deadlock, capitalizing on a free kick from just outside the 18-yard box to give the Trailblazers a 1-0 lead. Kezlee Morrarty added an insurance goal later in the half, finishing off an assist from Maya Panteleakos to seal a 2-0 victory for Killingly. With the win, the Trailblazers improved to 4-0-1 on the season.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the team traveled to Montville and found themselves trailing by two at halftime. Adalyn Malarkey cut the deficit in half with a goal off a through ball from Kezlee Morrarty in the second half. Despite the late push, the Trailblazers fell to Montville by a final score of 1-2. Killingly’s record now stands at 4-1-1 on the season.

Field Hockey
Killingly picked up a 1-0 victory over Fitch on Thursday, Sept. 24, earning its first win of the season. Abby Moffat scored the lone goal of the game, while Jaynie Macquarrie made three saves to earn the shutout. Attilea Jarvis worked hard to move the ball up the field and help create offensive opportunities. The team played well together throughout the game, showing strong teamwork and continued improvement.

Football
Killingly blanks Windham, 27-0
Killingly High put together a strong defensive effort and a dominant rushing performance Friday night, Sept. 25, shutting out Windham, 27-0, to earn its first win of the season.

The Trailblazers controlled the game on the ground, piling up 281 rushing yards on 64 offensive plays. Liam Lamotte led the way with 182 yards on 18 carries and two touchdowns. Joxel Fuentes-Ortiz added 69 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries.

Killingly also got a touchdown from Braydee Testa, who caught four passes for 62 yards, including an 18-yard scoring reception from Jaden Barnett in the third quarter. Barnett finished 4-for-7 passing for 62 yards and a touchdown.

The Trailblazers’ defense held Windham to just 87 total yards and five first downs, led by defensive end Andre Cardona and linebacker Shawn Lessey. Killingly improved to 1-2 with the victory, while Windham fell to 1-2. Killingly returns home Thursday to face Ledyard in a rematch of last year’s State Semi-Finals, kickoff is 6:30 p.m.

Do you know someone with a hoarding disorder? Would you like to learn how best to help?

DANIELSON — Hoarding disorder is a mental health condition that affects millions of Americans. People with this disorder have a strong need to acquire and keep many unnecessary items and then experience intense distress when asked to get rid of them. Like most mental health disorders, it can range from mild to serious, depending on the impact the disorder has on one’s life. At its most serious stages, it can result in increased risk of falls and injuries, family conflicts, loneliness and social isolation, unsanitary conditions, fire hazard and legal issues, such as eviction.

NAMI Windham County is offering a free workshop about hoarding disorder, led by Beth Markowski-Roop of ServiceMaster by Mason, on Oct. 13 at Connecticut State Community College at Quinebaug Valley, 742 Upper Maple St., Danielson. The presentation will be in the college Auditorium, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

This workshop will provide tips for interacting with hoarders and discuss resources available. The presentation will benefit first responders, emergency management personnel, town administrators, zoning enforcement officials, social service agencies, senior services providers, real estate agents and those concerned about family members or other hoarding residents in their community.

NAMI Windham County, an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization that provides support, education and advocacy throughout Windham County for individuals and families affected by mental illness. For information, find us on the internet at <https://namiwindhamct.org/> or email us at info@namiwindhamct.org.

Lou Lane named Thompson’s Veteran of the Month

THOMPSON — United States Air Force Sgt. Louis (Lou) Lane of Chase Road in Thompson has been selected by the nominating committee to be recognized and honored as the October, 2026 Veteran of the Month for the Town of Thompson. Sergeant Lane served in the U.S. Air Force from 1965 to 1969, and is a Vietnam Era War Veteran.

Lou was born on Aug. 26, 1944, to parents Louis and Anna Lane at Hartford Hospital and lived his early years in Glastonbury. As a young boy, Lou attended School from grade 1 to 10 in the local public-school system in Glastonbury and then transferred to Prince Technical School for his final 3 years of his education, enrolled in, and learning the complexities of the printing business graduating in the class of 1963.

Lou began his professional career with his first employment at the Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford. working in their company publishing department. Eight months later he decided to move on to a small independent printing company to expand on his publishing interests. Six months into this employment he received that dreaded “draft notice” from the United States Selective Service.

In June 1965, Lou was approached by an Air Force recruiter to consider joining the Air Force and have a much better chance of avoiding spending time in Vietnam. He immediately made a life changing decision to join the Air Force, and a month later, in July 1965, he left for his basic training at the Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

After completion of his basic training, Lane was assigned to The Goodfellow Air Force School for Intellectual Training in Texas for his advanced training (AIT). This was an extensive six-month training and hands on program that required all attendees to learn about, and to monitor highly sophisticated spying and espionage radios and other communication systems to be used both internally for the United States Military and against other foreign countries. As an intelligence analysis specialist, Sgt. Lane had enormous responsibility and clearance approval to continuously monitor all aspects of military intelligence both in this country and abroad and to report any suspicious activity to the proper authorities.

In 1966, Sgt. Lane was deployed to Wiesbaden, Germany for a 3-year deployment. He was stationed at Camp Parry which was a combined Army and Air Force Base. Army and Air Force personnel would work together on special assigned projects. During his time at Camp Parry he was assigned three separate TDY’S (temporary duty assignments) one to Greece, one to Turkey and one to Pakistan, in addition to numerous TDY’s in Germany. During his time in Europe, Sergeant Lane continually monitored Air Force personnel for any potential leaking of sensitive data or information to enemy countries who might be conducting espionage against the United States Government. Because of the highly sensitive and confidential findings and potentially damaging impact on the United States government, Sergeant Lane is not able to share any more specific information to me for this story.

However, Sgt. Lane is able to share with me that he had the good fortune to walk the Historical Landmark “Checkpoint Charlie” the Western Bloc’s name for the best-known crossing point during the Cold War, representing the separation of East and West just prior to the take down of the Berlin Wall which separated East and West Germany as declared then by President Regan in one of those historical events in World History.

Sgt. Louis Lane was discharged from the McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey on April 5, 1969. He took with him, and still today carries the knowledge and the weight of numerous espionage theories and factual events that his intelligence work on behalf of the United States Air Force has hovered over his entire post Air Force years.

For his exceptional service, Sgt. Lane has been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal and with numerous other citations and Ribbons.

His discharge from the United States Air Force is only the very beginning of what has been a lifetime of civic duty and volunteer work and exceptional sacrifices on behalf of his beloved Community.

Upon his discharge from the Military, Lane returned home to Lebanon, where his parents had built their home. He took on a job with the Overhead Door Company and worked with them for the next four years. Lou would often find himself driving to the Thompson Raceway with his two brothers Raymond and Ralph, to bring their racecar for competition. Together they jointly owned a Chevrolet, all white number 303 modified racer. His route to Thompson from Lebanon before Interstate 395 (old route 52) was constructed would take him on the back roads coming in mostly on Route 12. Lane fell in love with the scenic stretch of Thompson Road (route 193) and our Historic and charming Thompson Common in particular. So much so, that he decided to move from Lebanon and purchase an early American 1800 home on Chase Road in Thompson and remodeled it over time to its original country charm. Lane still resides in that home today. Lane is a talented skilled, hands on person, so he decided that he would become self-employed contractor and began his own carpentry, painting and wallpaper business which he still dabbles with today. Among some of his work was painting a number of the large charming homes that make up the historic triangle of the Thompson Common.

Lane joined the Thompson Fire Engine Company in 1980. Forty-six years later, he still is an important member of that all volunteer Fire Company. He is very well known as the backbone, go to person, and volunteer extraordinaire of his beloved Fire Company. He has almost half a century of blood, sweat and tears invested in keeping our Thompson residents caring and safety. In this half century, Lane has not missed many, if any, fundraising events for the department. Boot drives, Chicken Bar-B-Q’s, name the event and Lou was instrumental in its success. He has

served as a member and officer in all the Thompson Hill Fire Department chairs. He served as its President from 1983 to 1990, and then again from 1993 to 1997. In 1991 and 1992, when he was not the President of the Board, he assumed the Vice President position. He has also served as First Lieutenant in 1983, Captain from 1984 to 1986, Assistant Fire Chief from 1987 to 1999 and then as Fire Chief from 2000 to 2005. Thousands and thousands of hours of honorable volunteer service on behalf of his Community with a group of men and women who admired and respected him for his work ethic, his fairness and dedication to their common goals. Lou mentioned a few of those names that he enjoyed volunteering with. Names like Charlie Spahl, Sonny Reynolds, Mary Broughton, Charlie Posey, Warren and David Reynolds, Doug Langer, Holger Krohn, Matt Grauer, Joe Langer, Ed Luther, Dick Mead, Arthur Johnson, Frank McGarry, and so many more dedicated volunteers, too many to mention all by name.

One of Lane’s proudest and humble moments occurred in 2003, when a fellow Thompson Fire Engine Company Fire Chief and longtime friend, Warren Reynolds needed a new kidney. After a tireless search for a match for Warren was unsuccessful, Lou volunteered to be tested to see if he was a match and could possibly donate one of his kidneys to Warren. As fate would have it, Lane was a perfect match and arrangements were immediately made to make the transplant happen. Warren and Lou’s surgeries were exceptionally successful and Warren lived for 20 healthy additional years because of Lou’s friendship and kindness of a fellow fireman.

Lane’s goodness and selfishness doesn’t end with a donation of one of his kidneys. He and his long-time partner, Jane, raised Jane’s two daughters from Jane’s previous marriage. Cathy and Chrissy, along with Jane were the absolute love of Lou’s life and they were inseparable life partners. Lou and Jane along with Cathy’s daughter Ella, and Chrissy’s daughters Briana and Olivia were a storybook family of Love, admiration and togetherness. Jane, who was wheelchair bound met Lou through a mutual friend Jayne Reynolds, who introduced the two of them, and arranged for them to attend a Thompson Fire Company Christmas Gala. The rest is history. A fairytale chance meeting turning into a long and happy love story. On the passing of Jane, Lane organized a team of volunteers to walk and raise money in the annual Northeastern Connecticut “Relay for Life” cancer survivor walk-a-thon held annually at the Woodstock Fair Grounds. Lou named the team “Miles for Smiles” in honor of his beloved Jane. Together, they raised many thousands of dollars for cancer research.....A nicer, kinder, giving and loving person would be hard to find anywhere. Through his many years of leading by example, Lou has inspired countless other Thompsonites to do the same.

United States Air Force Veteran Louis (Lou) Lane will be honored and presented a commemorative plaque by the Board of Selectman and the Veteran Officer at the Oct. 6 Board of Selectman Meeting.

NCCN Forum to explore child care as essential economic infrastructure

HAMPTON — Childcare is more than a family need. Access to reliable childcare affects whether parents can work, whether employers can attract and retain employees, and whether communities can support a strong regional economy.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, the Northeast CT Childcare Needs Project (NCCN) will bring together leaders and partners from across sectors for its Fall Forum, Child Care as Essential Economic Infrastructure, at the EASTCONN Conference Center in Hampton.

The forum will explore the roles that state and municipal government, economic development, business, education, early childhood, and families can play in strengthening the region’s childcare infrastructure and what can happen when those partners work together locally and regionally.

Through panel discussions and regional case studies, participants will hear different perspectives on the challenges facing Northeast Connecticut and examples of partnerships putting solutions into action.

“Childcare is not only an issue for families. It is a workforce and economic development issue for our entire region,” said Diane Gozemba, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives at EASTCONN. “This forum is an opportunity to bring the people who experience the need, the people who make decisions, and the people working on solutions into the same conversation. Strengthening childcare in Northeast Connecticut will take all of us.”

The forum is designed for municipal and state leaders, business and economic development professionals, educators, early childhood providers, community partners, families, and others interested in strengthening childcare access and Northeast Connecticut’s workforce and economy.

About the Northeast Connecticut Childcare Needs Project
The Northeast Connecticut Childcare Needs Project (NCCN) is a regional collaboration among EASTCONN, the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, and the Northeast Early Childhood Council (NECC), funded by The Connecticut Project. Launched in 2024, NCCN brings together regional partners and stakeholders to address Northeast Connecticut’s unique childcare challenges and develop strategies to increase access to high-quality, affordable childcare that benefits both families and the businesses that employ them.

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BOWLS

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being in a tent during that storm,” shared Chelsea French, Resource Developer at TEEG. “We had drivers shuttle guests from and to the parking lots to and from the cafeteria door, and despite the last-minute changes everything went very smoothly. I think everyone had a great time.”

French went on to thank the chefs and restaurants who prepared the delicious soups: Anya, Elm St Cafe, L B’s Family Restaurant, Grill 37, 85 Main, Sarah Eddy and the Kitchen at New Boston Beef, Broken Crust, Courthouse Bar & Grill, Renee’s Catering, Vanilla Bean, and Inn at Woodstock. Diners also enjoyed fresh breads donated by Leona’s Baking and Soleil Bakery, and ice cream, skyr, and sorbetto donated Bogey’s, Woodstock Creamery and Valleyside, and Main St Gelato. And all went home with beautiful, handcrafted pottery bowls created and donated by volunteers at Sawmill Pottery.

French is especially grateful to Dot Burnworth, owner of Sawmill Pottery, and Dot’s event co-chair Bridget Perch.

“This is really Dot’s event,” explained French. “She has the bowls made, inspects them for any minor defects, solicits the soup and bread donations, and even recruits her partner Eric to help in the kitchen heating the soups.”

Last but perhaps most importantly, French thanks the beautiful community that attends the event, as well as those who volunteer to help in the kitchen, set up the space, serve the soups, bread, and ice cream, and clean up afterward.

“This event personifies the coming together of community inspired by the needs of neighbors,” French opined.

Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists and crafts people in cities and towns around the world to raise money for food related charities to care for and feed the hungry in their communities.

TEEG is a 501(c)3 social service agency serving critical needs of low-income individuals and families in the towns of Pomfret, Woodstock, and Thompson, with food insecurity as a cornerstone of its mission. As TEEG continues to grow, it has established itself as a vital resource to our community, offering youth and family programs in addition to several basic needs programs including heating assistance, state and federal benefits assistance, holiday programs, homelessness support, summer camp scholarships, client care coordination, and the food markets. For more information about the work of the organization, please visit www.teegonline.org.

POMFRET

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Center, CT 06259) at 10 AM on Saturday, Oct. 3. They will be arriving by horse and wagon driven by Sam Rich of We-Li-Kit Farm. The men will represent Abington’s 11th Regiment enlisting and receiving their physical examination by Dr. Elisha Lord, portrayed by Dan Newman. After their enlistment, they will go into the church and receive the “Prayer for the Soldier” written and published in 1775 by Rev. Abiel Leonard of Woodstock. Abiel begged leave from the pulpit at the First Church of Woodstock in 1775 to join the Continental Army as Chaplain. Reverend Bruce Headman of Abington Congregational Church will portray Abiel Leonard. Arrive early to park and get photos of the wagon and horses pulling up to the church.

Meanwhile, the festivities will continue up at the Pomfret Recreation Park as the remaining reenactors arrive and set up camp Saturday morning. The Marketplace will be open from 11 a.m.– 4 p.m. each day, featuring craft and artisan vendors, food, and fiber arts demonstrations. The Pomfret 250 Commission Information Booth will have program booklets, maps, and schedules. They will also be selling a variety of America 250 memorabilia for children and adults. The festive atmosphere will be enhanced by music in the Park Pavillion.

Atwater and Donnelly will perform at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3. The highly praised husband-wife duo blends gorgeous vocals with an astounding array of instruments including the mountain dulcimer, old-time banjo, tin whistle, guitar, mandolin, harmonica, limberjacks, feet and more.

Based in Warren, R.I., Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly have traveled

extensively for forty years in the United States, with occasional trips to Ireland, England, and Canada, to perform as well as find their songs and dances one by one. Some of the traditional tunes in their repertoire reach back to the American Revolution and earlier.

On Sunday, Oct. 4, the featured music in the Pavilion will be a trio from the well-known Irish group Turas at 11 a.m. The Rhode Island based band plays a variety of Irish, Scottish, and British Isles tunes mixed with contemporary Celtic music. Their lively music will provide an homage to the thousands of Irish troops who were heavily recruited by the British and fought in the American Revolution. Approximately one-sixth of the British Soldiers and one-third of their officers in the British army during the war were Irish.

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4, you will find Fiddles and Friends playing American and traditional fiddle tunes in the demonstration tent. An off-shoot from the Northeast CT Community Orchestra, this group is becoming known for their lively renditions of traditional music – a perfect musical coda to the programs and events found in the Rec Park throughout the weekend.

A Revolutionary War Reenactment would not be complete without the fife & drum. After the final military training maneuvers and demonstrations, the Kentish Guards will lead the closing ceremony with a fife and drum procession to the Old Abington Burial Ground. The Training demonstration will begin at 3 p.m. in the original training grounds which were used by the 11th regiment. Spectators may view the training maneuvers from Clinic road, (accessible by foot through the exit gate at the Recreation Park). From there, the Kentish Guard will form to lead us to the burial ground with fife & drum where a wreath will be laid for the 60 Revolutionary Soldiers buried there. The ceremony will include a few words, stories about Pomfret’s Revolutionary soldiers, taps and a three-musket salute.

Nicholas Betschmann participates in Empire State Service Corps

ONEONTA, N.Y. — Nicholas Betschmann of Woodstock is among the 100 SUNY Oneonta students participating in the third class of Empire State Service Corps (ESSC) members during the 2026-2027 academic year. Betschmann, who is studying Economics and is a member of the class of 2027, is completing their “Economic Opportunity” cohort and “FAFSA Completion” impact area at the SUNY Oneonta Financial Aid Office. Two years after launching, SUNY’s Empire State Service Corps has more than doubled in size at SUNY

Oneonta and expanded its reach throughout the greater Oneonta community. SUNY Oneonta played a leading role in the program’s launch in 2024, with 48 students in its inaugural cohort—the most of any participating SUNY campus. This year, 100 students are participating, making Oneonta’s 2026-27 cohort one of the largest in the SUNY system, alongside Binghamton University and the University at Buffalo. Through the Empire State Service Corps, students complete paid public service in areas ranging from K-12 education and basic needs outreach to sustainability,

civic engagement and mental health. Placements now include area state parks, schools, nonprofits, food banks, Head Start programs and other community organizations, as well as on-campus services such as the Red Dragon Food Pantry and Bugbee Children’s Center. “One of our biggest goals has been to build meaningful partnerships throughout the community,” said Francis Carter, director of SUNY Oneonta’s Center for Volunteerism and Community Engagement, who leads the ESSC at Oneonta. “Students want to make a difference, and our local organizations have

incredible opportunities for them to do just that.” SUNY Oneonta is a public, four-year university in Central New York, enrolling about 5,300 students in a wide variety of bachelor’s degree programs and more than a dozen graduate certificate and degree programs. The university is known as both an exemplary residential campus that values inclusion, service and sustainability, and a nurturing community where students grow intellectually, thrive socially and live purposefully. Learn more at <https://suny.oneonta.edu>.

Woodstock Commission on Aging launches Senior Resource Guide

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Commission on Aging has officially launched the new Woodstock Senior Resource Guide, a comprehensive tool designed to help older adults and their families easily navigate local care, programs, and support services. The guide brings together key local resources on aging in place, healthcare options, financial and legal planning, food assistance, transportation, and social or recreational opportunities.

How to Access the Guide: Online: Download the document directly via the

Town of Woodstock Web site. Mobile Access: Scan the printed QR code using a smartphone camera to view the guide instantly on mobile devices. Physical copies: View a print copy at Woodstock Town Hall, local libraries, fire stations, or community worship centers. About the Woodstock Commission on Aging The Woodstock Commission on Aging works to evaluate, develop, and support services and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for senior residents in

Woodstock. For inquiries, feedback, or to suggest resources for future guide updates, please contact

860-928-6595 or email AgeFriendlyWoodstock@gmail.com.

Northeastern Connecticut Chamber announces Kelly Bellavance as new Executive Director

REGION — The Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Kelly Bellavance has been selected as the organization’s next Executive Director. Bellavance brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education, leadership, relationship building, small business ownership, and community involvement to the role.

Bellavance was selected following a comprehensive search and interview process led by the Chamber’s hiring committee and Board of Directors. A Brooklyn resident, local small business owner, and active member of the region’s business community, Bellavance brings both an impressive professional background and a strong connection to Northeastern Connecticut. Her experience in leadership, relationship building, event management, and community engagement will help guide the Chamber as it continues its work supporting businesses across the 23 towns it serves. Bellavance spent more than two decades working in college admissions, including nearly 16 years as Associate Director of Admission at Boston College. Throughout her career, she led recruitment initiatives, managed teams, built relationships with schools and community partners, and coordinated large scale events and programs with thousands of attendees.

Bellavance is also no stranger to organizational leadership. She served as President of the New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) and held numerous other leadership roles within the organization during her career in higher education.

Her experience also extends directly into Northeastern Connecticut’s small business community. In 2022, Bellavance and her husband opened Stoneledge Inn in Brooklyn, transforming an 1870s farmhouse into a bed and breakfast that they owned and operated. She has served as Secretary of the Brooklyn Business Association since 2023, sits on the Board of Directors for the Brooklyn Cares Community Center, and has been involved with the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce since 2022.

“Kelly brings a wonderful combination of leadership experience, business knowledge, and genuine commitment to Northeastern Connecticut,” said Amy Brunet, President of the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. “Throughout the interview process, it was clear that she understands the importance of relationships and community in the work of the Chamber. We are excited to welcome Kelly and confident she will continue building on the Chamber’s momentum while bringing her own ideas and leadership to the organization.”

The Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce serves 23 towns across the region, connecting businesses, communities, and resources to support a strong and thriving Northeastern Connecticut economy. Through monthly networking events, educational programs, legislative and advocacy events, marketing opportunities, and community partnerships, the Chamber works to support, promote, and strengthen the businesses and nonprofit organizations that make up our region.

“I am so excited to welcome Kelly into this role,” said Elle Sherman, outgoing Executive Director. “From the beginning of this process, Kelly’s genuine commitment to our community really stood out. She understands small business because she has lived it, and she has spent her career building relationships, leading teams, and bringing people together. I am excited to work alongside her during this transition and know the Chamber will be in great hands as Kelly leads it into its next chapter.”

“Northeastern Connecticut has truly become home for me and my family, which makes the opportunity to serve this community in a new way incredibly meaningful,” said Kelly Bellavance. “I’ve experienced this region as a resident, a small business owner, and an active member of our local business community, and I’ve seen how much pride people have in this place. I’m excited to listen, learn, get to know our members across all 23 towns, and build on the great work already happening here. It feels a little bit like coming home to a role that brings together so many parts of my professional and personal experience.”

Bellavance will train alongside Sherman throughout September, allowing for a month-long transition before Sherman’s final day as Executive Director on Sept. 30.

To learn more about the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce, its mission, events, and members, visit nect-chamber.com or follow the Chamber on Facebook and Instagram.

Trinity Episcopal Church to host Fall Festival

BROOKLYN — Trinity Episcopal Church will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3 from 10 to 4. The church is located at 7 Providence Rd., at the intersection of Routes 6 and 169. There will be live music, local crafters, artisans and other vendors, hot food, baked goods, a silent auction, face painting, a free bouncy house, carnival games, pumpkin painting and more. Fun for the whole family! Information at <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurch-brooklyn.org>.

Paws Cat Shelter to hold eighth annual Blessing of the Animals

KILLINGLY — Paws Cat Shelter is holding their Annual Blessing of the Animals at Petco in Killingly Commons on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Reverend Jane Emma Newall will be officiating. All pets must be secured by leash or carrier. Pet food and cash donations always welcome and greatly appreciated.

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

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

WOODSTOCK — An open Al-Anon meeting meets at the East Woodstock Congregational Church every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group is open to anyone affected by alcoholism, family or friend. Any enquiries can be directed to 860-634-3271.



OBITUARIES

Doris Davis Johnson, 102



Doris Davis Johnson was a 2 year resident of Rockhill Health Care Center in Sellerville, PA where she passed away peacefully on the morning of August 11, 2026 at the age of 102. She was formerly a resident of Daytona Beach, FL, Woodstock and Danielson, CT. Doris, best known as Dotty, was born at the family home in Danielson, CT on March 4, 1924, daughter of Frank Clifford and Celinda Viens Davis. She is predeceased by her husband of 22 years, Walter E. Johnson, her brothers Milton W. Davis and George R. Davis, nephews, Dean Randall (Randy) Davis and Gordon A. Davis. She is survived by her step-children Jeri C. Musumeci, Richard T. Johnson, and Alan H. Johnson (wife Donna), many step-grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dotty is also survived by nieces Gwenda Davis Humpherys and Pamela Davis Cabbage (husband Pete), nephews Barry W. Davis (wife Jean) and

Roger W. Davis (and Heather Fairfield), many great-nieces, great-nephews and their children. As a graduate of Killingly High School, Dotty worked as a switchboard operator in the early years of telephone service. But for most of her working career, she was office manager for the family business, F.C. Davis Transportation Company. She was a lifelong member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church where she was treasurer and an active volunteer. Dotty lived her faith, as she was a caregiver for all generations of her family and her friends, into her late 90's. Services will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026 with a graveside service at 10:00 am at Elmvale Cemetery, 453 Roseland Park Rd, Woodstock, CT. At 11:30 am a memorial service will be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 247 Broad St, Danielson, CT, with a reception to follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be made in Doris' name to the Cornerstone Baptist Church, 247 Broad St. Danielson, CT 06239.

Norma Jean Quirk



Norma Jean Quirk passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by the love of her family and those closest to her. She was a woman of incredible strength, kindness, and selflessness whose memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. Norma was predeceased by her beloved husband of 56 years, George Quirk. She leaves behind her devoted sons, Troy Quirk and his wife, Anna, and Patrick Quirk; her cherished granddaughter, Samantha, and her husband, Vince; and her beloved great-grandsons, Vinny and Nate, who brought her immense love and joy. She is also survived by her sisters,

Linda, Lorna, Carol, and June, along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends. Norma was the definition of a strong and selfless woman. She faced every hardship with determination and never hesitated to give whatever she could to someone in need. She never met a stranger and had a way of making everyone feel welcomed, cared for, and loved. She was also one of the hardest-working people you could ever meet, always giving her whole heart and never looking for recognition. To know Norma was to know someone truly special—strong, compassionate, hardworking, generous, and endlessly loving. She gave so much of herself to the people and animals around her, leaving behind a lasting legacy of love, strength, and kindness.

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



ACCREDITATION

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followed a Collaborative Conference Visit several years ago that set the stage for a multi-year plan of growth and improvement and a self-reflection process serving as an internal audit required before the evaluation team could visit the school for the review. The report's biggest

praise was the school meeting all eight Foundational Elements in the Standards for Accreditation. "This marks and outstanding achievement for your professional staff and school community," the letter to Principal Mullen read. "The Commission is impressed with the progress you and your professional staff made on the Priority Areas for Growth and increased alignment

with the Principles of Effective Practice since the time of the Collaborative Conference Visit." Among the other praises were guaranteed time during a "Tiger Block" providing teachers opportunities to support the academic needs and enrichments for students, creation of a tiered intervention flowchart to support early intervention, establishing a freshman team to meet monthly

and review academic performance, behavior, and potential reading difficulties to produce a tiered system, ensuring that the "portrait of a graduate" is made clear and understood for students, and other accomplishments, many associated with career pathways, assessments, culture, and providing authentic learning experiences. "The distinction of continued NEASC

Accreditation reflects your professional staff's collective commitment to grow and improve," concluded the letter. "On behalf of the Commission, we wish you and your school every continued success." While accreditation is an important recognition of the work and growth at TMHS, there is still more to be done. The school now enters the Follow-Up process and is required to submit a First

Report or Progress and Planning by May 1, which will further focus on the school's alignment with Foundational Elements. The school will also need to revise its School Growth and Improvement Plan based on the next steps provided during the visit and implement the plan with a focus on specific priority areas.

MARCOTTE

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view. Marcotte has taught at Killingly High School for 35 years, and touted her communication skills and ability to work as part of a team as powerful assets for a position on the Board of Education. "I work well with people. I collaborate. I can

work with anyone. It's very important to me to move us forward in Killingly. I think there's a lot of good things that are happening, and I think we need to get out and let more people know about what we're doing," said Marcotte. Marcotte's interview was rather short. She was asked about her motivations for seeking the appointment, and she felt that after years

of involvement in local education it was time to give back in a whole new way. "It's important to me to give back to the community. I taught 35-years and it's something I always wanted to do but something that kind of held me back and I feel it's the right time to do it," said Marcotte. Board Chair Susan Lannon said she saw

Marcotte as a worthy candidate. "I think your expertise, your personality, your dedication, and your desire to give back will match the other eight people on the Board of Education and is exactly what our town needs," Lannon said. The appointment was approved unanimously by the board. The vacancy is a result

of the resignation of Nelson King, who himself was appointed in June of 2025 to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Danny Rovero. King was subsequently officially elected to the board for a full term later that year. His resignation was confirmed in a post by the Killingly Democratic Town Committee on July 22, although a reason for his departure was not dis-

closed. "The Killingly Democratic Town Committee extends our sincere thanks to Nelson 'Buzz' King for his two years of dedicated service on the Killingly Board of Education. We appreciate the time, thoughtfulness, and commitment he has given to our community, and we wish him all the best," the post stated.



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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Lorraine M Pasqualetti (26-00379)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 18, 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.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Sarah M Pasqualetti
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN, ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
October 2, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
WOODSTOCK PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
At its regular meeting of Thursday, October 15, 2026, the Woodstock Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on the following:
Proposed update to Woodstock Plan of Conservation & Development, 2026-2036.
Details of this draft Plan may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov

woodstockct.gov
David Morse
Chairman
October 2, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Robert F Bosma, Sr. (26-00307)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 28, 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.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Christopher J Bosma,
14 Asselin Ave.,
Webster, MA 01570
October 2, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Kerry C Terraciano (26-00383)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 23, 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.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Deborah Gregory & Hillary Gregory
c/o KATHLEEN MARY CERRONE,

BORNER, SMITH, ALEMAN,
HERZOG & CERRONE,
155 PROVIDENCE STREET,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
October 2, 2026

Suggested Form of Warning for November 3, 2026, State Election
The electors of the Town of Putnam are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purposes:
1. To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, and Judge of Probate. Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places is as follows:
Voting District Location of Polling Place
1 200 School St., Room 112, Putnam, CT 06260
2 200 School St., Room 109, Putnam, CT 06260
Early voting will take place between Monday, October 19, 2026, and Sunday, November 1, 2026. Early voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day, except that hours are extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, October 27 and 29, 2026. Each early voting location will offer Same-Day Election Registration (SDR).
The early voting location for Districts 1 and 2 is 200 School St., Room 109, Putnam, CT 06260. The early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).
On Election Day, SDR is available at the following location for Districts 1 and 2: 200 School St., Room 109, Putnam, CT 06260.
Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: 200 School St., Room 109, Putnam, CT 06260.
Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will open at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).
Dated at Putnam, Connecticut, this 7th day of October 2026.
Christine Bright, Town Clerk
Town of Putnam
October 2, 2026



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²Plan 6148. Subject to credit approval. Loan term is 48 months at fixed rate of 0.00% APR. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date, for every \$1,000 financed at 0% APR, 48 monthly payments of \$20.84. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. 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.