



In February,
you'll long
for October.
Enjoy It!

PUTNAM VILLAGER

Serving Putnam since 2005

Friday, October 18, 2024

Complimentary to homes by request

Thompson celebrates opening of new track and playground



Officials cut the ribbon for the newly renovated track adjacent to Tourtellotte Memorial High School.



The ribbon is cut for the new playground at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Courtesy

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Thompson's annual Community Day on Oct. 5 was extra special in 2024, as it featured the official opening of two long awaited new amenities for the Thompson Public Schools: the new Tourtellotte Memorial High School track and

the new Mary R. Fisher Elementary School playground.

Both projects resolve closed facilities that were once staples of the school community but were retired due to safety concerns. The track had been closed for official meets for decades and was the subject of replacement talks dating throughout the 2020s before grant

funding and a positive vote from the taxpayers in 2023 officially green-lit the \$1.5 million project. The playground, which was closed in 2022, was funded thanks in part to the efforts of the Mary R. Fisher Elementary School PTO who spearheaded a fundraising campaign that saw numerous local businesses and entities donate to

the cause while funding through the State Bond Commission helped reach the \$150,000 goal. Both facilities were installed over the summer.

The first ribbon cutting of the day was the new track which included a special mile run and walk complete with commemorative medals left over from the last official track meet held at the old facility. The new acrylic track now provides a full six lanes and will allow the school to hold local meets for the first time in 30 years. Tourtellotte Memorial High School Principal Thomas Mellen praised the support and investment in the new facility which he said will be an asset to not only the

school, but the town at large for years to come.

"This track will not only serve as an investment for our students, it is an investment that will positively impact the Thompson community and beyond. Through a \$1.5 million town bond this beautiful track went from a dream and concept to a reality. It was the citizens of Thompson that stepped up and voted to approve this beautiful campus. This track will serve future generations of Thompson residents for decades and beyond," said Mellen.

Thompson Schools Athletic Director Deb Spinelli, who saw several generations of student athletes practice on the old track, was ecstatic to

finally open the facility and officially welcome track meets back to Thompson.

"We were practicing out here, but we only had a few lanes we could use successfully and safely — Now we have the whole six lanes out there, we're ready to go, and I can't wait to see the improvements in our play," Spinelli said. "I expect any of our kids who are going to be participating on this track to not only be super successful, gaining their own personal bests, but as a team be more successful because we have the facility, we have the backing of the community, and we're going to have some home-

Turn To THOMPSON page A11

Subcommittee to finalize Vision Committee ordinance

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Following a public workshop on Sept. 21, the Killingly Town Council is moving to the next step in producing an ordinance for the formation of a Vision Committee. The appointed body would essentially act as an advisory committee examining the short- and long-term goals for the community at large.

Following the workshop, it appears the town will be proceeding with the formation of the committee. The Town Council was presented with a revised sample of the

ordinance during their Oct. 8 meeting which is only an example of what the ordinance could look like. Much of the brief discussion involved how the Council would move forward with finalizing that document. Town Council Chair Jason Anderson said they also need to work on maintaining public interest and involvement while that process takes place.

"I was happy with the turnout. I know one thing I brought up was we need to work to keep people who are interested engaged while we go through the process of creating the ordinance to create this commis-

sion. The gist of what I got coming out of that was our next step is setting the goals and the expectations for the commission that way people who are applying know what they're applying for and not just a title," said Anderson.

Town Manager Mary Calorio said applications for the commission have already been received, although she questions if the town wanted to proceed with advertising for membership before the ordinance was finalized. Anderson commented that the priority right now is to produce a final

Turn To ORDINANCE page A11

Fundraiser Fair introduces community to local healers

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — The term "healer" can be applied to many different practices whether it's medical professionals in a hospital setting or therapists helping patients deal with personal trauma. But sometimes recovery goes beyond the traditional definitions of healing. For many, healing involves a trio of focuses called the "trinity" encouraging balancing the mind, the body, and the spirit through a variety of means.

The Quiet Corner plays host to many professionals who embrace different modalities of healing from massage to meditation and beyond. Many of these healers came together for a special fundraiser fair in Danielson on Oct. 5 to help one of their own while also offering visitors the chance to explore the wide variety of healing practices available to them in their community. The Holistic Healers Fundraiser Fair was held at the old Saint Joseph Church in Hartford Pike Road in Danielson to benefit Deb Crane, the owner and practitioner at Equine Sports Therapies who suffered an accident that has kept her out of work. More than 13 healers set up booths and offered their services free of charge to help visitors find better balance with their own trinities and provide insight into how their practices work. Event co-facilitators Shelly Maguire and Lisa



Jason Bleau

Representatives of The Wholistic Collective in Danielson pose for a photo while setting up as one of the many vendors at the Holistic Healers Fundraiser Fair.

Ennis explained that not only was the fair meant to help their friend, it was also an opportunity to bring the healers together and allow the community to explore the different healing options available to them.

"We want to demystify

what healers do. I think a lot of people are very curious about what we are doing as healers, so this is a nice safe environment for the public to come out and see what we do. Maybe there are certain perceptions, and we

Turn To FAIR page A11

American Legion donates to Veterans Park repairs



Courtesy

Left to right: Mike Vassar, Brian Maynard, Dave Gilbert, Barney Seney, Rob Challinor, Mike Rocchetti, Jim Bradley, and Alan Joslin.

PUTNAM — Several representatives from the American Legion Mayotte-Viens Post #13 presented a check for \$12,000 to the Putnam Veterans Advisory Committee during their monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, Oct. 8 at the Putnam Town Hall. The donation was made to help pay for the repairs

and upgrades to Veterans Park.

The check was presented by current commander Michael Rocchetti and past commanders Brian Maynard, Michael Vassar, Barney Seney, and Alan Joslin. The VAC Chairman, Robert Challinor, graciously accepted the donation and thanked the Legion

for their tremendous contribution, as well as the previous \$10,000 contribution that was made in March of 2024.

According to Rocchetti, "The Veterans Park is very important to the Legion — one of our organizational core values is to 'remember our Veterans.' Our Veterans Park will help preserve the memories of their service and sacrifice."

According to Putnam Mayor Barney Seney, "The project is nearly complete and we've spent approximately \$211,000 dollars, and so far, the town of Putnam has only contributed \$11,000 — the rest of the money has come from donations and commemorative brick sales. The outpouring of support from the community has been phenomenal."

The work at the park included new pavements and landscaping, new monuments, a new flagpole, new lighting, new fencing, bollards, signage, and park benches.

Robert Cording named Woodstock's first poet laureate

WOODSTOCK — The Town of Woodstock is honored to announce Robert Cording as our first town poet laureate. We are so fortunate to have such an esteemed and experienced poet right in our community.

Robert Cording has published ten collections of poems, the most recent of which is "In the Unwalled City" (Slant, 2022). He has received two NEAs in poetry. He won three Pushcart Prizes in poetry, and his poems have appeared in publications such as the Georgia Review, Southern Review, New Yorker, Poetry, Hudson Review, Kenyon Review, Image, The Sun, The Common, Agni, New Ohio Review, Orion, and Best American Poetry, 2018.

Cording taught for 38 years at Holy Cross College where he was the Barrett Chair of Creative Writing and Professor of English. After he retired from Holy Cross, he taught poetry in the MFA program at Seattle Pacific University for five years. He has lived in Woodstock since 1983 with his wife, Colleen. Their three sons all graduated from Woodstock Academy.

This Fall, Mr. Cording is offering a poetry workshop

on "Ten Famous British Poems from the 16th to the 20th Century." Each week will feature a specific poem. Robert will explore how each poem was made and discuss, among other things, what makes a poem endure over time.

On Oct. 24, we will begin the program with a Reception & Reading to introduce Robert in his role to the community, and hear him read a selection of his poems.

All program events will be held at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, 543 -169, Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Dates include: Oct. 24 (Reception & Reading), Oct. 31, Nov. 7, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, and Dec. 12. For questions about the event and to reserve your spot, email Towpoetlaureate@gmail.com. Space for the workshop is limited to 12 participants - don't wait to sign up! Free to all Woodstock residents.

CARPENTRY SERVICES CT, LLC
Remodeling Kitchens, Baths and More!
CALL Gene Pepper at 860-230-6105
carpentryservicesct.com
 CT #0606460 • #MA-HIC#196807 • RI #763
Veteran owned and operated since '89

THE SIDING STORE INC.
 Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms
SUMMER SPECIALS AFFORDABLE!
NOW IN EFFECT
\$\$\$
Financing available to qualified customers!
thesidingstoreinc.com
860.423.7771 860.963.9035
860.886.1718 860.564.7088
References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

Daughters of Isabella
Annual Christmas Yuletide Festival
Saturday 9 of November 2023
8am to 2pm.
 St Mary Church Hall
 218 Providence Street, Putnam, CT
Start your Christmas shopping early!
Come and support our local craftsmen, great gift ideas, gift cards from local business sponsors, baskets galore!

Paws shelter to hold raffle basket 'purr-looza'

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a raffle basket purr-looza on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Knights of Columbus, 68 Providence St., Putnam, from noon to 5 p.m. More than 50 fantastic baskets to choose from. \$20 for 25 tickets or \$5 for six tickets.

Preview some of the baskets on Oct. 25 from 6-7 p.m. during our steak dinner fundraiser.

Skip the line and purchase tickets ahead, call/text 860-759-9984 or stop by the shelter at 74 School St., Putnam. All winners must pick up their prize between

5 and 6 p.m. on Oct. 26.

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

Spaghetti dinner to benefit Cub Scout Pack 21 activity fund

PUTNAM — Cub Scout Pack 21, of Putnam, will host its fall spaghetti and meatball dinner, including salad and garlic bread, this Saturday, Oct. 19, from 4 until 6 p. m., at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St., Putnam. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 12 and under eat for free. Take-out or eat-in. There will also be a

bake sale and raffles. Tickets are available at the VFW Post and at Joseph's Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam, or by calling (860) 928-5873. Please leave a message when you call. Proceeds will benefit the Cub Scout Pack 21 2024 Summer Camp Fund.

Woodstock Legion post hosting breakfast and open house this weekend

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites the public to our free open house and breakfast on Oct. 19 from 8-10 a.m. Come to our post located at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, to see what we do for our veterans

and the community and see our newly renovated post home.

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

TOWN OF POMFRET
PART-TIME FINANCE PROFESSIONAL/TREASURER
 The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Finance Professional/Treasurer responsible for the management of Town funds. Responsibilities include receipt and deposit of town funds, reconciliation of accounts, investment of town monies, preparation of audit requirements and work with auditors during annual audits, perform any and all duties as may be required with this position and as required under CT General Statutes. Work in cooperation with municipal officials and provides financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently. Flexible work hours. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field or five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, municipal work is a plus. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 or email Selectmansclerk@pomfretct.gov Application and full job description is available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. Position is open until filled. EEO/AA

Killingly High School celebrates veterans

KILLINGLY — The Killingly High School Music Department invites the community to a free reception and concert celebrating our local veterans Tuesday, Oct. 29. The reception will be held at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria, with the concert following at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Light refreshments and coffee will be served.

Please RSVP by Oct. 25 by calling (860) 774-4656.

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Your goals are as unique as you.
 Whether it's investing some extra income, preparing a future for your family with your retirement secured, or saving for a home or education costs, we're here to coach you through it.

Let's start building the future today.

Dennis Antonopoulos
 Financial Advisor
 5 Albert St
 Auburn, MA 01501
 508-832-5385

MKD-8652E-A AECSPAD 2309726

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.

AERIAL TREE SERVICE
Complete Site Work
 Including:
 Excavating • Bulldozing • Trucking • Demolition
 • Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting
 • Yard Expansions & Tree Removal • Lot Clearing
 • Cellar Holes • Septic Systems
 • Lawn Installation • Retaining Walls
 • Fields Made
 • 40,000 lb excavator with jack hammer for rent • Seasoned Firewood
860-382-5071
Field Stone and Firewood for sale

Dreaming to operate Heavy Equipment?
Now accepting applications for Well Driller Apprentice.
 Future to become licensed
 Water Well Driller
 Fulltime position
 with possible overtime.
Please call Roland: 860-234-4032
Ed: 860-617-4695

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us @

brendan@villagernewspapers.com

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

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

Mercury is found in products such as:

Thermostats

Thermometers

Mercury Switches

Fluorescent Lamps

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

SPONSORED BY

Villager Newspapers
 P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
 TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818
 FAX: (860) 928-5946
 WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

An especially hard blow

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Working for us!

To the Editor:

I want everyone in the Quiet Corner to know that in the upcoming local elections, we have great options this year. We don't have to settle for elected officials who only care about talking points – the politicians who don't really help us in our daily lives, who can't or won't reach across the aisle, and who do nothing for the towns who elected them. Instead, I support an energetic and industrious team who will improve the lives of all the residents they represent — Mae Flexer, Renee Lapalme Waldron, and Samantha Derenthal. You've probably heard a lot of lies about Mae Flexer's record, but have you heard about any of the things she has done for us? She was instrumental in ensuring that Day Kimball Hospital received \$12 million from the state of Connecticut. She also wrangled state funding for Pomfret Public Library. She has worked to strengthen women's reproductive health and ensure that healthcare professionals can provide the very best care for their patients. She helped improve voting rights protections. Mae helped create the Debt-Free Community College Program, which has helped high school seniors take advantage of QVCC without having to take out loans. And Mae has earned seniority on key senate committees – this gives the Quiet Corner legislative influence we don't want to lose! Renee Lapalme Waldron, running in the 51st District, has spent 30 years in public service for Thompson. She has given thousands of

hours over several decades as a volunteer on the Thompson Recreation and Economic Development Commissions, and for Thompson Together, Inc., Thompson Community Day, and April Roadside Clean-up. Renee is endorsed by the Independent Party and the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, the Building Trades union and several others. She has proved her energy and commitment by making herself available to voters at scores of local events. Samantha Derenthal, running in the 44th district, is a Human Resources professional with a proven record of civility and collaboration. Although she has not held public office before, Sam has also been endorsed by the Independent Party, SEIU, and the AFT. Sam has pledged to prioritize making basic expenses more affordable, enhancing public safety, supporting small businesses, improving educational opportunities, and increasing access to low-cost, high-quality healthcare. Her opponent, on the other hand, just likes to vote "No" on everything from Day Kimball funding to guaranteed insurance coverage of preventative care for women and children. Mae, Renee and Sam want to make the lives of all Quiet Corner residents more affordable, less stressful and rich in opportunities. Ideologues won't do that. I am confident these candidates will accomplish great things for our area. They have earned our trust and support, and most of all, our votes.

ROBIN LOFQUIST
KILLINGLY

I'm not sadistic, so I'm not voting for Chris Stewart

To the Editor:

The recent WINY state representative debate was a sobering reminder that it is long past time for the Republicans in this area to take a good hard look at their talent pool and who they can get to run for office at various levels.

I listened to the state representative debate between Chris Stewart and Renee Lapalme-Waldron with a healthy dose of skepticism for both candidates, but as the debate dragged on I noticed Coach Chris veering more and more into answers that resemble a common trick I see from people who run their mouths and try to "fake it 'til they make it" just to stay in a conversation. When you know how to spot this, you can spot when someone is in over their head and will say literally anything to avoid having to admit it.

Renee's answers had more details. Chris' answers were more talking around in circles or repeating talking points I can hear from any Republican pundit out there. Where's the original thought? Where's the plan? Where's anything significant? Then there was the wishful thinking along the lines of "oh wouldn't it be nice if."

That's not the way this works. A WINY debate is Little League compared to the back-and-forth that Chris will encounter in the state capitol.

These problems in the debate just showcase how Chris isn't ready for Hartford, and why should he be? He only recently got involved with the Board of Education in Putnam. Where's the town involvement? It would have been far better if he had picked up some experience as a Selectman or something first. This leap he's trying to make simply skips too many rungs on the ladder.

This entire situation happened when Rick Hayes decided to not seek re-election and wanted to spend more time with his family. I say go all-in and hang it up with the Putnam Board of Selectmen too. Have Chris pick up experience there before making the leap to the next level.

I believe in sending a representative to Hartford. I don't believe in throwing some inexperienced rookie to the wolves.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Harris is no lightweight

To the Editor:

Yea verily, "the lord thy god" hath said, "Let us have a National Day of Violence," to eliminate crime. And he hath also said about hurricane Helene, "This is one of the wettest hurricanes we've ever seen from the standpoint of water." And not to be outdone, during the 1/6 riot when told that VP Pence was in danger, he said "So what?" I've couched these in biblical terms to emphasize just a few of the thousands of stupid things GOP'ers have taken to heart as gospel to justify their support of the unsupportable. To follow Trump is to hold to a new religion dedicated to destroying our Constitution and way of life.

Another idiotic event was Trump recently meeting with Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Trump Tower. Just how stupid, insensitive and insulting was it for Trump to brag about his "very good" relationship with the warmonger Vladimir Putin while standing next to Zelenskyy? And let's not forget the International Criminal Court

issued an arrest warrant last year for Putin for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population in the Ukraine. It's clear that Putin is a war criminal and therefore it is abhorrent for Trump to support him. It just proves how incompetently Trump will handle international relations and put our nation at risk. Of course,

Many people believe that Harris is a "lightweight." I never see anyone justifying this with facts. The actual facts conclusively prove that Harris is not a "lightweight." Consider that she has been a District Attorney, Attorney General, US Senator and Vice President. These are not accomplishments that were merely given to her for political reasons. She earned them all through competency and experience. And she did all of these in spite of her demographics – name, being a woman of color. She has risen in spite of so many Americans being bigoted. Vote Blue.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Will we become Trump's sandbox?

To the Editor:

Every day, Trump makes ever more draconian promises of actions he'll take "day one" of his next presidency. The country does not seem particularly alarmed. Why not? Use the Army to round up 30,000 immigrants from all over the country? Be a dictator? End abortion? "You will never have to vote again?" Use the Department of Justice as part of the White House to go after opponents and more, all on day one!

I think we just don't believe him or that this is even possible in America. Constitution and all that. Well, I for one, absolutely do believe him. Yes, he lies constantly but not about his

intentions. From Donald J. Trump this is not just "campaign talk." He will at least try to do all these things and this time there will be no seasoned civil servants and former generals as chiefs of staff and cabinet officers acting as "guard rails."

Add a Republican House and Senate and compliant Supreme Court and Baby Huey can do exactly what he wants. It will not be our country anymore, but his sand box. It's a very sobering thought.

Tim McNally
Pomfret Center

Additional Letters to the editor,
See Pages A8-A10

Celebrating the spooky season

As the air turns crisp and the leaves crunch beneath your boots, there's something about this time of year that feels both cozy and a little eerie. Halloween is upon us, and with it comes the unmistakable pull of ghost stories, pumpkin carving, and a sense that maybe—just maybe—we aren't as alone as we think.

Halloween has roots that go way back, all the way to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Imagine bonfires lighting up the dark, chilly night, with people in animal skins and masks, hoping to keep the spirits from noticing them. It was believed that the veil between the living and the dead was thin on Oct. 31, and the spirits were out and about. Fast-forward a few centuries, throw in some Irish immigrants bringing their traditions to America, and here we are—still dressing up, still feeling that touch of magic (and maybe fear) in the air.

But there's something special about Halloween here in New England. Maybe it's the old houses, some of which seem to creak with secrets of their own. Maybe it's the fog that rolls in just right, making everything feel like the opening scene of a ghost story. New England has been the setting for some of the most chilling tales—stories that seem to hang in the cool, still air this time of year.

Take the eerie tale of the "Lady in White" of Union Cemetery in Connecticut. Picture it: a moonlit night, and a woman in a flowing white dress wandering the cemetery's edge. She's been spotted by countless people over the years, always disappearing into the mist just as quickly as she appears. Then there's "Emily's Bridge" in Vermont, where the ghost of a heartbroken young woman is said to linger, her presence felt by those brave enough to walk the bridge at night. And in New Hampshire, we have the haunting of the Mount Washington Hotel, where guests still report seeing the ghost of Carolyn Stickney, the original owner's wife. She's often spotted in Room 314, brushing her hair, or simply strolling the halls as if still watching over the grand hotel she loved.

But Halloween isn't just about the ghosts; it's about that cozy feeling that comes with the bright foliage and chilly air. There's something magical about this time of year. The world feels like it's slowing down, wrapping itself in the warm colors of fall—heavy sweaters, mugs of hot cider, the crackle of a fire. And yet, even as we snuggle in, we can't quite shake the feeling that we're sharing this season with something... otherworldly.

As you settle into the comforts of fall, don't forget to indulge in a few good ghost stories. Whether it's huddling around a bonfire or sitting by the fire with friends, these tales are as much a part of the season as the turning leaves. Maybe it's because they remind us that even in the coziest of moments, there's always a little bit of mystery in the air.

Enjoy your cider, carve your Jack O'Lanterns, and pull your sweater a little tighter; remember that you're part of something much bigger and older. And if you happen to catch a shadow out of the corner of your eye or feel a chilly breeze sneak in through the window, well, maybe that's just New England reminding you it's not just the living who love this time of year.

Tie presents us with many losses, but for me, the recent death of my brother is an especially hard blow. He was thirteen years and one day older than I, so often we shared birthday celebrations and bought each other thoughtful gifts. Once, I hired a recording studio in the southern city where he lived for him to record the guitar music he liked to write. He tried hard to outdo me on that one. This year, I planned to throw a party in his honor at the retirement community where he lived. It was not to be. Instead, my niece and I arranged his funeral and burial.



NANCY WEISS

Our parents have been gone for decades. Now I am the last member of my family of origin, and it is quite lonesome. As the youngest, this is how it

is supposed to be, but the hole his passing has created feels like a crater. He was the person to whom I sent pictures of me cuddling with my grandchildren, knowing that he would respond immediately with compliments about how lovely we all looked. Perhaps what I miss is the confidence that he was always there to affirm what I was doing, even when he thought my fascination with swimming with dolphins, living on an 18th century farm and recently hiking in Switzerland was a bit too much. He was more cautious and liked routine and order, but never cast judgments on my choices.

The last night he was lucid, I stayed for a long time in his room in the Critical Care Unit. We talked more or less as he drifted in and out. He wanted it all to end, but it went on and on. That seems to be how the end of life goes. It feels very cruel.

His bright blue eyes were tiny slits by then, but so similar to our mother's.

His thumb was a bit misshapen from an accident in childhood where our brother crushed it in a corn grinder. His high forehead was reminiscent of our father. The familiarity one has with a sibling is deep and physical. We know how they smell, the unique scent that belongs only to them. We know their little quirks and how they like their eggs. Siblings speak in a shorthand that only they share and agree and disagree over the same things for their entire lives. It hurts when that familiarity goes. It can't be replaced.

My brother moved away in the 1970's. Before cell-phones, we spoke almost every Sunday. He talked about his golf game, excellent by the way, and I told him about my job, my family and the state of the world. He was quick to embrace technology and had a computer and a cellphone early on. A few years ago he sent me an Apple watch. In recent years, we emailed and texted, sending photos back and forth. At the end, I sat by his bed reading poems aloud to fill the emptiness. After an hour or so, I felt the lightest touch on my arm. I knew what he was trying to say—enough with the poems!

Gratitude is a tough feeling to summon, but I feel it slowly creeping in. By this point in life, losing people is becoming quite common. The chance to grow old is a privilege that includes feeling pain. The relationship my brother and I shared was a gift and we knew it. He loved being the big brother, and I the younger sister. I wrote his obituary and delivered his eulogy. He would have approved.

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.

Daniel Martial Arts Academy brings numerous medals home from national tournament



DANIELSON — On Oct. 6, members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy attended the Connecticut Yankee National Tournament hosted by the Cheezic Tang Soo Do federation. DMAA took home numerous medals in each division.

7-8 Year Olds:
Girls:
Tori Dellagiovanna:
1st Forms
2nd Sparring
2nd Breaking
1st Weapons
Liliana Huling:
4th Forms
3rd Sparring
4th Weapons
Serenity Robbins:
2nd Forms
1st Sparring
3rd Breaking

3rd Weapons
Autumn St. Jean:
3rd Forms
2nd Weapons

9-10 Year Olds:
Girls:
Lillian Antunes:
1st Sparring
3rd Weapons
Aurora Huling:
3rd Sparring
3rd Weapons

Boys
Isaac Sawyer:
3rd Forms
3rd Sparring
2nd Weapons

11-12 Year Olds:
Girls:
Lorelai Tyler:
1st Forms

1st Sparring
2nd Breaking
1st Weapons

Boys:
Colby Densmore:
4th Forms
4th Weapons
Orion Huling:
1st Forms
1st Sparring
1st Breaking
1st Weapons

13-17 Year Olds:
Girls:
Claire Antunes:
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Breaking
1st Weapons

Under Blackbelt 18+ Men:
Kile Gagnon:
4th Forms
1st Breaking

Under Blackbelt Seniors (35+) Women

Melinda Densmore:
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
3rd Breaking
2nd Weapons
Dawn Dionne:
1st Forms
1st Sparring
1st Breaking

Men:
Scott Gardiner:
2nd Sparring
1st Breaking
4th Weapons

Junior Blackbelt 11-12 Year Olds:

Girls:
Dakota St. Jean
1st Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Breaking
2nd Weapons

Boys:

Luke St. Jean
1st Forms
1st Breaking
1st Weapons

Junior Blackbelt 13-14 Year Olds:
Girls:
Jaycee Adams
2nd Forms

Boys:
Eli Petrarca
3rd Forms
3rd Sparring
3rd Weapons

Hunter St. Jean
1st Forms
4th Breaking
4th Weapons

Junior Blackbelt 15-17 Year Olds:
Girls:
Caryssa Adams
4th Forms

1st Sparring
3rd Weapons
Blackbelts (18+)

Women:
Elizabeth Walsh
1st Forms
1st Weapons

Men:
Daniel Walsh
1st Forms
1st Weapons

Blackbelt Seniors (35+)
Women:
Melanie Branco
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
2nd Breaking

Men:
Brian Densmore
5th Sparring
4th Weapons
Gary Fredericks
2nd Sparring
2nd Weapons

Get the most out of your pumpkin

It's pumpkin season and time to select and decorate pumpkins for your fall display. Keep pumpkins and Jack-o'-lanterns looking their best longer with proper selection and care.

Harvest or purchase pumpkins free of holes, cuts, and soft spots for decorating. Damaged fruit tends to rot faster, ruining your fall display. And always carry the fruit cradled in your arms, not by the stem. Once the stem breaks away from the fruit, the pumpkin is more susceptible to rot and its beauty fades.

Store carving pumpkins in a cool location until you are ready to start cutting. Extend the beauty of carved pumpkins by washing them with warm water and letting them dry before making the first cut. Try leaving the top intact and scooping the insides out through a hole in the back. This limits water



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

entering the carved cavity and helps extend the life of your Jack-o'-lantern.

Coat the cuts with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil to seal in the moisture and prolong your display. Take it one step further and use a commercial preservative or peppermint oil to keep your Jack-o'-lantern looking its best for as long as possible.

Don't give up when your Jack-o'-lantern begins shriveling. Instead, give it a cold bath to freshen up its appearance.

Or put away the knives and break out the paint, beads, decorations, cray-

ons, and your imagination to further extend your pumpkin's beauty. Turn your pumpkin into a creature, pet, or fun object. You'll find lots of creative inspiration in magazines and online.

Don't worry if you have limited artistic ability. Create a multi-colored crayon-dripped pumpkin. Wipe the pumpkin's surface clean and allow it to dry before you start decorating. Remove the labels from the crayons and break them in half if needed.

Glue the crayons to the top of the pumpkin to prevent them from rolling off while you work. Place one end of the crayon against the stem and the other end pointed away from the center of the pumpkin.

Cover your work surface and use your hair dryer to melt the cray-

ons so they drip down the sides of the pumpkin, creating a colorful waxy covering. A high heat setting will speed up the process but may make a bigger mess by splashing the melted wax all over the table.

To further dress up your landscape consider converting a few pumpkins into fall planters. Remove the top. Cut a hole large enough to accommodate the pot you'll be inserting. Remove the seeds and flesh, cut a few drainage holes in the bottom, and then set a pot of pansies, asters, mums, or ornamental peppers inside.

Or plant the flowers directly in the pumpkin planter filled with potting soil. When your pumpkins start to rot, move them, plants and all, to the compost pile. They will break down into a wonderful soil amendment for next year's gar-



Melinda Myers

Extend the life of pumpkins by creating crayon-dripped pumpkins rather than carving.

den.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant

video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Missing 411

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs
25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA
9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE

- 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
- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tallgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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

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

Well, if you read my column last week, you'll know that for this Halloween season, I decided to venture into the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious—a bit of a departure from my usual focus on the positive. But I have to admit, I've always been intrigued by mysteries. And what better time than spooky season to dive into the things that freak me out?

Many of you will start looking for a logical explanation as soon as I bring up this topic. Our brains want to rationalize the strange and unusual. But sometimes, things defy explanation, and that's what drew me back to 2015 when I first heard David Paulides on "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noory.

Paulides, a former police officer turned researcher after his retirement. His focus? Missing person cases, often in the middle of nowhere and in our National Parks. As an avid hiker, I've been to many remote areas and forests, and I've only ever experienced their beauty. But according to Paulides, something else lurks in these wildernesses—a series of cases that are as baffling as they are unsettling.

Now, I know what you're thinking—people get lost, wander off

the trail, or are attacked by wildlife. And while these situations happen, a subset of missing person cases don't fit those typical explanations.

In his "Missing 411" series, Paulides doesn't speculate or offer wild theories. He presents the facts—just like a detective—and leaves the conclusions up to the reader. His work is compelling because he doesn't rush to label any disappearance as a "Missing 411" case. A specific set of criteria must be met before a case qualifies.

These are the disappearances where people seem to vanish without a trace—no signs of a struggle, no evidence of an attack, no clues. Search and rescue teams comb the area, and dogs are brought in—but in some of these cases, the dogs refuse to track the scent.

One case that stands out for its oddness is the story of Keith Parkins, a two-year-old boy who disappeared on April 10th, 1952, near his grandfather's cattle ranch in Ritter, Ore. Keith was playing outside with his older brothers near a barn when he suddenly vanished. A frantic search began when his mother realized Keith hadn't returned for

lunch with his brothers. The conditions were cold, with snow patches still on the ground.

Initially, locals and family members searched quickly spreading out in a line, covering as much ground as possible. As the day wore on, the search grew larger, and by nightfall, more than 200 people were involved, combing the area in hopes of finding the boy. Despite the cold and rough terrain, they were confident they'd see him nearby. But the search dragged on through the night, with no sign of Keith.

Then, at around 7 a.m. the next morning, searchers found footprints three miles away, walking through a herd of cattle—one set of footprints. Hours later, a searcher found Keith 12 miles away in Skull Canyon, lying face down in the snow, his hat and coat beside him. Remarkably, he was alive but suffering from exposure, unable to move because his body was stiff from the cold. His face was covered in scratches, and his clothing was torn. Keith made a full recovery, but his case left many unanswered questions. How did a two-year-old travel 12 miles in freezing temperatures overnight without shoes, food, or

water? Yet, against all odds, he survived. I have a hard time believing he could do this without help from someone or something.

This case has a happy ending—Keith was found alive—but he was two years old, and two-year-olds don't walk 12 miles, especially barefoot in the snow.

Parkins' case isn't an isolated incident. There are hundreds of cases that are even stranger and far more terrifying.

Mysteriously, these cases often occur in clusters—specific locations where disappearances appear more frequently. The patterns suggest that something strange is at play in these regions, though no one has been able to pinpoint a solid explanation.

The forests, mountains, and wilderness may hold more mysteries than we care to admit. So, as you carve pumpkins, watch scary movies, and enjoy Halloween, understand that real-life mysteries can be far more frightening than any old ghost story.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy-Nominated *A Separate Peace*, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc

Auction news

It's been nearly a month since my last auction news update. Since then, a range of collectibles have hit the auction block, some items dating as far back as 1776 and some as recent as last month. I'll start by discussing an 18th century coin that just sold.

The coin dating back to the beginning of our nation just sold at a

British auction house. The 1776 coin was found in a toffee tin and sold earlier this month. It was a Continental Currency dollar which was one of the earliest U.S. coins. The coin features a sun and sundial and was designed by Benjamin Franklin. It was found in the toffee tin along with "jewelry, objet d'art and curiosities," according to Fox News. Around

6,000 of the pewter coins were minted and only around 100 are believed to exist now. It sold to a U.S. collector for \$25,000 (approximately \$32,000 U.S.).

Moving to an item from much more recent times, one of two Macintosh #M0001 prototype computers from 1984 is heading to the auction block this month, according to NewAtlas.com. The computer used a proprietary 5.25 "Twiggy" drive instead of the 3.5 drive that had previously been used. It's believed that Apple co-founder Steve Jobs ordered the pre-production computers to be destroyed because the Twiggy drives were error prone. A group of software developers had saved this PC from the crushers. This machine was exhibited at the Mac@30 Anniversary in 2014 where it was booted up by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. When an M0001 prototype last sold in 2019, it brought \$150,075, setting the record for a Macintosh computer. This sale is expected to surpass that previous auction record. Other Apple computers have brought even higher auction prices, though. A Lisa 1 sold for \$882,000 and an Apple-1 brought \$945,000.

A baseball from a game played last month is already making auction news. On September 19th, LA Dodger Shohei Ohtani hit his 50th home run of the season. He had already stolen 50 bases, making him the first Major League Baseball player to reach the 50/50 milestone. The ball was quickly put up for auction.



ANTIQUE, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

The ownership of the home run ball is in dispute though. When the ball left the park in Miami, Florida, fans scrambled for it in the stands. As the ball rolled between some flipped over lawn seats, video footage shows Chris Belanski on his knees holding the ball while 18-year-old Max Matus has his left hand on the ball. Belanski eventually stood on his feet and raised the ball to the crowd. Matus filed a lawsuit claiming that he had the ball first and that Belanski took it from him. The court has ruled that for now, "the ball cannot be sold, concealed or transferred until there's a ruling in

the case," according to ESPN.

Previously, the ball from Barry Bonds' 73rd home run of the season was the subject of a lawsuit and the \$450,000 it sold for was split between two owners. It will be determined whether the auction proceeds will be split again this time, but there is much more at stake than with the Bonds ball. As of Oct. 13, bidding had reached \$1.7 million. Some experts believe bidders will hit it out of the park and the ball will fly up to \$3 million or more.

We currently have two auctions running online. The auction with an eclectic mix of historical memorabilia, gambling memorabilia, glassware, and other items ends Oct. 22 and the art, jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, watches



and coins auction ends on Oct. 23. We will next be auctioning antiques in a Beacon Hill Boston estate and a large Civil War collection from a local estate. We are accepting consignments of all types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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



Courtesy

'COSTUMED' HELP

Oct. 11 was the Annual Halloween Costume Distribution at TEEG and the Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club was on hand to help. Sofia Thurber, Pavanny Phav, Paige Perry, Gabriell Cerasiello and Ashton Barrows worked hard to find just the right costume for the families that participated in the costume give-away. Elizabeth Perry, TEEG Volunteer Coordinator, was pleased with the turnout of local families to the event and was grateful with the donations the Interact Club's costume drive brought in. From left: Pavanny Phav and Paige Perry. The Interact Club meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month September - May. The next Interact Club meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22 in the Putnam Library. For more information, contact Roberta Rocchetti 860-933-8603 or roberta-rocchetti4@gmail.com.

PHANTOMS FIRELIGHT
OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE
Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays in October
An enchanting Halloween experience that will haunt your memories.
Get your tickets today!
WWW.OSV.ORG
Sponsored by Country Bank

imagine MORE
COUNTRY LIVING AT WESTVIEW COMMONS
CATERED INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING
To schedule an appointment and tour please call 860-428-2230.
117 Ware Road, Dayville, Connecticut 06241 • 860-428-2230 • westviewcommons.com
Affiliated with the Nationally Ranked & Five-Star Rated Westview Health Care Center

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you want an America that looks ahead, vote Harris

To the Editor:

Now that the presidential election is just a few weeks away, I thought a checklist evaluating the state of our nation might be helpful for those still on the fence.

Gas prices under \$3. Check. While there has been a momentary uptick due to the conflict in the Middle East, some gas stations in Connecticut and many just across the border have fallen below this noteworthy metric. What's more, the price should continue to fall as warmer winter weather in the Northeast leads to less oil consumption and in turn an excess of petroleum.

Inflation is falling. Check. The Fed has begun lowering its key interest rate. The most recent gauge was at 2.4 percent, just a few ticks above the Fed's 2 percent goal.

Job creation is robust. Check. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 254,000 in September with an unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, indicating a robust economy and defying fears of a recession.

Wage growth increasing. Check. While we all have seen the rapid price increases at the grocery stores, take home pay has outpaced inflation the last two years meaning that the average worker has more to spend.

Illegal border crossings are falling. Check. Illegal border crossings have dropped to its lowest levels since Mr. Biden took office and are now lower than when Mr. Trump left the White House.

Fentanyl deaths down. Check. The number of Fentanyl overdose deaths. CDC statistics indicate a 10.6 percent decline with some states down 20-30 percent. In addition Fentanyl seizures are at a record high ensuring there is less drug on the streets. Of interest is that the vast majority of those caught at ports of entry are US Citizens (80.2 percent).

Crime is down. Check. FBI statistics for the first six months of 2024 show that violent crime fell 10 percent, murder 23 percent, rapes 18 percent, aggravated assaults percent, robberies 14 percent and property crime 14 percent. And while crimes by noncitizens has ticked up marginally, the 2024 numbers do not support any assertion of an overwhelming criminal wave (991 assault and batteries, 626 burglary/robberies, 27 homicides).

Most Americans have health insurance. Check. While 2024 may see a slight uptick, the number of Americans without health insurance remains at record lows.

The Stock Market is at record highs. Check. All three of the major indices continue to hit new record levels insinuating the future economic outlook remains vibrant.

America remains committed to its role as a world leader. Check. We have supported the goal of neutralizing Russian aggression by continuing along with our European NATO allies to support the Ukrainian effort to quash Mr. Putin's dreams of a Soviet Union rebirth. We have steadfastly supported Israel with military aid and spearheaded a regional effort to repel not one but two attempted Iranian missile barrages. At the same time, we have preached restraint recognizing that the vast majority of Gazans are innocent Hamas

pawns and that it is in the interest of all our allies in the region to avoid an all-out war. And we continue to spearhead our Asian partners in limiting Chinese expansion.

America is producing oil and natural gas at record levels. Check. We are by far the leading producer in both fossil fuels. There is no need to ramp up production. We are already there.

At the same time America is one of the world leaders tackling climate change. Check. The 2022 Inflation Reduction act included the largest climate spending bill ever.

There are also my opinions which help in my choice. The Democratic candidate, Ms. Harris, is committed to reinstating a woman's right of reproductive choice. She is committed to a reduction in gun violence without infringing on responsible gun owner's rights. She believes in changing the tax code so that the wealthy pay a larger share to fund our nation, a tenet suggested by Benjamin Franklin, while shifting more help to those in need.

Age is also an issue. Ms. Harris has released her medical records. She is sharp and in her prime. Mr. Trump on the other hand has avoided making his medical records public for three election cycles. He already is showing signs of cognitive strain and if elected would be the oldest president on record. We saw how four years in office affected Mr. Biden. Let's not make the same mistake twice.

Most importantly, Ms. Harris does not enshroud herself in mistruths, childish name calling, and urban legends nor does she wink at those who believe in an America that is a White and Christian only nation. Let's once and for all put the cock and bull story of election interference to rest. If it really existed how did Mr. Trump win in 2016. Remember he set up a commission to find the three million illegal Hillary votes which disbanded due to lack of any evidence. In addition, if such a Deep State did exist, why has it not changed just a handful of Senate and Congressional elections to tilt both houses Democratic?

Then there are the pure crazy conspiracy theories. Government weather control to make a land grab and mine lithium in central Florida, Haitians eating pets, and Venezuelan gangs taking over towns. In the past if a schoolkid brought any of this up in class, they would be told to wear a pointy hat and be relegated to a classroom corner. Now they get their own podcast or a show on the Fox News Channel.

Finally, last week, the Jewish community celebrated Yom Kippur and one of the prayers is for the United States. Here is an excerpt. "...Uproot from our hearts hatred and malice, jealousy and strife. Plant love and companionship, peace and friendship, among the many peoples and faiths who dwell in our nation." I believe that Mr. Trump embodies the antithesis of this appeal.

I therefore would suggest that anyone who wants an America that looks ahead to meet our future challenges and grow, rather than look to our past for faulty and neolithic solutions, vote for Ms. Harris.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

More beer summits?

To the Editor:

Isn't it funny that you don't even have to mention his name to get Billy Taylor running for the keyboard, but that's happened before. And just like Harris, who flip-flops on her flip-flops, last week he again continued parroting what he's continually been parroting, and he talks about following a pattern. He said that I won't accept "reality," but of course reality is what he says it is, which reminds me of a line from the movie "The Shooter" where Ned Beatty, playing the part of a politician, said: "The truth is what I say it is!" And seeing that you're in dire need of some new material, allow me to hand you one by mentioning something that's right up your alley; while on an appearance on MSDNC, a Democrat rep claimed that Trump supporters and white supremacists, rather than criminal illegal immigrants, are responsible for the growing crime in cities like Springfield, Ohio. (No need to thank me.)

It was said that voting for Harris is a "no-brainer"; also that people are willing to pay whatever it costs in order to save our democracy. And with no offense meant, and yes it goes both ways, nobody is going to convince me that the brainwashing, the indoctrination or whatever else you'd like to call it isn't working, or perhaps that's your version of what reality is? However, another no-brainer is that while some don't mind paying those higher costs, other people are sick of it, and grocery prices rose again in September. However, I totally agree that it has to be addressed. If you don't mind spending your money to aid their cause, how about the democrats send some of these migrants - along with whatever excess baggage they bring with them - to the homes of everyone who has a Harris for President sign on their lawns so you can personally pay to feed them, keep them warm and let them sleep

in your beds? But if that was ever to happen, I'd bet that those signs would come off your lawns real fast. Did you know that some migrants admitted that they're sending our money to their relatives back home instead of spending it here, so how about we reduce their dole and use that money to feed hungry Americans instead? Our northern border has seen a record illegal crossing in 2024, which has surpassed the total from the last 17 years combined. And while we're still waiting for that problem to be addressed, so far, all we've gotten from the democrats is that they need more of our money.

So now Harris has made appearances on "The View," the Howard Stern Show and with Stephen Colbert, which all are nothing more than liberal butt-kissing, safe zones, and I'm surprised that the hosts didn't grovel down on their knees and wash Harris's feet when she arrived. One of the left's media mouthpiece idiots said that Harris would face tough questions while on the View, and does anybody believe that? Anyhow, I didn't watch a minute of any of it, but one thing I learned from the Colbert appearance was that Harris drank a beer there, which resulted in opinions about the motives behind her doing that, and even about the beer she drank. (Yes, more pettiness.) And while I'm on the subject, do you remember when President Obama and VP Joe Biden had a "beer summit" on the lawn of the White House in an effort to help solve a problem between two parties? I was at the opening of the Bear Hands Brewery in Putnam, and in attendance that day was both Rick Hayes and Mae Flexor. I took that opportunity to tell them that today, there is one thing you politicians can agree upon, and it's beer - and they both agreed. Maybe there should be more beer summits?

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Ask yourself what America deserves to have in our highest office

To the Editor:

I am writing out of puzzlement. What puzzles me is how so many Americans could plan to vote for a criminal conman and sexual predator.

Could we review Trump's history? Six bankruptcies involving casinos and hotels, which left a lot of small businesses unpaid. A charitable foundation which he used as a private piggy bank until he settled lawsuits for millions and agreed not to serve on the board of a nonprofit for 10 years. There was Trump University, which didn't really exist and he agreed to a \$25 million settlement to avoid trials. Then there were both criminal and civil findings of Trump Organization's tax fraud and fraudulent business practices. And most recently, a jury found him criminally guilty of 34 counts of felony fraud to cover up hush money payments to a porn star.

Which brings us to his history as a sexual abuser. He bragged on tape that because he was a celebrity he could grab women by their private parts. When in 2016, this tape became public he warned his campaign staff that several women may make more accusations. And

indeed, over 2 dozen did. Bravely, E. Jean Carroll sued, and won in a jury trial.

I love America and have faith in our judicial system. Trump had access to teams of lawyers who participated in the trials including in jury selection. I trust the juries which found against Trump.

I remain puzzled as to why anyone would vote for this criminal. He was a terrible president who made the USA a pariah internationally, who gave us the highest death rate from Covid in the industrialized world. Were you really better off when corpses were being piled in refrigerator trucks and you were wiping your private parts with coffee filters? He gave us a budget deficit of \$6.6 trillion. Was inflation lower? Yes, but since 2021 the USA has had the lowest inflation rate in the industrialized world. The economy has grown faster under Biden/Harris than Trump. The stock market has set new records. Unemployment has been low. Middle class wages are up.

Please ask yourself if you love America and believe we deserve honest and honorable people in high office before you vote.

GAIL DICKINSON
WOODSTOCK

Get out there and vote for Chris Reddy

To the Editor:

I'm fully behind the Chris Reddy campaign for Connecticut Senator representing the 29th District.

Mae Flexor has had a lock on that seat for far too long. Everyone that has had enough of it needs to get out and vote for Chris Reddy.

Chris has been working tirelessly to meet as many people in the 29th as he possibly can, discussing the issues, and stating his positions.

Chris will be available to all constituents, unlike Mae who only responds to her supporters.

Her dodging of constituent inquiries on tough issues, like our current outrageous electric bills, is legendary.

This race is an easy one, look at what "one party" rule and Mae Flexor have done to Connecticut, ignore the noise from Mae's campaign, and vote accordingly.

We have a chance to be represented by somebody that actually represents our values.

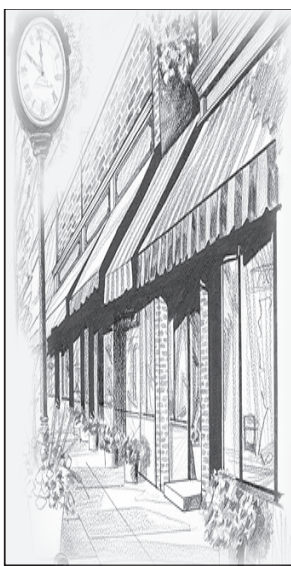
Please get out there and vote Reddy for the 29th!

NORM FERRON
DANIELSON

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@
villagernewspapers.
com



Community Connection

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

For Advertising Information
Call 860-928-1818 Ext. 326
email: mikaela@
villagernewspapers.com

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!

Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.CrookedCreekFarmMA.com

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

Find Us on Social Media

October is

BOGO

Bonanza Month!



**Buy One,
Get One**

**50%
off**

Windows & Doors¹



Call before October 31

NO NO NO
money payments interest
down for 1 year² if paid in full

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 12-month promo period expires.



Heating your home will be expensive this year, but we can help you save money!

Our Fibrex® window material provides optimal insulation, so your home stays cozy year-round. And with this improved energy efficiency, **our windows can help lower your monthly energy bills.**

We work with you to stay within your budget.

Don't have a window and door savings account? No problem! **We offer several ways to pay for your project.** Pay nothing for a whole year, or set up a super low monthly payment.

We handpick the most skilled craftsmen to install your windows.

We put our installers through our intense Certified Master Installer training program to ensure they meet our very high standards. Their expertise is one reason why **we have more 5-star reviews than other leading, full-service window replacement companies.***

Call to book your FREE Window & Door Diagnosis



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

959-456-0067

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 50% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. BOGO 50% off discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 10/31/24 with the purchase then occurring on or before 11/10/24. *Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2024 Andersen Corporation. ©2024 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. ²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.