

## In Loving Memory 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

James "Joe" Thompson  
June 16, 1961 – April 23, 2022

As time continues to move forward without you, I am constantly reminded of your love and am forever grateful for the wonderful memories we made as a family. I know you are watching over us from above and would be so proud of our children and the wonderful young adults they have become. My heart is with you on this anniversary and always.

Michelle



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# PUTNAM VILLAGER

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## Northeastern CT Chamber announces annual Awards Gala honorees

WOODSTOCK — The Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the recipients of its 2026 Annual Awards Gala, taking place on Thursday, May 28 at 5 p.m. at The Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock.

A longstanding tradition for the Chamber, the Annual Awards Gala brings together business and community leaders from across the region to celebrate individuals and organizations whose dedication, leadership, and service continue to strengthen Northeastern Connecticut.

This year's honorees represent leaders who show up, give back, and make a lasting impact - both seen and unseen.

The Business Leader of the Year Award will be presented to Michael Alberts, President and CEO of Jewett City Savings Bank (JCSB). Alberts is recognized for his exceptional leadership and commitment to both the bank and the Northeastern Connecticut community. Since stepping into his role, he has guided the organization with a focus on growth, community investment, and strong local relationships. With a career rooted in public service, he understands the importance of connection and continues to strengthen the bank's role as a trusted partner in the region.

The Civic Achievement Award will be presented to Jay Long, Director of Commercial Insurance at Hilb Group (Gerardi Insurance), for his outstanding commitment to community service. In addition to supporting the local business community, Long serves as Board President of Northeast Placement Services and has played a key role in fundraising efforts for Northeast Opportunities for Wellness - helping raise approximately \$40,000 annually to support youth wellness programming. His leadership also extends to Brooklyn Killingly Little League and Griffin Youth Hockey, where he has helped create positive environments for youth to grow, build confidence, and develop lifelong skills. Long consistently leads with a "service above self" mindset, often working behind the scenes to make a meaningful impact.

The Community Champion Award will be presented to Wayne Norman of WILI Radio, whose voice has been a constant in Northeastern Connecticut for decades. As a longtime morning show host, Norman has dedicated his career to promoting the region, celebrating its people, and keeping communities connected. Beyond the airwaves, he has played a key role in local traditions such as Willimantic's annual Cupid Award and the Boom Box Parade. Through his consistency and genuine love for the community, Wayne has helped shape the identity of Northeastern Connecticut - creating a lasting legacy of connection and pride.

The Emerging Leader of the Year Award will recognize Maria Thomas of bankHometown for her energy, leadership, and commitment to the community. As Vice President and Regional Branch Manager, Thomas leads with a people-centered approach while staying actively involved across the region. She serves as Treasurer for Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, is a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors, and previously served with the Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club. Known for always showing up, whether networking, volunteering, or encouraging others to get involved, Maria represents the next generation of leadership in Northeastern Connecticut.

The George Racine Sr. Humanitarian Award will honor Patricia (Patti) Buell of the Brooklyn Cares Community Center for her extraordinary compassion and vision. What began as a response to the needs she witnessed while serving as Superintendent of Brooklyn Public Schools has grown into a fully volunteer-run community resource. Since opening in 2023, the center has supported hundreds of families by providing essential food and clothing to individuals across Brooklyn and surrounding towns. As Founder and President, Buell remains deeply involved in all aspects of the organization, ensuring every individual is met with dignity, respect, and care.

The Gold Key Award will be presented to Lindsey and Jason Verraneault of NorthStar Home Loans. Through years of dedicated involvement with the Chamber - including Jason's leadership as Board President in 2025 - the Verraneaults have become known for their commitment to supporting both the organization and the broader community. They are a constant presence at ribbon cuttings, events, and local initiatives, consistently showing up to support businesses and champion local causes. Through their generosity and ability to connect others, they have created a lasting ripple effect across Northeastern Connecticut.

Finally, the Non-Profit of the Year Award will be awarded to The Arc Eastern Connecticut. Serving more than 900 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, The Arc provides a wide range of programs and services - including residential support, employment oppor-

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## Pomfret Public Library opens expansion



Courtesy

Part of the Pomfret Public Library expansion includes new spaces adding to the building's accessibility, resources, and meeting space.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

POMFRET — Closing in on a year since groundbreaking, the Pomfret Public Library has officially opened its new expansion doubling the size of the building and ensuring more

accessible use for the facility by both patrons and local community at large.

On April 10, the library officially welcomed donors to view the completed expansion for the first time. An open house for the general public followed the next day. The

new portion heavily adds to the buildings facilities which now include a dedicated meeting room space, a children's activity space, a conference room, lounge area, and ADA accessible restrooms. Best of all, the expansion allows the library to continue operating and

holding community programs while meetings are in session where before they would need to close and move shelves around to accommodate. The project cost over roughly \$2 million dollars with half

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## Adam Reynolds appointed to Killingly Town Council

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council once again has full membership after council members voted unanimously to appoint Adam Reynolds to fill the remaining term of a seat vacated by Democrat Jim Rivers earlier this year.

Reynolds is no stranger to local politics, having run for the Town Council in 2021 for District 3 on the Democratic ticket and previously served as a member

of the Permanent Building Commission for two years. This is his first stint as a member of the Council. Reynolds was sworn in immediately following the affirmative vote for his appointment on April 14.

The council's justification for appointing him was established a week earlier on April 7 where he had his official interview for the position and stated his case for joining the Council.

"I feel like this is a really good fit. I feel like I participate in loads of activi-

ties in this town. I'm really a boots on the ground guy," Reynolds said. "I am involved in this town on a regular basis. It's no secret my wife (Jennifer Reynolds) is the president of the Killingly Business Association, so we are always in volunteer or fundraising events constantly. I feel like this is one more way my family can give back is participating in the Town Council."

During his interview, Reynolds was asked about a myriad of issues impacting

the town including the Old Killingly Pond Dam debate, controversy surrounding proposed warehouse projects, the town's water pollution system, and his take on the town's budget situation. One item he was particularly outspoken about was the need for more safety and security in the downtown area where he feels people have become "uncomfortable" over the years.

Another major issue was affordability.

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## Pomfret to host 20th and final Town-Wide Tag Sale May 2

POMFRET — Visit Pomfret for the 20th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, May 2. The Pomfret Proprietors Association established the region's first and best town-wide sale, which draws visitors to the Quiet Corner for treasures galore, with numerous locations throughout town. Many sales benefit local organizations and charities, so your bargains are meaningful to the community.

Starting at 7 a.m. on May 2, purchase a printed map for \$2 at Pomfret Community School (20 Pomfret St.) or Christ

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# Day Kimball Health relocates Family Medicine practice to hospital campus



“Moving our Putnam family medicine practice onto the hospital campus allows us to continue providing the same high-quality primary care in a new, convenient location,” said Andrew Gerardi, vice president of operations for Day Kimball Medical Group. “Patients will see the same providers and staff, with the added benefit of being closer to other services available on the hospital campus.”

The new office, located near the hospital’s main entrance, Entrance A, will include all providers and staff from the Kennedy Drive location. Patients will continue to see the same care team they know and trust.


“Primary care is the foundation of health and well-being for our region,” said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health. “Expanding our presence on the hospital campus reflects our commitment to improving access to care while offering patients convenient options. This move not only makes it easier for patients to receive the services they need but also strengthens our connection to the community and allows us to support families through every stage of life. We are excited to continue serving the residents of northeastern Connecticut in this new location.”

DKH continues to provide primary care services across multiple locations in northeastern Connecticut, offering patients flexibility in where they receive their care based on their needs and preferences. The new location on campus places the practice in closer proximity to services such as diagnostic imaging, laboratory and blood draw services, should patients require them.

For more information about the Day Kimball Medical Group and its primary care services, visit [daykimball.org/primarycare](http://daykimball.org/primarycare).

### About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Health at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff, including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons, and specialists. Its website is [daykimball.org](http://daykimball.org).



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**PUTNAM** — Day Kimball Health (DKH) is relocating its Day Kimball Medical Group family medicine practice, currently located at 7 Kennedy Drive in Putnam, to a new location on the Day Kimball Hospital campus.

The practice will see its last patients at the Kennedy Drive office on Thursday, April 30, and reopen at 330 Pomfret Street on Monday, May 4. Patients of the relocating practice are being notified.

## THOMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

**THOMPSON** — Thompson Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

### Grade 5

**High Honors:** Margaret Axtell, Rose Black, Bradley Bond, Annabelle Chrzanowski, Reed Hoenig, Louise Kennedy, Charlotte McGlynn, Brody Nichols, Jessa Perron, Nathan Rybacki, Henry Tilton, Jude Travinski, Molley White, Clayton Young

**Honors:** Sonya Apley, Aiden Arnett, Bodhi Aubin, Ellouise Baldwin, Shawn Botelho, Owen DeFosse, Aria Fairbanks, Macie Freeman, Noah Horniak, Sierra Howard, Aubrey Maliff, Zachery Mayer, Maeve Murzycki, Delaney Pacheco, Keena Parent, Pranshu Patel, Colton Ross, Izabela Sarto Barros, Lena Seney, Brody Zabka

**Recognition:** Apraku Adinkrah, Ann Brosious, Connor Clarke, Shelby Deorsey, Jonathan Fagan, Noelina Frempong, David Greene

### Grade 6

**High Honors:** June Bardellini, Quinn Cooney, Amelia Hendrickson, Jeffrey Kuras, Emma Moriarty, Patrick Paquette, Sierra Vallee, Jessie Wuensch

**Honors:** Maica Abrajano, Kyleigh Akana, Sophia Benoit, Callan Bolte, Lance Burden, Christian Burns, Avan Cady, Mason Caya, Olivia Desjarlais, Brielynn Fijol, Sierra Henault, Lillian Kiley, Isabella Leveille, Reis Mailloux, Henry Rivers, Ruth Saurman, Alanah Tsouridis

**Recognition:** Austin Auger, Isaiah Blaise, Chloe Faucher, Ethan Meyers, Elsay Monahan, Bryce Proulx, Jacob Racine, Connor Raur-Sarr, Emmett Salvas, Ava Tremblay

### Grade 7

**High Honors:** Kasandra Beckett, Joshua Boss, Emily Cabral, Jezarya Denham, Ella DiCicco, Joshua Freitas, Chloe Gillon, Julianne Valby, Elizabeth Vescera, Bailey Young

**Honors:** Hailey Caverly, John Clarke, Lucas Dodd, Annabelle Estabrook, Tripp Hoenig, Jakub Krupa, Piper Kus, Jasmine McCutcheon, Mitchell Murzycki, Jaeda Rose, Grace Roy, Amelia Smith, Kinslie Stewart, Kaylee Valdes, Lilly Wolf

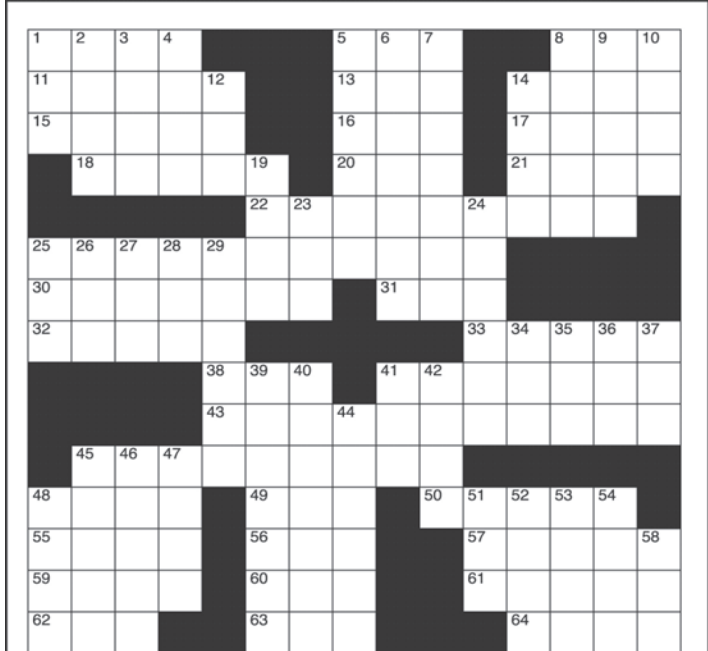
**Recognition:** Alexander Apley, Parker Beck, Cole Benoit, Caleb Desjarlais, McKenzi Hamilton, Ezerik Johnson, Savannah McKiernan, Jason Opuni-Mensah, Jacob Poirier, Tanner Saad

### Grade 8

**High Honors:** Kiley Audette, Brooke Caya, Madyson Grazulis, Amelia Hachigian, Maya Khaomongkhoun, Lucey Miller, Allison Rivers

**Honors:** Jordan Aponte, Jacen Beaudreault, April Boudreau, Gage Cady, Matthew Chrzanowski, Alexis Fiske, Gracie Greene, Lily Kimball, Samiah Lafleche, Elizabeth Lemay, Laura Logsdon, Jack Lyon, Nathan Lyon, Ellyana Mayo, Owen McBrien, Jayden O’Connor, Colin Peckham, Amelia Senkhamtar, Avery Szarkowicz, Summer Warburton, Logan Wedda

**Recognition:** Stephen Andrews, Aiden Girard, Jack Gustafson, Michael Kingsbury, Liam Maliff, Ashley Martin, Rylee Parkin, Dante Warren



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. Romanian monetary unit
- 8. Will Ferrell holiday film
- 11. “It Ain’t Half Hot Mum” actor
- 13. Error-related negativity
- 14. Volcanic crater
- 15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
- 16. True market value
- 17. Italian term for exchange rate
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Men’s fashion accessory
- 21. Children’s craft supply
- 22. Extra benefits
- 25. In an early way
- 30. A judge has one
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 32. Tractor unit
- 33. Defunct supercomputer developer
- 38. Promotional materials
- 41. A forgetful state
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Small, rich sponge cake
- 49. Clergy’s vestment
- 50. Expressed pleasure
- 55. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 56. Zero
- 57. Ancient Greek word for “earless”
- 59. Nigerian governmental area
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Places to hang things
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. One-time president of Republic of Korea

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Romanian river
- 5. Communication
- 6. Stoats
- 7. Showcases
- 8. Bird of prey
- 9. King of Thebes
- 10. Cleaving tool
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Three are particularly notable
- 19. Meet one’s needs
- 23. C. European river
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape a surface
- 34. Green vegetable
- 35. Pacific Standard Time
- 36. Capital of Brazilian city
- 37. Paddle
- 39. Cause to become insane
- 40. Drier and flakier
- 41. Mimic
- 42. ESPN personality Kimes
- 44. One who moves slowly
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Sanctuary
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave by coating
- 54. North Carolina university
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

### PUZZLE SOLUTION

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## TOURTELLOTTE ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

**NORTH GROSVENORDALE** — Tourtellotte Memorial High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

### 9th Grade

**High Honors:** Nana Baffour-Gyimah, Shyla Beckett, Payton Bolte, Ari-lynnne Brunelle, Deegan Bryniarski, Hazel Clavete, Logan Delicata, Jeylia Denham, Mateus Ferreira, Emma Fournier, Christopher Herlihy, Sophia Kus, Alexis Light, Paris Lowe, Andrew Marquette, Danika Minarik, Gia Reynolds-Rankin, Shawn Sinni, Cameron Snow, Adylin Stewart, Levi Tucker

**Honors:** Seth Breault, Braeden Carlson, John Lowe, Lilah Spearin, Jayden Watkins, Mason Wolf

**Recognition:** Trent Gardner, Bentley Plaza, Parker Smith, Isabella Vervloet

### 10th Grade

**High Honors:** Jeremi Helwig, Madison Perry, Gabriella Santos

**Honors:** Payton Butler, Theresa Coomey, Dominic Muscato, Ayden Perry, Naisha Ruiz Aquino, Jaydin Sevigne, Brody Vincent

**Recognition:** Xavier Bilodeau, Byrant Fleming, Henry Lotter, Brookelynn Pearson

### 11th Grade

**High Honors:** Amelia Brousseau, Maddison Carlson, Estela Freitas, Thomas Kenadek, Calleigh Levesque, Billie Lewis, Tanisha Patel, Mabel Perreault, Haley Russell

**Honors:** Alexis Andrews, Dylan Axtell, Gabriel Bourget, Jordan Burns-Studley, Nicko Casto, Kaleb Laporte, Keyone Masterson, Samantha Podgorni, Jordyn Poplawski, Kaydyn Racca, Chyanne Rock, Matthew Rybacki, Caue Sarto Barros

**Recognition:** Tyler Bushey, Ty Chausse, Nicholas Lavallee, Anthony Machado, Ella Martin

### 12th Grade

**High Honors:** Bailey Benton, Dylan Bryniarski, Julia Lewis, Briana Martin, Ember Merrill, Gaige Smith, Isabella Stewart, Ava Tucker, Kevin Vescera

**Honors:** Isabella Bonin, Logan Boss, Deanna Burress, Nicholas Cunningham, Alex Davis, Gia DiPasquale, Cole Hopkins, Caitlyn L’Heureux, Sahara Moore, Tyler Shead, Laci Sinni, Joshua Tackson, Fabiola Torres

**Recognition:** Vivianna Hill, Amaya Munoz, Alexis Phav, Nelia Reed, Jenna Valby



# Moms climb free this Mother's Day at The Adventure Park at Storrs



STORRS — Skip the brunch reservation this year. The Adventure Park at Storrs has something better planned for Mom: a morning (or afternoon) high above the ground, navigating ziplines and ropes courses with the people she loves most.

The Park is offering its annual Mother's Day BOGO deal on Sunday, May 10—purchase one 3-hour climbing ticket and Mom's ticket is on us. It's a simple way to turn Mother's Day into an adventure she'll rave about.

"Moms do so much for their families all year long," said Park Manager Jesse

Pasacreta. "We love being the place where they get to have a little fun, let loose, and make some memories together."

Ready to book? Here's how:

Online: Head to <https://myadventurepark.com/event/moms-climb-free-on-mothers-day-sap/> and choose the "Mother's Day BOGO" ticket option. Add two tickets to your cart — the discount applies automatically at checkout.

By Phone: Give us a call at 860-946-0606 and request the Mother's Day BOGO. We'll help you lock in a climb time that

works for your family.

The Park will be open 10 a.m.–6 p.m. on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. The BOGO offer is valid that day only and cannot be combined with other promotions or events. Tickets are non-refundable but may be exchanged for Adventure Park Account Credit in the amount paid.

About The Adventure Park at Storrs

The 9 trails at The Adventure Park consist of various challenges in the trees, including bridges, tightropes, ladders, and 28 ziplines. Participants wear harnesses with clips that connect to the trail's safety system, ensuring that they are always locked on to the course until they reach the end. The main trails are designed for ages seven to adult, and an Adventure Playground provides a low-to-the-ground adventure experience for little climbers ages three to six.

Non-climbing participants are admitted free of charge to share the experience on the ground and enjoy the property's nature trails, picnic tables and community firepit.

The Adventure Park at Storrs is open to the general public and is located min-

utes from the UConn Campus. The address is 2007 Storrs Road in Storrs CT. Walk ins are welcome on a space available basis, but guests are encouraged to book ahead on the Park's website or by calling 860-946-0606.

The Adventure Park at Storrs is designed, built and operated by Outdoor Venture Group.

## Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or [scottm@plymouth.edu](mailto:scottm@plymouth.edu).

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# Free community painting project at Silver Circle Gallery

PUTNAM — Following overwhelming response to recent community paint gatherings, Silver Circle Gallery and Block 134 Arts & Wellness Collective are excited to announce the next installment of Small Canvases: A Community Painting Project, taking place on Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. to noon, led by Artist-in-Residence Roland Comtois.

The Small Canvases series invites individuals and families of all ages to a shared creative experience rooted in connection, expression, and community. Artist-in-Residence Roland Comtois brings his signature approach to intuitive and expressive painting, guiding participants through a process that emphasizes presence, openness, and connection.

Previous sessions welcomed participants ranging from young children to older adults, who created their own small canvas works during the session. Finished pieces are hung in the gallery, part of an evolving, living installation. All materials are generously provided through the support of Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, whose sponsorship makes it possible to offer this event free to the public and accessible to all. No prior artistic experience is necessary. Space is limited and registration is required (email [block134community@gmail.com](mailto:block134community@gmail.com)).

"Families of all ages came together to paint side by side; the energy in the room was palpable," says Carly Sage, Founder & Curator of Silver Circle Gallery / Block 134, of the last session. "At times it was incredibly quiet—you could feel the creative process unfolding in a way that was both healing and deeply connecting for everyone involved. We are so grateful for the support of Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, which allows us to offer this experience."



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### Woodstock • Public • Schools

#### 2026 – 2027 Kindergarten Registration

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

Registration packets can be obtained by calling the main office at 860-928-0471 or by email at [officewes@woodstockschools.net](mailto:officewes@woodstockschools.net)

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

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

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# Honoring those who quietly shape our community

Every community has its landmarks. Some are buildings. Some are traditions. And some are people.

Each year, the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Gala offers a moment to recognize individuals and organizations whose steady work strengthens the towns that make up our little corner of the state. This year's honorees reflect something familiar to anyone who lives here: progress in Northeast Connecticut rarely comes from headlines. It comes from commitment.

The strength of the region has always depended on people willing to invest their time, talent, and resources locally. The Business Leader of the Year recognition for Jewett City Savings Bank President and CEO Michael Alberts highlights the continued importance of community-rooted financial institutions. In smaller towns, banks are not distant entities. They are partners in housing, small business growth, and nonprofit support. Leadership that keeps those relationships strong helps maintain the economic stability that rural communities rely on.

Community life also depends heavily on those who choose service beyond their professional roles. Civic Achievement Award recipient Jay Long represents the kind of volunteer leadership that often goes unnoticed outside the organizations it supports. Youth sports leagues, wellness programs, and nonprofit boards shape opportunities for families across the region. Their impact stretches well beyond a single season or fundraiser.

For many residents, however, the voice most closely associated with everyday life in Northeastern Connecticut belongs to Community Champion Award recipient Wayne Norman of WILI Radio. Local radio remains one of the few places where people still hear familiar names, hometown events, and shared stories. That continuity matters. It helps communities feel connected even as the world around them changes quickly.

Recognition of Emerging Leader of the Year Maria Thomas reflects another encouraging trend: the next generation of regional leadership is already taking shape. Communities remain strongest when younger professionals choose to stay involved locally while building their careers. Their presence ensures continuity in civic organizations, service groups, and business networks that depend on new energy.

Few honors better capture the spirit of the region than the George Racine Sr. Humanitarian Award presented to Patricia Buell of the Brooklyn Cares Community Center. Efforts like hers respond directly to real needs close to home. Volunteer-driven organizations often become lifelines for neighbors facing difficult moments, and their success reminds us that practical compassion still defines much of daily life in Northeastern Connecticut.

The selection of The Arc Eastern Connecticut as Non-Profit of the Year also reflects the importance of inclusive services that help individuals live fuller, more independent lives. Programs that expand opportunity strengthen not only those they serve but the entire community around them.

Even the Gold Key Award recipients, Lindsey and Jason Verraneault, demonstrate something essential about the region's character. Showing up consistently, supporting events, and encouraging local businesses may not always draw attention, but it builds networks that keep small-town economies working.

Taken together, this year's honorees represent different fields, different towns, and different generations. Yet they share one defining trait. They chose to stay engaged where they live.

That choice continues to shape the future of Northeastern Connecticut in ways both visible and unseen. The Annual Awards Gala reminds us that while buildings and programs matter, communities are ultimately sustained by people who believe their hometowns are worth the effort.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Climate hoaxes continue

To the Editor:

In 2004, the BBC warned that the Maldives were "soon to be uninhabitable" islands, claiming sea levels more than nine tenths of a centimeter per year (19.8 cm or 7.8 inches in 22 years), and that 80 percent of the islands could vanish within a century. Now, more than two decades later, reality says otherwise. The Maldives haven't sunk. They've exploded with growth, having twelve new airports and expanded international airport terminals to accommodate the record tourism of over two million visitors per year to their more than 170 resorts, with seven added since 2024.

Instead of disappearing under the waves, this so-called "Paradise in Peril" has shown no statistically significant rise in sea levels since the 1980s, according to satellite data. Here we have

yet another climate catastrophe headline completely undone by time. Next, Plymouth Rock has been in its current location since 1921. Wouldn't rising sea levels have covered this rock in 105 years?

Lastly, for more than 200 years, chemistry has shown that CO<sub>2</sub> is the gas of life, not a pollutant and not a threat! No one can show from the scientific literature that human emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> drive global warming. The planet is far greener today because of higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels, and crop yields are breaking records. According to Professor Emeritus Dr. Ian Plimer of the University of Melbourne, "runaway warming" is not a science; it is propaganda built on inversion and fear.

MICHAEL DOUGLAS  
BROOKLYN

### Honesty goes hand in hand with transparency

To the Editor:

Transparency – the favorite word of the Republican Town Committee in Pomfret. If you read the article titled "Pomfret invites community to cherish Mother's Day Rose Event and Meet & Greet" (April 10 edition), you would think this cherished event was sponsored by the town. Nowhere does it state this fundraiser is sponsored by none other than the Pomfret Republican Town Committee. Check out their Web site (pomfretgop.com), where the home page touts, "Mother's Day Roses – PRTC Fundraising in the Community."

I'm not sure why the PRTC failed to state that its coffers are the beneficiary of the sales of roses

as well as any donations. While members of this committee continue to bash Pomfret's elected officials, this article refers to "the event's growing importance as both a social and civic occasion, offering residents a relaxed setting to exchange ideas and connect with local leaders." Which local leaders? I don't think the first selectman or chairs of the Board of Finance and Board of Education are planning to be there.

The Pomfret GOP has every right to raise money by selling roses for Mother's Day, but they need to learn that honesty and accuracy go hand in hand with transparency.

MARGIE HUOPPI  
POMFRET

### Woodstock finance

To the Editor:

Over the last few weeks, I have written several times about the ludicrous budget that the Woodstock Board of Finance has put forward this year – a 9.9 percent increase on top of more than 24 percent increases over the last four years. Of course, this is an unreasonable tax burden to impose on the average Woodstock taxpayer, but it is so much more.

These increases are unsustainable and will break the financial back of the town. We've already seen the general fund get spent down some 30 percent. It used to be more than 16 percent of the budget; now down to just over 11 percent. As these increases are put into place they set an expectation going forward; just look at what has happened since the repeal of Prop 46. They also put into place systems and assets that will require further investments to service and maintain. Meanwhile, the average taxpayer is not seeing 6, 8, 10 percent increases in income every year. Woodstock is also a rural town that wants to remain rural – think I'm kidding, try getting up in front of a town meeting and suggesting we set aside a few acres for development and see what kind of greeting you get. Yes, it has happened. The BOF has to actually do what they signed up for, manage the town's finances, and that's more than just showing up on the second Tuesday of every month and agreeing with whatever someone proposes so as not to create any friction and

make someone angry. Chan Paquette opened his presentation on March 10 with, "this is going to be a tough year for taxpayers." He's right, but next year is going to be worse and the year after, and the year after that. This foolishness has to stop. The BOE has to stop trying to hide behind the Academy and the "we can't control it" routine. The Academy is the only entity that has maintained something vaguely resembling reasonableness in terms of costs – of course they have to. If their costs get out of line towns like Pomfret, Brooklyn, and Eastford might look elsewhere and that would cripple the school financially. If you want more detail, see my letters over the last few weeks.

While I'm at it, the fire departments and EMS do a terrific job serving the town, but this isn't 1900 anymore. Guys (and I use that term generically) you've got to put your heads together and find a way to combine resources and control the costs to provide the services the town needs without breaking the bank. Fire/EMS now costs about the same as the highway department. . .

The voters need to show up and shut this budget down convincingly and tell the BOF to go back to work and come up with something the town can actually live with. If you don't show up it is the same as approving this nonsense.

DAVE RICHARDSON  
WOODSTOCK

### Thompson voters, buckle up – there's a bumpy ride ahead

To the Editor:

More, more, more. More money for salaries. More money for fringe Benefits. More money for buildings we don't need and equipment. What the budget expenditures failed to tell you is more pain for middle & lower incomes, especially for our Seniors. For this group, more hardships to pay bills, more going without and more foreclosures. Yes, voters, does that bring you joy?

If Town Hall doesn't get their way, are they going to reduce our services again? Taxpayers prepaid a Fee to use the Transfer Station five days a week. Not one day a week at the most inconvenient time. Did anyone get a refund? (Any legal ramifications to that?)

Many of our so-called leaders & representatives have other jobs and run businesses. Their Thompson public servant job with benefits & salary will be in excess of \$100,000. Some are basi-

cally part time Jobs.Others should be Voluntary. Many Town employees pay have increased by 40 percent in five years. One is up 100 percent. Jobs that don't require eight years or even four years of college. At retirement, they will receive Social Security and a nice pension.

Thompson's health care costs up 20 percent. Pension costs up 25 percent in five years.

With one of the most expensive schools in the country, can we afford to keep paying out all this money? Affordability a hoax? Only if you can afford.

Thompson: New year, same old story. This budget could easily be cut 10 percent from 2025-2026 Expenditures, or bring it back to 2023-2024. When will it end?

Good health to all.

LEE LANDRY  
THOMPSON

### To think there was no planning for the Iran war is laughable

To the Editor:

It amuses me to hear Democrat leaders, press, talking heads and academia pols decry the Trump administration's war with Iran. They plead there are no plans. No objectives. No end game. But their wind (and ink) is obfuscation. No responsible Commander In Chief would ever disclose real war plans, objectives or end game tactics. To do so would be self-defeating and traitorous.

If they are against the war, they must not believe Iran has been killing Americans for nearly half a century. They must believe Iran's nuke capabilities are for power generation. They must think "Kill America" is a joke. They must not believe Iran's leaders recently murdered upwards of 30,000 protesting citizens. They must think a warring President Trump is acting on some weird Trumpian impulse ... Is impulse why we elimi-

nated the Ayatollah and 40 key leaders on Feb. 28 - the opening day of the conflict? No - we had superb intelligence, kinetic preparation and execution (just as we had re: Maduro & Venezuela). They are criticizing the war because they hate Trump, and they are hoping an extended war and hate will bring him down.

To dip into "The End Justifies the Means" rationale as they are doing by promoting the failure of America at war, is to harken back to Ovidian's (c.10 BC), Machiavelli's (1500's) and Malcom X's (1964) largely soulless ruling justifications. It's time for leaders to get aligned with our own time and see the world as it is in order for us to remain the most coveted country and economy on the planet.

EDWARD CLEMENT  
THOMPSON

## On tour with Lafayette

Mark your calendars: Celebrate America 250 Killingly. Mohegan educator and storyteller, Madeleine Hutchins, will present a program and video "Up and Down the River" on the history of the Mohegan tribe for The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society at the Killingly Public Library at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2. The Society's annual meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. prior to the program. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will be closed that day, Saturday, May 2.

Celebrate America 250/Putnam at Trivia Night, Wednesday, April 29 at Marley's Pub at the Black Dog Bar & Grille 146

Park Rd., Putnam. Sponsored by the Putnam Lions. All funds raised will go toward Putnam's America 250 celebration. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Trivia contest starts at 7 p.m.



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

Reservations encouraged; Donations welcomed.

The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open by appointment. For additional information, please call (860) 207-6044 and leave a message. The Boxcar Museum will open for the season the first weekend of May, May 2 & 3, and will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers are wanted. Could you donate two and a half hours a month? Training supplied. For additional information, please call (860) 207-6044 and leave a message.

Celebrate America 250/Putnam Saturday, April 25 at 1 p.m. at Putnam Public Library with a presentation by Michael Langlois entitled "From Liberty to Legacy" about how the musicals "1776" and "Hamilton" shaped the popular narrative of the Revolution. Sponsored by the Library.

Celebrate America 250 Saturday May 2 from 1-2:30 p.m. at Putnam Public Library with Garden Researcher and Historian from Old Sturbridge Village on "Kitchen Gardens in Early America". Co-sponsored by the Quiet Corner Garden Club.

I received a most interesting and exciting email from Mary Tomeo, Corresponding Secretary of the Deborah Avery Putnam Chapter NSDAR and a Plainfield Historical Society member inviting me, and all interested individuals, to the dedication of a Lafayette marker in Plainfield to "mark the place of the Eaton Tavern where General Lafayette stayed overnight on his Farewell tour in 1824. The marker is a gift from the Lafayette Trail, Inc. with funding from the Pomeroy Foundation in collaboration with the Plainfield Historical Society, the Deborah Avery Putnam Chapter NSDAR and the Plainfield America 250 Committee. The Unveiling/Dedication will be Friday, May 1 at 10 a.m. at the Corner of Norwich Road (Route 12) and Gallup Road (near 558 Norwich Rd.), Plainfield. There will be a reception to follow at the Plainfield Senior Center, 482 Norwich Road (Route 12). Parking is limited at the site so they ask that people attending the dedication park at the Senior Center and carpool to the site.

The above invitation made me curious to learn more about Lafayette's famed tour in 1824. I was surprised at the number of Connecticut towns

Turn To KILLINGLY page A7

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## If only our flag had a voice

To the Editor:

Our country has always been the beacon on the hill providing guidance when needed to other countries. What has changed? We are not living in normal times. Have the wheels come off the bus? At least we can't be thrown under it, if they have.

Our past has been forged; the future is promised. All we need to do now is hope and pray that we are still blessed with men and women who are still willing to raise their hands and swear the oath to defend their country when needed.

How do we find peace in a world full of injustices? We need to agree that we are living in a world of threats, not only to our environment, but also to our democracy. Are our liberties still at stake? After 250 years what have we learned? I admit that I am old and am supposed to be confused, but I still don't get it.

Can we agree that our elected members in Washington, D.C. are just as confused as we are? Our President has fired good elected officials with long histories of experience and replaced them with "yes men" who have no experience or knowledge of their new responsibilities. Most of our leaders are working in a vacuum of fear and intimidation. Some are so scared they are even living on military bases for their own safety.

As Americans, we have much to be proud of; we have a beautiful country with national parks preserved for all to enjoy. I've visited 46 states to date and still have more of our country to see. I have no interest in going overseas again especially as it is much more difficult to travel now.

As a child growing up during WWII and later serving a tour in Southeast Asia, I learned that the basic human instinct is survival. Let your voice be heard. We the people will hear you. We know our government hasn't always been kind to its citizens. We must never lose appreciation for all that our citizens do.

If only our flag had a voice! What it could tell you as it has flown in places all over the globe, and the tragic events it has seen, but most importantly, what its presence means to so many people in countries all over the world. It's not just about us, our flag symbolizes the ideas of a democracy conceived in liberty. The United States is stronger as a nation only because it has people of many races, religions and ethnic groups. We have a diversity of life and knowledge few other nations have. I credit that as our reason for being who we are and what we represent today. God Bless America.

G. TOD STEVENSON  
WOODSTOCK

## Vote yes on April 28 to support Woodstock

To the Editor:

As Woodstock residents prepare to head to the polls, we face a defining moment for the future of our community. We are writing to urge my neighbors to vote yes in support of the referendum to adequately fund the FY 2027 town budget.

For years, a quiet crisis has been unfolding in our hallways: the Woodstock Public Schools have been funded at a rate substantially lower than nearly all our neighbors. While our educators do incredible work, they are being asked to do more with significantly less than the towns right next door.

The numbers tell a clear and concerning story. According to 2023-2024 data, Woodstock spends \$19,918 per pupil. Compare that to:

- Thompson: \$24,079
- Pomfret: \$22,226
- Eastford: \$22,285
- CT state average: \$22,054

In the 2024-2025 rankings, Woodstock sat at 142 out of 169 Connecticut towns for per-pupil spending. We are currently an outlier in our region, and not in a way that benefits our children or our property values.

However, this budget is about more than just our schools; it is about the essential

services that keep every resident safe.

Our local fire departments and emergency responders are the backbone of Woodstock's safety net. As we see the challenge of volunteer staffing and a significant increase in the regional costs of providing ambulance services, we can no longer rely on "getting by" with outdated funding models. Ensuring our first responders have the equipment and personnel they need is a non-negotiable responsibility of a functioning town.

Underfunding these core pillars—education and public safety—isn't just a budget line item; it's a town-wide risk. Strong schools and reliable emergency services are the primary drivers of home values and the bedrock of a vibrant community. By continuing to lag behind, we risk losing the very quality and safety that draws families to Woodstock in the first place.

The FY 2027 budget is a necessary step toward closing the gap and ensuring our students have the resources they deserve and our residents have the protection they expect. Let's invest in our town's most valuable assets. Please join us in voting "Yes" on the budget referendum.

GLEN AND CHRISTINE LESSIG  
WOODSTOCK

## Meet your candidates in Brooklyn

To the Editor:

Presidential elections are important, as we get to choose who runs our country, whether Republican or Democrat. We can only do our due diligence to be sure we have all the facts to vote for the candidate who will work on our behalf with our mutual goals in mind.

As important as this election is, our state and local elections can be even more important. This year, we are electing our Governor and State Representatives for our districts. The Brooklyn Republican Town Committee will be hosting a Meet and Greet at Hank's Restaurant on April 27 at 7 p.m., with a short meeting for committee

members starting at 6:45 p.m.

If you are interested in meeting and talking to some of the candidates, please join us and get some of your questions answered. Please take a few minutes out of your busy schedules and stop by. To find out more about this committee, please visit BRTC Web site on Facebook, Instagram or X.

Also, a very, very, belated Happy Birthday to David Cassettari (Feb. 24), your favorite Trumper....

CINDY DEHNER  
BROOKLYN

## Additional Letters to the Editor, see Page A-6

## Trump's latest meme

To the Editor:

Donald Trump is no stranger to stirring up controversy on social media, and last week's meme post was no exception. Once again, he took to Truth Social to offend a new group. In this case, he depicted himself in religious garb and perpetuated an old stereotype. Namely that doctors see themselves as God. If this was simply "a joke" as his Vice President insisted, Trump stated intention to picture himself as a physician healing a patient was in poor taste.

In it, he is dressed not in a white coat or even scrubs, but in robes similar to those worn by Jesus in historic paintings. No stethoscope. No otoscope or ophthalmoscope. Not even one of those round things that used to adorn doctor's foreheads.

Further scrutiny reveals other inflammatory elements. To the left of Dr Trump and his patient is a woman, gazing up with hands clasped in prayer. No doubt this is a family member who the physician has not engaged with. To his right is a nurse also looking up, buttressing the misogynic landscape of the past where female nurses were subservient to male doctors. Today's hospital HRs would have a field day with this one. In the current workplace, nurses and doctors are both professionals who share equally important roles in a patient's care.

Perhaps most egregious is Trump using light radiating from his hands as a medical intervention. One suspects that the patient (who some feel bears an uncanny resemblance to Jeffrey Epstein) suffers from an acute covid-19 infection and the "doctor" is administering UV light and disinfectants which he championed at his famous

2020 press conference. This is not an FDA approved treatment! Did Trump run this by RFK Jr who feels that ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine would be indicated based on his years of medical training dissecting roadkill? They both should be stripped of the faux medical licenses.

To make matters worse, on each side of Trump are an active soldier and a veteran. One can't be not sure why they would be by the bedside. It would appear to be a blatant HIPAA violation. But after the President made record staffing cuts to the VA, they can't be all that pleased.

And what the heck is above Trump's head in the sky? It looks like either a winged demon or something out of the Transformer movies.

These jokes of his are simply mean. Demeaning American physicians is deplorable. One wonders what line Trump will cross next. Some see Trump as a messenger of God. Is this getting to his head and could Trump start depicting himself as God? He is after all calling out Pope Leo. More likely, this is simply a ploy to continue a scam.

Trump has now volunteered to read from the Bible for a Bible reading marathon reflecting 250 years of the holy book in America. Hopefully, in doing so, the President learns, as the Pope preaches, that war is bad and peace and respect for one's fellow man is good. These passages, no doubt would be new to him. He might also learn the first Commandment — "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shall not have strange gods before Me." Strange indeed.

LEE WESLER  
WOODSTOCK

### 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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Over 4,000 sq ft of household, garden, toys, tools, linens, Christmas... We have it all!



A little bit of everything will be on the auction block. Restaurants, tourist attractions. New & antique furniture & collectibles.

Preview @ 5 pm Auction @ 6 pm with Auctioneer Ernie Eldridge

- Friday, May 1
- 9 - 10:30 am \$5 Early Bird Buy-In
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- Saturday, May 2
- 9 am - 5 pm (free)

- FRIDAY come bid on a Cape Escape or a ride on the Essex Steam Train
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Donated Items may be delivered to the lower level of the lodge at Camp April 15 - April 28

M-W-F: 9 am - 5 pm Tue & Thurs: 9 am - 7 pm Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm

contact info: 860-974-3379 or wc4hfounders@gmail.com



## Borough of Danielson

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### REVISED REPOSTING

#### ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS – Volunteer Fire Chief

The Borough of Danielson Fire Department is seeking an experienced and community-focused Volunteer Fire Chief to lead our department!

The Chief serves as the senior officer responsible for all department operations, training, and administration, representing the Borough with professionalism and integrity. This appointed position offers a six-year term, (with option to renew for an additional 2 years at the Council's discretion) and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the community. Annual stipend for this position is \$15,000.00.

#### Minimum Qualifications

- 10 years of firefighting experience with at least 5 in a leadership position
- Fire Officer I (II preferred) & Fire Service Instructor I
- EMT (Preferred) or EMR, NIMS/ICS 100, 200, 700, 800
- HazMat Operations
- Valid CT license (Q or CDL B endorsements)
- Residency within 8 miles of the firehouse

Also required: Fire Officer II within one year, plus 30 hours of continuing education annually.

If you're a strong leader with a passion for public safety, we invite you to apply!

Completed application, and letter of interest, including a brief statement outlining your leadership philosophy with your vision for the department, and resume, and copies of your certifications can be submitted to [admin@boroughofdanielson.org](mailto:admin@boroughofdanielson.org)

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Apply by May 15, 2026

Learn more at [www.boroughofdanielson.org](http://www.boroughofdanielson.org)

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NECCOG facility hurts Pomfret taxpayers

To the Editor:

Pomfret's recent approval of a text amendment for NECCOG's proposed \$8-\$10 million Regional Animal Control Facility at 384 Killingly Rd. may sound beneficial on paper, but the reality is far more troubling. The project threatens to impose serious costs on our town—lost tax revenue, added traffic, noise, odors, environmental concerns, potential impacts on property values, and increased demands on our volunteer fire department—without ironclad protections or a fair payment arrangement for Pomfret residents.

Picture this: A for-profit company building the exact sized \$8-10M facility would pump \$117,000 – \$146,000 straight into Pomfret's coffers each year at 70 percent assessment. Here's the breakdown:

Market Value	Assessed (70 percent)
Tax Revenue (19.89)	Fire Tax (0.835)
Low-end (\$8 million)	\$8 million
\$5 million	\$111,384
	\$4,676
High-end (\$10 million)	\$10 million
\$7 million	\$139,230
	\$5,845

NECCOG's tax-exempt status means the town would receive ZILCH - no property tax revenue from this site—replacing just \$110 per year from the currently vacant lot and shifting more of the financial burden onto residents by weakening our grand list.

The operational impacts also need closer scrutiny. Sustained animal noise can reach levels as high as 105 dB—comparable to a jackhammer—which may exceed Connecticut noise standards and significantly affect nearby homes. In addition, odor from animal waste, increased truck traffic along Killingly Road with potential 24/7 activity, and stormwater runoff across the 9.1-acre site all raise legitimate public health and environmental concerns.

There are also economic risks. Properties in close proximity—where two nearby buildings are currently vacant and for sale—could see value reductions in the 5-15 percent range. At present, however, there are no firm requirements in place for sound barriers, adequate setbacks, or a DEEP-approved wastemanagement plan, which increases uncertainty for abutting landowners and the broader tax base.

These are not minor details—they are material impacts that warrant clear, enforceable protections before any project moves forward.

We've already paid NECCOG \$20,000 for the state-mandated 10-year Plan of Conservation & Development. In addition, our 2026-2027 \$24,000 canine control budget line represents Pomfret's annual share for use of their regional facility. At the same time, the proposed \$8-10 million project would permanently remove more than \$145,000 in potential annual property tax revenue from Pomfret's grand list.

This is not just a financial imbalance—it directly contradicts the very principles outlined in our POCD. The siting places a regional burden in Pomfret's northwest corner, increasing travel times by more than 30 minutes for many users and undermining smart-growth goals, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility.

This isn't a shared regional gain—it's Pomfret footing the bill for 23 towns! Pomfret residents deserve thoughtful, well-considered decision-making. I respectfully urge the Board of Selectmen and the full Commission to pause further action on this project. Our residents and taxpayers deserve decisions that align with adopted policies—not ones that disregard them at significant expense!

Sincerely,

MARTHA B. EMILIO  
POMFRET

### U.S. Forest Service offices in Connecticut are on the chopping block!

To the Editor:

The Trump Administration is advancing plans that critics say could open public lands owned by the American people to private interests for logging, mining, and drilling. The Administration has announced a sweeping restructuring of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) that moves the headquarters to Utah, closes dozens of facilities, and shuts down research stations and regional offices across the country.

The Forest Service manages 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands in 43 states, plus lands in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. These are the forests that protect drinking water, support wildlife, store carbon, provide jobs, and give millions of Americans places to hunt, fish, hike, camp, bike, and reconnect with nature.

Connecticut will feel the impact directly. Planned closures of USFS Research and Development facilities in Ansonia and Hamden mean the loss of federal offices, local jobs, scientific expertise, and public services tied to forest management and conservation. These closures also weaken New England's voice in decisions about watershed protection, wildfire preparedness, invasive species control, recreation access, and climate resilience.

There are dozens of USFS facilities across 31 states that will close under the Trump Administration's plan, including

several communities in the East:

- Connecticut: Ansonia, Hamden
- Massachusetts: Westfield
- New Hampshire: Bartlett
- New York: Cortland, Lakeville, New York City
- Vermont: Burlington

More than 70 companies, including REI Co-op, Patagonia, North Face, Columbia Sportswear, and others have voiced opposition, warning that weakening the Forest Service threatens both public access and responsible land management.

Last year the Senate refused to act on Trump's plans largely because of a huge swell in protests from hunters, fishermen, hikers, mountain bikers, and other recreational users of these lands and from the businesses that cater to them.

Public pressure matters! It's time for us to speak up again. Spread the word.

Eastern Connecticut residents should call Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, and Congressman Joe Courtney. Your phone calls matter. Tell them to oppose the dismantling of the U.S. Forest Service, reject the sell-off of public lands, and protect the forests, waters, wildlife, and outdoor spaces that belong to all Americans.

Silence is not an option. Speak up now before we lose what can't be replaced.

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

### Is the emperor dressed?

To the Editor:

Sometimes, self-deceived or not, the emperor appears to be wearing no clothes.

For a number of years, in the months leading up to Woodstock's annual spring budget vote, the Villager has published a series of letters by Dave Richardson arguing that the budget is too big and the taxes too high.

This year was no exception. Beginning in December, Mr. Richardson wrote multiple letters warning of personal financial hardship but displayed no interest in discussing the actual budget or articulating what he would consider an acceptable tax rate for the town. The overall effect of reading one of these letters is akin to watching someone haggling at a yard sale who thinks no price is really low enough. The tactic is disingenuous and inappropriate for a town which struggles mightily each year to balance tax burden with the provision of services.

In virtually all of these letters, Mr. Richardson sticks to ridiculing the town's boards and leaders and whipping up fear about and disdain for the "spenders". Last year: "If you don't want to do the job, don't volunteer for it. Get a hobby." Or, last week, after a Board of Finance budget meeting: "Driving home, I was trying to find a word to describe what I had just sat through: comical, no not funny, more like pathetic, world class pathetic. Not just this one meeting but the entire budgeting process this year."

Last year, he sprinkled letters with references to FOIA (Freedom of Information Act), implying that the various volunteer boards involved in the budget process were hiding information when virtually everything anyone could ever want is available on the town website or at the Town Hall. One curious thing about the letters is that they talk only about "spending," and how it's "insane," and never about what the money is to be used for, or whether something is intrinsically important and worth paying for. The letters are chock full of 9 percent this, 30 percent that, 36 percent this other thing, a veritable cascade of percentages that sound authoritative but are of dubious relevance and mostly designed to alarm.

Because I have trouble following Mr. Richardson's logic, and I like to keep things simple, I decided to go to the Town Hall and pick a property to compare the taxes that were paid on the property in 2006 to those that would be paid this year, and also to

those that would be paid in 2027 under the current budget proposal. The property that I picked, located on Route 197, between Route 169 and Route 198, incurred taxes of \$4,403.40 in 2006. In today's dollars (i.e. adjusting for inflation) those 2006 taxes would have been \$7,220.92. This year, the owners will pay taxes of \$6,200.14 and, if the budget passes, they will pay taxes of \$6,503.80 on the property in 2027. In other words, if you adjust for inflation, the property's taxes have actually gone down since 2006.

Which explains a lot. Previous letters in this space by myself and others have detailed how Woodstock has fallen behind other towns in maintaining services — recreation, libraries, and schools (among many other things) have all taken hits. I suppose the most visible manifestation of the consequences of the cuts is the loss of a number of crucial programs in the schools with the result being declining Reading and Math achievement (currently, only 40 percent of Woodstock elementary students can meet state Math standards and 54% can do so with Reading standards). And it bears repeating: Woodstock ranks 142 out of 169 Connecticut towns in per pupil spending.

This year, with a dynamic new Superintendent in Christopher Roche, and an involved, savvy, and energetic Board of Education things have been looking up for the schools. There is a palpable sense of enthusiasm with an "all hands on deck" approach to turning the achievement numbers around. The school budget request (with a 4.9 percent increase in the face of 3.4 percent inflation in Connecticut) reflects this with only a few key personnel additions (Math, Reading, and Enrichment specialists) but nothing even approaching fluff that I could find. The details of this budget request are far too important to summarize here but are nicely explained on the Woodstock Public Schools website (<https://www.woodstockschoools.net/>).

This careful, conservative approach to the budget is also reflected in the Town government's request of a 2.7 percent increase (well below inflation). After a brutal winter, it strikes me as nothing short of miraculous.

Once again, I urge all those who want their beloved town of Woodstock to thrive to get to the polls at the Town Hall from noon to 8 p.m. on April 28 and vote yes.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.  
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

### Vote yes April 28 for Woodstock's future

To the Editor:

A healthy, thriving community requires well-maintained roads, reliable fire and EMT service, responsive town services, and safe, adequately resourced schools. The budget presented for your vote on April 28 envisions this at a fiscally responsible level. I urge all voters to show up the first time to approve this budget.

Vote yes the first time to retain our town services and to reverse the academic and physical building declines our schools are facing. Every additional referendum costs the town about \$3000.

It is a fact that Woodstock's per pupil spending ranks 142/169 of all Connecticut towns in 2024-25. It is a fact that, at \$19,700, Woodstock spent less per pupil than Pomfret, Thompson, Eastford, Brooklyn, Putnam and the state average. Woodstock has under-invested in our public schools for many years. We have lost essential positions and engaging programs such as Spanish, Enrichment, math and reading curriculum coordinators, and the elementary school librarian, among others. The schools have not been adequately funded to maintain the buildings at a safe and healthy level and are facing significant capital costs to address this and avoid further deterioration.

Dedicated teachers, parent volunteers, and resourceful administrators have worked

diligently to backfill for these resources. However, years of underfunding is reflected in the declining proficiency and preparedness of our students. With only 40 percent of our third grade students proficient in math, and 54 percent proficient in reading, our schools have reached an inflection point. Underinvesting in education for years results in higher costs: of remediation, of special ed, of deferred building maintenance, and ultimately lower student achievement and unrealized potential.

Great news: targeted, modest, strategic and step-wise investment now in key priorities will result in increased academic outcomes. Superintendent Roche and the WBOE have proposed a data-driven, research-based plan to rebuild student proficiency and academic growth. This plan identifies modest investments in reading and math instruction, enrichment and professional development, and a capital plan to stabilize building needs. This plan is the first step towards stabilizing and rebuilding student achievement outcomes.

Our Woodstock kids are bright and capable. They deserve (and our community deserves) the basic resources to succeed and excel. Please vote yes the first time on April 28.

LINDSAY PAUL  
WOODSTOCK



# Community Connection



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# Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up



Baseball

Vs. Plainfield  
Killingly Baseball (2-3) defeated Plainfield (2-3) on the road behind a 10 hit team performance!

Final Score: 15 - 1

Killingly opened the scoring with a 2 out 2-Run single from Brady Girardin! Matt Poirier's RBI double in the 2nd inning scoring Gaighe DeBella pushed the Killingly lead to 3-1,

before he scored on a sac fly from Alex Murdock! Jake Beaudreault then pounded an opposite field double to extend the lead to 5-1.

Jake Voyer (2 RBI's) and Alex Murdock (2 RBI's) added back to back RBI singles in the third before Brady Girardin's 2 run double extended the lead in the 4th!

Michael Fabiano, Jr. took the win on the mound with 3 innings, allowing only 2

hits and 1 earned run while striking out 5. Joey Gould finished the last 2 shutout innings with 4 more k's!

Vs. Montville  
Killingly Baseball (2-4) falls on the road to Montville (2-4) by a final score of 12-2.

Montville scored 3 in the 2nd and 7 in the 3rd to jump out to a big lead and never looked back.

Jake Beaudreault led the offense with 2 hits including a home run, while Michael Fabiano Jr also added 2 hits for Killingly.

Joey Gould, Alex Murdock, and Jake Voyer each got into the hit column for Killingly.

Vs. Woodstock  
Killingly Baseball (2-5) fell to Woodstock (2-5) by a final score of 4-3 at home.

Michael Fabiano, Jr. led the team on the mound with 6 inning pitched allowing 4 earned runs and striking out 3 batters.

Jake Voyer led off the game with a single and Jake Beaudreault drove him in with an RBI single in the 1st, and he came around to score to give Killingly a 2-0 lead early.

Woodstock responded by scoring 2 in the 2nd inning to tie it and another in the 5th to take a 3-2 lead. In the 6th Joey Gould led off with a base hit and was driven in on a sac fly to tie the game at 3-3. Later in the inning Alex Murdock laced a base hit to center field, but pinch runner Ian Gaudet was thrown out at home to keep it tied.

Woodstock scored once in the top of the 7th and Killingly could not respond.

Vs. Quinebaug Valley  
Killingly Baseball (3-5) took the win over Quinebaug Valley (4-4) behind a complete game shutout performance from Jake Beaudreault, allowing only 2 hits and striking out 5!

Final Score: 13 - 0  
Killingly struck first in the top of the 3rd on back to back doubles from Alex Murdock (4 hits on the day) and Michael Fabiano Jr to take a 1-0 lead!

That lead remained into the 5th inning, when after a leadoff walk to Michael DeAngelis (2 hits), Jake Voyer (2 hits) laid down a



sac bunt to move him over to 2nd base. Murdock drove in DeAngelis with another RBI double, before being driven in himself on an RBI single from Fabiano Jr. Jake Beaudreault (2 hits) then laced an RBI triple over the right fielders head to score Fabiano Jr all the way from 1st base!

Gaighe DeBella and Matt Poirier each also added doubles later in the inning to extend the lead. Joey Gould RBI single and DeAngelis 2-RBI single pushed the lead in the 6th. This was all the support Beaudreault needed as Killingly cruised to victory!

Girls lacrosse  
The Killingly girls lacrosse team had a game of runs against Woodstock Academy tonight. The end result was a tied game 6-6 after double OT. Lylah Connetti dominated on defense causing 8 turnovers. Lylah also tallied 2 goals and 2 draw controls for the Trailblazers. Riley Ritchotte scored 2 goals, won 4 draws controls and had 3 caused turnovers for Killingly. Ellsie Antobenedetto added another 2 goals to the board. Tilly Jarvis was dishing in the assists, tallying 3 in total.

Boys Tennis  
Killingly 2 Woodstock Academy 5

Will Clayton Lost to Rodrigo Diez 1-6 2-6

Evan Kozey lost to Ryan Chabot 1-6 0-6

Jackson Santese lost to Daniel Jameson 1-6 1-6

Brady Breznjak lost to Heath White 0-6 3-6

Max Richardson & Ed Purcell defeated Caydon Worth & David Budd 6-2 6-7 6-4

Glenn Leveille & Riley Nolin Lost to Jack Xia & Steven Shen 4-6 1-6

Tomas Gutierrez & Garret Walter's defeated Jackson Hayden & Adian Newall-Vuillemot 6-3 6-2

Track & Field

On April 28, the Killingly Boys Track & Field team battled at the Wildcat Relays, which had 26 teams from around the State battling! This was a unique meet that showcased throwers and relay teams. So

many personal records were made, and the team received numerous compliments from many coaches! Also, to all friends and family that showed up, thank you; we could hear you!

In the 110 hurdles, Jeremiah Smith does what Jeremiah does; he flew in the race to finish 3rd out of 21! Killingly had 2 speedy teams battling in a field of 26 in the 4x 100, Aveion Janton-Adams to Braydee Testa to Preston Suprenant to Kaiden Cayer for a 10th place finish! Also finishing closely behind flying in the race was Cameron Deschamps to Brandon Harrison to Ossie Lugo to Liam LaMotte for a Personal Record time! In a field of 23, our same 2 teams battled again! In the Swedish 100- 200- 300-400, Aveion to Kaiden to Preston to Liam for 13th and a Personal Record doing this race for the 1st time this season! Riiiiight behind them by .15 seconds was Ossie to Braydee to Brandon to Cameron... the ONLY Freshman team out of 26 schools to put a Freshman team together. GREAT battle to both teams! Time to showcase our awesome throwers! In a field of 45 in Shot Put, Larry Cote chucked his Shot for 28' 3.5" and Wesley Sprouse finished with a distance of 27' 2.5" In Discus, there was a tough field of 48, Killingly sent 5 great gentlemen to battle! Breydan Pearson hurled his Disc for a Personal Record of 85' 9"

for 24th place, one of the top Freshman in the battle! Followed behind with great throws were Wes, Nathaniel Franklin, Larry and Calvin Vandale. In the Javelin, Breydan represented for Killingly, finishing 28th out of 49 and one of the tops among Freshman that threw for the day! Onto the Long Jump where Braydee represented for Killingly finishing with a Personal Record of 18' 1.25" finishing 17th out of 47 and finishing 2nd amongst all Freshman guys! In Pole Vault, Gabriel Covington battled hard and was the lone representative of Killingly to tackle the event; he fought hard and continues fine tuning his skills to get better and better! In the Triple Jump, both Cal and Wes continue getting Personal Records and soared through the air! Annnnd in High Jump, Cooper Logee and Jeremiah battled in a field of 30 to see who could leap the highest! Jeremiah took the event finishing 1st!

Absolutely great job yesterday by all! Everyone represented Killingly and themselves proudly on and off of the track. Many compliments were given to the team and could not be prouder as coaches! The battle continues this Wednesday at home against Wheeler at 4pm! Again, we want to give a special shout out to all the parents and friends that showed up for the meet. The team appreciates you and we see and hear you!

## The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

### Baseball

Bacon Academy 1

Woodstock Academy 0

Jacob Teal was hit by a pitch with two outs in the third inning, Ty Wissler followed with a single and Ethan Creutz brought home Teal with a base hit to account for the only run in the game as the Bobcats (2-2, 2-0 ECC Division II) prevailed over the Centaurs.

Jacoby Eisenberg went the distance on the mound for Bacon Academy, giving up just three hits.

Logan Coutu had one of those for Woodstock Academy (0-4,0-2) as he doubled while also pitching a three-hitter and going the distance for the Centaurs.

Rhys Asikainen had a pair of singles to account for the only other hits for Woodstock Academy.

## Putnam Science hosts successful April vacation basketball clinic

PUTNAM — Putnam Science Academy held its annual April vacation basketball clinic this past week, drawing a strong turnout of approximately 40 campers.

Participants were divided into two divisions: the NBA Division and the Big East Division. At the end of the week, the NBA champions were the Lakers, coached by Drake Alvarez, while the Big East champions were UConn, coached by Martyn Poliuchovic.

Throughout the week, campers focused on skill development, teamwork, and friendly competition. Several individual contests highlighted the players' progress and effort.

In the elbow shooting competition, Fitz Lurvey took top honors in the Big East Division, while Grayson Cardinal won in the NBA Division. Free throw champions were



Quinn Hammond (Big East) and Nolan Lehto (NBA). In the hot shot competition, Carson Lehto claimed victory in the Big East, and Teagan Espinosa won the NBA Division.

At the conclusion of the camp, coaches presented three major awards in each division. The Hustle Award went to Jackson Cardinal (Big East) and Rylie Pothier

(NBA). The Coaches Award was given to Wes Hammond (Big East) and Nolan Lehto (NBA). Camp Most Valuable Player honors were awarded to Wes Wojcik (Big East) and Bryce Espinosa (NBA).

Both championship games were closely contested and came down to the wire, capping off an exciting and competitive

week. "The kids had a blast, and I know the coaches did as well," said Camp Director Tom Espinosa. "This was one of the best groups we've had. They came in focused and ready to improve every day."

Overall, it was a fun and successful week for everyone involved.

### KILLINGLY

continued from page A4

that he visited and found much on the following site: (<https://connecticuthistory.org/marquis-de-lafayettes-1824-tour-of-connecticut/>). "The Marquis de Lafayette (Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette) was a French aristocrat who volunteered to serve in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Only 19 when he enlisted, Lafayette became one of George Washington's trusted advisors and helped secure French financial aid and troops to help win the war. Almost five decades after the United States declared independence, Congress passed a resolution to extend an official invitation to Lafayette to tour the country as 'The Nation's Guest.' Lafayette traveled via a small merchant ship, the Cadmus, and arrived in New York on August 15, 1824. On the Cadmus, Francis Allyn of New London, Connecticut was the captain and Daniel Chadwick of Lyme was the first mate. Over the next 13 months, Lafayette and his entourage traveled over water and land to 24 states, totaling over six thousand miles to meet the American people." He visited Eastern Connecticut on August 22, 1824 stopping at Old Lyme, East Lyme, New London, Norwich, Jewett City, and Plainfield. On September 3 he travelled to Stafford, Connecticut and visited Tolland, Vernon, Hartford, and Middletown on the following day. (For a complete listing and a photo of General Lafayette see the above website). Keep in mind that the railroad was not yet in existence.

"As he travelled more than 6,000 miles through all 24 states, Americans celebrated Lafayette, the last surviving major general of the Continental Army and one of Washington's most trusted officers, with parades and dinners as he visited cities and towns." "Philadelphians celebrated the Marquis de Lafayette's return to the United States in 1824 with a large parade that passed by Independence Hall. Artist John Archibald Woodside painted this silk banner with a portrait of Lafayette at the center for the parade. The 'Victuallers of Philadelphia,' the butchers who supplied the city's residents, taverns, and inns with meat, carried this banner during the procession through the streets. For some reason, Woodside painted over the word 'Female,' perhaps to correct a mistake. The allegorical figures of fame (left) and liberty (right) hoist a crown of laurels over Lafayette's head." See the website below for photos of memorabilia related to Lafayette's visit. (<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/the-marquis-de-lafayette-s-1824-1825-united-states-tour>).

I'm realizing how little I really know about the American Revolution so am trying to continue a monthly summary on what was happening 250 years ago so I may be more knowledgeable and you might find something of interest. "Defense Preparations: Throughout mid-April 1776, Washington oversaw the construction of fortifications in New York and sent troops to support the struggling invasion of Canada, according to George Washington's Mount Vernon. First Move Toward Independence: On April 12, 1776, North Carolina adopted the Halifax Resolves, becoming the first colony to formally authorize its delegates to vote for independence from Great Britain. In April 1776 General Washington had moved his troops from Massachusetts to the defense of New York City where he was encountering great difficulties. "Washington confronts a dangerous contradiction in New York: Its inhabitants still trade and correspond with British warships in the harbor. He writes to the New York Committee of Safety—supplying and communicating with the enemy, he warns, only strengthens British forces and exposes American plans." (Letter-April 17, 1776). He will learn that New York is home to many Tories who actively aid the British and fight against their neighbors. On April 19, the first anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the password for the day was Lexington. (<https://www.mountvernon.org/search?q=#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=April%2024%2C%201776&gsc.sort=>)

"In April 1776, Connecticut was acting as a vital logistical hub, dubbed the 'Provision State,' supplying George Washington's army with food, munitions, and troops to combat British forces. In April 1776, the state increased its naval defense, with Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. of New London appointed as the naval agent. Furthermore, in spring of 1776, after forcing the British evacuation of Boston, George Washington traveled through New London and met with local leaders," according to connecticuthistory.org and others.

I encourage you to visit a number of the available Revolution websites to see photos, artifacts, memorabilia and first-hand accounts of the events that were taking place. I can't begin to do them justice in this column. Attend some of the events that are being sponsored in our area as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Above all, never forget to be grateful for the great freedoms we enjoy because of the sacrifices that our forefathers and mothers made.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, April 2026. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety).

# Iran War has markets volatile, but it's not the first time

The war in Iran has sent stocks tumbling on fears about the availability of oil and inflation. Yet, every once in a while, a piece of news sparks optimism that the war will end sooner rather than later, and the stock market rallies. So far, rallies have been short-lived. But they remind us of two important lessons.



**FINANCIAL FOCUS**  
LEISL L. LANGEVIN

First, history is littered with wars and periods of uncertainty, and they always come to an end.

Second, it's impossible to predict when the stock market will rebound, but we do know that investors who try to time the market have historically underperformed those who remain invested over the long run.

Consider these results based on a \$1,000 investment in the S&P 500 made 25 years ago. The portfolio that remained invested in the market the entire time grew to \$5,989. If the portfolio was out of the stock market during its five best days over those 25 years, the portfolio only grew to \$3,701. If the portfolio was out of the market during the market's best 30 days over the 25-year period, it actually shrank to \$997.

It's a mathematical reminder that long-term investors who stay the course are rewarded. And it's why we at WHZ work with investors to craft a diversified portfolio that reflects their risk tolerance and helps them remain confident about investing in the stock markets during the good times and the bad.

Reminders to focus on the long run

Watching the war in Iran unfold on the nightly news is unsettling, to say the least. First and foremost, we should all be concerned about the human cost.

But the war has also raised concerns about energy security and inflation because the Iranians have threatened to

bomb any ship that sails through the Strait of Hormuz. Shipping traffic has largely ground to a halt, preventing Middle Eastern countries from delivering the goods they produce to the rest of the world. This includes 20 percent of the world's oil, liquefied natural gas, fertilizer, aluminum, helium, and other materials.

As supplies of these products fall, their prices rise. The price of oil, for example, jumped more than 50 percent in March. The ripple effects have been felt globally because the exports from the Middle East are used to produce many other goods. Natural gas is used to make the electricity that powers homes and factories. Cars and soda cans contain aluminum. Farmers use fertilizer to help crops grow. Helium is necessary to manufacture semiconductors. And, of course, oil is refined into gasoline, the price of which has climbed by more than a third in March.

We may not see a repeat of the 1970s, when the US was far more dependent on imported oil than it is today. But the longer the blockade of the Strait continues, the stickier higher prices become, and the more inflation affects the broader economy. Consumers may have less disposable income for purchases, corporate profits could fall, and interest rates may rise. None of this is good news for the stock market, which has declined roughly 5 percent from its January peak.

But amid all this doom and gloom, every once in a while, a piece of news sparks optimism that the war will end sooner rather than later, and the stock market rallies. So far, rallies have been short-lived. But that's where those lessons mentioned earlier come into play:

One, history is littered with wars and periods of uncertainty, and they always

come to an end. And two, it's impossible to predict when the stock market will rebound, but we do know that investors who try to time the market have historically underperformed those who remain invested over the long run.

That is to say, we don't know how long the Iran war will last, but it will end at some point. Investors are best served by working with their financial advisors to craft a diversified portfolio and remaining invested during the good times and the bad.

Here's a look at market crises throughout history and why it's important to remain invested.

As we look forward, it's helpful to look back

President Trump has said the Iran war will be over in a matter of weeks, and we hope he's right. But some wars have lasted for months, and others have lasted for decades. What's true of all wars and crises is that they are not unusual. They've existed throughout history, sparking stock market corrections and bear markets. But inevitably, the problem is resolved, and the stock market rebounds.

Since 2000, we've lived through 10 extremely negative events that spooked the stock markets. That's roughly one crisis every two and a half years. There was 9/11, the Second Gulf War, the bursting of the technology bubble, the global financial crisis, a global pandemic, President Trump's tariffs, and now the Iran war — just in the past 25 years! Nonetheless, the S&P 500 has risen 350 percent since Jan. 1, 2000, for a 14 percent annual return.

Periods of uncertainty and market volatility are a fact of life. Looking back to 1954, the S&P 500 has declined by 10 percent or more about once every 18 months. It's declined 15 percent or more once every three years, and by 20 percent or more once every six years. The market may fall in response to moments of crisis, but over

the long run, it heads higher.

Why trying to time the market is a bad idea

Market corrections are unsettling because it's almost impossible to predict when they will start or when they will end. Investors trying to time the market need to make two perfect decisions: when to exit the market and when to jump back in.

Investors who try to time the market and miss the market's biggest rallies can seriously hurt their portfolio's returns. Consider these results based on a \$1,000 investment in the S&P 500 made 25 years ago. The portfolio that remained invested in the market the entire time grew to \$5,989. If the portfolio was out of the stock market during its five best days over those 25 years, the portfolio only grew to \$3,701. If the portfolio was out of the market during the market's best 30 days over the 25-year period, it actually shrank to \$997. It's a mathematical reminder that long-term investors, who stay the course, are rewarded.

At WHZ, we consistently work with our clients to ensure their investment portfolios reflect their risk tolerance and are well diversified. By doing so, clients can be reassured that investment portfolios are appropriately positioned when unexpected global events cause market disruptions and when bull markets resume. Our goal is to provide you with Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life. Call us at (860) 928-2341 or schedule a complimentary discovery session now with our team.

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## Related FAQs

1. How is the war in Iran affecting financial markets?

The article explains that the conflict has increased fears around oil supply disruptions, inflation, and economic instability, all of which have contributed to stock market volatility.

2. Why does the Strait of Hormuz matter so much to investors?

Because a large share of the world's oil and other key materials moves through it. If shipping is disrupted, supplies can tighten, prices can rise, and those increases can spread through the broader economy.

3. Why do higher oil prices hurt the stock market?

Higher oil prices can push inflation higher, reduce consumer purchasing power, squeeze corporate profit margins, and increase the likelihood of higher interest rates, all of which can weigh on stocks.

4. What historical lesson does the article emphasize for investors?

The article stresses that wars and market crises eventually end, and that markets have historically recovered over time even after severe periods of uncertainty.

5. Why is trying to time the market risky during a crisis?

Because investors have to make two correct decisions: when to get out and when to get back in. Missing even a small number of the

market's best days can significantly reduce long-term returns.

6. What does the S&P 500 show about investments during wars?

It shows that a \$1,000 investment left fully invested over 25 years grew substantially, while missing only the market's best few days dramatically reduced returns. Missing the best 30 days caused the investment to shrink instead of grow.

7. What should investors do during geopolitical uncertainty?

The article recommends staying focused on the long term, maintaining diversification, and working from a portfolio strategy that reflects personal risk tolerance rather than reacting emotionally to headlines.

8. Is the article saying investors should ignore world events?

No. It acknowledges that these events are serious and can move markets meaningfully, but argues that investment decisions should still be grounded in discipline and long-term planning rather than fear-driven reaction.

**Meta Description:** How does war impact the stock market? Learn how the Iran conflict affects oil, inflation, and investments—and why long-term investors benefit from staying disciplined during market volatility.

**Internal Links:**  
Anchor Text: how to stay invested during market volatility  
Link: <https://whzwealth.com/blog/2025/08/01/stocks-overcome-wall-of-worry>

Anchor Text: the importance of portfolio rebalancing  
Link: <https://whzwealth.com/blog/2025/07/11/mid-year-financial-checkup>

Anchor Text: build a financial plan that withstands uncertainty  
Link: <https://whzwealth.com/blog/2025/07/04/how-to-achieve-financial-independence>

## Christ Church Pomfret hosts end-of-life planning workshops

POMFRET — Living your life with purpose and intentionality promotes a fulfilling living legacy. Sharing your end-of-life wishes is a gift to your loved ones.

Christ Church Pomfret will host a series of workshops designed to explore how we might live a life

consistent with our values, how we wish to be remembered and how we prepare for end-of-life, both spiritually and administratively.

The first of these sessions will be held Sunday, April 26, from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of Christ Church, 527 Pomfret St.

(Route 44), in Pomfret.

This workshop will explore how our faith and values inform how we live our daily lives and how we approach end-of-life topics. This session will be led by the Rev. Sandra L. Cosman, rector, and Becca Allen, LCSW, whose professional focus is End of

Life Planning.

The workshop is open to the community and relevant to adults of all ages interested in exploring the big questions of living and leaving a meaningful legacy. There is no charge. Childcare will be provided.

The workshop series is sponsored by the Vestry and The Third Century Society of Christ Church, celebrating our upcoming 200th anniversary. We invite you

to join us.

A vibrant church community since its founding in May 1828, Christ Church Pomfret, an Episcopal Church for northeast Connecticut, is a place where faith and real life intersect. From here, we are called to share God's love in the Church and in the world through generous hospitality, serving one another, community involvement, and providing a safe place

to explore a relationship with God. Whether you are a Quiet Corner native or have recently moved here, a committed Christian or someone inquiring about the faith for the first time, we want you to feel at home. Please know that you are invited to participate in all aspects of our worship. We are so glad that you're here.

## Eastern's 'Earth Day Market' returns with nearly 30 vendors

BY NOEL TETER  
EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University will celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with its annual Earth Day Market, an outdoor event featuring nearly 30 vendors, including local businesses and student organizations, all united by a commitment to sustainability.

The Earth Day Market will take place outdoors from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fine Arts Instructional Center (FAIC) amphitheater. The rain location will be inside at the Student Center mezzanine. The event is free to attend and open to the public.

"Earth Day is a day for everyone to celebrate the environment, sustainability, and environmental stewardship," wrote Steve Nathan, environmental earth science professor and Earth Day Market coordinator. "Earth Day at Eastern will bring together nearly 30 groups, each sharing with the community their particular approach to being green."

The "Earth Day Market's" offerings will include local goods such as honey, hot sauces, house plants, and more. Additionally, there will be live demonstrations and activities such as silk-screening t-shirts, informational booths (about food co-ops, carpooling, watershed protection, etc.), and live

music from Eastern's 3 O'clock Jazz Band.

- Vendor List:
- Dragon's Blood Elixir
  - Wilkinson Farm
  - Sweet Heal
  - Willimantic Food Co-op
  - The Last Green Valley
  - Garden Club of Windham
  - Grow Windham
  - EcoAmbassadors
  - Humming Grove Farm
  - Third Act Initiative
  - Mycology Club
  - Blue Iris Farm
  - CTrides
  - Garden Club
  - The Farmer's Cow Calfe
  - Chartwells & Bevi
  - Composting Demos
  - Biology Club
  - Craft Club
  - T-shirts with a Purpose
  - Women's Weightlifting Club
  - Thrift Warriors
  - Eastern Passport
  - Office of Career Services
  - Reprint. Rewear. Rethink. Silk Screening
  - Office of Wellness Education Outreach and Veteran Care
  - Natchaug Watershed Advisory Board
  - Windham Chamber of Commerce



Courtesy

## PACK 21 RECOGNIZES CUB SCOUT VOLUNTEER JAMES N. TETREAULT

Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam has given an Honorary Cub Scout Award to devoted pack volunteer James N. Tetreault of Sterling. Tetreault, a professional carpenter and expert gardener, recently directed bird house building and vegetable seed planting programs for the Cubs. He's also been a big help at Pack 21's recent Easter egg hunt and at their April 11 visit to a local dairy farm.

# Mountain Laurel Floral Designs releases May workshops focused on meaningful Mother's Day experiences

DANIELSON — This Mother's Day season, Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is inviting the community to skip the traditional gifts and instead create lasting memories together. With a thoughtfully curated lineup of May workshops, the shop is offering unique, hands-on experiences designed to celebrate moms, caregivers, and the special connections that make this time of year so meaningful.

Throughout May, guests can enjoy opportunities to slow down and spend quality time together, starting with the free Dahlia Tuber Swap held every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This drop-in event is perfect for moms and families who love flowers, offering a chance to exchange existing tubers for beautiful new varieties. For those new to gardening, tubers will also be available for purchase at \$10 each.

On May 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., "Memories with Mom" offers a playful and heartfelt way to celebrate. For \$20, participants can step into Destination Event Co.'s photobooth together to capture fun, candid moments, then create a cus-

tom frame for their favorite 4x6 photo using a wide selection of craft materials. The experience is designed to produce not just a keepsake,

but a shared memory. Optional photo magnets will also be available for purchase.

"At Destination Event Co., we've always believed that the best part of any event is how it makes people feel," said co-owner Andrea O'Shea. "Creating space for connection, joy, and lasting memories is at the center of everything we do."

For those looking to give the gift of creativity, the Mother's Day Floral Arranging workshop on May 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. provides a beautiful way to connect. Priced at \$55, this guided experience allows guests to design fresh floral arrangements alongside their mom or caregiver, making it both a thoughtful gift and a memorable activity to enjoy together. All workshops at the shop are BYOB, adding to the relaxed, celebratory atmosphere.

On May 22 from 4 to 6 p.m., "Cookie Decorating" with Dorothy Miller offers



a lighthearted outing perfect for mothers, daughters, and friends. For \$20, attendees will learn decorating techniques for sweet treats they can share, or take home. The class is welcoming to all skill levels, making it an easy and enjoyable way to spend time together. Rounding out the month,

"Thyme to Plant: Herb Planter Boxes" on May 29th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. invites participants to build, paint, and resin their own herb planter for \$45. Guests will leave with a finished piece and seeds to grow fresh herbs at home—an experience that continues long after the workshop

ends and serves as a lasting reminder of time spent together.

"We know that the most meaningful gifts aren't things, they're moments," said co-owner Pam Blinten. "We wanted to create experiences where people can truly connect with their moms or loved ones and walk away with both something beautiful and a memory they'll hold onto."

To register for upcoming workshops, visit [mountainlaurelfloralct.com](http://mountainlaurelfloralct.com). Customers are also encouraged to sign up for Mountain Laurel's email list to receive special monthly workshop offers and updates.

**May Workshops:**  
Free Dahlia Tuber Swap Saturdays in May | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
FREE - Drop by during shop hours to swap your extra tubers for a new variety! Don't have tubers? They'll be on sale for \$10.

**Memories with Mom**  
May 3 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
\$20 - Step into Destination Event Co.'s photobooth with Mom to snap a series of fun pictures. Once you've captured

your favorite 4x6 moment, design and decorate a custom frame to match your photo. Plus, Destination Event Co. will even have magnets available for purchase—another fun way to enjoy your photos!

**Mother's Day Floral Arranging**

May 15 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
\$55 - Create beautiful arrangements while making lasting memories with your mom or caregiver—a great gift for Mother's Day! All events at the shop are BYOB!

**Cookie Decorating**

May 22 | 4 - 6 p.m.  
\$20 - Decorate delicious cookies alongside Dorothy Miller and learn fun, creative techniques to make your treats look as good as they taste. Perfect for all skill levels!

**Thyme to Plant: Herb Planter Boxes**

May 29 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
\$45 - Get your hands a little dirty while you build, paint and resin your own herb box and go home with seeds to plant. It's a fun, relaxing way to grow fresh flavors right from your windowsill.

## Purple Martin conservation initiative expands



POMFRET — Purple Martins return to Connecticut to nest in April and May and leave for their wintering grounds in South America in August. They are cavity-nesters and live in colonies. In the eastern United States, they do not use natural cavities but depend on man-made housing to nest and rear their young. There are two types

of Purple Martin housing. One is apartment-style bird houses with six or more compartments, each compartment having its own entrance. The other type is clusters of hollow gourds, natural or plastic, hanging from racks on poles, known as gourd trees.

In 2022, The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret erected

housing for Purple Martins on its Bafflin Sanctuary. Open and grassy with Mashamoquet Brook nearby, the housing site offers desirable flood plain habitat and hunting grounds for birds which catch their insect prey on the wing. Ideal habitat for Purple Martins, they quickly established an active colony. Although initially both types of housing were provided, CAS staff found the martins preferred the gourds and more of them were added. In 2025, more than 80% of the gourds were in use.

Four years after housing was provided in Mashamoquet Meadow, the Center's Purple Martin conservation initiative has provided gourd housing complexes in eight addi-

tional towns in northeastern Connecticut. The expanded effort has been funded by a generous donation from a CAS member. Complexes have been erected in Chaplin (Hubbard Sanctuary), Eastford (future preserve), Hampton (Little River Preserve and Trail Wood), Mansfield (Knowlton Hill Preserve), Plainfield (Quinebaug Valley State Fish Hatchery), Thompson (West Thompson Dam), Windham (Allanach-Wolf Woodlands), and Woodstock (Roseland Park). The complexes offer a total of 120 nesting cavities.

The more familiar Tree Swallows sometimes nest with Purple Martins, but the two are easily sorted. Adult male Purple Martins are entirely bluish black, although when the sun is shining on them, the males' feathers appear iridescent purple. Purple Martins are the only North American swallows with dark bellies, which is a good field mark. The largest member of the

swallow family, they can be distinguished from other swallows by their dark bellies, size, and slightly slower wing beat. The adult females have dark bluish backs, but gray-brown underparts. It takes two years for Purple Martins to acquire adult plumage. One-year-old (sub-adult) males have dark upper bodies and light, grayish bellies, like females.

Purple Martin song has been described as a beautiful, complex mixture of chortles and gurgles and, in flight, a melodious, even jubilant, twittering or whistling.

Why is all of this attention paid to Purple Martins? As with so many birds, their numbers have been falling for decades. The Purple Martin Conservation Association estimates that the overall martin population has declined by almost 25 percent in the last 55 years, the equivalent of 2.8 billion birds.

Although it can be difficult to imagine what we can

do to help given the enormity of the loss, conservation begins locally. The Center at Pomfret's Purple Martin initiative certainly helps increase the numbers of birds in our region. And there are many steps we can take as individuals.

Foster insect populations which are the foundation of the avian food web — leave a section of your lawn unmown (No Mow May), rake leaves to your lawn's edges and leave them there in autumn, refrain from using lawn and other chemicals.

Plant pollinator gardens and native, berry-producing shrubs.

Provide species-specific nesting boxes in appropriate locations.

Leave dead trees (snags) in place for cavity nesting birds and other animals.

These are just some actions that create good habitats and increase the likelihood of nesting success for a variety of birds as well as other creatures.

## POMFRET SCHOOL WINTER 2025-26 HONORS ANNOUNCED

POMFRET — The following local students were named to a Winter 2025-26 Honors list at Pomfret School:

**Head of School Scholar Honors**  
To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 4.00 and received no grade lower than an A-.

**Class of 2026**  
Gabriela Brown (Woodstock Valley)  
Mirabelle Cole (Brooklyn)  
Remy Jacquet (Pomfret)  
William Leary (Pomfret)

**Class of 2027**  
James Lake (Pomfret)  
Rowan Lehmann (Putnam)

**Class of 2028**  
Roan Donovan (Woodstock)  
Amber Sherman (Brooklyn)

**Class of 2029**  
Erin Park (Pomfret Center)

**High Honors**  
To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 3.67 and received no grade lower than a B+.

**Class of 2026**  
Anson Bochain (Pomfret)

Robert Ellsworth (Eastford)  
Shelby Geragotelis (Brooklyn)  
Ian Sherman (Brooklyn)

**Class of 2027**  
Beatrice Foronda (Putnam)  
Rita Rawcliffe (Woodstock)  
Ella Sousa (North Grosvenordale)

**Class of 2028**  
McKenna Bendall (Pomfret)  
Coco-Lyon Jacquet (Pomfret)  
Tatum Litowitz (Pomfret)

**Honors**  
To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 3.33 and received no grade lower than a B.

**Class of 2026**  
Max Ring (Pomfret)

**Class of 2028**  
Greyson Bannister (Woodstock)  
Adelyn Snyder (Dayville)

Isabella Weinhardt (Dayville)

**Class of 2029**  
Sydney Anderson (Woodstock)

Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 350 students in grades 9 through 12 and post-graduates. Set on a stunning 500-acre campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret empowers students to pursue lives of purpose and meaning by inspiring the next generation of change makers and problem solvers. Learn more at [www.pomfret.org](http://www.pomfret.org).



Courtesy

## DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA DONATE CAR SEAT TO MOM IN NEED

The DOI were called to action and delivered a car seat to a mother in need at Caring Families Pregnancy Center in Willimantic. They also received a tour and learned about the many support services and care the organization provides. Pictured, from left to right: Sharon Leighton, member of the Daughters of Isabella and staff sonographer at Caring Families, Ellen Knight, Priscilla Dowd and Janet Watson

## EXPANSION

continued from page A1

paid through donations and the rest covered by a grant from a Connecticut State Libraries grant.

Library Director Laurie Bell said the addition makes the library more functional and allows it to grow into an even more convenient and accessible resource for the community.

"It's really been a long haul. I think that the community response was very positive," said Bell. "Seeing the families come in with their young children and enjoying the space in a way they have not been able to because it's been more closed off is just the icing on the cake. Hearing all the positive comments

## AWARDS

continued from page A1

tunities, and day programs - that empower individuals to live more independent and fulfilling lives. Guided by its mission to ensure individuals are recognized for their abilities and have full and equal opportunities for participation and inclusion, the organization continues to make a profound impact across the region.

"The Annual Awards Gala is one of our most meaningful traditions," said 2026 Chamber President Amy Brunet. "It's an opportunity to pause and recognize the people who are truly making a difference across our 23-town region. This year's honorees represent the heart of Northeastern Connecticut, leaders who care deeply, give generously, and help move our communities forward."

The Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce remains committed to its mission of supporting the growth, promotion, and sustainability of businesses across the region. Events like the Annual Awards Gala serve as a powerful reminder of the impact strong, connected communities can have.

Tickets are available at [nectchamber.com/calendar-events](http://nectchamber.com/calendar-events). For more information, please contact the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce at [info@nectchamber.com](mailto:info@nectchamber.com) or 860-774-8001.

have been great."

The expansion was the culmination of ten years of work that at one point was sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic due to price increases that led to the library having to return a previous grant. But the town persevered, a new grant was obtained, and

## REYNOLDS

continued from page A1

"I don't want it to all of a sudden turn into we just keep racking up more and more debt just to try to facilitate every single

## TAG SALE

continued from page A1

Church Pomfret (521 Pomfret Street). Popular fundraisers include The Friends of Pomfret

eventually everything came together to bring new life to the building. The project officially broke ground in June of 2025 making completion less than a year from that ceremony.

In a day and age where many may question if libraries are still a worthy investment, Bell said they

need there is," Reynolds explained. "We have to find out what's most important and what people around us recognize as a value and try to make sure that's heard."

He was also asked about his opinion on sewer avoid-

ance areas to keep Killingly more rural, which he noted was a more complicated subject because Killingly needs to support business growth to economically support its rural character. He feels there needs to be a

happy medium. "All this infrastructure that we take for granted is there because we find a way to collaborate together to fund it, make sure someone's running it, someone's going to volunteer in it, and

we have to find what's the happy place," he said. Reynolds' term on the Council will expire on Dec. 3, 2029. His appointment also maintains the Democratic majority of the Council.

## CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley offers free ESOL summer bridge program

WILLIMANTIC — The Northeast Connecticut Education Foundation (NCEF) proudly announces that registration is open for a free 10-week English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Summer Bridge Program. This is the fourth consecutive summer the program will be offered thanks to a generous grant from the Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts (SFFEA). The funding covers tuition and educational expenses for 2026 high school graduates and adult learners who plan to enroll at CT State Quinebaug Valley in the fall.

Elkin Espitia-Loaiza, Quinebaug Valley Professor of ESOL, Spanish, and ESOL Program Coordinator, commented, "For the last three years, English Language Learner (ELL) students have received invaluable benefits from participating in this program. It enables students to bridge academic transitions from spring to fall and minimizes the summer regression in English acquisition and proficiency. In

addition to fulfilling course requirements, students benefit from community building and mentorship opportunities. At the end of the day, ELL students in the Summer Bridge Program gain more confidence in themselves both in and out of the classroom."

Past Summer Bridge student Carmen Rodríguez de Cruz shared, "The classes I took last summer gave me extra time to focus on speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English. I was grateful for the small class size, access to tutors, and field trips to other schools. All of this without worrying about the expense that usually comes with taking summer classes."

The 2026 program will run May 29 through Aug. 9 at the CT State Quinebaug Valley Willimantic campus, offering courses in Business, College Readiness, and ESOL. In addition, students will take part in one cultural field trip to the Peabody Museum at Yale University and three academic field trips to the Quinebaug

the Pomfret Recreation Commission, the Pomfret Historical Society, the Pomfret Power Packs, and the Pomfret Community School. Consult your map for tag-sale locations and item descriptions.

There is plenty to do in the beautiful Quiet Corner of Connecticut, so spend the day! Take a walk on the Pomfret Air Line Trail, enjoy a bike ride on the Pomfret Forest Mountain Bike Trails, then

grab ice cream at We-Lik-It. There are plenty of restaurants, such as The Vanilla Bean, to enjoy a snack or a meal.

Pomfret is known for our quiet country roads, historic landmarks, unique shops & exceptional restaurants ([VisitPomfret.com](http://VisitPomfret.com)). Follow the Pomfret Proprietors on Instagram or Facebook. For questions, please contact Martha Emilio at 860-974-1583 or [martha@majilly.com](mailto:martha@majilly.com).

Valley Danielson campus, Eastern Connecticut State University, and UCONN. Prospective students, parents, and adult learners are invited to attend the ESOL Information Session at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 11 at the CT State Quinebaug Valley Willimantic campus located at 729 Main St., Willimantic. To learn more or to register, please contact Elkin Espitia-Loaiza at [elkin.espitaloai-za@ctstate.edu](mailto:elkin.espitaloai-za@ctstate.edu).

The mission of the Northeast Connecticut Education Foundation is to provide scholarships and other financial support to residents of Northeast Connecticut who want to pursue higher education. To learn more about the NCEF, visit [www.necteducationfoundation.org](http://www.necteducationfoundation.org). For more information on how to support local students at CT State Quinebaug Valley, please contact Director of Institutional Advancement Monique C.K. Wolanin at (860) 932-4174 or [monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu](mailto:monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu).

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## "Voices of Inclusion: Words That Unite" unveiling set for Putnam River Trail

PUTNAM — The Town of Putnam, in partnership with The Arc Eastern Connecticut, will unveil Voices of

Inclusion: Words That Unite, a new, reflective walking journey designed to celebrate diversity, foster dialogue, and promote inclusion within the community.

The unveiling will take place on Saturday, May 2 at 2 p.m. at Rotary Park in Putnam, and will coincide with Quiet Corner Pride Day. The event is free and open to the public, with special guests and VIPs joining community members for the celebration.

Voices of Inclusion features a curated series of inspirational quotes displayed on existing storyboards along the Putnam River Trail. Installed at regular intervals, the quotes form a thoughtful walking experience encouraging reflection on belonging, respect, and how individuals and communities embrace people of all abilities.

Jamie Lazaroff, self-advocacy coordinator for The Arc ECT, and his late mother Dawn shared a vision for the project. After she passed, he honored her memory by guiding the project from inspiration to fruition. Putnam was chosen for the installation due to its reputation as a welcoming, inclusive community and the prominence of the River Trail as a well-traveled public space in Northeast Connecticut. Organizers hope the artwork will spark conversation while enhancing the natural beauty of the trail.

The project received approvals from the Mayor's Office, Recreation Commission, Library Board, and Economic Development Commission, with fabrication support provided by Killingly Metal Fabrication. Funding is provided entirely by an anonymous private donor, with support from The Arc Eastern Connecticut.

About The Arc Eastern Connecticut

The Arc Eastern Connecticut is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for and supporting people with IDD in the communities of eastern Connecticut. Since its founding in 1952, the Agency has promoted inclusion, independence, and quality of life for people with IDD through advocacy, education, and community-based services. To learn more, please visit [TheArcECT.org](http://TheArcECT.org).

# LEGALS

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

## ESTATE OF

## Donald E Moreau (26-00110)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 10, 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:  
Francesca Harnois, c/o GAIL JESSEL ROOKE-NORMAN

(attorney for Francesca Harnois),  
ROOKE-NORMAN & ASSOC,  
31 ACADEMY STREET, PO BOX  
347, DANIELSON, CT 06239,  
(860)774-4717.  
April 24, 2026

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

## ESTATE OF

## Antranik M Karayan (26-00148)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 14, 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:  
Sylvia Morin  
c/o NICHOLAS SEAN MAZZARELLA,  
KAPLAN AND BRENNAN, LLP,  
643 NORWICH ROAD,  
PLAINFIELD, CT 06374  
April 24, 2026

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

## ESTATE OF

## Richard V Forsstrom, Jr. (26-00153)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of

Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 15, 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:  
CHRISTIAN GEORGE  
SARANTOPOULOS,  
SARANTOPOULOS &  
SARANTOPOULOS, LLC,  
143 SCHOOL STREET,  
DANIELSON, CT 06239  
April 24, 2026

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

## ESTATE OF

## Kenneth Edward Phillips (26-00158)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 15, 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:  
Michelle Smith, 104 Elliott Road,  
Brooklyn, CT 06234  
April 24, 2026

### Witches Wood Tax District, Woodstock, CT

## Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Witches Woods Tax District will be held on Friday, May 15, 2026, at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at Bungay Fire Brigade, 1256 Rte 171, Woodstock, CT April 17, 2026  
April 24, 2026

Woodstock Hist Dist Comm public hearing April 29, 6:30 pm, Wdstk Town Hall for Woodstock Academy, 57 Academy Rd, exterior lighting.  
G White, Chair  
April 24, 2026

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

## ESTATE OF

## James A Kern (26-00114)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 10, 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:  
Wayne R Blackmer Jr.  
c/o GAIL JESSEL ROOKE-NORMAN,  
ROOKE NORMAN & ASSOC,  
31 ACADEMY STREET, PO BOX  
347, DANIELSON, CT 06239  
April 24, 2026

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

## ESTATE OF

## Charles T (26-00106)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 3, 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:  
Maria E Skowron,  
75 Berry Corner Road,  
Charlton, MA 01507  
April 24, 2026

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

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in our drop box.

The fourth quarter installment of real estate and personal property taxes becomes due on April 1, 2026 and becomes delinquent on May 1, 2026 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Please visit our website for full details and online payments [www.killinglyct.gov](http://www.killinglyct.gov).

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

April Lamothe, CCMC

Revenue Collector

Town of Killingly

March 27, 2026

April 10, 2026

April 24, 2026

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

## ESTATE OF

## Kevin J Rymwid-Mickiewicz (26-00152)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 14, 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:  
Caitlin Kearney, c/o MICHELE ANN PALULIS ATTORNEY MICHELE ANN PALULIS, LLC, 158 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2, P. O. BOX 616, PUTNAM, CT 06260,  
(860)928-9928.  
April 24, 2026

# OBITUARIES

## John E. Bassett Jr.

June 27, 1938 - April 10, 2026



Brooklyn - John E. Bassett Jr., 87, of Brooklyn, CT, passed away April 10, 2026. He was the loving husband of Patricia M. (Green) Bassett. John was born in Putnam, CT and raised as one of ten children in Canterbury, CT. He knew no happiness like he could find in a hard days work.

John is survived by his wife, Patricia M. (Green) Bassett; his children, Ann Marie (George) Milete and John David (Kandyse) Bassett; grandchildren, Jennifer (Matthew) Nemeth, Jonathan (Kimberly) Milete; and Morgan Bassett; great grandchildren, Arlo Nemeth, Wynton Nemeth, Rylee Milete, and Maren Milete; siblings, Phyllis Coombs, Linda Anderson, Cynthia (Dave) Wildowski, Barbara (Jeff) Bitgood, Sheryl (Steve) Shea; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his parents, John E. Bassett Sr and Ruth E. (Franklin) Bassett; siblings, Lester Bassett, Walter "Skip" Bassett, Richard Bassett, and Ruth Schaefer.

After graduating from Windham Technical High School, he began his career

at Akim Engineering in Willimantic. He was a gifted metal worker, who utilized his skills to make gifts for his future bride and lifelong love, Pat (Petunia as he called her.)

After retiring at Akim, he started the final leg of his career at the family company, Cliff Green and Sons for over thirty years. He retired happy in his seventies after working alongside his family and coworkers who became like family.

On the rare occasion when John wasn't working, he could be found with his opening crew at George's Galley, Brooklyn Baker's Dozen, and Zip's diner.

His most treasured relationships were with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He spent many hours at sporting events, cheering them on. John's love was shown through his willingness to always lend a hand to family, friends, and neighbors.

To honor John's wishes, we will not be having any public services. A private celebration of life will be held for family at a later date.

"If you'd like to honor John's legacy with a donation in his name, the family suggests the Brooklyn Little League, [www.brooklynlittleleague.org](http://www.brooklynlittleleague.org), or the Colchester Little League, [www.cbsl.org](http://www.cbsl.org)."

## Kevin D. Houghton

1963 - 2026



N. Grosvenordale - Kevin D. Houghton, 62, of Riverside Dr., died Friday, April 17, 2026, at home. Born in Webster, MA, he was the son of Shirley J. (Prince) Houghton of Thompson and the late

Paul C. Houghton who died on October 25, 1991.

Mr. Houghton was a veteran serving with the United States Marine Corps. For many years he was employed as a grocery buyer.

He was a member of the Danielson Veterans Coffee House, Putnam Lodge of Elks, Jesse Hay Memorial Association, Paul C. Houghton Marine Corps Detachment, and a former Boy Scout Leader for troop 66.

Kevin is survived by his mother Shirley J. (Prince) Houghton of Thompson; his children, Jacob Houghton and his wife Leann of Putnam, Joshua Houghton of Richmond, VA, and Lindsey Houghton of Southbridge; his siblings, Charles

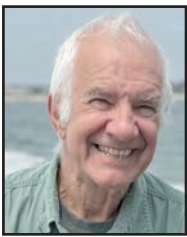
Houghton of Plainfield, Peter Houghton of Landover Hills, MD, Deborah Elliott of Sutton, MA, and Lisa Houghton of Thompson. He is also survived by several dear nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 1:00PM in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Kevin's memory may be made to the Boy Scouts of America, 1325 W. Walnut Hill Ln., Irving, TX 75038 or online at [www.give.scouting.org](http://www.give.scouting.org).

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Thomas G. Rosa

1955 - 2026



Pomfret Center - Thomas Gregory Rosa, 71, of Pomfret Center, Connecticut, passed away at his home April 19, 2026 after a long battle with kidney cancer.

Tom was born in Brockton, Massachusetts and was the middle child of nine siblings. He graduated from Brockton High School before serving in the United States Army, where he was part of a team responsible for investigating helicopter crashes. He was also a graduate of Worcester State University.

Tom met the love of his life Susan in 1979, married her in 1982 and shared 43 years together raising their three children enjoying many adventures and abundant blessings.

A dedicated and hardworking man, Tom was the proud owner of Rosa Electric and spent 40 years as a skilled electrical contractor. He took great pride in his work and the business he built and reluctantly retired due to his illness.

Tom found joy in life's simple pleasures. He loved traveling with his wife, trips to the beach, music and cherished time spent reading, watching movies, and enjoying his family. Thomas will be remembered for

his strong work ethic and the endless stories he shared with all who knew him. He was an anchor to his family, someone who always knew what to do and how to guide everyone home. He will be greatly missed by all.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, Charles and Helen Rosa. He is lovingly survived by his wife, Susan; his children, Matthew, Julie, and Andrew; his grandson, Romolo; his granddaughter, Winter; his daughter-in-law, Mariah; his son-in-law, Eduardo; his eight siblings Steven, Charles, Karen, Kathy, Donna, Peggy Anne, Patricia and Kari; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Per Tom's wishes, funeral services will be private with his family. They would like to thank the oncology team at UMASS and the Hartford Healthcare Hospice team for all their dedication and caring throughout his illness.

For memorial guestbook please visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com). Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260.

## Armando Massini, Jr, 76



Armando Massini, Jr, 76, passed peacefully on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, at Matulaitis Rehabilitation, in Putnam, CT, after a short illness. He was born on 12/31/49, in Middletown, CT, he

was the son of the late Armando and Irene Massini, Sr. He is survived by his beloved sister and best friend, Joan Dunham, Westbrook, CT, and his partner of 34 years, Norma Shank, and her son John Shank. Arman lived his life in Westbrook, then Sterling, and settled forty years ago in Pomfret Center, CT. He found his joy on 44 acres, hunting, shooting skeet & trap, and foraging wood for the long winters. He competed in trap shooting and was rated high in his division.

Armand learned the craft of masonry from his father. From the time he was 8 years old, he could be seen on the roof of a house with his father, finishing a chimney. He excelled building field stone, brick

and bluestone fireplaces. He learned the construction trade from spending time with his father on job sites. Eventually, Armand opened his own General Contracting company; building homes, condo complexes, and remodels in RI, CT and MA. He often drew the blue prints for new homes so buyers would get exactly what they wanted.

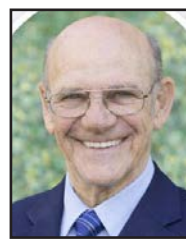
Armand never met an animal he didn't like. He fed the deer, turkeys, birds, and squirrels. He lived a mile from a local vet, and it seemed like more homeless cats ended up on his steps. He never turned any cat away; they always had a home. Even hunting one day, he found two kittens in a tree stump. The mother had been shot, the kittens were left behind; two more kittens were added to his family.

The family would like to send special thanks to Matulaitis Rehabilitation, Putnam, CT, Wing B, for their exceptional care. Especially Vicki, Holly and DeAnn, who treated Armand like he was family.

Those wishing to remember Armand may make a donation to Pet Pals Northeast, P. O. Box 64, Plainfield, CT 06374.

## Richard E. Montigny

1934 - 2026



Putnam - Richard E. Montigny, 91, of Putnam, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2026, just one week shy of his 92nd birthday. Born on April 20, 1934, in Putnam, he was the son of the late Alice and Joseph Montigny. He was raised in Putnam alongside his brothers Raymond and Roland Montigny, both predeceased, and Robert and Mark Montigny both from Thompson, CT.

Richard was a lifelong resident of Putnam and a proud graduate of St. Mary's School and Putnam High School. In the aftermath of the devastating 1955 Putnam flood, he answered his nation's call, entering the U.S. Army on August 31, 1955. He served in Korea as a motion picture photographer and continued his military service with the Connecticut Army Reserve and later the Connecticut Army National Guard. From 1974 until his retirement in 1993, much of that time at the 242nd Battalion Armory in Putnam. Over a distinguished 25-year military career, Richard received numerous honors including, Meritorious Service Medal (twice), Army Achievement Medal (twice), Connecticut Medal of Merit, Army Components Achievement Medal (4 times), Army Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Connecticut Long Service Medal (15 years) and five Connecticut Emergency Service Ribbons. His service reflects a lifelong dedication to his country, the State of Connecticut, and his hometown of Putnam.

Between his military service, Richard worked as a photographer and craftsman in positions at Kaman Aircraft Corporation in Moosup, Grube Camera in Putnam, and Jens Risom Design, Inc. in Thompson. During these years, he also raised the children of his first marriage, Maria Theresa Landry (predeceased), Ross Montigny of Brooklyn, CT, Jay Montigny (Banya) of Putnam, CT, Todd Montigny (predeceased) and Robin Gaucher (Timothy) of Danielson, CT. In later years, Richard welcomed grandchildren Deirdre Lacroix and Stephen Lacroix, both of TN, Tyler Montigny of Plainfield, CT, and Sara Cloud (Michael) of New London, CT, and many great-grandchildren.

Richard married Alice (Bourey) Montigny in 1989, and together they shared a life defined by a deep and inseparable bond. With quiet strength and compassion, he cared for Alice at home throughout her battle with Alzheimer's until her passing on April 19, 2012. Together they blended their families, creating a large and close-knit circle that included daughters Genie Johnson (Mike) of Woodstock, CT, Dale Moore (David) of Port Charlotte, FL, Marlene Clark (Tim) of East Killingly, CT, Amber Lints (Robert) of Lansing, MI, Kimberly Beauregard (predeceased), and grandchildren Jennifer Morton (Tony) of Freedom, ME, Brandon LeClair and his partner Barbara DiFusco of Warwick, RI, Jason Couture of Moosup, CT, Melissa Francisco of Somerville, MA, Amanda Cazden of Susanville, CA, Harry Clark, III (predeceased), Ashley Milete of Jackson,

MI, Danielle Milete of Fallon, NV, Alex Mauro of Asheville, NC, and Kenda Zappasodi of Stoneham, MA.

A companionship between Richard and Viola Anderson of Thompson, CT, which began in 2015, blossomed into a partnership founded on love, devotion, and happiness. They cherished simple joys, like watching old TV shows together, swimming in the pool on hot days, and taking leisurely drives, always looking for ice cream stands. Their home transformed into a place of warmth and welcome, where time slowed and visits with family and friends were treasured. As Richard's health needs increased, Viola's role expanded beyond that of a loving partner to include that of a devoted caregiver. Her unwavering, affectionate care ensured Richard's final season of life was filled with love, comfort, dignity, and profound peace.

Richard enjoyed a wide range of hobbies throughout his life, reflecting both his creativity and his appreciation for the outdoors. He found great satisfaction from construction and woodworking, and expressed his artistic side through oil painting and photography. His leisure activities included golf, camping, bowling, roller skating, bird watching, and fishing, which helped him stay physically active and maintain connections with people and the world. In later years, he became a familiar and friendly presence throughout the community while delivering for Putnam Pizza for nearly 20 years. Long before GPS, Richard knew every street in town by heart and could locate even the most obscure address with ease. He also enjoyed weekend yard sales, tending his garden, and time at home, finding his greatest joy in life's simple, meaningful moments.

Richard's quiet devotion to his family, friends, church, and military service will stand as his lasting legacy. With the charm and perspective of an earlier generation, he was never without a story, a firm handshake, or a touch of humor that brought a smile to those around him. While modern technology never quite suited him, he possessed a genuine understanding of people and community, and he gave generously of his time and resources. Richard, a dedicated father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, proudly "Army Strong," will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church of the Visitation in Putnam, CT. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery with military honors. A celebration of life luncheon will follow 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at The Black Dog Marley's Four-Season Room, 146 Park Road, Putnam, CT. We invite all to share memories and pay tribute to Richard's life.

A memorial guest book can be found at <https://www.gilmanandvalade.com/>. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260

Send all obituary notices to Villager Newspapers, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to [obits@stonebridgepressnews](mailto:obits@stonebridgepressnews)

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