

Killingly Public Schools reveals capital improvement goals

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly School District has set initial goals for its five-year capital improvement plan focusing on facility upgrades, security improvements, and maintenance across all the town’s public schools.

District Assistant Superintendent Andrea Drake laid out a list of priorities recently finalized by the board’s Facilities Committee in coordination with Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Michael Vassar. The list covers all improvement goals for the district’s individual schools for the next half-decade.

The report started with the central offices at Westfield Avenue, housed in the old high school building. Drake noted that the facility will require electrical and HVAC upgrades as well as replacing and repairing the travel lane which connects the property with Killingly Memorial School. One specific upgrade for the facility proved to be a constant for all the schools in the Capital Improvement Plan, the application of glazing film on the building’s windows.

“This is a result of the safety walkthroughs that we’ve

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Christ Church Pomfret recently donated \$700 to Interfaith Human Services of Putnam (IHSP) Diaper Bank. Pictured, left to right, are Miriam Kimball, Christ Church Outreach Committee; Judy Miller, Christ Church Outreach Committee; Reverend Sandra Cosman, Rector Christ Church Pomfret; and Peter Mann, Christ Church Outreach Committee.

Putnam High School announces 2026 Wall of Honor inductees

PUTNAM — The Putnam High School Wall of Honor Committee is proud to announce its latest class of honorees, recognizing five extraordinary individuals who have left an indelible mark on the halls of PHS and the world beyond.

This year’s inductees include a legendary educator, successful business leaders, a dedicated humanitarian, and a global spiritual leader.

«These individuals embody the spirit of Putnam High School,» said J. Scott Pempek, Chairman. «From decades of mentorship in our classrooms to philanthropic leadership across the country, their legacies serve as an inspiration to our current students.»

The honorees:

George St. Marie, Faculty, served the Putnam High School community for more than 40 years as a science teacher, Athletic Director, and Assistant Principal. Known as a disciplinarian who never needed to raise his voice, he commanded respect through fairness and quiet authority. Generations of students remember him as a mentor, coach, and father figure who helped shape the culture of the school.

Robert J. Gerardi, Class of 1951, graduated from Holy Cross College in 1955 and served as an officer in the Naval Reserve, attain-

ing the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After managing the family supermarket business in Danielson, he entered the insurance industry, purchasing several local agencies, creating Gerardi Insurance Services before retiring in 1996. Throughout his career, he was active in charitable and professional organizations, including serving as President of the Connecticut Association of Independent Agents.

Yvonne M. Cote, Class of 1973, owned and operated “The Hair Chair” in Putnam and was known for her quiet generosity and dedication to the community. She raised more than \$50,000 for the March of Dimes and received the 2006 George J. Racine Humanitarian Award.

John Deary, Class of 1976, served for 31 years as Vice President and co-owner of Sunnyside Farms and CEO/Owner of Deary’s Gymnastics Supply and DGS Ninja Equipment Manufacturing and Distribution. His businesses employ more than 40 families across Northeastern Connecticut and several other states. He has been recognized as Business Leader of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce

and has received numerous national service and leadership awards. He also served nine years on the board of United Services Mental Health Organization of Northeastern Connecticut, including three years as chair.

Kevin Downer, Class of 1983, is an experienced pastor, international interim minister, church planter, and consultant. He has led congregations across the United States addressing issues such as substance

abuse, poverty, civil rights, LGBTQ concerns, and social justice. His leadership helped Greendale People’s Church in Worcester raise nearly \$500,000 over the past three years to support community initiatives

The Induction will be held Saturday, Nov. 7 at Putnam High School. Look for more details, as well as full inductee information, in the coming weeks on our Putnam High School Wall of Honor Page.

Local shop hosts Independent Writers Book Fair

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — A local independent book shop in Putnam may have announced its impending closure, but the store

is going out strong after presenting an Independent Writer Book Fair to shine a light on local authors.



Visitors discuss some self-published works with Nancy Hopkins, one of the authors featured at Wolperdinger Bookends’ Independent Writers Book Fair.

Wolperdinger Bookends at 58 Publishing House, a small book shop at 112 Main St. in downtown Putnam, welcomed seven local authors on Feb. 28 who showcased their individual works for visitors to enjoy and embrace. The fair was bolstered by its coincidental timing on the same day as the rescheduled Fire & Ice festival helping draw a larger crowd to the store throughout the day.

Katie Billington, a manager of Wolperdinger Bookends, said the event was an important way for the store to give back to the local community and the many artists that challenge the mainstream expectations of literature by sharing their own stories free of conformity to the established norms.

“We have a variety of different kinds of stories and expressions. It’s important to have that variety, so people

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Killingly High School students recognized at National Student Television Convention

KILLINGLY — Students from Killingly High School’s video production program recently earned national recognition while attending the Student Television Network Convention in Tampa, Florida.

The convention brought together over four thousand middle and high school media students from across the country for workshops and competitive contests in film, broadcast journalism, and digital media production. During the event, students create original productions under strict deadlines while demonstrating skills in storytelling, filming, editing, and production.

Killingly High School senior Jenna DiFusco earned first place in the Division II Movie Trailer competition, standing out among student filmmakers nationwide. The contest challenges participants to create a compelling promotional trailer using original footage, editing techniques, and cinematic storytelling.

In this contest, Jenna created an original movie trailer using footage she filmed and edited on location based on the prompt “So It Begins.”

In addition, Mackenzie Pothier, Anna Kelly, and Kaedynce Reggione received Honorable Mention (5th Place) in the Division II Commercial competition for a commercial they produced during the event. Their project required students to develop and produce a fully realized commercial for a fictional product within a limited time frame, demonstrating creativity, collaboration, and technical production skills.

The Student Television Network National Convention features dozens of contests across broadcast journalism, film production, and multimedia storytelling, allowing students to showcase their work while learning from industry professionals and educators.

Killingly High School’s video production program regularly participates in regional and national competitions, providing students with opportunities to develop real-world media production skills.

Putnam Interact, Rotary, Rotaract Clubs raise awareness

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club and its Interact Club took part in the Feb. 28 Fire and Ice festival in Putnam and raised awareness of those in need.

The Interact Club members carved an ice block in the shape of a soup can to remind people of food insecurity. They collected \$86 for their fund-raiser for the Heifer project which helps families in Third World countries obtain sustainable food sources.

The Putnam Rotary Interact Club is a regional club for students ages 12 to 18. For more information, email robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

Rotary Club, Rotaract members and friends supported the Interact Club.

The Rotary Club’s ice sculpture included “Boots on the Ground” which represented the club’s serious effort this year to serve those in need in the community. That includes four groups: Mentally challenged, senior citizens, veterans and the unsheltered.



inda Lemmon — Courtesy

Interactors were joined by Rotaract and Rotary Club members and helpers.

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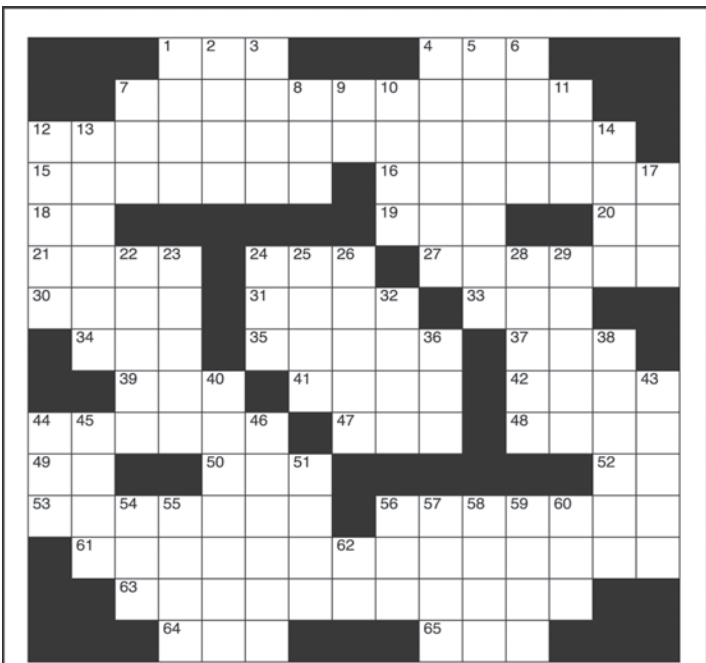
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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Blockchain-based entity

4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

7. Painted with glue

12. Legendary crooner

15. Structure made with strips of wood

16. Tropical fruits

18. Commercial

19. Comedienne Gasteyer

20. The Ocean State

21. Ancient Scot

24. Basics

27. Stated propositions

30. Scottish island group

31. Expression of annoyance

33. Large tree

34. Engine additive

35. Conspiracy

37. Drunkard

39. Someone who is morally reprehensible

41. Ancient Syrian city

42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

44. Carry (slang)

47. Sweet potato

48. European river

49. The Golden State

50. Windy City ballplayer

52. New Testament

53. Possess spiritually

56. A treeless grassy plain

61. Popular historical novel

63. In a law-abiding way

64. A place to sleep

65. Criticize
- CLUES DOWN
1. Impression in a surface

2. Computer language

3. Relating to the ear

4. Occupant

5. Member of Great Plains people

6. Social media firm

7. Digital audiotape

8. Midway between east and southeast

9. Chronic, progressive disease

10. Chinese lute

11. Not wet

12. Moves wings up and down

13. Communication devices

14. Swiss river

17. Female sibling

22. Receive

23. Relating to a type

24. General's assistant (abbr.)

25. Steep bank

26. Taxi driver

28. Moves into without difficulty

29. Bicycle manufacturer

32. Traditional rhythmic pattern

36. Fugitives are on it

38. Bitter-tasting organic substance

40. Die

43. Matched

44. Literary genre __-fi

45. Cannot

46. Pounded

51. British rock group

54. Debt relief order

55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner

56. Green vegetable

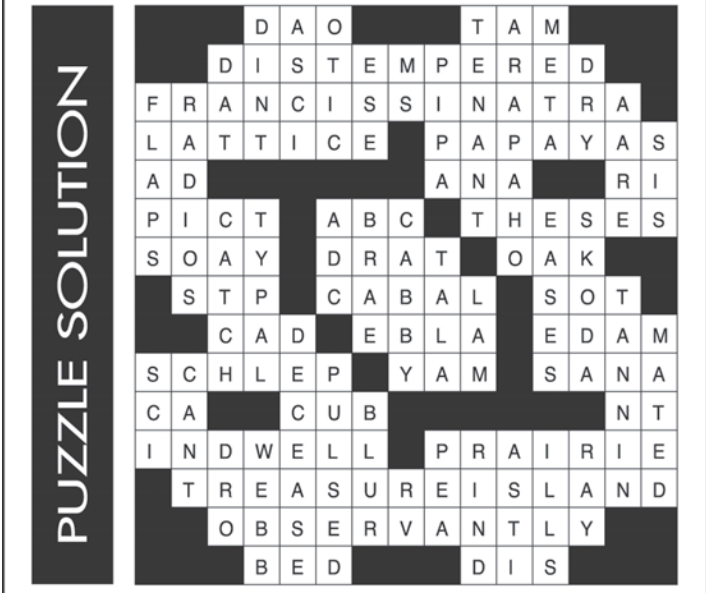
57. Tough outer skin of fruit

58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)

59. Ailments

60. Famed singer Charles

62. Camper



Courtesy

Interact Club members, from left: Calleigh Levesque, Bailey Benton, Sam Hachigian, Keegan Porter, Kenzie Porter, Alyssa Daniels. Missing from photo: Matthew Rybacki.



Linda Lemmon — Courtesy

The Putnam Rotary Club ice sculpture’s “Boots on the Ground” represents the club’s service to the community this year.

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Woodstock Dems’ Souper Supper fundraiser set for March 21

WOODSTOCK — “Soup by the people, for the people” is, once-again, the tried and true “recipe” for the popular Souper Supper community celebration hosted each March by the Woodstock Democratic Town Committee. This year’s event is set for Saturday, March 21, at the East Woodstock Congregational Church, corner of Woodstock Road and Dr. Pike Road in East Woodstock.

In response to last year’s demand (140 customers!), the hours have been extended to 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are the same as last year: \$10 for adults and \$25 for families. Tickets are available at the door or by calling event coordinator Peg Wilson at 860-928-0773.

Soup lovers can rejoice! Many popular, crowd-pleasing soups featured in past years are expected to headline the menu again this year. Along with a multitude of soups including vegetarian, the menu also includes appetizers, bread and butter, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages.

The Souper Supper has been an annual Woodstock tradition since 2001. 2026 marks its 24th year!

“Calm and enjoy!” Peg Wilson encourages. “The WDTC welcomes Democrats, Independents, unaffiliated voters, even Republicans!, plus citizens from all towns,” Wilson said. “Join us and dine; it’s a sit-down event in a friendly atmosphere as we celebrate the democratic electoral process.”

To ensure public health and safety, all food is prepared in a kitchen inspected and certified by the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH).

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11th Annual open sing in the spirit of Pete Seeger coming to FCC Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — The eleventh annual tribute concert dedicated to the memory of folk icon, Pete Seeger is scheduled for Sunday, March 22 at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church. Route 169, Woodstock Hill. Tickets are available at the door for a donation of \$25.

The event, affectionately called “For Pete’s Sake,” is hosted by former State Troubadour Sally Rogers of Pomfret, and Leslie Sweetnam of Woodstock, joined by a host of area song leaders who will present the songs while lyrics are projected for all to join in, including Bill Harley, Sally Rogers, Howie Bursen, Jeff Perkins, Sandy Pliskin, Marilyn Ravina, Carol Rossetti, Carolyn Brodginisky, Maria Sangiolo, Hugh Blumenfeld, and Leslie Sweetnam.

Seeger was one of the folk singers responsible for popularizing the spiritual “We Shall Overcome” that became the acknowledged anthem of the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Even more than a performer, Pete was a skilled song-leader, teaching generations of Americans to add their voices to make a room rock with that sound. Our song leaders

will teach each song, many already familiar, so we can sing along, and all words are projected on a large screen.

Seeger is best remembered for touring with two groups, the Almanac Singers and the Weavers in the 1940s and 1950s, and is credited for leading folk music’s revival and survival in the 1960s.

He had a string of hit records during the early 1950s as a member of the Weavers, most notably their recording of Lead Belly’s “Goodnight, Irene,” which topped the charts for 13 weeks in 1950.

Other hits written by Seeger, some recorded by other artists, include “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?”; “If I Had a Hammer”; and “Turn, Turn, Turn.” He also popularized Woody Guthrie’s “This Land is Your Land.” Many of these will be performed (with audience participation!) at the March 22 concert.

Seeger was a prominent singer of protest music in support of international disarmament, civil rights, counterculture, and environmental causes. As a social activist, he supported progressive causes such as racial and religious inclu-

sion which influenced his work.

A fact not well known about Seeger is that he was a U.S. Army veteran, having served in the Pacific during World War II. He was trained as an aircraft mechanic but later assigned to Special Services where he entertained his fellow troops with his banjo and songs.

After the war, he worked on the Civil Rights History Project at the Library of Congress, which no doubt influenced his songwriting and social activism.

Admission is a \$25 donation per person to benefit the Community Kitchens of NE Connecticut which have fed hundreds (if not thousands!) of hungry local people here in the Quiet Corner, especially active during the COVID Crisis. Hot delicious meals are prepared by volunteers and are still being served at their locations in Woodstock, Central Village, Danielson, Thompson. To volunteer or to find out about their serving times and locations, contact: communitykitchensnect@gmail.com or call them at 860-779-2465.

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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

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Dayville-based business marks one year serving Northeast CT communities



DAYVILLE — As winter snow begins to melt across Northeast Connecticut, many homeowners are rediscovering their yards after months of accumulation. For Dayville-based small business owner Trent Bone, the seasonal shift also marks an important milestone.

Bone, owner of Poop Scoopin’ Crew, is approaching the one-year anniversary of launching his residential pet waste removal service. Based at 28 Quarry Rd. in Dayville, the business serves Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, Brooklyn, Woodstock, Pomfret, and surrounding Northeast Connecticut communities.

Bone is also a member of the Northeast Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, where he has focused on building local relationships and strengthening community ties during the company’s first year in operation.

The company operates primarily on a recurring weekly service model for homeowners, designed to prevent buildup before it becomes overwhelming. Biweekly service and one-time cleanups are also available, particularly during the spring thaw when accumulated waste becomes more noticeable.

“Spring is when everything becomes visible at once,” Bone said. “If properties haven’t been maintained consistently over the winter, it can feel like a lot all at once.”

Poop Scoopin’ Crew operates year-round when conditions allow, helping reduce seasonal accumulation and maintain cleaner outdoor spaces for families and pets. As the business continues to grow, Bone is also exploring service opportunities with homeowners associations, apartment communities, and other multi-unit residential properties throughout Northeast Connecticut.

“We’ve been fortunate to grow through community support and referrals,” he said. “Reaching the one-year mark serving our local towns feels like a strong foundation for continued growth right here in Northeast Connecticut.”

More information about service areas is available at poopscoopincrew.com.

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EDITOR

Why the Quiet Corner still attracts new residents

For generations, the towns of Northeast Connecticut have offered something that is becoming harder to find in many parts of the country: a sense of place.

Communities such as Thompson, Woodstock, Putnam, Brooklyn, Pomfret, and Killingly do not move at the pace of large cities. Life here unfolds a little more slowly. Roads wind through forests and fields. Historic town greens still sit at the center of many communities. Neighbors recognize one another in grocery stores or at local events.

That way of life continues to attract people who are looking for something different.

In recent years, many small communities across New England have seen renewed interest from people seeking quieter surroundings. Some are families hoping to raise children in smaller school systems. Others are longtime New Englanders returning to rural towns after years in larger metropolitan areas. Still others are newcomers discovering the region for the first time.

Northeastern Connecticut has much to offer them.

The landscape itself is one of the region’s greatest assets. Rolling farmland, wooded hills, and historic villages create an environment that feels distinctly New England. Old stone walls still line many roads, reminders of the agricultural history that shaped the region.

At the same time, residents are not isolated from the broader world. Major highways connect the Quiet Corner to larger cities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Many residents commute to jobs outside the immediate area while continuing to enjoy the lifestyle that smaller towns provide.

That balance has become increasingly appealing.

Yet what often draws people to the region is not simply scenery. It is the sense of community that still exists in many towns here.

In small towns, everyday interactions still matter. People greet one another by name at local shops. Volunteers organize events that bring neighbors together. School concerts, library programs, and community celebrations become shared experiences rather than anonymous gatherings.

For longtime residents, these qualities may feel familiar enough to overlook. But newcomers often notice them immediately.

The Quiet Corner has also shown an ability to adapt while preserving its character. Downtown Putnam, for example, has developed into a vibrant center of restaurants, shops, and cultural events that attract visitors from across the region. Danielson continues to serve as an important commercial hub for Killingly and nearby communities.

Meanwhile, rural towns such as Woodstock, Thompson, and Pomfret maintain the landscapes and traditions that give the region its distinctive identity.

This balance between tradition and change helps explain why Northeastern Connecticut continues to draw interest from people seeking a different pace of life.

Growth must always be approached carefully. Residents understandably want to preserve the character that makes their towns special. Thoughtful planning and community conversation are essential as new development occurs.

But the continued interest in these towns also offers an encouraging sign.

It suggests that the qualities long valued by residents of the Quiet Corner remain meaningful in today’s world.

Peaceful landscapes. Walkable town centers. Strong schools and community institutions. Neighbors who know one another. These things may seem simple.

Yet they remain powerful reasons why Northeast Connecticut continues to feel like home for so many people.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iran is not another Bush war

To the Editor:

Liberals can be all psychedelic super hippie all they want, but I think there’s more justification for regime change in Iran than we ever had in Iraq or Afghanistan, and I’m not going to play dumb and pretend I don’t know what I know, or in some cases, formally studied.

President Trump is not wrong when he mentions the Islamic Republic Of Iran spreading their hate gospel of America being the great Satan or bankrolling numerous terror groups around the globe. What he omits though is that America is partially responsible for Iran being what it is. We created this monster, and I think we owe it to the people of Iran to help take it down.

Iran has had a democratic undercurrent among certain segments of its population and its diaspora for a long time. These people want Iran to be a proper republic instead of a foreign puppet regime or religious theocracy. Iran almost had that after World War II, when they democratically elected Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh to be their prime minister, but in the “basketcase vs. basket-

case” foreign policy of the Cold War, we thought he was drifting too far towards the Soviets and the CIA helped topple his republic and bring back the repressive corruption-ridden monarchy of the Shah.

The Shah was a basketcase, but he was our basketcase. Unfortunately, our basketcase inspired a nativist religious revolt that put the ayatollahs in power and paved the way for all the problems that we have today.

We are part of why the Iranians don’t have a proper republic and are repressed. I think we owe it to them to pay the price to make things right.

Afghanistan, Iraq, and nowadays Venezuela and Cuba could be considered regime change wars for political reasons. Iran, however, has a moral component to it, and I think the United States should take responsibility for our missteps all those years ago.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Trump fulfills Bin Laden’s vision

To the Editor:

The evil mastermind of the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and the failed attack on the Capital, Osama Bin Laden envisioned the United States responding in ways that would destroy itself. Bin Laden correctly calculated that the US would overreact and respond disproportionately, thereby pursuing illegal wars of regime change and spending trillions of dollars in the process. He correctly saw that this would result in internal division, the pursuit of endless, needless wars, the upending of the stable world order, the explosion of the deficit, and the rise of an authoritarian executive.

Nearly all of Donald Trump’s efforts further Bin Laden’s agenda. His arrogance, cruelty, incompetence, compulsive lying, and complete lack of empathy embody “the most transparent administration ever.” He campaigned to lower prices and inflation and end wars of choice, including those to effect regime change. Instead, he ignores the increasing inability of most Americans to afford basic needs such as medical care, housing,

electricity, childcare and groceries. He declares that he solved the problem of affordability. The obscenely rich get richer while the country piles up a mountain of debt. The enormity of the Trump administration’s corruption is mindboggling. The price of a gallon of gasoline is up about fifty cents since Trump’s illegal attack on Iran.

Then he kidnaps the despot who ruled Venezuela in order to control the country’s oil. Now, he, and the Israeli government have blown up the Middle East for reasons which seem change every day. We should expect to see “boots on the ground” in Iran soon, most likely to seize their enriched uranium and oil infrastructure. Hypocrisy is dead.

Trump couldn’t do more to make Bin Laden’s vision reality if he tried. As German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel observed, “we learn from history that we do not learn from history.” History tells us that all great empires eventually decline and fall. We’re not learning that lesson either.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

An unneeded war

To the Editor:

America’s unneeded war is now stretching from days to weeks, still without a bona fide explanation for starting it and now lacking a concrete reason for calling for its end. As we have heard from the various involved parties, the conflict was either started because of the imminent threat of Iran’s nuclear missiles, as a means to assist Iranian citizens in starting a new government or because Israel’s plan to attack would mean the loss of American assets. Trump says that this was Netanyahu’s idea; Bibi says the idea was Donald’s. The Pentagon, led by the Christian fundamentalist Pete Hegseth has been telling troops that this is a “holy war.” And still, Congress dithers.

The same nebulous rationale now applies to how the war will end. Trump insists that he must chose the new leader even as America continues to take out Iran’s leadership. He wants Iranian citizens to take back the country even though there is no centralized opposition who has the organization tools, and more importantly the weapons, needed to oust the current government.

It’s also apparent that the President has no clue as to what goes on domestically. At the State of the Union, just two weeks ago, he touted low inflation (the latest reading showed inflation at the wholesale level was over twice predicted), the rebounding job market (the latest reading showed a net monthly job loss of 92000), the record stock market (it is currently in free fall) and perhaps most pointedly, that the price of gasoline was under \$2 (the average price as of March 8 is \$3.41, which anyone with a rudimentary understanding of past Gulf conflicts would have been prepared for). There should have been better planning not least of which would be to promote green energy and EV cars to negate any current or future Middle East threats to the oil markets. He should have immediately tapped our strategic reserves.

Hegseth says that Iranian capability to shoot down our jets has been eliminated. Their navy is no more. This means any threat to America is gone. We should stop risking more American lives. We also should stop burning through our defense budget and depleting our military stockpiles which would come in handy for the next true danger. The Ayatollah while oppressing his own citizens and threatening his neighbors is no different than the Taliban, President Xi, President Putin, or Chairman Kim or any other number of

global despots. These nations represent far greater threats to our homeland. What’s more, Iran never killed American children. Trump has; 150 in one fell swoop. Why is this just considered an oops?

The Iranian War can easily turn into another Iraq or Afghanistan. Or worse, much worse. We had a coalition assisting us in these previous wars. And most importantly we had boots on the ground. No war has ever been won with air power alone.

Nor was the global supply of oil this compromised. Oil is at the heart of the world economy. Attacking the heart risks a world financial collapse.

Trump stating that only an unconditional surrender is necessary ignores the reality that no Islamic regime or for that matter any Iranian proxy, be it Iraqi Shiite Militias, Hezbollah, or the Houthis, despite overwhelming destruction of all the innocent people nearby, has laid down their arms. Gaza could become a paradise on the Mediterranean tomorrow if Hamas just hands in their guns and joins with the PLO.

Most of all if this war continues Americans will take a huge economic hit as inflation due to the soaring price of oil, along the price of everything made worse by Trump’s capricious and arbitrary tariffs, threatens to bankrupt all but the very wealthy who continue to get rich as the nation’s wealth gap reaches record levels. Nor, like Trump, will their children ever have to worry about getting drafted.

In the end, per Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, Trump took us to war based on a “good feeling” that Iran was about to attack American interests. He did this despite evidence to the contrary. He did this while military intelligence suggested it would not succeed. He did this without the support of the American people and without our European and Arab allies. Its time to stand down and engage with the rest of the free world in order to contain Iran through sanctions and inspections. We have decimated their military might. Israel and the Saudis can make sure that the nuclear program never threatens the region again. America is not the world’s policeman. We desperately need new and most importantly, competent leadership.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

The old stone walls that still teach us something

You can drive through Northeast Connecticut a hundred times, and still notice something new.

I was reminded of that not long ago while driving along one of those winding back roads between Putnam and Woodstock. It was the sort of quiet road where the houses sit far apart and the woods seem to stretch forever. A road where you might not see another car for ten minutes.

Along the side of that road, running through the trees, was an old stone wall.

Now if you grew up around here, you know exactly what I’m talking about. Not the neat kind of wall someone builds for decoration. I mean those long, crooked lines of stone that wander through the woods and fields, sometimes disappearing for a while before showing up again farther down the road.

They are everywhere in Northeastern Connecticut.

And every time I see one, I find myself slowing down a little.

Those stones didn’t get there by accident.

Two hundred years ago, farmers clearing their fields had to deal with the same thing every New England farmer faced: rocks. Lots of them. The ground here seems determined to produce them year after year. Anyone who has tried digging a garden knows that.

So, the farmers did what practical people have always done. They picked up the stones one by one and carried them to the edge of the field. Eventually those piles became walls.

Stone by stone. Field by field.

Most of the farms that created those walls are long gone now. Forests have grown back where corn and hay once stood. The barns have disappeared, and the houses have changed hands many times.

But the stone walls remain.

Sometimes, I think about the people who built them. Men and women who probably worked from sunrise to sunset. People who didn’t have much free time to sit around thinking about whether their work would still be here two centuries later.

Yet, here it is.

A reminder that this region has always been built by hard-working hands.

What I like most about those walls is that they aren’t perfect. Some lean a little. Some dip down where the ground settled. In places, moss has crept over the stones and trees have grown up beside them.

They look like something that belongs here.

In a way, those old walls remind me of the communities around us. Towns like Thompson, Pomfret, and Brooklyn weren’t built all at once by some grand design. They grew slowly over generations, shaped by the people who lived here.

Families raised children. Neighbors helped neighbors. Stores opened and closed. Roads were paved where dirt paths once ran.

And little by little, the towns became what they are today.

Much like those stone walls, the communities of the Quiet Corner weren’t built in a day. They were built piece by piece.

Sometimes we forget that in the rush of modern life. Everything moves quickly now. New buildings go up. Businesses change hands. People come and go.

But if you slow down once in a while and look along the side of an old road, you’ll still see those stones.

Quiet reminders of the people who came before us.

And reminders, too, that the strongest things in life are often built slowly, with patience, effort, and a steady hand.

I suppose there’s a lesson in that somewhere.

Or maybe it’s simply another reason to take the long way home now and then.

Alternative investments: Are they right for “next generation” high net worth investors?

As the Great Wealth Transfer accelerates, younger, high-net-worth investors, primarily Gen X, Millennials, and older Gen Z, are stepping into financial responsibility earlier than their predecessors. This is happening just as the Great Wealth Transfer – where more than \$80 trillion in assets will change hands from older generations to younger ones over the coming decades – begins to accelerate.

And just as all this wealth is changing hands, one of the most common questions we hear from these “next generation” investors is whether they should pay more attention to adding alternative investments to their portfolios, and to what extent?

In a time when so much wealth is changing hands while there’s also so much happening in the world, it’s a valid question to ask. Here are some things to consider as you work to determine what the right answer is for you and your portfolio.

What are alternative investments?

First, let’s start with the basics. What are alternative investments? Alternative investments are assets that fall outside traditional public stocks, bonds, and cash. Common examples include private equity, private credit, hedge funds, private real

estate, venture capital, infrastructure, and certain private placements. These investments often share a few defining characteristics: limited liquidity, less frequent pricing, higher minimum investments, and more complex risk profiles.

Historically, alternatives were primarily used by institutions and ultra-high-net-worth families. Today, interest among younger affluent investors is growing rapidly as they look for diversification, differentiated return drivers, and alignment with long-term goals beyond traditional markets.

Why alternatives appeal to the next generation

Younger high-net-worth investors tend to approach wealth differently than their parents. Many came of age during the Global Financial Crisis or the COVID-era volatility and are skeptical that a traditional 60/40 portfolio alone can deliver their desired outcomes.

In fact, According to Bank of America Private Bank’s 2022 Study of Wealthy Americans, 75 percent of Millennial and Gen Z investors surveyed expressed skepticism that above-average returns can be achieved solely through traditional stock and bond portfolios.

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Alternative investments can offer several potential benefits when used appropriately:

Diversification: Returns may be driven by factors other than public market movements, potentially reducing overall portfolio volatility.

Access to private growth: Many of today’s fastest-growing companies remain private longer, making private equity and venture capital appealing for long-term investors.

Income and inflation sensitivity: Certain alternatives, such as private credit or real assets, may offer income streams or inflation-linked characteristics.

Customization and values alignment: Private investments can sometimes align more closely with themes like sustainability, innovation, or direct ownership.

That said, these benefits are not guaranteed, and they come with meaningful tradeoffs.

The accredited investor requirement

One critical distinction with alternative investments is who is eligible to invest. Most alternative investments are available only to accredited investors, as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

In general, an individual qualifies as an accredited investor if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

Earned income exceeding \$200,000 in each of the last two years (or \$300,000 jointly with a spouse), with a reasonable expectation of the same going forward; or Net worth exceeding \$1 million, excluding the value of a primary residence; or Certain professional certifications or roles that meet SEC standards.

This requirement exists because alternative investments are typically more complex, less liquid, and carry higher risk. Regulatory frameworks assume accredited investors have the financial sophistication and capacity to absorb potential losses.

The risks and tradeoffs to understand

Alternative investments are not inherently “better” than traditional investments, they’re simply different. Key considerations include:

Illiquidity: Capital may be locked up for years, limiting flexibility.

Higher fees: Many alternatives carry layered fee structures that can impact net returns.

Complexity and transparency: Valuations may be infrequent, and performance can be harder to evaluate.

Manager risk: Outcomes are often heavily dependent on manager skill and execution.

tion.

For next-generation investors with long time horizons, these risks may be acceptable, but only when alternatives are sized appropriately and integrated into a broader, well-constructed financial plan. For optimized results, consider working with a financial advisor to decide which investments are best for you.

Are alternatives right for you?

For many next-generation high-net-worth investors, the real question isn’t whether to use alternative investments, but how and why. Alternatives tend to work best as a complement to traditional investments—not a replacement—and should be guided by cash-flow needs, tax considerations, risk tolerance, and long-term objectives.

At WHZ, we focus on helping clients evaluate whether alternatives serve a clear purpose within their overall strategy, rather than pursuing them simply because they are available or popular.

Take the next step

If you’re part of the next generation of wealth and are curious about whether alternative investments make sense for your situation, a thoughtful conversation is the right place to start. Understanding eligibility, risks, and portfolio fit is essential before allocating capital.

ing capital.

Connect with the WHZ team to schedule a complimentary discovery conversation and explore how alternative investments may—or may not—fit into your long-term financial plan.

Authored by WHZ Wealth Advisor Logan Lum. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Investing in alternative investments may not be suitable for all investors and involves special risks, such as risk associated with leveraging the investment, utilizing complex financial derivatives, adverse market forces, regulatory and tax code changes, and illiquidity. There is no assurance that the investment objective will be attained. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It’s the economy, and Americans are paying the price!

To the Editor:

There’s a popular political saying, “It’s the economy, stupid.” Right now, that phrase feels more relevant than ever. The reality facing many Americans is far different from the picture often presented by the current administration in Washington.

Recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the U.S. lost 92,000 jobs in February and the unemployment rate increased. That means more Americans are out of work. In the previous five years leading up to 2025, employers were adding hundreds of thousands of jobs. Now, in five of the last ten months, the country has lost jobs.

At the same time, the cost of living continues to climb. Groceries, housing, medical care remain expensive, and gasoline prices are rising. The war involving the U.S., Israel, and Iran has already driven oil prices sharply higher. When energy prices rise, everything else follows, from transportation costs to the price of food and goods on store shelves.

Americans were promised fewer wars and greater stability. Instead, the Middle East is again at war. Iran has threatened shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the most important oil routes in the world. Any disruption there will ripple through the global economy and directly affect American households. As the U.S. and Israel attack Iran, Iran is attacking economic targets and U.S. military bases in the Middle East. How many of our service members will be lost because of this senseless war?

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.

At home, a federal court ruled that the Trump/Vance administration’s use of emergency powers to impose “Liberation Day” tariffs was illegal and that those tariffs must be refunded. Trump’s tariffs generated an estimated \$160 billion through early 2026, largely through higher prices paid by American businesses and consumers. If the government cannot return those funds, taxpayers will end up paying the bill twice.

It is estimated that Trump and his family have enriched themselves more than \$4 billion since his return to office. Perhaps those funds, the Qatar plane and real estate assets could be garnished to help pay back the treasury on behalf of the American taxpayers.

Meanwhile, the influence of political action committees and lobbyists have way too much influence on the U.S. government, leaving many Americans wondering whose interests are truly being represented in Washington. Why does AIPAC/Israel have so much influence on Trump that he is the only President to join Israel in a war with Iran? Our government should answer first to the people, not to special interests and deep pockets.

Congress has both the authority and the responsibility to act. The Constitution gives lawmakers the power to oversee war, control spending, and hold the executive branch accountable. Those responsibilities should not be ignored. Perhaps, Congress should consider:

Article 1, Section 8 Clause 11 – Congress has the power to declare war. Use the War Powers to halt the Iran war.

Constitutional Amendment to Citizens United – Remove big money from politics and restore power to the American people.

Article 1, Section 9 Clause 7 – Congress has the power of the purse not the President. Rescind the billionaire tax breaks. Fund health care for the American people.

Article 2, Section 4 – Congress has the authority to remove an Administration for treason, bribery, other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

As the midterm elections approach, Americans have an opportunity to remind their representatives that government exists to serve the public, not political donors, foreign interests, or personal gain.

Ultimately, the strength of our democracy depends on citizens who pay attention, speak up, and demand accountability from those in power.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

The Woman’s Board of Day Kimball Hospital thanks you for your generous support of the Valentine Dinner Dance held on February 14. All proceeds help pay for the daVinci Robotic Surgical System in use at DKH. We have now completed well over half of our \$250,000 fundraising goal.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED \$19,000

Diamond

Denise Archambault
Deborah Cornman
Keith & Elaine Knowlton
Lorraine Fabrics
Sarantopoulos & Sarantopoulos

Platinum

American Landscape & Lawn Science
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Stan & Jean Karro
Rampco Construction
Wayne Magao

Silver

Barn at Gray Mare Hill
Steve Bousquet’s Appliance & TV Inc.
Brooklyn Restoration
Byrnes Insurance, HUB International

Silver (cont.)

Nancy Cole
Chase Graphics
David Ford
Dawn Gurn
Judy Haines
Susan Horn
Harbour Lights Charts
Dennis & Carolyn Hopkins
Tony & Shirley Mongillo
Motta’s Pastry & Bake Shop
Page’s Tree Service
Precision Collision, Inc
Rawson Materials
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SPORTS

Three Putnam High standouts earn All-ECC honors



Courtesy

Camden Kell, TJ Espinosa, and Nick Devlin earned placement on the All-ECC All-Star teams this season.

PUTNAM — The Putnam High School Clippers boys’ basketball team placed three players on the All-ECC (Eastern Connecticut Conference) All-Star teams this season, highlighting a strong year for the program as it heads into the state tournament with an 11-9 record.

S o p h o m o r e Camden Kell and freshman TJ Espinosa were both named to the All-ECC First Team, while senior Nick Devlin earned Second Team All-ECC honors.

Kell’s selection marks his

second consecutive First Team All-ECC honor, an impressive accomplishment for the sophomore guard. Kell numbers this season are 18 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals and 2 blocks per game. Kell recorded two double-doubles this season and continued to establish himself as one of the league’s most dynamic players.

Head Coach Shawn Deary praised his stand-out sophomore, noting, “Camden has had quite a start for his high school basketball career. Second

year in a row being named all-league first team player. Camden is a super athletic lefty that can really score the ball.”

TJ Espinosa turned in one of the most remarkable freshman seasons in program history. He led the Clippers with 23 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 steals per game. Espinosa is at the top of the state shooting 85 percent from the free throw line. Espinosa recorded five double-doubles and also had a quadruple double and consistently elevated the

Clippers’ offensive production throughout the season.

Coach Deary did not hesitate to put Espinosa’s season into historic context, adding, “Espinosa arguably might have had the greatest freshman season in Putnam high school basketball history. He has brought our team to another level this year and can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

Senior Nick Devlin rounded out the All-ECC selections with a Second Team nod after an outstanding final season. Devlin averages 14 points, 8

rebounds and 2 assists per game and is shooting nearly 50 percent TJ for the field. He tallied six double-doubles and anchored the team defensively.

Coach Deary emphasized Devlin’s impact beyond the stat sheet: “Nick has had quite a season. Almost averaging a double double. Is one of our strongest defenders as well. He has had a heck of a four-year career for the Clippers.”

Devlin also was awarded the ECC Scholar athlete award for his outstanding work in the classroom.

Sportsmanship recognition for LaFrance

In addition to the All-ECC honors, sophomore Caleb LaFrance was awarded the team’s Sportsmanship Award. LaFrance started for the Clippers for the majority of the season before suffering a season-ending knee injury in January. LaFrance is known for his toughness and defensive presence. He is focused on making a strong comeback entering his junior year.

Clippers’ season ends in first round of CIAC Tournament

PUTNAM — The Putnam Clippers’ season came to an end Saturday night with a loss to Thomaston in the first round of the CIAC

state basketball tournament. Despite the early postseason exit, the Clippers closed the year with an 11–10 record, marking a signif-

icant improvement from last season when the team won just six games. Putnam nearly doubled its win total and finished second in the ECC Division IV standings with a strong 6–2 league record.

Saturday’s game was also a historic moment for the program, as the Clippers hosted the first-ever boys state playoff game in the school’s new gymnasium.

Putnam was led offensively by TJ Espinosa and Camden Kell, who each scored 19 points. Espinosa added eight rebounds and four assists in an all-around performance. Kell contributed in multiple areas as well, finishing with four rebounds, three assists, and two blocks.

Senior Nick Devlin closed out his high school career with a solid effort, recording 13 points, six rebounds, and three assists in his final game for the Clippers.

Putnam’s roster featured a young core that showed promise throughout the season, though the Clippers were also on the wrong side of several close contests. With much of the lineup expected to return next year, the program appears well-positioned to build on this season’s progress.



Courtesy

Devlin goes up for a shot.



Espinosa goes up for a layup.

Espinosa finishes third at New England Elks Hoop Shoot Championship



PORTLAND, Maine — Teagan Espinosa represented Connecticut well on Saturday, earning a third-place finish at the New England Elks Hoop Shoot Championship.

Competing in the Girls 10–11 division, Espinosa made 18 of her 25 free-throw attempts against the region’s top shooters. The winning score was 20 out of 25.

Espinosa advanced to the regional competition after winning the Connecticut State Elks Hoop Shoot Championship last month, where she delivered an impressive performance by making 22 of 25 free throws.

With three more years of eligibility remaining in the Elks Hoop shoot pipeline of the program, Espinosa will continue pursuing her goal of reaching the Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals in Chicago.

Basketball success runs in the Espinosa family. Both of Teagan’s brothers previously won New England Hoop Shoot championships and advanced to the national stage in Chicago. TJ Espinosa won the regional title in 2023, and Bryce Espinosa followed with a championship in 2025.

Teagan’s strong showing this year continues the family tradition and sets the stage for more opportunities in the years ahead.

Girls Basketball

Vs. Hillhouse (State Game)

Killingly Girls Basketball (9-13) battled against Hillhouse (15-6) in a loss with a solid defensive effort. Killingly came out strong in the first half after a long bus ride and only gave up 9 points in the first half leading 13-9 at the half. Gracie Pekarovic-West had 11 points and Ella Adams had

9 points and 8 rebounds! Amaya Spadola contributed to the strong defensive effort with 13 rebounds, 8 blocks and 4 steals.

Final Score: Hillhouse 41 - Killingly 35

Declyn Benjamin added 6 points and Mackenzie Pothier added 4 points for Killingly.

Tailor Haynes scored 15 points and Zariah Rivera-Anderson scored 14 points for Hillhouse.

Boys Basketball

Vs. Branford

8th seeded Killingly Basketball (16-7) defeated 25th seeded Branford in the 1st Round of the DIII CIAC State tournament!

Quin Crowley led all scorers with 26 points, nailing 7 threes from downtown! Greyson Marquez added 17 points while dishing out 11 assists, and Quinn Sumner

added another double-double with 14 points and 11 boards!

Ethan Hall scored 11 points, and Aiden LaMotte added a three pointer! Jake Beaudreault had 2 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 assists for Killingly!

Killingly advances to the 2nd round where they will host Amity on Tuesday night at home at 6:00pm!

Aidan Tracy led Branford with 13 points.

Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up



Kell shoots a three pointer.



Schulman shoots in the corner.

Historical Society features Pomfret’s Gilded Age in Fireside Chat

POMFRET — During the February Fireside Chat at Pomfret’s Vanilla Bean Café, the audience learned about Anna Whistler (Whistler’s Mother) who brought her two sons to Pomfret after the death of their father. Future artist, James Whistler, and his brother William attended the Christ Church Hall Academy, a private Episcopal school in Pomfret in from 1850 and 1851. Their mother, Anna Whistler, rented a house just west of the Vanilla Bean Café from the fall of 1849 to spring 1852. She immersed herself in the high society of what was known as “The Street.” The Pomfret Railroad Station (now Putnam) and the Norwich/Worcester Railroad which Anna’s brother William McNeill helped to build was her lifeline for easy travel to relatives in Stonington, New Haven, and New York. It



brought the mail, newspapers, and magazines twice daily and provided a lifeline to the dawning of the Gilded Age which she had known with her railroad architect husband, George Washington Whistler. This month’s Fireside Chat at the Vanilla Bean Friday, March 20 at 7p.m. will pick up where we left off with the arrival of the Vintons and other wealthy families in the 1850’s. After the Civil war and with the 1873 completion of the Boston, Hartford & Erie Railroad (New York & New England Railroad) through Pomfret more families sought respite in Pomfret’s bucolic countryside. By 1870 the Ben Grosvenor Inn

began to draw summer people from Boston and New York who enjoyed a resort atmosphere with tennis courts, golf, horse racing, and a casino. Some built lavish estates which led to Pomfret’s nickname, Little Newport. Walter Hinchman and Stewart Chute will give us the grand virtual tour of Pomfret’s Gilded Age, the architecture which remains, and the railroad that started it all. Program begins at 7 p.m. Gilded Age costumes are encouraged. Arrive early to get a seat and order dinner and drinks. Suggested donation of \$10 greatly appreciated to enable Pomfret Historical Society to continue the restorations and renovations in the Old Town House. Contact Donna Dufresne for more information: windsong@snet.net 860-465-7228

Narcan training course rescheduled due to snowstorm

DAYVILLE — In response to the ongoing opiod crisis, The Northeast Insurance Professionals and Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association have collaborated to provide a Narcan Training Course open to all community members. The training course will take place on March 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (rescheduled from Feb. 25), at the Woodstock Volunteer Fire

Association, 399 Route 169 in Woodstock. This educational session is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and confidence to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. Attendees will learn how to identify the warning signs and symptoms, how Narcan works and how to properly administer Narcan during an over-

dose. Trainer devices will be available for participants to practice the action of administering Narcan when responding to an emergency. “Naloxone saves lives. When more people are trained and prepared, our entire community benefits,” said NEIP President, Lysa Molnar. “This training empowers individuals in our community to act quickly and confidently during an emergency.”

Narcan is a safe, FDA-approved medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose within minutes. The training is appropriate for parents, educators, business owners, healthcare professionals and any concerned community member. The event is limited to 30 attendees, and light refreshments will be provided. A \$10 donation is requested that will fund the

Fire Association’s ongoing training for public safety. To register or to learn more, contact Lysa Molnar, NEIP President by emailing neip18@yahoo.com or call 860-377-0755. By increasing access

to overdose prevention education and lifesaving tools, the Northeast Insurance Professionals and Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association aims to reduce stigma, prevent overdose fatalities, and strengthen community response efforts.

Spaghetti dinner to send Putnam Cub Scouts to summer camp

PUTNAM – Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam will host its Spring Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner, including salad, garlic bread, coffee, tea, lemonade and bottled water on Saturday, April 18, from 4 until 7 p. m., at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St., Putnam. Tickets are just \$10 for adults, while children 12 and under eat for free. Take-out or eat-in. There will be free live music, candy bars for sale and raffles by the VFW. Advance tickets are available at the VFW Post and at Joseph’s Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam, and by calling (860) 928-5873 (voice only). Please leave a message when you call. Proceeds will benefit the Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 2026 Summer Camp Fund, to help our Cub Scouts go to summer camp in July. Parking is available behind the building and in the municipal parking lot at 175 Providence St.

Dining For a Cause event to help Paws Cat Shelter

PUTNAM — Black Dog Bar and Grille, 146 Park Rd., Putnam, is hosting a Dining for a Cause fundraiser event to help Paws Cat Shelter on Wednesday, March 18 from 3-9 p.m. Fifteen percent of food and beverage sales will be donated when you present a coupon for either dine in or take out. Coupons are available at Petco in Dayville, Paws Cat Shelter, 74 School St., Putnam, all Paws events or request by email at pawscatshelter@gmail.com. Coupons are free and must be obtained in advance. No coupons will be available at the event.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more information or to make a monetary donation, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

Local student named to St. Lawrence University’s Dean’s List

CANTON, N.Y. — Dylan Mayo from Woodstock has been named to St. Lawrence University’s Dean’s List for achieving academic excellence during the Fall 2025 semester. Mayo is a member of the Class of 2027 and is majoring in psychology and global studies. Mayo attended Woodstock Academy. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester. About St. Lawrence University Founded in 1856, St. Lawrence University is a private, nonsectarian institution of the liberal arts and sciences located in Canton, New York. The educational opportunities at St. Lawrence inspire students and prepare them to be critical and creative thinkers, to find a compass for their lives and careers, and to pursue knowledge and understanding for the benefit of themselves, humanity and the planet. Through its focus on active engagement with ideas in and beyond the classroom, a St. Lawrence education leads students to make connections that transform lives and communities, from the local to the global. Visit www.stlawu.edu.

Woodstock Lions hosting Comedy Night fundraiser

WOODSTOCK — Help the Woodstock Lions Club help the local community at their annual Comedy Night fundraiser Friday, March 20 at Grill 37, 37 Putnam Rd., Pomfret. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the show set to start at 7. Finger desserts and coffee will be provided, and there will be a cash bar available, along with raffles, a 50/50 drawing, auctions. Please note that this is a PG-13 event for ages 18 and older. For tickets, to donate or sponsor, please visit www.funny4funds.com/events/woodstock-lions-club-comedy-night/1693. You may also e-mail woodstocklions.ct@gmail.com.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@villagernewspapers.com





Courtesy
Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam learned first aid on Wednesday, March 4, with the help of Pack 21 Cubmaster and retired fire-fighter and emergency medical technician Christopher Jodoin. Our young Cub Scouts learned how to make arm slings, as well as make a stretcher from two wooden poles and a sleeping bag. They even practiced lifting and dragging their two-hundred-pound adult Cub leader. This is just one of many fun and challenging activities Pack 21 does throughout the year. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.



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Enrollment openings available at ACT Performing Arts Magnet High School for 2026-2027

WILLIMANTIC — EASTCONN’s Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) magnet high school has a limited number of seats available for Fall 2026 enrollment. Academically motivated students in grades 9-12 from across eastern Connecticut are encouraged to apply for this distinctive opportunity to pursue intensive study in the performing arts. The school’s recent

string of achievements in film, creative writing, and other artistic disciplines demonstrates its commitment to nurturing exceptional young talent.

principal Sarah Mallory. “When a student wins a film festival award, publishes a university literary journal, or steps onto a real stage in a 1920s-era theater, that’s not a simulation of real life. That’s the real thing. We’re proud to offer that kind of experience to students from across eastern Connecticut.”

a comprehensive costume shop – enabling students to produce work of genuine professional quality.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

Located in the historic Capitol Theater in downtown Willimantic, ACT offers a NEASC-accredited program that weaves rigorous academics together with immersive, professional-level arts education. Students learn from both certified academic teachers and working professional artists in an intimate, collaborative setting – with an average of just 35 students per grade.

ACT students choose from seven specialized arts pathways: Acting, Creative Writing, Dance, Integrated Arts & Management, Media Arts, Music, and Technical Theater (sets, lighting and costuming). The school’s distinctive facility provides daily access to professional-grade resources, including a fully equipped theater, scene shop, modern audio/video editing suites, spacious dance studios, and

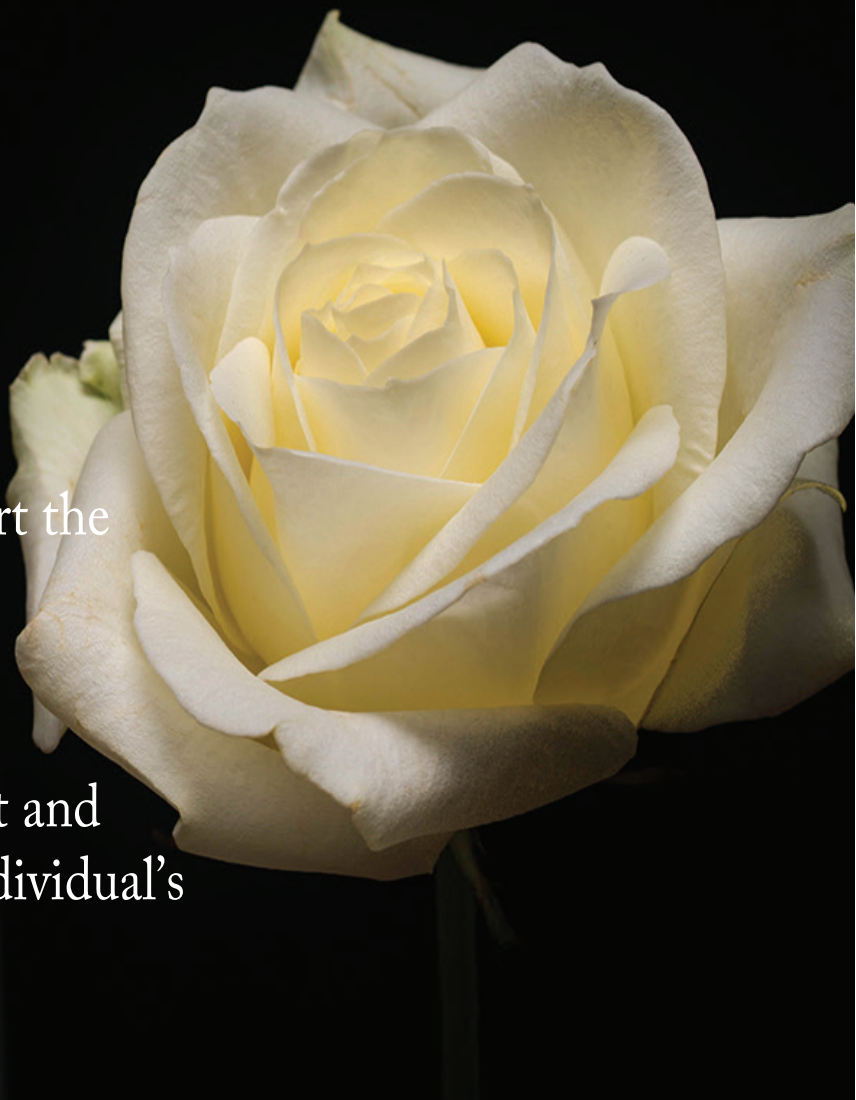
gible upperclassmen can earn free credits by taking university courses while completing their ACT education. The partnership also connects students to ECSU’s literary festivals and cultural events, deepening their engagement with the broader arts community.

Prospective students can still apply at www.eastconn.org/act. Limited seats are still available; the application process should be completed as soon as possible.

EASTCONN, ACT’s administering organization, is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has served northeastern Connecticut’s educational needs since 1980. Learn more at www.eastconn.org.

How to Submit an Obituary

Guidance in Your Time of Need.



Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process. It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance. An obituary also helps loved ones find comfort and closure during a difficult time preserves the individual’s story as an important part of the family’s history and legacy.

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Please note this price is per newspaper.

*Send all Obituaries to obits@stonebridgepress.news
If you have any question please call Julie at 508-909-4105*

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Christ Church Pomfret recently donated \$1,000 to the TEEG Community Markets. Pictured left to right, Judy Miller, Christ Church Outreach Committee; Howard Smith, Food Systems Coordinator; Carl Asikainen, TEEG Executive Director.

Courtesy

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