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Friday, February 13, 2026

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Woodstock intersection to see traffic signal upgrades

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — An intersection in Woodstock is among ten in Eastern Connecticut included in a traffic control signal replacement project through the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

The DOT held a virtual public informational presentation and question and answer session on Feb. 3 where they provided details of the expected upgrades including one signal in Woodstock at the intersection of Routes 169 and 171, and Stonebridge Road. The entire project, which includes 13 different signals throughout the eastern part of the state, is fully state funded and will cost a combined \$16.7 million.

Kaethe Podgorski, Project Manager for the replacement initiative, explained that the replacements are part of the DOT's larger goal of keeping all its traffic signals up to date with new technology and infrastructure.

"We have a goal to keep (the traffic signals) working in a state of good repair. We have a lot of data on our existing traffic signal equipment and structures and we're able to do an assessment as to whether each traffic signal is good, fair,

Turn To UPGRADES page A11



Courtesy

Let's hear it for Woodstock Academy's Class of 2026's Valedictorian & Salutatorian, Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain & Ivar McDonald. School officials couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication to academic study, but are also overcome with gratitude for the contributions they've made to the WA community and the character they've demonstrated during their time here. D'Alleva-Bochain has committed to Brown University, where she'll study biology and medicine and throw javelin for their track & field team. McDonald is headed to Tufts University, where he'll major in mathematics. Pictured, left to right: Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten, Associate Head of School Holly Singleton, Salutatorian Ivar McDonald, Valedictorian Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain, Head of School Dr. Lawrence Filippelli. Photo courtesy of the school's Facebook page.

Thompson Public Schools partner with state, EWIB to develop early childhood & CDA career pathway

THOMPSON — Students at Tourtellotte Memorial High School (TMHS) now have an exciting new opportunity to begin their journey toward a rewarding career in early childhood education. Thompson Public Schools, in partnership with CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley and the Eastern Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), has launched a new Early Childhood Education (ECE) Pathway. This addition brings the total number of career pathways at TMHS to 14, with two more currently in development.

Students enrolled in the ECE Pathway will complete two college-level

early childhood courses offered through CT State: Introduction to Early Childhood Care and Education (EDED 1001) and Foundations of Child Development (EDED 1002). These courses are offered as dual enrollment, allowing students to earn both high school and college credit. Each course carries three college credits, giving students a strong academic head start.

In addition to coursework, students will work toward earning a nationally recognized Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. This process includes completing 480 clinical hours, developing a pro-

fessional portfolio, and passing a comprehensive exam—providing students with hands-on experience and industry-valued certification before graduation.

Through close collaboration with CT State—and with the support of Dr. R. Mac Griswold and curriculum guidance from Rosalie Witt, Interim Early Childhood Program Coordinator—the district was able to think creatively to staff the dual enrollment courses. Thompson Public Schools identified an exceptional internal candidate: Tara Brissette, a preschool teacher at Mary R. Fisher

Turn To PATHWAY page A11

Quiet Corner Garden Club sponsors tree planting project

WOODSTOCK — The Quiet Corner Garden Club (QCGC), with a grant from National Garden Club's Plant America program, is sponsoring a tree planting project in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary.

The Club is prepared to plant a tree in the fourteen towns in Connecticut and two in Massachusetts, representative of the Garden Club's membership. Nine of the fourteen towns have already committed to the project. Trees planted in Connecticut will be the White oak, the state tree. In Massachusetts, it will be the state tree, the American elm. Each town will choose the location to plant. Funds raised in part by the QCGC's annual Plant Sale and the \$2,000 grant from Plant America will be used to purchase the trees.

QCGC is recruiting local scout groups, 4H clubs and others to assist Club mem-

bers in planting the trees in the spring. Involving youth groups encourages interest in gardening, horticulture and the conservation of natural resources, all part of QCGC's mission.

White oak trees and American elms have a historic resonance in their respective states. The White oak was named state tree to honor the Charter Oak, a majestic white oak that grew at the state capital. In 1687, Colonists hid Connecticut's Royal Charter in the Oak to prevent its confiscation by British authorities. In 1856, a violent storm felled the Charter Oak estimated to be 500 to 600 years old. Native Americans used bent oak saplings, which are extremely pliable, to mark trails. Because white oaks flourish in many different eco-regions, they are considered well suited to withstand anticipated climate changes.

American elms, due to their distinctive vase-shaped arching form, were traditionally used by Native Americans as "council" trees for important meetings. Massachusetts designated the American elm as its state tree in 1941 to commemorate General Washington assuming command of the Continental Army in 1775 under an American elm (which stood until 1923). American elms were used extensively as a street tree in many American towns and cities in the 19th century. The rapid spread of the Dutch elm disease decimated the elm population during the 20th century. Arborists have created varieties in the past few decades that are hoped to be disease-resistant.

For more information, contact Noreene Stehlik, the Project Coordinator, at (301) 908-9488.



Heritage Valley Ford of Putnam partners with The Arc's Cookie Factory

PUTNAM — The Arc Eastern Connecticut is proud to recognize Heritage Valley Ford of Putnam for its generous and community-minded partnership with The Arc ECT's Cookie Factory. The dealership has begun to present the Cookie Factory's signature Classic Crunch Chocolate Chip Cookies—packaged in a unique, fun cookie tin—as thankyou gifts to new customers. The Arc ECT's Cookie Factory provides hands on job training and

paid employment for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Heritage Ford's owner, Jake Dykeman, has long been dedicated to service in northeastern Connecticut. Since taking over the dealership in 2017, he has continued to look for meaningful ways to give back to the community—a gesture that continues the legacy of his grandfather, who opened the dealership in 1982.

"With this partnership, Jake and his team are not

only thanking their customers, but they also are helping to empower and employ people with IDD locally," said Barry Shead, General Manager of The Arc ECT's micro-enterprises in Woodstock. "This is what community partnership looks like: local businesses lifting up local nonprofits to make a difference."

"We are deeply grateful to Heritage Valley Ford for their generosity and for driving positive change in our region," said Kathleen

Stauffer, CEO of The Arc ECT. "Their support demonstrates the power of local businesses to create inclusive, thriving communities."

Dealerships and businesses across eastern Connecticut interested in participating in the Cookie Factory partnership program may contact Alison Swanson at aswanson@thearecct.org for more information.

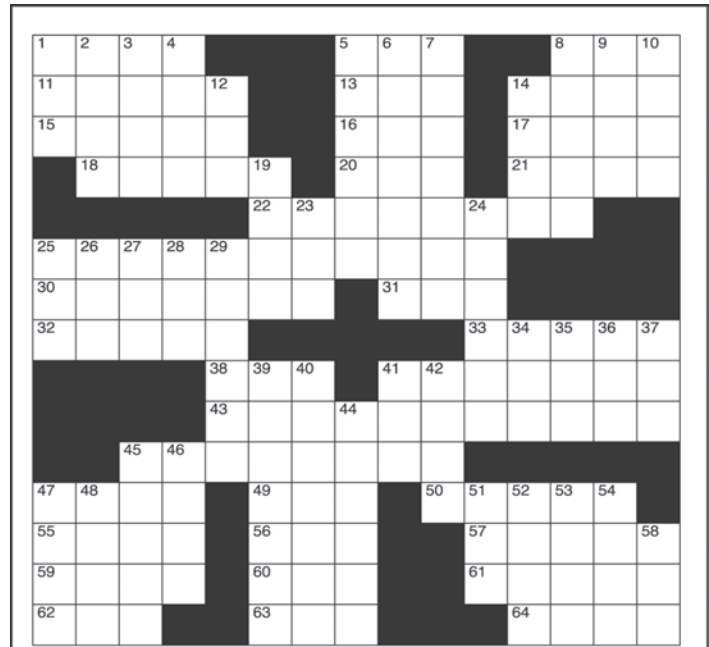


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Breezed through

5. Consumer protection agency

8. Criminal syndicate

11. Moves back from

13. Satisfaction

14. Feel concern or interest

15. Monetary units

16. Congressman (abbr.)

17. Israeli city

18. Restaurants

20. 2,000 lbs.

21. Grandmother

22. North, South and Central

25. In an early way

30. Foes

31. Social networking platform

32. Early term for basketball player
33. Another name for sesame plant

38. Disallow

41. Provide greater detail

43. Inaccessible

45. Evoke emotions

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Celtic punk rockers

50. A fencing sword

55. Actor Idris

56. Affirmative (slang)

57. Afflicted in mind or body

59. One point north of northeast

60. Born of

61. Social media hand gesture

62. Hong Kong food stall __ pai dong

63. Opposite of beginning

64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. Sign language

2. Fashionable

3. Borough in Helsinki

4. Inability to hear

5. More quickly

6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth

7. Shrewdly

8. Rooney and Kate are two

9. Mediterranean port

10. Benedictine monk

12. Midway between south and southeast

14. Town in Galilee

19. Satisfy

23. Mice genus

24. Brass instrument

25. Chest muscle (slang)

26. Transmits genetic information from DNA

27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
28. Woman (French)

29. Short route aircraft

34. Pitching statistic

35. Pointed end of a pen

36. Popular sports league

37. Body part

39. Inoffensive

40. Yellowish cotton cloth

41. Feline

42. Does not tell the truth

44. Seduced

45. Spiritual leader

46. Abba __, Israeli politician

47. Repair

48. Olive genus

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. C. European river

54. Keep under control

58. Father

PUZZLE SOLUTION

D	N	E	S		D	N	E			I	V	D			
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**VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS**

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
Frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
860-928-1818 x 323
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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Local Eastern students pledge compassionate care at ‘white coat ceremony’

WILLIMANTIC — Nursing majors took their oath of service at Eastern Connecticut State University’s second annual White Coat Ceremony on Jan. 22 in the Fine Arts Instructional Center Concert Hall. The event was held in accordance with the historic Arnold P. Gold Foundation, which was established in 1993 and whose namesake began the tradition of the ceremony.

Among those celebrated at the ceremony were: Sophomore Allison Griswold of Woodstock Junior Jessica Long of Danielson

At the ceremony, nursing students took a professional oath in front of friends, family, clinical partners, and members of the University community. They then received their white coats, which they will again ceremonialize at the nursing pinning ceremony as they conclude their education. The ceremony marks a young tradition in

Eastern’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, which launched in fall 2024 with a major grant from the Connecticut Health Horizons Project. The program has 122 students among its first three cohorts and expects 75 enrollees in fall 2026.

The ceremony was both a rite of passage for future medical staff and a reminder to prioritize compassion and empathy for their patients above all else. Christina Nadeau, director of Eastern’s nursing program, opened the ceremony with a history lesson on the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and its ties to medical oaths.

“Gold firmly believed that in medical school, the Hippocratic Oath (an ancient promise of ethics in medicine) was taken way too late, and that an oath should be taken at the beginning of the medical process,” said Nadeau. “The goal (of the ceremony) is to infuse humanism and professional identity

from the start of the clinical practice education.”

The ceremony’s keynote address was given by Deanna Hill of the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford. As the hospital’s manager of professional development, she explained that empathy is by far the most necessary skill in nursing.

“Learning how to manage IV pumps, knowing all of the bones in your body or how to suction a tracheostomy tube aren’t your top priorities. Believe it or not, empathy and the ability to connect with others are the most foundational elements of nursing,” she said. “You will be caring for human beings, and it’s important to remember that there’s a person behind that piece of equipment or that list of tasks.”

Eastern President Karim Ismaili addressed the nursing majors’ achievement, remarking that the ceremony reflected a commitment to pro-

fessionalism and service.

“As you put on your white coats, you are stepping into a profession that requires both clinical excellence and deep humanity,” said Ismaili. “Nursing is consistently recognized as one of the most trusted professions in our country, and that trust is earned every day through care and empathy.”

Provost Cheryl Wilson added that the white coat is a physical representation of the benevolence that comes with the interpersonal nature of the profession.

“The coat that you received today is more than just a symbol of your commitment to the profession - it’s a testament to the hours you have studied, practiced, reflected, and pushed yourselves to develop the knowledge and character required of those who care for others,” she said. “Nursing is science, but it is also profoundly human work.”

Lamont includes free school breakfast in state budget proposal

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Gov. Ned Lamont is renewing his push to provide free school breakfast for all students from kindergarten through 12th grade as part of his state budget proposal which was submitted to the General Assembly on Feb. 4.

The Governor’s office released statements regarding the announcement on Feb. 5 which revealed the new budget contains \$12.5 million to allow access to breakfast meals for all 500,000-plus students that attend public schools across the state regardless of income, making the meals com-

pletely free. The move would also eliminate reduced-price lunch charges, making those meals free for qualifying students.

The proposal still needs to pass the legislature’s Appropriations Committee to potentially become a part of the spending plan.

“A healthy breakfast provides kids with the opportunity to start the day ready to learn and thrive, and too many of our young people do not have access to this basic life necessity,” Lamont said in a press release. “Breakfast plays a crucial role in kids’ ability to focus and excel in the classroom. Every child,

regardless of their family’s income, should be able to start the day with a healthy meal.”

Connecticut Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker agreed with the Governor calling the funding important to help every student start the day with a prepared mind.

“We thank Governor Lamont for proposing an investment that provides free school breakfast to all public school students and eliminates reduced-price lunch charges for roughly 13,000 additional students,” Russell-Tucker said in a statement. “This investment removes both financial barriers and social stig-

ma that can stand in the way of student well-being and ensures every child can begin the school day nourished and ready to learn.”

This is Lamont’s second attempt to provide free meals for students after initially proposing the investment last year.

The move comes at a time when families across the state are concerned with food security and the availability of federal SNAP benefits. The concept behind the Governor’s proposal is to ensure no student gets left behind, helping take the pressure off families to afford a good breakfast to prepare students for their day.

Eastern student Julia Trainor of Putnam explores literary themes in first MLA undergrad research session

WILLIMANTIC — Six English majors at Eastern Connecticut State University made history on Jan. 9, presenting their research at the Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention’s inaugural undergraduate research poster session in Toronto, Canada. Eastern’s group was the largest representation by any institution at the session.

Among the student presenters was senior Julia Trainor of Putnam. Trainor conceived of her

project, “Broken Mirrors: Defining the Three Types of Memories in Dystopian Literature,” during an independent study with Speicher. She combined her interest in the dystopian genre with her psychology minor to incorporate memory into her argument.

Trainor’s research was enriched by her attendance at the conference: “During these presentations, I found different sources I could use to support my thesis and different ways to continue

my own research,” she said.

The MLA consists of more than 20,000 members in 100 countries and provides programs supporting educators of English and other languages. Speaking to the annual convention’s inaugural undergraduate research session, MLA Executive Director Paula Krebs said:

“Undergraduate research is vital to the future of languages and literature, and it gives students essential opportunities to develop transferable skills, build their intellectual identities, and make learning meaningful. I was so excited to meet the team of students from Eastern, to find out more about their research, and to get their feedback about ways we could further engage undergrads. They are an inspiring bunch!”

“I am incredibly proud of our Eastern

English majors for presenting their research at the MLA convention’s first-ever undergraduate research poster session,” said Emily Todd, dean of arts and sciences and trip supervisor. “The students not only presented their own projects but also filled their convention schedules with sessions relevant to their research and future goals.”

Faculty mentor and English Professor Allison Speicher spoke to the seriousness of the students’ research and the conference’s impact on their identity as scholars: “Being able to write a strong paper or creative work is one skill; being able to translate that work into an informative poster and explain it face-to-face to leading scholars is quite another, and I’m exceptionally proud that our students were bold enough to (literally) stand by their work.”

Connecticut home care company named top 10 percent provider in nation



WOODSTOCK — Assisted Living Home Care Services announced last week that it has received the triple crown of industry awards for the second year in a row by earning the distinguished 2026 Best of Home Care® –Leader in Experience, Best of Home Care® - Provider of Choice and Best of Home Care® - Employer of Choice Awards from Activated Insights, a leading workforce and experience platform for post-acute care. The Leader in Experience Award represents the highest level of recognition and is reserved for the top 10 percent of home care companies in America that consistently achieve exceptional performance across multiple quality measures.

“At Activated Insights, our mission is to help post-acute care organizations create experiences that exceed expectations for both clients and caregivers,” said Bud Meadows, Chief Executive Officer at Activated Insights. “This accomplishment demonstrates Assisted Living Home Care Services’ long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement.”

To qualify for the Leader in Experience Award, a minimum of 10 percent of Assisted Living Home Care Services’ clients and caregivers were interviewed each month by Activated Insights. Over a 12-month period, the family-owned business achieved high satisfaction scores across ten or more quality metrics, including caregiver training, compassion, communication, scheduling, and overall client-caregiver compatibility. Using this feedback, along with industry benchmarks provided by Activated Insights, Assisted Living Home Care Services continuously set and measured goals

to reach the highest level of experience possible.

“As a family-owned and operated business for thirty years, we truly view all of our employees and elderly clients as an extended family, so earning these prestigious awards once again is very fulfilling to us,” said Mario D’Aquila, MBA, chief operating officer at Assisted Living Home Care Services. “As we continue to grow in both size and locations, our underlying commitment to providing excellent in-home care will always remain our primary purpose.”

The Best of Home Care®– Leader in Experience Award highlights the top-performing home care businesses in the nation. Activated Insights believes that by honoring these providers, families looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

To find out more about Assisted Living Home Care Services’ commitment to experience, please visit www.assistedlivingct.com or call 203.634.8668.

About Assisted Living Home Care Services

Since 1996, family-owned home care agency Assisted Living Services, Inc. in Cheshire, Westport and Woodstock has provided quality senior care to residents across Connecticut with its 700+ employees and caregiving staff. The company’s unique CarePlus program blends personal care with technological safety and monitoring devices from sister company Assisted Living Technologies, Inc. The company was

ranked on the 2020 Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing companies and has repeatedly earned “Best of Home Care Leader In Excellence,” an award given to the best home care providers in the nation. Learn more by visiting www.assistedlivingct.com, www.assistedlivingtechnologies.com or calling 203.634.8668.

About Activated Insights

Activated Insights helps long-term and post-acute care providers strengthen workforce performance, regulatory compliance, and care quality. Through recruitment, compliance-focused education and training, retention, and experience management tools, along with the industry’s leading benchmarking and recognition programs, Activated Insights enables providers to reduce risk, improve satisfaction, lower turnover, and achieve operational excellence across senior living, post-acute and home-based care. Learn more at www.activatedinsights.com.

Courtesy

Assisted Living Home Care Services recently won three prestigious industry awards- the distinguished 2026 Best of Home Care® –Leader in Experience Award, Best of Home Care® - Provider of Choice and Best of Home Care® - Employer of Choice from Activated Insights. The recognition is given to exceptional home care companies that consistently rank among the highest in a variety of quality metrics.

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Putnam Corridor Gallery features unique show

PUTNAM — Currently on display at the Corridor Gallery in the Putnam Municipal Complex is the work of Jamie Soroka, a Putnam native who specializes in avant-garde designs in multiple mediums. The show, entitled “A Quiet Communion with Nature” features ethically sourced entomology and contemporary taxidermy, photographs, and found objects.

Jamie’s love of nature is evident in every piece.

“I try to maintain the simplicity and integrity of the subject while highlighting the wonder and awe that speaks to my soul. As an artist, I enjoy exploring and reimagining all the beauty life’s creatures have to offer us, even in death. I hope my work inspires others to find the elegance among the oddities that surround us in everyday life,” says Jamie.

The most spectacular piece in the show is a 1970s wedding dress which Jamie has refashioned with moss and other natural elements. It’s showcased in the front window of the Municipal Complex.

The show will be on display until the end of March. The Corridor Gallery, sponsored by the Putnam Arts Council, is located at 200 School St., Putnam. Hours and more information are available at PutnamCtArtsCouncil.com.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Small places, steady hands

In Northeast Connecticut, progress rarely announces itself with a ribbon cutting or a press conference. More often, it shows up quietly, in the form of steady hands doing necessary work without much fanfare.

It is the highway crew patching a road before it becomes a bigger problem. The town clerk who knows which form you really need before you ask. The volunteer who unlocks the meeting room, sets out the chairs, and turns off the lights when everyone else has gone home.

These are not glamorous roles, but they are the backbone of small towns like ours.

In larger places, systems are designed to absorb mistakes. Here, relationships do that work. When something goes wrong, it is not an anonymous department that fixes it. It is a neighbor. Sometimes it is the same neighbor who fixed the last problem, too.

That closeness can feel inconvenient at times. Everyone knows everyone. News travels fast. Disagreements do not fade easily. But the same familiarity that fuels tension also creates accountability. When you see the same people at the post office, the school concert, and the grocery store, it is harder to cut corners. Harder to disappear.

That matters, especially now, when many people feel disconnected from institutions that are supposed to serve them. In our towns, government still looks like a person sitting across a folding table, explaining a budget line item in plain language. It looks like a selectman answering emails late at night, or a school board member lingering after a meeting to hear concerns.

This is not nostalgia. It is reality. Small towns survive because people keep showing up. They serve on boards, coach teams, organize food drives, and quietly keep the machinery running. Not because it is easy, but because it matters to them where they live.

That sense of responsibility is something worth protecting. As Northeast Connecticut continues to navigate change, growth, and uncertainty, it is worth remembering that the strength of our communities has never come from grand gestures. It comes from consistency. From people who take their roles seriously, even when no one is watching. Progress here does not shout. It endures.

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.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pomfret deserves a budget process we can trust

To the Editor:

Pomfret residents work hard and expect their tax dollars to be handled carefully. Recent budget problems, including unaccounted Board of Education funds, show that our current budget process isn't delivering the transparency or accountability taxpayers deserve.

Today, much of the budget is developed out of public view, with residents given only limited opportunities to weigh in. While "citizen comments" are allowed, there is little room for real discussion or explanation. When questions are raised, they are too often dismissed rather than addressed openly. That approach weakens trust and leaves taxpayers feeling shut out.

This matters because the cost of living in Connecticut is already among the highest in the nation. In Pomfret, property taxes have increased by more than 10% per year on average over the past five years. New state mandates could push those costs even higher. Families, seniors, and small businesses all feel the strain.

A better way forward is possible—and practical. Many towns have already done it. Here are a few common-sense, bipartisan steps Pomfret can take:

Open the budget process. Hold fully transparent meetings, offer Zoom access, and record sessions so residents can follow decisions that affect their wallets.

Start budgeting from affordability. Zero-based budgeting requires every expense to be justified rather than automatically adding to last year's spending. It encourages discipline and smarter choices.

Be honest about revenue and costs. Grants may appear to be a gift of free money, but dig a little deeper, and you will discover the intricate value and responsibility they carry! They should be evaluated for long-term costs and used to support clear town priorities, not for short-term or individual projects.

Give residents time to review the budget. Draft budgets should be available well before the Town Meeting, allowing for meaningful questions and informed decisions.

Make voting accessible and fair. When everyone pays taxes, more than a small fraction of voters should have the opportunity to approve the budget—without pressure from town officials.

A transparent, inclusive budget process doesn't just control costs - it builds confidence, encourages participation, and leads to better decisions. Pomfret residents deserve a system that respects their voices and their hard-earned money!

Learn more, get involved, and speak up: PomfretGOP.com.

MARTHA EMILIO
POMFRET REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

A nation drowning in distraction

To the Editor:

Americans are living in a state of permanent distraction. A public overwhelmed by competing narratives has less capacity to focus on the truth and reality. This Administration's "flooding the zone" playbook purposefully creating chaos to get the public to stop demanding accountability of the rich and powerful men involved in Epstein's intercontinental sex trafficking scandal and cover up.

In other countries, the perpetrators involved with Epstein are losing their jobs but not in America. In America, many of the perpetrators hold jobs in the highest levels of our government where corruption, fraud and constitutional violations against American citizens continues unfettered. The abuse of executive powers, misuse of the military, misuse of taxpayer funds, defying of court orders, and the violation of the Constitution is common practice. Legal scholars outline the protections guaranteed by the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Tenth and Fourteenth Amendments that are being stripped away: First – the freedom of worship, of speech, and of the press and the right to assembly and to petition the government. Second – the right to bear arms and the importance of a well-regulated militia for the security of a free state. Fourth – the protection of people from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government. Fifth – the right to due process. Tenth – the government only has powers delegated to it by the constitution, all other powers are reserved to the state or to the people. Fourteenth – the guarantee of citizenship and equal rights to all persons born in the United States.

What is the red line for the American people? So far, it's not: the use of massive domestic surveillance on Americans, the killing of American citizens, deporting citizens and legal immigrants, seizing voter records, threatening to nationalize elections (a violation of the Elections Clause of the Constitution which grants states the primary authority to regulate elections), imposing tariffs which are taxes on American consumers, or the posting of white supremacy propaganda. Nor is it the inciting of an insurrection, pardoning criminals, the invasion of Venezuela, the threatening of Panama, Greenland or Iran, boots on the ground in Nigeria, military strikes on boats in the Caribbean, implementing investigations into political opponents and ICE victims, nor the expiration of the nuclear Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia (as of Feb. 6), which is said to be a 'grave moment' for international peace and security. So, what is our red line?

The world is watching the U.S. in decline. A Former White House Trump attorney, Ty Cobb, recently said Trump is experiencing a "significant decline" in his mental faculties. Many allies are referring to Trump's statements and actions as unheeded. European leaders fear Trump's deal with Putin ignores their security. European governments are quietly debating dumping \$2.34 trillion of U.S. treasury bonds. "A coordinated sell-off of this magnitude could shake the American financial system, hammer the value of the U.S. dollar, and trigger a liquidity crisis. Economists warn the impact could be more severe than the 2008 financial crash, potentially sending borrowing costs soaring and freezing large parts of the banking sector."

That would be the ultimate distraction. Millions of Americans struggling to afford basic necessities like food, paying rent, the mortgage, or monthly bills. And viola, Americans are drowning in another distraction and no longer focused on the Epstein files and the thousands of trafficked victims who deserve justice.

Let your representatives know they must uphold our constitutional rights and freedoms and seek justice for Epstein's victims.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Selected quotes

To the Editor:

In this season of intense civil discourse, we all may gain a measure of Insight by contemplating words of wisdom from others. In that spirit, I offer a few selected quotes.

We celebrate the birthday of our 16th president on Feb. 12. As the status and fate of our democratic republic is debated today, Abraham Lincoln's words of Aug. 1, 1858, should be remembered:

"As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is not democracy."

February is Black History month. In his 2001 documentary film "Jazz," Ken Burns asked Wynton Marsalis about the relationship between race and jazz. Here is what Marsalis said:

"Race is like, for this country, is like the thing in the story – in the mythology – that you have to do for the kingdom to be well. And it's always something you don't want to do. And it's always that thing that is so much about you confronting yourself; it is tai-

lor-made for you to fail dealing with it. And the question of your heroism, and of your courage and of your success in dealing with this trial, is can you confront it with honesty, and do you confront it and do you have the energy to sustain an attack on it. And since jazz music is at the center of the American mythology, it necessarily deals with race. The more we run from it, the more we run into it. It's an age-old story. You know, if it's not race, it's something else. But in this particular instance, in this nation, it is race."

Or, as Colin Kaepernick said in speaking to reporters on Sept. 20, 2016:

"There's a lot of racism disguised as patriotism in this country. And people don't like to address that. And they don't like to address what the root of this protest is."

As the author of Ecclesiastes (9:17) says:

"The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouting of a ruler among fools."

BRUCE LYMAN
WOODSTOCK

In praise of the unhurried moment

There is a certain comfort in places where nobody is in much of a hurry, even when they are technically busy.

CORNER OF KINDNESS
By CHIP

I was reminded of that the other day standing in line at a small local shop here in Northeast Connecticut, the kind of place where the counter has been worn smooth by decades of elbows and patience.

The line wasn't moving quickly. Someone ahead of me was asking a careful question, the sort of question that doesn't come with a stopwatch. No one sighed. No one checked a watch. We all knew we would get where we were going eventually.

I've come to believe that this quiet agreement — that some things take the time they take — is one of the unspoken kindnesses of our little corner of the state.

In many parts of the world, speed has become a virtue all by itself. Faster is better. Quicker is smarter. Waiting is treated like a failure. But here, waiting often turns into something else. It turns into conversation. Or observation. Or simply a few minutes to stand still and think.

I noticed a man leaning on the counter, listening carefully to the person ahead of him, nodding as if the answer might be useful someday. I noticed the clerk wasn't rushing either. He was explaining, not selling. That distinction matters. When someone explains something to you, they're investing a little piece of themselves in the exchange.

It struck me that kindness doesn't always arrive with a grand gesture or a heartfelt speech. Sometimes it shows up as patience, plain and unadorned.

I think many of us were taught patience the same way we learned to tie our shoes — not through lectures, but through repetition. You waited your turn. You listened before speaking. You learned that not every silence needed to be filled. Somewhere along the way, those lessons went out of fashion in the wider world, but they never quite left Northeast Connecticut.

We still wave when someone lets us pull out into traffic. We still hold doors without announcing it. We still stop mid-sentence if someone else starts speaking, then gesture for them to go first. None of it feels heroic. It's just how things are done.

At home, my wife sometimes teases me for lingering over small tasks. I'll reread a set of instructions or check something twice that probably doesn't need it. But I like knowing what I'm doing before I do it. I like the idea that careful work is a form of respect — for the job, for the tools, and for the people who might be affected by the outcome.

That habit may be a little old-fashioned, but it has served me well. And I see it reflected in others around here all the time. Folks take pride in doing things right, even if it takes a bit longer.

There's also a gentler side to this slower rhythm. When life doesn't constantly demand your immediate reaction, you start noticing things you'd otherwise miss. A familiar face you haven't seen in a while. A new sign in a shop window. A conversation that drifts from practical matters into stories and memories.

Those moments build a quiet sense of belonging. You don't need to announce it. You feel it.

I sometimes worry that the outside world looks at places like ours and assumes we are behind, or stuck, or resistant to change. The truth is simpler. We're selective. We choose which changes are worth making and which habits are worth keeping.

Kindness, patience, and attention are habits worth keeping.

As I left the shop that day, the line had moved, everyone had gotten what they came for, and no one seemed inconvenienced by the extra time it took. In fact, a few people were still talking as they headed out the door, conversations unfinished but unhurried.

That felt like a small victory for the human pace of things.

In a world that often urges us to speed up, there's something quietly powerful about choosing to slow down — about giving one another the grace of time. Here in Northeastern Connecticut, that choice shows up every day in a thousand small ways.

And that, to my mind, is kindness doing its best work — not loudly, not dramatically, but steadily, one patient moment at a time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Treason

To the Editor:

Donnie Tyrant said Republicans should “take over the voting” from states as he repeated his dis-proven claims of voter fraud. He said in a podcast by former deputy FBI Director Dan Bongino, “The Republicans should say, ‘We want to take over. We should take over the voting in at least 15 places. The Republicans ought to nationalize the voting.’”

It may only be an expression of free speech for an average citizen to express such a view, but to me it is fully treasonous for the President of the United States to do so. He presumably took an oath the uphold and defend the Constitution.

Article 1 of the Constitution states that “the times, places, and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof.” The Supreme Court has ruled many times that states have control over voter registration, election supervision, prevention of fraud, counting of ballots and more. For the President to openly advocate the outright defying of the Constitution is an admission by Donnie Tyrant that he is guilty of treason.

The ICEman cometh

To the Editor:

Voters in Connecticut’s 52nd District (Woodstock, Somers, Stafford, and Union) should know that their State Representative, Kurt Vail, walked out in the middle of Gov. Lamont’s State of the State speech last week. They should also understand why.

The Governor emphasized in the speech recent deep cuts to the federal safety net, especially health care and food support, and how Connecticut has been able to make up for some of the shortfall. He also remarked on the division in the country, but heaped praise on Connecticut’s police forces: “We have perhaps the best trained police force in the World, making Connecticut one of the very safest states.” “I want to give a shout out to the Connecticut State Police and their municipal police brothers and sisters,” he said. “They are of, by, and for the community, keeping you safe like looking out for a neighbor.”

He went on to say, “ICE is just the opposite. They see the world as us versus them. They are not trained to deescalate — they are barely trained at all. They hide behind a mask, they come to Connecticut — and Minneapolis — to arrest people outside of schools or courthouses, often based on the color of their skin. Some of our Hispanic kids are scared to go to school. Those kids at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven — we call them Dreamers; the White House calls them criminal aliens. That young mother shot twice in the head in Minneapolis — the White House called her a domestic terrorist; she reminded me of my daughter. ICE, everywhere you go uninvited, violence follows. Go home. We are keeping Connecticut safe without you.”

After the speech, Vail was quoted in the Danbury News-Times: “It was extremely unprofessional.

This issue was directly addressed last April by U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in her ruling that blocked 2 provisions of Executive Order 14248. The first would require documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections and the second ordered federal voter registration agencies to “assess” citizenship before providing a federal voter registration form to people who receive public assistance.

She wrote, “The Framers of our Constitution recognized that power over election rules could be abused, either to destroy the national government or to dis-empower the people from acting as a check on their elected representatives. They assigned no role at all to the President. Put simply, our Constitution does not allow the President to impose unilateral changes to federal election procedures.”

The danger here is that Donnie Tyrant has sown the seeds of treason that his true believers can hang onto to help bolster their admiration of an idiot who is advocating our destruction.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Why some investors aren’t loving their financial advisors any longer — and what they’re switching to instead



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

For decades, the typical financial advisor relationship followed a familiar pattern: periodic performance reviews, portfolio updates, and a heavy emphasis on market returns. For a long time, that was enough for many people. We’ve never considered it enough at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors and today, many investors don’t either.

The financial lives of individuals and families have become more complex, and many advisors simply haven’t kept pace. Here’s where many financial advisory and wealth management firms may be falling short, and what you as a client should be looking for instead.

Performance alone is no longer the value proposition

Across the industry, we are seeing a meaningful shift. More financial planning and wealth management clients are questioning the value they receive. And increasingly, many are choosing to look elsewhere for financial guidance. Some are looking to AI-driven platforms. Many are seeking out financial advisors and wealth managers that will deliver more depth, clarity, and partnership. This isn’t about impatience or unrealistic expectations — it’s about evolution.

Markets are more transparent than ever. Clients can see benchmarks, index returns, and market commentary in real time. When an advisor’s value is framed almost exclusively around “beating the market,” disappointment is almost inevitable.

Clients today understand that markets are cyclical and largely uncontrollable. What frustrates them is not short-term volatility; it’s the absence of proactive planning, context, and strategy when markets move. Advisors who lead every conversation with performance numbers without tying them back to personal goals, risk tolerance, and long-term outcomes are missing one of the items that clients care about most.

Today’s investors want to know: How does this impact my life, my plans, and my confidence about the future? They also want their advisors to care about and strategize for those things as much as they care about returns.

That requires something that bread-and-butter periodic meetings or even AI can ever provide — the foundation of a truly personal relationship combined with real-life experience, up-to-the-minute knowledge and the ability to strategize on the go based not only on what’s happening in the markets, but what’s happening in the client’s life and how all those pieces combine to inform the best strategy for them.

One-dimensional advice in a multi-dimensional world

Financial decisions no longer live in silos. Taxes, estate planning, retirement, business succession, charitable giving, and family dynamics are deeply interconnected. Yet many advisors still operate transactionally — managing investments in isolation while leaving clients to coordinate the rest on their own.

This creates friction and fatigue. Clients don’t want to act as the project manager of their own financial lives, translating advice between advisors, CPAs, and attorneys. When advisors fail to integrate these elements into a cohesive strategy, clients may feel unsupported — even if the portfolio itself is performing reasonably well.

The advisors gaining loyalty today are those who think holistically and collaborate seamlessly across disciplines. At WHZ, we pride ourselves on the fact that this has been our approach since day one.

A lack of proactive communication

Another common source of dissatisfaction is silence, especially during periods of uncertainty. Clients are quick to notice when communication is reactive rather than intentional. Waiting for a client to call with concerns, or limiting outreach to scheduled review meetings, sends the wrong message.

In contrast, proactive advisors anticipate questions, explain changes before they become problems, and reach out consistently with perspective, not panic. Trust isn’t built by avoiding difficult conversations. It’s built by addressing them early and clearly.

For example, at WHZ we provide our clients with a monthly newsletter containing timely and valuable articles, as well as a monthly market update that includes insight into how we’re positioning portfolios in response. In addition to that we send regular communications that are specific to clients’ interests and needs and we ensure that meetings happen whenever they’re needed, not just on a set schedule.

The relationship feels transactional, not personal

Perhaps the most important reason clients leave is emotional, not technical. Many eventually realize they don’t feel truly known by their advisor. When advice feels generic, meetings feel rushed, or conversations fail to evolve as life changes, clients begin to question whether their advisor is really invested in them — or just managing accounts. This is especially true during major transitions such as retire-

ment, inheritance, divorce, or the sale of a business.

What clients are switching to

When clients leave, they aren’t just leaving something behind; they’re moving toward something better suited to their situation. Increasingly, investors may seek advisors who offer:

A clearly defined planning process, not just investment management

Proactive, transparent communication

Integrated tax, estate, and retirement planning

A team-based approach that provides continuity and depth

A relationship grounded in trust, education, and long-term partnership

In short, they want confidence — not just competence. At WHZ, we believe this shift is both healthy and overdue. Clients deserve more than portfolio oversight; they deserve a strategic partner who helps them make informed decisions, navigate complexity, and move forward with clarity at every stage of life.

That is why our approach centers on comprehensive planning through our “Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™” strategic process, as well as collaborative teams and a long-term relationship built on understanding, not transactions. When clients feel heard, informed, and supported, the relationship stops being about markets — and starts being about living well.

If you’ve been questioning whether your current advisory relationship truly serves you, that question alone may be your answer. If you’re ready for a more thoughtful, proactive financial partnership, we invite you to connect with our team to see how we can help you create a strategy that provides “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” Contact us for a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call (860) 928-2341.

Authored by WHZ Wealth Advisor James Zahansky. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. 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>.



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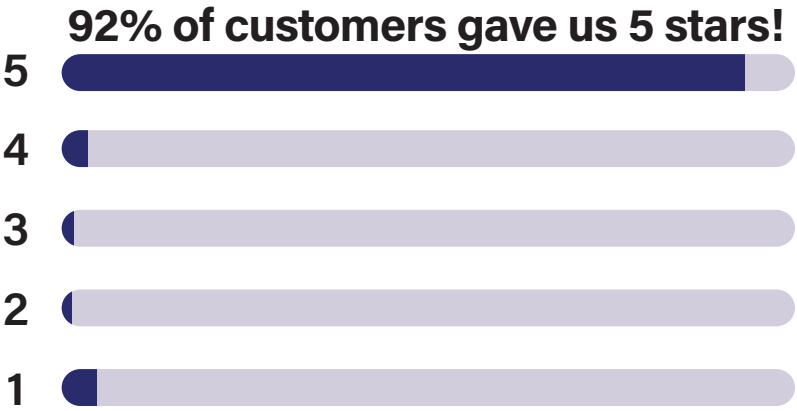
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Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up



The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Girls Basketball

Woodstock Academy 66
Windham 39
The Centaurs poured in 37 points in the second half on Feb. 2 to extend their 11-point halftime lead and roll to their 10th win in 14 games.
Senior Isabel D’Alleva-Bochain led the way for Woodstock Academy with 20 points while both Kaylee Saucier and Vivian Bibeau, who each had a trio of 3-pointers, finished with 13 apiece.
The Whippets (2-11) were paced by Jaida Green with 19 points and Amaya Mangual who tossed in 11.

Woodstock Academy 51
Bacon Academy 39
The Centaurs defense created opportunities for the offense on Feb. 3 as it helped force 25 turnovers by the Bobcats and Woodstock Academy (11-4) gradually pulled away for its sixth straight win.
The Centaurs led by nine at the half and held Bacon Academy (2-13) to three points in the third quarter to own a 16-point advantage going into the final eight minutes.
Senior Kaylee Saucier led Woodstock Academy with 15 points and junior Elise Coyle added 13.
Freshman guard Ava Galante was best for the Bobcats with 13 points.

Boys Basketball

New London 59
Woodstock Academy 47
Four of the starters reached double figures for the Whalers who improved to 11-4 on the season.
Jamie Hall led the way with 16 points but he had plenty of help as Jayron Robinson added 13, Jeremiah Ikapsa 12 and Kyaire Young 10.
Jamie Dean Stewart had a season-high 14 points for Woodstock Academy (8-6) which got seven each from Drake Abdullovski and Brayden De Oliveira.

Somers 82
Woodstock Academy 74 (OT)
Drake Abdullovski watched as his shots circled the rim twice before falling in at the buzzer to force overtime.
Unfortunately, the Woodstock Academy sophomore guard’s heroics went for naught as the Spartans (13-4) outscored the Centaurs 11-3 in the extra four minutes to post the win.
Andrew Czerwinski led all scorers with 40 points for host Somers.
Abdullovski finished with 28 for the Centaurs (8-7) with four 3-pointers. Xavier Matwiej contributed 11 and Jamie Dean-Stewart added nine.

Gymnastics

NFA 139.65
Woodstock Academy 136.05
The Wildcats now have enough healthy athletes and were able to post a team score which resulted not only in a win over the Centaurs but also over Killingly.
Tiffany Ambruso led NFA (3-5, 3-5 Eastern Connecticut Conference) and was tops in the All-Around in the competition with a 37.55 total. Ambruso was also tops in bars (9.7) and beam (9.55).
Anyah Oatley was best for Woodstock Academy (6-3, 5-3) with a 35.6 All-Around total, good for third behind Ellis Tech team-of-one Ava Pereira (34.0).
Oatley was best in the floor competition (9.6) and vault (9.0).

Boys Hockey

Woodstock Academy 3
Tri-Town 0
Jackson Aleman put the Centaurs into the lead just 28 seconds into the game and this time they never relinquished it as they picked up their first win of the season and gave first-year head coach Drew Beaupre his first career victory.
Camden Marshall added a second period goal for Woodstock Academy (1-13) and Kieran Shepherd capped things off with a goal in the third.
Patrick Griswold had two assists for the Centaurs with Alex Haggerty getting one

and Brady Hebert made 29 saves to record the shutout against Tri-Town (0-10-2).

Girls Hockey

Woodstock Academy
Co-Op 3
Simsbury 0
The Centaurs co-op kept their hopes alive for a state tournament berth as they skated to a shutout victory over the Trojans at the Jahn Ice Rink at Pomfret School.
Mia Auger scored an unassisted power-play goal with 22 seconds left in the first period and added a little insurance late with another unassisted tally with 19 seconds left in regulation.
Summer Discordia had the other goal for the Centaurs that came with 2:44 left in the game off a pass from Ellarry Sampson.
Gen Nash delivered the shutout in goal for Woodstock Academy (3-12-1) as she made 16 saves against Simsbury (0-15).

Wrestling

Lyman/Windham Tech 72
Woodstock Academy 6
Aidan Soukaloun recorded the only win for the Centaurs (2-12, 1-4 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) as he received a forfeit.
The Lyman/Windham Tech co-op (8-5, 5-1) recorded 10 pins in the victory.

Boys Basketball

Vs. Waterford
Killingly (10-5) Basketball took the win over Waterford (2-12) on the road to improve to 5-0 in the ECC Division II!
Final Score: 72 – 52.
Quinn Crowley had a team high 20 points, while Quinn Sumner added a double-double with 16 points and 15 rebounds!
Greyson Marquez scored 12 points and had 8 assists, while Jake Beaudreault scored 8 points and had 4 rebounds for Killingly!
Parker Spencer scored 26 points for Waterford.

Vs. Coventry
Killingly (11-5) took the win at home over Coventry (13-6) out of the NCCC behind a 20 point performance from Quinn Crowley!
Final Score: 72 – 35.
Quinn Sumner had a double-double of 10 points and 11 rebounds, while Greyson Marquez scored 8 points and added 10 assists!
Peter Kazantzis scored 9 points and 5 rebounds, while Jake Beaudreault added 8 points and 6 rebounds! Trevor Galarza and Aiden LaMotte both added 6 points a piece!
Eric Jordon had 21 points to lead Coventry.

Girls Basketball

Vs. Stonington
Killingly Girls Basketball (7-8) was led in a loss against Stonington (9-5) behind 16 points and 9 rebounds from Gianna Peters while Amaya Spadola added 10 points and 10 rebounds and Gracie West added 10 points and 5 rebounds!
Final Score: Stonington 63 - Killingly 44
Ella Adams added 7 points for Killingly.

Vs. Plainfield
Killingly Girls Basketball (8-8) was led in a win against Plainfield (11-3) behind 19 points and 8 rebounds from Gianna Peters while Amaya Spadola added 14 points and 22 rebounds, and Ella Adams added 11 points and 9 rebounds!
Final Score: Killingly 53 – Plainfield 40
Cam’Rynn Cross had 20 points for Plainfield.

Indoor Track & Field
On Feb. 8, the Killingly Indoor Track & Field team battled at the Coast Guard Academy for the playoff round of ECCs. This Playoff round had 7 teams competing, so competition was never lacking! We would also like to thank all the parents and friends that showed up to the event, we could hear you, and it was awesome!
As always, ladies first:

In the 4x 180, Kezlee Morrarty to Rosalyn Worden to Adalyn Malarkey to Jaclyn Suprenant to finish with a PR for the season and a great 5th place finish giving them all a medal! In the 55m dash, Killingly sent 3 awesome ladies to compete. In a field of 36, Adalyn flew to finish 21st followed by Jaclyn and then Kezlee! In the 300m, Rosalyn has been working hard all season and finished 20th out of a tough field! Rosalyn was also competing hard jumping through the 55m hurdles to put up a great time finishing 11th! In the 600m, Nina Purcell put up a GREAT time finishing with a fresh PR for the season! Nina also absolutely chucked her Shot Put in a tough field to finish 25th! Our long-distance specialist was at it again, putting in hard work for the 1000m and 1600m, Gabby Lepine put up great times and finishes in both and finished the season with a PR in the 1600m! And lastly in the Long Jump, we had 3 awesome ladies flying through the air to compete in a tough field of 18. Kezlee finished 12th with a PR to end the season; Jaclyn also flew with a fresh PR to finish the season, and Adalyn flew in the air as well! Great job ladies, incredibly proud of all your hard work all season, the fun you bring, and how you represent yourselves and Killingly!

On to the gentlemen:
In the Sprint Medley Relay, Ezekiel Benoit to Maddux Duquette to Isaiah Benoit to Calvin Vandale to finish with a PR for the season a great 5th place finish giving them all a medal! In the 55m dash, Killingly sent 4 awesome gentlemen to compete in a tough field of 25. Kaiden Cayer flew to finish 9th, followed closely behind Zeke, then Jackson Olson finishing the season with a Season Record, and Gabriel Covington finishing the season with a fresh PR! In the 300m, Jackson, Edward Purcell, and Maddux all flew finishing with great times and have put a loot of hard work into this event all season! In the 600m, Gabriel Covington was setting Personal Records again, putting up a great time finishing 11th! In the 3200m, our long-distance specialist Calvin put up a great time finishing 12th! In Shot Put, 5 awesome gentlemen from Killingly represented in a tough field of 22, Zeke chucked his shot put to finish 17th followed by Maddux, Cal, Wesley Sprouse and Jackson! In Pole Vault, Isaiah launched himself to finish with a Season Record of 9’! In the 55m hurdles, Jeremiah Smith has finished the regular season perfect; he’s finished 1st in every 55m hurdles and finished with a medal! In High Jump, in a tough field of 10, Cooper Logee flew through the air to finish 5th battling injury while Jeremiah took 1st both medal-ing! And in Long Jump, in a competitive field of 22, Aveion

Janton- Adams flew to take 5th and a medal, followed by Coop with a Personal Record, and Edward Purcell! Great job gentlemen, very proud of all your hard work all season, the enjoyment you bring and how you represent yourselves and Killingly all season!

The train keeps rolling to States, which are on Feb. 13 at Hillhouse. This ends the regular season, to the entire team. Thank you for making this such a fun season! Each and every one of you brings something awesome to the team every day and has made every day of practice, meets, dinners so much fun! Outdoor Track & Field can’t start soon enough, but first, let’s put in work at States!



Courtesy
Camden Kell playing defense against Lyman.



Sam Jackel makes the opening tip in action at home against Montville.

PUTNAM — The Putnam Clippers won big at home Tuesday night, Feb. 3 over the Lyman Bulldogs 96-48 to improve to 9-6 on the season. Freshman TJ Espinosa had a game high 36 points and added 6 rebounds and 4 assists. Sophomore Camden Kell had a big night with 29 points, 6 assists, 4 steals and 3 blocks in the win. Senior Captain Nick Devlin added 17 points and 4 rebounds and sophomore Sam Jackel chipped in 6 points, 5 rebounds and 5 blocks. The Clippers play at home again this Thursday in a big rematch with Montville High School starting at

7:00.

Clippers started off really slow at their followup game on Feb. 5 and never could recover falling to Montville at home 73-59. Freshman TJ Espinosa led Putnam with 21 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals in the loss. Senior Nick Devlin added 15 points, 5 rebounds and 3 assists and junior Jordan Chrzanowski had 13 points, 4 rebounds and 4 assists. Sophomore Camden Kell chipped in 10 points and 3 assists as the Clippers fall to 9-7 on the season.



The story behind Presidents Day

Inclement Weather: In case of snow, freezing rain or mixed precipitation please listen to WINY for notices about the Killingly Historical Center closings. You may also call the Center’s phone about 10:15 a.m. or later and see if anyone answers.

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

Pomfret Historical Society Fireside Chat. Feb. 20, 7-8 p.m. Vanilla Bean Café. Topic will be The Amazing Mrs. Whistler, the mother of artist James Whistler. For more information contact windsong@snet.net or call 860-465-7228.

Stop in the Putnam Library throughout the month of February and view the tiny art exhibit. A number of the artworks celebrate America’s 250th anniversary.

This weekend, we celebrate Presidents Day. I’m sure many of you reading this recall when we celebrated both Lincoln’s and Washinton’s birthdays on Feb. 12 and 22, respectively, and didn’t necessarily have school or work off. It seems fitting to write a little about the history of the day. The Georgia Southern University Web site had more than I had heard before. “Four presidents actually have birthdays in February: George Washington (the 22nd), Abraham Lincoln (the 12th), William Henry Harrison (the 9th), and Ronald Reagan (the 6th). But, in terms of Federal law, there is no “Presidents Day” — the holiday is officially Washington’s Birthday.

Salve Regina University announces Dean’s List

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following students were named to the Dean’s List during the fall 2025 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Jack Corcelli of Brooklyn
Ella Davis of Brooklyn
Ella Mandeville of Dayville
Kendall McCormack of Brooklyn
Gianna Ormstead of Dayville
Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. For more than 75 years, Salve has offered rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 master’s degree programs, combined bachelor’s/master’s programs, and doctoral programs.

Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a transformational four-year program through which they develop the experience, skills, and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy, and ideas. For more information visit [salve.edu](#).

Too cold to leave the house? Enjoy the library from the comfort of home

BY CLAUDETTE STOCKWELL
DIRECTOR

KILLINGLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

This winter feels exceptionally chilly, with temperatures frequently dipping into the single digits more than I’d like. So, what’s the solution? If you prefer to stay snug indoors, the library has plenty to offer! You can borrow eBooks, audiobooks, and movies without stepping out from under your cozy blankets. Just log into your Libby or Hoopla account, and you’re good to go. Looking for a bit more social engagement? Consider signing up for one of our Virtual Author Talks. We have an exciting lineup of authors to engage with, including Smithsonian Curator Emeritus Tom Crouch on Feb. 24, Kate Quinn on March 12, and Shoshana Walter and Barbara Kingsolver on March 24.

For those who are willing to bundle up and join us in person, we host movies for adults on Monday afternoons, story times for the younger crowd, book clubs, craft times, and much more throughout the week. Additionally, on March 4, we’ll delve into the Dangerous Art of Chainsaw Sculpture, and on March 7, we’ll celebrate Frog and Toad’s 50th Anniversary with a festive party. We invite you to visit us or check our website for more details about our upcoming programs. Connect with us at 25 Westcott Rd., Killingly, online at [killinglypl.org](#), or call us at 860-779-5383.



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

“The story of Presidents’ Day date begins in 1800. Following the death of George Washington in 1799, his Feb. 22 birthday became a perennial day of remembrance. At the time, Washington was venerated as the most important figure in American history, and events like the 1832 centennial of his birth and the start of construction of the Washington Monument in 1848 were cause for national celebration. In 1862, Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring February 22nd a day of celebration honoring Washington. A Federal holiday on February 22nd was officially passed into law in 1879... The shift from Washington’s Birthday to Presidents’ Day began in the late 1960s, when Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act... This law sought to shift the celebration of several federal holidays from specific dates to a series of predetermined Mondays. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act also included a provision to combine the celebration of Washington’s birthday with that of Abraham Lincoln, which fell on February 12. Lincoln’s Birthday had long been a state holiday in places like Illinois. Eventually, the main piece of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act passed in 1968 and officially took effect in 1971 following an executive order from President Richard M. Nixon.” (<https://georgiasouthern.libguides.com/c.php?g=1119310&p=8176854>)

I decided to check past Windham County Transcripts on the Killingly Public Library website ([killinglypl.org](#)) to see how area residents from years ago were honoring the presidents. The Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1892 Transcript had a small clip, “The people of this village were at an early hour reminded Monday morning that it was Washington’s birthday anniversary by a salute fired by our patriotic young friend, Walter Kies, who has remembered the day after the same fashion for a number of years. The flag across Main St. was unfurled by the American Mechanics.” (p. 2 of 4).

A few years later Brooklyn residents happily displayed their flags, “The birthday of George Washington... was duly honored in this village by display of flags. So many of our citizens are absent at this time of the year that fewer were shown than usual on such days”. (WCT, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1903, p. 6 of 8).

Did you remember that the President’s holiday was also a time for car sales? The Thursday, Feb. 20, 1958 Transcript carried a full page ad, “You are cordially invited

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Fall Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced its Dean’s List for academic excellence for the Fall 2025 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean’s List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

“WPI’s academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work

on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities,” said Provost Andrew Sears. “Some of this nation’s best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean’s List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students.”

The following students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean’s List:

to Open House Saturday, Feb. 22 at your local automobile showrooms... Take advantage of our Washington Birthday Bonuses! Carito Buick (North Main Street, Danielson; Danielson Sales and Service, Inc. (231 No. Main St., Danielson), Del Chevrolet Sales Co. (2 So. Main St.-Brooklyn), Phillips’ Garage, Inc. -Pontiac & GM Truck Dealers (Canterbury Rd., Plainfield); Griffin Oldsmobile (Route 6, South Killingly), Wm. J. Smith-Rambler Sales & Service (1 Mechanic St.), Edson Motors, Inc. -Chrysler, Plymouth, Renault (Westcott Hill Rd.), Santerre Motor Sales-Dodge, Plymouth (Westcott Road), Turner Motor Sales-new Hillmans and Internationals (No. Main Street, Danielson). (p. 5 of 12). I’m sure that many older readers recall a few of these showrooms as well as cars that are no longer being made. Please feel free to share your memories. I did not grow up around here, and so there were a few showrooms that I’d never heard of.

I am always on the lookout for interesting tidbits while I research a particular topic. How many of you remember when Killingly had a Blackhawks Hockey Club? The Thursday, Feb. 15, 1973 Windham County Transcript had a write-up about their recent win. “Langevin Leads Blackhawks Over Southbridge 3-1, by Gregory Wade. Outnumbered 3 to 1, the Killingly Hockey Club Blackhawks took the ice in Southbridge, Mass. to play the Southbridge Hockey Club in a game which saw more excitement than any other the team has played. Plagued with excuses and previous commitments, the Blackhawks large roster was dwindling down to seven defensemen and two goalies. Danny Langevin was the primary reason the team actually won. Dan’s fine puck-handling, shooting, and passing, as well as his defense set a great example for the other Blackhawks, while goalies George Atsales and Richard Murray were sharp in the nets... Fine all around play from Langevin, Atsales, Murray, Bob Ricard, Vance Carter, Dave Crowley, Greg Wade, and Steve and Mike DeVillez gave the Blackhawks their fourth win in seven outings. Southbridge is now 5-2.” (p. 9/10).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, February 2026. For additional information email me at 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 on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

Students named to President’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Students have been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Fall 2025 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Fall 2025 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

The following local students have been named to the President’s List:

Deidrea Hanshaw of N. Grosvenordale, majoring in Criminal Justice.

Matthew Siegmund of N. Grosvenordale, majoring in Exercise and Sport Physiology.

Logan Gagnon of Thompson, majoring in Business Administration.

Lilly Verraneault of Pomfret Center, majoring in Social Work.

About Plymouth State University
Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates, and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. The Plymouth State Cluster Learning Model emphasizes open, integrative, and project-based experiences. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. To learn more about Plymouth State University, visit [www.plymouth.edu](#).

Morgan Bonin named to Dean’s List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Western New England University (WNE) is proud to announce that Morgan Bonin of Woodstock has been named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2025 semester. Bonin is one of nearly 800 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the Dean’s List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE’s 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

www.Villager Newspapers.com

DMMA students earn rank promotions



DANIELSON — On Thursday, Jan. 14, five-time Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee and current USA Karate Team Member, 7th Dan Master Daryl Laperle announces promotion of students in Danielson Martial Arts Academy’s most recent grading.

Rory Newcomb - 2 Gup Red
Abbey King - 3.5 Gup Green
Hailey LaPorte - 4 Gup Green
William Flynn - 4 Gup Green
Kile Gagnon - 4.5 Gup Green
Waylon Hayden - 4.5 Gup Green
Claire Antunes - 4.5 Gup Green
Liberty Harty - 4.5 Gup Green
Elacy Brown - 5.5 Gup Purple
Henry Pettus - 6.5 Gup Blue
Benjamin Mello - 6.5 Gup Blue

Annabelle Mello - 6.5 Gup Blue
Camilo Jaimes - 6.5 Gup Blue
Noah Banda - 7 Gup Blue
Antonio Ramirez - 7 Gup Blue
Jackson Lawton - 7 Gup Blue
Dexter Gagner - 8 Gup Blue
Mackenzie Gagner - 8 Gup Blue
Mackenzie Wildowski - 8 Gup Blue
Jacob Banda - 8 Gup Blue
Hunter Dumas - 8 Gup Blue

Luke Mauro - 9 Gup Orange
Gavin Mota - 9 Gup Orange
Kalina Gwozdz - 9 Gup Orange
Madison West - 9 Gup Orange
Grayson West - 9 Gup Orange

For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR FEBRUARY 13-20

Friday, Feb. 13
Killingly Public Library
Library open regular hours.
25 Westcott Road, Danielson.
Info: <https://www.killinglypl.org>

Saturday, Feb. 14
Putnam Public Library
Library open regular Saturday hours.
200 School St., Putnam.
Info: <https://putnampubliclibrary.org>

Monday, Feb. 16 – Presidents Day
Town of Killingly
Town offices closed in observance of Presidents Day.
Info: <https://www.killinglyct.org>
Town of Putnam
Town offices closed.
Info: <https://www.putnamct.us>
Town of Thompson
Town offices closed.
Info: <https://www.thompsonct.org>
Town of Woodstock
Town offices closed.
Info: <https://www.woodstockct.gov>

Tuesday, Feb. 17
Putnam Board of Selectmen
7 p.m.
Putnam Municipal Complex, Council Chambers, 200 School St.
Agenda and minutes: <https://www.putnamct.us/boards/selectmen>
Killingly Planning and Zoning Commission
7 p.m.
Killingly Town Hall, Assembly Room, 172 Main St., Danielson.
Agenda: <https://www.killinglyct.org/pz>

Wednesday, Feb. 18
Woodstock Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
7 p.m.
Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169.
Agenda: <https://www.woodstockct.gov/inland-wetlands>
Thompson Board of Education
7 p.m.
Thompson Board of Education Office, 52 Chase Road.
Agenda: <https://www.thompsonct.org/board-education>

Thursday, Feb. 19
Killingly Board of Education
6:30 p.m.
Killingly Intermediate School Media Center, 52 Hemlock St.
Agenda: <https://www.killinglyschools.org/board-of-education>
Putnam Planning and Zoning Commission
7 p.m.
Municipal Complex, 200 School St.
Agenda: <https://www.putnamct.us/planning-zoning>

Friday, Feb. 20
Putnam Public Library
Library open regular hours.
200 School St., Putnam.
Info: <https://putnampubliclibrary.org>

Vail visits Woodstock Middle School



WOODSTOCK — On Monday afternoon, State Rep. Kurt Vail (R-52) visited Woodstock Middle School, where he presented an overview of state government to the entire seventh-grade class. Rep. Vail walked students through the lawmaking process, which they will be able to follow in real time as the 2026 Legislative

Session convenes tomorrow.

“The students asked wonderful questions and remained highly engaged throughout the presentation,” said Vail. “I was impressed by how quickly they grasped Connecticut’s legislative process, and I am confident they will have a successful spring semester.”

Following the presentation, Rep. Vail led a brief question-and-answer session, giving students the opportunity to clarify aspects of the legislative process and learn more about his reasons for public service, which center on giving back to his community.

Christ Church Pomfret hosts annual Chili Cook-Off

POMFRET — Christ Church Pomfret will host its annual chili cook-off on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the church’s Great Hall at 527 Pomfret Street.

The event will feature a variety of chili styles, including meat-and-bean,

vegetarian, miscellaneous, and a new category, Winners’ Circle, where past winners will compete head-to-head. People are encouraged to sample each and vote for their favorite. Side dishes and desserts will also be available.

For information and to enter a chili, please call the church office at (860) 315-7780.

Tickets are available at the door and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

The event will raise money for the church’s youth programs, including its Journey 2 Adulthood group, which encourages teens to discover themselves and their faith through weekly gatherings and on pilgrimage.

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.

Paws Cat Shelter to hold fundraising pasta dinner

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is hosting a pasta dinner fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 22 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., in Putnam. Eat in or Take out.

Dinner includes penne pasta with tomato sauce, sausage, meatball, salad and garlic bread. Tickets are \$15 each and are available at Knights of Columbus, Paws Cat Shelter, 74 School St., Putnam and Joseph Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam. Walk-ins welcome.

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.

Got Space?
we do.

Contact Mikaela Today,
860-928-1818

Allard, of Putnam, named to Clark University's Fall Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Autumn R. Allard, of Putnam, was named to first honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2025 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Danielson Legion post hosting Red Cross blood drive

DAYVILLE — L'Homme-Burdick Post 21 American Legion, Danielson, along with the American Red Cross, will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, Feb. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dayville Fire House.

Email Us!



What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

Email us your thoughts to:

brendan@villagernewspapers.com



We'd Love To Hear From You!

Local residents named to Clark University's Fall Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Fall 2025 Dean's List:

Sarah T. Lucas, of Woodstock was named to first honors.

Ricky Jessurun, of Pomfret Center was named to first honors.

Ryan R. Wallace, of Pomfret Center was named to second honors.

Collin D. Hamilton, of Pomfret Center was named to second honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Celebrity Bartender Night to benefit Interfaith Human Services of Putnam

PUTNAM — The Putnam Democrats invite the community to a Celebrity Bartender Night at Montana Nights Axe Throwing benefitting Interfaith Human Services of Putnam Feb. 19 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The lineup of bartenders for the evening includes Jeff Bousquet and Elizabeth Beman at 5:30 p.m.; Scott Pempek, Peter Vitale, and Lauren Heidelberger at 6; Barney Seney, Jim Rivers, and Joe Carvalho at 6:30; Sherri Vogt, Leah Pollard, and Gloria Marion at 7; John O'Keefe, Dr. Lee Wesler, and Mike Bogdanski at 7:30; and Steve and Leia Faucher and George Tsanjoures at 8.

Interfaith Services of Putnam is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization supporting Daily Bread, the Diaper Bank, NU2U Clothing Closet, Pathways 2 Success, and providing fuel and energy assistance, homelessness and rental assistance, and resources for area seniors.

Pomfret Historical Society Fireside Chat to feature "The Amazing Mrs. Whistler"

POMFRET — The topic for February's Fireside Chat presented by Pomfret Historical Society at the Vanilla Bean Café Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. will be "The Amazing Mrs. Whistler," the mother of famed artist James Whistler. The Whistlers spent two years in Pomfret while James and his brother William attended school.

Whistler's mother, Anna McNeill Whistler, blew into Pomfret in December of 1849 to settle her husband's probate and enroll her sons James and William in Roswell Park's Christ Church Hall Academy. Her husband, George Washington Whistler had died of cholera in Russia in April of 1849 while designing and building the railroad from St. Petersburg to Moscow for Tzar Nicholas. After packing up the household in Russia and shipping her husband's body to Stonington, CT for burial, she focused her attention on educating her sons at the reputable academy in Pomfret. She met with the Pomfret probate judge, in December of 1849, rented a house just west of the Vanilla Bean from Mrs. Hannah Searles, and arranged to have the family furnishings and belongings shipped to Pomfret by train. A force to be reconned with,



Anna Whistler dug into and became an integral part of Pomfret Street from 1850 – 1852 when "The Street" (as it was called) was thriving with commerce and high society. Anna Whistler's world gives us a sneak preview of Pomfret's Gilded Age, the topic of the March Fireside Chat.

Bring a friend, settle in for food, and drink from the Vanilla Bean menu and enjoy a delightful program that sheds light on the artist James Whistler and his mother.

Program from 7 – 8 p.m. Arrive early to order food and get a good seat. For more information, contact windsong@snet.net or call 860-465-7228.

Putnam's Kaya Pernini named to University of Rhode Island Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that Kaya Pernini of Putnam has been named to its Fall 2025 Dean's List.

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Students named to the Dean's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

POMFRET — The recently formed Together We Can Do It Al-Anon Family Group is meeting at Christ Church in Pomfret (Route 169) on Tuesdays at noon. This is an open meeting, meaning not only family and friends of people suffering from the effects of addiction are welcome, but also professionals who may have clients they would like to recommend attend the meetings.

Al-Anon is a worldwide program for people just like you, who are worried about someone with a drinking problem. This Pomfret group will also welcome folks concerned about someone suffering from drug addiction.

Utilizing the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, the group will discuss the Steps, Concepts, and Traditions as well as offer support for your specific situation. No advice is given; understanding and support in a confidential setting are the largest benefits of membership in the group.

For more information about Al-Anon, visit www.al-anon.org. For information about the meeting in Pomfret, call 203-561-7954.

Brian M. Tvelia, Jr. earns Westview’s Employee of the Month award

DAYVILLE — Brian M. Tvelia, Jr. earned recognition as Westview’s Employee of the Month for December 2025.

Tvelia is a Licensed Practical Nurse at Westview Health Care Center, where his commitment to teamwork defines his daily practice. His steady, supportive role is evident as he collaborates with multiple groups of doctors, nurses, and nursing assistants throughout the week. Alongside his strong command of nursing knowledge, his affirmative demeanor draws colleagues, residents, and patients alike toward his dependable presence. In every care setting he enters, Brian ensures that compassion is abundant.

Tvelia earned his Licensed Practical Nurse certification through Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Mass. Raised in Milford, Mass., he developed an early appreciation for small-town America and the importance of community involvement. He carries that philosophy with him today—actively seeking opportunities to support his neighbors in Danielson. When Brian and his wife, Mandy, first moved to northeast Connecticut, he looked for local ways to complement his civic life. He currently serves on the Killingly Housing Authority, imparting a direct contribution to his town. His dedication to community also extends into his role as a father. Brian proudly supports his children, Noah and Jessi, in their interests and activities, including coaching their



Brian Tvelia, Jr.

youth soccer and basketball teams with enthusiasm and humility—as he cheerfully admits to learning alongside them. Brian’s altruistic outlook at Westview mirrors his approach to life as a whole: showing up fully, supporting others, and contributing in every way he can.

Since settling in Connecticut’s Quiet Corner, Brian and his family have embraced the region’s

natural beauty and strong agricultural roots. Inspired by the area’s family-farm culture, they established a “microfarm” on a half-acre of their property. Their agrarian efforts include a vegetable garden and a flock of chickens—housed in a creatively repurposed playground structure. Brian appreciates the increased self-sufficiency this provides for his family through fresh eggs and crisp garden produce. In addition

to their nine chickens, Brian’s family includes two dogs and a cat. As a rare solo activity, Brian enjoys playing drums. While he can play both traditional acoustic and electric drums, he prefers the physical resonance of acoustic percussion. Drumming helps Brian to exercise the energies of the day, offering creative balance alongside the many responsibilities that shape his life.

Reflecting on his recognition, Brian expressed gratitude rooted firmly in collaboration: “There may be an ‘I’ in ‘Westview,’ but it’s important to note that it starts with ‘We!’ Thank you to Westview as an organization and to all of the amazing people surrounding me. It’s an honor to be selected as Westview’s Employee of the Month—but if it wasn’t for everybody here working so well together, I wouldn’t

be able to have the same impact. This recognition is a credit to all of the teams I am lucky to be a part of here at Westview.”

Westview Administrator David T. Panteleakos commended Brian’s professionalism and collegial spirit, adding “Brian exemplifies what it means to be a consistent team-centered nursing professional. His clinical knowledge, respectful communication, and genuine kindness elevate every team member he works with. Brian brings confidence and camaraderie into complex clinical conversations, and that balance is felt among colleagues and residents alike. We are grateful for the dedication and consistent positivity he brings to Westview each day. Congratulations to Brian!”

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 18 years.

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