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TEEG brings annual Have a Heart to Woodstock



Auctioneer Dick Loomis and TEEG Resource Developer Chelsea French point out bidders during Have a Heart's live auction segment.

Roseland Park Golf Course staffed and ready for play



Roseland Park and Golf Course Pro Rick Haldas registers a family to play a round of golf. The many improvements to the golf course thanks to the support of The Legacy Campaign has witnessed an increase in golfers at the nine-hole golf layout in Woodstock.

WOODSTOCK — Historic Roseland Park Golf Course established in 1896, acclaimed by some to be the second oldest golf course in Connecticut and maybe the United States, announced that the facility is open, ready for play and in greatly improved condition. The pro shop, driving range and grounds crews are fully staffed and ready to greet and assist golfers of all ages and abilities.

Michael Pizzetti of Pomfret returns as the Director of Golf for his fourth season at Roseland Park & Golf Course. Pizzetti, who was raised in Webster and graduated from Bartlett High School, assumed his role in Woodstock following a longtime tenure of 42 years at Quinnatisset Country Club in Thompson.

“We have a friendly, family atmosphere here in Woodstock. We’re encouraging everyone from youngsters to elderly golfers, men and women to join us and witness the changes and improvements that have taken place at the course over the past two seasons. It is a true transformation. You’ll like the way we look,” said Pizzetti.

Pizzetti honed his golf skills as a young man at the former Pine Hill Golf Course in Wilsonville, where his dad, Ennie “Big E” Pizzetti encouraged his son to enjoy the links and his time on the course, which was very much like Roseland Golf Course. The window of the Roseland pro shop is staffed by golf professional Rick Haldas and the quartet of Rich Murray, Al “Chick”

Turn To **GOLF** page **A11**

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER
CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Over the years, TEEG’s annual fundraiser Have a Heart has undergone many changes and evolutions, but its 24th iteration on May 2 may have been one of the most unique to date. With a new location and new features, but the same spirit and goal of helping the local community Have a Heart continued its longstanding tradition as a staple of the local community bringing togeth-

er countless stakeholders and supporters of TEEG’s mission.

For the first time, Have a Heart was hosted in Woodstock at the Mansion on Bald Hill after several years at the Connecticut National Gold Club in Putnam who couldn’t host after a fire damaged their event hall. Also, for the first time, the agency provided bidding number paddles for its participants and numbered arm bands making it easier for people to remember their bidding number and take part in the event. As always, Have a Heart featured a wide variety of silent



4H Camp volunteers work with a customer during the camp's annual auction and tag sale.

4H Camp launches camp season with annual Tag Sale and Auction

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

POMFRET — The Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp continued a tradition as old as the camp itself hosting its annual auction and tag sale throughout the first weekend of May. The event is the camp’s largest annual fundraiser directly responsible for a huge portion of their annual budget, and more than 70 years later serves as one of the longest continuously running events of its kind in the Quiet Corner.

While the exact amount raised in 2025 was not available for this story, the auction and tag sale traditionally averages around \$35,000 a year,

with the highest modern number sitting at an estimated \$43,000 in a single year. Camp Director Heather Logee explained that the event is essential to the camp’s operation as it pays for essentially everything from staff to maintenance and programs. What makes it unique is the event depends on the public for both ends of its success, with all the products donated from outside the camp and the supporters stopping by throughout the weekend to make their purchases.

“It gives the community an opportunity to give back to us. Everything we have for the auction and the tag sale are all donations. It also gives them

an auction, live auction, and raffle items with all the money going back to TEEG’s programs, including youth and senior services, food security, and more.

It was also a first for new Executive Director Carl Asikainen, who had worked Have a Heart as a TEEG employee in the past, but got his first taste of helping lead the event in 2025.

Asikainen said it was great to bring the event to Woodstock, one of three towns they serve including Pomfret and Thompson, and expressed his amazement at the continuous success of Have a Heart as an annual staple in the Quiet Corner.

“The annual appeal and Have a Heart are our two biggest fundraisers, and the staff and the board know how much we rely on the funds raised tonight and the process to get to tonight. By all indications, it’s as good as it’s been in recent years which I’m amazed at because these events usually have a use life, and 24 years is a long time,” he said.

However, Asikainen didn’t take credit for leading Have a Heart itself, instead acknowledging TEEG’s Resource Developer Chelsea French for her hard work in bringing it all together. For her part, French said the event remains the organization’s biggest annual

Turn To **HEART** page **A10**

Albert “Pete” Marcoux named Thompson’s Veteran of the Month

THOMPSON — Albert “Pete” Marcoux, Jr. of Quaddick Town Farm Road in Thompson, has been chosen by the nominating committee to be honored as the May 2025 Thompson Veteran of the Month.

Sgt. Marcoux served admirably during the Korean War era in the United States Air Force from 1952 to 1956, and subsequently in the Air Force Reserve from 1956 to 1960. He began his tour of duty at the Sampson Air Force Base in Utica, N.Y. for his basic training. He subsequently was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumpter, S.C. In 1953, toward the end of the Berlin Air Lift, he was assigned to Burtonwood Air Force Base in England where he was an Air Force Medic for a seven-member team. He later was assigned and remained in North Africa for two years. Sargent Marcoux was eventually re-assigned from his post in Casablanca, North Africa to Sheep’s Head Bay, N.Y., enduring an 11- day journey by Navy ship. He arrived back to the United States in August 1955 in the midst of the great flood of 1955, which ravaged parts of Northeastern Connecticut.

Marcoux completed his final year of active duty at Malstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont., eventually returning to Connecticut in driving a 1952 Mercury with his wife Julie and their five-day-old son Stephen. It was in England that he would meet his longtime future wife, Julie, who was a midwife at that same base hospital. They married on April 23, 1955 at St. Joseph’s Church in St. Helens, England. Over the next six decades, both Pete, Julie and their children became household names in the Town of Thompson. Together they had 8 children, four boys and four girls. Sons Father Stephen, Richard, Michael, and Patrick, and daughters Julie, Ann-Marie, Maureen and Margaret. Together, they have 11 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

In 1956 Pete began a 12-year career as an upholsterer supervisor at the Risom Manufacturing Company in the old Cluet Peabody Mill, known currently as Riverside Mill. Risom was well known internationally for their exquisite Danish style furniture. Pete also worked at the Putnam Manufacturing Company, and was the manager of the Desilets Gas Station in Grosvenordale from 1965 to 1967. He was also a Town of Thompson Assessor for four years, working with Sonny Reynolds, Walter Sulkowski and Julia Rizel. In 1984, Pete was hired by Eastern Connecticut State University, serving the University as a Skilled Maintainer and the Athletic Department as the facilities department ground staff responsible for the upkeep of the entire athletic department’s outdoor playing facilities. For his extraordinary service to the University in 2006, Pete was honored with the Michael A. Atkind Exceptional Service Award Hall of Fame, becoming only the 25th individual to be so honored by the University. ECSU has hosted numerous NCAA tournaments due to having some of the finest athletic facilities in the Northeast thanks in great part to Mr. Marcoux’s efforts. Amazingly, since 1978 and still

Turn To **4H** page **A8**

Turn To **MARCOUX** page **A11**

Day Kimball Health names Sherry Rondeau Employee of the Month

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) has named Sherry Rondeau employee of the month for March. Rondeau is a medical assistant in DKH's Heart Group.

Rondeau began her career in healthcare in 2009 as a certified nursing assistant. She joined DKH in January 2020, initially working in the Intensive Care Unit before transitioning to the Heart Group in September 2024. In her current role, she facilitates patient care by handling chart prep, taking vitals, managing

prescriptions, and ensuring seamless communication throughout the care team.

Known for her compassion, dedication, and patient-first approach, Rondeau has quickly become an indispensable member of the cardiovascular team.

"Sherry has very quickly become the heartbeat of our cardiovascular practice," said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health. "Through her support of our physicians and APPs, she ensures that our patients get the best

possible care through an exceptional patient experience. Without a doubt, she puts the heart in Heart House!"

When asked what she enjoys most about her work, Rondeau shared, "The people. I love working collaboratively with my team and providers to help patients. Sometimes, patients need someone to listen. As a team in cardiology, our focus is always the same—working together to help make each patient better. As a group, we are so involved in helping make that happen. We all work together so well, and if someone needs something, we are always there to help each other. We strive to build each other up and celebrate our achievements together. That is what makes us such a great team."

Outside of work, Rondeau enjoys being outdoors, especially



Courtesy Sherry Rondeau, medical assistant in DKH's Heart Group in Putnam, has been named March employee of the month.

fishing, kayaking, and hiking with her dogs.

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball

Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts

and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health's comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons, and specialists. Its website is daykimball.org.



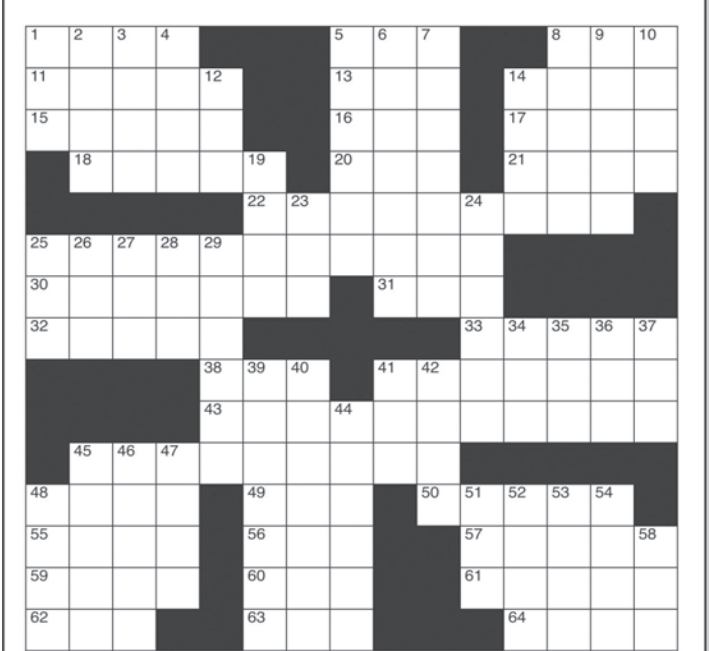
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- #### CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Herring-like fish
 - 5. Perform on stage
 - 8. Soda
 - 11. Small growth
 - 13. In support of
 - 14. Step taken when walking
 - 15. Hollyhocks
 - 16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - 17. Feel pain
 - 18. San Diego ballplayer
 - 20. Inches per minute (abbr.)
 - 21. Fat from a pig's abdomen
 - 22. Create again
 - 25. Honors once more
 - 30. Thin coating of gold
 - 31. Welsh river
 - 32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
- 33. Husks of corn
 - 38. Green vegetable
 - 41. Showing guilt
 - 43. Soldier
 - 45. Photographers
 - 48. Language spoken in Nigeria
 - 49. Mimic
 - 50. Expressed pleasure
 - 55. Ancient Greek sophist
 - 56. Beverage container
 - 57. Night monkey genus
 - 59. Lace bugs
 - 60. Hoghead (abbr.)
 - 61. Frameworks
 - 62. Keyboard key
 - 63. Greek goddess of the dawn
 - 64. Influential Korean independence figure

- #### CLUES DOWN

 - 1. A place to unwind
 - 2. Helped (archaic)
 - 3. Razorbill genus
 - 4. Bleached
 - 5. Continent
 - 6. Fruit preserved in syrup
 - 7. Impediment to one's freedom
 - 8. Nocturnal rodents
 - 9. Earthy pigment
 - 10. Relieved oneself
 - 12. Golf score
 - 14. Tech hub __ Alto
 - 19. Sportscaster Andrews
 - 23. Records electric currents
 - 24. Popular Hitchcock film
 - 25. Revolutions per minute
 - 26. NY Giants legend
 - 27. Sports radio host Patrick
 - 28. When you hope to get somewhere
- 29. French seaport
 - 34. Thai river
 - 35. Rocker's accessory
 - 36. Extra charge
 - 37. Influential American president
 - 39. Pain in the head
 - 40. Great Plains people
 - 41. Consumed
 - 42. Soluble ribonucleic acid
 - 44. Improves
 - 45. Secret clique
 - 46. Behind the stern of a ship
 - 47. Dough made from corn flour
 - 48. Fallow deer
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Grayish white
 - 53. Engrave
 - 54. College's Blue Devils
 - 58. Midway between south and southeast

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Interact car wash raises money for Heifer International



VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 1: Northern Parula Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Veery, Eastern Kingbird, Killdeer, Bald Eagle, American Redstart, Black-throated Green Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Catbird.

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VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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The Woodstock Villager (USPS 024-999) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 10A Beeches Ln, Woodstock Ct 06281. Periodical postage paid at Putnam, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to Villager Newspapers c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

PUTNAM — Rain forced the postponement of the Putnam Rotary Interact Club Interact Club's fund-raiser car wash but they tried again on a sunny May 3 and pulled in \$492. The Rotary's Rotaract Club helped wash cars to raise the money for the Interact Club's international project. Rotarian Interact Club advisor Roberta Rocchetti said: "This year the Interact club is working with Heifer International to support families in underdeveloped countries to obtain a sustainable food source." The car wash donations will be combined with the \$330 the club previously raised, giving the club \$822 to purchase a heifer and other animals. Rocchetti said, "I was amazed at the turnout and generosity of all that came to the car wash. Last week was a wash out and thankfully Putnam High Principal Heather Taylor and Executive Assistant Putnam Public Schools, Sheila Partlow, worked quickly to make the change happen." Rocchetti thanked Rotaract members; Jillian Smick, Matthew Gardiner and Michael Jean and Interact volunteers: Aidan Jeon, Sujong Lee, Lily Beausoleil, Mikayla Bessette, Callum Lusignan and Anthony Beaudreault from Woodstock Academy. She also thanked: Devi Patel-Gandhi, Henrietta Hayes, Emma Martineau from Marianapolis; Paige Perry from Putnam High and Sofia Thurber and June Ferraro (co-presidents of Interact) from Tourtellotte Memorial High School. She said she and Rotarian Woody Durst assisted. Last year the Interact Club's International Project was raising \$1,000 to buy a Solar Suitcase kit. They put it together; it was tested and then sent to a school in Kenya to give them power. For more information about the Putnam Rotary Interact Club, contact Roberta Rocchetti 860-933-8603 or robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

Quiet Corner

Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

Northeast CT Chamber presents annual awards



Mike Deary



Chad Neal



Rocky Wagner



Adam Rondeau



Jackie Lajoie



Joseph Carlone, Jr.

REGION — The Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the 2025 Annual Awards Recipients. The honorees will be recognized at the NE CT Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Gala on Tuesday, May 27 from 5:30 – 9 p.m. at StoneHurst at Hampton Valley in Hampton. Tickets are available at nectchamber.com/calendar-events

Each year, the Chamber honors individuals and organizations across our 23-town region who demonstrate extraordinary leadership, civic responsibility, and commitment to the betterment of our community. The 2025 awardees represent Northeastern CT's spirit, talent, and dedication:

Business Leader of the Year Award – Mike Deary

Owner of Deary Bros. Mike's Stand

As the owner of Deary Bros. Mike's Stand, Mike Deary has led a family-run business that's been a staple in NE CT for over 85 years. For more than five decades, Mike has been at the helm, mentoring thousands of young people, many of whom credit him as a life-changing influence. Deary leaves a remarkable legacy of leadership, hard work, and community spirit.

Civic Achievement Award – Chad Neal, Head Football Coach and Career Center Director at Killingly High School

Chad Neal is being honored for his outstanding leadership on and off the

field. He is known for his commitment to mentorship, supporting young people by creating a culture of respect, teamwork, and discipline. He and his players are active in the community, volunteering for various causes, attending business events, and serving our region. His impact extends far beyond football, shaping not only talented athletes, but responsible, engaged citizens.

Community Champion Award – Rockwell "Rocky" Wagner, President of Plainfield Rotary Club, Owner of RA Wagner LLC

A tireless advocate for the communities of Plainfield, Moosup, and beyond, Rocky Wagner is being recognized for his deep-rooted commitment to local improvement. Rocky has led numerous community revitalization efforts, including the transformation of a neglected lot into a vibrant Moosup Rotary Public Park. He volunteers is various community events such as Tackle the Trail. He is a true, humble champion for our region.

Emerging Leader of the Year Award – Adam Rondeau of Chubby Dog Coffee Co.

Adam Rondeau exemplifies the energy and innovation of a rising leader. With two successful business locations in Northeast CT, Rondeau has also launched the Small Town Music Fest, donates to various local causes, and creates a unique and welcoming space in our community. His entrepreneurial

spirit and community commitment continue to fuel economic growth and connection in our region.

George Racine Sr, Humanitarian Award – Jacqueline "Jackie" Lajoie of St. Joseph's Church

For over 30 years, Jackie Lajoie has dedicated herself to sustaining St. Joseph's Church and formerly St. Joseph's School through her leadership of a weekly BINGO fundraiser. Known for her tireless energy, warm hospitality, and relentless commitment, Lajoie prepares meals, organizes volunteers, and creates a loving, family-like environment for nearly 100 regular attendees. Her selfless service extends far beyond fundraising—she is a Eucharistic Minister, church decorator, and beacon of community care. Jackie's humility and compassion make her a true humanitarian.

Gold Key Award – Joseph Carlone, Jr. of Linemaster Switch & The Mansion at Bald Hill

Joseph Carlone Jr. is recognized for his extraordinary service and commitment to the Chamber and broader business community. As Chamber President last

year, Joe played a pivotal role in welcoming over 50 new members and coordinating more than 60 ribbon cuttings. Joe's leadership has been instrumental in elevating the Chamber's work and outreach.

Non-Profit of the Year Award – Horizons

Horizons, located in Windham helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve their full potential. Through education, residential support, and recreational opportunities, they create inclusive environments where everyone can thrive.

The Chamber extends its heartfelt congratulations to all recipients and looks forward to honoring them at the upcoming awards celebration. The celebration will feature each of our distinguished award recipients, a delicious meal, and entertain-

ment by Destination Event Co. We welcome all to purchase tickets before

they sell out: nectchamber.com/calendar-events

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Registration packets can be obtained by calling the main office at 860-928-0471 or by email at officewes@woodstockschoos.net



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Charitable contributions come back to serve local community

PUTNAM — Rotarian Marc Archambault was recently recognized for his continuing financial contributions to Rotary International's charitable efforts.

His contributions support various Rotary Foundation programs, including the Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus, and Humanitarian Grants.

At a recent ceremony Club President Doug Porter, presented Archambault with his latest Paul Harris Pin. Archambault is just one of the club members who have contributed to Rotary International this Rotary year. Various members of the Putnam Rotary Club have donated more than \$9,000 to Rotary International this year, Porter said. These contributions support local and International efforts of Rotary. With support from Rotary International and Rotary District 7890, the Putnam Rotary Club has donated grant money to TEEG to help with its community garden, including a new fence, and installed outdoor musical instruments at the Thompson School Complex.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Health screenings are an investment in your future self

It's easy to put off routine health check-ups. Life gets busy. We feel fine. We assume we're too young to worry. But catching a problem early, when it's most treatable can make all the difference. Preventive health screenings aren't about fearing the worst; they're about giving ourselves the best shot at living well. From your 20s through your 60s and beyond, here's a decade-by-decade breakdown of essential screenings that everyone should prioritize.

In your 20s, the focus is on building a health baseline. This is when your long-term habits start taking shape. Even if you feel great, it's important to get your blood pressure and cholesterol checked. These simple screenings can reveal early signs of heart disease risks. If you're sexually active, regular STI screenings and, for women, a Pap smear starting at 21 are critical. A mental health check-in should be part of the routine too, especially in a decade filled with transitions. It's also smart to begin annual skin checks, particularly if you've had a lot of sun exposure.

By your 30s, it's time to pay closer attention to subtle shifts in your health. Continue monitoring your blood pressure, cholesterol, and STI status. Add in screenings for diabetes risk especially if you have a family history or carry extra weight. If you're trying to conceive or just want to know where things stand, a fertility check can offer insight. Watch for signs of thyroid issues like fatigue or weight changes, and keep up with dental and eye exams every year or two.

Your 40s are when chronic conditions often start creeping in, sometimes without symptoms. This is the decade to stay vigilant. Women should begin mammograms at 40 or earlier if there's a family history of breast cancer. Everyone should consider a baseline colonoscopy by age 45. Diabetes, cholesterol, and heart screenings are more important than ever; and it's a good idea to test for glaucoma during your eye exam. This is also a smart time to check in on your mental health, as burnout and midlife stress can take a toll.

By your 50s, screenings shift from preventive to potentially lifesaving. Colonoscopies should continue every 10 years or as your doctor advises. Women should consider bone density tests, and men should discuss prostate screenings with their doctor. Hearing loss becomes more common, so a hearing test is worth scheduling. This is also the age for a shingles vaccine, and if you've had ongoing risk factors, a cardiac stress test might be wise.

In your 60s, staying ahead of health issues becomes even more important. Annual flu and pneumonia vaccines are recommended, and if you've ever smoked or been around secondhand smoke regularly, you may qualify for a lung cancer screening. Continue yearly vision and hearing checks, and consider cognitive screenings if memory issues arise. Osteoporosis becomes more common in both women and men, and regular skin checks should continue to catch early signs of skin cancer.

No matter your age, health screenings are a way to invest in your future self. They help you catch issues early, manage risks, and stay in control of your well-being. Ask questions, track your numbers, and make time for the care you deserve. After all, staying healthy isn't something that just happens it's something we have to work for. When was your last check-up?

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

We are in uncharted territory

To the Editor:
By the time this letter is published, I hesitate to predict who will have been imprisoned, arrested, deported or deprived of the means to earn a paycheck and support their families. Because in the United States of America (remember that country?), we are now in uncharted territory without a compass, and need to take heart from our ancestors who somehow managed to survive immigrating here for reasons of economic or religious persecution, or being kidnapped and brought here to be enslaved, or who have barely survived being invaded by Europeans and having their culture almost erased. I do take heart from the "almost" qualifier.

Last weekend, the President of the United States stated in a "Meet the Press" interview that he did not know if every person in the U.S. was entitled to due process if arrested by law enforcement. His response to the interviewer's question: "I don't know. I'm not a lawyer. I don't know."

This is the person who claims to be a "strong leader," and who will bring our country into a new Golden Age. We saw him on Jan. 20, 2025, raise his right hand and swear in his oath of office before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, our entire population, and the world to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." Has he ever read it? I am not a lawyer, but I can read and understand the Fifth Amendment about which no other than Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia stated in 1993: "...it is well established that the Fifth Amendment entitles aliens to due process of law in deportation proceedings."

Further, in that same interview, President Trump cited too many court cases to be tried in order to allow due process for everyone, and that he needed to rid our country of thousands of people who are "murderers and some drug dealers and some of the worst people on Earth." And how do we know which of those thousands of people really are murderers and drug dealers? By the color of their skin and their primary language? That's what "due process" is for. To present the facts of each person's situation—and yes, some people lie—and fairly decide the person's fate according to those presented facts. Kinda like this president's own numerous court cases where he publicly and obviously sat through his own due process in at least one case in the state of New York. Many other charges are

still pending for when he leaves office in 2028. Does anyone reading this letter believe that he will be deprived of due process? I believe that he is the King of Due Process, but not the King of the United States. It seems he believes that fulfilling his campaign promises overrides the law, even Supreme Court orders that he does not like.

Sorry, my fellow Americans, but this is a sick, delusional man who needs to be relieved of the duties of the office of President. He does not know his job, did not do his homework — at least read the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution — and is clearly confused about law and order, has surrounded himself with yes-people, and rejects any opposing opinions or critical assessment of his official acts.

Plus, it looks to me like he does not know the difference between an official presidential act and just doing whatever he wants. Like planning to host a gala dinner for the 220 top holders of his Official Trump Meme coin—his business deal, not to benefit any of us—and offering them an exclusive White House Tour. How does this, in his words, make America great again? It could, however, increase his own wealth. Of which he is holding out for tax reduction for the wealthiest in the now-stalled congressional budget process.

Now for a little snitty aside: Don't even start on the "but Biden, but Obama" stories. Neither one of them embraced such events as "official acts."

Our brilliant U.S. Constitution has the remedy for these egregious betrayals of the oath this president swore: impeachment and removal from office. It is not happening because the Republican-dominated Congress is either loudly supporting him, or keeping their heads down, or faintly questioning his breaches of official duties as though we need to wait and see how he fixes our country. This is not about whether you are a Republican or a Democrat anymore. It is about whether we want to be the United States of America or to morph into something else.

We can see every day what his rule is doing to our beloved United States. "Ruling" is not among the official presidential duties provided in the Constitution. In fact, not wanting a ruler is why the Revolutionary War happened. And we won. Until now.

Respectfully,
CLAUDIA TERWILLIGER ALLEN
THOMPSON

Got toilet paper?

To the Editor:

U.S. ports are receiving less cargo than expected due to fluctuating tariffs. NBC News reports, "Retailers are warning that U.S. consumers could once again be faced with empty store shelves and the kind of supply chain snarls that marked the Covid era if President Trump's tariffs on China remain at their current levels. Companies have been canceling their shipments of goods from China and halting new orders after Trump put a 145 percent tariff on nearly all Chinese imports. As a result, the number of freight vessels scheduled to arrive at the Port of Los Angeles is on track to be down 33 percent year-over-year for the week ending May 10, according to ship tracking data from Port Optimizer."

Fewer cargo ships arriving at ports will result in a reduction in workforce from longshoremen to truckers who work based on volume. In fact, UPS has already announced the layoffs of 20,000 and 73 locations will close due to the decline in shipping volume. CEOs of big box chains met with the President to sound the alarm that major supply chain issues and empty store shelves are on the way. As seen on C-Span, the President admits, "The shelves are going to be open." So, Americans are just going to have to deal with less and pay more for limited supplies. Oh, well.

News organizations are reporting that consumers will start to feel the supply chain impact in May: "The reason consumers haven't felt many of the effects yet is because it takes 20 to 40 days for a container ship to travel

across the Pacific Ocean. It then takes another one to 10 days for Chinese goods to make their way by train or truck to various cities around the country," according to economists at Apollo Global Management. For American households, Christmas may look much different this year. According to the New York Times, "Factories in China produce nearly 80 percent of all toys and 90 percent of Christmas goods sold in America." Americans are sure to feel the impact.

Small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. economy, and many are dependent on China (because of U.S. negotiated trade policies). Unlike large businesses with abundant resources, small businesses have limited budgets, and some are already facing potential bankruptcy or going out of business. It's Déjà vu all over again with supply chain disruptions inflicted on us by our own government. Where is Congress to protect our small businesses? Congress, not the President, has the power of the purse as set forth in the Constitution. Please call House Speaker Mike Johnson (202-225-2777) and Congress to demand they stop this tariff chaos and protect our small businesses.

I hope these news reports are wrong. I, for one, do not want to see people fighting over toilet paper like we saw during the pandemic. If these news reports are correct, I hope you have stocked up on T.P. and have already purchased your Christmas gifts.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

A few observations

To the Editor:

Trump is like a two-year old who has just pooped his pants and crying out that someone else has to clean up his crap. Not his fault for soiling his pants, aka crashing the economy and jeopardizing the nation's health, because fake news and woke stupidity are always the scapegoat.

Words like competency and accountability do not exist in the Trump world because they limit the power grab and greed. The lazy and evil ones haven't the integrity to win their

point thru logic and humanity. There are huge forces at work in the world — economic, fiscal, governmental, religious — that cannot be ignored, tampered with or bludgeoned without immense consequences. Each has its own inertia that is intertwined with the other. Trying to redirect any one of these to a desired outcome inevitably results in unforeseen and usually catastrophic results.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Celebrating mothers

When I need a bit of comfort or confidence, I rub the thin, gold ring I wear on my left pinky finger with my thumb. It is a nervous tick that began years ago, after my mother died. The ring belonged to her; and it is pretty much all I have left of hers. I've fiddled with it when waiting to give a speech or sitting in the car after being stopped by a police officer. At the hospital after a mammogram, I felt for the soft metal. She died so long ago that I have few clear memories, but as we celebrate Mother's Day this weekend, a lump rises in my throat when I remember her. It will pop up until the end of my days. Nearly everyone feels something similar. Without mothers, we don't exist.

Mother's Day is a Hallmark card holiday, but thank goodness it exists. We need to stop and celebrate our mothers and be celebrated ourselves. Who doesn't need a pile of pancakes for breakfast and a sticky kiss from a child or grandchild. Life rolls on from one moment to the next. We must celebrate our own histories rather than be held hostage to the news feeds about politicians and celebrities that threaten to engulf us. Our personal histories flow from the last grandmothers who told us stories to rocking our own grandchildren on dark nights when the rest of the world is asleep. A store-bought card or breakfast at Zip's is affirming and can lead to good conversations that might touch on the questions I never was able to ask my mother.



NANCY WEISS

The essayist Margaret Renkl would eradicate the holiday. She feels it makes us sad for the mothers we have lost, for mothers who have lost a child, for those who never felt equipped to nurture a child and that there is enough suffering without creating a holiday that brings it all up. She makes a fine point when she notes that motherhood is what connects the whole world, including animals and insects. Watching a mother cat carry her kittens or even more amazing, seeing a possum escorting her brood across a country road is heart stopping. No one can watch such tenderness and not at least emit a little groan of fellow feeling.

If the season allows, I give friends rose bushes when their mothers die. Mine loved the fussy floribunda varieties that required toxic sprays to keep off pests and daily plucking of beetles. Every year she bought a few new varieties after checking them out at the Boston Flower Show. They were named Peace and Mamie Eisenhower and their long-stemmed blossoms were picked and displayed in two glass vases that gather dust in my closet. After she died, her rose garden lasted only a year or two and it was plowed under. New hybrids are hardier and stand up to our New England weather; perhaps like the women they memorialize.

I prefer to celebrate my daughters on Mother's Day rather than be feted myself as it is the current moms who need recognition and thanks. I feel they do a far better job than I did as they face the demands and judgement placed on parents today. My husband will pause and remember his beautiful red-haired mother who made her last outing on Mother's Day. Her own mother died when she was six, and being a mother gave her the family of her own that she craved.

This year, let's celebrate the great stream of mothers from the beginning of time and remember those we call our own.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need to restore sanity to Thompson’s school budget

To the Editor:
The residents of Thompson carry a heavy tax burden which will grow even heavier next year. Higher property values bring higher property taxes to many an aging town. We need to restore sanity to our town.
It has been 11 years since Thompson saw a reduction in its proposed budget. Town government asked each department to bring to the table reduced budgets. All departments responded, giving a reduction to the budget of previous year. The school stood firm on their budget.
Before sending both proposed budgets to the town meeting, all concerned met in a meeting at the schools superintendents conference room to discuss each budget. Town government didn’t

have much to say as their budget was already set in stone, to give residents a break. The school stood to budget with no changes. The only question asked, as in every year: are any teachers going to retire this year? The answer was no. The referendum passed the town budget, the school failed. When all was said and done, the school finally passed. The real question came at graduation day. The Superintendent presented his speech, which led to announce the awards and diplomas to the students. But before that, the Superintendent wanted all to recognize the Seven teachers that retired. Seems as much as it would be, is there trust in the budget process.
PAUL LEN QUINEBAUG

Whatever happened to the 33-1/3 setting?

To the Editor:
Most of you will have no idea what that setting is! It’s a speed setting! Remember vinyl records? Ok, Ok... Just trying to keep up or catch up, and properly digest the meals being served on our intellectual tables at all times of the day and night!
The world will end as we know it and cause irreparable harm to our children if we reduce the Education budget in Killingly! Our academic achievement levels will keep improving, but we would lose the support staff and programs that are almost more important to the development of our youth. After all... It was only a year ago when our students were going through a mental health crisis that required legal intervention to ensure “treatment” plans for those affected. We actually demanded State government involvement to ensure parental approval of treatment plans for their children, which would be paid for by their insurance policy. Well... we applied due process and got through it. The support network and programs are in place. Curriculum and staff development have been upgraded, and compensation packages are also improved so that Killingly can be more competitive in the recruiting and hiring of professionals who implement the task and goals set for them by our education leaders. Nevertheless, enrollment is low and national trends don’t project changes. That reality may be reflected in small class sizes. We keep enriching programmatic offerings so that we can attract and recruit students from other nearby communities, which are also struggling with education budgets that are chewing up their standard of living. The struggle is compounded when the money that pays for the student who transfers away from home, is also transferred to the one they attend! This scenario appears to be a never-ending cycle of conflict between the majority of residents who contribute to the town’s bank account without sending children to their public schools, and the minority of residents who do, but believe that the long-term investment justifies the overwhelming larger portion of the community’s fiscal resources! Given the expected withdrawal of federal funding in this public service, it is obvious that changes must occur in the delivery of these services. Hold on to your hats, folks... What’s so wrong about starting a discussion among Quiet Corner communities about consolidation? Take a step back from rivalries and consider the common good, inclusive of the living conditions for all residents. Concentrate on protecting the right to a productive environment for neighbors with children as well as for those without! By the way, Killingly, its time you use the million dollar non-lapsing account for school services instead of public construction projects! Don’t get distracted by tennis courts and parking lots. If those projects are that important, they belong in the town operation column.
Then there’s the expected but still shocking death of a friend who happened to be a Pope. How wonderful was

Francis! A member of the social fabric of a family who didn’t want anyone fussing over him and only wanted to serve, not be served. The gentle man who lived outside of the Vatican, in a guest house, and shared his meals in the cafeteria with other guests. A man who exemplified the gospels of Jesus Christ; to feed the multitudes, praise and promote kindness, compassion, and preached against throwing any stones on glass roofs. A sincere humanitarian and spiritual leader who, while still warm in his grave, would be mocked by a fake resemblance of a wannabe man without a soul. This tragic biology experiment of a man is a deeply damaged, sick individual, who will be broken by the challenges he has created. I truly believe that the conspiracy theory being tossed around in different circles is gaining credibility. This accident of a human being is mounting a coordinated crisis, so that he can declare martial law, shut down Congress, and cancel elections of any kind. Too dark? Keep both eyes on this hacker who wishes he could ride a horse without a shirt! Will we need the food packs that are advertised to last for 72 years? Start with gathering toilet paper and canned goods, for now, but if it doesn’t reach that level of insanity, my conspiracy theory still lives! Everyone has one these days. I do, however, believe that a government shut down is inevitable. Congress will not pass the Project 2025 Budget, Republicans will bend to the pressure of voters and donors, and the spoiled brat in the oval office will start throwing spaghetti on the walls of the White House again! Someone will administer the IV medication and maybe it will finally bring about the 14th amendment.
In light of that ugly scenario, I must share an enlightening counter punch. Those who know me, know that I believe in signs. Signs from our guardian angels who constantly guide us... gently or otherwise. An “Ahh” moment or a simple awareness of goodness and hope. SO... as I’m finishing my Friday evening shopping at the Putnam Walmart, I’m already dragging my left leg because of my locked left knee, and I’m tired. I reached my car and started to figure out how I was going to fit everything from the cart. Then, all of a sudden, I hear the voice of a woman who asks me if she could help me! OMG! She and her buddy tell me to sit in the car while they place the bags on the back seat! I don’t know these wonderful people! There was an elderly lady too. We started sharing our love for camping and expectations related to getting older. We hugged after that five-minute exchange and “Brandy” will probably never know how grateful I was, and am, for her generosity that night. She raised my awareness for the reality in which we are living in, between our national nightmare and the empathy of an unknown neighbor, who appeared out of the blue in a white jeep, to lend a helping hand and a hug to a tired senior. High five, Brandy!
LYDIA RIVERA-ABRAMS DAYVILLE

Can’t afford your real estate taxes?


To the Editor:
Due to revaluation, Pomfret homeowners are seeing many valuations go up 40 percent and, in some cases, even as much as 70 percent. While it may be nice to know one’s home suddenly has gone up 70 percent in value, it’s not really a win for the homeowner. It’s only a win if the homeowner sells. In the meantime, likely with no higher income, the homeowner is saddled with paying thousands of dollars more in additional taxes over the previous year’s levy. This will continue every year till at least the next revaluation or the homeowner sells and hightails it out of town. How is the homeowner supposed to come up with the additional thousands on top of the amount paid last year to pay this year’s real estate taxes?
I have suggested at this year’s Board of Finance hearings and meetings that the town should look at the income side of the annual town budget. For instance, Pomfret and Rectory Schools pay no real estate taxes, per state statute. This hurts the town, as over the past 55 years, I can personally attest to the fact Pomfret School (I have no information on Rectory) has bought up many, if not most, of the private homes on the hill near the school. These homes then come off the Pomfret tax rolls. To add insult to injury, the school then often provides the same housing for free to teachers as part of their compensation package. These teachers frequently have kids, as most of us do. State law says any kids residing in Pomfret are entitled to free public education at the town’s expense. That currently means about seven kids (Pomfret & Rectory combined) at roughly \$21,000 each. Additionally, there is one special needs student from Pomfret School that costs the town about \$160,000/year to educate. This is beginning to add up, folks. What is the total annual subsidy the town of Pomfret is unfairly providing these schools, anyway? Well, I will take a crack at adding it all up.
If we have lost 10 homes at, say, \$7,000/each in taxes, that is \$70,000 in annual revenue lost. Seven kids in the

town schools at \$21,000/each is another \$147,000 expense. One special needs student at \$160,000 is another town expense. In total, it is currently costing the town of Pomfret roughly \$377,000 annually to subsidize Pomfret & Rectory Schools. This amount must be made up by Pomfret taxpayers.
Some might say I have it in for these schools. Not so – they are fine schools with a reputation as two of the best prep schools in the country. My daughter wanted to attend Pomfret School years ago, but I could not afford it. I wish the schools well.
However, there needs to be a line drawn in the sand as to where the town provided freebees start and end. I maintain it is neither right nor morally justified that the town of Pomfret is forced to subsidize these two schools to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly. Why should Pomfret School, a business that charges \$80,000 or so a year for tuition, be subsidized by Pomfret taxpayers who struggle to pay \$6,000 or \$7,000/year for their home’s annual real estate taxes? Where is the fairness in that?
My understanding is that Pomfret School currently gives the town \$25,000/year as a payment in lieu of taxes. Thank you, but this is a long way from the \$377,000 annual cost to the town to subsidize these schools. These schools, since all their real estate goes tax free, should at least be reimbursing the town for the cost of educating the children they send to town paid schools. Our First Selectman needs to meet with Pomfret & Rectory School officials and try to come up with a better system than what is now in place. Our State Rep, who works for Pomfret School, also needs to be involved on the state level. The schools really appreciate the free ride they currently enjoy, and will likely fight any change. It’s up to our elected officials as to whether anything will happen. Don’t hold your breath.
Respectfully,
WILLIAM B. HULL POMFRET CENTER

Additional Letters to the Editor, see Page A-8

Performing Arts
of Northeast Connecticut Fund


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Access secures \$5.5 million to transform 254 Broad St. into thriving community hub

DANIELSON — Access Community Action Agency is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded \$5.5 million in CT Bond funds - \$5 million through the Community Investment Fund (CIF) and \$500 thousand through the Urban Act, to breathe new life into the former church at 254 Broad Street in order to expand vital services for families and individuals across Northeastern Connecticut!

Last year, Access unit-

ed with passionate community leaders to rally behind the bold vision of Transforming 254 Broad Street, turning a once-declining property into what will become a vibrant, thriving asset for the entire community. Thanks to the State Bond Funds awarded, that dream is now becoming a reality!

The Community Investment Fund is a powerful initiative dedicated to spurring economic development in historically underserved areas, with up to \$875 million available statewide over 10 years. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Access and its partners, 254 Broad St. will soon be a place of new beginnings and expanded opportunity for all. A heartfelt thank-you goes to State Sen. Mae Flexer for championing this project and helping to secure this critical funding. Sen. Flexer's ranking leadership and commitment to Access made all the difference.

"This expansion is desperately needed," said Emma King, Vice President - Chief Program Officer. "We went from one case manager seeing a couple of hundred people a year to two case managers seeing almost 500. When we say we're busting at the seams, we truly mean it. Homelessness exists in Northeastern Connecticut, but it's a problem we can—and will—solve together. Transforming 254 Broad St. is a major step toward building inclusive spaces where everyone can access the services they need."

The Future Is Bright for Northeast Connecticut! Together, we are building hope, stability, and opportunity for generations to come. For more information and to follow the transformation journey, visit: <https://access-agency.org/2024/07/07/transforming-254-broad-street-cif-project/>

Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable, limited-income families and individuals throughout the region.

Daniel Martial Arts Academy shines at local tournament

DANIELSON — On April 27, members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy attended The Federation Challenge Tournament hosted by The Cheezic Tang Soo Do Federation. DMAA took home numerous medals in each division.

5-6 Year Olds:
Boys:
Julian Parenteau:
1st Forms
1st Sparring

7-8 Year Olds:
Girls:
Delaney Snell:
5th Forms
Boys:
Waylon Hayden:
3rd Forms
3rd Sparring

9-10 Year Olds:
Girls:
Liliana Huling:
2nd Forms
4th Sparring
4th Breaking
1st Weapons
Autumn St. Jean:
1st Forms
3rd Weapons
Boys:
Isaac Sawyer:
2nd Forms
3rd Sparring
3rd Breaking
2nd Weapons
Ziggy Fugazzi:
3rd Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Breaking

11-12 Year Olds:
Girls:
Liberty Harty:
2nd Forms
3rd Sparring
2nd Breaking
1st Weapons
Aurora Huling:
2nd Forms
4th Sparring
2nd Breaking
2nd Weapons
Boys:
Colby Densmore:
4th Forms
1st Sparring
3rd Breaking
Jeff Fugazzi:
1st Forms
1st Sparring
1st Breaking
2nd Weapons

13-17 Year Olds:
Girls:
Lyanah Chin:
1st Forms
1st Sparring
2nd Breaking
1st Weapons
Kyra Dionne:
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Breaking
2nd Weapons
Boys:
Orion Huling:
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Breaking
2nd Weapons

Under Blackbelt 18+



Men:
Kile Gagnon:
1st Forms
1st Sparring
1st Breaking

Under Blackbelt Seniors (35+)
Women
Dawn Dionne:
1st Forms
1st Sparring
1st Breaking
1st Weapons

Junior Blackbelt 9-10 Year Olds:
Girls:
Tori Dellagiovanna:
1st Forms

1st Sparring
1st Weapons

Junior Blackbelt 11-12 Year Olds:
Boys:
Luke St. Jean:
1st Forms
3rd Weapons

Junior Blackbelt 13-14 Year Olds:
Girls:
Lorelai Tyler:
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Breaking
1st Weapons

Junior Blackbelt 15-17 Year Olds:
Girls:
Hunter St. Jean:
3rd Forms
2nd Breaking
2nd Weapons

Blackbelts (18+)
Women:
Caryssa Adams:
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
Men:
Dan Walsh:
1st Forms
2nd Weapons

Blackbelt Seniors (35+)
Women:
Cathleen Anderson:

4th Forms
1st Breaking
Melanie Branco:
1st Forms
1st Sparring
Melinda Densmore:
3rd Forms
3rd Sparring
1st Weapons
Men:
Brian Densmore:
4th Breaking
2nd Weapons

For more information regarding classes at Danielson Martial Arts, please call 860-779-0699 or visit their website at danielsonmartialarts.com

GuildQuality's 2025 Guildmaster Award honors WBA of Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Building Associates, LLC, received a 2025 Guildmaster with Distinction Award from GuildQuality for demonstrating exceptional customer service within the residential construction industry.

Since 2005, GuildQuality, an Atlanta-based third-party customer satisfaction surveying company, has powered the Guildmaster Award to recognize and celebrate home building, remodeling, and contracting professionals demonstrating the highest level of customer service within the U.S. and Canada.

Out of nearly 2,000 eligible applicants, WBA is one of 400+ businesses within the residential construction industry recognized by GuildQuality for consistently delivering superior customer care. WBA has won this award five years in a row and a total of 13 times.

In determining which businesses received the 2025 Guildmaster Award, GuildQuality reviewed thousands of survey responses submitted by customers of Guildmaster candidates and considered two primary metrics for each candidate: the percentage of customers stating they would recommend the business to a friend and the percentage of customers who responded.

WBA achieved a recommendation rate of 90% or above from their customers surveyed by GuildQuality.

"We are truly honored to receive this award — it's a testament to our commitment to putting clients first. The dedicated staff and subcontractors at WBA continually go above and beyond to exceed expectations. We are deeply grateful to our clients, team members, subcontractors, and vendors for their trust and support," said Steven Keene, Principal of Woodstock Building Associates.

For more on the 2025 Guildmaster Award and qualifications, visit www.guildquality.com/guildmaster/.



Sr. Michele Bisaillon, Sr. Janet Lewis, Jim Stahr, Diane Cooney, John Etheridge, Pam Rosenlund, Marcy Dawley, Rev. Ross Johnson at the recent Putnam Interfaith Mother Earth Day celebration at the Daughters of the Holy Spirit offices.

Putnam Interfaith celebrates Mother Earth Day

PUTNAM — The Greater Putnam Interfaith Council held a Mother Earth Day (originally Earth Day) celebration on April 26 at the Daughters of the Holy Spirit offices, welcomed by Sr. Michele Bisaillon. The event had been scheduled outdoors after the Putnam Beautification event, which had been postponed due to rain. Emcee John Etheridge said he was sorry they couldn't be outside, noting "nature comes to us." He offered a Bahai prayer. Sr. Janet Lewis, Diane Cooney, Pam Rosenlund and Rev. Ross Johnson shared prayers and readings. Jim Stahr provided Earth Day themed music. Marcy Dawley from the Last Green Valley spoke about the National Heritage Corridor, comprised of 35 local CT/MA towns, noting 80 percent is forests and fields.

She said, "We can all make a difference, even with a smile."

She noted that the LGV website lists a calendar of events, including spring and fall guided hikes. People left the event with trail mix cookies and seeds to plant.

Do you know what happens to kids who are bullies when they grow up? Yes, they become adult bullies. I have often spoken of the hardships that bullying causes for children. Today, I wanted to talk about bullying and the harm it causes to adults.

One of my friends was a target of bullies all through his childhood. He hoped and wished that the bullying would stop once he reached adulthood, and mostly, it did. He recently prompted me to write on the issue of adult bullying and told me of some of the occasions when he was targeted as an adult.

Bullies don't always trip you while walking down the hall, shove you into a locker, or call you names. Adult bullies sit across from you in a meeting, behind a keyboard, and even at a lunch meeting. Adult bullying is more subtle but can be just as demeaning and painful as when you were a kid.

Children who bully will use physical bullying by pushing, shoving, and hitting. Adult bullies use social bullying as their weapon and want to put you down, diminish your importance, dominate, and humiliate you.

Bully traits

The first is verbal bullying — name-calling, sarcasm, and humiliation will become their primary weapon. They can be critical of even minor faults and nitpick you at every opportunity. They are intentionally hunting you to deliver a put-down, especially in front of your peers. You will hear them spreading rumors in the gossip mill to achieve their dominance, which is meant to tear a person down and infect your workplace. Sarcasm, whether big or small, always lets targets of the bully know they are being put in their place.

Manipulation — Adult bullies will justify their twisting of the truth to make their accomplishments the best ideas and diminish your efforts

Adult bullying

in order to build themselves up. They will look to hijack your success and put down your inadequacies any chance they get. Often, it is done on social media (through cyberbullying) or in a group setting to enhance the sting while surrounded by your friends, workers, or family.

Being passive-aggressive — I think this is an easy trap to fall into. Adult bullies use techniques like the silent treatment, sabotaging your work, put-downs, and using flimsy excuses like, I was just kidding. Being threatened or existing in a climate of fear is very common. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to walk on eggshells to avoid the blatant anger of your bully?

Social exclusion — This is common—excluding people from certain situations and creating cliques where one person is excluded.

Intimidation — Adult bullies will use veiled or overt threats. You hear people comment, "You will pay for that." Sometimes, it is an overly enthusiastic and hard slap on the back, a person leaning in too close, or a strong arm around your shoulder that signals not-so-subtle attempts at causing anxiety in their targets.

The first thing you have to do is recognize it and work to stop it, not just for yourself but also for other people who may be targeted. Here are three powerful ways that I suggest that will empower you against an adult bully.

#1: "Ask. Are you okay?"

Say it slowly and calmly. Stand tall and make good eye contact. Remember, your physiology communicates more about your message than your words do. This phrase will catch them off guard and signal them that their behavior is not okay.

And most importantly, it denies them the reaction they are looking for.

#2: Ask questions of intent.

"This sounds like..."

"Did you mean to embarrass me?"

"Did you mean for that to offend me?"

"Did you mean to upset me?"

You're giving them a mirror to understand the consequences of their behavior. No matter how hard it is, bullies need to learn empathy.

#3: "Attention or insecurity?"

They're going to ask, "What do you mean?"

You respond: "Did you say that to be hurtful, for attention, or because of some insecurity?"

It will make them think twice before saying something like that again.

There are many ways to deal with someone who bullies others, most of which depend on one's level of safety and support in one's environment. Use your best judgment and your support system.

It's important to remember that bullying is often a pattern of behavior, not just isolated incidents. Bullying is characterized by a power imbalance and the intent to harm, intimidate, or control the other person. If you are a target, you are giving off signals of vulnerability. You may be in a situation where it's impossible or difficult to defend yourself from your bully.

Lastly, the bully triad consists of three people: the bully, the target, and the bystander. Try to enlist help from others (an upstander) to assist you in these situations. If the bullying continues and the problem does not change, you may have to leave the group you are involved with, whether it is work or a hobby. I hope this article helps.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS
MIKE BOGDANSKI

The week in sports at Killingly High School

Baseball
Killingly Baseball (8-2) fell to Waterford (8-2) by a final score of 4-3 on the road in 9 innings on April 29.

Landon Manzi pitched 7.2 innings allowing only 3 runs and striking out 15 batters for Killingly.

Hayden Larrow, Brady Zadora, Dom Kubera, a Jake Voyer each had 2 hits.

Waterford's Remy Coderre hit a home run in the 7th with 2 outs to tie the game, and then Picardi walked it off in the 9th inning for the win.

Killingly (now 9-4) got back in the win column May 3 with a victory over Griswold (5-8) behind a complete game shutout from Gaiğe DeBella! Final Score 4-0.

DeBella only allowed 1 hit in 7 innings of work, while striking out 6 batters!

Ashton Goodwin, Michael Fabiano Jr (1 RBI), Alex Murdock, and Jake Voyer each delivered hits for Killingly!

Jake Voyer threw out a runner at home plate from Center Field to end the game for Killingly!

Softball

April 30
Killingly 0
Fitch 21

Three pitchers shared the mound for Killingly. Danielle Veillette, Caralyn Tellier, and Grace Deslauriers. The Fitch bats proved to be too much on this day as they scored 21 runs.

Grace Deslauriers and Kylie Anderson had the only two hits for Killingly.

May 1
Killingly 5
Wheeler 4

Danielle Veillette pitched 5 and two thirds innings allowing 1 run, and striking out 12. Fellow 11th grader Caralyn Tellier pitched the final 1 and one third, and got the win while striking out 1 and allowing 1 run.

The Killingly offense dominated the game with 9 hits and 5 walks, but only managed to drive in 5 of the 14 base runners. Addison King, Danielle Veillette, and Sophia Moran led the offense being on base 3 times

each.

Killingly was in command of the game from the start and was up 3-0 through the 5th inning. Some untimely errors allowed for Wheeler to tie the game in the 6th inning. Killingly settled down, and overcame the errors. Grace Deslauriers and Sophia Moran each had 7th inning RBIs to win the game.

May 3
Killingly 20
Woodstock 2
Danielle Veillette pitched 5 innings striking out 9 and allowing only 1 earned run.

The offensive set a new school record for runs in an inning by scoring 16 in the 2nd. Danielle Veillette led the charge with 4 hits, 1 walk and 3 RBI. Kylie Anderson and Violet Schaeffer also each had 2 hits and 3 RBI.

Boys Golf

On April 29, Killingly advanced to 4-0 on the season after defeating Stonington 6.5 to 0.5 at Connecticut National Golf Club on Tuesday.

Sebastian Sierakowski earned his third medalist honor of the season with a score of 40. Trent Pichie recorded a 41 toward the team total of 165.

Stonington was led by Connor Foley who shot 44.

On May 1, The Killingly Boy's Golf team moved to 5-0 on the season after recording a season best team score of 143 in the win against Quinebaug Valley.

Quin Crowley earned medalist honors firing a 1-under par round of 34 which included a hole out eagle on the fifth hole from 71 yards. Trent Pichie and Zach Lackner shot rounds of even par 35 and Sebastian Sierakowski carded 39.

Next up for Killingly was the annual Wildcat Invitational. An 18 hole tournament hosted by NFA at Norwich Golf Course.

Jacob Olson led Quinebaug Valley with 51.

Girls Golf

On Tuesday, April 29, the Killingly High School Girl's Golf team trav-

eled to Stonington and fell short with the score being Killingly 227 and Stonington 221. Killingly was led by captain Kendra St. Marie. Kendra St. Marie shot a 52 and was tied for the overall winner of the match. Killingly record now stands at 2-2 and 1-1 in the ECC.

On Wednesday, April 30, the Killingly High School Girl's Golf team hosted Bacon Academy and came away with a victory. The score was Killingly 199 and Bacon Academy 247. Killingly was led by captains Kendra St. Marie. Kendra St. Marie shot a 43 and was the medalist and overall winner of the match. Kate Crowley help seal the victory by shooting a 50 for second place. followed by Kate Crowley who shot a 54. Killingly improved its record to 3-2 and 2-1 in the ECC.

Girls Tennis

April 29: KHS Girls Tennis defeated NFA 6-1
Killingly High School girls tennis defeated NFA 6-1

1 S Talia Santese (K) defeated Leeya Fabry NFA 6-0, 6-4

2 S: Norah Dimartino (K) defeated Katie Lavoie NFA 6-3, 6-2

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) defeated Paulina Grzelczak NFA 6-1, 7-5

4 S: Nina Purcell (K) defeated Talia Gonzales NFA 6-3, 6-2

#1 Doub: Olivia Denaker & Eliana Keomanivong (K) defeated Peyton Welch and Abby Limanni NFA 6-1, 6-1

2 doub Mariette Vien & McKenna Mulvey (K) defeated Cecilia Laguerre & Cerina Carroll NFA 6-4, 6-1

3 double: Sam Smyth & Allegra Turbayevsky (K) loss vs Christal Ake & Christiza Lustin NFA (6-6) - 5-7 TB

May 2: Killingly High School girls tennis loss vs Fitch 3-4

1 S Talia Santese (K) loss vs Charlotte Beaulieu FHS: 6-4, 2-6, 1-6

2 S: Norah Dimartino (K) loss vs Maddie Beaulieu FHS: 1-6, 1-6

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Ada Ellis FHS: (6-6)-7-1 TB, 4-6, 4-6

4 S: Nina Purcell (K) defeated Izzy Ash FHS: 6-3, 6-1

#1 Doub: Olivia Denaker & Eliana Keomanivong (K) defeated Isabel Gustausan & Abby Malone FHS: 6-3, 6-4

2 doub: Kayce Edwards & Mariette Vien (K) defeated Kelly Turley & Sam Mocin FHS: 5-7, 6-2, 6-2

3 double: Sam Smyth & McKenna Mulvey (K) Loss vs Saddie Dipiazza & Alice Prey FHS: (6-6) 6-8 TB, 6-2, 10-12 TB

May 2: KHS Girls Tennis Loss vs SHS 0-7
Killingly High School girls tennis Loss vs SHS 0-7

1 Single: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Gwen McGugan (SHS)1-6, 1-6

2 Single: Norah Dimartino (K) loss vs Misha Lewandowski (SHS) 1-6, 2-6

3 Single: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Marina Lewandowski (SHS) 1-6, 1-6

4 Single: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Bethany Schoenecker (SHS) 5-7, 0-6

#1 Double: Olivia Denaker & Eliana Keomanivong (K) loss vs Samantha Harris & Gabby Donnarummo (SHS) 1-6, 4-6

2 doubles: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Marketa Minar & Laura Kunkle (SHS) 4-6, 1-6

3 double: Nina Purcell & Corinne Daniels (K) loss vs Madelyn McAdams & Abby Whalen (SHS) 8-10 (prosots)

May 2: KHS Girls Tennis Loss vs Waterford 0-7

Killingly High School girls tennis Loss vs Waterford 0-7

1 Single: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Marina Matsas: WHS 3-6, 2-6

2 Single: Norah Dimartino (K) loss vs Tori Campisi: WHS 5-7, 3-6

3 Single: Abbey Danielson: (K) loss vs Nayoung Kwon: WHS 0-6, 2-6

4 Single: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Lila Tinnerello: WHS 0-6, 1-6

#1 Double: Olivia Denaker & Eliana Keomanivong (K) loss vs Hazel Sin & Sophia Sit: WHS 0-6, 0-6

2 doubles: Kayce Edwards & Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Ellie Brigs & Angeles Pina-Rodriguez: WHS 2-6, 1-6

3 double: Allie Turbayevskiv & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Madi Gamble & Clare ward: WHS 0-6, 2-6

May 3: Girls Tennis defeated Ledyard: 5-2

Killingly High School girls tennis defeated Ledyard: 5-2

1 S Talia Santese (K) defeated Rachell Kulterman: LHS 6-1, 6-3

2 S: Norah Dimartino (K) loss vs Teresa Eberly: LHS 4-6 retired after 1st set

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Alanah

Maranzano: LHS 0-6, 3-6

4 S: Nina Purcell (K) defeated Callie Rice: LHS 6-0, 6-1

#1 Doub: Olivia Denaker & Eliana Keomanivong (K) defeated Lia Day & Maddie Hennessay: LHS 6-1, 6-3

2 doub: Kayce Edwards & Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Marissa Depaul & Jayla Sebastian: LHS 6-1, (6-6) 3-7 TB, 3-6

3 double: McKenna Mulvey & Sam Smyth defeated Danna Vera & Skylar Botts: LHS 6-4, (6-6) 8-6 TB

Girls Lacrosse
Killingly girls' lacrosse played Woodstock May 2, and lost 2-7. Catrina Turgeon, Riley Ritchotte each had a goal for Killingly.

The girls played Rockville the following day, May 3. Rockville won 13-5. Catrina Turgeon and Lylah Connetti and Tilly each had 1 goal for Killingly. Morgan Blanchard had 2. Riley Zavatsky led Rockvilles offense in their victory.



Courtesy

Congratulations to the following students for participating in the International Academic Geography Bee Competition this weekend: Lucey Miller, Alison Phav, Allison Rivers, Matthew Chrzanowski, Phoenix Khaomongkhoun, and Paul Goodwin.



Jason Bleau

East Woodstock Congregational Church was one of several religious organizations who stopped by to show their support for the LGBTQ+ community.



he Quiet Corner Collaborative Art Installation hosted by TEEG saw participants adding their own individual touches to a series of umbrellas, some showing their own styles while other embraced the Pride Day theme.



PUTNAM HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL PRIDE DAY

PUTNAM — Rotary Park was a busy place on May 3 as Putnam celebrated its second annual Putnam Pride Day. The event is one of the newest on Putnam's annual calendar of community programs and celebrates the local LGBTQ+ community and embraces pride in different sexual orientations and gender identities. The event included a large selection of displays and vendors all embracing the Pride Day theme while also hosting shows, trivia games, and guest speakers in a year where the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and protections has once again taken center stage on the national level.

At right: Free Mom Hugs, an organization whose mission is to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community through visibility, education, and conversation, had a big presence at Putnam Pride.



Courtesy

Congratulations to Jackson Santos and Grace Akana of Thompson, who received the CAS CIAC scholar athlete award banquet at Aqua Turf.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attention must be paid!

To the Editor:

Did you know that Mr. Trump is lining his pocket to the tune of millions — perhaps billions — of dollars? He charges \$1 million if you want to dine with him at Mar-a-Lago; for \$5 million, CEOs can get an hour’s meeting with him. And - oh! - you can have access to him by paying \$500,000 to join his private club in D.C. Or you could line his pockets further by purchasing the Trump crypto meme coin...he’s laundering loads of money that way! Tip of the iceberg.

And while we’re at it, this past week (and under cover of the dead of night), the Senate debated the first phase of

A moment of civility lost: students lead by example in Thompson

To the Editor:

Several years ago, more than 500 stakeholders in Thompson came together to establish clear expectations for all students graduating from the school district. This collaboration resulted in the creation of the “Portrait of a Graduate” (POG), which defines the essential qualities of a Thompson graduate: independent, knowledgeable, and community-connected. The district’s ongoing mission is to ensure that the curriculum, from Pre-K through 12th grade, reflects and supports these core values.

Teachers have been providing students with numerous opportunities to engage in meaningful community service. One of the most impactful initiatives is the Leadership Roundtable program, which directly connects students with town governance. Supported by First Selectman Amy St. Onge and led by Board of Education Communications Sub-Committee Chairperson Heather Santos, this annual event is organized by TMHS teacher Cindy Ouillette. This year, Ouillette arranged job-shadowing experiences for students to learn firsthand about the roles and responsibilities of municipal leaders.

In addition to these opportunities, TMHS students are required to complete ten hours of community service each year. Many students serve as liaisons on local Town Boards of Education and Finance, further deepening their involvement in the community. They

the massive tax-cut-for-billionaires” budget. And of course that will be paid for by cutting our social services, Medicaid, Medicare, food stamp programs etc. According to our great Senator Chris Murphy, they are actually “offering a tax cut to the most wealthy that is 850 times larger than what they are offering working people.” And our meager tax cuts will be eaten up by higher cost of necessities. Hmmm. I wonder if tariffs will affect us.

The time is now to speak out against the undermining of our way of life...we, the people, the 99 percent.

KAREN RYKER
WOODSTOCK

also participate in local elections, often volunteering at polling places to advocate for their school.

However, on April 24, our students were forced to learn an unfortunate lesson in civility. While at the polls, they were subjected to verbal assaults, including the use of vulgar language and inappropriate gestures. Some individuals even invaded their personal space, engaging in intimidation and posturing.

Despite this, I am incredibly proud of how our students handled the situation. In the face of hostility, they responded with composure, dignity, and respect—demonstrating the very values we hope to cultivate in them. Sadly, it seems that these principles of civility and respect are becoming less common in town.

With another round of voting ahead, following the failure of the town and BOE budget, our students will continue to fulfill their civic duty. They will be present at the polls, advocating for whichever side they support, and they will do so with courtesy and respect, setting a strong example of good citizenship.

I sincerely hope that the community will return this respect and treat them with the same civility they continue to show.

MELINDA A. SMITH
SUPERINTENDENT
THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Big money grab

To the Editor:

I am a concerned citizen in Putnam about this revaluation nonsense. I am already paying almost \$3,000 per year on a \$128,000 house, which is way too much for one house. And you people at the Town Hall (Tax Assessor) want to add another \$1,500 on the already \$3,000 in taxes by adding \$70,000 more to the \$128,000 home. Then you state not to use the current Mil Rate. Are you going to

lower the Mil Rate or raise the Mil Rate, which is 23 percent?

There are people who live on a fixed income. Is there a reason that you need all this extra money? Do you need a raise, or does our mayor need to spend more on frivolous things? What’s going on? It’s the people’s money, not yours.

Fix this issue. It is just not right.

ROBERT STROUSE
PUTNAM

Canada repudiates Trump as a “dangerous dictator”

To the Editor:

A record-setting number of Canadians voted in national elections on 28 April, returning the Liberal Party to power while the leader of the Conservative Party, a Trump clone, lost his seat in Parliament.

The result was unimaginable just over three months ago. Liberals trailed Conservatives by 26 percent in national polls. Then Donald Trump was inaugurated and attacked our closest ally by imposing tariffs on Canada, reneging on the trade agreement he signed and boasted about in his first administration. Not content with that, Trump went on to threaten to force Canada to join the US as the 51st state through economic coercion.

Unlike their American neighbors, Canadian voters understood that Trump is a bully who cannot be trusted and that a Trump clone cannot defend their economy and sovereignty. Trump is a worldwide laughingstock due to his constant flip-flops on tariffs. Can any of your readers keep up with the amount of tariffs and what items they cover as they change daily or weekly?

Many Americans, particularly the MAGA crowd, don’t give a whit about what foreigners think about Trump’s erratic and destructive behavior. But after the chaos, lawlessness, cruelty, corruption, and incompetence of Trump’s first 100 days, Americans are beginning to see the truth. Significant majorities now disapprove of Trump’s performance in almost every aspect of governing- prices, the economy, tariffs, immigration, healthcare, Putin, etc. His approval rating at the 100-day mark was the lowest of any president in the 70 years since polling began. The majority of Americans now see Trump as “a dangerous dictator.”

Trump’s abysmal second-term performance to date is self-inflicted and was entirely predictable. His monumental arrogance, obsession with vengeance, innate sadism, and refusal to accept reality made overreach inevitable. America is finally joining the rest of the world and waking up to it. We’d better hope that it’s not too late.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

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FOR SALE; Killingly High School Yearbooks, assorted years. \$10. Contact the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250.

“America 250: Tories, Spies and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut” (1775). Wednesday, May 21, 6 p.m., 200 School St. (Putnam Municipal Complex). Presented by the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History for the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society.

Brooklyn Historical Society: Thursday, May 22. Songs of the Revolution. “What a Glorious Crash They Made; Musick of Connecticut’s Revolution”. Richard F. Donahue. 7:30 p.m. Trinity Church Parish House — 7 Providence Rd. (Route 6). Brooklyn. Public Invitedd. Refreshments.

Nick Bellantoni, retired CT State Archaeologist, will do a presentation and book signing on his book “Hiking the Ruins of Southern New England” on Saturday, May 31 from 12:30-2 p.m. at the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School Street, Putnam. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam. The program is free and open to the public. No registration required.

First, thank you to the many individuals who turned out for my “Abolition and the Underground Railroad” presentation on April 30. As always, I was delighted to learn of a few additional homes with secret rooms where runaway slaves could have been hidden. One was in South Killingly on the easterly side of Cook Hill Road at its junction with Halls Hill Road--the Old Gaston Manse, according to Carol Cooper-Riley, who had been in the house many times. Horatio Strother’s “The Underground Railroad in Connecticut” noted that South Killingly had an active anti-slavery society in 1837 with Almond Ames as its secretary. (Appendix).

After hearing Donald Williams, Jr. speak at the Martin Luther King Luncheon in Putnam on Jan. 25, I have come to realize the national significance of Prudence Crandall’s stand for equal rights for young black women and all individuals of color. Although quietly carried out (after all we’re the “Quiet Corner”), the eventually actions of the people of this corner of the State made a difference. According to the biographical sketch of Killingly abolitionist Henry Hammond in The Commemorative Biographical Record of Tolland and Windham Counties, Connecticut (p.3-5), this was known as the “Black Corner.”

You may not be a Prudence Crandall, but you never know, you, too, may be in a position to help make a difference for someone who is being unjustly treated. Keep your eyes open. Speak up! Encourage! Small efforts add up.

Do you know

of houses in Northeastern Connecticut which were used during the days of the Underground Railroad? If so, please email me with the location and what type hiding place you have heard of--secret room, tunnel, etc. I will be doing another presentation on this topic in October for the Putnam Library and always like new information. More particulars on that program as it draws nearer.

May 5 of this week marked the 216th anniversary of Killingly’s Mary Dixon Kies becoming the first woman in the United States to receive a patent in her own right for her weaving of straw with silk. Today, we would think a woman receiving a patent was nothing unusual, but in 1809, it was. Women were to be behind the scenes, the helpmeets, not the innovators. Young women of today, be grateful for the courage, patience and perseverance of Mary Kies and the women who followed after her. They planted the seeds so you might bloom.

I thought I’d see what was happening in Northeastern Connecticut in 1950, 75 years ago, so once again turned to the online Windham County Transcripts, available through the Killingly Public Library website (killinglypl.org). A lead article in the May 4, 1950 issue quickly revealed that some big name musicians were had been in Danielson. “Excellent Musical Program. “The Treble Clef Choir presented one of the outstanding events of the season Tuesday evening when the group of 25 voices and their conductor, Loretta Webb, gave a concert at the Orpheum theater which was dedicated to the memory of the late director, Henry Nelson Flagg. Guest artists for the occasion were Alphonse Liberace, tenor; Dorothy Place, Harpist; and Catherine Amper, French Horn.” (p.1).

Did you know that in early 1950 you might receive mail twice a day? A small article noted a change in Post Office Hours. “Postmaster Francis A. Gagnon announces that by order of the Postmaster General, mail delivery to residential sections has been curtailed to one day and in the business sections, two a day.” (p.1)

“Polish Club to Observe Anniversary. John M. Niejadlik To Serve as Chairman of Celebration. Sunday, May 21, will be a gala day for members and friends of the Polish-American Citizens’ Club, which will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization with a dinner at 4:30 in the afternoon followed by an evening of dancing. John M. Niejadlik has been named general chairman in charge of arrangements with Mrs. Paul Vadas and Mrs. Leo Samborski in charge of the dinner. When the club ws formed twenty-five years ago with Andrew Jaworski as acting president, the



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

members numbered twelve. Today, the membership has climbed to over three hundred and they have one of the most popular club houses in Danielson, with an upper floor hall in constant demand for social affairs.” (p.1)

M a y was still budget time. Page 2 of the May 4 issue had a summary of the proposed budget for 1950-51. Killingly had a town manager-selectmen form of government, not a town council. Salaries of the selectmen were to remain at \$150 per year. Salary for the town manager was to be \$6,000; town clerk was to be \$3,000; the tax collector, \$4,200. The Killingly Town Farm was still in existence (think Route 12 Town garage to Owen Bell Park property). \$2,200 was allotted for that. \$150 was allocated for care of old cemeteries and another \$150 for Soldiers’ Graves.

I always find the various ads interesting. Perhaps you remember the Good Will Stores on Main Street or Bonin’s Seafood Market on Center Street, across from the Orpheum Theater. Perhaps you recall Chase Radio & Electric. Out-of-town ads included one for State Line Sea Grill, Rte 44, Putnam Pike, West Glocester. “Clam Bakes starting Sunday, May 7th.” I’m sure a number of readers have gone there at one time or another. (p.4).

I love sports so was delighted to see quite a listing about bowling leagues in the area. The Windham League had completed its season which began in September. Standings for the second half were Savoie’s, Red Devils, Liberty Five, Wasps, Elmville and Bumenthal’s. For the first half: Red Devils, Savoie’s, Brooklyn, Elmville, Blumenthal’s, Wasps. There was also a C.L. & Power League listed on the same page. Teams included the Lighters, Refrigerators, Ironers. A separate article noted that Crasanka Mill of Moosup beat Gorman’s Special of Brooklyn for the championship in the Businessmen’s Bowling League. If you or a family member bowled in a league about 1950, you might find it interesting to check the list of names. I feel badly that so many everyday events taking place today will have no long-term written memory. (p.4).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2025. Special thanks to Carol Cooper-Riley and Day reporter Allison Cross who reminded me of the Mary Kies anniversary in a conversation on April 30. 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 at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killingly-historicalsociety.

4-H

continued from page A1

of our buildings updated. The camp is getting old. It’s over 70 years old and the buildings are starting to show wear and tear. We just need funding and support to continue to have camp and a place for people to be outside and in nature, for kids to learn about nature and to have a fun summer,” said Varga.

Logee echoed Varga’s comments noting that the camp continues to invest in capital projects after a campaign to repair its aging dam and maintenance to the lodge roughly a decade ago. She explained that the tag sale not only allows people to give back to their cause, but also allows them to see what they’re paying for firsthand.

“People come to the auction and the tag sale,

and they see what’s happening and they feel like we’re using that money properly and in a good way to make our facility better which then makes our program better,” said Logee.

Camp season is fast approaching with the first weeks starting in June and dates and filling up. Details and pricing for the Windham Tolland 4-H Camp can be found by visiting 4hcampct.org.

The psychology of an inheritance windfall

MANAGING EMOTIONS FOR STRATEGIC FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Receiving an inheritance can be emotionally complex. While a financial windfall represents opportunity, it often comes paired with grief, uncertainty, and pressure. When you receive an inheritance, you're not just receiving assets—you're processing loss while simultaneously making important decisions about your financial future. This combination can create unique challenges that, if not properly addressed, may lead to poor financial choices.

Common psychological reactions to an inheritance

Grief alongside gain: An inheritance typically follows the loss of a loved one. This combination of financial gain amidst emotional loss creates a complex emotional landscape. Many beneficiaries report feeling guilty about their windfall or uncertain about how to honor the legacy of their loved one through their financial decisions.

Decision paralysis: The sudden responsibility of what to do with an inheritance and managing significant assets can lead to decision paralysis. When there are many choices and no clear path, a lot of beneficiaries delay making important decisions because they worry about making mistakes.

Identity shifts: A substantial inheritance can fundamentally alter how you view yourself and

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MATTHEWS

your place in the world. Questions about worthiness, responsibility, and purpose often arise, especially if the inheritance significantly changes your financial status.

External pressures: Family expectations, social pressures, and unwanted advice can create additional stress. Many beneficiaries report feeling overwhelmed by others' opinions about what they "should" do with their inheritance.

Strategic approaches to managing inheritance psychology

Give yourself permission to grieve: Before making any major financial decisions, acknowledge and process your emotions. Separate grief from financial decision-making by allowing yourself adequate time to mourn. Consider working with a grief counselor alongside your financial advisor to ensure both aspects receive appropriate attention.

Create a decision timeline: Resist the pressure to make immediate financial decisions. Instead, develop a timeline that spaces out key decisions over months or even years. This approach offers a framework that helps avoid making hasty decisions based on emotions. For example: in the first three months, focus on understanding what you've inherited; during months three to six, focus on basic organi-

zation and preservation of assets; in months six to 12, begin developing a long-term strategic plan; and beyond one year, implement those comprehensive wealth management strategies

Establish a purpose-driven framework: Think deeply about what matters most to you and how this inheritance might support those values. Ask yourself: What would the benefactor want you to do with these assets? What personal and family goals could this inheritance help you achieve? How might these resources enhance your life purpose? By basing financial choices on your values, you turn an inheritance from just a number into a meaningful asset that fits with the path of your life.

Build your financial knowledge gradually: If you're not accustomed to managing significant assets, use this opportunity to develop financial literacy at your own pace. Rather than feeling overwhelmed by everything you don't know, focus on learning key concepts relevant to your situation.

Assemble a trusted advisory team: A qualified financial advisor can provide objective guidance while you navigate the emotional aspects of your inheritance. Look for advisors who demonstrate empathy alongside expertise, and who take time to understand your unique circumstances and goals. At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, our Plan Well,

Invest Well, Live Well™ process helps inheritance recipients develop comprehensive strategies that honor both financial objectives and emotional considerations.

Common pitfalls to avoid

Immediate lifestyle inflation: One of the most common reactions to a windfall is dramatically increasing spending. While some lifestyle adjustments may be appropriate, sudden and significant changes often lead to regret.

Impulsive major purchases: Big-ticket purchases made soon after receiving an inheritance typically stem from emotional reactions rather than strategic thinking. These decisions may provide temporary emotional relief but seldom align with long-term financial well-being.

Pressure to share or give away: Many inheritance recipients feel pressure to share their windfall with family members or donate significantly to charity. While generosity is certainly commendable, it's important to make decisions about sharing with careful consideration, as part of a well-thought-out plan, rather than due to feelings of guilt or outside influence.

Excessive risk avoidance or risk-taking: Emotional reactions to inheritance often manifest in extreme approaches to risk—either excessive caution that misses growth opportunities or

aggressive risk-taking that jeopardizes principal. A balanced approach developed with professional guidance typically yields better outcomes.

Building a sustainable inheritance strategy

The ultimate goal when receiving an inheritance should be developing a strategic approach that:

Honors the legacy of the person who left you the assets

Supports your personal and family financial goals

Creates sustainable wealth that may benefit future generations

Aligns with your core values and life purpose

This approach transforms an inheritance from a potentially disruptive event into an integrated component of your financial life.

From windfall to wisdom

Managing the psychological aspects of an inheritance ultimately determines whether the windfall becomes a lasting positive influence or a temporary financial event. By acknowledging emotions, taking appropriate time for decisions, building knowledge, and working with trusted advisors, you can transform an inheritance into a meaningful resource that supports your values and goals for years to come.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we understand that inheritance planning involves much more than just numbers on a balance

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If you've received an inheritance or anticipate one in the future, we invite you to meet with us to discuss how our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process can help you navigate this significant life transition with confidence and clarity. You can schedule a complimentary consultation on our website at whzwealth.com or by calling (860) 928-2341.

Authored by WHZ Associate Vice President, Wealth Advisor Jonathan Mathews. AI may have been utilized for some research and initial drafting of this piece. 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> 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.

Movies on the big screen



BY JARED JACAVONE
DIRECTOR
THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Thompson Public Library offers programs for all ages! From Story Time and Crafty Crew



to Toddler Time and STEAM Saturdays, we have something for everyone. Did you know that we also show movies at the Library? Join us every other Wednesday for our Movies on the Big Screen program! From new releases to well-loved classics, you can escape the world for a few hours and enjoy a free theatrical experience at the Library.

Can you solve these hints for our upcoming film titles? Up first on May 21 at 2 p.m. is an Oscar-winning film featuring older religious leaders deciding the future of their institution through a millennia-old election process (rated PG). Next on June 4 at 2 p.m. is a fun adventure film following a group of scientists, meteorologists, and adrenaline

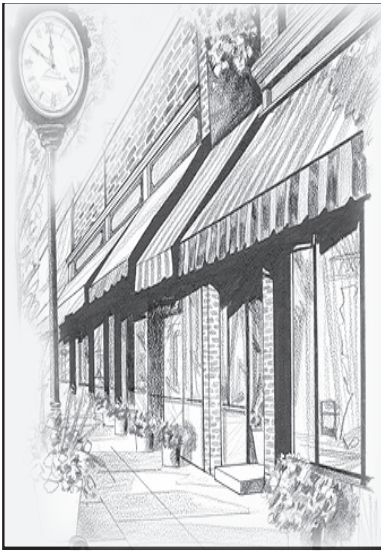
junkies pursuing dangerous storms in America's heartland (rated PG-13). Finally, on June 18 at 2 p.m., is a historical fiction set in Italy in the 1940s (Not Rated). Call us or inquire at the front desk to learn more about these programs.

Of course, what goes best with a movie? Popcorn! Thanks to the Friends of the Library, you can now enjoy a free bag of fresh popcorn from our new popcorn machine during each film screening. Our Friends help expand our services and enhance program offerings, and we are excited to introduce popcorn to our Summer Reading and other program sessions to make the experiences even more fun. Interested in becoming a Friend of the Library? Sign up at

the front desk or call us at 860-923-9779 to learn more!

Be sure to stop by the Library to check out our Pop-Up Book Sale to find some great deals on books, DVDs, and even puzzles! Located near the front desk, you can purchase hardcover books, DVDs, and puzzles at \$1 apiece, paperback books at 50 cents apiece, and children's books at 25 cents apiece. Proceeds from the Pop-up Book Sale benefit the Friends of the Library organization, which supports various Library programs and initiatives such as the Summer Reading Program, the TPL Maker Lab, children's books, museum passes, and much more.

Have a great week, and we hope to see you at the Library!



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TEEG
continued from page A1

al fundraiser and they try to keep it fresh every year with something different

for all to enjoy. “I think what keeps it going is that every year we change it just a little bit. We’ve got to keep things interesting. We

have wonderful donors that give us some really great experiences and items. I think that’s amazing. We always try to have something for everyone.

For the agency, it really is a significant part of our operating budget. I can never stress enough how fortunate we are to live here, a community that cares for and takes care of itself. We are kind of

forgotten in Hartford and don’t get as much opportunities for funding, so it’s great that we have a community that makes sure we take care of each other and supports what we do,” said French.

The Have a Heart event brings in between \$70,000 and \$100,000 to support TEEG each year. The final numbers for the 2025 event were not available for this writing.



TEEG Executive Director Carl Asikainen welcome the crowd to TEEG’s 24th annual Have a Heart.



Bidders try their luck at the silent auction which featured a variety of donated prizes from sports memorabilia to family experiences and everything in between.

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTA TE OF Joseph Duhamel
(25-00179)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 25, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Anna-Lisa Thayer
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN,
ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD,
50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
May 9, 2025

HEARING NOTICE
Pursuant to provisions of Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50m, notice is hereby given that the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) will conduct a public hearing via Zoom remote conferencing on Thursday, July 31, 2025, beginning with an evidentiary session at 2:00 p.m., and continuing with a public comment session at 6:30 p.m. The hearing will be on an application from The Towers, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and associated equipment located at 835 Norwich Worcester Turnpike (Route 169), Woodstock. The purpose of the hearing is to receive evidence on the applicant’s assertions that the public need for the facility outweighs any adverse environmental effects from the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility. The 2:00 p.m. evidentiary session will provide the applicant, parties and intervenors an opportunity to cross-examine positions. **No public comments will be received during the 2:00 p.m. evidentiary session.** The 6:30 p.m. public comment session is reserved for the public to make statements into the record. Public statements are limited to 3 minutes. During the 6:30 p.m. public comment session, the applicant will present an overview of the proposed facility. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88510004607?pwd=OqH-Cli1cgJb3RPyOYAGjPGo0RdRYtp.1> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. **Meeting ID: 885 1000 4607 and Passcode: A3rWjw** No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can join by dialing in at **1(929) 205-6099 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID: 885 1000 4607 and Passcode: 239612** from a telephone. **Interested persons may join any session to listen, but must sign-up in advance to speak during the 6:30 p.m. public comment session.** To participate in the **6:30 p.m. public comment session by computer, smartphone or tablet**, please send an email to siting.council@ct.gov with your name, email address and mailing address by July 30, 2025 To participate in the **6:30 p.m. public comment session by telephone**, please leave a voicemail message at 860-827-2935 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by July 30, 2025. Public comments may also be submitted to the Council by electronic mail or by regular mail. Any person may be removed from the Zoom remote evidentiary session or public comment session at the discretion of the Council.

Applicable law for this proceeding includes the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act, General Statutes § 16-50g, et seq., and Sections 16-50j-1, et seq., of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Council directs that all testimony

and exhibits be pre-filed electronically with the Council and all parties and intervenors by July 24, 2025. Individuals are encouraged to participate through their elected officials and other party/intervenor groupings. Any person seeking to be named or admitted as a party or intervenor to the proceeding may file a written request to be so designated at siting.council@ct.gov, on or before July 24, 2025. Parties and intervenors will be allowed to submit briefs and proposed findings of fact within 30 days after the close of the evidentiary record. Any person who is not a party or intervenor to this proceeding may file a written statement with the Council up to 30 days after the close of the evidentiary record. No written statement or any other information will be accepted after 30 days of the close of the evidentiary record, except as otherwise prescribed by law or the Council. A verbatim transcript of the hearing will be posted on the Council’s website and deposited in the Woodstock Town Clerk’s Office for the convenience of the public. Requests for information in alternative formats or for sign-language interpreter services must be submitted in writing by July 24, 2025. Information about how the public hearing will be conducted and how the public can access it will be posted on the Council’s website at the following link: https://portal.ct.gov/CSC/1_Applications-and-Other-Pending-Matters/Pending-Matters The applicant is represented by the following:
Applicant
The Towers, LLC
Its Representative
Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103
A copy of the application is available for review on the Council’s website at portal.ct.gov/csc under the link “Pending Matters.” The Council has assigned this application Docket No. 535.
May 2, 2025
Connecticut Siting Council
May 9, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTA TE OF
Edmund Francis Kiernan
(25-00187)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 25, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Paul Steinberg,
77 Ide Perrin Road,
Woodstock, CT 06281
May 9, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTA TE OF J. Stuart Boldry
(25-00176)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 30, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Deborah C Boldry
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS,
BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS,
168 MAIN STREET,
P.O. BOX 528,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 9, 2025

Orient Heights Fire District
Notice of Annual Meeting
The inhabitants of the Orient Heights Fire District who are legally entitled to vote therein are hereby earned to meet at the Danielson Fire Station located on 47 Academy Street on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM daylight savings time. This being the annual meeting to be held for the following purposes.
1: To hear and act upon the budget of expense for fiscal tax year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 as prepared by the Board of Directors and to make the necessary appropriations.
2: To Levy a tax sufficient to meet the requirements of the District for running expenses.
3: To authorize the Board of Directors to enter into a contract with the Borough of Danielson to provide fire protection for this district.
4: To elect a President, Vice-President, Board of Directors and Clerk/Treasurer.
5: To authorize the Board of Directors to fill any vacancies that may occur during this year.
6: To transact any other business proper to come before such annual meeting.
7: To waive any property tax in an amount less than \$10.00.
8: To authorize the Board of Directors to exempt motor vehicles from being taxed by the district as provided in Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-328b.
Cheryl Lukowski, Clerk/Treasurer
May 9, 2025

HEARING NOTICE
Pursuant to provisions of Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50m, notice is hereby given that the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) will conduct a public hearing via Zoom remote conferencing on Thursday, July 17, 2025, beginning with an evidentiary session at 2:00 p.m., and continuing with a public comment session at 6:30 p.m. The hearing will be on an application from The Towers, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and associated equipment located at 90 Woodstock Avenue West (Route 171), Woodstock, Connecticut. The purpose of the hearing is to receive evidence on the applicant’s assertions that the public need for the facility outweighs any adverse environmental effects from the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility. The 2:00 p.m. evidentiary session will provide the applicant, parties and intervenors an opportunity to cross-examine positions. **No public comments will be received during the 2:00 p.m. evidentiary session.** The 6:30 p.m. public comment session is reserved for the public to make statements into the record. Public statements are limited to 3 minutes. During the 6:30 p.m. public comment session, the applicant will present an overview of the proposed facility. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86136317820?pwd=Ekaxag9uultbFKjMegmR1O2bSbnAAr.1> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. **Meeting ID: 861 3631 7820 and Passcode: xQD3Qq** No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can join by dialing in at **1(929) 205-6099 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID: 861 3631 7820 and Passcode: 837556** from a telephone. **Interested persons may join any session to listen, but must sign-up in advance to speak during the 6:30 p.m. public comment session.** To participate in the **6:30 p.m. public comment session by computer, smartphone or tablet**, please send an email to siting.council@ct.gov with your name, email address and mailing

address by **July 16, 2025.** To participate in the **6:30 p.m. public comment session by telephone**, please leave a voicemail message at 860-827-2935 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **July 16, 2025.** Public comments may also be submitted to the Council by electronic mail or by regular mail. Any person may be removed from the Zoom remote evidentiary session or public comment session at the discretion of the Council. Applicable law for this proceeding includes the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act, General Statutes § 16-50g, et seq., and Sections 16-50j-1, et seq., of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Council directs that all testimony and exhibits be pre-filed electronically with the Council and all parties and intervenors by July 10, 2025. Individuals are encouraged to participate through their elected officials and other party/intervenor groupings. Any person seeking to be named or admitted as a party or intervenor to the proceeding may file a written request to be so designated at siting.council@ct.gov, on or before July 10, 2025. Parties and intervenors will be allowed to submit briefs and proposed findings of fact within 30 days after the close of the evidentiary record. Any person who is not a party or intervenor to this proceeding may file a written statement with the Council up to 30 days after the close of the evidentiary record. No written statement or any other information will be accepted after 30 days of the close of the evidentiary record, except as otherwise prescribed by law or the Council. A verbatim transcript of the hearing will be posted on the Council’s website and deposited in the Woodstock Town Clerk’s Office for the convenience of the public. Requests for information in alternative formats or for sign-language interpreter services must be submitted in writing by July 10, 2025. Information about how the public hearing will be conducted and how the public can access it will be posted on the Council’s website at the following link: https://portal.ct.gov/CSC/1_Applications-and-Other-Pending-Matters/Pending-Matters The applicant is represented by the following:
Applicant
The Towers, LLC
Its Representative
Lucia Chioocchio, Esq.
Cuddy & Feder LLP
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
lichioocchio@cuddyfeder.com
A copy of the application is available for review on the Council’s website at portal.ct.gov/csc under the link “Pending Matters.” The Council has assigned this application Docket No. 534.
May 2, 2025
Connecticut Siting Council
May 9, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTA TE OF Roger F Ferron
(25-00142)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 29, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
ERNEST J COTNOIR,
MAHER AND COTNOIR,
163 PROVIDENCE STREET,
P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260
May 9, 2025

OBITUARIES

John Albani Jr, 74



Putnam- John Albani Jr, 74, passed away suddenly from natural causes on Friday, April 18th, in his home, Little River Acres, Putnam CT. John leaves his brother David and his wife Aimee Albani of Holden, MA, his nephew Justin Albani of Branford, CT, and his niece, Emily Bostock and her husband Nicholas of Rutland, MA and their two children. John also leaves many close cousins and long-time friends. John was born in Southbridge MA, son of John Sr. and Bernadette Albani.

John worked as an independent contractor and cabinet maker for many years. The best years of his career was when he worked in the Building and Carpentry Facilities at the Hole in the

Wall Gang Camp in Ashford Ct, founded by Paul Newman in 1988 for children with serious illnesses. John enjoyed fishing, crossword puzzles, listening to country and folk music and was an avid antique collector throughout his life. He enjoyed spending time with his family, close friends and neighbors. John valued his friends and the good times they had together. He was great at telling stories and he loved listening to one just as much. John had a passion for the past and made sure the next generation was aware of it and ready to carry it forward.

It was his wish that services and funeral be limited to the immediate family. In order to honor his life, please make any donations to the Hole in the Wall Gang Fund, 555 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven, CT, 06511. Share a memory at Smithandwalkerfh.com

Phyllis Ann Page



Phyllis Ann Page passed away peacefully on May 1, 2025 at Westview Healthcare Center.

Born on July 4, 1936 in Dayville, Connecticut, she was the cherished daughter of the late Thomas and Mildred (Congdon) Merluzzo. She graduated from Killingly High School in 1954.

She was united in marriage to Albert Harrington Page Jr. on July 19, 1958 at St. Joseph Church in Dayville. They shared 51 beautiful years of marriage filled with love, laughter, and adventure.

After retiring from Rogers Corporation in 1993, Phyllis devoted herself wholeheartedly to her family – especially her grandchildren, who brought her immense joy. She and her beloved Albie found great happiness traveling across the United States and spending summers aboard their boat, Miss Nancy Hanks, on Block Island, Rhode Island. Phyllis was a devoted volunteer, spreading her time amongst various departments at Day Kimball

Hospital and the Brooklyn Senior Center. She also enjoyed spending time visiting friends and relatives amongst New England.

She is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Nancy Gaspar, of Brooklyn, Connecticut, and her late son-in-law, William Gaspar. She will be forever missed by her grandchildren, Page Gaspar of Waterbury, Vermont, and Will Gaspar of Winooski, Vermont. Phyllis also leaves behind many dear relatives and friends – too many to name – whose lives were brightened by her kindness and presence.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Westview Healthcare Center for their compassionate care of Phyllis during her stay.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday May 17, 2025, at 10AM in St. James Church, Danielson. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to ES Veterans Association – an organization dedicated to supporting active military and veterans in New England. Donations can be made online. <https://www.esveterans.org/>. tillinghastfh.com

Frederick Eggers, 69



Frederick Eggers, 69, of Brooklyn passed away on April 21, 2025. Fred was born on May 20, 1955, and attended Brooklyn schools and Killingly High School. Fred devoted his life to family, hard work, and a deep connection to the land he loved. For over 50 years he was the proud co-owner of Kingswood Farms, which he operated alongside his cousin and partner John Ennis. Together they built a legacy grounded in tradition, community and a true passion for farming.

Fred is survived by his beloved cousins, John Ennis, Charles Ennis, and Kathryn Ennis Stellitano as well as George Eggers, Betsy Eggers Lane, Marie Eggers Monteverdi, Steve

Schulz, August Schultz and Janet Schulz. He will be remembered for his quiet strength, unwavering work ethic, and kindness he extended to all who knew him.

He had a sweet tooth for peanut M&M's, paczki, and popcorn, and he found great joy in seeing his Brown Swiss cows succeed in competition, especially when shown by his 11-year-old cousin Mackenzie Ennis.

Fred's life touched many through the farm and far beyond, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday May 14, 2025, from 12:30-1:30PM followed by a memorial service at Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main Street Danielson. Burial will be private.

Marc “Skip” Bates August 1, 1955 – March 3, 2025



Brooklyn - Marc “Skip” Bates, 69, of Brooklyn, CT passed away peacefully at home on May 3, 2025, surrounded by family. Born on August 1, 1955, Skip was a proud graduate of Putnam High School, Class of 1973, and went on to earn his degree from American International College in Springfield, MA, in 1977. During his college years, he worked at Sunnyside Farms alongside Peter Deary and the Deary family—an experience he treasured. Skip dedicated more than 40 years of his professional life to Colt's Plastic Company, Inc. in Dayville, CT, where his work ethic and loyalty left a lasting mark. In retirement, Skip worked at Country Living at Westview Commons, where he found great joy in providing transportation to residents for various errands and outings. Beyond his career, Skip was deeply involved in his community and in the organizations he loved. He was a lifetime member and Treasurer of the Pomfret Rod and Gun Club, a devoted Chaplain for the Christian Motorcycle Association, and served as President of the Northeast Connecticut Human Resources Association. Of his many passions, Skip was most

at home cruising the hills of north-eastern Connecticut with Tori on the back and his friends by his side. He was also a licensed pilot, a skilled skeet shooter, and an avid gun collector. Skip is predeceased by his parents, Bob and Ruth Bates. He is survived by his wife, Victoria “Tori” Bates, his brothers Michael (Denise) Bates and Alan (Janet) Bates. Skip has five children, Brittany (Chris) Yule, Ryan Bates, Glenn (Wendy) Bates from his first marriage to Erica Bates and Ross (Katie) Adams, and Lindsey (Dylan) Weigand from his marriage to Tori. He also leaves 13 grandchildren to whom he was lovingly and affectionately known as Poppy Skip. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, family members and great friends. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a funeral service for Skip on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 11am at the Congregational Church of Putnam, 175 Main Street, Putnam, CT 06260. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to The Cancer Center at UMass Memorial Health -Harrington, 55 Sayles Street, Southbridge, MA 01550, Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, 415 Riverside Drive, Suite 3, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 or the Congregational Church of Putnam Faith Fellowship, P.O. Box 463, Putnam, CT 06260.

MARCOUX

continued from page A1

running strong today at 91 years of age, Pete has been a part time maintenance supervisor and confidant extraordinaire at the Gladys Green and Pineview Court Elderly Housing Complex in Grosvenordale. There he maintains the grounds and cares for all the units and property of this very large complex. He is on site each and every day making sure that all is well for our elderly citizens.

In spite of all this ded-

ication to his work, his family, and his country, Pete is probably best known as an exceptional and tireless volunteer in our community. Name it, and Pete has been part of it. Way too many to list them all, however certainly not to be missed are his 72 years as a Member of our local Post 67 American Legion, and currently he remains as only one of two Charter Members of VFW Post 10088 of Quinebaug. He was also a Founding Member and Past President, a Manager, a Coach, and the go to

person when something needed attention for our Thompson Little League. He was inducted as a Lifetime Member of the Thompson Little League, a Lifetime Member of the Community Fire Department, and approaching 70 years as a member of the Knights of Columbus. It was his devotion to his faith that led Marcoux to become involved in the St. Bernard Council 2087 where he organized annual events and countless fundraisers. He is a Past Grand Knight, was the Permittee

and do everything volunteer for all things Knights of Columbus. One of the highlights of Pete's accomplishments with the Knights was his idea to initiate the annual Knights of Columbus Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast hosted by the K of C membership. Because of Pete's lifelong friendship with U.S. Senator Chris Dodd, Pete secured Senator Dodd to be the annual guest speaker for almost a 20-year run. This was a not to be missed event that sold out each year with over

250 in attendance for a breakfast and speaking program. Marcoux loves to recount stories of his friendship with Senator Dodd who would often stay at the Marcoux home in Quaddick when Dodd was in Town. Pete still has Senator Dodd's cell phone number on his telephone and talks to him regularly. He also has DODD on his number plate. Last year on Pete's 90th Birthday, Senator Dodd called Pete as part of a surprise arranged event hosted by WINY Radio, which was followed by a celebratory Mass and reception at Holy Trinity Church in Pomfret honoring his 90th birthday and his extraordinary volunteer efforts for his community.

The National organization of the Knights of Columbus honored Pete, Julie and their entire family in 1982 when they were named the International “Catholic Family of the Year“ by the National Knights of Columbus organization at its international convention. The entire Family was honored at a spectacular event at the Sheraton Hotel in Hartford. The feature speaker for that program was President Ronald Reagan and Pete and

his entire Family were greeted and congratulated by our United States President Ronald Reagan.

A lifelong parishioner at St Joseph Parish, he began as an alter server as a young boy. His parish was very special to Pete and his family. Countless hours and days Pete would take care of the parish grotto and well as the Mother Theresa of Calcutta Statue on the Parish grounds which he was very instrumental in securing for his parish. He later would become a Member of the St Joseph Elementary School Board. In that capacity, Pete was instrumental in organizing and sponsoring the Julia Marcoux Memorial Golf Tournament, named for his loving wife of 58 years who passed in 2013, raising many thousands of dollars for the School.

Pete was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal from his military time as well as many other awards and honors that he has received over his stellar and unselfish career.

Albert “Pete” Marcoux, Jr., thank you for your service to our Country and to our Community. We are grateful and thankful for all your efforts.

GOLF

continued from page A1

Giovanni, Gary Alves and Bill Bonin.

Prior to coming to Roseland, Haldas, a lifetime member of the PGA, was at Sands Point Country Club in Nassau County Long Island for 33 years as the club pro, where the membership included people such as Perry Como. Often professional golfers such as Tom Weiskopf, Sammy Snead and Jay Haas could also be found enjoying the Long Island links. Haldas spent his previous 11 years working and giving lessons at Quinnatisset.

Malizia comes to Roseland via Cape Cod. He's a certified golf instructor and golf coach, and is a member of the United States Golf Teachers Federation. Both Haldas and Malizia are available for lessons at the newly reconstructed driving range, adjacent to the golf course.

“I simply love golf. The atmosphere in Woodstock is beautiful and the membership is a bargain. I invite any golfer looking to learn or hone their skills to join us a Roseland Park and Golf Course. They can call the course to speak with us,” said Haldas.

The grounds crew is led by the very knowledge-

able Allen Woodward, who is back for his second season in Woodstock. Prior to coming to Roseland, Woodward was the longtime superintendent at Wethersfield Country Club, the original home of the Greater Hartford Open. Woodward's crew consist of Ken Mayo, Henry Adams, Don Schrupp and Peter Lomme.

According to Pizzetti, the grounds crew is augmented by very valuable and hard-working volunteers, John Rauh, Marc Cotnoir, Nelson Douglas and Scott Hazelton. Three Woodstock Academy students, all members of the Centaur golf team, Austin Sebastian,

Jonathan Eddy and Aiden O'Conner also provide numerous hours in making the nine-hole layout the best it's been in many years.

It may not rival River Highlands, Pleasant Valley or even other New England noted layouts but the Roseland Park & Golf Course is a niche location serving men, women, boys and girls, young and old, veteran golfers or people just taking up the game but the motto is “all are welcome.” The golf course has witnessed a significant transformation thanks to all the members of the staff and volunteers. It's a special place to play the game.

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Prue Law Group unveils refreshed branding, Web site to support strategic growth

WILLIMANTIC — The Prue Law Group, P.C., a premier law firm serving eastern and central Connecticut since 1980, has launched a refreshed brand and Web site. The changes align with the firm’s commitment to continue serving the community for decades to come, with plans to expand its regional footprint in the coming months, particularly in the areas of estate planning, probate, elder law, and business law.

The comprehensive rebrand includes an updated visual identity, as well as enhanced mission, vision, and core values statements that reflect both the firm’s long-standing commitment to service and excellence as well as its future-focused outlook and vision to continue serving the next generation of eastern Connecticut residents and businesses.

The firm’s new website, launched in early April, reflects these updates and also includes a resources section designed to provide ongoing, fresh and timely legal news and insights for every-day life and business.

“Our refreshed brand identity reflects both our heritage and our vision for the future,” said Attorney Patrick Prue, founder of The Prue Law Group. “While we’ve evolved over our more than 40 years of service, our commitment to providing sophisticated expertise with personalized accessibility remains unchanged. This rebrand allows us to better communicate our values and specialized services to current and prospective clients as we continue to grow.”

Attorney Evelina Ruszkowski, who leads the firm’s estate planning practice, noted the importance of the rebrand in reaching next-generation clients. “Many of our long-standing clients are now referring their adult children to us for estate planning and business services. Our updated brand speaks to these younger clients while honoring the trust we’ve built with their parents and grandparents over decades of service.”

The rebranding effort and updated website was completed by Dunn Marketing, based in Danielson, CT, the firm’s new agency of record.

“Working with The Prue Law Group has been a rewarding partnership,” said Laura Dunn, CEO and Brand Strategist at Dunn Marketing. “Our goal was to create a brand identity that honors their established reputation while positioning the firm for future growth. The refreshed visual elements and messaging strategy reflect their unique blend of sophisticated legal competence and genuine client care.”

The Prue Law Group maintains offices in Willimantic, Brooklyn, and Coventry, and offers legal services in the areas of: estate planning, probate and settlement; elder law and conservatorships; business law; real estate law; personal injury law; litigation; and divorce and family law. For more information, visit pruelawgroup.com.

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