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# WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

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Friday, January 24, 2025

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## Thompson residents denounce proposed solar project



Courtesy

Site photo of the proposed location of the solar arrays.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — A proposed solar array project on Pompeo Road in Thompson has received significant backlash as locals and town officials have sought to prevent the venture from impact-

ing the area's scenic road status.

C-Tec Solar, LLC is seeking to construct, maintain and operate a 2.95-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility at 77 Pompeo Rd., including all the connections and additional equipment needed

for the venture. The plan has proven to be controversial especially for citizens in the Pompeo Road area which was designated as a scenic road in 2023 thanks to a successful petition signed by 76 local homeowners. Several arguments and letters against the proj-

ect were submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council in late 2024 asking for a public hearing to be held to allow residents to have their say on the matter. The Board of Selectmen also submitted a letter asking the Siting Council to "show thoughtful consideration of the impact this proposed solar development

will have on direct abutters to the project."

This all culminated in a public hearing on Jan. 16 that began with an evidentiary session in the early afternoon where C-Tec Solar answered a series of questions from representatives of the Siting Council. The meeting was continued to later that evening where the

public had their chance to share their concerns. Prior to the public comment segment, C-Tec Solar Representative Michael Morrison explained how the project came to be and why they feel Pompeo Road is the right place.

"The landowners con-

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## Killingly Town Council approves Vision Committee ordinance

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly is moving forward with establishing a Vision Committee following a public hearing and subsequent approval of a new ordinance.

The concept of a Vision Committee was intro-

duced last year as the Town Council sought a way to bring residents together to advise the town's highest elected board on long- and short-term goals for Killingly. These missions could include a focus on public engagement, town enhancements, and identity. A public workshop

in September allowed citizens and town officials to have their say on the membership limitations and expectations of the committee before a draft ordinance was written up to be presented to the Town Council.

On Jan. 14, the Town

Turn To **ORDINANCE** page **A8**

## Killingly schools see increase in attendance post-pandemic

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Since the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic attendance has been a constant struggle for many school districts across the state and

country. Locally, several districts have worked to tackle what has been called "chronic absenteeism" and in Killingly specifically those efforts appear to be paying off.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash-Ditzel pro-

vided an update in the district's attendance records in early January where she showed that recent numbers indicate that their efforts to engage and encourage students to attend school regularly

Turn To **ATTENDANCE** page **A8**

## Killingly track faces intense competition in Providence

BY MARK NEUMAN  
HEAD COACH  
KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Last Sunday, the

Killingly Indoor Track & Field team battled in Providence. This meet had 12 schools battling, so competition was some of the most intense of the season, and never lack-

ing!

As always, ladies first: Rebecca Gardner and Emerson Joly cooked in the 600m! Emerson finished 7th and Becca fin-

ished 13th in a competitive field of 22! Marley Cusson could be seen doing it all, she was throwing and running! She chucked her Shot for 17 feet 1.5 inches and put up a PR in the 55m dash! She was also seen putting in work in the 300m dash! Great work ladies representing proudly on and off the track!

On to the gentlemen: In a tough field of 81, we had seven guys competing in the 55m dash. Jackson Olson, Jon Palmer, Monty Niyomkham put up a PR, Casey Hamilton put up a SB, Elijah Ward put up a PR, and both Izayah Molodich and Everton Brown both put up SB and made the finals, Izayah finished 7th while Ev finished 1st! In the 300m, Ty and Jon flashed in the

Turn To **TRACK** page **A8**



# Vanilla Bean Café hosts 33rd annual benefit show for Access Food Pantries

POMFRET—Get ready for a night of toe-tapping tunes, heartfelt laughter, and a whole lot of good vibes! The Vanilla Bean Café, located at 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret, is thrilled to host the 33rd Annual Benefit Show for Access Food Pantries: Site-Based and Mobile.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m., as “The Red Hot Banjo Wizard” Howie Bursen, along with the incredible Sally Rogers and Ben Gagliardi, returns to light up the stage. This beloved

local tradition promises an unforgettable evening filled with music

that warms your heart, with hot guitar, fiddle, and banjo licks. Admission is just \$25, and every penny goes toward supporting Access Food Pantries. The Vanilla Bean Café is the perfect cozy spot to chase away those winter blues! Enjoy the uplifting music while savoring delicious desserts and beverages—whether you’re in the mood for a rich cappuccino or a fine glass of wine, there’s something for everyone.

A legacy of giving back

For over three decades, Howie Bursen has poured his heart into coordinating and performing this benefit show, and he’s bringing his wife, the wonderfully talented Sally Rogers—dubbed the “Nightingale with a Voice as Clear as the Queen of Diamonds”—to join him again this year. “This is our way of giving back to the community we love,” says Howie. “We ‘Pomfretians’ are lucky to have such an amazing group of people

coming together for a great cause. Access Food Pantries make an incredible difference, ensuring our neighbors have food on their tables and hope in their hearts.”

Making every dollar count

Every ticket purchased helps fuel Access’s mission to fight hunger in Northeast Connecticut. With just \$25, Access can purchase more than \$250 worth of food from the Connecticut Food Bank—making a profound impact on local families

in need. Last year’s concert raised an impressive \$5,210.22, helping to bring meals and smiles to countless individuals and children.

Don’t miss it!

Grab your tickets, bring your friends, and join us for a night of music, community, and giving back. Let’s make this year’s show the best one yet! For more information or to reserve your spot, contact The Vanilla Bean Café at (860) 928-1562 or email elisha.sherman@accessagency.org.

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. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://accessagency.org/>.

## Deadline for veteran brick orders is Feb. 1

PUTNAM — Commemorative Veteran bricks are still for sale. The annual order deadline of Feb. 1 is rapidly approaching.

The price for an 8” x 4” gray concrete brick with black engraving is \$100 each in cash or check made payable to the Putnam Veterans Advisory Committee (VAC).

Two layout choices are available (samples below), with three lines available on each brick:

1st layout includes alpha and numeric characters. Twenty total spaces are available per line.

2nd layout includes alpha and numeric characters and a military themed logo. Fifteen total spaces are available per line (because the logo takes up space).

Not sure what to put on your brick? Enjoy a quick walk through the park, located on the corner of

Church & Bridge Streets for inspiration and ideas. Congregation B’nai Shalom has been a generous neighbor throughout this project and offers their parking lot for visitors to use when they do not have a service or activity going on themselves.

With an enormous amount of service from our area, there are more veterans to be honored in the park. The Putnam VAC wants to include them all.

Bricks will continue to be sold each year from Nov. 11 through Feb. 1.

With the cooperation of Mother Nature, steadfast volunteers, and Ellis Tech masonry students, these bricks will be added to the park by late Spring.

Find downloadable and printable forms at the Town website on the

VAC Web page: <https://www.putnamct.us/government/commissions/veterans-advisory-committee>.

Orders and payment can be mailed or returned to the VAC c/o Putnam Veteran Services Office, 200 School St, second floor, Putnam, CT 06260.

## Roger Williams University announces Dean’s List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Fall 2024 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List that semester.

Sydney Rosen of Brooklyn  
Kindalak Thongsavath of Dayville

About RWU

Roger Williams University is a comprehensive university with a liberal arts core and professional programs, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the state capital of Providence, Rhode Island. Across eight schools of study, we provide real-world learning focused on social and environmental justice, small classes, and direct access to faculty and staff. Our students create powerful combinations of degrees, credentials, research and internship opportunities, study-abroad programs, and involvement in clubs, student organizations, and athletics. Our Northeast location facilitates a strategic network between New York and Boston for community-engaged research and career opportunities for our students and alumni. Graduating with a unique skill set and the passion to make an impact in their careers, our students become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

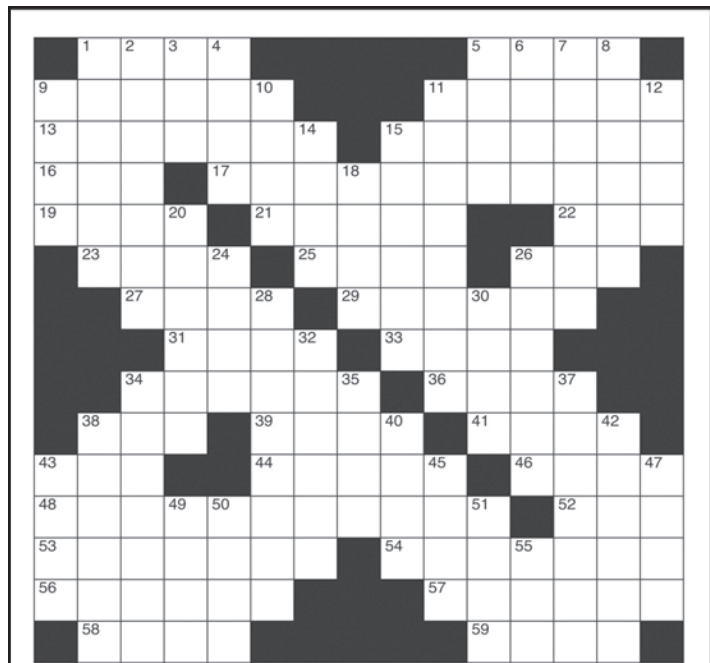
## SNHU announces Fall 2024 President’s List

MANCHESTER — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2024 President’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Lissette Hernandez of Putnam  
Cassandra Payeur of Putnam

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. “Loser” rocker
- 5. Partner to relaxation
- 9. Mixing
- 11. Winged nut
- 13. Expression of blame
- 15. Vast ocean
- 16. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 17. Multiply
- 19. Meat from a pig (French)
- 21. Related
- 22. Rocker Stewart
- 23. Surprise completely
- 25. Loon
- 26. Canister
- 27. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 29. Takes forcefully
- 31. Oil cartel
- 33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
- 34. More than one
- 36. Places down purposefully
- 38. Pitching statistic
- 39. Type of sword
- 41. Witnesses
- 43. Body part
- 44. Mixes slowly
- 46. Satisfy
- 48. Strong belief
- 52. One’s physique (slang)
- 53. More frightening
- 54. Soup cracker
- 56. Teaches
- 57. One who carries something
- 58. Actor Sean
- 59. Changes

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. \_\_\_ Aires, city
- 2. Coarse grass
- 3. Type of gene
- 4. Door handle
- 5. Competition
- 6. Muslim ruler title
- 7. Hunting expeditions
- 8. Large mollusk
- 9. Bind securely
- 10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
- 11. 2-point plays in football
- 12. Breezed through
- 14. Type setting
- 15. Felt for
- 18. Codified rules
- 20. Small dome
- 24. Chevrotaim
- 26. Male reproductive gland
- 28. Controversial beliefs
- 30. Z Z Z
- 32. One who confines another
- 34. Bishop
- 35. Garlands
- 37. Bird that flies by the coast
- 38. Optical device
- 40. Greek goddess of discord
- 42. Some are “Rolling”
- 43. Formerly (archaic)
- 45. Thrust a knife into
- 47. German river
- 49. Atomic #26
- 50. Make a grotesque face
- 51. Primordial matter of the universe
- 55. Chinese philosophical principle

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

S	D	O	W				N	N	E	D
H	E	H	V	E	B		S	H	O	L
E	N	I	L	T	V	S	H	E	I	H
D	O	B	A	L	I	S	O	I	G	I
E	L	V	S	S	H	I	L	S		E
S	E	E	S		E	E	D	E	V	H
	S	L	E	S		T	V	H	P	T
		S	E	E	D		C	E	D	O
	S	E	Z	I	E	S	H	V	D	O
N	I	L	L	I	M	L	N	P	L	S
D	O	H		E	L	V	N	E	C	H
E	L	V	H	E	F	I	T	O	H	D
C	I	F	I	C	V	D		F	O	O
V	H	V	W	V	S		G	N	I	S
T	S	E	R				K	C	E	B

### VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Jan. 13: Bluebird, Black Vulture, Bald Eagle, Robin, Junco, Brown Creeper, Mockingbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Flicker, Carolina Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow.  
Visit [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home).

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### Support Paws at indoor yard sale

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter, located at 74 School St. in Putnam, is having an Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, Feb. 1 from noon to 3 p.m. New and used items along with handcrafts will be available. Adoptable cats will be available for viewing. All proceeds to help the shelter.

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

### 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.

# Arts Council awards two grants

PUTNAM — The Putnam Arts Council (PAC) recently awarded two \$500 grants to Putnam businesses for their art-focused projects. The grants recognize the value of each business' efforts in enriching the cultural fabric of the Putnam community and supporting the creative growth of the area.

The Bradley Playhouse will use their grant to complete their scene shop for constructing sets. Since 1901, the Bradley has been a cultural cornerstone in Putnam. For over a century, this historic venue has served as a gathering place for

residents and visitors to experience the transformative power of live theatre. Each production provides opportunities for local artists, technicians, costume designers, builders, and performers to collaborate, refine their craft, and showcase their talents. Their shows are enhanced by the scenery and staging that accompany them, most of which are built by volunteers. This new shop will allow them to build upon their reputation for exciting and creative productions.

Movement Magic's grant will allow them the opportunity to offer free

group ballroom dance lessons to the community. Ashley Baxter, owner/instructor of Movement Magic, believes in helping people find healing through the power of movement. Her studio offers ballroom dancing, Zumba, poetry, fashion, and more through group classes, private lessons, or private events. Baxter's enthusiasm for dance is contagious.

"Through my dance journey, I have discovered: when you move, there's magic. My aim is to help others find the magic of movement. I hope you welcome the transformative power of

dance and the arts as a whole into your life—you won't regret it!" she said.

This is the first year the PAC has awarded grants. Their goal is to expand the number and

size of grants awarded in future years as well as offering scholarships to Putnam art students of all ages. PAC realizes the impact of art and creative expression on a community is immeasur-

able, and the initiatives proposed by these two businesses will undoubtedly provide valuable opportunities for local residents to engage in and benefit from the arts.

## Students named to Dean's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG, Mass. — Fitchburg State University President Donna Hodge has announced the students who qualified for inclusion on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

A student is placed on the Dean's List for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained, and the student is attending the university full time.

Fitchburg State University enrolls day and evening students in more

than 50 programs of undergraduate and graduate study. The university was established in 1894. Learn more at [fitchburgstate.edu](http://fitchburgstate.edu).

Danielson  
Sophia J. Moore

Moosup  
Fatimah S. Velez

Woodstock  
Kiera Lucia Intus S. Nielson

## Students named to President's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG, Mass. — Fitchburg State University President Donna Hodge has announced the names of students included on the President's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

The President's List honors students for consistently high academic achievement. A student is named to the list after achieving a 3.75 average in each of three successive semesters.

Fitchburg State University enrolls

day and evening students in more than 50 programs of undergraduate and graduate study. The university was established in 1894. Learn more at [fitchburgstate.edu](http://fitchburgstate.edu).

Brooklyn  
Mackenzie E. Leveille

Plainville  
Stella R. Liebler

## Dinallo named to the President's Honor Roll at Bismarck State College

BISMARCK, N.D. — Chelsea Dinallo, Pomfret Center, has been named to the President's Honor Roll for the Fall 2024 semester at Bismarck State College (BSC).

"Achievements earned as a BSC student create a strong foundation for future career success by developing knowledge, skills and discipline. The dedication shown today paves the way for new opportunities and equips them to confidently face challenges in their chosen career path," says BSC Interim President Brent Sanford.

Students must maintain at least a 3.50 grade point on a 4.00 scale while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of classes to qualify for the BSC President's Honor Roll.

About Bismarck State College  
Bismarck State College (BSC) is

North Dakota's Polytechnic Institution, offering high-quality, affordable education with more than 100 career pathways, including two-year associate degrees, four-year bachelor's degrees, and short-term program certificates. Dedicated to student success since 1939, BSC prepares students for high-demand careers through comprehensive advising, flexible in-person and online course options, industry-driven curriculum, and continuing education opportunities. Learn more at [www.bismarckstate.edu](http://www.bismarckstate.edu).

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## Elizebeth Benoit named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER — Elizebeth Benoit of Putnam has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2024 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

## Joaquin Fraga of Woodstock named to SUNY Potsdam President's List

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Joaquin Fraga of Woodstock was recently named to the President's List at The State University of New York at Potsdam.

Fraga, whose major is Music Education, was among 774 students who were honored for academic excellence in the Fall 2024 semester. SUNY Potsdam President Dr. Suzanne Smith recognized the students for earning top marks.

To achieve the honor of being on the President's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

About SUNY Potsdam  
Founded in 1816, The State University of New York at Potsdam is one of America's first 50 colleges - and the oldest institution within SUNY. Now in its third century, SUNY Potsdam is distinguished by a legacy of pioneering programs and educational excellence. The College currently enrolls approximately 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students. Home to the world-renowned Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam is known for its challenging liberal arts and sciences core, distinction in teacher training and culture of creativity. To learn more, visit [www.potsdam.edu](http://www.potsdam.edu).


## Local student named to Bucknell University Dean's list

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

Among this past fall's honorees was Keenan LaMontagne of Pomfret Center.

A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

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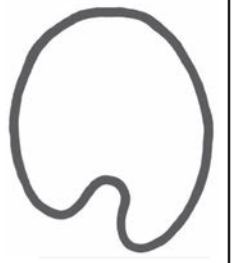
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**Gilly's Art Classes** 

Starting week of February 3rd 2025

Gilly Gordon Hay received her MFA in Studio Arts (Painting) from Maine College of Art and has been teaching all forms of art to children and adults since 1995. Formerly in Pomfret, Gilly's spacious studio is now located in Brooklyn.

**Adult Classes:**  
Mon: 6:30 – 8 pm Drawing  
Tues: 12 noon - 3pm Oil Painting

**Kids and Home School Art**  
Mon: 1 - 2:45 pm Drawing (12 - 18yrs)  
Mon: 3:30 – 5:15 pm Drawing (12 – 18yrs)  
Tues: 4 - 5:30 pm Mixed Media (7 – 14 yrs)  
Wed: 1 - 2:45 pm Mixed Media (7 - 14 yrs)

[gillysart@yahoo.com](mailto:gillysart@yahoo.com)  
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EDITOR

# Staying grounded in the age of social media

It happens to all of us. You're scrolling through your social media feed, and a post grabs your attention — something outrageous, dramatic, or too good to be true. Before you know it, you've shared it, commented on it, or brought it up in a conversation. But how often do we stop to ask ourselves: Is this actually true? Or, more importantly, why is this being shown to me?

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter (or X) are marvels of modern technology, but they're also powerful, profit-driven machines. Behind every post, video, or ad you see lies an algorithm, a set of rules designed to keep you engaged. These algorithms know more about you than you might think: your likes, your dislikes, your habits, even the time of day you're most likely to scroll. They're built to serve you content that aligns with your interests, but also content that provokes strong emotions, because emotion equals engagement, and engagement equals profit.

The problem is, emotions like outrage, fear, or excitement can cloud our judgment. This is how misinformation thrives. Social media algorithms aren't designed to prioritize truth, they're designed to prioritize clicks. This means that sensationalized or extreme content often rises to the top, not because it's accurate, but because it grabs your attention. Over time, you might find yourself in an echo chamber, exposed only to ideas that reinforce your existing beliefs while opposing views are filtered out.

This can have real-world consequences. Extremism, divisiveness, and distrust grow when we stop engaging critically with information and simply accept what's fed to us. And it's not just about politics. Think about the misinformation around health, science, or even history that spreads unchecked because it's wrapped in a flashy headline or a viral meme.

So, how do we navigate this algorithm-driven world without losing our grip on reality? The answer lies in slowing down, staying skeptical, and taking responsibility for what we consume and share.

Before hitting that share button, take a moment to verify the information. Check the source: Is it reputable? If it's a website you've never heard of, does it provide evidence or just emotional appeals? Cross-reference with trusted outlets. A quick Google search can save you from spreading misinformation.

Know that your feed isn't a random collection of posts, it's curated for you. If you find yourself feeling angry, overly excited, or even validated after seeing a certain type of content, ask yourself: Is this manipulating my emotions? Algorithms don't care about truth; they care about keeping you scrolling.

Social media platforms often show you content you agree with, which can feel comforting but limits your perspective. Make a conscious effort to follow people or organizations with diverse viewpoints. This doesn't mean you have to agree with everything, but exposing yourself to different ideas helps build critical thinking.

If a post seems overly dramatic, divisive, or paints an entire group of people as "good" or "evil," it's worth questioning. Extremist content often thrives on oversimplifying complex issues, using inflammatory language to provoke a reaction. Real solutions and truths are rarely found in black-and-white thinking.

The online world is just one part of the bigger picture. Building relationships, discussing issues in person, and relying on community engagement can help you stay grounded. Social media is a tool, not the whole world.

Social media is a double-edged sword. It can connect us, inform us, and even inspire us. But it can also mislead, divide, and manipulate us if we're not careful. The algorithms may be powerful, but so are we. By staying wide-eyed, curious, and critical, we can take control of our online experience and ensure that we're not just passive consumers but active participants in seeking truth and understanding.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Show QVCC that the Quiet Corner needs it

To the Editor:

As an (emeritus) professor at Quinebaug Valley Community College for 36 years, I need to let the citizens of Northeast Connecticut know about possible/probable changes at the College and the fear of it being closed down.

Of the 12 community colleges in the state, 11 are fully functional with cafeteria service for students. QV does not. Of the four colleges with Learning in Retirement programs, three are functioning successfully. Our LIR (with a membership of roughly 400 local citizens) is slowly but surely being forced out.

The recently internally appointed CEO, Dr. Gomez, has publicly stated that the focus of

QV is not community involvement, but student (primarily online) enrollment. Faculty and staff reduction will clearly result and is already occurring.

I urge all our State and local representatives (many of whom have not so far responded to these concerns), area business leaders, educators, QV alumni and students to be aware of potentially losing the education and community opportunities the College provides.

The Quiet Corner needs Quinebaug Valley Community College! It is up to all of you to ensure this happens!

I thank you all for your potential support.

FRANK ALEMAN  
DAYVILLE

## Matters of opinion

To the Editor:

I'll start my (as said) return by first addressing comments from John A Day, Jr. In his (Dec. 13) response to my previous week's letter about immigrants; it was his turn to mention that migrants are committing less crimes than Americans, which has become a standard for Mr. Taylor. Okay, boys, I get it. However, I accept that as it being "in numbers" only, and not as any justification, and have either of you ever admitted that migrants committing crimes is wrong? (I'll wait.) Anyhow, if that's your story and you're sticking to it, then maybe the two of you should put your money where your mouth is and show up at the homes of these numerous migrant crime victims' families and tell them that? But you won't because it's easier, and a lot more safer, to echo that from behind a keyboard.

Mr. Day noted that "undocumented immigrants are arrested at less than half the rate of native-born U.S. citizens for violent and drug crimes and about a quarter of the rate for property crimes." Okay again, but is that supposed to make us feel better and just accept it as it being the Biden/Harris administration's norm? But if you've been totally brain-washed by that talking-point, you will, and if you want even lower numbers, then you should be on board with President Trump's plan to deport illegal alien criminals?

Joining in, this time by mentioning FBI data, was Mr. David Clark, and if that was Biden's FBI data, I'd have doubts about it being totally factual. He also said that my news sources "will never write anything good about any immigrant, illegal or otherwise," and I won't disagree, but if you're criticizing my news sources for doing that, and in Mr. Day's case for me in mentioning "Illegals in the News," then why not also criticize those news sources that want you to remain ignorant of the crimes (today's) migrants are committing? But you guys won't, nor will you admit that the border mess is now an inherited problem.

Mr. Taylor (on Dec. 13) of course had to drag Donald Trump into my letter about immigrants, and his first paragraph has convinced me that he's the master of "copy and paste." He went on to take a go nowhere stab at the fact content in Villager editorials, and I liked the Editor's note that immediately followed his letter reminding him that this is

an "opinion" page, and that it's not their job to fact check its editorial content. But has Mr. Taylor ever doubted the fact content of any letter that benefits his way of thinking? According to Webster, "opinion" is defined as "a belief not based on certainty but on what seems true or probable." So remember that the next time you claim that what I say is "nonsense," and then expect the readers to believe that whatever comes from your crystal ball is totally accurate.

Mr. Taylor also mentioned that "Trump voters and consumers of right-wing media were much less likely to have accurate information than Harris voters and consumers of legitimate media." I laughed at that, but then you have to consider the source, but then again this is an "opinion" page, right Billy, and please tell us what you consider to be "legitimate media?" Also remember that included in those 77 million "uninformed" and "poorly informed" Trump voters, who have also been called "uneducated," and those that you've called "cult members," are your own relatives, friends, neighbors, and yes, those "regular readers" that you constantly plea to every time I get under your thin-skin.

In his (Dec. 27) letter, Mr. Taylor moaned big-time about that Editor's note, and that sent him off on another tirade, and not surprisingly with more "copy and paste." Poor Billy, did the Editor hurt your little feelings, or perhaps you expected him to jump to and change the newspaper's "Letter submission policy," and will you ever let that one go? He again repeated what he says is my "lie" about a migrant crime wave. According to ICE, 500,431 "criminal" non-citizens have been arrested in this country for various crimes during (fiscal) 2021 thru 2024. A (1-3-24) Judicial Watch report mentioned that "nearly half of illegal immigrants arrested in the U.S. in 2023 had multiple criminal charges, convictions." Maybe I don't know what a crime wave is, but that's disturbing, but then they have their excuse to "wide" brush that issue aside and ignore it.

I wish I had a dime for every doom and gloom prediction that's been belched since Donald Trump was elected President; however, they too are nothing more than just an (as defined above) "opinion."

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

## Banning Tik Tok is a win for China

To the Editor:

Welcome to the People's Republic Of America, where we complain about Chinese censorship, then do the exact same thing by banning Tik Tok because the government didn't like it.

This'll be a hard pill for MAGAs to swallow, but despite Tik Tok being owned by a Chinese company, it is a much bigger propaganda win for the Chinese Communist Party to ban Tik Tok than to let the platform continue to operate in the US market.

For those who either don't know or only know about Tik Tok via people freaking out in the news or on the internet, Tik Tok has evolved from its "short stupid cellphone videos of people doing dumb stuff" roots like any other video platform. Lest we forget, YouTube started out with viral videos as well and evolved past that. Tik Tok in 2025 is the fifth largest social media platform in the world after Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and WhatsApp. They also expanded their max video length to essentially become a vertical video platform rather than a short video platform. YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram invested in Tik Tok copycat features for a reason - Tik Tok was a mover and shaker that was doing to the established platforms what YouTube did to TV in the 2000s.

By banning Tik Tok, Mommy Government has eliminated a major growing competitor to our own platforms here in the US that was forcing them to evolve and change. You know, like Capitalism normally should do. It's supposed to be about meritocracy and whoever's the best, unlike in China, who does this sort of censorship thing a lot more than we do, banning foreign platforms to boost local platforms. Tik Tok is an international version of Douyin, a similar platform in China. China also has local copycats of YouTube and Facebook that they can control and heavily censor; so our witch hunt against Tik Tok because we're worried about not being able to

control it with its ties to China is just a smaller version of what the PRC already makes a very regular habit of doing.

"But what about national security?" First, Tik Tok was already banned on government devices. Second, national security is why China censors stuff as much as they do - to better control their population with their filtered media, "Great Firewall Of China", tons of surveillance, and social credit scores. Sorry, MAGAs and conservatives, doing this only made us look like China Lite, which I'm sure makes Xi Jinping smile like Pooh Bear from ear to ear.

Marxism believes that capitalism naturally evolves into socialism, so Chinese propaganda will have a field day with anything that makes it look like "we're catching up to China." The United States doing a smaller version of what China already does feeds right into that narrative, and is not the way to handle Tik Tok's various issues.

This is the part of the story you won't hear from the MAGAs who think that we should ban Tik Tok because it's even the tiniest bit Chinese. Now let's grab the popcorn and see how Lame Duck Trump handles it. As we all know, Trump has a "yuge" reputation for being antagonistic to China, which his base sloppily bobbles up to, so let's see how he pulls off dealing with this when his own voters are probably hawkeying him to not cave to China, although we already made ourselves look weak by banning Tik Tok.

I support divestitures that would onshore Tik Tok into being a Western platform, since China already has it banned and uses Douyin, but fundamentally, Tik Tok has a right to exist, and should always present the stiff competition it was already bringing into the market before Washington decided to look foolish by banning it. Let the market destroy Tik Tok, not big government.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

# A life measured in game playing

Friends are coming over soon to play a game with us. They introduced us to "Quiddler," a word game. It consists of a pack of cards with pleasing designs that look as if they are Celtic in origin. The game is similar to gin rummy and Scrabble, but moves quickly so that it makes for a pleasant thing to do after dinner.

We've been enjoying it for years with friends, and it reminds me of the joy of playing games.



NANCY WEISS

My mother was excellent at cards. Card games were probably the most popular way she and women of her generation inter-

acted outside of the household. She played Canasta, Pitch, Gin Rummy and Whist, a cousin to Bridge. At home, she taught me how to play War, Old Maid, Go Fish and Pitch, which our family played on Sunday afternoon perhaps in rebellion to my strict grandparents, who wouldn't allow reading the funny papers from the Boston Globe until Monday. She was a stickler for following the rules and perhaps exercised more control over my father at games than she did in real life.

Learning how to play board games and cards marks the stages of growing up. My children and grandchildren like memory games where pieces are placed face down and the player has to recall where the match is located. I gave a similar game to a friend's young child who has absolutely everything and she dove right into it. Soon she wanted to play against the adults and reveled in picking up matches as fast as she could. Dominos are timeless. We've moved from Paw Patrol dominos to real ones as the pleasure of the game continues. Perhaps someday one of these children will watch old men playing dominos in a sunny piazza in Italy and remember chilly days playing with me.

Once a child was well into elementary school in our family, no special effort was made to help them win. It was everyone for himself and while competition was inherent, bad sportsmanship, or heaven forbid cheating, were treated like a character flaws, which they probably are. Card games and board games give players the chance to show off skills and learn more about themselves and other people. Perhaps games should be a litmus test for public life.

My late father-in-law was so bored in retirement that he played hours and hours of Solitaire. If he were alive today, he would love playing it on line. Wordle would probably interest him too, as it does three million people worldwide, a statistic from the internet. I'm a crossword puzzle person, as was he.

Much as I like card and board games, I also enjoy Charades, an acting-out game that we used to play with adults and kids during the holidays. Some family members dislike being in front of a group acting silly, so they serve as timers and scorekeepers.

My grandsons introduced me to 21st century games with Sasquatch, an interactive internet game that is very cute and motivates them to plead for a few more minutes of screen time. The characters scamper about doing unpredictable things that make this game and others like it far more amusing than rolling dice or flipping a card over. Board games will never be the same.

Being good at various games is apparently merely indicative of being good at that particular thing without any special spillover to larger talents. Being good at games is a skill worth having just because it brings joy. While playing with each other, we are briefly connected by more than a roll of the dice.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## It all begins

To the Editor:

There is a particular strain of fear on display at these Senate confirmation hearings. Even though it comes as no surprise, it's still chilling to comprehend that these totally ridiculous nominees will sail through and become the heads of our most sensitive organizations for the health and security of our country. These hearings will go down as some of the great acts of cravenness in our history. These Republican Senators have as much contempt for themselves as they do for Trump. Guilt is the absence of courage. You can be sure that if Trump nominated Son of Sam for the House Chaplain, the Republican vote would be unanimous. An embarrassing display of lowly capitulation to a bully.

Hegseth, a meritless drunkard adorned with White Nationalist tattoos, is unprepared for the titanic position of Head of Defense. He refused to meet with each Democrat committee member before the hearings began, as is the norm. Since they knew in their hearts Joni Ernst would probably cave under Trump's pressure and all would be lost, they may just as well have boycotted the whole thing.

He knew the Democrats would rake him over the coals concerning the accusations of his behavior leveled against him. His responses: "Anonymous smears." Trump approves of that tact. As expected, his cheerleaders lobbed softball questions, one Republican Senator even asking him how many pushups he can perform. Vital information if you would be in charge of 5,000 or so nukes. Trump will order him to start firing senior military leaders who may refuse to invade Greenland.

Election denier Bondi, for Attorney General, says she was not familiar with Trump's illegal phone call to Georgia State A.G. looking to find 11,780 non-existing votes in the 2020 election. The Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert in Africa even knew of that call, for crying out loud! She wouldn't answer yes or no concerning if she would go along with an illegal order by Trump, since she considered it a hypothetical. She took that cue from Hegseth. Any questions that would put Trump's criminality on the radar screen were off limits. She is so afraid of Trump that she could not bring herself to admit that he lost the 2020 election. Her arrogance belied her impotence in Trump's shadow.

Noem, for Homeland Security, was so fixated with Trump's immigration hatred that she may not even realize that there are over 20 other agencies under the DHS banner. She was too

busy gaslighting about "The President is in charge of the border. He has made a promise to the American people." Referring to Trump and a promise in the same sentence should have filled her mouth with bile.

Trump was upset with Noem after the dog shooting incident, but he has asked "If we can shoot the immigrants in the legs to slow them down."

With this Republican majority, Gabbard and Kennedy will surely follow suit and lie their way into their positions as well. After all, going against Trump would be career ending for the upstanding Senators of the party of personal responsibility. You just can't stand tall when you're always bowing. Trump first, America last.

Did you know that six months into the Covid crisis, Kennedy was lobbying to halt the vaccine? This is what you voted for, Trumper; this is what you get. So don't play dumb; you were warned.

They will all make it through and take their places kneeling at the altar of Trump. The billionaires that surround him will have one thing in mind: How much more can I get? Go to YouTube and listen to Georgia Democrat Sen. Warnock question Trump's nominee for Head of Treasury, some stiff named Bessent. He will explain to you how the tax cuts for billionaires, percentage wise, is not as great as it would be for the rest of us. When you have that figured out, let us know.

The Republicans are openly threatening to withhold financial aid from California (they didn't rake up all their pine needles). I know what it's like to watch my home burn down. Multiply that thousands of times and it moves Trump not one inch. He would like nothing more than to get even because they voted Blue. Even so, a dozen or so California Republican Rep's recently gathered around Trump for a group photo down in 'Mara a Lardo,' even giving the old thumbs up. Their state is on fire while they gladly join together in a love fest with the guy who will burn it all down.

If a promise made here last month comes to fruition, these pages will soon become polluted again with celebratory praise for the upcoming administration of President Felon. A scumbag for the ages who has no idea how black a stain he will be in our history of America. If what I say about this loathsome degenerate bothers some of you, well that's tough, because I know a lot of you will be agreeing with us before long.

RICK ROCHELEAU DANIELSON

## The party of chaos and crime

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate the American people. Today [as I write this] is Inauguration Day. The American people have made history. We elected and inaugurated a convicted felon.

He is the standard bearer of the Republican Party. The party known as the law and order party can now call itself the party of chaos and crime.

BEVERLY TRACY WOODSTOCK

## Height of idiocy

To the Editor:

Why do we insist on self-destruction? A winning presidential campaign built on lies and cruelty is now a presidency bent on accelerating the human-caused warming of the earth's climate with its idiotic crusade to roll back sensible measures to limit carbon emissions.

by wildfires, tornados, hurricanes, and floods. The ordinary folks, the ones Trump falsely purports to represent, will suffer. Perhaps Trump's narcissism, grandiosity, vengeance, and cruelty will ease their pain.

BILLY G. TAYLOR KILLINGLY

Policies enacted by both political parties produced historically high income inequality, making it harder and harder for ordinary people to make ends meet, much less prosper. The global pandemic and resulting supply chain disruptions and inflation made things worse. As a result, our electorate ignored the obviously increasing problem of climate change in favor of the cost of groceries.

In a December interview given to Time magazine, President Donald Trump admitted what most observers always knew- that he wasn't going to be able to bring down grocery prices through "drill, baby, drill." In fact, his threatened tariffs will increase the prices of vegetables, half of which are imported from Mexico, and meat, 40 percent of which is imported from Canada. Perhaps you'd like to pay higher drug prices, since Trump rescinded President Biden's Executive Order to lower prescription drug prices for Medicare and Medicaid recipients. Maybe Trump can magically end bird flu which is responsible for egg shortages and high prices. Kind of like he did with Covid.

But Trump's intention to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords again and sabotage the previous administration's modest efforts to transition away from a destructive carbon-based economy will surely result in higher global temperatures and more extreme weather events.

Of course, Trump and his new buddies, the country's richest oligarchs, need not worry about it. They have more than enough money to avoid dying from the heat, pay for the increasing cost of property insurance and electricity, and rebuild their luxury estates destroyed

# 2025 is here, and so are these three big changes to retirement savings rules



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
LAURENCE HALE INVESTMENT ADVISER

The SECURE 2.0 Act continues to roll out significant changes to retirement savings rules, with 2025 bringing some of the most impactful updates yet – especially for those nearing retirement. But no matter what your age, it's important to understand how these changes could affect your financial future and the opportunities they present for maximizing your retirement savings potential.

Here are three key changes coming in 2025 that deserve your attention:

1. Higher catch-up contribution limits for ages 60-63

This is perhaps the most significant change, offering a remarkable opportunity for those in their early 60s to accelerate their retirement savings. Starting in 2025, if you're between ages 60 and 63, you'll be able to contribute the greater of \$10,000, or 50 percent, more than the regular catch-up amount to your workplace retirement plan.

Let's look at what this means in real dollars. Consider this example:

Sarah is 61, and wants to maximize her retirement savings. Under current rules, she can make a standard contribution of \$22,500 plus a catch-up contribution of \$7,500, for a total of \$30,000. But in 2025, she could potentially contribute up to \$37,500 (\$22,500 plus the new higher catch-up of \$15,000). That's an additional \$7,500 per year she can invest for her future.

Over just the three years she's eligible (ages 61-63), assuming a 6 percent annual return, this extra contribution could add approximately \$24,000 more to her retirement savings compared to using the standard catch-up amount. That's a meaningful difference that could provide greater financial confidence in retirement.

2. Expanded automatic enrollment in retirement plans

Beginning in 2025, most new 401(k) and 403(b) plans will be required to automatically enroll eligible participants. This change reflects what we've long known as strategic financial advisors – sometimes the hardest part of saving for retirement is just getting started.

The initial automatic enrollment amount will be at least 3 percent of salary, but not more than 10 percent. Additionally, there will be automatic annual increases of 1 percent until the contribution reaches at least 10 percent (but not more than 15 percent) of salary. This "set it and forget it" approach helps ensure consistent saving and investment for retirement.

3. More part-time workers gain access to retirement plans

The third major change expands retirement plan access to part-time workers. Starting in 2025, employees who work at least 500 hours per year for two consecutive years (down from the current three-year requirement) must be allowed to participate in their employer's 401(k) plan. This is particularly relevant for those considering a phased retirement or who work part-time while caring for family members.

Strategic financial planning considerations

These changes offer several potential financial planning opportunities. For those ages 60-63, now is the time to begin planning how to maximize the

higher catch-up contribution limits. This might involve adjusting your budget or reviewing other savings vehicles to redirect funds to take full advantage of this opportunity.

If you're an employer, you'll want to ensure your retirement plan

documents are updated to reflect these changes and that you have proper procedures in place for automatic enrollment.

And for part-time workers, 2025 presents a new opportunity to begin building retirement savings through an employer plan, potentially with employer matching contributions.

These changes represent significant opportunities to enhance your retirement savings strategy, but they also add complexity to an already complex landscape. At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we're here to help you navigate these changes with absolute confidence through our unwavering partnership approach.

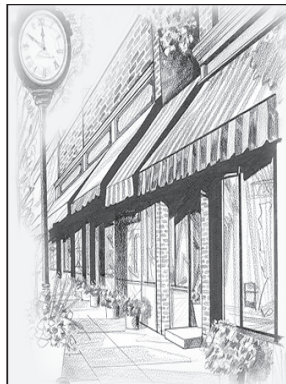
Whether you're looking to maximize your catch-up contributions, adjust your retirement timeline, or simply ensure your current strategy aligns with these new rules, we can help you create and execute a plan that works for your unique situation. Contact us for a complimentary consultation on our Web site at whzwealth.com, or give us a call at (860) 928-2341.

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### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.



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## 9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE

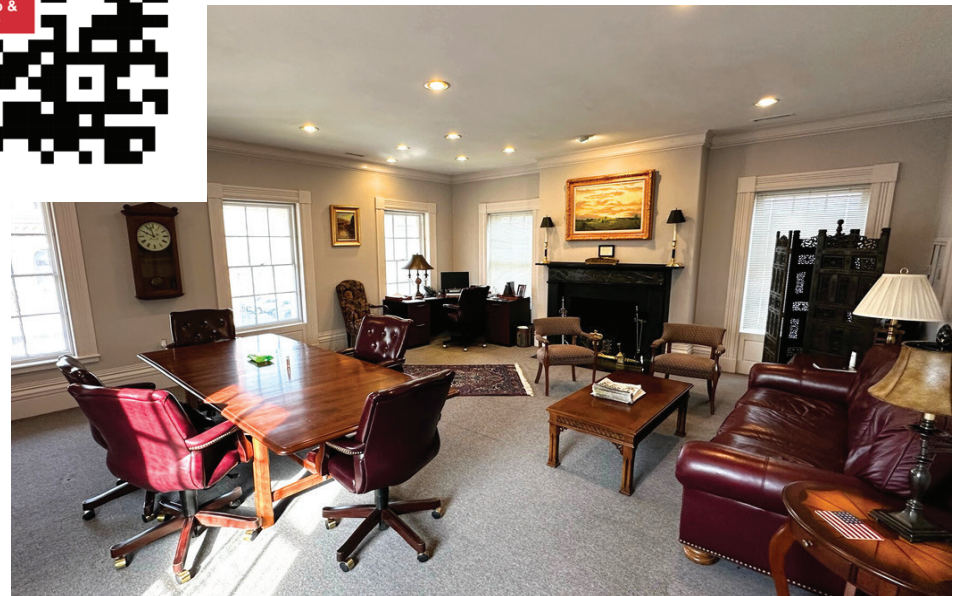


- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
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- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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# WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors among 8 percent of CT wealth management entrants to earn “Five Star Wealth Manager” Award

POMFRET CENTER/TOLLAND — WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors’ (WHZ) Laurence Hale, AAMS, CRPS®, James Zahansky, AWMA® and Leisl L. Langevin, CFP®, CDFP® have been awarded the 2024 Five Star Wealth Manager Award, the largest and most widely published wealth manager award program in the financial services industry. This is the eleventh consecutive year that all WHZ advisors who were eligible to be considered for the award were selected to receive it.

The 2024 Five Star Wealth Manager Award was created by Five Star Professional, and presented in November 2024 based on data gathered between February 2024 and August 2024. A total of 3,710 Connecticut-area wealth managers were considered for the award; 282 (eight percent of candidates) were selected to receive it. Wealth managers do not pay a fee to be considered or selected for the award, although they may choose to pay a fee for use of marketing materials. The award is not indicative of an advisor’s future performance, and your experience may vary. For more information about the award, visit [fivestarprofessional.com](http://fivestarprofessional.com).

This marks the eleventh consecutive win for Hale, the sixth for Zahansky, and the fourth for Langevin, all of whom have received the award every year in which they were eligible to be considered.

More than a dozen of WHZ’s clients have publicly shared their expe-



rience working with the firm, lending personal insight into the benefits that their Five Star Award-winning service brings.

“What’s really differentiating about WHZ is their collaborative team approach, in which you have numerous people looking at and strategizing on your financial planning versus only having one financial planner kind of just keeping an eye on things,” said Marie Sanchirico.

(This statement was provided March 7, 2024 by Marie Sanchirico who is a client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee of future performance

or success. For additional reviews, search WHZ wherever local businesses are reviewed.)

Chris Contos says, “WHZ is always responsive and keeps our plan aligned with evolving needs. Their technical expertise and compassionate service have exceeded my expectations. I wish I had connected with them decades earlier and cannot recommend them highly enough.”

(This statement was provided Feb. 28, 2024 by Chris Contos who is a client. The image shown is a model and not the actual client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee

of future performance or success. For additional reviews, search WHZ wherever local businesses are reviewed.)

Additional client stories are available on the firm’s Web site at [whzwealth.com/client-stories](http://whzwealth.com/client-stories). As for the advisors themselves, they say they are both honored and proud to be recognized for the caliber of knowledge, service and care they provide to their clients.

“Being recognized as Five Star Wealth Managers for over a decade demonstrates our unwavering commitment to providing strategic thinking and caring counsel to every client we serve,” Hale said.

“What makes this recognition particularly meaningful is that it reflects our core mission of delivering an exceptional wealth management experience at every touchpoint,” Zahansky said. “But even more important than the award itself is what it represents - the deep relationships we’ve built with our clients, as evidenced by our 99 percent client retention rate. That’s what we are truly proud of.”

“This recognition reinforces our team’s dedication to combining personal connection with professional financial guidance,” Langevin added. “We’re really passionate about helping our

clients work toward their goals through customized planning and proactive partnership, and we’re honored to receive this acknowledgment of our commitment to that goal.”

The Five Star Wealth Manager awards are presented by Five Star Professional in partnership with Connecticut Magazine as a means to help consumers find outstanding wealth managers and investment professionals in their area. The award is given based on a rigorous, multifaceted research methodology, which incorporates input from peers and firm leaders along with standards for industry experience, education and professional designations, client retention rates, and a thorough review of regulatory history.

WHZ is an independent investment and fiduciary asset management firm serving individuals, families, business owners, executives, and not-for-profit institutions in 25 states from its offices in Pomfret and Tolland. The firm’s mission is to provide each and every client with “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life” through hyper-personalized financial planning and wealth management services delivered within its own Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™ strategic financial planning process. WHZ is a partner of Commonwealth Financial Network®, a Registered Investment Advisor. To learn more, visit [www.whzwealth.com](http://www.whzwealth.com).

## LOCAL EASTERN STUDENTS MAKE DEAN’S LIST

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean’s List for the fall 2024 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among the students on the list include:

Olivia Hassett-Mellen of Putnam, a junior who majors in Theatre and Performance Media.

Jordan Mason of Putnam, a senior who majors in Accounting.

Emma Rudman of Putnam, a senior who majors in Criminology and Sociology.

Kassidy Stewart of Putnam, a senior who majors in Biology.

Joel Majorowski of Quinebaug, a first-year student who majors in Secondary Education and History.

Emily Carita of Thompson, a senior who majors in Criminology.

Makayla Tackson of Thompson, a senior who majors in Mathematics and Elementary Education.

Allison Thebeau of Thompson, a junior who majors in Theatre and Performance Media and Music.

Nikki Flynn of Danielson, a senior who majors in Communication.

Rachael Hutchinson of Danielson, a first-year student who majors in Music.

Joshua Larkin of Danielson, a senior who majors in Computer Science.

Gabrielle Lemery of Danielson, a sophomore who majors in Sociology.

Audrey Madden of Danielson, a sophomore who majors in Business Administration.

Selina Metzermacher of Danielson, a first-year student who majors in Criminology.

Ava Peloquin of Danielson, a first-year student who majors in Health Sciences.

Christopher Windrow of Danielson, a junior who majors in Computer Science.

Isabella Symington-St. John of Eastford, a senior who majors in Biology.

Iris Bazinet of Pomfret Center, a senior who majors in Art.

Nicole Cicchetti of Pomfret Center, a junior who majors in Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Cassidy Fortier of Pomfret Center, a junior who majors in Accounting.

Eric Phongs of Pomfret Center, a senior who majors in Political Science.

Adam Schimmelpfennig of Pomfret Center, a senior who majors in Computer Science.

Sarah Tuttle of Pomfret Center, a senior who majors in History and Social Science.

Katherine Collin of Pomfret Center, a junior who majors in Social Work.

Iryna Huling of Pomfret Center, a junior who majors in Criminology and Sociology.

Kyle Anderson of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Exploratory - Undecided.

Ava Basak of Woodstock, a sophomore who majors in Finance.

Sierra Bedard of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Political Science and Philosophy.

Ethan Campbell of Woodstock, a junior who majors in Biology.

Antonia Carminati of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Early Childhood Education.

Dylan Chamberlin of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Computer Science.

Stefan Chervenkov of Woodstock, a senior who majors in English.

Alexandra Cloutier of Woodstock, a sophomore who majors in Social Work.

Ty Collige of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Art.

Ethan Craig of Woodstock, a junior who majors in Political Science.

Leah Danis of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Secondary Education and English.

Hannah Dean of Woodstock, a junior who majors in Business Administration.

Maxine Dietrich of Woodstock, a junior who majors in Exploratory - Undecided.

Megan Franzino of Woodstock, a senior who majors in English.

Benjamin Green of Woodstock, a junior who majors in Finance.

Cole Gremo of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Business Administration.

Allison Griswold of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Nursing.

Caleb Hall of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Biology.

Sophie Hanlon of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Communication and Accounting.

Brynn Kusnarowis of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Communication.

Timothy O’Sullivan of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Secondary Education and English.

Sophia Petrella of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Criminology.  
Sawyer Stewart of Woodstock, a sophomore who majors in Exploratory - Undecided.

Grace Gronski of Woodstock Valley, a senior who majors in Elementary Education and Spanish.

Isabelle Shead of Woodstock Valley, a junior who majors in Early Childhood Education and Sociology.

Lana Syriac of Woodstock Valley, a first-year student who majors in Social Work.

Shayne Bigelow of Brooklyn, a senior who majors in Health Sciences.

Savannah Buisson of Brooklyn, a junior who majors in Business Administration.

Kaylin Caissie of Brooklyn, a senior who majors in English.

Allison Capuano of Brooklyn, a senior who majors in English.

Megan Cassada of Brooklyn, a senior who majors in Psychology.

Molly Crabtree of Brooklyn, a first-year student who majors in Exploratory Education.

Sydney Crabtree of Brooklyn, a first-year student who majors in Exploratory Education.

Sarah Delaney of Brooklyn, a sophomore who majors in Elementary Education and History.

Isabelle DuBois of Brooklyn, a sophomore who majors in Elementary Education and History and Social Science.

MaryGrace Dufault of Brooklyn, a junior who majors in Psychology.

Taylor Hardacker of Brooklyn, a sophomore who majors in Early Childhood Education and English.

James Koproski of Brooklyn, a sophomore who majors in Data Science.

Makenzie Metivier of Brooklyn, a senior who majors in Anthropology.

Josephine Palmer of Brooklyn, a junior who majors in Communication.

Joseph Schley of Brooklyn, a senior who majors in Biology.

Christina Skellinger of Brooklyn, a junior who majors in Psychology.

Madison Tatro of Brooklyn, a junior who majors in Elementary Education and English.

Katelin Briere of Dayville, a senior who majors in Music.

Caley Fay of Dayville, a senior who majors in Mathematics and Psychology.

Sherrie Simoneau of Dayville, a sophomore who majors in Exploratory STEM.

Brandon Steen of Dayville, a senior who majors in Computer Science.

Kassidy Walden of Dayville, a senior who majors in Criminology.

Jadyn Williams of Dayville, a sophomore who majors in Business Administration.

To qualify for Dean’s List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they’ve accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut’s public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded ‘Green Campus’ status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit [www.easternct.edu](http://www.easternct.edu).

# Hiring?

## Reach More

# Local Applicants

Email: [mikaela@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:mikaela@villagernewspapers.com)  
Phone: (860)928-1818

Help  
Wanted

**SOLAR**

*continued from page A1*

sidered other potential uses of the property such as development for housing but wanted to preserve the land for future family use. The landowners found the most appealing use would come in the form of converting a portion of their property to allow for the use of solar panels. Since its inception back in 2019, the original project location for the solar array was to be placed on the property owner's agricultural field. As time progressed, C-Tec Solar determined that this location was not the best suitable location as it would be affecting prime farmland soils and would be directly adjacent to multiple residences on Pompeo Road with a direct line of site. In the end, it was determined that moving the solar array further south into the timber harvest woodland area would have less environmental impacts," Morrison explained. "This proposed location will not have adverse impacts on quality forested areas, agricultural land, or the designated wetlands and the project will not diminish the

quality of life for those who live in the vicinity."

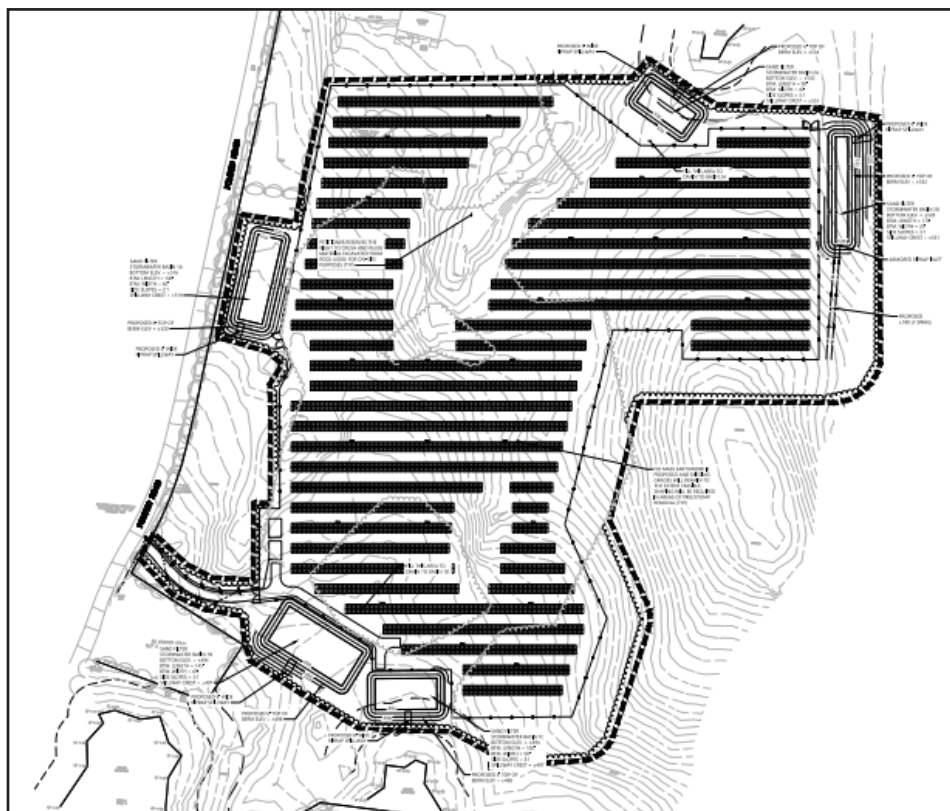
Residents heavily disagreed with assertions about the minimal impact of the project. The public comment section saw residents from both Pompeo Road and the town at large speak their peace. Renee Morin, a resident of Pompeo Road and Thompson's Veterans Service Officer who has acted as a spokesman for many of his neighbors on this issue, gave an impassioned speech to the Siting Council calling on them to consider the wishes and concerns of the townspeople when deciding on the matter.

"We are here for a project that I believe lacks any common sense and for the total disregard of the Thompson community and the quality of life of its residents that live in the proximity of the area on and around 77 Pompeo Rd. When all of the facts are considered, I am hopefully the Siting Council members come to the same conclusion that our residents of the Quiet Corner have known all along, that this project needs to be rejected in full," said Morin. "There are approximately 71 homeowners on Pompeo Road and a large majori-

ty of them, about 95 percent, signed the petition favoring the scenic road designation. Those same homeowners do not want to see a solar farm on our scenic road now or ever, or for that matter a solar farm on any scenic road in the state of Connecticut. It just isn't the right thing to do."

Other arguments against the project ranged from concerns about noise and visibility to the fact that the property owners don't live in Thompson full time. The main source of debate however is that the project is contrary to the wishes of locals to keep Pompeo Road's scenic aesthetic intact. These concerns were also shared by members of the town at large. George O'Neil, a resident of Fabyan Road, explained that the arguments weren't "anti-solar" but rather that the project wasn't a good fit for its proposed location.

"I think it's clear from all the citizens who came forward tonight that people aren't opposed to PV arrays. We think it's important. It's not yet proven, but certainly it's not negative. The major issue is the location. It belongs somewhere, not here and I think that's at



The proposed layout of the solar array project on Pompeo Road.

the heart of all the issues here," O'Neil said. "We can look down the economic, we can look down the social and the aesthetic, but fundamentally it belongs somewhere, not on Pompeo Road. Not by someone who is going to be an absentee landowner. We really need to look forward to the town of Thompson. We live here

and it's a beautiful place." The Siting Council closed the hearing without a final decision. Representatives of C-Tec Solar were not given an opportunity to respond to the public comments. The Siting Council concluded stating that briefs and findings can be filed with the Council until Feb. 15 after which

the review process will continue. Documents, maps, and submitted correspondence concerning this project have all been made available for public viewing on the Connecticut Siting Council Web site and the Town of Thompson Web site.

**ORDINANCE**

*continued from page A1*

Council held a brief public hearing concerning the ordinance followed by a larger discussion among the Council members later in the evening. The hearing saw little public input, but one resident Ian McDonald offered his take referencing the limitations set upon the town by its WPCA moratorium and other factors that will create a challenging road ahead for the committee.

"I do hope that we're looking at all the grants - I think we also need to have an interim vision in terms of what are we going to do. (The moratorium) kind of changes the dynamics and what we're looking at in terms of any sort of economic development. I think there's been some positive movement in terms of downtown. That's a place I think we can focus on in the near term, to kind of solidify that and really get some traction there," said McDonald.

When it came time for the Council to weigh in on the matter, Town Manager Mary Calorio said that the Ordinance Subcommittee supported the draft ordinance in December. The Town Council also needed to sign off on the document to officially add it to the town's Code of Ordinances.

"Tonight was the public hearing on this ordinance, on the creation of this, which establishes a Vision Committee that would be nine members with three alternates. The Commission has a sunset date of Dec. 31 of 2026 which can be extended by action of the Town Council. It's not a hard and fast date. It outlines the terms of the members as well as the anticipated duties of the commission. The commission gets its directive from the Town Council," said Calorio.

The ordinance received an overwhelming vote of approval from the council with one abstention, although it wasn't without some debate. Council members questioned why previously discussed limitations on membership that would prevent current town officials and town employees from serving on the committee was not included in the ordinance. Calorio explained these limitations will instead be imposed through the application process.

"You can determine what criteria you need during your interview process as opposed to having it listed in the ordinance itself," Calorio told the council. "Other boards and commission members can only be part of another commission if they are specifically outlined within the ordinance language that allows them to participate, like the Board of Recreation. You specifically say they have a member of the Board of Education and the Town Council. Same with Open Space Land Acquisition. That committee specifically states within the ordinance that certain members of other commissions are members of that commission. Absent that language, you can't have another board or commission member, by our charter, participate in two boards or commissions. The town employees can be on a temporary commission, provided they're seated by the Town Council."

Calorio did not specify if any current applicants for the committee are currently members of other town elected or appointed bodies, however she did confirm that no town employees have applied. Interested residents can apply to be considered for the Vision Committee by submitting a Boards & Commissions application to Calorio at townmanager@killinglyct.gov.

**ATTENDANCE**

*continued from page A1*

are paying off. However, the decade certainly didn't start off well as the district struggled with the impact of the pandemic and the return to in-person learning.

"Because there were still pretty strict quarantine mandates for students who were sick, we did expect that we'd have a spike in chronic absenteeism during (the 2021-2022 school year) and we did. It was about 26 percent, but we had a rationale. We could explain it. The next year is where it became a puzzle. In 2022-2023, we actually experienced a higher rate of chronic absenteeism even though all those things that were in 2021-2022, the masks and

quarantine mandates, those were all gone," Nash-Ditzel explained.

The 2022-2023 school year averaged an absentee rate of 28 percent. This increase sparked what Nash-Ditzel called an "aggressive" push to draw students back to the classroom. Since then, the district has rolled out rewards programs and challenges to encourage student attendance which has proven to be successful. One of the biggest elements of this effort was the addition of an attendance coordinator first funded by an Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant and later officially added to the school budget at the annual cost of \$58,000 starting in 2024. Nash-Dietzel explained how this move showed great

dedication on the part of the Board of Education to invest in a proven solution for chronic absenteeism.

"The Board of Education saw the need and saw the initial growth for attendance. Through that budget process we added that position to our operational budget," the Superintendent said. "For this school year, November 2024, for the first time in a long time our chronic absenteeism for the month of November year-to-date was below 20 percent. That hasn't happened for a long time."

While that percentage increase to more than 21 percent in December of 2024, Nash-Ditzel said that is a normal trend as December regularly has larger absentee rates. December's numbers were still lower than the

same month in the previous three school years respectively.

"We are on track now to be lower in terms of our chronic numbers at the end of the year than we were last year, so we're headed in the right direction," said the Superintendent.

While Nash-Ditzel credited much of this success to the commitment of the Board of Education and the many professional partners who have provided prizes for their challenges, she also made sure to thank the families for their part as well and working with the district over the last few years to fully return from the pandemic and keep kids interested in attending school.

**TRACK**

*continued from page A1*

event and Wesley Sprouse ran his hardest ever to put up a PR! Killingly's long distance specialist hit the track for the long stretch. BOTH Calvin Vandale AND Caydan Jonasch put up fresh PRs in the 1000m, finishing 11th and 12th! Calvin also fought hard

in the 1600m, and Caydan battled in the SMR! In the Shot Put, Jackson and Calvin chucked there shots hard and long while Wes put up a fresh PR! In the High Jump, we had 2 guys flying! Jeremiah Smith finished 2nd with a SB and Jake Sangasy finished 4th! Jeremiah also battled and flew in the 55m hurdles finishing 1st and qualified for nationals! At Long Jump,

seven guys were battling it out and soaring through the air: Ty, Jon, Elijah, Monty, Jake, Cooper Logee, and Jeremiah finishing 1st with a SB in a field of 27! In Triple Jump, Monty finished 4th with a fresh, new PR and Elijah finished 1st with a fresh PR! Way to represent gentlemen on and off the track!

As always, everyone continues to make Killingly incredibly proud on and off the track... our next meet is in 48 hours at Wesleyan University! We also want to thank all parents and friends for showing up and their support, your energy could be felt and we all appreciate your support!

**Ridgetop hiking**

BY DENNIS BLANCHETTE  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

"The Mountains are calling and I must go." - John Muir

A ridgetop hike in the White Mountains in autumn when the foliage is changing color is the epitome of scenic hikes. And there are plenty of ridge hikes that can be done in a day. But some hikers believe that the best view is in the remotest place, just like some (most) fishermen believe that the best fishing is in the remotest part of the lake. Our plan was to hike up to AMC's (Appalachian Mountain Club) Galehead Hut on Sunday, spend Monday on the ridges enjoying the views with our fellow hikers and hike back down on Tuesday, a total of 22 miles in three days.

That night there were about 24 people at the tables in the hut for dinner, ranging in age from 30 to 70 years old. Talk naturally revolved around hiking, mostly how fast everyone was going.

"I'm attempting the Pemi Loop in three days," announced thirtyish Olivia sitting across from me.

A middle-aged couple stated that they were planning to complete the Pemi Loop in two days.

Well after dark another hiker arrived, a thirtyish Canadian, from Montreal. He was dressed in shorts and a t-shirt and had no gear except for a hydration pack and headlamp.

"I've been hiking since 3 a.m.; I'm trying to finish the Pemi loop in under 24 hours," he said as he filled up with water and went out the door into the darkness.

Later that night we looked up the Pemi Loop in the AMC guide book. "Eight wide-open summits each offering spectacular views of the Pemigewasset Wilderness, plus four other "optional" 4,000-foot peaks, bagged via short side trails... connecting those vistas is 31.5 rugged knee-buckling miles with over 9000' of elevation gain. Most hikers take at least three days to complete it."

Apparently, we had stumbled into the world of speed hiking. A quick Google search confirmed that speed hiking (1 day) or fastpacking (multi day) is a thing. It has a definition - faster than hiking but slower than trail running. It has acronyms, like FKT - fastest known time. It prioritizes speed over views. It was hard to wrap our heads around, as if someone had told us in 2014 that the game show host of The Apprentice would someday be elected president.

Speed hiking also has rules and etiquette guidelines, one of which is "don't put yourself in a position where you have to be rescued." Hiking alone at night over the boulder strewn paths that pass for trails in the White Mountains

with no gear going as fast as you can seemed to be a clear violation of that rule.

The next morning, we hiked up the Twinway Trail to South Twin Mountain and then continued on to Mt Guyot. A bald summit, with 360 degree views, it was the perfect place for a long leisurely lunch. The mountain ranges receded into the distance, one after the other, like silent sentinels guarding the valleys, which were dotted with patches of red and yellow leaves like someone had thrown a giant quilt over them.

That night there were several new people at dinner.

"I'm Dan. Sorry I'm late. Been hiking since 4 a.m., but I had to make a side trip to bag Nawth Twin. I work construction and my crew took off for two days, so I drove up here to do the Pemi Loop."

"Sounds like you're from Boston," the guy to his left remarked.

"Dwohchestah," he replied. "Too bad you don't live closer," said the guy to his right.

"I have no problem driving from Bawston to Nawth Conway for the day," Dan replied.

"Where do you sleep?" said the guy to the right.

"In my cah."

"Well, I figure I'm an adult, so I rent a motel room."

It was turning into a real contest and I wished I had a ruler with me.

been dissected in distressing detail, conversation turned to the various patches that they were attempting to earn by completing various hiking lists, such as hiking all 48 - 4,000 footers, hiking them in winter or hiking them in 4 different seasons, to name a few. It was like listening to pubescent boys bragging about their sexual conquests. Finally, someone asked us,

"What did you do today?" Janet responded, "We went leaf peeping."

Everyone within earshot turned and looked at us like we were the crazy people.

On a cold and sunny Tuesday morning, we started out on the Garfield Ridge Trail. Near Garfield Ridge Campsite we watched a marten as it watched us, skittering from tree to tree. We scrambled up the boulders on a nearly vertical section of trail that would have been a waterfall in the wet season and summited Mt. Garfield around noon. Then we began the 4.8 mile downhill trudge back to the car thinking all the while about the marten, the beautiful vistas and interesting people we would have missed had we been speed hiking in the dark.

Dennis R. Blanchette is a retired civil engineer and part time travel writer.



The day's activities having



# Interesting finds from the Historical Center shelves

**Inclement Weather:** In case of inclement weather, check WINY or call the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center after 10:15 a.m. to see if it is open. (860-779-7250).

**Celebrate Black History Month.** The Remarkable Women of the Six Triple Eight; The Only All-Black, All-Female Unit to be sent overseas in WWII. Saturday, Feb. 15 at 12:30 p.m. (Snow date Feb. 22). Putnam Municipal Complex. 200 School Street, Putnam. Presented by Melodye Whately.

I frequently check the shelves of the Killingly Historical Center to see what interesting books I might not have looked through. This past week, I found four volumes entitled "Abstracts of the New London Gazette/Connecticut Gazette" (from the 1760's and 1770's) by Richard B. Martin. Although he focused on entries from Southeastern

Connecticut, there were some from our area. Keep two thoughts in mind. First, there were not many newspapers covering eastern Connecticut at that time. Secondly, New London was an extremely busy port, sending ships to Novia Scotia and Newfoundland as well as ports in the Caribbean.

At that time, newspapers printed lists of unclaimed letters which were at the post office. The list for May 5, 1764 listed a letter for John Levens of Killingly. (p.36, Vol. 1). Benjamin Crowe of Killingly had a letter in 1774 (Jan. 21, 1774). In 1776 there were letters for David Barrel and Eleazer Stockwell both of Killingly (July 19, 1776). These references might be helpful if you are trying to pinpoint an ancestor to a particular town. Do not underestimate how frequently people moved.

Twice yearly, the Connecticut towns elected two representatives/deputies to the

Connecticut General Assembly (which met alternately in Hartford and New Haven for many years). The Gazette also published those. Note

that these men were well-respected in the community, and probably would have been considered among the town's "upper class." In May 1764 Killingly's deputies were Bryant Brown and Benjamin Leavins. (May 25, 1764 Gazette, p. 38, Vo. 1763-1769). They served again in May 1766 \*Gazette May 23, 1766.

In October 1764, Simon Larned and Capt. Titus\* Hutchins were representatives. Gazette Oct. 26, 1764, p. 57; probably Silas as seen in the entry for 10/27/69, p. 220. I have not come across a Capt. Titus Hutchins in my genealogical research on the Hutchins family). Captain William Danielson and Samuel Leonard served in October 1767 (Oct. 30, 1767, p. 130). New names appeared in May 1768-Jacob Dresser and Thomas Moffat. Moffat was a physician who lived on Killingly Hill (present-day Putnam Heights) across from the present Putnam Heights Cemetery. That same session Pompret\* sent Ebenezer Williams and Samuel Craft. \*Note spelling. (May 20, 1768, p. 158). Spellings were not uniform, especially for names. However, checking such listings may provide clues on other ways to enter "missing" ancestors in search engines. The ships that

sailed from New London carried a varied cargo to the West Indies. Horses were in constant demand so it was not surprising to see the following, "Christopher Leffingwell would like to purchase a number of young, fat horses for shipping immediately." (Gazette May 25, 1764, p.39).



**KILLINGLY  
AT  
300  
MARGARET  
WEAVER**

Smallpox was a recurring problem during the 18th century, and many died throughout the Connecticut Colony. However, by the late 1760's, brave individuals were seeking inoculations in the hopes of preventing the dread disease. "Dr. Uriah Rogers, Jun. of Norwich informs the public, especially those disposed to take the small pox by inoculating, that he has again opened his hospital where he intends to give anyone inoculation. As he finds by experience that his patients have the distemper as favorably in warm weather as in the cold, he intends to carry on that branch of medicine throughout the summer." (Oct. 20, 1769, p.228).

As I write this article, we are a few days away from Martin Luther King Day. I was intrigued by the list of public holidays, which the New London Gazette printed for 1769. (Sept. 2, 1768, p. 168). So different! Remember, we were still British subjects. I had to do an internet search to figure out a number of them. (See comments at the end of the list). January 1-New Year's Day; January

18-Queen's birthday (can you name the Queen of England at that time?); Jan. 30-King Charles Martyrdom (when?); also Ash Wednesday; March 25-Lady Day (What was that?); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Easter Friday; April 23-St. George; June 4-King's Birthday (Can you name the King?); Whitson Monday; Whitson Tuesday (What was Whitson?); Aug. 12-Prince of Wales birthday (who?); Sept. 8-Commencement of the American Board; September-Coronation; Oct. 25- Accession; November 1-All Saints Day; Nov. 5-Powder Plot; Nov. 30-Princess Dowager of Wales Birthday; Dec. 25-Christmas Day; Dec. 26-28-Christmas holidays. To the above may be added the provincial holidays: General Fast, General Thanksgiving, General Election; Commencement at the Colleges."

The following are comments on the above 1769 calendar: If nothing else, they provide food for thought. I wonder if the inhabitants of this area actually celebrated most of the holidays and what they did to celebrate. January 18-The Queen of Great Britain and Ireland in that year was Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who was married to King George III. She died in 1818. Jan. 30- "King Charles the martyr...is a title of Charles I, who was King of England, Scotland, and Ireland from 1625 until his execution on Jan. 30, 1649. He dissolved Parliament several times. During a period of Civil War he was executed, supposedly for treason. I will be the first to admit that I know little about this era in British

history so please search further on the internet if you are interested (Royal Museums Greenwich). March 25-Lady Day- According to Wikipedia, in some English speaking and Scandinavian countries this was a common name for the feast of the Annunciation. April 23-St. George. St. George was the patron saint of England. The date marked the date of his death about 303 "when he was tortured and executed in Palestine." (Seems to be Wikipedia). Whitson was another name for Pentecost. Aug. 12-The Prince of Wales in 1769 was George, who became George IV. Nov. 5- "The Gunpowder Plot was a failed 17th century attempt by a group of English Catholics to assassinate King James I and destroy Parliament. (Overview). Nov. 30-Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg was Dowager Princess of Wales. Her husband Frederick, oldest son of King George II, predeceased her in 1751. I wonder what those living two hundred years from now will think of our calendar and the days we celebrate. We have added a number of legal holidays just in my lifetime.

*Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, January 2025. 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 www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.*

## KILLINGLY CHRONICLES JAN. 27 – FEB. 1

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS** (agendas and minutes at [www.killinglyct.gov](http://www.killinglyct.gov))

Monday the 27th  
Solid Waste Subcommittee Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 6 p.m.  
Board of Recreation Meeting (KPRD/Community Center) 6 p.m.  
Republican Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.  
Tuesday the 28th  
Democratic Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 5:30 p.m.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday the 27th  
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day  
Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Homeschool Club (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and older) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday the 28th  
Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Can't Put It Down Book Club (Ages 50 and older) (Library) 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
Virtual Author Talk: An Inside Look at Working with a Literary Agent: A Conversation with Seth Fishman (Library) 1 p.m.  
Wednesday the 29th  
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and older) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.  
Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.  
Intro to Calligraphy (Ages 11-18) (Library) 4:30 to 6 p.m.  
Thursday the 30th  
Story Craft (Ages two to six) (Library) 10:30 to 11 a.m.

### KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/ EVENTS COMING UP...

Virtual High Five 2025 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday)  
Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 3 – Jan. 7 through Feb. 4 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Yoga for every "body" – Session 3 – Jan. 8 through Feb. 12 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Getting in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 3 – Jan. 8 through Feb. 12 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Thursday Yoga with Mary – Session 3 – Jan. 9 through Feb. 13 – Thursdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Tuesday Pound for Adults with Chris – Session 3 – Jan. 7 through Feb. 11 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Homeschool Art Club – 3 Month Session - Tuesdays  
January – Drawing and Painting  
February – Intro to Mixed Media  
March – Maker Madness  
Jan. 7 through March 25 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Zumba with Movement Magic – Jan. 27 through Feb. 10 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors Workshop – Jan. 27 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors Workshop – Feb. 10 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Beginner Salsa Dancing – May 5 through May 19 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing - Session 2 – March 3 through March 17 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 1 – March 3 through March 25 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Outdoor Spring Strength and Conditioning – March 11 through April 22 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 2 – April 28 through June 9 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org).

## Did You Know?

In the year 1783, an unusual event took place in East Putnam. Quadruplets were born at the Fisk farm. The original Fisk house was replaced in 1910, and the house and farm on the Killingly/Putnam line are now owned by Doug and Rosz Cutler. The four children were born on August 26, 1783 and lived into adulthood. It appears their mother, Lydia Mathewson Fisk, may have died in or shortly after childbirth, as her death is recorded as August 1783.

Researched by Sandra Cutler Ames

Putnam Police Department was probably formed circa 1895 when Putnam became a city. Isaac Briggs became its first Captain/Chief.

In 1930's and 1940's, Captain/Chief was depending on the political party that was elected into office. There were 2 candidates, 1 Democrat and 1 Republican. At that time Leo N. DuBois and Harry Wallen were the 2 candidates. They were first cousins.

In 1983 Putnam was consolidated, the city and town were joined into one "Town of Putnam". The District Authority/Special Services Committee was formed. They have the power to appoint the Chief of Police. The present Chief of Police Chris Ferace, was appointed on September 2018.

Researched by Fab Cutler

Page 10  
Memories from Willie Z. scrapbook  
September 9, 1899 Trolleys started to run in Putnam, from Wildwood Park in Killingly to Park Street, under the Arch Bridge onto South Main Street, left to Center Street, right on Chapman Street, left onto King Street, left on Grove Street, down Grove to South to Elm



(Main Street). Thence up to Providence Street, right on Providence to School Street, left on School to Thompson Rd. (Mechanics Street), to Mechanicsville.

Page 27

Trolley cars make their last trips on December 1925.

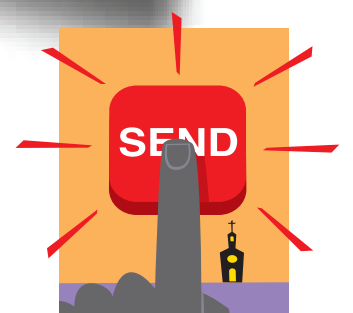
Researched by Willie Zamagni

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# Transportation memorabilia – Part 2

I recently shared my top 10 list of categories that have been selling well and will be highlighting these 10 in upcoming columns. Number 10 on my list is transportation memorabilia. I discussed ships and trains in my last column and today will focus on air travel and automobiles.

Many people have fond memories of their first car or still think about a car they wanted but couldn't afford at the time. Some buyers also simply like automobile advertising signs or other memorabilia that reminds them of traveling by car. In 1961, NBC aired a show called "Merrily We Roll Along" where host Groucho Marx announced that Americans had a "love affair" with automobiles, according to a Bloomberg article. That "love affair" has resulted in a strong market for automobile memorabilia.

Perhaps surprisingly, age isn't the most important thing when it comes to vintage cars. Many collectors want cars from the mid-20th century, the era that they grew up in. Older cars like Model T's in very good condition often bring figures in the \$10,000 range or less. We sold a 1931 Auburn (Auburn Cord Duesenberg company) for \$8,400 in 2020. Newer classic cars have sold much better for us though. A 1970 Plymouth Satellite that needed restoration sold for over \$13,000 in 2023. Another project car,

a 1954 Corvette, sold for nearly \$23,000 and a 1962 Corvette in better condition went for over \$30,000 in 2021.

Other automobile memorabilia also has collector appeal. We sold a small metal building that was part of an Auburn, Mass., gas station several years ago. After paying close to \$3,000, the winning bidder relocated it to New Hampshire where he was recreating an old-time gas station. We also sold some signs from the former gas station that brought figures in the hundreds.

Other auto-related pieces can bring even higher returns. A 1920s Wayne Roman Column Five Gallon Pump in restored condition sold for \$18,000 at auction in 2020. I'm sure some readers of this column remember "Flying A" gas stations. The brand was used until 1970 when it became part of Getty. An embossed porcelain 62 inch "Flying A" sign brought \$5,500 last year. Another sign that many of you will be familiar with is the Mobil Oil Pegasus. The Pegasus was part of Mobil Oil's advertising from 1932 into the 1960s. An older Pegasus neon sign went for \$24,000 at auction in 2015.

Some people prefer to get somewhere faster and travel by air. We sold two col-



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
•••••  
WAYNE TUISKULA

lections of aviation memorabilia in our January 2024 auction. An Admiral Byrd flights over Arctic & Antarctica commemorative bronze medal sold for \$660. The other collection of airline memorabilia came from a Pan Am flight attendant (then called stewardess) who was on the crew with presidents. Her cap and badges brought over \$400. Three silver appreciation coins she received from President Eisenhower reached nearly \$2,900. A piece of fabric from the Hindenburg with documentation sold for nearly \$800 in one of our auctions last year. Airline travel posters are also

desirable. A circa 1940s Pan Am Clipper airplane poster promoting Caribbean travel soared to \$2,500 in a 2023 auction. The winning bidder might have liked the graphics or maybe it was a New Englander dreaming about escaping the cold weather for a Caribbean vacation.

We will be offering some travel posters from a Boson estate in our late spring/early summer major auction. In the meantime, we are cataloging a Civil War memorabilia auction, a Beacon Hill online estate auction, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are always accepting consignments of estate jewelry, sterling



silver, art, coins, and other items in our top 10 list. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

# Be a weather watching gardener

Each gardening season seems to offer new growing challenges. Our gardens are exposed to more drastic and variable weather with changing weather patterns. Floods, droughts, wind, temperature extremes, and unseasonable weather episodes can have immediate and long-term impacts on our plants.

Monitoring and noting these occurrences will help you diagnose immediate and future plant and garden problems. It also reminds us to adjust plant maintenance when these stressors occur and watch for potential insect, disease, and plant decline that may appear in the future.

Create your own weather station with a rain gauge, snow gauge, and high-low thermometer. These gauges monitor the conditions in your backyard as opposed to those reported for nearby locations. Having information from your yard allows you to make any needed adjustments to watering and care to help your plants thrive.

Record significant weather extremes that can negatively impact plant health and longevity. Check with local nature centers, botanical gardens, and extension services for gardening calendars. Many include information on significant weather events in your area. You can then add your observations for future reference. Refer to this information as needed in the future to help diagnose plant problems that may result from these extremes.

Large trees and other established plantings are often overlooked when weather extremes occur. Extended dry periods, temperature extremes, and flooding can stress and weaken these plants making them more susceptible to insect pests, diseases, and decline in the coming years.



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
•••••  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Always select plants suited to the growing conditions and start watching for those that appear to be more tolerant of extremes. Visit local public gardens and consult with your University Extension specialists and other plant experts when selecting new plants for your gardens.

Adapt your landscape maintenance and design to reduce the negative impact of flooding, drought, and temperature extremes. Protect plant roots from temperature extremes with a layer of organic mulch. Incorporate organic matter into the soil to improve drainage and increase the water-holding ability of fast-draining soils. Cover the soil with plants and mulch to help protect the soil from compaction and erosion during heavy downpours. Healthy soil is the key to growing plants that are better able to tolerate environmental stresses.

Manage water that falls on your property. Check with your local municipality for any restrictions or support for these efforts. Create rain gardens to capture,

clean and direct rainfall to groundwater to help manage water where it falls. These also support pollinators and provide added beauty to your landscape. Enlist the help of rain barrels, if permitted, to capture rainwater to use on ornamental plantings and containers when needed.

Take this interest one step further and volunteer to be part of a network of volunteer weather watchers. The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a non-profit community-based network of volunteers that provides daily measurements of rain, hail, and snow that fall in their backyards.

The goal of the Network is to provide more localized weather information to scientists, researchers, resource managers, decision makers and more. The data is used for natural resource, educational and research applications.

Weather watching is a great project for the family or classroom. It helps boost gardening success while increasing our awareness and knowledge of what's happening around us.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, Revised Edition, and *Small Space*



Melinda Myers

Rain barrels can help manage the water on your property and provide water to use in your gardens.

Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Email Us!



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

Email us your thoughts to: [brendan@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:brendan@villagernewspapers.com)



We'd Love To Hear From You!

# Eight days a week

Sometimes, life feels so busy I dream of having one more day in the week. How great would that be? Eight days a week - just like that Beatles song! It sounds great, but let's think this through.

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
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MOORE

It could be a day of leisure: no emails, errands, or to-do lists. Just sleep in, read a book, or spend hours binge-watching your favorite show without guilt. It could revolutionize how we approach self-care and mental health.

It could be the day you finally learn to paint, start that podcast, or bake croissants from scratch! Imagine having dedicated time for personal growth—no interruptions, just you and your creative spark.

Imagine the extra family time. You could host family dinners, volunteer in your community, or reconnect with old friends!

You could catch up on everything you didn't finish earlier in the week. Grocery shopping, home projects, errands—you name it. We could call it the "Get your life together" day!

It sounds great, but adding an eighth day might plunge the world into chaos. Holidays would go

rogue. Weeks wouldn't align with months, so Christmas might land in February, and New Year's could appear in July.

Imagine singing "Jingle Bells" in a heatwave or explaining to your kids why Thanksgiving dinner now involves sunscreen and barbecue grills instead of turkey and mashed potatoes. Santa might quit in protest!

Payroll would be a nightmare—when is payday? Who knows! HR would give up entirely, and accountants would cry themselves to sleep.

Solstices and equinoxes, those dependable markers of seasons, would go completely out of whack. Farmers wouldn't know when to plant crops. Benjamin Franklin, who started the *Farmer's Almanac*, might come back to write a pamphlet titled: "Leave the Calendar Alone, You Fools!"

Your circadian rhythm—already clinging to life thanks to caffeine—would give up entirely. Owls would start hooting at rush hour; your cat would decide 3 p.m. is now breakfast time, and your smartwatch would scream, "I don't know what day it is!"

Okay, eight days - bad idea. Still, seven doesn't feel like enough.

Let's flip the scenario: what if we lived in a world where the week only had six days? You don't know what you got until it's gone.

Suddenly, the seven-day week we take for granted would feel like a luxury. That seventh day—the one we rely on for rest, errands, or just catching our breath—would be gone. Imagine the chaos of squeezing everything we currently do into fewer days.

Without the seventh day, weekends would shrink, leaving little time to recover from the grind of the workweek. Rest wouldn't be optional—it would become a desperate need. Perhaps we'd have to find new ways to recharge during the week, taking shorter, more deliberate breaks to avoid burnout.

Losing the seventh day would make finding time for hobbies or creative pursuits even harder. Gone are the lazy afternoons spent painting, writing, or tinkering with a new project. Play and creativity would need to be crammed into the workweek, likely pushed aside by more "urgent" demands.

Family dinners, game nights, and community

events would become a rarity. Without the seventh day, many of us would feel perpetually rushed, sacrificing time for relationships, and the value of connection would become clearer, but finding the time for it would be even harder.

Life without that seventh day means laundry piles up, errands get delayed, and "to-do" lists spill into the rest of the week. Chaos would become the new normal as we struggle to fit everything into an already packed schedule.

If the world switched to a six-day week, the chaos would be equally absurd as eight days a week but in reverse!

Einstein might remark, "Yes, time is relative, but this is ridiculous!"

Okay, maybe the problem isn't with the number of days. It's not about having more or less time; it's about making the time I already have more meaningful.

If you're like me, wishing for more time in the day or more days in the week, it's not about getting that extra time; it's about making the time we have work better.

The solution isn't in more days—it's in making the ones we already have truly count.

# OBITUARIES

## Barbara "Casper" Mingolla March 23, 1959 – January 7, 2024



Anyone who knew Barbara always saw her in her home in Sutton, on her Morgan horse. An accomplished equestrian, she competed successfully in AAA horse shows, jumping with Tanheath Hunt Club, or driving Clydesdales or her Morgans, she perfected her knowledge of horse's legs/muscles, and she attributed her riding skills and knowledge to Merrimac Farm, Dr. H. MacMillan.

While still in high school, she was asked to be part of the top thoroughbred racing team of Woodford "Woody" Stephens, a once in a lifetime job, at New York Racing Association's Belmont Park, N.Y. She became one of the first women out-riders, opening the doors for other women in the industry. Working with top trainers Alan Jerkins, Al Sweitzer, she could always be heard laughing, saying, "Can you imagine, they pay us to work here and Secretariat is next door!" A most exciting time in horse racing history. She could always be seen with her late best friend jockey Mary Bacon, Ron Turcott, Stephen Cauthern, and other top jockeys, laughing the day away!

Working with the great "Woody" Stephens, they won 5 consecutive Belmont Stakes, with Conquistador, Cielo, Caveat, Swale, Creme Fraiche, Danzig Connection, The Preakness, Blue man, Kentucky Derby's, Swale and Cannoad, Horse of the year, trainer of the year, Kentucky Oaks, plus other top races. It was truly the heyday of horse racing at Belmont Park. In her off-time Barbara could often be found at her second home, in Saratoga Springs, New

York. Seeing a change in the industry, Barbara opened her own stables, Folksong Farm, where she bred Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs, Morgan horses, and opened the doors to private, off the track stabling of Thoroughbred Racehorses across the USA. She enjoyed photography and taking photos of people in their jobs. She often found people working at their jobs, sometimes for 30 years, and never ever took a photo of what they did. She would surprise them with their own photos and flowers!

In an industry that has turned horrific, she started to rescue abused and drugged racehorses, finding permanent homes for over 4200 racehorses, across the USA. A sometimes dangerous job.

Working with judges, police, and other locals, she opened her farm, Folksong Farm to abused/neglected/divorced children, who, as Barbara would say, "just need a small break in their lives, and get away from adults, who put children in adult situations. It always amazes me, what a child will tell a horse, and the 1200 lb. horses {complete with a red cape}, intuitively knew, and in making them feel safer; they would always help them open up and tell the horses exactly how they were feeling."

Barbara leaves her best friend Jon Foote; friend Ellen Laprise and her husband Stephen, Debra Ronick and her husband John; longtime friend Eugene Scafidi and his daughter Gina; and all her friends from Belmont and Saratoga Springs.

A celebration of life in Barbara's honor will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

## William (Bill) Berry, 60



William (Bill) Berry, 60, passed away peacefully on Wednesday January 15, 2025. Born on June 11, 1964, Bill was the son of the late Jack and Barbara (Baird) Berry.

He is survived by his siblings, Suzanne (Paul) Faucher, Robert Berry, Kimberly (John) West, James (Karla) Berry, and Anne (Todd) Cunneen. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Bill was prede-

ceased by sisters Pamela Corey and Annette Verdon and brothers Jack Berry, Thomas Berry and David Berry.

Bill was a sweet, witty and fun-loving guy. He thoroughly enjoyed the Yankees, wrestling, bowling and dancing. He also enjoyed spending time with his family.

Bill's family would like to give a special thanks to all his wonderful caregivers who cared for him and treated him like family throughout the years.

Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. tilling-hastfh.com

## Irene Ross



Irene Ross died peacefully on January 4, 2025. She was born in Berlin Germany on July 4, 1931 to Wilfred Cohn Hulse and Ilse (Florsheim) Hulse. She emigrated to the New York City in 1937 with her parents.

She was proud to be among the first class of girls at the Bronx High School of Science, graduated from Duke University and Columbia University School of Social Work. She met John Ross at her cousin's wedding and they married on June 26, 1954. They had three children.

Irene had many lifelong friends from NYC, college, graduate school and her 45 years living in Woodstock Connecticut. She worked as a social worker and was

involved in community organizations such as the League of Women Voters and Opera New England. She especially enjoyed the many years of bridge playing where she made many friends. She enjoyed traveling the world with family and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband and daughter Margaret. She is survived by her sons David and Bill, daughter in laws Diane and Eden, grandchildren Caroline, James, Jack and Sam, and great grandchild Indigo, and their spouses and significant others who made her life full.

The family would like to thank Irene's longtime friend Janet who was a great help in Irene's last years and the staff at Creamery Brook and Pierce Memorial who treated her with compassion and humor. Share a memory at [Smithandwalkerfh.com](http://Smithandwalkerfh.com)

## Elisabeth Fulton

### March 29, 1935 - January 4, 2025



North Grosvenordale - Elisabeth (Wolff) Fulton, 89, of Stawicki Road, North Grosvenordale, died Saturday, January 4, 2025, at home with her family. She was the loving

wife of the late George Arthur Fulton. Born in Munich, Germany, she was the daughter of the late Johann Wilhelm and Anna (Magdalena) Wolff.

Elisabeth from her teen years onward was very active in her ministry as being one of Jehovah's Witnesses. She loved to volunteer her time in sharing the beautiful truths found in the Bible with whomever she met. Besides being a devoted homemaker to her family, she loved to cook and

travel and just loved being with all her family and friends.

Elisabeth is survived by daughter, Hannelore Wiik and her husband John of North Grosvenordale, CT; brother, Wilhelm Wolff of Munich, Germany; sister, Erna Kalen of South Boston, MA; grandson, Joshua Jerimiah Norton; two great-granddaughters, Kayla Norton, Carly Millette, and many nieces and nephews here and in Germany.

She was predeceased by her granddaughter Jasmine Elisabeth Norton, 3 brothers Karl, Alphonse and Hans, and a sister Hannelore, all from Germany.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, February 1st at 2pm at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Dayville, CT.

For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Robert Patrick Wood

### March 17, 1941–December 22, 2024



**Robert Patrick Wood, the Quiet Man Bridge, County Galway, Ireland, 2013.**

Long-time Pomfret resident Robert Patrick Wood passed away at his home, surrounded by family, on December 22, 2024. He was eighty-three years old. Bob, or "Woody," was known for his dry humor, high standards, and love of country and rural life. He was born in Willimantic, Connecticut on St.

Patrick's Day in 1941, during a blizzard (as he liked to say). He was raised on a small farm in Windham Center and attended St. Joseph's School, Windham Center Elementary, and Windham High School, graduating in 1959. His athletic ability was well-known throughout his life on Willimantic Little League, high school, college, and city league teams. He was recruited by Dartmouth College for football when he was in high school. A Willimantic Chronicle article referred to him as one of the best young baseball players in the city. He was known for his home runs that soared over the fence of the Recreation Park baseball field in Willimantic. They led to an invitation to try out for the New York Yankees baseball team. He credited his strength and ability to working on farms when he was young. In later years, he was a founding member of the Windham Elders softball team and played for ten years. He played golf until months before he died.

Bob graduated from Willimantic State College, now known as Eastern Connecticut State University, in 1967 and obtained a master's in education in 1981. College was interrupted by service in the army, where he was a Movements Control Specialist as part of the US Army's Transportation Corps at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Georgia. He was an expert marksman and known for his powerful swing on the Fort McPherson baseball team. He hit a home run to secure an upset win against a strong Fort Jackson team. Shortly before the Vietnam conflict, he was given an early honorable discharge to return to college.

Bob worked for thirty years to help the elderly, handicapped, and underprivileged in Northeastern Connecticut. He began with the Department of State Welfare in Norwich, Connecticut in 1968. In 1980, he became a case manager at the Mansfield Training School in Mansfield, Connecticut. He oversaw the de-institutionalization of developmentally disabled residents in preparation for the closing of the school as required by a federal court order. He provided education, training, and housing within the community for former residents. In 1983, he became the coordinator of the Dempsey Regional Center in Putnam, Connecticut for compliance with the court order to close Mansfield Training School. He continued to provide social services to developmentally disabled children and adults and became the Assistant Director of Case Management at the Dempsey Center in 1988.

Bob's strong sense of community included service in the Pomfret Lions Club, the Pomfret Library, and the Pomfret Fire Department. His most notable contribution was as Vice President of Pomfret's South Cemetery, where he worked tirelessly to restore landscaping, driveways, fencing, and numerous centuries-old gravestones. On summer days, he could be seen with Cemetery President Paul Nelson straightening stones that had fallen over or building forms to repair broken stones. He restored the wrought iron gates at the entrance to the cemetery and was working to add stone hitching posts between the graveyards when he passed away.

History, Irish lore, tradition, and preservation drove Bob's passion for antiquity and the monuments of those who went before us. He visited graveyards wherever he traveled, including that of his favorite poet, William Yeats, in Ireland. Yeats' epitaph reflected Bob's view on the transience of life:

Cast a cold Eye  
On Life, on Death.  
Horsemen pass by.

Bob's burial will be next to his son Patrick amongst the gravestones that he preserved. They lie near the home where he died. "Hillside" is an 1840 Victorian, which housed the first Catholic chapel in Pomfret. Bob worked for decades to rebuild and maintain its structures and fields. He built barns so he and his family could raise horses, Belted Galloway beef cows, chickens, sheep, pigs, and guinea hens. It was his legacy to bring an old farm back to life so that it would become an oasis for his family and enhance the rural character of Pomfret for generations to come.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, Genevieve McShea and Robert Homer Wood of Windham Center, and by his youngest son, Patrick David Wood. He leaves behind his wife of forty-seven years, Marie Lisette Rimer; his eldest son, Colin Patrick Wood; Colin's wife, Jennifer; their children, Addison and Raegan; Patrick's twin sister, Elizabeth Antoinette Wood; her partner, Victoria; his brother, John Francis Wood; John's son, John Mathew Wood; his brother, James Michael Wood; James' wife, Allison, and James' children, Andrew Craig Wood, Timothy James Wood, and Jessica Lynn Malovic.

A funeral will be held Saturday, April 12, 2025, 11:00 am, Clark Chapel, Pomfret School with a burial at South Cemetery and a reception to follow. Donations in Bob's memory may be made to the Patrick Wood Prize, established by Bob and Lisette after Patrick's death in 2006. The prize is awarded to meritorious day students attending Pomfret School, where Patrick was valedictorian in 2001. Donations can be made online at: <https://www.patrickwoodprize.org/donate>. Checks can be made payable to: "The Patrick Wood Fund" and sent to: Pomfret School, Advancement Office, 398 Pomfret Street, Pomfret, Connecticut 06258.

*Gilman & Valade* 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Funeral Homes and Crematory

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## LEGALS

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF William R Morse (25-00005)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of North-east Probate Court, by decree dated, January 14, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Svetlana M Morse  
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN,  
ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD,  
50 ROUTE 171,  
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
January 24, 2025

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Robert P. Wood (25-00006)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of North-east Probate Court, by decree dated, January 14, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Marie Lisette Rimer  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND,  
LONGO & HIGGINS,

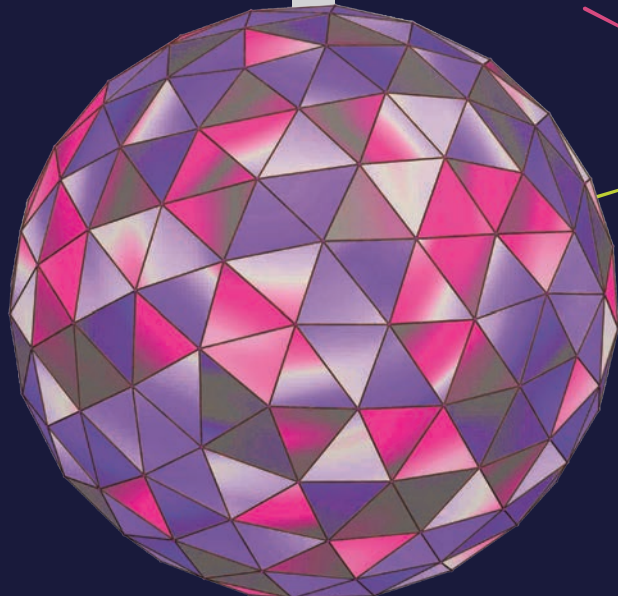
168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528,  
PUTNAM, CT 06260  
January 24, 2025

### TOWN OF KILLINGLY BOROUGH OF DANIELSON TAX AND SEWER USE NOTICE

The third quarter installment of real estate and personal property taxes for the Town of Killingly and the Borough of Danielson and the second half of the Sewer Use charge is due January 1, 2025. Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are also due January 1, 2025. Taxes and Sewer Use will become delinquent on February 3, 2025. All are subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST DUE.

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, during the posted hours, by mail, online, or in our drop box. Please visit our website for full details and online payments [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org).

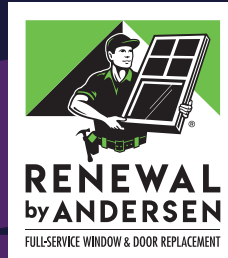
April Lamothe, CCMC  
Revenue Collector  
Town of Killingly  
December 27, 2024  
January 10, 2025  
January 24, 2025



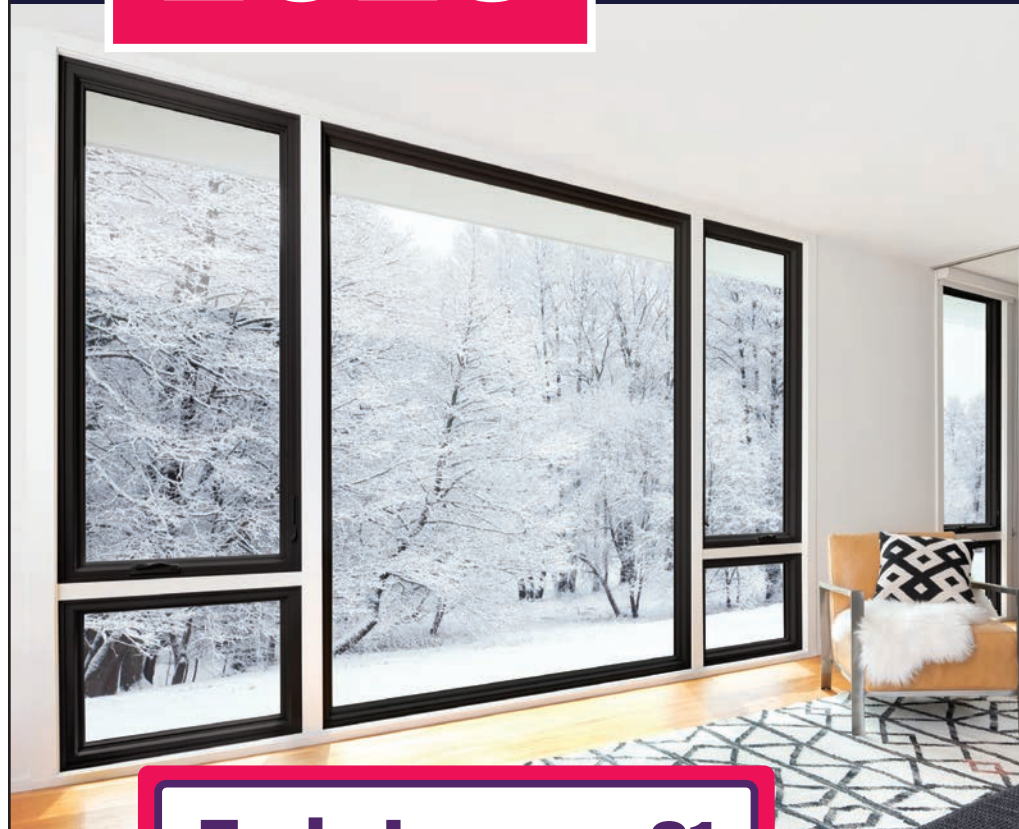
New Year's

# WINDOW & DOOR

Sales Event!



# 2025



Say "YES!" to a more comfortable and beautiful home in 2025.

The ball has dropped, the new year has arrived, and we're still feeling festive. So, we're keeping the celebration rolling throughout January with a tremendous sale on our windows and doors!



Ends January 31

Buy 1 window or door, get 1 window or door **40% OFF**

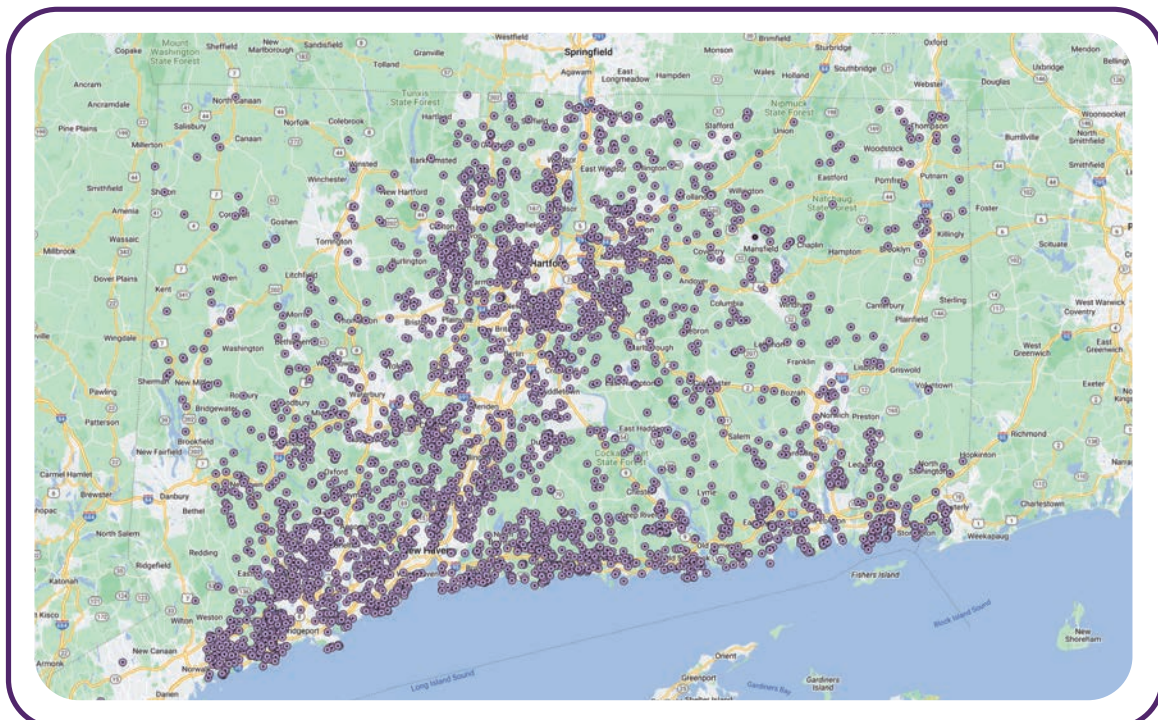
with

**NO** Money Down  
**NO** Payments  
**NO** Interest for 1 YEAR<sup>2</sup> if paid in full

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

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# 959-456-0067

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off - applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. \$400 discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 1/31/25 with the purchase then occurring on or before 2/10/25. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup>Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.