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KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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Killingly Springtime Classic 5K draws largest number of runners since revival

KILLINGLY — Despite cloudy skies and periods of rain, more than 170 runners and walkers took to the streets of Danielson on May 9 for the 10th annual Killingly Springtime Classic 5K, marking the largest turnout since the race was revived a decade ago.

With more than 200 participants registered and 173 crossing the starting line at Davis Park, this year's event demonstrated the strength of a tradition that continues to grow year after year.

The race, which dates back to the Springtime Festival road race of the 1970s, was revived in 2015 by Race Director Christina Vogt. Inspired by her own experience running the race as a child, Vogt made it her mission to see the event return.

"This was my first 5K ever, back in eighth grade," Vogt shared in a recent radio interview. "When it wasn't happening anymore, I wanted it to. I reached out to the original race director, and we sat down and talked about bringing it back. It was something I really loved, and I wanted the community to have it again."

Since its revival, the race



Katrina Loomis, 5, the race's youngest participant, is cheered on by her brother Christopher (left) as she is accompanied along the course by Killingly High School wrestler Nate Comtois and Killingly Youth Wrestling coach Dave Cathell.

has supported a variety of local organizations. This year, proceeds benefited Christy's Angels, a non-profit dedicated to helping individuals and families in Windham County who are navigating a cancer diagnosis through practical, everyday support.

For Cale Ferland, founder

and President of Christy's Angels, the day was about more than numbers.

"To see this many people come out, even in the rain, says everything about this community," Ferland said. "This race is about showing up for one another. Every step taken today helps us continue support-

ing families who are going through some of the hardest moments of their lives."

The 5K course, which begins and ends at Davis Park, winds through Main Street, Maple Street, and North Street, offering both a physical challenge and a familiar route for many longtime participants. True

to its roots, the event welcomed runners and walkers of all ages and abilities, including first-time participants and local groups.

This year's race reflected a wide range of participants, with the oldest runner at 78 and the youngest just five years old.

Among them was

73-year-old Stephen Johnson of Coventry, who described simply being at the starting line as a victory. After recently undergoing two knee replacements along with the placement of a pacemaker and defibrillator, Johnson, who had spent a lifetime running, was not sure he would ever race again.

Saturday marked his first return to a racecourse. Though he chose to walk, he said the experience meant everything.

"I may have come in last," Johnson said, "but I had the time of my life."

This year's race also featured strong performances at the front of the pack, with several runners finishing in under 20 minutes, an impressive benchmark for a 5K.

Top finishers included:

- Overall Male Winner: Seth Varin – 16:41
- Overall Female Winner: Linda Spooner – 19:53
- Second Place Male: Dylan McMerriman – 18:17
- Second Place Female: Cindy Ouillette – 20:20
- Third Place Male: John Liu – 18:25
- Third Place Female: Alexa Norquist – 20:32

In addition to individ-

Turn To 5K page A7

Local communities to receive municipal, education aid through state budget

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Gov. Ned Lamont has announced town-by-town increases in state funding across Connecticut as a result of a fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment that passed the Connecticut General Assembly with bi-partisan support.

In April, the governor released statements praising the plan to provide cities and towns across the state with an additional \$170 million in schools funding and \$100 million

in municipal aid from the state's Affordability Fund. The goal of these allocations would be to help close funding gaps to prevent towns and school districts from forcing communities to shoulder the burden of increased costs without forcing communities and schools to make cuts to lower their spending plans. The plan finally came to fruition on May 2 with a positive vote by the general assembly.

"By closing funding gaps for our schools and municipalities, we can help communities avoid raising

property taxes while keeping classrooms running and local services strong," Lamont said in a statement announcing the funding shares. "Affordability is a top priority for this administration, and this investment delivers real relief where people feel it most. I am grateful to Senate President Looney, Speaker Ritter, and the overwhelming majority of Democrat and Republican legislators who voted to approve this budget and send it to my desk."

The allocation has been touted as a bi-partisan effort

Turn To BUDGET page A7

Longtime local philanthropist Betty Hale passes away



Betty Hale

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

POMFRET — The Quiet Corner lost a legend on May 6 with the passing of Betty

Hale, a local philanthropist whose contributions helped support health initiatives, non-profits, and the arts throughout the entire region. She was 96.

Born Alice Elizabeth Uhler, many simply knew her as Betty Hale. Over the course of her life, Hale, alongside her late husband Newell Hale, helped shape several major community initiatives in the region and while many would consider her an icon of Northeastern Connecticut, she herself embraced a humble persona as she embarked on a mission of philanthropy. Her life and many achievements were chronicled in an obituary posted by Smith &

Walker Funeral Home.

What many in the region likely know Hale for most is her generosity and her support for local health, schools, and non-profits. The Hale name is well known due to its inclusion on several buildings, a sign of her and her husband's never-ending generosity and support. Betty and Newell Hale chaired Day Kimball Hospital's New Century Campaign which helped establish the Hale Medical Pavilion, adding new and upgraded services to the hospital including a surgical and birthing center. She continued to support

Turn To HALE page A7

KHS Packs 10,000 meals for local food pantries



KILLINGLY — Killingly High School student organizations raised over \$4,500 to run a Meals of Hope event on May 29.

More than 40 students came together Wednesday after school to measure, fill, seal, and package 10,584 meals that are being donat-

ed to local food pantries in Eastern Connecticut, including Killingly's own Backpack program that helps feed students and families

in our town. Students from the following organizations assisted in the raising of the funds and the packing of meals: Bible Club, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), FFA, Killingly Student Council, Killingly Transition Program, Killingly Yearbook, National Honor Society, and The Red Zone (our KHS school store). We would like to thank the following businesses for partnering with us for this event: The Bakers Dozen, Sweet Peas, Landscaping by Kevin LLC, The Danielson Elks, and Knowlton Farms. We couldn't have done this without the support of our local businesses who believe in giving back to their communities.

FFA Members attended

the Washington Leadership Conference last summer, where they participated in a similar event, and wanted to take advantage of the impactful community service opportunity to help our small corner of Connecticut. Last year, more than 50 million Americans turned to Food Banks and Food Pantries for assistance, and the need continues to grow. Today in Connecticut, more than 500,000 residents are hungry, and Killingly High School students are doing their part to help.

Kaya Drinkwater (Class of 2027, Member of FBLA, FFA, and NHS) told us, "The most rewarding part of volunteering for Meals of Hope was knowing that just by volunteering my time,

allowed someone to not go to bed hungry that night."

KHS looks forward to distributing all of the meals packed over the course of the next two weeks to our local food banks and pantries.

During the meal packing event, Aiden Lamotte (Class of 2026, Member of NHS and the FFA) shared, "Something I've learned about this community is how much comradery there is in town, and how well people here come together to support a good cause. It is really something special and something to be proud of."

Giving back to our community is something our school takes pride in, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to help.

Barks & Blooms to bring pets, families together in Killingly this weekend

KILLINGLY — Dogs, flowers, local businesses, and community spirit will all come together Sunday, May 17, as the Killingly Business Association hosts the Barks & Blooms Spring Festival at Killingly Intermediate School.

The free event, organized through the association's "Pawsitively Killingly" initiative, will run from noon to 3 p.m. and is designed as a family-friendly celebration of pets and the people who love them. Organizers say

the festival will also serve as a fundraiser supporting Doggoholic Rescue and future Pawsitively Killingly community events.

The afternoon begins even earlier for pet owners looking for some exercise with their four-legged companions. A pre-event "Pack Walk" through nearby wooded trails is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., giving dog lovers a chance to socialize before the festival officially opens.

Throughout the afternoon, visitors will find a variety of activities for both people and pets. Adoptable puppies from Doggoholic Rescue will be available onsite, while vendors and activity stations will offer face painting, henna tattoos, dog massages, raffles, and paw print stamping.

One of the more unusual attractions is expected to be the "Pupcasso Painting" activity hosted by Happy Hounds LLC, where dogs can create their own paintings using pet-safe materials and peanut butter. Organizers noted that peanut butter will be present at that booth for allergy awareness.

Scheduled activities throughout the day will include live dog training demonstrations by Colonial Dog Training at 12:30 p.m., and again at 2:30 p.m. The demonstrations are intended to provide owners with practical training tips and techniques they can use at home with their own pets.

At 1:30 p.m., the festival will host its "Paws and Petals Parade," encouraging owners to dress their pets in spring-themed outfits for a community costume walk. Organizers said both pets and owners are encouraged to participate.

The event will conclude with the announcement of the Pet Photo Contest winner at 2:45 p.m.

Festival organizers are also inviting community members to honor current or past pets through honorary pawprint memorial signs, which will be displayed during the event. The signs are available for purchase in advance for \$25 through the event website.

Vendor space remains available as well, with organizers continuing to accept applications from businesses and community groups

interested in participating in the afternoon festivities.

The Pawsitively Killingly initiative was created by the Killingly Business Association to highlight the town's growing cluster of pet-focused businesses and organizations centered around Main Street. Participating businesses connected with the initiative include Bark-Society, Two Dogs Coffee Shop, Chubby Dog Coffee Co. & Gaming Bar, and CrossFit Underdog Union.

According to organizers, Barks & Blooms follows the success of the initiative's earlier Bark Harvest event and continues its goal of bringing residents together while supporting local rescue organizations and pet-centered businesses.

Admission to the festival is free and open to the public. Organizers noted that dogs and other pets are welcome but must remain leashed at all times.

More information, registration details, honorary pawprint purchases, and vendor applications are available at the Killingly Business Association Web site.

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Katie Ben of Brooklyn helps chronicle history of Worcester NAACP branch

WORCESTER — A group of Clark students and professors has spent nearly two years poring over documents and records to compile a history of the Worcester branch of the NAACP.

Fred Taylor, the branch's president, reached out to Professor Melinda Marchand, visiting assistant professor of history, through a Clark Community Engagement networking event to propose the idea of having students write a history of the branch. Marchand and fellow professor Ousmane Power-Greene have been collaborating on several phases of the project with students and community members.

They started by collecting and organizing documents, records, and promotional works, creating an archive to determine how much of the branch's history could be captured from existing material. Throughout spring 2024, Clarkies and NAACP volunteers collaborated during archiving workshops that were held every few weeks.

Over the summer of 2024, Katie Ben '25, M.A. '26, developed a tool that helped everyone see what gaps in the research still needed to be filled.

In spring 2025, Weslee Tyler '27 and Borodine Chery '26 conducted additional research at The College of the Holy Cross and started collecting oral histories from older NAACP members. This work illuminated the true breadth of people involved in the branch, and how much of the history had never been formally preserved. The combination of written records and personal stories built a fuller picture of the branch's past.

The archive is meant to be something future researchers can come back to - it's not just a one-time project. Tyler and Chery say it felt meaningful to handle original materials that would become part of a permanent historical record.

During summer 2025, Ben, Gwyneth Owen '26, and Natasha Devlin '26 visited the Museum of Worcester for additional research

and collected even more oral histories from NAACP members and people connected to the branch. They compiled a narrative history of the Worcester NAACP that's about 40 pages long.

Throughout fall 2025, Ben and Devlin worked on digital story maps to accompany the written history. The project culminated in November when the group held a panel-style discussion and presentation of its research with the NAACP.

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

Woodstock Cemetery Association celebrates 100 years

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Cemetery Association (WCA) this year marks its 100-year anniversary overseeing the care and preservation of the Woodstock Hill Cemetery, and the cemetery's 337th year, along with our nation's 250th anniversary. In recognition, the association will hand out small Betsy Ross-style flags on sticks to the first 50 Memorial Day celebrants to visit our table during the May 25 festivities. The table will be located at the cemetery's stone wall boundary along Hill Cemetery Road, near the First Congregational Church of Woodstock prior to the parade.

The Woodstock Hill Cemetery is both Woodstock's and Windham County's oldest burial ground, dating to 1689, of 16 cemeteries in the town, according to the Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Records. The original four acres, including the village common—on which town musters were held—was set aside in 1686 by the original settlers, members of the town's first Congregational Church. In the ensuing years, adjoining land has been added. The cemetery sits adjacent to the First Congregational Church of Woodstock (FCCW) and opposite the village green. More than 1,300 graves and cremation interments are enclosed within the historic stone-walled property.

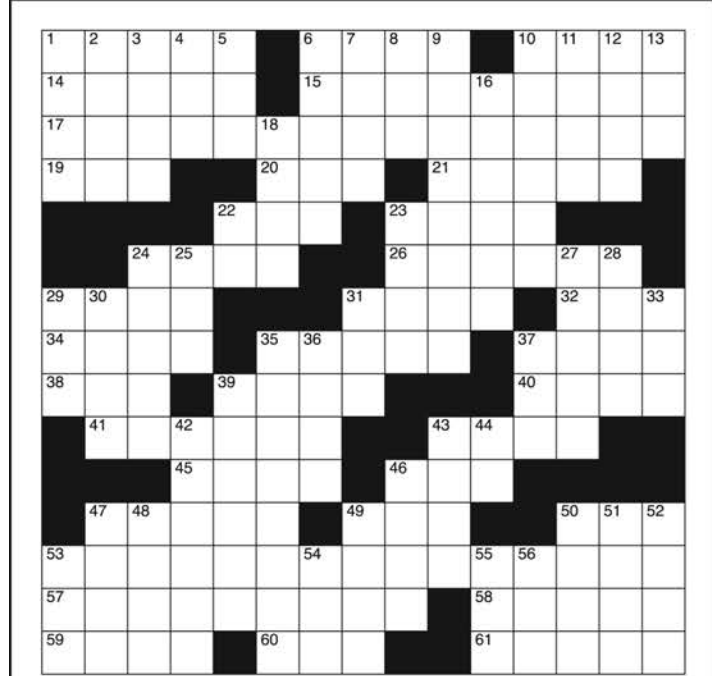
While care of the cemetery—the burial ground for congregants of the FCCW—was executed faithfully before 1926, that year the association incorporated as the Woodstock Cemetery Association of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Woodstock, Inc. The name later was shortened to the Woodstock Cemetery Association, Inc. It comprises seven elected trustees, in addition to an ex officio member, Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, the pastor of the FCCW. The cemetery grounds are maintained by long-time sexton Steve Brainard. Among the association's duties are cemetery maintenance and management, and the prudent administration of funds for future care, expansion, and

improvement. Carl Wisnosky is the current WCA president, having succeeded Tom Chase, who served as president for over 10 years.

Among the persistent challenges facing ancient cemeteries, according to Mr. Wisnosky, are erosion and the settling of monuments, invasive shrub and tree species such as Tree of Heaven, changing attitudes toward burial practices, and the care of very old headstones—many damaged by acid rain and overgrown with obscuring lichen. Attending to these tasks safeguards the cemetery's place as a dynamic link to the town's long history and residents, ancestors, and as a cultural touchstone and treasury of funerary art.

The history and values of a community are inscribed in the names and epitaphs of its cemeteries. Among those buried at Woodstock Hill cemetery are veterans of King Philip's and Queen Anne's Wars, the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the Civil War, both World Wars, and other veterans, politicians, publishers, college presidents, and countless families who lived and toiled in Woodstock.

Reflecting on the cemetery's long history, former association president Tom Chase remarked, "It's wonderful that we've been going for so long and are still an active cemetery!"



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notable casino destination
- 6. Current units
- 10. Roman military unit
- 14. American lizard
- 15. Fates
- 17. The Yankees have lots of these
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Mimic
- 21. Remove from the record
- 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- 23. A way to fight
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Contract
- 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 31. Tree species
- 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- 34. Perfect
- 35. "Partner" to groans
- 37. Jewish calendar month
- 38. Where wrestlers work
- 39. Egotistical
- 40. Potted plants
- 41. Containers
- 43. Large, flightless birds
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. American spies
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Area units
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and ___

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal jaws
- 2. Small water buffalo
- 3. An appliance has one
- 4. Every
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. Very skilled
- 7. No more than what is specified
- 8. Tire measurement
- 9. Towers
- 10. Forward
- 11. Jacob ___, American journalist
- 12. Vale
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Middle Eastern nation
- 18. Exhausts
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. The complete duration of something
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Singular
- 27. Cod genus
- 28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 29. Resistance unit
- 30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 31. Cast out
- 33. 60-minute periods
- 35. Most worn
- 36. European river
- 37. Atomic mass unit
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Body parts
- 43. Ireland
- 44. Partner to Pa
- 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
- 47. Dutch settler
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. A monthly expense
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian state
- 55. Air freight provider
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

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From fear to confidence

YMCA CAMP WOODSTOCK BUILDS LIFELONG WATER SAFETY SKILLS FOR SUMMER

WOODSTOCK — At YMCA Camp Woodstock, the journey to water safety often begins with something simple, but powerful: overcoming fear.

For one camper, that journey started at the water's edge.

At the beginning of the summer, young camper, Esan, hesitated to enter the lake during his initial swim check, unsure and apprehensive about the water. With encouragement from staff and individualized support, he gradually built confidence throughout the week.

"I was really scared because I didn't know how to swim, I didn't know what to do," shared Esan. "But after taking swimming lessons with my instructors, I'm not scared anymore, and know what I can do in the water!"

By the end, he was swimming in the camp's monitored "yellow" zone with a personal flotation device, putting his face in the water, and even kayaking alongside his cabin-mates.

Moments like these are at the heart of the waterfront program at Camp Woodstock, part of the YMCA of Greater Hartford, where water safety is not just taught, but practiced, reinforced, and lived every day.

Different from pool-based programs, Camp Woodstock operates on a 75-acre lake, creating a dynamic environment where safety, awareness, and skill development are essential. For more than a century, the camp has built its waterfront program around the simple idea that learning to swim is not just recreational, but an essential life-saving skill.

That philosophy is supported by a structured system designed to meet each camper where they are.

Every camper, and staff members too, participate in a mandatory swim check on the first day of camp, a longstanding tradition that evaluates real-world readiness through a series of skills, including jumping into the water, completing a 50-meter swim,



A safe waterfront environment starts with a highly trained team. Camp Woodstock staff members hold many certifications necessary to accompany young people in their swimming journey.

treading water, and floating on the back.

"It removes guesswork," said Anthony Gronski, Executive Director of YMCA Camp Woodstock. "Assessing campers' skills allows our staff to tailor supervision and instruction appropriately."

The results determine access to designated swim areas and help staff tailor instruction and supervision. Campers who need additional support are automatically enrolled in daily swim lessons, ensuring consistent growth and progress in swim and water-readiness.

"This isn't about pass or fail. It's about understanding where each child is and helping them grow from there," said Gronski. "We meet every camper where they are and help them build confidence step by step, stroke by stroke."

That growth is made possible by a highly

trained waterfront team. Staff members hold certifications including American Red Cross Lifeguarding, Waterfront Lifeguarding, and AED training, and complete on-site training specific to the camp's lake environment. In addition, multiple Water Safety Instructors (WSIs) provide daily, skill-based instruction focused on stroke development, endurance, and water confidence.

Rather than treating swim lessons as optional, Camp Woodstock integrates them into the daily experience for those who need them, which reinforces skills through repetition and personal guidance.

Beyond technique, campers learn crucial habits that extend far beyond the lake, including understanding personal limits, respecting water environments, and knowing how to respond in emergency situations.

For many, like

Esan, the result is not just improved ability but a complete shift in mindset.

"When working with our campers, especially starting where Esan started," reflected Gronski. "It was wonderful to see his confidence grow, and we're very proud of his accomplishments."

As summer approaches and families prepare for time spent in and around water, programs like the one at Camp Woodstock highlight the importance of early exposure, structured instruction, and consistent reinforcement.

Water safety experts emphasize that building these skills at a young age can significantly reduce risk while increasing confidence and independence in aquatic environments.

With thousands of pools nationwide, and more than a dozen pools, waterfronts, and aquatics facilities available across the Greater Hartford family, the YMCA of Greater Hartford continues to lead efforts to make water safety education accessible to all children, regardless of background or income. Programs like Safety Around Water are designed to reduce the risk of drowning while empowering kids with confidence and skills that last a lifetime, all while keeping learning fun and engaging.

For campers, each lesson represents progress, not just in skill, but in confidence that carries from the lake to every waterfront experience this summer, and beyond.

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Poets Across Generations unite for "Bridging the Gaps" in support of young writers

WOODSTOCK POET TO TAKE PART

HARTFORD — A special poetry reading exploring how generational experiences shape our outlooks will be held on June 7, 3-4:30 p.m. at The Mark Twain House & Museum. This event brings together awarded Connecticut poets and emerging voices for an afternoon of storytelling, connection, and community.

"Bridging the Gaps: An Afternoon of Poetry" invites audiences into a moving and thought-provoking literary experience that brings together Connecticut poets representing different decades of life. Through intimate, powerful readings, they will explore the universal moments that define us, from childhood and family to loss, resilience, caregiving, love, and transformation. This program aims to find what binds the generations together.

Hosted by Poet Laureate of Glastonbury Victoria Nordlund and Poets at Large Coordinator Karen Warinsky, the afternoon will feature a diverse lineup of celebrated voices, including UConn Professor Sean F. Forbes, emerging poets Iris and Joyce Hida, poet and author Emily Hockaday, Poet Laureate of Bristol Tom Lagasse, former Poet Laureate of South Windsor Steven Straight, Poet Laureate of East Hartford Elizabeth Thomas, and award winning and civic activist T'challa Williams.

All proceeds from the event will support the Nook Farm Writers Collaborative, a summer writing program for teens hosted at The Mark Twain House & Museum. The program encourages young writers to develop their voices through mentorship, creative exploration, and literary community.

Reserve your tickets at the Mark Twain House and Museum website. Tickets are priced from \$0-\$25 (including fees), with flexible pricing designed to welcome a broad audience.

Nicholas Betschmann inducted into Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society

ONEONTA, N.Y. — Nicholas Betschmann of Woodstock was among the seven SUNY Oneonta students inducted into the Omicron Delta Epsilon honor society on Wednesday, May 6, during an induction ceremony held in Morris Hall on campus.

Betschmann is studying Economics at SUNY Oneonta and is a member of the class of 2027.

Omicron Delta Epsilon is an international economics honor society with 717 chapters located in 11 countries. It is one of the world's largest academic honor societies. To become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, SUNY Oneonta undergraduate students must complete 12 credit hours of economics courses, have a GPA of at least 3.0 overall and in economics courses and have a B in an economics honors program (if the chapter's

college or university offers it). Graduate students must complete one semester of full-time work with a major or minor in economics and have a 3.0 GPA.

SUNY Oneonta is a public, four-year university in Central New York, enrolling about 5,300 students in a wide variety of bachelor's degree programs and more than a dozen graduate certificate and degree programs. The university is known as both an exemplary residential campus that values inclusion, service and sustainability, and a nurturing community where students grow intellectually, thrive socially and live purposefully. Learn more at <https://suny.oneonta.edu>.

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.

Paws Cat Shelter to hold can and bottle drive

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a Can and Bottle Drive on Saturday May 30 from noon to 3 p.m. at the shelter, located at 74 School St. in Putnam. Please separate 2-liter bottles. Pet food and donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

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

Pet Pals Northeast to hold low cost rabies clinic

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospital, Rt 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line on May 23 from 2 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 CASH per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please. For information, registration and appointment, contact PET PALS at 860-317-1720.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Rain can't wash away community spirit

There are some traditions that survive because they are old, and others that survive because they still matter. The Killingly Springtime Classic 5K has become both.

On a gray and rainy morning in Danielson, more than 170 people still laced up their sneakers, gathered at Davis Park, and walked or ran through the streets together. In a world where bad weather can often keep people home and disconnected, that turnout says something important about this community.

The race may technically be timed in minutes and seconds, but its real value cannot be measured by a stopwatch.

For some participants, the day was about competition. Several runners crossed the finish line in impressive times under 20 minutes, showing the kind of dedication and training that deserves recognition. But for many others, simply arriving at the starting line was the victory.

Perhaps no story captured that better than 73-year-old Stephen Johnson of Coventry. After enduring two knee replacements along with the placement of a pacemaker and defibrillator, he returned to a racecourse for the first time in years. He walked the course, and by his own admission may have finished last, but his words afterward carried far more weight than any placement.

"I had the time of my life."

That sentence may explain the true meaning of the Springtime Classic better than anything else.

The event reflects something increasingly valuable in modern life: the importance of showing up for one another. Families ran together. Local organizations fielded teams. Volunteers stood in the rain cheering for strangers. Businesses stepped forward to sponsor the event. People who likely disagree on politics, priorities, and countless other issues still spent the morning encouraging one another from the sidewalks of Danielson.

That matters.

The race also serves a larger purpose through its support of Christy's Angels, an organization helping local families facing cancer diagnoses. Those kinds of nonprofits often work quietly in the background, assisting people during some of the most frightening and exhausting periods of their lives. Events like this help ensure that support remains available close to home.

What also deserves recognition is the determination behind keeping traditions alive. Race Director Christina Vogt could have simply remembered the old Springtime Festival race fondly and left it there. Instead, she chose to do the difficult work of bringing it back. Ten years later, the race is larger than ever.

That speaks to another truth about small towns and close-knit communities: traditions do not survive automatically. Someone has to care enough to organize them. Volunteers have to commit their time. Sponsors have to contribute. Residents have to participate. Community is not something that simply exists on its own. It requires effort.

In many ways, the Springtime Classic represents the best parts of Northeastern Connecticut. It is welcoming without being flashy. Competitive without losing kindness. Local without being exclusive. Whether someone crossed the finish line in 16 minutes or walked every step in the rain, they were part of something together.

There is also something fitting about the weather. The rain may have dampened shirts and sneakers, but it also revealed the strength of the event itself. Sunny days are easy. Community is proven on difficult mornings.

As the Killingly Springtime Classic marks 10 years since its revival, it has clearly become more than a race. It is now part of the rhythm of the region each spring, bringing together athletes, families, volunteers, businesses, and neighbors for a few hours that remind people they are connected to something larger than themselves.

And perhaps that is why so many kept showing up despite the rain.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new ballroom

To the Editor:
I'll keep this short.
Trump, Dec. 17, 2025 – "But it's \$400 million. I should do it for less. I will do it for less. It will be the most beautiful ballroom. It will be paid for by private donations."
Congress just submitted a budget that includes

\$1 billion for the "Ballroom." Well, OK. I'm a private citizen. I pay taxes. Oh – OK. That's a "private" donation...
Gas = \$4.70/Gallon.
Make America Gullible Again.

BRUCE P. SHAY
POMFRET CENTER

Let's make history in Newtown

To the Editor:
On Aug. 30, Newtown will celebrate an exciting milestone: the town's first-ever half marathon, held as part of the Newtown Community Running Event. This day of fitness and community spirit will offer something for everyone, including a 10K run/walk, 5K run/walk, and a kids run, making it a truly inclusive event for residents of all ages and abilities.

This year's event carries special meaning, as it supports the Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association, whose dedicated volunteers respond whenever our community needs them most. Participating—whether by running, walking, volunteering, or cheering—directly helps sustain the vital services they provide.

The course will showcase the beauty of Newtown, but it's the people who bring the event to life: families trying their first 5K, seasoned runners tackling 13.1 miles, kids discovering the joy of racing, and neighbors lining the streets to encourage them. It's a celebration of health, connection, and community pride.

I encourage all Newtown residents – and our neighbors from surrounding towns – to join us on Aug. 30. Let's make history together, support our volunteer ambulance department, and strengthen the community we're proud to call home. Please sign up at runsignup.com.

Sincerely,

MARK FORLENZO
NEWTOWN

Language or context?

To the Editor:

English happens to be my second language, and I often have a little trouble making sense of certain text and/or context. One of those conflicts occurs when I witness so many people claim the defense of "democracy" in conversations, letters, and speeches, but not show up for the Democratic process of town meetings or voting! I ask myself ... How can folks who yell, scream, or march for the concept, not show up for the process?

How can flag waving Americans neglect the opportunity to express participation, but curse others who struggle, risk their lives, and fight for the chance to participate! You must know that there are those who have died trying to experience the opportunity of democracy, don't you? Labeled as Immigrants, they are refused entry to the voting booth and contribution to this process. They are eager to work and build a better community and country by picking and packaging food that we can afford as a result of their low wages. They clean our homes, do our laundry, trim our yards, and watch over our babies and elders, so that we can earn better salaries and have a higher standard of living. They would provide more employment and higher salaries for teachers by filling our schools with their children, but suffer the consequences of a hate campaign created to use them as scape goats for the problems created by the powerful. They walk thousands of miles without knowing the language or the pain of persecution and discrimination they will suffer after their arrival. They endure all of this struggle, while those who have an open door to the privileges that this country offers, choose to stay home and complain about decisions made in their absence. What am I missing?

Is it too intolerable to listen to a different opinion about an issue? Don't you want to hear about the spending options available with your tax dollars? Why does the education budget require over two thirds of the town budget? How much is too much or not enough? These concerns affect our lives, while our friends and neighbors

don't care. Tell me why... Is it the fear of being labeled a Liberal or Conservative by those who you want to please, or be invited to a social event, or at church? Is there a fear of being judged as we judge others?

These are tough times, with more to come. There is more confusion at a time when we find it harder than ever to trust, or even think. It's easier to bury our heads in the sand, when we are being led by incompetence and corruption, but that in itself is a result of following mobs who react to conspiracies and incoherent drumbeats. They create stampedes without thought or reason. This reality we're experiencing is the result of our own voting shortage, created by those in power who are doing their best to decimate it even more. Consider the so called "Safe Voting Act" ... It promotes the exclusion of millions who who have a different name than that which appears on their birth certificate! Pray tell... who does that affect more? If you answered women, you are correct! Women who have married or divorced. Christian nationalists promote the law of one vote per household! No confusion there! Can't doze off these days, folks! This is not confusion of Language or Context. What is the difference between a "deranged" assassin and a "deranged" occupant in the White House? There's a common denominator and it is Mental Illness. The shared mental illness that will prevent accountability for both.

People who have the right and opportunity to participate in the Democratic process, and don't, are the ones who are accountable. Look into the eyes of your neighbors, family, faith brothers and sisters, and children, and tell them you have no intention of protecting their concept of Democracy because yours is different. Yours is passive. It allows others to decide how your community will look and feel, while your voice will be raised in protest, after the decisions have been made by others. I dare you to mute your phone neighbor! Drop the remote! Walk the Talk! I promise, it won't hurt to feel the Pride in Voting.

LYDIA RIVERA-ABRAMS
DAYVILLE

The coming food crisis no one is talking about

To the Editor:

While the world watches the conflict in Iran play out in energy markets and geopolitical headlines, a quieter but equally alarming crisis is unfolding on farms and in supply chains. Fertilizer shipments, the lifeblood of global agriculture, have ground to a halt since the conflict began. Experts warn that the consequences may not seem immediate, but they will be felt around the world in the coming months.

As Mary Trump (Donald Trump's niece) recently warned, "The closure of the Strait of Hormuz is not just disrupting energy markets. It is disrupting fertilizer flows that determine future harvests. That disruption is setting the stage for a delayed but potentially catastrophic global food shortage."

The scale of the food insecurity that lies ahead is frightening. According to Al Jazeera, the World Food Programme estimated last month that nearly 45 million more people could face acute food shortages if the conflict continues into the middle of this year and oil prices remain above \$100 a barrel.

The latest Economist/YouGov poll shows 61 percent of Americans believe the economy is getting worse. One of the ways Americans are feeling the economic strain is at the grocery store. USA Today reported that U.S. food prices are expected to rise again this year as market pressures from the Iran war squeeze the

supply chain from farm to grocery store. The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects grocery prices will increase 3.1 percent this year. The Consumer Price Index from March 2026 showed grocery and restaurant prices running higher than the same month a year ago. What can consumers expect in the months ahead? Experts predict rising prices and the shrinking availability of products.

On a personal note, it may be time to dust off the garden tools. A vegetable garden in the backyard may offer a small buffer against what's coming.

Sadly, individual gardens will not solve the systemic failure of the Trump Administration's priorities in Washington. Instead of using taxpayer funds in the billions for ICE, \$1.5 trillion more for the defense budget, \$400 million for a ballroom, and more tax breaks for billionaires, Congress should be focusing on kitchen-table issues like the cost of gas, groceries, housing, electricity, health care, childcare and living wages. These are the concerns that keep working Americans up at night.

Congress needs to hear from us. They need to end Trump's war and ensure that our tax dollars are prioritized on bread-and-butter policies that make American lives better. The food on our family's table depends on it.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

A history in advertising

Note: The Killingly Historical Center will be closed Saturday, May 23, Memorial Day weekend. It will be open as usual on Wednesday, May 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open for the season and will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Volunteers are wanted. Could you donate 2 ½ hours a month? Training supplied.



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

For additional information, please call (860) 207-6044 and leave a message.

Celebrate America 250/ Putnam. Putnam Public Library, Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m. "A Visit with Major General Israel Putnam." Costumed Portrayal by Prof. Kenneth Kroll. Kroll will share stories about Putnam's life as a farmer, tavern keeper and war hero. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society.

Support one of Killingly's Historic Properties. Killingly Grange No. 112 (801 Hartford Pike) will host a Pork Dinner on Saturday, May 16 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Roast pork, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, dessert. \$15. Dine in or take out. Limited number of meals. To reserve a dinner call or text 860-884-1813. Pay by cash, credit card, or check at the door. The Grange is collecting non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

Celebrate America 250/ Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Historical Society Museum will feature the exhibits of the General Putnam Gallery Wednesday, May 20th and Sunday, May 24 from 1-5 p.m. (The Museum & Daniel Tyler Law Office will be open every Wednesday and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. through Oct. 11 and by appointment throughout Walktober. Handicapped-accessible.

Celebrate America 250/ Putnam. Putnam Public Library. Retired Connecticut State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni will present a program on Revolutionary War Archaeology in Connecticut on Saturday, May 30 at 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society.

Celebrate America 250/ Killingly. Killingly Public Library will be presenting PBS's "The American Revolution" documentary directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. Several have already been shown. The next one is Friday, May 15 from 1:00-3:00, Conquer By a Drawn Game: January 1777-February 1778. May 22: The Soul of All American: December 1777-May 1780. May 29: The Most Sacred thing: May 1780-Onward. All programs are at the same time.

Before I do some newspaper tidbits, I want to mention a person of note from the recent video on the Mohegan tribe – Samson Occum. "Occum, born in 1723, grew up immersed in traditional Mohegan society, but sought a Western-style education in order to better advocate for his people within the colonial British legal system. He spent four years studying with the Rev. Eleazar Wheelock—learning to read and write in English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew—

Turn To KILLINGLY page A5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Killingly must do right by its disabled veterans

To the Editor:

As Chair of the Killingly Board of Assessment and Appeals (BAA), myself, Kevin Gaudreau, and Russ Lavigne conducted appeals hearings in March. Further below is a statement read to us from an elderly lady, a wife of a 100 percent disabled veteran, who came to the BAA to disagree on the property tax assessment for their home.

In particular, they were upset that the property tax for 100 percent military disabled veterans was rescinded by the Town Council. Now, they must pay property taxes per the new law passed by them. The Town Council could have left zero taxation to reward the forty-one 100 percent disabled veterans in town, but they chose not to. Instead, they chose a formula to reward some and punish others as they parsed their gratitude. As the wife of a 100 percent disabled veteran, she felt it was unjust and wanted to express her anger and disappointment at someone.

Recognize, property taxes is the state/town extracting cash from a property owner today for a future gain the state/town says you might receive in the future upon sale, if you even live that long. It's similar to taxing unrealized capital gains. You pay the state cash today for your unrealized cash gain in the future estimated by the state. It's genius level legal theft.

This is an extremely difficult burden on elderly people, many on small fixed incomes, many just on social security payments alone. Many own, and have lived in their homes for 30, 40, 50 years, and now can't afford the property taxes to stay.

Recognize, the average social security check is about \$2,100 per month, or \$25,200 per year. If you bought a three-bedroom ranch with two acres for \$50,000 fifty years ago, and now it's valued at \$336,000, you owe the state/town about \$5,000 in cash today. Not when you sell it, but today.

If you are an elderly widower, 20 percent of your entire income must go to live in a home you may have owned for 20-plus years, or 10 percent for two elderly people on Social Security. Just to stay home. You owe the same next year. In five years, it will be raised 20-30 percent more and it will be almost \$6,500 you owe the state/town just like that.

Below occurred in a BAA meeting after the last reapportionment.

An elderly, but spry grey-haired lady, clearly in her seventies, came in and sat down. A widower for fifteen years she said, and then looked us in the eyes over her glasses and said "How many social security checks do you want from me? I can't afford this. I have a fixed income, but every five years you want more and more. I can't do this, she says in desperation."

It breaks your heart to hear this. As the BAA, you have to address her concerns. But it is the system the town has created. We don't have to tax elderly people such as this into poverty, but we do. We don't have to tax 100 percent disabled veterans, but we do. It is a choice the town makes. It's not an accident. And, we can change this.

Below is what the wife of the 100 percent disabled veteran read to us last month. She was unsure how the BAA occurred and thought there would be a group of people like a Town Council meeting, not just three, but she read it out because she needed to. She asks: What color is your heart, my husband's purple?

Have any of you been in a war? Have

any of you been a soldier?

Have any of you had to be on consistent alert for threats of dangers surrounding you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for 365 days in a row? Never knowing if you would be killed, wounded, captured and/or tortured, or have your fellow soldiers killed in front of you.

Their guts hanging out of their bodies, being torn apart by gunfire. Never knowing if the water you're drinking is poison or if you can even find water.

Enduring unbearable high temperatures for extended periods with over 100 percent humidity. The food you eat; what little there is, full of agent orange.

Not being able to relax for a moment, even to go to sleep. Keeping your gun by your side at all times.

No bathrooms, no showers, wearing the same dirty clothes for months at a time. No bed to sleep on just the hard ground.

Think about it...our soldiers did what they had to do to survive. They did what the country asked of them. Proud to be American, they loved and still love their country.

The soldiers were put in unbearable situations and what does the town of Killingly do? What does the town do to thank them? They cap 100 percent tax deduction that the state has passed to have a residence or vehicle tax free.

What will you do with the money you saved from 41, 100 percent disabled veterans in the town of Killingly? That is the question—What will you do?

There is no monetary value you can place on their pain and suffering during and after their time spent serving this country. Protecting our freedoms. The least the Town of Killingly can do, is give them a tax break which is minor in comparison.

The Town of Killingly should have the heart and the sense to follow the state law and give these veterans 100 percent tax deduction on their dwelling, the place they feel safe in or their vehicle.

My husband has a Purple Heart. He has saved many of his fellow soldiers. What color is your heart?

I have been a registered nurse for 57 years, retiring only a few years ago at the age of 74. I have spent a lifetime caring for people, which now includes my husband, transporting him to doctors' appointments and managing his care.

I have been married to my husband, now 80, for 56 and a half years. I have seen the pain and anguish he has gone through. It takes a very strong person to endure what he has and still live a productive life. Living with PTSD and reliving the horrors of war every day in his mind, it is something you don't forget. He does not sleep well; he remembers everything as if it were yesterday. His body is racked with pain.

I am not here to only advocate for my husband, but request you stop this cap for all the town's 100 percent disabled veterans affected. Again, in the town of Killingly, there are a total of 41 veterans that qualify being 100 percent disabled out of 18,000-18,365 residents as of 2024-2026.

Remember, their injuries aren't always visible with the naked eye. These pains lie deep within. Walk in their shoes for just a moment while you digest this.

Do the right thing and make a change. Respectfully,

DALE DAUPHINAIS
DANIELSON

Abolish bottle deposits

To the Editor:

Apparently, the State of Connecticut wants to waste our time and tax money chasing nickels these days. For some reason I don't care to know, the state raised bottle deposits from 5 cents to 10 cents and some folks decided to swing on over to Connecticut to cash in their bottles and cans for the higher amount. First the state shook its big stick threatening fines before any formal charges. Now we're talking criminal charges and prison time for fraud.

...over nickels.

Rather than barking up all these wrong trees, I think it's time we completely abolished bottle deposits. Full stop. I grew up with the recycling push in the 90s where

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.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

No theocracy has benefitted its people in the long term

To the Editor:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the Republic for which it stands." This defines the essence of what our nation should be all about.

America is a republic, and not a democracy, and the differences are significant. Democracy is derived from the Greek "demokratia," meaning rule by the people — or rule by the majority. An individual or minority group has no protection from the power of the majority. Republic is derived from the Latin "res publica" meaning "public good" or "public affair". In contrast, a Republic has a constitution that establishes inalienable rights that protect the minority from being unrepresented or abused by the majority. Our Republic's basic reason for existence is to protect all its citizens, not just those who won the election. That protection is of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Note that the first item in this hallowed list is life.

Fortunately, the Founding Fathers knew the profound difference and established our government as a republic, not a democracy.

Christ Consciousness and politics

To the Editor:

"Trump is the Anti-Christ!"

I recall reading this quote in an opinion piece some time ago.

I do not like calling anyone the "Anti-Christ." It categorizes the person as Other-Than. As different from us. Labeling someone as the Anti-Christ—or the Devil or evil—somehow deflects further consideration of who they are and how they came to be that way. More importantly, it precludes our examining ourselves and our own behavior.

I find the concept of Christ Consciousness helpful in matters such as this. As I understand it, Christ Consciousness is essentially about oneness and relation. It is the spiritual recognition that All Is One. That all human beings, all sentient creatures and living things, our planet and indeed the universe—all are interconnected and interdependent. That yes, we are our brother's keeper, and our sister's. That we are stewards of the earth, not its usurpers.

KILLINGLY

continued from page A4

before being ordained as

a Presbyterian minister. In 1766, Wheelock planned to open a new school in Connecticut to teach Native American students, and asked Occom to undertake a fundraising voyage to Great Britain on its behalf. Occom spent two years preaching in England, Scotland, and Wales, ultimately raising about £12,000 (the equivalent of more than \$2.4 million today)—the initial funds on which Dartmouth was built. But on his return to America, Occom found that Wheelock had moved his school north to Hanover, New Hampshire, and had shifted the school's focus to the education of white students. (Wheelock also failed to keep his promise to care for Occom's family).

Between 1769 and 1970, fewer than 20 Native students graduated from Dartmouth. Since 1970 Dartmouth has recommitted itself to its founding charter—graduating nearly 1,500 Native and Indigenous students to date and establishing the Native American Program, the Department of Native American and Indigenous Studies, and the Tribal Leadership Academy.

Forgotten Founder: The Untold Story of Samson Occom at Dartmouth, (is) a remarkable new documentary about the 18th-century Mohegan scholar and minister whose efforts to raise funds for a school for Indian youth laid the foundation for what would become Dartmouth College.

Forgotten Founder grew out of a larger effort to heal the relationship between Dartmouth and the Mohegans—an effort that in 2022 led Dartmouth to formally return its archival collection of Occom's letters, journals, sermons, and other texts to the tribe. (<https://home.dartmouth.edu/news/2026/05/living-history-samson-occom-and-dartmouth>).

This week, I thought I would go far back in the history of Danielson bor-

ough and see what interesting news and ads I could find in the Windham County Transcript. 1866, the year after the end of the Civil War, I discovered an ad for one of Killingly's trailblazers—Mrs. D. A. Jones (Emeline Roberts Jones), the first female dentist in the United States. She appeared with Dr. H. S. Young, Dentist "Office in Rear of Congregational Church, Danielsonville. Anaesthetics (sic) given in the extraction of Teeth, when desired. Mrs. D. A. Jones will be present to assist in the office." (Windham County Transcript, May 10, 1866, p. 4). Note that she is not listed with her given name but with the initials of her late husband, Daniel, who died in 1864 and is buried in Westfield Cemetery. Women were still very much second-class citizens in 1866. Emeline married Dr. Young (and later was divorced) and lived for many years in New Haven. Her photo is available on the Internet.

If you go in a drug store today, what do you expect to find? Rockwell F. Lyon had the ad just below the above mentioned one and was selling quite an eclectic mix—"Medicine, Drugs, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Benzine, Fluid, Window glass, Perfumery, Fancy Articles, Toilet Articles...Webster's Hair Invigorator, the best in the market, wholesale and retail."

I wanted to see what the front page of the issue contained and was surprised to see the phrase, "Devoted to the Local and General Interests of Windham County and below it Danielsonville and Putnam." (Keep in mind that Danielson retained the "ville" until 1895. The page included a message from Connecticut Governor Hawley... "After four years of great sorrows...God has given us a year of happy peace, accompanied by a degree of prosperity scarcely to have been expected, and you have convened to engage deliberately in legis-

lation, no longer controlled by the stormy demands of war..." That page also contained a Temperance Column: "Edited by Rev. E. H. Pratt. The Prohibitory Law. Temperance men of Windham County. Do you know our excellent law is in danger? There is an effort being made to get it repealed..." We all know that was an ongoing controversy for many more decades.

I'm thinking that doctors visited smaller towns for short periods of time during this post Civil War era. "Eye, Ear, Throat, Catarrh, Rheumatism. Dr. Friedrich, from 62 Carver Street, Boston, Formerly consulting Physician and Surgeon of the Royal Bethany Hospital, Berlin, Prussia, will be at the Attawaugan Hotel, Danielsonville from Monday Morning, May 28th, until Saturday Noon, June 2d where he daily (except Sundays) can be consulted Exclusively in cases of Asthma, tracheitis, bronchitis, Acute & Chronic Catarrh, Partial Deafness, Discharges from the Ears, Noises in the Head, Dizziness" (p. 2). Did you notice that it said "Berlin, Prussia," not Germany? From Britannica I learned that Prussia was in eastern and central Europe on the southerly coast of the Baltic Sea in the 1866 time period and in 1871 helped unify Germany. Ads are always interesting and reveal much about life in a particular year. I look forward to browsing through many more in additional columns.

They worked very hard to make this work. But now there are forces they could not foresee that want to destroy the republic. Besides Project 2025, promoted by Donnie-Dingbat and Steve Miller, there is another force working - Christian Nationalism. The Baylor Religious Survey found this movement advocated:

- the federal government should declare the United States a Christian nation,
- the federal government should advocate Christian values,
- the federal government should enforce strict separation of church and state,
- the success of the United States is part of God's plan.

Christian Nationalism and Project 2025 would do away with the Constitution and the republic in order to set up a government based on Christian principles, i.e., a theocracy. While some theocracies, a.k.a. dictatorships, have lasted a long time, none have provided lasting benefit to its population.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Yes, I am a Christian, but I submit that these values are universal. They are espoused by all the world's religions and ethical philosophies.

The question I would ask is, how might the concept of Christ Consciousness clarify our thinking about the politics of our day? Rather than labeling President Trump as the Anti-Christ, for example, we might find it more illuminating to ask where he and his administration stand with regard to this concept of Christ Consciousness and these universal values.

We might ask who we have become as a people, as a nation, if we don't care one way or the other.

ROBERT KIRK
PUTNAM

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



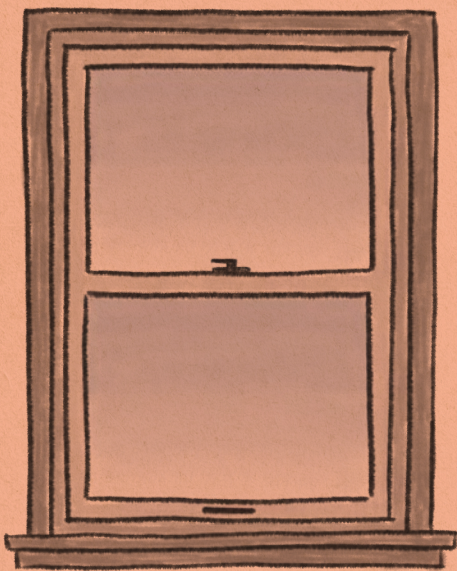
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5K
continued from page A1

ual runners, several local teams participated, bringing friends, families, and organizations together in support of the cause. Notable participation included Killingly Youth Wrestling with 32 runners, Brooklyn Running with 20, Putnam Plastics with 15, Christy's Warriors with 10, Run Runners Run with 9, Logees Green Team with 5, Dam Runners with 4, and Club 169 with 3. Local sponsors also played an important role

in making the event possible. This year's sponsors included Fairway Home Mortgage, Slater Hill Tool, SKS Counseling Services, Inc., Aisling Fit, Allen Hill Farm, Northstar Home Loans, and Northeast Driving Academy. Vogt emphasized that accessibility and community have always been at the heart of the race. "It's for everybody," she said. "Whether it's your first 5K or you've been running for years, we want people to feel supported out there."

That sense of support was evident throughout the morning, from volunteers stationed along the course to cheer on participants, to community members who came out despite the weather to encourage runners along the way. As the race marks its 10th year since its return, it continues to carry forward both tradition and purpose, bringing people together each spring not just to run but to connect, remember, and give back. To view full race results, visit: <https://bit.ly/4dxW-Vdk>.



A record crowd of runners gathers at the starting line of the Killingly Springtime Classic 5K in Danielson on May 9.



Christy's Angels founder Cale Ferland (left) is joined by volunteer Jennifer O'Leary Cathell, race director Christina Vogt (center), and fellow volunteers Meaghan Wakely and Rebecca Desjardins following the race.



Jordan (9) and James Mentor (11) of Putnam participate in the race. James finished 8th overall.



At left: Seventy-three-year-old Stephen Johnson of Coventry, who described simply being at the starting line as a victory. Christy's Angels volunteers and supporters come together in support of the organization.



Big Y provided refreshments for runners following the race.



Representatives from the Danielson Fire Department were on site to provide support.

BUDGET
continued from page A1

as Lamont's administration said they worked directly with legislators through a "collaborative effort" that garnered both Democrat and Republican support. Each town will receive a small share of the total allocated \$272.9 million combined between education

and municipal aid. Locally, the following allocations have been confirmed by the Governor's office::
Brooklyn will receive \$278,788 for education and \$106,086 for the town.
Eastford is receiving \$37,888 and \$4,635 for the town.
Killingly receives \$622,976 for education and \$333,903 for the town.

Pomfret will be allocated \$106,840 for education and \$32,424 for the town.
Putnam gets \$333,612 for education and \$164,942 for the town.
Thompson will receive \$301,388 for education and \$71,358 for the town.
Woodstock will be allocated \$199,622 for education and \$32,548 for the town.

HALE
continued from page A1

Day Kimball throughout her life. After Newell's passing in 2002, Betty Hale set up a foundation in his name, the Newell D Hale Foundation, geared towards supporting healthcare and the arts as well as improving facilities for children. Her obituary confirms her family will now rename the foundation to the Newell and Betty Hale Foundation in both their honors. Hale embraced a consistent advocacy for education

establishing resources like Hale House, the Newell & Betty Hale Scholarship at Pomfret School, the Hale Elementary School Building at Rectory School, the Pomfret Community School Arts Fund, and Horizons at Rectory School. Hale was a lover of the arts, and an avid supporter of numerous nonprofits throughout the region that helped provide services to those in need including healthcare, food security, and more. One of her most public initiatives, however, was as the driving force to bring a YMCA to Northeastern

Connecticut. This vision came to fruition in the form of the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center, which opened in 2016 and after a decade has become one of the most successful branches of the YMCA of Great Hartford. The community is invited to attend a public gathering in Hale's honor at noon on Saturday, May 16 at Pomfret School's Clark Memorial Chapel followed by a public reception at the Hale Family YMCA Youth and Family Center, 9 Technology Park Dr. in Putnam.

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Interact presents Food Drive proceeds

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club May 6 made two presentations of the proceeds from the club's recent Food Drive. Interact member Calleigh Levesque presented Carl Asikainen, director of TEEG, with a check for \$210. Asikainen thanked the Interact Club for their hard work and support. She also presented Karen Osbrey, president of Interfaith Human Services of Putnam with a check for \$210. Osbrey, in thanking them, said the donation will help keep the shelves of Daily Bread stocked. The Interact Club will meet at 6:40 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at the Putnam Public



Library to put together birthday kits in memory of Lorna Wade who started the birthday kit ministry at the Living Faith United Methodist Church. For more information about the Putnam Rotary Interact Club contact Roberta Rocchetti at 860-933-8603 or robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

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Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up



Track & Field
On May 8, the Killingly gentlemen travelled to Stonington to battle Stonington, Wheeler and Putnam. With a quad meet on our hands, the gentlemen were NEVER lacking competition and put on a great show! We also want to shout out to all the parents and friends that showed up, we can hear you, and really love your support! Stonington took the W, however; Killingly took the Double U against Putnam and Wheeler!

In the 4x 100, Cooper Logee to Braydee Testa to Brandon Harrison Jr. to Kaiden Cayer for the win and a Personal Record! Also, in the 4x100, Cameron Deschamps to Ossie Lugo to Cyncere Perry to Liam Lamotte for a great time!

In the 100m dash, Kaiden Cayer flew to finish 3rd with a fresh new Personal Record, Braydee, Coop, Brandon, Damien Seace, Jon Palmer, Nathan Comtois, Rylan Roethel and Aiden Taylor flew to Personal Records!

In the 200m dash, Ossie and Braydee ran like the wind to finish 1st and 3rd with Personal Records! Brandon, Cam, Jackson Olson, Rylan and Nate all ran for Personal Records!

In the 400m, Jon repre-

sented to finish 4th! In the 110 Hurdles, Jeremiah Smith keeps doing what Jeremiah does; he finished 1st with a Season Best time!

Down by the jumping area, In Long Jump, Jeremiah soared to 1st, Aveion finished 2nd, and Coop took 4th!

At Triple Jump, Aveion super manned his way to finish 2nd, Monty took 4th, and Calvin Vandale took 6th!

In the High Jump, Killingly gentlemen claimed the top 3 spots with Jeremiah taking 1st, Coop taking 2nd, and Braydee taking 3rd!

In the Pole Vault, Gabriel Covington continues to improve week to week and puts in the work! He finished 2nd at the meet!

At the throwing pits, At Shot Put, Breydan Pearson continues to get fresh Personal Records wherever he competes and is one of the top Freshman throwers; he finished 6th! Jackson Olson, Damien Seace, and Gabe all threw for Personal Records!

At Javelin, Brayden continues to be a top thrower finishing 3rd! Cal and Jackson both threw for Personal Records!

At Discuss, Larry was the top thrower finishing

3rd and made a bet to shave Coach Rosati's beard, seeya later heard a new Personal Record! Cal also threw for a Personal Record!

Absolutely great job yesterday by all! Everyone represented Killingly and themselves proudly on and off of the track. Many compliments were given to so many of you and the entire team and could not be prouder as coaches! The battle continues this Wednesday, May 13 home against Putnam to celebrate Senior Night at 4 p.m.!

Girls Lacrosse

The Killingly girls lacrosse team battled hard against Woodstock this afternoon. Riley Ritchotte was on fire today tallying 4 goals and an assist. Hitting her 100 career point. Riley also had 3 caused turnovers and 4 draw controls for Killingly. Catrina Turgeon netted 2 goals, had 3 caused turnovers and dominated the draw circle with 6 draw controls. Tilly Jarvis added a goal and 2 assists for the trailblazers. Alexa Gregoire put up numbers in cage with 13 saves on the day. The final score of 9-7 didn't fall in our favor but the hard fight will be brought into Saturdays game against

New London.

The team faced off against New London this morning. Riley Ritchotte had herself a day scoring 5 goals, 4 caused turnovers and a draw control. Lylah Connetti controlled 5 draws for Killingly and added a goal to the board. Tilly Jarvis tallied 3 assists for the Trailblazers. Morgan Deojay netted a goal as well. Alexa Gregoire had another strong day in goal with 10 saves. The final score was 9-7 in favor of New London, despite a hard fight from the Trailblazers.

1 S: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Gianna Musumeri (W) 5-7, 3-6

2 S: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Wynter Worth (W) 0-6, 2-6

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Kerrigen Reynolds (W) 0-6, 1-6

4 S: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Catherine Trudeau (W) 5-7, 6-0, 3-6

#1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Delilah Messelman & Sophia Aquilar (W) 0-6, 2-6

#2 Doub: Samantha Smith & Corinne Daniels (K) loss vs Jayda Ngibuinunl & Emma Marison (W) 4-6, 3-6

3 Doub: Ri'niyah Couillard & Lucy Gavis (K) loss vs Mariia Oliingh & Lillian Gregorzec (W) 2-6, 0-6

May 11 match — Trailblazers v. Woodstock Academy KHS girls tennis loss 0-7 vs WA

1 S: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Gianna Musumeri (W) 2-6, 2-6

2 S: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Wynter Worth (W) 1-6, 3-6

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May 11 match — Trailblazers v. Woodstock Academy KHS girls tennis loss 0-7 vs WA

1 S: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Gianna Musumeri (W) 2-6, 2-6

2 S: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Wynter Worth (W) 1-6, 3-6

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Kerrigen Reynolds (W) 0-6, 1-6

4 S: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Catherine Trudeau (W) 5-7, 6-0, 3-6

Bradey Brezniak lost to High McGee 0-6 1-6
Ed Purcell lost to Elijah Cornell 4-6 6-7(3-6)
Max Richardson & Evan Kozey lost to Sean Lord and Thomas Lyon 0-6 0-6
Tomas Gutierrez & Glenn Leveille lost to Henry Brandl & Evertt Mcgugan 0-6 1-6
Riley Nolin & Naitik Pandya lost to Nathan Rodger & Lucas Brown 2-6 4-6

Girls Tennis

May 7 match — Trailblazers verse Woodstock Academy KHS girls tennis loss 0-7

1 S: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Gianna Musumeri (W) 5-7, 3-6

2 S: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Wynter Worth (W) 0-6, 2-6

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Kerrigen Reynolds (W) 0-6, 1-6

4 S: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Catherine Trudeau (W) 5-7, 6-0, 3-6

#1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Delilah Messelman & Sophia Aquilar (W) 0-6, 2-6

#2 Doub: Samantha Smith & Corinne Daniels (K) loss vs Jayda Ngibuinunl & Emma Marison (W) 4-6, 3-6

3 Doub: Ri'niyah Couillard & Lucy Gavis (K) loss vs Mariia Oliingh & Lillian Gregorzec (W) 2-6, 0-6

May 11 match — Trailblazers v. Woodstock Academy KHS girls tennis loss 0-7 vs WA

1 S: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Gianna Musumeri (W) 2-6, 2-6

2 S: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Wynter Worth (W) 1-6, 3-6

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Kerrigen Reynolds (W) 0-6, 1-6

4 S: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Catherine Trudeau (W) 5-7, 6-0, 3-6

#1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Delilah Messelman & Sophia Aquilar (W) 0-6, 2-6

#2 Doub: Samantha Smith & Corinne Daniels (K) loss vs Jayda Ngibuinunl & Emma Marison (W) 4-6, 3-6

3 Doub: Ri'niyah Couillard & Lucy Gavis (K) loss vs Mariia Oliingh & Lillian Gregorzec (W) 2-6, 0-6

May 11 match — Trailblazers v. Woodstock Academy KHS girls tennis loss 0-7 vs WA

1 S: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Gianna Musumeri (W) 2-6, 2-6

2 S: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Wynter Worth (W) 1-6, 3-6

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Kerrigen Reynolds (W) 0-6, 1-6

4 S: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Catherine Trudeau (W) 5-7, 6-0, 3-6

#1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Delilah Messelman & Sophia Aquilar (W) 0-6, 2-6

#2 Doub: Samantha Smith & Corinne Daniels (K) loss vs Jayda Ngibuinunl & Emma Marison (W) 4-6, 3-6

3 Doub: Ri'niyah Couillard & Lucy Gavis (K) loss vs Mariia Oliingh & Lillian Gregorzec (W) 2-6, 0-6

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1 S: Talia Santese (K) loss vs Gianna Musumeri (W) 2-6, 2-6

2 S: Nina Purcell (K) loss vs Wynter Worth (W) 1-6, 3-6

3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) loss vs Kerrigen Reynolds (W) 0-6, 1-6

4 S: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Catherine Trudeau (W) 5-7, 6-0, 3-6

#1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Delilah Messelman & Sophia Aquilar (W) 0-6, 2-6

#2 Doub: Samantha Smith & Corinne Daniels (K) loss vs Jayda Ngibuinunl & Emma Marison (W) 4-6, 3-6

3 Doub: Ri'niyah Couillard & Lucy Gavis (K) loss vs Mariia Oliingh & Lillian Gregorzec (W) 2-6, 0-6

Reynolds (W) 3-6, 5-7

4 S: Mariette Vien (K) loss vs Catherine Trudeau (W) 6-7 (TB), 1-6

#1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) loss vs Delilah Messelman & Sophia Aquilar (W) 2-6, 0-6

#2 Doub: Samantha Smith & Corinne Daniels (K) loss vs Jayda Ngibuinunl & Emma Marison (W) 5-7, 0-6

3 Doub: Allegra Turbayevskiv & Lillia Beach (K) loss vs Mariia Oliingh & Lillian Gregorzec (W) 2-6, 6-7 (TB)

Girls Golf

On Friday, May 8, the Killingly High School Girl's Golf team hosted Norwich Free Academy and earned the victory. Killingly posted a score of 190 with NFA posting a score of 211. Killingly was led by Mackenzie Pothier and Gracie Pekarovic-West who both finished with a 46. Kate Crowley shot a 48 and Addyson Larkin shot a 50 to help secure the victory. With the win Killingly improved their overall record to 7-1 on the year.

Baseball

Montville 4-Killingly 3
Montville (7-8) took the win over Killingly (8-7) by a final score of 4-3 behind a complete game by Chase Malbaurn.

Gaighe DeBella and Jake Beaudreault combined for 7 innings, 5 hits, 4 runs, and 8 K's for Killingly on the mound.

Michael Fabiano Jr and Beaudreault each had singles while Jacob Long added a double for Killingly.

Hunter Sylvia led Montville with 3 hits.

The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Boys Lacrosse

Woodstock Academy 16 Norwich Tech 0

A shutout in boys lacrosse is rare but the Centaurs pitched one against Norwich Tech with Quan Sangasy making six saves in the net for Woodstock Academy.

Corey Lafond had five goals and five saves in the win for the Centaurs (5-6) while Dylan Phillips had four goals and three assists and Patrick Griswold tossed in a hat trick and two assists.

Woodstock Academy 15 Bacon Academy 3

Patrick Griswold and Dylan Phillips had six goals each and Corey Lafond had eight assists to lead The Centaurs to their third straight win which evened their record at 6-6. Jackson Aleman had two goals and Zach Armbruster had the other in the Woodstock Academy win over the Bobcats (4-7).

Girls Lacrosse

New London/St. Bernard 12

Woodstock Academy 6
Kaylee Saucier had three goals but it wasn't enough as the New London/St. Bernard (4-4) broke a four-match losing streak.

Clara Dowdle, Baylee Rosinski and Allison McCusker all had a goal each in the loss for Woodstock Academy (1-7-

1).

Bacon Academy 10 Woodstock Academy 5

Kaylee Saucier had another hat trick while Vivian Bibeau and Anna Hernandez also scored for the Centaurs (2-8-1) in the loss.

Clara Dowdle added an assist for Woodstock Academy.

Girls Golf

Centaurs place 4th at Wildcat Invite

The Norwich Golf Course has never treated the Centaurs all that nicely and such was the case again on Tuesday at the Wildcat Invitational.

Woodstock Academy placed fourth with a 215 total with Reagan Scheck as the only player in the 40's with a 44.

Lily Moran added a 51 for the Centaurs.

The event was won by Coventry (188) with East Lyme (202) in second.

Woodstock Academy 193 Stonington 212

The Centaurs braved the elements down by the shoreline as rain and wind did not make for a nice afternoon on the Elmridge golf course.

Reagan Scheck shot a 43 and Lily Moran a 47 in the win for Woodstock Academy (6-1, 5-0 ECC).

Jaime Halloran led the

Bears (4-4-4) with a 47.

Woodstock Academy 184 Putnam/Tourtellotte 259

Junior Reagan Scheck broke 40 with a 39 and she had plenty of help at the Raceway Golf Club as Lily Moran shot a 47 and both Colbie O'Connor and Brianna Beck added 49's in the win for the Centaurs (7-1, 6-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference).

Jordyn Poplawski was best for Putnam/Tourtellotte (0-5,0-5) with a 60.

Boys Golf

Centaurs split at home
The Centaurs easily captured their Eastern Connecticut Conference match with Lyman Memorial, 7-0, but lost the non-league match to Coventry 162-168 ast the Quinnettis Country Club.

Aidan O'Connor shot a 39 and Brady Hebert added a 41 for the Centaurs (5-3).
Elijah Stanizzi and Griffin Goshdigian shared medalist honors with O'Connor as each carded 39's for Coventry (12-2).

Calvin Sammarco was best for Lyman Memorial (2-7) with a 56.

Boys Tennis

Fitch 6 Woodstock Academy 1

There were plenty of close matches throughout the singles and doubles but

the Falcons (6-4) prevailed in most of them.

Rodrigo Diez captured a 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) win at first singles to account for the only victory for Woodstock Academy (5-4).

Girls Tennis

Woodstock Academy 7 Killingly 0

The Centaurs (9-1, 4-0 ECC Division II) claimed at least a share of the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II regular season title with the victory.

Catherine Trudeau preserved the shutout as she won her first set over Mariette Vien 7-5, lost the second, but rallied for a 6-3 victory in the third to win at fourth singles.

Girls Track

Woodstock Academy 125 Fitch 23

For the third time in four years, the Centaurs captured the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I regular season title with the win over Fitch on wet and chilly afternoon.

The weather didn't seem to bother the Woodstock Academy team all that much.

Emma Weiknecht ran personal bests to finish first in both the 100m hurdles (15.0 seconds) and 300m hurdles (46.1). The 300m race was made even more special as junior teammate

final attempt.

Volleyball

Woodstock Academy 3 New London 0

Gavin Hecker had a double-double for the Centaurs with 20 assists and 11 digs as Woodstock Academy improved to 15-1 overall and 6-0 in the Eastern Connecticut Conference.

Brayden Bottone had 13 kills in the win while Owen Budd added nine to go with nine service points.

Woodstock Academy 3 Rockville 0

The regular season continues to rapidly wind down for the Centaurs who improved to 16-1 overall and 11-0 in the Connecticut Volleyball League with the shutout victory.

Brayden Bottone led the way for the Centaurs with 17 kills, 13 digs and 11 service points while Gavin Hecker tossed in 17 assists and Christian Hart had 11 digs in the win.

Girls Lacrosse

Woodstock Academy 9 Killingly 7

Senior midfielder Vivian Bibeau had another nice day as she scored three goals and had two assists for the Centaurs (2-7-1).

Kaylee Saucier had two goals and two assists with Em Forcier and Clara Dowdle each scoring twice.



Courtesy

All smiles as young people from Putnam Elementary learn to swim at the Hale YMCA Youth & Family Center.

Local gift helps Putnam students gain life-saving water safety skills

PUTNAM — For many children, the difference between fear and confidence in the water can come down to one opportunity.

This spring, nearly 100 fourth-grade students from Putnam Elementary School received that opportunity to step into the pool, some for the very first time, through a four-week swim and water safety program at the Hale YMCA Youth & Family Center, part of the YMCA of Greater Hartford.

The program was made possible through a generous gift from longtime YMCA supporters Steven and Ellen DelPappa, whose commitment to the community continues to expand access to life-saving skills ahead of the critical summer season.

“Swimming is the perfect intersection of safety, lifelong health, and fun,” said Steven DelPappa. “Every child should have the chance to learn these skills. We hope this experience not only helps keep them safe, but opens the door to a lifetime of confidence in and around the water.”

As summer approaches, access to swim lessons remains a challenge for many families. A recent YMCA survey found that nine out of ten parents consider swimming a critical life skill, yet nearly half say lessons are too expensive, and three in ten cite cost as a barrier to enrolling their children. Programs like the one in Putnam help remove those barriers.

Through a partnership with Putnam Public Schools, students were transported to the Hale YMCA Youth & Family Center during their scheduled gym periods, ensuring participation without added burden on families. During March and April, approximately 95 students took part in five rotating classes, receiving instruction tailored to their skill level.

For some, it meant learning to float and feel comfortable in the water. For others, it meant refining strokes and building endurance. For all, it meant gaining skills that can help save lives. The program followed the YMCA’s nationally recognized Safety Around Water curriculum, which equips children with essential techniques designed to reduce the risk of drowning and increase confidence in aquatic environments.

Students practiced foundational skills such as floating, submerging, and safely returning to the pool edge, while also learning key safety sequences, including:

-Jump, Push, Turn, Grab - helping children return to safety after unexpected entry into the water

-Swim, Float, Swim - building stamina and the ability to rest and continue moving to safety

-Reach or Throw, Don’t Go - teaching safe ways to assist others in distress without entering the water

The curriculum blends these critical safety techniques with engaging, age-appropriate activities that help children not only learn, but retain and apply what they’ve practiced.

For the DelPappa family, this initiative reflects a long-standing connection to both the YMCA and the broader community.

After moving to Pomfret in 1990, Steven DelPappa became actively involved in the planning of the Hale YMCA, which opened in 2008. Since then, the family has consistently supported programs that promote health, wellness, and youth development, including Livestrong at the YMCA and Camp Cutler.

For Ellen DelPappa, a lifelong swimmer who regularly uses the Hale YMCA’s lap pool, the impact is deeply personal.

“The YMCA has always been a place where people of all ages can grow stronger, physically and mentally,” said DelPappa. “Being able to help introduce children to swimming and water safety, especially those who might not otherwise have the opportunity, is incredibly meaningful to us.”

YMCA instructors emphasize that elementary school is a critical time to introduce water safety skills, especially for children who may not otherwise have access to lessons. Even a short, structured program can have a lasting impact.

“We see kids come in unsure or even afraid of the water,” said Christine Earehart, a longtime swim instructor at Hale. “By the end, they’re more confident, more capable, and more aware of how to stay safe. That transformation is what makes programs like this so important.”

Organizers hope that this initial exposure will encourage continued participation in swim lessons and help families feel more confident engaging in water-based activities throughout the summer and beyond.

With thousands of pools nationwide, and more than a dozen pools, waterfronts, and aquatics facilities available across the Greater Hartford family, the YMCA of Greater Hartford continues to lead efforts to make water safety education accessible to all children, regardless of background or income.

Programs like Safety Around Water are designed to reduce the risk of drowning while empowering kids with confidence and skills that last a lifetime, all while keeping learning fun and engaging.

For the students in Putnam, this program represents more than a series of lessons; it’s a step toward a safer, more confident summer in and around the water.

About the YMCA of Greater Hartford

The YMCA of Greater Hartford is a mission-driven non-profit dedicated to strengthening community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility for more than 170 years. Through programs like Safety Around Water, the YMCA works to ensure all children and families have access to life-changing skills and opportunities. Providing transformative programming to promote diversity, inclusion, and equity for all citizens of all ages, the YMCA’s mission can be found at 6 facility branches, 11 camps, 6 pre-school and daycare locations, and 25 school-age before and after school sites, serving over 68,000 community members each year.

For more information about Safety Around Water or other YMCA programs, visit www.ghYMCA.org.

WOODSTOCK ACADEMY ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 12

High Honors: Rania Almashharawi, Noemia Amaral, Bree Antaya, Benjamin Arters, Aiden Bachand, Anthony Beaudreault, Francesco Bianchi, Vivian Bibeau, Kaylee Bundy, Vaughn Buzak, Adelyn Cournoyer, Nathaniel Couture, Tieman Curran, Isabel D’Alleva-Bochain, Avery Danis, Scarlet Delaney, Alexa Delmonaco, Danielle Demers, Gianna DiCola-Keddy, Olivia DiGregorio, Abby Ditzel, Haoran Dong, Clara Dowdle, Harrison Durand, Jackson Durand, Lucia Durand, Emma Eaton, Kiley Elliott, Riley Faber, Maddalena Ferraro, Emma Forcier, Jenna Forcier, Avery Gallagher, David Genay, Maura Hart, Lilah Jafar-DeCesare, Hyeiya Shih Yong Jung, Julia Kerr, Jaelyn Knox, Payton Leite, Eden Lusignan, Eva Lusignan, Eli Manning, Mykola Marchenko, Spencer Mayo, Ivar McDonald, Camden Mercer, Lilyanne Mercier, Jayzlyn Miller, Miranda Miller, Weston Mission, Lillian Morgis, Emily Mumford, Giulia Musumeci, Obama Ngarambe, Alec Nunes, Nicolas Ochoa Espejo, Tianna Ortiz, Thatcher Paterson, Gabriella Payne, Lucas Quercia, Emma Quinney, Connor Racine, Lorenzo Ramponi, Nathan Rauls, Kerrigan Reynolds, Lavinia Ricotta, Kyrialis Rivera Cabrera, Baylee Rosinski, Finnley Salzarulo-Syphers, Ellary Sampson, Kaylee Saucier, Steven Siyuan Shen, Ella Simoes, Caleb Simoneau, Jocelynn Serrine, Mykhailo Smoliar, Aidan Soukaloun, Kayla St. Louis, Alexis Starr, Abigail Stevens, Collin Teal, Olivia Tracy, Olivia Varin, Tymofii Vybomyi, Emma Weitknecht, Sadie Wood, Wynter Worth

Honors: Sofia Aguilar Del Olmo, Ella Balgenorth, Alexis Beausoleil, Aidan Botelho, Aubrey Ngoc Bui, Jack Buyers, Allison Camara, Gabriella Carito, Ryan Chabot, Landen Choquette, Mert Coker, Carrina Cook, Avery Crescimanno, Edward Cygnarowicz, Andrea De Cos Ortiz, Greysen Dery, Jackson Dorez, Amelia Duquette, Madilyne Ead, Nathan Faucher, Campbell Favreau, Philip Feanny Aleman, Anniemarie Fernandez, Sara Forcier, Henry Forrest, Kayden Foster, Cruz Garcia, Collin Gaudette, Karlie Gauthier, Brady Gedutis, Ekin Gokcimen, Kaylyn Hall, Blake Hudock, Simal Ilhan, Aidan Jeon, Soyul Sophie Jung, Danylo Kyrlyuk, Elizabeth Ladzinski, Andrew Landreville, Kris Latour, Madison LaVallee, Kenzie Le, Phillip Le, Sujong Lee, Ivan Lin, Emma Long, Katelyn McArthur, Moleya Moi, Liliana Moran, Gianna Musumeci, Avery Nielsen, Aidan O’Connor, Mariia Oliinyk, Kyle Parmeter, Diya Patel, Oscar Pearman, Kloe Pike, Avery Plouffe, Hanyi Ran, Sophia Rattray, Emma Raymond, April Regis, Jomaralaz Rosado, Emma Rustichelli, Zion Simms, Jamie-Dean Stewart, Helen Telford, Abby Thayer, Luke Thompson, Oliver Trudeau, Michael Wolchesky, Ryan Qianmo Yang, Ava Zellweger, Peter Jiacheng Zeng

Recognition: Hannah Backofen, Maci Corradi, Jialiang Fu, Owen Hamilton, Maddox Houston, Kolbie Iacuele, Colin MacNeil, Greyson Magnan, Emma Nagel, Robert Olmsted, Vayda Payne, Evelyn Pine, David Sumner, Nawal Tafesh, Daniel Yang

Grade 11

High Honors: Tess Anderson, Aiden Batista, Izabella Bernstein, Connor Bessette, Sydney Betty, Brayden Bottone, Drew Bundy, Jiayue Chen, Caroline Costa, Joshua Couture, Ronan Curran, Xueer Dai, Brayden De Oliveira, Maylie Ganas, Sophia Giourelis, Brayden Graves, Samuel Greene, Avery Gregoire, Patrick Griswold, Ethan Haynes, Delilah Kesselman, Tymofii Kholod, Antonia Klocker, Maxwell Kopp, Matthew

Kruger, Elina Makarenko, Joshua May, Molly Mead, Alexander Milardo, Caylee Morrison, Evony N’Chonon, Luca Passinha Braz, Elijah Poh, Jarim Shin, Matias Solano Platero, Isabelle Tedisky, Heath White, Can Yakal, Grette Qige Zheng

Honors: Nova Almquist, John Andersen, Samuel Anderson, Mia Auger, Catalina Baarda, Christian Bard, Scott Bartley, Ava Beauchemin-King, Olivia Beaulieu, Tiana Bergeron, Andriy Bezpalyy, Madison Boyd, Jorge Castellanos, Collin Charette, Evan Chernik, Felix Phuc Co, Kellen Coleman, Elise Coyle, Fabian Crespo, Penelope Khanh Dang, Kady Danner, Matthew Dearborn, Miles Densmore, Rhea DeSota, Kathryn Dobosz, Della Dupont, Bronson Eddy, Ivan Fernandez Zamora, Lorelai Fish, Dilena Francis, Michael Gallagher, Raul Garcia Maestre, Gage Gawron, Anthony Genna, Ethan Gilchrist, Avery Grant, Finley Hamilton, Cooper Harris, Tristan Hayden, Brady Hebert, Cora Hefner, Jake Henderson, Nathan Jezierski, Matthew Johndrow, Maria Jordanoglou, Anna-Sophia Koch, Winston Kvanli, Ayden Lamontagne, Alina Le, Ana Paula Marques, Camden Marshall, Xawier Matwiej, Brooke Mayo, Mitchell Mazzucco, Kennedy McCooley, Brady Mullin, Elijah Nagel, Anthony Nuccio, Natasha Oatley, Tyler Odorski, Felipe Pacheco Freire da Costa, Pedro Pacheco Freire da Costa, Cameron Perreault, Willy Weiyuan Qin, Riley Quinn-Perkins, Sydney Reed, Drew Rhault, Grace Rivera-Berberian, Blake Robida, Gabe Ruoppo, Grace Sallar, Aiden Sanchez, Alexis Sansone, Thomas Sansoucy, Jenna Saraidarian, Richard Sarpong, Avery Schaefer, Reagan Scheck, Daniel Song Ding, Tre Sotomayor, Bella Stillitano, Marharita Svshch, Jerry XiCheng Tang, Kaitlyn Thiffeault, Chloe Vogt, Wyatt Voter, Mike Gia Bao Vu, Lila Walker, Owen Williamson, Cayden Worth, Adelise Young

Recognition: Evan Bartley, Maggie Beams, Haode Chen, Kaylyn Converse, Eve Dziengieski, Claire Ellsworth, Marissa Grieco, Mike Zhizong He, Anna Hernandez, Gabriel Hull, Blake Kudzal, Christian Ladero, Kealyn Lamarche, Luke Larkin, Patricia Lopez Castro, Hayden Maloney, Abby Neeland, Jason Nelson, Jessica Palmerino, Tatum Perez, Jake Quattlebaum, David Rahall, Alexeeya Richter-Lamarre, Lyra Ritner, Kieran Shepherd, Zachary Thibeault, Leah Thibodeau, Adrian Vargas, Anthony Wolfe, Jimmy Zhewei Zhang

Grade 10

High Honors: Carolina Ahearn, Mateo Alonso Godino, Isabella Amlaw, Grace Audet, Zoe Bibek, Lily Buisch, Jason Burns, Jack Capobianco-Dildine, Addison Casteen, Ella Chitmanotham, Brynn Choruzek, Madison Crevier, Georgia Cross, Colby Deary, Alexander DeCarli, Olivia Devolve, Melanie DiPippo, Charlotte Donovan, Nathaniel Drake, Olivia Durgin, William Ellsworth, Timothy Gardner, Jax Golden, Jacob Gollop, Summer Goodell, Rose Granger, Eli Hamilton, Aocheng Jimmy Han, Lucas Hart, Anastasia Haveles, Kasey Jakan, Caitlin Kilcollum, Jaehee Kim, Eva Laversin, Andrew MacNeil, Abigail Manning, Kaitlyn McQuiston, Namrah Naveed, Sophia Papineau, Ella Petersen, Dana Mae Pittner, Payton Plasse, Colby Plouffe, Stella Puchalski, Aaliyah Raymond, Adriana Saenz Ortega, Rainie Singleton, Scarlett Sistare, Lily Smock, Juan Soldado Moreno, Faith Sortwell, Rosemarie Taricani, Kaitlyn Teal, Stanley Ten Eyck, Evelyn Thayer, Ian Thayer, Elizabeth Thomas, Addison Tyler, Reach Vadhana, Olivia Wolchesky, Kennedy Xeller, Nevaeh Youssef, Muhammad Zameer

Honors: Claire Anderson, Hunter Armstrong, Rhys Asikainen, Caleb Aubertine, Shealyn Bannon, Danika Beliveau, Scarlett Beliveau, Liam Bertram, Meadow Blain, Lily Brown-Nevala, Gonzalo Carbajal Barbal, Mason Castillo, William Charette, Zoe Cloutier, Ash Collige, Christopher

Corneau, Kayleigh Cote, Samantha Cote, Theo DeChellis, Mikel Dong, Nina Drane, Ava Eaton, Colin Ericson, Julien Farwell, Gabriel Flannery, Allison Frechette, Giuliana Galante, Sophia Groves, Evangeline Gurski, Carlita Herrera, Abigail Hollenbeck, Pablo Hoyos Gonzalez, Daniel Jameson, Miles Jeserski, Alexia Kacerik, Damien Kacerik, Abigail Keser, Hae Sung Kim, Zoe Laffert, Abigail Langevin, Lilah Ledogar, Jeong Bin Lee, Yoojin Lee, Lily Leite, Myla Leone, Kaylee Letourneau, Kyra Longey, Cuhrlitz Welch Lopera, Dieu Phuong Quyen Luc, Ethan MacNeil, Haven Magnan, John Mainetti, Emma Mairson, Teagan Maloney, Tristen Maloney, Simon Marcos Fernandez, Daniel Matteau, Makenzie McMahon, Oliver Moulton, Owen Murdock, Desmond Naawu, Kristina Nieminen, Anyah Oatley, Colbie O’Connor, Ajani Osborne, Madison Parsons, Hattie Patenaude, Eli Petrarca, Oliver Pierce, Patrick Raftery, Martina Rivera Wollstein, David Rozas Caballero, Erin Russell, Ava Santos, Harry Yufan Shangguan, Addison Shaw, Harper Simoneau, Nolan Smeltzer, Payton Smith, Ella Stone, Dylan Syriac, Chenglin Tan, Zahra Troy, Lucille Trudeau, Jordyn Vaccaro, Vivian Vail, Caroline Walen, Lauren Young, Adalynn Zegarzewski

Recognition: Gia Baldyga, Kaylanni Beaudry, Katelynne Bell, Juliette Bernier, Jacob Bickoff, Blakelee Buzak, Jimmy Carlone, Weilin Chen, Keagan DeNolfo, Brody Dexter, Caroline Ethier, Lara Gonzalez Minguez, Jackson Hayden, Phoebe Houston, Kaitlyn LaBonte, Kaleb Langlois, Wyatt Matulis, Lily Mioduszewski, Adrian Newall-Vuillemot, Cassidy Rosinski, Joseph Spring, Vanessa Tetreault

Grade 9

High Honors: Amber Apicelli, Guillem Bergada Gragea, Brin Blake, Kestrel Brousseau, Jackson Chisholm, Brielle Coderre, Jameson Costa, Ethan Cote, Alexander Cournoyer, Gulliver Dombkowski, Kalena Fortner, Carter Grassi, Orion Huling, Carrie Liu, Sophia Nason, Bao Novotny, Eliana Smith, Liliana SorieroDurand, Emma Stacy, De ari Trott, Tyson Yates, Georgiana Young

Honors: Addison Anthony, Luke Apperson, Marge Azu, Liam Bartholic, Adelaide Beams, Jakob Beauchene, Brianna Beck, Aiden Black, Owen Brackett, Ella Brennan, Sophie Bruneaux, Scarlett Chadwick, Aeron Clauson, Elaina Costa, Nico DeFilippo, Alexander DeYoung, Alexandra Dobosz, Abbagale Dobson, Sullivan Dombkowski, Holly Dubina, Viviana Garza, Henry Goodwin, Sophia Gosselin, Nick Grist, Cara Grossman, Declan Harman, Jace Harris, Abigail Haynes, Alexa Heersink, Jack Heimgartner, Liam Hewson, Autumn Hill, Carr Xinseng Huang, Piper Jagodzinski, Marina Jennings, Huidam Jeon, Jenson Knight, Yianni Kotsalidis, Emelia Langevin, Emily HanYu Liao, Jordan Lyon, Anthony Malone, Lilliana McCormick, Archie McDonald, Molly Morrisette, Lily Nellis, Isabella Noel, Nicole Obeng, Jaden Minsung Park, Sahaya Patel, Madyson Peach, Kinzley Pike, Dawson Pinter, Madison Sapp, Cody Scott, Benjamin Shamp, Mikai Shepherd, Tristan Sparks, Aylin Stevens, Anh Trinh, Nina Ngan Kim Truong, Ryan Turbesi, Zoey Vanisavath, Mia Vigliotte, Bruce Walker, Jack Xuyao Xie

Recognition: Claire Bruneaux, Teagan Cygnarowicz, Janelle Elliott, Serena Ellis, Hayden Ferguson, Grace Foster, Eli Gray, Ryleigh Hitchcock, Mia Kernan, Serafina Kesselman, Autumn Maturi, Owen McNeil, Aiden Mitchell, Lillian Nault, Cooper O’Brien, Ella Quinn-Perkins, Olivia Rasmusson, Rachel Reno, Reese Robillard, Samuel Sallar, Eean Sanborn, Anthony Santos, Jude Sargent, Emma Schimmelpfennig, Lillian Shaw, Brooklyn Sherman-Wessell, Charlotte Totten, Tristan Tyler, Harbor Wotton



Courtesy

The Daughters of the Holy Spirit Sisters and Associates recently celebrated Catholic Sisters Week with a luncheon, attended by Sisters and Associates. Rev. Ross Johnson of the Living Faith Methodist Church in Putnam spoke about their work with the homeless in the area and ways DHS can expand their support of this ministry.

Graduation season: Financial gifts, 529 plans, and early investing strategies

Graduation season is more than a celebration; it's a transition point. Whether someone is finishing high school or college, this is often the moment when financial independence begins to take shape. And for parents, grandparents, and family members, it raises an important question: what's the most meaningful way to support them financially right now?

FINANCIAL FOCUS • • • • • HOLLY C. WANEGAR INVESTMENT ADVISER

Instead of defaulting to cash, this is a great opportunity to help a graduate build habits and structure that can benefit them for decades.

One of the most powerful advantages a young adult has is time. Starting early—whether that's saving, investing, or simply learning how money works—can dramatically change long-term outcomes. Even small contributions made early can grow meaningfully over time through compounding.

But most graduates don't yet have a system. They may have the time, but not the structure or guidance. That's where a thoughtful and strategic financial gift such as a 529 Plan, custodial account, Roth IRA, or a brokerage account can make a real difference, not just today, but long term. These types of gifts can also provide generational wealth benefits for the person giving them as well, as it removes the funds from their estate, potentially reducing taxes.

Financial gifts for grads that are more valuable than cash

529 Plan: If education is still part of the plan (whether that's college, graduate school, certifications, or other qualified future learning) a 529 plan can be useful. These accounts allow contributions to grow tax-deferred, and withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified education expenses. In some cases, there may also be state-level tax benefits.

What many people don't realize is that these plans offer more flexibility than expected. For example, funds can still be used for future education needs, and under current rules, some unused funds may even be rolled into a Roth IRA within certain limits. For families thinking beyond the immediate next step, this can be a helpful tool to keep in place.

Custodial Accounts: Custodial accounts, such as UGMA or UTMA accounts, offer a different kind of flexibility. These accounts allow assets to be invested on behalf of a child and transferred to them once they reach adulthood. Unlike 529 plans, the funds are not restricted to education expenses, which can be appealing.

However, there are important trade-offs to consider. The assets legally belong to the child, which can impact financial aid eligibility, and these accounts do not offer the same level of tax efficiency as education-specific options. For families looking to introduce investing early, they can still be a valuable tool, especially when paired with guidance and conversation.

Roth IRA: For graduates who have earned income, a

Roth IRA stands out as one of the most powerful opportunities available.

Contributions grow tax-free, and withdrawals in retirement are also tax-free, which creates a strong long-term advantage. Just as importantly, contributions made early have decades to compound. Even a relatively small amount invested at the beginning of a career can grow into something meaningful over time. Family members can support this by gifting funds that allow the graduate to make contributions, as long as the graduate has earned income to qualify.

Brokerage account: For those entering the workforce, a brokerage account can be a practical way to begin investing right away. It provides access to the markets, flexibility to use funds if needed, and an opportunity to begin building investing habits early. At the same time, this approach requires a level of discipline. Without guidance, it's easy to fall into short-term thinking or emotional decision-making. Starting early is important, but maintaining a long-term mindset is what ultimately drives results.

The most valuable financial gift

While each of these financial tools has its place, the most impactful gift may not be an account at all; it may be understanding. We've seen time and again that wealth is not just about what is passed down, but how it is managed. Without that foundation, even significant financial resources can be lost over time.

Graduation is a natural opportunity to introduce key financial concepts in a way that feels relevant and practical. This can include helping someone understand how to manage cash flow and build a budget, why saving and investing early matters, how debt and credit actually work, and how to think about the difference between short-term decisions and long-term goals. At WHZ, we often emphasize that the goal isn't just to build wealth, but to help people feel confident managing it.

Selecting the right financial gift for your grad

Choosing the right approach doesn't need to be complicated, but it should be intentional. It helps to consider where the graduate is in life, whether they have earned income, what your broader family goals are, and how comfortable they are today when it comes to managing money. In many cases, a combination of strategies works best. For example, pairing a Roth IRA contribution with ongoing financial education can create both a strong finan-

cial start and the knowledge needed to build on it.

Graduation marks the beginning of financial independence, whether it feels like it yet or not. The habits formed during this stage—how someone saves, spends, and approaches decisions—can shape outcomes for decades. This is especially important in a time when significant wealth is expected to transfer across generations. Preparing the next generation to manage that responsibility thoughtfully is just as important as the assets themselves.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we work with families to create strategies that support long-term success, from education planning to early investing and beyond. Schedule a complimentary discovery session at whzwealth.com or call us at (860) 928-2341 to start building a plan that supports your family's future, and learn how we aim to help each of our clients live with Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Authored by WHZ Vice President, Associate Wealth Advisor Holly C. Wanegar, CFP®. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. The fees, expenses, and features of 529 plans can vary from state to state. 529 plans involve investment risk, including the possible loss of funds. There is no guarantee that an education-funding goal will be met. In order to be federally tax free, earnings must be used to pay for qualified education expenses. The earnings portion of a nonqualified withdrawal will be subject to ordinary income tax at the recipient's marginal rate and subject to a 10 percent penalty. By investing in a plan outside your state of residence, you may lose any state tax benefits. 529 plans are subject to enrollment, maintenance, and administration/management fees and expenses.

These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>.

Killingly announces plans for Memorial Day celebrations

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Veterans Council, American Legion Post 21, AMVETS Post 45, and Danielson Elks BPOE 1706 are sponsoring Memorial Day Parades and Ceremonies at the following dates and times:

Sunday, May 24: Dayville Parade starts at 2:00 pm from Owen Ball Park with ceremonies at High Street Cemetery, the Bridge on Route 101 and St. Joseph Cemetery.

Monday, May 25: The South Killingly Parade starts at 9:00 am from Hal Hill and Cook Hill roads, with ceremonies at South and North Cemeteries on Cook Hill Road.

Monday, May 25: The East Killingly Parade starts at 11:00 am from the Fire Station on Route 101, with ceremonies on Bear Hill Road, Hopkins Cemetery off Bear Hill Road, and Bartlett Cemetery on Route 101.

Monday, May 25: The Danielson Parade starts at 1 p.m. from St. James, with ceremonies at Commerce Avenue and Davis Park. (There will be a flatbed truck for any Veterans wishing to ride in the Parade.)

Please contact Charlie Crowley at 860-481-2963, Al Duff at 860-753-6399, or Jen Hegedus at 508-615-5485 if you plan to ride.

Danielson Borough Council appoints Interim Fire Chief

DANIELSON — The Danielson Borough Council is proud to announce the unanimous appointment of Keven

McNeill as Interim Fire Chief of the Danielson Fire Department.

McNeill was formally sworn in during a Special Meeting of the Council on May 8, marking an important moment of transition and renewed leadership for the Department.

With 28 years of dedicated service as a first responder, McNeill brings a distinguished record of commitment to public safety. His experience spans both law enforcement and fire service, including 19 years as a police officer and 16 years in the fire service. In addition, he has served as an instructor at the regional fire academy, helping to train and mentor the next generation of firefighters. McNeill also serves as President and CEO of the Quiet Corner Peer Support Group, where he advocates for the mental health and resilience of first responders.

The Borough Council expresses its full confidence in Interim Chief McNeill's lead-

ership, professionalism, and steadfast commitment to the well-being of Department members. The Council looks forward to working collaboratively with him as the Danielson Fire Department enters a new chapter focused on stability, unity, and continued service to the community.

The Borough Council was slated to hold a Special Meeting Wednesday evening after this week's edition went to press, inviting Department members and personnel to come together in a spirit of cooperation to discuss current

challenges, identify solutions, and strengthen their shared commitment to moving forward.

Residents are encouraged to remain engaged through Borough communications, support local recruitment efforts, and consider volunteering if qualified. For additional information, please visit www.boroughofdanielson.org or contact the Borough Administrator's Office.

First-ever Newtown running event brings community together Aug. 30

NEWTOWN — Runners, walkers and fitness enthusiasts are gearing up for the first-ever Newtown Community Running Event, taking place on Sunday, Aug. 30 at Fairfield Hills. Hosted by Newtown Road Runners, this event will host Newtown's first ever half marathon and the net proceeds go to Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association in honor of Greg Ritzinger, recognizing his service and dedication to the community. Greg was an EMT and one of the original members of the Newtown Road Runners group.

Participants can choose from Half Marathon, 10K, 5K and a Free Kid's Run. The event will also feature local vendors making it a full day of celebration for the community.

"We are thrilled to bring a half marathon to Newtown for a great cause," said Bruce Goulart, Race Director.

Organizers are seeking businesses, organizations and individuals to partner as event sponsors. Sponsorship opportunities may include logo placement on race shirts, website and recognition in event promotions.

Volunteers are also needed for various tasks prior to and on the day of the event. If you are interested in sponsoring and/or volunteering, please call Bruce Goulart at (203) 482-2529.

Registration is open now at rnsignup.com. The cost to participate are as follows: Half Marathan Runners/Walkers \$75, 10K Runners/Walkers \$55, 5K Runners/Walkers \$35, and Free Kid's Run.



Courtesy

On May 8, Smoke and Mirrors, located at 211 Kennedy Dr. in Putnam, held a ribbon cutting for their new location.

In the photo are Selectman Mike Bogdanski, Deputy Mayor Scott Pempek, Laura Jones (owner), Kate Cerrone (PBA President), Sheila Frost (PBA vice President). Smoke and Mirrors is a full-service salon in Putnam, CT, offering a wide range of beauty treatments like hair, lashes, facials, spray tans, and permanent jewelry in a safe, inclusive, and relaxing environment. Founded by Laura Jones, the salon focuses on personalized, high-quality services and aims to boost client confidence, with services available through their booking site.

American Legion Post 21 announces CT State Police Youth Week

DANIELSON — The American Legion Connecticut State Police Youth Week 2026 is for high school students, male or female, who are completing their junior year in 2026 and who are interested in a career in law enforcement, military service, or a related field.

This is a seven-day program with the cadets staying overnight in dormitory type housing at the Connecticut State Police Training Academy in Meriden starting Sunday, Aug. 2, through Saturday, Aug. 8.

The program is patterned after the Connecticut State Police cadet train-

ing regimen which includes firearms and safety training, team-building and confidence training, physical conditioning, patrol techniques, criminal and accident investigations, defensive driving techniques, and law enforcement skill training.

Completed applications, accompanied by the \$125 application fee, which will be paid by American Legion Post 21 Danielson, are due Friday, June 5. The number of cadets is limited to thirty. Selection of cadets is generally completed within two weeks of the application due date.

For more information or to get an application, contact your High School Guidance Counsellor, Career Center Office, or Resource Officer; or visit ctlegion.org and search at Programs for Connecticut State Police Youth Week; or contact American Legion Post 21 Danielson Officers Dave Mulford at (860) 771-9151 or Charlie Crowley at (860) 481-2963.

LEGALS

Town of Woodstock Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

On May 4, 2026, the Town of Woodstock IWWA met and made the following decision:

- Approved Application #04-26-04 – 55 Crooked Trail (5787/34/111W) – Peter Flaherty-Application to modify existing "as of right" approval – 20 x20 Beach Area, Seasonal Dock, Stairs, Shoreline Stabilization
 - Approved Application #04-26-02- Route 197 (5128/23/03C2) – Karen Blakely/Karl Riendeau – Timber Harvest
 - Approved Application #04-26-03- Route 197 (5128/23/03C1) – Frederick Chesanck/Karl Riendeau – Timber Harvest
- Details of these approvals may be

obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov May 15, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE THOMPSON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE NOTICE OF CAUCUS

The enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Thompson, Connecticut are hereby notified that a caucus of the Thompson Democratic Party will be held on: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:00 P.M.

Thompson Town Hall
Thompson, Connecticut
PURPOSE: To select party endorsed candidate(s) for the municipal office of

the Registrar of Voters.

All enrolled Democratic voters of the Town of Thompson are entitled to attend and vote. The caucus will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and the Connecticut General Statutes.

By order of the Thompson Democratic Town Committee.

Andrew Irbly
Chairperson, Thompson Democratic Town Committee
Kristin Schultz
Secretary, Thompson Democratic Town Committee
This notice paid for by the Thompson Democratic Town Committee
May 15, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Pamela Jane Bastille, AKA Pamela J Bastille (26-00145)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 29, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Eva Stellato
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD,
ST ONGE & BROUILLARD,
50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
May 15, 2026

OBITUARIES

Joseph B. Norton, Jr., 77



Rogers- Joseph B. Norton, Jr., 77, of Rogers, passed away May 1, 2026, after a series of illnesses.

Joe was perhaps best known for his years of involvement with Killingly youth athletics, particularly the teams of Killingly High School. He was a legendary figure at nearly every high school sporting event earning him the sobriquet "Mr. Killingly".

Joe had been employed by the town Recreation Department and then worked various positions for the Killingly Public schools for more than 30 years. In addition to his regular duties Joe ran the scoreboard for a number of sports and in 1995 he became the Voice of K.H.S. Football as Fulltime Home Game Announcer for the next 28 years. He was particularly proud to show the Championship ring the team awarded him when they won the 2017 State Class M Title.

He was born in the village of Goodyear, now Rogers, in Killingly February 5, 1949 to Joseph B. and Florence (Jackson) Norton. They predeceased him. He is survived locally by his cousins Joseph Jackson of Woodstock and Daniel Jackson of Rogers and several out-of-state cousins. He was predeceased recently by cousins Karen Jackson of East Killingly and Kathleen (Jackson) Weiss of Dayville.

Growing up in Goodyear Joe was one of at least a couple dozen Baby Boomers born there shortly after WWII. His was the epitome of village life in the 1950s and 1960s. His folks worked at the mill. For the first

six years of school he rode his bike to the four-room Goodyear Grammar School on Williamsville Road. He served as an altar boy at St. Ignatius Church across the street and bowled duck pins in the basement of "The Club" at the bottom of the hill. His dad was a Little League Committeeman and was instrumental the construction of the field that now stands on State Avenue. Joe would often talk about the happy summer days he spent on that field.

Joe later discovered running before it became trendy and for years he could be seen putting in his morning miles on the roads of Killingly in any kind of weather. He eventually found like minded folks who met Sunday morning for runs and the occasional road race. Kids weren't sure who he was but when spotted he was referred to as "The Running Man".

Joe lived a simple quiet life on his own terms. He would go out to eat lunch at the same local coffee shops and restaurants most days then stop in at the post office next to the church to check Box 54 and chat with the locals. If he felt like it. Depended on his mood. He lived in the same family home on State Avenue that his grandparents did until his failing health brought him to Westcott Wilcox Elderly Residential Housing in Danielson for a little additional assistance. He met a whole new group of friends there and he was grateful for their kindness.

In lieu of funeral services some of Joe's friends and classmates are planning a memorial celebration that will include the scattering of his ashes at an appropriate location this summer.

Please keep him in your thoughts.

Alice Elizabeth Uhler "Betty" Hale

April 3, 1930 to May 6, 2026



Alice Elizabeth Uhler "Betty" Hale died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on May 6, 2026, at Selah Farm in Pomfret Center, Connecticut. She was 96 years old.

Born on April 3, 1930, in Flatbush, Brooklyn, New York, Betty was the daughter of Alice Amelia (Nelson) Uhler and John Martin Uhler II. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Newell Dawson Hale, whom she married in 1971; her sister, Madeleine "Mad" Lake; her brother, John M. Uhler; her stepdaughter, Leslie Hale Cooke; and her grandson, Benjamin Lee Cooke.

She is survived by her devoted son and daughter-in-law, Laurence Newton Hale II and Jane Currie Linnard Hale; her stepdaughters, Catherine Hale Sellick and her husband, John Sellick, and Lee Murray Hale and her husband, Alan Fitch; her cherished grandchildren, Helen Currie Hale, Newell Dawson Hale II, Peter Stancliff Hale, Ashley Eman Mannell and her husband, Benjamin Mannell, and Alec Newell Eman; and her adored great-grandchildren, Chloe, Clementine, and Clara Mannell. She also leaves behind a host of beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and great-grandnieces and nephews, all of whom she loved dearly.

Betty graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn in 1948. After a brief period living with her family in Concord, New Hampshire, she fearlessly moved to Boston on her own, knowing no one, and quickly built a lifelong community of friends. She lived and worked in Boston for many years, rising to become a Senior Vice President in the insurance industry at a time when women were very rarely afforded such recognition of their intelligence and prowess.

Throughout her remarkable life, Betty was a visionary, a philanthropist, and an indomitable force for good. She rarely accepted the word "no," especially when it stood in the way of helping others. Her boundless energy, determination, and generosity transformed countless lives throughout northeastern Connecticut and beyond.

Betty believed deeply in the power of community, education, health care, and the arts, especially for children. Among her many accomplishments, she spearheaded the effort to create a YMCA in Putnam so that every child in northeastern Connecticut could learn to swim and feel included and valued. Through her leadership and the support of a community inspired by her vision, the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center opened in 2016, and has been serving not just the community's children, but her vision created a hub of health and connection for thousands of members of all ages, making the Hale YMCA one of the most successful branches of the YMCA of Greater Hartford.

Together with her husband, Newell, Betty chaired Day Kimball Hospital's New Century Campaign, helping establish the Hale Medical Pavilion, including surgical suites and the birthing center where generations of families, including her own grandchildren, received compassionate care and warm welcomes into the world.

When asked about her profession, Betty proudly described herself as an "Arts Administrator," a title she held with passion for more than fifty years. A lifelong lover of the performing arts, she helped found The Three C's and Opera New England, which evolved into Performing Arts of Northeastern Connecticut. Over more than five decades with Betty at the helm in some way, these volunteer organizations brought professional opera, symphony, and dramatic performances and arts education to more than 500,000 schoolchildren across 21 towns, entirely free of charge. To ensure all children could participate, Betty collaborated to co-found

Wheels to Learning, providing transportation for school districts without funding for such experiences. For generations of children, those encounters with the arts were transformative and life-changing.

Following Newell's passing, Betty established the Newell D. Hale Foundation in his memory, dedicated to improving quality of life in northeastern Connecticut through support for the arts, health care, and the well-being of children and families. That mission continues today through the soon-to-be-renamed Newell and Betty Hale Foundation.

Betty also gave generously of her time and resources to numerous organizations and causes throughout the region. She served on the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, volunteered with the Pomfret Proprietors, and received the Connecticut Council on Philanthropy's John H. Filer Award. Her support for education included the Hale House and the Newell & Betty Hale Scholarship at Pomfret School, the Hale Elementary School Building at Rectory School, the Pomfret Community School Arts Fund, and Horizons at Rectory School.

She was a dedicated supporter of Day Kimball Healthcare, the Pomfret Public Library, Community Kitchen of Northeastern Connecticut, TEEG, and Access Agency, organizations that reflected her belief that every person deserves the opportunity to thrive. Betty also helped establish the Jules L. Dienstag, MD, and Betty and Newell Hale Endowed Chair in Gastroenterology at Massachusetts General Hospital in gratitude for the exceptional care she and Newell received there.

A longtime member of Christ Church in Pomfret, Betty worshipped faithfully each week, singing joyfully from the last pew and drawing strength from a faith that inspired her lifelong commitment to honoring the dignity and worth of every person.

Betty worked hard, but she loved even harder. She was a gracious and legendary host who delighted in welcoming family and friends to Selah Farm in Pomfret and to Carlisle Bay in Antigua, her cherished "second home" for more than 45 years. Whether at post-opera celebrations, New Year's Eve gatherings, summer barbecues by the pool, or afternoons spent among loved ones, Betty created spaces where people felt special, valued, and deeply loved.

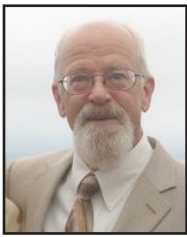
Though she received countless honors for her philanthropy and community leadership, Betty's greatest pride and joy was her family, especially her children and grandchildren, whom she adored beyond measure, and cheered on with wild abandon. Her love has left an enormous, indelible, Nana-shaped imprint on their hearts, and her love will live on in them as perhaps her greatest legacy.

Betty was an inspiration to so many. Her impact along with those of her beloved husband, Newell, will continue for generations through the institutions, programs, and people whose lives they transformed.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Betty's memory may be made to the two organizations who helped her family honor and care for her with peace, tenderness and dignity in the final days of her remarkable life: Day Kimball Health at Home, Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, 415 Riverside Drive, Suite 3, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255, or to Christ Church Pomfret, 527 Pomfret Street, Pomfret, CT 06258.

Her family is deeply grateful to the many people who accompanied Betty on her life's truly extraordinary journey. The whole community is invited to celebrate Betty's life at noon on Saturday, May 16 at Pomfret School's Clark Memorial Chapel with a rite of Christian Burial, immediately followed by a grand, Betty-style reception at the Hale Family YMCA Youth and Family Center, 9 Technology Park Drive in Putnam.

Michael Dean Burdett



Michael Dean Burdett passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family at 10:15 am on Friday the first of May 2026, at Lake Bungee in Woodstock Valley, CT. He was born in

Winstead CT, to parents Leonard and Doty Burdett, on February 21st of 1951. Michael is survived by his son, Samuel Burdett of Woodstock, CT, and sister Carol Downing (Ned) of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He was predeceased by his loving partner of many years, Jaqueline Dunaway, and his nephew, Christopher Downing, as well as brothers David Burdett (Ann) and Peter Burdett (Jola). Mike is loved by his many nieces and nephews: Jason, Ken, Emily, Korinti, Kadisha, and Kara; as well as extended family and friends throughout CT, Gilmanton Ironworks, NH, Lonoke, AK, and beyond.

Michael was raised in Winstead until the Burdett family moved to Thompson in 1963. He graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School in 1969 and worked many different jobs before working for friend and arborist Kenny Schott, subsequently falling in love with tree work. In 1984 he started his own small company, Independent Tree Service, and tended the trees of Northeastern CT for over 40 years. He loved being outdoors, he loved the work, and most of all he loved getting to know the people he met along the way.

Family, friends, and music were the center of Michael's life.

Mike always made as much time as possible to spend with family and friends. Wherever he went, Mike liked to make merry with those he loved. Cribbage and gin-n-tonics, at Crystal Lake in Gilmanton Ironworks, NH, drinks and open-mikes at The Village Lounge in Woodstock, CT, or strumming guitars around the campfire in Lonoke, AK.

Through these things, Mike maintained a strong network of close friendships and a vast network of acquaintances. If you told him a story about someone you just met, chances are he already knew them. Sometimes it felt like he knew everyone.

Mike fell in love with music at a young age, mainly rock and blues acts such as The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, The Who, The Kinks, Jeff Beck, Johnny Winter, The Beach Boys, The Allman Brothers Band, and Todd Rundgren to name a few. He soon taught himself to play guitar. In bedrooms, basements, and bar rooms; around campfires, at concerts, homes, parties, and open mikes; he played many a song (often with his brother David at his side).

We would like to offer thanks to the Hospice staff at Hartford Hospital and for their kindness and care (especially Sara and Leigh).

Celebration of life services will be held from 3 -7 on Saturday, June 6th, at The Hungarian Social Club in Ashford, CT. Please come join us as we celebrate Mike's full life, with food, music, drink, and many stories. And if you can't make it, no worries, just raise one up for Mikey and share a good story with someone you love.

Send all obituary notices to Villager Newspapers, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news



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Courtesy



For the last two weeks, Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam has been preparing to go camping overnight. So far, the Cubs have learned what equipment to pack to take with them and how to pitch a tent. Pack 21 will be going out to camp in June, with trained and experienced adult supervision. This is just one of the many fun and challenging activities Cub Scout Pack 21 does throughout the year. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.

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