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Friday, July 17, 2026

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Pomfret welcomes Jay Osbey as Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach



Jay Osbey

POMFRET — Pomfret School is excited to announce that Jay Osbey has been appointed head coach of the girls varsity basketball team for the 2026–2027 season.

Osbey brings a wealth of experience, a deep understanding of the game, and a strong commitment to the development of student-athletes both on and off the court. With a proven track record of leadership, dedication, and passion for basketball, we are confident he will continue to build on the program's success and foster a positive, competitive team culture.

Osbey most recently served as an assistant women's basketball coach at The University of Tennessee Southern. Prior to UT Southern, he served as the head girls varsity basketball coach and director of basketball operations at SouthLake Christian Academy, where he revitalized the program by doubling its wins each season. He has also worked as director of collegiate basketball recruiting for

AssistU Recruiting and as head coach and recruiting coordinator for Lady Attack Elite, helping players on his roster advance to NCAA Division I and II programs.

Before beginning his coaching career, Osbey was a standout player at Nichols College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in sports management. During his time with the Bison, he served as team captain and helped lead the program to its first NCAA Tournament appearance, first NCAA Tournament victory, and first Sweet 16 berth in school history. Osbey was part of teams that won the 2015–16 ECAC Championship and the 2016–17 Commonwealth Coast Conference Championship, marking one of the most successful stretches in Nichols College basketball history.

Please join us in welcoming Coach Osbey and his family to the Pomfret community. He will begin his duties as assistant director of admissions on July 15 and can be reached at j-osbey@pomfret.org.

Public survey to help guide Killingly superintendent search

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Public School District has completed a survey designed to increase public input into their ongoing superintendent search.

The survey was officially launched in June 2026, and ran through July 8 as a tool to help guide the Board of Education and their consultants in finding a new long-term leader for the district.

The link brought participants to a series of questions asking their relationship to the town, including whether their a resident, parent, of staff member, and asked for input on strengths of the district and the most significant challenges Killingly faces for the future.

It also asked about what leadership experience should be considered for the position, such as prioritizing principals, classrooms teachers, administrators, or experienced superintendents, and what kinds of specific expertise and qualities stakeholders are looking for in a new school leader.

“The purpose of this survey is to provide the Killingly Public Schools Board of Education with a broad perspective of community opinion about the most desirable attributes for a new superintendent of schools,” the survey read. “Your responses to the survey items will enable the Board to create a profile of these attributes that will guide the recruit-

Turn To SEARCH page A10

Brooklyn finalizing membership for Town Administrator Search Committee

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — The Town of Brooklyn is working on finalizing the membership for a new committee which will lead the search for a Town Administrator.

Talks of the new position, which would serve as the Chief Operating Officer of the town, began thanks in part to a recommendation by Brooklyn's Town Governance Committee and have quickly progressed in the first half of the year.

Brooklyn has contracted with search firm Randi Frank Consulting, LLC to help with the process and plans to comprise the search committee of officials from the different town boards and committees. According to minutes from the Brooklyn Board of Finance's June 17 meeting, the town approved the transfer of \$20,000 for the contract.

On July 7, First Selectman Joe Bellavance provided an update to the rest of the Board of Selectmen indicating that the search will include input from a variety of stakeholders.

“We're reaching out to members of our boards and commissions for input. This is not to be part of the search, but the firm is going to be interviewing members of our commissions by some of our supervisors and town employees because we have a draft of a job description that's built,” said Bellavance. “What they're going to do at this point in time is collect information from all of us and all of those key constituents to better understand from all these different perspectives what we're looking for in a town administrator.”

The search committee membership will include all three Selectmen and two members each from the Board of Finance and Town Governance Committee. While they had previously considered the inclusion of an employee on the committee, Bellavance gave a good reason why they chose not to embrace that option.

“I think we discussed this before and all agreed we don't want to have an employee on there that makes it feel like somebody's got a leg up on who the new boss may be and such. So, the committee will be just the seven members,” the First Selectman explained.

No solid timeline for the hiring process has been made public. The town administrator's salary is expected to be around \$120,000 to \$150,000.

Pomfret Historical Society hosts program on “Witnessing Hidden Patriots”

POMFRET — On Aug. 1, the Pomfret Historical Society (PHS) will host a program about the military legacy of one Connecticut family from the Revolutionary War to World War II. The program will take place at Pomfret's historic Old Town House, 11 Town House Dr., at 3 p.m.

Pat Wilson Pheanious of Ashford will share the journey of her family from an enslaved couple in Guilford to her father, Lt. Col. Bertram Wadsworth Wilson, a Tuskegee Airman who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. The family military legacy and their commitment to education and Civil Rights is an American story deserving a place in the 250th celebration of the Declaration of Independence.

A Connecticut native and E.O. Smith graduate, Pat Wilson Pheanious holds degrees in English Literature, Social Work, and Law from the University of Connecticut. A lawyer since 1981, her career has spanned academia, social service administration, and public policy. She served as Connecticut's Commissioner of Social Services (1999–2007) and represented Ashford, Tolland, and Willington in the Connecticut House of Representatives (2018–2022).

Pheanious' commitment to education about Black History is deeply personal. She had long cherished her father's legacy as a Tuskegee Airman but had no idea that her history



Courtesy

Tuskegee Airmen briefing before a mission.

reached far into America's past in pre-revolutionary Connecticut. However, in 2017, research by The Witness Stones Project founder Dennis Culliton revealed five generations of her family history that had been lost to time. That discovery reshaped her life and inspired a new direction in public service. Pat became Chair of the Witness Stones Project Board in 2019 and its Executive Director in 2024. In September 2025, she led the Project's transition to Historic New England, where she became Director of the Stopping

Stones Program. The Program now includes the Witness Stones Project as its educational arm.

As Director of the Stopping Stones Program, Pheanious works with communities across the country to research, acknowledge, and commemorate the lives of enslaved people through permanent memorials that restore their names, honor their humanity, and recognize the essential role their labor played in building towns, institutions, and prosperity throughout the North and across the nation. “Witnessing Hidden

Patriots from the Revolution to the Tuskegee Airmen” is a personal testimony about finding one's place in American history and a lesson for all of us about what it means to be an American.

The program is free and was funded by an America 250 grant from The Last Green Valley. Donations to support the renovations in The Old Town House are always welcome. Arrive early for parking and refreshments. For more information contact Donna Dufresne windsong@snet.net

Chandler Folkerts named to Dean’s List at Bates College

LEWISTON, Maine — Chandler Folkerts of Woodstock was named to the Dean’s List at Bates College for the Winter semester ending in May 2026. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.92 or higher.

Folkerts is majoring in Physics at Bates.

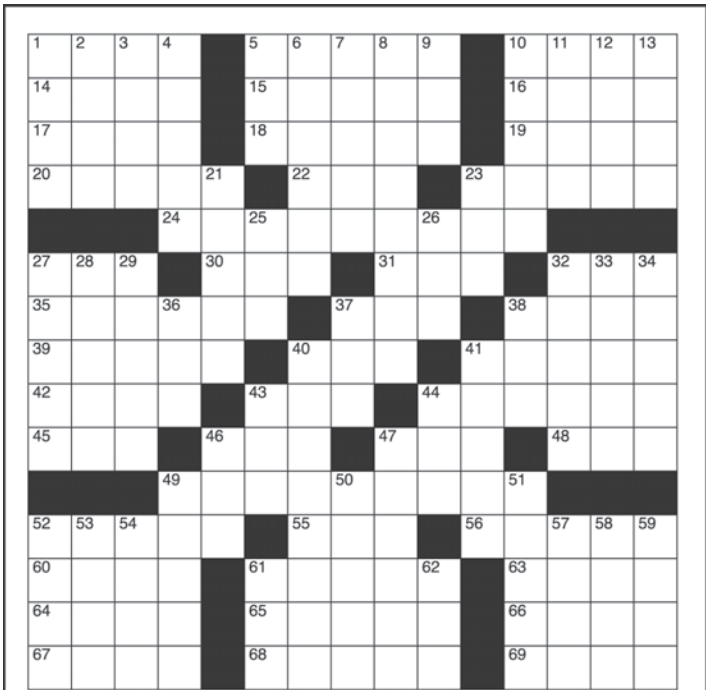
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- ### CLUES ACROSS

 - Listen to
 - Presents
 - A type of guitar
 - Actor Idris
 - A citizen of Iran
 - Pretentiously artistic
 - Harness
 - Diamond weight measurement
 - “Better Call ___”
 - Fervent support
 - Male cat
 - Jewish spiritual leader
 - Disposed to venture or take risks
 - A way to nail
 - Cool!
 - Women’s ___ movement
 - “Losing My Religion” rockers
 - Step-shaped recess
 - A princess can detect it
 - Tractor-trailer
 - Leslie and Leon are two
 - Color at the end of the spectrum
- ### CLUES DOWN

 - German courtesy title
 - Ancient Greek personification of mercy
 - Jewish calendar month
 - Family of long-legged frogs
 - Photo
 - Delivered a speech
 - Lute used in Indian music
 - Decorated
 - Cease to stand
 - The bottom layer
 - Member of a Semitic people
 - Part of a ticket
 - Defunct monetary unit
 - Challenges
 - Body part
 - Tell on
 - By way of
 - Shady green alcove
 - Egyptian city
 - ___ and flowed
 - Widens a hole
- Lines where fabrics are sewn
 - Dodgers great Hersheiser
 - Floor covering
 - Traveled aimlessly
 - Rocker Stewart
 - Body art
 - Congressman (abbr.)
 - No seats available
 - Breaks apart
 - Hand gesture
 - Ballplayer’s tool
 - Sword
 - Baseball team
 - Upper bract of floret of grass
 - Italian Seaport
 - Mars crater
 - Tube on a shoelace
 - U. of Miami mascot
 - South American nation
 - Video game series “Max ___”
 - Upper body part

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Putnam’s Mike Bogdanski earns prestigious Certified Connecticut Municipal Official designation



Mike Bogdanski

PUTNAM — Mike Bogdanski, Selectman for the Town of Putnam,

has completed the rigorous Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO) program, awarded by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM).

The CCMO program is a comprehensive, multi-year educational curriculum designed to help municipal leaders strengthen local governance, land use planning, financial management, and constituent relations. To earn this certification he completed 36 hours of targeted training, including multiple workshops and webinars on state mandates, municipal law, and collaborative leadership.

“Earning the CCMO certification has provided me with invaluable, practical insights into the complex mechanics of local government,” said Bogdanski. “As someone dedicated to keeping Putnam a safe, welcoming, and thriving community, I look forward to applying these

advanced strategies to enhance our town departments and serve our residents with greater transparency and collaboration.”

As the state’s largest organization of municipal leaders, CCM developed this program to equip local government officials with tools needed to govern wisely and improve the everyday lives of Connecticut residents. By completing this educational journey, Bogdanski joins a select group of dedicated public servants committed to continuous learning and advanced community leadership.

Bogdanski will continue to serve the Town of Putnam on the Board of Selectmen, bringing his municipal expertise and extensive background as a former local business owner and community leader to upcoming town initiatives.

Monique Picard — Courtesy

Joe Iamartino, President of the Thompson Historical Society, joins in the worldwide reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 commemorating the 250th anniversary of the document’s signing.



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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.

Woodstock Legion invites community to breakfast

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugal American Legion Post 111 is holding a free breakfast for veterans and family on Saturday, July 18. Come see our post and meet some of our members. All veterans are welcome.

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Dunn Marketing’s brand refresh for Prue Law Group earns 2026 Communicator Award of Distinction



Laura Dunn, CEO & Chief Brand Strategist, Dunn Marketing, with Marci Seney, Vice President, Client Services, Dunn Marketing.

KILLINGLY — Dunn Marketing has been honored with a 2026 Communicator Award of Distinction in the Campaign – Brand Redesign or Refresh category for its work with The Prue Law Group, P.C. Dunn Marketing’s work for the Windham County law firm helped to reposition it from a respected regional practice into a modern, full-service firm with expanded reach across eastern and central Connecticut. The honor is one of three Communicator Awards earned this year by Dunn Marketing and its clients.

The Communicator Awards is one of the largest and most competitive recognition programs honoring excellence, effectiveness, and innovation in marketing and communications. The 32nd Annual Communicator Awards drew more than 3,000 entries from ad agencies, in-house creative teams, design firms, and public relations professionals around the world, with winners selected by The Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts (AIVA), an invitation-only body of more than 1,100 industry leaders from organizations including JPMorgan Chase & Co., FedEx, Netflix, National Geographic Society, and others.

A brand built to grow with its region Dunn Marketing partnered with The Prue Law Group beginning in late 2024, when the more than 45-year-old firm was preparing for a new chapter: growing the estate and business law arms of its practice and expanding its presence beyond its core base in Windham County into the surrounding

region, all while protecting the trusted, person-centered reputation it had built since 1980.

The resulting work included a refreshed logo and visual identity, a new brand color palette and voice, a rebuilt website, updated social media presence, refreshed print and digital advertising, and a brand video, along with the strategic research, audience personas, and content planning needed to guide it all. The rollout launched in April 2025.

“The Prue Law Group has spent more than four decades earning their clients’ trust, and our job was to make sure that trust came through in every new brand interaction, even as we positioned the firm for growth in new markets,” said Laura Dunn, CEO and Chief Brand Strategist at Dunn Marketing. “Seeing that work recognized by the Communicator Awards is meaningful, but what we’re really proud of is what it did for our client and the families and business owners they serve,” Dunn said.

In the first full year following the rebrand, The Prue Law Group saw a 13 percent increase in new case files compared to the prior year, including a 93 percent increase in business law cases and a 13 percent increase in estate

law cases. The firm also saw an approximate 22 percent increase in revenue, a 57 percent increase in digital ad clicks, and more than double the social media engagement, year over year.

“This recognition validates exactly what we set out to do with Dunn Marketing, and that is to build a brand that reflects more than four decades of history while opening the door for the next generation of clients,” said Attorney Patrick Prue, founder of The Prue Law Group. “We’re very proud of what this brand represents and grateful to the Dunn Marketing team for helping us tell our story in a way that resonates with both the families who have trusted us for decades and the ones who are just getting to know us.”

A strong showing across the agency’s client roster

The Prue Law Group honor comes alongside two additional 2026 Communicator Awards of Distinction earned by Dunn

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University of Tampa honors Dean’s List students

TAMPA, Fla. — University of Tampa has honored students who were named to the dean’s list for the Spring 2026 semester. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean’s list.

The following local students were named to the dean’s list:

Mila Ganas of Woodstock is a member of the Class of 2029 majoring in Management BS.

Jacqueline Dearborn of Woodstock is a member of the Class of 2029 majoring in Design BA.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University has about 200 programs of study and serves more than 11,400 students from 50 states and most of the world’s countries.

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This statement was provided 3/15/2024 by Jennifer Pasiakos who is a client. The image shown is a model and not the actual client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee of future performance or success. For additional reviews, search us wherever local businesses are reviewed.

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Marketing in partnership with client WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors: one in the Advertising Campaigns–Financial Services category for WHZ’s television campaign, “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” and a second in the Publications – White Paper category for the consumer guide Smart Strategies to Maximize Generational Wealth. WHZ and Dunn Marketing announced those honors separately.

“Three wins across two very different client partners, in three different categories, speaks to the range of work our team takes on every day,” Dunn said. “Whether it’s a law firm building a modern, regional identity or a wealth management firm connecting with clients on some of the most personal decisions they’ll make, our approach is the same: start with empathy and build a brand people trust.”

For more information about Dunn Marketing and its Empathy-Driven Brand Building™ approach to marketing for clients across healthcare, education, finance, law, and the nonprofit sector, visit dunnmarketing.c

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A community’s voice matters most

The search for a school superintendent is one of the most important responsibilities any Board of Education will undertake. Budgets can be adjusted, buildings can be renovated, and curricula can evolve, but the person chosen to lead a school district sets the tone for years to come. That is why Killingly’s decision to actively seek public input before making its choice deserves recognition.

Too often, superintendent searches happen largely behind closed doors. While personnel matters must remain confidential, the qualities a community wants in its educational leader should never be a mystery. Parents, teachers, staff, students, taxpayers and business owners all have a stake in the future of the district. Inviting them to help shape the profile of the next superintendent is not simply good public relations. It is good governance.

The survey recently conducted by Killingly Public Schools asked thoughtful questions. Rather than asking residents to weigh in on individual candidates, it focused on the district itself. What are Killingly’s strengths? What challenges lie ahead? What experience should the next superintendent bring? Those are exactly the conversations a community should be having before resumes are reviewed and interviews begin.

Every district has its own personality. Some communities may prioritize financial management. Others may be looking for an instructional leader, a skilled communicator, or someone with experience navigating changing enrollment and state mandates. There is no universally perfect superintendent. There is only the right superintendent for a particular district at a particular moment.

Killingly appears to understand that distinction.

The district is also fortunate that this search is not taking place during a crisis. Dr. Susan Nash departed on good terms to accept another superintendent position, allowing the Board of Education time to organize a deliberate search rather than scrambling to fill an unexpected vacancy. By appointing veteran educator Ken DiPietro as interim superintendent, the board has created stability while giving itself the opportunity to be selective instead of rushed.

That patience may ultimately prove to be one of the board’s greatest assets.

Across Connecticut and the nation, experienced superintendent candidates are increasingly difficult to find. The demands of the position continue to grow as school leaders balance academic achievement, special education, staffing shortages, budgets, mental health concerns, safety planning, technology and community expectations. Finding someone with the right mix of experience, leadership and communication skills requires more than posting a job opening. It requires a clear understanding of what the community values.

Of course, collecting public input is only the first step. The greater challenge is demonstrating that those voices were heard. While the board cannot publicly discuss individual applicants, it can explain how community feedback influenced the characteristics it prioritized during the selection process. That transparency builds trust, even when every resident may not agree with the final choice.

The next superintendent will inherit both opportunities and challenges. Killingly has dedicated teachers, supportive families and students capable of remarkable achievements. Like many districts, it also faces financial pressures, evolving educational expectations and the ongoing work of preparing students for a rapidly changing world.

No superintendent will solve every problem overnight. Success will depend not only on the individual selected but also on the willingness of the community to support that person once the search concludes.

A superintendent should never be viewed as a miracle worker or a lightning rod. The position is most effective when the community, administration, faculty and Board of Education move in the same direction with shared goals and mutual respect.

Killingly has taken an encouraging first step by asking an important question: “What kind of leader do we need?”

The answers may vary from one resident to another, but the willingness to ask the question sends an important message. Strong schools are built not only by strong leaders, but also by communities that understand their voices matter.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We must be vigilant for attempts to hijack our local governments

To the Editor:

In many small towns, longstanding traditions of cooperative local governance are being disrupted by a new wave of hyperadversarial tactics. What may look like isolated conflicts over solar projects or school policies is part of a coordinated national strategy. Over the past several years, conservative and MAGA-aligned organizations have shifted their focus to “hyperlocal capture,” training activists to weaponize municipal procedures to stall or derail community initiatives.

Groups such as the Leadership Institute, Citizens for Sanity-aligned networks, and Moms for Liberty have published playbooks that encourage flooding meetings, filing excessive FOIA records requests, and exploiting minor procedural technicalities to force delays. These tactics are

especially effective at undermining timesensitive projects like municipal solar installations, where even a few months of litigation can cause developers to withdraw.

Fortunately, many communities are responding. Nonpartisan civic groups across New England are organizing to counter misinformation, restore constructive public engagement, and ensure that the broader majority participates when forced referendums occur. Local governance works best when residents show up, stay informed, and refuse to let coordinated disruption drown out community priorities.

Regards,

RAYMOND E. WISHART, JR.
CHAIR
POMFRET DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

The unfair Woodstock Fair

To the Editor:

If you or someone you know submitted artwork to the Woodstock Fair for a chance to be selected as the winner of the contest for “The Premium Booklet” and the Events Pamphlet and other promotional material for the Fair, and If you followed the Woodstock Fair’s own written guidelines for “Only Non-Professional” artists need apply — well, let it be known that the winner of this year’s contest is a professional artist, by reputation and by her own admission.

My two grandsons, Micah, age 14, & Jonah, age 15, took the project very seriously, worked hard on their art and submitted it to the Fair for a chance to win the contest. We expected a “level playing field” and fair consideration by the selection committee. It turns out that they chose the art submitted by a well known, local professional artist.

When I reached out to the Woodstock Fair, Mr. Allard & Mr. Rahab questioning this decision, and to correct this blatant violation of their own guidelines, I was told that the winning artwork was done by a “hobbyist.” I asked to meet with them to have them explain their decision, but this request fell on deaf ears. I then withdrew our entries and suggested that I come to the Fair

office at a day and time that was convenient for them to meet with me and to pick up Micah & Jonah’s original artwork. They responded to this by telling me that the artwork was mailed to my Woodstock address. It seemed like a cowardly thing to do, but that’s what they did. I went to the Post Office that same day and picked it up.

Of all institutions, it seems like the one that has the word Fair in their title should be fair. It’s not too late for the Woodstock Fair to do the right thing and choose art done by a non-professional - I wish that they would but it seems highly unlikely. I love the Fair, and have attended since I was a kid, but this mistake, error, lapse of judgment — call it what you will — makes me love the Woodstock Fair a little less.

If your non-professional son or daughter or grandchild or friend, or perhaps a student, happened to submit artwork to the Woodstock Fair for this contest and this decision makes you as mad as it makes me, give the Fair a call and let them know how you feel. They can be reached as follows: 860.928.3246; secretary@woodstock-fair.com; generalmanager@woodstockfair.com

GARY W. BRAATEN
WOODSTOCK

Let’s turn down the rhetoric

To the Editor:

I remember moving to Pomfret several decades ago and thinking what a great place to live, thrive, and raise a family. Perhaps I’m naïve, but I still believe Pomfret is a great place to live, thrive, and raise a family. From the time I moved here there has been political discord to some degree. However, folks could argue their position vehemently then go and sit down and catch up on family or anything else that may come up in conversation. There are people that I feel are on the completely opposite end of the political spectrum from me, but I would not hesitate to ask that person for help or offer that person help if needed. Isn’t that what a community is supposed to be about.

Recently, Pomfret passed a solar array, with 55 percent of the voters agreeing with the referendum question. There was a great deal of back-and-forth discussion prior to the vote. A town official went so far as to bring a lawsuit against the town. There was a discussion that since a Town official has a fiduciary responsibility to work in the best interest of the Community they serve and if the referendum failed this individual could be held liable for funds that the town would lose. I’m not saying I agree with this, but it’s a terrible thought to even consider. What I am curious about is why, in a community that has never experienced a Freedom of Information request, there are now six of these requests on file with the Town. I’m curious as to why folks keep questioning the things mentioned in the FOI’s knowing full well, that once the requests are made there is a procedure that must be followed prior to giving an answer to the specific question. By raising the issue and not waiting for the answer, folks seem to be making the Town officials out to be liars who are with-

holding information. I’m curious as to why some questions have been asked and answered, yet folks keep asking the questions as if they haven’t received an answer. A perfect example of this has to do with ARPA funding.

By federal law, the Board of Selectmen had sole authority to spend those funds. The first thing the BOS did was arrange for an independent agency to review all funding spent, to ensure transparency and accountability. Then the BOS set up a committee of Boards and Commission members, along with local Business leaders, to offer suggestions and discuss the best way to spend this money and do it within the time frame outlined by the Federal Government. One of the things suggested was \$30,000 to set up a zoom meeting network for, the Community Center, PCS, and the local Library. Through judicious review, the BOS was able to get some work done at PCS for only \$2,800. After the pandemic, the need for Zoom meetings was eliminated. This project was accomplished at a minimal investment, that allowed the town to use the funding for other needed projects, while being transparent and judicious in not wasting the funds entrusted to our town by the federal government.

I’m curious. I would love to see Pomfret remain a great place to live, thrive, and raise a family. Can we do that under the current circumstances? Or are we going to become a place where people will accuse their local officials, most of whom have faithfully served our community for decades, of being nefarious individuals?

I vote to turn down the rhetoric, and everyone remembers to be nice.

CHARLES TRACY
POMFRET CENTER

Support open space

To the Editor:

The voter approved solar farm on the Murdock property in Pomfret is a step forward in protecting our climate, adding clean energy to the grid. It should help with our electric bills since solar energy is currently the cheapest way to generate electric power. The income generated will help stabilize our tax base.

While the solar farm option was being explored, there was concern expressed about

open space. As a member of the Wyndham Land Trust and the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, I encourage everyone who values open space to join either, or even better, both organizations. Consider making an extra donation as well. Support open space by supporting our local land preservation groups.

Sincerely,
SANDY TOSI
POMFRET

The Cady-Copp Cottage

DAR Book Club (16 and older). Killingly Public Library. Friday, July 17, 1-2 p.m. Join DAR members for a special historical fiction book read/discussion on A Girl Called Samson by Amy Harmon. You do not have to be a member to



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

participate. Pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk beginning June 15. A m a z o n had this to say, “Deborah (Samson), i m p a s s - sioned by the cause, d i s g u i s e s herself as a soldier and enlists in the Continental army. Her impressive height and lanky build make her transformation a convincing one, and it isn’t long before she finds herself confronting the horrors of war head-on.”

On July 11, I had the pleasure of helping with the open house at the historic Cady-Copp Cottage on Putnam Heights (Killingly Hill until 1855). Thank you to everyone who helped in any way and to all those who attended. Built circa 1745 by wealthy Killingly resident Joseph Cady for the family of his daughter Damaris and her husband Reverend Perley Howe, it is a treasure for traveling back in time to the 18th century. Owned by the Aspinock Historical Society, it has never been modernized. It has no electricity, no indoor plumbing except for the fittings for a hand pump in the pantry/buttery, and no heat. It was donated to the Society by the late Barbara Peckham, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a Connecticut State Archaeological Preserve. In 1992 an archaeological survey was done on the site which unearthed over twenty-five thousand artifacts including over 800 nails, shoe buckles, cuff links, buttons, ceramic shards from various periods of occupation. “Toys include an iron mouth harp, an iron jack dating to the 19th to early 20th century, a bone-saucer shard from a child’s tea set, slate board fragment and slate pencil fragments.” “Tea-drinking is evidenced by cups, saucers, creamers, and tea pots.” “Seven of the marbles were found on the north side of the house directly below a kitchen window, indicating that this nook bordered by the pantry and kitchen was a play area.” A detailed list of artifacts from the dig can be found at the Aspinock Society rooms in the Putnam Municipal Complex. (See the State Archaeological Preserve Booklet for additional information. Unless other sources are given, most information in this article can be found in that booklet).

Rev. Howe had been the pastor in Dudley, Mass., where a number of his children were born, but unfortunately several died at a very young age. He was apparently a giant of a man for his time, being 6 feet 7 inches tall. I looked at the low ceilings in the Cady-Copp Cottage and thought surely he had to bend to go in the cellar or to the second floor. He must have bumped his head more than once. Fortunately, some of the children of Rev. Howe and Damaris Cady Howe did live to maturity--- daughter Damaris and sons Isaac Cady Howe, Perley Howe, Joseph Howe and Samson Howe. Unfortunately, Reverend Perley Howe did not live to see his children reach adulthood. He died on March

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Earth — we are the ones!

To the Editor:

Well, America is now 250 years old! Though still young by global standards, it feels special to us Americans. It’s easy to forget that in 1776, independence was far from a popular cause. Many colonists remained loyal to Britain, while others simply wished to stay out of the conflict altogether. Only a determined minority believed enough in different vision of the future to risk everything for it.

You could argue that America’s most important military victory occurred right in the beginning, when George Washington led the tiny Continental Army across the icy Delaware River on Christmas night in 1776. Those ill-equipped and freezing men then marched nine miles through the darkness toward Trenton, leaving bloody footprints in the snow. Arriving early in the morning, they launched a surprise attack against the Hessian mercenaries, among the most feared professional soldiers in the world, and won a stunning victory.

That incredible triumph sent shock waves across the Atlantic to England and throughout the thirteen colonies. Suddenly, more Americans joined in imagining a different future—independence. We owe so much to those brave unknown soldiers.

This Fourth of July, I found myself thinking about the stories that came to life for me over the 13 years I lived in Philadelphia, particularly the immense sacrifice of the Continental Army. They made everything we modern Americans enjoy today possible, and, if we’re honest, take for granted.

Thinking about this made me wonder what those unknown soldiers who survived the Crossing of the Delaware, or the brutal Valley Forge winter of 1777-78, would think if they could see us today. What would a half-starved, half-frozen, unpaid soldier, carrying his own rifle into battle, think of modern America and all we have? And, how would he compare Donald Trump to George Washington?

Few today realize that Washington funded himself and all his military expenses for the entire eight and half years of the Revolutionary War, with no guarantee of reimbursement. All the while, leading his men from the front, sharing the hardships of his soldiers, living in the same camps, and repeatedly placing himself in mortal danger. It is remarkable that he survived the war at all with bullets piercing his coat in battle. This was real leadership and his men practically worshipped him for it.

What would these men make of President Donald Trump—who received five military deferments during the Vietnam War? What would they think of the extraordinary wealth Trump has gained while serving as president, of his lavish lifestyle, accepting a \$400 million jet from Qatar and Nobel Peace Prize someone else had won, of the ballroom? Of tax policies that overwhelmingly benefit the Epstein Class while cutting programs that helped poor Americans. Of open influence-buying from billionaires who sat in the front row of his inauguration? Of the wanton destruction of the natural environment (which of course, belongs to us all), to make a few CEOs ever richer? Would the Continental soldiers believe their sacrifices had been worth it?

America owes an immeasurable debt to its founders, but especially to Washington and the ordinary soldiers who secured our political independence. In 2026 however, we face a different challenge requiring a different kind of courage. Scientists today are now, in many respects, the new defenders of humanity’s future. Their battlefield is not fought with muskets but with research, evidence, and innovation. They work to understand the complex and miraculous web of life here on Earth and protect it from man’s relentless development and climate change. Yes, the stakes today, are every bit as profound as those faced by the Continental Army. Our future is at risk. But

will enough of us see this in time?

Just as many Loyalists resisted independence in 1776, many people today resist the alarming findings of scientists and the changes they tell us are necessary. Of course, change has never been comfortable. Yet refusing to adapt has often proven far more dangerous than embracing it.

Take Donald Trump, who has repeatedly argued against highly efficient, inexpensive clean energy technologies—even criticizing wind turbines simply because he dislikes how they look. Have you ever seen a coal power plant or oil refinery? Talk about ugly! Is a pollution-belching industrial coal plant and sprawling fossil fuel infrastructure really more beautiful than the elegant sweep of a modern wind turbine powered only by the air? I think not.

Clean energy is, in many ways, the very embodiment of the independence the

Continental Army fought for. Every rooftop covered with solar panels shifts power away from authoritarian petrostates and multinational oil companies and places it into the hands of “We the people.” Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the world’s oil companies all seek to preserve the old energy system because it keeps your money flowing to them. Yes, installing solar panels on your own roof is more than an environmental decision—it is an act of independence! Not only does it save you money, it reduces your dependence and vulnerability, and reduces conflicts driven by fossil fuels, which in turn strengthens our national security. It also leaves a healthier world for our children. That’s real independence!

The Continental Army soldiers were the ones who secured America’s first independence. Today, we are the ones entrusted with securing its future. By embracing

science, protecting our environment, and investing in clean energy we can give our children a new kind of independence. If we do, future generations of Americans—and people around the world—will look back with the same gratitude that we owe those unknown soldiers who crossed the Delaware.

If you felt proud to be an American on our 250th anniversary, then perhaps the greatest way to honor those unknown heroes is not simply blowing up some fireworks, but to continue their work for independence. The ultimate act of patriotism is the protection of our children’s natural inheritance—our fragile living planet. Without that, there will be no great celebration 250 years from now.

KEN WOLSLEGEL
WOODSTOCK

Protecting the integrity of our elections is an American responsibility

To the Editor:

Remember hanging chads and butterfly ballots? After the chaos of Bush v. Gore, Congress came together in 2002, Republicans and Democrats alike, to pass the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Connecticut’s own Senator Chris Dodd was a principal author of the Act. The goal was to assure all American citizens that their vote counted and restore their faith in the legitimacy of our elected government. The Act created the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC): a bipartisan agency that certifies voting machines, runs the national voter registration form, standardizes poll worker training, and hands out federal grants so states can run clean elections. By law, no more than two of its four commissioners can belong to the same party.

On Thursday, July 9, Trump fired all of the EAC Commissioners. The two Democratic commissioners were fired by email. The lone remaining Republican received a call and was asked to resign. (The other Republican had resigned to join the Heritage Foundation.) The EAC now has zero commissioners, zero quorum, and zero ability to do its job, four months before Americans vote in the midterms.

Two weeks earlier, the Supreme Court’s Trump v. Slaughter decision tore up a 91-year-old rule that let presidents remove independent agency officials only for cause. Trump wasted no time purging the independent EAC. In Justice Kagan’s dissent, the shadow docket decision transfers government authority from Congress to the President and reshapes the Nation’s separation of powers.

“President Donald Trump’s decision to remove all members of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission just months before the midterms threatens to ‘undermine’ trust in American democracy and sets a “dangerous precedent,” experts told Newsweek. The Trump Administration has sought to restrict voter registration, limit mail-in ballots, collect voter data and relitigate the 2020 election, which Trump has baselessly claimed he won. (The Hill)

Across the political spectrum alarms are sounding. As one election law scholar put it, a Republican president reaching for federal control over what’s traditionally a states’ rights issue “defies my understanding of how Republicans work and what they’re interested in and where they want the locus of power and authority to be.” Election experts have been blunter still, calling the president himself the single biggest threat to the integrity of elections, not as a partisan jab, but as a statement of fact.

Americans of every political persuasion should agree on one principle: public confidence in free, fair, and transparent elections is essential to our democracy.

This is not a spectator moment. Here’s what we can do:
Vote – Participate in record numbers. A hobbled EAC makes every vote matter more, not less.

Call your senators and representatives. Demand they push to confirm new, bipartisan and independent EAC commissioners immediately, and demand oversight hearings on the EAC firings.

Demand Congress reform the Supreme Court which has lost public trust. It needs term limits, restrictions on the shadow docket, a binding ethics code and cameras in the courtroom.

Demand Congress reassert its authority. HAVA was Congress’s law. Congress can act to protect it and should do so.

Support state and local election officials. Volunteer to be an election worker. They’re the ones who’ll be running your polling place this fall with less federal support than before.

Regardless of political party, protecting the integrity of our elections is an American responsibility. Our elections belong to us, not to any one president. Our Democracy depends on independent election oversight. So, say so, to your newspapers, your neighbors, and your representatives. Encourage everyone to get out and vote for candidates who will protect our elections this November.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

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Additional Letters to
the Editor,
see Page A-8

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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.





Courtesy

Members of Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 visited Old Sturbridge Village, in Sturbridge, Mass., on Sunday, July 12. The world-famous museum shows what life was like in a typical small New England village in 1830. Field trips like this are just some of the fun and active things that Pack 21's Cub Scouts do all year long, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.



Courtesy

PUTNAM ROTARY CLUB HONORS SIX WITH HIGHEST AWARD



The Putnam Rotary Club honored six people with its highest award, the Paul Harris Fellowship recently. Each winner embodies the Rotary Club's motto "Service Above Self." Rotarians honored included: Karen Osbrey, outgoing club president Kathy Kirk, and Jonathan Tremblay. Also honored were three residents: Putnam Parks and Recreation Director James Callaghan, Putnam Mayor Barney Seney, and Aspinock Historical Society member and Gertrude Chandler Warner Children Boxcar Museum director Pat Hedenberg.





Courtesy

During their regular weekly meeting on Wednesday, July 8, Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 used a juicer and other tools to prepare healthy vegetables and make their own vegetable juice. Pack 21's Cub Scouts have been working occasionally with expert gardener Jim Tetreault of Sterling, to learn how to grow and prepare their own sprouts and vegetables. Pack 21's trained and experienced adults guide their Cubs about things like eating healthy food that tastes good, as part of the pack's fun, active, year-round program. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One citizen, one vote continued

To the Editor:

This requires more than a brief statement, so please bear with me. We cannot understand the electoral college without understanding our history as a nation. It was not actually big states vs. small states but slave-holders (south) vs. non-slave-holders (north). Enshrined in the US Constitution on Sept 17, 1787, was the three fifths rule when electing the President. At that time, nearly 1/3 of the country’s populations were slaves. So each state would count all of the free people, then add a count of three fifths of its slaves. Thomas Jefferson, a slave holder, was elected because of this rule which gave southern states more votes. In fact ten of the first twelve presidents were slave-holders, and worked to keep the white males in power. This amounted to a ‘pro-slavery’ bias on the electoral college system. Today, 175 years after our civil war, the electoral college system still violates the principle of one person, one vote, because smaller population states’ electoral votes count more than larger population states. For instance, one electoral vote in Wyoming might account for around 194,000 people, while an electoral vote in Texas, Florida or California might account for over 700,000 people. The ‘winner take all’ philosophy

erases millions of votes for a state’s ‘loser’ even before electoral ballots are cast in the nation’s Capitol. If you live in a ‘blue’ state and vote red; or if you live in a ‘red’ state and vote blue, your vote doesn’t really count. And losers of the national popular vote - as in 1888, 2000, and 2016 - become president. Today’s citizens, are an unimaginably wide variety of people. And no state - large nor small - should take priority over one citizen, one vote. The “National Popular Vote Inter-State Compact” empowers its state electors to award their votes to the winner of the national popular vote. It lets the people pick the president...every vote equal, every vote matters. Currently Connecticut is one of 18 states to have signed the NPVIC, which only goes into effect after enough states, representing 270 electoral votes, sign on. So far, they have 82 percent of that number. But every citizen in the USA should have the opportunity to have their vote for president counted. To get a remarkably clear investigation of this topic, check out a PBS Independent Lens special [youtube.com/watch?v=T7m-M8q70iUw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7m-M8q70iUw). It is an hour well spent.

KAREN RYKER
WOODSTOCK

Uline didn’t hire you. So what?

To the Editor:

I think I’m going to need a bigger popcorn machine. Social media has been abuzz with people’s rants, raves, and sometimes meltdowns about not getting hired at the new Uline fulfillment center in Plainfield. I’ve even seen one person predicting the warehouse goes out of business in a year. Do these people realize just how much they’re justifying Uline’s decision to not hire them? “Uline’s not hiring locals!” Why should they? Unless there was some agreement with the town when their construction project was approved, I see no reason why they should hire anyone from Plainfield. Have you seen how people from around there behave on Facebook? They’re a business that bought some property close to a highway on a road that was already widened and smoothed out when Lowe’s Distribution opened decades ago. They just moved in and set up shop. The end. Who they hire and where they come from is their business, and even if they have corporate transplants coming to Plainfield from elsewhere in Ulineland, they represent well-paid warehouse workers who can contribute to the local economy and local businesses. “Uline doesn’t like tattoos or piercings?” Uline is a conservative company. It’s a privately-owned family business whose owners are known for massive contributions to right-wing candidates. All it took for me to learn this was a few minutes poking around on Wikipedia. Whatever happened to researching companies before applying to them? Either way, it’s their business and their choice how they run it. I’ve also seen the social media rants of liberals who’ve sworn off Uline because of the company’s politics. They also have uniforms too, or at least those red polo shirts I see all over the

place after mere minutes of researching the company on social media like people used to do in the olden days. “Uline has weird hours!” This is a fulfillment center, not a distribution center. There’s a difference. Those strange shifts revolve around when people are buying stuff on the internet or through their catalog. Their Web site says order by 6 p.m. for same day shipping, which tells me they have a 6 p.m. cutoff for the day’s orders. Yet another detail I discovered after minimally researching the company. Lastly, let’s deal with the elephant in the room. Everyone taking it personally and flipping out on social media that they weren’t hired in this go-round apparently fails to understand that time is on Uline’s side. The warehouse is empty, and a million plus square foot facility doesn’t magically fill up on its own. They actually have a timetable on their own careers site targeting a November 2026 opening date. Of course, they can recruit a dream team to fill the place up and figure out the rest later, and we’re looking at 2027 if there are going to be issues with nonstop overtime from not being able to staff up and possibly having people injure out due to bad staffing. Talent is a market, and Uline still has time before staffing causes problems for them. Ultimately, it is their responsibility to figure out their business as they kick the tires on their brand new building. Didn’t get in this go-round? Try again with a later requisition when the business might be in different shape than it is now. For now though, let’s knock it off with looking like total knee-jerkers on the Internet.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

We must do better than our current President

To the Editor:

And just like that, the truce is over. Trump’s unneeded war is back on. This time, it is solely to maintain an open Strait of Hormuz. None of this should be surprising. Tehran has learned that they hold the cards, as per the President’s favorite euphemism, and that there is little that the world can do to escape an economic blackmail. Any hope of regime change, degrading their drone and missile capability, or citizen uprising is gone. Whether they would even honor any agreement to forgo their nuclear ambitions seems doubtful. In other words, not only does it appear that America has lost this war, but we also created a situation that left Iran more powerful than they were a mere 4 months ago. No doubt the many American military men and women who were dismissed or resigned predicted this. To win a war simply lobbing bombs in does not work. Any victory requires ground troops destroying military assets and planting an occupying force. Only this ensures that all objectives are met. As Iran has nearly 1 million troops available, even with Israeli aid, this never was an alternative for our army. None of our operations did anything to degrade this force. Indeed, most of the Iranian casualties were civilians. The current tit for tat strategy is useless, and wastes hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars and our military stockpile. This leaves us with three choices. They are all bad. The first would be placing an overwhelming ground and Naval presence along the Strait of Hormuz, which is 104 miles long, to ensure safe ship passage. America alone simply does not have the money or the manpower to execute this. We cannot look to our NATO allies. The President, at the recent summit, inflamed relationships to the point of no return, save for him vacating office. He also outright cheated to overturn a World Cup decision obliterating the good will that the American people created in graciously hosting their global counterparts. The second would be to cede the Strait to the Iranians and allow them to collect “protection money.” Perhaps in this way they would then agree to throttle back on their nuclear program and allow inspectors to return. This makes them rich and a perpet-

ual regional threat. It is the original Obama treaty but far, far worse. The third, and in this writer’s opinion the best choice, would be to wall off the Strait. If we can maintain the blockade long enough, along with sanctions, we create a siege state that will most likely lead to a complete collapse of the Iranian economy. This of course would also impact the global economy especially the Gulf states. The rest of the world could look to other sources for their oil; America, Venezuela and Africa to name a few. Thus, a weak link in world markets can be repaired. It would be a painful several years, especially for Asia, but in the end lead to a more durable system. At the same time the world can render the entire fossil fuel dilemma moot, by developing home grown power sources namely wind, solar, and water power. As damaging a mess Trump has manufactured, perhaps this could be the turning point that ushers in the age of renewable energy. That in a perverse way could turn out to be his true yet unintended legacy. It also represents what may be the end of global warfare as we know it. Iran, and Ukraine for that matter, have shown that military superiority due to weapons and manpower is no longer a winning formula. We are in the age of drones and handheld missiles soon to include robots and AI. Even so, war takes careful planning including identifying all potential contingencies. It did not help that our intelligence and diplomatic corps have been decimated. What’s more, building coalitions with our military and trading partners is a basic but indispensable tactic. It is War 101. Waking up one morning with a “hunch” or being impatient over the pace of negotiations are monumental errors in judgement. Trump, of course, does not believe he is capable of making a mistake and therein lies his biggest weakness. It is why he lacks the capacity to pull the nation out of a quagmire that he alone and he alone brought about. It is also why his MAGA supporters should stop enabling the man. The majority of voters now realize how dangerous an inept president can be. America must do much better.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

A heartfelt thank you

To the Editor: The residents of Carriage Square on Main Street in N. Grosvenordale would like to extend a heartfelt thank you the numerous firefighters from the various volunteer fire departments that responded to the June 25 fire at our complex...Bungay, Community, Dayville, Dudley, East Putnam, East Thompson, Muddy Brook, Putnam, Quinebaug, Southbridge, Thompson Hill, Webster, West Thompson and Woodstock. Thank you to Pomfret Fire for providing station coverage for Community. In addition to the firefighters, truly impressive were the countless folks that can only be described as “support.” They were the people that attended to the residents – made sure we were safe and accounted for and then, over the next several hours, worked on immediate needs: contact information, pet and medication removal from the apartments, the move to a safer location,

that we each had a place to stay for the night; the list is extensive, we were in the good hands of competent folks. Although we are unable to thank you individually, please know how grateful we are to each and every one of you for all you did. Your caring and service to our residents will not soon be forgotten. The firefighters, the “support” team, the ambulances services (Putnam EMS and QV from KB) the EMTs, the emergency management staff, the local selectman, the Red Cross, Thompson and Dudley Animal Control personnel and the town employees who opened the library and school. Several continuing to checking in with residents for many days after the fire, thank you all. With gratitude, PAT CHARRON FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CARRIAGE SQUARE NORTH GROSVENORDALE

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Help Wanted

Jeffrey Battles shellacs NESS Supermodifieds on Twisted Tea Winged Wednesday

THOMPSON — The Crown Vics began Wednesday’s showcase with multi-time winner Ethan Williams showing the way early before youth prevailed. Upon his first time at the Thompson 5/8-mile, young Jack Emerson would take over the lead with eight laps remaining and never looked back to take the win over Williams and Ty Mello.

Jared Materas and Jason Williams may have brought the Late Model field to green but it was Matt Lowinski-Loh who quickly took over the top spot within the first lap. Materas would bring out the first caution on lap 10 after spinning across the nose of Jared Roy’s #1CT. Things went sideways once again on lap 18 with a mechanical issue slowing Jake Johnson leaving Williams and Mike Benevides to pile in for a massive wreck into the turn four wall. Back to green, Lowinski-Loh drove away with the 25-lap win over rookie Travis Hydar and Jared Roy.

Todd Douillard ran away with the lead at the start of the SK Light Modified feature before Austin Goff made it a two-man show by lap four. RJ Marcotte, John O’Sullivan, Kevin Davis and Daltin McCarthy ran nose-to-tail behind the leaders, keeping them honest before Goff was shuffled back on the inside groove. Motoring into turn one, Davis and O’Sullivan launched sideways into the corner to bring out the lap nine caution that also ended the day for newcomer Brandon Michael with a hard lick into the turn one wall.

Douillard would be next on the wrecker on the restart with Marcotte leaving no room to race, making hard contact with the turn one wall to end his day. Back to green, McCarthy, Goff and Eddie Gomarlo ran nose-to-tail at the head of the field. The busy night for the Thompson Speedway wreckers continued on lap 13 with McCarthy and O’Sullivan piling into the turn three wall. Under green for the final time, Austin Goff would run away with the win followed by RJ Marcotte and rookie Milania Shilosky.

Dan Bowes took off at the start of the Twisted Tea 40 for the New England Supermodified Series with hopeful winner Jon McKennedy dropping out on lap five with mechanical issues. All the while, Jeffrey Battle began reeling in Bowes out front as Ben Seitz lay in wait back in third. Battle would finally nab the lead on lap 22 while Seitz and PJ Stergios went to war for third behind him. Stergios would win that battle and one more against Bowes as the right-rear tire on the #25 was all but expired through the final fifteen circuits. Jeffrey Battle lambasted the field for the win with PJ Stergios coming home second and Dan Bowes holding on for third to round out the victory lane podium.

Ryan Lineham would bring out the lap one caution in the Street Stocks when a three-wide move in the first corner didn’t pan out. Back under green, Nick Anderson and Mike Viens showed the way up front with Jerrod Soucy and Al Stone III keeping the pressure on behind them. Soucy would make his way around to lead the halfway marker and never looked back for win number one on the season ahead of Lineham and Viens.

The Thompson Sunoco Modifieds rounded out Wednesday’s racing program under the leadership of Nathan Pytko and Derek Ramstrom at the head of each lane under the initial green flag. Keith Rocco and Todd Owen made their way to the front by lap five just as contact between Bryan Narducci and Ramstrom sent the #35 into the turn one retaining wall. The remainder of the 50 lap feature saw Rocco and Owen wage their classic over-under battle for position before Owen finally began to drove away with fifteen laps remaining to take his first Sunoco Modified victory of the season. Keith Rocco came home second with Narducci coming back from his penalty for the lap five caution to claim third.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to Thompson Speedway on Wednesday, August 5 for the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.com. The August midweek showdown at the Big-T will also feature the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Crown Vics with a 6:00pm Post Time. Event schedule will be released in the near future.

The North East Short Track Network (NESTN) will stream Wednesday Night Racing at Thompson Speedway all season long, visit www.nestn.tv for more info including Pay-Per-View pricing and ways to subscribe!



Jim DuPont — Courtesy

After getting out ahead of Dan Bowes on lap 22, defending New England Supermodified Series (NESS) champion Jeffrey Battle was a rocket sled on rails taking the dominant Twisted Tea Winged Wednesday win at Thompson Speedway.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact pass-racing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don’t forget to “Like” the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens. To take advantage of marketing opportunities please call 207-577-1836 or inquire at OPSMarketing50@gmail.com.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsons Speedway.com, or visit www.thompsons Speedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS Wednesday, July 8 Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park Twisted Tea Winged Wednesday

New England Supermodified Series – Twisted Tea 40 (40 Laps)			
1.	14	Jeffrey Battle	Barnstable, MA
2.	41	PJ Stergios	Candia, NH
3.	25	Dan Bowes	Epping, NH
4.	11	Rob Summers	Manchester, CT
5.	29	Ben Seitz	Bourne, MA
6.	45	Mike Mayberry	Naples, ME
7.	79	Jon McKennedy	Chelmsford, MA
8.	2	Eric Emoff	Union, CT
DNS	97	Matt Swanson	Harvard, MA
DNS	53	Dave Duggan	Milford, NH

Thompson Sunoco Modifieds – (50 Laps)			
1.	81	Todd Owen	Somers, CT
2.	09	Keith Rocco	Berlin, CT
3.	1	Bryan Narducci	Colchester, CT
4.	2	Danny Cates	Chaplin, CT
5.	24	#Mikey Flynn	Hampden, MA
6.	24MA	Nathan Pytko	Oxford, MA
7.	12	Rob Schultz	Neptune, NJ
8.	86	Robert Georgiades	E. Hampton, CT

9.	4	Zach Leone	Worcester, MA
10.	99	Mike Mayberry	Naples, ME
11.	35	Derek Ramstrom	Worcester, MA

Late Models – (25 Laps)			
1.	17	Matt Lowinski-Loh	Thompson, CT
2.	31CT	Travis Hydar	Woodbury, CT
3.	1CT	Jared Roy	Moosup, CT
4.	73CT	Jared Materas	Somers, CT
5.	28	#Shaun Kekacs	Bristol, CT
6.	91CT	Jake Johnson	Rehoboth, MA
7.	32	Jason Williams	Colchester, CT
8.	50RI	Mike Benevides	Westerly, RI

SK Light Modifieds – (20 Laps)			
1.	07	Austin Goff	Stafford Springs, CT
2.	26	RJ Marcott	Millville, MA
3.	99	#Milania Shilosky	Colchester, CT
4.	10	Kevin Davis	Somers, CT
5.	36	Eddie Gamarlo	Swanzy, NH
6.	80	#Thomas Herrington	Grafton, MA
7.	55	Dennis Smeade	Oxford, MA
8.	05	Ian Nunes	Somers, CT
9.	95	Leo Nunes	Somers, CT
10.	34MA	Daltin McCarthy	Oxford, MA
11.	15	John O’Sullivan	Norwich, CT
12.	6	Todd Douillard	Palmer, MA
13.	74	Brandon Michael	Granville, MA
14.	27	Corey Caddick	Richmond, RI

Street Stocks – (20 Laps)			
1.	42	Jarrod Soucy	Wales, MA
2.	19	Ryan Lineham	Warwick, RI
3.	85	Michael Viens	Seekonk, MA
4.	30	#Charles Beal	Ledyard, CT
5.	55	Nick Anderson	Oxford, MA
6.	66	Tyler Cinamella	Willimantic, CT
7.	25	Al Stone III	Durham, CT

Thunderstock Crown Vics – (20 Laps)			
1.	52	Jack Emerson	Canterbury, CT
2.	14	Ethan Williams	Promfret Ctr., RI
3.	9	Ty Mello	Millville, MA
4.	70	Brendan Nichols	Chepachet, RI

Local residents graduate from Eastern in 2025-26 academic year

WILLIMANTIC — More than 800 Eastern Connecticut State University students received undergraduate and graduate degrees in the 2025-26 academic year, culminating this past May in two commencement ceremonies at the conclusion of the spring 2026 semester.

Among the graduates are: Roger Brodeur of Putnam, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Art.

Jack Lomax of Putnam, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Julia Trainor of Putnam, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

From first-generation college students to seasoned professionals pursuing advanced degrees, the Class of 2026 hails from nearly all of Connecticut’s 169 towns, 24 U.S. states, and 28 foreign countries. The graduates range in age from 19 to 81, with 28% being

the first in their families to graduate from college and 11% being NCAA Division III student athletes. Women make up 60% of the class, and approximately 30% of students identify as people of color.

The graduates went through the University’s School of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and Professional Studies, and Graduate Division. Popular undergraduate majors included business administration, psychology, English, health sciences, and art. At the graduate level, students received advanced degrees in applied data science, management, accounting, education (early childhood, elementary, secondary), special education, and educational studies/technology.

During her keynote speech at the undergraduate commencement ceremony, Beth Regan ‘79, justice and chairwoman of the Mohegan Tribal Council of Elders, urged the graduates

to be flexible as they enter their careers. “The universe may have other plans,” she said. “When those moments are presented to you, embrace them. If you allow yourself that flexibility, you may experience the best adventure you never could have imagined.”

President Karim Ismaili offered his congratulations to the Class of 2026. “What you have accomplished is no small thing,” he told the graduates. “You have navigated deadlines and exams, long nights and early mornings, work, family responsibilities, leadership roles, internships, athletics, and all the unexpected realities of life.”

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal was among the special guests. “We live in difficult, sometimes dark and daunting, times. ... We have been through tough times before. We are a resolute and resilient nation, and it is you whose service and dedication will help get us through.”

During his remarks at the graduate ceremony, World Bank Executive Harold Tavares, recipient of Eastern’s second annual Distinguished Public Service Award, told the graduates to lead with courage and to pave the way for others. Reminding them that they are in the minority of Americans with an advanced degree, he said, “Doors are opening for you. Be sure to hold them open for those around you. Each of you has the power - and the responsibility - to improve the human condition.”

Eastern alumnus James Woulfe ‘09, chief of staff for the mayor of the City of Hartford, welcomed the graduates to the University’s alumni family. He reminded the graduates that they are not alone on this journey. “Tonight, you become a part of the Eastern alumni family. Stay connected. Lean on one another, and lean on us.”

Email Us!



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

Email us your thoughts to:
brendan@villagernewspapers.com



We’d Love To Hear From You!

KILLINGLY

continued from page A4

10, 1753 in his 43rd year of consumption leaving his widow and young children.

The Cady-Copp Cottage also became the home of Reverend Howe’s successor, Reverend Aaron Brown. Rev. Aaron Brown, of Windsor, was a 1749 graduate of Yale, who was ordained pastor of the First Congregational Church of Killingly on January 19, 1754. Exactly where he lived when he first arrived on Killingly Hill is unclear. Did he board with the widow Damaris Howe and her family? Did he stay at Felshaw’s Tavern at the four corners? Did he stay with Dr. Thomas Moffitt’s family (across from the present Putnam Heights Cemetery but in an earlier house)? Did he stay in a house nearer the meetinghouse? By the end of 1754 he was a resident of the Cady-Copp Cottage for on Nov. 21, 1754, Rev. Brown married Damaris Howe, widow of Rev. Perley Howe. Find-a-Grave lists children Abeline Brown and Elizabeth Brown, who are buried in Aspinwall Cemetery, but they did not live to reach adulthood. Poor Damaris buried so many children.

Like many ministers, Rev. Aaron Brown tutored the area’s promising young men who wished to go to college. It is known that he tutored his stepson, Joseph Howe, who graduated from Yale in 1765 and went on to become pastor of the New South Church in Boston in the 1770’s. He also tutored Manasseh Cutler, another Yale graduate and later a minister in (Ipswich) Hamilton, MA and co-author of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 that prohibited those states from becoming slave states. A third student was Amasa Learned, a “Killingly representative to Connecticut’s Constitutional ratification convention and later a member of Congress. According to a tradition...the youths were prepared for their college studies in the second-floor south room of the Cady-Copp house.” (State Archaeological Preserve booklet).

Rev. Brown also taught at least one of his granddaughters, Sarah, daughter of Perley Howe (Jr.), according to a letter in the pension files of a Thompson African-American named Mingo Pollock. Mingo’s future wife, Molly Pegan (Piggen) was also a resident of the Cady-Copp Cottage as a child according to Sarah, “I was frequently at his house & I lived at his house when young & went to school. He brought up a coloured girl named Molly Piggen who I knew very well. When Molly was about 18 years old she was courted by a black man from Thompson and my Grandfather was

opposed to having Molly marry him & he by means of a ladder went(?) to visit her unbeknown to most of the family & it was said in the time that he married her & went to live with him in Thompson.” (extracted by Marcella H. Pasay, author of Full Circle). Sarah Howe later married Luther Warren who eventually owned the former Felshaw Tavern stand.

Rev. Aaron and Damaris Brown would have been most active in the community, helping all in their times of need. The 1770’s became especially difficult even before the war. A number of long-time residents died in 1773, perhaps of smallpox which was hitting New England. Sadly, daughter Abilene Brown died on January 25, 1773, age 17.

The Boston Tea Party of December, 1773 and the subsequent closing of the Port of Boston heightened awareness for potential danger. In 1774 a liberty pole was erected on Killingly Hill so signals could be sent if needed. Then in January 1775 Rev. Brown and his stepson Samson Howe deeded what is now the Putnam Heights common for a Killingly militia training field. In April of that year many local men answered the call to arms with the Lexington Alarm. Killingly Hill became busier than ever, but that’s another story.

Rev. Aaron Brown did not live to see our nation’s independence. His stepson Joseph, a minister in the New South Church in Boston, had moved to Hartford, CT following the British occupation of Boston as people fled the city and the church closed (probably to be near his fiancé). Joseph died Aug. 25, 1775. Reverend Brown went to the funeral but took ill and died in Ashford on his way home on Sept. 12, 1775. I think the grief-stricken widow/mother could take no more. She lived only a few months and passed away February 4, 1776. (Larned, Ellen D. History of Windham County CT, Vo. II, Swordsmith ed., p. 132,133; Hale Cemetery Collection, Aspinwall Cemetery). The Cady-Howe-Brown era had ended. David Copp, his family and descendants would be the next owners of the cottage. This old house has many other tales to tell.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2026. For additional information email me at margaretm-weaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. For Windham County Transcripts, visit https://killingly.historyarchives.online.

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How much of your wealth is tied to your business – and is that a problem?



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income deduction. The QBI deduction generally allows eligible pass-through business owners to deduct up to 20 percent of qualified business income, and OBBBA made that deduction permanent after it had been scheduled to expire at the end of 2025. That permanence gives many pass-through owners more clarity, but it does not eliminate the need for planning. Entity structure, taxable income, compensation, retirement contributions, and the timing of income all still matter.

OBBBA also affects high-income taxpayers through changes to itemized deductions, including limitations that may reduce the after-tax value of deductions for those in the top bracket. For owners who use charitable giving, state and local tax planning, or other deductions as part of their personal strategy, that makes coordination between the business plan and the household tax plan even more important.

For some founders and growth-oriented owners, the expanded qualified small business stock rules may also change the calculation. QSBS treatment can make certain C-corporation structures more compelling, particularly where a long-term exit is part of the plan, but the rules are technical and should be evaluated carefully with tax and legal professionals.

The practical point is this: tax law should not drive the entire strategy, but it can meaningfully affect the order of operations.

The primary ways business owners achieve wealth extraction

There are several ways business owners commonly move value from the company into their personal financial lives. Each has tradeoffs.

While they do hope to fill the position before the end of the year, they have an established plan in place to ensure the district doesn’t miss a beat. In June, the Board of Education announced it had secured stable temporary leadership in Ken DiPietro, a former Superintendent from Plainfield with more than 50 years in public education. He will lead the district as Interim Superintendent through at least the next school year.

Salary and bonuses can provide predictable income and may support retirement plan contributions, but they also create payroll tax considerations and must remain reasonable based on the role performed. Distributions from pass-through entities may be more flexible, but they depend on business structure, profitability, and basis. Dividends may be relevant for C-corporations, but they can create double-taxation concerns.

Fringe benefits, retirement plans, deferred compensation, and insurance strategies can also help align business cash flow with personal goals. For owners nearing a sale or succession event, equity monetization may become part of the plan through a partial sale, management buyout, ESOP, recapitalization, or third-party transaction.

None of these tools is automatically “best.” The right mix depends on the owner’s tax profile, business structure, cash flow durability, succession timeline, and personal financial independence target.

Reinvestment should meet a higher standard

Business owners are naturally inclined to reinvest. That instinct often built the company in the first place. But not every dollar reinvested creates transferable value.

A disciplined owner should ask: Will this investment improve margin, reduce key-person dependency, strengthen recurring revenue, deepen the management team, or make the business more attractive to a future buyer? Or is it simply making the business larger, more complex, and more dependent on the owner?

Growth is not the same as value. Revenue is not the same as transferable enterprise worth. The investments that matter most are the ones that improve durability.

Build wealth in parallel
The strongest business-owner plans usually build wealth on two tracks. One track continues to strengthen the business. The other steadily builds personal liquidity, retirement assets, taxable investment accounts, estate planning structures, insurance protection, and diversified income sources.

That parallel approach gives the owner more choices. It can reduce pressure to sell during an unfavorable market. It can make succession planning more flexible. It can also allow the owner to make better strategic decisions because their family’s entire financial future is not dependent on one transaction.

A practical planning

framework

Start with a clear estimate of how much of your net worth is tied to the business. Then stress-test that number. What happens if the valuation multiple is lower than expected? What happens if a sale takes longer than planned? What happens if taxes, debt, or working capital needs reduce net proceeds?

From there, determine a personal wealth extraction floor: a disciplined amount or percentage of free cash flow that moves outside the business each year. Then set reinvestment hurdles, so capital only stays in the business when it is expected to create value above a reasonable risk-adjusted threshold.

The owners who tend to navigate this best are not the ones who choose business growth or personal security. They are the ones who coordinate both. For more insights on this, see the video “Business Owners and Generational Wealth” on our website at whzwealth.com/WealthTransfer. It’s the fifth installment of a large series on how to create and maintain generational wealth, and features a host of insights and tips specific to business owners.

Your business may be the engine of your wealth. But your financial plan should be built so that one day, your wealth can stand on its own. At WHZ, we work with business owners to help them achieve just that. See how we can help you work toward doing the same – schedule a complimentary discovery session on our website at whzwealth.com, or call us at (860) 928-2341 and find out more about how we strive to provide our clients with “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.”

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Jessica B Cox Valade (26-00277)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 8, 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.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Troy A Valade,
551 River Road,
Putnam, CT 06260
July 17, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
William Robinson Clements (26-00276)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge

of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 8, 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:
Rick James Clements,
367 Day Street,
Brooklyn, CT 06234
July 17, 2026

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS
of the Corporators of The Woodstock Academy on
Tuesday, August 11, 2026,
at 6:30 p.m.
and of the Trustees of The Woodstock Academy on
Tuesday, August 11, 2026,
at 7:00 p.m.
Meetings of the Corporators and the

Trustees of The Woodstock Academy will be held on August 11, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Loos Center on South Campus.
Julie Woodland, Executive Assistant to the Head of School
The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees
July 17, 2026

The Pond and Lake Connection will be making an aquatic pesticide application to control algae and/or aquatic weeds on or around 7/23/26 at the Little Pond- Thompson, CT. The following permitted herbicide may be used: ProcellaCOR
Do not use the water for the following purpose(s) for 3 Days: Irrigation
No restriction: Livestock Watering, Drinking, Swimming, Fishing, and Boating
Information on the application may be obtained from the person names below:

The Pond and Lake Connection
Brookfield, CT 06804
www.thepondconnection.com
July 17, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Henry B Wilson (26-00251)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 30, 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.
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Amy E Wilson,
7506 Berwick Court,
Alexandria, VA
July 17, 2026

OBITUARIES

Anne E Woznicki November 6, 1937 - July 12, 2026



Putnam - Anne (Bryson) Woznicki, 88, of Sabin Street, Putnam, passed away on Sunday, July 12, 2026. She was the loving wife of John Woznicki. Born in Worcester, MA, she was the daughter of the late William and Annie (Burns) Bryson.

After high school Anne worked for the Town of Putnam in the town clerk's office, as well as an assistant to the principal at Putnam High School. Later she worked at various dentists' offices as an assistant and receptionist. She worked for Dr. Adams in Putnam, CT and Dr. Carlson in Danileson, CT for many years.

Anne was a longtime bowler and golfer and excelled in both for many years. She attended various bowling tournaments over

the years and across the country and won many of them. After Anne and her husband John retired, they moved to Lake Placid in Florida where she continued golfing and even managed the local golf course.

Anne is survived by son, Michael Woznicki and Jacquelyn of Putnam, CT; daughter, Anne Marie Banta of Texas; grandchildren, Sandra of Buxton, ME, Niko of Woodstock, CT, Michael Yargeau of Higganum, CT, Katlyn Yargeau of Bristol, CT, Peter Yargeau of Woodstock, CT.

She was predeceased by brother William Bryson.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a memorial service for Anne on Monday, July 20, 1pm at Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

George C. Pasay 1942 - 2026



Putnam - George C. Pasay, 84, formerly of Grove St., died Tuesday, July 7, 2026, in Matulaitis Healthcare. He was the loving husband of Sally Gardner. Born in Putnam, CT, he was the son of the late George Pasay and Ida (Gerardi) Pasay.

Mr. Pasay worked for many years for Northeast Utilities as a service technician.

George was a member of the Mid State Car Club of Massachusetts and enjoyed collecting cars, community affairs, buying houses and refurbishing them. But, above all, he enjoyed spending quality time with his family and friends at family outings.

He is survived by his children, Christopher Pasay and his wife Linda of Putnam, Cheryl Hurley and her husband

Steven of Kingston, MA, and Neal Pasay and his wife Deborah of Danielson; his eight grandchildren, Hailey Pasay, Nicole Holman, Paige Ross, Nicholas Joubert, Rebecca Joubert, Colin Hurley, Meaghan Hurley, and Ryan Hurley and his wife Katie, and several great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother, Steven Pasay and his sister, Marilyn Pasay.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with George's family from 5:00PM to 6:00PM on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, followed by a service at 6:00PM in the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260, where the funeral gathered on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 9:00AM followed by a graveside service in St. Mary Cemetery, 355 Providence St., Putnam at 10:00AM. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Mildred "Millie" Daigneault, 94



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mildred "Millie" (Schap) Daigneault, who passed away on July 6, 2026, at the age of 94.

Millie was born on August 4, 1931, in Danielson, CT to John and Julia (Zajac) Schap. She attended St. James School and Killingly High School class of 1949. On September 16, 1950, she married her beloved husband Raymond "Pete" Daigneault at St. James Church. They spent most of their married life in Brooklyn, Connecticut, where they built a loving home and a life centered on family, friendship, and service to others.

Millie was a strong, independent woman whose warmth, generosity and lively spirit made her the heart of any gathering. She was always quick with a compliment, eager to lend a helping hand and never missed an opportunity to share her homemade Polish dishes and desserts, often accompanied by her familiar command to "EAT!" Her kindness and sense of fun brought joy to everyone around her.

Millie worked at Prym's Manufacturing as a packer and later at Friendly Bowl, where she worked at the front desk and in the daycare program, proudly wearing her favorite "The Boss" sweatshirt. Never

one to slow down, she continued working well into her late 80s as a homemaker with Quality Homemakers before finally retiring.

Millie is survived by her daughter Deborah Gilbert; her son Raymond Daigneault and his wife Kathleen; her grandchildren Kelly, Jonathan, and Justin Gilbert, Douglas and Matthew Daigneault; her six great-grandchildren, Andrew Chappell and Evan, Carter, Sawyer, Menden, and Calla Gilbert. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends who will miss her dearly.

In addition to her husband Pete, Millie was predeceased by her sisters Helen Deloge, Stacia Zadora and Wanda Labrec and by her brothers Rudolph and Stanley Schap and her son in law James Gilbert.

A special thanks to the staff at Matulaitis Nursing Home for the care they provided to Millie over the last six years.

Calling Hours are Monday, July 20, 2026 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and Tuesday, July 21, 2026 from 9:30 to 10:30 AM at Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home, 33 Reynolds Street, Danielson, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 11:00 AM at St. James Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT, burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson, CT. Share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com

Ernie Nowakowski



Ernie Nowakowski passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on July 1, 2026. He is survived by his wife Cynthia Nowakowski, and sons Steve Nowakowski, his wife Angela and their son Tim, Robert Nowakowski, his wife Heather and their children, Violet, Forest, Ivy and River, Greg Swope, his wife Aimee and their children Heath, Dante and Jayden, and Nick Swope and his wife Jessica and sons James and Jason. Ernie is preceded by his parents Matthew Nowakowski and Eleanor Blachand, and is also survived by his sisters, Judy Hibbard, Nancy Gauvin, Amy Saulnier, Kat Valentine, Sally LeClair, Janet Lefevre, Beth Hanley, and Debi Johnson as well as many nieces and nephews.

Ernie grew up at a family owned campground in Griswold CT. In 1989, Ernie fulfilled a lifelong dream of opening his own machine shop in Eastford CT called Still

River Mfg. Ernie was well known to be a highly skilled machinist. Ernie worked closely with local businesses. If anything in town needed repairs folks came to Ernie from engines to farm equipment. He was a fixture in his community. He served with the Eastford Fire Co., sat on the Brooklyn Fairgrounds committee, and led the Woodstock Fair antique engines display for more than a decade.

Nothing meant more to Ernie than his family. He cherished 26 years of marriage to his wife, Cynthia, and the wonderful life they built together, traveling to Amish country, engine shows, and anywhere else that gave them a chance to get away. He loved engines of all kinds and was particularly fond of John Deere tractors. Ernie also loved to hike. He felt a deep connection to the White Mountains of New Hampshire and Maine. Ernie was loved and admired by all who knew him, happiest surrounded by his children and grandchildren and friends and never far from Cynthia's side. He will be missed dearly.

Lucille Barrette, 80



Lucille Barrette, 80, of Thompson, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 6, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. She was the beloved wife of Bernard "Ben" Barrette for over 60 years.

Lucille was deeply loved by all who knew her. A kind, generous, and compassionate woman, she touched countless lives through her warmth, selflessness, and unwavering willingness to help others. She devoted much of her time to volunteering within the community and was always ready to lend a helping hand wherever it was needed.

Alongside her husband, Lucille owned and operated Barrette's Hardwoods in Thompson. She took great pride in the family business and was known for her strong work ethic, dedication, and commitment to both her family and community.

Above all, Lucille treasured time spent with family and friends. She found joy in gathering with loved ones, sharing stories, laughter, and creating memories that will be cherished for years to come. Her love for her family was evident in everything she did, and she will be remembered for her generous spirit, caring heart, and quiet

strength.

In addition to her husband, Ben, she is survived by her sons, Thomas Barrette and William Barrette, and his wife, Lisa; her beloved granddaughter, Jamie Barrette, and her husband, Chris Hawes; her grandson, Brian Barrette; her sisters, Annette Ledoux, Pauline Brousseau, Madeleine Boie and her husband, Robert Boie, Sr., Jeanne O'Malley and her husband, Steven O'Malley, and Rita Life; her brother, Ronald Genereux, and his wife, Marge Genereux; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends. She was predeceased by her parents, Donat and Lucienne (Routhier) Genereux; her brothers, Maurice, Roland, and Normand Genereux.

Lucille's kindness, generosity, and unwavering love for those around her will remain in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Relatives and friends are invited to a Funeral Mass on Saturday August 8, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence Street, Putnam, CT. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Lucille's name to Thompson Fire Engine Company, 70 Chase Road, Thompson, CT 06277. For Memorial Guestbook, visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Nilda Rivera Bernard August 17, 1938 - July 3, 2026 87 years old



Nilda Rivera Bernard, 87, of Woodstock, Connecticut, passed away peacefully at home on July 3, 2026. She was born on August 17, 1938, in Manatí, Puerto Rico. In 1960, Nilda graduated as a registered nurse and proudly received her nursing pin. She met her husband, Jude A. Bernard, in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, and they were soon married, eventually making their home in northeastern Connecticut. Nilda served as a registered nurse in Puerto Rico and then at Day Kimball Hospital. In the 1980's, Nilda became the Democratic Registrar of Voters for the town of Pomfret, and when the family moved to Woodstock, she became the Democratic Registrar of Voters for the town of Woodstock. For over 30 years, summers were spent making and selling Doughboys with her family by her side at numerous fairs throughout New England.

Nilda was a truly remarkable person. She had a generous and compassionate heart and left an unforgettable mark on everyone she met. Nilda was a bright businesswoman, a gifted seamstress, an avid crafter, and possessed a remarkable ability to make, build, or fix absolutely anything. Nilda's

sharp mind, determination, and work ethic were an inspiration to us all. She cherished her family deeply and always found great joy in returning to Puerto Rico to reconnect with family and friends and to embrace the island's vibrant warmth. Nilda will be remembered for her exceptional intellect, talents, and compassion.

Nilda is survived by her husband, Jude Bernard; and children, Jude Bernard Jr. of Savannah, Georgia, Virginia Sharpless of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Stephen Bernard (Agnes) of North Windham, Connecticut, and Lisa Hart (Martin) of Pomfret, Connecticut; and her grandchildren, William, Mae, Antonine, Emily, Ethan, Kale, Maxtin, and Ellen. She is preceded in death by her son, David Bernard, her brother Luis Collazo, and her sister Irma Aulet.

The family would like to thank Day Kimball HomeCare for the loving care and support they provided Nilda over the years, especially the Hospice team over the last eight months.

Friends and family are invited to attend a funeral Mass on Saturday, July 18, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Stephen Church, 130 Old Turnpike Road, Quinebaug, CT. A reception and burial will immediately follow, and all are welcome to attend.

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

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