



Courtesy

Danielson Martial Arts announces promotion of Michael A Peloquin to 5th Dan Master Belt in the Cheezic Tang Soo Do Federation. Friday, Sept. 21, members of Danielson Martial Arts Academy traveled to the Cheezic Tang Soo Do headquarters in Waterbury for a Master Belt Grading Ceremony. Among the 11 participants, Michael A Peloquin represented DMAA in what was said to be one of the best Master Belt Gradings in the history of the federation. This year, DMAA is celebrating 50 Years of being in business. For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.

Thompson receives CIF funding for downtown

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Town of Thompson received tremendous news in late September, with the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) expected to award the town more than \$4 million for revitalization efforts in its downtown district.

The announcement was made by Sen. Jeff Gordon, who released a statement congratulating Thompson on an expected award of \$4,047,484 from the state's Community Investment Fund 2030 (CIF) to support the town's ongoing "Re-Weaving the Fabric of North Grosvenordale" project, a three-phase initiative to revitalize Thompson's historic downtown hub. The CIF funding was just a portion of the \$175 million being presented to applicants from across the state.

"This is fantastic news for the residents of Thompson and our region. I have been working in a bipartisan way to deliver this funding to the town and spur its economic development. Thank you to Governor (Ned) Lamont and Commissioner Daniel O'Keefe for supporting our rural community. Also, thank you to the town leaders and town staff for working on, and putting forward

Turn To CIF page A9

Public hearing to address ARPA funding for Westfield Ave renovations

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly taxpayers will have the opportunity to weigh in on a funding proposal that could determine the use of remaining ARPA funds before the end of the calendar year. In September the Town Council agreed to bring forth the use of up to \$1.6 million in American Rescue Plan Funds to offset some of the cost of the renovation of the old high school on Westfield Avenue.

Turn To FUNDING page A8

Final approval received for grant to start Congregational Church repairs

THOMPSON — The Congregational Church of Thompson, Inc. has received final approval for a \$500,000 grant from the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. This allows the church to move forward with final plans, and review to start repairing the historic and beloved building on Thompson Hill. This is part of the overall funding which is expected to require \$2.4 million. This represents Phase I of the repairs which are expected to begin in early Spring of 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns about this grant, please send an email to office@thompso-

nucc.org or call the office at 860-923-2431.

This grant was approved due to the historic significance of the church, the importance to Thompson, and the potential for reuse of the building to support the community. Importantly, the tireless efforts of Senator Blumenthal (CT) and Senator Murphy (CT), and their staffs made this a reality.

Bruce Hall, Board Member responsible for the church rebuilding, stated, "We are finally to the point for work to begin in 2025. I can say with confidence that we will start repairing the church, and with the continued generosity of the community and the State and Federal govern-

ments we will move on to additional phases in the future. We thank the Senators and their staffs for the support to make this a reality."

Thompson Congregational Church was started in 1728, and will celebrate its 300-year anniversary in just a few years. The current church building was constructed in 1856, and are also the owners of the historic town common. The fire in December of 2016 largely destroyed the interior of the sanctuary building. The church has continued online church services and community service projects virtually and occasionally in-person since the fire through today. The Rev. Shannon Wall has been our interim

pastor for the past three years and continues to be a blessing to the congregation.

Funds are still needed for this project, as the cost could be as much as \$2.4 million for all four phases. To make a tax-deductible donation please send it to the following address. Funds donated will only be used for the rebuild and not for ongoing operations of the church. A statement of donations will be mailed to you in January 2025 for the tax deduction:

Congregational Church of Thompson
Building Fund
P.O. Box 308
Thompson, CT 06277-0308

Empty Bowls continues tradition of fighting food insecurity

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — For the second consecutive year, TEEG played host to the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser on Sept. 21, helping raise money to support ending hunger in the quiet corner.

Empty Bowls is approaching its 20th year in the Quiet Corner as part of a national initiative to help food related charities and non-profits. The event has taken many forms but in 2023 returned to a stand-alone meal with TEEG, a Thompson-based nonprofit that operates food security programs in Thompson, Pomfret, and Woodstock, as its host site. The agency welcomed the event once again on a damp Saturday, Sept. 21 where participants could enjoy soup and side dishes made and donated by local eateries while Sawmill Pottery of Putnam continued the tradition of donating handmade bowls ticketholders got to keep at the end of the day.

Dot Burnworth, owner of Sawmill Pottery and a coordinator of the event,

explained that partnering with TEEG has brought new life to the event.

"I have known about TEEG for many years, but until now have never been involved with them personally. I have been so impressed over the past two years, not only with the multitude of programs and services they offer, but also with how their staff operates. It truly feels like the staff are happy to be at work every day. The pride for what they are providing and their dedication to the community is evident and palpable. Additionally, until we began partnering with TEEG, we never held the dinner at the actual site of operations. Hosting the dinner right on site, where diners can walk through the market and the program rooms, allows for folks to gain a deeper understanding of how their participation in this important event will support food insecurity locally," said Burnworth.

Carl Asikainen TEEG's incoming Executive Director, complimented the event as not only a way to share TEEG's

operations with supporters firsthand, but also a fantastic way to bring businesses together to help put an end to hunger in Northeastern Connecticut.

"Beyond the knowledge sharing about the depth of the problem of food insecurity with attendees, this is an opportunity to directly fund our work at TEEG that shapes what is offered through all of our feeding services," said Asikainen. "We are reliant on local farmers and gardeners for fresh foods when in season and our institutional supporters like the Connecticut Foodshare and our local Putnam Walmart, but we are confronted with food needs beyond these offerings. Some foods just do not get donated like dairy products or frozen vegetables, for example. Private monies with no restriction allow us to buy what is most in demand yet not donated. We work with our other food pantries and feeding sites in this region to share foods, strategize and in this sense Empty Bowls not only lifts us up

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Courtesy

Volunteers serve food during the annual Empty Bowls event at TEEG in Thompson.

Tiffany Alvarado earns Westview's Employee of the Month Award

DAYVILLE — Tiffany Alvarado earned Westview's Employee of the Month recognition this September.

Alvarado has worked at Westview for the past five years in a variety of roles. She began her tenure in the Dietary Department of Country Living at Westview Commons on a per-diem basis, then accepted a part-time role, and eventually rose to the full-time position she now holds. Through her considerable and consistent performance providing hospitality to the residents at mealtimes, she has now elevated to the role of Server Supervisor. In this capacity, she provides residents with their custom food orders and provides leadership to her colleagues in The Great Room during food service. Additionally, she works alongside her colleagues in Westview Commons' Dietary Department and Hospitality Team in-between meals to ensure that settings are properly prepared, restocking various dining room staples and food items, and rearranging the tables and chairs to make space for the many forms of activity and entertainment that



Tiffany Alvarado

Tiffany's opportune pursuit of working with Westview Commons' administrative staff at the reception desk.

"It's wonderful that Tiffany is also going to be a part of our front-of-house staff in the main entrance office. I know she will bring her great personality and professionalism to that role—just as she has done as a server," Panteleakos said. "Congratulations to Tiffany!"

Country Living at Westview Commons is a 75-unit independent and assisted living community conveniently located in picturesque Northeastern Connecticut. Affiliated with Westview Health Care Center, a nationally-ranked nursing facility according to CMS and U.S. News and World Report for the past 15 years consecutively, Westview Commons is a catered living facility dedicated to a genuine 5-star experience including outstanding service, culinary expertise, and professional in-house entertainment. Located in Dayville, Westview Commons combines convenience, tranquility and comfort; providing a lifestyle that seniors deserve.

Audubon Society to host screening of owl documentary



Photo by Joe Gowac

POMFRET — "The Fledgling 4," an entertaining and informative nature documentary about Barred Owls, will be screened at The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. The film's producer, Joe Gowac, will join us for the evening. He is a wildlife videographer, photographer, and second grade teacher from East Hampton. In March of this year, Joe discovered a Barred Owl nest site in the woods near him. He proceeded to go there for 100 consecutive days, documenting the daily existence and antics of the owl family.

Following the film, the floor will be open for discussion. Joe will answer questions including those about the owls' behaviors and his wildlife film editing techniques. Joe hopes to have copies of "Flaco's Journey," a just published children's book he helped write. Flaco was a European Eagle-Owl, not native to the United States, which escaped from the Central Park Zoo in 2023, when his cage was vandalized. He flew free and survived in New York City for about a year.

On Sunday, Oct. 20 at 2 p.m., the topic will be bats, the only mammal capable of true flight. Maureen Heidtmann, one of only three licensed wildlife rehabilitators in Connecticut specializing in caring for bats, operates WingHand Rehab and Education. She will provide an overview of bats of the world and then discuss the nine species that occur in our state, grouped as cave bats (six species) and tree bats (three species). All species but the big brown bat are state listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Maureen will discuss the many roles bats play in ensuring a healthy planet as well as the perils they face as they struggle to survive. She will also discuss gardening for bats and how to make your property more attractive to these amazingly resilient creatures.

Heidtmann, a former librarian, will have copies of her 2019 book, "Bats, Brownies & Banana Bread: The Library Bats Bakery (and More) Recipe Book." The recipes use ingredients that are available thanks to the environmental contributions of bats -- pollination, seed dispersal, and insect control. Some of the recipes are simple enough for kids to prepare with an adult, but some are fairly complex.

Heidtmann says, "While the book is for all ages, kids will love the illustrations and the bat facts on every page."

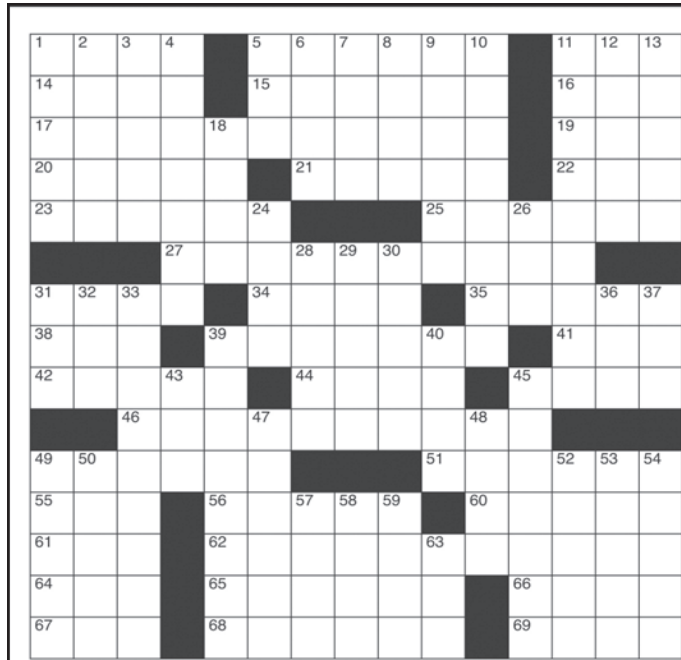
The Center at Pomfret's handcrafted bat houses will also be available for purchase. For both programs, registration is appreciated but not required. Adult admission is \$5 for CAS members; \$10 for non-members.

CAS also has several upcoming field opportunities for learning more about two other owl species. On Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m., Andy Rzeznikiewicz, CAS land manager, will lead a hike to search for Eastern Screech Owls. On Saturday, Oct. 26 and Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 6 p.m., he will band migrating Saw-whet Owls. All of Andy's programs require registration. For additional information, including pricing and registration, please call the Center or visit its website (ctaudubon.org/Pomfret).

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- State clearly
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- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Caps
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Checked
- One-sided
- Having an extreme greed for wealth
- Potted plants
- We all have one
- Lake north of the Kalahari
- Unidentified flying object
- Aging persons
- Small amount
- Mother of Perseus
- Ornamental waist box
- Officials
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- Extensive, treeless plains
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Consumer advocate Ralph
- Notable Spanish sports club
- Body part
- One's responsiveness
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught
- Muslim ruler title
- Unhappy
- Gradually disappeared
- Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- Brushed
- Water sprite
- Ones to look up to
- Monetary units
- We all have one
- Marine invertebrate
- One who institutes a legal proceeding
- Outer
- Parallelograms
- Uncomfortable feelings
- Cross to form an X
- Remove
- Some pages are dog-___
- Capital of Ukraine
- A citizen of Denmark
- Eighth month (abbr.)
- Hindu queens
- Acids structurally related to amino acids
- Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- Wet dirt
- Russian city
- Observed
- Irate
- Travelers need them
- Musical composition
- Auction
- Form of "to be"
- Women
- Inspire with love
- Think Japanese ankle sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The lead dancer: ___ ballerina
- Protein involved in motion
- Rosalind Franklin biographer
- Popular 1920s style art ___
- ___ Bylton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to rest

PUZZLE SOLUTION



are held in The Great Room. This is Alvarado's second time earning the Employee of the Month designation; having previously earned the recognition in October 2022. Ever the ambitious individual, she is currently cross-training to add front-desk receptionist to her employment repertoire at Westview Commons.

Family is very important to Alvarado and her kin. She is close with her mother, and offers her loving care and many smiles. Her daughter Tyasia has worked with Westview Commons in the past, and her sister Erica is presently a member of the dietary team at Westview Health Care Center. Alvarado and her family coordinate

dinner together as often as possible to cherish their bond and have a few laughs around the table. Alvarado was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. and graduated from The High School for Enterprise, Business, and Technology there. She moved to Connecticut nearly ten years ago and she currently lives in Danielson. Prior to bringing her talents to Westview Commons, Tiffany worked for over 20 years in home care. Kindness, a good work ethic, and hospitality come by her naturally.

Reflecting on her journey at Westview Commons, Alvarado expressed gratitude for her accomplishments and excitement for her future at the 75-unit independent and assisted living facility in Dayville.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to start my role at Westview Commons on a per-diem basis and work my way up to a full-time position. I was extremely proud when they offered me the promotion to become the Server Supervisor. I am now working at the front desk as well, and I am excited to grow with this organization!" she said.

Country Living at Westview Commons Executive Vice President David T. Panteleakos spoke to the professional, pleasant, and passionate qualities that Tiffany brings to their team: "Tiffany has shown great dedication in all of her roles here at Westview Commons. I am very proud to see her successes continue to develop with us, and I am grateful for the strong example that she sets for fellow colleagues." Panteleakos went on to celebrate

TOWN OF POMFRET

PART-TIME FINANCE MANAGER/TREASURER

The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Finance Manager/Treasurer responsible for the management of Town funds as required by CT General Statutes. Responsibilities to include receipt and deposit of town funds, reconciliation of accounts, investment of town monies, preparation of audit requirements and work with auditors during annual audits, perform any and all duties as may be required with this position and as required under CT General Statutes. Must work in cooperation with municipal officials and provide financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently.

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field or five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, preferably in a municipal office. Efficient knowledge of Microsoft Office including Excel and Word and accounting softwares. This is a part-time position of up to 22 hours per week with some flexibility dependent upon varying workload throughout the year. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. Application and full job description is available at www.pomfret.ct.gov/first-selectmans-office. Position is open until filled. EEO/AA

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VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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

Centreville Bank named one of Connecticut's Top Workplaces

PUTNAM — Centreville Bank has been recognized as one of Connecticut's 2024 Top Workplaces by the Hartford Courant. This honor is given to local companies that have exceptional employee feedback and recognizes organizations that are committed to creating a positive, supportive and engaging workplace culture.

Additionally, Centreville Bank took home the top Benefits Award for its competitive benefits and unique perks that contribute to employee satisfaction, well-being and workplace culture.

Based entirely on anonymous employee feedback, the information was gathered through a third-party survey administered by Energage, which measures various culture

drivers at a company.

"Receiving this award is incredibly meaningful because it is rooted in authentic employee feedback," said Harold M. Horvat, Centreville Bank President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. "This award validates our commitment to creating an environment where employees feel valued, heard and proud of the work they do every day."

Centreville Bank's recognition comes on the heels of various awards for workplace culture, including both Providence Business News' Best Places to Work and Providence Business News' Healthiest Workplaces.

"Bringing home the benefits award from the Hartford Courant is equally as significant as



Members of the Centreville Bank team accepting the Hartford Courant's Top Workplaces award.

Courtesy

being recognized as a top workplace in Connecticut. The benefits award reflects the total rewards philosophy. It truly signifies that we put our employees first and work diligently to ensure we have best-in-class benefits for all," said Josh Varone, Senior Vice President, Human Resources.

To learn more about what it is like to work at Centreville Bank and our current job opportunities, please visit: www.centrevillebank.com/About/Who-We-Are/Careers.

Putnam's Interact Club has been busy!



Courtesy

September has been a busy month for the Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club. Sept. 15, the Interact Club volunteered at NOW's Lap around the Lake 5 K fund-raiser race. Sofia Thurber, June Ferraro, Serena Smith and Shyla Beckett handed out water at the water station during the 5K race. Sept. 21, the club volunteered at the Day Kimball Healthcare's cancer survivor picnic at Roseland Park. They parked cars, assisted with wheelchairs, made ice cream sundaes and cleaned up. Rotarian Kristin Willis, DKH Director of Development & Volunteer Services, said she really appreciated Interact's help. She said their help with the parking went smoothly. A big shout out to Sofia Thurber, June Ferraro, Serena Smith, Calleigh Levesque, Gianna Brinston, Pavanny Phav, Kaelyn Tremblay and Anthony Beaudreault. The club meets once a month at the Putnam Library. For more information about the Interact Club contact Roberta Rocchetti 860-933-8603 or email robertarocchetti4@gmail.com. Pictured on the left: Helpers at the DKH Cancer Survivor Picnic. From left: Serena Smith, Gianna Brinson, Pavanny Phav, June Ferraro, Sofia Thurber, Calleigh Levesque, Anthony Beaudreault, and adviser Roberta Rocchetti. Missing from photo Kaelyn Tremblay. On the right: Helpers at the NOW Lap Around the Lake 5k fund-raiser race. Shyla Beckett, Serena Smith, Sofia Thurber and June Ferraro.



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.

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

VILLAGER ALMANAC AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Sept. 23: White-eyed Vireo, Cooper's Hawk, Swamp Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Black and White Warbler, Great Blue Heron, Scarlet Tanager, Hummingbird, Goldfinch, Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Black Vulture. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Don't believe everything you hear

Election season is upon us, and with it comes the barrage of campaign ads, glossy fliers, and endless political chatter. While these tools are designed to catch our attention, it's crucial to remember that not everything we hear or see in campaign materials is the truth. Smear campaigns are the dark side of politics—filled with half-truths, cherry-picked data, and sometimes outright lies meant to sway our opinions.

It's easy to get caught up in the sound bites and headlines, but it's our responsibility as voters to dig deeper. Before you decide on a candidate, do your own research. Look beyond the fliers in your mailbox and the dramatic ads on TV. Seek out multiple sources of information, read up on the issues, and fact-check statements. Use reliable, unbiased resources to get a clearer picture of where each candidate truly stands. Be an informed voter.

Remember, the most genuine candidates are the ones who show up to serve their communities and work for what's best for all of us, not just to win votes. These candidates can be found at every level of government, but they may not always be the loudest or flashiest. By doing your own homework and looking for those who prioritize the well-being of their fellow Americans over party politics or personal gain, you can cast an informed vote that reflects your values. So, don't just take campaign ads at face value—take the time to research and choose the candidate who is truly committed to making a difference.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's a no-brainer for me too

To the Editor:
 There have been 1,096 mass shootings in America from 2022 to the present day. More than 44,000 people have died in those 33 months. Our collective solution has been to offer up the tepid sentiment of "thoughts and prayers." It has not helped.

Between 2000 and 2022, there have been 1,375 school shootings at public and private elementary and secondary schools in the United States. "Shooter preparedness" has become a sobering reality. Lockdown drills have become the way schools deal with a threat from outside the school. My son teaches at an elementary school. He says the children know that a lockdown means "something bad is going to happen." His students are 7-11 years old.

A PBS NewsHour, NPR and Marist Poll, taken in 2019, verified that "most Americans support these four types of gun legislation: more funding for mental health screening and treatment; mandatory background

checks and licensing for gun purchases; passage of a national "red flag" law; and giving a judge authority to order the removal of a gun from a person who poses a risk to themselves or others." Kamala Harris's crime and gun policies include the same points, as well as repeal of a federal law that shields gun manufacturers from liability.

It has been 22 years since the tragedy at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. On that December day, 20 first graders, only six years old, and 6 teachers lost their life in a senseless attack. This year, the survivors of Sandy Hook are 18. This will be the first presidential election they can participate in. During a recent interview, Lily Wasilnak, a Sandy Hook survivor and new voter, stated, "It's a no-brainer for me." She will be voting for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz.

As will I.

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER
 WOODSTOCK

Our heroes

To the Editor:
 We would like to thank the Community Fire Co. for prompt service we received on Aug. 20 due to a smoke detector going off at our home. First Assistant Chief Evan Faucher and his crew came to our home and promptly addressed the situation.

Please support our departments because you never know when you may need them. In our eyes, they are our heroes.

Thank you so much.

DOT AND PAM MAYNARD
 N. GROSVENORDALE

Greedflation

To the Editor:
 Monday, Sept. 23: on "60 Minutes" last night, an interesting story concerning 'greedflation' and how it is affecting this country.

With the limited competition in the grocery business and the growing monopolies in the business world, more stores are owned by the same companies under different names, so limiting the need for lowering prices. This means they keep the prices at a high level due to the fact there is little to no competition, hence a grocery monopoly.

Same goes with Walmart — three of the five richest people in the country are Waltons, the family that owns Walmart. Amazon, which sucks up all small companies, therefore making it the only place to go to, even if they deliver fast and mostly free. How is that possible?

The head of the Federal Trade Commission told "60 Minutes" the heads of many corporations saying that they can make more money without lowering prices due to the fact Americans have grown accustomed to higher prices. Easy to make record profits. In 2017, they received tax cuts, and in turn they do what they always do, they pass the money down to their employees by giving them raises, better and cheaper health care. No, they gave themselves bigger salaries and bigger benefits. Tough to manage your budget when all you have are hundreds of million dollars. Multiple homes in multiple states do cost money, and the taxes they have to pay. Life can be tough. Not counting the Range Rovers for the kids at private schools. Remember, "pork thy fellow American" is a slogan that many companies live by.

Tuesday, Sept. 24: just got a delivery of home fuel oil at \$3 a gallon and purchased gas at \$2.97 a gallon. I guess I should be happy; I hear though that home and auto insurance may go up 25 percent with the next bill. The health coverage has not gone up, but paying

the DR's has more out of pocket expenses. Still got to pay the Public Benefit for my electricity bill.

Wednesday, Sept. 25: Listen to a smart financial guy on TV this morning, he was talking about the single biggest problem facing America in the future, and it was not immigration, not even close, he said. \$34 trillion debt that America is running up and nobody, the two people running for President do not even mention it. He is a Conservative in the old way, does not like either candidate, Trump may be better for the economy but in good conscience he will not vote for him. Says his past behavior disqualifies him, his mocking of a Paralyzed New York Time reporter, the disdain he showed Sen. McCain, a true hero in his opinion, the 200 plus former people who served the ex-President say he is not suited or fit to serve another term and lastly, the ex-President's comments about veterans of WWII, Korean, Vietnam and others who have served and died for this country as "suckers." He is going to listen today when VP Harris speaks on her economic plan. He may not vote in the Presidential race. The markets open today at new all time highs. Hope and good will as opposed to hate and discord.

Thursday & Friday: Many young men went to fight in Korea and Vietnam to fend off and stop communism throughout the world. That meant fighting against Russia and China, etc. Now I am supposed to believe that Russian aggression does not mean anything to us. Isolationism does not work for America, without going long, look at Germany and the Rhineland to explain WWII. Hitler (Putin) never stop with one country. History may not repeat itself, but it sure rhymes.

Choose hope and moving forward, rather than the alternative.

DAVID CASSETTARI
 KILLINGLY

Give Ethan a seat at the table...

To the Editor:
 In the Connecticut State House, a seat at the table is a really big deal. It's where the Majority party controls the agenda, where critical needs and outstanding ideas with sensible program budgets are proposed and discussed. Voters in State House District 52 (Woodstock, Union, Stafford and Somers) can send Democratic State Representative candidate Ethan Werstler to Hartford where Democrats are in the Majority. Our needs will be heard, thanks to Ethan having that important seat at the table as a member of the Majority party.

Ethan will be our eyes, ears and mouth. It has been far too long since these small towns elected a Majority party (Democrat) state rep. So if you are thinking these small towns are not getting their fair share of state support, you're right.

Ethan has a good understanding of how Hartford works. He believes small and rural towns often lose out on funding because

they typically have Minority-party representation, which also means they are not often at the table when decisions are being made.

The state has a huge surplus and it's time to go after more state funding to help all towns pay for unfunded state mandates (Special Education funding, for or example, has a tremendous impact on local school budgets), as well as important needs throughout Woodstock, Union, Stafford and Somers. But electing a Minority party State Rep just doesn't get to that important seat at the table.

That's the reality of not having a Majority party State Rep. It's unfortunate for many people in the 52nd, and Ethan says he will contribute as a Majority rep if we elect him. I am hoping you see it my way and believe the majority party will deliver for us. He just needs a seat at the table.

GREG KLINE
 WOODSTOCK

Dauphinais supports parental rights and choice

To the Editor:
 My name is Amanda Martell, and I am a local firefighter and EMT in the town of Killingly. I endorse Anne Dauphinais for Connecticut State Representative in the 44th district because she believes in parental rights and freedom of choice. As a mom of two small

children, keeping these rights is important. My husband and I are raising and caring for our kids. Being able to choose how we school them and making informed medical decisions that suit our family rights are supported by Anne.

AMANDA MARTELL
 DANIELSON

The Post Office links us all together

I love my Post Office. I've liked almost every post office I've ever visited whether opening my box or



NANCY WEISS

dropping off a letter. Part of the attraction is that I love notes, magazines and newspapers. I'm not fond of bills or glossy fliers, but I like the weekly free shopping guide. This column appears in free newspapers that arrive through the mail. All that's required is occasionally filling out a postcard. My town has an excellent free monthly newspaper. I wouldn't know what is happening without the paper, which turns up in my post office box. Other towns are fortunate to have something similar.

Once, I saw a postmaster from another era line up all the postcards received that

day to read them. I felt a bit embarrassed, as if I were catching him doing something wrong. He didn't bat an eye. I suppose the very nature of a postcard invites others to read it. Or perhaps it was really just a way to keep up to date with his clientele. The same man would accurately deposit a letter with the appropriate family when the address merely read: Mommy. He knew what children were at camp writing to their families.

A Post Office and the workers who staff it are the real gatekeepers of a community.

Their attitudes and competencies set the tone for the places they serve, even though they don't necessarily live in the towns where they work. When I was younger, the position of postmaster — a designation, not a gender — was one of very few political plums. The job, seemingly a life-long appointment, was thought to pay rather well, had a whiff of prestige and included managerial power. Mail carriers, who deliver to mail boxes with noisy vehicles or those who deliver from house-to-house on foot, know everyone in the community. Interaction with them has a certain mystic to it, especially in the eyes of children.

In third grade in West Hartford, my grandson was assigned the task of writing an essay about someone special in the community. He chose Ed, the postman. In pencil on white, lined paper, he listed Ed's qualities, including his friendliness. When he later shared it with Ed, the older man burst into tears. Neither will forget that moment. Shut-ins, especially during Covid saw mail delivery as a life line.

As a long-time post office patron, I've had some touching encounters. One day a woman, whom I didn't know, burst into tears as she opened her box. She had just

lost her job. We hugged. Another day, it was a recent widow and once a man with

a broken heart. Teenagers scream when their college acceptance letters arrive and I bump into people I haven't seen in years. Not everyone is friendly. A few want to get in and get out as fast as possible. Some seem to look for reasons to complain about the entire operation, but they are the minority. Most enjoy talking with the postal workers behind the counter, who really try to find the fastest, least expensive way to move the packages and the letters.

Founded in 1775 by the postal clause in the US Constitution, the institution is the butt of jokes, criticism, and threats to disband it, but what a loss that would be. It isn't perfect, but it works. The rural carriers who pull up to mailboxes dangling from posts and stop at elegant driveways offer the same level of service to everyone. The great web of the Post Office links us all together, a rare thing in today's world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Are our voter rolls being cleaned up?

To the Editor:

I still feel that poll watchers are needed whenever the votes are being counted, especially in these “swing states,” because I certainly don’t want to hear the same horror stories and the resulting [nonsense] that happened in 2020. Another thing needed to be done is that states need to clean up their voter lists, as is required by law. The Republican Governor of Oklahoma’s cleanup drive swept off 97,065 deceased voters, 143,682 folks who’ve moved out of state (but left their voting rights behind), 5,607 convicted felons, 14,993 duplicate registrations (because one vote per citizen should be enough), and 194,962 inactive voters who were shown the door during an address verification process. The State Board of Elections in North Carolina shared that 747,000 names were dropped in the past 20 months due to ineligibility. (I wonder what our state is doing toward that effort?)

It’s been reported that the Oregon DMV has allowed a total of 1,259 non-citizens to be placed on the voting rolls, and that nine of them have already cast votes. The brain-washed will say that’s a small number in the grand scheme of things, but how is this allowed to happen, and is it happening elsewhere?

A judge in Indiana gave a criminal who strangled an 11 month old baby the right to have a sex change who is serving 55 years in prison paid by taxpayer money. Harris supports this, including illegal migrants who are detained so that they too can get taxpayer funding for sex changes. Also, Harris will not attend the Al Smith charity dinner Oct. 17, a New York Catholic charities fundraiser that has become a staple for presidential nominees in election years because she’d rather spend the time campaigning. It’s now being said that Harris is both anti-Catholic and the most anti-God politician ever. (Their words, not mine.)

One hundred fifty-eight Democrats

voted against Republican Nancy Mace’s bill that would ensure undocumented immigrants convicted of sex offenses are deported or deemed inadmissible to the country. “The Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act” passed in a 266-158 vote. Every Republican present voted for the bill, as did 51 Democrats, while 158 Democrats voted against it. The bill would include undocumented immigrants who have been convicted of, or admit to having committed, sex offenses, domestic violence, stalking, child abuse or violating a protection order. Does voting against a Violence Against Women Act mean that you hate women? But if Trump did, it would be, right?

With these anti-God and woman hating accusations, a new low of fear-mongering desperation has been reached, and because of the fear, the hate and the bias that’s what it’s come down to. Seeing that comparing a candidate to Hitler and Satan has already been used, is there anything left? When it’s come down to making a big deal about such pettiness like Trump buying popcorn and Harris working at McDonald’s, I’d say the well has gone dry. But then there’s continually parroting the left’s take on illegal crime, and mentioning lies, cult, Nazi, racism and misogyny over and over. (Yawn.) And did those echoing that Trump told 30,000 lies ever notice that when either Biden or Harris say something that could very well be a lie, it’s instead labeled as either a “mis-truth” or “false information” by the left’s lame-stream media?

I’m certainly not going to say “hooray” because of endorsements, or because some soothsayer or any poll is making predictions about the election’s outcome. We’ll know the results when the votes are counted, and we’ll all have to deal with its outcome. Later.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

One reason to vote Trump over Harris, and it’s a big one

To the Editor:

The complete fraud, flip flopper for the election that is now running for president, one Kamala Harris, has an amazing record. Besides equating ICE to the KKK in hearings while a Senator from California, her and Dementia Joe have done an amazing job of changing the United States forever. Some sobering statistics from ICE:

Among illegal immigrants not in detention, there are 425,000 plus illegal immigrants who have criminal convictions. 222,000 plus have pending criminal charges. The ICE non detained docket has exploded to 7.4 million cases. Those include 62,000 plus with assault convictions. 14,000 plus with burglary convictions. 56,000 plus with drug convictions. 15,000 plus with sexual assault convictions. Thirteen thousand plus with homicide convictions.

There are an additional 1,845 with pending homicide charges. 42,000 plus with pending assault charges. As of July 21st, 2024, there were 662,566 non-citizens with criminal histories on ICE’s national docket. Furthermore, encounters with illegals jumped from around 500,000 per year for several previous

years, with one outlier year of around one million, to a high of 3.3 million in 2023 after those two clowns removed all of the rules that the Trump administration had put in place to control it. Yes, Biden signed those orders, but Harris was totally on board with it all, confirmed by Joe himself.

The Democratic party wants to place this Biden administration border czar into the Oval office, even more astounding since Democrat voters did not get to choose her. Kamala Harris presided over this chaos and invasion of criminals into the US, now she wants to be president. We don’t even need to get into the flip flops, the lies, the word salads, or more appropriately, the word vomit and cackling that she emits instead of answering legitimate questions. This disgraceful endangerment of all Americans not protected by the Secret Service is more than enough to disqualify her from the office in my opinion. Send a clear message to those that offer such a ridiculous candidate for your consideration.

Trump 2024.

NORM FERRON
DANIELSON

Unthinkable

To the Editor:

In an America not so long ago, about nine years ago, many, many aspects of political life that Donald Trump has normalized would have been unthinkable.

Back then, most would have never believed that a major party candidate would tell lie after lie, and then lie about his lies and be enthusiastically embraced by roughly one-third of Americans and nearly the entire Republican Party. Most would have heeded the warnings of an unprecedented number of actually conservative Republicans, former military brass, and half of his cabinet secretaries about the unfit fitness of a candidate to serve and the danger that he poses to national security if elected.

Before 2015, no major party candidate would idolize brutal, murdering dictators from countries like Russia and China, praising their intelligence and their “strength,” and bragging that he had received “love letters” from the dictator of North Korea.

It was unimaginable that the GOP presidential nominee would side with authoritarian Russia in its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and tell its dictator to do whatever the hell he wants to our NATO allies if that nominee deems their military budgets to be too small.

It would have been automatically disqualifying to denigrate brave American men and women who lost their lives defending their country, our country, as “losers” and “suckers.”

No normal American would have even entertained the idea that a major party would put up a presidential candidate found guilty of over thirty felonies and under indictment for scores of others. And most Americans would have never voted for such a candidate.

Very few would have believed that a candidate who openly demonizes human beings, calling them “vermin” à la Adolph Hitler, and using racist insults

to refer to his opponent would have any chance of being elected President of the United States of America.

No one would have countenanced the thought that a former president, who actively plotted to overturn the will of the voters after decisively losing the 2020 election and who inspired a violent mob to attack the Capitol, severely injuring over one hundred law enforcement officers, could ever be elected to public office again.

And there’s zero chance that a sexual predator, adjudicated in a court of law to have raped a woman and repeatedly defamed her, would have been a formidable candidate for any national office, much less president.

It was unlikely that an addled, clownish man who can’t answer a policy question with any coherence and gives crazy, rambling speeches extolling Hannibal Lector, encouraging political violence, and obsessing about his crowd sizes and his beautiful body, a man who clearly doesn’t read widely and has no intellectual curiosity, would become the GOP nominee.

And it was unfathomable that a Republican candidate who picked a radical fascist running mate who openly advocates confiscating university endowments, limiting the voting rights of childless adults, firing all federal employees, and shutting down corporations that they disagree with politically, could be a viable candidate.

But that’s where we stand today. Hopefully, the overwhelming majority of voters will reject this putrid state of affairs and vote to return America to a time when our leaders were decent, valued facts over lies, respected the rule of law, and sowed unity instead of hatred, fear, cruelty, immorality, racism, misogyny, antisemitism, and xenophobia.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Veterans are fortunate to have Dauphinais representing them

To the Editor:

Born to and raised by a career military veteran, married to a veteran and with a veteran son,

State Rep. Anne Dauphinais understands the challenges military life brings to our veterans and their families. She has been an active supporter of the local Veterans Coffeehouse, which originated in Danielson. She participates in fundraising events and partners with the veterans to help supply local food pantries. And she has helped dozens of veterans with their issues.

When I first met Anne, I noted her

active participation in ceremonial events which were held to honor veterans, and that she held local “town hall” meetings to speak and answer questions about the bills being passed in Hartford. Being available to the veterans as well as all of her constituents, Anne is representing District 44 by understanding the needs here and how decisions in Hartford may affect us all. As veterans, we are fortunate to have her, and I urge you to vote on Nov. 5 to keep her in office.

ART GAGNE
PLAINFIELD

Considerations for long-term care planning



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
• • • • •
MICHAEL
BAUM
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

those without family nearby

If you’re single or don’t have family members living close by who could potentially provide care, long-term care planning takes on added importance. Some key consider-

ations include:

Designating a health care proxy: Choose someone you trust to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated. This could be a close friend, more distant relative, or even an attorney.

Creating an advance directive: Document your wishes for end-of-life care to ensure they are followed.

Building a support network: Cultivate relationships with friends, neighbors, and community members who could potentially assist with care needs.

Researching care options: Familiarize yourself with home care services, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes in your area so you know your options.

Considering long-term care insurance: Without a spouse or children to provide care, insurance can help cover professional care services.

Setting aside more savings: You may need to budget for higher out-of-pocket care costs without family assistance.

Exploring aging-in-place modifications: Look into home upgrades that could allow you to stay in your home longer if that’s your preference.

The key is to be proactive in planning for your care needs rather than leaving things to chance. Meet with a financial advisor and elder law attorney to discuss the best ways to protect your assets and ensure you’ll have the care you need as you age.

While long-term care planning involves considering some difficult “what-ifs,” having a strategy in place can provide invaluable peace of mind. You’ll know you’ve taken steps to protect your wealth, expand your care options, and maintain more control over your future.

Don’t put off this crucial planning - the sooner you start, the more options you’ll have available. At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we’re here to help ensure you have the best plan for long-term care and all your financial needs, giving you “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” Visit our website at whzwealth.com to schedule your complimentary consultation or give us a call at (860) 928-2341.

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9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
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- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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Principal

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JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

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Danielson Martial Arts Academy announces newest round of students at grading



DANIELSON — Thursday, Sept. 19, three time Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee, 7th Dan Master Daryl Laperle announces promotion of 21 students in the schools most recent grading.

Lyanah Chin - 4.5 Gup Green
 Olivia Riabstev - 4.5 Gup Green
 Lillian Antunes - 4.5 Gup Green
 Isaac Sawyer - 5 Gup Green
 Clyde LaPorte - 5.5 Gup Purple
 Bodhi Dyer - 5.5 Gup Purple
 Nova Stiles - 6.5 Gup Purple
 Madelyn Markley - 6.5 Gup Purple
 Brenden Womack - 7 Gup Blue
 Chloe Markley - 7 Gup Blue

Liberty Harty - 7 Gup Blue
 Kile Gagnon - 8 Gup Blue
 Dennis Robbins - 9 Gup Orange
 Henry Pettus - 9 Gup Orange
 Alexandria Poirier - 9 Gup Orange
 Nico Dellaporta - 9 Gup Orange
 Benjamin Mello - 9 Gup Orange

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

This year, DMAA is celebrating 50 Years of being in business. For more

Nestor Dellagiovanna - Apprentice
 Orion Huling - 2 Gup Red
 Daniel Schaefer - 2 Gup Red
 Autumn St. Jean - 2 Gup Red

Latisha Chamberlain named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Latisha Chamberlain of Brooklyn has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2024 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit, accredited institution with a

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

Samantha Miller named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Samantha Miller of Putnam has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2024 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit, accredited institution with a 92-year

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

Danielson Fire Department receives FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant

DANIELSON — The Danielson Fire Department is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$26,780 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. This funding will support the purchase of a new gear extractor, gear dryer, and a commercial washer and dryer.

The AFG program is designed to help fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations obtain critically needed resources to enhance their ability to protect the public and emergency responders from fire and related hazards.

The funds will be allocated towards upgrading the Department's 30 year old gear washer, enabling the Danielson

Fire Department to better serve the community and ensure the safety of both our firefighters and the public.

The AFG program, part of FEMA's broader mission, plays a crucial role in supporting local firefighting efforts nationwide. By providing funding directly to fire departments, FEMA helps communities improve their emergency response capabilities. More information about the AFG program can be found on FEMA's Web site at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/assistance-grants>.

For more information about the Danielson Fire Department and its services, please visit <http://www.danielsonfire.com>.

SNHU announces Summer 2024 President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2024 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

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

Jewelina England of Putnam
 Elizebeth Benoit of Putnam
 Elizabeth Gates of Thompson
 Kayli Annese of Thompson
 Katelyn Woodis of Thompson
 Amber Martinez of N. Grosvenordale
 Nicholas Turner of Dayville
 Rena Stevenin of Danielson
 Lindsay Thompson of Danielson
 Bethany Paul of Brooklyn
 Eric Borkiewicz of Brooklyn
 Kyle Lareau of Woodstock
 Francesca Benoit of Woodstock
 Ava Bollig of Woodstock
 Daniel Bastura of Pomfret Center
 Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults.

Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

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brendan@villagernewspapers.com



"Grill" the candidates at Woodstock's Political Cookout

WOODSTOCK — Free hot dogs along with soft drinks and chips will be served to Woodstock voters at the annual Candidate Cookout on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Roseland Park. It's your chance to "grill" political candidates with questions on matters "dogging" town residents.

Hosted by the Woodstock Democratic Town Committee, the Cookout features candidates running for offices representing Woodstock. The WDTC invites all voters to join us for hot dogs and to meet the candidates.

Invitees include incumbent U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), incumbent

Congressman Joe Courtney (D-2nd district), and incumbent State Rep. Pat Boyd (D-50th district). Also, Merry C. Garrett, candidate for State Senate (35th district), and Woodstock's own Ethan Werstler, State Representative candidate (52nd district).



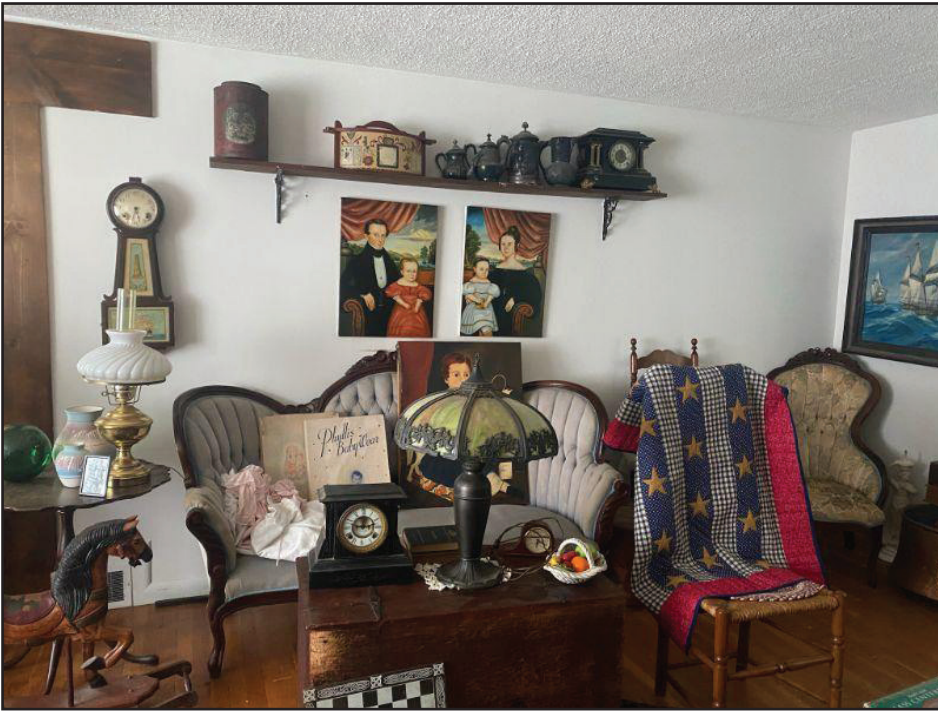
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Selling antiques and collectibles



The antiques business has changed over the years with the internet creating new ways to sell antiques and collectibles. That said, some of the tried-and-true methods continue to provide good returns.

I've found that offering antiques and collectibles to a wide range of bidders at auction will yield the best results for more

valuable items. Attorneys and estate personal representatives understand that consigning to a well-publicized auction is a way of doing their due diligence to ensure that either the estate or themselves are getting fair market value for their items. Many estate companies also consign top pieces to get the best results for their clients.

There are many different options for selling the belongings in an estate. Here are some things to consider when selling your personal property. Central Mass Auctions and many other local auction houses focus on antiques and collectibles. We handle a wide variety of antiques and collectibles, but I occasionally suggest another auction

house for certain types of items.

Some people need to sell the contents of finely appointed homes with name brand furniture, the latest electronics, snowblowers, and other power equipment and don't have antiques. One option available to them is a traditional estate sale. An estate sale company prices the items prior to the sale. The sale is advertised and scheduled to run for a day or two (typically on a weekend). If it's organized by an estate sale company, they'll let their followers know the sale will be taking place and advertise elsewhere. With a big sale, potential buyers may line up at the door with only a limited number being admitted at a time. Buyers typically pay cash (some companies accept credit cards) and take the items home that day.

Sometimes a seller prefers an online auction at the estate. With an



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

companies also offer shipping of items for winning bidders who live outside of the sale area.

There are times when there may not be enough items to run a sale at the site, but there are still different options available. It isn't as prevalent as it once was, but some companies still do entire estate buyouts. After the family has divided up an estate there may be just a few pieces of furniture left and a consignment shop could be an option. Donating remaining items helps local charities and may make you

eligible for tax benefits. Sometimes things are of little to no value, and you may need a trash removal company or dumpster.

Selling a collection or estate contents can be a difficult process. Along with selling the more valuable items for clients, I try to offer them a roadmap for getting remaining items sold.

We have a major two session online auction taking place right now. Session I with historical and gambling memorabilia and a wide variety of other items ends on Oct. 22. Session II with art, gold and estate jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, and coins ends on Oct. 23. Please visit our Website, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Consider fall leaves a gift from nature

Put fall leaves to work in your landscape. This valuable resource makes a great mulch in planting beds, adds organic matter and nutrients to the soil, provides habitat for many beneficial insects, and is insulation for ground-dwelling queen bumblebees, toads, and more.

Leave any disease-free leaves in garden beds but pull them away from the trunks of trees and stems of shrubs. Mulch piles against trunks or stems create a moist environment that is more subject to rot and disease. It also provides a hiding place next to these plants for voles that feed on bark over winter.

Avoid thick layers of leaves, six or more inches deep, in garden beds. They can block sunlight and smother the plants below. Pull leaves off the crowns of perennials and move the excess leaves to



GARDEN
MOMENTS
•••••
MELINDA
MYERS

gardens with little or no mulch.

Use your mower to recycle fall leaves that land on the lawn. As you mow the grass you'll shred the leaves into smaller pieces. If they are the size of a quarter or smaller your lawn will be fine. As these leaf pieces decompose, they add organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

When the lawn is overwhelmed with leaves burn a few extra calories and rake them into nearby planting beds. Whole leaves provide the best habitat for overwintering insects. Spread the leaves over the soil surface to

help insulate the roots, conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it breaks down.

If your garden beds are already filled with leaves or this is not practical, attach the bagger to the mower to shred and collect the excess leaves on the lawn. Only use grass clippings collected from lawns and leaves not treated with a weed killer this fall.

Dig extra shredded leaves into vacant annual flower and vegetable gardens or incorporate them into the soil as you prepare new planting beds. They will break down over winter, improving the drainage in heavy clay soils and increasing the water-holding ability in fast-draining soils.

Bag shredded leaves you want to save for next season. Tuck them out of sight for winter under trees or around the foundation of your house for

added insulation.

Create compost with fall leaves, plant-based kitchen scraps, and other landscape trimmings. Do not use meat, bones or dairy that can attract rodents, charcoal ash, and human, pet or bird droppings that may contain disease organisms. Avoid diseased and insect-infested plant debris, perennial weeds, and weeds gone to seed. These can survive in compost piles that don't produce sufficient heat to kill them and end up back in the garden in the compost.

Oak and large maple leaves make great mulches and additions to the compost pile but break down slowly. Shred them with your mower or leaf shredder first for quicker results.

You can compost black walnut, laurel, and eucalyptus leaves that contain chemicals toxic to other plants. Shred them first to speed decomposition and when they are fully



Melinda Myers

Mowing fallen leaves on lawns to shred them into smaller pieces adds organic matter and nutrients to the soil as the leaf pieces decompose.

decomposed the compost is safe to use in the garden.

As you begin putting the fall leaves to work in your landscape you will start considering them a gift, not a curse, from nature.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd

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

Synchronicity

Have you ever felt that no matter how hard you push, things won't work out? We all have goals—big dreams or small wins. Maybe it's starting a business, landing that dream job, or leaving early to catch the game.

Whatever it is, the harder we try sometimes, the more stressful it gets when things don't go as planned.

But what if the solution isn't to push harder? What if, instead of battling against every obstacle, you step back and let things unfold? There are two ways to get what you want: you can scheme and plot your way through or loosen your grip and let the pieces fall into place naturally.

Instead of battling every obstacle, what if the solution was something different—something called Synchronicity?

Take the guy who wants to leave work early for the big game. He spends the morning coughing, hinting that he's "a little off," and Googling fake illnesses to sell his story. By lunchtime, he's sneezing dramatically and whispering, "I think I'm contagious." But just as he's about to slip out, his boss drops a stack of reports on his desk. "I need these done before you go." Now, he's stuck working twice as hard because he tried too hard to force things.

Now, imagine someone else with the same goal, but instead of scheming, they're honest: "Hey, I've got tickets to the game. Any chance I can leave an hour early?" Maybe the boss says yes, maybe not. But, letting go can open the door to Synchronicity—when things align ideally it's like life is giving you a little nudge. Perhaps the boss is a fan and says, "No problem, I'm leaving early too!" Or an afternoon meeting gets canceled, and leaving is suddenly easy.

I first became intrigued by this idea of Synchronicity after listening to a lecture by physicist and ex-NASA scientist Tom Campbell.

He said, "When you stop trying to control life, the magic happens."

He made me realize that sometimes we get so caught up in forcing our plans to work out that we miss the unexpected opportunities when we just let go. When you step back and allow things to

happen naturally, it's like the universe quietly whispers, "Relax, I've got this."

Campbell says, "When something does happen—a hurdle that pops up in front of you—that's okay. You deal with it and go on. Don't get upset with it... You'll find that things start happening just as you need them, just when you want them. You'll go from having nothing but hurdles to no hurdles at all—everything just starts to work well."

Think about that for a second. What if you trusted that things would work out instead of stressing and struggling to make everything perfect?

Campbell's point is simple: "When you realize that you don't have to control anything, you'll see that you don't need to control anything."

Maybe life isn't about pushing harder—it's about stepping back and letting the puzzle pieces fall into place on their own.

Imagine you're headed out to watch the big game and suddenly hit a major traffic jam. Your first instinct might be to freak out, curse your luck, and start weaving in and out of lanes to compensate for lost time. But what if there's a reason you're stuck? What if that traffic jam is working in your favor?

Later, you find that without the traffic jam, you would have ended up in the middle of a deadly five-car pileup just a few miles ahead. That frustration of being late could've actually saved your life.

When you stop fighting every obstacle and let things unfold, you might find that setbacks are Synchronicity in disguise, keeping you exactly where you need to be.

So, the next time life throws a wrench in your plans, take a deep breath and consider that maybe, just maybe, it's not a roadblock—it's a detour leading you somewhere better.

When you let go of control, life surprises you in ways you never imagined. Trust the process, embrace the unexpected, and remember that sometimes, not getting what you want might be life's way of giving you exactly what you need.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

CIF

continued from page A1

the applications to be considered for this funding. This project will provide key infrastructure improvements to public and outdoor facilities, increasing the vibrancy of the Thompson community. When this happens, everyone wins," said Gordon in his release.

According to Thompson Director of Planning and Development Tyra-Penn Gesek, three main activities were listed in the town's application for the CIF grant: the full depth reconstruction of Main Street and its related sidewalks, closing the funding gap on the renovation of 65 Main St., which is to be converted to a Small Business Support Center, and major improvements to Oscar Swanson Park across from Mill Town Grill and the unnamed monument at the northern intersection of Main Street and Route 12, both considered Veterans' memorial parks.

"These projects will substantially renovate infrastructure, green space and, of course, the town-owned building in the heart of Thompson's historic economic core," Penn-Gesek said. "The renovation of Main Street itself has been on the Town's list of hoped-for projects for many years; but the advanced state of disrepair of the existing road is beyond the capacity of the local DPW to properly address. The engineered plans, which were developed

for the Town by Freeman Companies LLC, indicate that the cost to properly repair the road would be in the range of \$3.3 million, so it would also be well beyond the funding capacity of the local budget. These improvements will 'close the loop' on our travel infrastructure for vehicles and pedestrians in the district in Thompson with the highest capacity for economic development. The facelift to the neighborhood that all three projects will provide will improve curb appeal and property values, with the ultimate goal of encouraging infill development of small, neighborhood scale businesses and high-quality, diverse housing options."

Thompson has already made many investments in improving downtown. In the last five years, a sidewalk project down Riverside Drive, a new outdoor patio outside of Mill Town Grill, and exterior renovations to the 65 Main facilities have all been either started or completed. This is in addition to utilizing vacated properties in new ways such as the transformation of Superior Bakery into a self-storage facility, plans for St. Joseph School to be renovated into apartments, and Triple Raven Brewing Company taking over vacant space at 27 Main St. The town has also continued its efforts to redevelop the historic River Mill. These projects in compliment to the grant funding show that Thompson is making great strides towards

growing its economic base for a bright future.

"It is reasonable to take the position that a low-density town, which is 97 percent dependent on residential property taxes for its general revenues, cannot afford to undertake major improvements; however, that does not mean that the projects are not important, nor that the Town doesn't deserve to try to take on projects to set the table for future investment," said Penn-Gesek. "That is why State, Federal and private investment, in the form of grants, is so important. Although the CIF application showed funding 'leverage' in terms of past investment by the Town and other entities, no direct cash match was required in this program. The award of the \$4.047 million shows that Thompson has a compelling story to tell about its own future potential."

Thompson recently completed the final session in a year-long series of informational meetings concerning the 65 Main project, which will now enter the more in-depth planning and implementation stages in the coming year. While that process is ongoing, Penn-Gesek assured that Thompson will continue to persist in its efforts to grow and enhance its economic future with the grant money being a significant boost to spearhead those efforts without having to consider additional cost to the local taxpayers.

OBITUARIES

Leonard Zadora, 75



Leonard Zadora, 75, of Dayville, CT passed away September 27, 2024 at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. He was born July 26, 1949 in Putnam, CT, son of the late Peter and Theresa (Lucibella) Zadora.

Len graduated Killingly High School and joined the United States Marines in 1968 and was based in Camp Lejeune. He was a combat engineer for landmine warfare, explosives and demolitions. He served in Vietnam and received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Rifle Marksman Badge, and Combat Action Ribbon. After returning home, he got married and started a family. He worked with his dad constructing Zadora Heights. He would then go on to work at Glass Containers while also building a successful excavation and construction company, L. Zadora & Sons.

He had a great love for classic vehicles

and enjoyed showing off his collections. When not cruising in his antique cars, Len also enjoyed working on his honey bees. Len also loved nothing more than watching his grandchildren play sports.

Len's spirit is carried on by his children Shawn, wife Amanda (Maynard), Sherrie, Tim, Melisa (Burgess) and his grandchildren Zackary, Jacob, Riley, Brady, Michael, and Emily, his siblings Louise Zadora and Charles Zadora. He was preceded in death by his sister Cheryl Gebo.

Calling hours will be Friday, October 4, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home, 33 Reynolds Street, Danielson, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday, October 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM at St. James Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT. Burial with Military Honors will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson, CT. Share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com



Marie (Labrec) Franklin

October 20, 1936 - September 22, 2024



Thompson - Marie (Labrec) Franklin, 87, of Thompson, CT passed away peacefully surrounded by family on September 22, 2024. Born in Putnam, CT on October 20, 1936, she was the daughter of the late

Dorothy and Henry Labrec. She was predeceased by her brother, Henry Labrec II, and her beloved husband, Paul Franklin, with whom she shared over 50 years of marriage.

Marie graduated from Killingly High School and Windham Technical School of Nursing. She went on to dedicate her life to caring for others as a nurse at Day Kimball Hospital, where she served for over 40 years. Her compassion and dedication touched the lives of countless patients and colleagues throughout her long and rewarding career.

On June 10, 1967, she married Paul Franklin, and together they built a life centered on family, faith, and love. After Paul's passing in 2019, Marie continued to cherish the family they created, especially her daughters, Paula Boisvert and her husband Roger, and Anne Douglas, all of Thompson. She was a devoted and proud grandmother to her eight grandchildren: Dillon Boisvert, Emma Boisvert, Paige Boisvert, Paul Boisvert, Elizabeth Douglas, Sarah Rich, Rebecca

Douglas, and Riley Douglas who were all the light of her life.

Marie was also blessed with a great-granddaughter, Kai Clinkscale, who brought her immense joy and laughter over the past four years. Christmas was Marie's favorite holiday, and she took great delight in making it a special season for her family. She reveled in creating lasting memories with decorations, traditions, and celebrations that filled her home with warmth and love during the holiday season. Marie will be remembered for her kindness, dedication to her work, and the deep love she had for her family. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched both personally, and professionally.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Marie's family on Friday October 4, 2024, from 5pm to 7pm at the Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main Street, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held the following day, Saturday October 5, 2024, 12pm at St. Joseph Church, 18 Main Street, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. Burial to follow at High Street Cemetery in Killingly, CT. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to TEEG P.O. Box 664, North Grosvenordale, CT or United Way of Northwest Vermont, 412 Farrell Street, Ste. 200 South Burlington, VT 05403. For memorial guestbook please visit GilmanAndValade.com.

Catherine Aase Nieski, 70



Catherine Aase Nieski, age 70, passed peacefully yet unexpectedly at her home in Woodstock, CT on Thursday, September 12, 2024. Catherine, daughter of the late Olaf Aase and Catherine (Owens)

Aase, was born August 3, 1954, in Brooklyn, NY.

Catherine was married to Martin Nieski for over twenty-five years. Together they owned Marty's Liquors in Dudley, MA. They later settled into their farm in Woodstock, CT. They brought out the best in each other while supporting their individual endeavors.

She was deeply devoted to her community always offering a helping hand and serving as a guiding light to those around her. She was a nurse for over twenty years, eventually retiring from UMASS. She celebrated thirty-seven blissful years of sobriety while being active in the AA community. Catherines passion in sharing her profound under-

standing of living in the moment and through the heart benefited every life she touched. She lived for and through her grandchildren and her great grandchild, finding immense joy and purpose in their lives.

Catherine is survived by daughters, Karen Eisen, Donna, her husband Robert Puchalski Jr., Marjorie, her husband Michael Gardner Jr.; step son, Matthew Nieski; grandchildren, Ian, Gabe, and Jameson Landry, Marina Szydlak, Stella, Audrey, and Robert III Puchalski, Hunter and Delaney Anderson, Henry and Mable Gardner; great grandchild Callum Landry; and siblings, Eileen Bakos, Richard Aase, Mary Aase, Patricia and her husband Michael Dumpert.

A celebration of life will be held on October 13th at twelve noon at their family home located at 485 Barlow Cemetery Rd., Woodstock, CT.

Online guestbook is available at www.bartelfuneralhome.com. Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel

33 Schofield Avenue Dudley is assisting the family with arrangements.

Evelyn Virginia "Ginny" Oriola, 84



Evelyn Virginia "Ginny" Oriola (Hoekman), 84, of Danielson, CT, beloved wife of Ralph Oriola, passed away peacefully on September 23, 2024, at her home, surrounded by her family. Born on August 25,

1940, in Cleveland, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Evelyn Davis and Henry Hoekman. In addition to her husband of 57 years, Ginny is survived by her son Chris Oriola and his wife Nelia of West Hartford, CT; her daughter Karin Schmidt and her husband Bob of Jefferson, GA; and her daughter Susan Oriola of Jewett City, CT. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren, Kayla, Matthew, Ryan, and Michael as well as her brother Roland Hoekman and his wife Barbara of New Bern, NC. Ginny shared countless treasured memories with her extended family and friends.

Ginny attended Lutheran schools in Cleveland for twelve years, where she cultivated a passion for theater and piano. She earned her undergraduate degree at Eastern Nazarene College in Wollaston, MA, followed by a Master's in Education from Bridgewater State College and a second Master's in Counseling Psychology from Anna Maria College.

With a long and fulfilling career in education, Ginny served as an elementary school teacher, nursery school teacher, and dedicated 19 years as a middle school counselor at Killingly Intermediate School. She cherished her volunteer work with NAMI Connecticut, and her warm spirit and

caring nature left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered.

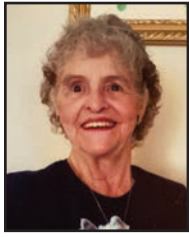
An avid traveler, Ginny explored numerous destinations across the country and abroad, but she particularly loved spending summers in Falmouth, Cape Cod, enjoying precious time with family and friends at Old Silver Beach. Her love of music and theater was a central theme throughout her life; playing the piano brought her immense joy and enriched the lives of those around her. Her steadfast Lutheran faith was a source of strength throughout her life, guiding her through every step of her journey. She particularly enjoyed directing the junior choir at St. John's Lutheran Church. Her trust in God's grace and love provided her with comfort.

Ginny will forever remain in our hearts. We are deeply grateful for the incredible person she was and for the love and laughter she brought into our lives.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Dana Farber Cancer Research Pan Mass Challenge: 77 4th Avenue, Needham, MA 02494 and/or NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Windham County 1221 Route 169, Woodstock, CT 06281

Funeral was held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 11 AM at the Zion Lutheran Church, 70 Main Street, Oxford, MA, followed by burial in South Cemetery, Pomfret, CT. Calling hours were Friday, September 27, 2024 from 6 to 8 PM at Gagnon and Costello funeral home 33 Reynolds St. Danielson, CT, share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com

Ella Willard, 94



Ella (Carrier) Willard, 94, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully at Davis Place on September 14, 2024 in Danielson, CT. She was born on September 12, 1930 in

Putnam, CT.

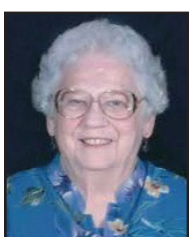
Ella was preceded in death by her husbands, Harvey Willard and James Mazzarella, her parents, Nazaire Carrier and Mary (Collins) Carrier and her children, James Mazzarella, Jr. and Tammy Steinbrick.

She is survived by her children, Ella Grimshaw, Bernice Mazzarella, Ann Delaurentis, Rene Mazzarella, Brain Mazzarella, Mark Mazzarella, and Michael Mazzarella as well as her surviving siblings, Joseph Carrier and Francis Carrier and including numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ella enjoyed spending time with her family. She loved putting together jigsaw puzzles and playing cards.

Please join us to celebrate the life of Ella Willard on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Holy Cross Cemetery in Danielson, CT in the Chapel. Share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com

Joyce W. Bell, 94



Joyce W. Bell died peacefully at Pierce Memorial Baptist Home in Brooklyn, CT Thursday 19 September at the age of 94. She was born June 30, 1930, the daughter of Dr. James W. Hall, Sr. and

Blanche E. (Wood) Hall, of Putnam, CT, and the sister of Dr. James W. Hall, Jr. of Putnam, all of whom predeceased her. She was married in San Diego, CA June 12, 1950, to Robert T. Bell of Putnam who passed away in 2022. Joyce is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Steven D. and Christine E. Bell of

Putnam, and a daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth A. Gemma and Leonard P. Gemma of Lincoln RI. Joyce's middle son James E. Bell passed away in 2018. She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Phyllis Smith; five grandchildren, Robert (Chuck) and Walter Bell, Jenni Szczerbinski, Jeffery and Kristin Gemma; by four great grandchildren; and by several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam at 11 AM Friday, 4 Oct. 2024. Private burial was held at Grove Street Cemetery. Flowers can be sent to the Smith and Walker Funeral Home. Share a memory at Smithandwalkerfh.com

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Todd Rawinski (24-00361)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 20, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Deborra Jones,
99 Thompson Pike,
Dayville, CT 06241
October 4, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Cecile J. Mahon (24-00363)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 20, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
David R Mahon,
31 Woodward Old House Road,
Brooklyn, CT 06234
October 4, 2024

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

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