



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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Friday, November 14, 2025
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Killingly wins second straight ECC Division One title



KILLINGLY — The Killingly High Trailblazers defeated Norwich Free Academy 63-27 on Military Appreciation at Morgan Field. The win captured Killingly's second straight ECC Division 1 title and 8th overall in the past 10 seasons.

Elections see Democrats gain momentum in Quiet Corner

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — The Quiet Corner's Election Day 2025 provided plenty of drama with a local "blue wave" seeing Democrats flipping power in several communities while Republicans found their own success in some strongholds.

Here is a rundown of each town's election outcomes:

KILLINGLY

NCEF celebrates 12th running of Tackle the Trail



Led by Bib #74 Caitlin Lawrence, Half Marathon participants run through Pomfret Forest.

POMFRET — The Northeast Connecticut Education Foundation (NCEF) held the 12th annual Tackle the Trail event on Saturday, Oct. 18. Known as Northeast Connecticut's



back Hayden Allard sparked the Trailblazers early, intercepting a pass and returning it 27 yards for a touchdown on NFA's opening drive. His interception set two CIAC State records for most interceptions returned in a season (5) and career (6) for touch-

bents Jason Anderson (the Council's current chair) and Michelle Murphy while also defeating Republican challenger Brian Briere. Republican Jonathan Cesolini was the lone GOP candidate to join the Council while Democrat Peter Kostaras failed to secure a seat. The shift now gives Democrats a 5-4 advantage on the Council.

In the Board of Education race, the results were the Turn To **ELECTION** page **A10**

downs. Quarterback Quinn Sumner followed with a three-yard touchdown pass to Joseph Mackie, then added an eight-yard scoring run to put Killingly firmly in control before the end of the first quarter.

NFA (3-5) got on the board in the second quarter with a 53-yard touchdown pass, but any momentum was quickly erased when Hunter Allard returned the ensuing



kickoff 90 yards for a score. The Allard brothers continued to shine — Hayden added a 10-yard rushing touchdown, and Hunter hauled in a 52-yard scoring pass from Sumner before halftime as Killingly built a 49-14 lead at the break.

Sumner finished an efficient night completing 5 of 7 passes for 95 yards and three touchdowns while also rushing for another. Hunter Allard caught two passes for 80 yards and two touchdowns and added 54 rushing yards. Joseph Mackie chipped in with 51 rushing yards, one touchdown on the ground, and another through the air.

Killingly's balanced

attack rolled up 335 total yards — 240 on the ground and 95 through the air. On defense, Mackie led the way with nine tackles, while Hayden Allard added an interception and a defensive touchdown.

Special teams were just as dominant. Kicker Cooper Logee went 7-for-7 on extra points and sent three kickoffs for touchbacks. The Trailblazers didn't punt once all.

Killingly tacked on second-half touchdowns from Mackie and Joseph Gould to close out the win.

Killingly will look to carry its momentum into next week's matchup at Waterford.

Residents seek resolution for Old Killingly Pond dam leaks

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Representatives of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection hosted a full room of concerned citizens in Killingly on Nov. 6 to discuss a situation at Old

Killingly Pond, which has been draining at an alarming rate due to a compromised dam.

Seepage issues with the dam have resulted in the loss of as much as four inches of water per day, drawing concerns about the condition of the structure and the potential for further leaks or a complete dam failure. DEEP, the regulating entity for dams in Connecticut, has issued an emergency authorization for dam's owner Wright Investors' Service Holdings (WISH), Inc. to take pressure off the structure. A notice of violation was also issued, which DEEP representatives clarified does not necessarily indicate that

WISH has been negligent with the dam. WISH has been in communication with DEEP and assigned engineers to keep an eye on the situation. The dam is designated as a Class B hazard, which means there is potential risk for loss of life if it fails.

Citizens made it clear they want the pond preserved due to its significance as a local water supply and source of recreation as well as the dam itself being a gateway to local properties. Those concerns only grew during the meeting when breaching the dam was considered a realistic solution.

Turn To **LEAKS** page **A11**



Holiday makes for early deadlines

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases or letters to the Editor intended for publication that week will be moved up one business day, to Friday, Nov. 21 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at brendan@villagernewspapers.com.

Our staff would like to wish readers a safe and very happy Thanksgiving.

Adventure Park at Storrs announces Annual Holiday Sale with savings up to 40 percent

STORRS — This holiday season, The Adventure Park at Storrs, the area’s premier zipline and climbing adventure destination, invites guests to give the gift of excitement. The Park’s highly anticipated annual Holiday Sale officially launches today, Wednesday, Nov. 5.

The event offers savings of up to 40 percent on gift

ticket packages—perfect for memorable family outings, unique holiday gifts, or pre-stocked adventures for the 2026 season.

“This sale is a must for thrill-seekers and outdoor enthusiasts,” said Jesse Pasacreta, Park Manager. “It’s the perfect way to share unforgettable experiences with family and friends—or even treat yourself. Tickets can be used now through the end of our 2025 season or saved for adventure in 2026.”

The sale kicks off today with the “Adventure 2 Pack” and “TREE-Oh 3 Pack” at 30 percent off and the “Family 4 Pack” at 35 percent off. Additional deals will be released prior to the Black Friday through Cyber Monday weekend featuring the biggest savings—up to 40 percent off. Each



ticket package comes with the flexibility to use passes individually or together, with no expiration dates or blackout restrictions.

The Holiday Sale runs through Jan. 1, 2026, with flexible packages to fit every budget and gift list. More details and deal updates are available at <https://bit.ly/holidaySAP>.

Gift tickets can be delivered instantly via email or mailed via USPS until Dec. 12, ensuring the perfect holiday surprise under the tree.

About The Adventure Park at Storrs

The nine trails at The Adventure Park consist of various challenges in the trees, including bridges, tightropes, ladders, and 28 ziplines. Participants wear harnesses with clips that connect to the trail’s safety system, ensuring that they are always locked on to the course until they reach the end. The main trails are designed for ages 7 to adult, and an Adventure Playground provides a low-to-the-ground adventure experience for little climbers ages 3-6.

Non-climbing participants are admitted free of charge to share the experience on the ground and enjoy the property’s nature trails, picnic tables and community firepit.

The Adventure Park at Storrs is open to the general public and is located minutes from the UConn Campus. The address is 2007 Storrs Rd. in Storrs. Walk ins are welcome on a space available basis, but guests are encouraged to book ahead on the Park’s website or by calling 860-946-0606.

The Adventure Park at Storrs is designed, built and operated by Outdoor Venture Group.

Edward Jones

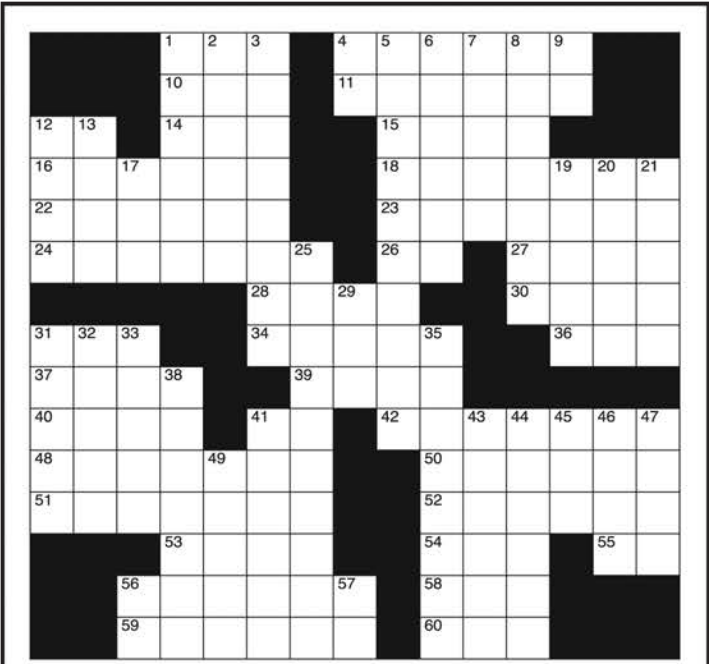
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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Popular broadcast network

4. Train line

10. Go quickly

11. Straightforward

12. Canadian province

14. Swiss river

15. It can be straight or curved

16. Edit

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Gotten up

23. Sea vessel

24. Agents of one's demise

26. Not out

27. Something to scratch

28. A round water pot

30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit

31. Promotions

34. Masses of matter

36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Nightstand item

39. The content of cognition

40. Arab ruler

41. Northern U.S. state

42. Chewed in small bites

48. Hawaiian island

50. More thin

51. Of one

52. Rigid bracelet or anklet

53. Barbary sheep

54. Not even

55. Atomic #106

56. Hagggle

58. Boxing's GOAT

59. Division of a group into opposing factions

60. Vietnamese offensive

- CLUES DOWN
1. Horse-drawn carriage

2. Prejudices

3. Peacefully

4. University athletic official

5. Soldiers

6. Large mollusk

7. Take out again

8. Sour or bitter in taste

9. Songwriter Tunstall

12. Husk of wheat

13. Flexible covering in some birds

17. Energy

19. Night monkey genus

20. Small nails

21. Colorless volatile liquid

25. In a way, changes integrity

29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal

31. Remember it

32. "Good Will Hunting" lead man

33. Pleasant facial expression

35. Sea vessel

38. Lacking poetic beauty

41. Tall, swift and slender dog

43. Sports personality Michelle

44. Robber

45. Liquefied natural gas

46. Snake-like fish

47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid

49. Crimean seaport

56. Bad grades

57. Popular S. Korean rapper

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Thompson selectmen bid farewell as new board takes office

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Election Day featured something Thompson, and the region, hasn’t seen in quite a while, a completely new slate for the Board of Selectmen. The exiting board, which has been in place for six years, all chose not to run for re-election creating an extremely rare scenario where the entire board saw complete turnover during a single election with no incumbents or prior selectmen in the race.

First Selectman Amy St. Onge and Selectman Susanne Witkowski, both Republicans, and Democrat Selectman Ken Beausoleil held their final meeting together on Nov. 5 where they started the evening bidding farewell, but only to their duties as selectmen as all plan to remain active members of the local community.

St. Onge was first elected in 2017 as a selectman on

the Republican slate but was subsequently elected First Selectman for the next three terms with Witkowski as her successful running mate. Beausoleil carries a much larger tenure, serving roughly 14 nonconsecutive years on the board, including time as both a Selectman and First Selectman. While Beausoleil will continue to serve the town as a newly elected member of the Board of Finance, St. Onge and Witkowski are taking a step back from local politics for the time being.

Beausoleil said he isn’t closing the door on a return to the Board of Selectmen in the future but wished the incoming members well, acknowledging the unique situation of the election.

“The groundwork has been set over the last several years for the foundation to move forward to get everybody continuing with that movement,” Beausoleil said. “I can’t remember the last time there’s been a completely new board. There’s a lot to grasp.”

Witkowski reflected on the great successes of the board over their years together, which have included helping work towards revitalizing local mills and Thompson’s downtown.

“I think our board has done some great things in our six years. We’ve built a track and salt shed, we’ve got a road reclamation plan in place, we’ve opened up the dog pound, we switched over the abatement for the firemen to an exemption. We haven’t always agreed, but we’ve always come to some really good conclusions and we’ve respected each other,” she said.

First Selectman Amy St. Onge said the one thing she will miss the most is the people, not just the voters but those behind the scenes who are essential to keeping the town operating beyond the Board of Selectmen.

“It has been a pleasure. I will say one of the hardest things for me is going to be leaving the people here at the Town Hall. They have become my friends. They’re the most impeccable colleagues. They’ve been wonderful to work with. They’re all very talented,” said St. Onge.

All three exiting selectmen offered their help and guidance to the incoming board, which includes new Republican First Selectman Nick Donahue, Republican Larry Consiglio, Jr., and Democrat Geoffrey Bolte.

Friends of Assisi prepares for Thanksgiving Food Drive

DANIELSON — Autumn in New England. How blessed we are with the beauty of the season, as the trees transform into a vibrant show of color.

Here at Friends of Assisi, we are busily preparing for our 35th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. We sure hope you will join us again this year Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 23, noon to 3 p.m. at 77 Water St. (home of Friends of Assisi); and Monday, Nov. 24, 3-6 p.m. at St. James Gym

Wish List: Apples, broth, canned yams, rolls, boxed potatoes, gravy, fresh squash, pickles and olives, carrots, sweet potatoes & monetary donations and grocery store cards.

Thank you for caring!
For more information: 860-774-2310 / directorfoodpantry@gmail.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 Nov. 3: Cooper’s Hawk, Mockingbird, Robin, Great-horned Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Junco, American Crow, Raven, Blue Jay, Song Sparrow

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Woodstock Memorial Garden undergo renovation



WOODSTOCK — The gardens in front of the Woodstock Town Hall recently underwent a renovation courtesy of the Beautification Committee and Sprucedale Gardens Nursery.

Sprucedale Gardens of Woodstock donated many of the plants. The Beautification Special Fund covered the remaining amount. Designed by Joyce Larson, the garden contains Black-eyed Susans, yellow daylilies, and Willowleaf Sunflowers intermingled with blue asters, catmint, and Russian sage. Pink geraniums with leaves that turn crimson late in the season ensure there is always color in the garden from spring to fall.

The selected plants are attractive to butterflies and other pollinators, drought-tolerant once established, and resistant to deer and rabbits.

Long-time Beautification member Pat Papini expressed excitement about the new garden, saying, “The newly planted garden has been well planned, and it will need time to become established. The variety of plants and colors will surely bring pleasure to anyone stopping by the Town Hall.”

Paul and Joyce Larson, owners of Sprucedale Gardens Nursery, stated, “We have received the support of our fellow residents for over 30 years, and we’re happy to give back by donating some of the plants and labor to this project of beautifying our town office building with this landscape planting.”

The Memorial Garden was created in

memory of Connecticut Superior Court Judge Richard C. Noren by his family when the new town hall was built in 1990. Richard Noren was the third and youngest child of Millicent and Charles Noren, born in 1941. He was in one of the last classes to attend Woodstock’s one-room schoolhouses, then entered Woodstock Elementary School, which opened in January 1950. On graduating from Woodstock Academy in 1959, he enrolled in Harvard University, followed by law school at George Washington University. After receiving his law degree in 1966, he joined the Navy, in the Naval Judge Advocate General Corps. His active-duty service ended in May 1971, but he remained in the Naval Reserve, ultimately reaching the rank of Captain. When he returned to Woodstock in 1971, he served as a Clerk of the Superior Court until he was appointed a Judge of the Connecticut Superior Court in July 1980. He served until his untimely death in February 1989.

Noreene Stehlik, Richard’s oldest niece, stated, “On behalf of Richard’s nieces and nephews, I want to thank the Town for rejuvenating the Judge Richard Noren Memorial Garden in front of the Town Hall. Woodstock and its history meant everything to Richard, who was active in so many Town organizations, including the Board of Trustees of Woodstock Academy, the Historical Society, and the Woodstock Theft-Detecting Society.”

In addition, two Bobo Hydrangeas were planted near the entrance of the town hall. The original plants here were donated by Wilson Eisenhower Sr., the grandfather of Town Clerk Christine French. They were planted in memory of his wife, Avis Eisenhower, and his granddaughter Wendy Eisenhower-Healey.

First Selectman Chandler Paquette stated, “I’m happy to see the updated garden. It is a wonderful enhancement to the Town Hall and will bring smiles to visitors for

years to come.” The Beautification Committee would like to thank the following for their assistance in preparing the garden beds: Woodstock Highway Department, Rotary Club members Kathy Kirk and Joseph Adiletta, and Beautification member Crystal Adams and her family.

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Update



https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Pomfret_POCD

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR NOVEMBER 14-21

Thursday, Nov. 14
At Pomfret Library, come join the throng—
A knitting circle from 2 to 4, bring yarn along!
Over in Woodstock, at the Town Hall stage,
Selectmen meet to set the page.

Friday, Nov. 15
In Putnam’s Bradley Playhouse, laughter will soar,
“Elf the Musical” opens its door!
At 7:30 p.m., curtains rise bright—
Holiday cheer to warm the night.

Saturday, Nov. 16
In Killingly’s park, the pups take command,
At 10 a.m., the Dog Walk Fundraiser’s planned.
Craft lovers, to Brooklyn Fairgrounds you go,
A Holiday Bazaar—with crafts all aglow!

Sunday, Nov. 17
At Christ Church Pomfret, voices will sing,
The choir’s Harvest Hymn Fest welcomes the king.
After at noon, pies to be sold—
Apple and pumpkin, both worth their gold.

Monday, Nov. 18
Back to the books, a quieter tune,
Homework Help Hour runs till noon,
At Killingly Library, students unite,
Volunteers ready to help you write.

Tuesday, Nov. 19
The Pomfret Senior Center hosts its feast,
Turkey and trimmings for all, at least!
At 11:30 a.m., gather in cheer,
A thankful lunch before the year.

Wednesday, Nov. 20
Putnam Rotary meets at noon to dine,
At Jessica Tuesday’s—discussion and wine.
Later in Eastford, lanterns ignite,
A Candlelight Walk to honor the night.

Thursday, Nov. 21
One week till Thanksgiving, can you believe?
Stop by the Woodstock Grange before you leave—
From 5-7 p.m., a Pie Swap divine,
Trade crust for kindness and stories that shine.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Gratitude that grows close to home

Here in the Quiet Corner, November always seems to arrive quietly—less a grand entrance, more a soft reminder that the year is winding down. The leaves are gone from the maples, the fields are bare, and morning frost coats the stone walls that line so many of our roads. It’s the season when the noise of summer fades and the small sounds of community rise to take its place.

Gratitude doesn’t always announce itself. It often hides in the ordinary, tucked into the moments we forget to count. You’ll find it in the hum of a coffee pot at a volunteer firehouse before dawn, in the neighbor who plows a shared driveway before heading to work, and in the teacher who stays late after class to help a struggling student understand fractions or Shakespeare. These quiet acts, rarely photographed or praised, are the backbone of every small town in northeastern Connecticut.

In Thompson, Pomfret, Woodstock, Putnam, Killingly, Brooklyn, and all the surrounding villages, people tend to measure generosity differently. We might not have skyscrapers or big-city budgets, but we have something harder to quantify: a culture of care. Residents notice when a friend is sick, when a family needs a meal, when a road needs clearing or a child needs a coat. That awareness—unspoken, constant, human—is what holds these communities together.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it’s worth remembering that gratitude is not only a feeling but a practice. It lives in the choice to look outward, to see what others need, and to do something about it. Food drives fill pantries, coat collections stock school closets, and church kitchens hum with the sound of neighbors cooking for one another. Every can donated, every ride offered, every smile exchanged in a grocery store aisle is a small declaration that we belong to one another.

This time of year reminds us that “community” is a verb as much as a noun. It’s something we build, repair, and renew—one act of kindness at a time. Even as national headlines grow louder and divisions deeper, the daily work of compassion continues quietly right here in the Quiet Corner, often without fanfare.

So before the rush of the holidays sweeps in, take a moment to look around. Say thank you to the postal carrier who trudges through slush, to the clerk who keeps the store lights on late, to the nurse finishing another long shift. Gratitude grows when it’s spoken out loud—and when it’s acted upon.

In this season, may our appreciation stretch beyond our own tables. May it reach the neighbor down the road, the volunteer we barely know, and the stranger who holds open a door on a cold day. Gratitude, after all, is not about counting blessings—it’s about sharing them.

Here in the Quiet Corner, that’s the harvest that matters most.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are honored by your trust in our candidates

To the Editor:

The Killingly Democratic Town Committee would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all the residents of Killingly who came out to vote in this year’s municipal election. Voter turnout was exceptionally high, and we thank each and every one of you for engaging in the democratic process and making your voices heard.

We are truly honored by the trust you have placed in our candidates. We promise to uphold the values that guide our work — supporting the children, families, seniors, and citizens of Killingly with dedication and integrity.

As we move forward, we will strive to lead sensibly and fairly, always keeping the best interests of our entire community at heart. We recognize that there are no true winners when a town is divided, and we pledge to work together

— across differences — to ensure that Killingly remains a strong, caring, and connected community.

We are committed to running the town’s business transparently, conscientiously, and through well-researched, informed decision-making that reflects both responsibility and respect for all residents.

Thank you to all DTC members, volunteers, and those who helped support our candidates with donations and time. You are vital to helping to keep the spirit of democracy alive and well.

Thank you again for your participation, your confidence, and your commitment to our town’s future.

With appreciation,

JOHN LABELLE
CHAIR
KILLINGLY DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Rebuilding is the message

To the Editor:

In 1842, Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote in “Morte d’Arthur”: “The old order changes, yielding place to new.” Instead of moving forward and adapting to changing values and technology, Donnie Tyrant and Project 2025 are advocating we should turn back and embrace the age-old and simplistic philosophy of dominance, greed and hatred. This is attractive because it is easy to understand and the methods to accomplish it have been used many times and are well established. On the other hand, supporting and improving our Democracy inherently entails hard work, compromise and risk by delving into the unknown. Change is usually scary and most

people fight it out of fear – only wanting to take the path already trod and well worn.

The results of the latest election are clear and encouraging. A massive shift in the electorate is occurring from the No Kings movement and the inhuman actions of Donnie Tyrant and his enablers Miller, Vance and Bannon.

Our message for next year’s mid-term election has to be stopping the destruction and start rebuilding. Not by using the debris that Donnie Tyrant has created, but with modern, intelligent and progressive tools and concepts to allow the regrowth of the middle class and the humane support of those in need.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

What kind of leaders do we deserve?

To choosing the best people for the job. In a sense, every election is a job interview, and we are the interviewers. Here are some interview questions to think about:

Will these leaders represent all constituents?

Do they have vision, integrity, and the ability to act decisively while earning our trust?

Do they communicate clearly, listen to diverse perspectives, and balance immediate needs with long-term goals?

Are they strong leaders who remain resilient under pressure, show empathy toward the people they represent, and make choices guided by principle rather than convenience?

What distinguishes great leaders isn’t just their ability to win power, it’s how responsibly they use it to make a lasting, positive impact on everyone they serve.

Ultimately, the best leaders are those who rise above partisanship and put people first. Several Democratic incumbents are doing just that. When we come together, when we choose collaboration over division, the entire nation moves forward.

Our representatives need to hear from us. Contact your elected leaders and let them know what truly matters to you: decent jobs, safe communities, good schools, and affordable healthcare.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Pomfret — a truthful and transparent assessment

To the Editor:

Now that the elections are over and the dust has settled, it’s time for a little post-campaign clarity. In nearly 40 years of living in Pomfret, I can’t recall a period so steeped in negativity, rumor, and unfounded accusation.

It all seemed to start with the budget vote. Remember the dramatic tales of out-of-towners rushing in to vote—or locals somehow voting twice- to what end? The math, as they say, simply doesn’t work. The budgets passed by serious margins. The number of votes did not exceed the number of people in the room. What those stories did accomplish, however, was to stir up mistrust and turn neighbor against neighbor. Mission accomplished; I suppose.

Then came the special town meeting, where residents overwhelmingly approved the interlocal agreement with Putnam—and overwhelmingly rejected the Republican-proposed ethics commission. By a landslide. (202 yes to 35 no, for those keeping score. The petition to hold the meeting had a mere 22 signatures—so 13 extra votes were picked up at the meeting) Ironically, those who demanded the meeting now complain that only 240 people showed up. Petition for a meeting, get a meeting, dislike the result, complain and again cast doubt on the vote. That’s democracy for you.

Next up: the so-called “Pomfret Forest liability crisis,” which, it turns out, wasn’t a crisis at all. The town’s risk management specialist confirmed last month that Pomfret is fully covered for the mountain bike trails and features. And that “breach of easement?” Also unproven. The State hasn’t even inspected the property, and Section 3 of the easement itself clearly allows trails and trail improvements. Facts are stubborn things—though apparently inconvenient or optional for some.

Meanwhile, we’ve been treated to Republican claims of “conflicts of interest” and “backroom deals”— and get this- “missing money.” All without a shred of proof. It’s the classic political two-step: accuse loudly, investigate nothing, and hope the echo does the work. The chair of the Pomfret Republican Town Committee has spent months calling for “honesty and transparency” while spreading misinformation and baseless accusations. The result? He earned the lowest vote total of all 28 Democratic and Republican candidates on the ballot.

Thankfully, Pomfret voters know the difference between holding leaders accountable and tearing a community apart.

TIM McNALLY
POMFRET

Healthy competition is vital to American democracy

To the Editor:

It must be getting more difficult to identify as a Democrat. Right or wrong, the party is being attached to some pretty divisive stuff, i.e. socialism, men in women’s sports, pro-crime (cashless bail/ defund the police, etc.), antisemitism, anti-Christian, anti Second Amendment, anti school choice, pro Hamas, racial division, political violence, political “Lawfare,” illiberal college “cancel culture,” violent riots, etc. Many national leaders fear the Democrat party is in danger of harmful long term losses from these attachments because they predict that the party is becoming much too radical for centrist Americans (the bulk of our population).

The USA is great because our founding principles encourage competition in elected offices, business, schools, etc. And to have healthy competition, we need healthy rivals. Republicans should hope for competitive (mainstream) Democrats, and Democrats should wish the same of Republicans. USA history witnesses that radicals of all stripes are not effective in the end. If you don’t have a competitive political system, you have a one party system, and you’ve likely birthed something akin to a dictatorship ... something unworkable in the American experience.

ED CLEMENT
THOMPSON

False alarms



NANCY WEISS

When the green lights on the walls of the theatre started flashing, I thought for a moment it was another special effect for the show, Hamilton, that I was attending at the Bushnell in Hartford. I was there with my daughters, but we were not seated together as I was late buying the tickets. The show was part of a birthday celebration and my imbedded mothering instincts were on full alert when it was clear that it was a fire alarm and we were to evacuate the building.

I wanted to leap over the seats and find my girls, now mothers themselves, and pull them to safety. Of course, I could barely get out of the row I was in as the aisle was blocked by two people, one with a walker. I couldn’t smell or see smoke. We moved in an orderly, if slow way out to the street where we stood in the late afternoon sun and waited. Soon two Hartford fire trucks pulled up and efficiently entered the building. It was a false alarm. With over 3,000 people in the audience plus the cast now outside, it took me a few minutes to spot my daughters. Whew, I thought, catastrophe averted, once again. Isn’t life grand...

My husband and I visited Alexander Hamilton’s home in Nevis some years ago. He was a fatherless genius, born on a small island, who was sponsored to come to this emerging country where ideas and revolution were blossoming. Every word in the play is part of a song, there is no direct dialogue, so one has to pay close attention. Spontaneous applause broke out now and then – once when Hamilton and LaFayette meet and agree that it is the immigrants, referring to each other, who “get the job done.”

In college during the great NE Blackout, I was the president of my floor in a big dorm. When the lights went out, I wasn’t concerned, until some girls called home and learned the world seemed to have gone dark. I didn’t really have anyone to call, so I comforted the other girls until it was clear the world wasn’t coming to an end and some boys from a pharmacy fraternity wanted us to party with them. No catastrophe, just the college fun I’d been expecting.

How we react in a crisis is variable. Some people fall apart. Some shepherd others out of danger and then go back to help some more. Some lock on to a plan and refuse to change. Some want to help and become fire fighters, professional like the Hartford crew, or trained volunteers such as many of my neighbors. Some, like me, may take a bit too long to acknowledge that perhaps the threat is real and it is time to leave.

The exit from the theatre was orderly because everyone in the audience behaved well. There were a mix of children and their parents and the stalwart theatre goers who support live theatre and don’t move as fast. Everyone believed that the ushers would direct us properly and that we were being moved toward safety. Everyone acted based on how they had been taught in schools and public places. It was the opposite of chaos. It was courtesy, compromise and public spirit.

We returned to the theatre and enjoyed the second act, which wraps up the big themes. No catastrophe befell the audience. We heard a guy was vaping in the Men’s Room and that set off the alarm. We need each other to follow the unwritten laws that keep us from catastrophe.

The new things to know about building generational wealth now

Building generational wealth has evolved dramatically in 2025, with new strategies, technologies, and generational shifts fundamentally changing how families approach long-term financial planning. As we witness the largest wealth transfer in history—with \$84 trillion expected to change hands by 2048¹—understanding these emerging trends isn’t just helpful; it’s essential for creating a lasting financial legacy.

The great wealth transfer revolution

We’re living through an unprecedented moment in financial history. Baby Boomers are passing down their wealth to Gen X and Millennials, with Gen X set to inherit \$14 trillion in the next decade alone, compared to Millennials’ \$8 trillion.² This massive transfer requires families to rethink traditional approaches to wealth building and preservation—exactly the kind of comprehensive planning we address through WHZ’s holistic financial planning approach.

What makes this transfer particularly significant is how different generations view money and wealth management. While Baby Boomers built wealth through traditional methods, younger generations are embracing more diverse strategies that reflect their unique experiences and values.

Key pillars of generation-

al wealth building

1. Start early, start smart: The average American made their first investment at 27 years old, with Gen Z starting earlier at 20.³ The compound effect of starting early cannot be overstated—with a 10 percent return on investment, you can turn \$100,000 to \$1.6M in 28 years.⁴ This is why our “Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™” process emphasizes creating investment strategies tailored to your life stage and timeline.

2. Debt elimination strategy: Think of debt as missed opportunity. Why pay interest when you could be using that cashflow for other financial goals? Prioritizing the elimination of consumer debt like credit cards, student loans, and car loans creates the foundation for wealth accumulation. Lowering debt can also improve your credit score and relieve financial stress,⁴ freeing up resources for strategic investments.

3. Business ownership and equity: If you own a business, be aware of how it can provide a consistent stream of income, assets, and opportunities for future generations. Whether through starting your own venture or strategically investing in existing businesses, ownership stakes create wealth that compounds over generations. At WHZ, we work with a multitude of business

FINANCIAL
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JONATHAN
MATTHEWS
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

owners to help them optimize compensation structures and succession planning so they can maximize generational wealth transfer.

4. The critical role of financial education: Perhaps the most alarming statistic in wealth transfer is this: up to 70 percent of family wealth is lost by the second generation, and up to 90% of family wealth is lost by the third generation.⁵ The primary cause? Lack of financial education among heirs.

Sixty percent of heirs feel unprepared to handle their inheritance,¹ increasing the risk of financial mismanagement. This makes financial literacy education for the next generation as important as wealth accumulation itself. The greatest legacy you can leave behind is knowledge, empowering your heirs with the skills needed to manage and grow wealth responsibly.

Educating the next generation

Building generational wealth requires intentional planning, sound financial management, an understanding of how to pass down assets while minimizing taxes, and educating future generations on how to manage and grow their inheritance.⁶ This involves:

Regular family financial meetings discussing goals

and strategies

Age-appropriate money conversations with children
Involving heirs in investment decisions and estate planning discussions

Teaching the principles of compound interest and long-term thinking

At WHZ, we facilitate family meetings and help clients involve the next generation in financial planning conversations, ensuring a smooth transition of both assets and financial wisdom.

Modern estate planning considerations

Eighty-nine percent of high-net-worth firms cite family-focused services as a top growth strategy,² recognizing that successful wealth transfer requires comprehensive planning beyond simple asset distribution. Today’s estate planning must account for digital assets, business valuations, and complex investment structures.

Our fiduciary approach means we work alongside your team of professionals – CPAs, attorneys, and estate planners – to create integrated strategies that optimize tax efficiency while protecting your legacy. We help clients navigate everything from trust structures to business succession planning, ensuring that wealth transfers smoothly across generations.

Taking action: Your next steps

Building generational wealth requires more than individual effort—it demands strategic planning and partnership. Whether you’re in your “Balancing Act Years” juggling career growth and family responsibilities, or approaching your “Next Chapter Years” preparing for retirement, the principles remain the same: strategic planning, consistent action, and expert guidance.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, our comprehensive approach considers how to fit each of your financial goals into your ideal financial picture—protecting and continuing to build your wealth to leave a legacy for your loved ones and the causes you care about.

Ready to start building your family’s financial legacy? Download our free guide, Smart Strategies to Maximize Generational Wealth, from the Resources section of our website. And contact us for a complimentary discovery session at whzwealth.com or (860) 928-2341. Let us help you develop a strategic plan that will provide you with “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.”

Authored by WHZ Associate Vice President, Wealth Advisor Jonathan Mathews. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Investments are subject to risk, including the

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“A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed” is a phrase that describes the most important characteristic of a true friend. Most noteworthy, the phrase means that a true friend is the one who helps someone else at a time of need.



BEYOND
THE PEWS
• • • • •
BY BISHOP
JOHN W.
HANSON
ACTS II
MINISTRIES

praised God, exclaiming, “We have seen amazing things today! (Luke 5:17-26)

Can you imagine the paralyzed man’s thoughts? He may have been a little nervous that his friends might drop him, that Jesus would turn him away or that their efforts would be in vain. But Jesus never disappoints, instead He is touched and moved by our willingness to act in faith and our trust in Him.

The paralyzed man in Luke 5, had friends indeed! They went the extra mile by cutting a hole in the house roof where Jesus was

teaching and lowering their friend down so he could be touched by Jesus. These friends were instrumental in the life of their friend – a man who experienced a life change!

Have you met anyone lately who has never even heard about Jesus, His love, His healing or saving power? There are many! All it takes is a kind word, a helping hand.... small gestures that mean so much to those in need, or to those who haven’t experienced the presence of God yet.

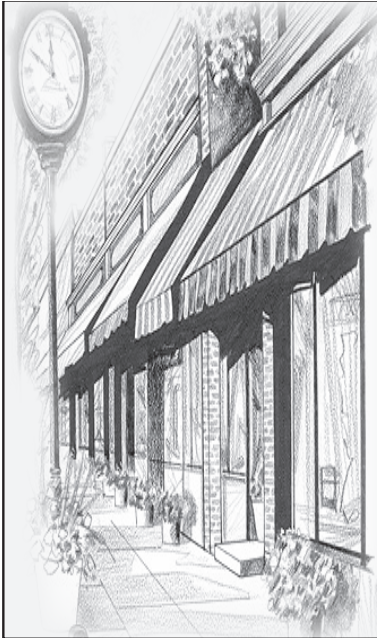
In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus taught: “You are the light of the world. A city set

on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Can I just encourage you today? The more you share the light within you, the more you want to share! Even if you have felt ineffective in reaching out in the past, it was not in vain. You planted seed in someone’s heart; now God can do His work in their life! You can be more than a

friend.... You can be the friend that leads someone to know ‘the friend that sticks closer than a brother’ – Jesus! God changes lives, but often people are the hands, feet and mouthpiece God uses to accomplish His Kingdom purpose on earth. We have the privilege to carry our friends, loved ones and even those we haven’t met to God in prayer and believe in faith that some of those searching people will cross our path.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more resources or sermon videos, please visit www.ActsII.org.



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Author’s triumph over tragedy resonates with audience at Putnam Library

PUTNAM — The Putnam Library presentation room filled with people, stories, and questions during the “Back from Suicide” book talk on a recent fall evening.

Author Lisette Rimer said the talk brought out personal experiences with suicide, abuse, and depression.

“People opened up about their own ordeals with suicide. It was as if they had been waiting for the opportunity for a long time,” Rimer said. “I was hoping for a sense of community on this difficult topic, and that’s exactly what happened.”

Rimer said she had to learn about depression and suicide because there was no other explanation for her son Patrick’s death in 2006.

“He was the least likely person to die by his own hand. He was funny, sarcastic, and happy for most of his life,” she explained.

Patrick attended Pomfret School on a full scholarship, achieved perfect



SAT scores, and graduated as valedictorian in 2001. A few months before he graduated with honors from Stanford in 2005, he was hospitalized for depression and suicidal ideation. He passed away nine months later.

“Patrick’s death made me confront my ignorance

about depression,” Rimer said. “I learned that depression attacks the very part of our being that makes decisions, including the decision of whether or not we should kill ourselves. It causes anxiety, hopelessness, and desperation. The constant stress of those emotions breaks down the

connections in the brain. Depression and the resulting suicide are physical as well as mental diseases.”

A PowerPoint presentation focused on the high rate of suicide for young people. In 2023, suicide was the second leading cause of death for 10- to 34-year-olds. LGBTQ+

young people were four times as likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth. Rimer stressed the difficulty of young people coming out.

“They have to hide a very big part of themselves unless they’re lucky enough to be in an accepting atmosphere,” Rimer said. “They

have to hide their identity, and that adds stress and anxiety.”

Many in the audience asked questions or talked about their own experiences with suicide.

Rimer said, “We got to a deep level of conversation, and I hope sharing those tragedies helped others as much as they helped me. We need that sharing to keep our lives in perspective. I am deeply grateful to the Putnam Library for providing the opportunity for those stories to be told.”

Questions and personal experiences continued until the library closed for the evening.

“Suicide is chaos,” Rimer said. “And the grief afterward never stops. We keep wondering what more we should have done. It was helpful to share that chaos with others who have been through it.”

More information on “Back from Suicide: Before and After the Essential Patrick” is available at www.backfromsuicide.com.

DMAA members medal at Federation Challenge Tournament



DANIELSON — On Nov. 2, members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy attended The Federation Challenge Tournament hosted by The Cheezic Tang Soo Do Federation. DMAA took home numerous medals in each division.

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

3rd Sparring

7-8 Year Olds:
Boys:
Benjamin Mello
3rd Forms
2nd Sparring

9-10 Year Olds:
Girls:
Liliana Huling:
2nd Forms
3rd Sparring
2nd Weapons

Autumn St. Jean:
1st Breaking
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Weapons

Boys:
Ziggy Fugazzi:
3rd Breaking
2nd Forms
1st Sparring
1st Weapons
Christian Mello
4th Forms

4th Sparring

11-12 Year Olds:
Girls:
Aurora Huling:
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Weapons
Annabelle Mello
3rd Breaking
3rd Forms
3rd Sparring
2nd Weapons

Boys:
Colby Densmore:
2nd Breaking
1st Sparring
Jeff Fugazzi:
2nd Breaking
1st Forms
1st Sparring
1st Weapons

13-17 Year Olds:
Girls:
Kyra Dionne:
1st Breaking
1st Forms
1st Sparring
2nd Weapons
Olivia Mello:
2nd Breaking
2nd Forms
2nd Sparring
1st Weapons

Boys:
Orion Huling:
1st Forms
1st Sparring
2nd Weapons

Under Blackbelt 18+
Men:
Kile Gagnon:
3rd Breaking
1st Forms
2nd Sparring
2nd Weapons
Camilo Jaimes:
2nd Forms
1st Sparring

Junior Blackbelt 15-17 Year
Olds:
Boys:
Hunter St. Jean:
1st Forms
3rd Sparring
1st Weapons

Blackbelt Seniors (35+)
Women:
Melinda Densmore:
2nd Forms
1st Sparring
2nd Weapons

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

Killingly Public Library + HelpNow: A powerful partnership for student success



BY CLAUDETTE STOCKWELL
DIRECTOR
KILLINGLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

As the school year hits its stride, students across all grade levels are gearing up for exams, projects, and academic challenges. Whether you’re tackling algebra equations, crafting essays, or preparing for college entrance exams, having the right support can make all the difference. That’s where HelpNow comes in—a comprehensive resource designed to empower learners of all ages.

What Is HelpNow?
HelpNow is a comprehensive academic support service available through the library. Whether you’re a student, parent, or adult learner, HelpNow provides personalized

assistance across a wide range of subjects and skills:
• Homework Help
Connect with live tutors in subjects like math, science, reading/writing, social studies, and test prep for PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP, and state standardized exams.
• Skills-Building
Choose a topic and receive assistance to strengthen your understanding.
• Personalized eLearning Tools
Take advantage of features like My File Sharing, My Session Replay, My Tutoring Archive, and My Tests
Archive to track progress and revisit past sessions.
• 24-Hour Writing Lab
Submit essays and written assignments anytime for constructive

feedback.
• Homework Send Question
Stuck on a tricky problem? Submit your question and get expert guidance tailored to your needs.
• Adult Learning Center
Access resources for GED preparation, resume and cover letter writing help, U.S. citizenship test prep, and essential Microsoft Office skills—all with live professional support.
• Foreign Language Lab
Spanish-speaking support is available to help bridge language gaps and enhance learning.

Thinking about college?
For those planning their next academic step, the College Now database is a valuable companion. It offers essential tools and information to help students navigate the college application process with confidence. Whether you’re a student, a parent, or an adult learner, the library is here to support your goals. Don’t hesitate to explore these powerful resources and make the most of your learning experience. Connect with us at 25 Westcott Rd., Killingly, online at killinglypl.org, or call us at 860-779-5383.



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Slim Fit Available

Hutchins and Hills

Thanksgiving pies for sale! Do you miss the scrumptious flavor of a homemade pie on Thanksgiving? Killingly Grange #112, 801 Hartford Turnpike, Dayville, is taking orders for Apple and Pumpkin pies at \$16 per pie. Last day to order is Saturday, November 22. Pick-up on Wednesday, Nov. 26. To reserves a pie call or text Terry at (860)-884-1813, or visit them at www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/.

Note: The Killingly Historical Center will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 26, the day before Thanksgiving. It will be open Saturday, Nov. 29 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., as usual. Bring your out-of-town relatives to visit the museum or research.

The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open by appointment. For additional information, please call (860)207-6044 and leave a message.

Have you ever heard of a Quire of paper? Twist? I have been reading the Account book of Hutchins & Hills, which begins in November 1792. The entries from this small “store” provide another source about the everyday lives of individuals who lived in Killingly at the time. Since the first U.S. Census is dated 1790, I even have a clue to where some of the individuals who are purchasing items are located. The names seem to be from what is now the

area near Killingly Memorial School in Danielson---the Westfield section of Killingly.

First, who were Hutchins and Hills? There were eight Hutchins men listed in the 1790 census for this southern section of town: Silas, John, Amas(a), Shubel, John, Isaac, Zadock, and Penuel. The first several lived on Green Hollow Road, not far from the Plainfield line. According to H.V. Arnold’s Memories of Westfield, Danielson, Conn., Zadock “and his wife, Ellizabeth, lived in a house on the road that stood on the premises opposite Hutchins Street. Mr. Hutchins had been a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and while residing in the vicinity of the church* was a maker of household furniture. In his old age he drew a soldier’s pension. Couples about to be married, as a preliminary, placed an order with Zadoc Hutchins for house furnishings in those days not easily procurable in the interior towns. After the death of his wife, Mr. Hutchins went to live with a son in Thompson.” (p. 57-8) (*The first Westfield Congregational Church was erected in 1796 just a little north of where Killingly Memorial School now stands---think property with gazebo). Zadock Hutchins seems to be one of the proprietors of the store from the way the entries occur in



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

the daybook. Penuel Hutchins was a doctor and lived where Killingly Memorial School now stands. ““Dr. Penuel Hutchins was a dignified man of commanding appearance, wearing the old Colonial custom until the last few years of his life. The huge saddle-bags which he carried into the sick room contained enough medicine to last a modern physician a year at least, besides the inevitable lancet. His unmarked ability and keen won for him an enviable reputation among neighboring physicians, so that he was often called in council and his judgment deferred to in critical cases.”” (Arnold, op. cit., p. 58; Source of his quote not given).

The daybook contains entries for a Daniel Hills so he apparently lived close enough to visit the “store.” The 1790 U.S. Census for Windham County, Connecticut has two entries in the index for that name. One individual lived in Voluntown and had one male over 16 and 6 females in the household. The second Daniel Hill lived in Plainfield and had 8 in the household which included 3 males 16 and up and 5 females. It is impossible from the little available information to tell which individual might be the proprietor with Hutchins. It appears that Zadock Hutchins had the day-to-day operations of the store, which fits nicely with what Arnold says.

Now I’ll provide a few examples of what people were purchasing at that time. I’ll leave the spellings as they were in the daybook. On Nov. 20, 1792, Hutchins & Hills seemingly made a few purchases for the store in Boston: an account book, 1 barrel, 1 Quire paper, 6 Quires “Rapping” paper, bag for

pepper, cask for crockery, Box for pipes. So what was this Quire of paper? According to AI “A quire of paper is a quantity of 24 or 25 sheets, depending on the paper type. Historically, it was 24 sheets, while a quire of 25 sheets is standard for modern machine-made paper and forms a 500-sheet ream.”

Zadoc Hutchins purchased half a yard green baize and 12 coat buttons for himself, debit---entered as Dr. (Most of the entries were by debit. On May 25, 1793, Rufus Howard brought in three pounds of butter for credit. That same day Betsey Hulett brought in 24 yards tow cloth for credit. Although we were now the United States, accounting was still kept in the British pounds, pence, and shillings). Joseph Cady purchased an iron “shovle” (sic) and one Almanack; Ellijah Youngs also purchased one iron shovel and one Almanack; Wilson Keys, Jun. purchased one Almanack; Zadoc Hutchins (by Asa) purchased one slate.

Nov. 21, Silas Hutchins purchased an Almanack and 4 pipes; Zadoc Hutchins, one spelling book; Elijah Young’s son purchased a pint of rum and a damning needle on his father’s account; Joshua Sunsimon purchased two yards coating, two yards “ribon” (sic). Two entries for Josh Sunsiman appear in “A Directory of Native and African Americans in Windham County, CT and Vicinity, 1650-1900” by Marcella Houle Pasay. One was a colonial militia veteran who served in Israel Putnam’s Company. The second was the son of Isaac & Mary and the husband of Martha and “may have lived in the vicinity of what is now Old Furnace State Park.” (both p. 515). Nov. 22 Barnibus Davis purchased a number of buttons, apparently in two different sizes. Daniel Hills purchased 4 and a half quarter and half quarter of striped coating, a stick of twist* and a number of buttons

of different sizes. *This definition from the online Oxfod Dictionary seemed to fit twist the best--- “a fine strong thread consisting of twisted strands of cotton or silk.” Thomas Burgess bought a Bible; Elias Stearns, quarter pound ginger; Josiah Russell, an Almanack; William Reede, 1 yard and ¼ Lacey foile (?); Zadock Hutchins, pair Shears (against credit by cash). Nov. 23, 1792: Capt. Silas Hutcins, ½ Quire paper; Zadoc Hutchins by David Youngs-2 ounces pepper, 2 ounces Allspice; Joshua Sunsimon-yard of coating. November 24-Daniel Hills, an ink stand; Zadoc Hutchins, Quarter pepper.

Nov. 27-Joshua Sunsimon, quarter yd coating; Noah Titus, one ink stand; Silas Hutchins by Calvin, 1 lb. “rasons” (sic); Doctor Penuel Hutchins, to raisons, yd and ½ shoe binding; Oliver Spalding, 3 ½ yds of Holland. November 28- Zadoc Hutchins-1 quart of Rum; George Robinson by Priscilla Davis, ½ lb. ginger; Widow Denielson-pair of candle sniffers, 1/2/lb “rasons”, ½ dozen needles, ½ ounce cinnamon; Wd Danielson, nutmeg; Hutchins & Hills to “mittings”, Noah Titus, pair “mittings”; Miss Bushe, to handkerchief; Zadoc Hutchins, sundries, Nathan Witter to (?) “soop” plates; Daniel Hill, to yd ½ “taste” (?); Noah Titus, to yd ½ Quality (?). Nov. 30-Doctor Penuel Hutchins by wife-pair ½ pint glasses; Benjamin Chamberlin-an Almanack; 4 ounces raisons; Daniel Hills (?); Capt. Silas Hutchins-to two gallons brandy; Zadoc Hutchins-gallon molasses; Capt. Ephraim Warren-an Almanack; Boaz Stearns by son-quarter pound “poder”; Silas Hutchins by Joseph Cary-four gallons rum. Zadoc Hutchins-to cash; Widow Sanders-skein of silk.

Note that several women came into the store including the Widow Danielson, Miss Bushe, Priscilla Davis, and Widow

Sanders. Widow Sanders, was the widow of the second Nell Alexander. The family name was originally Ellick-Sanders, thus “Sanders.” She appeared that way in the 1790 census. Notice that Captain Silas Hutchins was purchasing large quantities of brandy and rum. He operated a tavern in the vicinity. Arnold mentioned that when Roswell Whitmore was ordained as pastor of the first Westfield Congregational Church “ in 1813 the Ordination Ball (was) held the same evening at Captain Silas Hutchins Assembly Room under the management of Messrs. Malbone and Hutchins. About 1833 Capt. Silas operated a hotel/ tavern on Franklin Street closer to the Danielson cotton mills. (H.V. Arnold, Memories of Westfield, p. 65, 72; see Images of America Killingly by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer, p. 11--- they give Hutchins Tavern on Franklin Street an 1837 date).

Thus ends the entries for the first month. I am anxious to continue extracting information from the account book. It is especially valuable for names of women who do not yet appear in the census records. Please, if your family has any old account/ day books consider having photocopies made at the Killingly Historical Center. You, of course, would keep your original. Like diaries, they provide valuable information about everyday life in our community.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, November 2025. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main Street Danielson Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook: www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

Killingly Public Library + HelpNow: A powerful partnership for student success

BY CLAUDETTE STOCKWELL
DIRECTOR
KILLINGLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

As the school year hits its stride, students across all grade levels are gearing up for exams, projects, and academic challenges. Whether you’re tackling algebra equations, crafting essays, or preparing for college entrance exams, having the right support can make all the difference. That’s where HelpNow comes in—a comprehensive resource designed to empower learners of all ages.

- What Is HelpNow?
- HelpNow is a comprehensive academic support service available through the library. Whether you’re a student, parent, or adult learner, HelpNow provides personalized assistance across a wide range of subjects and skills:
- Homework Help
 - Connect with live tutors in subjects like math, science, reading/writing, social studies, and test prep for PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP, and state standardized exams.
 - Skills-Building
 - Choose a topic and receive assistance to strengthen your understanding.
 - Personalized eLearning Tools
 - Take advantage of features like My File Sharing, My Session Replay, My Tutoring Archive, and My Tests Archive to track progress and revisit past sessions.
 - 24-Hour Writing Lab
 - Submit essays and written assignments anytime for constructive feedback.
 - Homework Send Question
 - Stuck on a tricky problem? Submit your question and get expert guidance tailored to your needs.
 - Adult Learning Center
 - Access resources for GED preparation, resume and cover letter writing help, U.S. citizenship test prep, and essential Microsoft Office skills—all with live professional support.
 - Foreign Language Lab
 - Spanish-speaking support is available to help bridge language gaps and enhance learning.

Thinking about college?

For those planning their next academic step, the College Now database is a valuable companion. It offers essential tools and information to help students navigate the college application process with confidence. Whether you’re a student, a parent, or an adult learner, the library is here to support your goals. Don’t hesitate to explore these powerful resources and make the most of your learning experience. Connect with us at 25 Westcott Rd., Killingly, online at killinglypl.org, or call us at 860-779-5383.

We all want to move forward — to reach the goal, finish the book, launch the business, get in shape, fall in love, or become the person we know we could be. We all have dreams, and most of us don’t lack the desire. What we lack is the willingness to act when the timing isn’t perfect.

I’m all about maintaining a work-life balance, and boundaries are essential, but I sometimes think that it’s not the world slowing us down — it’s our own rules. The quiet, self-made commandments we invent in the name of balance, boundaries, and self-care. Rules like “I don’t check emails after 5,” or “I don’t work weekends,” or “I don’t follow up twice with the same client.” They sound healthy — responsible even — but sometimes they’re invisible fences around our potential.

We build them to stay sane, but if left unchecked, they can also prevent us from going where we truly want to be in life.

A lot of these rules come from a good place. We’ve been burned before. We’ve felt the crash after burn-out, the sting of rejection, the exhaustion of trying too hard. So we promise ourselves limits: never again,

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
TOBY
MOORE

not after hours, not on Sundays. But what starts as protection can quietly become a kind of confinement. Sometimes growth begins exactly where discomfort

starts. Every ambitious person eventually faces a crossroads between their rules and their results. The people who go far — the ones we admire — aren’t necessarily smarter or luckier. They’re just the ones who decided certain rules didn’t apply to them.

Stephen King ignored the publishing world’s “one book a year” rule. He wrote so fast that his publisher couldn’t keep up, so he created a pseudonym—Richard Bachman—to release more. When readers discovered the truth, both names became bestsellers, and the rule was never taken seriously again.

Or take Jeff Bezos, who in Amazon’s early days answered customer emails and support calls at 2 a.m., believing connection mattered more than sleep. That obsessive rule-breaking focus on customers became the DNA of one of the world’s biggest companies. Or Ed Sheeran, who

played dozens of free or low-pay gigs in a single year, sleeping on couches and busking on street corners. Friends said he was devaluing his art — but those nights built the loyal fan base that later filled stadiums.

Or Elon Musk, who broke Silicon Valley’s “focus on one thing” rule. While most founders were told to master one company at a time, he was building rockets, cars, and solar panels all at once.

Each one of them broke a rule that sounded smart but wasn’t serving the dream.

I’m not suggesting that people should work 24/7, but I am saying that sometimes you need to work 24/7. Knowing when to be flexible with your work-life balance can change your entire future. It’s knowing the difference between a guardrail and a cage.

Discipline isn’t always about sticking to the same schedule forever; sometimes the boundaries need to bend. The rules that once protected your peace can, at a different season of life, start protecting your comfort instead. And comfort is a silent thief of momentum.

Every ambitious person reaches a point where “balance” becomes an excuse.

Where the rule that once made sense starts standing in the way, the truth is, you can’t build an extraordinary life while staying entirely within ordinary limits.

Your next breakthrough may not require a new plan, a new mentor, or a new skill. It may require pushing past self-imposed boundaries.

Examine the rules you’ve established for yourself. Keep the ones that keep you healthy — the ones that let you rest, recover, and reconnect with life. But question the ones that keep you safe at the expense of your potential.

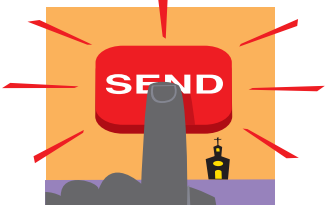
We all need balance, and progress isn’t found in balance alone. It’s found in the moments you lean just a little further than what feels comfortable — when you stay an extra hour, take the extra call, send the extra pitch.

You don’t need to give up balance — just bend it in the direction of what matters most.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

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Dress up your holiday gatherings with a few succulents

Add a bit of life to your holiday gatherings with the help of succulents. You and your guests will enjoy the easy-care beauty of succulents. Their subtle colors and dramatic form make them great gifts and decorations now and throughout the year.

Small-scale succulents provide a multitude of opportunities for incorporating them into your holiday celebrations. Just select containers that complement, but don't overpower their charm.

Create a succulent garden to use as a centerpiece for the table. A shallow container filled with a variety of succulents with different shapes and colors is sure to capture everyone's attention. Set the container on a saucer to protect the table and add a complementary table runner for even greater impact.

Consider using succulents as party favors for guests to take home and enjoy for years to come. But first, use them to decorate the table by making them into place cards for



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

your guests. Simply add a name to the decorative pot.

Or display them all together in a tray, terra cotta saucer or other shallow container to use as a centerpiece throughout the evening. When the party is over, each guest can pick their own plant to take home.

Add a unique flair to the table by placing cocktail glasses filled with succulents next to each guest's place setting. This makes a unique table decoration and party favor for guests to take home as a reminder of your fun gathering. Use a few planted cocktail glasses to decorate the beverage table or bar.

Grow these plants in a cacti and succulent potting mix. These fast-draining mixes help reduce the risk of overwatering. Further reduce this risk by using

containers with drainage holes that are only slightly larger than the succulents' root system. Growing them in too large of a container for the plant size will retain moisture longer that can lead to root rot, decline, and even the death of your plants.

After the party continue to provide proper care so your centerpiece will be ready for your next event. Move the succulent planter to a cool, draft-free location near an unobstructed south-, west- or east-facing window. If light is limited, consider adding artificial lights.

Water thoroughly but only when the top few inches of soil are dry and just often enough to keep the plants from shriveling. These winter-growing conditions often encourage a spring display of colorful and unique flowers.

Share these directions with your guest and if possible, the name of the succulent. This helps your guest keep the plants alive to enjoy for years to come.

With a trip to your favorite garden center and your

imagination you can create fun holiday décor and party favors. You and your guests will enjoy their beauty throughout the holidays and beyond.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Melinda Myers

Create a succulent garden centerpiece with different shapes and colors this holiday season.

Latest auction news

It's been nearly a month and a half since my last auction news update, and there's a lot to report. I'll start by sharing news about a rare piece of Titanic memorabilia being auctioned in the United Kingdom.

Frederick Sutton, a 61-year-old first-class passenger from New Jersey, was lost at sea when the Titanic sank on April 14, 1912.

Some of his personal effects were recovered and given to his family. The family held them for over 100 years before deciding to now auction the memorabilia. Mr. Sutton's family received his belongings in a white canvas bag marked "46." It included a first-class passenger list that had been damaged by the cold Atlantic waters after the tragic incident. The collection includes a note from Titanic's White Star Lines. Families of missing passengers were advised that they would have to pay for a first-class ticket to return deceased family members' bodies that were recovered. "This is callous in the extreme but goes to illustrate how different the world was in 1912," the auctioneer said in the BBC article. The passenger list is estimated to bring £100,000 (\$131,350 U.S.).

A massive collection of memorabilia from the estate of colorful and eccentric Indianapolis Colts owner, Jim Irsay, will be sold in several auctions. Irsay had shared some of his collection with the public in 2023 when he offered free concerts to the public with the opportunity to view some historical and pop culture memorabilia. One of the stops on the tour was at Boston's TD Garden, where I was fortunate enough to see some of the rare artifacts. Items being auctioned include "an Apple II manual signed by Steve Jobs, Hunter S. Thompson's Red Shark convertible and



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Jack Kerouac's original typewritten manuscript of "On the Road," according to the Indy Star.

A toilet might make an impact on the art world when it goes on the auction block later this month. Made of gold, the working sculpture was designed by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan and is titled "America." It "was created with 101.2 kilograms (223 pounds) of gold," according to MSN. An identical one was stolen from England's Blenheim Palace in a brazen 2019 heist. Cattelan is the artist who sold "Comedian," a banana duct taped to a wall, for \$6.2 million last year.

No estimate for the toilet was provided, but the gold used is worth approximately \$10 million at current rates. The artist is hoping it bowls over bidders and brings much more though.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place this month. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. 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).



Courtesy

Putnam Rotarians Karen and Gary Osbrey were recently awarded The Arc Eastern Connecticut Community Service Award. The Arc's Barry Shead, who is also a member of the Putnam Rotary Club, presented the award at a recent Rotary meeting. The award says, "In appreciation of your long-time support of our agency and its mission and for your enthusiastic efforts to rally our communities around causes that benefit the people of Eastern Connecticut."

The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Girls Volleyball
Class L state tournament 2nd round
(5)Woodstock Academy 3
(12) New Milford 1
The Centaurs found some renewed energy after a couple of less than superb efforts and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Class L state tournament with the win over the Green Wave.
Woodstock Academy (17-8) took the first two sets 25-17 and 25-19 before stumbling 25-18 in the third.
Kaylee Bundy erupted for 11 of her 23 kills and Kennedy McCooley had

six of her 14 service points in the fourth set when the Centaurs rebounded for a 25-19 victory to capture the win.
McCooley added 15 kills and 18 digs while Bundy contributed 19 digs and Lily Morgis had 39 saves.
(5) Woodstock Academy 3
(20) E.O. Smith 0
The Centaurs might be peaking at the right time as they played one of their most complete matches of the season in a 3-0 shutout victory over the Panthers inside the Morgan gymnasium on the South Campus of Woodstock Academy

Friday.
Woodstock Academy was dominant as it doubled up on the Panthers in all three sets and posted victories of 25-15, 25-14 and 25-14 in a match that took a little over an hour to complete.
Senior Kaylee Bundy was deadly on the outside with 18 kills and from behind the service line with 13 service points including six aces.
Fellow senior Vivian Bibeau was equally effective from the opposite side with 11 kills and nine service points while Lily Morgis contributed 36 assists and Gianna Musumeci had 16

digs.
The fifth-seeded Centaurs will meet No. 1 East Lyme, a 3-0 winner over Waterford, for a fourth time this season in the semifinals on Tuesday at a site and time still to be determined.
It's the third appearance in four years in the semifinals for Woodstock Academy.
Prep Soccer
Woodstock Academy Prep 2 3
Putnam Science Academy 1
The Centaurs advanced to the championship match of the Global Education

Sports Partners league tournament with a win over their nearby rivals.
After 35 minutes of scoreless play, Woodstock Academy broke through when Jack Buyers scored on a penalty kick with 10 minutes left in the first half.
Another set play, a free kick, helped the Centaurs build a two-goal lead when Jorge Castellanos scored with six minutes to play in the first half.
The Mustangs cut the deficit in half when they scored on a penalty kick just four minutes into the second half.
But Woodstock Academy got a little breathing space when Yuki Kato scored off a Victor Schougaard assist with six minutes to play.
The top-seeded Centaurs will play either Hoosac School or St. Thomas More next weekend for the GESP tournament title.

upper hand in the battle for the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II title. Ledyard (6-2 overall) joined Woodstock Academy and Waterford atop the division with the win as all three posted 2-1 records. The title, by ECC tiebreaker rules, will now likely be decided based upon CIAC playoff points. Junior tailback Jackson Favry had a career day for the Colonels with 401 yards rushing in 20 carries and six touchdowns. Favry scored on runs of 65, 55, 10, 56, 70 and 34 yards. Five of those touchdowns came in the second half as the Colonels erased a 22-14 halftime deficit. Caydem Herlihy scored three times for the Centaurs (2-6) as he caught touchdown passes of 28 and 7 yards from quarterback Elijah Poh (27-for-43 passing, 297 yards) and also had a 32-yard scoop-and-score fumble recovery return. Griffen Bloom (6 catches, 92 yards caught two fourth quarter touchdown passes for Woodstock Academy.

Local author hosts book signing at The Arc Emporium in Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — Ron Coderre, author of the recently published book "The Flood of 1955," is happy to announce a special book signing at The Arc Emporium thrift store in Woodstock Thursday, Nov. 13 from 4 to 5 p.m. The Arc Emporium is located at 22 Route 171 in Woodstock.
Barry Shead, General Manager of The Arc Eastern Connecticut—operators of The Arc Emporium—is pleased to host a local author.
"The Arc Emporium is a local business with an important mission," he said. "And as a communi-

ty entity, we felt this was an opportunity to not only showcase Coderre's work but to acquaint local people with the work that goes on daily at The Emporium."
Coderre, who was 14 at the time of the flood, will speak about his experiences and memory of the event, which occurred Aug. 19, 1955. Residing in Putnam at the time, Coderre and his family lived on Sunnyside Avenue and were able to witness firsthand not only the raging Quinebaug River but also many of the heroic events that occurred. The book is filled with remembrances and numerous pho-

tographs.
In addition to sharing his book, Coderre's goal is to engage the audience in conversation regarding any questions or memories they may have of the event that took Putnam and Northeastern Connecticut by surprise more than 70 years ago.
"Folks in the area have been very responsive about sharing and learning more about the flood through the book," he said. "The initial publishing sold out within two weeks, which was most encouraging. I hope that people will join us on Nov. 13."

Proceeds from the sale of the book, which was initially made possible through a grant from John Miller, President of the Aspinock Historical Society, will directly benefit the Society and its programs. More than \$2000 has been donated to AHS.
Anyone purchasing a book at The Arc Emporium signing will receive a three-pack of the delicious Arc chocolate chip cookies, which are made next door at The Arc Eastern Connecticut's Cookie Factory. Light refreshments will be served.

Football

Ledyard 58
Woodstock Academy 45
The Colonels took the

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.

ELECTION
continued from page A1

same as Democrats tightened their hold on the board after flipping control two years ago. Misty Murdock, Nelson King, and Susan Lannon were all victorious on the Democratic ticket ousting incumbent Republicans Kyle Napierata and Kelly Martin and defeating their GOP running mate Stephen Schroth. Additionally, Democrat Kyle Provencher was victorious in filling a vacancy left by the passing of Democrat Danny Rovero, defeating Republican Diane Summa in the process.

Republicans did claim a small victory as their Board of Assessment Appeals candidate Kevin Gaudreau was victorious over Democrat Nancy Grandelski.

PUTNAM
Putnam also saw a shift to Democratic control as incumbent Mayor Barney Seney, running on the Democratic ticket after leaving the Republican Party and becoming unaffiliated, secured his fifth term while his ticket swept the major races.

Seney was challenged by Republican Dave Coderre, Putnam's current chair of the Board of Finance, and claimed victory in a 53 to 46 percent margin. All other Democrats on the Board of Selectmen ticket also earned victory: incumbents Gloria Marion and Scott Pempek along with new selectman Mike Bogdanski. The results ousted incumbent Republican David Pomes from the board while his fellow incumbent GOP candidates Ricky Hayes, Roy Simmons, and Michael Paquin secured seats, albeit all with less votes than their Democratic challengers. That splits the Board of Selectmen evenly along party lines but with Seney as an unaffiliated Democrat

ally. Democrats also dominated the Board of Finance and Board of Education races. For Board of Education, with five seats and one vacancy listed as expiring on the board's website, Democrats Francis Bousquet, Jon Chad Neal, Elizabeth Beman, and Jamie Heath received the most votes while GOP candidate Monique Mailloux had the next highest vote tally over fellow Republican James Purdon. Democrat Jill Zangerl ran unopposed to fill a vacancy. The result effectively gives Democrats a majority on the board.

The Board of Finance also saw Democratic success with Putnam's town website indicating three available seats with Democrats Kerstin Forrester and Shane Donahue and Republican Julie Quinn earning the most votes. Quinn's victory came down to a single vote between her and Democrat Paula Hanlon according to tally recorded by the Secretary of State while GOP candidates Walter (Scott) Irwin and Lisa-Jean Clifford were not elected to the board. Two alternate seats were also up for grabs with Democrat Linda Garcia and Republican Christopher Steinbrick earning more votes than Republican Ronald Michael Stewart in the three-person race.

The final significant race on Putnam's ballot was for the Special Services District Authority also saw significant Democratic success. Democrats Anne St. Onge, Ross Johnson and Jon Carvalho were in the top four vote-getters joined by Republican Norm Perron who was second only to St. Onge in total votes received. The remaining candidates, in order of total votes, were Republican Steve Gagnon, Democrat Stephen Etzel, and Republicans Brian Maynard and Earl Rosebrooks.

Putnam's election also decided seats on the Library

Directors and the Board of Assessment Appeals.

THOMPSON
While the Democrats made waves and wrestled control away from the GOP in several communities, Thompson remained a Republican stronghold.

Thompson's situation was unique as the only town in this year's election guaranteed to install completely new leadership on the town's highest elected board as all three sitting selectmen choosing not to run for re-election. It ended up being a night of easy wins for the Republican party.

Republican First Selectman candidate Nick Donohue dominated the election, earning more than 65 percent of the vote compared to the 34 percent earned by Democratic challenger Andrew Irby. Donahue's running mate Larry Consiglio, Jr. also joins the Board of Selectmen while Democratic selectman candidate Geoffrey Bolte earned more votes than Irby, making Bolte the third selectman.

The victory was one of many for the GOP in the region's northeast-most community as Republican candidates for Board of Finance Rob Werge and Steven Herbert outpaced the lone Democratic nominee Brian Loffredo, although exiting Democratic Selectman Ken Beausoleil was elected unopposed to the board to fill a vacancy. Republican Board of Education candidates Daniella Caverly and Rick Medieros also earned more support than Democrat challengers Amanda Jean Lincoln and Melissa Dragon.

Republicans also claimed victories in all other races including the Planning & Zoning Commission, Library Trustees, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

BROOKLYN
Brooklyn will also have a completely new Board of Selectmen after the incumbent First Selectman was ousted in the election.

Democrat Joe Bellavance, the chair of the town's Economic Development Committee, claimed victory over incumbent Republican First Selectman Austin Tanner in a decisive vote tally of 47 to 29 percent, while petitioning candidate Michael Patrick Rekola earned 23 percent of the vote. Bellavance's running mate Sherri Vogt also earned enough votes to secure a selectman seat, flipping control of the town's top board from Republican to Democrat.

While Tanner had hoped to continue to lead the town alongside his new running mate Kayla Burgess, it was Burgess who received more votes giving her the third selectman seat and ousting Tanner. Petitioning incumbent Selectman candidate Joseph Voccio also failed to earn enough to join the board.

The rest of the election results were mixed in terms of party success. While Republican Sandy Brodeur earned the most votes for the Board of Finance, her running mate David Fuss received less votes than Democrats Robert Smanik and Richard Ives. Kayla Burgess was tied with Democrat Melissa Perkins-Bana for the most votes for Board of Education followed by Republicans Justin Phaiah and Dann Stuyinski. Democrat Susan Wasstrom earned the most votes for Zoning Board of Appeals followed by Republicans Joanne Eiler and Justin Phaiah.

POMFRET
The contest for First Selectman in Pomfret was a foregone conclusion with incumbent Democrat Maureen Nicholson running unopposed, but the battle for the remaining Board of Selectmen seats was decided on Election Day.

Three candidates went

into the day hoping for success with only two able to serve on the town's highest board. The result saw the party endorsed candidates, Democrat Patrick McCarthy and Republican Martha Emilio, triumph handily over a petitioning candidate Alan Burgess Chubbuck.

The rest of the ballot saw democratic dominance across the board. Democrats Christian Smutnick and Norine Reingold earned more votes than Republican Heather A. Semenza for Board of Finance and Democrats Leigh Grossman and Nicholas Stellitano outpaced Republican nominees Kathleen Sposato and Brent Tuttle as well as petitioning candidate Sara Emilia Garcia-Gomes for Board of Education. Democratic nominees also dominated races for Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning & Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Library Trustees, although it's worth noting that some contests were uncontested.

WOODSTOCK
The Woodstock political parties made headlines earlier this year by cross endorsing numerous candidates on the ballot, so it's no surprise that the election produced little drama at the polls.

Republican Chandler Paquette, who succeeded the late Jay Swan as an appointed First Selectman, officially won the seat with no competition and will be joined by Democrat Kate McDonald and Republican Christopher Mayhew on the Board of Selectmen keeping the current board slate intact for at least another two years.

While the 2025 election in Woodstock avoided the trend of party politics, it is worth noting Democrats showed some strength in terms of overall success. The Board of Finance race for example showed Democrat Ivar McDonald earning more votes than Republican David Fortin, although cross endorsed candidate Philip Parizeau easily earned the most votes. This means McDonald

and Parizeau will join the board. Democrat Margaret Wholean and Republican Wendy Costa also earned seats as alternates in separate uncontested elections.

Democrats also had good numbers for Board of Education where their candidate Matthew Bennett outpaced Republican Judith Decharme Folkerts although again it was a cross endorsed candidate, Sonia Greene who earned more votes overall and all three candidates were guaranteed spots on the board. Democratic nominee Susan Swan earned more votes than Republican Shawn Bordeur to fill a Board of Education vacancy.

The Planning & Zoning Commission, while not a contested election, also show Democratic momentum with Joseph Polulech, Syd Blodgett, and Joseph Adiletta outpacing Republican David Morse while Democrat Amy Monahan earned an uncontested seat as an alternate.

EASTFORD
Eastford's election contained the least amount of drama of any ballot on Election Day, with only two truly contested seats up for grabs and one secured by a significant margin.

The current Board of Selectmen will remain intact as First Selectman Deborah Richards was cross endorsed by both parties and incumbents Ashlyn Ellsworth, a Democrat, and Paula Rocellini, a Republican, were uncontested. Richards faced a contest from petitioning candidate Michael Schultz, although she easily fended off the challenge.

The rest of the ballot, including races for Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, and Constables, were all essentially decided going into the day with no true contest among them.

The only true race was for the Library Board of Trustees where Democrat Meghan Martinez received less votes than Republicans Mary Dogostin, Seth Budd, and Armen Beermann.

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WORKSHOP IN
PLAINFIELD

PLAINFIELD — Want to save for a brighter future but not sure where to start? Join the Access Housing Education & Counseling

Center for an engaging and interactive Basics of Budgeting Workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 6-7 p.m. at the Plainfield Town Hall, 8 Community Ave., Plainfield.

This free workshop is designed to help you take charge of your finances with simple, effective budgeting techniques. Learn how mindful money management can help you reach your long-term goals—whether it's saving for a home, building an emergency fund, or just gaining financial confidence. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! Spots are limited, so sign up today by contacting

Helen Scanlon, Program Manager at HECC, at helen.scanlon@accessagency.org. Start your journey to financial success—because a brighter future starts with smart budgeting!

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

VFW Auxiliary announces kick-off of annual Illustrating America Art Contest

PUTNAM — VFW Auxiliary Post 1523, Putnam, is excited to announce the kick-off of the VFW Auxiliary's annual Illustrating America art contest. Local students in grades K-8 can share how they view our world through their drawings and paintings while competing for national awards. The contest rewards the artistic abilities of elementary and middle/junior high school students.

Students must submit an original two-dimensional piece of artwork. The entry must have been completed during the current school year, and the application must include a parent or guardian signature.

Students begin by competing at the local VFW Auxiliary level. The first-place winner from each Auxiliary advances to the Department (state) competition. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. The Department (state) first-place winner in each grade

division will be forwarded to the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters. There are awards for first, second and third place in each grade division.

All state winning entries are judged at National Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo. in and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention. Winners will be notified via the email address provided on the winners' entry form.

Student entries must be submitted to the VFW Auxiliary by March 31. Interested youth, parents/guardians and teachers should contact the listed above more information. Visit <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities> for eligibility requirements, contest rules and an entry form.

About the VFW Auxiliary
The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation's oldest veterans' service organizations and our members are the relatives of those who served in a location of foreign conflict.

We have nearly 470,000 members representing all 50 states,

the Philippines, Thailand, Panama, Guam and France who volunteer millions of hours and give millions of dollars to support veterans, military service personnel and their families.

We are a voice for veterans on Capitol Hill and are instrumental in assisting the VFW

pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families. We are one of the top 10 providers of volunteer hours in the VA medical system. Every year, members fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans and their families. We also provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. With more than 3,600 Auxiliaries, there is likely one in your area working to improve the lives of America's uncommon heroes. Learn more at www.vfwauxiliary.org.

70th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service to be held at Temple Beth Israel

DANIELSON — The Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society of Danielson and the Federated Church of Christ of Brooklyn are pleased to announce the 70th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, a cherished community tradition celebrating seven decades of faith, gratitude, and fellowship.

The service will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel, 39 Killingly Dr., Danielson. Admission is free, and all members of the community are warmly invited to attend.

This beloved event

has been observed every year for seven decades, with the service alternating annually between the Federated Church of Christ and Temple Beth Israel. Together, these two historic congregations have built a lasting bond grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and a commitment to serving the wider community.

"The evening will include prayer, song, reflection, and fellowship, offering a moment of unity and gratitude for neighbors of all faiths and backgrounds," said Rev. Jane Newall, minister of the Federated

Church of Christ, who encourages all to attend.

Attendees are invited to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry. Cash donations collected during the service will benefit the Community Kitchens of Northeastern Connecticut.

"All are welcome," said Norman Berman, President of the Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society. "At a time when our world can feel divided, this gathering reminds us that gratitude and compassion have the power to bring us together."

Julia Revellese of Dayville appointed to Nichols College Senior Advisory Council

DUDLEY, Mass. — Julia Revellese of Dayville is one of 15 students appointed by Nichols College President Bill Pieczynski to the 2025-2026 Nichols Senior Advisory Council (NSAC).

This group of accomplished seniors will meet with the President and members of the President's Counsel monthly and act as an advisory group as the College plans for the future.

"Congratulations to the students selected for this year's NSAC cohort. These are exemplary students, citizens and leaders who have distinguished themselves among a strong senior class," said Pieczynski. "Their insights will be invaluable to the leadership

team, and we look forward to hearing their perspectives and learning more about these outstanding students."

Upcoming NSAC meetings will include discussions on the College's new initiatives as well as broader trends and issues in higher education. In addition to helping Nichols enhance the overall experience for all members of its community, the meetings are also intended as an opportunity for students to further strengthen their communication and presentation skills, which are critical to career advancement.

About Nichols College
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

OBITUARIES

John J. LaRoche
October 5, 1954 - October 30, 2025



Dayville - John J. LaRoche, 71, of Country Acres Park, passed away on October 30, 2025, after a long battle with lung cancer. He was the loving husband of Amy Vaillancourt for many years. Born in Putnam, Connecticut, he was the son of the late Laurent Richard LaRoche and the late Anne R. Hayes.

In John's early years he grew up on the family farm in Thompson raising cows, sheep, ducks, chickens and any wild animal that came along. In his late teens the travel bug set in, he began the journey by hitchhiking across the country. He went west and hit every state with the occasional phone call for bail money. When he returned home, he began a career of many his favorite being a welder at EB. Around that time the kids started to arrive, first Shannon, then Sheila, and then his mini me Little Joey. This journey took him out to Montana and Oklahoma where he resided for many years until the travel bug hit again this time he ended up in Florida. In his later years he decided he wanted to come back home and settle into the northeast to begin his final adventure. This is when he meets his wife Amy, and he settled into life the entire time rescuing and

rehabilitating many abandoned baby deer that he would encounter. He was lovingly referred to as the deer whisperer. John had a love for all things Harley related; he owned many bikes and loved nothing but riding as the wind blew through his hair. He was also an avid collector of many parts and always on the hunt for more. He could probably build a whole bike with all the parts hanging around. John was a man with a heart of gold and if he had the part you were looking for, or something you needed he would gladly give it up.

John is survived by his wife, Amy Vaillancourt; two daughters, Shannon LaRoche, Sheila LaRoche; two sisters, Peggy LaRoche, Jo LaRoche; stepdaughter, Heidi Vaillancourt; stepson, Noah Vaillancourt; 12 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. And his loyal companion Loki. Mother-in-law Barbara Vaillancourt.

John is predeceased by son, Joey LaRoche, brother, Brian LaRoche, and his father and mother-in-law, Arsene Vaillancourt.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with John's family from 4pm to 6pm on Friday, November 7, 2025, at the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

Nancy L. Brennan
November 6, 1932 - November 8, 2025



Dayville - Nancy L. (Turner) Brennan, 93, who was born and lived in Northeast CT her entire life, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at Westview Health Care & Rehabilitation Center in Dayville, CT.

A graduate of Killingly High School (Class of 1950), Mrs. Brennan worked for Plainfield Public Schools as an Administrative Assistant for 27 years, both at Plainfield High School and at the District Office. She is fondly remembered by teachers, staff and students for her great devotion to her job and pleasant demeanor.

She was a member of the Educational Secretaries Association, the Windham County Christian Women's Club, and had volunteered at Day Kimball Hospital and Killingly Central School. Nancy loved reading, traveling, and above all family. Her happiest moments were spending time with her family at the lake, decorating her home and garden, shopping, going to the beach, and the many, special gatherings and trips with all her daughters together.

Nancy is survived by six daughters: Lynn Beausoleil (Gene), Sandy Collins (Kyle), Colleen Lugauskas (George

Newman), Maura Barrette (Jeff), Sheila Graveline (Mark Hurd), and Sharon Gaudreau (Michael). She is also survived by 15 grandchildren, Derek Beausoleil (Jennifer), Maren McCarthy (Zdzislaw Marcisz), Heather Lechene-Duplisea (Dana Cook), Justin Lechene, Jesse Collins (Danielle), Don Kyle (KC) Collins III, Brennan Collins, Anna Milot (Eric), Chad Lugauskas, Kyle Barrette (Emily Waniewski), Bethany Barrette, Rochelle Silverman (Ryan), Brett Graveline (Reece Garcia), Michael Gaudreau (Emily), and Megan Gaudreau (Allie Daniel); 16 great grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Nancy was pre-deceased by her mother, Ethel Viens, her twin brother, David Turner and her son-in-law Vyto Lugauskas.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Nancy's family from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on, Saturday, December 6, 2025, at Dougherty Brothers Funeral Home, 595 Norwich Rd, Plainfield, CT. A Celebration of Life gathering at a separate venue will immediately follow calling hours. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Nancy's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society or Habitat for Humanity. For memorial guestbook visit www.DoughertyBrothers.com.

LEAKS
continued from page A1

Check Lee, the Assistant Director of DEEP Dam Safety Programs, said WISH followed its inspection schedule, which is when the seepage was detected and DEEP recommended close monitoring of the dam. In September they started getting calls that the water level was low, and WISH's representatives determined the seepage was occurring at the bottom of the dam at a higher-than-expected rate. In recent weeks, sediment movement has also been confirmed making it a much larger issue indicating internal erosion and possible structural issues resulting in DEEP's order to relieve pressure.

"We agree with the engineer that WISH has, and our engineers agree, that this is a situation where we want to make sure the pressure is off the dam, and we can minimize any internal erosion as best we can," said Lee. "There's one more complicating factor with this dam. We know that there's people using the top of the dam, or the crest

of the dam, for access to their homes or seasonal properties and that's an additional concern."

These complications have resulted in a scenario where failure of the dam wouldn't only create a risk to properties and life but also cut off access to property along the waterfront. This, combined with potential easements, wetlands impact, and a lack of guarantees the lake could be refilled, made an implication of breaching the dam as an option very unpopular. Breaching would involve removing the dam completely, so it no longer impounds water, effectively draining the pond and removing the risk of failure but also removing the entryway to lakeside properties and potentially impacting the aesthetics of the pond.

Lee made it clear that DEEP is not making any recommendations, and that WISH will make the ultimate decision on how to proceed.

"Just to be clear, the agency is not advocating for the dam to be taken down or the pond to be drained, but we are concerned about the dam safety issues," said Lee. "It

is a privately owned asset, and WISH is the owner. They're going to make the decision that's in their best interest. WISH has the right as the property owner to maintain that dam as they see fit as long as they do it within the regulations of the State of Connecticut."

Harold Kahn, Principal Account Officer with WISH, told residents he couldn't comment on the future state of the dam but clarified that the company's dams are "legacy assets" owned by predecessors to WISH which, as he put it, is currently a shell company that is now very small with minimal assets and thus little cash to invest in repairs. The town of Killingly has turned down several offers to purchase WISH's dams due to maintenance cost, but this new situation has some locals asking if town officials might reconsider or if DEEP could possibly purchase the structure. While representatives of DEEP admitted the agency has an interest in preserving the lake as they own around 162 acres of the surrounding area, they were unsure if the agency would be in a position to purchase the dam.

Regardless, a lot still has to be worked out, and WISH has yet to solidify what approach it plans to take. WISH was given 60 days from the date of notice to provide a response plan to DEEP.

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

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Charles Coombs (25-00385)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 3, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
David Coombs
c/o JAMIE DA VIS ALEMAN,
LAW OFFICE OF JAMIE DA VIS ALEMAN, LLC, 33 BROAD STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
November 14, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Brian Gratton, AKA Brian S Gratton, AKA Brian Scott Gratton (25-00402)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 5, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Debra L Reynolds,
55 Kozey Road,
Eastford, CT 06242
November 14, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Constance M Murawski (25-00427)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 4 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Paula Bernier, 46 Second Island Road, Webster, MA 01570
November 14, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE
WOODSTOCK PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
The Woodstock PZC will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 7:45 p.m. at Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169, Woodstock, for the following:
1. Application #667-09-25, Special Permit for Change of Use, Event Facilities at 6&8 Stone Bridge Road. Applicant: Benjamin Carbone.

The public may speak and submit written communications until the close of the public hearing. Details of the application are available from the Town Planner, landuse@woodstockct.gov or available in the Land Use Office.

David Morse
Chairman
November 7, 2025
November 14, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Samuel J Leo (25-00421)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 4 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Hannah P Leo
c/o MATTHEW-ALAN HERMAN, LAW OFFICE OF ALAN SCOTT HERMAN, 16 SOUTH MAIN ST. P.O. B, P.O. BOX 663, PUTNAM, CT 06260
November 14, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Marsha Hilsenrad (25-00386)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge

of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 4, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
David Coombs
c/o JAMIE DA VIS ALEMAN,
LAW OFFICE OF JAMIE DA VIS ALEMAN, LLC, 33 BROAD STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
November 14, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Constance M Murawski (25-00427)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 4 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Paula Bernier, 46 Second Island Road, Webster, MA 01570
November 14, 2025



Local author of "Gail the Snail" childrens books and friend Jackie Bushey enjoyed the day selling her books.



Vendor of stuffed animals Adelia White Left and shopper Jeannine Steniger right talk about her craft.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA HOLD ANNUAL YULETIDE FESTIVAL



Courtesy
Daughters of Isabella Donna Ned, left, and Jen Lombardo right arrived early to set up for the annual Daughters of Isabella annual Yuletide Festival.



Young artist, Marijane Thibeault was enjoying the day selling her crafts.

The Northeast Connectivut Community Orchestra

is

Going for **BAROQUE**

Bach

Handel

Vivaldi

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Sunday, November 23, at 2 pm
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