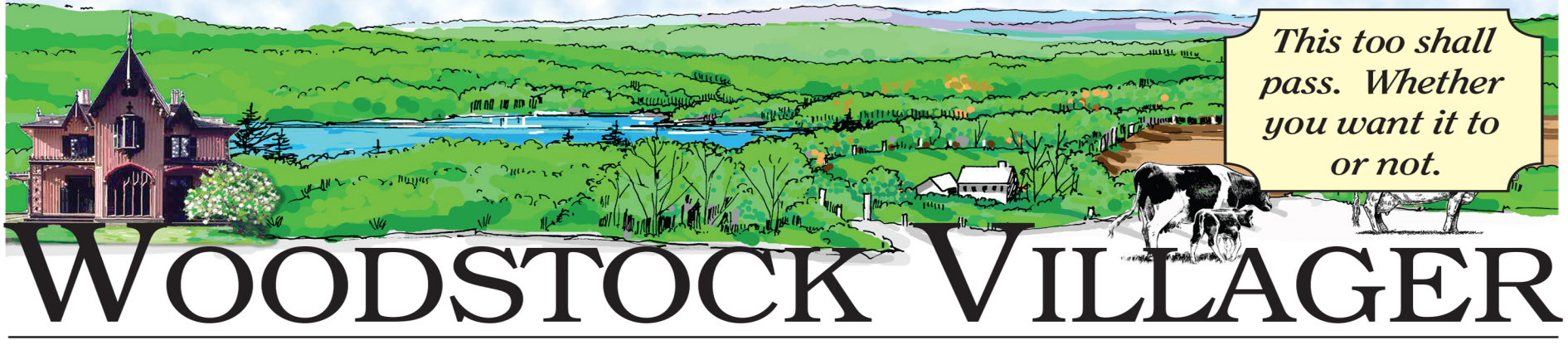


WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

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NECC announces 2025 Children's Champion Award recipients



REGION — The Northeast Early Childhood Council (NECC) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 Children's Champion Awards. These awards honor individuals, organizations, and businesses that have shown exceptional leadership and commitment to young children in one or more of NECC's seven communities: Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, Sterling, and Thompson.

This year's four honorees have made significant contributions to NECC's mission: To ensure all children, birth through age eight, are healthy, safe, and successful learners.

2025 Children's Champion Award Recipients:

• Charlene Brodeur, Plainfield Public Schools Charlene serves as a preschool instructional coach and is a dedicated advocate for the well-being of young children. Her leadership within the Plainfield preschool program and her close collaboration with the Family Resource Center have enriched early childhood programming in meaningful ways. Known for her strong connections with families, Charlene provides compassionate guidance and support throughout their preschool journey.

• Patricia Buell, Brooklyn Cares Community Center Patti's passion for helping others is exemplified through her vision and leadership in creating the Brooklyn Cares Community Center—a vital hub where families can access free food, clothing, and essential resources. Her tireless work has helped build a sense of community, belonging, and safety for Brooklyn residents.

Turn To ***AWARDS*** *page* ***A10***

Killingly presents school bullying and disciplinary data

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — While Killingly schools still face their share of issues with student behavior and bullying, data collected over the last year shows that Killingly is headed in the right direction, even if some numbers and bullying statistics are on the rise.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash-Ditzel presented two separate reports to the Board of Education at the end of March which examined disciplinary referrals and bullying incidents respectively. With disciplinary data showed mostly decreases, bullying reporting increased but all of this is good news to Nash-Ditzel who said the data shows students are behaving better and also more willing to report bullying so that the district can take steps to respond.

The most discussed of the two documents was the bullying report, which is no surprise given the focus the district has put on the issue over the last year including creating an ad-hoc committee to examine the problem. The report compared bullying incidents from last school year to the current year with increases in every school, but Nash-Ditzel said this is actually what they hoped for as they sought to encourage students to be more vocal about what they're experiencing.

"At first glance, you might say it looks like bullying reports and even verified cases of bullying have gone up and that is true, but that was the point, if you recall, from our deep dive into bullying. That's what we wanted because we knew there was bullying happening, we heard about it, but there was some kind of roadblock between administration and students and families, and we had to break apart what that roadblock was," said the Superintendent.

The district has implemented new stanchion signs and a QR code to help make reporting bullying more accessible even for students who want a more private method of communicating their experience. While the district obviously wants to eliminate bullying altogether, knowing that it's happening is the first step to addressing the problem.

Part of their response plan included with that report is to create a behavioral expectations matrix, especially for Killingly Intermediate School and Killingly High School, which clarify any consequences of infractions for families, students and teachers. Possibly the biggest tool that the staff is utilizing is their own presence and letting students know they are there, and they are paying attention.

"It's so impactful. When you are visible, a lot of these discipline issues just don't happen because the kids see you there," said Nash-Ditzel. "They're just not going to do things when they know you could be right around the corner, and you are, and you make yourself visible, not in a scary way but in a friendly way. I'm here to support you. I'm here because I care about you, and I want you to feel safe. That's what visibility is all about. We see all of our administrators in the lunchroom every day, at recess at KIS every day, at passing time every day. That has been increased significantly this year and has made, I think, the biggest difference."

The district has also added new doors for bathrooms that prevent access for students without spe-

Turn To ***KILLINGLY*** *page* ***A10***

Brooklyn weighs changes to Town Clerk position

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — The town of Brooklyn hosted a special town meeting on April 1 to address several items of town business, including the future of how the town picks its town clerk.

Like many communities in recent years, Brooklyn is exploring the possibility of changing the town clerk from an elected position to an appointed post. Town officials presented a new ordinance for consideration on April 1 which was put on hold following input from the public.

In introducing the ordinance, First Selectman Austin Tanner argued that the change would allow Brooklyn a larger selection of candidates to fill the vacancy if and when the current clerk retires or vacates her post.

"I think the main advantage of doing this was the town clerk is limited to people who live in town if it's elected so it limits our pool of qualified people if we don't have some-

Turn To ***BROOKLYN*** *page* ***A8***



Courtesy

GRANT GIVES COMMUNITY GARDEN A LIFT

April 1 was an exciting day for TEEG. June Ferarro and Sofia Thurber, Putnam Rotary Interact Club co-presidents, presented Carl Asikainen, TEEG executive director; and Chelsea French, Resource Developer, with two checks. The first, $1,000 grant from the Rotary district 7890 is for upgrades to TEEG's irrigation and pest control screening for their community garden. The second check was $100 from the Interact Club for a new garden cart. The Interact Club, along with many other volunteers, said they're excited to be working in the garden again this year. If you are interested in volunteering at TEEG's community garden, please contact Elizabeth Perry, TEEG volunteer coordinator. lizp@teegonline.org. From left: June Ferraro and Sofia Thurber (co-presidents of Interact; Carl Asikainen, executive director of TEEG; and Chelsea French, TEEG Resource Developer.

Putnam among schools losing remaining ESSER funds

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — Putnam was named as one of 22 school districts across Connecticut affected by the recent funding freeze passed down by the federal Department of Education on April 1 putting the fate of remaining COVID-19 relief funding in jeopardy.

According to data from the Connecticut Department of Education, Putnam stands to lose $144,757 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds following an announcement by U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon that reversed a previous extension promise and effectively froze any remaining funds from the grants. While several districts lost much more funding than Putnam, the loss still puts the town in the top seven on the list.

The announcement received swift backlash from lawmakers across the state as elected leaders rushed to condemn the Trump Administration's move and the impact it has on their respective school districts. Locally, State Sen. Mae Flexer expressed her frustration that the funds were being taken from both Putnam and Mansfield.

"At a time when our students are still recovering from the educational destruction that occurred during the years of the COVID pandemic, it is simply unacceptable that these necessary resources for our kids are being cut by the Trump administration," Flexer said in a statement. "We have to stand together and fight the disastrous decisions of Donald Trump and Linda McMahon that are damaging our schools and our students."

The funds in question were part of the American Rescue Plan Act designed to help schools recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on education. According to Flexer, the money was earmarked for a variety of initiatives including "high-dosage tutoring, scientifically based reading instruction, mathematics professional learning, digital curriculum and online courses, talent development initiatives including a Teacher-Leader-in-Residence to implement the Connecticut Troops to Teachers (CTTT) Program, student support initiatives including efforts to reduce the number of youth interacting with the juvenile justice system, no-cost access to vision care for students from low-income families, and school-based mentoring programs to reduce chronic absenteeism." It has not been made clear what specific programs or investments within the Putnam School District, if any, may be impacted by the loss of the funds.

The announcement

Turn To ***FUNDS*** *page* ***A8***

Day Kimball Health names Jo Anne Dion Employee of the Month for February

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Hospital (DKH) has named Jo Anne Dion, certified surgical technologist at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, Employee of the Month for February.

Dion joined DKH in 2021 and has been a certified surgical tech since 2007. In her role, she helps maintain a sterile environment and assists surgeons during procedures. With 17 years of experience, she is passionate about learning new and innovative surgical techniques and staying up to date with advancements in her field.

What Dion enjoys most about her job is being part of the operating room (OR) team, which she considers her second family. She values the teamwork that makes the OR not only safe and efficient but also a great place to work.

"This is the best team I've ever worked with throughout my career," she said. "I love what I do, but the people I work with make it even better."

Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health, praised Dion's contributions.

"Since joining DKH, Jo Anne has made a tremendous impact on her team and our surgical program. She works hard, puts the patient first, and is a strong advocate for patient care ensuring that each procedure is performed with high standards of safety and precision. We are proud to recognize her dedication and the positive influence she has on both her colleagues and patients," Kramer said.



Courtesy

Jo Anne Dion, certified surgical technologist at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, has been named February employee of the month.

Born in West Boylston, Mass., Dion now resides in Putnam. Outside work, she enjoys music and spending time with her husband, grandchildren, and pets.

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health's comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons, and specialists. Its website is daykimball.org.

Woodstock • Public • Schools

2025 – 2026 Kindergarten Registration

Woodstock Elementary School invites all families with Kindergarten eligible students to register for the 2025-2026 school year. All students turning five years old before September 1, 2025 are eligible for entry into our full-day Kindergarten program.

Registration packets can be obtained by calling the main office at 860-928-0471 or by email at officewes@woodstockschools.net

"An Abstract Fantasy" exhibit featured at Putnam Gallery

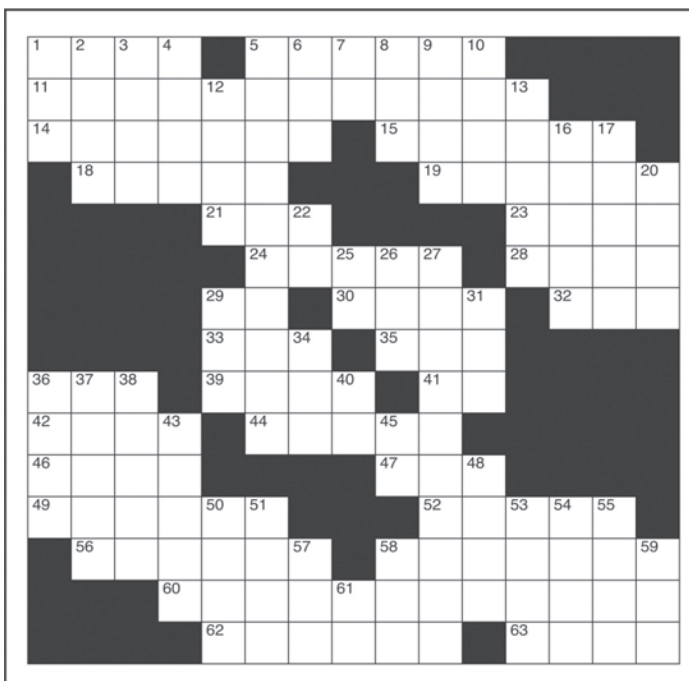
PUTNAM — An exciting art exhibit featuring the works of Tabitha Cummings is currently on display at The Corridor Gallery in the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Putnam. The show, entitled "An Abstract Fantasy: An Artist's Journey of Self Discovery," will be running until June 30.

Cummings' illustrations and mixed media pieces will lead you through her transition over time from an abstract painter to an illustrative fantasy artist, and she is excited for this show to be her introduction to the art community. She is a self-proclaimed "paper person" who loves creating her work by hand and sharing her process with her friends and followers on social media. She finds joy in creating evocative, fluid character portrait illustrations using a multitude of media types.

As a child, Cummings' favorite books were those filled with magic, dragons, and grand adventure. She feels many fantasy novels are not filled with the beautiful illustrations she remembers seeing in her childhood favorites. Because of this, she decided to create a world in which adult novels featuring illustrations became more normalized, so she set out to explore the Wild, the Weird, and the Wonderful contents of Faerie Tales, mythologies, and legend with ink, marker, and paint. Through her illustrative work, she seeks to bring the magic and vibrancy of fantasy creatures, celestial beings, and epic worlds to life.

An Opening Reception, sponsored by the Putnam Arts Council, will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 1-3 p.m., with refreshments and a chance to speak with the artist. The reception is free and open to the public.

For hours and more information, please visit PutnamCtArtsCouncil.com.



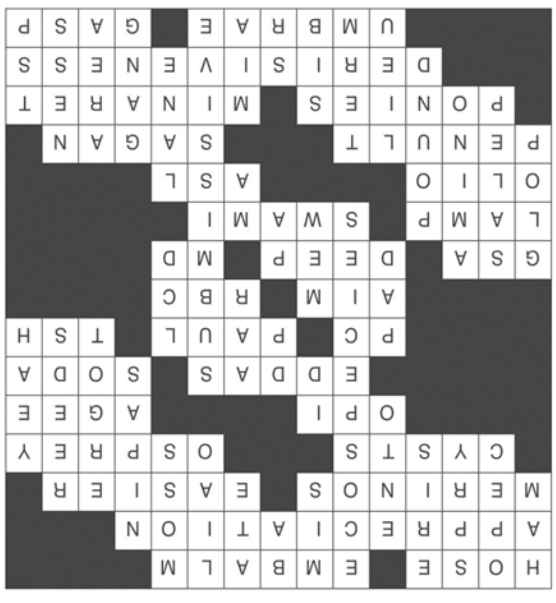
CLUES ACROSS

1. Garden tool
5. A way to preserve
11. Gratitude
14. Domestic sheep
15. Simpler
18. Cavities containing liquid
19. Large fish-eating bird
21. Ocular protection index
23. Phil __, former CIA
24. Icelandic poems
28. Pop
29. Device
30. Actor Rudd
32. A pituitary hormone
33. Focus on an object
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
36. Young women's association
39. Not shallow
41. Doctor
42. Furniture
44. Hindu male religious teacher
46. Highly spiced stew
47. A way to communicate
49. Almost last
52. Astronomer Carl
56. Small horses
58. A slender tower with balconies
60. A disrespectful quality
62. Fully shaded inner regions
63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Sunday dinner option
2. Oil cartel
3. Agile
4. Greek goddess of discord
5. Genetically distinct variety
6. Indicates badly
7. Popular Mr. T character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL great Randy
12. Within
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. A passport is one
25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
26. Swiss river
27. Deferential
29. Where a bachelor lives
31. Portable computer screen material
34. A crying noise of a bird
36. Sticky, amorphous substance
37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
38. Type of acid
40. Partner to "Ma"
43. 16 ounces
45. The Bay State
48. A well-defined track or path
50. Substitution
51. Defined period
53. Group of toughs
54. Region
55. Famed Scottish Loch
57. Blood relation
58. Not around
59. Recipe measurement
61. Father to Junior

PUZZLE SOLUTION



VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for Week of April 1: Pine Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Common Grackle, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Mallard, Canada Geese, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Turkey Vulture, Great Horned Owl, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow.

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@villagernewspapers.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
860-928-1818 X 323
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

WOODSTOCK — An open Al-Anon meeting meets at the East Woodstock Congregational Church every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group is open to anyone affected by alcoholism, family or friend. Any enquiries can be directed to 860-634-3271.

Pet Pals to hold low-cost rabies clinic

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospital , Route 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line, on April 26 from 2 to 3 p.m. Cost is $15 cash per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please.

For information, registration and appointment contact Pet Pals at 860-317-1720.

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

Interactors help at special swim meet



Courtesy

From left: Gabriell Cerasiello, Paige Perry, Sofia Thurber, Pavanny Phav, Isabella McGlynn and June Ferraro.

PUTNAM — March 29 was the first time the Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club volunteered at the Special Olympics swim meet, but it won't be the last. Sofia Thurber, co-president of the Interact Club, said, "They were paired up with an athlete from different teams. Their job was to hang out with the athletes and make sure they got into the pool on time for their event. When the athletes weren't swimming the Interact volunteers did arts and crafts and other activities in the gym with them." There were approximately 100 volunteers from all over Windham County and more than 100 athletes. It was a good experience for the Interact Club and Thurber said she hopes the Interact Club will continue to volunteer at this event next year. The club thanked Paige Perry and Gabriell Cerasiello from Putnam High School and Sofia Thurber, June Ferraro, Isabelle McGlynn and Pavanny Phav from Tourtellotte Memorial High.

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What's old is new again in Thompson Public Schools

THOMPSON — Many of us can remember participating in Spelling and Geography Bees and conducting experiments to be presented at science fairs when we were in school. Over the years, academic competitions like these seem to have fallen by the wayside. Thompson educators have resurrected a few traditional competitions by integrating them into the curriculum as a way to motivate students and engage the community.

Several years ago, Thompson Public Schools became an active participant in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Students in grades four through eight compete in a written spelling test, with the students scoring the highest participating in a grade-level Bee. Twenty contestants then advance to the district-wide spelling event. The final students earn a medal for participation, and the winner and runner-up receive a trophy to honor their accomplishment. Each year, the district's first-place winner competes in the state-wide contest.

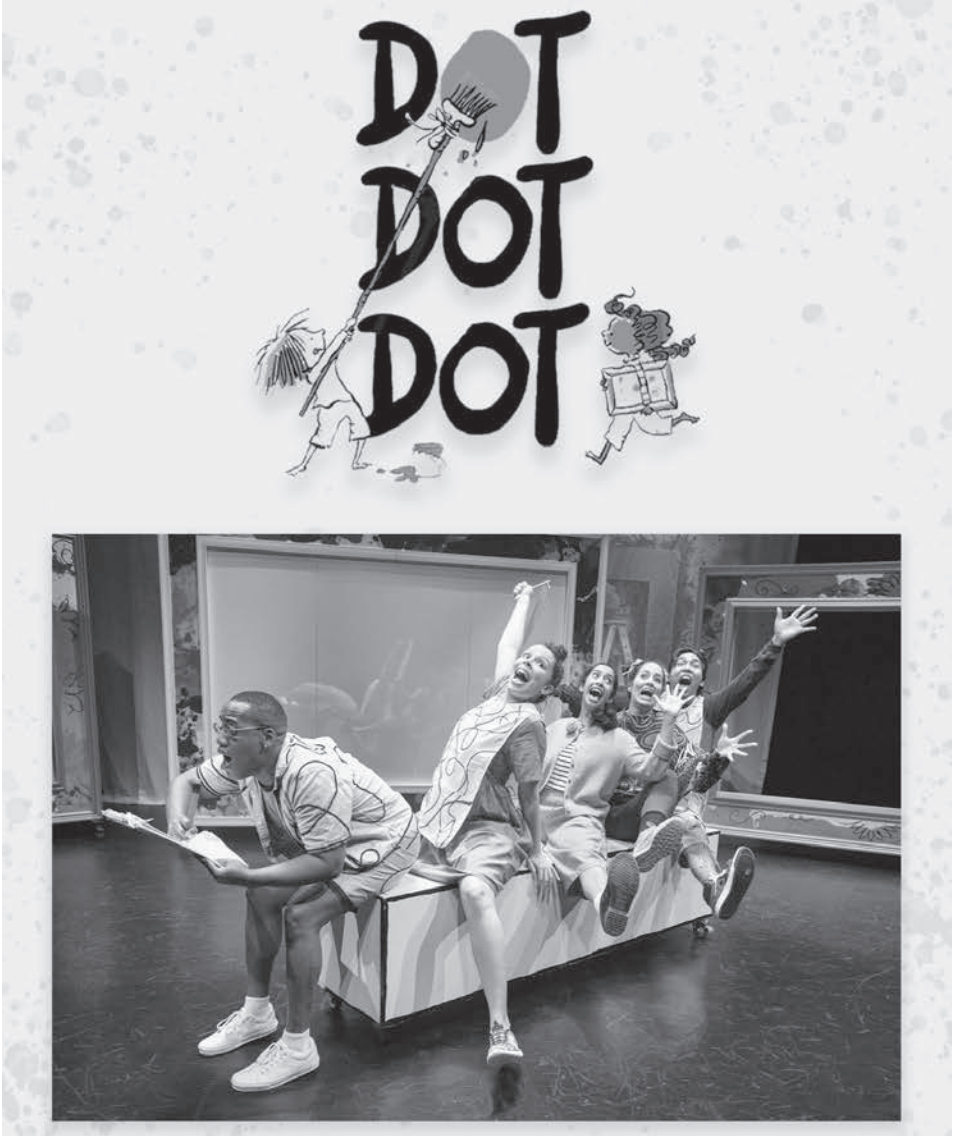
This year, Thompson Public Schools added two more time-honored academic programs that challenge student learning in a fun way. Students in seventh grade are participating in the National Geography Bee. Sixty students participated in the Online Regional Qualifying Exam, and forty students made it to the Regional Qualifying Round. The district has selected the top ten qualifiers to move on to the next level of competition. This round is an online tournament with students using a virtual buzzer to answer fast-paced geography questions. The next phase of the challenge is the National Competition, which will take place over the Memorial Day weekend in Orlando, Fla. The top scores from each grade level will then move on to the 2026 International Geography Bee Championship. While Thompson students are only in the program's second stage, we are all hopeful one of our students will make it to the national contest.

The district is also excited to organize Thompson Public School's first Science Fair Challenge. One hundred students are working on experiments to present to a team of judges. Students must use the scientific method as part of their learning process, which is documented in a written report and presented on a display board with supporting artifacts. All of the projects will be on display for parents and community members to view. An award ceremony will be held to highlight outstanding projects.

Academic competitions bolster student research and study skills and improve teamwork, collaboration, self-esteem, and resilience. Bringing back programs of days gone by places a special spotlight on academic accomplishments to be on par with athletics, music, and theater events.

In a town steeped in history and tradition, bringing back what once was old but is now new again will enhance learning in Thompson Public Schools.

Performing Arts
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Access Housing Education & Counseling Center presents Homeowner Responsibilities Workshop!

DANIELSON — Are you a new homeowner or just looking to brush up on your home maintenance know-how? Join us for a hands-on and informative Homeowner Responsibilities Workshop hosted by the Access Housing Education & Counseling Center

on Thursday, April 17th, from 5–6 PM, at 140 Main St., Suite 5, Danielson (right above the Chubby Dog Café!).

Learn how to take care of your biggest investment—your home! This fun and engaging workshop will be led by the powerhouse duo Jessica Gervais and Alex Roberts from Girls N Tools, who will walk you through the basics of home maintenance, simple repairs, and why staying on top of your home's needs is so important.

Whether you're a first-time homeowner or just want to feel more confident with a wrench in your hand, this workshop is for you!

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.

This workshop was made possible in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT and the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce.

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.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Identity politics is exhausting, and misses the point

Somewhere along the way, we were convinced that being politically aware means picking a side and sticking to it no matter what. Red team, blue team. Us vs. them. You're either all in or you're out. Here's the thing no one wants to admit unless you're an elected official, no one actually cares what "side" you're on.

Your neighbor doesn't care if you vote left or right — they care if you help them dig out after a snowstorm. Your community doesn't benefit from your party loyalty, it benefits when you show up, vote on the issues that matter, and take action that improves real lives.

This performative, party-first mindset we've fallen into is exhausting. Frankly, it's childish. Political parties were never supposed to be tribal identities, they were supposed to be tools. Temporary alliances to move policies forward. Instead, we've turned them into something resembling sports teams, where people root for their side no matter how bad the playbook gets.

What if we stripped away the party labels altogether? What if we voted on the issues themselves instead of accepting whatever bundle of policies a party wraps in its packaging? Most people don't fit neatly into one ideological box and pretending we do has only divided us more.

We should be holding elected officials accountable, not treating them like mascots. We should be debating ideas, not defending party lines like we're in some playground argument. And we should stop letting political branding override personal thinking.

Want to be a true patriot? Read up, show up and stop picking sides as though we're all choosing a dodgeball team. Vote like it's about the issues. Because it is. And like your own future, and that of the generations that will follow you, depends on it. Because it does.

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

Roadside cleanup this April! Whatever are they thinking?

To the Editor:

Living near the state line has its disadvantages. For some reason, some people think if they throw their garbage out in another state, it magically goes away. Not true. It just becomes someone else's problem.

Every year, for decades now, I go out and pick up roadside trash during Thompson's April Roadside Cleanup. For years I have marveled at the clandestine drinking habits of some "neighbors" who consistently throw Nip bottles out the window at the same corner every day. So that wife or mom doesn't know he takes a nip—or two, or three—coming home from work? Does this person even think that for each non-biodegradable plastic bottle he chucks into a wetland, some old lady like me has to bend over and pick it up?

I am not even going to discuss the fast food packaging here. The recyclable bottles and cans.

Next, I want to ponder the citizen who leaves his mattress and box spring on the side of the road for me to look at every day. I can't lift it. Thanks, pal!

Even stranger, but true, about a week after this considerate gift, the mattress itself vanished. Just the mattress. Well good, I guess. Less for the highway department to pick up, when they have time, maybe when the poison ivy surrounding the mattress dies back. So, what happens? A few days later, unbelievably, the same, or maybe a different idiot returns and redeposits the mattress (or a more stained and dirty substitute). Too soft, buddy?

Whatever are they thinking?

KAREN DURLACH
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

What's the plan?

To the Editor:

Democrats, you've hated Donald Trump for the past eight years, for all the good it has done you.

You also hate Elon Musk.

You claim climate change is a threat to the planet, yet there isn't any outrage over the burning of Teslas. Is climate change real or not?

People won't vote Democrat if you're phony, or if your only policy is "We hate Trump and Musk." They will vote Democrat if you have a better plan that will benefit all Americans.

What is that plan?

MICHAEL F. LABONTE
PUTNAM

"Reciprocal tariffs" means we cave to foreigners

To the Editor:

Reciprocal is the new magic word in the Trump White House to spin away Trump's stealth tax on the poor known as tariffs. Apparently, I'm supposed to believe that we're just leveling the playing field from countries that have been ripping us off for years.

Wrong again, Trump. The real story is that other countries do it, so going all monkey see monkey do means our trade policy is being dictated by foreign governments.

Not long ago, the Republicans were the party of American exceptionalism, getting the government out of people's way, and making fun of China and the EU for regulating more stuff than we do. Now we refuse to believe we're better than everyone else with our prior stances on free trade? Let the results speak for themselves. Our GDP remains the highest in the world. That's a sticking point for European support of Ukraine. No EU member state can even touch us moneywise. They have to all band together and even then they still come up short. Same with China. China has too high of a population to have the money that we do with the socialist programs they support. They have to get way ahead of us on GDP for their numbers to mean what ours do now. Speaking of which, we grew with the best recovery coming out of the pandemic to leading the world with a $30 trillion GDP now.

We're the best. We don't need to sink to other countries' levels and make stuff more expensive for our own people.

"But what about onshoring manufacturing jobs if companies want to avoid tariffs?" the naysayers say. First, with all the automation tech out there, some of which will very soon gain the benefits of AI, a resurgence in American manufacturing probably means robots. Over in China, the PRC is seeing a rise in "dark factories" that are so automated that they don't even light the place unless humans have to wander off onto the factory floor to fix something. If China can get this stuff up and running, so can we. Plus, building factories takes time and capital, and why should multinationals spend money when we're only one large market these days?

That's the other problem with Trump protectionism. America leads the world in GDP, but that doesn't mean other developed countries are total paupers either. Bonus points if they form a negotiating bloc like the EU. We tariffed away BYD's electric passenger cars, but the EU has been having a ball with them in addition to BYD's massive native market in China. The Nintendo Switch 2 is coming out this June, but pre-orders and pricing have been delayed for the US market only due to Trump tariffs. It's not like the whole world stopped because we elected a crazy old man who can't pull his senile head out of the Gilded Age and then were gullible enough to make excuses for him.

Globalization is not a religion, it is a decades-long reality. Believing in buying and selling with regulations only to counter predatory moves, unsafe products, or antitrust issues does not make you a blood-sucking cannibal cultist like the conspiracy theories say, it means you actually live on planet Earth. Capitalism replaced Mercantilism for a reason, and I see little reason for the United States to not lead the world in fidelity to capitalism, like we do with so many other things.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Ben Franklin was a genius

To the Editor:

I don't put much stock in all these poll numbers, but I did recently see one that said 34 percent think Trump is doing right by the economy. This was before the tariffs went into effect. So let's just say that after the prediction of their terrible effect on the economy was presented, half of that 34 percent said no to this question. That would mean that 17 percent got smart, and the remaining 17 percent are still stupid. Hey, don't blame me, Trump thinks the same thing.

Let's try something different, something unique. Instead of all the what about-isms Trump supporters are more than happy to spit out (puppet AG Pam Bondi, Trump's Bond Girl, is still "What about Hillary's e-mails?" 10 years later), how about commenting on what is happening now.

Pea-brain Trump has caused the Stock Market to plunge (at this writing) 3,600 points, $6 trillion in value wiped out, retirement savings evaporated. There's talk of recession, or worse, from top economists. Certainly not from ex-con Peter Navarro who put this tariff bug in Trump's ear 10 years ago.

Yes, Trump even put a tariff on an island off the coast of Antarctica. He must think the penguins export tuxedos. How about a tariff on an island with only a US Airforce base?

His comment, while golfing in Florida, again, is something like "I don't care."

And Joe Biden, leaving Trump a robust economy, was trying to destroy our country? That's as close to a what about-ism as I will get.

You, in voting Trump back into office, have unleashed on us a cadre of cruel, callous, and heartless individuals who are only concerned with more power and enriching themselves.

Republican Congressmen and women, the jellyfish that they are, have abandoned their country for fear of being just a nobody back home. They will be remembered for all the wrong reasons.

To think, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of our once great nation under a cretin who defies the rule of law, human dignity, and hard-won freedom, all in a matter of months. That proves beyond a doubt how fragile our democracy is.

Benjamin Franklin was once asked if we have a republic or a monarchy. His reply was, "A republic, if you can keep it." We are losing ours thanks to idiot voters and the wealthy 1 percent.

If you could have torn yourselves away from SpongeBob Square Pants last Sunday, you may have seen video of some 1,200 anti-Trump demonstrations nationwide calling for the end of the billionaire takeover and rampant corruption of the Trump administration, and an end to the slashing of federal funds for Social Security, Medicaid, and other programs working people rely on. You can bet they were not all radical left-wing lunatics.

The reality you have caused may finally be dawning on some of you across the country.

Here's a great comment I recently read about Trump's tariff stupidity: "The problem with so many Trumpers is that they do not even care about their own wealth or prosperity because, relatively speaking, they don't have very much and never did. They just need someone or something to blame their problems on. Trump really panders to the lowest common denominator. You could tell them a tariff makes things cheaper and they eat it up."

Lowest common denominator. And with that, I think I'll stop calling Trumpers that catchy little handle. From now on it will be LCD's. You'll still know who you are. The contempt I have for you is very real.

If you continue to cling to your devotion to your god-king, your new moniker fits you well. If you open your eyes and see what Trump is doing to you, speak up. It will definitely be refreshing.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

The secret of Socrates

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

Picture this: a man in a suit, contracts in hand, marching down a hallway like he's heading into battle.

He swings open the office door, eyes locked on his business partner. He's angry. He's certain. He's ready to set the record straight.

"This is outrageous," he says, slamming the folder on the desk. "You agreed to these terms. You're backing out now?"

The partner, calm but resolute, folds his hands. "No, I didn't agree to that."

"Yes, you did," the man in the suit snapped.

"No, I didn't," his partner replied, calm as ever.

The conversation spirals. The angrier the businessman gets, the firmer his partner digs in. No progress. No compromise. A Stalemate; nowhere to go. And that was it—just one word, over and over: No.

When the man walks out, nothing changes except his blood pressure.

Now pause here. Let's talk about what just happened.

The problem wasn't the disagreement. The problem was the approach. He came in swinging—accusation first, challenge second. He backed the other person into a corner. And people don't make deals when they feel cornered. They defend themselves. They harden.

The second someone says "no," it's like concrete drying. Fast. Solid. Tough to crack.

Dale Carnegie called this The Secret of Socrates in "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

He wrote: "In talking with people, don't begin by discussing the things on which you differ. Begin by emphasizing—and keep on emphasizing—the things on which you agree… Get the other person saying 'yes, yes' at the outset. Keep your opponent, if possible, from saying 'no.'"

Socrates mastered this. He didn't argue. He asked questions. Obvious ones. Undeniable ones. Questions that showed both sides were aligned. Only differing in the method. One yes, then another. And slowly, the tension faded. The resistance dropped. The conversation shifted. They weren't on opposite sides anymore. They were on the same page.

Let's come back to our world.

Instead of walking into a room with fire and a point to prove, try starting with this: "You want what's best for the team, right?" "You care about this project like I do, right?" "You want this to work."

Get agreement on the big picture before diving into the details. Because once someone's in "yes mode," they're far more likely to stay there.

The truth is, "no" is more than a word—it's a wall. And once it's up good luck getting through. But "yes" is a bridge. It connects people. It opens doors.

Now, picture a good salesman talking to a potential customer—not the pushy kind, but the thoughtful, sharp kind.

He doesn't start with, "So, are you ready to buy?" He starts with questions so obvious they're effortless to answer: "You're looking for something reliable, right?" "Yes." "You want to make sure you're getting the best value for your money?" "Yes." "And I'm guessing you don't want to waste time shopping around forever." "Exactly."

Three yeses, right out of the gate!

What just happened? The customer started nodding—not just physically, but mentally. They felt understood. They felt like the salesperson was on their side. And now, the next sentence—"Let me show you what I think is a great fit"—doesn't feel like a pitch. It feels like teamwork.

The beauty of this isn't that it tricks people. It's that

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page A5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Still think the economy is in good hands?

To the Editor:

The Dow dropped 1,679 points on April 3, and 2,231 points the next day.

At about 6 p.m. on April 4, I went to the Fox News Web site to see how they were playing the story. After scrolling to the bottom of the home page, there, tucked in a corner, was a story headlined "This Industry Is Thankful for Trump's Tariffs" about shrimping in Louisiana. I finally had to click on the "Business" header at the top of the home page to get the news about the stock market.

I have been puzzled why, with all of the chaos and craziness going on in Washington, more Republicans were not pushing back on the incredibly destructive policies rolled out over the past two and a half months.

The answer is simple: they're not seeing them. And they're not seeing a whole ton of stuff.

One example: Laura Loomer.

Let me tell you about Laura Loomer.

Self-described as a "pro-white nationalist" and "proud Islamophobe," Loomer has become infamous for being banned (for nutty behavior) from a bunch of payment processors, ride share apps, food delivery apps, a bunch of social media sites, and is notorious for insisting that the Parkland, FL school shootings were staged, that the 2017 Las Vegas shooting was carried out by ISIS, that the winter storm that occurred before the 2024 Iowa Republican presidential caucuses were created by the American deep state using High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) to boost Nikki Haley's presidential campaign, and in July of 2024 that "Joe Biden is dying and final preparations are being made for him." And, she has repeatedly pushed the fiction that 9/11 was "an inside job." The list is practically endless. Look her up; it makes for interesting reading.

Last week, Donald Trump met with Laura Loomer in the Oval Office (she has his personal phone number). She presented him with a list of national security officials whom she deemed "disloyal" to him, including National Security Council staffers Brian Walsh, David Feith, and Maggie Dougherty, as well as the director of the National Security Agency, Gen. Timothy Haugh and his deputy, Wendy Noble. They were promptly fired, with Loomer writing in a social media post, "Thank you President Trump for being receptive to the vetting materials provided to you. And thank you for firing these Biden holdovers."

Haugh was, in addition, the head of the U.S. Cyber Command. Said Senator Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican and former majority leader, "If decades of experience in uniform isn't enough to lead the N.S.A. but amateur isolationists can hold senior policy jobs at the Pentagon, then what exactly are the criteria for working on this administration's national security staff? I can't figure it out."

Said Sen. Angus King, a Maine Independent on the Intelligence and Armed Services committees: "Our country is under attack right now in cyberspace, and the president has just removed our top general from the field for no reason at the recommendation of someone who knows nothing about national security or even the job this general does."

You can't make this stuff up.

Still think our country's economic and military security is in good hands with Donald Trump?

John A. Day, Jr.
Woodstock Valley

I am not the only one guilty of faulty math

To the Editor:

If I may, I'd like to address Mr. Piette's critique of my prior letter. He is correct in calling me out for my mathematical miscue; arithmetic is my personal kryptonite. Kudos to him. I would, however, point out that DOGE has also been inexact with where they place their decimal points.

Regardless, my point was that if the cost savings were $1 billion, $10 billion, or in this case, $100 billion — the number still pales in comparison to the overall budget, and laying off people will not improve the system. We both agree that fraud and abuse must be reined in, but we would need more personnel not less to go after all the tax frauds and Medicare and Medicaid scammers. In addition, government workers are not in charge of where funds go, the Congress is tasked with passing the bills legislating this. The President and Congressional Republicans should allow for line-item vetoes to prevent the pork belly politics that Washington has become used to. Perhaps the new conservative Supreme Court will allow it. In other words, it is politicians, not federal workers who are responsible for most of the rubbish. It also makes no sense to carelessly just fire the most recently hired employees rather than taking time to assess who is needed. Indeed, RFK just today realized that 20 percent of DOGE's health agency job cuts were "mistakes." Oopsy. One must wonder if other agencies made the same mistake.

As far as Musk and Twitter go, the company was valued at $44 billion when it was purchased in 2022. The company then declined in value to $9.4 billion as of December 2024. By the end of March, it was back to $44 billion however that is after secondary investors put money into what is now a private and not a publicly traded company. Then days later he "sold" it to xAI, Elon's AI venture, for $45 billion leaving many questioning the legality of all this. It is not an indication of a profitable firm, merely investment speculation. In addition, Tesla stock is down over 50 percent this year, as the entire world is boycotting it in response to Elon's antics.

Mr. Piette seems to downplay Mr. Trump's many bankruptcies and mischaracterizes the Trump Organization's "500 companies." The fact is that many of these "companies" are actually shell entities without any active business created as tax shelters. Here are some of the President's other failed business ventures-Trump Airlines, Trump Beverages, Trump Game, Trump Magazine, Trump Mortgage, Trump Steaks, Trump's Travel Site, Trumpnet, Trump Tower Tampa, Trump University (a scam), Trump Vodka, Trump Fragrances, and Trump Mattress. Time will tell whether Trump Sneakers, Trump Digital Trading Cards, Trump Bibles, or Trump Cryptocurrency are successful.

I'd like to finish by pointing out that we are now at war. It's an economic trade war started by a President who, for some reason, feels that low tariffs caused the Great Depression, when in reality, tariffs contributed to it. It also appears that he pulled his duty calculations out of thin air. Of note, Russia was not attacked, while all our allies were. The stock market absolutely cratered in reaction to Trump's policy. Jerome Powell, a real economist, warned of a possible recession due to the tariffs, along with nearly all his colleagues. China retaliated. The calculated income from tariffs is $700 billion over the next year. Investors lost $6 trillion in two days! This includes millions of Americans' retirement funds.

And where was Mr. Trump during this calamity? Playing golf down in Florida. Good gosh, the Army does not take weekends off! I'd suggest that the President suffers from Trump Derangement Syndrome, in that he certainly appears deranged. Nor would I be confident that a man who was "tricked" into having his son undergo transgender surgery could be capable of curing it.

Stayed tuned to next week's episode of "The Apprentice goes to Washington." Who will carry out the next unforced blunder?

Lee Wesler
Woodstock

Additional, Letters to the Editor, See page A-8

POSITIVELY

continued from page A4

it meets them where they are. We don't move forward when we feel forced. We move forward when we feel seen.

And this isn't just for sales or business.

A parent asks a teenager, "You want your room to feel peaceful, right?" A coach saying to their team, "You want to win just as badly as I do." A teacher calming a classroom: "You want to enjoy this time together, don't you?"

Shared goals, voiced early, dissolve resistance before it ever shows up. They create alignment, and alignment creates momentum.

So next time you need to persuade someone—whether in a boardroom, a negotiation, a relationship, or just a conversation—remember the Secret of Socrates.

Lead with agreement. Start with what's obvious. Find common ground. Get the nods early.

Because anyone who leads, teaches, builds, or negotiates will tell you—once they're nodding, you're already halfway home.

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Pomfret Historical Society program celebrates reopening of Old Town House

POMFRET — Join Pomfret Historical Society for a celebration of the reopening of the Old Town House on April 26 with refreshments at 2:30 p.m. and our first program in the building for the 2025 season at 3 p.m.

"Fighting For Freedom: Pomfret's Black Revolutionary War Soldiers" will be presented by genealogist Pauline Merrick. Pauline's research will help us to identify some of Pomfret's ten forgotten Black Revolutionary War Soldiers who fought for our freedom and their own emancipation. Learn their names and their stories as we begin to explore Pomfret's role in the Revolutionary war and celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

After being closed for several years, PHS is pleased to announce that the building will be used once again for public events and programs. The Old Town House will also be used by Pomfret Public Library during the construction of their addition which will enable the library to remain open for book circulation and their community programs from April to December. PHS has also scheduled several programs and events in 2025, including historic presentations and performances beginning on April 26.

The Old Town House is Pomfret's cherished historic building which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1841, the Old Town House is one of only three surviving town houses of that period in Connecticut. The building's unique architectural features include a vaulted ceiling and 15 large windows in the main room. PHS has an exhibit of Pomfret artifacts on display and will curate other exhibits in the future. Help us to steward this remarkable building and curate future exhibits by attending our programs!

LGV America 250 Grant

The April 26 program is sponsored by The Last Green Valley as one of three educational events in the America 250 Speaker Series: "The Long Road to Freedom and Justice for All," which investigates how the Declaration of Independence inspired marginalized groups of people to fight for their own freedom and justice. The series began with "Schooling the Nation: the Legacy of the Black Students from Prudence Crandall's Academy," which was presented by Dr. Jennifer Rycenga at Pomfret School in February. The final presentation will be a performance by Connecticut State Library Archivist Kevin Johnson in "Jordan Freeman: A Black Revolutionary Soldier," Sept. 27 at the Old Town House.

For more information about historical programs and events at the Old Town House, contact: Donna Dufresne, windsong@snet.net.

Heather Stravato elected to membership in Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Heather Stravato of Dayville was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Framingham State University.

Stravato is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

About Phi Kappa Phi

Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

Audubon Society welcomes folk singer Peter Mayer



POMFRET — Stillwater, Minn. folk singer Peter Mayer performs on Friday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at The Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret. The charge to attend the concert is $25. Registration is required as seating is limited. Go toctaudubon.org/pomfret-programs or call the Center at 860-928-4948 to register and reserve your seat(s). Admission at the door will be $30, only if seating remains available.

For 30 years, guitar virtuoso Peter Mayer (www.petermayer.net) has been singing and songwriting full-time, performing in venues across the U.S. and around the world. His music has been performed by Kathy Mattea, David Wilcox, Claudia Schmidt, Anne Hills, Priscilla Herdman, Darryl Purpose, Billy Jonas, and Ronny Cox, to name just a few artists. Song books, church hymnals, and folk radio playlists across the country include his work. Peter has eleven albums to his credit.

Marilyn Rea Beyer, former music director and on-air folk radio host at WUMB Radio in Boston, describes Peter's guitar work as "… breathtaking, his lyrics mind-spinning, his singing soul-soothing and his feet-on-the-ground optimism nothing short of healing."

The concert kicks off Migration Magic, the Connecticut Audubon Society's monthlong celebration of the wonder of bird migration. Throughout May, the Society will offer a variety of engaging activities and programs for all ages and experience levels, including a Birdathon.

Join us in Connecticut's Quiet Corner for an evening of exceptional music in an intimate and unique setting.

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Unbridled Joy 10:30 am

Good Friday, April 18
Sorrow Turned to Joy 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise, April 20
Fear and Great Joy 6:00 am
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Easter Celebration
The Joy Set Before Him 10:30 am

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Eggstravaganza | April 13 at 11:15 a.m.
Visit with the bunny, search for Easter eggs, Easter bonnets, crafts, refreshments, and so much more.
Maundy Thursday | April 17 at 6 p.m. Supper & 7 p.m. Worship
Simple soup supper followed by the retelling of the last night of Jesus' earthly life through story, foot washing, Holy Eucharist, and the stripping of the altar.
Good Friday Stations of the Cross | April 18 at Noon
A devotional practice that commemorates the last journey of Jesus Christ to his crucifixion and burial.
Good Friday | April 18 at 7 p.m.
Solemn and traditional service of prayer remembering Jesus' crucifixion and burial.
Holy Saturday | April 19 at 10 a.m.
Simple service of prayer and scripture around the altar in the Sanctuary.
Easter Sunday | April 20 at 8 & 10 a.m.
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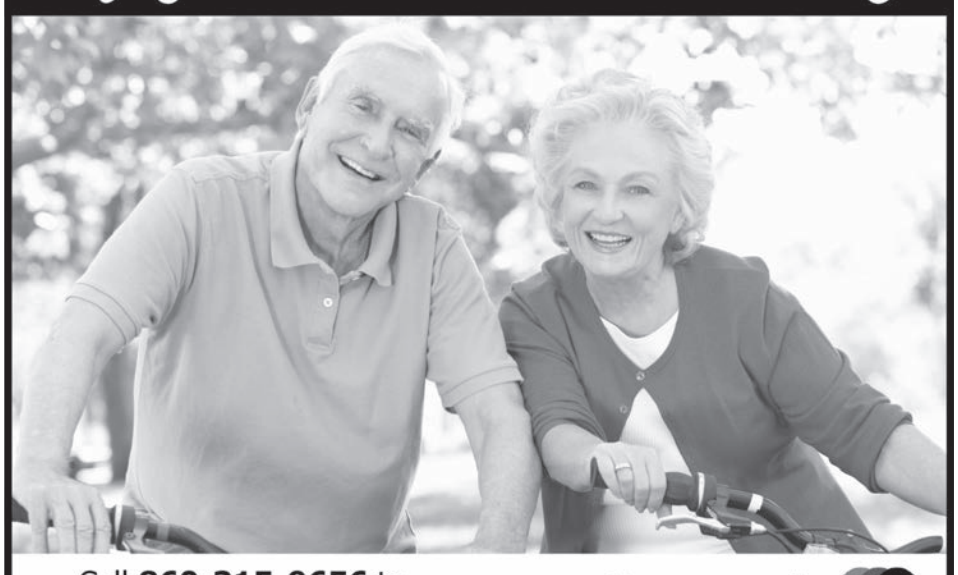
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All Republicans are complicit in Trump's crimes

To the Editor:

Trump is withdrawing support for vaccination programs to third world countries. In fact, reported by CNN, cuts to USAID programs, in just the last two months, have resulted in over 11,000 additional TB deaths. This is not just political. This is criminal – a clear act of voluntary manslaughter. Just another example of Trump's ignoring the law, humanity and social destruction. Vaccines have been proven for over a hundred years to be safe and effective. We have overwhelming proof that vaccines have saved hundreds of millions of lives. There is no proof whatsoever that vaccines cause autism. Indeed, the causes of autism are myriad and not well defined. Trump, Kennedy, Musk, Miller and Project 2025 have no proof on their side to justify these acts of brutality with malice aforethought. All GOP'ers are equally complicit in these crimes by first buying into their lies, then electing them and then meekly standing by without voice as they are acted out.

We are talking about human lives – not the quality of life, but the very existence of it. Kennedy should really be called the Commissar of Fatal Diseases. Kids without vaccinations are dying of measles – one of the most effective and proven prevention of a disease. Furthermore, kids in Texas are being treated for Vitamin A poisoning. For all of you denying GOP'ers, Vitamin A is an essential vitamin, but is highly toxic in large doses. Kennedy is criminal and completely wrong to say it prevents measles and is a treatment for it. I'm sad for all those parents that have seen and will needlessly see the suffering of their kids.

And I suppose you GOP'ers are feeling warm and fuzzy with the economy and stock markets. Just check out your 401k's and IRA's. It's appalling just how quickly and extensively things are going downhill. And it is only going to get worse. It certainly justifies your buying into his "Don't worry, just trust me." Sure looks like the work of a genius to me. Oh, yes – let's not ignore that "higher prices" we will be seeing is really called inflation. Just what the GOP has been screaming about for the past four years, but now is acceptable. What hypocrites.

Closer to home, we need to be concerned about Putnam's budget coming up for discussion and vote. Perhaps one of the more important aspects will be the Board of Education budget. The education budget has been underfunded for the past 13 years. It is time to bolster it up to adequately support our school system. A Public Hearing will be held on April 16 at 7 p.m. at the Middle School to talk about the proposed Budget. Then on May 14, the Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. to vote on the budget. It is imperative that all voters attend both meetings to ensure our kids are well educated. Especially so considering that much, if not all, funding from Washington for local and state support is going to be canceled.

Oh yes, hurrah for "Hands Off." Latest estimate is that over 1,400 rallies were held on Saturday with over two million people attending. Too bad it won't have any effect on our brain-dead fearful leader or the feckless members of Congress.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Ignore the distractions

To the Editor:

While Trump illegally, and mistakenly, deports legal, permanent residents to Salvadorian hell holes; destroys relationships with our allies around the world; ignores history and all evidence to impose draconian tariffs; pooh-poohs the mass demonstrations around the country; appoints morons who share attack plans with journalists over Signal, an unsecured messaging app; wreaks vengeance on critics and political opponents; makes willy nilly cuts to programs that helped veterans, retirees, AIDS sufferers and provided life-saving food and potable water to millions; and bullies journalists, lawyers, Republicans, corporate executives, and educators into silence; his sycophants try to distract us with inane discussions about challenging Democrats to (fake) wrestling matches and ridiculous assertions that billionaire Musk and alleged billionaire Trump are virtuously working for free.

Americans would do well to ignore the distractions and concentrate on critical issues. By citing the absurdities above from last week's edition and through my previous letters, I plead guilty to succumbing to distraction from time to time. But it's difficult not to in the face of such malignant deception, chaos, and incompetence.

The nationwide demonstrations we're witnessing indicate that Americans are beginning to ignore the silly distractions in favor of issues that are important to people's lives and the future of the nation and the world. Let's hope that the rule of law, people's savings and pensions, world order, and our democracy prevail as a result.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

We're in this mess together

To the Editor:

It's OK, friend, you're not a bad person. You got scammed. Lots of good, patriotic, kind people got scammed. You believed he was a successful businessman, that the bankruptcies and grifts were just a minor part of a modern business career. Hey, it looked like we could get rid of regulations, taxes and unfamiliar pronouns and having to know about our country's history with race.

You could say "retard" again. That never really hurt anybody.

You couldn't have foreseen that your stock portfolio would be in the tank. The smartest minds on Wall Street thought they finally had a guy that understood trade and markets.

We all got used to discounting Trump's words. He doesn't really mean to put a damper on international trade, right? Surely, he knows that we don't want those dollar-a-day jobs making Tee-shirts back. We not-so-rich Americans need the inexpensive shoes and clothing.

Even premier hedge-fund manager Bill Ackerman posted "I don't think this was foreseeable, I assumed economic rationally would be paramount." It's not Ackerman's fault either, I guess. Hope he keeps his job.

And, Hey, we all thought he was just kidding about invading Panama and Greenland and still think he doesn't really mean Canada, does he? Why are the Canadians boycotting us?

Agreed, we all want our government to spend our tax dollars wisely, but none of us expected him to fire the people taking care of our nuclear weapons or preventing the spread of diseases like Ebola or making our national parks safe and beautiful.

And veterans' care and Social Security — really, we all were surprised that those would have so many staff cut. You would never have voted for that, I know. And I guess it could have seemed reasonable that we could balance our national budget by cutting the folks who collect our taxes.

So, Red and Blue, we're all in this mess together. What are we going to do?

G. LESLIE SWEETNAM
WOODSTOCK

Emergencies are becoming too common

To the Editor:

Where to begin? Since I am not educated in economics, I will not comment on the tariffs recently imposed by President Trump under a declaration of emergency. Except to ask: "What was the emergency?" Eliminating fraud, corruption and waste in federal funding might have a connection to other countries "ripping us off" for decades, but the link is not clear to me.

Rather, it appears to me that the Trump administration has driven us into a situation where emergencies will become increasingly common.

Staffing cuts to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) apparently will affect the National Weather Service upon which weather and dangerous weather event predictions depend.

Evidently, private sector forecaster and/or individual state predictions may be expected to take that on. So Massachussetts may have a different forecast or warning than Rhode Island or our own Connecticut weather people. As a resident of the part of our state that borders both of those states, I would hope that they get together somehow during hurricane and wildfire seasons. Does not sound very "efficient" to me.

Further, the Director of Homeland Security has lately been echoing the possibility posed by President Trump that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) be eliminated and the 75 percent funding of supplies and personnel during weather emergencies be absorbed by the states. More defunding for our state and local governments to cover. This would make for even more contentious state legislative and town budget meetings, I fear.

So maybe a declaration of emergency is relevant here, but not for the reasons put forth by our President.

About 150 participants at Killingly Commons last Saturday who stood in protest to this administration's policies, illegal actions and the betrayal of our Constitution appear to agree. One hundred and fifty local people protesting in the Trump-voter corner of our state is newsworthy, I believe.

The Constitution provides for the impeachment and removal of a president who does not "protect and defend" this bedrock document, as he swore to do, and who does not faithfully execute the laws (including funding) passed by Congress--a co-equal branch of our government.

As constituents who stand to lose essential federal services and programs that benefit our own people, I beseech readers to think for yourself, stop repeating nonsensical administration talking points, and join together to protect each other from an incoming emergency situation.

Respectfully,

CLAUDIA TERWILLIGER ALLEN
THOMPSON

Protect women's right to vote

To the Editor:

To all women and those who support a women's right to vote, Congress will be voting on The SAVE Act (H.R. 22). Use your voice. Voting is your power. Don't let Congress take away your power. Call your representatives in Washington and tell them to vote no on the SAVE Act!

The fight for women to have the Right to Vote was years in the making. It took activists and reformers nearly 100 years to win that right, and it was not easy. "The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote, was approved by Congress on June 4, 1919. State legislatures then considered ratifying the amendment, and a total number of three-fourths of the state legislatures that ratified it was reached on August 19, 1920."

Fast forward to 2025 and our right to vote is now under attack by the SAVE Act. According to Snopes.com: The SAVE Act may affect registering to vote for women and other groups. Research suggests up to 34 percent of voting-age women don't have documents proving citizenship with their current legal name. "Nearly 70 million married women in the United States have taken their spouse's last name, but their birth certificates still reflect their maiden name. Updating a name on a birth certificate is not part of the standard legal name change process. This accounts for about 25 percent of the U.S. citizen voting population. The SAVE Act does not provide guidance on how these women can reconcile their proof of citizenship with their legal name, nor does it specify whether alternative documents, such as a marriage certificate or legal name-change documentation, would be accepted."

The Devil is in the details of this Act or the lack thereof!

Call your representatives in Washington and tell them to vote no on the SAVE Act!

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

The Democrats are not the party of the people

To the Editor:

A woman on a social media site said that she believes everything they say on "The View," another felt she was "informed," and what she mentioned had me believing that she's been reading certain Villager letters. I've never watched "The View," but do you really have to watch it to already know what they're going to say? Now we have the "Fight Oligarchy Tour," pairing yet another poster child for term limits (Bernie Sanders) with yet another career politician wannabe (AOC), and I wonder what it is that they're going to say? But at least I'll give them credit for finally coming up with another word to use.

Every liberal has recently become an expert on tariffs, but Biden himself started his share of tariffs and no Democrats said a word about it. Also, when Biden fired those who refused to take the jab, the Democrats' response was: chirp, chirp, chirp. One group supporting the tariffs is the American shrimp fishing industry, so think about that the next time you order a shrimp cocktail. It seems that Vietnam wants to remove all tariffs and deal with the USA, and Taiwan is offering zero tariffs as well. Additionally, the European Union announced that they're ready to negotiate with the United States, and are prepared to offer zero for zero tariffs. Brooke Rollins, the Secretary of Agriculture, shared that over 50 countries have shown willingness to engage in negotiations to avoid these new trade penalties.

Back in 1996, Pelosi went scorched-earth on China, railing against unfair trade, job losses and tariff imbalance. But now that Trump's actually doing something about it, tariffs are now economic terrorism and that hypocrite opposes them. And I wonder if all of that $100,000 that Pelosi's California vineyard got for "experimental farming" actually went toward that cause? (I'd like to see that paper trail.) And is a better than expected jobs report, the pending return of manufacturing jobs, increased steel production and more automobiles being made in America good news? Or perhaps bringing good paying jobs to American soil isn't part of the anti-Trump Democrats' agenda? Ah, the Democrats, the ones that expect you to believe that they are the party for the people, and their priority is for working Americans and the middle-class.

During a recent hearing, Raskin called for the return of Venezuelan gang members who were deported from the United States to El Salvador last month. What is wrong with this moron — that these gang members are out of the country and our citizens are safer because of it, or perhaps losing 250 (or so) future Democrat voters is more important than the safety of the American people for these anti-Trump dimwits? And after a recent Supreme Court ruling, it looks like Bozo Boasberg has become yet another one of Democrats' pawns to get bowled down by Trump. There are now many instances of Tesla's being attacked and damaged, and do you really think these mindless cretins cared when it was purchased? But of course, you wouldn't hear about any of that if you watch "The View" or MSDNC. And when a reporter asked Pelosi, AOC and Jefferies to condemn the violence against Tesla dealerships and cars, these slime-omitting worms wouldn't do it. Yup, the democrats do love their criminals, but again, I repeat myself.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

FUNDS

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means the freezing of $14 million in unexpended COVID-19 relief funds throughout Connecticut. While more than half of that total was dedicated to programs within the state Department of Education, $6 million had been granted to the 22 affected K-12 districts.

While the funding from each district was originally supposed to be completely expended by the end of January, school districts nationwide had sought liquidation extensions to move their deadline to March of 2026 to allow them to complete payments and processes for projects already approved prior to the initial deadlines. However, a notice sent to districts by the Federal Department of Education on March 28 gave schools until the end of that day to expend their remaining funds with Secretary McMahon saying the extensions were no longer justified. State leaders have vowed to continue to push for liquidation extensions which they deem essential to fulfilling contracts, funding obligations, and payments for which the money was already earmarked but payments had yet to be completed before the established deadline.

BROOKLYN

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one who is trained," said Tanner. "We don't have the ability to even move the assistant clerk up to town clerk because right now she doesn't live in town either, so it kind of limits our ability to fill that position."

Tanner stressed that the proposal is not a reflection on the work done by current Town Clerk Katherine Bisson who he and others complimented as a valuable asset to the community, but rather an attempt to set the town up to hire the best candidate if they ever needed to fill the position. Response to the ordinance was mixed with some citizens concerned that making the position appointed would open the door for wrongful termination if the clerk went against the wishes of the hiring authority or that Brooklyn would have a hard time maintaining an appointed clerk without a more competitive salary. Others agreed that the ordinance would allow the town to hire a well prepared and trained candidate for an increasingly complicated job.

Bisson had her say on the proposal expressing some concern with the language in the document, specifically when it comes to contract renewals.

"I'm not against the position being appointed. I just have some concerns about some of the language," said Bisson, who said she had hoped a draft agreement for the position would be available for review with the vote. "The tax collector is appointed, and she has a five-year contract, but with her contract you can choose to not reappoint her without cause and that's what I don't want to see happen here because then it could change every two years."

It was also revealed during discussion that the town clerk position was one of many posts examined a part of a salary study conducted by the town and that if the job were changed to appointed it would becoming a unionized position.

Due to the number of questions and concerns, the item was tabled for a future meeting where townsfolk hope to gain more insight and information into the pros and cons of the potential change.

The impact of Lexington and Concord on the Quiet Corner



Killingly at 300

MARGARET WEAVER

Mark Your Calendars: Saturday, May 3. Bev York will be the speaker at the Killingly Historical Society's annual program at 1:30 p.m. at the Killingly Historical Center. Her topic will be Outhouses and Their Role in the American Revolution. Discover the fascinating history about the "necessary"/ privy and learn that human waste becomes saltpetre, the major component in black powder. All are welcome!

Killingly Grange #112 Fish Fry: Friday April 11 & 18. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fried or baked fish, French fries or baked potato. Coleslaw. $16 per dinner. Clam chowder sold separately, $5 per bowl. Dine in or take out. Contact Terry at 860-884-1813 or tmbartonkillinglygrange@gmail.com for additional information and to make reservations. Limited number of meals.

The Global Maritime Industry: By Christopher J. McMahon (Rear Admiral, USMS-ret.) A deep dive into the maritime industry and merchant marine (the backbone of world trade), and a look at the ships that make it possible. Wednesday, April 16 & 23, 6-7:30 p.m., 200 School St., Putnam. (Attend one or both). His book Into a Gale's Fury will also be available for sale. Registration is not necessary.

"The British are coming! The British are coming!" Can you imagine how frightening it must have been to live in the greater Boston area in mid-April 1775 when the British did come? This month, April 2025, marks the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, so I will be writing about that event and its impact on Northeastern Connecticut in the next two columns.

(This was considered) "The first battle of the Revolutionary War, fought in Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. British troops had moved from Boston toward Lexington and Concord to seize the colonists' military supplies and arrest revolutionaries. In Concord, advancing British troops met resistance from the Minutemen, and American volunteers harassed the retreating British troops along the Concord-Lexington Road. Paul Revere, on his famous ride, had first alerted the Americans to the British movement…"General Gage learned of the collection of military stores at Concord and determined to send a force of Redcoats to destroy them. His preparations were made with the utmost secrecy. Yet so alert and ubiquitous were the patriot eyes in Boston that when the picked British force of 700 men set out on the night of April 18, 1775, two messengers, Paul Revere and William Dawes, preceded them to spread the alarm throughout the countryside. At dawn on… when the British arrived at Lexington, the halfway point to Concord, they found a body of militia drawn up on the village green. Some nervous finger — whether of British Regular or American militiaman is unknown to this day — pressed a trigger. The impatient British Regulars, apparently without any clear orders from their commanding officer, fired a volley, then charged with the bayonet. The militiamen dispersed, leaving eight dead and ten wounded on the ground. The British column went on to Concord, destroyed such of the military stores as the Americans had been unable to remove, and set out on their return journey. By this time, the alarm had spread far and wide, and both ordinary militia and minutemen had assembled along the British route. From behind walls, rocks, and trees, and from houses they poured their fire into the columns of Redcoats, while the frustrated Regulars found few targets for their accustomed volleys or bayonet charges. Only the arrival of reinforcements sent by Gage enabled the British column to get back to the safety of Boston. At day's end the British counted 273 casualties out of a total of 1,800 men engaged; American casualties numbered 95 men, including the toll at Lexington". (https://www.colonialwarsct.org/1775_lex_alarm.htm).

Many residents of Northeastern Connecticut still had relatives in the greater Boston area. The nearest weekly newspaper to this area in 1775 was the Norwich Packet. The April 22, 1775 issue ran an article entitled, "Interesting Intelligence (Norwich April 22, 1775. 10 o'clock P.M.). "Yesterday morning the following was brought by an express to Col. Jedediah Huntington, of this town, Dated at Pomfret Monday the 20th instant. 3 o'clock P.M. 'Sir, I am this moment informed, by an Express from Woodstock taken from the Mouth of the Express that arrived there, 2 O'Clock this Afternoon, that the contest between the first Brigade that marched to Concord was still continuing this Morning, at the town of Lexington, which said Brigade had retreated. That another Brigade, said to be the second, mentioned in the letter of this morning, had landed with a Quantity of Artillery, at a Place where the first Troops did; the Provincials were determined to prevent the two Brigades from joining their Strength… The Regulars, when at Concord, burnt the court house, took two Pieces of Cannon, which they rendered useless, and began to take up Concord Bridge…In haste, I am, Sir, Your humble Servant, Ebenezer Williams." Another dispatch, which historian Ellen D. Larned mentioned in her History of Windham County, Connecticut, "was forwarded by the town clerk of Worcester to Daniel Tyler, Jr. of Brooklyn, who received it about 8 o'clock on Thursday morning and sent it on by post to Norwich, while messengers on horseback, with beating drums, carried the news in all directions about the county. (Israel) Putnam, plowing in the pleasant April morning, heard the joyful summons, and 'loitered not' but left his young son Daniel, 'the driver of his team, to unyoke it in the furrow' and hurried off for consultation with town committees and military officers." "There is some evidence that Killingly received the news at a still earlier hour on Thursday morning by a direct express from Boston, brought to the house of Mr. Hezekiah Cutler. He rose from his bed and fired his gun three times to give the alarm and before sunrise, with fifteen men, had started for the battlefield. "(Swordsmith edition, Vo. II, p. 121). (Hezekiah Cutler lived on what is now Putnam Heights -Route 21- across from the cemetery).

Paul Revere's Ride
By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"LISTEN, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, 'If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light, —
One, if by land, and two, if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,

For the country folk to be up and to arm…". (https://www.paulreverehouse.org/longfellows-poem/)

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

Be a waterwise gardener

Too much or not enough water, and never when your garden needs it. This is a common complaint of gardeners no matter where they live. Make a few changes in your plant selection and garden care to help manage water use while growing healthy plants.

All plants need sufficient moisture after planting and for several months to a year or two to develop a robust root system. Those labeled as drought tolerant are better able to tolerate periods of drought once established. Always water the area surrounding new plantings thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Gradually reduce the frequency, and once the plants are established, you'll need to water less often.



Garden Moments

MELINDA MYERS

Moisture-loving plants are good choices for areas receiving sufficient and consistent moisture throughout the growing season to meet their needs. In locations where this is not the case, consider grouping moisture-loving plants together so you use less water and can concentrate watering efforts to just one or two locations in your landscape.

Fluctuating periods of excessive and insufficient rainfall add to the challenge. Many native plants, once established, tolerate periods of wet and dry soil and can be found on lists of rain garden plants suited to your area.

Keep water in the garden, out of the storm sewers, and reduce the risk of flooding while improving your garden. Adding several inches of compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil increases the soil's ability to absorb and retain water. It also improves drainage in heavy soils.

Top dress existing gardens by spreading an inch of compost over the soil surface. Soil organisms will help move it into the soil to improve plant growth. Lend nature a hand by using an auger bit on a drill to aerate compacted soil. This pushes some compost into the top four to six inches of soil.

Mulching the soil with leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic matter also helps. This task has many benefits, including conserving moisture, reducing the risk of erosion and compaction, suppressing weeds, and as the mulch decomposes, improving the soil. A one-to-three-inch layer over the soil surface is all you need. The finer the mulch material, the thinner the layer of mulch that is needed.

Collect rainwater in rain barrels or cisterns when it is plentiful and store it until needed. Use this to water ornamental containers and plantings. Always check with your municipality first, since some restrict this practice while others offer rebates or rain barrels at a discounted price.

You won't need to worry about mosquitoes breeding inside your rain barrel if you place an organic mosquito control product like Mosquito Dunks®(SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and other water features. Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control, are natural and organic, and won't harm pets, fish, wildlife, or children.

Periods of heavy rainfall create another challenge. Covering the soil with plants and mulch helps protect your soil from compaction and erosion that often happens during these events. Planting trees, shrubs, and groundcovers will slow the flow of rainwater, increase the amount of water that stays in your landscape for plants to use, and help filter dust and pollutants out of rainwater before it enters groundwater.

Rain gardens are another strategy for managing water in your yard. These are designed to capture excessive rainfall, drain within 24 to 36 hours, tolerate dry and wet periods, and filter pollutants from the rainwater before it enters the groundwater.

Start by incorporating one or more of these strategies to help manage rainwater in your landscape. Continue to monitor success, adapt as needed, and include more options to help you successfully garden even during periods of excessive or limited rainfall.

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" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Melinda Myers

Leaf mulch conserves moisture, reduces the risk of erosion and compaction, suppresses weeds, and improves the soil as it decomposes.

Paws Cat Shelter hosting comedy night fundraiser

PUTNAM — The Paws Cat Shelter is holding a comedy night fundraiser on Saturday, April 19 at the Valley Springs Sportsman's Club, 65 Valley Rd., North Grosvenordale. Doors open at 6 p.m., and show starts at 7 p.m. Cash bar and light snacks provided.

This is an 18-plus event. Tickets are $30 per person and can be purchased at the shelter 74 School St., Putnam, www.funny4funds.com/events or at the door. For more information on this event, contact Maria at 860-377-9329 or mgreene0414@gmail.com.

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



Community Connection

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morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

AWARDS

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• Altrusa International of Northeastern Connecticut The members of Altrusa International of NE CT dedicate their time and energy to uplifting children and families across the region. Through volunteer-led fundraising, they award annual grants ranging from $500 to $2,000 to support programs that directly benefit children and families. Their hands-on involvement and financial support continue to create lasting impacts across Northeastern Connecticut.

• Shannon Haney, Putnam Family Resource Center As a Parent Educator, Shannon Haney exemplifies dedication to supporting the mental health and well-being of children and families. Her advocacy, resourcefulness, and compassionate support make her an invaluable part of the Putnam community and a true champion for early childhood wellness.

The NECC extends heartfelt congratulations and deep gratitude to each of these outstanding individuals and organizations for their unwavering commitment to children and families in our region.

To learn more about the Northeast Early Childhood Council and our work, visit www.neccouncil.org or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/nechildhoodcouncil.

KILLINGLY

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cific passes, preventing them from hiding in the bathrooms to cut class. Schools have also implemented a new electric hall pass system which has students sign out and designate their intended location when they leave a room then sign in when they arrive creating a record of the student's travel time during school hours and preventing them from cutting classes in secret.

Even with all these enhancement, Nash-Ditzel admitted the district still has plenty of room to grow but they are headed in the right direction.

"We're getting to where we want to be, and we feel that in the buildings. When you're in there you feel a difference," she said.

Looking at the overall disciplinary reports, these documents split incidents up between two schools, KHS and KIS, in several subcategories with most numbers decreasing over a year's time. At KHS, referrals were down overall, from 1,994 last year to 1,902 in the current year. Cell phone-related referrals increased, which Nash-Ditzel said can be attributed to changes in the cell phone use policy, while insubordination and disruptive behavior also saw minor increases. However, referrals due to physical aggression, roughhousing and class cuts decreased dramatically and more serious offenses also decreased by half.

For KIS, the total number of disciplinary referrals decreased from 721 to 410 with drops in every area including disruptive behavior, insubordination, physical aggression, inappropriate language, and roughhousing. Cell phone use is a non-factor as KIS doesn't allow use of cell phones at all during school time. The majority of serious offenses also saw decreases although some increased by only a single incident.

Pomfret School Winter 2024-2025 Honors announced

POMFRET — The following local students were named to a Winter 2024-2025 Honors list at Pomfret School:

Head of School Scholar honors
To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 4.00 and received no grade lower than an A-.

Class of 2025
Carson Ames (Pomfret)
Fergus Litowitz (Pomfret)
Mia McCarter (Pomfret)
Chloe Woodard (Pomfret)

Class of 2026
William Leary (Pomfret)
Delaney Williams (Brooklyn)

Class of 2027
Rowan Lehmann (Putnam)
Ella Sousa (North Grosvenordale)

High Honors
To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 3.67 and received no grade lower than a B+.

Class of 2025
Matthew McClure (Woodstock)
Jessica Stolarek (Pomfret Center)
Calvin Wolanin (Pomfret Center)

Class of 2026
Gabriela Brown (Woodstock Valley)
Mirabelle Cole (Brooklyn)
Olivia Crawford (Pomfret Center)
Robert Ellsworth (Eastford)
Shelby Geragotelis (Brooklyn)
Remy Jacquet (Pomfret)
Ian Sherman (Brooklyn)

Class of 2027
James Lake (Pomfret)

Class of 2028
Claire Anderson (Brooklyn)
Coco-Lyon Jacquet (Pomfret)
Tatum Litowitz (Pomfret)
Amber Sherman (Brooklyn)

Honors
To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 3.33 and received no grade lower than a B.

Class of 2025
Audrey Bonaventura (Wodstock)
Mila Ganias (Woodstock)
Adam Lee (Pomfret Center)
James Rice (Pomfret Center)

Class of 2026
Anson D'Alleva-Bochain (Pomfret Center)
Gabriella Nsubuga (Danielson)
Max Ring (Pomfret)

Class of 2027
Beatrice Foronda (Putnam)
Zinan Zhang (Woodstock)

Class of 2028
Greyson Bannister (Woodstock)
Max Gerum (Pomfret Center)
Camila Stewart (Pomfret)
Isabella Weinhardt (Dayville)

Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 350 students in grades 9 through 12 and postgraduates. Set on a stunning 500-acre campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret empowers students to pursue lives of purpose and meaning by inspiring the next generation of change makers and problem solvers. Learn more at www.pomfret.org.

Pomfret Green Team collaborates with The Last Green Valley for spring roadside cleanup

POMFRET — Every April, we set aside one weekend and urge Pomfret residents to celebrate eARTH DAY with a trash bag and a pair of gloves to clean up the roadside. Choose your own road or another that needs some TLC!

The Green Team continues its collaboration with The Last Green Valley who sponsors a region wide Cleanup / Green Up in our National Heritage Corridor. Last year, 1,117 volunteers participated in 37 cleanups funded by TLGV, collecting 57,392 pounds of trash. Pomfret's effort will be included and recognized in 2025 again.

This year's cleanup is targeted for April 19 (or, at your convenience). The Green Team sets up a table at PCS from 8 to 11 a.m. on Roadside Cleanup Day, handing out bags, gloves, orange vests, and if needed, a road cleanup assignment. Free coffee and doughnuts are also available!

If you'd like to sign up for a particular road, you can send your request to the Green Team at pomfretgt@gmail.com or show up at PCS.

The Green Team encourages everyone to recycle as much as possible by putting recyclables (plastic, glass, and cans) into a clear bag and trash into a black bag. You can leave the filled bags at a convenient road corner and the Pomfret Department of Public Works will pick them up on the following Monday for proper disposal.

Stay safe, wear bright colors, and have fun!

Borough of Danielson caucus results and upcoming election information

DANIELSON — At the Borough of Danielson Caucus held on Monday, March 31st, nominations were made for the upcoming municipal election.

Nominated Candidates:
President:
Heidi Clifford (Incumbent)
Borough Council (6 Seats):
Lynn LaBerge (Incumbent)
Tom Soderberg (Incumbent)
Rhiannon McCabe (Incumbent)
Scott Clifford (Incumbent)
Tammy Wakefield (Incumbent)
Tom Russell (Nominated from the floor)
Clerk/Treasurer:
Glen Archambault (Nominated from the floor)

Current Clerk/Treasurer Elaine Lippke and Council member Amy Shatney have announced that they will not be seeking reelection.

The Borough Council is composed of six members, each elected to serve a two-year term. The Borough of Danielson is a non-partisan municipality. All elected officers will begin their terms at noon on the day following the election.

The Borough Election will be held on Monday, May 5 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Killingly Public Library. All registered voters who reside within the Borough of Danielson are encouraged to participate in this important civic process.

THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Melinda A. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
860-923-9581
melindasmith@thompsonpublicschools.org
What's Old is New Again in Thompson Public Schools

Many of us can remember participating in Spelling and Geography Bees and conducting experiments to be presented at science fairs when we were in school. Over the years, academic competitions like these seem to have fallen by the wayside. Thompson educators have resurrected a few traditional competitions by integrating them into the curriculum as a way to motivate students and engage the community.

Several years ago, Thompson Public Schools became an active participant in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Students in grades four through eight compete in a written spelling test, with the students scoring the highest participating in a grade-level Bee. Twenty contestants then advance to the district-wide spelling event. The final students earn a medal for participation, and the winner and runner-up receive a trophy to honor their accomplishment. Each year, the district's first-place winner competes in the state-wide contest.

This year, Thompson Public Schools added two more time-honored academic programs that challenge student learning in a fun way. Students in seventh grade are participating in the National Geography Bee. Sixty students participated in the Online Regional Qualifying Exam, and forty students made it to the Regional Qualifying Round. The district has selected the top ten qualifiers to move on to the next level of competition. This round is an online tournament with students using a virtual buzzer to answer fast-paced geography questions. The next phase of the challenge is the National Competition, which will take place over the Memorial Day weekend in Orlando, Florida. The top scores from each grade level will then move on to the 2026 International Geography Bee Championship. While Thompson students are only in the program's second stage, we are all hopeful one of our students will make it to the national contest.

The district is also excited to organize Thompson Public School's first Science Fair Challenge. One hundred students are working on experiments to present to a team of judges. Students must use the scientific method as part of their learning process, which is documented in a written report and presented on a display board with supporting artifacts. All of the projects will be on display for parents and community members to view. An award ceremony will be held to highlight outstanding projects.

Academic competitions bolster student research and study skills and improve teamwork, collaboration, self-esteem, and resilience. Bringing back programs of days gone by places a special spotlight on academic accomplishments to be on par with athletics, music, and theater events.

In a Town steeped in history and tradition, bringing back what once was old but is now new again will enhance learning in Thompson Public Schools.

Old Trinity Church announces Holy Week events, Easter service

BROOKLYN — The public is invited to a 6 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at Old Trinity Church, 60 Church St., on Sunday, April 20. Dress warmly and come to sing!

The following Holy Week services will be held at the current Trinity Church location, 7 Providence Rd. (intersection Rtes. 6 and 169): Palm Sunday Eucharist, April 13, 10 a.m.; Maundy Thursday Eucharist/ Foot-Washing, April 17, 7 p.m.; Good Friday, April 18: 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3 p.m. Meditations on Jesus' Last Words online only, 7 p.m. Voices from the Foot of the Cross in person/online; Holy Saturday Morning Prayer, April 19, 8:30 a.m.; Easter Festival Eucharist, April 20, 10 a.m. followed by our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Trinity's services are available online at https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchbrooklyn. For more information visit http://www.trinityepiscopalchurchbrooklyn.org.

Sons of the Revolution to hold grave marking ceremony

WOODSTOCK — On Saturday April 26, the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will hold a SAR Grave Marking Ceremony for five patriots who responded to the Lexington Alarm in 1775.

The Grave Marking Ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. at the Woodstock Hill Cemetery, Woodstock, Connecticut. At the start of the ceremony the Bells of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock will be rung thirteen times in honor of the 13 American Colonies. Following the Grave Marking Ceremony, a 250th Anniversary Liberty Tree Dedication in honor of Brigadier General Samuel McClellan will be performed at the South Woodstock Common at 2:30 p.m.

At the start of the ceremony, the Bells of the South Woodstock Baptist Church will also be rung thirteen times in honor of the 13 American Colonies. The tree being dedicated is an American Elm hybrid. The ceremonies are open to the public and they are highly encouraged to attend these free events.

Eastern students "make history" at statewide conference

WILLIMANTIC — History students at Eastern Connecticut State University and visiting students from other Connecticut State Universities (CSUs) presented their topical research at the CSU Making History Conference on March 28 in the Student Center. The event was sponsored by Eastern's Department of History, Center for Connecticut Studies, School of Arts and Sciences and Provost's Office.

Among the panelists was Isabelle DuBois of Brooklyn, a sophomore majoring in History and Social Science and Pre-Elementary Education, and Sarah Tuttle of Pomfret Center, a senior majoring in History and Social Science.

Killingly girls' lacrosse falls to Woodstock Academy in season opener

KILLINGLY — Killingly girls lacrosse faced off against Woodstock Academy for the first game of the season on April 5. The final score was 10-8. Woodstock Academy won.

Morgan Blanchard had five goals for Killingly. Catrina Turgeon had two goals, an assist, as well as six draw controls, and three caused turnovers for Killingly. Riley Ritchotte added one goal, an assist, and four draw controls for Killingly. Alexa Gregoire had two saves in net for Killingly.

Kaylee Saucier had one goal for Woodstock. Clara Dowdle had two goals and five assists for Woodstock. Baylee Rosinski had one goal. One save for their goalie.

OBITUARIES

Irene Radlo



Irene Radlo of Danielson crossed over January 11, 2025. She was born January 2, 1936, the youngest child of Thomas & Sophie (Kazmarczyk) Rys. She lived in Warren Mass until she married the love of her life Edward Radlo on February 4th, 1956. They remained together until his crossing May 6, 2002. Growing up on a self-sufficient family farm with her sisters and brother she was fortunate to learn to appreciate the simple things in life.

She was a fiercely independent self-reliant woman. Someone who was willing and enthusiastic to try or participate in almost any activity or situation. After her marriage she moved to Connecticut to start a new life and raise a family. She and Ed built a lovely home in Danielson; she was his helper/tender while he laid the brick and stone. While they enjoyed living there, she was missing the farm life. When the Quinequack Farm Stand property in Dayville became available her Husband readily agreed to move. She ran the farm stand for several years; it was a rewarding and fun family endeavor.

She then worked in the Killingly School System as a baker for over 20 years. It was great entertainment being around the energy of all those kids. She loved going to the beach, boating and water skiing on Webster Lake. In spite of being struck by lightning in her 60's she continued to be active walking, swimming, & and could be seen on her riding lawn mower until age 82. Saturday mornings would find her in the kitchen, the radio cranked to Polish Polka's, creating savory & sweet delights including home-made root beer.

She was a natural musician and had a gift for playing by ear. Every holiday or gathering found her to be the center of sing-a-longs, playing away on the organ. She would call her daughters on their birthday and play a special song of her choosing on the harmonica. She was blessed to lead a full long life, finding joy in just about everything and everyone. She leaves 3 daughters Ellen Marie Provencher & and her Special Son-in-Law Richard of Pomfret, Sandra Smith of Beaverdam Virginia and Lynne & John Gerry. She was predeceased by her Husband, Parents, and Siblings Charlotte, Helen & Fred. Services will be private per her wishes. "So Long For Now"

James J. "Chad" Gagne
1952 - 2025



N. Grosvenordale - James Joseph "Chad" Gagne, beloved father, friend, and adventurer, passed away on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at the age of 72. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Clarence and Lorraine (Courtemanche) Gagne. He lived life to the fullest, with friends and loved ones.

Growing up in the small town of West Thompson, James filled his youth with exciting memories of fast cars, motorcycles, ocean trips and boating. While being a sports car enthusiast, it's safe to say he loved 60's style Corvettes the most but could be found enjoying all types at different cars over the year. His teenage years were filled with racing, adventure, and the camaraderie of close friends.

As he grew older, James developed a deep love for the ocean, spending memorable trips to Block Island and somewhere along the way picking up the nickname "Captain Seaweed,"

As a proud father, he loved spending time on camping, boating, and mountain trips, while also taking an active role in his son's sports teams.

James was a long time Butcher and Bar Manager as well as working events at the Knight of Columbus and American Legion through the years.

In his later years, James found great purpose and joy in helping others, particularly through his involvement with the Defenders of Charity motorcycle club. Whether sharing a laugh over one of his wild stories or recounting adventures too incredible to believe, he was a man of immense kindness, always ready to lend a helping hand.

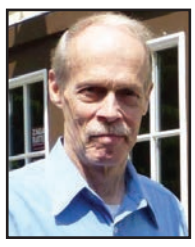
James is survived by his children, James A. Gagne and his companion Jessica Otto of Raleigh, NC and Jessica Simonzi of Danielson; his sister, Penny Francisco of Brooklyn; and his grandson, James P. Simonzi of Danielson. He was predeceased by his brother, Clarence "Larry" Gagne.

Rest in peace, James. You will always be remembered for your adventurous spirit, kind heart and being like no one else you've ever met!

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Chad's family from 12:00PM to 2:00PM on Sunday, April 13, 2025, in the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. A celebration of Chad's life will be held immediately following the visitation at the American Legion, Post 67, 17 Thompson Hill Rd., Thompson, CT 06277.

For the memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Stephen Robert Magaw, 83



WOODSTOCK, CT- Stephen Robert Magaw, 83, passed away on March 19, 2025 in East Saint Johnsbury, Vermont. He was born in Scarsdale, New York in 1942, the son of Steven Roger Magaw and Louise Meyer Magaw. He graduated from Cooley High School in Detroit, Michigan in 1959, enlisted in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service, and served as an electrician aboard the USS Triton out of New London, CT.

While working at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, Stephen enrolled at Mitchell College and earned an associate's degree. After transferring to the University of Connecticut at Storrs, he majored in English, wrote poetry, and bought a 1965 BMW R69S motorcycle. In 1970, he met and married fellow student Sarah Blanchard. He and Sarah graduated with bachelor's degrees in English in 1972 and moved to Thompson, Connecticut.

Because he enjoyed both academic and hands-on work, Stephen found employment in many fields including woodworking and tutoring. One of his favorite jobs was driving school bus for the Woodstock schools, which he did for 17 years. (Students who were on his bus can probably still name most of the state capitals!) He also worked at Woodstock Academy, first as a substitute teacher and tutor, then later as a custodian, where he took particular pride in keeping the old Academy building in good order.

Stephen was a talented woodworker and capable handyman who could fix almost anything. He collected model trains, enjoyed hiking, and climbed several mountains in New England (including the infamous Knife Edge at Mt. Katahdin). He also loved being on the water, and over the years acquired several handcrafted wooden boats.



Stephen's home was filled to overflowing with books, art, and music, demonstrating an eclectic taste that ran from classical to sea shanties and folk music. He had a generous heart and donated regularly to charities, especially those devoted to helping children and animals. He enjoyed joining friends for meals (especially breakfast) and could usually be found at Bill's Bread & Breakfast or The Painted Baker in Putnam. He loved animals, especially Cleo and Maggie, the dogs who accompanied him everywhere in his later years. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Barbara Magaw Cosgrove, and his brother, Roger Stephen Magaw. He is survived by his daughter Kristan Faith Manning and three grandchildren (Gabriel Lyon, Vincent Lyon, and Mackenzie Rose Manning). He is also survived by Joan Weston, his loving companion for the past 25 years; his former wife Sarah Blanchard; his close friend Roberta Reddy; and his former son-in-law, Michael Lafreniere-Lyon.

Funeral services are private. His family is planning a celebration of life in June, with details to be announced. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to Doctors Without Borders, Mercy Ships, or a charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be sent to PO Box 22, Woodstock, CT 06281.

"He was a man, take him for all in all: I shall not look upon his like again." — Hamlet, Act 5, scene 2

Robert Patrick Wood

Robert Patrick Wood who was born March 17, 1941, passed away peacefully in his home on December 22, 2024. A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday April 12, 2025 at 11 AM at the Clark Chapel, Pomfret School. A graveside service with full military honors will be held at South Cemetery in Pomfret. tillinghastfh.com



Philip Alan Leveille
September 30, 1938 - March 27, 2025



Thompson - Philip Leveille, 86, of Brandy Hill Road, died March 27, 2025. Born in Putnam, Connecticut, he was the son of the late George Stanley and Katherine (Elois) Leveille.

Phil is survived by his wife of 45 years, Susan (Murray) Leveille, two daughters, Erin Provensal of Salem, MA, and Amy Leveille and her partner Ricardo Gomez of Thompson, CT; his brothers, Tim Leveille of Thompson, CT, and Bruce Leveille of Woodstock, CT; his sister, Mary Ann Wexler and her husband Chuck of Thompson, CT; and his two granddaughters, Colleen and Clara Provensal. He is also remembered by many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends. He was pre-deceased by his brother Bill Leveille and sister Kathy Leveille.

Phil dedicated his career to education, working as a teacher for nearly 30 years in the town of Thompson. Beyond the classroom, he had a deep passion for farming and was a long-time member of the Connecticut Farm Bureau. He also served his community as a volunteer firefighter with the Thompson Hill Volunteer Fire Company to give back to the community that he loved.

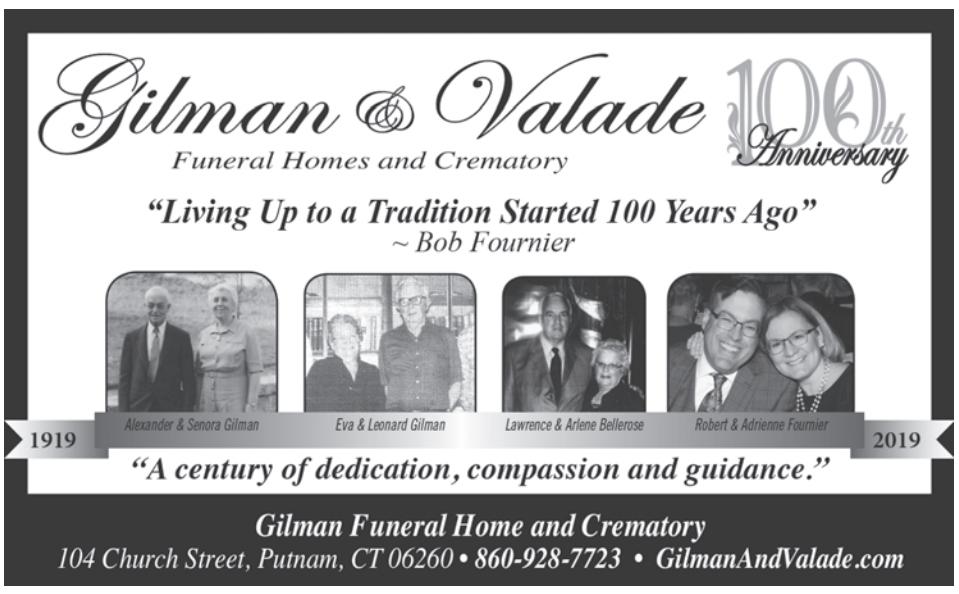
A devoted sports fan, Phil faithfully supported the Celtics, Red Sox, Patriots, and UConn Huskies men and women's basketball throughout his life. He enjoyed playing basketball for many years in the local area recreation leagues.

He will be remembered for his quick wit and sarcastic sense of humor and his ability to connect with his students.

A celebration of life for Phil will be held on Saturday, May 3, starting at 1PM at the Thompson Raceway Restaurant, 299 East Thompson Road, Thompson, CT. Burial will be private in Munyan cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in honor of Phil Leveille to Thompson Historical Society, P.O. Box 47, Thompson, CT 06277, Thompson Fire Engine Company, 70 Chase Road, Thompson, CT 06277, or Thompson Alumni Association, TMHSAA, P.O. Box 437, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. For the memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

SMITH AND WALKER
Funeral Home and Cremation Service
148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT 860-928-2442
www.smithandwalkerfh.com
~ ~ ~
GAGNON AND COSTELLO
Funeral Home and Cremation Service
33 Reynolds Street, Danielson, CT 06239 860-774-9403
Funeral Directors
Timothy Farner, Steven Farner, Andrew Farner
Serving ALL Faiths with Dignity



LEGALS

Witches Wood Tax District,
Woodstock, CT
Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Witches Woods Tax District will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025, at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at Bungay Fire Brigade, 1256 Rte 171, Woodstock, CT

April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Russell J Dowd (25-00140)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 1, 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:
Adam Dowd
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
April 11, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Joan M McHugh (25-00144)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 1, 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:
Sheryl L Heaphy
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, 168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
April 11, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Gary P Smith (25-00128)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 26, 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:
Linda J Smith,
11 Shore Front Road,
Ashford, CT 06278
April 11, 2025

TOWN OF KILLINGLY/BOROUGH OF DANIELSON TAX COLLECTORS LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in our drop box.

The fourth quarter installment of taxes becomes due on April 1, 2025 and becomes delinquent on May 1, 2024 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month with a minimum interest charge of $2.00.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killinglyct.gov.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
March 28, 2025
April 11, 2025
April 25, 2025

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE

- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

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



MORE INFO:







JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007
jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com