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©2025, Issue #41  
Friday, October 17, 2025

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# Local writer pens accounts of the Flood of 1955

PUTNAM — Putnam native Ronald P. Coderre is proud to announce the release of a booklet he's written about his experiences and memories of The Flood of 1955.

"Aug. 19, 1955 is one of the most significant days in the 170-year history of the community of Putnam. For those old enough to remember, it's the day the town was taken by surprise and devastated by the flooding waters of the Quinebaug and French rivers," said Coderre.

"The oral history of that day and those that followed is becoming more distant every year. For that reason and others, I felt it was important to put the memories I have, as a 14-year-old boy at the time, in print. It's 70 years since that fateful day and worth remembering," said Coderre, author of the booklet.

Coderre, a veteran of the United States Air Force (1959-1965) and 1959 graduate of Putnam High School, has been writing locally for more than 40 years. He is remembered for his sports column Ramblings, Points and Comments which ran for many years in The Norwich Bulletin and The Putnam Town Crier. It was also published in the former Windham County Observer and The Journal Transcript in Danielson. In 2019, Coderre wrote the 100-year history of the Mayotte – Viens American



Ronald P. Coderre

Legion Post #13 and followed in 2021 with the 125-year history of the Putnam Police

Department. He's also been the person behind the pen since 2007 of the semi-annual

publication The Community Beat, the newsletter of the Putnam Police Department.

"Writing my memories of the 1955 Flood is something I've thought of doing for many years but never got serious about sitting down and actually following through. In many ways this venture turned out to be more labor intensive than originally envisioned. However, it was very rewarding," concluded Coderre.

Coderre is a 1969 graduate of Assumption University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in political science and a Master's degree and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Rehabilitation Counseling in 1972. He served as Vice President of Philanthropy, Marketing and Public Relations at Day Kimball Hospital for 26 years. He's also served the community in numerous governmental positions, including the former Putnam City Council and Board of Education. His civic leadership capacities include the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, The Putnam Little League, the Putnam Business Association, The American Legion and the Putnam Rotary Club. He resides in Putnam with his wife Donna.

Proceeds of sales for the booklet, which is on sale for

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## Woodstock voters deny split budget vote

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock voters chose to maintain their current process for voting on their annual budgets together during a town meeting on Oct. 7 after a long budget season that took three referendums to approve the eventual spending plan on day one of the new fiscal year.

The meeting discussed a proposal to split the budget vote into separate articles, making the general government and education budgets their own individual items and implementing advisory questions to inform town officials if voters felt the budgets were too high or too low. Any budget would not be considered complete until both parts of the spending plan passed. Currently, the town votes on the entire budget as one single item. Woodstock was looking to follow Killingly and Thompson by implementing a split budget approach, but voters overwhelmingly chose to maintain the current process, keeping the budgets together for future referendums.

The proposal was not brought forth through an official public petition or the opinion of the Board of Selectman. First Selectman Chandler Paquette explained that the idea has been floated around for years and selectmen decided to bring it to a town vote after receiving feedback in the wake of the long budget process.

"It's been asked for years and years. We were always told by the town attorney because there isn't a statute that goes one way or another, that it was not going to be voted on as a split. It is now commonplace in towns without charters, and this has been asked for a long time," said Paquette.

While town officials presented several advantages to the idea including allowing the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to get a better read on the public's demands for the budgets, many opponents stressed the potential impact to the education budget which they feel has become a prime target over the years.

This was the opinion of Woodstock resident Matthew Bennett.

"Splitting the budget is going to have a deleterious effect on the school budget as those folks who believe that education spending is too high can simply vote repeatedly and force that spending to untenably low levels," said Bennett. "This also applies to the general government budget as well."

While the idea of splitting the budgets proved divisive, the concept of advisory questions was more welcomed. Woodstock Board of Finance Chair Michael Dougherty said he fully supported that aspect of the change.

"If the budget is voted down and everybody thinks it was too low, we don't have any way of knowing that, so we have to propose a new budget and it's just assumed that you all want the budget lower, which I don't think that's entirely true,"

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## Killingly providing alternative high school program

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly School District continues to grow its slate of learning programs adding an alternative high school to help students who are struggling with traditional high school environments or who are behind on credits to achieve graduation.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash-Ditzel provided details about the offering during the Board of Education's Oct. 8 meeting, explaining the current iteration as a pilot program which was conceptualized over the summer and currently host six students in their mid to late teens. The students have all either struggled with or dropped out of tradi-

tional high school for one reason or another and the goal of the program is to give them a second chance to achieve their diploma.

"We have long recognized that we have something missing for over-age and under credited students in our high school," Nash-Ditzel said. "We've tried to see if there's a pattern why students disen-

gage from high school. There's isn't one specific pattern. They're all very unique stories. So, what we wanted to do was offer an alternative program that thought outside of the box for students that have fallen into this category."

The Superintendent said the program will cater to a "spec-

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## Thompson voters clear path for Belding-Corticelli development



Jason Bleau

The current state of the Belding-Corticelli site on Riverside Drive, which is the subject of mixed-used development plans.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Town of Thompson has had a busy month regarding the proposed

plan to revitalize and reuse the old Belding-Corticelli mill site on Riverside Drive. After a public presentation and a special town meeting, voters have given the Board of Selectmen

permission to enter into agreements that will allow for the developer to proceed with their plans.

The Belding-Corticelli mill site at 630 Riverside Dr. is one

of several old mill properties that have been the focus of Thompson's larger revitalization initiatives. Earlier this year it was confirmed that a

Turn To **DEVELOPMENT** page **A9**



# Eastern to serve as early-voting site this fall election season

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University will be an official early voting site for the Town of Windham this fall. Town residents and Eastern students living on or off campus are invited to campus from Oct. 20 to Nov. 2 to cast their ballots before the Nov. 4 General Election.

Early voting at Eastern:

Who: Windham residents, including college students who reside in Windham during the school year

When: October 20 – Nov. 2

Where: Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room, J. Eugene Smith Library

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily

Extended hours: Tuesday, Oct. 28 & Thursday, Oct. 30 - 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

This new initiative follows the passage of Public Act 25-168, approved by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2025. The law requires certain municipal-

ities to establish early voting sites on public college campuses that meet student residency thresholds. As a result, all four universities in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system will host early voting sites beginning in 2025. Eastern is proud to be part of this statewide effort to make voting more accessible and convenient for students and residents alike.

“By hosting early voting on our campus, we are making participation in our democracy more accessible for students and local community members,” said Eastern President Karim Ismaili. “I encourage all eligible members of our community to take advantage of this opportunity and make a plan to vote - whether during early voting on campus or on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov.

4.”

More information: All things voting in Connecticut: myvote.ct.gov Register or check your status: voterregistration.ct.gov

Eastern students: easternct.edu/vote

## Danielson Legion post seeks entrants for Oratorical Speech Contest

DANIELSON — American Legion Post 21 Danielson invites students in grades 9 – 12 from Killingly High School, Harvard H. Ellis Regional Technical School, and Quinebaug Valley Middle College, and home school students from Killingly, Brooklyn, and Pomfret, to participate in an Oratorical Speech Contest.

The subject of the speech must be about some aspect of the Constitution of the United States, with the goal of developing student leadership qualities, learning to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and to understand the responsibilities of an American citizen.

This contest is held annually at the Post, District, State, and then National levels, with the winners of each advancing to the next level.

Post 21 Danielson and District 4 contestants will receive financial awards based upon the number of contestants from each respective contest. The winner of the District 4 contest will advance to the State contest. The winner of the State contest will advance to the National contest where the first-place winner will receive a \$25,000 scholarship, the second-place winner will receive a \$22,500.00 scholarship, and the third-place winner will receive a \$20,000 scholarship.

The American Legion will pay the expenses of the State winner advancing to the National contest.

The Post 21 Danielson contest will be held locally in late January 2026. The District 4 contest will be held in early February 2026. The public is invited to attend both events.

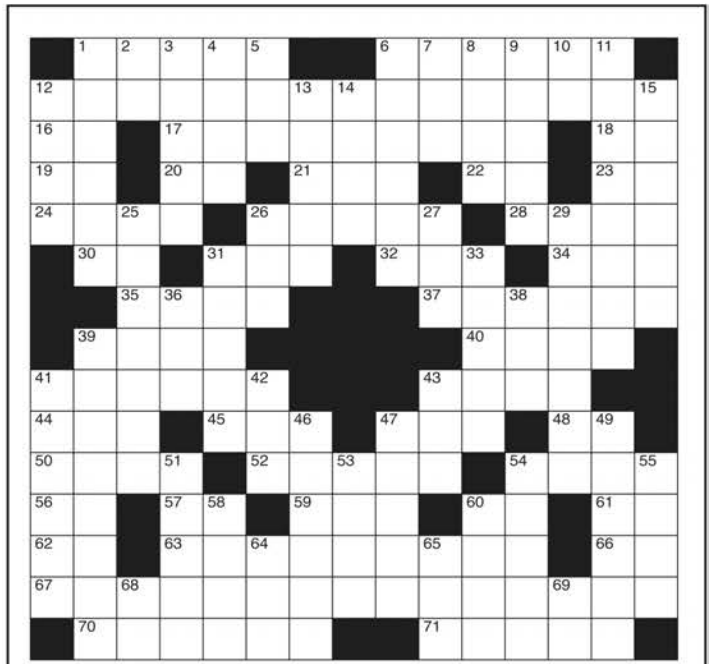
For more information: 1) contact your local Guidance Counselor or 2) visit [ctlegion.org](http://ctlegion.org) then select Programs and then Oratorical, or 3) contact Charlie Crowley at (860) 481-2963 or [chuck.crowley392@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.crowley392@gmail.com).

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Martial arts in China

6. The butt of jokes

12. Nevertheless

16. Sportscaster Michaels

17. A firm believer

18. Atomic #18

19. One's bestie

20. Of I

21. Hamburger accessory

22. Thus

23. Partner to Pa

24. Scottish tax

26. Cuts away

28. Require

30. Government lawyer

31. Own (Scottish)

32. Body cavity

34. Brew

35. Young woman (French)

37. Platforms

39. Pair of points in mathematics
40. Attack suddenly

41. Aviators

43. Make perfect

44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

45. Neither

47. The center of a city

48. Sacrifice hit in baseball

50. Singer Redding

52. Dragged forcibly

54. Puncture with a knife

56. Belonging to me

57. Expresses surprise

59. Haul

60. The Golden State

61. Biblical Sumerian city

62. Integrated circuit

63. Opposed to certain principles

66. Sodium

67. Qualities

70. Walk

71. It awaits us all

CLUES DOWN

1. Ate quickly

2. Peyton Manning's alma mater

3. Moves through water

4. Run away from

5. Utah resident

6. Natural objects

7. Children's game

8. Obligation to prove

9. Ancient Greek building for performances

10. Soldier

11. Decorated

12. Catches

13. Russell \_\_, author

14. Speak indistinctly

15. Students get them

25. Japanese warrior

26. Dessert

27. Doleful

29. Most cushy

31. Moon crater
33. Small evergreen Arabian tree

36. Something fugitives are "on"

38. 007's creator

39. Paintings on hinged panels

41. Type of bomb

42. Japanese classical theater

43. U.S. gov't department

46. Flightless bird

47. One who cuts wood or stone

49. Buttock and thigh together

51. A way to gather

53. Body part

54. Argentinian city

55. Undergarments

58. Jai \_\_, sport

60. Container for shipping

64. Type of screen

65. Get free of

68. Indicates position

69. Business department

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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## “My World” exhibit featured at Putnam gallery

PUTNAM — The work of artist Jean McNally is on view now through December 30, 2025, at The Corridor Gallery in the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Putnam. Featuring a fantastic collection of oil paintings that capture the beauty of our local area.

McNally was born and raised in Putnam but has resided in Woodstock for the last forty years. She attended St. Mary's School, Putnam High School and

QVCC. Her gift of painting started when she retired just a few years ago and it has grown into a passion ever since.

“I have always loved art in various forms but had never tried painting before this time. Most of my paintings are local landscapes. I have come to enjoy it immensely,” said McNally in a recent interview.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. For hours and more information, please visit [PutnamCtArtsCouncil.com](http://PutnamCtArtsCouncil.com).

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR OCTOBER 17-24

- Friday, Oct. 17

Pumpkins glow at the Putnam Green, Craft fair booths and cider seen! Music at 6, with vendors 'til nine, Downtown sparkles—crisp and fine.
- Saturday, Oct. 18

In Brooklyn, kids can pick and play, The Fall Family Fest runs half the day. From 10 to 3 at the Fairgrounds lot, Hayrides, apples, and cocoa hot.
- Sunday, Oct. 19

The Pomfret Audubon leads a walk, Through golden fields where warblers talk. Meet at 9 at the Center trail—Rain or shine, with boots and pail.
- Monday, Oct. 20

Thompson Library's knitters meet, At 1 p.m.—a cozy seat. Bring your yarn and sip some tea, While sharing townwide company.
- Tuesday, Oct. 21

Eastford Town Hall holds open floor, Selectmen meet at half past four. Budget chats and road repair, Public voices welcome there.
- Wednesday, Oct. 22

At Killingly's Library, 6 p.m. start, A spooky tales night warms the heart. Costumes welcome, laughter too—A candlelit evening just for you.
- Thursday, Oct. 23

In Woodstock, the seniors dine, Noon at Town Hall, fall-themed fine. Stew and stories, dessert to share, A friendly seat for all who care.
- Friday, Oct. 24

Putnam's River Fire ends the run, Bonfires blazing when day is done. Music drifts across the quay, Farewell to autumn—Quiet Corner way.

## Tiahma Rawls named to Goodwin University President's List

EAST HARTFORD — Tiahma Rawls has earned a spot on Goodwin University President's List for the summer 2025 session.

Tiahma, a student from Brooklyn is one of 277 students to make the President's List, reserved for those who demonstrate exemplary academic performance. Inclusion on the President's List requires a student to earn a 4.0 GPA during a given academic session.

Goodwin University congratulates Tiahma on making the President's List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

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The Thompson Villager (USPS 024-998) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 10A Beeches Ln, Woodstock Ct 06281. Periodical postage paid at Putnam, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to Villager Newspapers c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS  
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
[Frank@salmonpress.news](mailto:Frank@salmonpress.news)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818, EXT. 102  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DiNICOLA  
508-764-6102  
[jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com)

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
860-928-1818 x 323  
[brendan@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:brendan@villagernewspapers.com)

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
860-928-1818, EXT. 305  
[julie@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:julie@villagernewspapers.com)



# Thrift shop finds



Many readers of this column enjoy attending estate sales or stopping when they see a “yard sale” sign. Some of you also like hunting for bargains at estate sales. In today’s column, I’ll share some exciting thrift shop, estate sale, and yard sale finds that took place this year, along with some shipwreck treasures that were recently discovered.

Some thrift shop buyers post their finds online on Reddit, and Yahoo! News recently shared a few. One buyer paid \$40 for a gold ring that was estimated to be worth \$162. Elsewhere, a Canadian woman found a diamond and pearl ring in a “store grab bag” from a Canadian thrift store which could also sell in the low hundreds of dollars. Another thrift store buyer found a diamond ring in a “bulk trash pile.” The diamond ring could sell in the low to mid-hundreds.

An estate sale buyer recently found the sale of their dreams, according to a “Newsweek” article. The estate sale buyer/dealer posted live on social media when they were allowed inside the garage door at an estate sale. They said they were the third person to enter the sale and there were about 200 people waiting to come in. The dealer posted images of a statue which was titled “Dying Gaul” priced at \$8. There was what looks to be a Victorian era figural incense burner marked for \$5. The



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WAYNE TUISKULA

buyer said that they bought a Chinese vase for \$1 and had already been offered \$2,500 for it. The dealer estimated that their \$3,000 in purchases would yield \$30,000.

An Ohio couple had a great unexpected find when they decided to stop at a thrift shop while driving home. As they were leaving the shop, a gold frame caught the woman’s eye, according to the “U.S. Sun.” She purchased it for \$2.90. When she got in the car, she noticed a label that said “Johann Berthelsen.” She at first thought Berthelsen was a local painter, but her research later showed he was a well-known artist. She consigned it to a local auction house, and it brought \$2,267.

Switching gears to the seas, coins from a 1715 Spanish shipwreck were just discovered in Florida, according to NBC News. Over 1,000 gold and silver coins were aboard the ship when a hurricane sank it off “Florida’s Treasure Coast.” The coins include pieces of eight, which could be broken into eight pieces and then spent individually. The coins are estimated to be worth \$1 million. Other items like a gemstone and gold necklace were also pulled from the wreck. Whether you’re diving 100 feet down into the ocean or diving into a thrift store jewelry box, you may be lucky enough to find some treasures too.

Our single-collector Civil War memorabilia auction will be online later this month. There is still time to consign for our major auction that will follow. We are accepting consignments of gold, platinum, diamonds, and other fine jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, paintings, statues, gold and silver coins, and other valuable antiques and collectibles. Please visit our Web site, <https://central-massauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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



Courtesy  
Putnam Rotary Club Past President Doug Porter donated some of the surplus money from his presidential year to Daily Bread. Rotarian Karen Osbrey receives the check for Daily Bread. Club President Kathy Kirk is at right.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Oct. 6: Yellow-rumped Warbler; Black and White Warbler; Parula Warbler; Blue-headed Vireo; Red-eyed Vireo; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Catbird; Lincoln’s Sparrow; Eastern Towhee; Pileated Woodpecker; Purple Finch; Pine Warbler; Common Yellowthroat; Black-throated Blue Warbler; Cedar Waxwing; Snow goose

# Collect and save some heirloom vegetable seeds



Melinda Myers

The disease-resistant Abe Lincoln heirloom tomato was introduced in Illinois in 1923.

Be a part of history and save money when planting next year’s garden. Collect and save the seeds from your favorite heirloom tomatoes, peppers, beans and peas this fall.

Seeds of heirloom plants have been collected and passed along for generations, producing offspring identical to the parent plant. Hybrids on the other hand involve crossing different plants to create a unique or improved variety. Saved seeds from hybrid plants do not grow into plants with all the same characteristics as the parent plant.

Heirloom peas and beans are generally self-pollinated, so they form seeds that will grow into plants like the parent plant. Allow the peas and beans you plan on saving to dry on the plant. Once the pods turn brown and the seeds rattle inside, they are ready to harvest. This is about six weeks after you harvest snap beans for eating and about four weeks after the normal picking stage for peas.

Protect plants from frost or pull them out of the ground and hang them in a cool dry location, so the pods can finish drying if needed. Remove the pods from the plants, spread them out and allow them to further dry indoors for about two weeks.

Remove the seeds from the dried pods, store in an airtight opaque container in a cool dark location. You may want to store different varieties separately in paper packets and all the packets in one large airtight container. Label the seeds with

the varietal name and date they were collected. Store in a cool location.

Saving seeds from tomatoes requires a bit different preparation. Once the fruit is fully ripe scoop out the gelatinous center. Place this in a container of water set in a warm location to ferment. Swirl or stir the contents twice a day. After about a week the good seeds will sink to the bottom of the container.

Remove and compost the layer of fermented tomato waste and the inferior seeds floating on the surface. Pour the remaining water and the good seeds sitting on the bottom of the container through a fine mesh strainer. Rinse the seeds, removing any of the gelatinous material that may remain. Spread the seeds on a piece of paper to dry.

Once dry, place the seeds in an envelope labeled with the date and variety and set in a sealed jar or plastic container. Store in the refrigerator or other consistently cool location until it’s time to start them for next season.

Use your saved seeds the following year for the best results. Then repeat each season.

Start with these and then consider trying other open-pollinated vegetables, flowers and even tree and shrub seeds. You’ll find helpful information in books, online and on the Seed Savers Exchange website. Saving your own seeds can help you save money while preserving and planting a bit of gardening history.

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

GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
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## Paws to hold raffle basket Purr-looza

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a raffle basket purr-looza on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Knights of Columbus, 68 Providence St., Putnam, from noon to 5 p.m. More than 50 fantastic baskets to choose from. \$20 for 25 tickets or \$5 for six tickets.

Preview some of the baskets on Oct. 24 from 6-7 p.m. during our steak dinner fundraiser.

Skip the line and purchase tickets ahead, call/text 860-315-1228 or stop by the shelter at 74 School St., Putnam. All winners must pick up their prize between 5 and 6 p.m. on Oct. 25.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more information on how you can donate, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

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EDITOR

# Autumn lessons in neighborliness”

Fall in the Quiet Corner doesn’t need a calendar to announce itself. You can hear it in the school bus engines at dawn, smell it in the wood smoke that drifts through Woodstock Valley, and see it in the long afternoon light spilling across hayfields in Pomfret and Eastford.

This is the season when Northeast Connecticut feels most itself. The fairs are winding down, the last outdoor markets are closing, and residents are turning their attention back to the rhythms that define small-town life—selectmen’s meetings, library programs, and high-school football under the lights.

What’s striking, year after year, is that these local traditions aren’t maintained by chance. They exist because ordinary people take time out of full lives to care for their communities. The volunteer who keeps the Thompson Memorial Day committee running is the same person helping decorate the town common for Halloween. The Brooklyn resident who spends a Tuesday evening in a building committee meeting will be serving cider at a school fundraiser the next weekend.

That’s what binds this corner of the state together: not politics or population, but participation. In a world where so many conversations happen through screens, the simple act of showing up—in person, on time, and with purpose—still carries weight. It’s a quiet kind of civic courage.

So, as the days shorten and our small towns settle in for another winter, let’s take stock of what holds us steady. The neighbor who plows your drive, the local farmer who keeps the stand open one more weekend, the librarian who turns a quiet room into a hub of activity—all of them remind us that community isn’t an idea; it’s an ongoing act.

The leaves will fall, the festivals will fade, and the snow will come soon enough. But if we continue to look out for each other, Northeast Connecticut will remain what it has always been—a collection of small towns with large hearts.

## 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

### Proud to support Coderre for mayor

To the Editor:  
My name is Leah Collins, a new resident of Putnam, and I’m proud to support David Coderre for mayor as the Republican candidate.  
As a local businessman and Chair of the Board of Finance, David understands both our community and its finances. He’s committed to supporting small businesses, managing the town’s budget responsibly, pursuing

outside funding for local projects, and keeping taxes fair for residents.  
I believe his leadership will help Putnam continue to grow while preserving the character and sense of community that make our town special.  
Sincerely,

LEAH COLLINS  
PUTNAM



NANCY WEISS

### Bogdanski is the right person to move Putnam forward

To the Editor:  
I believe Mike Bogdanski will make a knowledgeable selectman for the town of Putnam. Having lived and worked in our community for years, Mike has a good grasp of how town government should be run like a business with a limited budget and carefully examined expenditures.  
Mike is a strong advocate for both teens and seniors in our community as evidenced by

his ongoing involvement with the Aspinock Historical Society, and his work with the DARE program, where he has raised more than \$50,000.  
His integrity, leadership skills and vision for the future make Mike the right person to advance the town of Putnam as a great place to live, work and play for future generations.

PAT HEDENBERG  
PUTNAM

### I will proudly vote for Tammy Wakefield this November

To the Editor:  
I am writing in support of Tammy Wakefield for Killingly Town Council.

Tammy has been an active servant of the community for as long as I have known her. She teaches CPR to our town staff and has helped us get designated as a HEARTSafe community. She has faithfully baked for our multiyear champion football team. She has served as a nurse for our regional 4-H camp. Among other things, when she was not on the council, she served in various boards and commissions. Tammy has a heart for Killingly.

In the highly politicized environment, we

find ourselves these days, Tammy remains one of the few who attempts to meet people in the middle. As a counselor, I have never known Tammy to vote on something that was a republican or democrat idea. Her vote is for those things that help Killingly remain strong and grow. We need more people like Tammy in local, state, and federal office that care not about party, but about what would best serve the people. This is why I am proud to vote this November for Tammy, and encourage you to do the same. We are stronger as a community when we cast aside politics and come together as citizens of a great town.

RAYMOND WOOD  
DANIELSON

### Please vote for Martha Emilio for Selectman

To the Editor:  
In our more than 35 years living in Pomfret, Martha Emilio has always been an active member of our community. When we were fairly new to the community, Martha became involved in Day Kimball Hospital and was elected to the DKH Board of Directors. Later, as a member of the DKH Women’s Board she moved up in the organization through her enthusiasm to Women’s Board President. It was through her leadership that major changes were made in the DKH gift shop bringing additional revenue to the hospital.  
Martha was Pomfret’s representative for CT Tourism Board. Her work helped secure a \$100,000 grant for Quiet Corner marketing and publicity. Meanwhile, Martha started the Pomfret Proprietors to bring small businesses

together in promoting local businesses. It was through her efforts and Pomfret Proprietors that the Town Wide Tag sale began. This yearly event has grown each year and draws people from multiple states. The event benefits all town residents. Proceeds from this event assists local non- profits each year.  
Martha is passionate and speaks her mind. (As her husband of more than 41 years, I speak with some authority .) She listens and will use her business expertise to represent the needs of all Pomfret citizens.  
Please vote for Martha Emilio during Early Voting Oct. 20 - Nov. 2. Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4.  
Thank you,

TONY EMILIO  
POMFRET

### The case has been made for Trump’s removal

To the Editor:  
This is certainly a week for criticizing speech coming out of Donnie Despot’s Reich. In an interview on CNN, Stephen Miller said, “Under Title 10 of the US Code, the President has plenary authority, has—.” He made a sudden stop, followed by an unscheduled commercial break that CNN imposed. CNN realized what Miller said as being blatantly un-Constitutional and traitorous in his use of the term “plenary authority.” Cornell University’s Legal Information Institute defines it as “power that is wide-ranging, broadly construed, and often limitless for all practical purposes.” This slip exposes Miller’s real view of what he advocates for our future. And remember Miller is certainly

the most influential voice in Despot’s ear.  
And Despot himself added his own view. He gloated that his administration took action against people who burned the American flag, saying, “We took the freedom of speech away.” You MAGA’s have got to answer the question of whose side is Despot on? Flag burning has long been established as legal freedom of speech. He does not have the power to nullify part of the First Amendment. This is clear proof that he has no intention of honoring his oath of office to defend and support the Constitution. This, and his failing mental state, demands his removal with the use of the 25th Amendment.

STEPHEN ETZEL  
PUTNAM

### A potential enthusiastic return to Killingly BOE

To the Editor:  
When I was asked to consider filling in for longtime friend Danny Rovero’s unexpired term on the Killingly Board of Education, my hesitation was tempered by the knowledge that it would be over by November. I honestly never assumed that I would be willing to return, if successfully elected, to a once held position.  
However, in my limited experiences since being accepted by the BOE in June, I have developed an increased enthusiasm since observing, what I perceive is the very positive direction of where the Killingly educational community is headed. The outstanding leadership provided by Central Office Administration; the positive comments coming from building Principals; and the general good vibes displayed at the opening day Convocation for all personnel, lead me to envision a positive outcome for the 2025-2026 school year. And I would enjoy being part of it.  
If there is one statistic that jumps out to confirm my findings, it is the extremely high teacher retention rate for the present school year. It is a figure that hadn’t been achieved since 2015 when eleven new teachers were brought on board, compared to this year’s eight. As a former building principal, I understand that there are a variety of reasons why teachers choose to move on. However, I also know that job satisfaction can overcome

many of those reasons. A contented staff can be a very productive staff.  
Since my first involvement with the BOE I have always believed that a school board should be a non-partisan entity. Politics should be left on the doorstep and all decisions made by a board should be weighed by what is in the best interest of the students, with the resources that the community has provided.  
I’m not naïve, and understand the political structure that goes into establishing a board. But I hearken back to when I was a fledgling first year inductee. Dr. Lavius Robinson and Helen Lupien, both Republicans, took me under their respective wings, advised, mentored, offered proper protocol and, surprisingly, we usually arrived at the same decisions. If a member of the other party offers a proposal that is beneficial to the students, why would I oppose it?  
A Board of Education must take a leadership role. However, for Killingly to achieve an educational system that continues to thrive, it takes the whole community. Town management, community support, active parents and even the student body, all have a role to play. And, if I make a successful return to the BOE, I will listen and respond to all queries or complaints. We might even discover we share the same common educational goals.  
NELSON “BUZZ” KING  
KILLINGLY

# When the four-legged and two-legged work in synchrony

We timed our return from France to avoid a possible shut down at the airport in Boston and a predicted strike in France. We managed to avoid both possibilities, and arrived on a chilly evening at Logan. Gone are the long lines at Customs. Even the passport control gates were better staffed than usual.  
A lone beagle and his handler wandered quietly around a g g a g e claim sniffing in a desultory way at a sea of black bags.  
Even in our sophisticated world of high tech, a focused dog can be trained to find whatever humans want to locate.

The beagle reminded me of the truffle hunting dogs my husband, our friends and I met on a pleasant day on a truffle farm in southern France. I’m fascinated by working dogs of every description. I’ve been around border collies and I’m in awe of them. I’m not smart enough to own one. Two corgis we once owned were vigilant guardians of our property, the cats, and sometimes the children. My fox terriers made short work of mice and moles. I thought truffle hunting dogs were a particular breed, but the three we met were a mix – one lab, one Yorkie and one border collie puppy, more or less.

The hunt was less elaborate than I thought it would be. Jean Marc, who looked like a Frenchman right out of central casting, arrived with the dogs, let them out of the van and in minutes, while the farm owner, Johann, was describing the difficulties of truffle farming, the dogs were off.

The goal and the fun part of the hunt is to run after them before they damage the truffles. They locate the tubers by the odor, which oozes pheromones from about four inches beneath the soil. Tools consisted of a long-handled device similar to a trowel and a bent piece of metal resembling a shiny, short crowbar. The dogs dig madly, but they don’t eat the truffles. They unearth them to get a treat from Jean Marc of cheese or sausage. Now this was France, so you know he wasn’t giving them Velveeta and hot dogs.

My husband attended a cooking school in Hampton years ago. The group bought a truffle, which cost \$28 at the time. The teacher put it in with a dozen eggs. The essence of truffle was so strong it permeated the eggs even after they were cooked.

The farmer on our tour assured us that truffle oil, truffles in glass jars and other essence of truffle items are not the real deal. No wonder truffle fries seem a bit odd.  
Truffles are worth the effort because they are in demand and the supply is unpredictable. They sell for high prices and are viewed as luxuries. Truffles are being grown in several places in our country with modest success. Perhaps someday we will see orchards of oak trees surrounded by electric fence (there’s plenty of thievery) and black nuggets unearthed by eager dogs.

At the end of the tour, we were given more truffles to eat than we will ever see again. Too much of a good thing can just be too much, but the story of the trials of farming, the determination of the young French family who inherited the farm, and the friendship of the savvy local outdoorsman to triumph over adversity made for a memorable time.

Best of all was to see, once again, the remarkable connection between humans and dogs. The truffle hunters with four-legs and the truffle hunters with two worked in synchrony, much like the beagle and his handler in Boston.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let’s do our small part and vote!

To the Editor:  
Thank you, Kyle Napierata, for running for re-election to the Board of Education. Your commitment to keeping Killingly schools safe, belief in high standards for education not indoctrination, and responsible budgeting are why I will be voting for you. You are a reasonable person who has the abil-

ity to work through issues and that is essential for serving on the Board of Education.  
Let’s get out and do our small part for our community by voting for Kyle Napierata on Nov. 4.

JUDITH PETERSON  
DANIELSON

Earth — Canary in a coal mine

To the Editor:  
My uncle Larry, a retired residential developer in Orange County, Calif., told me that permits are now being issued to rebuild Los Angeles after last January’s devastating fires. This led me to rewatch some news footage of those monstrous infernos, including an interview with a guy whose entire neighborhood and home of 20 years was turned to ash. Eyes full of tears, he said: “I’ve seen these kinds of things happen to other people and you never think it’s going to happen to you. And then it does.”  
It turns out we’re lucky to live here in Connecticut’s Quiet Corner. Climate models dating back to the 1990s predicted the climate would remain relatively stable in New England, while other parts of the world suffer significant disruption. An increase in high intensity rain events is one change we were told to expect here, and we see that today. In the summer of 2023, the capital of Vermont, Montpelier, was submerged in a devastating flood that caused more than \$1 billion in damages. Then in 2024, flash floods dumped 13 inches of rain in central Connecticut washing away houses and people.  
Except for a bit of a drought, we enjoyed the best summer weather here in recent memory. But other places in the world were not so lucky. In Japan, temperature records dating back to 1889 were broken (twice) and more than 100,000 people suffered heat stroke requiring hospitalization (another record). Mediterranean countries also heated into record territory. According to World Weather Attribution (WWA), an international organization that monitors extreme weather events, in July, Greece, Turkey and Cypress “experienced one of the most devastating months of wildfires in recent years, fueled in Greece by a record heatwave above 45 degrees Celsius (115 degrees Fahrenheit).” At the same time, nearly a million acres burned in Spain despite improved fire prevention methods, and in Portugal, 650,000 acres burned—five times the historic average.  
Up in Scandinavia, Norway exceeded 86 degrees Fahrenheit 13 days in a row, and Ylitornio, Finland, on the edge of the Arctic Circle, exceeded 77 degrees Fahrenheit for 26 days in a row, which according to WWA is “hitherto unknown this far north in Europe.” In nearby Iceland, temperatures reached 80 degrees Fahrenheit in May, breaking the all-time record. Further west, in Greenland, it reached 65°F—64 degrees hotter than its May average. If that happened here, Hartford would be 124 degrees Fahrenheit in May!  
While 77 degrees Fahrenheit might seem pleasant to us, subarctic and arctic regions have ecosystems dependent upon permanent ice and this warming

has caused problems too numerous to mention here. Picture your refrigerator loaded for a summer BBQ breaking down on you and you get the idea. We need the Earth to remain cold up there—all the time!  
You could spin the globe and see examples all over the world where heat waves, fires, droughts, storms and floods are accelerating and amplifying. These are warning signs for us all. Yes, we’re lucky for the moment here in Connecticut, but things that happen elsewhere will come to bite us too.  
In an alarming CNBC interview in September, Gunther Thallinger who oversees investment management and sustainability at Allianz, the world’s largest Insurer, warned that soon: “the world could become uninsurable”. He further stated: “we are fast approaching temperature levels—1.5° degrees Celsius, 2 degrees Celsius, 3 degrees Celsius—where insurers will no longer be able to offer coverage for” risks like floods, fires, extreme heat and other extreme events. This, while according to Slayton Search Partners: “the demand for insurance is rising across nearly every region and product line”, outpacing global economic growth over the next decade.  
Insurance, invented by ancient Babylonians to protect their goods and business transactions, is the fifth largest industry on Earth. It became so because of its vital role in growing the economy by mitigating risk, providing capital and stabilizing markets. Like fertilizer on the farmer’s field, it’s an essential component not only for economic growth, but for stability in times of stress, like the Los Angeles fires and Vermont flood. It’s easy to hate Insurance, but we wouldn’t want to be without it and return to a pre-Babylonian economy.  
The global changes in climate may superficially appear to be insignificant or even from afar, an improvement. But mountains of gathering evidence are a warning that climate change is not only breaking the delicate threads of the natural world, but also eroding the underpinnings of the global economy. It doesn’t come naturally to think in such big terms. Few of us possess the expertise or perspective to comprehend this strange new danger to our world. And so, it remains hard to believe what’s happening elsewhere will come home to roost. Until it does.  
Coal miners once used a little canary in a cage—to warm them when the air in the mine shaft had become poisoned. A little warning can save us if we are smart enough to respond—and get the hell out of the cave!

KEN WOLSLEGEL  
WOODSTOCK

Barney Seney is the right choice for Putnam

To the Editor:  
Barney Seney is the right choice for Putnam. He has devoted his life to public service, having served in the military, the Connecticut State Police, as First Selectman in the town of Thompson, and as Mayor of Putnam. Barney is a proven leader and understands that service to the citizens is above service to any political party.  
Gloria Marion has also devoted her life to serving the state’s and the town’s citizens. She has served on the Special Services District Authority as Chairman, Finance Board, and currently Board of Selectmen.

Scott Pempek, current Selectman and realtor, brings a perspective from a business point of view: Putnam must promote itself to attract newcomers to town.  
Mike Bogdanski has joined the Unity Slate. He retired recently, and serves on numerous boards and commissions in Putnam and beyond. He is ready to bring his experience to the Board of Selectmen.  
Please join me in electing the Unity Slate on Nov. 4. Early voting begins on Oct. 20.

KATHLEEN ZAMAGNI  
PUTNAM

David Griffiths will help Killingly move forward

To the Editor:  
Killingly voters have an opportunity this November to elect someone who will bring proven experience and steady leadership back to our Town Council. I am proud to support David Griffiths for an at-large seat.  
David is no stranger to service—he has previously served on the Council, including terms as Chairman. That means there is no “on the job training” required. From day one, he can get to work on the issues that matter most to our town.  
The most pressing challenge facing Killingly is the long-overdue expansion of our water treatment plant. This is a project that will require significant state and federal assistance. David’s knowledge of town government, his ability to navigate funding channels, and his prior leadership experience make him the right person to see this vital project through.

As a farmer by trade, David also understands the balance our town must strike: protecting the rural character that makes Killingly special, while still encouraging thoughtful commercial and industrial growth that broadens our tax base and relieves the burden on residents.  
Finally, David has been a consistent advocate for addressing quality-of-life issues that too often go overlooked—such as the growing problem of speeding and traffic violations on our roads. He believes the safety of our residents should be a priority for the Killingly Police Department, not an afterthought.  
David Griffiths has the experience, the common sense, and the commitment to move Killingly forward while preserving what we value most.  
I urge my fellow residents to join me in voting for Dave Griffiths.

DAVID SMITH  
DANIELSON

Term limits aren’t a bad idea

To the Editor:  
After reading last week’s reply from Dave Clark, I had to again read my letter that prompted his response, and from what I could see, I never said that term limits was the best solution, or that I even proposed a solution at all. However, I will say that his proposal wasn’t a bad idea at all.  
I have to admit that I was unaware of how term limits on our presidents came to happen, and I thank him for the enlightenment. Included with that, Mr. Clark added that “they” (the Republicans), in ratifying the 22nd Amendment, did not include term limits for members of Congress because “that would be like shooting themselves in the foot.” And that quote remains true, seeing that today’s politicians think the job should be a “for life” position and no doubt the now additional wallet-fatening benefits have influenced that decision. So, if yesterday’s republicans were indeed responsible for us now not having term limits, I’d say that today’s democrats certainly owe them a sincere debt of gratitude. Mr. Clark (and others) may not be aware of the proposal being pushed for by the “Convention of States” (Article V convention) that does include term limits, and one that does have Republican backing? (And I’ll leave researching that to whomever

may be interested.)  
I disagree with Mr. Clark’s saying that «To implement term limits, is to remove the choice of the people to elect their own representatives.» When her death ended Dianne Feinstein’s U.S. Senate reign, the only thing that did was take away the people’s choice to vote for her and that opened the door for them to have future choices. And if term limits (or that other fate) saw the removal of Blumenthal, Courtney, DeLauro or Murphy, the same would happen here.  
I believe that if Harris had become president, the goal was to give outright citizenship to the millions of illegals and make them democrat voters, and by flooding the rolls ensure a future democrat rule. So, wouldn’t that be rigging the game in their favor as well and also limiting the power of the voters? (And if I came into this country without a dime in my pocket and the democrats handed me everything that I needed to live, I’d vote for them as well.)  
Anyhow, Dave, you were totally correct when you said that «we have the power to fire them.» but in considering the possibility of that, or term limits for Congress ever happening, I’d say that we both have a better chance at winning the lottery.

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

ADDITIONAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, SEE PAGE A-8



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<sup>2</sup>Plan 6148. Subject to credit approval. Loan term is 48 months at fixed rate of 0.00% APR. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date, for every \$1,000 financed at 0% APR, 48 monthly payments of \$20.84. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. [www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.



# The cost of growing old: What to know now to be prepared

The golden years should be truly golden—a time to enjoy the fruits of your labor, spend time with loved ones, and pursue passions you may have put on hold during your working years. However, the reality is that aging comes with significant financial and lifestyle considerations that can catch even the most prepared families off guard. Understanding these costs and planning for them now is crucial for maintaining independence, dignity, and financial security in your later years.

The rising reality of aging costs

The numbers surrounding aging care costs in 2025 are substantial. The median cost for senior in-home care ranges from \$34-\$35 per hour nationally<sup>1</sup>, with significant variation by state. For families considering full-time care, this translates to \$4,000 to \$6,400 monthly for 40 hours per week of continuous in-home care<sup>2</sup>. Even more striking, nursing home costs have reached a median of \$361 per day for a private room, or \$10,965 per month—adding up to an annual expense of \$131,583<sup>3</sup>.

These figures represent more than just numbers on a page; they represent the financial reality that millions of American families will face as our population ages. The number of Americans aged 65+ is expected to reach 82 million by 2050<sup>4</sup>, making this a planning imperative for individuals across all age groups.

Healthcare costs: The hidden financial challenge

Beyond daily care expenses, healthcare costs present another significant financial burden. A 65-year-old who retired in 2025 can expect to spend \$172,500 on healthcare throughout retirement, up from \$165,000 in 2024<sup>5</sup>. This substantial increase reflects the growing complexity and cost of medical care as we age.

Research shows that people aged 55 and over account for over half of total health spending, despite making up just 31% of the U.S. population<sup>6</sup>. This disproportionate impact highlights why healthcare planning becomes increasingly critical as we approach and enter our senior years.

The personal side of care planning

While statistics provide a broad picture, the day-to-day reality of senior care involves much more personal considerations. Heather O'Rourke, founder of Simplify Life Services, LLC and a former long-time member of our team here at WHZ, understands this intimately. As a licensed lifestyle management professional specializing in senior assistance, she emphasizes that “the goal isn't just managing tasks—it's preserving independence and dignity while ensuring safety and comfort in familiar surroundings.”

O'Rourke notes that many families underestimate the emotional

component of aging care decisions.

“When we focus solely on the financial aspects, we often miss the human element. Seniors want to maintain their autonomy and stay connected to their communities. The most successful care plans address both the practical needs and the emotional wellbeing of the individual,” she says.

Planning strategies for the future

The key to managing aging costs is beginning your planning while you're still healthy and employed. Consider these essential steps:

Long-term care insurance: Policies purchased in your 50s or early 60s can provide significant coverage for future care needs

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs): For those eligible, HSAs offer triple tax advantages and can be used for medical expenses in retirement

Estate and care planning: Document your preferences for care and establish financial power of attorney

Explore All Care Options: A remarkable 94% of seniors express a preference to age in place<sup>9</sup>, which often proves more cost-effective than institutional care. However, successful aging in place requires careful planning and often involves a combination of services.

“Aging in place doesn't mean doing everything alone,” O'Rourke explains. “It means creating a support system that allows someone to stay in

their home safely. This might include professional caregivers, family support, community resources, and home modifications—all coordinated to work together effectively.”

The role of professional financial planning

Given the complexity and significant financial implications of aging, working with experienced financial advisors becomes crucial. Professional guidance can help you:

Estimate your specific care costs based on health factors and geographic location

Develop tax-efficient strategies for funding long-term care

Coordinate insurance coverage and benefit optimization

Create contingency plans for different health scenarios

Finally, remember that aging cost planning isn't just about covering expenses—it's about preserving your ability to leave a legacy for your loved ones and causes you care about. Proper planning can help ensure that care costs don't completely deplete the assets you've worked a lifetime to build.

The cost of growing old is significant, but it's not insurmountable with proper planning. The earlier you start, the more options you'll have and the better prepared you'll be for whatever the future holds.

As O'Rourke says, “The best time to plan for aging care was yesterday.

## FINANCIAL FOCUS

• • • • •

BY LAURENCE HALE AND HEATHER O'ROURKE

having a thoughtful, comprehensive plan in place.”

Don't let the golden years lose their luster due to inadequate planning. Start the conversation with your family today, consult with financial professionals who understand the complexities of aging costs, and take the steps necessary to ensure your later years are characterized by security, dignity, and peace of mind.

Schedule a complimentary discovery session with our team at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors at whzwealth.com or (860) 928-2341. We will help you develop a comprehensive strategy that addresses your unique needs and goals, ensuring you're prepared for whatever the future holds.

Authored by Senior Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Laurence Hale AAMS, CRPS®. AI may have been used for the initial research and drafting of this piece. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow

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S o u r c e s :

1 SeniorLiving.org, “Senior In-Home Care Costs | Elderly Home Health Care Costs in 2025”

2 GoInstaCare, “In-Home Elderly Care Costs in 2025: Complete Guide”

3 SeniorLiving.org, “Nursing Home Costs in 2025 by State and Type of Care”

4 Nurse Next Door, “The Cost of Dignity: A Guide to In-Home Care Costs and Happier Aging in 2025”

5 Kiplinger, “Average Cost of Health Care by Age and US State,” January 12, 2025

6 KFF Analysis of Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's 2021 Medical Expenditures Panel Survey (MEPS)

7 2024 Genworth Cost of Care Survey conducted by CareScout®

8 SeniorLiving.org, “How Much Does Assisted Living Cost in 2025?”

9 Nurse Next Door, “The Cost of Dignity: A Guide to In-Home Care Costs and Happier Aging in 2025”

# Remembering Asa Cutler

Mark Your Calendars : Saturday, Nov. 1 at 1:30 p.m., the Killingly Historical Society will present “The Web They Wove”; Women and their Wardrobes during New England's Revolution by Dirty Blue Shirts. There will be a short business meeting at 1 p.m. All are welcome. 196 Main St., Danielson, CT 06239.



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

Support one of Killingly's Historic Properties. Killingly Grange #112, 801 Hartford Turnpike, Dayville, will sponsor a Turkey Dinner with fixings on Saturday, October 18 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$17 (\$1 discount if you bring an item for the food pantry). Roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, butternut squash, cranberry sauce, rolls, slice of pie. Dine in or take out. Whole Apple or Pumpkin Pies \$16 each. To reserve a dinner call Terry at 860-884-1813 or Penny at 860-230-7367, or visit them at [www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/](http://www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/). The Grange is collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

Putnam Library has received a grant for programming from PBS/WETA Studios in conjunction with the release of “The Revolution” by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. There will be a showing of an exclusive preview of the docuseries on Oct. 25 at 12:30 p.m. at Putnam Library.

The baseball playoffs are still in full swing, so I will continue honoring local players. Some of you may remember Bruce Boisclair from when he attended Killingly High School. Wikipedia gave the following summary of his career: “Bruce Armand Boisclair (born Dec. 9, 1952) was an American former Major League Baseball outfielder, who spent his entire major league career with the New York Mets from 1974 to 1979. He also played for the Hanshin Tigers of Nippon Professional Baseball in 1980. Boisclair

attended Killingly High School in Killingly, Connecticut, where he starred in football, basketball & baseball. He graduated in 1970. Before being drafted by the New York Mets in the 20th round of the 1970 Major League Baseball Draft, the tight end was expected to attend Boston College on a football scholarship. Boisclair received a September call-up from the Mets in 1974. In a 25 inning marathon with the St. Louis Cardinals at Shea Stadium, Boisclair made his major league debut in the 23rd inning, pinch running for Duffy Dyer.” Bruce played with the Mets organization from 1974-1979 when he injured his wrist and missed half the season. After being released, in 1980 he played with the Hanshin Tigers for a year. He married Dolores L. Mueller October 8, 1978 in Los Angeles, California. They have two daughters, Erin and Britt. (Some information from Ancestry.com).

Special thanks to everyone who attended my recent presentation on “Abolition and the Underground Railroad in Northeastern Connecticut.” As usual, several attendees added to my list of “hiding places” for run-aways. Secret rooms, tunnels! I'm always hoping to add to the list so if you are aware of a site, please email me. Although most underground railroad agents remain anonymous, several from this area left a paper trail—Henry Hammond of Pomfret and Killingly and Asa Cutler of Killingly and Putnam. I even have tracked down photos of both individuals. Today, I'll write about Cutler, who apparently remained an active abolitionist up to his death and left a nice paper trail.

Asa Cutler, the older of the two men, was born June 8, 1788 in Killingly, the son of blacksmith Benjamin Cutler who lived on what

is now Five Mile River Road in Putnam. As a young man Asa followed in his father's footsteps as a blacksmith. On September 30, 1813 he married Sarah, daughter of Oliver and Tamar (Davis) Torrey. By the 1820's Northeastern Connecticut had been hit with “manufacturing fever.” Asa Cutler was not immune. “In 1825 he with partners bought cotton mills at North Oxford, Massachusetts where he was engaged in manufacturing four years, then returned to Killingly.” (A Cutler Memorial and Genealogical History, p. 143, Ancestry.com). By the 1830's the anti-slavery movement was taking hold in this area, and Cutler became a staunch abolitionist working with national figures such as William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the Liberator, and Unitarian minister Samuel May. Cutler's name heads the list of Killingly supporters on a broadside that was published February 24, 1838 to form a Connecticut Antislavery Society. At this point on time he was living on what was Killingly Hill and is now Putnam Heights across from the common. (Putnam was not incorporated until 1855). Killingly minister Elisha

Atkins and mill owners Jabez Amsbury and George Weatherhead were also signees. “In 1839, Asa again went to Oxford, resumed his old occupation and followed the business successfully until 1847, when he sold a share of his interest, settling permanently at Pomfret Factories, now Putnam. He was interested in public affairs and very energetic in procuring the set of incorporation of the new town. He built a large brick block of stores and many dwellings which he rented.” (Cutler Memorial). Cutler's house in Putnam, across from the railroad station, was known as a safe haven for run-away slaves by the yellow blinds in its windows. “The house on South Main Street became the rendezvous of those interested in anti-slavery. William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the Liberator; Frederick Douglas, Samuel May, Lucy Stone, and many other noted abolitionists, came to Putnam, and here conferred with Mr. Cutler.” (Putnam Patriot, March 22, 1918; courtesy of the late Robert Miller; former Putnam municipal historian). His house is no longer standing but is visible on the 1869 Putnam map from O. W. Gray's Atlas

of Windham and Tolland Counties, CT. Although he moved to Putnam, Asa retained his connections to the Massachusetts abolitionists and Anti-Slavery Society. The Aug. 6, 1851 issue of the Massachusetts Spy from Worcester, Vol. LXXX, Issue 32, p. 2 noted that an Anniversary Celebration of the Abolition of slavery in the West Indies and Great Britain was held in that city. Not only was Cutler an attendee, he was listed as one of the vice-presidents of the Society. Later that year Cutler helped bring nationally known abolitionist Lucy Stone to Putnam as a speaker at a meeting in Quinebaug Hall in Putnam (The Liberator, Friday, October 3, 1851, Boston, Mass., Vo. XXI, Issue 40, p. 159; [genealogybank.com](http://genealogybank.com)). His name appears in a number of other articles in the Liberator (see [genealogybank.com](http://genealogybank.com) for newspaper articles about Cutler).

Unfortunately, Asa Cutler did not live to see the end of slavery in this country but died March 7, 1859 after several weeks of illness and suffering. Abolitionist minister Samuel J. May, Jr. himself, wrote

a lengthy tribute which appeared in the Friday, March 25, 1859 issue of the Liberator (p. 2). “Asa Cutler was one of the earliest Abolitionists of New England, espousing the cause in the days of its darkness and peril, and never wavering in his attachments to it, nor in his labors in its behalf, to the very close of his life. Wherever he lived, there was an anti-slavery centre (sic)...The early agents and lecturers in the Anti-slavery field will, one and all, testify to the great value of the help he gave them, by his moral support and his liberal pecuniary aid. The Anti-slavery cause, in his death, has lost a very faithful and intelligent friend, whose loss it will be hard to supply.”

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, October 2025. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto: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/killinglyhistorical-society](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistorical-society)

## Jasmyne Quinn named to Goodwin University Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD — Jasmyne Quinn has earned a spot on Goodwin University's Dean's List for the summer 2025 semester.

Jasmyne, a student from Rogers, is one of 408 students to make the Dean's List, reserved for those who demonstrate exemplary academic performance. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Goodwin University congratulates Jasmyne on making the Dean's List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

Goodwin University in East Hartford, is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit [www.goodwin.edu](http://www.goodwin.edu).

## Kelsie Boulet-Briere named to Goodwin University Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD — Kelsie Boulet-Briere has earned a spot on Goodwin University's Dean's List for the summer 2025 semester.

Kelsie, a student from Putnam, is one of 408 students to make the Dean's List, reserved for those who demonstrate exemplary academic performance. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Napierata will make a difference for Killingly’s students

To the Editor:

I enthusiastically write this letter in support of my husband, Kyle Napierata, running for reelection to the Killingly Board of Education. Kyle’s commitment to excellence in education, transparent communication, responsible budgeting, and common sense qualities all make him an outstanding candidate. In addition, he has one of the best, if not the best attendance record for serving on the Board over the last five years.

Sadly, we are seeing a trend across our great nation where students are being taught what to think, rather than how to think. Kyle believes Killingly schools are better than these present educational trends and will continue to help keep them that way. He maintains focus on what is best for all students and opposes political agendas to infiltrate our schools.

Being married to a teacher, and having many family members employed by Connecticut schools, Kyle understands and appreciates the incredible amount of arduous work and dedication school employees put forth every day.

Kyle is committed to transparent

communication and understands that parents and guardians have a vital role in the collaborative partnership between schools, administrators and families. His ability to communicate with anyone is impressive. You will not find Kyle attacking opponents or posting anything negative on social media. I applaud him for that and for being open to conversation and debate.

Working for more than 35 years at a small, family owned business has taught Kyle the value of being fiscally responsible. He has taught his own children two basic financial principles to live by- don’t spend money that you don’t have and going into debt is not an option.

As an elected board member, Kyle serves to represent the community as a whole. He always asserts that he has “a responsibility to the students, parents, staff, and taxpayers of Killingly.”

Please join me on Nov. 4 and vote for making a difference in the education and safety of Killingly’s students and staff, by voting for Kyle Napierata.

JEN NAPIERATA  
DANIELSON

### Join me in supporting Michelle Murphy for re-election

To the Editor:

I would like to endorse Michelle Murphy for re-elections as the Killingly Town Councilor at large. Over the past four years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Michelle. She has performed her duties to positively impact the Killingly community and its residents.

Michelle moved to Killingly 10 years ago to live in a quiet rural community with affordable living. As a fiscal conservative, she has persevered through difficult challenges and decisions to cut taxes. She believes senior citizens on fixed incomes deserve to stay in their homes after a lifetime of working.

Michelle believes in sustainable growth and development while at the same time preserving Killingly’s rural country charm. Over the past year, she campaigned to have the Planned Residential Developments (PRD) removed from rural zones in the

Planning and Zoning Commission’s updated regulations. Under the PRD four housing units per acre would be allowed in rural zones. Michelle, as well as the residents of Killingly, do not believe increased density and housing developments are appropriate in rural zones.

Michelle brings with her a wide variety of life and job experiences from working on her family’s chicken farm, security guard, ironworker, and currently being the project manager of a wastewater treatment facility. These are a few of the examples that make Michelle a highly competent Town Councilor and servant for the Town of Killingly.

Please join me in re-electing Michelle Murphy for Killingly’s Councilor At Large.

ULLA K. THIRK-BARCLAY  
DANIELSON

### Join the discussion of Brooklyn’s future

To the Editor:

On Monday, Oct. 20, the Brooklyn Town Governance Committee will hold a Special Town Meeting to gather public input. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Brooklyn Middle School auditorium (119 Gorman Rd.), and will also be available remotely via Google Meeting.

According to the 2025 Brooklyn Town Profile posted on the town Web site, our community now numbers 8,456 residents, with a median age of 40. More than 6,500 Brooklyn adults are age 20 and older. Imagine if hundreds, or even a thousand, of us showed up to take part in shaping Brooklyn’s future.

The Town Governance Special Meeting agenda, available on the town Web site, outlines the Governance committee’s request for public feedback

on a draft proposal to create a Town Administrator or Town Manager position. The Board of Selectmen established this committee to research and present options for residents to consider, an idea that’s been discussed in Brooklyn for years.

This committee needs us. Our feedback will help guide the final report submitted to the Board of Selectmen for review and possible action.

Let’s show up, speak up, and be part of this important discussion.

I hope to see you at the Town Governance meeting on Monday, Oct. 20 at the Brooklyn Middle School.

Respectfully,

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

### Thought I was done with them

To the Editor:

Let us compare a recent quote out of No. Grosvenordale with another late-night mini- screed from the Rights dear leader. First, from Mr. Piette: «Most non-biased people realized Joe Biden was not all there.»

And now, Trump: «The Biden FBI placed 274 agents into the crowd on Jan. 6. If this is so, which it is, a lot of very good people will be owed big apologies. What a scam — do something!»

Quiz time: Who was the President on Jan. 6, 2021? Surprise, it was the same guy who started a riot to prevent Joe Biden from taking office. So how could Biden be running the Department of Justice, while he was still a citizen, before being sworn in? There Mr. Piette, now you know. One thing Trump forgot in his delirium was that he pardoned them all.

So, this is what real leadership is like,

### Republicans are why you have more “Democrats” to vote for

To the Editor:

Once again it is time to be the voice of reason amidst all the yelling, hollering, and guerilla marketing.

Certain individuals have taken it upon themselves to go utterly brand-crazy about how “if they don’t have an R next to their name they’re a Democrat!” I kindly invite those people to take a break from being wise in their own eyes and learn how the world really works.

Party registration in the state of Connecticut has no real ideological test, and traditionally the two parties include their respective centers. You can agree with a party on a single issue and a single issue only and register with that party. Even that’s not necessary though because as a closed primary state you could agree with a party on zero issues, register, and then just vote what you want but only have your party registration to mess with a party’s primaries.

Lastly, there’s the bureaucratic side of everything. Here in Putnam, we have a Democratic Town Committee that has

had blatant talent funnel problems for years. On the flip side, the Republicans hit representation caps and have to primary out some people who want to run for office. That leaves the door wide open for candidates to party-switch if they have a disagreement with their party leadership (which may not even be about issues if it’s an administrative thing) or think they’re going to get primaried. If the other party’s Swiss cheese and will take whatever they can get, why not?

The new names besides same old same old you’ll see on the “Democratic row” in Putnam this November should not be interpreted as “Putnam going woke” or “Putnam becoming a sanctuary city” as people’s internet meltdowns might suggest. With the way some of our elections work, it is very easy to end up with a very conservative Board of Selectmen with a mix of Ds and Rs this November. That’s the game, and that’s how it’s played.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

### Keep the Killingly Board of Education moving in the right direction

To the Editor:

Under the leadership of BOE Chair Susan Lannon, members Misty Murdock and Nelson “Buzz” King, the Killingly Public Schools has made great strides over the past two years. I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Susan, Misty, Buzz and Kyle Provencher in the upcoming local election.

Over the last two years, the Board of Education has brought stability, respectability and tangible positive data as a result of their hard work for our students and KPS Staff. Graduation rates have increased, attendance has improved, test scores have increased, students report feeling safer in schools and attracting and retaining quality staff has increased. When Killingly Schools are in the newspaper or on the TV, it has been for positive reasons. A far cry from previous leadership.

Killingly High School has always been a school of choice for sending towns through our award-winning Agriculture

Education program and now, because of the renewed positive perception of the quality education that can be obtained at KHS, the towns of Woodstock, Sterling and Canterbury have joined Brooklyn and Pomfret as an option for their students. I don’t think we could receive a better endorsement than having those towns put the education of their students in our hands. The current board has only one agenda – make decisions based on what is best for our students and staff and keep politics out of our meetings.

If you have been watching the last two years, it’s obvious that this group has achieved that goal. Killingly Public Schools have never been in better hands, please be sure to come out to support Susan, Misty, Buzz and Kyle on Nov/ 4 to keep our schools moving in the right direction.

KEVIN MARCOUX  
KILLINGLY

### Thank you, Thompson citizens!

To the Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Thompson for passing the two resolutions at the Town Meeting on Oct. 8, which will grant a tax deferment to the potential developer of the 630 Riverside Dr., the former Belding Corticelli Mill.

That developer, Robert Letskus of Refined Living, Inc. is proposing to build a phased, mixed use project including condominium and commercial units at the site of the demolished mill.

This site sits at the intersection of Route 12 and Route 200 and is a “gateway” location into North Grosvenordale. The mill was largely demolished in the 1990’s. Unfortunately, one of the last remaining components, the stair tower, collapsed in 2023. Refined Living, Inc. plans to incorporate the remaining structures, consisting of the guard house and smokestack, into the development project.

The developer deserves this assistance with tax deferment as he begins work to design, seek approval for and construct this much needed project. Concerned citizens of Thompson formed a Belding Corticelli Improvement Committee in 2012 specifically to seek solutions to this site, which had become such an

eyesore “at our town’s front door.” Our committee, now named the Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee (MSRAC), has been able to secure grant funding to test, identify and define the environmental contamination from the years of mill operation.

This played a major role in allowing any potential developer to understand the likely clean-up costs, so critical in their project assessment.

It is very satisfying for MSRAC and for our town to see a qualified developer step forward. It is such a visible and important site in Thompson.

Thank you again to the Thompson citizens who voted unanimously to approve the tax incentives at the recent Town Meeting. Kudos also to our Selectmen, Town Planner and Town Tax Assessor for their efforts to make this happen!

And best of luck to Robert Letskus and his team! We look forward to getting familiar with the project that they will be proposing for this important site!

Sincerely,

JANET BLANCHETTE, MSRAC  
CHAIRMAN  
STEVE LEWIS, MSRAC VICE-  
CHAIRMAN  
THOMPSON

## High school and Legion coach Tom Auclair’s death shocks region

BY RON P. CODERRE

The sudden passing of baseball coaching legend Tom Auclair’s death struck the greater Northeastern Connecticut region with the force of an earthquake as the news rumbled throughout the area. The ‘shock waves’ that were felt by his multitude of friends and former players reached a level equivalent to a 10 on the Richter Scale.

Tom Auclair, a man of courage and conviction, was someone that you either loved or didn’t, but admired. As a dedicated coach for more than 20 seasons at Tourtellotte Memorial High School and 21 summers with the TriTown American Legion Baseball he can best be characterized as a hard-nosed disciplinarian who demanded more than 100 percent from his players. Although he was demanding he placed as much work and dedication on himself as he did on his players. If you played for Tom Auclair, he demanded your undevoted attention to the game of baseball and he gave the same.

As demanding as he was on the field between the foul lines, he demonstrated the same type of results with his students in the classroom. The young people who came under his guidance will probably attest that he is the one educator they respected most and say thank you to today.

Tom Auclair and I were very close friends. As young men, we played together on the Weiss’ Market and Deary Bros. softball teams for many years. On the baseball diamond we also often had opposing roles, I as an umpire and Tom as a

coach. Despite our occasional differences of opinion about a ‘safe or out’ call or balls and strikes, we were always, and I emphasize always, able to sit down together, share a moment and remain friends.

I remember when he contacted me in my community relations role at Day Kimball Hospital. He asked if I could arrange a tour of the birthing center and maternity area for one of his classes. I discussed the request with the nurse in charge of the unit, who was very willing to accommodate the students and Mr. Auclair.

The entire morning presentation and tour was well received by the students. The results proved to be just what the doctor ordered for everyone. When I spoke with the nurse following the morning, she said and I quote, “That was one of the best groups of students I’ve ever spoken to in my career. And I want to share that the teacher was the very best I’ve ever encountered. His love for his students was obvious.” What a tribute to a man who many said was a ‘tough guy.’

Tom Auclair worked hard for everything he accomplished or undertook in life. He was not born with the proverbial ‘silver spoon in his mouth.’ He was a hard-working high school athlete who exceeded all expectations. He went on to play college baseball at Eastern Connecticut State University. He ended up giving back to the area with a combined more than 40 years of coaching high school and American Legion Baseball and high school girls basketball.

Tom was fortunate that his wife, Jan, of 54 years

loved baseball and provided him with support in all his endeavors. Together they raised three children who were a credit to the family as students and athletes. Their daughter, Heidi was a softball pitcher on the Putnam High School State Champion softball team. Their sons Adam and Aaron went on to collegiate baseball and careers in law enforcement and public safety.

Following retirement in 2006, Tom and Jan enjoyed the warmth and sunshine of Florida, where Tom continually worked on perfecting his golf game. Back in Connecticut during the summer months Tom dedicated himself to teaching his grandsons and their teammates the fundamentals of our national pastime as he continued perfecting his golf game at Quinnatisset Country Club.

The family has established the Tom Auclair Memorial Scholarship. And I’ll go on the limb and say anyone who knew Tom SHOULD step up and support this fund in memory of this man who gave up so much of himself for the benefit of others, often to his own detriment. Supporting the scholarship is the thing to do. Send donations today to The Tom Auclair Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 157, Thompson, CT 06277-0157.

Tom Auclair, rest in peace. Your life was not for naught. In years to come, young men and women, who you coached and taught, and are now themselves coaches or teachers, will pass on your legacy telling their players and students this is what I learned from Coach Tom Auclair.







# SPORTS

## The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Boys Cross-Country

Woodstock Academy 21 NFA 37

The Centaurs and Wildcats finished off their dual meet seasons against one another at the Woodstock Fairgrounds. Jack Dempsey of Norwich Free Academy (2-6, 0-4 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) finished first overall in 17 minutes, 39 seconds but he was chased across the line by four Woodstock Academy runners.

Lucas Hecker was the leader of the pack for the Centaurs (4-1, 3-1) in 17:58 followed by Sam Greene, Bronson Eddy and Harrison Durand.

Girls Cross-Country

Woodstock Academy 19 NFA 44

Freshman Emelia Langevin remained undefeated on her home course as she toured the Woodstock Fairgrounds in 20 minutes, 56 seconds. Seniors Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain and Olivia Tracy, in their final home meets, finished third and fifth respectively while freshman Claire Bruneaux was fifth for the Centaurs (3-2, 3-1 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I).

Helen Muench prevented the sweep as she finished second overall for the Wildcats (2-5, 1-3).

Centaurs finish fourth and sixth at Wickham Park Invitational

The Woodstock Academy girls cross-country team placed 4th in the Large School race at the Wickham Park Invitational with freshman Emelia Langevin 5th overall in 20:01.

Olivia Tracy was 36th for the Centaurs while Clare Bruneaux

### Killing High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up

Field Hockey

Killingly field hockey secured a 2-1 home win in overtime over NFA on Oct. 7. Killingly trailed 0-1 at the half after a goal by Bella Ruta. Senior Josie Sanchez scored in the third quarter to tie the game up. The game stayed tied 1-1 and went into overtime. Senior Goalie Sage Cusson Malone, posted 10 saves including a stroke save. In Overtime, Freshman Olivia Cesolini scored the game winning goal with just 18 seconds left on the clock. It was an exciting game until the very end! An overall outstanding team win! The team now stood at 3-4 in ECC conference play after this game.

Girls Soccer

Killingly made the trip to Amistad on Wednesday, Oct. 8 and came away with a strong team win 8-0. The goals were scored by Nina Purcell, Adalyn Malarkey, Madison Perry, Samantha Bourque, Kezlee Morrarty, Lianna Hutchinson, Ashley Boudreau, and Hazel Clavette. Hazel, Lianna, and Madison each netted their first varsity goals! Assists were provided by Gracie Pekarovic-West (2), Aislynn Hassett, Kate Crowley, Declyn Benjamin, and Adalyn Malarkey. The team record is now 8-2-2 for the season.

The girls fell short in a tough 0-2 loss to Wheeler on Friday afternoon, Oct. 10, despite controlling possession for the majority of the match.

The team now holds a solid 8-3-2 record as they continue building momentum heading into the final stretch of the season.

Volleyball

The Killingly Volleyball team traveled to Wheeler High School on Wednesday, Oct. 8.

The JV record fell to 11-4, losing to Wheeler 1 set to 2, 26-24, 11-25, 19-25. Evangelina Stockwell had 3 kills; Lillian McDonald had 3 assists; Violet Schafer had 2 aces; Lyla Rondeau had 3 digs, 3 aces, 3 kills; Haillee James had 2 aces, 2 kills, 2 assists; Arya Davis had 2 assists; Addison had 2 aces; Loretta Lannon had 5 blocks, 2 aces, 5 kills; and Ellsie Antobenedetto had 2 kills to lead Killingly.

Killingly 3, Wheeler 2

Killingly 11-4

Wheeler 7-8

19-25, 22-25, 25-13, 25-23, 15-7

The Varsity record rose to 11-4, defeating Wheeler 3 sets to 2, 19-25, 22-25, 25-13, 25-23, 15-7. Danielle Veillette had 6 digs, 5 aces; Kalynn Dombkowski had 13 assists; Lyla Rondeau had 5 digs, 3 aces; Kayla Drinkwater had 7 kills; Kendall Rosen had 10 kills; Jaliyah Blair had 2 blocks, 4 aces; Shyah Baker had 17 aces, 10 kills, 13 assists; Loretta Lannon had 2 blocks; and Jayden Durand had 3 aces, 5 kills to lead Killingly.

The team had two matches over the long weekend. On Friday, Oct. 10, they traveled to Lyman High School.

The JV record fell to 11-5, losing to Lyman 1 set to 2, 25-13, 22-25, 5-25.

Killingly 1, Lyman 3

Killingly 11-5

Lyman 10-6

20-25, 25-21, 15-25, 17-25

The Varsity record fell to 11-5, losing to Lyman 1 set to 3, 20-25, 25-21, 15-25, 17-25.

On Monday, Oct. 13, the team traveled to Hamden High School.

The JV record fell to 11-6, losing to Hamden 1 set to 2, 17-25, 25-13, 23-25.

Killingly 1, Hamden 3

Killingly 11-6

Hamden 13-5

18-25, 16-25, 25-18, 17-25

The Varsity record fell to 11-6, losing to Hamden 1 set to 3, 18-25, 16-25, 25-18, 17-25

Killingly was next scheduled to host Windham Tech after this week's press deadline on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

placed 38th and Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain was 43rd.

The Woodstock Academy boys cross-country team placed 6th in the Large school race with Lucas Hecker in 23rd; Sam Greene 30th; Bronson Eddy 41st and Harrison Durand 44th.

Boys Soccer

Woodstock Academy 1 St. Bernard 0

Zach Armbruster scored off a free kick from 28 yards out in the first half and it stood up as the Centaurs eclipsed the .500 mark, improving to 4-3-4 on the season.

The loss dropped the Saints to 8-4 on the year.

Girls Soccer

Bacon Academy 2 Woodstock Academy 0

The Bobcats got a goal in the first half and another early in the second to continue their undefeated ways.

Bacon Academy freshman Ava Galante put her team on the board first, taking a corner from senior Arianna Elliott 23 minutes, 9 seconds into the match and finding the back of the net.

The Bobcats (13-0, 9-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) put the win away when Quinn Guntulis added a second goal just 2:48 into the second half.

Ellary Sampson made eight saves in net for the Centaurs (3-8-3, 2-4-3).

Prep Soccer

Woodstock Academy Prep 2 5

St. Thomas More 1

Five different players scored for the Centaurs who improved to 5-3 and 3-0 in the Global Education Sports Partners League with the win over the Chancellors.

Mark Maruyama had a goal and an assist and Nico Ochoa, Luca Passinha Braz, Victor Schougaard and Antonio Amado added goals in the win for Woodstock Academy at the Bentley Athletic Complex.

Woodstock Academy Prep 2 2

Spire Academy 0

The Centaurs traveled a long distance to pick up their sixth win in nine matches.

Jaehee Kim scored both goals for Woodstock Academy in the match played at Western Reserve Academy while Penrose Ayeyei added an assist.

Woodstock Academy Prep 1 3

Andrews Osborne Academy 1

The Centaurs kept their winning ways going despite being far from home and being down on the scoreboard early.

Richard Sarpong, Alexavier Gooden and Jeongbin Lee got the goals for Woodstock Academy (7-0, 2-0 Prep Premiere League) while Ozzie Pearman added a pair of assists.

Woodstock Academy Prep 2 3

University School 1

The Centaurs Prep 2 team played its second match in two days, had to battle back from an early deficit, but still prevailed to improve to 7-3 on the season.

Victor Schougaard, Mac Gallagher and Mark Maruyama had the goals for the Centaurs with Fabian Crespo, Jaehee Kim and Matias Solano delivering assists.

Woodstock Academy

Alivia Bialowas, Amirah Carter, Petra Berry and Janiah Carter all had four kills each for NFA (9-7, 3-5) while Savannah Guernsey had 11 assists.

Football

Griswold/Wheeler 47 Woodstock Academy 20

The Wolverines broke open what was a one-possession game at the half by putting four touchdowns on the board in the third quarter.

Griswold/Wheeler quarterback Kolby Mills (12-for-25 passing, 190 yards) hit Nicholas Watters with a 30-yard touchdown pass and Jason Demicco with a short 3-yard toss for two of those third quarter scores.

He also scored one of his own as he turned a busted play into a touchdown. Mills reeled in a bad snap that popped up into the air, tucked it and ran it in from two yards out. Demicco added a 19-yard run to account for the scoring in the third quarter for the Wolverines (3-1).

Mills also hit Watters for a 12-yard score and scored on a 1-yard scamper in the first half while Demicco added a 3-yard run for a touchdown.

Woodstock Academy quarterback Elijah Poh (12-for-26, 247 yards) had three long completions for scores. He hit Caydem Herlihy (7 catches, 165 yards) for scores of 72 and 62 yards and Griffen Bloom for a 39-yard tally for the Centaurs (0-4).

Woodstock Academy 3 NFA 0

The Centaurs saw their starting setter, senior Lily Morgis, go down due to injury in the second set but sophomore Phoebe Huston filled in admirably as the Centaurs posted the shutout victory over their Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I rivals.

Huston finished with 15 assists for the Centaurs and helped outside hitters Kaylee Bundy (13 kills) and Kennedy McCooey record 21 kills as Woodstock Academy improved to 12-5 overall and finished 6-2 in the Division.

Libero Gianna Musumeci added 24 digs on Dig Pink Night at

## DMAA students to compete at 15th annual World Martial Arts Games

DANIELSON — Two members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy, 7th Dan black belt Master Daryl Laperle and 3rd Dan black belt Aidan McKenna, will travel to Oslo, Norway this November to compete at the 15th annual World Martial Arts Games as part of the U.S. Martial Arts Team New England.

Five-time Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee, Master Daryl Laperle, will compete in the full-contact sparring and empty hand forms divisions. Third Dan black belt, Aidan McKenna, will compete in the weapons division with a bow staff form of his own creation.

Both members of the Academy earned their spots on the team last November at tryouts hosted by the U.S. Team coaches. Tryouts included hopeful competitors from different schools and Martial Arts styles all over New England. Laperle and McKenna have been training with other USA team members and coaches since last year in preparation for this year's competition.

The international World Martial Arts Games have drawn hundreds of competitors from more than 22 nations in the past and are held in a different city each year. This is the first year that New England will be represented by its own team. Additionally, martial artists Justin and Jewelianna Ramos-Ortiz — stars of the hit Netflix series Cobra Kai — will be part of the opening ceremonies and host one of the seminars at the event.

In its 51st year, the Danielson Martial Arts Academy (DMAA) is one of the longest running Karate schools in New England. Master Laperle has been the school's head instructor for 31 years. Mr. McKenna has been with the Academy for 12 years and, among other instructing duties, has been running the school's weapons program for the past four years.

DMAA is a member of the Cheezic Tang Soo Do



Federation, an international Karate organization with more than 50 schools worldwide and more than 5,000 students. You can learn more about the Danielson Martial Arts Academy by visiting [www.danielsonmartialarts.com](http://www.danielsonmartialarts.com).

## New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

POMFRET — The recently formed Together We Can Do It Al-Anon Family Group is meeting at Christ Church in Pomfret (Route 169) on Tuesdays at noon. Enter the lower level through the door by the flagpole in the pollinator garden. This is an open meeting, meaning not only family and friends of people suffering from the effects of addiction are welcome, but also professionals who may have clients they would like to recommend attend the meetings.

Al-Anon is a worldwide program for people just like you, who are worried about someone with a drinking problem. This Pomfret group will also welcome folks concerned about someone suffering from drug addiction.

Utilizing the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, the group will discuss the Steps, Concepts, and Traditions as well as offer support for your specific situation. No advice is given; understanding and support in a confidential setting are the largest benefits of membership in the group.

For more information about Al-Anon, visit [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org). For information about the meeting in Pomfret, call 203-561-7954.

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# OBITUARIES

## Harry Hewko, 103



Harry enlisted in the Navy on December 30, 1941 served until January 9, 1946, with an Honorable Discharge and a rating of Petty Officer First Class. He was a Service Manager for 40 years at the local Ford and Mercury dealership. Harry and his dad built the foundation for the Killingly Rifle Club on South Street in Brooklyn. Harry was a past President and Officer of the



He will be buried with Margaret in Holy Cross Cemetery in Danielson on October 16, 2025, at 10:30.

Judge John D. Boland,<sup>77</sup>



family moved to Stamford, CT. Later, John would make his home in Pomfret, CT for over 48 years.

John was born into a devout Catholic family and found the church so irresistible that he spent four years studying for the priesthood in minor seminary and at Fairfield University. However, at age 20, after becoming active in anti-war movements and political campaigning for Bobby Kennedy, he decided to leave college and that path behind to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in a tuberculosis control program in Bolivia. When he returned, he enrolled at UCONN, where on the first day of classes, he met Susan. They were both 22, and have been inseparable ever since.

John went on to complete a BA and MA in literature at UCONN, then a Juris Doctor at Georgetown University. After graduating, he launched a twenty-seven year career as a lawyer in general practice in Northeast CT, largely at the partnership of Boland, St. Onge, and Brouillard. He practiced many forms of law, and was proud of his ability to resolve cases through mediation. He was the town attorney for Pomfret, Chaplin, Ashford, Brooklyn, and Canterbury.

A deep commitment to strengthening our civil society led him to serve on the

In 2004, his civil service took a new form, as a judge of the Connecticut Superior Court where he served multiple terms in family, criminal, juvenile, and civil divisions. His judicial assignments included service as the presiding judge of the New London Judicial District Family Division and as presiding judge of the Windham Judicial District Juvenile Division. He served honorably until his retirement in 2020.

He was passionate about the arts, literature, and many forms of music, particularly opera. He read broadly and voraciously; he would adamantly tout *Moby Dick* as the best novel ever written. He loved to travel, and vacations were packed with museums and exploration. He spoke Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French, and studied a half dozen other languages just for the fun of it. He loved sitting around discussing ideas and politics with friends until the late hours of the evening.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, October 18 from 3-6pm at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, followed by a private burial. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to UNICEF, Last Green Valley, or Day Kimball Hospital. Share a memory at [Smithandwalkerfh.com](http://Smithandwalkerfh.com)

**PUTNAM**—The Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St., Putnam, is hosting a steak dinner fundraiser to benefit Paws Cat Shelter on Friday, Oct. 24. Food will be served from 6-7 p.m. Eat in or take out.

\$30 per ticket includes sirloin steak, baked potato, green beans and a roll. Tickets are limited and can be purchased at Knights of Columbus, Paws Cat Shelter, 74 School St., Putnam, and Joseph Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more information on how you can donate, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

*Send all obituary notices to  
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# LEGALS

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 7, 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.

**Town of Woodstock IWWA**  
On October 6, 2025, the Town of Woodstock Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency made the following decisions:

- Approved permit #08-25-01  
– 37 Phelps Road (MBL 5130/30/14B)  
- George F. Place Irrevocable Trust c/o  
Russell Barbour – Timber Harvest
- Approved permit #09-25-01  
– 0 Route 197 (MBL 5124/19/20) -  
Glenn M. Lee – Wetlands crossing for  
driveway construction for future residence
- Approved, permit #09-  
25-03 – 11 Laurel Hill Road (MBL  
7272/34/0F31) - Daphne Smith-Naylor  
– Removal of invasive plants along

waterfront

- Approved, permit #10-25-02-150 Route 169 (MBL 6395/64/11)- The Woodstock Academy – Renewal of Permit for Parking Lot Expansion at Loos Center
- Details of these approvals may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at [landuse@woodstockct.gov](mailto:landuse@woodstockct.gov)
- October 17, 2025



# SPORTS

## DMAA students shine at CT Yankee National Tournament



DANIELSON — On Oct. 5, members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy attended The 61st Connecticut Yankee National Tournament hosted by The Cheezic Tang Soo Do Federation. DMAA took home numerous medals in each division.

- 7-8 Year Olds:  
Girls:  
Avery Dietlin  
2nd Sparring  
2nd Weapons
- 9-10 Year Olds:  
Girls:  
Liliana Huling:  
4th Breaking  
2nd Forms  
4th Sparring  
1st Weapons  
Autumn St. Jean:  
1st Breaking  
4th Forms  
2nd Sparring  
2nd Weapons
- Boys:  
Ziggy Fugazzi:  
1st Breaking  
1st Forms  
3rd Sparring

- 11-12 Year Olds:  
Girls:  
Aurora Huling:  
2nd Breaking  
2nd Forms  
4th Sparring  
1st Weapons
- Boys:  
Colby Densmore:  
2nd Breaking  
4th Forms  
4th Sparring  
Jeff Fugazzi:  
1st Breaking  
1st Forms  
2nd Sparring  
1st Weapons
- 13-17 Year Olds:  
Girls:  
Kyra Dionne:  
1st Breaking  
3rd Forms  
1st Sparring  
2nd Weapons  
Olivia Mello:  
2nd Breaking  
1st Forms  
2nd Sparring  
1st Weapons
- Boys:  
Orion Huling:

- 3rd Breaking  
2nd Forms  
4th Sparring  
2nd Weapons
- Under Blackbelt 18+  
Men:  
Kile Gagnon:  
2nd Breaking  
3rd Forms  
4th Sparring  
1st Weapons  
Camilo Jaimes:  
2nd Forms  
2nd Sparring
- Under Blackbelt  
Seniors (35+)  
Women  
Dawn Dionne:  
4th Breaking  
3rd Forms  
1st Sparring
- Junior Blackbelt 15-17  
Year Olds:  
Girls:  
Jaycee Adams:  
3rd Forms
- Boys:  
Hunter St. Jean:  
2nd Forms  
4th Sparring  
3rd Weapons

- Blackbelts (18+)  
Women:  
Caryssa Adams:  
2nd Forms  
2nd Sparring  
Elizabeth Walsh:  
3rd Forms  
2nd Weapons
- Blackbelt Seniors (35+)  
Women:  
Cathleen Anderson:  
4th Forms  
1st Breaking  
Melinda Densmore:  
1st Breaking  
4th Forms  
3rd Sparring  
2nd Weapons  
Men:  
Daryl Laperle:  
2nd Forms  
1st Sparring  
(middleweight)  
Brian Densmore:  
4th Weapons
- For more information regarding classes at Danielson Martial Arts, please call 860-779-0699 or visit their Web site at danielsonmartialarts.com.



Courtesy

Tournament volunteers Joy Thompson, Jodi Clark, Roxy Huckabee Labbe, Amanda Giles, and Sarah Wolfburg.

## Northeast CT Education Foundation Golf Tournament raises \$58,000

PUTNAM — The Northeast CT Education Foundation (NCEF) held its first golf tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at Connecticut National Golf Club in Putnam. The tournament is one of several annual events held to help students from Northeast CT pursue their dreams of higher education attainment. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and players, the NCEF raised over \$58,000 at this year's outing.

Foundation Vice President and 2025 Golf Committee Chair Peter Deary shared, "I am honored to lead this year's tournament and want to thank our 'Village' of sponsors, volunteers, golfers, partners and all Foundation Members whose amazing support, both monetary and physical, helps us achieve our mission."

Congratulations to the 2025 winners: First Place Team with a score of 54, Roger Noll, Scott Vose, Sean Vigue, and Patrick Kozelka; Second Place Team Putnam Plastics with a score of 57, Jim Dandeneau, Deb Dandeneau, Ryan Dandeneau, and Brad Rabor; and Third Place Team Bakers Dozen with a score of 57, Trevor Cardinal, Jeremy Hendrickson, Dan Durocher, and Mark Lowell. Closest to the Pin on Hole 7 was Rocky Bedard at six feet one inch, on Hole 9 was Patrick Kozelka at 22 inches, and Hole 11 was Ryan Dandeneau at five feet one inch. On hole 18, Women's Long Drive: Kelley Rochefort, and Men's Long Drive: Brendan Meehan.

The NCEF extends its sincere appreciation to the staff at CT National, The G7 Catering Company, National Anthem singer Linda Colangelo, and all volunteers. With beautiful weather and a full field of teams, golfers enjoyed a fantastic outing.

The mission of the Northeast Connecticut Education Foundation is to provide scholarships and other financial support to residents of Northeast Connecticut who want to pursue higher education.

For more information on how to support local students at CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley, please contact Director of Institutional Advancement Monique C.K. Wolanin at (860) 932-4174 or monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu.

To learn more about the NCEF, and for a complete list of 2025 sponsors, please visit necteducationfoundation.org.

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