



THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Thompson businesses join together for Small Business Weekend

THOMPSON — Eight small businesses have joined together for Small Business Weekend, Nov. 29 & 30 and Dec. 1. While most businesses look at Small Business Saturday, Thompson is using the entire weekend as a business showcase. The idea is simple: pick up a card at any of the participating businesses and have it stamped at each business you visit. Each business will award a Door Prize of unique products from their business. See the Facebook posts for photos. The winners will be listed on Facebook and notified after Dec. 3.

Who are the participating businesses? The Thompson Historical Society Gift Shop at the corner of Chase Road and Route 200, is filled with a variety of local items, memorabilia and unique gifts. Their holiday volunteers have been busy creating perfection for their major fundraising event. Follow them on Facebook.

Christine Tanson Pottery, 4 Chase Rd., creates beautiful handcrafted pottery in a rich pallet of glazes, capturing the essence of earth, sea and sky. Pieces are unique, practical, expressive and vibrant. She works in porcelain and stoneware in high firing in wood, reduction and oxidation firing methods, as well as Raku. Follow them on Facebook.

Abby's Quiet Corner Gift Shed, 91 Chaser Rd., features handcrafted items, from embroidered clothing, jewelry, wooden crafts, goat's milk soap, glass art and turned wooden pens. Check out the beautiful handwoven baskets by Denise Rondeau and Abby's wooden snow men. Follow them on Facebook.

Woodland Whimsy, 174 Chase Rd., is filled with the creative talent of Laura Reynolds. As you step in, you will be transported to a magical world of Christmas past, with ornaments, stuffed sculptures, scenes painted on small furniture, cards printed from Laura's original watercolors, cookies and baked goods.

Turn To **SMALL BUSINESS** page **A1**

Woodstock Toy Drive continues holiday tradition



Jason Bleau

Volunteers pose for a photo at the annual Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department Toy Drive.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association and Community Fire Company of Thompson once again came together for their annual toy drive on Nov. 9, continuing a nearly two-decades long tradition to kickstart the holiday season and support local children and families.

The toy drive is held every year at the Woodstock Volunteer

Fire Association's Station 76 on Route 169 and has grown to include Community Fire Company's department in the center of Thompson where many of these toys will go to help local non-profit TEEG as well as the Putnam Family Resources Center and the Eastford School District. The goal of each toy drive is to allow the community to come together to give to those in need in hopes of offsetting the cost of providing a good holiday

for kids either through financial donations or physical toys.

Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department Lt. Adam Plona said the drive has become a storied tradition that has only grown in popularity and participation in the 2020s.

"This is, I think, the 19th annual Toy Drive. It's been getting bigger and bigger every year and during COVID we actually had one of our best years and we're hoping

we can continue to keep up with those numbers to help the community and give something nice to the kids," Plona said.

While the Toy Drive has long been a way for local departments to give back, Plona also touted the program as a way to connect with the community at large and make themselves known. While many people only get to see firefighters on their worst days, the Toy Drive allows for a more positive

Turn To **TOY DRIVE** page **A8**

Putnam celebrates Veterans Park renovation

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The Town of Putnam is used to large

crowds, drawing hundreds upon hundreds of guests nearly monthly for its annual celebrations downtown. However, Nov.

10 proved to be one of its biggest days of the year drawing more than 1,200 guests to Veterans Park for the dedication of the newly renovated area that will serve as a lasting tribute to veterans of past and present.

The park dedication was years in the making capping off a process that started before COVID and has spanned the entirety of the 2020s as it grew from a simple concept to one of the biggest community efforts in Putnam's recent history. The ceremony, which lasted a little less than an hour, featured patriotic songs, prayer, recognition of major donors, and an overwhelming sense of pride in the United States and the men and women that have helped make it the country it is today through their sacrifices and service. The park now features monuments dedicated to those who served in different wars and military groups and around 2,300 commemorative bricks each paid for by loved ones to create a permanent honor for specific veterans.

Putnam Recreation Director Willie Bousquet kicked off the ceremony leading the crowd in a series of cheers recognizing the hard work and dedication from donors, citizens, and the town's Veterans Advisory Committee to bring new life to the park.

"Unlike Memorial Day and special ceremonies that are held in remembrance, today, we are celebrating. We have a lot to smile about. It's okay to cheer," Bousquet said.

Turn To **RENOVATION** page **A8**

Daughters of Isabella hold annual Yuletide Festival



Jason Bleau

The annual Yuletide Festival served as a fitting kickoff for the holiday season at St. Mary's Church in Putnam.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — St. Mary's Church in Putnam hosted the annual Yuletide Festival on Nov. 9, continuing a longstanding holiday tradition presented by the Daughters of Isabella.

The festival featured numerous vendors presenting their goods throughout the day to help kickstart the holiday gift giving season while supporting the Daughters of Isabella's mission to give back to the local community. Anita Compagnone, a member of the Daughters, explained how the proceeds go to help the group assist those in need.

"I would say this has been a tradition for over 20 years. It's a community of people getting together to support each other and the church and their local community that really need the help. A lot of people here are artisans in their own right, and the deals are amazing. It's a great little place to spend an hour or

so to get your shopping done for the holidays," Compagnone said. "We're all Catholic women, and our faith inspired us to support each other and our community. If some-

one in the Daughters is going through something we gather around that person."

The group provides

Turn To **FESTIVAL** page **A8**

Early deadlines for Thanksgiving

The offices of Villager Newspapers will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

To ensure that our Nov. 29 editions arrive in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Friday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at brendan@villagernewspapers.com.



Jason Bleau

Putnam's newly renovated Veterans Park includes bricks engraved with the names of veterans past and present.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Nov. 11: Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Carolina Wren, Great-horned Owl, Barred Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Bluebird, Robin, Flicker, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Junco, Song Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Veteran stories engraved in bricks — the project continues



PUTNAM — The court of honor featuring almost 2,300 commemorative bricks in the dazzling Veterans Park is a major focus.

Members of the Putnam Veterans Advisory Committee (VAC), all Putnam residents and veterans themselves, note that anytime any of them pass by or are at work in the park, people are examining the heartwarming stories.

Each commemorative brick tells a story. Families, friends and veterans themselves have shared their stories of service in special and unique ways, engraved on an eight-by-four-inch space.

In a community and region that has put forth an enormous amount of service, there are more stories to be told.

The Putnam Advisory Committee is happy to help, as the next phase of brick orders are now being taken. At this time of year, with thankfulness and holiday gathering times to be cherished, it is a perfect time to order a commemorative brick.

Bricks cost \$100 each, with or without a service logo engraved on it, for any veteran, from any place, from any era, living or deceased, still serving or retired. No DD214 forms are required. A story to tell with love in your heart is required.

Brick orders will be taken during this phase, with the due date of Feb. 1. With the assistance of Mother Nature, steadfast volunteers, and Ellis Tech masonry students, these bricks will be added to the park by late Spring 2025.

If you are giving the commemorative brick as a gift, the VAC can supply you with a Gift Notice to include in a card or even wrap up in a box.

Find downloadable and printable forms at the Town website on the VAC Web page: <https://www.putnamct.us/government/commissions/veterans-advisory-committee>.

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp announces holiday events

POMFRET — On Dec. 8, join us for Lunch with Santa at the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 326 Taft Pond Rd. in Pomfret. Have lunch upstairs in the lodge or just come for a photo with Santa and avoid the lines at the mall. Made to order Pasta Bar, salad, drinks and desserts (gluten free pasta available). Join us in making holiday crafts, cookies, S'mores and more and shop our selection of silent auction and raffle items. Tickets available ahead of time by calling 974-3379, email registrar@4hcampct.org or at the door. No reservations necessary. \$10 for children up to age eight, \$14 for those nine and older for lunch, 5 x 7 photo with Santa \$8.

On Dec. 28, visit the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp Open HHHouse from 1 – 3 p.m. at 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret. Meet the director & other camp staff, take a camp tour; registration materials available. Take advantage of early bird discounts – details available at the open house or on the website. www.4hcampct.org

On Dec. 30, the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp in Pomfret is offering a Camper Game Day from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. for children ages six to 12. Games, food and fun for the kids during the holiday vacation week from school. Lunch and snacks included and outdoor gear required as some time will be spent outside. Admission is \$25/child, everyone welcome. Pre-registration requested by Dec. 22. Call 860-974-1122 to register or email campdirector@4hcampct.org.

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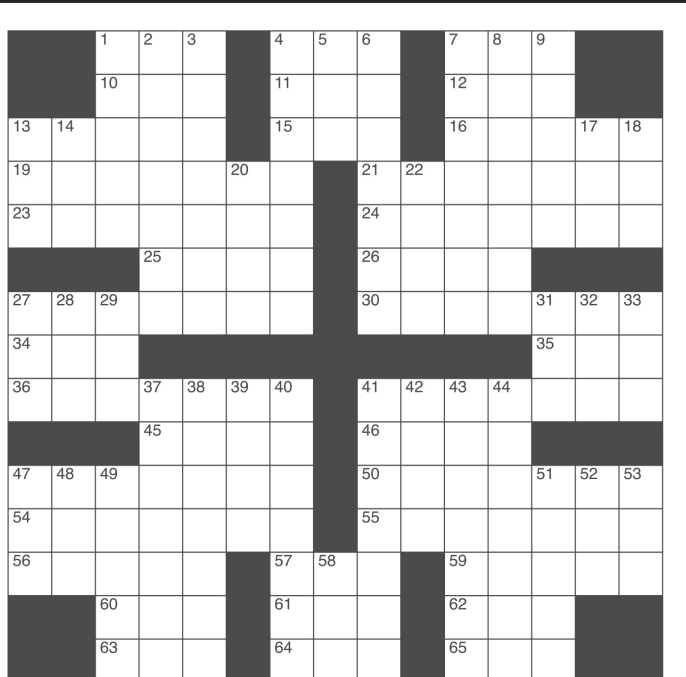
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Defunct airline
- 4. Beverage container
- 7. A team's best pitcher
- 10. Unit of liquid capacity
- 11. It comes before two
- 12. Male child
- 13. Type of wheat
- 15. One's mother
- 16. Upper side of an organism
- 19. United is one
- 21. Extraction process
- 23. A being with lesser divine status
- 24. People living together in a community
- 25. Luxury automaker
- 26. This (Spanish)
- 27. Semitic language
- 30. Period for a defined purpose
- 34. Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
- 35. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 36. American marsupial
- 41. Decadent dessert
- 45. Aquatic plant
- 46. About aviation
- 47. Summer footwear
- 50. Rugged mountain ranges
- 54. With tin
- 55. Cut on the surface of a hard object
- 56. Wrapped in cloth
- 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 59. "American Idol" contestant Clay
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. Court decision "___ v. Wade"
- 62. Born of
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Actress ___-Margaret
- 65. Not even

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Heat unit
- 2. ___ Faulkner, American writer
- 3. Guatemalan town
- 4. Of funny things
- 5. Actress ___ de Armas
- 6. Agents of one's downfall
- 7. Takes forcibly
- 8. Body lice
- 9. Large nest of a bird of prey
- 13. Unhappy
- 14. Popular holiday dessert
- 17. Habitual drunkard
- 18. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 20. Complications
- 22. Fail to win
- 27. Before the present
- 28. Musical genre
- 29. Flurry
- 31. 007's creator
- 32. Indiana Pacer Toppin
- 33. Midway between north and northeast
- 37. Feeling
- 38. Damage another's reputation
- 39. Mottled citrus fruit
- 40. Beauty product
- 41. They man first, second and third
- 42. Harness
- 43. Herb
- 44. Expressed concern
- 47. Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
- 48. Consumed
- 49. Nostrils
- 51. Gathered fallen leaves
- 52. Express good wishes
- 53. Monetary unit of Brunei
- 58. Japanese Buddhist festival

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Saint Nicholas
Fair

Location: Christ Church
Routes 44 & 169 • Pomfret, CT
– 1 Mile South of The Vanilla Bean Cafe –
Christchurchpomfret.org • 860.315.7780

Saturday, December 7th
(Snow Date: Saturday, December 14th)
In-Person Fair: 10:00am-1:00pm

Holiday Gifts, Yummy Treats & Much More!
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Online Auction runs
November 23 (noon)- December 4 (noon)
www.biddingowl.com/ChristChurchPomfret

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Let the season begin at Saint Nicholas Victorian Fair



POMFRET — The annual Saint Nicholas Victorian Fair in Pomfret will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (snow date Dec. 14) at Christ Church in Pomfret, one mile south of the Vanilla Bean on Route 169.

The Saint Nicholas Fair is locally famous for offering holiday gifts at great prices and supporting many area charities and agencies. There is also an Online Silent Auction Nov. 23 - Dec.

4. Auction purchases should be picked up in person at the Fair on Dec. 7. Shop local and give back to your community for the holidays this year.

Last year, the Silent Auction raised over \$5,500 to support community outreach. Auction items include gift certificates donated by local businesses, vacation destinations and numerous other items to bid on. The auction is accessible at www.biddingowl.com/ChristChurchPomfret. It

goes live November 23rd at noon and closes on Dec. 4 at noon.

The in-person Saint Nicholas Fair features holiday gifts for everyone on your list! This year, themed gift booths include baked goods (including 'Rudolph Nut Mix' available only at the Fair), homemade chocolates, crafts, toys, cheese, holiday plants and wreaths, vintage jewelry, "Give It Again" items, and the bottle board. A new booth this year fea-

tures "Decorative Glass." Luncheon at the Fair will feature chicken salad and soup, which can be pre-ordered for takeout using "tickets" on the online auction website link.

All proceeds from the Saint Nicholas Fair are allocated for out-

reach programs, including TEEG, the Access Agency, Day Kimball Hospital Hospice, ARC of Quinebaug Valley, Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Deary Memorial Cancer Fund, Community Kitchens of NECT and more.

Questions? Call 860-315-7780 or email office@christchurch-pomfret.org. Christ Church is located at 527 Pomfret St., Pomfret. To learn more, visit ChristChurchPomfret.org or follow them on Facebook at [@christchurchpomfretct](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchpomfretct).

American Legion seeks entries 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 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 2025. The District 4 contest will be held in early February 2025. The public is invited to attend both events.

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

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

Calling all angels... and other Biblical superstars!

POMFRET — Christ Church in Pomfret invites all area youth to participate in its annual Christmas Pageant, which will take place on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10 a.m. at the Tang Center at Rectory School.

Rehearsals will take place on the first three Sundays of December, and there will be a mandatory dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 21.

Typically, the youngest children portray angels and shepherds, elementary aged students are cast as animals and Roman soldiers, and speaking parts and solos are assigned to older children and teens. Teens are also encouraged to play chimes or do narration.

For more information, contact Mrs. Donna Bessette, Director, at bessette-donnar@gmail.com or (860) 933-2862.

Christ Church seeks to serve all, regardless of religious affiliation or none, and is located at 527 Pomfret St. (Route 169) in Pomfret.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

Save Main Street: Shop local and keep our towns alive

In a world dominated by two-day shipping and digital convenience, it's easy to forget the personality of our communities, the small businesses that line our Main Streets. These aren't just shops; they're the heartbeats of our towns, and the places where neighbors gather. They are the framework of New England's charm, the pillars of local economies, and the custodians of our town's character. Without them, what remains?

The reality is stark: every time we opt for an online order instead of visiting a local shop, we make a choice about the future of our communities. Small businesses are facing a relentless uphill battle, competing not only with giant corporations but also with the shifting habits of modern consumers. And when these businesses close, they take more than their storefronts with them—they take jobs, vibrancy, and a sense of belonging.

Shopping locally isn't just about buying goods; it's about investing in the people around us. That cup of coffee from the corner café supports a family. That thrift store find funds local charities. That gift shop purchase puts money back into the local economy, where it's reinvested to improve schools, roads, and public services. Your dollar goes further when spent locally because it stays local.

But this requires a conscious effort. Yes, online shopping is convenient, but at what cost? Do we really want to trade ease for a future of shuttered windows and hollowed-out Main Streets? Do we want our children to grow up in communities where "downtown" is a relic of the past?

We have a choice. This holiday season and beyond, let's make an intentional effort to visit our local bookstores, bakeries, and boutiques. Explore the unique treasures of thrift shops. Say yes to the farmer's market, the family-owned hardware store, and the independent art gallery. These businesses are run by our neighbors—people who support our schools, sponsor our Little League teams, and show up when we need them most.

If we don't invest in them, who will? Let's work together to keep our towns alive, vibrant, and full of opportunity. Let's shop local—not because it's trendy, but because it's essential.

Our communities depend on it. Let's not let convenience rob us of connection. Together, we can ensure that our Main Streets remain places we're proud to call home.

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

The silence was deafening

To the Editor:

Todd from Pomfret brought up the same question many of us have been asking ourselves- why this strange quiet from Herr Drumpf and his lapdogs about stolen elections.

Just imagine if Kamala lowered herself to Trump's subterranean level and cried foul! The Republican uproar would have blown the top off of the Capital Dome. Their outcry would sweep across America like a polluted tsunami. Look up the word hypocrisy in the dictionary and behold a group picture of the Republican Caucus.

News Flash: Trump Begins To Fill Cabinet.

So far, his questionable selections have raised eyebrows on both sides of the aisle. I would like to concentrate on one choice in particular, the peculiar Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

It was recently revealed that Kennedy had a dead worm residing in his brain. This fact may go a long way in explaining why Trump thinks he is qualified to head the Dept. of Health and Human Services...oh, forget it.

I'm not quite sure if all those Jesse Waters viewers thought this one through, but we are grateful for what you have unleashed on us.

After this election debacle, a single letter from a Ms. Durocher graced this Editorial Page. It was thoughtful, well written, and a beacon of hope...from Dreamland. As well intentioned as it may have been, Kristine, your hope is practically unattainable in this political climate we now find ourselves in. The glass is half empty.

As a fan of Tolkien, I appreciate the analogy. Truth be told, we must deal once again with a president whose sole priority is power, fidelity from underlings, and quashing his legal quagmire.

Democrats are not immune from accusations of wrongdoing either. Witness Sen. Bob Menendez' fall from grace. Power and greed, a dynamic duo for the worst. With Trump though, it is wholly to our country's downfall.

Even if it is blissfully unaware to some of those who would support him.

Which brings us, unfortunately, to Mr. Deluca.

Since there is no talking to you about this situation that would benefit my way of thinking, I'll just waste a little of my time and send a few closing thoughts and then be done with you.

I won't list your president's crimes for your review, you know all of them well enough. If I did though, this letter may run into the Obituaries. To think, you and yours put a convicted criminal back into the Presidency for all the world to see, and you knew it. If you take great pride in this accomplishment, returning a degenerate back into this office, I will have to live with that fact, but you may need professional help. It is one thing for party loyalty, to an extent. It is another thing entirely to relinquish loyalty to the welfare of our country.

You ask what we tried to accomplish with all these letters? Hopefully changing a few minds and illuminating the fact of the democratic tragedy about to unfold. You may just like seeing your name in this paper.

Deluca fiddles while America burns.

I once said I believed you to be more "politically savvy" than myself. In retrospect, I see you are nothing more than an annoying MAGA gadfly, a cranky Trump apologist who fancies himself a political pundit. Pushing buttons is a pastime in your dotage and I regret ever letting you get under my skin, but no more. No sour grapes intended but I'm glad I'm not you. I love my country!!

Jesus of Nazareth demanded we love one another. After these last 9 years of Trump and his disciples, on that day when I stand before Him, I probably will have some explaining to do.

Stephen Etzel, my apologies for misspelling your name, bro.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

We voted for it

To the Editor:

The Trump transition team is reportedly reassessing Trump's choice of extremist Fox TV personality Pete Hegseth to be Secretary of Defense. Why?

Not because he's completely unqualified. That doesn't matter, as long he's ready to pledge complete loyalty to Trump. No, the reason for the hesitancy is because it's been revealed that Hegseth paid to silence a woman who had accused him of sexually assaulting her.

That's hilarious. What is the Trump team worried about? A majority of voters just said loud and clear that it's perfectly fine with

them if their president is a rapist. If the leader of the country can be a sexual assaulter, why is it of any concern that the Secretary of Defense may be as well? Or if the nominee for Attorney General is credibly accused of trafficking a 17-year-old girl to have sex with her? The more misogynists and perverts the better!

We should face up to the fact that, as a country, we're okay when powerful men perpetrate sexual assault against women. After all, it's hard to plausibly deny. We voted for it.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Earth - infinitely finite!

To the Editor:

Ever since our universe came into existence 14 billion years ago, it has been expanding, and will continue to do so until some colossal event ends things. With this great expansion, everything in the universe continuously gets further away from everything else. As a result, our night sky becomes darker with each passing day, as stars fade into the distance or burn out. I imagine how bright and dazzling the night sky was during the geologic period termed "the Cambrian Explosion," when advanced life first erupted on Earth 500 million years ago. For Earth's first inhabitants, the infinite was right there to be seen in uncountable bright stars. But thousands upon thousands of them have been lost in our night sky, and today it can require some squinting to even see a few twinkling stars.

I can't comprehend the infinite. But I can comprehend the finite, and I credit my college study of geology and also my personal economy (my bank account) with that. When you spend a lot of time studying and thinking about the Earth, especially in comparison with the rest of the Milky Way Galaxy (never mind the entire universe) you start to understand that we inhabit a very small place. Carl Sagan gave us perspective when he wrote: "Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark."

When humanity created the first primitive cities 10,000 years ago, we couldn't possibly imagine how great an impact we would have on the Earth. We were so small, and nature seemed as infinite as the stars. Even today, with all we've learned, we don't often think like Sagan, because human society operates under an economic system that has never come to terms with the finite nature of our planet. Our "linear economy," sometimes called the "take-make-waste" economy, has three basic elements: 1) extract the resources of the planet (without replenishing them), 2) make products that are used - generally not to their full potential, and 3) discard them (mostly in a way that further diminishes nature). How long can we continue to deplete nature, until like the stars that account balance fades away before our eyes and the infinite becomes painfully finite?

In his brilliant Netflix documentary "A Life on Our Planet," Sir David Attenborough (now 98 years old) states: "Only 35 percent of Earth's natural wilderness remains." He ought to know, he's been documenting nature on film for nearly 75 years. Nearing the end of his life, he calls this film his "witness statement." Everyone should watch it and come to

terms with our finite planet.

In 1950, when David Attenborough was just starting out, there were 2.5 billion people on Earth. Only 61 years later, the cover of the January, 2011 National Geographic reads: "POPULATION 7 BILLION." The March, 2023 issue reads: "8 BILLION." In the next 25 years, two billion more will be added. Of course, the Earth will not expand along with the mass of humanity. How much of its wilderness will still remain in 2050? One thing is certain, there will be dramatically less of it for us to enjoy and connect with, less wildlife and biodiversity (less fish in the sea for us to catch), less fresh water for us to use and less land to develop. The only thing that will have increased is the number of people desiring all of those things.

Of course, some things will increase along with humanity, but they are not essential resources. They are the carbon dioxide (CO2) level in the Earth's atmosphere as we burn more fossil fuels. Accompanying CO2 will be an increase in the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans. Accompanying that, will be the increase in sea level and the loss of livable coastal lands.

One resource that we cannot deplete, and in fact should consume much more of, is part of the solution. It is the energy the Earth receives from the sun! And because this energy source produces no pollution, we must transition the world to solar as fast as possible to halt the increase in CO2, global temperatures and sea level rise. A failure to curb these rises will teach us all how finite the Earth really is.

Whether or not you've recognized it yet, this is the moment in human history that we are being forced to reckon with the linear economy and the limits of our planet. We must shift immediately to a "circular economy" - one that reduces, reuses, recycles and replenishes the Earth's resources. It sounds lofty, but we actually can do this! We live in a time when not only do we understand what is needed to ensure our future survival, but we also have much of the industry and technological means to pull it off. The only thing we still lack is the will.

My Web site, earth21stcentury.com, has simple things you can do to help, as well as links to books and films where you can learn more. A great place to start is with Sir David Attenborough's Netflix documentary - "A Life On Our Planet."

KEN WOLSLEGEL
WOODSTOCK

Thanksgiving traditions offer comfort in turbulent times

Thanksgiving is late this year, which explains why three holidays have been squeezed into one amorphous whole. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, with Election



NANCY WEISS

Day plunked in as well, make for an endless visual mish-mash and song loops in stores that reverberate in our brains. It makes me feel certain I've forgotten something very important that might be in short supply, if only I knew what it might be.

The skeleton figures that popped up around Halloween, some as tall as houses, have become permanent fixtures across our region, which I find puzzling. Are they designed to remind us of our mortality like a frieze on a Medieval church? Are they supposed to be amusing commentary on the scary nature of life? Do they protect property by sending the message that the owners are tough? I'm not sure, but they must have been costly and will now be joined by a variety of inflatable holiday figures that dance in the breezes at night and deflate in a discouraged pile in daytime. At least the inflatables are put away after Christmas.

A hunter told me that as Thanksgiving approaches, the wild turkeys disappear. He pursued them every year, and often got one or two, through great effort. He prepared them in a variety of ways, including making turkey jerky and brined turkey. I can't help but cheer for the turkeys as we had a flock at our house all summer that delighted us every morning. Now they have disappeared, and I wonder if they are hiding out until the holiday is over. There must be something deep in their avian brain that recoils from the smell of a Thanksgiving bird roasting. I'll keep the window shut as I cook our holiday dinner.

For several years, I've shared a poem that emphasizes a more vegetarian approach to gratitude and to sharing holiday festivities with friends. It was written by Rev. Max Coots, Minister Emeritus, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, NY, where my husband and I once lived. I share it with the permission of the church.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving
By Max Coots

Let us give thanks...
For generous friends...
with hearts as big as
Hubbards

And smiles as bright as
their blossoms;

For feisty friends as tart
as apples;

For continuous friends,
who, like scallions and
cucumbers, keep reminding
us we had them;

For crochety friends as
sour as rhubarb and as inde-
structible;

For handsome friends,
who are as gorgeous as egg-
plants and as elegant as a
row of corn- and the others
- as plain as potatoes, and so
good for you.

For funny friends, who
are as silly as brussels
sprouts and as amusing as
Jerusalem artichokes, and
serious friends as complex
as cauliflowers and as intri-
cate as onions;

For friends as unpretentious
as cabbages, as subtle
as summer squash, as
persistent as parsley, as
delightful as dill, as endless
as zucchini, and who like
parsnips-can be counted on
to see you through the long
winter;

For old friends, nodding
like sunflowers in the evening
time, and young friends
coming on as fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who
wind around us like ten-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democrats should heed Fetterman's advice

To the Editor:
A FEMA supervisor who passed along administration policy to avoid houses displaying Trump signs during the recent flooding in Florida was fired, and it's been reported that the same bias also happened in other states. Firing that supervisor wasn't enough, and whomever it was that decided that policy should be arrested and made to personally help at disaster relief sites.
Teamsters President Sean O'Brien suggested that Pelosi and Schumer should "step aside" following Harris' defeat in the presidential election. John Fetterman said that Pelosi should leave Congress so that the younger generation can take the lead. All that would be nice, but seeing Pelosi crying after the Harris loss and hearing that some Democrats are blaming her for that defeat is good enough for me. The mainstream media declaring war on Trump had almost no impact on the election. Trump won all seven swing states and the popular vote despite having almost entirely negative coverage from the mainstream media, and since Harris' loss, both MSDNC and CNN have seen their ratings plummet. I'm sure that Elon Musk isn't losing any sleep because Reid and Lemon have left X, anyhow that's one less place for them to spew their garbage. Harris got her clock cleaned, in the end all Soro's money accomplished nothing, celebrity endorsements did nothing but drain campaign funds, and I can't wait for all those blabbermouth fools who said they would leave the

country if Trump was elected to make good on their word. And good riddance to them!
Some of the disgruntled letter writers here should heed the words of John Fetterman, who recommended that "freaked out Democrats and Harris voters need to chill out," because Trump hasn't even taken office yet, and that it's going to be a long four years for them. It was hinted here that I (and others) would be in need of medication if Trump had lost, but I'd say that's changed after reading some of last week's (expected) letters. And for that chill, I suggest you take a trip to The Vault (in Webster) and buy yourself a pre-rolled one, but make sure it's the strain that calms you down.
Trump hasn't even taken office yet, and the Democrats and their cronies are freaking out about his Cabinet picks and plans for mass deportations, but are they really concerned about them or is it more about losing future voters? (So much for their project 2025.) I wonder if all those democrats who said that President Biden inherited a broken (immigration) system will now admit that Trump is getting the same? Furthermore, Donald Trump is not anti-immigration, he is for legal immigration. He also said that he's leaving abortion - an issue that is mostly brought up at election time - up to the states to decide, and I will continue to believe both are true until I learn otherwise.

ED DELUCA
NORTH
GROSVENORDALE

Investing in real estate as part of your retirement strategy: Pros and cons

Are you looking to diversify your retirement portfolio beyond stocks and bonds? Real estate investing can be an attractive option for building long-term wealth and generating passive income in retirement. However, like any investment strategy, it comes with both advantages and potential drawbacks. Let's explore the pros and cons of including real estate in your retirement plan, along with important factors to keep in mind.
The benefits of real estate investing for retirement
Potential for steady cash flow: Rental properties can provide a consistent stream of income to supplement your retirement savings.
Appreciation over time: Real estate values tend to increase over the long term, potentially building significant equity.
Tax advantages: Real estate investments offer various tax deductions and benefits that can help reduce your overall tax burden.
Inflation hedge: As inflation rises, so do property values and rental income, helping protect your purchasing power.
Tangible asset: Unlike stocks or bonds, real estate is a physical asset you can see and touch, which some investors find reassuring.
Drawbacks and risks to consider
Lack of liquidity: Real estate can't be quickly converted to cash like stocks or bonds, which may limit flexibility in accessing funds.
High initial costs: Purchasing property often requires a significant upfront invest-

ment and ongoing expenses for maintenance and repairs.
Management responsibilities: Being a landlord involves time and effort, from finding tenants to handling repairs and maintenance issues.
Market fluctuations: Real estate markets can be cyclical, and property values may decrease during economic downturns.
Concentration risk: Investing heavily in real estate can lead to an overly concentrated portfolio, potentially increasing risk.
Diversification: The key to a balanced retirement portfolio
While real estate can be a valuable addition to your retirement strategy, it's crucial not to put all your eggs in one basket. Diversification across multiple asset classes helps spread risk and can lead to more stable returns over time. A well-balanced portfolio might include a mix of real estate, stocks, bonds, cash or cash equivalents, and alternative investments such as commodities or private equity.
The exact allocation will depend on your individual risk tolerance, financial goals, and time horizon. Working with a financial advisor can help you determine the right balance for your unique situation.
Time, risk, and commitment: Weighing the tradeoffs of investing in real estate
One of the biggest considerations when investing in real estate is the level of time and commit-



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
LEISL L.
LANGEVIN

ment required. Unlike a traditional stock and bond portfolio that requires minimal ongoing management, real estate investments often demand more hands-on involvement.
Pros of active real estate investing:
Greater control over your investments
Potential for higher returns through strategic management
Ability to leverage local market knowledge
Cons of active real estate investing:
Time-consuming property management duties
Potential stress from dealing with tenants and maintenance issues
Need for specialized knowledge in real estate markets and laws
For those seeking a more passive approach, options like real estate investment trusts (REITs) or real estate crowdfunding platforms can provide exposure to the real estate market without the responsibilities of direct property ownership. These options allow you to invest in real estate with relatively little time commitment, similar to managing a traditional investment portfolio.
Balancing risk and reward in your retirement strategy
When considering real estate as part of your retirement plan, it's essential to carefully assess your risk tolerance and long-term financial goals. While real estate can offer attractive returns and diversification benefits, it also

comes with unique risks and challenges that may not be suitable for everyone.
Some key questions to ask yourself include:
Do you have the financial resources to make a significant real estate investment without compromising other aspects of your retirement plan?
Are you prepared to handle the potential responsibilities of property ownership and management?
How does real estate fit into your overall diversification strategy?
What is your exit strategy for your real estate investments as you move into retirement?
Investing in real estate can be a valuable component of a well-rounded retirement strategy, offering potential benefits such as steady income, long-term appreciation, and tax advantages. However, it's crucial to approach real estate investing with a clear understanding of the risks and commitments involved.
By carefully weighing the pros and cons, considering your personal financial situation, and maintaining a diversified portfolio, you can make an informed decision about whether real estate is the right addition to your retirement plan. Remember, the goal is to create a balanced, resilient investment strategy that will support your desired lifestyle throughout your retirement years.
At WHZ, we use our personalized Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well.™ strategic process to create a truly strategic financial plan

Turn To FINANCIAL page A8

The Killingly Brandon sign is a good thing

To the Editor:

Last week, it was correctly pointed out that the vulgar Brandon sign in Killingly was a form of free speech. Therefore, I think the sign should stick around as long as the property owner wants it to.
Getting rid of the sign would do absolutely nothing for the underlying hatred and ignorance that led to this sort of thing. One of the fun things about MAGA is that all the merchandise makes it pretty easy to spot who is stuck up and puts their emotions first, so you can very easily avoid people who will add needless drama to whatever it is that you're doing. They chose to fly the flag that they're off the deep end, so that makes it easier for the rest of us.
Let the sign stay up. The longer it stays up, the more ridiculous it looks, so this problem is very much self-correcting. I'm curious how many years into a second Trump term it'll take for some of these MAGAs to stop endlessly hating Joe Biden. Last time the Obama-blaming stuck around long enough for people to make satire pages on Facebook about how everything was still Obama's fault, even years after he left the White House.
"But what about the kids?" I'm sure Smartphones will introduce them to a lot of different stuff at younger ages. As always, parenting is what matters more than censorship. We've spent a generation spreading this idea that parents can't actually raise their kids, so maybe if we're worried about a profane sign we should grab the nearest mirror, especially when the majority of the country was just brainwashed into thinking America's in far worse shape than it actually is.
Let the MAGAs keep making it easy for the rest of us. We'll need the break with the nonsense Trump will be pulling over the next two years before the pendulum effect of our democracy kicks in.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

NANCY
continued from page A4

drills, and hold us despite our blights, wilts and witherings;
And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past, that have been harvested-but who fed us in the times that we might have life thereafter;
For all these we give thanks.
In a year when many of us may have lost people we loved, and when our country and the world are steeped in uncertainties, traditions, symbols, the comfort of nature and Thanksgiving keeps us on firm footing.

OUR COMPREHENSIVE ORTHO CARE JUST GOT MORE COMPREHENSIVE.

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Orthopedic Surgeon
(DKH)



Douglass Weiss, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(DKH)



Brian H. Cohen, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



Sidney P. Migliori, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



Michael P. Bradley, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



Alyson Hernigle, PA-C, AT-C
Orthopedic APP



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9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE

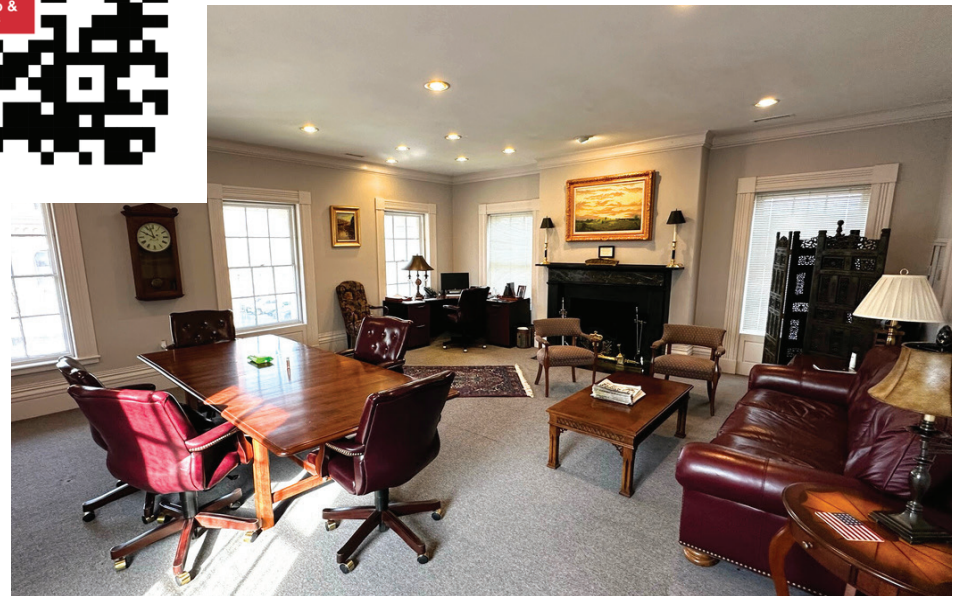


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- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

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- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



MORE INFO:



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Westview's longest-tenured employee named Employee of the Month

DAYVILLE — Cindy Olsen is recognized as the October Employee of the Month at Westview Health Care Center.

Olsen is the current Director of Nursing—a role she has held for 25 years. Her tenure at Westview began well before that; starting in 1975. She began working as a Dietary Aide before transferring to the Laundry Department. In 1979, she became Westview's Therapeutic Recreation Director; then in 1980, she started her nursing career. Beginning as a Licensed Practical Nurse, she found her work to be highly rewarding and inspiring. When she earned her degree as a Registered Nurse in 1992, she started serving in that capacity. Next, in 1996, she ascended to become a Certified Case Manager for those

entrusted to Westview's care. She credits her passion for nursing was a natural progression since she is a third-generation health care professional.

Olsen grew up in the Killingly area, among her mother, father, and her four siblings. She attended Killingly High School and Windham Technical High School to further her pre-college education in health care. She went forth from there to Becker College for her degrees as a Licensed Practical Nurse and as a Registered Nurse.

Cindy and her husband Keith live in Killingly. They are delightfully close in both proximity and heart to their two sons and their growing families. Cindy's son Josh, his wife Jill, and Cindy's grandchildren Miles and Anabel, and



Cindy Olsen
Director of Nursing Services
Westview Health Care Center
October 2024 Employee of the Month

Cindy's son Justin, his wife Abita, and Cindy's grandchildren Aryanna and Aliyah are all within brief drives. Some of Cindy's favorite activities take place in the great outdoors: she loves crafting, golf, fishing, and skeet shooting. And in general—Cindy simply loves any time among

family and friends. When receiving this award, Cindy acknowledged her gratitude for the principles, philosophies, and people of Westview.

"I sincerely appreciate the recognition—thank you!" she says. "Over the years, I have been fortunate to work with an

organization that truly listens, encourages open communication, and appreciates each and every one of us. I have also been blessed in working with many team members that are truly caring, give exceptional care to the residents/patients of the facility, and exhibit their commitment and compassion on a regular basis. Many thanks for this distinction!"

"Congratulations to Cindy on achieving the distinction of Employee of the Month for October," stated David T. Panteleakos, Administrator. "As our longest tenured employee, Cindy also has the unique distinction of being the longest serving Director of Nursing in Westview's history. Now, with over 49 years of dedicated service to the residents and

patients of Westview, I share in congratulating and thanking Cindy for her amazing service."

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 16 years.

The mission is music



Putnam Rotary Club volunteers installed musical instruments at the new Mary Fisher Elementary School playground. From left: Richard Naumann, Jonathan Tremblay, Karen Osbrey, Charlie Puffer, Emily Barnes, Joe Adiletta and club President Doug Porter.

THOMPSON — The Putnam Rotary Club is more than halfway through its "musical mission" — bringing the gift of creating music to its five service area towns. Rotarian Karen Osbrey, grant writer and program leader, said volunteers from the club Nov. 11 installed outdoor musical instruments in the playground just completed at the Mary Fisher Elementary School in Thompson. It's the third of five installations. When the Putnam Rotary Club was celebrating its 100th anniversary, one of the goals was to plant a musical garden in each of its five service area towns: Putnam, Woodstock, Eastford, Pomfret and Thompson.

The first set of outdoor musical instruments was installed on the River Trail in Putnam. Last year, the club members installed musical instruments in the playground at the Pomfret Community School. On Nov. 11, club volunteers dug holes and installed a xylophone-type instrument and some metal bongos at the recently completed school playground. The instruments are funded by a Rotary District grant. She said the club received a \$2,500 through a Rotary Foundation District 7890 Grant and the club pledged another \$2,000. One of the reasons the club put the Thompson playground next in line

was that it was "shovel ready," she said. The school district and the Mary Fisher Elementary School PTO had been working on plans for a couple years. Osbrey met with the principal, the school superintendent and the playground committee.

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RENOVATION

continued from page A1

"Let us celebrate each veteran's brick as they are placed in this park. Let us celebrate any donations of time, talent, and treasure that enabled the improvements to Veterans Park, and of course let us celebrate all of you who are in attendance because you care about our country's freedom which is represented in Veterans Park."

The renovation concept

was born before COVID as an idea to do something nice with the park nestled at the corner of Church and Bridge Streets. In 2019, the town established a partnership with Ellis Tech for its students to work on the masonry and electrical. From there the project ballooned as veterans from numerous local organizations came together to form the Veterans Advisory Committee that spearheaded the project in the COVID years. More than \$300,000 was raised

through donations while the sale of bricks allowed locals to add the names of their own loved ones who served to the park. Local businesses and organizations pitched in to donate funds, materials, and resources to help the project along while negotiations with neighboring Congregation B'nai Shalom allowed for some clearing of the area to add to the beauty of the space.

Mayor Barney Seney, a veteran himself, said during the ceremony that

the project went from just an idea to something truly special that has come to represent the sense of community and national pride that permeates Putnam and the Quiet Corner.

"This truly became a grassroots movement powered by the generosity of hundreds of people who stepped up to make a difference. The stories behind these donations are moving. One local resident shared that her father had donated his body to science leaving

her without a place to mourn. By dedicating a brick in his memory, she found a way to honor him and gain closure. This is just one example how the project has touched peoples' lives and given them a place to remember and reflect. Today, as we look around at this beautiful park, we see not only a tribute to our veterans, but a testimony to the pride, dedication, and unity of our community," said Seney. "Together, we have created a lasting tribute that will honor

our veterans for generations to come."

The next phase of brick orders to continue to build on the park has already begun. Bricks cost \$100 each for any veterans from any place and any conflict, rank, era, or branch living or deceased. Brick orders for the current phase are due by Feb. 1, 2025 to be made in time for the next installation in the spring. Order forms are available on the Town of Putnam Web site on the Veterans Advisory Committee page.

SMALL BUSINESS

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A La Mode Market, 1105 Quaddick Town Farm Rd., offers their own baked goods, beverages, ice cream, meals, soups, and sandwiches, all created on the premises. Just what is needed on a

beautiful day! The market has local eggs, milk and meat, South Wind Farm Preserves, local jewelry, candles and gifts. Follow them on Facebook.

Sunrun Gardens and Gift Shop, 1121 Quaddick Town Farm Rd., offers a variety of gifts inspired by Nature: handwoven scarves, purses, place-

mats and pillows, Tie Dyed clothing and accessories, dream pillows, everlasting wreaths and organic catnip.

Morning Beckons Farm, 343 Sand Dam Rd., is one of the largest alpaca farms in the USA with more than 400 alpacas. Their gift shop provides a wide range

of alpaca and emu products, including household goods, toys, and apparel. Follow them on Facebook.

New Boston Beef, 9 Fabyan-Woodstock Rd., is home to Fabyan born, grown and grazed, USDA Inspected, grass-fed, no hormones added, antibiotic-free beef and garden fed pork. The prepared

meals are full of love, made from their beef, pork and veggies. "What we don't grow, we source locally, supporting our neighbors, friends and family." They create baked goods, using local dairy, fruit, vegetable and designer cakes working with Peace, Love and Pastries. Follow them on

Facebook.

Each of these businesses bring color and character to our community. Their products evoke care in their creation and will be treasured by recipients. Please support our Small Businesses on Friday, Nov. 29, Saturday, Nov. 30, and Sunday Dec. 1.

FESTIVAL

continued from page A1

support for local scout groups, mothers, food pantries and more through volunteering and financial assistance.

The proceeds from the Yuletide Festival allows them to continue their mission while also networking with visitors to educate them about their services and the church itself.

Another one of the

Daughters, Jenna Lafleur, said the Yuletide Festival is one of the most anticipated events they hold each year and really brings everyone into the holiday spirit.

"It's a way for Catholic women to get involved in

their parish to strengthen each other and their local community by the bonds of faith and the bonds of activity. Here we see a lot of that activity at a festival that is a community effort even beyond the Daughters. It just such

warmth and light every year and the proceeds go to a lot of good causes," said Lafleur.

The Daughters of Isabella Circle 543 is a local chapter of the international charitable organization of Catholic

women. They hold special food drives, breakfasts, and other events each year. Information about the Daughters can be found at www.daughtersofisabella.net.

FINANCIAL

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that considers all of the important factors mentioned here. This approach is a big part of our mission of providing each of our clients with

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TOY DRIVE

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meet and greet where the community can contribute to a good cause and learn about their local volunteer emergency personnel.

"It's fantastic for us to do this because we see a lot of the community, we have a lot of kids and students here who have been coming to donate their time and it's nice to bring everyone together when it's not an emergency scene and chat with the community. We also had some people looking to sign up as new members throughout the day, so that helps too. It gets people directed here to be a part of what we do and learn more about who we are," Plona said.

A final tally of toys and money was not available for this story. Those wishing to learn more about the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department or Community Fire Company in Thompson can visit their respective social media pages or the Woodstock and Thompson town Web sites. Those in Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock seeking support during the holidays can contact TEEG at 860-923-3458 and those in need in Putnam can contact the Putnam Family Resource Center at 860-963-6940.

Holiday cacti add weeks of color and enjoyment

Add weeks of colorful flowers and decades of enjoyment to your indoor plant collection with holiday cacti. Dress one up with a decorative basket, container, or foil wrap and give it to a favorite gardener or holiday hostess. You'll find a variety for sale at your local garden center or florist.

The plant sold as a Christmas cactus may in fact be a Thanksgiving cactus. The true Christmas cactus blooms later and has small segments with rounded edges. The Thanksgiving cactus, though often sold as the Christmas cactus, has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms earlier. To

add to the confusion, there are hybrids of the two that bloom in between these.

Fortunately, their growing requirements and care are essentially the same so the plants will do fine no matter the name on the label. Keep your flowering holiday cactus in a cool bright location to extend its bloom time for as long as four to eight weeks. Avoid hot and cold air drafts, moisture stress, and other environmental changes to reduce the risk of bud and



GARDEN MOMENTS MELINDA MYERS

flower drop. These holiday cacti are epiphytes that naturally grow on trees in the rainforests of Brazil. They all prefer bright indirect light, high humidity, and thorough watering when the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Don't over-water, but don't let the soil

dry completely. Water a bit more often when the plant is in bloom.

Grow them in an organic well-drained potting mix for best results. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. Reduce maintenance and improve the growing conditions with the help of gravel trays. Place a layer of pebbles, decorative stones, or marbles in the saucer or bottom of the foil wrap or basket. The pot will be elevated above any excess water collecting in the pebbles. As this water evaporates it increases the humidity around the plant.

Fertilize with a dilute solution of flowering houseplant fertilizer once it finishes blooming and throughout spring and summer as needed. Grow your cactus in a north-facing window or back from an east- or west-facing window where it receives bright indirect light throughout the year. Too much sun turns the leaf segments dark red.

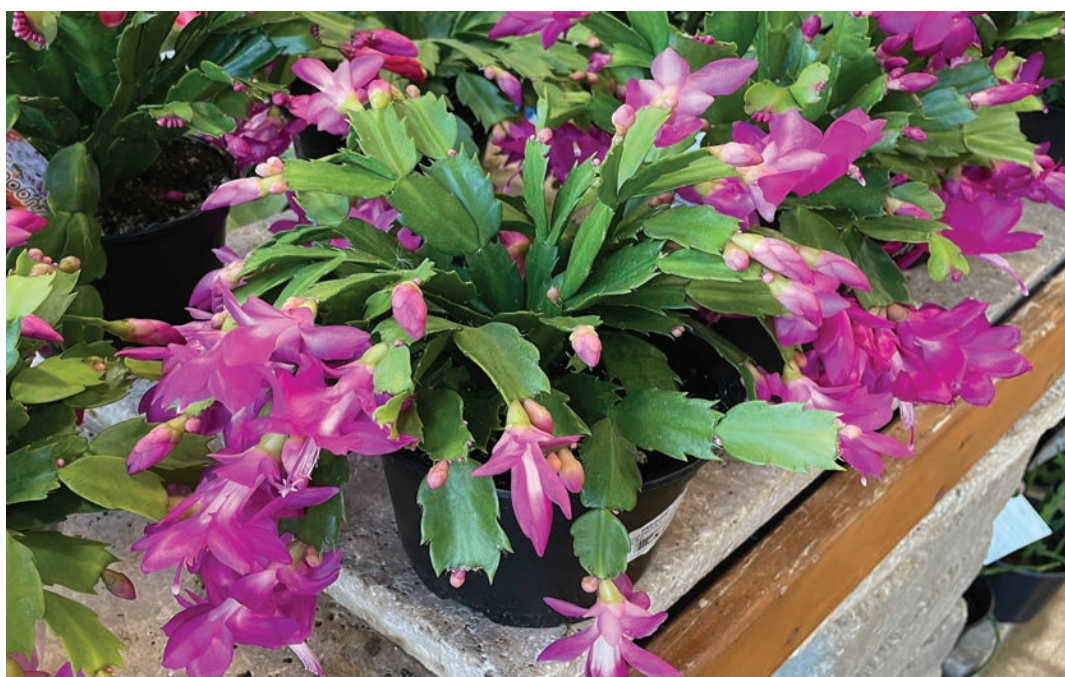
Don't be anxious to move these plants to a bigger container. They prefer to be somewhat pot-bound and can remain in the same pot for years.

Encourage a new flush of flowers with cooler night temperatures around 55 to 60 degrees and slightly drier soil. An uninterrupted dark period will also help promote flowering.

Next fall, start the dark treatment in early October to get holiday flowers. Cover the plants or move them to a location free of artificial light, indoors or outside, each night for 14 hours and provide bright, indirect sunlight each day. Any interruption in the dark period from outdoor, street, or reading lights can delay or prevent flowering.

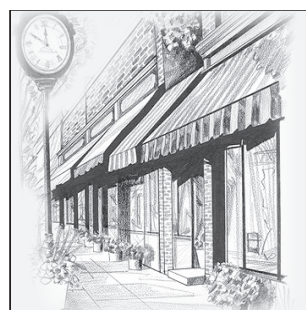
Make this the year you add holiday cacti to your indoor plant collection and consider purchasing a few for friends and family. These easy-care flowering beauties will brighten indoor holiday décor and everyone's mood.

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



Melinda Myers

The Thanksgiving cactus has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms earlier than the Christmas cactus.



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A time to count our blessings

Have you ever played with a kaleidoscope? I remember being fascinated by the beautiful patterns that would appear with the twist of the “toy.” They were always different and always gorgeous. When I’ve had a rough spell, I like to think that Life is Like that, but only if I take the time to observe the beauty in the changes. My body rebels at the shorter days, but if I glance out the windows at dusk, I see beautiful blue-black silhouettes of trees that are never visible when they’re full of leaves. Occasionally, there’s even a sunset behind them. Both are blessings!

That’s what these weeks are really about. Blessings; being thankful; thinking of others. What are you grateful for? By the time you read this I should have a new great-niece, and I just had my first granddaughter the end of August! Like all adults, I’ve had my share of challenges but am trying to learn to focus on an “attitude of gratitude.” I hope you do too. Think about helping someone else. If you are able, give to the Friends of Assisi for their Thanksgiving drive or Daily Bread in Putnam or TEEG. There are many places to drop off food donations. Checks and cash are always welcome. No donation is too small!

November is

a month for remembering and honoring our veterans. I am reading about Native Americans in World War II who played a significant part in helping defeat our foes. Have you heard of the Native American Code Talkers? The book by that name, which I have been reading, is by M. M. Ebock. The Code Talkers were crucial to our security during the War. As the war raged in the Pacific, the Allied Forces, which included the United States, needed a way to keep the Axis, which included Japan, from deciphering their coded messages about future actions. The island of Iwo Jima was critical since holding it “would help the United States blockade Japan by air and sea.” (p.10).

“The Navajo code talkers were the United States’ secret weapon...The code talkers translated messages for the commanders as US Forces conducted air raids lasting ten weeks. They set up in two-man teams. Soon the code talkers were reporting information to their counterparts in other areas (of the island). This system of linked code talkers



KILLINGLY AT 300
MARGARET WEAVER

was known as the Navajo Net. (p.15). “The original Navajo code talkers worked long hours to create a code that would be impossible to break. The code was so well thought out that even those who spoke Navajo could not decipher it. The Navajo soldiers assigned a Navajo word for each letter of the English alphabet. For military and war-specific terms, the code talkers used Navajo words for birds, fish or other wildlife. Here is (partial) translation of the Navajo alphabet and words used for military aircraft. A-Ant; B-Bear; C-Cat; D-Deer; E-Elk; F-Fox; G-Goat; H-Horse... T-Turkey; U-Ute; V-Victor; W-Weasel; X-Cross; Y-Yucca. Dive Bomber-Chicken Hawk; Torpedo Plane-Swallow; Observation Plane-Owl; Fighter Plane-Hummingbird; Bomber-Buzzard; Patrol Plane-Crow; Transport-Eagle.” (pp.50-51). With time the code was improved and additional words were added. “In the end the code included 700 words.” (p. 66).

If you are interested, you can find much more about the Code Talkers on the internet. No matter what, as we

honor Veterans during the month of November, give thanks for their service and sacrifice for our country.

In his November 8th column Antiques, Collectibles, & Estates in the Killingly Villager Wayne Tuiskula wrote about the magic of the Tiffany name in the antique world. Did you remember that the founders of Tiffany & Company, Charles Lewis Tiffany and John Young, were born in Killingly? Over the years I have compiled much about their families here in Northeastern Connecticut and even did a PowerPoint presentation on the Tiffany Connections. If you have access to a car, you have the potential to ride around Killingly, Brooklyn, and Pomfret and see some of these sites for yourselves. In the next couple paragraphs I’ll mention a few places.

Charles L. Tiffany was born in Killingly in 1812, probably on Maple Street, according to the 1810 and 1820 U.S. Census Records. His father, Comfort Tiffany, one of the shareholders in the new Danielson cotton mill, ran the company store, which was located near where the new park and mill reproduction are. Comfort constructed his own mill on the Brooklyn side of the river in 1827. The Killingly panel of Gray’s Atlas of

1869 shows it in relation to the newer Quinebaug Factory. Tiffany Street is just one reminder of the family’s presence in that area. Charles worked in his father’s company store and was accustomed to going to New York to purchase merchandise. The bustling metropolis beckoned.

John B. Young, co-founder of Tiffany & Young, was also born in Killingly, the son of Judge Ebenezer Young, who owned Young’s Mill in East Killingly. The former Young home is still standing on Main Street in Danielson. John’s sister Harriet became the wife of the above-mentioned Charles L. Tiffany.

A number of the members of these earlier generations of both the Tiffany and Young families are buried in Old Westfield Cemetery.

Although he was not born in Northeastern Connecticut, artist &

stained-glass window producer Louis Comfort Tiffany, the son of Charles L. and Harriet (Young) Tiffany, also has left his mark in this area. Trinity Episcopal Church in Brooklyn has Tiffany stained glass windows as does Christ Church in Pomfret. They are beautiful!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, November 2024. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

Nov. 25 – Nov. 30

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killingly.org)

- Monday the 25th
Board of Recreation Meeting (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) 6 p.m.
Republican Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
- Tuesday the 26th
Democratic Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Monday the 25th
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day
KPL Lit Talks (Library) All Day
Wonderful Ones and Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday the 26th
Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.
Can’t Put It Down Book Club (Ages 50+) (Library) 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday the 27th
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.
Little Listeners (Ages 2-5) (Library) 11 to 11:45 a.m.
- Saturday the 30th
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/ EVENTS COMING UP...

- Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing – Nov. 18 through Dec. 2 (Mondays) (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
- Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 2 – Nov. 5 through Dec. 17 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center)
- Virtual High Five 2024 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
- Thursday Yoga with Mary – Nov. 7 through Dec. 26 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
- Getting in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 2 – Nov. 6 through Dec. 18 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)
- Baseball Hit Club – Dec. 1 through Jan. 19 – Sundays (Killingly Community Center)
- Softball Winter Clinic – Dec. 1 through Jan. 19 – Sundays (Killingly Community Center)
- Senior Christmas Celebration – Monday, Dec. 16 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!
For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killingly.org.

Dream of holidays

As the holiday season heats up and the smell of roasted turkey and pumpkin pie fills the air, it’s easy to get caught up in the magic of the season—and just as easy to let your dreams slip into the background.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

Between family gatherings, festive celebrations, and endless to-do lists, the holidays can feel like both a time of joy and a reminder of what you haven’t yet achieved. But what if this season could be the spark to reignite your fire for your dreams?

The holidays are distracting. There’s shopping to do, meals to prepare, and social media posts showing everyone else’s highlight reels. That can leave you comparing your progress to others and wondering if you’ve fallen behind. But here’s the thing—the holidays aren’t about competing; they’re about connection, reflection, and renewal. And that goes for your dreams, too.

Think about the power of this time of year. Latch onto the holiday spirit, express gratitude, reflect

on where you’ve been, and just as importantly, set your sights on where you’re headed.

What about that book you’re writing, the weight you’re losing, or the business you started that hasn’t quite taken off yet? Now is not the time to hold back. Wake up a little earlier, stay up a little later—don’t let your dreams take a holiday break only to resurface as New Year’s resolutions. Keep the fire burning!

Let the warmth of the season fuel your ambitions. Let the love and laughter of family remind you why you’re chasing your dreams in the first place. Let the joy of giving inspire you to give your all in pursuit of your goals.

Even history’s greatest dreamers didn’t take the holidays off when their vision was on the line. In the winter of 1879, Thomas Edison worked tirelessly at his lab in Menlo Park, perfecting the electric light bulb. His assistants reported working through snowstorms and late into

the night by lamplight. The breakthrough came on New Year’s Eve when his bulb successfully burned for over 13 hours, proving it was commercially viable.

Edison later said, “Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.” His dedication reminds us that even in the season of comfort, a little extra effort can lead to monumental breakthroughs.

Of course, no one wants to become a workaholic. Ebenezer Scrooge learned the hard way that all work and no play leads to misery, though his ghostly intervention came at Christmastime. Thanksgiving reminds us of balance. Gratitude is as much about appreciating where you are as it is about striving for more.

Here are a few ways to stay motivated while savoring the season:

Reflect: Take a moment to look back—not to beat yourself up, but to celebrate the progress you’ve made. Even small steps matter.

Write down your dreams: Grab a notebook and jot down your biggest aspirations. Putting them on paper makes them more real.

Visualize success: As you sip on cider or watch the leaves fall, close your eyes and imagine achieving your goals. What does it look like? How will it feel?

Share your passion: Talk about your dreams with family and friends who support you. Their

encouragement can spark new ideas or give you a much-needed boost.

Set a small goal before the New Year: Don’t wait for January 1 to start fresh. Take one small, actionable step toward your goal now.

The holidays are the perfect reminder that life combines work and play, effort and joy, dreaming and doing. As you prepare your Thanksgiving plans—whether it’s organizing a menu, tidying up the house, or coordinating with loved ones—take a moment to prepare for your goals.

Just like a well-thought-out meal comes together with care and attention, your dreams need thoughtful planning and action to thrive. Let the spirit of the season inspire you to dream bigger and work harder.

Gratitude and ambition go hand in hand. Some might argue that being happy with what you have might stifle your drive to achieve more. But think of an athlete who cherishes every victory while relentlessly training for the next one.

Here’s to chasing your dreams as fiercely as you chase seconds on pumpkin pie!



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Courtesy

The Daughters of Isabella held another annual Yuletide Festival on Nov. 9. The ladies at the bake sale table were kept busy. Left to right: Pat Gaffney, Tracy Blanchard, Anne-Marie Thibeault and Veronica Livernoche.

Woodstock Building Associates wins prestigious "HOBI" Award

WOODSTOCK — Last night, Woodstock Building Associates (WBA) received a 2024 Home Building Industry (HOBI) Award from the Home Builders & Remodelers Association (HBRA) of Connecticut. The annual HOBI Awards are the most prestigious awards presented in Connecticut for excellence in design, construction, sales and market-

ing and financing by members of the HBRA of CT. WBA won "Outstanding Residential Remodel \$100,000-\$250,000" for a house they originally built in Woodstock in 2013 and remodeled in 2023.

Hired by two generations of the same family for nine separate building/remodel projects, WBA won the HOBI Award for a kitchen addition and first floor remodel on the Woodstock home completed last year.

"The high cost of building means sustainability is key," says WBA Architect Steven Keene. "If a house has good bones, it's easy to rethink flow and layout and even re-use high quality building materials that still have life, saving money and avoiding waste. It also allows homeowners to budget for other needs or desires."

The original 2,300 sf house construction met the family's needs and budget at the time, when the family was smaller. In 2023, the kids had grown, the family had evolved, and it was time for change. The remodel converted the original kitchen to a dining space and then added just 8 feet to create a new 16 x 16 kitchen. This relatively small addition made a world of difference. By saving money with the smaller addition, the Woodstock family was also able to repaint, replace flooring and update trim throughout the first floor at the same time.

2024 is the 30th anniversary of the HOBI awards. Winners are featured in Connecticut Builder Magazine. The awards were presented on Nov. 13 at the Aqua Turf restaurant in Plainville. For more information visit hbra-ct.org.



Auction news



There's been lots of auction news since my last update.

Beginning with an item from the 16th century, a pair of Ming Dynasty jars sold well above their estimate at auction recently. The "fish jars were made during the reign of the Jiajing Emperor, from 1522-1566," according to CNN. They were made with advancements in ceramics design and depict golden carps along with lotus and other plants. The jars were in a home in Wiesbaden, Germany, but were moved after the start of World War II and placed in a secure location. The jars far exceeded the £1 million (\$1.3 million USD) estimate selling for £9.6 million (\$12.5 million USD).

Some rare presidential memorabilia including artifacts from two of America's greatest presidents will hit the auction block later this month. A lock of George Washington's hair inside a locket is one of the pieces being offered. The locket was given to a family friend of Washington's and was documented as it passed down through the generations. It's estimated to sell for \$30,000 to \$40,000.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Another important artifact was recently discovered in a Florida museum, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. The museum manager found an old dusty shadowbox containing an American flag. The flag is dated April 14, 1865, the day after Abraham Lincoln's assassination. It was draped over Lincoln's coffin as his body traveled 1,654 miles to be buried in Springfield, Ohio. The flag was signed by New York physician Lewis Applegate, who went to school with one of the pallbearers. It's believed Applegate's school friend gave the flag to him. After Applegate signed the border, other owners followed suit which provided a documentation of ownership over the years. It has an auction estimate of \$800,000 to \$1.2 million.

Moving to an item from more recent times, a collection of "Star Trek" memorabilia from the popular 1960s television show had many items selling past their estimates and even saw an auction record broken. A vintage red velour duty uniform worn by Nichelle Nichols when she played Nyota Uhura had an estimate of \$3,000 and sold for \$114,300, according to mylanews.com. Captain Kirk's yellow velour tunic and Starfleet Command Bridge trousers worn by actor William Shatner in the first season sold for \$455,000, well above the \$65,000 estimate. A communicator and phaser used by William Shatner as Captain Kirk were considered "lost." The original owner "was a veteran of Hollywood's prop industry," according to ArtNet. Don Hillenbrand, a long-time collector and researcher compared the items to those that appear in early episodes and to a documentary book on the series. The effort paid off when the phaser, estimated at \$100,000, boldly went where no man has gone before, setting an auction record for a "Star Trek" prop at \$910,000.

We are currently cataloging for an online antiques auction in a Beacon Hill Boston estate and a large Civil War collection from a local estate. We are accepting consignments of all types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Eastern student Nikki Flynn of Danielson represents CAB at campus activities conference

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University's Campus Activity Board (CAB) again earned various accolades at this year's National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) Providence Conference. The meeting took place Oct. 24-26 at the Rhode Island Convention Center.

Among the honors received, Eastern was one of two schools in the Northeast to win Excellence in Programming. In addition, CAB won Best Marketing Innovation in the event's marketing competition, and several individuals won awards.

Among the students who attended was Nikki Flynn of Danielson, a senior who majors in Communication.

Flynn was one of four recipients of this year's Ken M. Bedini Student Leader Award. Honorees are undergraduate students who demonstrate good academic standing, hold a strong record of leadership positions on campus and contribute meaningfully to their school's community. The award is named after Bedini, a 1978 graduate of Eastern who served the University in a variety of roles for nearly 40 years, namely as vice president for student affairs for nine years.

"While we only had a handful of student delegates on site for the conference, it is a reflection of our whole team and their drive to positively represent one another," said Duffy, who volunteered as communication team lead for the NACA Northeast Regional Leadership Team.

She continued, "Words don't even begin to describe how proud I am of the student leaders that I get to work with each and every day."

Holiday Craft Night at Killingly Public Library

KILLINGLY — Join the Friends of the Killingly Public Library Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. for our yearly Holiday Craft Night, where individuals of all ages can take part in the celebration.

Our library is excited to share that we will be offering special crafts tailored for children, adults and teens. Children can enjoy crafts in the Marie C. Chartier Community Room. Adults can find a craft in the magazine section. Teenagers can participate in a craft activity in the Young Adult section.

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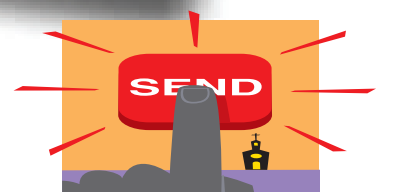
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Passion & Pulse: A Night of Love Poems and Rock Music comes to Bradley Playhouse

PUTNAM — Poets at Large will be at The Bradley Playhouse Theater, 30 Front St. in Putnam, on Feb. 8 from 7-10 p.m. in "Passion & Pulse: Love Poems and Rock Music," with special guests The Vig, a Worcester band. Tickets for this special concert/poetry smash-up are \$25 (\$30 at the door) for this evening of music and spoken word capping off Putnam's Fire & Ice Weekend.

The evening will consist of several 20-minute sets of music by The Vig interspersed with open mic poems/spoken word performances all about love; the good, the bad and the ugly. Beverages are available. Order through the Bradley's website or at their Box Office at 30 Front St., Putnam. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com if interested in being in the open mic. The Vanilla Bean and The Putnam Business Association are assisting with this event. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts and is ADA compliant.

East Woodstock Congregational Church hosting Holiday Art & Craft Fair

EAST WOODSTOCK — The East Woodstock Congregational Church will host a Holiday Art & Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

More than 30 area craftspeople will be on hand with a variety of items for your holiday shopping pleasure. Join us for the Penny Social, where each vendor will be donating a \$20 item, so there will be lots of different gifts available for the lucky winners.

The church is located at 220 Woodstock Rd., East Woodstock.

OBITUARIES

Henry P. Gawle, 107



WEBSTER – Henry P. Gawle, 107, died Monday, November 11, 2024 at the Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester after a short illness. His wife of 64 years, Eleanor E. (Finnegan) Gawle, died in 2014.

He leaves 4 children, Karen A. Moseley and her husband William of Woodstock, CT, James P. Gawle and his wife Georgia of Webster; David N. Gawle of West Springfield, and Suzanne A. Hagstrom and her husband Brian of Woodstock, CT; 14 grandchildren, Jeremy, Ann, Sara, Marc, Ryan, Eric, Jennifer, Amanda, Jonathan, Jesse, Myra, Joshua, Hannah and Jeremiah; 8 great-grandchildren; a brother, Al Gawle and his wife Colleen of Port Townsend, WA; a lifelong friend Jim Dziedzic of Webster; and many nephews and nieces.

He was born on January 14, 1917 in Grafton, one of the 14 children of Peter and Anna (Laincz) Gawle and was a lifelong resident of Webster. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1935 and completed 2 years of study at the Worcester School of Business.

He was a World War II Army veteran, serving in Guam, the Philippines and Okinawa and was awarded a bronze star. He belonged to the VFW and the

PAV.

Mr. Gawle's family established Point Breeze Restaurant in 1929. He owned and operated it from 1949 to 1989 when he retired.

Mr. Gawle was a communicant of Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Dudley and a life member of the Auburn Lodge of Elks #2118. He enjoyed ice fishing, cooking and taking walks. His family was his treasure.

The funeral will be held on Friday, November 22, at 10:30 AM in Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Road, Dudley (please meet at the church). Burial will be in Mount Zion Cemetery with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council. The family will greet family and friends at the church beginning at 10:00 AM on Friday, prior to the Mass. Donations in his name may be made to either the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council, 4 Veterans Way, Webster, MA 01570 or to the Rose Monahan Hospice Home, 10 Judith Road, Worcester, MA 01602. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com



Paula Lajeunesse



On the 13th of November, Paula Lajeunesse took the last steps of a long walk home. Michael, her loving husband, was, as always, right by her side.

Paula was born on April 18, 1949 to Eugene Schilhavy, Jr and Dorothea Schilhavy (Weigand), who preceded her in death.

Paula was a graduate of Cranston East High School, later attending the University of Rhode Island. She received her masters in business administration from the University of Connecticut, eventually becoming everyone's favorite certified public accountant. Paula was a the long time treasurer for the City of Putnam, often taking time to officiate nuptials or work on political campaigns and committees. She was proud to be the first female selectman in the City of Putnam.

Paula was a social justice advocate throughout her life- supporting civil rights, access to healthcare, and even

sea turtles. She had a clear vision for an America where everyone has a seat at the table.

Over 30 years ago, Paula began golfing regularly at Quinnetis Country Club. There she not only played golf, having 4 hole in ones, but fostered life-long, rock solid friendships. There is nothing Paula loved more than her family, and her family of friends.

Paula is survived by her loving husband Michael, her daughter Melissa (Eric), and her biggest rays of sunshine, granddaughters Chloe and Lila. Paula will be especially remembered by her brothers Richard (Mary) and Peter (Priscilla), as well as her husband's siblings Marlin (Linda), Carl (Florence) and Marianne (David), her beloved nieces and nephews, and cousins who she counted among her dear friends.

Paula's family would like to thank the many people who provided support during this journey, including the caring staff of Hospice. A celebration of life will be on July 5, 2025, location to be determined. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to The National MS Society www.nationalmssociety.org

Brien F. Kroeger August 10, 1951 - July 18, 2024



Brooklyn - Brien Francis Kroeger, 72, of Wolf Den Road, passed away on July 18, 2024, surrounded by his family. He spent two and a half weeks at Yale New Haven Hospital with his loving wife,

Marjorie 'Mudge' Kroeger, by his side before returning home. Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, he was the son of the late Henry and Ryta (O'Brien) Kroeger.

Brien was a sophisticated and accomplished man in many ways. He attended St. Rose school in New Jersey and went on to graduate from Rutgers University in 1976. He founded and ran his company, Standard Transportation and Distribution, for 33 years until his retirement in 2023. His hard work and dedication helped Brien build his family's home in Brooklyn, CT where Brien and his family would live for many years. In his later years he enjoyed being on his boat 'Fugio' which could often be found docked at the Mystic Yacht Club. Brien also never passed up an opportunity to add to his extensive

gun and coin collections.

Brien's pride and joy was his family and especially his granddaughter, Madeline, who he named after his aunt. Brien will be missed dearly by all of his family & friends.

Brien is survived by his wife, Marjorie 'Mudge' (Small) Kroeger of Brooklyn, CT; daughter, Brianne Kroeger of Brooklyn, CT; granddaughter, Madeline Kroeger; and sister, Claudia Mahon of Hollywood, FL; niece Erin Wright, her husband Matt and their children, Lily and Ava; and nephew Sean Mahon.

Brien is predeceased by son, Kevin Kroeger; brother, Henry J Kroeger, III.

A celebration of life was held for Brien with his close relatives and friends. A graveside service will be held at the St. Rose Cemetery in Newtown Connecticut at a later date. Those who knew Brien knew he was a generous supporter and donator to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Brien's honor. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

Lorraine Dion, 93



Lorraine Dion, died peacefully on November 9, 2024 at her home in Thompson CT at the young age of 93. Lorraine was born on August 23, 1931 in Webster, MA. She is the daughter of the late Czeslaw and Alexandra (Krupinski) Stolarczyk. She was married to the late Raymond Dion until his death in 2010.

She is survived by her son: Michael Dion, wife Debby of Lakeville, MA; her daughter Jane Dion, wife Cindi Perugini of Portland, CT; and son-in-law, Joseph Holewa of Charlton MA. She is predeceased by her daughter Judy Holewa and great grandchild Sloane Marie Rickaby in 2024. Lorraine is predeceased by all her siblings: three sisters: Stasia Jaszur, Joan Plasse, Theresa Courtemanche, and four brothers: Chester, John, Victor and Vincent Stolarczyk. She leaves nieces and nephews.

Lorraine leaves 7 grandchildren Caitlin Rickaby (Michael), Brian Kiley (Katie Dragon), Danielle Bossi (Patrick), Chris Dion, Nicole Higgins (Joey), Laura Holewa and Colleen Holewa. Lorraine also leaves 3 great grandchildren Dante, Maverick and Matthew. Lorraine had many "grand pups" and "great grand pups" who will miss visiting her to receive a cookie.

She retired in 1995 from Hubbard Hospital as an Administrative Assistant in the Physical Therapy Department. Lorraine, known to her family as "Grandma or Gma", loved her family above everything else and was the "glue" connecting all of us to family goings-on. She and Ray enjoyed traveling together and occasionally "going south" to the casinos. Lorraine kept her brain as sharp as a tack by mastering crossword games, and in her late 80's, learning online word puzzles and scrolling/commenting on Facebook. She was very creative with arts and crafts, making many Christmas items, ceramics, and even a "Grandma O'Keeffe" painting. She was a parishioner of St Joseph's Church in Charlton where she enjoyed a sense of community and connection to her faith.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H Putnam Rd. Extension in Charlton, MA Saturday November 23 at 10 AM. Prayers to follow at the columbarium at St. Joseph Garden Of Peace Cemetery, Webster, MA. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org. Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is assisting the family.

www.bartelfuneralhome.com

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

Send all obituary notices to
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Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Phillip Edmund Mahon (24-00469)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of North-east Probate Court, by decree dated November 13, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Lillianne Claire Mahon, 34 Klondike Street, N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255
November 22, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

David Irving Patenaude, Sr. (24-00434)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of North-

east Probate Court, by decree dated November 13, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
David Patenaude Jr. c/o JAMIE DAVIS ALEMAN, LAW OFFICE OF JAMIE DAVIS ALEMAN, LLC, 33 BROAD STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
November 22, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KILLINGLY

Notice is hereby given that the Killingly Board of Education and the Killingly Administrators Association, have ratified their contract agreement for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028 and has been filed and available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk,

Town Hall, 172 Main Street, Killingly, CT.
Dated at Killingly, Connecticut, this 15th day of November 2024.

Elizabeth M. Wilson
Town Clerk
November 22, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Rose T. Yovaisis (24-00465)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of North-east Probate Court, by decree dated November 13, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
David A. Yovaisis c/o EVELINA MON- IKA RUSZKOWSKI, THE PRUE LAW

GROUP. P. C. 720 MAIN ST 4THFL., WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226
November 22, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Guy Hollenbeck (24-00402)
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of North-east Probate Court, by decree dated October 2, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Troy Hollenbeck c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260
November 22, 2024

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²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. 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. 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.