



# PUTNAM VILLAGER

©2025, Issue #45

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Friday, November 7, 2025

Complimentary to homes by request

## Roadway dedicated in honor of Trooper Irving Nelson



Connecticut State Police stand with Robin Angelini, the great granddaughter of the late Trooper Irving Nelson. A section of Route 97 was dedicated in Nelson's honor nearly 98 years after he became the first CT State Trooper to die from gunshot wounds sustained in the line of duty.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

POMFRET — A section of Route 97 in Pomfret will now forever

serve as a memorial for a State Police trooper who died in the line of duty nearly a hundred years ago.

Trooper Irving Nelson was honored with a Memorial Roadway nearly 98 years after his death in 1928. A World War II Army veteran who

joined the Connecticut State Police in 1924, Irving would find himself in pursuit of armed robbery suspects along Route 97 on April 6, 1928. The suspects opened fire and struck Trooper Nelson who died of his injuries on scene. He was the third state trooper to die in the line the duty, but the first

to lose his life because of injuries from gunfire. At the time of his death Trooper Nelson served State Police Station 5, which today is Troop D in Danielson. His death sparked a massive manhunt resulting in the arrest of his killers who served life in prison.

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## Killingly receives Speed Feedback signs

DOT ANNOUNCES INTERSECTION SAFETY INITIATIVE

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Town of Killingly has received a pair of Speed Feedback signs as part of the state's continued push to crack down on speeding in problem areas of heavily traveled municipalities.

A press release from the town explained that the signs will be placed at Maple Street near Ellis Technical High School, a main through way into Brooklyn and downtown Danielson. Earlier this year the Connecticut Department of Transportation committed to distributing 340 signs throughout the state, adding to the 340 that had already been delivered. Killingly is the only local town that has officially announced receipt of any of these signs.

The signs are part of a program launched in 2020 in partnership with CT Training and Technical Assistance (T2) Center at the University of Connecticut to help control speeding in rural communities which also included speed management training through the Connecticut Safety Circuit Rider (SCR). These speed signs are specifically designed to warn drivers of their true speed when traveling through designated areas and do not include cameras or picture-taking devices. They are also not used as a larger enforcement tool. Their purpose is to create awareness for drivers and collect information about how fast vehicles are traveling in a given area that can better inform law enforcement on how to improve safety and speed control.

Killingly's release included a statement from CT DOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, which was also part of the state's announcement in July, touting the significance of these signs to enhancing public safety.

"Speed feedback signs show drivers in real-time how fast they are traveling in relation to the road's posted speed limit. That feedback has been proven to help slow them down, even after they pass the sign," said Eucalitto. "We are thrilled to continue supporting this program and appreciate the partnership with the T2 Center to deliver these signs and help communities develop speed management programs to help keep people safe."

In addition to the Speed Feedback signs, Killingly is also included with other local communities in a larger initiative announced by the CT DOT in October to improve intersection safety in Eastern Connecticut. CT DOT is developing plans to remove nighttime flashing operations and install video detection and cellular modems to replace traffic signal controllers at some state-owned traffic signals. These improvements are being developed to help improve driver safety at heavily traveled intersections with the design phase expected to be completed in the summer of 2026.

Local focus areas for this project include Route 6 at Church Street and Prince Hill Road in Brooklyn, the Route 12 intersections at Water Street and at Attawaugan Crossing Road and Ballouville Road as well as the Interstate 395 Northbound ramps at Attawaugan Crossing Road in Killingly, and Route 44 along the Providence Pike in Putnam at the Putnam Shopping Center parkade.

## Senexet Grange holds boot drive for TEEG



Members and volunteers of the Senexet Grange show off early donations to their 2025 Boot Drive on Nov. 1.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The Senexet Grange brought its annual boot drive to Putnam on Nov. 1, continuing a new iteration of a longstanding tradition to help put warm socks and boots on the feet of families across the region.

The Grange originally took over the drive from the Woodstock Democratic Town Committee last year, initially keeping it in Woodstock where the Grange is headquartered. However, for 2025, the group looked to expand bringing the drive to Putnam's municipal complex, a centerpiece of the town and region, in hopes of increasing awareness and donations.

Danielle Duquette, Vice President of Senexet Grange #40, said they sought new and gently used boots to be distributed through local non-profit TEEG as the fall and winter months approach.

"Winter boots are really expensive. Keeping your feet warm in the winter is essential to prevent injury. It can actually help prevent illness, and it's just so important. If we can collect these items from our community and give those to people in need, it's an awesome benefit. Socks, too, are very expensive for what they are so col-

lecting socks helps too because even if someone has a decent pair of shoes having socks without holes is a benefit to help keep their feet warm," said Duquette.

The Grange recruited students from Putnam, Thompson, and Woodstock for the 2025 event who helped collect donations and wave signs on the side of the road to inform drivers of the event. Duquette said the Grange and all its volunteers fully embraced the opportunity to do something good for the local community.

"We've been trying to focus on big activities that we can put a lot of our energy into," said Duquette. "We want to show the community that we are here for them. Our foundation is community service, agriculture, and local history and events like this are a very big part of that, helping everyone where we can. A lot of drives like this are food and hygiene drives which are so important, but this is a very unique event that we think serves an important purpose."

Those seeking help with access to boots or warm cloths can contact TEEG in Thompson at 860-923-3458 about available resources. The agency is also continuously collecting donations at their campus at 15 Thatcher Rd. in Thompson.

## Gary Surozenski named Thompson's Veteran of the Month

THOMPSON — Gary J. Surozenski of Ravenelle Road, North Grosvenordale, has been selected by the nominating committee to be recognized and honored as the November 2025 Town of Thompson Veteran of the Month.

Long time career veteran Senior Master Sargent Gary Surozenski has served his country proudly for more than 30 years, retiring from his Air Force career in 2015. A 1973 graduate of Tourtellotte Memorial High School, he wasted no time in joining the Air Force. One week after graduation, he was on his way to San Antonio, Texas, to the Lakeland Air Force Base to begin his basic training. He subsequently was transferred to Kessler Air Force Base in Mississippi for his advanced training as a radio repair technician.

His first permanent assignment was at the Homestead Air Force Base in South Florida, where he was stationed intermittently for approximately three years. At Homestead AFB, Surozenski's primary responsibility was maintaining radio intelligence in a mobile unit where he worked in conjunction with U.S. Army personnel at Fort Bragg, and Camp Lejeune, N.C., and at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada testing AWAC planes. During his assignment at Homestead AFB, Vietnam War, Veteran Sgt. Surozenski was deployed for a short stint to Vietnam to assist in the pull out of military personnel from the United States Embassy in Saigon. There, he and others maintained the safety of the men and women with their air to ground radio operations and electronic mechanical experience and intensive background. Despite many dangerous and near tragic instances, Sgt. Surozenski completed this tour of duty in-tact, and was returned to Homestead AFB for his remaining tour of duty. There he was discharged from his initial four-year assignment in the Air Force. SMSGT Surozenski relayed that on his return home from Vietnam, he was spit at, and had a cup of coffee thrown at him at Kennedy International Airport in New York as he was walking thru the terminal in his Air Force uniform, returning home from the rigors and the devastation of the Vietnam War. This was, and still remains, a very sad commentary on what became a very normal occurrence on how our Vietnam Veterans were treated when they returned back to the United States having gone through such unthinkable horrors, and the wide spread killing and the lasting health issues of so many of our Veterans during this very unpopular war.

Speed forward, 12 years later, and SMSGT Surozenski made a decision to return to the Air Force. This time, it was not during the Vietnam era, but it was during the Global War on Terrorism. Initially assigned to Chanute AFB in Illinois, Gary trained in the science and operations of aircraft fuel systems. After his training and schooling, he subsequently was assigned to Westover Air Force Base where he spent the better part of 1990 to 2000 as a fuel sys-

Turn To SUROZENSKI page A11

# Prue Law Group celebrates 45 years serving Eastern and Central Connecticut

WILLIMANTIC — The Prue Law Group, P.C. marks a significant milestone this year, celebrating 45 years of providing legal guidance to individuals, families, and businesses throughout eastern and central Connecticut. Since its founding in 1980, the firm has grown from a small local practice into the premier law firm for estate and business law services in the region, while maintaining the personalized service and community focus that has defined its practice for more than four decades.

The firm's 45th anniversary year has been marked by strategic initiatives designed to strengthen its position as the region's premier law firm while expanding accessibility to its specialized services. In May 2025, the firm launched a refreshed brand identity and new website that reflects both its established reputation and its forward-looking vision, including updated mission, vision, and values statements, along with enhanced visual elements and messaging that speak to both long-standing clients and next-generation Connecticut residents and businesses. This was followed in August 2025 by the opening of the firm's fourth location at 167 Lebanon Ave Suite B in Colchester, strategically positioned at the heart of the firm's eastern and central Connecticut service area and joining existing locations in Willimantic, Brooklyn, and Coventry to create a comprehensive net-

work that makes the firm's services more accessible throughout the region.

"Reaching 45 years is a testament to the trust our clients have placed in us and the dedication of our exceptional team," said Attorney Patrick Prue, founder of The Prue Law Group. "When I started this practice in 1980, my goal was to provide sophisticated legal expertise with genuine personal attention. That commitment hasn't changed, but we've evolved to meet the changing needs of our community and expanded our reach to serve more families and businesses across eastern and central Connecticut."

Attorney Patrick Prue's more than 20 years of experience as a probate judge has given the firm unique insights into navigating Connecticut's probate court system, positioning it as a leader in estate planning, probate and estate settlement, and elder law services. Over the years, the firm has expanded its practice areas to include business law, real estate law, family law, personal injury law, and litigation, creating a comprehensive legal services platform that serves clients throughout their



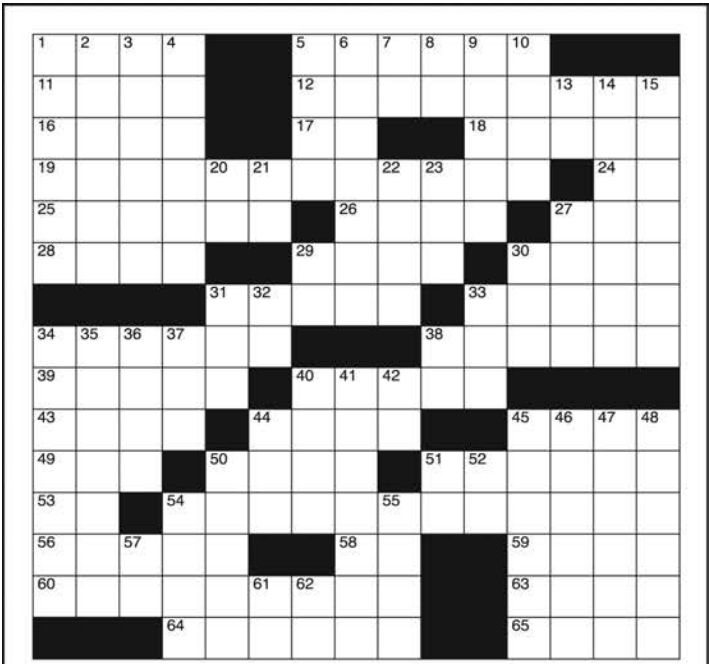
Courtesy  
Attorney Patrick Prue (center), founder of The Prue Law Group, and his team of paralegals and staff celebrate 45 years of providing legal service to the region in 2025.

## WANTED TO BUY

### Antiques & Old Stuff

- Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys
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- ### CLUES ACROSS

  - Popular wine \_\_ Spumante
  - Greatly impressed
  - \_\_ and that
  - Uttered with passion
  - Boats
  - Veteran actor Harris
  - Casserole with game
  - Reprehensible acts
  - They precede C
  - Says under one's breath
  - Taxis
  - It transfers genetic info
  - NFL great Randy
  - Where college students sleep
  - Major European river
  - Taco condiment
  - frutti
  - Polish city
- Astronomy unit
  - Khoikhoi peoples
  - Bears QB Williams
  - Scrambled, fried, boiled
  - Price indicators
  - One-time world power
  - When you hope to get somewhere
  - Farm building
  - Choose carefully
  - Magnum was one
  - One who combines
  - Nursemaids
  - Partner to Pa
  - Notable river
  - Officially honors
  - Colorless compound
  - A fancy chair
  - Email function

- ### CLUES DOWN

  - The central area in a building
  - Religion of Japan
  - Leggings
  - Officially distributes
  - Arabian Sea seaport
  - Spanish doctors
  - It cools your house
  - Currency of Poland
  - Slowly moves into
  - Days (Spanish)
  - Unit of volume
  - Emit
  - With two replaceable hydrogens
  - Title for a man
  - Equally
  - Scarlett's home
  - One-time tech titan
  - Subway dwellers
  - One-tenth of a liter
  - Central European river
  - Distress signal
  - Expression of sympathy
  - The bill in a restaurant
- Football equipment
  - Dance music
  - Russian river
  - Cosmetics giant Mary \_\_
  - Gym class
  - Automobiles
  - Roman honorific
  - Losses in sports
  - Skin tone in summer
  - Distant planet
  - Critical humor
  - Illegally obtained
  - Go back over
  - Home appliance brand
  - Unit of radioactivity
  - Home of the Flyers
  - Short official note
  - Emit coherent radiation
  - Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
  - Most common noble gas (abbr.)
  - Toward

## PUZZLE SOLUTION

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| E | L | V | E | N | C |   | N | H | V | B |   | V |
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| C | E | S | H | V | D |   |   |   | M | O | K | V |
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## Mountain Laurel Floral Designs announces November workshops

DANIELSON — Celebrate the season of gratitude with Mountain Laurel Floral Designs, a locally owned flower and gift shop in the heart of Danielson. This November, the shop is hosting a warm lineup of holiday-inspired events, from ornament making to wreath decorating and even tarot card reading.

"It's so much fun to decorate for the holidays, but it's even better when you actually get to make the decorations yourself. We are excited to show our customers how to build beautiful, long-lasting decorations for their holiday tables, hostess gifts or even their home office," said co-owner Pam Blinten.

"Plus, we are even hoping to help with holiday stress management through our sound bath class with Above the Clouds!"

If you would like to participate in one of these workshops, visit [mountainlaurelfloralct.com](http://mountainlaurelfloralct.com) to learn more and register.

**November Workshops:**

**Dried Flower Ornaments**  
Nov. 14 | 5 – 7 p.m.  
\$30 - Create a beautiful keepsake at our dried flower ornament class! Learn how to arrange and seal real pressed flowers into stunning ornaments, perfect for gifts or home décor. All materials and guidance provided. No experience needed!

**Free Story Hour with Andrea K. Smith**  
Nov. 15 | 9 – 10 a.m.

**Free - Join local author Andrea K. Smith for a special reading of "The Honey Maker," "Island Life" and more. Plus enjoy fun, interactive kids activities.**

**Holiday Wreath Decorating**  
Nov. 19 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 20 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
\$90 - Decorate your own beautiful, handcrafted wreath, bursting with greenery, texture, and personal flair! We will provide a premade premium wreath with mixed holiday greens for you to decorate. Accessories will include dried fruits, dried flowers, berries, acorns, pinecones, ribbon and ornaments.

**Private Tarot Card Readings & Group Sound Bath**  
Nov. 22 | 7 - 8 p.m.  
\$50 - Join us for an enchanting evening of insight, energy, and relaxation! Our special guest Above the Clouds will be offering private tarot card readings to help you explore what the cards have in store for you. Above the Clouds will also be leading a group sound bath experience to help you unwind and realign. A soothing journey through sound and vibration that will leave you feeling refreshed and rebalanced. We recommend bringing a yoga mat, blanket and/or pillow to help with your relaxation during the sound bath.

**Thanksgiving Centerpiece Arranging**  
Nov. 25 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
\$75 - Create a stunning Thanksgiving centerpiece filled with autumn colors, textures, and charm for the perfect handmade touch for your holiday table.

**Macrame Wreaths**  
Nov. 29 | 10 a.m. – noon  
\$25 - Celebrate small business Saturday with us by learning the art of macramé and creating a beautiful boho-style wreath. Taught by Sweet Designs.

About Mountain Laurel Floral Designs  
Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is more than a flower shop—it's a space where community, sustainability, and artistry flourish. Owned by local flower farmers Gabby and Pam, the shop is located at 98 Main St. in Danielson, and specializes in fresh, seasonal blooms grown in southeastern New England.

The business began with a shared love of the land and a commitment to sustainable flower farming. Today, Gabby and Pam create floral arrangements that honor the rhythms of the seasons and host a variety of hands-on workshops that celebrate creativity and connection.

## Celebrate Veterans Day in Thompson

THOMPSON — Thompson Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the Oscar Swanson Park on Riverside Drive (Route 12) in North Grosvenordale. All are welcome. Oscar Swanson Park is located across the street from Rawson Avenue on Riverside Drive (Route 12).

Please come and support our veterans.

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**VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS**  
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS  
  
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The Putnam Villager (USPS 025-154) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 10A Beeches Ln, Woodstock Ct 06281. Periodical postage paid at Putnam, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to Villager Newspapers c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

# Quinebaug Middle College to host Open House for prospective students

DANIELSON — EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College (QMC), a regional, public magnet high school, invites prospective students and families to attend an Open House on Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. The event will provide an opportunity to explore QMC’s unique middle college model, meet faculty and staff, tour the facility, and learn about the application process for the Spring 2026 semester and 2026-2027 school year.

Students seeking a more independent learning environment tailored to their academic and career goals are encouraged to attend and discover

how QMC can provide a pathway to success.

Located on the peaceful campus of CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley (CTSC-QV) in Danielson, QMC offers high school students a middle college experience that enables them to earn a high school diploma while taking college courses in college classrooms, and transferable credits from CTSC-QV.

QMC students select from one of six learning pathways: Liberal Arts and Humanities, Education, Business/Leadership, STEM Engineering, STEM Manufacturing, and STEM

Health Sciences. Core academic and elective courses and mentorship opportunities are aligned to the individual learning pathways. Enrollment is open to all students in northeastern Connecticut.

Housed in a \$24-million, state-of-the-art facility, QMC offers other advantages that include small classes; a personalized, competency-based approach; a rigorous curriculum; and a collaborative school governance model. Once enrolled at QMC, students have access to high-tech laboratories, career and vocational resources, public service options and other unique learning opportunities.

In addition, students gain real-world experience in project management, public communications, and community organization and leadership. In fact, service leadership is built into the school day, allowing students to engage in community service and projects. QMC enrolls about 160 students, grades 9-12, from towns across northeastern Connecticut.

For more information about QMC and to enroll, students can visit [www.eastconn.org/qmc](http://www.eastconn.org/qmc) for an application. To learn more, contact QMC Principal Edward (Ted) Keleher at [ekeleher@eastconn.org](mailto:ekeleher@eastconn.org).

# Julia Trainor of Putnam presents research at COPLAC

WILLIMANTIC — Fourteen students from various academic departments at Eastern Connecticut State University presented their research at the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, better known as COPLAC, from Oct 17-18. The conference was hosted by Keene State College in Keene, and welcomed students from several different institutions in the northeastern United States.

Among the participants was Julia Trainor of Putnam, a senior majoring in English.

Trainor’s research, titled “Defining the Three Types of Memories in Dystopian

Literature,” dove into what she believes to be three main realms of dystopian literary narration: historical, virtual, and personal.

“Directing attention to memory within these texts allows us to appreciate the intertextual relationship between novels past, present, and future,” said Trainor. “Reading these texts in tandem can inspire us to consider how these fictional societies mirror our own.”

“It was a pleasure to be at the COPLAC conference hosted at Keene State, interacting with students and faculty from several liberal arts schools in the region was a nice opportunity,” said biology Professor Bryan Connolly, who served as one of the faculty chaperones.

“Eastern student presenters did an excellent job sharing their research from many diverse fields of study.”

“What a joy it was to accompany Eastern’s students to the COPLAC conference. Such a bright, dedicated, mature, thoughtful, and delightful group,” added English Professor Christopher Torockio, the additional faculty chaperone. “I can’t remember a time when I’ve learned more about so many interesting topics. I’m so proud of all of them.”

Between presentations, Eastern students had ample time to connect outside the conference. Through activities such as exploring Keene State’s campus and visiting the town’s annual jack-o-lantern festival, many of the Warriors made

their first ever conference a memorable one.

Each of the attending students highlighted how eclectic the conference panels were. The subject matter their peers divulged continually had them guessing on what the next presentation was going to be about.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR NOVEMBER 7-14

Friday, Nov. 7  
At Patriots Park Lodge from 7:30–10:30 p.m.,  
Contra steps and violins hum!  
The Dead Sea Squirrels lead the way,  
With reels and jigs that dance and sway.  
Arrive at 7:15 for the beginners’ spin,  
You’ll leave with a smile that glows within.  
Saturday, Nov. 8  
At Mohegan Sun Expo, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.,  
Crafters and candy and wreaths trimmed to the brim!  
The New England Christmas Festival glows,  
Where artisans sparkle and tinsel shows.  
Back home in Killingly, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.,  
The library hosts crafts—come create with them!  
Sunday, Nov. 9  
The Christmas Festival runs 9 a.m.–5 p.m.,  
But closer to home, take a nature gem.  
Pomfret’s Trail Wood opens 8 a.m.–4 p.m.,  
Where chickadees chatter in forest dim.  
Bring your boots and take it slow,  
There’s gold on every branch and bough.  
Monday, Nov. 10  
Coffee time at Thompson Senior Center, 9 a.m.–noon,  
Stories shared beneath autumn’s tune.  
Cards at Brooklyn’s Center start 1 p.m. sharp,  
Laughter and cribbage warm every heart.  
Tuesday, Nov. 11 — Veterans Day  
Gather on Putnam Veterans Park Green, 10 a.m.,  
For a heartfelt salute in a patriotic scene.  
Thompson Common follows at 11 a.m. clear,  
Bagpipes and honor guard draw near.  
Flags wave proud in crisp daylight—  
Freedom’s price remembered right.  
Wednesday, Nov. 12  
At East Woodstock Church from 7:30–8:30 p.m.,  
Al-Anon meets in peace within.  
A quiet hour, a shared refrain,  
Of healing words through hope and pain.  
Thursday, Nov. 13  
At Brooklyn Town Hall by 6 p.m., the boards convene,  
Discussing roads and budgets keen.  
At Killingly Library, 6:30 p.m. reads aloud,  
A book club circle, cozy crowd.  
Friday, Nov. 14  
The week winds down with music and cheer,  
At Triple Raven Brewing—7 p.m. here!  
Local tunes and laughter blend,  
As neighbors toast another week’s end.  
So button your coat, sip cider warm,  
And wander through each hometown charm.  
In every hall and green and glen,  
The Quiet Corner hums again.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Oct. 27: Yellow-rumped warbler, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Bluebird, Saw-whet Owl, Junco

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This statement was provided 3/15/2024 by Randy Defilippis who is a client. The image shown is a model and not the actual client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee of future performance or success. For additional reviews, search us wherever local businesses are reviewed.  
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Thank you!

*Randy*

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EDITOR

# Honoring service, preserving memory

Each November, as the air sharpens and the first frost gathers on the fields of the Quiet Corner, our towns pause to remember what service truly means. The flags along Main Street, the wreaths at veterans’ monuments, and the quiet gatherings on town greens are not relics of tradition—they are living reminders of duty, sacrifice, and gratitude.

From the farms of Pomfret to the mills of Putnam, from the wooded hills of Woodstock to the town hall steps of Thompson and Killingly, this region has sent generations of men and women into uniform. Some came home to build families, lead local businesses, and volunteer in the firehouses and town boards that hold our communities together. Others never returned, their names now etched in bronze and granite across our villages.

Veterans Day is not about distant wars or political debates. It is about people—neighbors—who answered when their country called. It is about every veteran whose service, quiet or celebrated, helped shape the freedoms we enjoy daily.

Too often, our appreciation ends with a parade or a speech. True gratitude requires more than applause. It means supporting those who return home with invisible wounds. It means ensuring our local veterans’ organizations remain strong, that our memorials are maintained, and that future generations understand why they stand.

In every small town across Northeast Connecticut, the fabric of freedom has been woven by hands that once wore uniforms. As we gather this Veterans Day, let us remember that honoring them is not a single day’s task—it is a lifelong responsibility carried by every one of us.

### 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

### Say no to methane gas

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my concern about the continued expansion of methane gas infrastructure in Connecticut, which is raising energy bills for Connecticut families and businesses, harming air quality and public health, and fueling climate change.

Over a 20-year time period, methane is 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at heating the planet. Methane is released at every step of the process: from the fracking of the gas, to its transport, and eventual burning. Energy efficiency is critical for decreasing the amount of energy we need, while also decreasing individuals’ electricity bills. Connecticut families, residents, and businesses pay for gas expansion. The costs for these expansion projects are passed right on to our bills. Building more or bigger infrastructure increases costs and our bills. Connecticut’s electricity rates are 91 percent higher than the national average.

A Sierra Club study found that offshore wind energy would lower electricity prices. Offshore wind is a critical source of energy for the Northeast. Connecticut must continue pushing back on the Trump Administration and fighting for wind energy. Connecticut also needs to expand solar across our state. That includes removing the current caps on both residential and commercial solar, so that it can be expanded as largely and quickly as possible.

Connecticut residents shouldn’t have to pay for gas companies to get rich. I urge Gov. Lamont and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to say no to any new methane gas expansion projects, which raise electricity costs, pollute our air, and contribute to the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

SUSAN MOYNIHAN  
STORRS

### Earth — How it came to life

To the Editor:

Our cosmic neighborhood —the Milky Way Galaxy is estimated to contain 300 billion stars. In his book “Our Cosmic Habitat,” Astrophysicist and British Astronomer Royal, Martin Rees, writes that most stars in our galaxy are orbited by “retinues of planets” and thousands of planetary systems have been identified. Rees goes on: “In our galaxy alone there could be billions of planets resembling Earth” and within a “habitable zone.” If those numbers aren’t staggering enough, astronomers estimate there are roughly 50 billion trillion stars in the entire universe, presumably offering the same odds of life. Yes, it appears highly unlikely we humans are the lone stargazers and empire builders.

This realization begs the question: How did life come to be? Fortunately, I got some help with that question from Harvard geologist Dr. Andrew Knoll. In his brilliant book “A Brief History of Earth,” he describes how Earth transformed from a molten sphere into a living world. Reading it, you can’t help but imagine the same process playing out on other planets across the cosmos. The universal question “Is there life beyond Earth?” changes to “What is life out there like? How advanced has it become? And how did it overcome challenges similar to those we face on Earth?”

As Dr. Knoll explains, more than four billion years ago, Earth was a violent molten body bombarded by asteroids and comets. Containing no air, Earth’s first atmosphere was the product of volcanic off-gassing and consisted mostly of hydrogen and helium. As those gases floated off to space, volcanoes on a cooling Earth filled the atmosphere with water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen, and sulfur compounds. One breath by us humans would be fatal.

As Earth cooled further, water vapor condensed into rain to form the first oceans which absorbed atmospheric (CO<sub>2</sub>) that combined with minerals on the seafloor to become limestone. This natural chemical exchange — between the air, the water, and the crust — began to regulate Earth’s climate and thin its carbon-dioxide-rich atmosphere.

Still, the air remained unbreathable. Methane, ammonia, and sulfur compounds were common, and ultraviolet radiation from the Sun bombarded the planet’s surface, since no ozone layer yet existed to filter it out. But Knoll notes, the seeds of change were taking root.

In shallow seas, life emerged from simple chemistry that, according to Knoll “may be widespread throughout the universe,” first forming organic molecules — like amino acids and lipids — which went on to organize into self-replicating structures. Energy from sunlight, volcanic heat, and chemical reactions fueled this process. Over time, these primitive molecules evolved into the first single-celled organisms — our earliest ancestors. Knoll emphasizes that life arose not through sudden creation, but through gradual chemical and biological evolution shaped by Earth’s unique conditions — its water, atmosphere, and

geology interacting over vast amounts of time.

From single cells, multicellular microbial life emerged. Among them were cyanobacteria, tiny photosynthetic organisms that learned to harness sunlight to make food, releasing oxygen as a waste product. This innovation, seemingly small, would transform the planet forever.

Knoll calls this turning point “revolutionary.” Over hundreds of millions of years, the oxygen produced by these microbes began to accumulate in the oceans and then leak into the air. At first, that oxygen reacted chemically with iron and other elements, forming rust-colored rock formation known commonly as “red beds.” Only after these “chemical sponges” were saturated did oxygen finally begin to accumulate in the atmosphere.

Known as the Great Oxidation Event, this slow but profound shift began around 2.4 billion years ago. For the first time, free oxygen became a permanent component of Earth’s air. This was not a gentle change — it was a planetary upheaval. Oxygen, though vital for most modern life, was toxic to many early microbes, causing mass extinctions. Yet it also opened the door for new forms of metabolism and, eventually, the evolution of complex multicellular life.

Over the next two billion years, the balance of gases continued to evolve into a modern atmosphere. Volcanism, chemical weathering, and biological activity created a dynamic exchange between the land, sea, and sky. By about 600 million years ago, oxygen levels reached near-modern concentrations. This new atmosphere supported the Cambrian explosion of animal life — first in the seas and then on land.

The atmosphere has never been static. Throughout Earth’s history, changes in carbon dioxide levels have triggered ice ages and warm periods, while the rise and fall of oxygen have shaped evolution itself. The air we breathe today — about 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, and trace amounts of other gases — is the result of four billion years of geological and biological interplay.

Just as early microbes reshaped the planet through the chemistry of life, humans are now altering the atmosphere through the chemistry of industry. By burning fossil fuels, we are returning ancient carbon to the air, accelerating change on a timescale far faster than natural processes. Understanding how Earth’s atmosphere formed, is crucial to understanding the fragility of the balance we now threaten.

In “A Brief History of Earth,” Knoll reveals that the air around us is not just background — it is the product of deep time, planetary chance, and the power of life itself. From volcanic gases to breathable oxygen, Earth’s atmosphere tells the story of a planet that learned to breathe — and a reminder that as the most advanced species here on Earth, keeping it breathable is now our responsibility.

KEN WOLSLEGEL  
WOODSTOCK

### A question in good faith

To the Editor:

How can the House of Representatives — at the behest of Speaker Johnson — abandon its duties to our citizens by going on a six-week — and counting — vacation...while they continue to be paid? The Democratic reps are in Washington, ready and eager to negotiate with the Republican reps. What is currently at stake is food assistance to millions as their SNAP benefits run out and the current administration refuses to release the emergency funds that could -and should - assist those in need. And what’s at stake at the close of 2025 is a giant rise in health care

costs for millions of Americans who can least afford it.

Violating the law without consequence. It should offend all of us. Unless we only care about the giant tax cuts that will come to the rich via the BBB and on the backs of the poor.

I urge all of us to step in and support our local food banks.

KAREN RYKER  
WOODSTOCK

## Yogaville memories

A friend forwarded a YouTube piece that stirred up memories for me and will, perhaps, for others in our area. In 1973 Sri Satchidananda, the guru who famously open the Woodstock music festival in 1969, bought a mansion in Pomfret and opened Yogaville East on the 68-acre property. Some of my recollections of those times and the people who moved to our small, rural town are my own, some from people who lived at the ashram and some, like all memories are a mix of folklore and the hazy passage of time.

At the end of this column, I’ll provide the address of the documentary. Watching it brings memories of a world that seemed incredible then and now recalls lost openness and innocence.

My husband and I were newly married and living in upstate New York, when my father’s doctor called and told me we had to come home. My father, who had emphysema, was lighting cigarettes near his oxygen machine. I am an only daughter and saw it as my duty to return and manage my father, a charming, bright, irascible man, who quickly improved. His problem was boredom. He was tired of his caregivers. Soon I hired a yogini, Jugadumba, who brought exotic Yogaville to my father.

At first the town was a twitter with talk of the newest purchasers of the stucco mansion, Elsinore, an Italianate villa built by Mary Vinton Clark in 1911, an heiress with local roots. It became the Greek Orthodox Preparatory School of Pomfret from 1937-47 and later the Scholasticate of the Catholic Brothers of the Sacred Heart until it was purchased by Yogaville East and the Swami. The building had been altered and improved, but it was impossible to heat as the eager newcomers soon learned.

Pomfret was accustomed to private schools, having had several in its early history as well as The Pomfret School and Rectory School which flourish today. Yogaville was different. The swami brought males and females, followers from parts of the country and the world, who were often urban, attractive, young and well-educated. Over time they became involved in area communities and part of the fabric. Eventually most moved, but a few stayed.

One story goes that when the yogis came to town, they contacted the local heating company to fill the thousand-gallon oil tank. Everyone held their breath waiting for their check to clear. When it did, residents declared that they liked the swami and his merry band. The relationship remained positive.

Soon there was a music school for children, a health food store called Annapurna and a chiropractic practice, Integral Health Services, operated by Bonnie and Vin Wood, who still reside in the area. Sandy McLanahan, an MD, opened a practice and served as the camp doctor for the Windham 4-H Camp as well as the physician for many area residents. On weekends, scores of people came to stay and do yoga and meditation with the swami, who caused a stir as he drove around in his gray Lamborghini or rode his beautiful horse across the fields, his long, gray hair blowing in the breeze.

My father lived a year after we returned. Often, he’d find geranium petals at the bottom of the pudding he ate which meant the food had been blessed by the swami. He thought that was fine.

In 1980 the group moved to Virginia. In 2002, Swami Satchidananda died at 87 in India. The film captures the feeling of those years and the openness of people to learn from each other.

You Tube: <https://youtu.be/YOD4HjMB1m4?si=VoPHeSL88vZ4IH7e>.



NANCY WEISS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Careless people

To the Editor:

“They were careless people. They smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or whatever vast carelessness or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made.”

From F. Scott Fitzgerald’s 1925 novel “The Great Gatsby,” these words have haunted me since beholding photos from our President’s Halloween party at Mar-A-Lago on the eve of suspension of SNAP benefits for our nation’s most vulnerable people. A picture not of “Let them eat cake,” but of “Let them eat nothing.” I’m sure there was plenty of cake, and steak, and maybe lobster, all kinds of vegetables and side dishes—no expense spared—for the wealthy in-crowd allowed into the presence of the individual who has now amassed the greatest concentration of political power here since England’s king ruled the New World colonies.

Our U.S. Constitution is being ignored by this President; our House of Representatives has not been in session for more than 20 days since July, and now—as of this writing on Nov. 2—another week will be wasted in a game of “how much more can we get away with” vs. “how much longer can we hold out” that has caught government workers, low-income families and their children, veterans, and private sector jobless fellow citizens—good citizens, I might add—in a net of willful neglect (the kindest words I can find right now) as the wealthiest nation in the history of the world showcases half-naked dancing women, gluttonous platefuls of food, oblivious blaming of an entire political party (not just elected officials) for the fall of our country, and a celebration of gold-encrusted ballrooms. Did I just dream this?

Further, Senate Majority Leader Thune, who dismissed the Senate for the weekend, later was reportedly inconvenienced by a 90-minute delay at the airport due to the shortage of air traffic controllers, who just completed their first month of working with no paychecks. Yes, a nightmare!

I have nothing against the rich, having known a number of local wealthy and generous people—the late Paul Aicher comes to mind—who do much more than manage that wealth to acquire more and yet more money. There is so much good that can be brought to our lives when wealth is shared to bring history to life; art, music and literature to those of all economic levels; help to people impoverished through no fault of their own by illness, business failure, military service to our country, or just being born into a poor family.

Most of us need money for our basic food, clothing, shelter, maybe a vacation once in a while to lift our mental health and remind us of our connection to family and friends. Bartering (which, to me, seems a more honest transaction that is not affected as greatly by stock exchange indices, wars, tariffs, greed, etc.) can be an option on a case-by-case basis, and may now become

more widely practiced.

I recall when I grew up in South Killingly and we had about 20 chickens for eggs and meat for our family of seven children at the time, that my dad would trade fresh eggs for huge gallon jugs of fresh milk from a nearby family that had two cows, Guernseys, I believe. My mom would actually churn butter and make whipped cream and cottage cheese from the several inches of cream that topped each container. And in the summer, our dear Uncle Arthur would bring over his ice-cream maker and we’d have peach ice cream, mmmm. Such trades and exchanges are undoubtedly still happening, I hope, along with trading labor for wood-stacking, carpentry, child care, transport to appointments and other essential skills and kindnesses.

How to end this dystopian experiment in resurrecting the Great Gatsby’s roaring 20’s excess-for-the-rich and to-Hell-with-anyone-I- don’t-need-to-keep-acquiring-more? (Sorry for the “H” word, but I’m in nightmare land right now.) Well, I think we here in northeast Connecticut just need to remember our own humanity. To abandon the notion that some people are better than others because they were born to wealth or did everything right. The cliché that “bad things can happen to good people” has never seemed more true. What if each one of us assumes that those around us are “good people?” That maybe we have something to offer each other that will make a difference: an invitation to dinner once per week, an offer to ride together to run errands, a movie night at home gathering, a request to get a work-out by helping with a physical task instead of going to the gym (although the Y is great!), a listening ear for someone no one else wants to listen to. I’m sure readers can think of many more difference-makers.

Finally, I remember a time when I was a teen-ager and our South Killingly minister advised us of the job loss of a member of our congregation, who happened to be in church that day. It was done in an informational way and resulted in no humiliation to the working man. When the man went out to the parking lot after church refreshments, he found a \$10 bill on the front seat of his car. (Back then, we did not lock our cars, as is necessary now.) Years later, I found out who had left that \$10. It was my own father, yes, the man with seven children. He had a job; he went without something, I’m sure, in order to help a fellow worker. So, it’s inspirational to hear of wealthy people giving of their excess. But I find more inspiration from those who give from their hearts when they have much less to offer. No doubt, those gathered at Mar-A-Lago last week would characterize such underlings as “losers.” I think we need more losers like that to get us through the coming months.

Respectfully,  
CLAUDIA TERWILLIGER ALLEN  
THOMPSON

Together, we build the town we want to live in

To the Editor:

The municipal elections are over. Hopefully, you voted for the change you want to see in your community. Now it’s time to help your elected officials turn that vision into reality.

Our local leaders can’t do it alone; they need us. Every one of us, regardless of party affiliation.

We all have busy lives, balancing work, family, and countless priorities. It’s easy to point out what’s wrong, but it takes real commitment to step up and help. One of the best ways to do that is by volunteering on a local Board or Commission in your town. Sadly, volunteerism seems to be going the way of the dinosaur. In some cases, nearly extinct.

Most small towns don’t have the population or the money to run all town operations with paid employees. That’s where volunteers, committees and commissions come in. These volunteers come together to discuss and make decisions affecting their towns. These volunteers are our dedicated neighbors and friends who give back and help their community.

Many towns have board and commission vacancies. Here in Brooklyn for example, there are openings on the Agriculture

Commission, Conservation Commission, Board of Fire Commissioners, Emergency Management/Homeland Security, Housing Authority, Inland Wetlands, Planning and Zoning Commission, Resource Recovery Commission, Regulations Hearing Officer, Water Pollution Control Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals. It may sound like a lot because it is, there is a significant need for volunteers to serve. That’s where you come in. Your talents, skills, and experience are needed.

John F. Kennedy once said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” The same applies to our towns. Your time, talents and experience can make a real impact close to home. Your voice and your abilities matter.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of every strong community. They’re the quiet heroes who don’t wait to be asked, they act. As Mr. Rogers’ mother once told him, “Look for the helpers.” They’re the ones who make things happen.

So, who are the helpers in your town? Maybe it’s a neighbor. Maybe it’s you.

If you’d like to get involved and make a difference, I’m sure there’s a seat waiting for you in your town.

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

I will not support politicizing food

To the Editor:

I’ve had enough of all these attempts by minarchists on the Right to paint America as a feckless third world country that can’t take care of its own people, the most recent example being the standoff over SNAP benefits.

The United States of America is the most successful constitutional republic in the history in the world, about to celebrate a quarter millennium under one constitution next year. We have the highest GDP in the

world, clobber the world in defense spending, and blew trillions on Afghanistan and Iraq without batting an eye.

We’ve had the money for many many, many things the rest of the world could only dream of. We can take care of our people. Grinding political axes over SNAP while starving any subset of our own citizens is politicizing food. Save that for the Mad Max movies. We don’t need to do it here.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

The \$84 trillion women’s wealth transfer: Navigating the Greatest financial shift in history

Over \$84 trillion in assets is expected to pass from the Silent Generation and baby boomers to their loved ones over the next two decades.<sup>1</sup> It’s the greatest generational wealth transfer in history, and women stand to benefit substantially as wealth passes from generations where money was managed largely by men to one where it is increasingly managed by women.



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
LEISL L. LANGEVIN

40 percent of men.<sup>4</sup>

Strong performance as investors: However, research consistently shows that women outperform men as investors. Fidelity’s analysis of 5.2 million accounts over a 10-year period revealed that women achieved returns 0.4 percent higher than men—a difference that compounds to tens of thousands of dollars over time—primarily due to their disciplined buy-and-hold strategy, more diversified portfolios, and tendency to trade less frequently.<sup>7</sup>

85 percent of solo travelers,<sup>2</sup> and financial services companies are adapting to meet women’s unique preferences and needs.

Looking forward

The \$84 trillion women’s wealth transfer represents a pivotal moment in American financial history. While challenges exist, they are not insurmountable. With proper preparation, open communication, and professional guidance, women can successfully navigate this transition and leverage it to create lasting financial security for themselves and future generations.

This monumental shift represents far more than numbers on a balance sheet—it’s reshaping the very foundations of American wealth and why it’s more important than ever that women become comfortable and confident with managing money and planning strategically for their financial future.

Understanding the scale of change

Recent research reveals that close to \$100 trillion of the \$124 trillion great wealth transfer will go to women, with \$47 trillion shifting to women in younger generations as inherited wealth and \$54 trillion going to surviving spouses, 95 percent of whom are expected to be women.<sup>2</sup> By 2030, women in the United States are expected to control \$34 trillion in financial assets, up from \$7.3 trillion just a decade ago.<sup>3</sup>

Several converging factors are driving this trend: women’s longer life expectancies, rising career earnings, and the natural progression of generational wealth transfer as Baby Boomers—who accumulated wealth during decades of economic prosperity—begin passing their assets to heirs.

The challenges and opportunities women face

Despite this historic opportunity, significant challenges remain. Recent surveys reveal that 84 percent of women lack confidence in their ability to manage an inheritance or financial windfall, compared to 73 percent of men.<sup>4</sup> The root causes run deep:

Lack of communication and planning: Only a quarter of families have discussed generational wealth transfer, and more than a third (38 percent) of US women do not plan to have these conversations.<sup>5</sup> Nearly one-third of women who inherited from parents had no prior conversations about the transfer, and four in ten inherited without any estate plans in place.<sup>6</sup>

Limited financial preparation: Among women, 35 percent have not yet established an estate plan, including 41 percent of Baby Boomers and 37 percent of Generation X.<sup>4</sup>

Education and engagement gaps: 54 percent of women said they would listen in on financial discussions but would not actively participate, compared with

The emotional and strategic dimensions

For women, intergenerational wealth offers more than financial resources—it’s an expression of core values such as security, freedom, and well-being. According to research, 87 percent of women define the purpose of wealth as a means to gain financial security and the freedom to live the life they want.<sup>5</sup>

The emotional weight of receiving or managing inherited wealth can be staggering, particularly during times of grief or major life transitions. These stressors can be properly managed with the help of a wealth management professional.

Practical steps for success

Women can take decisive action to prepare for and maximize this historic opportunity:

Start the Conversation: Open communication with family members about estate planning is crucial. Among women who’ve inherited, 90 percent emphasized the importance of understanding the size and structure of an inheritance ahead of time, while 87 percent stressed planning for taxes.<sup>6</sup>

Build financial confidence: 90 percent of women express a desire to work with a financial advisor, with nearly half (43 percent) wanting an advisor who provides sound advice while also acting as an educator.<sup>4</sup> Research shows that the money confidence gap between men and women shrinks when women work with financial advisors. That’s why a partnership approach to building and educating clients about their financial plan is something we’re deeply committed to at WHZ.

Develop a strategic plan: Having a clear wealth management strategy before inheriting assets makes the difference between financial stress and empowerment. Don’t wait—getting a plan in place now ensures the least amount of stress and best possible transition when the time comes.

The broader impact

This wealth transfer will extend far beyond individual families. Women’s increased financial power is expected to reshape philanthropy, investment priorities, and lifestyle industries. Women already represent

The key is to start preparing now. By building financial literacy, establishing clear communication channels with family members, and working with trusted advisors, women can transform this historic opportunity into lasting financial empowerment.

Contact our team at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors today to develop a comprehensive strategy tailored to your unique situation and goals. Our team is knowledgeable and experienced in helping women navigate complex financial transitions with confidence and clarity. Schedule your consultation online at [whzwealth.com](http://whzwealth.com) or by calling (860) 928-2341.

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# Poets At Large completes fall 2025 series with Monaghan and Treseler

POMFRET — The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret, will host a spoken word event on Nov. 22nd at 7 p.m. Featured that evening will be poets Gloria Monaghan and Heather Treseler. Admission is \$15, and includes a raffle and an open mic. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to be on the open mic list. Five-minute limit, recommended for ages 16 plus.

Heather Treseler was recently awarded the 2025 Massachusetts Book Award for Poetry. She is the author of the poetry collection “Auguries & Divinations,” which received the May Sarton New Hampshire Prize and the Sheila Margaret Motton Book Award, and she has authored two chapbooks, “Parturition” and “Hard Bargain.” Treseler has received a Pushcart Prize, the W.B. Yeats Prize, and the Editors’ Prize at Missouri Review, and her poems appear in The American Scholar, Harvard Review, The Iowa Review, The Irish Times, and Kenyon Review. Recipient of the George I. Alden Award for Excellence in Teaching, she is professor of English at Worcester State University and a scholar at the Brandeis Women’s Studies Research Center.

Gloria Monaghan is a Professor at Wentworth University with seven poetry collections to her credit. Her latest book, “Diary of Saint Marion” (Lily Poetry Review, 2025), was featured this year at the Association of Writers and Writing Program, and her poems have appeared in Nixes Mate, NPR, Poem-a-Day, Lily Poetry Review, and Mom Egg Review, among others. She has been nominated twice for the Pushcart Prize, as well as the Massachusetts Book Award, and the Griffin Prize. She has also been nominated for the Sheila Margaret Motton Book Award from the New England Poetry Club. Thanks to a Bistline Grant from Wentworth Institute, she recently completed a film on the painter, Nancy Ellen Craig, Daughter of Rubens, which was accepted into the 2023 Provincetown Film Festival. Monaghan is currently working on another film about the Dominican painter, Jose Ricon Mora.



Heather Treseler



Gloria Monaghan

Poets at Large is now in its sixth year. PAL and is a part of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant. Admission to all Vanilla Bean events is \$15, which includes a raffle. All Poets at Large events are sponsored in part

by Linemaster Switch, bankHometown, WHZ Financial Advisors, the Putnam Area Foundation and Charter Oak FCU. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic which is recommended for ages 16 and up and has a five-minute max as time allows.

## Mountain Laurel Floral Designs opens Thanksgiving arrangement preorders

DANIELSON — that make a festive statement. Looking to add a warm, seasonal touch of beauty to your Thanksgiving table this year? Mountain Laurel Floral Designs in Danielson can help with handcrafted floral arrangements, available for Thanksgiving preorders Saturday, Nov. 1 through Nov. 15. Every arrangement is made with designer’s choice flowers, ensuring a one-of-a-kind creation that highlights the best of the season. Choose from two stunning color palettes to match your style: Bold: Vibrant, rich hues

Muted: Soft, natural tones for an elegant, understated look. “Flowers are such a beautiful addition to holiday gatherings, whether they’re a gift for the host or the perfect centerpiece for your family table,” said co-owner Pam Blinten. “We are excited to open up Thanksgiving preorders to help spread the magic of the holiday season.” Preordering is a great option for holiday floral arrangements for multiple reasons. Most impor-

tantly, it can reduce stress by taking a task off your to-do list so that you can focus on other aspects of the holiday like spending time with your family. Preordering also guarantees that you will get the flowers you desire as availability and selection can decrease as the holiday gets closer and demand increases. As demand increases, prices can also go up so ordering early can also lead to cost savings. Holiday preorders can be submitted at [https://mountainlaurelfloralct.com/products/preorder-thanksgiving-arrange-](https://mountainlaurelfloralct.com/products/preorder-thanksgiving-arrange-ment-between-Nov.-1-and-Nov.-15)

ment between Nov. 1 and Nov. 15. If you miss the preorder, Mountain Laurel will still have flowers in the shop, but availability and selection will be limited. Hands-On Holiday Decor Workshops If you prefer to make an arrangement yourself, consider signing up for one of our workshops this November. At our shop, we offer hands-on guidance in a fun, educational setting to help you build centerpieces, wreaths, ornaments and more. Sign up at <https://mountainlaurelfloralct.com/pages/workshops-seasonal-events-in-danielson-ct>



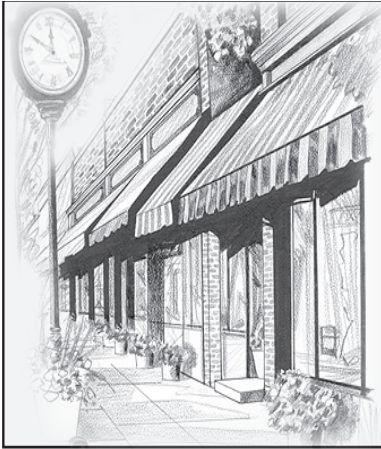
Dried Flower Ornaments Nov. 14 | 5 – 7 p.m. \$30 - Create a beautiful keepsake at our dried flower ornament class! Learn how to arrange and seal real pressed flowers into stunning ornaments, perfect for gifts or home décor. All materials and guidance provided. No experience needed! Holiday Wreath Decorating Nov. 19 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. \$90 - Decorate your own beautiful, handcrafted wreath, bursting with greenery, texture, and personal flair! We will provide a premade premium wreath with mixed holiday greens for you to decorate.

Accessories will include dried fruits, dried flowers, berries, acorns, pinecones, ribbon and ornaments. Thanksgiving Centerpiece Arranging Nov. 25 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. \$75 - Create a stunning Thanksgiving centerpiece filled with autumn colors, textures, and charm for the perfect handmade touch for your holiday table. About Mountain Laurel Floral Designs Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is more than a flower shop—it’s a space where community, sustainability, and artistry flourish.

Owned by local flower farmers Gabby and Pam, the shop is located at 98 Main St. in Danielson, and specializes in fresh, seasonal blooms grown in southeastern New England. The business began with a shared love of the land and a commitment to sustainable flower farming. Today, Gabby and Pam create floral arrangements that honor the rhythms of the seasons and host a variety of hands-on workshops that celebrate creativity and connection.



Christ Church Pomfret recently presented a check for \$1,000 to TEEG. Pictured, left to right, are Jim Goodwin, Miriam Kimball, Judy Miller, Christ Church members; Chelsea French, TEEG Resource Developer; Reverend Sandra L. Cosman, Rector Christ Church Pomfret.



# Community Connection

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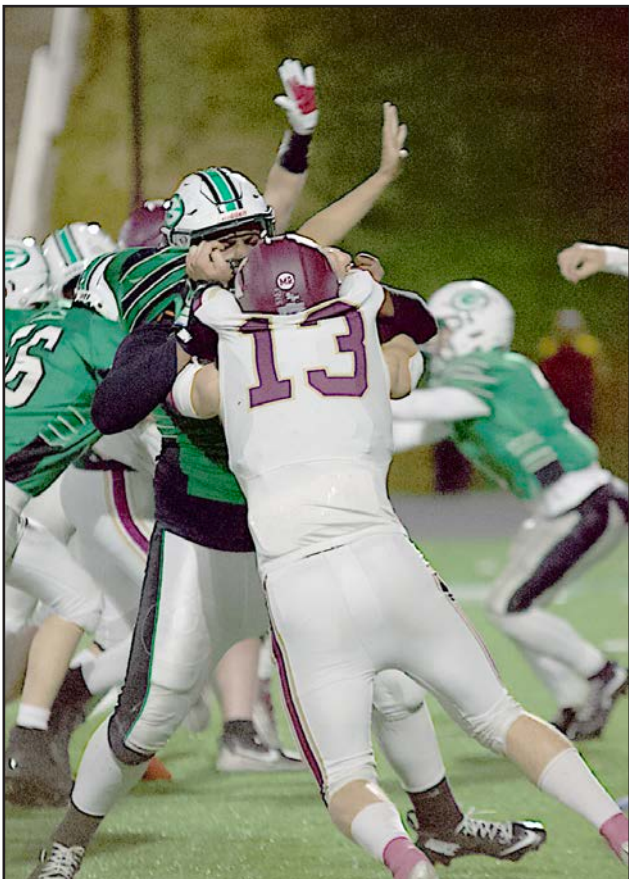
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# Killingly Trailblazers roll to 60-13 victory over Griswold

GRISWOLD — The Killingly Trailblazers (7-0) put on a dominant performance Friday night, cruising to a 60-13 win on the road over Griswold (5-2). From the opening kick-off, Killingly controlled the game with a powerful ground attack and a strong defensive showing.

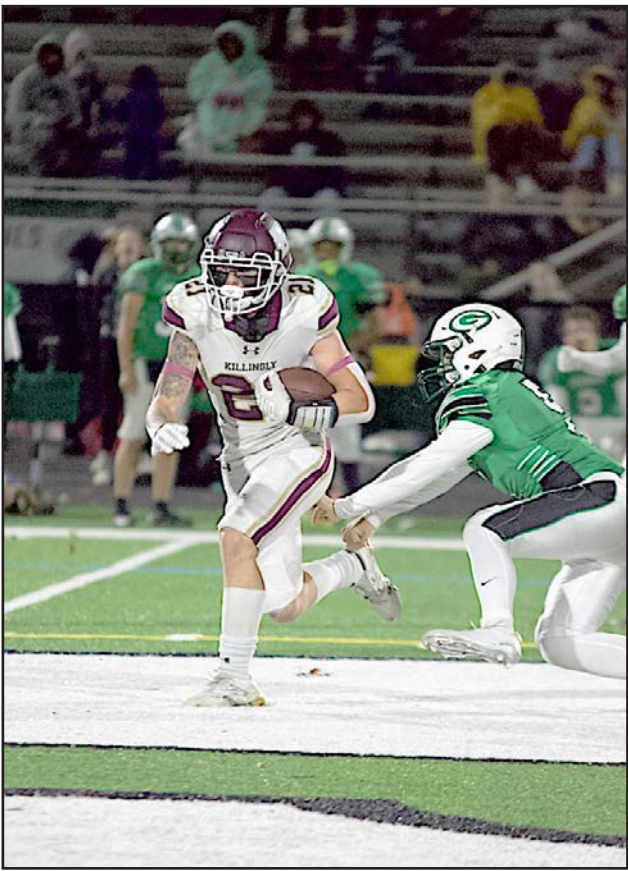
Killingly jumped out to a quick lead in the first quarter with two touchdown runs by senior Hayden Allard (15 carries, 280 yards, 4TD's), including a 41-yard sprint to the end zone. The Trailblazers kept the pressure on in the second quarter, adding three more touchdowns—highlighted by a 59-yard run from Allard and a 25-yard score by Joseph Mackie (6 carries, 58 yards). By half-time, Killingly had built a commanding 34-6 lead.

The Trailblazers didn't let up after the break. Allard added his fourth touchdown of the night with a 47-yard



run in the third quarter. In the fourth, Kaiden Guertin (4 carries, 112 yards, 2 TD's) broke free for a 67-yard touchdown, and

both Jaden Barnett and Liam Lamotte added short rushing scores to cap off the night.



Killingly racked up 547 total yards, including an incredible 501 rushing yards. Allard led the way with 280 yards on 15 carries,

while Guertin added 112 yards on just four carries. Mackie, Lamotte, and others also contributed to the ground game. Quarterback

Quinn Sumner threw for 46 yards on a single completion to Aiden Lamotte.

Killingly's defense turned in another great performance. Logan Lamontagne led the team with 5 tackles and 3 assists, while Mackie and Guertin made key plays in the backfield, including tackles for loss and a sack.

On special teams, Cooper Logee was perfect on extra points, going 6-for-6, and kicked off 10 times for a total of 470 yards. Lamotte also contributed with solid punt returns, averaging 11 yards per return.

Killingly returns home Friday night with the opportunity to clinch the ECC Division 1 Title with a game v NFA. Kickoff is 6:30 p.m. It is also Military Appreciation Night, please arrive early for a pre-game ceremony.

## The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Girls Volleyball  
Eastern Connecticut Conference Tournament  
Division I championship  
(1)East Lyme 3  
(3) Woodstock Academy 0

The Vikings (20-1) finished off their Eastern Connecticut Conference season without losing a set as they captured the Division I championship with a 25-12, 25-10, 25-11 straight set victory over the Centaurs (15-8) in the ECC championship match.

Kaylee Bundy had

nine kills for Woodstock Academy and Lily Morgis had 12 assists in the loss.

Football

NFA 13

Woodstock Academy 6

Two big plays determined the outcome as Norwich Free Academy (4-3) pulled out its fourth consecutive win.

Xavier Sebastian put the Wildcats ahead on the first play from scrimmage of the game as the ball slipped out of a Centaur receiver's hands and into Sebastian's

and he returned it 28 yards for the touchdown just 18 seconds into the contest.

The second came at the beginning of the fourth quarter when NFA quarterback Aaron Driscoll (9-for-18, 97 yards passing) found Jayden Croxton for a 37-yard pass to the Woodstock Academy 3-yard line.

Two plays later, Ryan Cleary burst into the end zone to give NFA the lead for good.

Woodstock Academy (2-5) tied the game with an 11-play drive that took

7 minutes,22 seconds at the start of the second quarter. Quarterback Elijah Poh followed his offensive line into the end zone from two yards out to tie the game at 6.

But the Centaurs - who finished with 249 yards to NFA's 138 and held on to the ball for 31 minutes, 14 seconds - saw two drives stall inside the NFA 5, another at the 11 and also had a field goal blocked.

Poh completed 20 of 39 passes for 200 yards for Woodstock Academy.

Girls Volleyball

Class L state tournament  
1st round  
(5) Woodstock Academy 3  
(28) Pomperaug 2

It was a long night that could have resulted in a very short tournament stay for the Centaurs but they avoided the upset with a 15-11 victory in the fifth and decisive set.

The win means Woodstock Academy (16-8) advances to a second-round match at home against No. 12 New Milford

on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

The Centaurs won the first set, 25-18, but were stunned when the Panthers took 25-21 and 25-20 decisions in the next two.

Pomperaug also led in the fourth set until Kennedy McCooey, who finished with 16 kills, got one to put the Centaurs ahead to stay at 12-11 en route to a 25-16 victory.

Bundy had nine of her 21 kills in the crucial fourth set for Woodstock Academy.

Lily Morgis had 43 assists and Gianna Musumeci had 27 digs for the Centaurs.

## Start your engines: Little T Quarter Midget Club welcomes new racers and sponsors!



THOMPSON

— Looking for a thrilling, family-friendly activity that builds confidence, sportsmanship, and lifelong memories? Little T Quarter Midget Club, located in Thompson, Connecticut, invites families with children ages four and a half to 17 to discover the excitement of quarter midget racing—a safe and structured motorsport designed just for kids. 2026 memberships are now available.

At Little T Speedway, a paved 1/20-mile banked oval track, young drivers race in ¼-scale cars equipped with full safety gear and roll cages. It's not just about speed—it's about learning, growing, and having fun in a supportive community.

Why families love Little T

Safe, age-appropriate racing with top-tier safety standards

10 points races per season, plus exciting weekend-long special events

Sunday race days that fit into busy family schedules  
Rookie training begins at age 4½, with racing eligibility starting at age 5

A welcoming environment where parents become part of the action

A proud member of the NASCAR Youth Series

Little T is a sanctioned track of the NASCAR Youth Series, the official quarter midget division of USAC. This affiliation brings national recognition and enhanced safety protocols.

How to join

Becoming a member is easy:

Join Little T by completing a membership form [www.littlespeedway.com](http://www.littlespeedway.com)

Register with the NASCAR Youth Series

(USAC .25) online.

Attend Rookie Training and get ready to race!

Families can purchase cars and gear through club resources or online groups. Volunteer opportunities are available and encouraged—Little T thrives on community spirit!

Calling all sponsors

Support the next generation of racers while gaining visibility in a passionate, local community. Sponsorships help fund track improvements, safety equipment, and youth development programs. Whether you're a small business or a corporate partner, your support makes a lasting impact.

Ready to race or sponsor?

Visit [www.littlespeedway.com](http://www.littlespeedway.com) or email [secretary@littlespeedway.com](mailto:secretary@littlespeedway.com) for more information, registration details, or sponsorship opportunities.



Courtesy

Christ Church Pomfret recently presented a check for \$500 to Pomfret First Selectman Maureen Nicholson for the Pomfret Fire District. Left to right: Judy Miller, Christ Church member; Reverend Sandra L Cosman, Rector Christ Church Pomfret; Maureen Nicholson; Peter Mann, Christ Church member.

# Jordyn Stevens earns Westview’s August Employee of the Month award



DAYVILLE — Jordyn Staveski was distinguished as Westview’s Employee of the Month in August.

As an Occupational Therapist at Westview’s Outpatient Aquatic Center, Staveski renders rehabilitative support in both the inpatient setting at Westview Health Care Center, as well as their dedicated outpatient treatment wing. Whether helping long-term residents and patients or individuals by appointment, her goals at Westview remain constant: to maximize patients’ inner sense of potential and achieve what otherwise might be considered irresolvable. She joined the team at Westview Outpatient & Aquatic Therapy in 2023 and has appreciated her own growth as a professional, in-step, with the growth of Westview’s scope and scale of services. Staveski acknowledges the warm welcome she received upon her arrival, noting her early perception that Westview would be a great place to continue learning; building experiences on the foundation of her education.

Staveski calls Woodstock her hometown, and she is a proud graduate of The Woodstock Academy. Feeling particularly motivated to study health sciences, sports medicine—and ultimately—therapeutic treatment, she enrolled in Springfield College’s well-renowned undergraduate program for this field of study. After earning this degree, she continued right along Springfield College’s educational path and promptly started working on her master’s degree there. Still—after achieving her Master of Occupational Therapy in 2023, then doing six months of field work, and then taking her board exams to finally attain status as and OTA/L, she hoped to find placement in a setting where all of her skills would flourish. She had a job shadowing experience at Westview during her high school years and she recalled this experience as she set forth professionally; finding an enriching space at Westview Health Care Center.

One of the aspects Staveski highly values about her role at Westview is the diverse and vocationally enriching set of patient profiles that she treats. By applying her expertise to a wide range of patients and abilities in different inpatient and outpatient settings, she rises to take on unexpected challenges each day. Working with patients in both long-term care and short-term care manifests a constantly changing application of Staveski’s skills. Identifying different abilities within patient profiles

challenges Jordyn’s mind as an Occupational Therapist and she devotedly seeks the most personalized pathway for patients to achieve as much as they can.

“No dream is technically impossible! We can always adapt and find a different way to help patients get where they want to be—in terms of ambulation and overall quality of living,” Staveski asserted. “We like patients to know that our therapy teams commit our best efforts to accomplish their patient goals. Whether it’s something specific, like a car transfer so they can go to restaurants and errands; or something basic but essential, like wheelchair comfort, we want patients to know we are dedicated to meeting their individual needs.”

Staveski celebrates the team camaraderie among the staff at Westview Outpatient & Aquatic Center. She notes that they all work together very well, and that their wide range of expertise and experience in the field of therapy complement each other’s attributes. They operate in a culture of constant self-improvement among both patients and staff. Adding to her appreciation, she enjoys the fact that they’re all “dog people” in Westview Outpatient & Aquatic Center! A rotating roster of four-legged friends regularly joins the team to stimulate smile muscles.

A proud pet owner herself, Staveski adores the company of her two cats. Reading ranks among her favorite interests; acknowledging that while she enjoys a wide range of genres, she is inclined to read current and historically-set fiction. Jordyn loves to travel to destinations domestic and international. So far, she has visited France, Germany, Italy, and Australia—and hopes to make Japan her next adventure. Another one of Jordyn’s favorite pastimes is outland hiking in the spectacular landscapes of the New England region, or even more remote places like Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada.

One of her favorite endeavors is attending concerts and reunion tours to celebrate the radio hits of amber adolescence. She has especially enjoyed seeing Blink-182 in recent times, and is drawn to alternative and metal concerts from time to time; especially liking the fan experience on the Xfinity Center lawn. Family is a centrally important theme in Jordyn’s life. She is close with her mother and father, Rebecca and Kenneth, and her younger sister Codi—who Jordyn is proud to have as her Maid of Honor in her wedding next year. An awareness and appreciation for family follows Staveski in her professional pursuits, as she indicated in her remarks upon receiving Westview’s Employee of the Month designation:

“I am fortunate to work in both the inpatient and outpatient settings at Westview. I enjoy meeting and working with patients, residents, their family members, and their caregivers; forming strong interpersonal relationships throughout the process,” Staveski said, emphasizing her gratitude, adding “I’d like to thank my family, my friends, my colleagues in the Therapy Department, and all others who have inspired me to be my best self—personally and professionally.”

David T. Panteleakos, Administrator of Westview Health Care Center, lauds Staveski’s multidisciplinary grasp of Occupational Therapy for patients across all levels of need, commenting, “Jordyn exhibits her strength of knowledge and command of treatment pathways in each case that she manages. Her flexibility across many different settings and scenarios is as commendable as it is congenial. Jordyn’s friendly presence is well-known to patients, residents, families, and colleagues throughout the facility. Congratulations to Jordyn!”

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 17 years.



**Math Blocks**

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
| 4  |    | 3  | 18 |
| 10 |    |    | 30 |
|    | 1  | 9  | 16 |
| 20 | 20 | 24 |    |

|    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
| 6  | 1  | 9  |
| 12 | 8  | 10 |
| 3  | 11 | 4  |

Solution

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1834:** The Free University of Brussels is founded by Pierre-Théodore Verhaegen.

**1872:** Susan B. Anthony votes for the first time in defiance of the law.

**1996:** Bill Clinton is reelected President of the United States.

## Health FACT:

This is one of the first medical professionals who assists patients.

Answer: Nurse

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

GRITSEDREE SUERN

Answer: Registered nurse

## NEW WORD

**TRIAGE**

sorting and enabling treatment for patients

## How they say that in...

**English:** Nurse  
**Spanish:** Enfermera  
**Italian:** Infermiera  
**French:** Infirmière  
**German:** Krankenschwester

## Did You Know?

Nurses work in many different settings, including in hospital emergency rooms and in doctors’ offices.



## Get the PICTURE?



**Can you guess what the bigger picture is?**

Answer: Nurse near ambulance

# Gardening gifts that keep giving



Courtesy — Corona Tools

Kids gardening tools make a great gift for the youngsters in your life.

Gift the gardeners in your life with tools that are sure to make them smile as they put them to work throughout the coming years. No matter your budget, you are sure to find the perfect gift for your favorite gardener.

Help gardeners track the weather and rainfall in their backyard. You can find decorative and functional low- and high-tech thermometers in a wide range of prices. Consider giving them a rain gauge to help monitor rainfall so they know when and how much to water.

For the indoor gardener, paint a pot, preferably one with drainage holes, that they can use to display their favorite plant. If your budget allows, add potting mix and a plant or gift certificate so they can select a new or favorite plant from the garden center. Include a pair of snips to help them trim, groom and keep their indoor plants looking their best.



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

can or decorate one with decoupage. This is a fun gift for kids and adults to make for family and teachers. Just select a plastic or metal watering can, gather pictures, and secure and seal them to the watering can with a suitable material found at craft stores.

Dress up your favorite gardener's gear with colorful tools like the British Meadow Pruner & Holster Set endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. The pruners have a comfort grip and are perfect for cutting small branches and stems and the floral holster will keep them handy when gardening. This makes a great gift for gardeners that appreciate aesthetics as well as quality tools.

And what gardener doesn't need a good bypass hand pruner with two sharp

blades to make clean cuts. Look for one with a large three quarter inch cutting capacity if your gardener does extensive pruning. Select one with narrow, comfortable non-slip grips like those on the ClassicCUT® Bypass Pruner for those with small- to medium-sized hands. Stuff one in their stocking, combine it with a new garden book, or wrap it up as it makes a great gift on its own.

Don't forget the youngsters on your list. Research shows children exposed to the outdoors and gardening are more focused, do better in school, and have less severe ADHD symptoms. Girls raised in a landscaped environment are more confident and less subject to peer pressure. By encouraging them to garden you might be helping them acquire a lifelong skill and get help planning, planting and tending the garden.

Giving them their own kid-sized garden gear ([coronatools.com](http://coronatools.com)) can make gardening more fun and easier as they

garden by your side or in their own garden plot or container. Look for tools designed to fit children's hands like Corona's kids 3-piece garden tool set that has everything a young gardener needs to dig, explore, plant and tend their garden. A kid-sized wheelbarrow is just the right size for hauling plants, soil and mulch.

Don't let the hustle of the holiday season put a damper on your gift giving. Keep in mind this act of kindness generates happiness in ourselves and others.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Audubon art exhibition honors David C. Stumpo



David graduated from Hussian College in Philadelphia, Pa. with a degree in commercial and illustrative arts. Following his service in the U.S. Navy which brought him to Connecticut, he settled in Sterling. David opened Green Leaf Studios in 2004 and lived his dream, becoming a full-time artist. His enjoyment of nature and birds is depicted in many of his beautiful paintings.

David's work is in private and corporate collections in the United States and abroad. One of David's earliest showings of his work was at the CAS Center at Pomfret. Over the years, he exhibited there many times.

Sarah Heminway, Director, Northeast Region, remarks, "We wanted to honor David with this retrospective exhibition of his exquisite watercolors."

Heminway added, "The Center is fortunate to still be able to offer David's work for sale. In addition to paintings and prints, we have an assortment of note and greeting cards. We are hoping many of David's friends and established collectors will join those new to his artwork at the reception on the ninth."

POMFRET — The bird and wildlife work of late watercolor artist, David C. Stumpo (1946-2022), will be exhibited at The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd., through January. There will be a reception on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m. Judith Stumpo, David's wife, will be at the opening. There is no admission fee to attend the reception or view the exhibition. Center hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.



Courtesy

Professional anti-bully speaker Mike Bogdanski was the guest presenter at Putnam Middle School and Elementary School. He spoke with more than 600 kids about the perils of bullying and teaching them to be up-standers and everyday heroes to classmates. Bogdanski has been a professional presenter for more than 30 years, and has spoken to thousands of kids across the country.

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  - Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
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## Quinebaug Valley Senior Citizens Center hosting annual Christmas Bazaar

BROOKLYN — Quinebaug Valley Senior Citizens Center will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon at 69 S. Main St., Brooklyn. This is a once-a-year fundraising event that helps the center to continue offering activities and programs for seniors in our communities.

items, holiday décor, jewelry, and much more. As always, we will have a wide array of raffle baskets donated by members and staff. We have breakfast sandwiches and meat pie available for purchase with a free cup of coffee. Santa will drop in for pictures and letters to Santa will be mailed to the North Pole... so bring the children!

We will be collecting unwrapped toys for children in the area. If you would like to donate a non-perishable food item, we will have a drop box available.

We look forward to seeing you.

Happy Holidays to all!

## All-you-can-eat breakfast to benefit Paws Cat Shelter

MOOSUP — Mason Lodge #113 is hosting an all you can eat breakfast to support Paws Cat Shelter on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 8-11 a.m. at 69 Prospect St. in Moosup. \$15 per person

includes full menu of breakfast foods and beverages. Tickets available at the shelter, 74 School St., Putnam, or at the door.

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

Paws is a non-profit,

## Woodstock resident graduates from SNHU

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — A graduate of Woodstock Academy, John Patrick Barnes Underwood of Woodstock

has completed his studies at Southern New Hampshire University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

# Remembering Killingly’s veterans

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

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

Thank you to everyone who attended the Killingly Historical Society program on “What Women Wore in the Time of the Revolution” by the “Dirty Blue Shirts.” It was excellent! The presenters were dressed in replicas of period clothing and took the time to show how different layers were put together—with pins, many pins! Pockets were not sewn into the garments but were individual items which tied around the waist. For fancy occasions, there were even accordion-like huge pockets to wear under a dress.

Simple shifts/chemises and stays were everyday wear. Amanda wore a beautiful, long red cloak which would have been common outer wear for women in the 1770’s. She noted that although men’s capes/cloaks, etc. were in a number of colors, women’s were usually bright red. Keep in mind that prior to the War items like this were imported from Great Britain which was well ahead of its colonies in textile production. In fact, the colonies were not to produce their own textiles in any mills such as the Mother Country already had. After the Boston Tea Party (December 1773) and the closing of the port of Boston the following year, colonists debated nonimportation, which eventually took place. That meant fabric would now need to be produced here at home. Wool and linen and variations were the most widely used fabrics. Wool, of course, meant sheep—lots of sheep. Since they were prone to predators at that time, many were kept on large islands in Long Island Sound. Unfortunately, the British raided the islands and stole the sheep and other animals for food. Clothing production was arduous. Better dresses in particular were saved and altered as styles changed. The PowerPoint presentation



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
.....  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

had 18th century clothing examples from the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History. Some fancy imported fabrics were of silk. Yale president Ezra Stiles even experimented with growing mulberry trees and having silk worms. Can you imagine the amount of work? I could go on and on, but I won’t. If you have the opportunity to see them, they are so interesting that it’s well worth your time. We’re hoping they can make a return trip next year about clothing in the early Federal era.

Veterans Day is almost here. How many of you recall when it was called “Armistice Day” and know why it is still celebrated on Nov. 11? “The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations, began at 11am on 11 November 1918. Armistice is Latin for to stand (still) arms.” (11-11-11-1918). ( <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved...> ) “World War I officially ended on June 28, 1919, when the Treaty

of Versailles was signed...” “Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word ‘Armistice’ and inserting in its place the word ‘Veterans’.” (<https://www.asomf.org/the-history-of-veterans-day/#:~:text=...>)

Perhaps you have taken a walk in Davis Park and looked at the monuments which honor the Killingly veterans of the various wars. There is also a notebook/binder at the Killingly Historical Center which contains lists of veterans of the various 20th century wars. Of course, I cannot list them all, but I copied the page labeled 1919 K.H.S. Alumni in U.S. Service. Perhaps you’ll recognize a family member or friend who participated in World War I: Armstrong, Robert; Arnold, Walter; Austin, Harold; Aylesworth, Henry; Baker, Ethan; Baker, Frank; Barber, Byron; Bard, Sidney; Bartlett, Earl; Bartlett, Raymond; Beckley, Harold; Bennett, Merrill; Bennett, Wayland; Bill, Lester; Bitgood, Wellington; Blake, Edwin; Blanchard, Leon; Boulais,

Leodore; Brearley, Earl; Brooks, Austin; Brown, Benjamin; Brown, Louis, Brown, Percy; Brunsdon, James; Burgess, Foster; Burnett, Henry; Burnett, Milton; Bruns, Robert; Burton, Joe; Caffrey, Henry; Call, Howard; Casey, Bernard; Casey, John; Casey, Raymond; Chapman, Linwood; Chapman, Paul; Chase, Carlton; Chase, Herbert; Choquette, Alderic; Choquette, Arthur; Clark, Warren; Colvin, Alanson; Craig, Lester; Cundall, Edward; Davis, Edward; Dennison, Ralph; Dixon, Homer, Dixon, Howard; Dixon, Lorimer; Dodge, William; Dowe, John; Doyle, Daniel; Ennis, Floyd; Field, Donald; Franklin, Charles; Gagnon, Francis; Gallup, Elmer; Gallup, Henry; Gartland, Bernard; Geer, Earl; Gilbert, Henry; Graceley, Will; Green, Harold; Halpin, Thomas; Hanlon, Raymond; Harvey, Norman; Healey, Richard; Heselton, Edwin; Horton, John; Hughes, Arthur; Hughes, Harry; Hutchins, Harold; Jacobs, Oliver; Jacobs, Walter; Jacques, Merrill; Janes, Clifford; Jette, Claude; Jetter, Ellerton; Keach, Leroy; Killian, Jennings; Kimball, Earl; Lathrop, Robert; Lawton, Carroll; Logee, Mason; Lyon, Truman; Maynard, Sylvio; Marland, John; Marland, William; Martin, William;

Martin, Fred; Miller, Irwin; Monahan, Thomas; Moran, William; Myers, Henry; Nichols, George; Norton, Joseph; O’Neill, John Joseph; Paine, Burton; Paine, William; Pearl, George; Pierce, Charles; Pilling, Earl; Preston, John; Preston, Raymond; Rapp, Charles; Reddy, Acquinas; Reed, Alfred; Reeves, Arthur; Reeves, Richard; Shaw, Harold; Shekelton, Ralph; Shippee, Lester; Smith, Merrill; Smith, Prescott; Smith, Raymond; Spaulding, Schuyler; Tatro, Oliver; Towne, Reed; Tucker, Harold; Warren, Albert; Wells, Russell; Wild, Arthur; Williams, George; Williams, Roger; Woisard, Louis. May we take the time to honor all our veterans, no matter when and where they served. Thank you one and all!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, November 2025. Special thanks to Amanda Runney and Rebecca B. Donahue of Dirty Blue Shirts. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety)

## To belittle is to be little: The core insecurity of the bully

BY MIKE BOGDANSKI

Having studied bullying for decades, my background in psychology has given me a deep look into the aggressor’s mindset. The simple truth is this: when a person puts someone else down, they are almost always trying to elevate themselves. Bullying is definitely a harmful, desperate attempt to feel powerful, manage deep insecurity, and dominate a person or a social group.

As my father used to call it, it’s a form of “dirty pool”—a tactic where attacking a rival makes the aggressor feel momentarily taller, stronger, and in control. Here’s a breakdown of the psychological and social forces that drive this awful behavior.

Psychological motivations for bullying

The root of most aggression lives within the bully’s internal psychological state:

- \* Insecurity and Low Self-Esteem: I believe this is the most common fuel for bullies. Criticizing or

humiliating others because they think it elevates their own social status and provides a sense of superiority and control that they otherwise lack. Bullies are motivated and driven to pass on put-downs to elevate themselves.

- \* The Need for Power and Control:

Bullying is fundamentally about establishing dominance. People who feel powerless or out of control in other aspects of their lives (often at home or school) seek to regain that sense of control by exerting power over a perceived weaker target/victim. They put others down to remind themselves and their target, who is “in charge.”

- \* Emotional Bolstering (Projection):

Some individuals lack healthy coping skills for managing difficult emotions like anger, frustration, or sadness. They project these negative feelings onto others through aggression, using the victim as the object of their highly emotional release.

- \* Modeling and Learned Behavior:

Bullying is often learned behavior. Studies show that people model these harmful behaviors from their environment—whether from loud or aggressive parents, observing sibling or friend high-octane arguments, or constant exposure to violence in media. They put others down because they have seen it be an effective (and harmful) technique to browbeat targets and get what they want.

Social and environmental factors

The environment often reinforces and rewards the bully’s behavior:

- \* Social Status and Acceptance: In certain peer groups, putting others down (especially those who look, sound, or act differently or are unpopular) can be seen as a way to gain popularity or maintain social standing. The aggressor wants to be



TIPS FOR  
SUCCESS  
.....  
MIKE  
BOGDANSKI

viewed as “tough” or “cool” by their friends.

- \* Conformity and Group Dynamics: Bullying often becomes a group activity. Individuals may join in or escalate the put-downs to fit in with a dominant clique or to avoid becoming

the next target. This fear of social exclusion fuels the mob mentality.

- \* Lack of Empathy: A person’s inability to understand, share, or express feelings is a key factor. This challenge allows the aggressor to inflict pain and cause emotional harm without feeling guilt or remorse.

What parents and adults can do

If your child is showing aggressive behavior or is a target, focused intervention and support are critical:

If Your Child is the Aggressor/Bully:

- \* Highlight and Demonstrate Empathy:

Parents and influential adults must model empathy in their own lives. Help your child experience what it is like to “walk in their victim’s shoes.” Teaching them how to apologize sincerely is a foundational step in minimizing the harm they cause.

If Your Child is the Target:

- \* Provide Immediate Support: Let your child know that the bullying is not their fault. Check in regularly and offer unwavering support. Acknowledge that anger is a natural feeling, but violence is not the answer. (As a helpful mnemonic, I’ve often recommended to children that placing the letter “D” in front of the word “anger” - spells D-A-N-G-E-R).

> Note: We know from tragic events like Columbine that years of emotional abuse can lead some targets to extreme violence. Early intervention is paramount.

- \* Teach Assertiveness: Bullies often seek out quiet, passive targets. Praise your

child’s assertive actions and efforts. We must help them build their confidence through practice and competence. In the future, I will provide you with tips on how to help your child build courage and confidence. Assertiveness is a powerful deterrent. Bullies are looking for people who look vulnerable.

In essence, while the bully’s actions are focused externally—putting others down, instilling fear, or committing violence—the primary “juice” they seek is an internal feeling of superiority, control, and acceptance.

You likely know people like this. I certainly do, and I’ve been a target myself. Let’s work together to achieve two goals: to teach empathy and to develop the assertiveness necessary to prevent this emotionally damaging and dangerous behavior.

*Mike Bogdanski is an anti-bully activist and Martial Arts Grandmaster.*

## Food security

When the stock market crashed in 1929, it didn’t just erase fortunes—it erased certainty. Factories went dark. Payrolls vanished. The hum of American industry fell to silence, replaced by the hollow echo of empty stomachs.

By 1933, unemployment had soared to nearly fifteen million—more than one in five workers. Families who once counted on a paycheck now counted pennies, or borrowed bread from neighbors who were just as poor.

In city after city, long lines snaked around corners, men in threadbare coats clutching tin cups and children holding out chipped bowls. Hunger had no party, no religion, no mercy.

And then came the dust.

As if economic ruin weren’t enough, the early 1930s brought a second catastrophe. The Great Plains—once called the

nation’s breadbasket—became a wasteland. Years of drought and overfarming tore the topsoil loose, and winds carried it east in storms so dense they turned day into night.

By 1934, one hundred million acres of farmland lay barren. Crops withered. Livestock suffocated. Entire families packed what they could onto rattling trucks and fled west, their lives reduced to dust and memory.

But out of that dust, compassion took root.

Ordinary citizens—neighbors, church groups, and volunteers—refused to wait for government relief that was still tangled in red tape. In living rooms and church basements, they poured kettles of soup, handed out bread loaves, and opened their doors to strangers. These homegrown soup kitchens ran on donations, not directives.

In Detroit, Capuchin friars opened a humble kitchen that would serve thousands each day, surviving on faith and flour. Even Chicago’s most unlikely philanthropist, Al Capone, set up a soup line—not out of sainthood, of course.

Across the nation, gymnasiums became dining halls, union halls became food depots, and women’s auxiliaries became engines of mercy. The system was imperfect and chaotic, but it worked.

No one knows exactly how many Americans were starving, but by 1932, a quarter of all families had no wage earner at all. Hunger was not a number—it was a cold morning, an empty pot, a mother whispering to her child, “We’ll find something tomorrow.”

Out on the plains, where the dust blotted out the sun, the same story unfolded.

Farm wives gathered wild berries. Neighbors shared seed and sugar. Churches turned barns into relief depots. At train stations, small-town committees left buckets of milk and bread for migrants heading west. And in California’s orchards, locals organized food drives for the endless wave of families who had lost everything but their will to survive.

By the late 1930s, those collective acts of kindness—migrant relief kitchens, church pantries, and conservation efforts—had begun to turn the tide. Fields were reseeded. Families found work. The wind still blew, but hope had returned to the soil.

Things may change by the time you read this, but as of now, the federal government shutdown has halted the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—

known to most as food stamps or EBT. More than 42 million Americans rely on that card to buy groceries and feed their families. A judge has ordered the administration to make the payments, but delays mean refrigerators are empty.

Wherever you stand on the issue, I hope we can all agree that when the system pauses, the people must not.

Throughout our history, when hardship struck—whether in the breadlines of the Great Depression or the barren fields of the Dust Bowl—it wasn’t bureaucracy that saved us. It was we, neighbors, who refused to look away. Church volunteers stirring soup at dawn. Farmers who shared seed they could barely spare. Americans have always filled the gap with compassion and courage, long before any program or pol-

icy could.

That’s the tradition we inherit. That’s what makes this country strong.

So go to the store. Pick up some rice, beans, noodles, pasta sauce, peanut butter, honey, and bread—whatever lasts and nourishes. Drop it off at your local food pantry. Share this with your friends and encourage them to do the same.

Please don’t wait for permission or for Washington to solve it. The United States is swimming in food; no one should go hungry.

America’s greatness has never come from government checks—it has come from human hands, and from hearts that move.

That’s the American way.



### SUROZENSKI

continued from page A1

tems mechanic for the Air Force. He then transitioned to a machine technologist position during his time as an Air Force Reservist from 2000 to 2008. This 8-year reservist tour was interrupted by 4 different activations to the AOR (area of responsibility) countries of Afghanistan, Iraq and Qatar. SMSGT. Surozenski found himself immersed in numerous battles and skirmishes during the Global War on Terrorism. Gary served in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Title 10 USC. During one of those deployments, SMSGT. Surozenski, while in Afghanistan, was sent on a very dangerous assignment to repair a B1 Bomber, one of the largest and most expensive aircrafts used in the Afghanistan war, estimated to be a billion-dollar aircraft. The B-1 Bomber had made an emergency landing due to a fire on board. Gary and his co-workers found themselves in the middle of incoming mortar, gunfire and indescribable horror. They were in that battlefield approximately a month repairing the aircraft for return to oper-

ation. Gary’s wife Jeanne had not heard from him in more than two weeks, and she feared the worse. Gary related to me that this was the most fearful time of his life and knew that it must have been for Jeanne as well. The story ended well, and Gary was returned to Westover Air Force Base from that deployment, only to be deployed again and again and again. Each deployment required heroic actions and involved dangerous maneuvers including the burning pits which caused so many of our Veterans to incur long term suffering and disabilities over their remaining lives. MSSGT Surozenski was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force on Oct. 15, 2008. He then completed another seven years as a civilian machinist welder for the United States Department of Defense (DOD) at the Westover Air Force Base in Springfield, Mass. For his extraordinary service, MSSGT Surozenski was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award with four devices, the National Defense Service Medal with two devices, the Air Reserve Force

Meritorious Service Medal with four devices, Small Arms Expert Marksman Ribbon, the Air Force Training Ribbon, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 4 Devices, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal with Bronze Hourglass. Gary is married to his supportive wife Jeanne. They are long-time residents of Ravenelle Road in North Grosvenordale. Together, they have a Son Ronnie. Gary also has a Brother Joe who was in the United States Seabees. Gary is a member of the American Legion Post 67 in Grosvenordale. He is also a life member of the Valley Spring Sportsman Club in North Grosvenordale, and a member of the Knights of Columbus in Putnam. He is an active member of the Danielson Veterans Coffee House, and is a member of the VFW Post 10088 in Quinebaug. Gary has recently been elected to be the new Post Commander after long time Post Commander Elmer Preston’s recent passing. Stepping up to the plate again on behalf of our Veterans.

### NELSON

continued from page A1

The dedication of a portion of Route 97 where Nelson was shot has been long in the works thanks in part to the efforts of the Connecticut State Police and 50th District State Representative Pat Boyd. The ceremony on Oct. 27 revealed a sign that will now signify the area as the Trooper Irving Nelson Memorial Roadway. Connecticut State Police Colonel Daniel Loughman spoke during the ceremony,

commenting on the importance of the day and the recognition of a true local hero. “The Trooper Irving Nelson Memorial Roadway will stand as a lasting reminder that one of our own gave everything in the service of the people of Connecticut,” Loughman said. “Every motorist that passes by will see his name and remember that a trooper bravely followed his oath to stand his ground no matter the cost. Each day our troopers put on the uniform and report to duty, and they follow that same oath, ready

for whatever comes their way.” State Rep. Pat Boyd explained that this was a long process, and one he feels should have been done years ago. “This brings to a close a long overdue recognition that shouldn’t take nearly a century to make,” said Boyd. The ceremony also saw police officials present Nelson’s great granddaughter Robin Angelini with a long overdue posthumous Medal of Honor for Nelson’s sacrifice.

# OBITUARIES

## Laura Anne Gubernat, 72



Laura Anne Gubernat, 72, passed away peacefully October 28, 2025, in Wilmington, North Carolina, after a long illness. Born January 10, 1953, in Newark, New Jersey, she lived a life marked by intellectual curiosity, professional dedication, and devotion to family. She resided in Killingly and Woodstock for 30+ years before retiring to NC in 2016. Laura graduated from Trenton State College in 1975 with a bachelor’s degree in Speech, Pathology, and Audiology Education. She earned a master’s degree in Hearing and Speech Sciences from Vanderbilt University, an MBA from Providence College, and a Sixth-Year Degree in Professional Education from UConn. Laura worked as a speech pathologist at Putnam Elementary School and the Groton Public School System. She served as Assistant Principal at Killingly Memorial School and then as Assistant Director of Pupil Services in Killingly before becoming Director. She was also a member of the Killingly Board of Education. In the final chapter of her career, Laura returned to teaching at Windham Public Schools. A minimalist, Laura was a private person who found happiness in life’s quiet plea-

tures and natural beauty. She cherished art—particularly Claude Monet—and sought solace in museums and gardens. The ocean held a special place in her heart; she loved swimming and walking along the beach. Sea turtles were her favorite animal, and she dreamed of being reincarnated as one. She delighted in dancing, music, movies, and sign language. Her sense of humor carried the unmistakable charm of Jersey wit: sharp yet warmhearted. She had a fondness for bagels and pastries—simple indulgences that brought her joy. Above all else, Laura was a devoted mother and daughter. She shared an especially close bond with her only child, James Bogdanski (of Los Angeles)—one filled with boundless love. Her parents, John F. Gubernat and Maud Gubernat (née Genung), predeceased her but remained ever-present in the values she upheld throughout her life. Laura is also survived by her brother John Gubernat of Aberdeen, NJ, and by Steven Jorjorian (formerly of Massachusetts), her beloved partner of 26 years who stood by her through blue skies and gray. May Laura’s memory bring comfort to those who knew her and continue to inspire all whose lives she touched. Think of her whenever you are by the sea. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American School for the Deaf, 139 N Main St, West Hartford, CT 06107.

## Henry Leon Plantier, Jr., 95



Henry Leon Plantier, Jr., 95, of Danielson, CT, died peacefully surrounded by family on October 24, 2025 at Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam, CT. He was born on October 25, 1929 in Wauregan, CT, son of the late Henry L. Plantier, Sr. and the late Loretta (Chenail) Plantier. Henry was a graduate of Plainfield High School. He served in the United States Navy for one year, before marrying Jean Theresa Reggione on September 8, 1951. Henry was the father of three children: Christine, Diane and Peter. He was employed at Wauregan Mills, Pervel Industries, Dowes Gift Shop and Napa Auto Parts. Henry enjoyed the beach, Patriots Football and family gatherings. He is survived by his children Christine M. Brown of Brooklyn, CT, Diane J. Plantier of Clarendon, VT and Peter H. Plantier of Plainfield, CT; his

grandsons Matthew Brown (Melissa) and Nicholas Brown (Erin); his granddaughter Stephanie Plantier; his great grandchildren Owen, Bridget, Theresa Rose, Noelle Marie and Jaisaiah. He was predeceased by his wife Jean Plantier and his sister Phyllis M. Ionta. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Activities Department at Matulaitis Nursing Home, 10 Thurber Road, Putnam, CT 06260. A Calling Hour will be Friday, November 7, 2025 from 9:30 to 10:30 AM at Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home, 33 Reynolds Street, Danielson, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11:00 AM at St. James Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT. Burial will follow with Military Honors at Holy Cross Cemetery Danielson, CT. Share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com

## Samuel J. Leo

### October 16, 1945 - October 26, 2025



Thompson - Samuel J. Leo, 80, of Thompson, died in Montefiore Hospital on Sunday, October 26, 2025. Born in Putnam, he was the younger brother of Parmi P. Leo, Jr., and the son of the late Parmi and Grace (DiBennetto) Leo. Sam served in the Marines, worked as a custodian at Thompson Public Schools, and was an official at the Thompson Speedway for 47 years. He loved ham & cheese sandwiches (cut down the middle), reading the paper, word searches, auto racing, cracking a joke, spending quality time with his daughters, enjoying the outdoors, and cooking home fries and eggs. To know Sam Leo was to like him. He was outgoing, playful, and always honest. Around the Quiet Corner, he could be found swapping stories with fellow veter-

ans at the Veteran’s Coffee House, mowing the lawn on his yellow tractor, or chatting with his brother on the sun porch. Samuel is survived by his daughter Hannah Pei Leo, MD, and her fiancé Kevin J. Guzman, MD, of New York, NY, his daughter Hallie Lin Leo of Pomfret, CT, and partner Garrett A. Roberts; brother, Parmi P. Leo, Jr. of Thompson, CT. Services for Samuel Leo were held on Monday, Nov. 3, at the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main Street, North Grosvenordale. His final resting place is St. Joseph’s Cemetery in North Grosvenordale. In lieu of flowers, fiscal gifts in his memory may be made to the Danielson Veteran’s Coffeehouse at PO Box 3, Danielson, CT, 06239. Please indicate that your donation is in memory of Sam Leo. Gifts will support social events for veterans, scholarships, and foodshare. For the memorial guestbook, visit [www. GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).



Courtesy

Christ Church Pomfret recently presented a check for \$500 to Pomfret First Selectman Maureen Nicholson for the Pomfret Fuel Bank. Left to right: Judy Miller, Christ Church member; Maureen Nicholson; Reverend Sandra L Cosman, Rector Christ Church Pomfret; Peter Mann, Christ Church member.

# LEGALS

#### LEGAL NOTICE

##### WOODSTOCK PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Woodstock PZC will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 7:45 p.m. at Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169, Woodstock, for the following:

- Application #667-09-25, Special Permit for Change of Use, Event Facilities at 6&8 Stone Bridge Road. Applicant: Benjamin Carbone.

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

David Morse  
Chairman  
November 7, 2025  
November 14, 2025

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

##### ESTATE OF

##### Theodore P Simmons (25-00392)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 24, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Barbara M Simmons  
c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
November 7, 2025

Send all obituary notices to Villager Newspapers, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to [obits@stone-bridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stone-bridgepress.news)



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