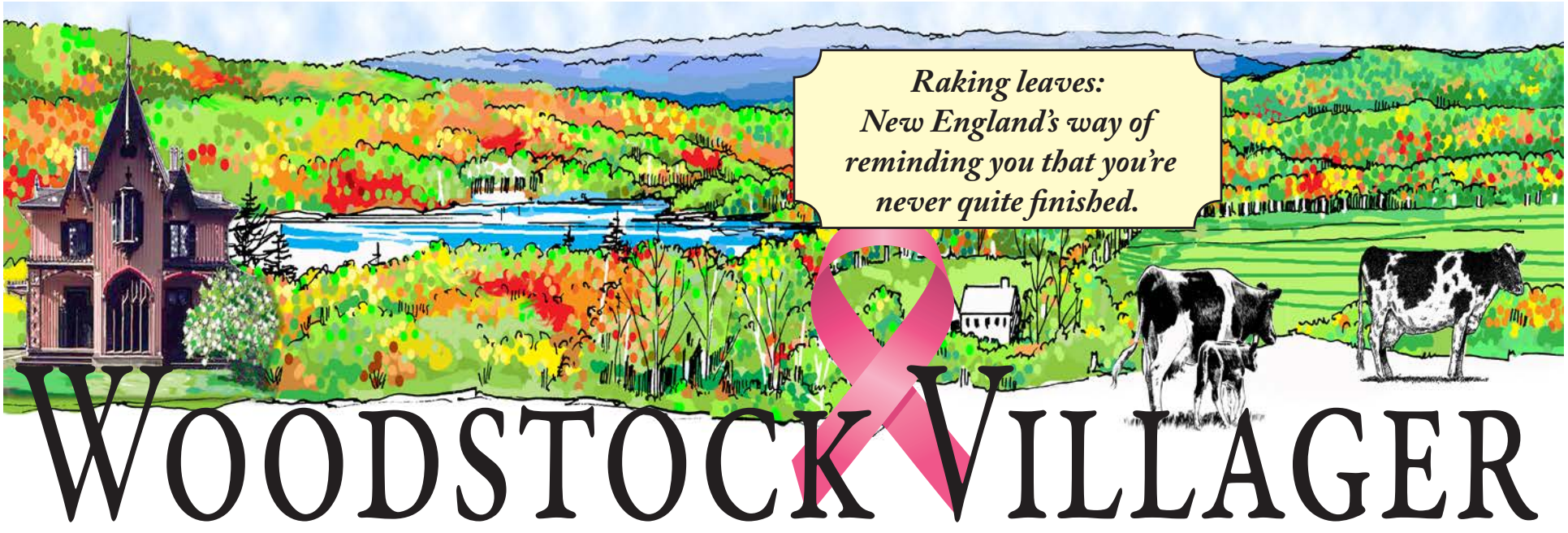


WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

©2026, Issue #43

Serving Eastford, Pomfret & Woodstock since 2005

Friday, October 23, 2026

Complimentary to homes by request

John McCormac, golf legend and community treasure, dies

BY RON P. CODERRE
CONTRIBUTOR

PUTNAM — As the word of the death of John "The Legend" McCormac gradually made its way through the community of Putnam and beyond, the reaction was one of deep grief and disbelief.

McCormac who was known to friends, family and fellow golfers as "The Legend" died on Sept. 4 following an ongoing battle with a variety of health issues. The third of six children of John and Frances McCormac, he died the same day as his older sister Patricia, just three minutes apart. He was predeceased by his wife of 36 years, Dorothy, and siblings Paul and Maureen. He is survived by two sisters Jane Lopresti and Kathy Espinosa and two daughters from a previous marriage. He also left five stepchildren from his wife Dorothy, Wayne, Gary, Lynne, Debbie and Cheryl.

Courtesy

John "The Legend" McCormac following one of his many golf tournament victories.

Although official records of his many triumphs on the links are either lost or scattered, they were numerous. According to family and sources close to "The Legend," his victories were recorded not only in Northeastern Connecticut but also throughout the Nutmeg State and Southern New England. One thing is certain, "He had a roomful of trophies and plaques" according to his sister Kathy Espinosa. She also noted, which many others will attest, "John was a man of very few words."

His friend and frequent playing partner in early morning rounds at Quinnatisset Country Club, Nelson "Buzz" King, related that McCormac graduated from Putnam High School in 1955, where he played baseball and basketball. (The Clippers did not have golf as an interscholastic sport until many years later.) He was a member of the Army National Guard in Danielson and was employed by the State of Connecticut DOT for many years.

As a young man he cut his golfing teeth at Harrisville and also at the now extinct Pomfret Golf Course prior to moving on to Raceway Golf Course in Thompson. Sometime in the 1970's, he joined Quinnatisset Country Club where he ruled the links for more than 40 years.

Some of his more notable accomplishments on the links included - the prestigious Norwich Invitational, which he won in 1961, 1971 and 1976 and possibly in other years, always with his loyal friend Phil Champeau carrying his bag.

According to Brian Murphy, the nephew of John's second wife Dottie, and close friend Bill Chvirko, "The Legend" qualified for The U.S. Amateur Championship in 2001 and 2002; along with

Turn To MCCORMAC *page* **A10**

Killingly plans water line extension to Rogers to combat PFAS

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Town of Killingly has begun initial steps toward a final solution for the PFAS contaminated wells in the Rogers area of town.

According to Town Manager Brian Palaia, the town recently met with Connecticut Water regarding the next steps toward creating a public water supply for the impacted area. This would involve an interconnection with Killingly water mains, funded mostly by grants, moving willing homeowners away from their wells and towards the filtered public water system. The next step is moving forward with the design of the project.

"They gave us the design guidelines that we'll need to meet in order to work on expanding the system," Palaia told the Town Council on Oct 13. "That left us with the $800,000 shortfall which is our 20 percent match in the grant, but when we went back and had the conversation with the Department of Public Health, they let us know they have some surplus money available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Essentially if we can get the project off the ground in the next year or two, we should have 100 percent funding from outside sources."

The town must now complete a procurement process, hire a designer, and ensure their plans meet the guidelines set by the Department of Public Health.

Exposure to PFAS, known as a forever chemical that occasionally finds its way into public wells, can create significant health issues over time. According to recent

Turn To PFAS *page* **A10**

Killingly High School posts five-year high in SAT participation

KILLINGLY — Killingly Public Schools has announced the results of its 2026 College Board assessments, reporting a five-year high in Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) participation, a landmark equity achievement in Hispanic/Latino student engagement, and continued growth in Advanced Placement (AP) performance at Killingly High School (KHS).

SAT participation reaches five-year high

A total of 195 graduating seniors completed the SAT in 2026 — the highest number in at least five years and a 20.4 percent increase over the 162 students who tested in 2025. The 2026 figure represents a 43.4 percent increase from the 136 students who sat for the exam in 2022.

The overall 2026 SAT mean composite score for Killingly High School was 941, comprised of a Reading and Writing (RW) section mean of 499 and a Math section mean of 443. Female students posted a mean composite of 952; male students earned a mean composite of 928.

Fee waiver usage — a key indicator of access for students with financial need — rose 128.6 percent, with 16 students receiving financial support to cover their testing costs in 2026.

Table 1: Five-Year SAT Participation Trend — Killingly High School

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
SAT Takers (Graduating Seniors)	136	158	146	162	195

Hispanic/Latino participation triples: A meaningful equity milestone

Among the most significant findings in the 2026 data is the dramatic increase in Hispanic/Latino SAT participation. The number of Hispanic/Latino students completing the SAT jumped from 8 in 2025 to 25 in 2026 - a 212.5 percent single-year increase and more than three times the five-year low of 8 students recorded in both 2022 and 2025.

Hispanic/Latino students now represent 12.8 percent of all SAT test takers at KHS - a figure that closely mirrors the district's 12.7 percent Hispanic/Latino enrollment in school year 2025–26. District leaders noted this alignment as a meaningful indicator that access to the SAT is now reaching students across the school community in proportion to their representation in the student body.

The 2026 Hispanic/Latino SAT mean composite score was 860, reflecting a Reading and Writing mean of 451 and a Math mean of 409.

Table 2: Five-Year Hispanic/Latino SAT Participation Trend — Killingly High School

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hispanic/Latino SAT Takers	8	12	11	8	25

"Seeing 195 of our graduating seniors complete the SAT this year — the most in at least five years - is a testament to the hard work of our students, families, and educators and to our district's unwavering commitment to opening doors of opportunity," said Supeintendent Paul Haughey. "What makes this year's results especially meaningful is that our Hispanic/Latino students are now taking the SAT at a rate that reflects their share of our student population - that is

Turn To SAT *page* **A10**

NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns home for three at Thompson Speedway in 2027

53rd Icebreaker will Start Championship Chase while 65th World Series will Crown the Champion

THOMPSON — Thompson Speedway will once again host three important events in the 2027 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour title chase. For the first time since 2016 the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season will open with the famed Icebreaker 150 in April and close with the 65th Sunoco World Series in October along with the popular Wednesday Night Race at Thompson on Aug. 4.

While the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returned to Icebreaker Weekend after a short hiatus in 2024, the yearly opener for the New England racing season hasn't been the first event for NASCAR's longest-running division since 2016, following nearly a decade of trips to the Southeastern United States. Sunday, April 4 will kick off the 2027 schedule with fifteen dates on the calendar.

The NASCAR stars return to the Big-T for the annual Wednesday Night Race on August 4 before making their final stop of the season at the 65th Sunoco World Series on Sunday, October 10.

Tom Morris — Courtesy

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will bookend their 2027 season at Thompson Speedway, beginning the year with the Icebreaker 150 in April and crowning the 2027 champion at the Sunoco World Series in October along with the annual Wednesday Night Race in August!

"Both Tom (Mayberry) and I were proud to host the championship event at this year's Sunoco World Series and we're excited to bookend the 2027 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season," said American-Canadian Tour managing partner Cris Michaud. "Thompson Speedway is the home of the Tour and we're looking forward to hosting these three important showcases next year."

Promoters Tom Mayberry with the Pro All Stars Series and Cris Michaud with the American-Canadian Tour have signed on to present oval racing for the eighth consecutive year at Thompson Speedway in 2027. The full schedule and planned divisions, alongside the three NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour dates, will be released by the beginning of December.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarsseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens. To take advantage of marketing opportunities please call 207-577-1836 or inquire at OPSmarketing50@gmail.com.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsonspeedway.com, or visit www.thompsonspeedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

AI & Your Money: The global economy and the $40 trillion question

Financial Focus

JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT ADVISER

The introduction of artificial intelligence is right up there with the biggest technological innovations that have changed humanity, like the light bulb, the automobile, or the computer. Over the next six months, we at WHZ will explore this topic together with you from both the personal finance and larger economic perspective. In this first piece, let's take a foundational and balanced look at where things stand today.

We are early in this evolution, but already AI impacts our daily lives at home and at work. How it will continue to change our individual lives as well as individual, national and global economics remains to be seen, but two things are almost entirely certain: the impact will be enormous, and the path toward that evolution will require both careful navigation and great adaptability by all.

At the office, AI has started to make workers more productive, which is what companies need as the Baby Boomers retire. And billions of dollars are being spent to build the infrastructure needed to run AI, creating jobs and economic activity that has kept the US economy humming and supported the government's $40 trillion debt load.

In the future, some fear AI will replace too many workers or decide to eliminate mankind. At WHZ, our investment committee will be monitoring AI's impact on productivity and employment as well as the technology community's actions to ensure AI is developed responsibly. We remain optimistic that AI will improve everyone's lives. Here's why...

Everyone's learning new tricks

When OpenAI introduced ChatGPT to the world in 2022 the average American could see how they might use this technology in their every-day lives. Using a computer to turn a descriptive sentence into a picture seems simple now, but even just two years ago it was mind blowing.

Now AI can help you book a restaurant reservation, find and purchase that special outfit, create a travel itinerary, drive a taxi, or prioritize and draft emails. Businesses are using AI to do a variety of repetitive tasks, freeing up workers to do higher-value work. AI can answer customers' online questions, develop personalized marketing campaigns, create spreadsheets and presentations, detect cyberthreats and fraud, discover new medicines, write software and much, much more.

In an online survey conducted by McKinsey & Co. this summer, 89 percent of businesses said AI was being used regularly in at least one business function and 56 percent said AI was being used in three or more business functions.

AI's enhancing productivity

AI has arrived at an opportune time. The Baby Boomer generation has reached or is approaching retirement and corporations need a way to replace them. AI may be the solution, allowing remaining workers to become more efficient, accomplishing more in less time. The impact is already being felt: Eight in ten respondents to McKinsey's survey said AI had improved their productivity.

There have been concerns that AI will get so good at our jobs that it will result in massive layoffs. So far, that hasn't been the case. Some companies have slowed their hiring, particularly in areas directly affected by AI, like computer programming. But the unemployment rate remains near historic lows, at 4.2 percent.

AI keeps the US economy humming

AI has resulted in massive demand for computing power and the energy to run that computing power. Companies are building enormous data centers and filling them with specialized semiconductors to provide the computing power AI requires. They're also funding the expansion of existing utilities, upgrading the electric grid, and in some cases building new electricity generation in the same location as the data centers.

The five largest hyperscalers, Amazon, Alphabet (parent company of Google), Microsoft, Oracle, and Meta, are expected to spend about $800 billion on AI infrastructure this year. That's almost double the $413 billion they spent last year. In addition, these companies and other large technology companies have agreed to lease data centers for billions of dollars.

All of this spending and building has created many jobs related to data center construction including engineers, electricians, HVAC installers, welders, and concrete workers. It has sent demand for semiconductors and wiring skyrocketing.

Stocks related to building AI or providing AI have benefited from this boom. The Nasdaq stock index, which is heavily exposed to technology stocks, has risen roughly 17% so far this year and is on the cusp of marking its fourth year of positive returns, thanks in part to the AI boom. The S&P 500 Semiconductor index has jumped 41 percent this year and the S&P 500 Construction Machinery & Heavy Trucks index has gained 27.1 percent.

The stock market rally has led to a massive increase in consumers' wealth and boosted consumer spending, even at a time when the geopolitical environment has presented economic challenges. Added together, AI and its related ripple effects may be responsible for roughly one-third of US economic growth.

WHZ will continue to track the advancements that AI makes possible and the impact it has on the economy and markets. We believe AI-related investments warrant a position in well-diversified portfolios, with allocations reflecting each client's risk tolerance.

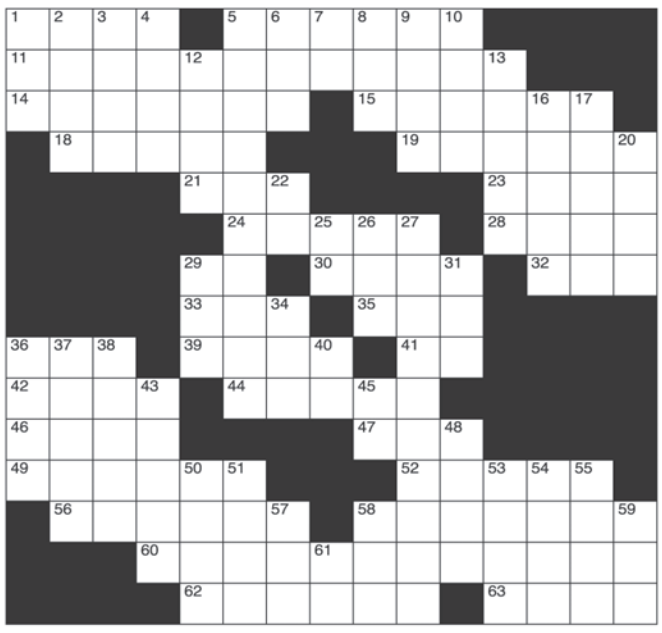
We'll also continue to examine the impact of AI on the human aspect of finance and economics. How will this technology affect how we earn money, invest, and plan our futures, both financially and otherwise? How can we best leverage all the positive capabilities it has to offer while guarding against its risks?

That's what this AI & Your Money series is all about. Our next piece, due out November 6th, will explore "Who Wins the AI Race, and What Happens If It Isn't the U.S.?" In the meantime, if you have questions about how AI-related investments fit into your portfolio, reach out to our team at 860-928-2341 or visit whzwealth.com for a complimentary consultation. Learn more about how we work to provide our clients with "Absolute confidence. Unwavering partnership. For life."

Authored by WHZ Senior Managing Partner, Chief Strategist James Zahansky, AWMA®. Investments are subject to risk, including the loss of principal. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All indices are unmanaged, and investors cannot actually invest directly into an index. Unlike investments, indices do not incur management fees, charges, or expenses. Historical market patterns do not predict future results. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. http://www.whzwealth.com. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

WANTED TO BUY
Antiques & Old Stuff
•Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys
• Pewter • Glassware •Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
• Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines
• Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns •Lamps • Kitchenware
• Cookware •Knives •Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
• Video Games • Advertising Signs & Much More
CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

Daughters Of Isabella Annual Yuletide Festival, Craft Fair And Bake Sale
Saturday 14 Nov 2026
from 8-2 PM
St Mary's Church Hall,
218 Providence St, Putnam Ct
The Holiday Season Is Here. Don't Miss Out On Creative Gift Ideas From Local Artisans. Raffle, Gift Baskets Galore, Gift Cards From Local Businesses, Bake Sale, Lunch. Shop Early, Shop Now!
SANTA CLAUS
is coming to the festival
for visits and photos
from 10-1 pm



CLUES ACROSS

1. El Dorado High School
5. A sculpture representing a human or animal
11. A type of return
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Hairlike structures
19. Mark used over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular 500 car race
24. Pile up
28. Currency
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Mass of fish eggs
33. Baseball stat
35. Licensed accountant
36. Japanese classical theater
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language of Cameroon
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Strong social customs
56. Calm and dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. American DJ Rick
3. Fictional Asimov planet
4. Coughed out
5. Singing to one's lover
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. A foolish person
13. Of the wind
16. Mansion
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Business symbol
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Individually
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Japanese delicacy
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. "The Mount Rushmore State"
43. Soldier
45. Indicates position
48. Beauty treatment: __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Ballplayers' tools
54. American state
55. Clusters of a fern frond
57. Patriotic women's group
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Of I

PUZZLE SOLUTION

THRESHOLD DECKS
FAMILY AND VETERAN OWNED
OUTDOOR LIVING, BUILT BETTER.
DECKS PORCHES SCREEN ROOMS
(508) 735-9671 Info@ThresholdDecks.com
THRESHOLDDECKS.COM

THE SIDING STORE INC.
Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms
SUMMER SPECIALS NOW IN EFFECT
AFFORDABLE!
$$$$
Financing available to qualified customers!
thesidingstoreinc.com
We take pride in our customer service!
860.423.7771 860.963.9035
860.886.1718 860.564.7088
References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

Villager Newspapers

TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:
Mikaela Victor
Retail Advertising
860-928-1818 ext. 313
mikaela@villagernewspapers.com
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
Kerri Peterson
860-928-1818, ext. 303
kerri@stonebridgepress.news
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 860-928-4215
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS RELEASE
E-MAIL:
brendan@villagernewspapers.com
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

Villager Newspapers
published by Stonebridge Press

President and Publisher
Frank G. Chilinski
Frank@salmonpress.news

Business Manager
Ryan Corneau
860-928-1818 ext. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

Operations Director
Jim DiNicola
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

Editor
Brendan Berube
860-928-1818 x 323
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

Production Manager
Julie Clarke
860-928-1818, ext. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

The Woodstock Villager (USPS 024-999) 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.

Woodstock Commission on Aging launches Senior Resource Guide

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Commission on Aging has officially launched the new Woodstock Senior Resource Guide, a comprehensive tool designed to help older adults and their families easily navigate local care, programs, and support services.

The guide brings together key local resources on aging in place, healthcare options, financial and legal planning, food assistance, transportation, and social or recreational opportunities.

How to Access the Guide:

Online: Download the document directly via the Town of Woodstock Web site.

Mobile Access: Scan the printed QR code using a smartphone camera to view the guide instantly on mobile devices.

Physical copies: View a print copy at Woodstock Town Hall, local libraries, fire stations, or community worship centers.

About the Woodstock Commission on Aging

The Woodstock Commission on Aging works to evaluate, develop, and support services and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for senior residents in Woodstock. For inquiries, feedback, or to suggest resources for future guide updates, please contact 860-928-6595 or email AgeFriendlyWoodstock@gmail.com.

Killingly history comes to life at Town Hall

KILLINGLY — As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Society is taking the opportunity to look closer to home. History is not only found in textbooks or famous landmarks—it is also found in the people, places, documents, and everyday objects that tell the story of our own community.

The Society has recently refreshed the display cases in the lobby of Killingly Town Hall with an America 250 exhibit featuring "Tidbits About Killingly." The two displays offer visitors a glimpse into both Killingly's connection to the American Revolution and the everyday lives of generations who came before us.

One display case honors the men from Killingly who answered the Lexington Alarm in April 1775, joining the response to the opening events of the American Revolution. Their names are listed along with short biographies of several participants, photographs of the men, and photographs of their homes and gravestones. These were Killingly residents whose lives became part of a much larger chapter in American history.

The second case takes a different look at the past, featuring everyday objects from various eras. Among the items are a tabletop butter churn, a plug-in portable vacuum, a percolator, and a metal lunch box. Each item includes information about when it was used and how it worked, offering a reminder of how much daily life has changed.

The Society has been creating displays at Town Hall for a number of years. Past exhibits have featured Boy Scouts, schools, fire departments, promotional items from local businesses, and the history of the Town of Killingly itself. One exhibit included old dog license fees, assessments, tax bills, and changes in local street names—including Potter Street, once known as Fitch Street, and Broad Street, once called Summer Street.

These exhibits demonstrate that history can be found everywhere—even in objects sitting on a shelf or in an old street name we pass every day.

The next time you visit Killingly Town Hall, take a moment to stop and explore the America 250 displays. They offer a small but meaningful look at how the history of Killingly connects to the larger story of America.

The Killingly Historical and Genealogical Society invites residents to discover, share, and help preserve the history of our community.

Woodstock • Public • Schools

Child Find
Developmental Preschool Screenings

Woodstock Elementary School is accepting appointments for Woodstock children ages three and four for developmental preschool screenings. These screenings are intended to screen age appropriate development skills, address questions/concerns about growth, development and speech, and identify children who may need further evaluation for special services.

Screenings are held on Friday mornings.

Please call the Woodstock Elementary School office to schedule an appointment at 860-928-0471. **Preregistration is required.**

CRAFT VENDORS WANTED:
Are you crafty, a talented creator or artisan? If so, the Daughters of Isabella seek vendors for their Yuletide Festival
Saturday 14 of November 2026, 8 am to 2 pm
St Mary Church Hall,
218 Providence Street,
Putnam, CT
Vendors $30 per table.
To reserve a table call Suzy Lazarou after 6 pm or text anytime @860 573-2924.
email: suzylazarou@yahoo.com

TOWN OF POMFRET
POSITION OPENING – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Qualified self-starter wanted for Town of Pomfret Highway Department. Must hold Class B CDL license/valid medical card and have a background in operating heavy equipment. Position includes, but is not limited to, assignments on all municipal road work including road grading, snowplowing, landscaping, building maintenance, and any other duties as needed and assigned. Mechanical aptitude in heavy equipment repair and five years of driving/equipment operation experience is preferred. Thirty-five hour work week but must be available to work nights and weekends as needed, able to lift up to 100 pounds, pass a DOT physical and drug screen, and consent to random drug/alcohol testing as required by the DOT. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Attractive benefit package. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. Position open until filled. Application form available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office . EEO/AA

Senexet Grange preparing for Winter Boot Drive

WOODSTOCK — As the leaves begin to change and colder weather approaches, the Senexet Grange #40 is once again preparing to help ensure that members of our community have warm, dry feet this winter.

Located in Woodstock and serving the broader Quiet Corner community, the Grange is proud to announce its Third Annual Winter Boot Drive and is asking our neighbors for their support.

The Winter Boot Drive began under the leadership of the Woodstock Democratic Party. In 2024, they asked Senexet Grange to take over the event so that it could become a non-partisan effort focused on helping local families. During its first year under the Grange's leadership, the drive focused primarily on Woodstock. Thanks to the tremendous support from the community, we expanded our efforts in 2025 to include surrounding towns.

Last year, we moved the collection site to the Putnam Town Hall parking lot and reached out to local schools and community organizations to help spread the word. The response was remarkable. With the generosity of our neighbors, we collected 67 pairs of winter boots, one pair of gloves, 39 packs containing 142 pairs of socks, and $307.42 in monetary donations. Every donation was given to TEEG, which distributed these items and funds to individuals and families in our area who needed them most.

This year, we hope to build on that success.

The Third Annual Winter Boot Drive will take place Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of Putnam Town Hall. We invite community members to donate gently used winter boots or consider purchasing new winter boots or socks to donate. Donations of all sizes are welcome, including men's, women's, and children's sizes.

Every pair of boots and socks can make a difference to someone facing the challenges of a Connecticut winter. Whether you donate a pair of boots, a package of socks, or make a monetary contribution, your generosity will directly benefit members of our local community through TEEG.

Our goal this year is simple: to collect more than we did last year and help even more of our neighbors stay warm this winter. We hope the Quiet Corner community will once again come together to make this year's drive our most successful yet.

Please mark your calendar for Nov. 7 and join us at Putnam Town Hall. Together, we can make a difference—one pair of warm boots at a time.

Political Advertisement

Re-Elect Gabrielle "Gabbi" Labonte

Voters in Putnam, Thompson, Woodstock, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Eastford, and Ashford:

Keep a dedicated, proven public servant working for our families.

The Northeast CT Probate Court guides us through life's most sensitive moments, from managing complex estates to protecting children and vulnerable adults.

Judge Gabrielle (Gabbi) Labonte has proven she brings both the legal expertise and genuine empathy required for this vital role.

Get out and vote to Re-Elect Judge Gabrielle (Gabbi) Labonte on Tuesday, November 3rd!

Paid for by Re-Elect Labonte, Monique Mailloux, Treasurer. Approved by Gabrielle Labonte.

CT State to hold open house event

DANIELSON — Connecticut State Community College (CT State) will hold Fall 2026 Open House events at 12 locations throughout Connecticut in November for those interested in learning about becoming a CT State student.

An open house will be held at the Quinebaug Valley campus in Danielson on Nov. 19 from 5-7 p.m.

Prospective students and their families are welcome to tour CT State campuses and learn about degree and certificate programs, financial aid, the free tuition program and admissions. Open houses are listed by town below. For more details, including open house hours, parking, and event updates, visit ctstate.edu/openhouse. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

Many CT State degree options offer seamless transfer to the four Connecticut state universities and Charter Oak State College, making it the most affordable path to attain a bachelor's degree in Connecticut. These credits can also be transferred to other public and private colleges in Connecticut and throughout the United States.

Registration opens Oct. 26 for winter session and spring 2027 credit semester. Accelerated, seven-week fall semester classes begin Oct. 22. Short-term workforce career programs are also available on a rolling basis.

About CT State

Following the merger of the 12 Connecticut community colleges in 2023, CT State Community College is the largest community college in the Northeast and fourth largest open admission public two-year college in the country, serving close to 60,000 students annually. CT State offers accessible, high-quality education across its locations in Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, Danielson, Enfield, Farmington, Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, Middletown, New Haven, North Haven, Norwalk, Norwich, Waterbury, Willimantic, and Winsted. The college office is located in New Britain. Visit ctstate.edu for more information.

Proactive *Agility*

WHZ,
Your big-picture approach helped us align and connect all our business and personal financial goals even as they have changed, which is no small feat.
Thank you!
Joanne

Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Visit **whzwealth.com** to read more about Joanne's story

(860) 928-2341
697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259
392-A Merrow Road, Tolland, CT 06084

WHZ
STRATEGIC WEALTH ADVISORS

This statement was provided 3/23/2023 by Joanne McHugh who is a 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.
Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.

Villager Newspapers

P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

Telephone: (860) 928-1818
Fax: (860) 928-5946
www.villagernewspapers.com

Frank G. Chilinski
President/Publisher

Brendan Berube
Editor

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

Remembering a legend, and the legacy of a life well lived

Some people leave their mark on a community through public service, business accomplishments or positions of prominence. Others do so more quietly, through extraordinary talent, enduring friendships and a lifetime spent earning the respect of those around them.

John "The Legend" McCormac of Putnam belonged to that second category.

His death Sept. 4 at the age of 89 marked the passing of one of northeastern Connecticut's most accomplished amateur golfers. Yet the memories shared by family members, friends and fellow competitors suggest that his greatest achievement had little to do with the trophies he collected or the records he established. It was the impression he left on people.

For more than four decades, McCormac was a fixture at Quinnatisset Country Club, where his remarkable ability on the golf course became the stuff of local legend. His victories extended well beyond Putnam, including three documented Norwich Invitational championships and appearances in the U.S. Amateur Championship in 2001 and 2002.

At an age when many golfers have long since accepted the limitations imposed by time, McCormac was still competing at an extraordinary level. His accomplishments were remarkable, but equally impressive was the manner in which he carried himself.

By nearly every account, McCormac was a man of few words. He apparently had little interest in drawing attention to himself, allowing his performance to speak on his behalf. There is something particularly admirable about that kind of humility.

In an era when athletic accomplishments are routinely accompanied by self-promotion, McCormac represented a different tradition. Excellence required neither an audience nor an announcement. A well-played round, a friendly handshake and the respect of one's fellow competitors were rewards enough.

His story also illustrates something important about small communities such as Putnam. Not every local legend becomes famous beyond the region. Some never seek recognition outside the familiar places where they spend their lives. Yet their contributions become part of a community's identity, passed along through stories shared among friends, neighbors and generations of residents. For golfers at Quinnatisset, McCormac was one of those individuals.

There is also a lesson in the unfortunate disappearance of many records documenting his accomplishments. Former club manager Michael Pizzetti recalled that files containing tournament results were lost following his retirement.

Those missing records represent more than forgotten scores. They are pieces of local history that cannot easily be reconstructed. Communities are often diligent about preserving the histories of prominent political figures, historic buildings and major public

Turn To EDITORIAL page A9

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When Hartford came for parents, Anne Dauphinais stood up

To the Editor:

Every parent in Killingly, Plainfield and Sterling knows the feeling: a decision about your own child, made by someone in Hartford who has never met them. In recent years that has happened more and more in Connecticut. Every time, one of the first people on her feet to object has been our state representative, Anne Dauphinais.

Anne has represented our towns since 2017, and in all that time no one has had to guess where she stands.

This year, the fight was over homeschooling. House Bill 5468 began as a sweeping rewrite of how Connecticut families teach their children at home. The first version would have required parents to appear in person to withdraw a child from public school, re-register every year, and submit portfolios or state exams to prove their teaching was "equivalent." Hundreds of people spoke at the public hearing and thousands more sent written testimony, most of them against it.

Anne listened to them. On the Education Committee she voted no and said plainly why. The bill was sold as a response to heartbreaking abuse cases, but it would not have prevented them.

"Matthew Tirado was being followed by DCF," she reminded her colleagues. "He had never been homeschooled." Treating every homeschooling family as a suspect does nothing for children the system already knew about and failed. She also warned that the bill would pile new costs on towns already short of teachers.

The bill passed anyway, on a party-line vote, and Governor Lamont signed it in May. It was trimmed along the way because parents and legislators like Anne kept pushing back. Even so, Connecticut now requires every family to report each year where their children go to school, and it runs homeschooling parents through a DCF check. For the first time, our state treats a parent's decision to teach their own child as something that needs screening.

This was not the first time Anne stood between Hartford and Connecticut families. In 2021 the legislature moved to end the religious exemption to school vaccination requirements, overriding the deeply held beliefs of families who had relied on it for decades. Anne was a leader of the opposition. She helped organize parents, pressed the state's health and legal officials, and spent hours on the House floor calling it "arguably the worst bill we've seen in the history of Connecticut."

"We're attacking the religious beliefs of individuals in this state," she told her colleagues.

The bill passed 90 to 53. Anne kept going. As a member of the Public Health Committee she has continued to vote against efforts to strip those exemptions away.

None of this comes from hostility to medicine or to public schools. Anne spent more than 25 years in health care, including as a nurse, and she is a proud graduate of Killingly public schools.

She simply believes what most of us were raised to believe: the people who love a child most and know them best should make the decisions about that child's education and health. For most of Connecticut's history, that was not controversial.

She is also not just a "no" vote. As Ranking Member of the Children's Committee, Anne works across the aisle on laws that protect kids. She works closely with the committee's Democratic co-chair, Rep. Corey Paris, to move bills that keep kids safe. She knows the difference between protecting children and policing parents, and she has fought for both the right way.

Standing up for parents in Hartford is rarely easy. It means long nights, lopsided votes, and being outnumbered in the room. Anne has done it anyway, term after term, because she remembers who she works for.

On Nov. 3, parents in the 44th District have a chance to stand up for her. I will be voting to re-elect Anne Dauphinais, and I hope you will too.

Lexie Brunet
Killingly

Fossil fuel politics & policies

To the Editor:

So much of what you hear from Democrat pundits and pols this "silly season" is ... "Trump has caused gasoline and diesel prices to soar due to his unnecessary war with Iran": "Vote Democrat in November to lower fuel prices."

"Unnecessary War?" Iran has been sponsoring terrorism and killing Americans (and thousands of their own and others) for nearly 50 years, and not one U.S. President has done anything effective about it. International intelligence agencies and monitors established that Iran reached the "brink" of having the necessary fissile material by late 2024 and early 2025 to develop a deliverable nuclear weapon (all the while crying "Death to America ... Israel"). Trump is doing the world a great favor by muzzling those angry beagles in Tehran. No American can seriously call our war "unnecessary" unless they are ok with Mullah terrorism killing thousands and Mullah nukes striking NYC, Paris or Riyadh.

"Vote Democrat ... lower fuel prices?" This coming from the party that ditched the Keystone Pipeline: cancelled Federal drilling leases: is angling to injure fossil fuel producers by suing for "climate deception": is punitively taxing automotive fuels ... some examples: Blue California (73.6¢/gal)/ Blue Illinois (70.4 cents/gallon) / Blue Washington State (56.5 cents/gallon). Red states average 27.5 cents per gallon.

The highest average price of gasoline during the Biden administration was $5.02 per gallon, reached in June, 2022, according to AAA and GasBuddy. The highest nationwide average price of gasoline during the current Trump administration was a decline from Biden's $5.02 to $4.48 per gallon reached in May 2026. Democrats are going to lower fuel prices??

The war with Iran will end. Russian terrorism in Ukraine will end. Fuel prices will come down ... unless the Democrats win in November and continue with their punishing, high priced fossil fuel politics & policies.

Ed Clement
Thompson

What "legacy" really means

To the Editor:

It's pretty well known that Chris Stewart is a nice guy, neighbor, good coach, great dad. But it's still uncertain whether he really wants to serve as our 51st State Rep. Sure, he's gotten some endorsements, but is he really committed to the job?

He's refused to publicly debate his challenger, and his attendance and voting records at both the House and Putnam Board of Education are spotty at best. Attendance and representing on behalf of his constituents is clearly not a strong suit.

Two years ago, he ran as a "legacy candidate," being handed the candidacy by his then serving father-in-law. Now, he has to run on his own record. Which is…?

Legacy means so much more.

Legacy means engagement with your community: meeting your neighbors, listening, and hearing what's important to them and their families.

Legacy means being informed, and sharing that knowledge for the greater good.

Legacy means showing up—and standing up to adversity, even when there are hard choices to make.

This is why so many in our greater community are supporting Dr. Lina Wagner for the 51st District: Democrats, Unaffiliated, Republicans…. Because she shows up.

Mary Oliver
Chair
Putnam Democratic Town Committee

Support for early childhood education pays dividends down the road

To the Editor:

On Thursday, Oct. 15, I had the privilege of attending the fall forum on Early Childhood Education.

Connecticut has determined that the economic drain of not addressing early childhood education costs the state, employers, and families between $1.5 billion and $2.2 billion dollars/year in lost revenue. To stem this tide, Connecticut is funding programs that will address this issue.

The challenges are being met in some fascinating ways throughout the region and the state. In some locations, there are public/private initiatives being developed to address this opportunity.

In Thompson, there has been an effort to use building space within the school system and working with the YMCA an Early Childhood Education program is being developed. In Bozrah, there is a piece of land that may be developed by the community and leased to a private organization to create an Early Childhood Education program.

With the financial hurdle addressed, the next step is to collectively put on our local thinking caps and ask questions, get involved, seek answers for each of our local situations. Ask the Boards of Education, ask your local Council of Governments, ask local employers, ask building inspectors, ask planning and zoning commissions, ask the local Chamber of Commerce, ask your neighbors. The point is to develop a program that suits the needs of your local community to help build a stronger individual, family, community, region, and state. Starting children when they're young pays dividends down the road.

Charlie Tracy
Pomfret

The hurricane of 1938

Killingly at 300

Margaret Weaver

Walktober, sponsored by the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is underway. There are events and walks for people of all ages and physical ability. Calendars of events (258 this year) are available at local town halls and libraries. The brochure encourages use of the calendar "in conjunction with our website, TheLastGreenValley.org. to ensure you have the most up to date information. You'll find additional Walktober experiences, weather updates and more on the website." For additional information call 860-774-3300.

Order your Thanksgiving Pies. Killingly Grange #112 is again selling apple and pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving. $16 per pie. To reserve a pie call Terry at 860-884-1813 or Penny at 860-230-7367. Last day to order Saturday, Nov. 21 at 5 p.m. Pick-up Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Killingly Historical Society Fall Meeting. Saturday, Nov. 14 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The Dirty Blue Shirts will present a program on Federal fashions (the Dolley Madison era). You will be able to see and feel clothing of the New Republic, the ways in which we stayed on top of European styles, and the ways in which we made our own sartorial marks on the international scene. You may remember the wonderful program they presented last year on women's fashions of the Revolutionary era. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. A short business meeting will take place at 1 p.m. prior to the program.

Killingly Grange #112 Craft Fair: 801 Hartford Turnpike, Dayville. Display and market your crafts to the public. Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Rain or shine. Rent space inside or outside for $20. Tables available for $5. Contact Terry Barton to reserve a space/table at tmbartonkillinglygrange@gmail.com or text 860-884-1813 or for additional information. You do not have to be a member of the Grange to participate

Recently, I asked for memories of the Hurricane of 1938. Reader Dave Doiron sent the following, "My mom (Bernice Doiron) was born in 1915, and I persuaded her in the 1970s to type up a narrative of her experience living in Dayville and Danielson. This is material related to the Hurricane of 1938. She and Andrew had gotten married in 1935. My dad played the stand-up bass fiddle as a jazz musician and was going to Providence for private bass lessons. 'Ora' was my dad's sister, Aurore, as were Doris and Vi (Violet), and 'Ma' was my dad's mother. This is what she wrote:

"'The year 1938 brought us the devastating hurricane. Stores closed Wednesday afternoons in Danielson, and Andrew went to Providence every Wednesday for his music lesson. The afternoon of Sept. 21, "'Ora and I decided to go along to Providence to do some shopping. Andrew dropped us off at Cathedral Square with instructions to meet him there at four o'clock. As Ora and I walked down Weybosset Street, it started to get quite windy. It was a strange day, very hot and humid. The sky was a weird mustard color. We figured we were in for a good thunder-

Turn To KILLINGLY page A11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Earth — the big rip-off!

To the Editor:

In the past year, home heating oil has increased by 80 percent, from an average of $3.20 per gallon to $5.91 today. Filling your 275-gallon tank, which cost $880 last October, now costs $1,625. Multiply that by the number of annual fill-ups, and you'll feel some serious sticker shock. The same calculation applies to the gasoline or diesel you put in your car or truck. For some, this winter will force hard choices between a warm house and a hot meal.

These price increases can be traced, in large part, to Donald Trump, his war with Iran, and his tariffs on countries around the world, friends and foes alike. But this story isn't simply about Trump's desire to control the oil market. It's about the vulnerability of American consumers to the whims of the small collection of people who control it.

Our 21st-century world was made possible, in large part, by the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania 167 years ago. Since then, nearly every major invention—most notably the automobile—has depended on fossil fuels. By 1916, America had fallen in love with the automobile, and the nascent oil industry blossomed. Under John D. Rockefeller, America's first billionaire, the industry grew into a powerful monopoly known as Standard Oil. The industry's dominance was reinforced by favorable government policies and tax advantages.

One hundred and ten years later, the federal government continues to provide the oil industry with billions in subsidies. One of the oldest is the depletion allowance, which allows oil companies to deduct up to 25 percent of their income to account for the declining value of their reserves. Sounds nice, doesn't it? This subsidy remains in place even though the industry is mature and awash in cash. Meanwhile, in the name of cutting government waste, DOGE fired thousands of U.S. park rangers, many earning a meager $36,000 a year.

A 2021 Guardian article, citing the International Monetary Fund (IMF), reported that the fossil fuel industry receives $11 million in subsidies every minute worldwide. Over the preceding 50 years, subsidies helped deliver more than $52 trillion in profits to the oil industry, according to an analysis confirmed by the London School of Economics. Professor Aviel Verbruggen, cited in the analysis, warned that this enormous wealth gives the industry "the ability to buy every politician, every system, and delay action on climate change."

If there were ever an industry that used its political influence to enrich a small circle of executives while leaving consumers to foot the bill, it would be the oil industry—with Donald Trump now among its most powerful allies.

Recall that, at a 2024 meeting at Mar-a-Lago, Trump asked oil executives for $1 billion, pledging to reverse President Biden's clean-energy initiatives and environmental protections in return. The industry ultimately gave Trump half a billion dollars and ever since, Trump has been the outspoken champion for them—one of the wealthiest industries in human history.

This year, as consumers are squeezed by soaring fuel prices, the industry is collecting enormous war-related windfall profits, reportedly exceeding $90 billion in the second quarter alone. The reason is straightforward: production costs have remained flat, but supply disruptions caused by the Iran war have allowed companies such as Exxon and Shell to charge substantially more for their products. The longer the conflict continues, the greater the rip-off of the American consumer.

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, a Rhode Island Democrat, has introduced legislation to tax these "war windfalls" and return the money to consumers. Through all this, Trump has stood up for billionaires while offering little relief to ordinary Americans. His administration has also worked to limit access to money-saving alternatives, including solar power, wind energy, and electric vehicles that can be charged using electricity generated on your own roof.

A way out of this dependence can be seen in the growing number of rooftop solar installations in the Quiet Corner—and across the globe. Solar adoption is accelerating faster than ever imagined, as residential solar costs have fallen by more than 90 percent over the past 15 years, making solar the cheapest source of electricity in the world.

I was fortunate to take advantage of the short-lived federal tax credits under Biden for solar panels and heat pumps. These incentives served to help the nascent green energy industry compete with established fossil fuels. Installing solar panels and heat pumps has given me some protection from the market swings now hitting so many Americans. My annual net electricity cost is essentially zero.

My nearly 200 year old house is not yet fully converted to heat pumps, so I still burn about 200 gallons of heating oil a year. And because I'm old-fashioned and like my woodstove, I burn about four cords of firewood, too. But my house stayed cool all summer, and I never had to worry about the cost of running the air conditioning.

Soon, I hope to enjoy the same independence when I start driving an electric vehicle. The new Rivian R2 is at the top of my list.

The lesson is simple: The more we depend on fossil fuels, the more vulnerable we remain to the decisions of oil executives and politicians. Moving toward renewable energy and electrification isn't just about climate change. It's about protecting our wallets, our independence, and our future from an energy system that puts profits ahead of people.

Ken Wolslegel
Woodstock

The midterms are our chance to impede Trump's agenda

To the Editor:

In preparation for the upcoming midterms, Donald Trump has embarked on a pilgrimage to districts around the country where so-called Republicans are in danger of facing defeat as he asks voters to pretend that it is He who is on the ballot. In a world where reality prevails, these candidates would be referred to as Trumpists or Trumpsters since their political affiliation is really to the Party of Donald Trump, not to a Republican party that no longer exists.

As he faces diminished crowds, he is touting the accomplishments of his administration, including the tax reductions that were part of his One Big Beautiful Bill. In actuality, this legislation is a resurrection of the Republican Trickle-Down fantasy whereby disproportionate tax cuts for the wealthy miraculously lift up the rest of us. Also known as the "horse and sparrow" theory, it predicts that if you feed a horse enough oats, some will pass through to feed the sparrows.

Those of us of a certain age recall Ronald Reagan's limp down Supply Side Lane when his version of this pipedream, a.k.a. "Reaganomics," tripled the national debt. Under Trump's bill, if you are fortunate enough to be in the top 20 percent of earners, 60 percent of the benefits went to you. Those earning $500k benefitted to the tune of $21,000. For a $50,000 household, the music wasn't quite so good, your savings of $700-$1,100 have been completely wiped out; first by increased costs for goods impacted by Trump's illegal tariffs and now, as Trump's war-caused inflation jolts the economy, by increased prices for everything. The people who needed it the most got the least while the people who needed it the least got the most. And pay attention, unless extended by Congress, many of your less than generous benefits expire in 2028.

What has this done to the national debt? The Congressional Budget Office projects that from 2026 through 2035 – the usual budget window – the law will have a total deficit impact of $4.5 trillion. Wrap your head around that number. Deficits occur when expenditures exceed revenue. And how are federal deficits resolved? They get resolved when revenue is increased - think tax increases, or, when spending is cut - think social security and Medicare. Whenever either or both occur, and it will happen, you and I will be intimately involved.

We see his malice, slurs and insults, directed, particularly, at women, on a daily basis.

One miscalculation follows another as he attempts to remake our capital in his image, adding billions to the deficit.

After being warned how things could escalate, he promised there would be no wars. He then started a war with Iran we can't escape in order to eliminate a nuclear threat he said he obliterated nine months earlier, adding additional billions.

He is now helping Russia fund its war against our ally Ukraine by giving his ally, Putin, billions for diesel fuel.

What we need to be diligent about is the trickling down of the Trump manifesto. Under his mismanagement, inflation, and our cost of goods, heated up to 3.7 percent annually last month as energy prices soared. We know that he has had multiple business failures and six bankruptcies, including Trump Hotels and Casinos, which had accrued about $1.8 billion in debt. How do you go broke running a casino? People walk in and hand you their money!

In all likelihood, he will be with us for two more years, but we can chip away at the Trump regime by limiting his reach. We know that those calling themselves Republicans, once elected, cling to him and lack the will to oppose him. The impending midterms offer an opportunity to elect people, both nationally and locally, who will impede, rather than facilitate, Donald Trump's improvident agenda.

William Zamagni, Jr.
Putnam

Additional Letters to the Editor, See A8-9

Limiting language limits debate

To the Editor:

This is my 117th Op/Ed letter to the Villager covering 11 years of anger toward Donnie-Dipstick and his horde. Unfortunately, I continue to learn of even more outrages he has waged against America. Did you know that there is a list of words banned from government documents? I didn't until just the other day. The list has been generated since Donnie-Destroyer came back into power.

The list is about 250 words long and includes: abortion, activists, affirming care, anti-racist, Injustice, biased, LGBTQ, measles, clean energy, Native American, pollution, discrimination, racial, equality, elderly, social justice, climate crisis, diversity, global warming, solar/wind power, clean water, and DEI.

Some sources reported that federal agencies have received direct orders to delete or reword specific terms on their websites. Of course, Donnie-Dingbat denies he has put forth any such list and that the agencies themselves decide what is appropriate. Just another instance of his passing the buck.

This is a blatant effort to limit important social issues from government discussions. Limiting what words cannot be used is clearly intended to mold public and federal debate. To my mind, this is the same as book burning. And we all have seen the old news reels of Nazi book burnings. The intention of both is undeniable.

Stephen Etzel
Putnam

WOMEN'S HEALTH,
CARE FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE.

Your health needs change throughout life. At Day Kimball Health, our experienced women's health professionals are here with personalized care for every stage, from routine screenings and pregnancy care to advanced diagnostics and specialized treatment.

With a broad range of women's health services close to home, you can count on Day Kimball Health to support your health and well-being through every stage of life.

Healthcare in motion.
daykimball.org/women

DKH Women's Health
DAY KIMBALL HEALTH

Putnam Great Pumpkin Festival continues Fall tradition

One of the standouts of Putnam's annual Scarecrow Contest was Best in Park Youth Service Group Winner "Farmer Timmy and his Fancy Flock" by the Helping Hands Transition Program and Putnam High School.

Jason Bleau

The overall winner of the 2026 Putnam Scarecrow Contest was the Art Guild Northeast's "Boss Ross," a take on the famed artist Bob Ross.

BankHometown provided its usual activities for the Great Pumpkin Festival, but the 2026 event had special meaning as it took place on the same weekend the bnak transitioned to its new name: TruNorthBank.

A fall staple and a popular treat at the Great Pumpkin Festival – you can never go wrong with kettle corn.

Although their church building was closed due to a recent roof collapse, that didn't stop the Congregational Church of Putnam from holding their annual raffle to coincide with the Great Pumpkin Festival.

The official Great Pumpkin of Putnam, which this year came in at 1,556 pounds.

This year's Great Pumpkin Festival sand sculpture had a witchy theme celebrating the spooky time of the year.

Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up

Girls Soccer

Last Tuesday afternoon (Oct. 13), the Killingly Trailblazers traveled to St. Bernard and earned a hard-fought 2-1 victory. Killingly opened the scoring when Kate Crowley stepped up from her defensive position and finished off a corner kick to give the Trailblazers a 1-0 lead. In the second half, Ashley Boudreau doubled the advantage by converting a penalty kick. St. Bernard found the back of the net late to cut the deficit to one, but Killingly's defense stood strong and held on for the 2-1 win. With the victory, the Trailblazers improve to 8-2-1 on the season.

The girls hosted Ledyard on Friday afternoon, Oct. 16, and earned an impressive 8-0 victory. Adalyn Malarkey got the Trailblazers on the board just minutes into the match off an assist from Nina Purcell, and less than two minutes later she found the back of the net again to give Killingly an early 2-0 lead heading into halftime.

The Trailblazers continued their strong play in the second half. Malarkey completed her hat trick off a cross from Kezlee Morrarty before Morrarty added a goal of her own on a corner kick from Malarkey. Gracie West then scored directly off a free kick and later set up Gabby DiZazzo with a perfectly placed through ball. Kira Bulmer netted her first varsity goal off a corner kick from West, and Aislynn Hassett capped off the scoring with a goal assisted by Olivia Cabral.

Killingly finished the afternoon with an 8-0 shutout over Ledyard and improved to 9-2-1 on the season.

On Monday night, the 19th, the team hosted Montville under the lights and battled back from a 1-0 halftime deficit to earn an impressive 3-1 victory.

The Trailblazers regrouped after halftime and wasted no time getting on the scoreboard. Just two minutes into the second half, Ashley Boudreau finished a perfectly placed ball from Gracie West to even the score at 1-1. Four minutes later, Adalyn Malarkey found the back of the net to give Killingly a 2-1 lead. Adalyn added an insurance goal later in the half, once again set up by Gracie, to secure the 3-1 win.

With the victory, the Trailblazers improved their record to 10-2-1 on the season.

Boys Soccer

Killingly put on a good performance but came up short in the 1-0 lose vs St. Bernard on Oct. 15. Killingly created many scoring opportunities but just couldn't find the back of the net. Gabe Covington finished with 3 saves.

Field Hockey

Killingly fell to E.O. Smith, 6-0, in last Thursday's matchup. Jaynie Macquarrie had a strong performance in goal, recording 14 saves throughout the game. Trinity Eldridge played an excellent defensive game, making several key plays to help limit scoring opportunities. Killingly continued to compete and work hard throughout all four quarters.

The team fell to Somers, 3-0 on Oct. 17, despite a strong defensive effort. Jaynie Macquarrie recorded 10 saves in goal, making several impressive stops throughout the game. Killingly worked together defensively and continued to battle for possession. The team showed great effort and teamwork throughout the matchup.

They earned a 1-0 shutout victory over Fitch on Monday, Oct. 19, with a strong team performance. Kyla DeJesus scored the game's lone goal to secure the win for Killingly. Jaynie Macquarrie recorded six saves in goal, making several key stops to preserve the shutout. Strong defensive play and teamwork helped Killingly maintain its lead and come away with the victory.

Kimberly Crocker Davis featured at Putnam gallery

PUTNAM — An art exhibit featuring the works of local artist Kimberly Crocker Davis is currently on display at The Corridor Gallery at the Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., until Dec. 30. The show, entitled "Casual Artistry by Kim," features

original paintings that blend dreamy surrealism with everyday symbolism, creating soulful pieces that invite viewers into gentle, storyrich moments.

Kimberley is a retired professional cake decorator who spent many years mastering color, detail, and the art of turning imagination into something tangible. After retiring, she shifted that creative discipline into painting, developing a style rooted in warmth, whimsy, and quiet emotional resonance. Her work has earned recognition at local town events and fairs, where several of her pieces have won awards for creativity and craftsmanship.

An Artist's Reception will be held in the Gallery on Thursday, Nov. 5 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. The show is sponsored by the Putnam Arts Council.

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

Putnam Great Pumpkin Festival continues Fall tradition

PUTNAM — Putnam continued a longstanding fall tradition on Oct. 17 with its annual Great Pumpkin Festival. The event was complimented by the town's yearly scarecrow contest, filling Rotary Park with fun creations from different businesses, families, and organizations who chose to take part. The rest of the festival was focused on the downtown corridor with vendors setting up fall-themed stops while pumpkin carving, music, and, of course, the Great Pumpkin itself adding to the atmosphere.

The Hillbilly Grahamcrackers provided the musical entertainment for this year's Great Pumpkin Festival.

The VFW Post Auxiliary 1523 of Putnam set up a booth to greet guests in downtown

A pumpkin carver gets to work laying out the stencil for her work.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plainfield is more than a place on a map — it's our home, and it's worth fighting for

To the Editor:

My name is Krista Dodge, and Plainfield has been my home for my entire life. I grew up here, attended our schools, played sports, and had my first job in this town. Today, I am married with two children who have also gone through the Plainfield school system.

Plainfield is not simply where I live. It is where I grew up, where I raised my family, and where I have spent a lifetime making memories. That is why learning that a massive trash-to-energy facility was being proposed right next to our home was absolutely devastating.

I began worrying about everything we had worked so hard to build. What would happen to our property value? What about our groundwater? What would this facility mean for the air we breathe and the health of families living nearby?

Would we eventually have to leave the town where I have spent my entire life? Or would we have to accept living next to an industrial facility that our community never wanted?

No family should have to face that choice.

But as frightening as the proposal itself was, what happened afterward made me even angrier.

In June 2025, Plainfield residents voted 1,148 to 125 against the proposed trash plant.

That was an overwhelming rejection by the people who would have to live with the consequences.

Yet our vote did not end the fight.

Instead, Plainfield residents found ourselves navigating a state regulatory process in which our town's overwhelming opposition was not enough to stop the proposal.

Our town even authorized $250,000 from its fund balance for legal representation to challenge the project.

Whether all of that money will ultimately need to be spent remains uncertain now that the developer has withdrawn its petition. But the fact that our town had to prepare for such a significant legal expense should concern every Connecticut taxpayer.

A small town overwhelmingly rejects a proposal yet must prepare to commit hundreds of thousands of dollars simply to defend its position before state regulators.

Why should protecting the character of our own community potentially come at such an enormous financial cost?

And where was Gov. Ned Lamont in all of this?

In July 2025, Gov. Lamont vetoed two bills that would have given municipalities a mechanism to overturn certain state environmental permit decisions through local referendums.

What about the people who actually live in these communities? What about the families whose homes are nearby? What about the residents who will live with the traffic, noise, and environmental consequences?

Why does protecting the state's permitting process seem to matter more than giving local residents a meaningful say in the future of their own towns?

I believe the Lamont administration has gotten its priorities wrong.

I understand that Connecticut needs infrastructure, businesses, and economic development. But those goals should never mean that small towns lose their ability to influence decisions that could permanently change their communities.

Plainfield is not just a location on a developer's map. It is our home.

Thankfully, throughout this ordeal, we had people willing to stand beside us.

I want to personally recognize State Representative Anne Dauphinais, State Representative Doug Dubitsky, and State Senator Heather Somers for their advocacy and willingness to bring attention to the concerns of Plainfield residents.

These three legislators understood that this fight was about far more than a proposed industrial facility.

It was about families, homes, and a community that generations of people have worked to build.

They helped make sure our concerns were heard and that the people of Plainfield were not forgotten as this proposal moved through the state approval process.

I am also deeply grateful to the residents who organized, attended meetings, spoke publicly, and refused to give up, along with the town officials who worked to challenge the proposal.

On Oct. 8, the developer withdrew its petition before the Connecticut Siting Council.

For families like mine, that was an enormous relief and a significant victory for our community.

But the withdrawal does not necessarily mean the proposed trash plant is gone for good.

The town anticipates that the developer may return with another application. We do not yet know whether that would involve a full certificate application or another available approval process.

For now, the current petition has been withdrawn. Our community has earned a moment of relief, but we cannot assume the fight is permanently over.

And if the developer returns, I hope our state leaders will finally recognize how unfair it is to put small towns through this kind of uncertainty and financial burden.

This experience has reinforced how important it is to elect legislators who are willing to listen, challenge the system, and stand up for the people they represent.

That is what I appreciate about Anne Dauphinais, Doug Dubitsky, and Heather Somers. They were willing to speak up when our community needed support.

As we approach the Nov. 3 election, they have my full support. We need people in Hartford who understand that public service is not about protecting political leadership or making life easier for developers. It is about representing the people who elected them.

I have lived in Plainfield my entire life. I attended school here. I raised my children here. I have watched this community grow and change, and I want future generations to have the same opportunity to build their lives here.

I should not have to wonder whether my family will eventually be forced to leave because of a project our town overwhelmingly opposed.

Governor Lamont, Plainfield already told the state what we wanted. We voted no. Why wasn't that enough?

To Anne Dauphinais, Doug Dubitsky, and Heather Somers, thank you for listening, for speaking up, and for standing with our community.

Plainfield deserves to be heard. Our families deserve to be protected. And our tax dollars should be spent building our community, not fighting for the right to have a say in its future.

Krista Dodge
Plainfield

I would be honored to have your vote

To the Editor:

On Nov. 3, voters in Ashford, Brooklyn, Eastford, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock will choose the next Judge of the Northeast Probate Court. I am asking for your vote, and I want to tell you why I am running.

The Probate Court is where families settle a loved one's estate, seek a conservator for an aging parent, appoint a guardian for a child, oversee a trust or finalize an adoption. People rarely walk through its doors on a good day. The judge who runs that court largely decides whether they leave feeling supported and understood, or overwhelmed and alone.

For more than 24 years, I have practiced law here in Northeast Connecticut, serving local families and business owners. My practice spans estates, real estate, business law and litigation. That range matters on the probate bench, because its matters are rarely simple: an estate tied up in the family home, a small business passing to the next generation, siblings who disagree at the hardest possible moment. I have also served as a Magistrate for the Connecticut Judicial Branch, appointed by the Chief Court Administrator, so I know the weight of judicial responsibility. I graduated magna cum laude from Pace University School of Law, and my psychology degree from the University of Notre Dame has shaped how I listen to people in difficult circumstances.

Beyond qualifications, my central reason for running is simple. I believe local institutions should work well for the community they serve, and I believe the public deserves nothing less.

I have tried to live that belief. As Chair of the Pomfret Board of Education, I helped guide decisions affecting our children's futures. As President of the Putnam Business Association, I lead a 220-member organization supporting local businesses and families. I have worked on capital campaigns for the Putnam YMCA and the Pomfret Library. Each taught me the same lesson: institutions don't stay strong on their own. They stay strong because people care enough to show up, listen and do the work of making them better.

The Probate Court is one of those institutions, and families deserve a court built around their needs, not one they must work around. As judge, I will make the court accessible, efficient and private: a place where sensitive conversations happen with dignity, where procedures are explained in plain language, and where every matter receives the seriousness it deserves. That is not a complicated standard. It is simply the right one.

My husband, Marc, has built his career at Day Kimball Hospital. Our family is here, and our commitment is here. The people of this district are my neighbors and my clients. They are the reason I show up, and they are the reason I want to serve.

On Nov. 3, or during early voting that runs from Oct. 19-Nov. 1, I would be honored to have your vote.

Kate Cerrone
Putnam

Connecticut's fiscal reality deserves more than political talking points

To the Editor:

The recent editorial by a consistent Opinion contributor that praises Connecticut's Democratic leadership paints an encouraging picture of fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately, and not surprisingly, that picture becomes considerably less flattering when examined through the lens of independent financial analysis.

According to Truth in Accounting's 2025 Financial State of the States report, Connecticut ranked 49th out of 50 states in fiscal health, earning an unmistakable "F" grade. The report identified a staggering $61.8 billion shortfall between available resources and financial obligations. That translates into a $44,500 burden per Connecticut taxpayer. These are hardly the hallmarks of exemplary fiscal management despite what you are told by this consistent contributor. While Governor Ned Lamont and his supporters celebrate consecutive budget surpluses and improved bond ratings, they conveniently overlook the enormous long-term obligations taxpayers remain responsible for funding.

Truth in Accounting reports that Connecticut has accumulated less than 60 cents for every dollar of earned pension benefits and less than 15 cents for every dollar promised in retiree health care benefits. A balanced annual budget does not automatically mean a financially healthy state. Certainly, investments in education, health care, infrastructure, and defense manufacturing deserve recognition. However, securing government funding should not exempt elected officials from scrutiny over the state's broader financial condition. Connecticut families continue confronting substantial property taxes, expensive electricity, and rising household expenses. Political leaders should be judged not simply by the programs they announce or the money they distribute, but by whether their policies deliver sustainable, affordable government.

The original editorial correctly states that elections have consequences. Indeed, they do. Before celebrating Connecticut's supposed fiscal success, voters should examine the financial obligations being passed to future generations. Eight consecutive budget surpluses mean considerably less when independent analysis still assigns Connecticut an "F" for fiscal health. Connecticut deserves leadership willing to confront that uncomfortable reality rather than celebrate selective statistics. Fiscal responsibility should be measured by results, not political press releases.

Additional facts from the 2026 Financial State of the States report are Connecticut had $23.8 billion to pay $81.5 billion worth of bills, a $57.7 billion shortfall. Only a near-sighted political contributor with an agenda would consider this anything other than an abject failure!

Michael Douglas
Brooklyn

Join me in re-electing Chris Stewart

To the Editor:

Thompson, Putnam, and Killingly voters! Let's go to the polls on Nov. 3rd and support Chris Stewart for reelection as our Representative of the 51st District!

Chris has done a superb job for the district in his time as our Rep. He has worked tirelessly to bring home badly needed Education and Town funding- nearly $2 million in total to date. He is a dedicated supporter of our veterans, farmers, healthcare workers, first responders, and young people — a strong advocate for their lives and livelihoods. Chris is a proponent of limited government and responsible spending, and a champion of parental rights. He is a proud member of the Ct Black Caucus and the Puerto Rican and Latino Caucus. Chris is ardently supported in his reelection bid by numerous entities all around the district, including the official endorsement of the Ct Republican Party, the Ct Independent Party, the Killingly and Putnam Republican Town Committees, and the Thompson Republican Town Committee, of which I am honored to be the Chairman.

Please join me in your enthusiastic vote to re-elect Chris Stewart as our 51st District Rep on Nov. 3!

Steve Nickerson
Thompson

Strong towns start with showing up to vote

To the Editor:

Strong communities are built by those who get involved – by volunteering, attending public meetings, helping local organizations and voting. Getting involved creates positive change in communities. Whether you care about the environment, education, or public health, there are many ways to contribute your time and skills locally.

Local initiatives tackle problems at the source and when you participate you see direct results. What matters most to you? Do you love the outdoors? Consider helping environmental groups. Are you passionate about education? Mentor a student or support a literacy program. Curious about politics? Attend town meetings and see how decisions get made. Believe in Democracy? Consider becoming a poll worker. Visit your town's website, check the bulletin board at your library, post office, favorite coffee shop or ask neighbors about which groups they support. There is a place for everyone and your time, skills and talents matter.

One of the most direct ways to get involved is to vote. "Systems don't change on their own – they change when people show up and demand it. Voting is a direct way to challenge what isn't working and shape what comes next. Your vote is power." (Volunteer Connection)

These midterm elections will help determine local races and the control of Congress which will shape policy on issues from affordability, health care, Social Security, AI regulation, the Iran war, the release of the Epstein files, to the waiver of U.S. sanctions on Russia, corruption and impeachment for the remainder of Trump and his administration's term. Whatever your priorities locally or nationally, elections affect your constitutional rights, your local schools, your health care, your right to privacy, your environment, and your wallets.

As big box retail centers, retail chains, automated warehouse distribution and data centers attempt to steam roll Northeastern Connecticut communities, we should ask why should the working Americans of the Quiet Corner pay higher taxes as these billionaire corporations get tax breaks (a.k.a. corporate welfare) while they pay wages so low their employees rely on taxpayer funded public assistance and healthcare? We should hold the Trump administration accountable for the permanent tax breaks given to billionaires while making the tax breaks for working people temporary, with a 2028 expiration date for deductions on tips, overtime pay and car loan interest.

"The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy." (U.S. Rep John Lewis)

Connecticut has made it easy to vote: Early voting runs through Nov. 1. Absentee ballots are available to every Connecticut voter, with no excuse required. On Election Day, Nov. 3, polls are open from 6 am to 8 pm. Same-day registration is available during early voting and on Election Day. Unaffiliated voters may vote for any candidate on the ballot.

You still have time to research which candidates prioritize working people over billionaires and make a plan to vote. Pick your day, check your polling place, spread the word and bring a friend. Don't leave decisions that affect you and your family to someone else.

Your vote matters!

Lisa Arends
Brooklyn

Re-elect Jeff Gordon in the 35th Senate District

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of State Sen. Jeff Gordon.

I have known Jeff to be a community minded citizen ever since I first met him 20 years ago. He was always out in our Woodstock community learning about local issues and willing to lend a hand.

Jeff has been a strong supporter of our local fire departments and has participated on various volunteer boards and commissions over the years including the Woodstock Education Foundation and an elected position on Woodstock's Planning and Zoning commission, serving as Chairman for 16 years. I served with Jeff on the Planning and Zoning Commission for seven of those years.

During that period, I observed Jeffs unmatched work ethic, attention to detail and carefully detailed preparation for every meeting.

As a State Senator, he has continued to hold these same values of community participation to be of importance and regularly contribute his time to the towns of the 35th district. Jeff is always out in the 13 towns that make up his district. Usually working with their local leaders to solve problems and to secure any available grant funding. As a State Senator, he has worked with all members of the state legislature and Governor's office in a bi-partisan manner. Some of his current goals are to lower costs at the local level by updating the "Foundation" amount (not updated since 2013) of the "Education Cost Sharing Grant" formula and thereby bring increased ECS grant funding to the towns within his district. Jeff has also been working on a comprehensive affordability plan to be submitted to the legislature that would help to lower costs, not just for those within his district, but rather for all citizens of Connecticut.

Please join me in voting for Jeff Gordon for State Senator in the 35th district, a man of ethical values, a strong work ethic and experience.

David Fortin
Woodstock

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wagner will ensure that local voices are heard in Hartford

To the Editor:

Dr. Lina Wagner is running for Connecticut's 51st House District on a platform focused on affordability, education, healthcare access, support for veterans and seniors, and strengthening our local communities. She focuses on practical solutions rather than partisan politics.

A primary concern in Wagner's campaign is the rising cost of living. She points to increasing costs for housing, groceries, utilities, and healthcare as challenges facing families throughout the Quiet Corner. She supports efforts to reduce financial pressures on working families, increase accountability for utility rates, and ensure Hartford provides rural communities with fair representation and resources. Wagner will emphasize reducing the substantial financial burden of special education on municipalities.

Education is another central issue. Wagner is committed to prioritizing services for veterans and seniors. Her platform includes expanding access to veteran services closer to home, supporting transportation and healthcare options for seniors, and helping older residents remain in their communities as they age. She advocates preserving the 51st District's rural character and agricultural heritage and will keep big distribution centers and data centers from gaining a foothold. Lina emphasizes responsible representation, responsible growth, and ensuring local voices are heard in Hartford.

Mike Bogdanski
Putnam

Records, not rhetoric, on what is driving Connecticut's costs

To the Editor:

Residents of the 35th Senate District are living the affordability crisis every month. Electric bills carry public-benefits charges that fund state-mandated programs. Heating oil has spiked. Property taxes remain high because state education aid has not kept pace with real costs. Prescription drugs still force hard choices. Campaign mailers and debate commentary that treat every "no" vote by the minority as obstruction, or that reduce a multi-year record to "I've done the work," miss the structural reality of how policy is made in Hartford and what it has actually produced.

Democrats hold a 25–11 majority in the State Senate and have controlled the legislature and the governor's office for years. They set the agenda, pass the bills, and write the rules that shape energy procurement, renewable mandates, public-benefits charges, and overall spending. In that environment a single Republican senator cannot block the majority's priorities. He can vote no, offer amendments, negotiate on the margins, and publicize the costs. That is the role Sen. Jeff Gordon has played.

On energy, the public-benefits charge has at times accounted for a substantial share of residential bills—covering hardship programs, renewable investments, conservation charges, nuclear contracts, and other state policies. It is not an Eversource invention; it is the mechanism by which the General Assembly's choices reach ratepayers. Gordon has voted against extensions of solar programs that lock in long-term public-benefits charges, noting that some contracted solar power costs two to five times the open-market rate. He has criticized decisions that add electric-vehicle charging subsidies to ordinary households' bills. He has called for a temporary moratorium on large data centers and explicit protections so their infrastructure costs are not simply socialized onto ratepayers. These are not abstract "track record" claims; they are votes and public positions aimed at stopping or limiting additional charges on monthly bills.

On prescription drugs, Gordon co-chaired the bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Task Force with Democratic colleagues. The resulting legislation (HB 7192), signed by the governor, bans spread pricing by pharmacy benefit managers, requires greater transparency on rebates and pricing, and includes protections for local pharmacies. Whether the reforms ultimately lower every patient's out-of-pocket cost will depend on implementation and market responses—PBM trade groups argued they would raise costs—but the bill is a concrete, cross-party effort to address the middlemen whose practices have been linked to higher prices. Dismissing it as mere regulation that "may or may not" help ignores both the bipartisan process and the documented problems it targets.

On spending transparency, Gordon voted against the Federal Cuts Response Fund (SB 83). That bill created an off-budget account giving the governor broader unilateral authority over hundreds of millions of dollars with reduced legislative and public oversight. He argued that taxpayer money should be decided in the open, with votes, not swept into emergency funds. Later allocations from such funds to farmers or other purposes do not erase the process objection; they illustrate the trade-off between speed and accountability. Gordon has also pushed for higher Education Cost Sharing grants precisely so towns are less forced to raise property taxes, and he has supported Republican proposals for income-tax relief, gas-tax relief, and reductions in public-benefits charges while the state runs large surpluses and holds a multi-billion-dollar rainy-day fund.

Ethan Werstler, the Democratic challenger, has no legislative record against which to measure these claims. His public statements include support for raising the state's top marginal income tax rate to fund a substantial increase in state education spending, with the hope that local property taxes could then decline. That is a preference for expanding the overall tax base and relying on the majority's spending priorities. Campaign materials that portray opposition to those priorities as siding with corporations, or that treat a physician-senator's work on drug pricing and ratepayer protections as empty talk, invert the available record.

Connecticut's high costs are not the product of one senator's "no" votes. They are the cumulative result of long-standing majority policies on energy procurement, renewable mandates, public-benefits financing, and spending levels—policies a minority member can only limit at the edges. Voters who want fewer new charges on their bills, more transparent use of surplus revenue, and resistance to cost-shifting regulations have a clearer set of votes and statements from Gordon than from his challenger. The public record of bills, amendments, and floor statements is available on the General Assembly website. Residents paying the bills can judge for themselves whether the pattern is obstruction or an attempt, within the constraints of minority status, to keep additional costs from landing on their households.

Dave Lusignan
Woodstock

Tocci for the 52nd

To the Editor:

Since early July, I've had the pleasure of knocking on doors in Woodstock, Union, Stafford, and Somers about once a week for, and with, Vincent Tocci, who is running for State Rep from the 52nd district. It's hard to overstate the sense of comfort and hope that I've gotten from doing this and from knowing Vincent.

After all, as a 77 year old father of three children and grandfather of two, my thoughts veer often to contemplation of the kind of world we are leaving those who come after us. Our world has become an increasingly chaotic and unpredictable place, its leaders not made of the same stuff as those we remember from our younger years. Because of that, I often worry where tomorrow's leaders will come from and what they will be like.

Canvassing with Vincent has allowed me to relax a bit. He's exactly the sort of person I'd hope would go into politics: he's grounded, has strong family values, a keen mind, natural empathy, and he yearns to do the kind of work that will make people's lives better. He grew up in Woodstock, went to town schools, including four years at Woodstock Academy where he played baseball and was a terrific student.

Vincent then went on to Williams College, graduating last June. He served as President of the Williams College Debate Union, worked as a research assistant to International Relations and Political Science Professor Michael MacDonald, worked in the Worcester DA's office one summer, and interned with Senator Chris Murphy another summer. e's HeVincent's current job is helping the Town of Southbridge transition to renewable energy.

Two summers ago, while conducting counterterrorism and foreign policy research in the Middle East, he found himself thinking a great deal about his hometown and the challenges facing both his neighbors and those he had gone to school with. His neighbors, growing older, worry that they could not continue living in their homes; his peers despair of ever being able to afford to live in the town they grew up in. It was then that he, raised in a union family, steeped in the politics of the working man, decided to run for State Representative from one of Woodstock's two districts, the 52nd.

Woodstock residents, especially Republicans, should study carefully the record of the current State Representative, Kurt Vail, who is from Stafford, but they will find almost nothing of substance that has affected their town – positively or negatively. (The only legislation I could find that he sponsored directly affecting Woodstock was a lease between the State and Camp Woodstock for a few acres of land.)

Vincent Tocci loves Woodstock and Northeast Connecticut. He's by nature a tenacious and effective leader and should communicate regularly and openly with his neighbors in Woodstock and others in his district. He has the verbal and intellectual skillset to get things done in Hartford. Most importantly, he's the sort of leader we want looking after the interests of our children and grandchildren.

John A. Day, Jr.
Woodstock Valley

I am voting for Dr. Lina Wagner

To the Editor:

With early voting starting today as I write this, I am proclaiming with excitement that I will be voting for Dr. Lina Wagner (D) of Putnam for State Representative of the 51st district.

I have worked alongside Lina for many months during this campaign, and can attest to her moral judgments, ideas for the future of Putnam, Killingly, and Thompson, as well as her capability to advocate with leadership on the issues present in our community.

That's just the thing. Lina shows up. She has worked tirelessly on advocating and being in the room. This past year alone Lina has provided social media coverage on the concerns our communities face, and the steps that need to be taken to ensure such issues are resolved in favor of the people.

Lina is not a politician, and not your average Democrat. She is determined to serve all people, and willing to listen. I have personally seen her capability to work with both sides with respect, dignity, and poise. She works to serve you — not herself, not other Democrats. You.

Jonathan Racine
Putnam

EDITORIAL

continued from page A

events. The achievements of local athletes, volunteers, educators and other familiar personalities deserve similar attention. Their stories help explain what makes a town distinctive.

McCormac's life also extended far beyond the fairways. A Putnam High School graduate, he served in the Army National Guard and worked for the Connecticut Department of Transportation. He was a husband, father, stepfather, brother and friend.

Those relationships matter far more than any championship.

Particularly touching is the recollection of his stepdaughter Debbie, who described how warmly he received a birthday card marking his 89th year. That simple moment offers a glimpse of the affection surrounding a man whose reserved personality apparently concealed a generous capacity for friendship.

Perhaps the most fitting story concerns his departure from golf itself. According to those who knew him, McCormac experienced several disappointing shots during a round, quietly picked up his ball, placed his bag over his shoulder and walked away from the game that had defined so much of his life.

No ceremony. No announcement. No farewell tour. For someone known as "The Legend," it was a remarkably understated exit. And perhaps that is what makes the story so memorable.

There is dignity in knowing when to walk away, and there is wisdom in understanding that a lifetime of accomplishments needs no final performance to establish its worth.

Putnam has lost an exceptional golfer, but more importantly, a familiar and respected member of its community.

The trophies may eventually disappear, the scorecards may be misplaced and the records may fade. But the stories told by those who shared a fairway, a friendship or a family connection with John McCormac will endure.

That is how a legend truly lives on.

Community Connection

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence
WE BUY GOLD
Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs
MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®
409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

Morse Lumber Co., Inc.
Building Materials & Supplies
Lumber • Insulation • Mouldings
Drywall • Ceilings • Flooring
Hardware • Cements • Siding • Roofing
Windows • Doors • Concrete Block
Sawmill Products
Rough Sawn • Dimension Lumber
Boards • Timbers • Industrial Lumber
994 North Woodstock Road
(Rt. 169) - 1/2 mile from CT line
Southbridge, MA 01550
www.morse-lumber.com
Toll Free 1-800-764-3231 or 508-764-3231
"Quality Materials and Service Since 1951"

Cormier JEWELERS
WE BUY GOLD
Trusted with Appraisals, Custom Design, Repairs, and more since 1947!
42 Central St, Southbridge MA
(508) 764-7415 | www.Cormiers.com

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!
Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!
To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.crookedcreekfarmma.org
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

MCCORMAC

continued from page A1

playing partner Jim Kroll, the pair won the Connecticut Sr. 4-Ball title in 2005; and for many years he held the Quinny course record of 64, prior to course renovations.

"John was a man of few words but one of the most pleasant people you'd ever encounter during your lifetime," said former Quinnatisset club manager Michael Pizzetti.

As a younger man, Pizzetti teamed with McCormac in numerous tournaments. Pizzetti noted that McCormac's tournament victories at Quinny were also too many to recollect.

"The Club files were passed on but disregarded on my retirement. It's unfortunate that the files are no longer around," Pizzetti sadly recounted.

As an average golfer, I myself only had the opportunity to play golf with "The Legend" one time. It was at the request of a former friend from our college days at Assumption University, Ed Hamill whose father Judge Hamill and McCormac's dad were roommates at Providence College. Hamill came to Putnam from his home in Williamsburg, Virginia accompanied by former Assumption AD and Hall of Famers Ted Pawlauskas and John Driscoll.

Courtesy of the gracious Pizzetti, we were allowed to play as a fivesome. McCormac engaged the visitors with some great shots, golf tips and elevated everyone's quality of play. Despite being a "man of few words," over dinner he regaled everyone with tales of his golf and more tips. Memories that are fondly remembered to this day.

This year, I mailed a birthday card to McCormac on the occasion of his 89th birthday with a heartfelt message. According to his step daughter Debbie, who noted all five of his stepchildren "loved him to death."

She said, "The birthday card and message were received with a huge warm smile."

John McCormac, "The Legend" and community treasure, quietly departed this earthly planet the same way he said good bye to the game of golf. As the story is related by many individuals, "one morning during a round of golf he had a bad shot on the first hole. When it occurred again on the second and third holes, 'The Legend' quietly picked up his golf ball, put his 'Sunday bag' over his shoulder, turned and walked away from the game that had been a major part of his life." He left golf and life without looking in the rearview mirror!

John 'The Legend" McCormac (2nd r) enjoying dinner with his golfing friends from Assumption University. Pictured (left to right) John Driscoll, Ted Pawlauskas, Ron Coderre, McCormac and Ed Hamill.

PFAS

continued from page A1

data, more than 240 wells in Killingly have confirmed contamination. The public water extension is considered a major solution to the problem.

In July, the Planning and Zoning Board confirmed the town will also build a new PFAS treatment building to meet more stringent state PFAS standards expected to take effect in the coming years.

An exact cause or origin of the PFAS contamination has yet to be confirmed. State officials ruled out the Dennis R. Lemery Fire Training Center but have confirmed they were preparing to begin an in-depth investigation eyeing one specific property of interest as a potential source.

SAT

continued from page A1

not an accident; it is the result of intentional outreach, support, and a belief that every student in Killingly deserves access to the college pathway. We are proud of what these numbers represent and even more excited about what our students will accomplish next."

Paul S. Haughey, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Killingly Public Schools

Advanced Placement achievement continues to grow

Killingly High School students demonstrated sustained growth in Advanced Placement performance in 2026. A total of 86 students sat for AP exams, completing 155 exams across a wide range of college-level subjects. Of those, 112 exams earned a score of 3 or higher — the threshold recognized by many colleges and universities for awarding college credit — up 1.8 percent from 110 qualifying scores in 2025.

The number of exams earning a top score of 5 increased from 15 in 2025 to 20 in 2026, a 33 percent year-over-year jump. Over a five-year span, the number of students earning at least one college-credit-qualifying score of 3 or higher has grown by 87 percent, from 39 students in 2022 to 73 in 2026.

Table 3: Five-Year Trend — KHS Students Earning at Least One AP Score of 3 or Higher

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Students with 1+ Score of 3 or Higher	39	56	68	77	73

The most-tested AP courses by exam volume in 2026 were English Literature and Composition (36 exams), English Language and Composition (29 exams), Calculus AB (16 exams), Biology (13 exams), and United States History (13 exams). U.S. History saw a particularly notable improvement in top scores, with 5 students earning a score of 5 in 2026 — up from 2 in 2025, a 150 percent increase. English Literature and Composition also produced 5 top scores of 5 in 2026.

Hispanic/Latino students contributed meaningfully to AP outcomes, with 8 students completing 19 AP exams and 16 of those exams earning a score of 3 or higher — an 84.2 percent pass rate.

"The growth we are seeing in our AP program is something our entire school community should celebrate. Over the past five years, the number of KHS students earning college credit through the AP program has grown by 87 percent - and this year, we saw a 33 percent increase in students earning our highest possible score of 5," said Principal Carrie Apanovich. "None of this happens without the dedication of our students, who take on rigorous college-level coursework, and the outstanding teachers who guide them. I am incredibly proud of what our Killingly Trailblazers have achieved, and I look forward to watching them carry this preparation into their college careers and beyond."

PSAT Assessments Build a Strong College-Ready Pipeline

Killingly High School's college readiness pipeline extends well before senior year. In 2026, 153 ninth graders completed the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) 8/9, while 169 tenth graders and 140 eleventh graders completed PSAT assessments. These participation figures reflect the district's commitment to early and ongoing college preparation for all students across grade levels.

About Killingly Public Schools

Killingly Public Schools is a public school district serving the students and families of Killingly, Connecticut, and the surrounding communities of Windham County, committed to academic excellence, equity, and preparing all students for college and career success. The district serves students from prekindergarten through grade 12 across multiple schools, including Killingly High School, which serves students in grades 9 through 12. Killingly Public Schools strives to provide every student with the knowledge, skills, and support needed to thrive in a competitive and changing world. For more information, visit the district's official Web site.

Day Kimball launches Project ASSERT to expand substance use support services in Emergency department

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Hospital has launched Project ASSERT, a new emergency department program that connects patients experiencing substance use concerns with education, treatment options, recovery resources and community-based support services beginning the moment they seek emergency care.

Funded through the Connecticut Opioid Settlement Fund, and administered by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the program is designed to reach patients affected by opioid use disorders during a critical window when they may be most open to seeking help.

In its first five weeks, the program completed 43 consults with 38 patients, resulting in three inpatient treatment placements, six outpatient treatment placements, four detox placements and two medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) interventions.

The initial results demonstrate both the need for these services in the community and the value of meeting patients where they are. Every connection represents an opportunity to help someone take the next step toward recovery and improved health.

"Project ASSERT allows us to meet patients where they are, at a moment when they may be most open to considering treatment," said Kyle Kramer, DKH CEO. "These early numbers tell us there is a real need in our community, and they tell us this approach works. Every one of these connections is a chance to change someone's path, and that's exactly the kind of care we want to provide. Our goal is to reduce the barriers, provide education, and help patients take the next step toward recovery and improved health."

How it works

Health promotion advocates (HPAs) work alongside emergency department staff to screen patients for substance misuse and connect them with resources tailored to their needs, including:

Treatment programs

Access to primary care, counseling and community-based recovery support

MOUD, including FDA-approved medications such as Suboxone, buprenorphine and methadone

Education on safer choices, overdose prevention and harm reduction

"Substance use disorders are treatable medical conditions, and recovery looks different for every person," said Steven Wexler, MD, FAAEM, DKH HPA Site Champion and medical director of the Day Kimball Hospital Emergency Department. "By connecting patients with resources during an emergency department visit, we can help bridge the gap between immediate care and long-term recovery."

The team

In addition to Dr. Wexler, the DKH Project ASSERT team includes:

Vanessa Brown, MD, JD, FACEP, FAAEM, Chief Medical Officer and Vice President, Medical Affairs and Quality

Christine Collins, LPC, ED Grant Supervisor

Crystal Lanning, MSOL, RN, HPA Supervisor

Emily Laprade, Health Promotion Advocate

Courtney Peltier, Health Promotion Advocate

Getting help

Patients can speak with a member of the DKH Project ASSERT team during an emergency department visit to learn more about treatment options and recovery resources.

Anyone who uses drugs alone and is seeking immediate overdose prevention support can call SafeSpot's free, confidential, 24/7 Overdose Spotting Hotline at 1-800-972-0590.

About Day Kimball Health

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

Poets at Large presents Arsego and Aeroelastic Flutter Oct. 24

POMFRET, Conn. — Poets at Large will continue its seventh season on Saturday night, October 24th with a wide variety of spoken word. The show begins at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret, Conn. and featured that night will be Sharon Arsego and performance artist duo Aeroelastic Flutter. Suggested donation is $10.00.

Sharon Arsego is from Bristol where she works as a senior administrative assistant for the city. She has three published collections including Scenes and Sonnets which is an ekphrastic collaboration with Massachusetts photographer Wendy Tobin. Arsego is an active participant in various arts and culture communities, has been a featured spoken word performer for two seasons of The Soul Session in Bristol, and also writes for The Bristol Magazine. Learn more at sharonarsego.com.

Aeroelastic Flutter is a spoken word and sound collaboration, combining the often-absurdist poetry of Jim Whitten with the guitar work and sound exploration of Nicholas Pecsok. Their project experiments with lo-fi audio and borderline performance art, challenging audiences to reevaluate how poetry can be performed and defined.

Linda Blakesley will do an extended read in the open mic segment. Blakesley is a poet from Coventry, CT who hosts a monthly open mic in connection with the Coventry Arts Guild, providing a platform for new and veteran poets. Linda works in adult education.

Poets at Large has brought more than 150 published and awarded poets to the area since 2020 and dozens of people have participated in the open mic portions during that time. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant and are recommended for ages 16 and up. Readings for the rest of the season are sponsored in part by donations from bankHometown, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic; 5-minute max as time allows.

Pomfret resident presents at Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board

POMFRET — Pomfret resident, Marie Lisette Rimer, spoke on the suicide of her son, Patrick Wood, at a recent Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board (CTSAB) meeting. Patrick was a Peck Scholar at Pomfret School and graduated as valedictorian with perfect SAT scores. He passed away in 2006 at age 23 in Berlin, where he was a programmer for Siemens. The CTSAB promotes suicide prevention through state agencies providing mental health, addiction, and family services.

Rimer focused on Patrick's description of depression as "unpredictable."

She said Patrick struggled with being shy, explaining that "Each day held pitfalls for him that most people never consider. He felt that his mind was out of control and that his shyness was a struggle against the unpredictability of his character. Some days he was okay. Other days he was terrified, and he would walk out of his way to avoid people on the way to class."

Rimer said Patrick was so extraordinary that she thought his depression was manageable. She learned that depression can affect the most successful people.

"Patrick taught me that no matter how well students appear on the outside, they might be crumbling on the inside," she added.

Rimer will present Patrick's story through her memoir, "Back from Suicide," at the Pomfret Library Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. The presentation will include the stages of suicide through Patrick's depression.

She said, "The library is like a coming home for Patrick. He spent many hours there for children's programs along with his twin sister, Libby, and older brother, Colin. It was a fabulous resource for young families."

Rimer has given numerous presentations on suicide through Patrick's story. She details his suicidal mind and emphasizes that depression is a legitimate disease. "Back from Suicide" won the Storytrade Nonfiction Prodigy Award, the Book of the Year First Nonfiction and Nonfiction LGBTQ+ awards, second place overall Book of the Year award, the PenCraft Nonfiction Memoir award, and the Firebird Book Awards for LGBTQ Nonfiction and Death and Dying. More information is available at www.backfromsuicide.com.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

Putnam KOC hosting steak dinner fundraiser

PUTNAM — The Knights of Columbus, 68 Providence St., Putnam is hosting a Steak Dinner Fundraiser to benefit Paws Cat Shelter on Friday, Oct. 23. Food will be served from 6-7 p.m. Eat in or take out.

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

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

Raffle to benefit Paws Cat Shelter

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a raffle basket purr-looza on Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Knights of Columbus, 68 Providence St., Putnam from noon to 5 p.m. More than 50 fantastic baskets to choose from. $20 for 25 tickets or $5 for six tickets.

Preview the baskets on Oct. 23 from 6-7 p.m. during our steak dinner fundraiser.

Skip the line and purchase tickets ahead, call/text 860-759-9984 or stop by the shelter at 74 School St., Putnam. All winners must pick up their prize between 5 and 7 p.m. on Oct. 24.

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

OBITUARIES

Donald Berger
1955 - 2026

N. Grosvenordale – Donald Berger, 71, of Floral Ave, died Thursday, October 15, 2026, at Matulaitis Nursing Home. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Paul and Malvina (Sabourin).

Mr. Berger worked for many years at Nutmeg Container.

Donald was an avid fan of all the New England sports teams as well as NASCAR and his favorite driver was Jeff Gordon.

He is survived by his brother Normand Berger and his wife Joanne of N. Grosvenordale and their pet Cockapoo Clancy, which he adored.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Donald's family from 9:30AM to 10:30AM on Friday, October 23, 2026, in the Valade Funeral Home, 23 Main Street, North Grosvenordale, CT. Followed by a funeral Mass at 11:00AM in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., North Grosvenordale, CT. Burial will follow in New Notre Dame Cemetery, Southbridge. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Mary Jane Cleary, 78

Mary Jane (Mar) Cleary, 78, Woodstock CT (formerly of Johnson City, NY) went to be with the Lord on October 17, 2026, surrounded by her family and friends. A profoundly devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Mary Jane was a woman who loved deeply and gave so much of herself to the people around her. She was cherished by her family and will be deeply missed and never forgotten. Throughout her four and a half month illness she met each day with remarkable strength and dignity. She will always be remembered for the love she gave and the lives she touched.

She was predeceased by her parents, Ada and Charles Schultze, infant brother Charles, Jr, nephews, Corey Hobart, Jordan Schultze, Robert Cleary (Godson), infant nephew Paul Schultze Jr., Mother-in-law Ruth Uvacek, In-laws Kathleen and Jack Goughary, brother-in-law Art Mariani.

Mary Jane is survived by her husband, Tom; daughter, Heidi Maryada and partner Warren Harasta; son, and daughter-in-law, Branden and Ashley Cleary; brothers, Francis Schultze (Carolyn), Joseph Schultze (Patricia), Paul Schultze; Michael Schultze (Susan); Peter Schultze (Karen) and James Schultze (Leslie Wood); sisters, Elizabeth Carter (Thomas), Ann Hobart (Frank Griffiths); brothers-in-law, Jerry Cleary (Doreen), Kevin Cleary (Alice); sister-in-law, Patricia VanMarter (Ray); grandchildren, Erik Melzer (Heather Landers) Magnes Melzer (Stephen Bohn), Addison, Camden, Benson and Dayton Cleary, and many nieces and nephews. A dear friend Monica McKenna and supportive neighbors.

Mary Jane was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, she moved to Johnson City to be close with her family. Mary Jane worked for the Broome County Health Department in the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Unit for 24 years. Upon retirement Mary Jane & Tom moved from Johnson City to Woodstock to spend time with their grandchildren who brought great joy to them both. Mary Jane took great pride in her home and was a creative decorator. She somehow managed to curate her space to be both a stylish showpiece and a comfortable place for family and visitors.

The family would like to give special thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff at U-Mass ICF Unit and Matulaitis Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Facility for providing care for Mary Jane in the last months of her life and for guiding her family through her final days.

A Funeral Mass will be offered on a later date at St. James Catholic Church, 147 Main Street Johnson City, NY.

Marie "Alma" Duseault
1934 - 2026

Putnam – Marie "Alma" Duseault, 92, of Smith Street, died Sunday morning with her son by her side, September 13, 2026, at home. The loving wife of the late Joseph L. R. Duseault. Born in Willimantic, she was the daughter of the late Joseph Eugene Millette, Sr. and Isabella (Pepin) Millette.

On August 7, 1954, at St. Mary Church in Willimantic, Alma was united in marriage to Joseph L.R. Duseault who died on January 20, 2004.

Mrs. Duseault worked for the University of Connecticut as an administrative assistant.

Mrs. Duseault enjoyed attending the Brooklyn Senior Center, rug hooking, painting and knitting. She was an avid reader.

Alma is survived by her son Jeffrey Duseault of Putnam, daughter Diane Trudo and her husband Patrick of Enosburg Falls, VT, and her granddaughter Kelsey Michelle Trudo of Philadelphia, PA and her husband Lt. Col. Andrew Barton of Ft. Lejeune, NC.

She was predeceased by her brothers Joseph Eugene Millette, Jr., Rev. Philippe Edward Millette, and Arthur Francis Millette and her sister Therese A. Millette.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105 or online at www.stjude.org.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

KILLINGLY

continued from page A4

storm. After shopping for an hour or so, my feet started to hurt; so we headed back to the square. Andrew was waiting for us, and we started for home. The wind increased in velocity as we were driving out of the city. Everything was flying—signs, trash cans. Plate glass windows were blowing out of the stores with an explosion. Once out of the city, it didn't seem too bad, just raining and very windy.

"'When we reached the Scituate Reservoir, trees were down and electric wires were snapping all over the place. Water from the reservoir was whipping onto the road. There was a wire hanging across the road, but Andrew figured he could drive around it safely. Just as we moved around it, the wind whipped it against the car. Thank heaven there was no power—the wire was dead. That did it!! I became really frightened and starting praying. Andrew went doggedly on, his goal to reach home. We figured that once we reached home, everything would be all right. It took us four hours to go from Providence to Danielson, normally a 45-minute trip. We were stopped three times by fallen trees, as were other cars caught on the road. Eventually, the trees were moved enough for cars to get through. At one point we drove that high-wheeled '32 Chevy through a pasture to get around a fallen tree.

" 'When we finally drove down Westcott Road into Danielson, we were aghast! Davis Park and Main Street were a forest of downed trees. In fact, trees blocked every street, and we couldn't reach home. Andrew managed to get the car downtown and left it there; we walked home. Our apartment house was undamaged. The wind hadn't even disturbed the rocking chair I had on the porch. We left the house and walked Ora home to Ma's. Ma was so glad to see us. At that time, she lived on Main Street, across from the park. Doris and Vi were both still in high school and had managed to get home before the brunt of the storm. Ma told us how Doris sat in the front window watching the trees in the park fall. She thought it all funny and would yell, "Wow! There goes another one!" The house was shaking so badly that the couple who lived upstairs from Ma came down to her apartment. They were all petrified, all except Doris.

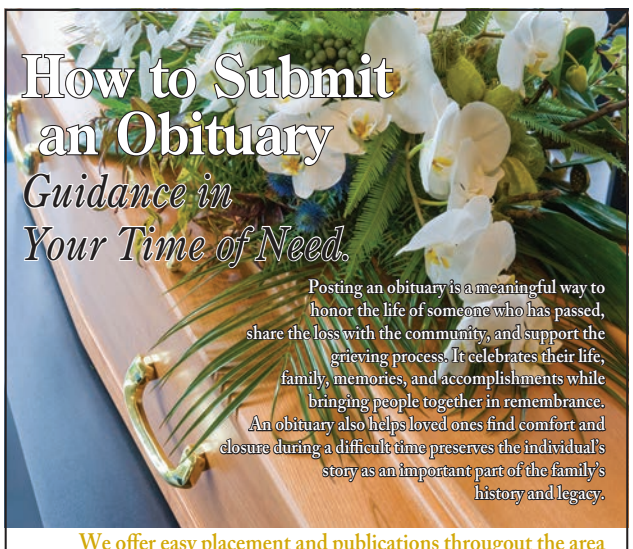
" 'We still didn't realize we had had a hurricane. Hurricanes were unheard of in New England.

The rivers were rampaging. The water was flowing over the floor of the old iron-span bridge over the Quinebaug River. There were wires down all over town. We were without electricity and telephones for over two weeks. We used kerosene lamps and candles for illumination. We had a battery-operated radio then, so we were able to get some news of the outside world. I didn't have to worry about keeping food as I had an icebox.'"

The Killingly Historical Center archives contain a number of photos from the 1938 Hurricane. One of the most striking ones is that of the steeple of Westfield Congregational Church in the process of falling. Others include damage to area mills which were hard hit. If you have photos from that disaster, please consider bringing them to the Center to be copied.

Margaret M. Weaver
Killingly Municipal Historian, October 2026.

Special thanks to Dave Doiron for sharing his mother's memories. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.mm. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. For Windham County Transcripts visit killingly.historyarchives.online courtesy of the Killingly Public Library. For Putnam Patriots and Windham County Observers visit the home page of the Putnam Public Library and look on the right hand column for links. For online Land Records, go to Search IQS.



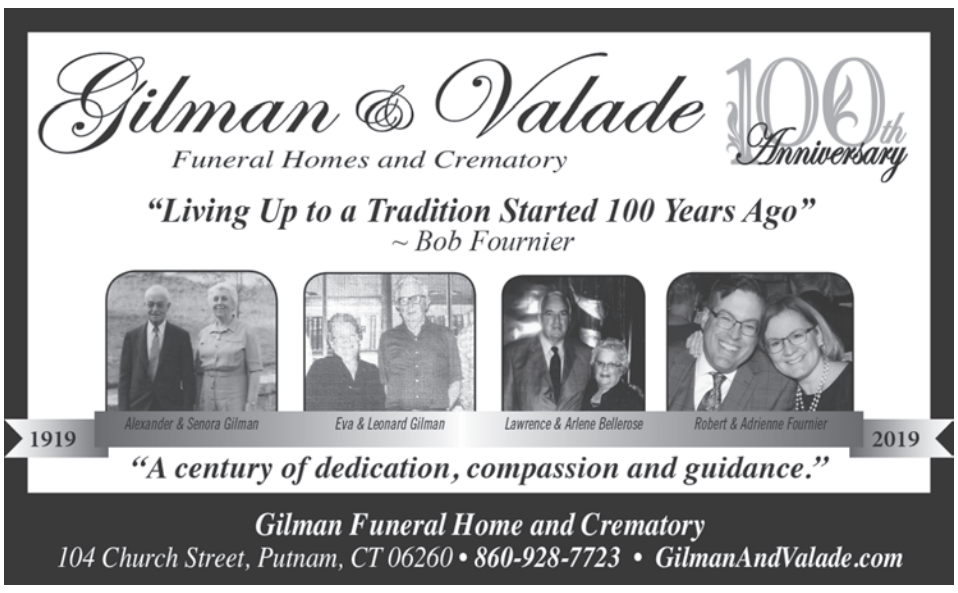
We offer easy placement and publications througout the area
Just drop us an email, be sure to include a photo if you would like.
Inlcude your publication choice and provide a contact number for prepayment.

Deadline is Monday at noon for this week's edition.
Our Rates: $ 250 per newspaper for 400 words or less.
Photos and symbols included at no extra charge.
For obituaries over 400 words, the charge is $ 250 for each additional 400 words or less.
Please note this price is per newspaper.

Send all Obituaries to obits@stonebridgepress.news
If you have any question please call Julie at 508-909-4105

Stonebridge Press Newspapers
Your Local News. In print and online.
PO Box 90 | Southbridge, MA 01550
508-909-4105 | www.stonebridgepress.com

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



LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Albert R Bruso II (26-00311)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 26, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Ethan Bruso,
57 Fremont Street,
Putnam, CT 06260
October 23, 2026

TOWN OF KILLINGLY
BOROUGH OF DANIELSON
SOUTH KILLINGLY FIRE DISTRICT
TAX NOTICE

The second installment of real estate and personal property taxes for the Town of Killingly, the Borough of Danielson, and South Killingly Fire District listed on the October 1, 2025 Grand List are due October 1, 2026. Taxes will become delinquent after November 2, 2026. All bills are subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date of October 1, 2026. A minimum of $2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST DUE PER STATE STATUTE 12-130.

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, during the posted hours, by mail, online, or in our drop box.

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

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
September 25, 2026
October 9, 2026
October 23, 2026

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED GOODS
Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 50-2Notice is hereby given that the following non-perishable goods have been left at [full address of the barn or location, including town and Connecticut county], and the owner is unknown or has neglected to take them away for more than six months:
Various tools, parts, engines, pieces of motorcycles, parts vehicles (ford) and other miscellaneous itemsThese goods will be held one month from the publication (30) @ 134 South Street, Brooklyn, Connecticut 06234. If the owner does not claim them 30 days after the date of the first publication all items with be removed disposed of. Any person claiming ownership should contact William Wolak 860-377-1430 or bill.wolak@att.net and be prepared to show ownership pay unpaid storage fees and other related expenses 10/9/2026
October 16, 2026

October 23, 2026
October 30, 2026
November 6, 2026

Woodstock Hist Dist Comm public hearing, Oct 28, 6:30 pm for Town of Woodstock, 415 Rt 169, for permanent installation of storage shed on Woodstock Common (near 543 Rt 169). G White, Chair.
October 23, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
David W Baker (26-00409)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 8, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Dawn Fennessy
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN,
ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD,
50 ROUTE 171,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
October 23, 2026

RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

MASSIVE MARKDOWN SALE!

WINDOWS & DOORS

ANDERSEN WINDOWS & DOORS

$350 OFF every window[1]

Ends Oct. 31

$850 OFF every door[1]

NO INTEREST FOR 4 YEARS![2]

If paid in full

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 48-month promo period expires.

Keep the seasonal temps outside!
The combination of our custom-built windows made with our exclusive Fibrex® composite material and precise installation helps **eliminate drafts and lock in year-round comfort.**

We have the 'never-paint-it-again' window.
Why choose between a color you love and a window that's built to last when you can have both? **Our Fibrex material is available in nine exterior colors, and the finish is 12x thicker than painted vinyl finish.** So, it's guaranteed not to flake, peel or chip.*

Everything included. Except the stress.
Our exact price quote includes everything – inspection and design consultation, custom-built windows and doors, expert installation, and the Nation's Best Warranty coverage†.

Call to meet with your local Design Consultant!

RENEWAL by ANDERSEN | UCONN

Proud Partner of UConn Athletics

Appointments available 7 days a week.

959-456-0067

[1]Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 6 or more windows and/or 2 or more entry or patio doors. $350 off windows and $850 off doors discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment with purchase must be made and documented on or before 10/31/26. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2026 Andersen Corporation. ©2026 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.
[2]Plan 6148. Subject to credit approval. Loan term is 48 months at fixed rate of 0.00% APR. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date, for every $1,000 financed at 0% APR, 48 monthly payments of $20.84. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess. org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.
*See Renewal by Andersen® Products and Installation Transferable Limited Warranty for details. †It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details.