



# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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## Putnam Rotary’s joyous way to give



PUTNAM — In its annual Holiday Giving Program, the Putnam Rotary Club gathered games and art supplies for kids facing a bleak holiday season.

Shannon Haney, a parent educator from the Putnam Family Resource Center (PRFC), and Lisa Andrews, the Early Childhood Programs coordinator from TEEG, received the collections recently. In addition, the club donated to the children at the Domestic Violence Shelter with United Services, and the Eastford Elementary School.

Chair of the Putnam Rotary Club Holiday Giving Program, Missy

Meyers, said the club took in more than 70 games and art supplies. Both the PRFC and TEEG said they are serving hundreds of families in the northeast area. United Services reports an average of 10 children at the DV shelter at any time, and Eastford Elementary requested one new game for each classroom, as they have one class per grades PreK-8 at their facility.

Meyers added, “Our Holiday Giving Program at Putnam Rotary Club is one of the most joyous ways we honor the Rotary motto of ‘Service Above Self.’ It is truly heartwarming to donate games to our local partners, who serve our

more vulnerable families in northeastern Connecticut. We know our partners at TEEG, the Putnam Family Resource Center, United Services and Eastford Elementary work hard to not only meet the needs of the families they engage all year, but to also foster a sense of independence as they are able to exercise choice in the gifts they select for their children. We were very happy to expand our Giving Program to Eastford Elementary this year, as Eastford is one of the five towns served by our club. We loved having the ability to expand the capacity for fun and learning in the classrooms at their school.”

## Cause of PFAS contamination in Killingly could be industrial

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Town of Killingly continues to work through PFAS issues revealed over the summer, the source of which is still officially unknown. However, as of the Town Council’s meeting in December, officials believed the contamination was industrial in nature and not the result of chemicals used at a local fire department training site.

Earlier this year town officials confirmed the detection of PFAS in local wells in Rogers. PFAS, known as a “forever chemical,” is often associated with fire-fighting material, but recent revelations suggest that the Dennis R. Lemery Fire Training Center in Rogers may not be the source of

the contamination. Town Manager Brian Palaia provided an update on Dec. 9 informing the new Town Council of the status of the situation.

Since the initial detection of PFAS, around 100 residences have been tested in the areas of Cotton Bridge Road, Route 101, Litchfield Avenue, Williamsville Road, and State Avenue with additional testing being offered in homes along Weeks Lane, Arnold Lane, and Lawton Lane. While the results of these tests had yet to be made public, Palaia said that the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s (DEEP) investigation over the summer did conclude that the contamination was not consistent with the material that has been used at the training site. In fact,

town officials went back to prior correspondence with the EPA and DEEP and determined the contamination may go much farther back in the town’s history.

“We have shared some previous correspondence chains between the EPA and the DEEP regarding industrial contamination in the area of Rogers. Some of those sites included the Cotton Bridge Road site. There was some DEEP enforcement a few years ago,” said Palaia.

Cotton Bridge Road was reportedly a disposal site for several businesses, although no specific companies have been named as the source of contamination.

“There were a number of sites in that area that have been the subject of enforce-

Turn To CAUSE page A6

## Putnam falls short in Clipper Classic

PUTNAM — The Putnam High Boys’ Basketball team kicked off their season in the 25th annual Clipper Classic. On Friday night, the Clippers knocked off the Tourtellotte Tigers 74-33 in the first round. Freshman guard TJ Espinosa went for 26 points, 6 rebounds and 5 assists in his Varsity debut. Senior captain, Nick Devlin was a monster scoring 18 points, a game high 8 rebounds and added 2 assists in the win.

Sophomore Camden Kell was outstanding as well, adding 14 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals, 3 assists and 3 blocks.

On Saturday night, the Clippers faced off with the Ellis Tech Eagles in the Clipper Classic Championship game. Unfortunately, the Clippers fell short 73-62. Freshman TJ Espinosa had 18 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals and Senior Nick Devlin added 14 points, 11 rebounds and 4 steals in the loss.

Camden Kell chipped in with 11 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and a block and Sam Jackel added 10 points, 8 rebounds and 1 steal for Putnam who fell to 1-1 on the season. The 2025 Clipper Classic Boys All-Tournament team went to Gabe Bourget (Tourtellotte), Aaron Gilfoy (Ellis Tech), Camden Kell (Putnam), Nick Devlin (Putnam) and TJ Espinosa (Putnam). Devlin was also selected to the All Academic Team. Drew Gisleson was named tournament MVP.



Courtesy

Nick Devlin goes after rebound.



TJ Espinosa looks head to make a pass.

## Summa to fill vacancy on Board of Education

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Board of Education is bringing on a familiar name to fill a vacancy left behind by the resignation of Republican Laura Lawrence last month.

Diane Summa earned a near-unanimous vote of approval from the board at large on Dec. 10 to serve out the rest of Lawrence’s term.

Summa has a history with the Killingly School District. Not only is she a former member of Killingly’s Board of Education, but she also served as the district’s Interim

Superintendent on two occasions in 2020 and 2023 and spent time on Plainfield’s Board of Education before moving back to Killingly. Summa had run on the Republican ticket for Board of Education during the November municipal election but failed in her bid to fill a vacancy left by the passing of Democrat Danny Rovero. Even in loss, she still received the highest vote count of any GOP candidate on the Board of Education ticket.

Typically, in the case of vacancies, the party of the departing member puts forth

Turn To SUMMA page A6



# The toys of yesteryear

Holiday Closings: The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) through Wednesday, Dec. 31 (New Year’s Eve). It will reopen on Saturday, Jan. 3 at 10 a.m. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone.

Inclement Weather: In case of snow, freezing rain or mixed precipitation please listen to WINY for notices about the Killingly Historical Center closings. You may also call the Center’s phone about 10:15 a.m. or later and see if anyone answers.

The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open by appointment. For additional information, please call (860) 207-6044 and leave a message.

Calling all Artists: Third Annual Tiny Art Show at Putnam Public Library. “Remembering the Revolution” (Optional Patriotic Theme). Stop in to register and

pick up a three-by-three-inch canvas, paint and brush. Return by Jan. 31. Art will be exhibited in the library beginning Feb. 2. Call 860-963-6826 for additional information.

I hope everyone has had a joyous holiday. Parents and grandparents, did you have fun shopping for the little ones in your families? My mind is boggled at all the choices compared to years ago. I decided to go back to 1965 for tidbits, so also Googled what were the popular toys for that year. AI had this to say: “In 1965, popular toys included the Fisher-Price See ‘n Say, the Operation board game, the James Bond Aston Martin Car, and the classic Tonka Dump Truck, with G.I. Joe already a major hit from the previous year, while iconic toys like Hot Wheels were just around the corner.”

I was curious about the beginnings of the Barbie dolls, which my younger sisters loved.



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

The Goodhousekeeping.com website indicated that “Barbie was ‘born’ the day Mattel president and Barbie inventor Ruth Handler debuted the doll at the American International Toy Fair in New York on March 9, 1959.” The doll “was inspired by paper dolls (which her daughter was playing with). Her “physical appearance was inspired by Bild Lilli, a German doll created in 1952,...which was sold as an adult novelty in bars and tobacco shops---definitely not a toy for children...(Barbie’s) full name was Barbara Millicent Roberts. (She) was named after Ruth and Elliot Handler’s daughter, Barbara...Ken was named for the Handlers’ son Kenneth---meaning Barbie and Ken, one of the most famous fictional couples in the world, were actually inspired by a brother and sister.” Did you know that “Barbie ha(d) seven siblings? Skipper was introduced in 1964, twins Todd and Tutti were around from 1965 to 1971, Stacie hit the shelves in 1990, Kelly was sold from 1994 to 2010 and Chelsea was introduced in 2011 as a replacement for Kelly. Barbie’s youngest sister, Krissy was sold as part of a set with Barbie and Ken from 1998 to 2001. The History.com site added, “In its first year, 300,000 Barbie dolls were sold. The first Barbie doll sold for \$3.00, but a mint condition #1 doll can fetch more than \$25,000 today. To counteract criticisms that Barbie was solely a sex symbol, Mattel gave her a best friend, Midge Hadley, introduced in 1963. A year later, they gave her a little sister: Skipper Roberts.” My youngest sister, Susan Markunas Dayan, adored Barbie dolls and had many including a Miss America Barbie, a Superwoman Barbie, and a sun-tanned Barbie. Susie said that the legs on the original Barbie were not moveable, but later ones were. She and my sisters Mary and Beth were thrilled to receive a Barbe’s Dream House one year for Valentine’s Day. (conversation, Dec. 18). (For additional information on the history of different Barbie collectibles, visit the above sites or others which have more information than I can relay).

Movie goers might

remember “Dr. Zhivago” from 1965. However, the most popular new Christmas movie was a Christmas television movie/special introduced that year--- which is now a classic, a family favorite for many---A Charlie Brown Christmas. Perhaps you watched it again this year. A classic Christmas song which was introduced that year was Burl Ives’ Have a Holly Jolly Christmas.

Again, I decided to turn to tidbits from the old newspapers to get a feel for what was going on locally in late December 1965. The following are some tidbits from a late December Windham County Transcript. Page 1 of the Dec. 30, 1965 issue had photos of the winners of the Home Lighting Contest for the year. First place: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grondelski of Maple Street, Rogers; second place: Mr. and Mrs. Adelaide Hebert of Maple Street, Danielson; third place: Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Gosselin of Route 101, Dayville.

The same issue had a small article about the First Geography book. “Jedediah Morse, Congregational minister and teacher from Woodstock, Conn., wrote America’s first geography textbook. The Rev. Mr. Morse was the father of Samuel F. B. Morse, Yale graduate, fine artist and inventor of the magnetic telegraph. The Reverend Jedediah Morse was also a Yale graduate.” (WCT, p.5). Morse was born Aug. 23, 1761 in Woodstock, the son of Jedediah and Sarah (Child) Morse; he died June 9, 1826 in New Haven. (Wikipedia).

Ads in the Dec. 30 issue included wishes for the New Year. I’m sure you remember many of these businesses. The Alice Eleanor Shop’s read “Let us all pray for this New Year to be peaceful and prosperous! Thank you for letting us serve you.” Do you remember Joe LaBelle’s Package Store at 81 Main Street? That ad pictured a New Year’s baby and read, “You’ll find the best ingredients for your toasting pleasure here.” On the same page the County Bank and Trust Company, located at 84 Main St. in Danielson, wished “You and Your family Peace, Prosperity and Good Health Throughout the Coming Year! (p. 12). “Make this a Record Year. Party Records at Oliver’s 31 Main Street, Danielson.” Do you remember Dandy’s Fuel Co., 22 Killingly Drive, Danielson? Their ad went, “another New Year supplants the old...giving us a new opportunity to fulfill or dreams and plans. Happy New Year and thank you

friendship. Durables on Route 6 in Brooklyn was featuring an after Christmas sale. They would close New Year’s Eve at 6 p.m. Friendly Bowl on Route 6 in Brooklyn also featured the New Year’s baby, “We hope our future includes the continued pleasure of your friendship. Thank you, and a prosperous New Year.” (p.15). It was nice to read of so many businesses thanking their patrons. (Remember, you can access these papers from home at killinglypl.org). There were many more interesting ads.

Page 14 contained a timely seasonal article that this year’s party goers might keep in mind. “Coffee After Cocktails Could Be Fatal-ALA. Don’t bet your life on a few cups of hot coffee ‘for the road’ after toasting the New Year with alcoholic drinks,” the Automobile Legal Association advised motorists. Many people think they can have a few drinks and then quickly sober up with hot coffee, but they’re wrong and they could be dead wrong,” Philip C. Wallwork said... “(They) could be ripe for an accident because they may feel more sober than they really are.”

Have you been watching the Bowl games? In 1965 there were not nearly as many as there are now. Nevertheless, my mother used to despair about what time to have the traditional New Year’s Pennsylvania Dutch pork and sauerkraut dinner because my father wanted to watch the all the bowl games. (In that era, it was one of the few days where so much football was on tv). One Transcript ad carried predictions for the bowl games of the year. Gator Bowl Texas Tech vs. Georgia Tech; Shrine Bowl, East vs. West; Sun Bowl, Texas Christian vs. Texas Western; Cotton Bowl, Arkansas vs. Louisiana State; Orange Bowl, Alabama vs. Nebraska; Sugar Bowl, Florida vs. Missouri; Rose Bowl, Michigan State vs. U.C.L.A. (p.16). That’s all the bowl games that were listed for the year---not many compared to today.

Winter sports were in swing locally. The Killingly basketball team had lost its first game of the season (4-1), losing to the Middletown Tigers at Middletown by a 78-70 score. Middletown was considered one of the toughest teams in the State. “High scorers for Killingly were Wally Zadora with 29 points; Jeff Hardell with 17, and John Zadora with 13. Bob Battle led Middletown with 40 points.” (p. 15). Hopefully this year’s Killingly Trailblazers basketball teams will do well.

May you and your families have a happy, healthy New Year in 2026! Thank you for reading my column and sharing memories.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, December 2025. Special thanks to Susan Dayan for sharing Barbie 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.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook

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**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. Light cavalry  
5. Coconut palms  
10. Rounded knob  
14. Central Japan city  
15. Sandwiches  
16. Shape produced by a curve  
17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria  
18. French modernist painter  
19. Grandmother  
20. Mammary gland of cattle  
22. Rocky peak  
23. Secret plan  
24. Songs to one's lover  
27. More (Spanish)  
30. Father  
31. Chinese principle underlying the universe  
32. Ballplayer's accessory  
35. Together  
37. A person's brother or sister  
38. Evil spirit  
39. Monetary units  
40. Partner to cheese  
41. About Sun  
42. Group of like-minded people  
43. After B  
44. Seaside room  
45. Recipe measurement  
46. Partly digested food  
47. Flat-faced dog  
48. People of southern Africa  
49. Salts  
52. Beard lichens  
55. Sanders is one  
56. Fencing sword  
60. Ethnic group of Albania  
61. Metric weight unit  
63. Italian seaport  
64. Longtime late night host  
65. Extremely angry  
66. Miami mascot  
67. Mid-month day  
68. Marked for omission  
69. Body part

**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Two-toed sloth  
2. Fat from a pig's abdomen  
3. Romanian city  
4. Specifics  
5. Rounded, glaciated valley  
6. Spoke  
7. Collection of sacred books  
8. Extravagantly theatrical  
9. Very fast airplane  
10. Forearm bones  
11. Ancient kingdom  
12. Legitimate: \_\_\_ fide  
13. Semitransparent gemstone  
21. Counsels  
23. Head honcho  
25. Cool!  
26. Touch lightly  
27. Extract money via taxation  
28. Dyes  
29. Cloying sweetness  
32. Sodas  
33. Coastal village in Guam  
34. Chemical ring  
36. The bill in a restaurant  
37. Car mechanics group  
38. One-time presidential candidate Dole  
40. Health care for the aged  
41. Wise persons  
43. Passage with access at one end  
44. Make a wound  
46. America's spies  
47. Roof of the mouth  
49. Plants of the lily family  
50. Pinkish-red color  
51. Vaccine developer  
52. Mottled citrus fruit  
53. A place to store garden tools  
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii  
57. Popular Hollywood pig  
58. Musician Clapton  
59. A move exposing one to danger  
61. Historic Spanish soldier  
62. CNN's founder

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

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# The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

## Boys Basketball

Coventry 65  
Woodstock Academy 51  
The Centaurs got their season underway on their home court but things did not go in their favor. The Patriots held a slim three-point lead at the half but held Woodstock Academy to six points in the third quarter and extended its lead to 15 going into the final quarter.

Sophomore Drake Abdullovski finished with a team-best 16 points while Vuk Lisancic added nine points for the Centaurs in the loss.

Woodstock Academy 68  
Bacon Academy 40  
Nine different players put points on the board for the Centaurs who jumped out to a double-digit first quarter lead and never led by less to improve to 1-1 on

the season.  
Sophomore Drake Abullovski and junior Vuk Lisancic led Woodstock Academy with 18 points apiece.  
Abdullovski scored 12 points in the first half including two three-pointers while Lisancic put down 10 of his points in a 90-second span in the fourth quarter.  
Lawrence Liu was the only other player in dou-

ble figures for the Centaurs with 11 points.  
Sawyer Nauss led the Bobcats, who were playing their first game of the season, with a game-high 19 points.

## Girls Basketball

Woodstock Academy 45  
Fitch 42  
Three players finished in double figures for Woodstock Academy as they traveled to Southeast Connecticut for a second time this week and recorded the win over Fitch High School in Groton Friday.  
The Centaurs improved to 2-1 overall and 2-0 in Division I of the Eastern Connecticut Conference with the win.  
Kaylee Saucier finished with 16 points and both Isabel D’Alleva-Bochain and Elise Coyle added 12.  
Synna Waters kept the Falcons in the game as the junior forward finished with 28 points.

## Boys Hockey

Pilgrim HS 4  
Woodstock Academy 0  
Woodstock Academy goalie Brady Hebert did all he could as turned aside 51 shots and shut out the

Patriots in the first and third periods.  
Pilgrim High School, however, scored four times in the second period and it was all they needed to post the win at Thayer Arena.  
Marcus Walsh scored two goals for Pilgrim in the win.

Eastern Connecticut Eagles 6  
Woodstock Academy 0  
The Eagles opened their season in a memorable way as they scored five goals in the first period and skated to the victory over the Centaurs (0-2).  
Ryan Gravelin scored twice and Shane Meyer had three assists in the first period for the Eagles who out-shot Woodstock Academy, 54-17.  
Cooper Siragusa added a goal and an assist in the win.

## Girls Hockey

Amity Regional 4  
Woodstock Academy Co-Op 1  
Sophomore Lucy Trudeau scored her first career high school goal in the first period for the Centaurs but it was not enough as the hosts scored twice in the first period and once each in the second and third to upend Woodstock

Academy (0-2).

## Wrestling

Montville 51  
Woodstock Academy 23  
The Wolves jumped out to a 27-0 lead and didn’t look back as they posted the victory in the season opener for both programs.  
Colby Deary scored the only win for Woodstock Academy (0-1, 0-1 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II) on a technical fall. The other Centaur points were the result of forfeits.

## Gymnastics

Woodstock Academy 129.65  
Killingly 66.2  
The two teams opened their seasons at Deary’s Gymnastics with the Centaurs picking up the victory as Killingly has only two gymnasts on its team.  
Rhea DeSota led the Centaurs with a 33.85 All-Around total while Emma Long finished with a 33.15 score.  
Jessie Williams led Killingly with a 34.0 All-Around total.  
Putnam’s Ava Pereira, competing as a team-of-one, led all gymnasts with a 36.7 finish.

## Ellis Tech girls leave it all on the court in hard-fought loss to Lyman

DANIELSON — Ellis Tech girls’ basketball had yet another tightly contested game on Dec. 18. Lyman (1-1) came out with the victory over Ellis (0-3) 43-42.  
Ellis was slow at the start, and found themselves down by 6 at halftime. Lyman was able to add 3 more to their lead in the 3rd. The fourth quarter with just over 2 minutes on the clock, Ellis down by 11, the tides began to shift! Defense for the Eagles picked up, Ava Ethier hit 2 back-to-back 3’s to cut the lead to 5 with over a minute left. Lyman then made a basket; the next play Riley Fusco hit a 3 in transition to cut it to 4. It went back and forth empty trips, then the eagles created a turnover with 7 seconds left (still down by 4). The play drawn up during the timeout was a 3 for Fusco, and she once again delivered to cut the lead to 1 with 3 seconds left. The Eagles were unable to complete the comeback, but left everything on the floor.  
Junior Ava Ethier led the way with 16 points and 3 rebounds, while sophomore Riley Fusco- 8 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 5 steals and freshmen Paityn Simonds chipped in with 7 points, 12 rebounds, 4 steals, and five blocks.  
The girls hoped to right the ship this past Monday after deadline, when they were scheduled to host their first home game of the season (on the newly finished court) against Classical Magnet.



Courtesy

The Putnam Rotary Club gave its Interact Club a donation of \$500 for its Salvation Army kettle drive fund-raiser and a second donation of \$375 is for the Interact Club activities. Rotarian Roberta Rocchetti, an Interact advisor, said the activities donation will be used to host a bell ringer pizza party and to sponsor an ice block for the Interactors for the Fire and Ice coming in February. She said, “The students will have fun carving it and will use this as a fund-raiser for their Heifer project.” Here, Putnam Rotary President Kathy Kirk, left, presents Rocchetti with the check.

Merry Christmas  
to all from all of us at the

Lori Johnson-Chausse  
William Hilmon  
Bryan Pelletier  
Sharon Pelletier  
Laurie Sullivan  
Maurice Limock  
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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# Still neighbors, even when we disagree

One of the enduring strengths of life in Northeast Connecticut is that it is personal. We see one another at the post office, in the grocery aisle, at school events, and along the sidelines of local games. That closeness can be a gift, but it also requires care, especially at moments when opinions differ and emotions run hot.

Disagreement is nothing new here. Town meetings have always included spirited debate, and family dinner tables have long hosted lively conversations. What has changed, though, is how easily disagreement can harden into something sharper, something less neighborly. In a small community, that shift is felt more quickly and more deeply than it might be in a city where people can pass anonymously.

It is worth remembering that disagreement does not have to mean disrespect. One can feel strongly about an issue and still recognize the humanity of the person on the other side of it. In fact, the ability to do exactly that is one of the skills that has kept small towns functioning for generations. Roads still need plowing. Schools still need budgets. Fire departments still need volunteers. None of that work pauses simply because opinions differ.

There is a practical side to this as well. When communication breaks down, progress slows. Boards struggle to recruit volunteers. Public meetings become less productive. People who might otherwise step forward decide it is easier to stay home. Over time, the whole community pays the price for that withdrawal.

Civility does not mean silence, and it does not mean pretending that differences do not exist. It means choosing words carefully, listening with intent, and remembering that today’s opponent in a debate may be tomorrow’s partner on a project that matters to everyone. It means addressing issues rather than assigning motives, and facts rather than fears.

Young people are watching how adults handle these moments. They learn not only from what is said, but from how it is said. When they see disagreement handled with respect, they learn that participation matters and that community life is worth the effort. When they see the opposite, they learn to disengage.

Northeastern Connecticut has always prided itself on being a place where people show up, pitch in, and look out for one another, even when opinions differ. Holding onto that tradition is not about nostalgia. It is about practicality and pride in the places we call home.

We can disagree, sometimes loudly. But we are still neighbors, and that fact carries responsibilities as well as rights.

## Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# OPINION

*Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It is very scientific to believe

To the Editor:

Albert Einstein, perhaps the most famous scientist of modern times, said, “Everyone who is seriously interested in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the Universe - a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble.”

Robert Jastrow, a NASA scientist and founding director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, and a professor of Geophysics at Columbia University, in an interview with Christianity Today said: “Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover. That there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact.”

In his book “God and The Astronomers,” he

illustrated his position as, “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

One final quote by Edwin Conklin, a U.S. biologist and former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: “The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a print shop.”

In conclusion: “According to the earlier and widely cited Pew Research Center survey from 2009 of scientists (particularly members of American Association for the Advancement of Science - AAAS), about 51 percent of scientists reported belief in some form of deity or higher power (33 percent said they believe in God; 18 percent said they believe in a universal spirit or higher power).”

PASTOR PHIL CANNISTRACI, SR.  
EAST PUTNAM

### Merry Christmas, Woodstock

To the Editor:

In the last few days, or next few, hopefully before you read this, Woodstock taxpayers received an early Christmas gift — well, not really a gift, in the form of a “Supplemental Tax Bill.” Not a surprise to those who have been paying attention, as this year’s budget took three go arounds and wasn’t passed until July. I believe this was a first, at least in my memory. Another 5.95 percent increase on top of 5.8, 7.48, and 2.8 percent in the three previous years, bring our four year compounded increase to just under 24 percent — Merry Christmas. The positive thing about this is that now everyone gets to see just what that 5.95 percent actually means to you — and remember, you get to pay this now and then again in June and every year thereafter as it is rolled into the base tax rate. If you wonder why town officials really wanted to change the annual town meeting to April, this is it. Visibility to the cost of voting “Yes” or not bothering to vote, is not good when your strategy is to keep running an absurd spending increase over and over again until you finally wear down the “No’s” and get the one “Yes” you need.

But wait, there’s more good news. Just before Thanksgiving the reassessment letters went out, and judging by the calls I got more than a few were a bit surprised at the increases they saw especially after having just gone through a similar increase just four years ago. While the numbers you saw in your assessment letter can be a little bracing they need to be put into perspective.

What is missing is the average change, percentage wise, for the town as that will determine how much the mil rate will be adjusted. As it stands, and there can be some adjustment as some appeal their evaluations and everything is finalized, the average increase for the town was about 31 percent per the assessor. What does this mean? The mil rate will have to be adjusted to reflect the change in assessed value to maintain a flat revenue stream. Take the old rate, 24.4 mils — that includes the adjustment for the supplemental bill you just got — and divide by 1.31, or 1 plus whatever the average ends up being — or roughly 18.63 mils. Anything higher in the mil rate is a tax increase which you never voted for, anything less means a shortfall in revenue which can only be corrected by — you guessed it — a tax increase. So, if your increase in assessment is greater than 31 percent, that’s new assessment divided by old assessment, then you get an additional increase. If under 31 percent, you get a decrease. This will take effect with the new budget in June. Again, Merry Christmas, especially if you happen to be in the most marketable part of the real estate market, and that tends to be the bottom half of the assessed values — just like last time. Merry Christmas again. Remember this when the new budget comes around and the Board of Finance again sits on their hands and doesn’t really examine the budgets they are presented with — and vote... And repeat, as many times as necessary.

Dave Richardson  
Woodstock

### An astounding piece of oratory

To the Editor:

I have to admit that Donnie Tyrant’s 20-minute speech on Dec. 17 was a genius level bit of oratory. First, it crammed all of his 10 years of hyperboles into just a few minutes. Second, almost every sentence was laced with lies — lies that have been proven to be so many times over. Third, he forced the networks to put him on prime-time with little notice when there was no crisis to warrant such action. Fourth, it was amazing that he did not break his arm patting himself on the back. And I wonder if they had to put him on oxygen immediately after. LOL.

On a different topic, lawyers can well take me to task for being ignorant of legal subtleties of the following. But what I think is the MAGA’s in Congress and Donnie Tyrant have done by not

approving the extension of the ACA healthcare subsidies could be seen as murder by us common people. Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought. OK, the first objection to this accusation could be that the killing is not unlawful because this was enacted thru legislation. Of course that would be stupid thinking. A second objection might be that there was no malice aforethought. Of course there was. Donnie and MAGA have been pushing this horrid thinking for a decade so they know exactly what they are doing. People by the thousands will die and suffer needlessly with their loss of health care because they cannot pay the exorbitant premiums. If you MAGA’s have the courage, follow the death statistics over the next two or three years and then try to justify this outrage of inhumanity.

STEPHEN ETZEL  
PUTNAM

### For many families, affordability is the issue!

To the Editor:

President Trump claims that affordability is a hoax. For most Americans, affordability is a necessity. Working class families are living paycheck to paycheck just to put food on the table, all while struggling to pay their monthly bills. The cost of daily necessities: groceries, housing, electricity and utilities, healthcare, and childcare are driving thousands into credit card debt, which, at an estimated \$1.21 trillion, is at an all-time high.

When it comes to food, the increases have a lot to do with tariffs. Did you buy beef for Christmas dinner? It cost you 15 percent more than it did last year. Need a morning pick-me-up? Purchasing coffee will set your wallet back 19 percent more than it did in 2024. Want to send your kid to school with a healthy snack? Be prepared to pay 7 percent more for bananas alone.

As if rising prices weren’t bad enough, Americans are paying more for less. Have you noticed that the everyday products we buy look the same until you read the label?

What used to contain 16 ounces of coffee now contains 14 ounces...but costs even more!

With the holidays upon us, New England families are feeling the squeeze more than ever. Nationwide, grocery prices have shot up 3.1% percent

“Reports shows that Trump’s tariffs have done nothing but drive prices even higher for families,” said Sen. Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire. “The president’s tax on American families is simply making things more expensive.” Economists, researchers and analysts alike say tariffs have increased the cost of groceries, vehicles, furniture, toys, and dining out.

According to a 2025 poll of registered voters, America is in an “affordability crisis,” with the rising cost of basic necessities taking a heavy toll on families, and especially the working-class. Three out of 10 respondents reported they were unable to receive medical care due to its rising costs and reduced insurance coverage. Nearly one-third of the respondents skipped a meal

# The things that still get done

I have noticed something reassuring over the years, especially during times when conversations feel sharper than they used to. Despite all the noise, an

CORNER  
OF  
KINDNESS  
By CHIPPY

awful lot of good, ordinary things still get done. The trash gets picked up. Someone unlocks the door at the library each morning. A volunteer shows up early to make the coffee before a meeting. A neighbor checks on another neighbor after a storm, not because they agree on everything, but because it seems like the right thing to do.

These small acts rarely make headlines. They do not come with speeches or slogans. They happen quietly, usually without much notice at all. And yet, they are the glue that holds communities like ours together.

I was reminded of this recently while waiting in line at a local store. Two people ahead of me were clearly on opposite sides of a topic that seems to come up everywhere these days. You could feel the tension in the air. But when the clerk mentioned a local fundraiser that was struggling to meet its goal, both of them reached for their wallets without hesitation. The conversation shifted. The moment passed. The fundraiser got a little closer to where it needed to be.

That is the thing about real life in the Quiet Corner. It tends to be more complicated, and more hopeful, than the loudest voices would suggest. People can disagree strongly and still hold a door open. They can argue at a meeting and still coach a youth team together. They can see the world differently and still share responsibility for the same stretch of road, the same school, the same town.

As I get older, I find myself paying more attention to those steady, reliable actions. The ones that do not depend on winning an argument or proving a point. The ones rooted in habit, decency, and a sense that some things are simply worth doing, regardless of the mood of the moment.

These are the things that give me confidence in this part of the state. Not perfection, not unanimity, but persistence. The quiet understanding that tomorrow morning, someone will show up and take care of what needs taking care of.

Kindness here is rarely flashy. It is practical. It shows up on time. It does not ask many questions. And most days, it gets the job done.

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN



# 2025 financial year in review and the 2026 market outlook

As with most years, 2025 had its share of good and bad events. President Trump scared the markets by placing tariffs on imported goods from around the world. But the ensuing market selloff was short-lived, replaced by a rally that lifted markets to record highs and created a fertile environment for IPOs, mergers, and acquisitions.

In the last year, we all began to understand the power of artificial intelligence to improve productivity—and potentially take over many white-collar jobs. Companies announced plans to spend billions of dollars to build the data centers needed to enable AI. Now, some fear that the spending has gone too far and companies will never earn a return on the money they’re spending.

Volatility in the US stock markets has picked up in recent weeks, but the market’s solid fundamentals should continue to provide a strong foundation for long-term appreciation. Here’s a look at some of the key events of the past year and what keeps us optimistic about the future.

Fed easing should continue

The Federal Reserve has been cutting interest rates since September 2024 and is widely expected to continue its easing cycle into 2026. The Fed has a tough

job, with two mandates--full employment and low inflation—which have been moving in opposite directions. The job market has softened, and there are growing concerns that artificial intelligence will result in many more job cuts in the future. However, inflation has remained elevated for longer than expected.

The recent government shutdown has further complicated the Fed’s job. Government-tracked economic data stopped being produced during the shutdown, forcing Fed officials to make decisions in a vacuum. Much of that data still won’t be available when the Fed meets in early December. Also, government workers were furloughed during the shutdown, which will muddy the picture by temporarily inflating the unemployment numbers for October and November.

About a month ago, markets had priced in an interest rate cut by the Fed in December. Those odds have come down sharply in recent days and weeks to roughly 50/50. If the Federal Reserve doesn’t reduce rates in December, it likely will do so early in the new year, which should prove supportive for stocks.

## FINANCIAL FOCUS



BY LAURENCE  
HALE AND  
JAMES  
ZAHANSKY  
INVESTMENT  
ADVISER



Much will depend on the economic data coming in over the next few weeks.

Earnings provide support  
One of the bright spots of 2025 has been the strong earnings growth reported by S&P 500 corporations. Companies in the index have just about finished reporting Q3 results and earnings appear to have grown roughly 13 percent y/y. That’s far better than the 8 percent analysts expected. Solid earnings growth should continue, with analysts forecasting Q4 earnings growth of 7.7 percent, followed by 14 percent earnings growth in 2026.

The technology sector continues to produce the strongest earnings growth. Over the next 12 months, the sector’s earnings are expected to grow by 21 percent, well above the earnings growth forecast for other S&P 500 sectors and higher than the 12.8 percent earnings growth forecast for the S&P 500. While volatility has certainly picked

up in recent days and weeks, we continue to maintain our long-term thesis that high-quality tech companies will outperform over the long run due in part to their earnings growth poten-

tial.  
Technology stocks account for more than a third of the S&P 500’s market capitalization. Concentration risk can be minimized by investing in diverse, actively-managed, high-quality funds and rebalancing portfolios periodically.

Looking abroad for diversification

Lofty US stock valuations have also been on our radar. The forward PE of the S&P 500 is north of 22, a level often followed by a market pullback. Once again, technology stocks are often to blame. The seven largest technology stocks in the S&P 500—often called the Magnificent 7—have a collective P/E of about 28x while the 493 remaining stocks in the S&P 500 sport a much more reasonable valuation of 16x.

One way to diversify portfolios is to invest in international stocks. Stocks in China, emerging markets, the European Union, and Japan have lower

price-to-earnings multiples, ranging from 13.6 to 16.2, than US stocks have. Yet they’ve outperformed US stocks, with Chinese stocks up 29.9 percent so far this year, followed by emerging market stocks, 25.6 percent, EU shares, 15.9 percent, and Japan’s stocks, 18.4 percent, based on MSCI local-currency indexes.

Government should provide a tailwind

For much of Q4, investors were concerned about the government shutdown. Now that the government has reopened, investors can again focus on some of the benefits that President Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act should confer upon Americans. Lower taxes and additional fiscal spending should support consumer spending and economic growth as 2026 begins. Perhaps it will improve consumer sentiment, which has been downright gloomy as the negative impact of inflation appears to have offset the benefit of stocks near record levels.

We’d be happy to discuss our thoughts on the economy and the markets in greater detail. Contact us for a complimentary consultation at [whzwealth.com](http://whzwealth.com) or call (860) 928-2341. Let’s create a plan that provides «Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.»

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# Killingly Public Library celebrates community spirit as year ends

BY CLAUDETTE STOCKWELL  
DIRECTOR  
KILLINGLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

As the year comes to a close, the library is highlighting the many ways it continues to connect with the community. From programs that spark curiosity to spaces that bring neighbors together, the library remains a place for learning, gathering, and support.

Partnerships with local organizations have flourished, expanding opportunities for collaboration and helping the

library reach more residents. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to meeting the diverse needs of the town.

When budget challenges arose, residents rallied in support, underscoring the value they place on the library. Their advocacy affirmed its role as a vital part of community life.

In this season of giving, the library celebrates generosity in all its forms—donations, volunteer hours, and everyday kindness. A warm greeting at the desk, a shared book recommendation, or a child discovering the joy of reading all reflect the spirit that keeps the library thriving.

Wishing you joy this holiday season and a bright beginning to the year ahead. The library invites everyone to take part in upcoming programs and events, continuing our journey together as a community.

Connect with us at 25 Westcott Rd., Killingly, online at [killinglypl.org](http://killinglypl.org), or call us at 860-779-5383.

## Interested in playing for the Danielson American Legion Post 21 Baseball team?

DANIELSON — If you are a resident of Killingly, Brooklyn, or Pomfret, you are invited to try out to play for the Danielson American Legion Post 21 Baseball program.

If you were born between Jan. 1, 2007, and May 1, 2012, you are eligible to play American Legion Baseball in 2026. Registration must be completed online at:

CT American Legion Baseball Home  
Registration  
Form 2  
Registration begins on Jan. 1. Post 21 is requesting registration be completed by April 1.  
American Legion Baseball is an affordable, challenging Organization.  
For more information, contact Charlie Crowley at [chuck.crowley392@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.crowley392@gmail.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### For many families, affordability is the issue!

To the Editor:

Abhorrent. Abominable. Appalling. These are but a few in the pantheon of words (and the ones beginning with the letter A) that describe President Trump’s reaction to the brutal murder of entertainment icon Rob Reiner and his wife last week. We knew Trump is vindictive. Still its hard to believe just how low he will go to demonize a perceived opponent.

He portrayed himself well at the funeral of another American luminary, Charlie Kirk. After Mr. Kirk’s wife, Erika, gave a eulogy expounding Gods love, and reminded us, “The answer to hate is not hate”. Then in the face of unbearable pain and sorrow she channeled her inner Christian values and said she forgave her late husband’s assassin. Trump followed up by lambasting “radical left lunatics” and admitted that “...I can’t help it. I can’t help it.” He then went on to say, “I hate my opponent, and I don’t want the best for them. I’m sorry, I am sorry Erika. ...but I can’t stand my opponent.”

Susie Wiles, Trump’s Chief of Staff, in a recent interview also noted that the many of the President’s actions “look vindictive,” and that he had an “alcoholic’s personality” (which Trump agreed with). It’s ironic that the President railed against his predecessor Mr. Biden for “weaponizing” the Justice Department because of investigations into Trump and Russia’s election interference, his illegal New York state business dealings, none of which were under the former President’s direction. Mr. Trump on the other hand has used government resources to bring suits based on minor miscues such as misrepresenting mortgage forms (a faux pas that Trump has also been known to do). He has purged government of lawyers and analysts who took part in the investigations of his schemes even though they were simply carrying out their sworn duties as impartial employees. At this point the DOJ has become Trump’s private law firm.

Shortly after the reports of the Reiner murders were released to the press, and before the details of the killings were known, Trump referred to Rob Reiner as

“tortured and struggling,” and that his death was “reportedly due to the anger he caused” by opposing the President. And even after it was discovered that the Reiner’s son Nick, who battled with mental health and drug addiction issues, was the culprit, Trump said Reiner had the “mind crippling disease known as TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME [sic].” So instead of using this terrible act as a springboard to highlight the tragedy of drug dependence and psychiatric disease, he attacked the victim. This coming from a man who has declared a war on “narco terrorists” in the Caribbean (even though the boats being bombed contain only cocaine and some marijuana and are mainly bound for Europe).

President Trump is the Superman of conmen. But a good conman limits the number of enemies he makes. A good conman would have expressed remorse no matter how insincere it was. It is this retributive nature that is his personal kryptonite.

So for all his zigging and zagging and altering the American Zeitgeist, President Trump’s latest statements represent a serious blunder. The number of MAGA zealots is dwindling meaning the flimflam man is losing his marks. The public is realizing just how bad his policies are for them and next week’s leap in insurance premium prices will surely add more fuel to the fire. And as recent polls show, his popularity is falling toward a big fat zero.

LEE WESLER  
WOODSTOCK

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Cheers to a new year!

May you have a happy, prosperous and healthy new year!



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# OBITUARIES

## Craig A. Lefevre April 4, 1949 - December 13, 2025



Preston - Craig Lefevre, 76, of Preston, passed away at home December 13, 2025. He was the loving husband of the late Carol (Newton) Lefevre. Born in Putnam, Connecticut, he was the son of the late June Kay (Page) Lefevre. Mr. Lefevre worked for Valley Regional High School in Deep River as a science teacher for many years. Craig spent his entire career as an educator.

Craig is survived by his brother, Ronald Lefevre and his wife, Donna; nephew, Brian Lefevre and his wife, Sarah; great nephews, Jackson Lefevre and Lucas Lefevre; in-laws, Diane and Donald Bazzle and their children; in-laws, Richard and Denise Newton and their children; and friend, Gordon Santerre. Relatives and friends are invited to a graveside service on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 2:00 pm in Evergreen Cemetery. For memorial guestbook visit [www.DoughertyBrothers.com](http://www.DoughertyBrothers.com)

## Stephen J. Regan 1944 - 2025



Thompson - Stephen J. Regan, 81, of Thompson Rd., died Monday afternoon, November 24, 2025, at home. Born in Boston, MA, he was the son of the late Dennis J. and Susan A. (Convoy) Regan. Stephen enjoyed cowboys, cats, a good cup of coffee, and pretty ladies. He is survived by his loving family,

Kelly and Joseph Gould, Kenny and Ute Demers, Billy Demers and many nieces and nephews. In keeping with Stephen's love for cats memorial donations in Stephen's name may be made to P.A.W.S. Cat Shelter, 74 School St., Putnam, CT 06260 or on Venmo, @pawscatshelter. For memorial guestbook please visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com). Funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam CT.

### CAUSE

continued from page A1

ment over the past couple decades and even much longer ago,” Palaia added. “We’ve shared that information with DEEP and they suspect that some of that industrial activity in the past may be the real source of contamination in the area.”

The DEEP has extended the test area beyond the homes around the fire training site and will continue to extend their testing radius by 500 feet as they confirm more positive tests. Around 70 homes have been tested by November, with roughly two-thirds exceeding allowable PFAS levels to some extent although some of these homes were only

slightly above the limit. Contaminated homes are being provided with bottled water as the town and the DEEP continue to determine the scope of the contamination. Homes also have filtration systems installed and follow up tests conducted to continue to monitor the safety of the well water.

### SUMMA

continued from page A1

candidates for consideration to fill out the remainder of the term. Summa was the first and only candidate considered and was appointed by a vote of 7 to 1 with Kevin Marcoux as the only dissenting vote. The rather uneventful decision contrasted with the more divisive votes held over the summer when Democrats had to present three different candidates before the board agreed on an appointee to fill Rovero's seat until the election last month.

Summa said her desire to return to Killingly's Board of Education came from a lifelong commitment to do what's right for the students and families in her local community.

“Education is in my bloodstream,” said Summa. “People will ask me why I want to do this again. It's who I am. It's sort of like home for me, to be involved in the town that I live in and in the educational system.”

When asked about her main priority as a board member, Summa said the budget would be her primary



Diane Summa, a former Killingly BOE member and former interim superintendent for the district, was selected to fill a vacancy following to resignation of Laure Lawrence.

ry focal point, but she also wants to support developing teachers and promoting a welcoming and effective learning environment for students.

“I think when you listen to people when you're out on the campaign, the budget seems to be the number one issue. Affordability and living in Killingly has changed over the years. I think that's number one,” Summa said. “Professional development and good teaching is what you look for in the success of your schools. Student climate - A lot of those I'm very interested in and that's probably what drives me to get on a Board of

Education.” Summa's connections and past relationships with members of the Killingly Public Schools community were considered significant assets by the Board of Education. However, it was also acknowledged that Summa has also been involved in personnel related and confidential matters in her prior role as Interim Superintendent. Before her appointment, Summa said she would have no problem removing herself from a discussion if it created a conflict of interest or there were any concerns with her involvement in an issue.

## LEGALS

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

**Myra Jean Anderson (25-004 76) )**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 16, 2025,, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Brian D Anderson, 149 Newport Street, Arlington, MA 02476  
Daniel P Anderson, 36 Walker Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, 168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
December 26, 2025

estate and personal property taxes for the Town of Killingly, the Borough of Danielson, and South Killingly Fire District and the second half of the Sewer Use charge is due January 1, 2026. Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are also due January 1, 2026. Taxes and Sewer Use will become delinquent on February 2, 2026. All 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. 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.

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 [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org).

April Lamothe, CCMC  
Revenue Collector  
Town of Killingly

December 26, 2025  
January 9, 2026  
January 23, 2026

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

**Donald Joseph Rowley (25-00450)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 17, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Michael Marra  
c/o MATTHEW L MERCER, CHACE RUTTENBERG & FREEDMAN, LLP, 15 FRANKLIN STREET, WESTERLY, RI 02891  
December 26, 2025

**TOWN OF KILLINGLY  
BOROUGH OF DANIELSON  
SOUTH KILLINGLY FIRE DISTRICT  
TAX AND SEWER USE NOTICE**  
The third quarter installment of real

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

**Jeanne M Sali (25-00453)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 12, 2025,, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Margaret Sali, 514 Quaddick Town Farm Road, Thompson, CT 06277  
Nancy Sali, 66 Meadow Road, Northboro, MA 01532  
December 26, 2025

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

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OBITUARIES

Robert A. Olson  
December 23, 1938 – December 13, 2025



Putnam - Robert Olson, 86, of Putnam, CT passed away peacefully at home on December 13, 2025. He was born to Bernt “Ben” and Charlotte (Hepp) Olson on December 23, 1938, in Brooklyn, New

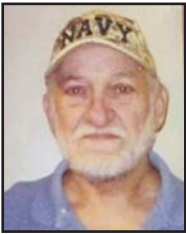
York. Robert lived a life filled with curiosity, creativity, and a commitment to learning and sharing history and magic with others. Robert was predeceased by his beloved wife Ursula (Eberley) Olson. He is survived by his three children Anne Olson, Mary Barratt, and Robert Olson (Maryann); grandchildren Jordan Olson, Mark Barratt, Dawn Barratt, Bridget Olson, and Emma Olson; and his sister Margaret Fasano and her children Lynnanne Nauman, Mark Nauman, Nancy Fasano, Karl Fasano.

Robert’s early years were shaped by a strong academic foundation. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School and went on to study Electrical Engineering at Brooklyn College. He always said his technical training at Brooklyn Tech allowed him to land the job at Old Sturbridge Village, (OSV) and made him indispensable as an interpreter early on in his career.

It was, however, his insatiable passion for history and learning, paired with his energetic love of performing, that ultimately defined his life’s work and legacy. From the moment he joined Old Sturbridge Village as an interpreter, Robert found his true calling. For over five decades, he dedicated himself to the living history museum, immersing himself in the stories of America’s past. It was there that he discovered Richard Potter—America’s first magician—and this discovery would change the course of his life. He often stated that he owed everything to Richard Potter. For more than 50 years, he performed as Richard Potter, captivating generations with historical magic shows that blended education with wonder. With meticulous research and heartfelt dedication, Robert recreated Potter’s performances and brought them back to life for modern audiences. He brought joy, laughter, hope, and wisdom to all that watched.

Through this persona and performance art, he found a way to connect deeply with people of all ages. Through humor, precision and whimsy he taught history while evoking awe. His work at OSV allowed him not only to follow his passion but also to become a beloved figure in the world of historical entertainment.

Kenneth Perkins Frelove Jr., 84



Kenneth Perkins Frelove Jr. passed away peacefully at his home in Dayville, Connecticut, on Sunday, December 14, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was 84 years old.

Born on September 11, 1941, in Newport, Rhode Island, Kenneth was the son of the late Kenneth Perkins Frelove Sr. and Priscilla (Geddes) Frelove. He was a graduate of North Providence High School and proudly served in the United States Navy as a signalman until his honorable discharge in 1965.

Kenneth was married to the late Alice Fay Frelove (Alarie), with whom he raised two children, Denise Allen and the late Kenneth P. Frelove III.

Kenneth deeply cherished time spent with family and friends and was rarely without a camera, always capturing videos and photographs at family gatherings. He lived life to the fullest and had an extraordinary range of interests and talents, including playing cards, skydiving, scuba diving, driving fast cars, riding his motorcycle, ballroom and line dancing, karate, and operating HAM radios. He was an

In addition to his professional pursuits, Robert served his country honorably from 1961 to 1963 as part of the U.S. Army’s military intelligence division in New York City.

A longtime resident of Putnam, Robert was a devoted member of Saint Mary’s Parish for over 50 years. His family, his faith and his community involvement were important pillars of his life. While his son, Bob, was a Boy Scout, he volunteered to support the troop at Saint Mary’s. He also was a fixture at the Circle of Fun, calling Bingo numbers, performing Punch and Judy, and entertaining audiences with Harry Ames, a bawdy and lewd fictional 19th century magician.

After retiring from OSV, he kept connected to both his passions. He never stopped sharing his love for the past; he continued to research, learn, and perform magic. Getting together with fellow magicians and attending New England Magic Collectors Association meetings and gatherings. He stayed connected with his OSV friends and continued up until December 2024 performing Richard Potter at OSV’s Christmas by Candlelight. His last magic show was Father’s Day 2025 at George Washington’s encampment in Newburgh, New York.

Those who knew Robert will remember him as someone who made life more magical simply by being present. He had a rare gift in teaching others how to grow up without ever losing their sense of childlike wonder. One of his fellow entertainers and dear friend recalled one of their last conversations. Robert reminded him, “We had had a good run and brought laughter and joy to thousands of people over the years and what better gift could we have given and what better purpose could we have in life.” May Robert Olson’s memory continues to inspire wonder and joy in all who were fortunate enough to know him.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Robert’s memory may be made to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation ([www.cff.org](http://www.cff.org)) or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)) both causes close to his heart.

Calling hours were held on December 19, 2025, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM at Gilman Funeral Home 104 Church St, Putnam, CT. A Funeral Mass was held on December 20, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Saint Mary’s Church, 218 Providence St, Putnam, CT.

exceptional line dancer and a skilled firearms instructor. Kenneth also shared his knowledge by teaching mathematics, karate, and boxing.

Kenneth loved making people laugh. He was always telling jokes and never took life too seriously, leaving lasting smiles wherever he went.

Kenneth is survived by his significant other, Jackie Beauvais; his daughter, Denise Allen; his brothers, Howard Frelove (Lilian) and Donald Frelove (Rosey); as well as his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. In addition to his son, he was predeceased by his sister, Priscilla Jane Stubbs, and his brothers, William Frelove (Hilda) and Raymond Frelove (Kelii).

Memorial services will be a private burial at sea, with close family and friends. The family will have a celebration of life on a later date for all to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations in Kenneth’s memory may be made to Jackie Beauvais, 820 Hartford Pike, Dayville, CT 06241, or to St. Jude Children’s Hospital.



Jean L. Carlson  
January 30, 1925 - December 14, 2025



Woodstock - Jean (Fowler) Carlson, 100, of Child Road, Woodstock, passed away on Sunday, December 14, 2025, in the comfort of her home and surrounded by family. She was the

loving wife of the late Ralph T. Carlson. Born in Waterbury, CT, she was the daughter of the late Frederick and Edyth (Parke) Fowler.

Jean served her community and those in it in various ways throughout her life. She was a life member of Order of the Eastern Star and a member and deaconess of Church of the Good Shepard where she ran many Christmas fairs and plant sales. She taught Sunday school to many children over the years there and even helped refurbish the kitchen. Before moving to Woodstock in 1985, Jean was active in Southington, CT. She was active in and president of the Southington Women’s Club, Girl Scout leader & camp counselor, and the Secretary of the board of the Bradley Memorial Hospital. She was a deaconess of the First Congregational Church of Southington, CT for many years. Jean went back to college at 70 years old to pursue a degree in nutrition. She counseled many young students during her time at school, helping others get their degrees

as well. She won many blue ribbons at the Woodstock Fair over the years for her canned & baked goods. Anyone who knew Jean knew she was known for her strawberry jam.

Jean is survived by two daughters, Bonnie Stone and her husband Tom of Old Saybrook, CT, Susan Rosenblatt of Prospect, CT; granddaughter, Kimberly Giddens and her husband Ben of Milwaukee, WI; brother, Frank Fowler and his wife Betsy of Guilford, CT; and eleven nieces and nephews. Jean was loved by many and will be missed by those who knew her.

Jean is predeceased by sisters, Betty Kircher (Hal), Winifred Miller (Edward), Ethel Nann (Ted), Muriel Tiedeman (Frederick); son-in-law, Steve Rosenblatt.

The family of Jean would like to extend many thanks to DKH hospice care for their tireless and attentive care over the past few weeks.

Services for Jean will be at a later date when the weather is warmer and at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be made to DKH Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, PO Box 632 Putnam, CT 06260, Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104, or a charity of your choosing. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

Marion Dauphinais  
1934 – 2025



Woodstock - Marion Dauphinais, 91 years young of Woodstock, CT passed away on December 17, 2025.

She was born on May 9, 1934 in Brooklyn, NY to parents Evy (Andreasson) Boudreau and Laurence Boudreau. She grew up in Dayville, CT attending St. James School and Killingly High School. She married Donald J. Dauphinais “Duffy” on September 1, 1956 who predeceased her in 2005. They raised their five children in Brooklyn, CT: Donna Smith (Tony) of Sterling, CT, Dale “Duffy” Dauphinais (Anne) of Danielson, CT, Dave Dauphinais (Mary), Debby Blackmer (Ron) of Woodstock, CT and Donald Dauphinais (Amy) of Campton, NH. She leaves 8 Grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her siblings Laurence “Sonny” Boudreau, Bradenton FL, Marilyn “Sissy” Stachura (Bronac), Danielson, CT and Madeline “Bunny” DeAngelis Brooklyn, CT.

She was predeceased by her son, Dave Dauphinais; son-in-law, Tony Smith; brother-in-law, John DeAngelis and sister-in-law, Fran Boudreau and several nephews.

Marion was affectionately known through out her life as “Babe, Mom, Meme and the G-Mem.” She worked at Arrow Hart in Danielson for 30 years, Attorney, Thomas Dupont, Spinning Wheel Gift Shop and Whitford’s General Store. She remained a Yankees Fan despite marrying and raising Red Sox Fans. She was always up for an adventure whether it was a road trip with her sister, Disney Trip with her grandchildren, or dinner and drinks with her family.

She spent many winters in Florida with her brother’s family enjoying the many nieces and nephews who cherished her time. She enjoyed the many visits from her nieces, nephews and family friends over the years and recently as she referred to her last weeks as a “living wake.”

She loved many and was loved by so many more. She raised a wonderful family who returned the gift of love to her in her last days. She was blessed and grateful for all. We will always raise our glass to a “Here’s to you Meme!!”

A celebration of life will be planned at a future time.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guest book please visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

Susan Shead, 70



Susan Shead, 70 of Eastford passed away after a brief illness December 16, 2025 at Hartford Hospital surrounded by her family. She was the beloved wife of 46 years to Kevin J. Shead, he died in 2024, they were married May 6, 1978. She was born in Putnam on December 14, 1955, daughter of the late Joseph and Ena (Myette) LaRose.

She worked for over 20 years as a Librarian at the Eastford Public Library and where she was very fond of the Eastford Community. Susan had a passion for reading and loved traveling with her friends and family visiting Aruba, Alaska, Yellowstone, Florida, Hilton Head and often camping in Vermont. Her greatest joy was being a mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her children Jason Shead and his wife Elizabeth of Thompson,

CT, Heather Minka and her husband Nicholas of Holden, MA, four beloved grandchildren Tyler, Lucas, Connor and Nora. Brother-in-law Barry Shead and his wife Brenda of Woodstock, CT, sister-in-law Audrey Carabeau and her husband Garry of Eastford, CT. Her lifelong best friend Mary Gilbert of Putnam CT, several nieces and nephews including her caretaker Sarah Sanderson. Her family would like to thank the Doctors and Nurses at Hartford Hospital for the care she received.

A calling hour will be Sunday, December 28, 2025 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM with a memorial service at 3:00 PM at Smith and Walker Funeral Home 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT. Burial will be in the Spring at Grove Cemetery in Eastford, CT. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Eastford Independent Fire Co. #1, P. O. Box 333, Eastford, CT 06242. Share a memory at [Smithandwalkerfh.com](http://Smithandwalkerfh.com)

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

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# KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

**Seniors**  
High Honors: Layla Adams, Michael Allen, Jayden Alvarez, Jace Basinet, Aurora Beggs, Emma Belliveau, Ezekiel Benoit, Isaiah Benoit, Gavin Bessenaire, Samantha Bourque, Elizabeth Carlson, Alena Clayton, Abbey Danielson, Morgan Deojay, Shannon Donovan, Jayden Durand, Kane Geddis, Christopher Graff, Siobhan Hart, Melody Hutchinson, Emerson Joly, Lacie Keegan, Evan Kozey, Savannah LaFlash, Aiden Lamotte, Grace Main, Lily Peckham, Cheyenne Reynolds, Kendall Rosen, Talia Santese, Brianna Schardt, Tyler Smith, Samantha Smyth, Amaya Spadola, Quinn Sumner, Sophia Tomaney.  
First Honors: Peityn Adams, Hayden Allard, Amirah Alston-Madison, Samantha Baker, Shyah Baker, Lillian Beach, Brady Brezniak, Hadassah Chiwaya, Hailey Collins, Gavin Corrao, Jenna DiFusco, Kalynn Dombkowski, Ella Dunn, Susie Fournier-Nason, Ian Gaudet, Brianna Gervais, Matthew Guenette, Ethan Hall, Kristine Hamilton, Ava Johnston, Teagan Klewin, Adam Klosowski, Joseph Mackie, Chloe Moniz, Miguel Morente Uz, Ella Moyer, Alex Murdock, Walter Okoney, Exael Padilla, Ella Pereira, Elizabeth Poplawski, Mackenzie Pothier, Riley Ritchotte, Callan Senecal, Sebastian Sierakowski, Brian Smith, Caralyn Tellier, Hailey Therrien, Wyatt Tryba Mailloux, Mariette Vien, Ryan Webster, Logan Zajac.  
Second Honors: Hunter Allard, Aliza Asselin, Jalen Audet, Aniyah Basehore, Mackenzie Bertrand, Adam Breton, Eva Briere, Logan Burt, Bryan Cairrao, Nicholas Caron, Columbia Cataldi, Chase Conklin, Madison Cote, Jacob Cozza,

Neishalie Delbrey, Hannah Desimone, Alizah Estevez, Michael Fabiano, Selena Gonzalez, Joseph Gould, Alexa Gregoire, Kaiden Guertin, Lilli Herbrandt, Hannah Highley, Angelina Hitchew, James Hogan, Amber Hunt, Amani Kamau, Panayiotis Kazantzis, Isaac Lake, Logan Lamontagne, Nickalus Lavoie, Lindsay Lemery, Cooper Logee, Madison Moreau, Owen Murray, Jordan Parker, Klaus Resulaj, Giuliana Rheume, Kingston Rhodes, Jake Sangasy, Jeremiah Smith, Preston Suprenant, Catrina Turgeon, Loghan Voghell, Lucas Waterhouse, Hugo Zayas.

**Juniors**  
High Honors: Logan Brooks, Addyson Larkin, Emilie Lecrone, Alisa Libby, Edward Purcell, Alexa Rodriguez, Kendall Ternowchek, Allegra Turbayevskiy.  
First Honors: Aiden Anforth, Shai Baker, Chloe Cesolini, Rowan Crousey, Quin Crowley, Willow Deary, Felicia Desabota, Kayla Drinkwater, Tomas Gutierrez, Madyson Illig, Attilea Jarvis, Glen Leveille, Riley Nolin, Sarah Owen, Gracie Pekarovic-West, Trevor Remillard, Max Richardson, Jaiden Rickell, Sophia St. Germain, Cydney Thompson, Mason Yuill, Samphina Zinnah.  
Second Honors: Jiyear Baldwin, Zachary Blanchard, Rhylee Boulrier, Danielle Chiwaya, Alexia Collazo, Gaighe DeBella, Justin Dominguez-Bolaina, Maddux Duquette, Logan Durand, Savannah Frias, Brady Girardin, Hailey Gluck, Camila Grajales, Lacey Greene, Owen Hartley, Lily Hubert, Tyrell Irby, Bradey Jonasch, Anna Kelly, Krista Kettle, Zoe Labonte, Zoey Lafleur, Grace Lamirand, Dakota Lavoie, Eva LeSage, Iyana Lirette, Addison Lucier, William Mancini, Brandon Melmed, Esme Miller, Austin Newman, James Paiva, Viviana Pearson, Dylan Pedersen, Matthew Poirier, Crystal Rondeau, Drew Seiffert,

Maximus Shafer, Keegan Shippee, Lillian Shippee, Freja Spjut, Christian Tremblay, Leah Valentine, Atalia Vessello, Abigail Vose, Presley Waterman, Jaelyn Wellman, Amiyah Woodmansee, Claire Zachow.

**Sophomores**  
High Honors: Kate Crowley, Corinne Daniels, Ev Dos Santos, Marika Exarhoulias, Michael Gottlieb, Lianna Hutchinson, Peyton Loeber, Samairy Madera, Sophia Moran, Nina Purcell, Satya Thongsouvanh.  
First Honors: Ella Adams, Graciella Baublitz, Jake Beaudreault, Ashley Boudreau, Alexandria Caisse, Hazel Campbell, Delia Chmura, Caitlyn Cote, Ty Crowley, Arya Davis, Antonio Demaio, Ava Ellis, Rowan Frazer, Jake Jaworski, Zachary Lackner, Liam Lamotte, Loretta Lannon, Victoria Liguz, Jaynie MacQuarrie, Graham Milot, Haley Nolet, Chloe Oates, Reese Ritchotte, Kalia Rosado, Daphne San Souci, Gianna Sanchas, Jackson Santese, Odin Spjut, Makayla Stubbs, Arianna Turner.  
Second Honors: Alan Abbott, Kylie Anderson, Riley Anderson, Ethan Ayers, Jaden Barnett, Christopher Beaudoin, Harris Benjamin, Devin Blanchette, Bridget Brown, Olivia Cabral, Christopher Caron, Adisen Clark, William Clayton, Lylah Connetti, Aubrinn Correia, Denica Cribby, Jack Daher, Alissa Daignault, Shakira Doyle, Bryce Dumeer, Vivien Fisher, Bethany Garvey, Madison Hardy, Katie Hill, Hailee James, Ellijah Johnson, Tyler Kincaid, Scarlett Laws, Jacob Long, Greyson Marquez, Lillian McDonald, Deven Mix, Monty Niyomkham, Maximus Normandie, Loxley O’Leary, Jackson Olson, Ava O’Rourke, Jon Palmer, Rigel Pelletier, Kaiden Perkins, Jeddriel Ramirez, Brandon Sanchez, Violet Schaefer, Aaliyah Shields, Chase St. Jean, Nathan Tiffany,

Giselle Wolfenden, Rosalyn Worden, Kolten Yancey.  
**Freshmen**  
High Honors: Tayla Charron, Gabriel Covington, Makenzie Cutler, Kennadie DaSilva, Brandon Harrison, A-ris Kuljancic, Autumn LaCasse, Ayla Laprade, Bryce Lemovitz, Alexandria Magee, Avery Main, Gianna Peters, Mabel Peterson, Rosa Wilson, Lexie Young.

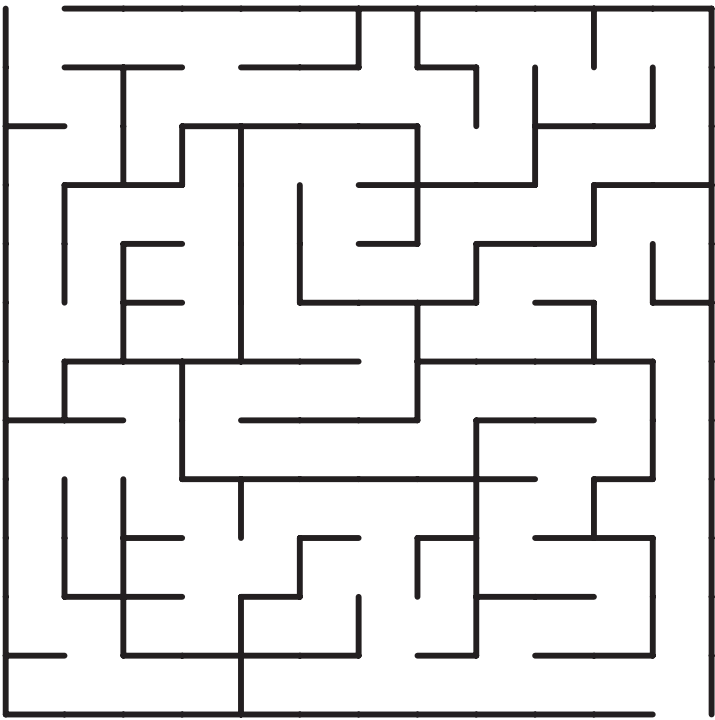
First Honors: Rosalie Beach, Declyn Benjamin, Natalya Benoit, Autumn Bombardier, Peighton Denomme, Cameron Deschamps, Jayden Desimone, Emerson DeVillez, Katherine Evans, Zachary Ferland, Nathaniel Franklin, Hayden Frazer, Jasper Gilbert, McKenzie Grant, Kairah Guertin, Adam Lovendale, Adalyn Malarkey, Maria Martinez, Jose Morente Uz, Aubrey Paskalis, Emily Pedersen, Brianna Robbins, Mariya Sarandi, Allyana Shafer, Liam Sierakowski, Emmalyn Soullier, Evangelina Stockwell, Evah Thuotte, Analaya Torres, Emma Young.  
Second Honors: Bryson Adkins, Ashley Amosco-Gilbert, Abigail Andrade, Alonte Auger-Gibson, Olivia Barker, Laylanie Benitez, Lucien Bouthillier, Timothy Carlson, Olivia Cesolini, Nathan Comtois, Larry Cote, Alyson Crockett, Liliana Delvalle, Adyson Desmarais, Maria Dos Reis, Christopher Fernandes, Alivia Gagne, Lucy Gavis, Summer Getchell, Zachary Griffiths, Aislynn Hassett, Asher Jarvis, Cruz Jimenez-Garvey, Ethan Laoroyal, Gabriella Lepine, Ryder Manning, Juan Martinez, Haidynn Miller, Xavier Mongeau, Kezlee Morrarty, Naomi Nunez, John Ogozalek, Addison Owen, Breydan Pearson, Emma Robinson, Amyah Rodriguez, Gabriela Romero-Garcia, Damien Seace, Dakota St. Jean, Nathan Tabor, Juliana Torti, Nathan Toth, Lorelai Tyler, Piper Vose, Isabella Weber, Ava Wolczak, Emily Zadora.



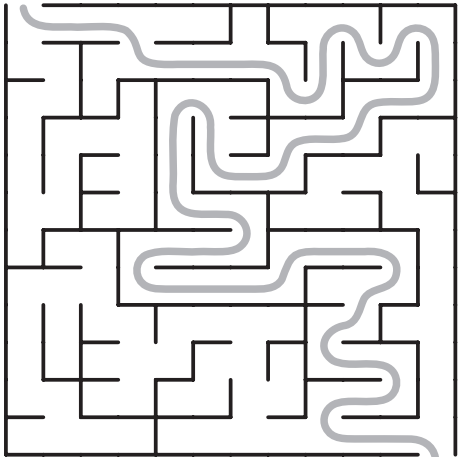
## Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?

START



FINISH



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1607:** Pocahontas pleads for John Smith's life when tribal leaders attempt to execute him.

**1845:** The United States annexes the Republic of Texas.

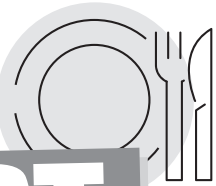
**1913:** Cecil B. DeMille begins filming Hollywood's first feature film.

## NEW WORD

### COCOA

a hot drink made from cocoa powder mixed with sugar and milk

## Food FACT:



This sweetened beverage was once a bitter drink made from roasted cocoa beans.

Answer: Hot chocolate

## How they say that in...

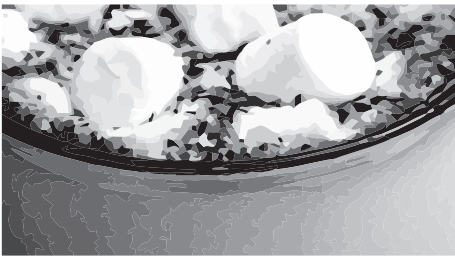
- English:** Mug
- Spanish:** Taza
- Italian:** Tazza
- French:** Mug
- German:** Tasse

## Did You Know?

A mug of hot cocoa can be made more delicious with the addition of whipped cream and miniature marshmallows.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Hot chocolate



# Killingly High School Sports Wrap-up



Indoor Track & Field  
On Dec. 22, the Killingly Indoor Track & Field were at the Coast Guard Academy to kick off the season! With 16 teams competing, competition is never lacking!  
As always, ladies first!  
In the 4 x 180, four awesome ladies caught fire in their first race against ALL Juniors and Seniors. Kezlee Morrart to Laylanie Benitez to Adalyn Malarkey to Jaclyn Suprenant for a fresh PR and beating 14 other teams! In the 55m dash, Adalyn flew to finish 7th out of a field of 68! Kezlee, Alexis Schuller and Naomi Nunez all finished with great times and PRs competing in their first Indoor meet and finishing amongst the top of the field! Laylanie was also seen bolting in the 300m along with Rosalyn Worden, who both finished with great times competing against 30 ladies. Rosalyn also competed in the 55m hurdles with a large field, finishing 11th! We have a GREAT long-distance specialist, Gabby Lepine, who competed in both the 1000m and 1600m posting great times and showing great determination through both races! Lexi also competed in the Long Jump and much respect, even battling through pain could be seen flying through the air for a new PR of 11 feet, 7 inches!  
On to the gentlemen:  
In the 55m, there was a field of 72 gentlemen competing. Aveion Janton- Adams

flew to finish 13th! Cooper Logee and Gabriel Covington were right there with him at the finish line both with a fresh PR! In the 300m, 54 athletes competed, and Jackson Olson continued right where he left off last year putting up a great time and leading the pack for Killingly. Maddux Duquette, Edward Purcell, Williams Polanco and Wesley Sprouse also dashed through the race all for fresh PRs! Williams also battled in the 600 and put up a great time! Killingly's long distance specialist Calvin Vandale is out there for his last year and picked up right where he left off, battled in a great race to finish 20th in a tough field of 32! In Shot Put, Killingly sent 5 of our best to compete in a field of 58. In order, Calvin launched his Shot Put the furthest closely following behind was Maddux, Jackson, Wes and Gabe. Returning off s State run last year is Jeremiah Smith who is picking up right where he finished last year. In the 55m hurdles, he finished 1st and in the High Jump, he launched himself for 3rd tying his PR of 6:0. Also returning from a State run, Cooper Logee was right there on the podium amongst the tops finishing 5th! In the Long Jump, Returning off a State run, Aveion rocketed in the air to finish 2nd, Elijah Ward with a FRESH PR finished 8th, Kaiden Cayer finished with a great jump of 15 feet, 11 inches, and Edward Purcell took to the air for a great distance! And in Triple Jump, Elijah

finished 1st competing against ALL Juniors and Seniors!  
Great first meet of the season all, everyone left it all on the track and field and represented yourselves and Killingly proud! We battle next Saturday at the Coast guard... let's keep the train rolling!  
  
Boys Basketball  
Killingly Basketball opened the season Dec. 18 with a 33 point victory over Ledyard (0-1) behind 22 points from Quin Crowley and 19 points from Ethan Hall! Sophomore Greyson Marquez added 18 points and 9 assists as well for Killingly!  
Final Score 70-37!  
Calvin Casavant had 10 points to lead Ledyard.  
On Dec. 20, Killingly took the win at home over Waterford (1-1) by a final score of 66-55!  
Quinn Sumner led Killingly with a double-double of 20 points and 14 rebounds! Quin Crowley scored 18 points, Ethan Hall had 9 points, and Jake Beaudreault added 8 points! Greyson Marquez added 7 assists!  
Parker Spencer and Carson Gallerani added 14 points each to lead Waterford.  
  
Girls Basketball  
Killingly Girls Basketball was led in

a loss in its season opener against New London (1-1) on Dec. 17 behind 13 points and 12 rebounds from Amaya Spadola!  
Final Score New London 65 – Killingly 29  
Ella Adams added 6 points and Gianna Peters added 6 points.  
The girls were led in a loss against Waterford (1-1) on Dec. 20 behind 12 points and 11 rebounds from Amaya Spadola, while Ella Adams added 11 points!  
Final Score Waterford 55 – Killingly 45  
Gracie Pekarovic-West added 6 points, Declyn Benjamin added 5 points and Gianna Peters added 7 points.  
  
Wrestling  
On Dec. 20, your Killingly Wrestling team went 4-0 at our annual Christmas Duals. We defeated Woodstock 76-6, Shepherd Hill 46-27, Montville 74-6 and ended with great battle against Class S runner up Stafford 40-38. Going undefeated on the day were Gavin Jonasch, A-ris Kuljancic, Bradey Jonasch, Ron Wood, Max Richardson, Exael Padilla and Zach Phillips. Also of note Giovanni Torentto got his first varsity win and a pin. Next up, we are hosting the New Year's Dual on Saturday, Dec. 27.




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- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



MORE INFO:








JAMES GLICKMAN

Principal

508-769-5007

jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN

Vice President

508-868-3765

jdglickman@glickmankovago.com





Bella Stillitano and Emma Raymond.

Courtesy

# POMFRET SCHOOL FALL 2025 HONORS ANNOUNCED

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

**HEAD OF SCHOOL SCHOLAR HONORS**  
To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 4.00 and received no grade lower than an A-.

Class of 2026  
Mirabelle Cole (Brooklyn)  
Anson D’Alleva-Bochain (Pomfret Center)  
William Leary (Pomfret)

Class of 2027  
James Lake (Pomfret)  
Rowan Lehmann (Putnam)

Class of 2028  
Roan Donovan (Woodstock)

Class of 2029  
Erin Park (Pomfret Center)

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

Class of 2026  
Gabriela Brown (Woodstock Valley)  
Olivia Crawford (Pomfret Center)  
Robert Ellsworth (Eastford)  
Zane Ender (Eastford)  
Remy Jacquet (Pomfret)  
Gabriella Nsubuga (Danielson)  
Ian Sherman (Brooklyn)

Class of 2027  
Beatrice Foronda (Putnam)  
Landon Murdock (Woodstock)  
Ella Sousa (North Grosvenordale)

Class of 2028  
McKenna Bendall (Pomfret)  
Coco-Lyon Jacquet (Pomfret)  
Tatum Litowitz (Pomfret)  
Amber Sherman (Brooklyn)

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

Class of 2026  
Shelby Geragotelis (Brooklyn)  
Max Ring (Pomfret)

Class of 2027  
Rita Rawcliffe (Woodstock)

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

Class of 2029  
Sydney Anderson (Woodstock)

## Totals rising for Interact’s bell ringing fund-raiser

PUTNAM — Dec. 13 might have been another cold day for the Putnam Rotary Club’s Interact Club and their friends to be out bell ringing for the local Salvation Army office, but that didn’t stop them from raising money. Despite the cold many of the students were dancing and singing Christmas carols to bring cheer and keep warm. And Rotarian Roberta Rocchetti, Interact advisor, said, “Again we saw so much generosity from our community.” She said the kettles took in more than \$2,000 bringing the total for the campaign to more than \$8,000 so far. She added that 90 percent of the money raised stays in northeastern Connecticut. There’s one week to go. Interact Club members and friends will be at Putnam Stop & Shop, Putnam Walmart, Putnam Price Chopper and Putnam Supermarket from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 20 for the last time this year. Rocchetti thanked student volunteers; Bella Stillitano, Emma Raymond, Miranda Miller, Kiley Elliott, Greysen Dery, Brayden Bottone, Kaylee Bundy and Avery Grant from Woodstock Academy; from Tourtellotte Memorial High School: Calleigh Levesque, Matthew Rybacki, Joshua Tackson, Tyler Parkin, Caue Sarto; and, from Putnam High: Gabby Cerasiello, Paige Perry, Avery Thornton, Lily Macpherson, Avery Meyette, Leah Benzie, and Kaydence Morris. She also thanked Rotarians Joseph Adiletta, Mike and Roberta Rocchetti; and she thanked Leo Rocchetti from Stafford Springs.



The month of December has been home to many historical events over the years. Here’s a look at some that helped to shape the world in December 1925.

- The Farmer-Labour Party is dissolved just two hours after its formation in Japan on December 1. The dissolution was ordered by the Japanese government, which accused the party of harboring a secret communist agenda.
- The border delineating Northern Ireland and Ireland is established on December 3 when representatives of both countries sign the Northern Irish Border Agreement.
- The George Gershwin composition “Concerto in F” is performed for the first time on December 3. The performance in New York’s Carnegie Hall is conducted by Walter Damrosch and features Gershwin on piano.
- A counterfeiting scheme is uncovered by the Banco de Portugal on December 4. An alert bank teller tips off the bank, which ultimately discovers that wealthy entrepreneur Arthur Virgílio Alves Reis is the mastermind behind the scheme. Reis was eventually sentenced to 20 years in prison.
- The Pottsville Maroons defeat the Chicago Cardinals in front of 6,000 fans on December 6 in a game the press depicted as the championship of the National Football League.
- Russian Orthodox bishop Peter of Krutitsy is arrested on December 9. Peter is charged with conspiring with Russian emigres in the west. Peter is ultimately executed by shooting on October 10, 1937.
- George Bernard Shaw is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature on December 10.
- Karam Chand and Kartari Chand tie the knot in India on December 11. The Chand’s marriage lasts 90 years and 291 days, and is the longest marriage recorded. Karam Chand passed away in 2016 and Kartari in 2019.
- Communist politician Benjamin Gitlow is pardoned by New York Governor Al Smith on December 11. Gitlow was convicted for publishing a

manifesto calling for the overthrow of the U.S. government, which Governor Smith characterized as a “political crime” upon issuing his pardon.

- The Qaja dynasty, which had ruled Iran since 1789, comes to an end on December 12 when the country’s Parliament declares General Reza Khan Pahlavi Prime Minister and installs him as Shah of Iran.
- The Fascist government in Italy signs a secret pact with Britain on December 14. The pact is designed to reinforce Italian dominance in Ethiopia.
- The national service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega is founded at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania on December 16.
- U.S. Army Colonel Billy Mitchell is convicted on eight charges of insubordination on December 17. Mitchell was critical of military leaders for investing in battleships and had argued for greater investment in air-based defenses.
- Reichstag President Paul Löbe speaks out in favor of partial prohibition in Germany on December 19.
- George Edwin Taylor passes away on December 23 at the age of 68. Taylor was the first African American presidential candidate, running for the highest office in the United States as nominee of the National Negro Liberty Party in 1904.
- Law No. 2263 is passed by the Italian parliament on December 24. The law states that the decisions of Prime Minister Benito Mussolini and his government were not subject to legislative review and could only be overruled by order of King Victor Emmanuel III.
- A Christmas story published in the London newspaper The Evening News on December 24 identifies a children’s character as “Winnie-the-Pooh” for the first time. The character had previously been referred to as “Edward” in a poem published in Punch magazine in 1924.
- The Turkish government passes a law identifying the Gregorian calendar as the official calendar for all govern-

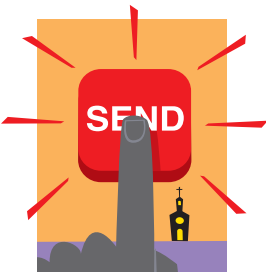
ment affairs on December 26. The use of the Islamic calendar in government affairs also is banned.

- The Japan Sumo Association is founded on December 28.
- The first attempt at a global New Year’s celebration is made via international radio on December 31. Musical entertainment and greetings from various consuls general from an assortment of foreign countries are sent from New York.

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