



PUTNAM VILLAGER

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Run for Ryan keeps local student's memory alive



Jason Bleau

Runners take off in the seventh annual Run for Ryan Memorial event in Danielson.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — For the seventh year, Danielson's Owen Bell Park played host to the annual Run for Ryan Memorial Run in honor of Ryan French, a Thompson native and Killingly High School student who passed away in 2017 leaving behind a legacy filled with a love for life and the sport of running.

French was a student in Killingly's Regional Agricultural Education Program at Killingly High School with plans of pursuing a career in marine biology or a similar field. While in Killingly, he also pursued his love for running as a member

of the KHS Cross Country and Track Teams. After his passing, his parents Joselyn and Jeffrey set up a foundation in his name primarily funded through the Run for Ryan event which has quickly become a staple of the Town of Killingly's annual calendar.

Jocelyn French explained that the event incorporates a lot of things Ryan loved about life keeping his memory and legacy alive.

"The course that we use is his home cross country course that he used to run on in Killingly, so it means a lot to be able to have it here," French said. "The money raised by the run and the walk go towards scholarships

for Ag Education seniors that are going on to higher education. We've raised \$29,900 to date and we've helped 52 seniors."

His father, Jeffrey French, said none of this could be possible without the support of the participants and the community who turn out every year without fail to make the event happen.

"We've received a lot of support from the Thompson and Killingly communities as well as our church community from Christ Church in Pomfret. Ryan was very involved where. It was a good part of his upbringing and a lot of people from the church are here," Jeffrey said.

The run has become a

true tradition for many who look forward to the challenge invoking both wooded trails and a traditional track. Opening ceremonies included a prayer alongside a special tree planted in Ryan's honor on the property. The morning was split into three events: a walk, a kids fun run, and the 5K itself which produced a record high for registration in 2025 with 221 between all three events combined. The winning runners for the main event in the men's and women's categories were 21-year-old Freddy Coleman of Methuen, Mass. with a time of 17:03 and 22-year-old Kaitlyn Stevens of Oxford, Mass.

Plans take shape for revitalization Belding-Corticelli Mill property

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The Town of Thompson is exploring the future of the property at 630 Riverside Dr., the site of an old Belding-Corticelli Thread Company textile mill that has laid dormant for many years. The single remaining smokestack and guard house on the property have long served as unofficial landmarks for those commuting through town, but if plans move forward with the current interested party the property could see new life as mixed-use continuing Thompson's push for economic growth and development.

Often referred to as the Belding-Corticelli Mill Site, the property has been the focus of several public discussions with Refined Northeast LLC, a company owned & operated by Robert Letskus that also does business as Refined Living, a building and construction company responsible for revitalizing and reusing many similar sites throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. Letskus has pursued ownership of the property for several months although the land is currently privately owned. Both the current and potential future owners have worked together to hire a Licensed Environmental Professional to enroll the property in the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Abandoned Brownfield Cleanup Liability Relief Program. The application is still ongoing, but the enrollment is considered a crucial step towards the ownership change and potential redevelopment. Letskus plans to repurpose the property as mixed-use including retail, office space, hospitality, and new-construction condominiums.

Thompson Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek explained that Thompson has been working for years to determine a plan for the mill land. The town previously received two DECD grants from their Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development to help prepare the site for redevelopment. This allowed Thompson to complete several environmental assessment reports and a Remedial Action Plan for the site and included the mill in a larger study regarding Thompson's entire historic mill district. Penn-Gesek explained that if the project moves forward with a private developer the town can apply for additional Brownfield grants that would help with the cleanup and redevelopment.

With a developer now involved, Penn-Gesek explained the importance of seeing a new future for the property.

"In its current condition, the parcel is an eyesore, has physical safety hazards, and contains uncontrollable releases to the environment. It has not remitted any value in property taxes to the town for close to two decades and, as has been extensively discussed, Thompson has a significant need for economic development, both to increase the grand list (thus diluting the residential property tax burden) and to add the kinds of 'quality of life' small businesses that help communities thrive. Because of its gateway location at the intersection of Routes 12 and 200, it is also important that Thompson show an inviting, attractive face to residents and visitors. That kind of

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Putnam Elks celebrates 125 years

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The Putnam Elks celebrated their milestone 250th anniversary on July 12 hosting a special Community Day at their lodge on Edmund Street to mark the occasion. Lawmakers representing town, state, a federal governments and local supporters turning out to honor an organization that has established itself as one of the most notable staples of not only the Putnam community, but the Quiet Corner in general.

The event included a special ceremony where lawmakers and Elks representatives reminisced on 125 years of service which has included donations and contributions to a variety



Jason Bleau

The Putnam Elks hosted a special ceremony marking their 125th anniversary during a Community Day on July 12.

of veteran, youth, and community needs programs for over a century. The day was also an opportunity to bring the community at large in to see what

the Elks is all about behind the scenes with tours of their lodge, a free lunch, and children's activities making for a delightful afternoon.

Marcel Morissette, Exalted Ruler of the Putnam Elks, said the event speaks to many

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Huge numbers at Putnam Science Drills & Skills Camp



PUTNAM — Putnam Science Academy hosted a sold out Drills & Skills camp with kids from the surrounding area this week.

"What a great week of hoops for the kids," said PSA men's basketball coach and camp director Tom Espinosa.

There were 60 boys and girls, ages 6-14, working out from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. "

It's such a fun and exciting week for these kids. The kids work so hard and really want

to get better and compete each day," Espinosa added.

The camp was broken into two divisions- the Big East for the younger group, the NBA for the older- with three teams in each.

The camp ended with UConn winning the Big East championship game by 3 points and the Celtics winning the NBA championship game by 8 points. UConn was coached by Noah Rudman and the Celtics were coached by Aaron Lorenzo.

Award winners from the week include: Free throw champions, Drake Alvarez (NBA), Nolan Lehto (Big East); Elbow shooting champions, Bryce Espinosa (NBA), Mason Barrett (Big East); Hot Shot champions, Yianni Kotsalidis (NBA), Teagan Espinosa (Big East); 1-on-1 champions, Mason Wolf (NBA) Nolan Lehto (Big East); Hustle Award, Christian Champagne (NBA) Bryce Proulx (Big East); Coaches Award, Syllas Platt (NBA) and Paxton Hammond

(Big East); and Player of the week, Cameron Sawyer (NBA) and Nolan Lehto (Big East).

The camp also featured two All star games with twenty kids participating in each game and we also recognized a camper of the day on each team who stood out with work ethic and having a positive attitude.

There will be one more clinic this summer from Aug. 4 through Aug. 6. Go to: www.putnamscience.org to register.

More Quiet Corner trailblazers

In last week’s column, I mentioned several individuals with Killingly connections who were Trailblazers. This week, I’ll continue with a few more in a fairly chronological order.

Abolitionist Henry Hammond deserves a place on the list of trailblazers. Born in Pomfret on Oct. 15, 1813*, the son of Eleazer and Ann Mercy Hammond, he moved to present-day Danielson in 1853. While still in his teens, he helped form the first anti-slavery society in Connecticut in the neighboring town of Brooklyn. Afterwards he helped found an active anti-slavery society and the best abolitionist library at that time in Dudley, Massachusetts. In 1847, Henry was one of two delegates from Connecticut to the first National Anti-Slavery Convention in Buffalo, N.Y. “The convention was about to enter upon a political crusade against the spread of slavery and its existence in the territories” (Taylor’s Home Journal). His home in Pomfret was known as a stop on the underground railroad. Hammond’s home on Furnace Street in



KILLINGLY

AT 300



MARGARET
WEAVER

8 April 1840 in Brooklyn, Connecticut. (Barbour). (*FindaGrave; see also Taylor’s Home Journal, July 1894 and Beers Commemorative Biographical Record of Tolland and Windham Counties, Connecticut).

Trailblazer Ida Bailey Allen, was “described as ‘The original domestic goddess’ by antique cookbook experts Patricia Edwards and Peter Peckham”. She was a radio personality, chef, and author of over 50 cookbooks. (Wikipedia) Allen “was co-owner of the radio show and sold her own advertising; she even hosted an early television cooking show, some say the first; and presented lectures and food demonstrations world-wide.” She was born in Danielson, Connecticut January 30, 1885, the daughter of Frank and Ida Louise Bailey. The family lived in Worcester, Massachusetts from 1900-1912. In 1912, she married Thomas Allen, who died in 1920. Thomas was a farmer but also a singer, eventually singing for the Metropolitan Opera. “To keep peace with her husband, she launched upon a \$10,000 musical education for five years, taking voice, languages, and piano. She even took longed-for English classes. From this education she became an accomplished mezzo-soprano singer, yet professionally used her vocal training only for diction. The languages were beneficial for reading German, French and Italian cookbooks; and the piano training took her out of the realm of cooking and into the realm of professional piano for opera singer, Margaret Romaine. [youtube]. Ida’s first known cookbook Good Luck Recipes was published in 1916. Her husband, Thomas, died at home in 1920. (The couple had two young children). She kept his last name throughout her professional life. After his death she went back to Connecticut in the city where she was born and taught a cooking class. By this time, she had already taught cooking, written seven cookbooks and booklets, and was an editor in the Housewives’ Forum for Pictorial Review,

but realized she had to commit more thoroughly to support herself.” Ida kept her first husband’s name but was remarried to William Brewster Chapman in 1921. (William died in 1931).

“Ida Bailey Allen began her radio career during her marriage to William. After a 1923 radio broadcast of her cooking lecture in St Louis, there was a response of 1500 letters. Encouraged from the St Louis radio show, she began broadcasting twice per week.”

(https://historiccookingschool.com/ida-bailey-allen/). “A 1932 promotional book she wrote for Coca-Cola, When You Entertain, was so popular 375,000 copies were sold in under six months.” (Wikiedia). She died July 16, 1973 in Norwalk (Wikipedia).

Young women now probably think little about having the right to vote. Such was not the case just a little over one hundred years ago. Marinda Robinson of Danielson, wife of Dr. Rienzi Robinson, was one of Connecticut’s early suffragists, advocating for women’s right to vote. Her obituary gave the following: “Mrs. Robinson was a resident of Danielson for a long period and was prominent here in social, reform and uplift movements. She was active in the campaign for woman suffrage and an advocate of physical culture for girls. She was also deeply interested in the library, especially the children’s department, to which she gave many books and pictures...Born at Hudson, N.Y., in 1848, Mrs. Robinson spent much of her girlhood in New Haven. On Feb. 22, 1894, she was married at Hudson to Dr. Robinson, who for more than fifty years was one of the most prominent medical practitioners in this section. According to Allen B. Lincoln’s A Modern History of Windham County, Connecticut, The Danielson Equal Franchise League was formed in 1913 with Marinda Robinson as its first president (p. 809. Chapter XXVIII). Mrs. Robinson (as she was almost always labeled in articles) travelled extensively and was very interested. In the suffrage movement in other parts of the country. Marinda died May 21, 1928 in St. Helena, CA and was buried in Westfield Cemetery, Danielson, Connecticut. (FindaGrave; May 31, 1928, paper not specified, clipping found in the family files at the Killingly Historical Center).

Now, I’ll finish this column with a grin on my face as I give you one last Trailblazer---a real one who surely must have wielded many an axe cut on the trees of the future Aspinock/Killingly to blaze a rude way from Woodstock to Providence about 1691. I present Peter Aspinwall. Born June 14, 1664 in Muddy Brook (Brookline), Mass., Peter was the second son of Peter and Remember (Palfrey) Aspinwall. His father was both a town official and local surveyor. Peter was among the original thirteen adventurers who left Roxbury, Mass. about April 1, 1686 to “spy out”

what was to become a new settlement in that colony. New Roxbury, Mass., now Woodstock. While in present-day Woodstock, in 1690, Aspinwall agreed to assume repair and maintenance of the bridge by John Chandler’s for seven years to “offset his proportion of town charges,” (Larned, Ellen, History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vo. I, p. 33). Soon thereafter he also undertook the difficult task of “making a way unto the cedar swamp on the other side of the Quinebaug River for a road to Providence” (Ibid.). According to archaeologist Robert Gradie this early road approximated part of the old section of Ware Road and Chestnut Hill Road in Killingly. This trailblazing undertaking eventually brought Aspinwall to what became Killingly/Putnam. Aspinwall moved east of the Quinebaug about 1703, and carved out a homestead in the vicinity of present-day Park Road and Nancy Drive in Putnam (part of the original town of Killingly; Aspinwall Cemetery). After the incorporation of Killingly in 1708, Aspinwall was recommended to train and command the soldiers of the town. In 1713 he was chosen to be Killingly’s first representative to the General Assembly and served again in 1714 and 1716. (Colonial Records of Connecticut, 1706-1716), In 1716 he was appointed Justice of the Peace for New London County under whose jurisdiction the town belonged. He was also instrumental in establishing Killingly’s first church. Peter and his stepson James Leavens were among the eleven original members who united in church fellowship on October 19, 1715. In December Aspinwall was chosen one of the first deacons of the church...an indication of his high standing in the community. (Larned, op.cit., p. 170).

Being a surveyor he was one of the members of the committee that laid out Killingly’s first distribution of common land in 1721 and was again a member of the committee which distributed additional land in 1744. (Killingly Book of Surveys). His talents were many, and likewise his participation in town affairs was great. How many other men in town could say that they had helped lay out and build three towns (Woodstock, Killingly, Putnam)? In the last years of his life he may have lived with Aspinwall relatives. In the mid-1740’s a land record places him in Mansfield. (Killingly Land Records, Vo. 5, p. 20). No record or burial has been found for either Peter Aspinwall or his wife Elizabeth (Leavens) Aspinwall.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about these trailblazers. Please let me know if you think of others.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2025. 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 www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.



ARTHRITIS?

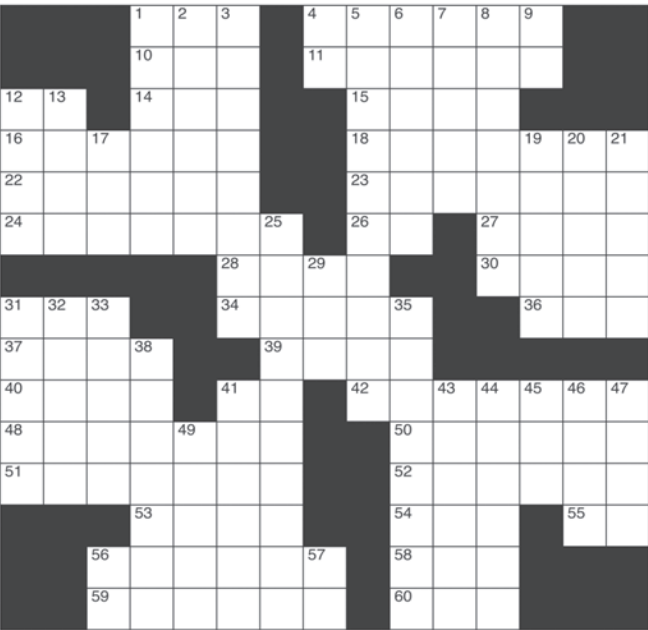
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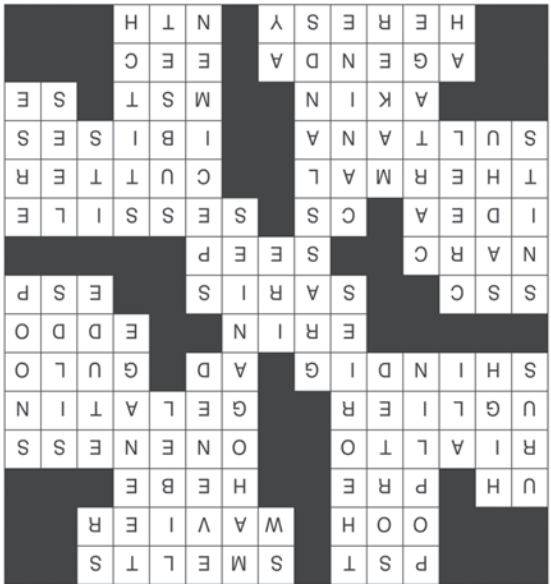
CLUES ACROSS

1. Pacific standard time
4. Extracts through heating and melting
10. Express delight
11. More curvy
12. Expression of uncertainty
14. Indicates before
15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
16. Southwestern CA city
18. Unified
22. Less attractive
23. Base of jellies
24. A large and noisy party
26. He was traded for Luka
27. Wolverine genus
28. “Happy Days” actress Moran
30. Root of taro plant
31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
34. Silk garments
36. Unique power
37. Ray Liotta cop film
39. Leak slowly through
40. Notion
41. Atomic #55
42. Fixed in one place
48. About heat
50. Type of baseball pitch
51. Seedless raisin
52. Large wading birds
53. Similar
54. Time zone
55. Atomic #34
56. Program
58. Old world, new
59. Contrary belief
60. “To the ___ degree”

CLUES DOWN

1. Plain-woven fabric
2. Clased
3. Suppositions
4. Midway between south and west
5. Tropical American trees
6. Leveled
7. Published false statement
8. Adolescent
9. Junior’s father
12. Aurochs
13. Not low
17. Boxing’s GOAT
19. Short musical composition
20. Small immature herrings
21. Eavesdropper
25. Parcels of land
29. Anger
31. Irritations
32. Hindu holy man
33. Wicker basket for fish
35. Natural object
38. Transporting in a vehicle
41. A dog is one
43. Smaller portion
44. Sew
45. Belonging to a thing
46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
47. Scottish language
49. Producer
56. Exclamation of surprise
57. Russian river

PUZZLE SOLUTION



VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of July 14: Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Meadowlark, Chipping Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Wood Thrush, Catbird, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Ovenbird, Bluebird, Eastern Phoebe, American Kestrel, Red-shouldered Hawk

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Mark your calendars for Locally Grown Day Aug. 2

WOODSTOCK — Are you looking for a fun way to share your talents? Are you looking for something fun to do in our local area? Are you looking to learn more about what is happening in our local area?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, we have just the thing for you!

Locally Grown Day is a celebration of local agriculture and artisans held annually on the first Saturday in August in Woodstock. The day starts with a Hearty Breakfast from 8 to 11 at the Senexet Grange Hall that will not leave you disappointed (eggs, pancakes, home fries, choice of bacon or sausage and beverages for only \$10).

Be sure to check out the items on display in our Annual Grange Fair while you are there for breakfast. Better yet... participate in the Grange Fair! If you grow a garden of vegetables or flowers, knit, crochet, embroider, paint, make baskets or any other type of home-made item, you are invited to enter and display it at the Grange Fair. Registration is easy and cash prizes are available! Then plan the rest of your day with a visit to our local farms where you will find agricultural and artisan special events, activities and displays. Come learn about our local agriculture and see what our local artisans make!

More about entering

the Grange Fair: The Senexet Grange welcomes entries from all ages in all categories (veggies, flowers, baked goods, canned goods, handicrafts, art, photography, beadwork, crafts). If you grow it or make it, we would love to have it in our Grange Fair! Registration times are Thursday, July 31 from 4-7 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 1 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Senexet Grange, 628 Route 169, Woodstock. You will arrange a time to collect your items at registration.

More information on Locally Grown Day Activities: Visit www.senexetgrange.com or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ourquietcorner.ct>

for up to date information. There are several special events throughout the day including the 10:00 am Garden Floral Class at Westview Farm (registration required) and Farm Tour at Azuluna Farm/ Woodstock Sustainable Farm (registration required). The Buzz on Beekeeping Presentation at Senexet Grange will take place at noon. At 2 p.m., there will be a Barn Tour and Storytime with the Goats at Farm to Table Market. Be sure to visit all participating locations to enjoy free samples, enter to win prizes and enjoy lots of vendors. Information about all the activities can be found on Facebook or at the Senexet Grange. If you want more infor-

mation, please visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ourquietcorner.ct>. Specific questions can be emailed to grange40ct@gmail.com.

More about the Senexet Grange- The Senexet Grange #40 was organized in 1886 with the purpose of supporting farmers legislatively and within their community. Our unique stone building was built in 1836 and is located on Route 169 within the Historic District of Woodstock. Community service has become a cornerstone for our organization in addition to supporting agriculture. Individually, our members contributed 568 hours of community service last year. The Senexet

Grange also sponsors several events, dinners, various public information presentations and hosts Woodstock Recreation activities throughout the year while offering a location for groups to meet as needed. Senexet Grange is working to become your source for all things local and hopes to connect people with the events, groups and activities that they would enjoy. There are many projects we hope to work on soon and would love for you to join us. Come see us for breakfast on August 2nd and learn more about the Senexet Grange!

Hope to see you on Saturday, Aug. 2!

Latest auction news

In my next column, I'll discuss number 1 on our top 10 list. It's been well over a month since I shared the latest auction news, so I'll bring you up to date on that today. A book from the early 1600s and a handbag from the 1980s are two of the things that recently made auction news.

Galileo Galilei's first book from 1604, "Dialogo in perpuosio de la stella nuova" recently sold at auction in the United Kingdom. The book discussed a "new star," which was very controversial when the heavens were considered perfect and unchanging, accord-



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

ing to the Antique Trader. Only eleven other editions are known to exist, and all are owned by institutions. It brought £1,129,000 (\$1,535,400 U.S.).

Moving ahead late into the 20th century, Hermès designed and created a handbag for the late actor and singer Jane Birkin in 1984. The Hermès Birkin bag became a symbol of luxury and status. The first Birkin bag originally owned by Jane Birkin that was "scuffed, scratched and stained" recently sold for \$7 million (\$8.2 million), accord-



ing to CNN.

An antique toy also recently brought good results at auction. The circa 1904 Marklin Ferris Wheel was manufactured by the German company Marklin, known for their precision model trains. The Ferris Wheel retained "its six original gondolas, attractive stained glass, and original figures," according to WJW TV in Cleveland, Ohio. It went for \$156,000.

Moving later in the 20th century, the 1941 film "Citizen Kane" is considered one of the best films ever made. The film was hailed both for its plot and cinematography. It used a film technique known as deep focus where the foreground, background, and middle are all in sharp focus. Low angled filming and innovative lighting also contributed to the film's acclaim. Orson Welles directed

and acted in the film about a newspaper magnate Charles Foster Kane, who resembled William Randolph Hearst. Kane's dying word "Rosebud" was the name of his childhood sled. It was "a nostalgic callback to the days before wealth and power ultimately ruined the mogul's life," according to Parade Magazine. It was anything but tough sledding at a recent auction when one of the original sleds showcased in the film sold for \$14.75 million, making it the second highest price paid for a Hollywood prop. As I mentioned in a previous column, a pair of Judy Garland's ruby red slippers from the "Wizard of Oz" set a record when it sold for \$32.5 million in December.

We are still working

on multiple online auctions including a Civil War auction, Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction and a Pennsylvania transportation museum. Other auctions will have gold jewelry, sterling silver, art, and advertising signs, along with a wide variety of other items. We are always accepting valuable pieces and collections for upcoming sales. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

Through a branch of study called cymatics, scientists discovered something astonishing: Sound doesn't just move air—it shapes matter.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

This field emerged in the 18th century with the work of German physicist Ernst Chladni, often regarded as the father of acoustics. In his experiments, he took a metal plate, sprinkled it with fine sand, and ran a violin bow along the edge. The vibration caused the sand to shift and form symmetrical patterns—now called Chladni figures. It was the first glimpse of invisible vibration becoming a visible design.

In the 1960s, Dr. Hans Jenny, a Swiss medical doctor and scientist, gave this field its name: cymatics, from the Greek kyma, meaning "wave."

Using tones played through a tonoscope, Jenny discovered

that different frequencies consistently produced specific shapes: low frequencies tended to create simple shapes—circles, triangles, and lines. But as the pitch increased, the patterns became more intricate. Hexagons appeared. Then mandalas. Even flower-like lattices began to take form. At certain exact pitches, symbols long considered spiritual or mathematical would emerge—not by chance, but repeatedly, predictably.

The sound didn't just move matter. It is organized, formed by frequency alone.

Jenny called this phenomenon "visible music."

You can see an experiment online where a woman sings, "Una Donna a Quindici Anni," into a tonoscope and a perfectly symmetrical seven-pointed star is created—not generated by a machine, but by resonance. Sung—with breath, with intention, with the human voice.

Cymatics

This idea—that sound can shape the unseen—was not foreign to the ancients. The Vikings had a word for it: Galdr.

Galdr wasn't just melody—it was spoken intention, sharpened into sound. It was the intentional chanting of runes. Warriors, seers, and shamans would speak or sing these runes aloud, believing they could influence the forces of nature, shield themselves in battle, or open gateways to hidden knowledge.

Each rune had a sound, and each sound had power. To chant a rune was to call a pattern into being, much like the seven-pointed star rising from the sand on the tonoscope.

Galdr was the understanding that the human voice—charged with intent—was not passive. It was a tool for shaping.

In early Chinese tradition, the philosopher Confucius taught that the key to harmony in the kingdom was to "rectify

names"—to speak words that accurately reflected truth and order. If names became dis-

torted, if language no longer matched reality, society would

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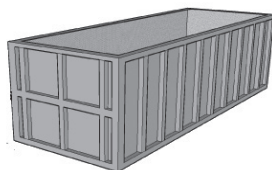


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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Make it a summer of no regrets

As the final days of summer approach, we find ourselves standing at a crossroads. The days grow shorter, the evenings cooler, and the carefree essence of summer seems to slip away. It's time to seize the moment, to cherish every opportunity, and to make August a summer of no regrets.

Living in the picturesque region of New England, we are fortunate to be surrounded by a breathtaking landscape. From majestic mountains to serene lakes, our backyard is a playground of adventures waiting to happen. The time has come to embark on those road trips we have been postponing and explore the hidden gems that lie within our reach.

Whether you're an avid hiker or a casual nature lover, our region's mountains offer an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Take a day to venture into the wilderness, breathe in the crisp air, and marvel at the natural wonders that lie before you. The memories forged amid the towering pines and breathtaking vistas will last a lifetime.

Equally enticing are the serene lakes scattered across the area. Pack a picnic, gather your loved ones, and head to the waterside. Be it swimming, kayaking, or simply basking in the sun's warmth, lakeside retreats provide a tranquil refuge to unwind and savor the joys of summer.

For those who seek a taste of city life, why not take a drive to the vibrant metropolises of Boston and Portland? These urban centers share a rich cultural heritage, bustling streets, and delectable culinary scenes. Lose yourself in the museums, explore the historic landmarks, and indulge in the local cuisine – each moment a treasure to hold on to.

However, amid our grand adventures, we must not forget the simple joys that have brought us together year after year. Backyard barbecues offer a nostalgic charm that fills the air with laughter and the scent of sizzling goodness. Gather family and friends for a fun filled evening, where the flames of the grill light up not only the darkening skies but also our hearts with warmth and camaraderie.

And as the sun sets lower, take the opportunity to relive the carefree days of youth by playing hoops at the local park. Feel the thrill of competition and the joy of teamwork as you shoot hoops and chase the ball. The courts become a canvas for unforgettable moments and lasting memories. August is our chance to make amends for any missed opportunities from earlier in the summer.

As we look back on this summer, we'll be filled with the contentment of knowing that we embraced the season wholeheartedly. We laughed with abandon, explored with wonder, and lived with joy. When we bid farewell to August, we'll do so with hearts full of cherished memories, knowing that we made the most of every fleeting moment.

So, unite in spirit and determination to make August a summer of no regrets. Whether we climb mountains, swim in lakes, stroll through cities, or gather in backyards, seize the remaining days with gusto.

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

Where is the 75 percent?

To the Editor:

In our recent referendums, 75 percent of the voting age adults in our Thompson community have been missing in action. So where are they? We all have something to offer our community (beyond taxes). Many of us donate our own money and volunteer personal time to make the community we love a better place. But the most important thing we can do is vote. Yet, for the third time this year, the voting turnout has been dismal. There are approximately 9,385 people who live in Thompson; 12.4 percent are children. That leaves 8,221 eligible voters in Thompson. Yet of that, only 6,332 are registered. In the last referendum only 1,789 voted – less than 25 percent of our eligible population. So, where are the rest of us?

And do we want the 13 percent of the voting eligible population (who voted no) to be determining the Future of Thompson? This lack of interest puts us all at risk. I love Thompson, and it cannot run without money. The money funds our schools which take care of what we most treasure, our children and provides town services like road repair, tree cutting, transfer station, snow removal...It provides social services like movies, community day, senior services, travel trips...without

Where exactly is the “insane” spending in Woodstock?

To the Editor:

In virtually all of Dave Richardson's many print ads and letters to the Editor regarding Woodstock's finances over the years, there have been two constants. One, the taxes are too high (because people in town government “spend too much”), and two, the money from the taxes is an entity unto itself, not related in the slightest to the things that the money is used to buy – it is just “spending” to him.

I consider that odd because by the time most of us have graduated high school or college, had a few jobs and been out in the world a bit, we have come to understand that money doesn't exist in a vacuum, and isn't isolated from its ability to purchase something. As the saying goes, “Money isn't really the dollar in your pocket, it's what the dollar will buy.”

So, it's probably worth repeating a few things:

First, the inflation rate between January 2021 and December 2024 was 17.9 percent in Connecticut. Mr. Richardson speaks of there having been tax increase of just under 20.5 percent since the repeal of Proposition 46 three years ago, something which, when taking into account the fact that under Proposition 46 the Woodstock budget was not able to keep pace with inflation for many, many years, seems completely appropriate. In starker terms, it is also worth repeating that, when corrected for inflation, town spending in Woodstock was \$3,835 per resident in 2000, \$3,759 in 2020, and, under the current budget just passed in 2025, it will be \$3,649.

And, it's worth repeating, too, that 2024 per pupil expenditure in Woodstock was \$18,742; in Thompson, it was \$23,165; in Pomfret, it was \$20,725; in Eastford, it was \$22,321; and the state average was \$20,722.

Mr. Richardson talks in his latest letter here about the “insane spending” in Woodstock. So, it is right to ask just what things in the Woodstock budget he finds “insane,” and what he is using as his reference point. Surely, the fact that Woodstock is near the bottom of Connecticut towns in educational spending can't be what he is talking about. Could it be? Should Woodstock be spending \$5,000 per pupil? \$500? Nothing? He doesn't say.

Perhaps then, he is talking about the fact that the town is now having to spend more money for paid emergency services? Or, maybe, just maybe, he feels that road crews

Why is Congress voting in the dead of night?

To the Editor:

Have you noticed the pattern? Major votes in Congress are happening overnight while most Americans are asleep. It's not an accident. It's a tactic.

The most recent example? Congress quietly voted to rescind \$9 billion in previously approved federal funding, money that was slated for foreign aid and public broadcasting. The public broadcasting cuts will hit local public media stations, reducing access to public safety broadcasts, local programming, and community connections. That vote came on the heels of another: slashing \$7 billion from education funding, money states depend on to support schools.

All this while preserving tax breaks for billionaires who don't need them. This is wealth redistribution in reverse: taking from “we the people” to enrich the ultra-wealthy.

But the problem runs deeper than bad policy. What's happening now represents a dangerous shift in how our government works.

“A September 30th deadline to fund the government or risk a shutdown will test whether a bipartisan deal is still possible,” reports NBC News.

Congress is no longer just passing budgets, it's un-doing them. The practice of clawing back previously allocated funding undermines the very idea of bipartisan negotiation. It sets a chilling precedent: no budget is safe, even after it's passed.

This isn't how our democracy is supposed to work. The Constitution gives Congress, not the President, the “power of the purse.” But now, the Republican-led Congress is letting the White House call the shots, unilaterally deciding what stays in the budget and what

money, there is neglect, and we all know what happens if we fail to fix a roof in our house. Yes, it may mean we pay more in taxes... but in the long run it will save us money. The town (which is you and I) won't have to pay more for our financing. Our investments of time and money will be preserved, we may not have insurance rates go up because of lack of access due to the poor conditions of the roads for emergency services...we may be able to convince businesses to come to our town if we maintain and improve or infrastructure. And has anyone looked to see what the towns around us pay in taxes? The failure of the last referendum was disappointing to say the least, as our employees have served us well, and this is not how to reward them. And we will lose good people just because (more than) 75 percent of us are missing in action. We are our government. Our government serves us. I believe in Thompson- we can make good decisions if all of us participate. Please register to vote, and if you are registered, be there... or vote absentee. You are worth it, and Thompson is worth it.

KRISTINE DUROCHER
THOMPSON

are putting down a little too much sand or salt in winter? He doesn't say. Could it be that he feels that there should be no taxes whatsoever? He doesn't say. There are, of course, plenty of people who feel that any tax at all is inherently illegal and illegitimate. Does Mr. Richardson believe this? He doesn't say.

It is right, too, to ask precisely what Town services Mr. Richardson would prefer to do without. Perhaps he feels that an ambulance service is “fluff,” and that he would have no problem getting himself to the hospital in the event of an emergency, and it's really not his place to have to pay for others to get to the hospital. He doesn't say. In fact, he doesn't say much other than that the taxes are “insane.”

I have to say that I, for one, am glad that in wintertime I can count on being able to make my way to Putnam on Woodstock roads without getting stuck or killed. I am reassured knowing that if we have an emergency in our house, we can call someone and get help. I am glad that, if I have a question about a boundary line on my property, I can drive to the Town Hall and get an answer.

In America, while many of us have a strong independent streak, we have an equally strong belief that by working together we can accomplish a lot more than just working alone. It's how we can have “nice things” like roads, fire stations, transfer stations, ambulances, playgrounds, libraries, and, of course, schools.

To see our schools, libraries, recreational facilities, as well as infrastructure, starved is deeply disturbing to me. As an aging American, I feel a certain obligation to make things better for the next generations, or at least, no worse than I had it. I am deeply appreciative of the things provided to me growing up and I want the same, or better, for those coming after me. I am deeply saddened that the Woodstock Middle School can't afford a Spanish teacher, or that the Woodstock Elementary School can't afford a librarian.

I wonder, when I read some of Mr. Richardson's letters, what his educational experience was. Does he feel that the education that others provided him was unnecessary or bad, that he could have done it all on his own and much better? Or maybe he did do it all on his own with no help from anyone? I don't know but I wonder.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

gets slashed. This isn't negotiation. It's submission.

And make no mistake, this isn't just about one president or one party. What we're seeing is the erosion of checks and balances. If Congress gives up its power now, future presidents, regardless of party, will expect the same blank check.

As Sen. Durbin put it: “No matter what you decide on, the president is going to be able to change the bill, even for money that's been appropriated.” That's not democracy, that's executive overreach.

And as Sen. Schumer warned: “It is absurd to expect Democrats to play along with funding the government if Republicans are just going to renege on a bipartisan agreement by concocting rescission packages behind closed doors that can pass with only their votes.”

Our American way of life is under attack: Public broadcasting is being chopped; Health care is being taken away; Education funding is evaporating; The judiciary is increasingly politicized; State-run media is no longer a far-off fear; it's inching closer to reality. These are only a few examples of how the Trump Administration is changing America.

So, what can we do?

- Vote. Every election, every office, every time.
- Call your representatives. Make your voice impossible to ignore.
- Get involved locally. Real change starts in your community.
- Speak up. Silence is complicity.

This moment demands action. Let's not sleep through it.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

We create our own stories

My favorite file, and perhaps yours, is “Miscellaneous.” It is a hundred real paper folders, a mass of computer files under various titles and clippings in baskets that can stop me in my tracks and distract me for many minutes when I feel I must read them again. The best random encounters are found in notebooks kept in the car, rolling around the junk drawer in the kitchen or tossed in the overflowing desk drawer that also holds birthday cards, wedding invitations, obituaries, and poems. Snippets of conversations in the gym, the super market or church may begin in mundane pleasantries and morph into gems of insight.

We've been socializing even more than usual this summer. In long walks, conversations over coffee or evening drinks on summer porches, we talk and talk. Our circle is aging, of course, but eager to stay deeply involved in the world. We chat about travel, grandchildren and the state of the country. The choices to get another dog, buy a hybrid car or stop mowing the lawn so the pollinators can flourish mix with recipes, gossip, restaurant recommendations and personal stories.

Individual stories are the most memorable, even if they are being repeated. We are the sum total of our own narratives, often told with plenty of hyperbole and probably less accuracy over time. We've all heard the examples of eye witness reports of accidents or crimes where two people see the same event and come to radically different conclusions.

When I miss my late brother, it is in part because he was the last person who might embellish a story about our father's legendary temper or correct my version of what happened when people sheltered at our house during the flood. The stories have no particular relevance to others, but sharing them was important to us. It is stories that create deep bonds to our families. We want stories about ourselves and tales where we realize that another person sees things the way we do. Part of the allure of some politicians is that people feel they see things and says things as they would if they had the chance.

Memories can get us into trouble on many levels. Author Raynor Wynn wrote a bestseller, “The Salt Path,” about a harrowing journey living outdoors when she and her husband lost their home and income. Their 600-mile hike was a marvel of perseverance. Now the memoir is being discredited and some publishers are giving readers their money back. While there is probably plenty of truth to the allegations, I can see how a writer or storyteller could mix up facts and embellish events to create a more exciting narrative. In print, it is important to separate fact from fiction or else there are consequences, at least for Ms. Wynn.

Writer John Updike was a favorite of mine in the '90's. He wrote some engrossing, often provocative novels and a number of poems. Here are the first few lines from the poem: “Perfection Wasted”:

And another regrettable thing about death
is the ceasing of your own brand of magic,
which took a whole life to develop and market-
the quips, the witticisms, the slant
adjusted to a few, those loved ones nearest
the lip of the stage...
We are the loved ones nearest the lip of the stage, and we are the creators of our own brand of magic stories. They define us and our view of others. These miscellaneous kernels of memory, wisdom, foolishness, truth and lies are how we make our way in the world. Hold on tightly and let them roll on.



NANCY WEISS

Cry Me A River

I'm old and I'm tired
but whaddya gonna do
But cry me a river
cuz I don't see it like you.

You stand and you shout,
your own point of view
Go stomp and go pout
What else can you do

Cept cry me a river
cuz I don't see it like you

The left hates the right
They're not alone in that plight
The right hates the left
And there's no end in sight.

The old see the young
And feel a cynical fear.
The young see the old
And ask why can't they care?

Climb way up on high
Sitting proud on that horse
Don't bother to ask why
You know you're right, of course.

Do you ever grow faint from
the sheer height of your perch?
And when you look down your nose,
For what do you search?

You're old and you're tired
What more can you say
Just cry me a river
You don't know another way

Say something nice,
there's an idea
Sure you might say it twice
If it weren't for your fear.

There's plenty of blame,
plenty to share.
We are all in this game,
Just pretending that we care.

Our fingers all point,
Our words cut and sear
But only our view is sacred,
only we are sincere.

We're old and we're tired
But what can we do?
We'll cry us a river
And we'll make you cry too!

Settle back down,
be quiet a while.
Search while you do
and find reason to smile.

A soul full of ire can never find peace
The burn of that fire will only increase.

A question most fair
One we all should once ask
Are my errors so rare
Or is that simply my mask?

Being right is so easy,
isn't that so?
At least while we win
and vanquish our foe.

What then do we do
When the battle is won
And we still cry us a river
When the battering is done.

On and on,
it just never ends
Still we argue and fight
Even with friends.

You're old and you're tired
Whadda ya gonna do?
'cept cry me a river
When I don't see things like you.

Sure there's things worth fighting for
Hasn't that always been true?
I'm just not sure all of the hating
changes anyone's point of view.

CHARLES HARRINGTON
POMFRET

Is the FIRE early retirement method really such a hot idea?

In recent years, the FIRE movement—Financial Independence, Retire Early—has ignited passionate debate among financial professionals and retirement planners alike. As a Certified Financial Planner, I have particularly close insights on both the allure and potential pitfalls of this increasingly popular retirement strategy. So, let's dig in...

What exactly Is FIRE?
The FIRE method centers around aggressive saving and investing, typically 50-70 percent of your income, with the goal of retiring decades earlier than the traditional retirement age of 65. Proponents aim to accumulate enough assets—usually 25-30 times their annual expenses—to live off investment returns indefinitely.

The undeniable appeal
The appeal is obvious: who wouldn't want to escape the 9-to-5 grind in their 30s or 40s to pursue passions and projects without financial constraints? FIRE devotees often report increased life satisfaction, greater autonomy, and freedom from workplace stress.¹ Some successful FIRE practitioners have built investment portfolios to sustain an early retirement, through disciplined saving, frugal living, and strategic market investments – but they still represent a small fraction of the overall population.² Still, their stories of financial liberation are undeniably compelling.

The less discussed down-

sides
However, before jumping onto the FIRE bandwagon, consider these critical concerns:

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Unrealistic investment return expectations: Many FIRE calculations rely on historical stock market returns of 7-10 percent annually. Recent market volatility and economic uncertainty make such consistent returns far from guaranteed, especially over 40-to-60-year retirement horizons.

Healthcare cost uncertainty: Early retirees face decades without employer-sponsored healthcare before Medicare eligibility. With healthcare costs consistently outpacing inflation, this represents a significant financial risk that many FIRE plans underestimate.

Identity and purpose challenges: While financial independence sounds liberating, many early retirees struggle with questions of purpose and identity after leaving careers. The psychological aspects of early retirement are frequently overlooked in FIRE discussions.

Limited flexibility for life changes: Extremely frugal FIRE budgets often leave little room for unexpected life changes—having children, supporting aging parents, career retraining, or pursuing new opportunities that require capital investment.

A more balanced approach
Rather than pursuing FIRE in its purest form, con-

sider these more sustainable alternatives:

Coast FIRE: Work enough to cover current expenses after building a retirement nest egg that will grow to support you by traditional retirement age.

Barista FIRE: Work part-time in a low-stress job that provides healthcare benefits while your investments grow.

Slow FIRE: Save at a more moderate rate (30-40 percent of income) to achieve financial independence gradually without extreme lifestyle sacrifices.

Moving forward with confidence

The FIRE movement has brought valuable attention to financial independence and conscious spending. However, like any financial strategy, it requires careful consideration of personal circumstances, risk tolerance, and life goals.

For most individuals, incorporating elements of FIRE—increasing savings rates, reducing unnecessary expenses, and investing for growth—makes more sense than pursuing an extremely early retirement at all costs.

True financial success isn't measured by how quickly you can stop working, but by creating a life where work, leisure, and purpose exist in harmony. Before pursuing FIRE, consider working with a financial professional to develop a personalized strategy that balances present enjoyment with future security.

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Sources:
1 Empower Financial Happiness study, 2023
2 The Motley Fool, https://www.fool.com/research/average-retirement-income

An accounting



BEYOND
THE PEWS
• • • • •
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HANSON
ACTS II
MINISTRIES

Red-faced, he continues, “Then I proceeded to my account only to find his balance to be 47,832.21. You can imagine how shocked I was. I've been shafted!”

I would be angry if that happened to me. In fact, even corrupt governments would call that illegal, and grounds for closing the establishment. How is it that we hold to the “truths” of math religiously, while being flexible on the truths that define the most important and eternal things in our lives. It is not noble and kind to believe just anything that comes along – it is foolish and immoral. It does no one any favors, and it robs those who are not aware of the scams.

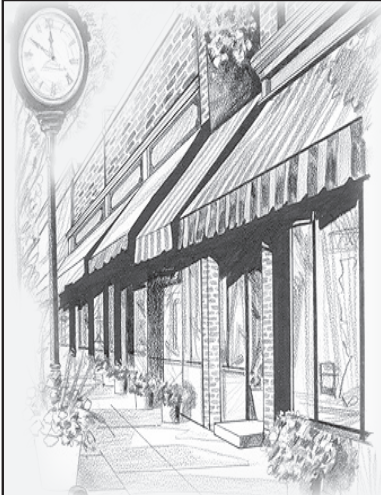
We may feel better about ourselves when we consider ourselves open to many beliefs, as if there are many versions of truth. But God, who is just, saved some of his most severe rebukes and judgements for people who claimed to speak for Him but did not say what He said. Jeremiah 14:13-15 puts it like this in the New living Translation:

Then I said, “O Sovereign LORD, their prophets are telling them, ‘All is well—no war or famine will come. The LORD will surely send you peace.’” Then the LORD said, “These prophets are telling lies in my name. I did not send them or tell them to speak. I did not give them any messages. They prophesy of visions and revelations they have never seen or heard. They speak foolishness made up in their own lying hearts. Therefore, this is what the LORD says: I will punish these lying prophets, for they have spoken in my name even though I never sent them. They say that no war or famine will come, but

they themselves will die by war and famine!

I am thankful that my bank still operates by the laws of Math I learned in grade school. I am thankful that my church still teaches the laws of God that were laid out in Scripture thousands of years ago. It would be cruel, confusing and wrong to reinterpret those laws just so someone doesn't feel uncomfortable about the philosophies or life choices they have decided to adopt. If there is a God, how foolish I would be to make up our own rules and then feel smug and enlightened as we ignore His. Just like we discover and live by the rules of Math, gravity, and the speed of light, we would be wise to discover and adhere to the moral and ethical laws that God has established. After all, there will be an accounting.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For sermon videos and other resources, please visit www.ActsII.org.



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Area residents graduate from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

ALBANY, N.Y. — More than 220 undergraduate, graduate and PharmD students crossed the stage at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences’ 145th Commencement on May 17, including Amanda Ann Hair-Labbe and Rebecca Lynn Wituszynski of Eastford. The ceremony was hosted at the Albany Capital Center in Albany, N.Y.

Of the students in the Class of 2025, the youngest student was age 19 and the oldest student was age 50. Graduates hailed from 19 states including: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia. Graduates also come from one US territory - Puerto Rico, one US military installation in Italy, and 10 countries,

including Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the United States and Vietnam.

Among these students, degrees conferred including 50 received undergraduate degrees, four BS/MS dual degrees, 42 master’s degrees, and 134 PharmD degrees, with 79 of those candidates also receiving a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Several of these graduates will remain at the College to pursue further study in one of ACPHS’ degree programs, whose portfolio saw a nearly 50% expansion since 2024 in areas such as nursing, health data sciences, and new online and hybrid modalities.

Founded in 1881, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is a private college dedicated to educating the next generation of leaders to improve the

health of society. ACPHS offers 19 undergraduate, graduate and doctorate programs including online and hybrid options. Students have opportunities to extend what they are learning in the classroom at The Stack Family Center for Biopharmaceutical Education and Training (CBET), at student-supported pharmacies in underserved communities, and at The Collaboratory, a public health resource serving Albany’s South End neighborhood. The College holds a Carnegie Foundation Research Colleges and Universities designation for its research expenditures. ACPHS is ranked #1 in New York state and among the top five in the country for return on investment by Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce, as well as earning an A+ for value by Niche.com.

Putnam resident named to Clark University’s Spring Dean’s List

WORCESTER — Autumn R. Allard, of Putnam, was named to first honors on the Clark University Dean’s List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2025 semester. Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA

between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors. Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow’s most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than

30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Goodwin University announces Dean’s List

EAST HARTFORD — Goodwin University announces that 440 students achieved Dean’s List status for the spring 2025 session. Dean’s List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Kelsie Boulet-Briere of Dayville

Willow Charles of Dayville

Goodwin University in East Hartford is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be

flexibly layered across certificate, Associate, Bachelor’s, and master’s programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit www.goodwin.edu.

The Arc receives grant from Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank Foundation for critical boiler repairs

DANIELSON — The Arc Eastern Connecticut is pleased to announce a generous grant from the Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank Foundation to support urgent heating system repairs at its Cook Hill Road facility in Danielson. This crucial funding will help ensure continued safe, comfortable, and energy-efficient operations for the participants and staff who rely on this busy center every day.

Serving as the primary hub for day programs, senior services, and transportation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in northeastern Connecticut, the Cook Hill Road facility is an essential part of The Arc

ECT’s operations. The existing boiler system had begun to fail, causing inconsistent heating, reduced energy efficiency, and posing a risk of costly water damage and disruptive breakdowns.

With the support of the grant from the Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank Foundation, The Arc ECT will be able to replace worn-out components, flush and treat the system to prevent corrosion, and restore reliable, energy-efficient heating to the building.

“We are deeply grateful for the Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank Foundation’s support,” said Kathleen Stauffer, CEO of The Arc Eastern Connecticut. “This grant allows us

to safeguard our services and provide a safe, healthy environment for the people we serve and our employees. That always is our priority.”

About The Arc Eastern Connecticut

The Arc Eastern Connecticut is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for and supporting people with IDD in the communities of eastern Connecticut. Since its founding in 1952, the Agency has promoted inclusion, independence, and quality of life for people with IDD through advocacy, education, and community-based services. To learn more, please visit TheArcECT.org.

Concert in Putnam’s Rotary Park features Ed Peabody & The Big Blue Thang

PUTNAM — The Town of Putnam, Connecticut is jazzed to bring back “Ed Peabody & The Big Blue Thang” to the Rotary Park bandstand on Saturday, Aug. 9.

Ed Peabody and his Big Blue Thang will then take stage and put on a performance that will keep you wanting more!

This event is powered by Centreville Bank, Spicer Propane & Oil, and WIN Waste Innovations.

You are invited to pack the park (Rotary Park at 190 Kennedy Drive that is) to enjoy an energetic, expressive and soulful show!

In addition to Ed Peabody the 102d Army Band will return to the stage and kick off the event. They gained popularity in the area with their show in the park last August and are happy

102d Army Band plays from 4-5:30 p.m., then Peabody takes over at 6:30 p.m., and doesn’t stop until 8pm!

But wait! Just when you think this great two band concert is fun enough for one event, River Fire sparkles at 8pm and stays lit for another 90 minutes or so. No River Fire is complete without sweet, soft sounds with music

Thanks to supporting event partners WINY 1350 AM & 97.1 FM, with the fires aglow thanks to Spicer Propane and the Town of Putnam Public Works & Parks & Recreation Departments.

For your best experience, remember to bring a lawn chair or blanket to Rotary Park for one of your best summer nights ever!

Local students named to Goodwin University President’s List

EAST HARTFORD — Becky Pluta of North Grosvenordale and Tiahma Rawls of Brooklyn have both earned a spot on the Goodwin University President’s List for spring 2025.

Inclusion on the President’s List requires a student to earn a 4.0 GPA during a given academic session.

Goodwin University congratulates Becky on making the President’s List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the class-

room and beyond!

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programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit www.goodwin.edu.

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.

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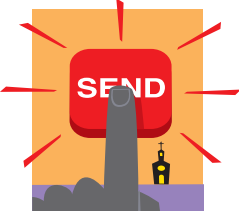
SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

DANIELSON — Learning in Retirement (LIR -QV) will host its Fall Open House on Friday, Aug. 22, at 1 p.m. at the Killingly Community Center, Broad Street, Danielson.

The keynote program will feature Sheryl Faye as “Katherine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood.” Light refreshments. Limited seating, no reservation required. For more information, visit www.lir-qv.org.



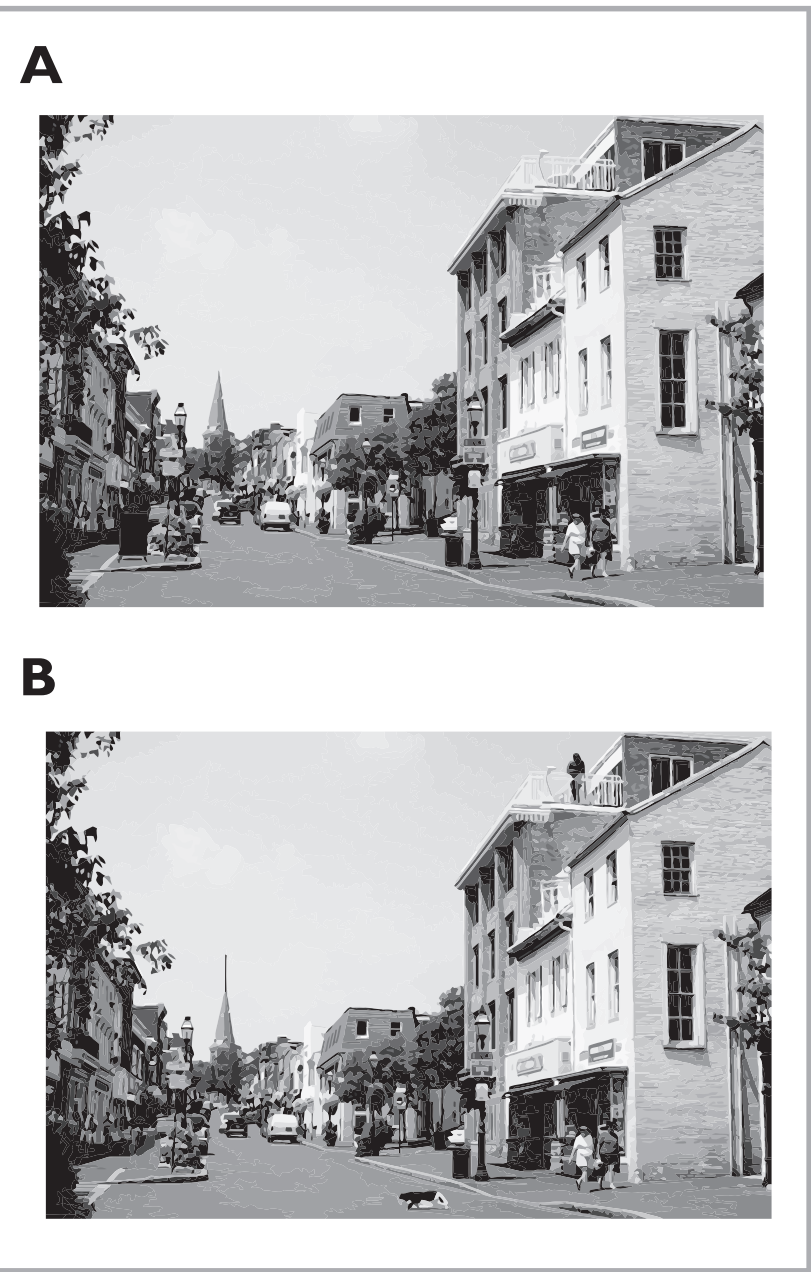
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What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Missing sign on left 2. Cat crossing the street 3. Man on balcony 4. Spire on church

CANADA HISTORY

1954

Marilyn Bell becomes the first person to swim Lake Ontario.

NEW WORD RETAIL

sale of goods to the public in small quantities

Money FACT:

Shopping at this type of store keeps 67 cents of every dollar spent in the community.

Answer: Small, local business

How they say that in...

English: Retailer
Spanish: Minorista
Italian: Rivenditore
French: Détaillant
German: Einzelhändler

Did You Know?

Small businesses employ around 50% of the total private labour force in Canada.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Main St. street sign

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to lost pets.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 11 = C)

A. 5 26 11 25 15 11 14 26 23

Clue: Identification implant

B. 10 17 1 7 14

Clue: Secures animals

C. 11 15 10 10 1 25

Clue: Worn around a pet's neck

D. 6 17 21 11 26 21 18

Clue: Property barrier

Answers: A. microchip B. leash C. collar D. fencing

SUDOKU

	1		8				5	
				3				
		3	2					
4				9				5
9	8					7		
					4	3		6
							4	8
			1			2	7	
	4				5			

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	3	9	5	7	5	6	3	1
3	6	5	1	4	8	2	7	9
1	7	9	3	2	6	5	4	8
5	2	1	7	8	4	3	9	6
9	8	6	5	1	3	7	2	4
4	3	7	6	9	2	8	1	5
6	9	3	2	5	1	4	8	7
7	5	8	4	3	9	1	6	2
2	1	4	8	6	7	9	5	3

ANSWER:

OBITUARIES

Barbara Marcy Paige, 86



Barbara Marcy Paige (86) was called home to be with her heavenly father and beloved husband on July 9, 2025. She was the loving wife of the late Christopher Paige and daughter of Harvey & Elinor Marcy. Barbara, affectionately called “Babs” by her friends, loved music, cooking, traveling, being with her family & friends but most importantly being dedicated to her faith.

Barbara graduated from Woodstock Academy and married in 1959 to her high school sweetheart, Christopher “Topper” Paige. In her early years of marriage, she worked as a bookkeeper for Bowen’s Garage (Oliver Bowen) and then Eastford Truck Sales (Charlie Bowen) both in Eastford. She did the bookkeeping for Topper’s Heating Service, the business she and Topper started in 1970. During these years she also helped lead a 4-H group teaching cooking & sewing skills along with Martha Clark. Barbara enjoyed playing the piano and would play the accordion when her family encouraged her to. Through the many moves in life, Barbara would seek out a church to be active in and then give of herself wholeheartedly to serve where needed

– whether it be teaching, on a Missions Board, cooking for a church event, decorating the church or whatever needed to be done. She remained a member of the South Woodstock Baptist Church for her entire life. As time went by, Barbara & Topper retired to Florida for several years before making a final move back to CT to be with family.

Barbara is survived by her daughter Patty (Carl), her son Jeffrey (Angie), Grandchildren Victoria (Stephen), Carolyn, Zachary (Marly Grace), two great grandchildren Natalie & Dominic, Cynthia, who has been united with the family for many years and considered a daughter; brothers-in-law Timothy (Eva) and Rick, a sister-in-law Sally, and several nieces and nephews. Barbara is predeceased by her siblings Donald Marcy and Phyllis Redfield.

A Celebration of Life service is planned at the South Woodstock Baptist Church, 23 Roseland Park Road, Woodstock on Saturday, August 16th at 10:30 AM. The service will be live streamed (www.southwoodstock-baptist.org). Funeral arrangements made through Neptune Society. Burial will be private.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the South Woodstock Baptist Church, PO Box 86, Woodstock CT 06281, memo: Missions

Donald D. Hubert, Jr., 65



Donald D. Hubert, Jr., 65, of Sedona, Arizona formerly of Brooklyn, Connecticut was called home to be with his Lord and Savior on January 9, 2025. He was born in Putnam, Connecticut on February 4, 1959, son of the late Donald and Anita (Duso) Hubert. Donald was the loving husband of Suzanne (Ridge) Hubert. They were married August 7, 1981 in Killingly, Connecticut.

Donald was a graduate of St. James School, Killingly High School, The University of Connecticut and held a Masters Degree from Bryant University. He was a corporate tax director for various corporations in Rhode Island and Connecticut, retiring from A.T.Cross in 2014.

Don enjoyed coaching his children in the Brooklyn Little League. He was a longtime member of the Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island where he was a Master Breeder. Don was currently serving on his HOA Board as Treasurer.

Don enjoyed fishing with his dad and his sons, family summer camping trips to the White Mountains, and walking on the beach at Point Judith which was a very special place for Don and Sue. He also enjoyed taking several of his classic cars to area car shows and going to car auctions in Las Vegas, Florida and Scottsdale. Don loved gardening,

planting beautiful flowers around his home and vegetables to enjoy all summer long.

Don loved his family and had fun planning large family trips. He was also a great cook and famous for spoiling everyone with steamers and lobster, especially his mother-in-law.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Suzanne and their three children who loved him dearly, Catherine (Graeme) Sprague of London, England; Craig (Elizabeth) Hubert of San Diego, CA; and Colin Hubert of Needham, MA. He is also survived by his precious granddaughters Clare Hubert and Hannah Sprague, his brother Ricky Hubert of Palm Springs, CA, his brothers and sisters in-laws Deborah and Stanley Adams, Christine and Ken Gutshall, George Ridge, his niece Jonquil Pearson and her husband Lucas, and many cousins.

Don was a devout Catholic and was always proud of serving as an Alter Boy in his youth. He was currently attending the VOC Church of the Nazarene. We are grateful for the love and support of Pastors Jim and Cindy Cunningham as well as our family and friends. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial in celebration of his life will be held on Friday, August 8, 2025 at 11:00 am at Saint James Church in Danielson, Connecticut. A graveside service will follow in St Joseph Cemetery, Dayville. tillinghastfh.com

PLANS

continued from page A1

community pride-of-place may be hard to measure, but a high-quality redevelopment in such a prominent position will definitely have a lifting effect on the Town’s outlook for the future,” said Penn-Gesek.

During the most recent meeting of Thompson’s Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee on July 11, Robert Letskus shared preliminary concept sketches for the site and sought a letter from MSRAC to support the application to the Abandoned Brownfield Cleanup Liability Relief Program, which was approved according to the meeting minutes. The project plans would also preserve some greenspace that may be explored

for recreational use. The initiative is also considered a “gateway project” which may allow for future expansion of walking trails.

Letskus confirmed through email that he plans on attending monthly meetings of both MSRAC and the Economic Development Committee to keep the town informed on the status of the project. His goal is to not only redevelop the physical space but also respect the historic significance of the property including preserving most if not all of the guardhouse, the last remaining building from the property’s mill days.

However, all project and works plans are still preliminary. There’s plenty of work to be done and applications to be filed before any real

transformation takes place on the site. Letskus and his agency are still developing preliminary designs with the hopes of being prepared to engage with other town entities during permitting processes once the ownership change is confirmed. Penn-Gesek said the town and Refined Living plan to continue to work closely towards the unified goal of revitalizing the site.

“These partnerships between municipalities, state and federal agencies, and private developers are the best pathway for successful brownfields projects,” Penn-Gesek said. “As with any brownfield redevelopment, a successful project will take some time, but after almost 40 years of blight and unknowns, progress is in the works.”



Conceptual plans for a project at the site of the demolished Belding-Corticelli Mill on Riverside Drive.

ELKS

continued from page A1

decades of service and volunteerism before and during his time with the organization as the Elks of past and present have worked to go above and beyond to be of service to the people.

“Currently, we’re donating close to \$25,000 a year to various organizations throughout the community. Between that and all the stuff we do here at our lodge with the food shares and stuff, Thanksgiving, food baskets at Christmas, we do a lot. We’re also very patriotic. We welcome the community in, we teach people about the flag, we acknowledge veterans and help veterans. We’re all about community first, supporting local youth, and supporting our veterans,” said Morissette.

The event featured a who’s who of elected officials who all came together for one goal, to celebrate the impactful

contributions made by the Elks to support countless members of the local community. Putnam Mayor Barney Seney said he is forever grateful for the Elks’ many years of service to the town.

“Just look around and see what they’ve done for the town of Putnam over the last 125 years through their youth programs, their food programs, they raise money to give it away to benefit the community. I can’t thank them enough for their continued service,” said Seney.

Congressman Joe Courtney said organizations like the Elks have become valuable assets to communities all over the country but added that Putnam has been particularly special for its ability to grow and persevere achieving longevity and establishing generations of dedicated contributors to their benevolent mission.

“It’s special. These volunteer and frater-

nal orders have all been struggling throughout the years and keeping the volunteer ranks strong has really been a great accomplishment of this lodge. They do a lot. It is an active lodge – It’s also a social organization which really connects people in the region and (Community Day) is really an example of that,” said Courtney.

While the lodge has seen its share of trials and tribulations, including a fire that burned down their former building in the ‘50s, they have continued to be one of the most notable community groups in the entire region establishing a humble legacy of community service. Currently the Putnam Elks membership sits at around 450 members annually. Those looking to contribute or learn more about what they do or how to become a member can visit ctelks.org and search for Putnam Elks Lodge 574.

N. Frederick Mooers, 85



N. Frederick Mooers, age 85, of Brooklyn, CT, passed away peacefully on July 18th, surrounded by family and compassionate caregivers.

Born on December 18, 1939, Fred was the beloved son of Clyde and Nellie Mooers. He grew up in Plainville, CT, graduating from Plainville High School before attending the Porter School of Engineering Design, where he laid the foundation for a remarkable career in mechanical design and precision manufacturing.

Fred began his professional life at Superior Electric Company in Bristol and went on to have a long and successful career, earning several patents for his innovative work. He retired from Ensinger Precision Components in April 2015. His dedication to excellence and deep pride in his work left a lasting impact on colleagues and industry peers alike.

Fred was a man of quiet strength and unwavering devotion to his family. He is survived by his loving wife of many years, Barbara (Westfall) Mooers, and their sons, Jeffrey and Todd, as well as several cherished grandchildren, nieces,

and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Shirley (Mooers) Mancini, with whom he shared a close bond.

Fred’s joys in life were simple and heartfelt: he found happiness on the golf course, boating in Narragansett Bay, traveling, enjoying a fine glass of wine, and most of all, savoring Barbara’s home cooking. Throughout his life, he was dedicated to guiding and mentoring young people, whether through church retreats or coaching basketball, leaving a lasting legacy of kindness and leadership.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to Michelle, Mary, Jenni, and Trinity, as well as the devoted staff at Day Kimball Hospital and Home Care, for their exceptional care and compassion in Fred’s final days.

A memorial service will be held at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 83 Main St, Thompson, CT, on Saturday, August 9, 2025, at 10:00 AM, with a reception in the church hall to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Fred’s memory to Day Kimball Hospital – Intensive Care Unit.

Fred will be remembered for his quiet integrity, generous heart, and the deep love he shared with all who knew him.

For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

James “Chico” Panu March 29, 1938-July 16, 2025

Thompson - James Panu, 87 of Thompson, CT passed away peacefully on July 16, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in North Grosvenordale, CT, James was the son of the late Paul and Zurica (Dargati) Panu. A proud veteran, he served in the United States Army before beginning a long and distinguished career with the State of Connecticut Department of Corrections. James retired as the warden of the Brooklyn Correctional Institution, where he was respected for his fairness, dedication, and integrity.

James will be remembered for his warm smile, unwaveringly positive attitude, and deep love for his family. He had a gift for making everyone feel welcome and valued. Whether at work, on the golf course, or at home, James brought light and joy to those around him. He was an avid golfer and treasured the time spent with his family above all else.

James is survived by his devoted wife, Patricia (Ruane) Panu; his son, James Panu of Thompson, CT; two daughters, Karen Duhaime and her husband Randy of Woodstock, CT; and Susan Panu of Farmington, CT; his broth-

er, Charles Panu and his wife Henrietta of Thompson, CT. He also leaves behind three cherished granddaughters, Chelsea DeJonge, Hannah Duhaime, and Emily Woodward, and two adored great-granddaughters, Lucy and Claire DeJonge.

James will be remembered for a life well lived-one of service, love, laughter, and kindness. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Services will be private and are entrusted to Gilman & Valade Funeral Homes and Crematory. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 26, 1pm at Point Breeze Restaurant and Lounge, 114 Point Breeze Road, Webster, MA 01570.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp or to a charity of your choice.

To share a memory or offer condolences, please visit the memorial guestbook at www.GilmanAndValade.com

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