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THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Friday, January 9, 2026

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Courtesy

A JOYFUL START TO THE NEW YEAR AT DAY KIMBALL HOSPITAL!

Day Kimball Hospital is delighted to welcome Northeast Connecticut's Baby New Year, Genevieve Joan Gieck, born at 8:39 a.m. on Jan. 2. Genevieve weighed 7 lbs., 0 oz. and measured 19.5 inches long at birth. She is the first child of Sarah and Vincent Gieck of Ashford, and both mom and baby are doing well. To celebrate this special New Year arrival, Genevieve and her family were welcomed with a basket of baby essentials generously gifted by the Woman's Board of Day Kimball Hospital. We are honored to begin the year by caring for families during life's most meaningful moments.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Town of Killingly has been accepted into a state grant program with the goal of replacing four bridges throughout the town.

In November, Town Manager Brian Palaia revealed to the Town Council that four bridges had been awarded design and construction grants with the intent to replace all four structures. These bridges are the North Road Bridge over Five Mile River, the Wright Road Bridge in the Quanduck Conservation Area, the Peep Toad Road Bridge, and a bridge on Cotton Bridge Road. Work on these bridges is expected to begin in the new year.

In December, Palaia pro-

vided more insight into the work discussing how the effort could impact neighboring properties.

"Some of that design work may require temporary or permanent easements. Pursuant to that, we sent out about thirty letters to residents putting them on notice that they may be contacted by state DOT as they conduct their design work," said Palaia.

Approximately 30 letters went out to abutting property owners, according to Palaia's report. Easements are legal permissions to use part of a property not owned by the town of state and are often enacted when construction projects like bridges require equipment or work to be conducted on adjacent property that may be privately owned.

These easement notices do not guarantee that work will take place on the properties but are required in order to keep neighboring property owners informed.

The design effort is slated to begin in the new year, targeting construction for 2028. Palaia indicated that consultants may begin doing survey work in early 2026. The construction phase may include borrowing that would be reimbursed by the grant. Killingly award totals an estimated \$23 million for all four bridges combined. The Town Council called the grant announcement a "good situation" for Killingly that allows the town to tackle much-needed infrastructure improvements without impacting taxpayers in the long run.

TEEG receives new stoves courtesy of Bousquet's



Courtesy
TEEG received two new stoves from Steve Bousquet's Appliance & TV after their existing equipment was damaged in a power surge. Bousquet's had also donated the original stoves when TEEG opened its current home in 2012.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — TEEG in Thompson ended the year on a high note with the replacement of two damaged stoves with a pair of new ones, courtesy of the same local business that donated the retired pieces when the Thatcher Road campus first opened.

During a windstorm in late 2025, TEEG suffered from a brownout that damaged both of its stoves and a cooler in the food market. The stoves, which included ovens, were traditionally used for cooking classes and mentor activities in TEEG's kitchen. Executive Director Carl Asikainen said they initially were going to wait on replacing the items, prioritizing their holiday distributions instead. However, an opportunity arose to consult with Steve Bousquet's Appliance & TV who

donated the original stoves when the agency's current building opened in 2012.

"It's holiday season and we were asking people for so many things. We needed the stoves for the new year, but we put them on pause. Then I remember that (Bousquet's) comes here every year around Thanksgiving with extra turkeys. We had them take a look at the kitchen and they remembered the stoves. I said we had money to purchase the stoves, but they just said he would take care of it. Sure enough, the next week we had a delivery truck here with two brand new stoves," said Asikainen.

As TEEG looks to the future, their ongoing plans for expansion include an even bigger commercial kitchen area in what would be a second building that would be built on a portion of the adjacent parking lot next to TEEG's current home. That kitchen would be used for more food processing, healthy eating classes, and food preservation curriculum. The agency is still very much in the fundraising phase of that initiative.

Have a ball at Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp's "Sno Ball"

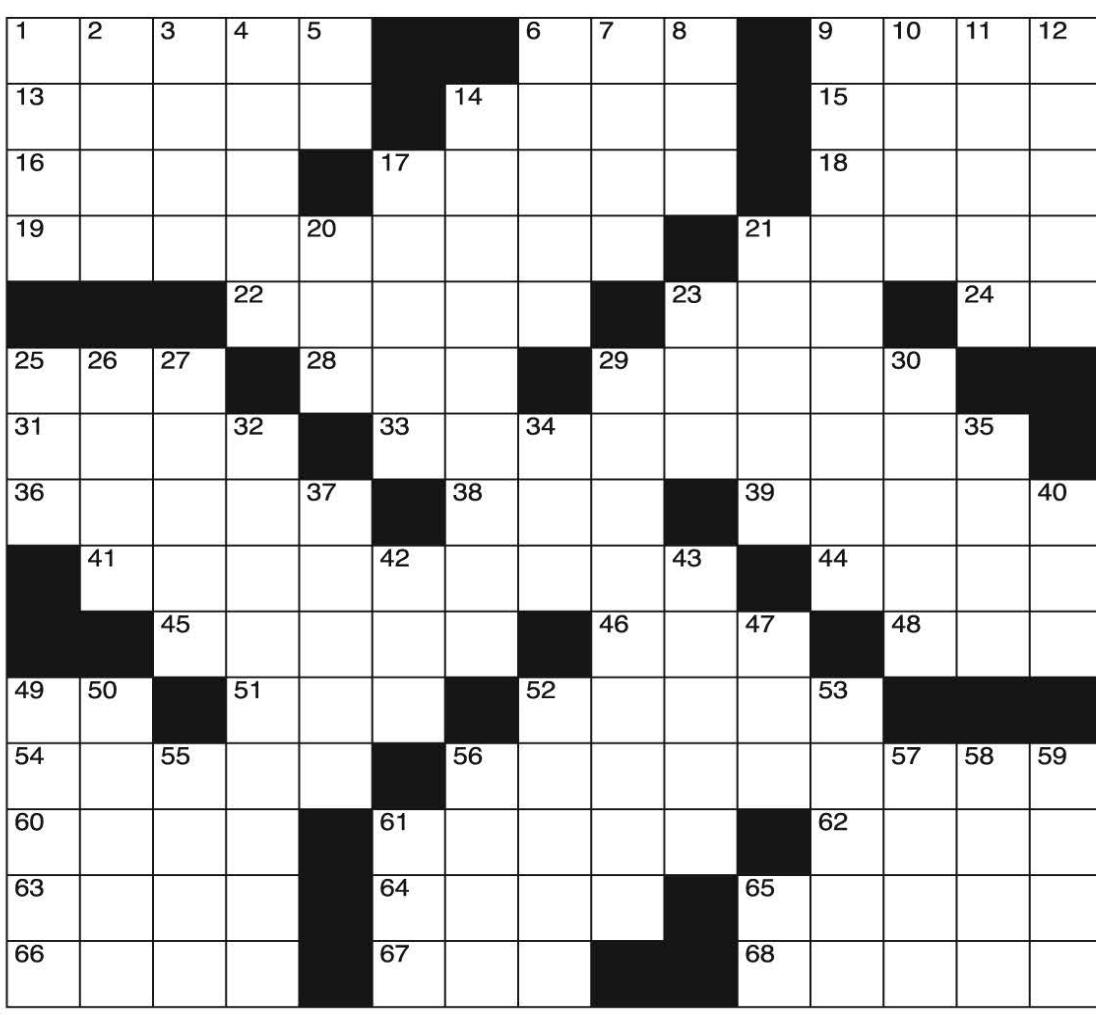


POMFRET CENTER — The winter months can be so long, dark and dreary. Join us on Jan. 24 at the lodge from 5 – 8 p.m. for a fun Dinner Dance for the whole family.

The preparations begin the weekend before, when teen weekend participants start decorating the lodge for the festivities. Come and check out their winter wonderland.

Turn To SNO BALL page A6



**CLUES ACROSS**

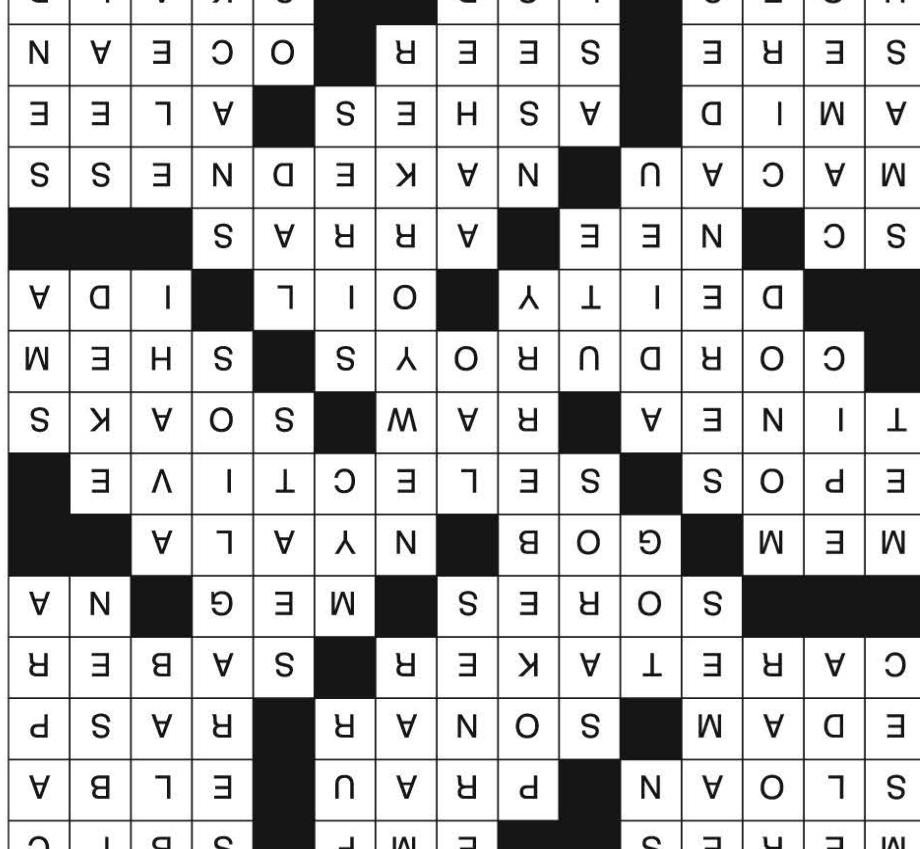
1. Lakes
 6. Electromotive force
 9. Invests in little enterprises
 13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
 14. Small sailboat
 15. Actor Idris
 16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
 17. System that detects objects under water
 18. Harsh, grating noise
 19. Steward
 21. A fencing sword
 22. Infections
 23. Actress Ryan
 24. Sodium
 25. Swedish castle
 28. A lump of slime
 29. African antelope
 31. Insurance providers
 33. Choosy
 36. Ringworm

38. Unpolished
 39. Drenches
 41. Pant style
 44. Son of Noah
 45. Spiritual being
 46. Upton Sinclair novel
 48. Journalist Tarbell
 49. Popular sports highlight show
 51. Born of
 52. Rich tapestry
 54. S. China seaport
 56. State of being unclothed
 60. Surrounded by
 61. Residue
 62. Away from wind
 63. Dried-up
 64. Visionary
 65. A very large body of water
 66. Garden tools
 67. Screen type
 68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond
 2. Spanish city
 3. A sudden very loud sound
 4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
 5. Tin
 6. Sea eagles
 7. Volcanic crater
 8. Type of coat
 9. Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
 10. Divulge a secret
 11. Norwegian playwright
 12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director
 14. Poisonous perennial plant
 17. 18-year astronomical period
 20. Clothes
 21. Places to sit
 23. Family of regulator genes
 25. New York ballplayer
 26. Impressive in size or scope
 27. Jacques ___, French biologist

29. One from the Big Apple
 30. Genus of woolly lemurs
 32. Songs to one's beloved
 34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
 35. Supplemented with difficulty
 37. Farewell
 40. Investment account (abbr.)
 42. One from Utah
 43. Begets
 47. A male child
 49. Break apart
 50. Brief appearance
 52. Partner to "ooched"
 53. A light informal meal
 55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
 56. One billionth of a second
 57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
 58. Close tightly
 59. Mail out
 61. Language
 65. Computer characteristic

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Mountain Laurel Floral Designs announces January workshops

DANIELSON — Ring in 2026 with Mountain Laurel Floral Designs, a locally owned flower and gift shop in the heart of Danielson. This January, the shop is hosting a variety of unique workshops for all ages, from vision boards to leaf impressions!

"Gabby and I love crafting and we've made it a goal to lean into crafting workshops this year. We're excited to kick off 2026 with a lineup of workshops we have yet to try. Stay tuned for our Valentine's Day-themed workshops, which we'll be announcing in a couple weeks," said co-owner Pam Blinten.

If you would like to participate in one of these workshops, visit mountainlaurelfloraldct.com to learn more and register.

January workshops:

Free Story Hour with Brittany Clarke

Jan. 15 | 9 – 10 a.m.

FREE - Enjoy a winter wonderland-themed story hour featuring snowy stories and a fun winter craft after the reading

Pressed Flower/Houseplant Leaf Print

Jan. 17 | 1 – 3 p.m.

\$45 - Use your own real houseplant leaves to create 3-5 detailed prints, each print is its own unique piece of botanical art. No experience is needed—just curiosity and a love of natural beauty.

Lasagna-Style Bulb Pots

Jan. 25 | 11 a.m. – noon

\$45 - Learn how to create multi-bloom spring displays by layering different bulbs in a single pot. We'll guide you through choosing bulbs, arranging layers, and caring for your container.

About Mountain Laurel Floral Designs

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

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

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Day Kimball Health names Kyle Buchheister November Employee of the Month

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) has named Kyle Buchheister, RN, an emergency department nurse, as its employee of the month for November 2025.

Buchheister joined Day Kimball Health in October 2024 and has quickly become a valued member of the emergency department team. In his role, he provides compassionate, high-quality care to patients of all ages, managing a wide range of conditions from minor complaints to complex emergencies. He is known for his calm demeanor, strong clinical skills, and commitment to teamwork in the fast-paced emergency department environment.

Buchheister brings four years of emergency nursing experience to DKH. Prior to joining the organization, he spent three years at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, where he served as both a staff nurse and a charge nurse. His clinical background includes trauma care, and he holds a Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) certification earned during his time at Hackensack.

"Kyle exemplifies the



Kyle Buchheister, RN, an emergency department registered nurse, has been named Employee of the Month for November 2025.

professionalism, skill, and compassion we strive for at DKH," said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health. "His steady presence, collaborative approach, and dedication to patient care make a meaningful difference every day for our patients and for his colleagues in the

Emergency Department. We are excited to be a part of Kyle's continued growth and advancement as a clinical professional and future leader."

When asked about being named Employee of the Month, Buchheister shared that he feels honored by

the recognition, particularly because the nomination came from his peers and coworkers. He noted that what he enjoys most about his work is the collaborative nature of the emergency department and the opportunity to make a positive impact on patients' lives, no matter how

big or small the moment.

Born and raised in Dumont, N.J., Buchheister now resides in Putnam, Connecticut, with his girlfriend. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a minor in psycholo-

gy from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island. Outside of work, he has a strong history of leadership and community involvement. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2017 and volunteered with the University of Rhode Island Emergency Medical Services from 2017 until his graduation in 2020. In his free time, Buchheister enjoys outdoor activities including skiing, hiking, and golfing.

About Day Kimball Health

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



All Putnam Lodge members and shooters.



Bryce and Teagan Espinosa.

ELKS HOST EAST DISTRICT HOOP SHOT

GROTON — UConn Avery Point held the 2026 Elks East District Hoop Shoot on Sunday, Jan. 4. Putnam Lodge was well represented, with Parker Perron (8-9 Girls) finishing in 2nd place in her division. Joyce Mentor (Girls 12-13) also came in 2nd in the oldest division. Teagan Espinosa (Girls 10-11) won her division, going 20 out of 25 shots and her brother Bryce Espinosa (Boys 12-13) also won making 22 out of 25 shots. Both Teagan and Bryce will be moving on to the States on January 17th in Manchester.

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EDITOR

A quieter kind of progress

January has a way of putting everything under a bright light. The decorations come down, the calendar turns, and the routines that were softened by the holidays return in full. It is the season of resolutions, but it is also the season of honesty. What works, what does not, and what still needs attention become harder to ignore.

In small towns across Northeastern Connecticut, progress rarely arrives with bold headlines or sweeping announcements. More often, it comes quietly. It looks like a road patched before winter worsens the damage. A school budget reviewed line by line. A library program that keeps drawing a modest but loyal crowd. These are not dramatic moments, but they are the building blocks of a functioning community.

There is a tendency, especially at the start of a new year, to equate progress with big change. But in towns like Putnam, Woodstock, Thompson, Killingly, and Putnam, progress is usually incremental. It depends on consistency more than novelty. Boards that continue meeting even when attendance is light. Volunteers who show up year after year, not for recognition, but because someone has to do the work. Residents who care enough to ask questions, raise concerns, and stay engaged even when the answers are complicated.

January is also when patience is tested. Winter exposes every weakness in infrastructure and planning. Snow and ice strain public works budgets. Heating costs hit household finances hard. Emergency services operate under tougher conditions. These challenges are not new, but they are revealing. How clearly information is communicated, how thoughtfully resources are managed, and how fairly decisions are made all matter more when conditions are difficult.

What has long distinguished this part of the state is a practical understanding of shared responsibility. Civic life here still depends on people who attend meetings, serve on boards, coach teams, support local nonprofits, and vote in local elections. It depends on neighbors who may disagree on specific issues but still understand that cooperation is not optional in a small town. Roads must be plowed. Schools must function. Services must be delivered.

There is also value in remembering that participation does not always mean holding a formal role. Supporting a local business during the slow winter months, attending a school concert or town event, checking in on an elderly neighbor, or simply staying informed about local decisions all contribute to the health of a community. These small acts add up, especially when they are sustained over time.

As the new year settles in, perhaps the most useful resolutions are not grand promises, but quiet commitments. Pay attention. Stay informed. Show up when it matters. Speak respectfully, even when opinions differ. Support the institutions that hold towns together, from libraries and senior centers to volunteer fire departments and school programs.

Progress does not need to be loud to be real. In these towns, it almost never is. It happens meeting by meeting, conversation by conversation, and season by season. January offers a chance to recommit to that steady work, knowing that small, consistent efforts are what carry communities through winter and into whatever comes next.

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

We are lost

To the Editor:

It's obvious that there are no limits to the atrocities, crimes and outrages Donnie Tyrant is getting away with. Now there is a clear and illegal act of war in kidnapping Venezuelan President Maduro.

Another crime is that nearly all of the GOP'ers in Congress are applauding his action. This is clearly aiding and abetting a criminal in a crime with no indictments beforehand, no prior notification or approval by Congress, no legitimate justification, an unknown number killed and a country in chaos. And since when does an indictment issued in New York carry international standing? Got me.

I hold culpable all those who continue to support Donnie Tyrant. They are clearly unindicted co-conspirators and should be charged under RICO for being part of an organized and ongoing

criminal enterprise.

And I won't accept the argument that there is precedence in this invasion and therefore it is legal. Curiously, Donnie's invasion is 35 years to the day that George H.W. Bush invaded Panama and kidnapped President Noriega. Just because Bush wasn't kicked out because of this impeachable action doesn't justify Donnie doing the same.

We are indeed lost, as a nation and a philosophy. The real criminals are Reagan and Gingrich. They started this emasculation of Congress and the Supreme Court. The phrase "Do Nothing Congress" was created during their regime. Donnie Tyrant is just the latest beneficiary of this intentional weakening and destroying of our Constitution.

Stephen Etzel

Putnam

Maduro's arrest has opened a Pandora's Box

To the Editor:

One of the fundamental principles of President Trump's MAGA movement was that America no longer would be the world's policeman. Regional conflicts no longer would include an American presence as overseas governments would be left to the own devices. This not only represented drastic downsizing of our military role, it also included our diplomatic core, as well as our foreign aid.

All this seems to have taken an abrupt 180-degree turn in the last few weeks, as we bombed Nigerian separatists claiming we were protecting Christians, threatened the use of force in Iran to protect its government protestors, and now the coup de gras, kidnapping Venezuela's President Maduro, along with its First Lady, and essentially taking over the country. True, we had already bombed a few nuclear facilities in Iran, but this was only after Israel did 99 percent of the heavy work.

The case of Venezuela, though, represents uncharted territory. Yes, Maduro was a dictator who most of the world believes was illegally in office after his opponent rightfully won the election. True also was that his policies led to a flood of undocumented and documented immigrants flooding our borders. And true, there was a warrant out for his arrest, just as there are warrants for Putin and Netanyahu in other countries.

In 2020, Maduro was charged in US court for using government resources to foster cocaine shipments and supporting regional drug cartels and labeled a "narco-terrorist". This despite the fact that cocaine is not a narcotic, is not associated with the vast number of deaths that fentanyl has, and that Venezuelan cocaine is primarily a European market.

Getting rid of Maduro is a good thing, however, as with many of the President's actions, the means fails to justify the ends. First, there is the unclear legal authority for a president to authorize the bombing of another country. Accepting that the executive branch was simply carrying out a legal action would also argue that similar actions could be justified for the hundreds of other culprits worldwide living in countries lacking an extradition agreement with the US.

Thornier still is the claim by Trump that there is no longer an elected government, and that we will be running the country. Not true. Edmundo Gonzalez was overwhelmingly elected president in 2024 but was forced to flee to Spain after Maduro claimed victory. Furthermore, Venezuela has a Vice President, Delcy Rodriguez, who, under their laws, can step into Maduro's position.

Trump seems to think that 30 million Venezuelans will refuse to follow one of their own and suddenly agree to an American takeover. Running a hostile country is not easy. Take, for example, Israel in Gaza, whose size is that of Woodstock. Trump has also threatened Rodriguez, saying that "if she doesn't do what's right, she is going to pay a very big price, probably bigger than Maduro."

He also wants to somehow take over the Venezuelan oil reserves. Does this mean privatizing the industry? Chevron already has its business there. Does that mean forcing other companies in? And since it would take years to make a profit would a company want to invest in new sites while most of the world moves toward clean energy sources.

Then there are the political ramifications. Countries who feel threatened by a colonial America may seek protection in a Chinese sphere of influence. China may also use this as a justification to enforce their own laws which include the invasion of Taiwan. What's more there are thousands of political dissidents who fled repressive regimes such as Russia, China and North Korea over made up charges scattered across the free world. Will they now be fair game to be tracked down?

Lastly, there is a small, sticky detail. Maduro has not been found guilty of a crime. Under American law, he is innocent until proven guilty. In other words, it's possible that a court of law may find that the accused are blameless and that the charges were bogus and "Trumped up." He would then be a free man, meaning that the US bombed and invaded a sovereign nation, kidnapped its leader, carried out a hostile government coup, and commandeered its major source of income all under fictitious claims (can anyone say Iraq WMDs).

All of this demonstrates a fundamental lack of judgement. World politics is not some reality TV show. The fact that the President and those around him failed to consider both the foreseen and unforeseen consequences, show they are not only inept but very dangerous.

Trump has made a precarious situation worse as the world becomes less safe. A dark and baneful Pandora's box has been opened. As Trump consolidates power under one government branch and under one man, our only hope remains the Judiciary and even more importantly, the Legislative branch, who if 2026 goes well, could remove this budding tyrant from office. November cannot come soon enough.

Lee Wesler

Woodstock

Washington cuts, local consequences

To the Editor:

By now, millions of Americans are beginning to see and feel the impact of the Trump/Vance Administration's cuts to health care, an estimated \$1 trillion reduction to Medicaid and \$500 billion to Medicare. As families struggle to navigate a growing health care crisis, families with children are now facing the Administration's next manufactured emergency: childcare.

The Trump Administration recently announced it is freezing childcare funds to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories while demanding additional verification and administrative data. The result of the freeze will be predictable and devastating. Childcare providers will close, childcare will become scarcer for low-income families, and costs will rise for those who can least afford it, especially single mothers.

For many families, childcare costs rival housing costs. Nationally, childcare consumes about 10 percent of a married couple's median income and roughly 35 percent of a single parent's median income, depending on the state and child age. Research also shows that mothers are far more likely than fathers to miss work due to childcare problems. When childcare becomes unavailable or unaffordable, mothers leave the workforce altogether. This is a key reason women experience higher poverty rates than men across their lifetimes, driven by a lack of public investment in family-friendly policies here in the U.S.

The lack of public investments and its consequences are not accidental. The Trump/Vance Project 2025 policies that are being implemented disproportionately harm women. Weakening or withdrawing federal responsibility for childcare appears designed to push caregivers, especially mothers, back into the home. At the same time, cuts to anti-poverty programs such as Head Start and school lunch programs are prioritizing

interests of the wealthy over the needs of low-income families, many of whom are led by women. These choices undermine economic growth and deepen inequality.

Taxpayer funds should be invested in essential public services that benefit society. Instead, Trump treats taxpayer funds as his personal funds to use as a political weapon, threatening to withhold resources from states that refuse to bend the knee. His "America First" policies delivered an estimated \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks to billionaires (who barely pay any taxes), bailed out Argentina to the tune of \$40 billion, and authorized more than \$900 billion to the Department of Defense so it can bomb Venezuela, Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, Iran, Syria, Nigeria, and carry out strikes in the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean Sea. Despite promising peace and limited foreign intervention, the Trump administration has carried out more than 600 international strikes in its first year alone.

There always seems to be money for billionaire tax breaks, bailouts, and war, but not for American families. Imagine investing that money in universal childcare, universal healthcare, and universal education, as countries like Finland and Sweden have done. As of 2025, Finland was ranked the happiest country in the world followed by Denmark, Iceland and Switzerland. The United States has fallen to its lowest position in the World Happiness Report. Spoiler alert: Rising political polarization is cited as a major factor.

Perhaps it's time for a different approach. It's time once again to call our legislators and demand policies that support families, promote equality, and invest in people rather than power. And it's time to tell Congress to put an end to the chaos, take back the power of the purse, and stop the U.S. violation of international laws.

Lisa Arends

Brooklyn

Liminal space

I didn't intend to start the new year with an evaluation of my life. After a lovely New Year's Eve dinner with friends, my husband and I came home before midnight. He was tired and went upstairs to bed. Our neighbors had invited us to come over to watch a fireworks display and I decided to go. I put our darling pug under one arm and grabbed a flashlight in the other hand.

In my ancient Bean boots, I walked across our yard into the wooded boundary of our properties. That's when I slipped. When I tried to get up, I slipped again. I didn't drop the dog or the flashlight, but as I lay on the ground in the soft snow under a bright moon, I decided to take stock. I knew I wasn't hurt, at least not much, as my thick coat protected me. I knew what I had done was foolish and that neither my neighbors or my husband would hear me if I called out. The pug thought the whole thing great fun and began licking my face. My cellphone, which is generally in my pocket, was inside my house.

We can't determine everything that happens in life. Most years my husband and I sit down and write long lists of what we plan to do in the new year and what we plan to improve or alter about ourselves. Our efforts work to an extent. We take trips because we plan them in advance. I read many books, write more poems, go to the gym, acquire an older dog, treasure my grandchildren because I deliberately choose to. I like to think I am in control even though I know everything changes, often for no apparent reason.

Many years ago, I began attending my local Episcopal church. It was a challenge to feel comfortable after a childhood spent in the quiet, spare Congregational church, but the lyrical nature of the liturgy, the warm welcome of friends and clergy as well as a good program for our daughters made it mine. I decided to stay. When I attend services, thoughts scramble to gain a footing as an unsettled world buzzes just outside the heavy wooden doors. There is time to remember and to be grateful. There is time for regret and options to be charitable and forgiving, and time to just be quiet.

As I lay on the ground looking up at the moon, I wasn't thinking about my resolution to drink less wine or clean the kitchen drawers. I wasn't thinking about taking classes on how to use AI or juice up my memory of irregular French verbs. I was thinking about the concept of grace. Somehow, there I was, a small, aging woman wrapped in a down coat holding a dog in the liminal space between two houses at midnight. Had I earned this moment of freedom, of peace, of reflection? Not any more than anyone else. Not forever, but for a moment.

A colorful explosion of fireworks burst over the trees. The pug and I stood up and joined the party. A bonfire and friends, no broken bones and while the sense that this year may be more challenging than most is undeniable, there will be moments that will take us away from the dailiness of it all. One resolution worth making and keeping is to stop and notice what is beautiful, kind, unearned but appreciated, natural, civil, and even close to eternal. Oh, and buy new winter boots if the old ones are too slippery.

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Are we too concentrated on AI?

The excitement surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) lit a fire under stocks last year as we learned how AI would help us work faster, turn words into pictures, and shop on our behalf.

Investors are optimistic that AI-related stocks will continue to surge on further adoption by individuals and corporations. The advent of AI has helped to propel the bull market, which started in October 2022. Since then, the S&P 500 Information Technology sector has increased by an astounding 181.7 percent.

While AI enthusiasm is understandable, it's also important to remember that trends tend to come and go in the stock market, and it's impossible to know exactly when sentiment will shift. A diversified portfolio, with exposure to various industries and sectors, as well as international stocks and bonds, will spread investment risk. It will provide downside protection if any one sector falls out of favor and upside exposure if an underperforming area turns around and starts to outperform.

A history lesson

As AI took off, it became clear that the country would need more data centers to train and run AI models. Data centers need to be built, they need electrici-

ty to run, and semiconductor chips to crunch data. Stocks related to utilities, construction equipment and semiconductors have all had a strong 2025. Shares of semiconductor company Nvidia led the pack, rising 1,483 percent since the bull market began in October 2022, because its chips are used to train and operate AI models.

Despite its recent success, a portfolio that's overly exposed to Nvidia, or technology stocks in general, could fall disproportionately if semis or technology fall out of favor. Nvidia may be today's market darling but consider what happened during the 2000 technology bust. Intel, which was then the king of the semiconductor hill, watched its shares fall sharply and never return to their 2000 peak.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2000 tech bubble, demand for semiconductors dropped sharply and in the ensuing years, Intel had some missteps that led it to fall off the cutting edge of semiconductor development.

Another semiconductor company rose to lead the pack, Advanced Micro Devices. When AI came along, AMD fell behind because Nvidia had the chips everyone wanted. Looking ahead, Nvidia may face competition from



FINANCIAL
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chips produced by Google, Amazon, and AMD. Time will tell.

Looking for diversification

Investing in oil companies or healthcare companies may not be as exciting as buying the tech stocks discussed nightly on CNBC, but diversification pays off, particularly when long-term trends unexpectedly shift. Investors can diversify beyond the technology and communications services sectors by increasing their exposure to stocks in other sectors like Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Energy, Financials, Health Care, Industrials, Materials, Real Estate, and Utilities.

While companies in these areas might not sell technology or AI models, they still stand to benefit from AI. Employees will use AI to become more efficient, just like they did when the Internet was introduced. AI should allow companies to grow more profitably and that should benefit stocks of all stripes.

Investors can also diver-

sify investment portfolios by buying the stocks of companies located overseas. Many European companies have much lower stock price multiples and higher dividends than their US counterparts. Bonds also provide diversification. They might not grow like stocks during bull markets, but when bear markets arrive, high-quality bonds often hold their value or appreciate.

Once a portfolio is diversified, it's important to rebalance it annually by selling some winning stocks and redeploying the proceeds into other areas. Doing so ensures that one sector or stock allocation never becomes too large.

Ironically, the S&P 500 illustrates what happens when a portfolio isn't rebalanced each year. The market-weighted index allows winning stocks to become an ever-larger part of the portfolio. For example, the Magnificent-7 stocks—Alphabet (Google's parent) Amazon, Apple, Meta (Facebook's parent), Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla—have appreciated so much that they now represent almost a third of the S&P 500's market capitalization.

As they've rallied in recent years, the Magnificent-7 stocks have

dragged the S&P 500's return up even though the index's average stock hasn't performed as well. This year the Magnificent-7 stocks have risen about 23 percent, the S&P 500 has climbed about 15 percent, and the equal-weighted S&P 500 has about 4.5 percent. The same will likely be true in reverse. If technology stocks run out of steam, the S&P 500's other 497 stocks may outperform. While performance differs based on the time period and calculation method, these estimates reflect the general trend we've seen: a small group of companies meaningfully influencing the index's overall return.

The Magnificent-7's blockbuster run also explains why a diversified investment portfolio may not outperform the technology-heavy S&P 500 index. But that doesn't mean a well-thought-out diversified portfolio isn't appropriate or performing well. Instead, it suggests that the S&P 500 might not be the proper benchmark given its concentration in technology and AI-related stocks.

Investors should always strive to have a well-diversified portfolio. Our team at WHZ is here to help. Call us at (860) 928-2341 or schedule a complimentary discovery session now with our team.

Together, we can create a strategy designed to give you Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Authored by WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors Senior Partner & Chief Investment Officer Laurence Hale. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets, and diversification cannot guarantee that any objective or goal will be achieved.

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Independence and the Toleration Party



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

es of bringing the football teams of the University of Michigan and Stanford University to Pasadena to play. The admission price was between 50 cents and a dollar to attend the game. An additional dollar would be charged to admit a family's horse and buggy to the grounds.

The game was played in Tournament Park, where temporary stands were built. "Before the Rose Bowl stadium was built for the 1923 Rose Bowl, games were played in Pasadena's Tournament Park, approximately three miles southeast of the current stadium. Tournament Park is now a private park maintained by the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California. It was simply known as the 'town lot' before being renamed Tournament Park in 1900."

I had never heard of the Toleration Party and wondered what it stood for and how long it existed. Wikipedia provided both answers, "The Toleration Party, also known as the Toleration-Republican Party and later the American Party or American Toleration and Reform Party, was a political party that dominated the political life of Connecticut from 1817 to 1827... The party was formed by an alliance of the more conservative Episcopalians with the Democratic-Republicans, as a result of the discrimination of the Episcopal Church by the Congregationalist state government. In the 1817 elections, the Toleration Party swept control of the General Assembly. At the Connecticut Constitutional Convention in 1817, 111 of the 201 convention delegates belonged to the Toleration Party. The resulting (Connecticut) Constitution of 1818 generally adhered to the Tolerationist platform, especially their two major issues: increasing the electorate and the democratic nature of the government and disestablish-

Silence once had a purpose. It gave us time to think, to notice, to settle our thoughts before rushing to the next thing. These days, silence often feels like something to fix. A radio gets switched on. A screen lights up. A voice fills the room, whether we asked for it or not.

I am not immune to this. Like everyone else, I reach for distractions without always knowing why. But every now and then, usually by accident, I find myself in a stretch of quiet and realize how rare it has become.

Sometimes, it happens early in the morning, before the day decides what it wants from me. Other times it arrives late at night, when the house has gone still and the world outside seems to hold its breath. In those moments, nothing dramatic occurs. There are no revelations, no sweeping conclusions. Just a sense that my thoughts finally have room to finish themselves.

Silence does not demand anything. It does not argue. It does not interrupt. It simply waits.

I think that is why it feels so unfamiliar now. We live in a time that rewards immediacy. Opinions are shared the moment they form. Reactions arrive faster than reflection. Being heard has become more

ing the Congregational Church. By the end of the 1820s, the Tolerationists had developed into the Jacksonian branch of the Connecticut Democratic Party."

In 1826, Killingly was caught up in the early phase of the Industrial Revolution. In 1825 Leonard Ballou and his father-in-law Jabez Amesbury had purchased a former corn mill (grist mill) on the Five Mile River in what is now the Ballouville section of Killingly and converted it to a small cotton mill (Killingly Land Records, Vol. 24, p. 13). Cotton factories were being operated at Attawaugan, Chestnut Hill (Young's), and two in present-day Danielson (across from the present post office). The Cundalls also operated a woolen mill not far from the latter. Although small mill

villages were being built, the main hubs of activity were still centered around the meetinghouses in the various societies—South (Killingly), Westfield, and Killingly Hill (now Putnam Heights).

Remember 200 years ago, although Thompson had been set off as a separate town in 1785, Putnam did not yet exist, and the railroad had not yet changed the face of Killingly and Northeastern Connecticut.

Did you know that in addition to being the 50th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1826 was also the death date of two U.S. presidential founding fathers of the United States? Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died within a few hours of each other on that date. "On July 4, 1826,

at the age of 90, Adams lay on his deathbed while the country celebrated Independence Day. His last words were, 'Thomas Jefferson still survives.' He was mistaken: Jefferson had died five hours earlier at Monticello at the age of 83." (<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/july-4/thomas-jefferson-and-john-adams-die>)

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, January 2026. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

The Corner of Kindness

There are moments when I realize how little silence we allow ourselves anymore.

Not the uncomfortable kind, where no one knows what to say, but the ordinary silence that used to exist between sounds. The pause before someone answered the phone. The quiet stretch of time while a letter made its way through the mail. The stillness of a room when the television was turned off because no one felt like filling the space.

Silence once had a purpose. It gave us time to think, to notice, to settle our thoughts before rushing to the next thing. These days, silence often feels like something to fix. A radio gets switched on. A screen lights up. A voice fills the room, whether we asked for it or not.

I am not immune to this. Like everyone else, I reach for distractions without always knowing why. But every now and then, usually by accident, I find myself in a stretch of quiet and realize how rare it has become.

Sometimes, it happens early in the morning, before the day decides what it wants from me. Other times it arrives late at night, when the house has gone still and the world outside seems to hold its breath. In those moments, nothing dramatic occurs. There are no revelations, no sweeping conclusions. Just a sense that my thoughts finally have room to finish themselves.

Silence does not demand anything. It does not argue. It does not interrupt. It simply waits.

I think that is why it feels so unfamiliar now. We live in a time that rewards immediacy. Opinions are shared the moment they form. Reactions arrive faster than reflection. Being heard has become more

important than listening, even to ourselves.

But silence has a way of restoring balance. It reminds us that not every moment requires commentary. Not every experience needs to be documented or explained. Some things are better understood after we have sat with them for a while.

I notice this most when I am around other people who are comfortable with quiet. The conversation does not stop; it just breathes.

CORNER OF KINDNESS

By CHIP

Words are chosen more carefully. Listening feels less like waiting for a turn and more like paying attention. There is an ease in that kind of exchange that no amount of clever talk can replace.

In Northeastern Connecticut, we still have places where silence has not completely retreated. Back roads where traffic thins out. Fields in winter where sound carries farther than it does in summer. Even ordinary moments at home, when nothing is happening and no one is in a hurry, can offer a kind of peace that is easy to overlook.

These moments do not announce themselves. You have to let them happen.

I have come to believe that silence is not empty. It is generous. It gives us the chance to think before speaking, to notice before reacting, and to appreciate the people around us without rushing past them. It makes room for kindness that does not need an audience.

We do not need to seek silence all the time. Life is meant to be lived out loud, too. But allowing a little more quiet into our days might help us remember who we are when no one is talking over us.

That, it seems to me, is a kindness worth practicing.

Clippers fall short at Norwich Tech Winter Classic, bounce back against Wheeler



NORWICH — The Putnam Clippers fell short in the Norwich Tech Winter Classic championship game against Stafford on Dec. 30, 68-65, to fall to 2-3 on the season.

Freshman TJ Espinosa led Putnam with a game high 32 points and added

9 rebounds and 3 assists. Camden Kell added 17 points, 3 rebounds and 2 assists and Nick Devlin chipped in 11 points and 7 rebounds.

The boys improved to 2-0 in the division ECC standings after knocking off the Wheeler School 41-28

on Jan. 3. The Clippers separated themselves after a huge 23-0 run to start the second half. Freshman

guard T.J. Espinosa led Putnam with a game high 19 points, 8 rebounds and 2 steals. Sophomore Camden

Kell added 8 points, 6 rebounds and 2 blocks and senior captain Nick Devlin chipped in 7 points, 8

rebounds and 3 assists in the win. The Clippers improved to 3-3 on the season.

SNO BALL
continued from page A1

and enjoy a sit down baked chicken and mac and cheese dinner prepared by our amazing camp cook and a We-Lik-It Ice Cream Bar for dessert. We will have a DJ, dancing for all ages, door prizes, raffles, family pictures and a whole lot of fun. Adults \$25, Kids 10 and under \$15. Buy tickets by Jan. 20 by calling the camp at 860-974-3379 or on the website 4hcampct.org. Show date is Jan. 31.

This is the second year that we are offering this event, which has replaced our April 5K race. All proceeds benefit the Jim Logee Campership Fund which seeks to provide tuition support to enable as many campers as possible to enjoy a week of camp that wouldn't be able to attend without his help. As was the case with the race, the

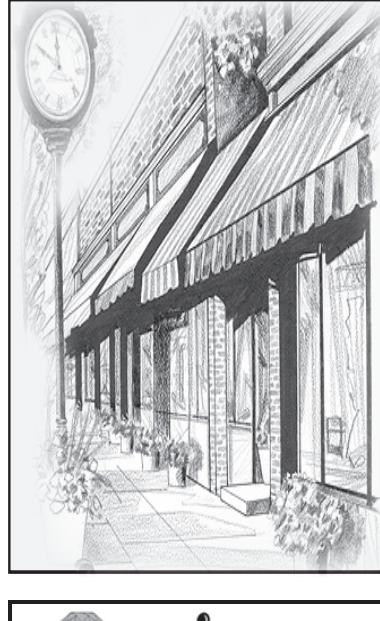
success of this fundraiser is largely due to the sponsorship support of our business partners.. This year we would like to acknowledge the support of the following business donors as of press time: American Landscape and Lawn Service, Beebe & O'Neil, Brialee Family Campground, Buck's Soft Serve, Creamery Brook Village, Danielson Surplus, DJ Services, Ekon Hill Turkey Farm, French River Materials, Johnson Auto Body, Landon's Tire, Mackey's, Walter & Carolyn McGinn, Olander's of Columbia, Nicholas Schola LLC, Mike Smith's Transmission & Auto Center, St. Onge & Brouillard, Sunshine Shop, Daryn Tenenbaum, LCSW, Vanilla Bean Café, WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, Woodstock Creamery, Zlotnick Construction.

Hope to see you at the dinner dance this year!



PUTNAM HIGH TO HONOR 1986 STATE CHAMPIONS

Putnam High School invites the community to pack the gym and be part of a special night of basketball on Wednesday, Jan. 14. The Putnam High School boys basketball team will host Somers in a home matchup tipping off at 7 p.m., but the excitement begins earlier at 6:30 p.m., with a ceremony honoring the 40-year anniversary of the 1986 Putnam boys basketball state championship team. Fans are encouraged to arrive early to celebrate this historic championship, recognize the players and coaches who made history, and then stay to cheer on today's Clippers as they continue the proud Putnam basketball tradition.



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Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up



Girls Basketball

Killingly Girls Basketball (2-3) was led in a win against St Bernard (1-4) on Jan. 2 behind 16 points and 5 rebounds from Gianna Peters while Ella Adams added 12 points and 7 rebounds, and Amaya Spadola added 11 points, 17 rebounds and 4 blocks!

Final Score: Killingly 47 – St Bernard 26

Zanfina Gjonbalaj had 8 points for St Bernard.

Boys Basketball

Killingly Basketball (5-1) took the win on the road over the East Lyme Vikings (0-5) on Jan. 3 by a final score of 73-39!

Quin Crowley led all scorers with 20 points, while Quinn Sumner had a double-double of 11 points and 12 rebounds! Greysen Marquez chipped in 9 points and 8 assists, while Jake Beaudreault and Ethan Hall each had 8 points as well!

Killingly led 57-17 after 3 quarters.

Javi Mangual had 25 points for East Lyme.

Indoor Track

On Jan. 3, the Killingly Indoor Track & Field team battled at The Coast Guard for our 3rd meet of the season. This New Year's battle had 11 teams from around the State competing, so competition is never lacking!

As always, ladies first: In the 4x180, we had 8 awesome ladies that competed in 2 teams and both flew! Kezlee Morarty to Laylanie Benitez to Adalyn Malarkey to Jaclyn Suprenant for 5th! Naomi Nunez to Rosalyn Worden to Gabriella Lepine to Alexis Schuller for a fresh PR and finishing 7th! In the 55m dash, Killingly sent 5 awesome ladies to blaze the track! All of them finished in the top 17 out of 42 runners! Adalyn finished 6th, Jaclyn finished 12th, Kezlee finished 14th, Emerson Joly 15th, and Alexis 17th! In the 300m, Rosalyn Worden and Laylanie Benitez ran amazing races out of a field of 37. Rosalyn finished with a PR finishing 12th and Laylanie ran a great heat to finish 34th! Killingly's long distance specialist, Gabriella Lepine, could be seen running her best race of the season with a PR in the 1000m and ran hard in the 1,600 m! Nina Purcell can always be seen having to run around the track competing. Although she had to wait a bit, when she was up, she dashed for a PR in the 600m. Nina also chucked her Shot Put for 22nd in a field of 30 and then flew in the air to take 1st at Triple Jump! Lastly, in the Long Jump, Killingly represented 5 of the 18 athletes competing and Killingly stepped up to fly! Five fresh new PRs with Kezlee finishing 2nd, Adalyn 4th, Jaclyn 5th, Alexis 6th and Naomi Nunez finishing 18 while battling sickness... we all give you credit for being out there competing and hope you are feeling better!

On to the gentlemen:

In the 4x180, four great gentlemen took to the track! Isaiah Benoit to Aveion Janton-Adams to Ezekiel Benoit to Kaiden Cayer for a new PR and finishing 3rd! In the 55m, Killingly sent 5 of our best to compete in a field of 64. Kaiden flew to finish 3rd, Zeke took 9th, Jeremiah Smith took 10th with a fresh PR, Cooper Logee took 14th with a fresh PR, Jackson Olson took 50th with a SR, and Gabriel Covington took 54th with a fresh PR! In the 300, Killingly once again sent 5 to compete hard in a field of 46. Jackson Olson battled hard to take 29th, Maddux Duquette battled for 35th, Williams Polanco put up a fresh PR for 39th, Edward Purcell flew in his heat to take 40th, and Gabe with yet another fresh PR for 43rd! Williams and Gabe could be seen battling hard again in the 600m, Gabe put up yet another FRESH PR finishing 16th while Williams battled hard to finish right behind him in 17th! At Shot Put, Killingly sent our throwers to take care of business in a field of 44 who all hoisted and took aim! Ezekiel Benoit finished 11th, Maddux 22nd with a fresh PR, Wesley Sprouse 24th with a FRESH SR, Jackson Olson 26th with a FRESH PR, Calvin Vandale 29th with a fresh SR! Jeremiah Smith took 1st like he has all season in the 55m Hurdles. Then in the High Jump, both Jeremiah and Coop both soared through the air for FRESH NEW PRs both getting 6' 2"! Then in Long Jump, Coop got yet another fresh PR finishing 2nd, behind Aveion who flew to finish 1st, Kaiden finished 10th, Elijah 20th, and Edward 25th. Speaking of flying, Isaiah was doing just that at Pole Vault finishing 2nd with a fresh new PR! And lastly, at Triple Jump, Killingly owned the top 6 out of 7 spots! Elijah finished 1st, Isaiah 3rd with a fresh PR, Calvin 4th with a FRESH PR, Maddux 5th with a fresh PR, Edward 6th and Wes 7th!

Awesome job, all; as always you represented yourselves and Killingly incredibly proud! Soooo many standouts and PRs this meets, everyone put in the work and wow it shows! We have a bye week this week but we keep going strong into Providence on Sunday, Jan. 25 before ECCs and States starts!

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

The month of January has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in January 1926.

- General Theodoros Pangalos declares a state of emergency in Greece and assumes dictatorial powers on January 3. General Pangalos had become Prime Minister of Greece in June 1925 after orchestrating a coup d'état.
- The first radio station in Ireland, 2RN, begins broadcasting on January 1.
- The worst flooding in the German city of Köln occurs on January 1. A torrent of water rises 35 feet, forcing roughly 50,000 people to evacuate their homes.

system as well.

- Gracie Allen and George Burns are married by a justice of the peace in Cleveland on January 7. The newlyweds ultimately gain renown as the comedy duo Burns and Allen.

• Twelve-year-old Prince Nguyen Phúc Thuy is crowned Emperor of Vietnam on January 8. The prince's father, Emperor Khai Dinh, died two months earlier on November 6.

- Herman, Henry and Hillel Hassenfeld incorporate the Hassenfeld Brothers company on January 8. The company initially manufactures school supplies but eventually begins to make toys under the name "Hasbro."

• Twenty Mexican rebels open fire aboard a train traveling from Guadalajara to Mexico City on January 9. The bandits escape with the equivalent of \$150,000 USD.

- The four-masted schooner Prinz Valdemar capsizes on January 10, blocking all ship traffic in and out of Biscayne Bay and the harbor of Miami, Florida. All aboard are rescued unharmed, but two ocean liners are prevented from leaving the harbor.

• United States Representative John W. Langley of Kentucky resigns from Congress on January 11. Langley's resignation comes after the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed his jail sentence for violating prohibition laws by illegally selling alcohol to New York-based bootleggers with ties to organized crime.

- Chaplin Court Treat and Stella Court Treat complete the first successful journey across Africa by motorcar on January 24. The duo began their journey one year, four months and 11 days before completing the trip in Cairo, Egypt.

• Speaking on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign during a luncheon on January 25, British surgeon Sir Berkeley Moynihan says that cancer of the tongue is traceable to two things, including smoking.

- Michael Bond is born in Newbury, Berkshire, England, on January 13. Bond would survive a 1943 air raid in Reading during World War Two before authoring his first book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, in 1958.

• Twenty-year-old Ayn Rand departs Russia by train on January 17. Rand's early life in Communist Russia heavily influenced the philosophy reflected in many of her more notable works.

- Voting rights activist Indiana Little leads several hundred Black men and women on a march to the Jefferson County registrar's office in Birmingham, Alabama, on January 18. Little is arrested for disturbing the peace and would not be registered to vote for another 30 years.

• Multiple ships near New York City are threatened by a gale on January 29.

- The Chamber of Deputies passes "Law Number 100" on January 31. The law grants Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini the right to issue judicial norms without prior consultation with the Italian parliament.

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Courtesy

Putnam DTC members Joe Carvalho, Mike Bogdanski, and Scott Pempek with Lt Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas at the Quiet Corner Democrats holiday party.

The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Girls Basketball
Woodstock Academy 40
Conard 22

The year came to a close for the Woodstock Academy girls basketball team on Tuesday, Dec. 30. Calendar-wise.

The Centaurs finished up 2025 with a 3-3 record thanks to the win over Conard in the consolation game of the E.O. Smith Holiday tournament in Mansfield.

Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain, who was named to the All-Tourney team, got the Centaurs out of the gates on the right note as she put home a pair of 3-pointers and was 4-for-4 from the free throw line in the first quarter.

That effort helped Woodstock Academy to a 19-9 lead.

The Centaurs defense took over in the second

quarter as they held the Red Wolves (0-6) scoreless and were up, 27-9, at the half.

Elise Coyle scored five of her 10 points in the second quarter.

D'Alleva-Bochain paced the Centaurs with 14 in the contest.

Ryelle Gomes led Conard with eight points.

Gymnastics
Woodstock Academy
128.3
NFA 85.6

The wins have come pretty easy thus far for the Woodstock Academy gymnastics team.

In the first two meets of the season, the Centaurs (2-0, 2-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference) have taken on programs that have not been able to field a complete team.

That was a problem for Killingly in the first meet

of the year for the Centaurs and on Tuesday, Norwich Free Academy dealt with the same affliction.

As a result, the Centaurs posted the easy win over the Wildcats at Deary's Gymnastics in Danielson.

Woodstock Academy senior Emma Long paced the Centaurs with a 33.8 all-around performance including a second place in the vault (9.05) and a third place in the beam (8.85).

Junior Rhea Desota finished with a 32.95 all-around total.

NFA senior Trinity Ambruso topped all individuals with a 36.15 all-around performance as she finished first in bars (9.2), tied for first on the floor (9.1), was second in beam (9.15) and third in the vault (8.7).

Killingly's Jessie Williams, who finished first in beam (9.25), vault (9.2) and was second in floor (9.0) was second in the all-around with a 35.75 total as the Trailblazers finished with 98.2 points as a team.

Ellis Tech's Ava Pereira, competing as a team-of-one, was third in the all-around.

Ledyard picks up wins over Woodstock Academy, East Lyme

The Ledyard co-op picked up wins over its two closest competitors in

the Eastern Connecticut Conference as it finished with a 141.45 total Friday at Deary's Gymnastics in Danielson on Jan. 2.

Woodstock Academy was closest to the Colonels (6-0, 4-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference) with a 127.45 total while East Lyme finished with a 124.45.

Killingly was also involved in the competition but did not have enough athletes to score as a team.

Alyssa McLeod was best in the all-around competition (36.95) and also was tops in beam (9.4) for the Colonels.

Jessie Williams of Killingly was second in the all-around with a 36.2 and was best in vault and floor while Ledyard's Capri Sferrazza (35.8) was third,

Woodstock Academy (3-1, 3-1) was led by Rhea Desota with a 33.75 performance while Sylvi Otter topped East Lyme (1-2, 1-2) with a 34.5.

Boys Hockey
SGWL 5
Woodstock Academy 4
(OT)

Things went awry late for the Centaurs on Dec. 31, as they surrendered three third-period goals that allowed the Suffield-

Granby-Windsor Locks-East Granby co-op to tie the game and eventually win in

the extra period.

Sophomore Brendan Morden scored the game winner 3 minutes, 29 seconds into overtime off an assist from James Nikolis for the Wildcats (2-3).

The Centaurs (0-5) had built a 3-1 lead over the first two periods.

Anthony Malone scored off an assist from Gabe Flannery and Kieran Shepherd tallied with help from Jackson Aleman in the first period.

Flannery then picked up his second assist on a goal by Bruce Walker in the second.

The Wildcats came back to tie the game in the third period with a pair of goals but Woodstock Academy went ahead with 3:11 left in regulation when Kellen Coleman found the back of the net.

Logan Marsh forced the overtime when the SGWL junior poked the puck past Centaurs' goalie Brady Hebert (43 saves) with 1:27 to play.

Boys Basketball
St. Bernard 78
Woodstock Academy 63

Five players finished in double figures for the Saints who picked up their first win in three games this season on Jan. 5.

Nate Little started slow for St. Bernard, just two points in the first half, but dominated in the second

half and paced the Saints with 20 points. Brevin Gonzalez and Darin Robinson each added 14 points while Demetrius Kilgore and Chris Lerame Pierre tossed in 12 each.

Drake Abdullovski paced the Centaurs (3-3) with 19 points while both Xawier Matwiej and Lawrence Liu added 11 each.

Girls Hockey
Wilton 4
Woodstock Academy co-op 0

The Warriors made the two and a half hour ride to the Jahn Ice Rink at Pomfret School on Jan. 5, worth the while, as they raised their record to 2-4-1.

The Centaurs (1-5), still looking for their first goal on their home ice this year, dominated the first period as they outshot Wilton, 9-2, but could not find the back of the net.

Wilton took advantage of a pair of power-play goals by Riley and Jane Malay in the second period and a third goal by Makayla Joyce, who assisted on the two Malay tallies, with 21 seconds left in the period to take a secure lead into the final period.

Josie Hatch finished with 19 saves in the net for the Centaurs.

Email:

mikaela@villagernewspapers.com

Phone:

(860)928-1818 Ext. 326

Help
Wanted

Hiring? Reach More

Local Applicants

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.

LEGALS

**TOWN OF KILLINGLY
BOROUGH OF DANIELSON
SOUTH KILLINGLY FIRE DISTRICT
TAX AND SEWER USE NOTICE**

The third quarter installment of real 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.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Richard A Snay (25-00473)**
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge

of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 26, 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:
Mark R Snay
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND,
LONGO & HIGGINS, 168 MAIN
STREET, P.O. BOX 528,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
January 9, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Jean G Cole (25-00469)**
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge

of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 30, 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:
Judith E Rondeau
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND,
LONGO & HIGGINS,
168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
Blair C Cole
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND,
LONGO & HIGGINS,
168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
January 9, 2026

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.

The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.

The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

		11	34
2		15	27
	5		20

29 18 34

8	5	7
2	10	15
20	3	11

Solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JAN

5

1781: Richmond, Virginia, is burned by British naval forces during the American Revolutionary War.

1875: The opera house the Palais Garnier opens in Paris.

1911: Kappa Alpha, the oldest Black fraternity, is founded.

People FACT:

This term for restaurant workers typically refers to those who wait on tables.

Answer: Servers

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

KMEA A SERVRENOTAI

Answer: Make a reservation

NEW WORD GRATUITY

a tip given for service

“ **How they
say
that in... ”**

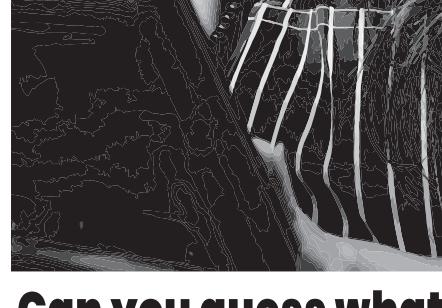
English: Food
Spanish: Comida
Italian: Cibo
French: Nourriture
German: Essen

?Did You
Know?

When it comes to the busiest day of the year for the restaurant industry, Mother's Day tops the list for bookings and footfall.



**Get the
PICTURE?**



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Restaurant host

OBITUARIES

Assunta "Cindy" Leone D'Aiello, 80



Assunta "Cindy" Leone D'Aiello, 80, a resident of Danielson, CT since 1964, passed away on Monday December 29, 2025, at Matulaitis Nursing Home. Assunta was born February 10, 1945, in Rose, Cosenza, Italy. She was the daughter of the late Rosaria Petrone and Carlo Leone. Assunta immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1964 at the young age of 19, a recent newlywed having been married that same year to her husband, Fausto, where they both shared the same passion to chase the American dream. They would both proudly become U.S. Citizens and share and build a life together for the next 61 years.

Her kitchen was the heart of her home always making sure everyone that sat at the table was well fed. She had a passion for baking, making Italian cookies for

family and friends which she baked for every occasion and even when there was no occasion at all.

Assunta is survived by her husband, Fausto D'Aiello; daughter Carmelina Committo and her husband David of Shrewsbury, MA and daughter Mary Horn and her husband Randy of Enfield, CT; grandchildren Persephone Committo, Lucia Committo, and Brady Horn all of whom lovingly referred to her as Nonnie; siblings Teresa Chiappetta, Viola DeRose, Franco Leone and numerous nieces and nephews. Assunta was pre-deceased by siblings Antonio Leone, Anna Fiorita and Lorenzo Leone.

Calling hours were held on Friday January 2, 2026, from 9-10:30 AM at Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main St., Danielson, CT followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of La Sallette, 25 Providence Rd., Brooklyn at 11 AM. Burial followed at Holy Cross Cemetery in Danielson. tillinghastfh.com

Harriette Felicia Wolslegel



Harriette Felicia Wolslegel of Woodstock and recently, Brooklyn, CT, died Christmas morning after a brief illness and wonderful life. Born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, on December 7, 1937, she

grew up during World War II and the happy days of the 1950s. From the age of 18 to 20 she worked at Rhode Island Hospital as a phlebotomist, where her gentle caring nature flourished. Daughter of Armand and Angela Lizotte, and sister of Larry, Barbra and Shelly, she met her loving husband, Walter at a University of Rhode Island dance and hayride in the fall of 1956. Married two years later to the day, they remained lovingly devoted to each other for the next 67 years.

Harriette and Walter (92) raised five children who will miss her dearly: Thomas (66) married to Marianne, William (65) married to Lisa, Steven (64) married to Jeanne, Kenneth (61) married to Mae, and Kristen. Five grandchildren all grew in character and depth because of their loving grandmother: Nicholas (28), Krista (25), Olivia (25), Sofia (13) and Benjamin (12). The grandchildren will especially miss their Nanna's kindness and her famous tea parties.

Deeply devoted to her family and faith, she was a true instrument of peace. Her vast circle of friends was fed by her nature - "it is in giving that we receive". In the 1980s as her kids pursued college and career, she worked as the church secretary at Saint Philips Catholic Church in Ashford, CT. During this time, she also served as regional president of Aglow

International, a worldwide organization that spread biblical principles as solutions to the challenging issues of our time.

She loved traveling to warm places in the winter, first to Palm Springs, CA, then to Florida, where she and Walter built a home in Port Charlotte 19 years ago. Her love of gardening, flowers and a natural green thumb that could make anything grow, was a source of great peace. She cooked from scratch, and raised her children on the vegetables she and Walter grew themselves. Even at 87, she still loved tending her son's garden and would get right down to the soil and feel the earth and nature in her hands.

Everything about Harriette's make-up as a human being and her example as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother and friend was just as it should have been. Her whole life she helped other people grow, heal and succeed, never seeking the spotlight for herself. She was the best listener, and many friends expressed: "she always made me feel I was the most important person in the world". Her wonderful sense of humor allowed her to freely laugh at herself. She was even her children's first "rock star", playing acoustic guitar and singing to them when they were young. She was creative and artful and always made the space she lived in more beautiful. Humility, dignity, selflessness, and unfailing love emanated from her eyes, all the way to her last moments. Even her death created beauty and healing for her family, allowing them to learn from not just her profound life, but from her graceful loving departure from this world.

Information on memorial services can be found at: www.gilmanandvalade.com.

Robbie Gould Jr., 46



Robbie Gould Jr., 46, of East Killingly, Connecticut, peacefully passed away last month on December 14th, after a brief illness. He was born in Putnam, CT, on July 21st, 1979, three months premature and with cerebral palsy. Despite his handicaps, he remarkably exceeded all doctors' expectations. He graduated (with a standing ovation) from Killingly High School, where he was known as one of the "duff boys." In the decades following his secular education, he became well known throughout Windham County and beyond due to his active lifestyle. He enjoyed extensive traveling throughout the New England area, dining at a variety of restaurants, and visiting with friends, of whom he had numerous. Even in his last week at Davis Place in Danielson, he could be found playing cards, cracking jokes, and juggling visitors too numerous to fit in his room. The COVID pandemic years presented challenges to everyone, and Robbie was certainly no exception. He made the best of them by taking advantage of technology. Through Zoom, he could continue to play cards with friends and engage in his more important task of writing encouraging let-

ters to people in the community. His final years were spent in active ministry with the Danielson Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, of which he was a lifelong member. Once it became safe, he visited many whom he had written letters to, encouraging them with his memories of the Scriptures, his friendly smile, and affectionate "mahs." Robbie's Bible-based beliefs helped him endure through his illness, and they provide hope to the immediate family he leaves behind, including his devoted mother Jacqueline, his twin brother Trevor, and Trevor's wife Jennifer. He also leaves behind Jacqueline's siblings, his Uncle Richard "Dickie" Collum, and Aunt Patti Morrison. He was predeceased by his father, Robert Sr. Many of his friends were like family, especially his caregivers, a blessing beyond measure. A service to celebrate his extraordinary life will be held on Saturday, January 10th (5:00 PM) at the Killingly High School Auditorium, 226 Putnam Pike in Dayville. It will also be broadcast over Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Please email robbiegould1139@gmail.com for login information. Food and refreshments will follow. The family sincerely hopes you can attend to share your own memories of Robbie and be encouraged by his Christian faith.

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George P. Looby, DVM 1928-2025



George P. "Bud" Looby, DVM, of Woodstock, CT, passed away on December 28, 2025, at the age of 97. The son of the late George F. Looby and Laura (Anderson) Looby of Middletown,

he is survived by his wife of 66 years, Carolyn (Harmon) Looby; his son Timothy Looby; his daughter, Jennifer Mansfield,

and her husband, Craig; his daughter-in-law, Lynn Looby; his two granddaughters, Emily Riemer and her husband, Hans, and Laura Looby; and his sister-in-law, Denise Roberts. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews. George was predeceased by his sister, Janet Ziegler, and his son, Todd Looby.

Following his graduation from UConn in June 1950, George enlisted in the U.S. Army that fall, training as a Meat and Dairy Hygiene Technician in Veterinary Service. After completing a two-year tour of duty, he continued his education at Kansas State University, earning his Doctorate in 1958.

In 1971, George founded the Woodstock Veterinary Clinic, providing care for animals of all species. The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University opened up new avenues for his dedication to teaching and clinical service. George developed the Tufts Ambulatory Veterinary Clinic in Woodstock, introducing students to farm practice, and later served as the Director of the Large Animal Hospital

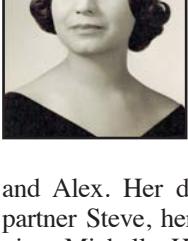
at Tufts in Grafton, MA. After three years in hospital leadership, he returned to ambulatory service where he continued until his retirement in 1994. In the years that followed, he remained active, working part-time as a relief veterinarian in several practices across northeastern Connecticut for many years.

George's professional leadership included President of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, President of the New England Veterinary Medical Association, Connecticut's delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association for several terms, and the revising author of the book *Backyard Livestock*.

For his community, he served as President and Program Director of Woodstock Lions Club, Chairman of the Woodstock Brunn Barn Committee (a museum of New England Agriculture), member of the Woodstock Inland Wetlands Commission, and a life member of the Woodstock Agricultural Society.

The family wishes to thank George's caregiver, Jackie Dolland. There will be no calling hours. A graveside service will take place at the Miner Street Cemetery in Middletown, CT, in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Woodstock Lions Club or Woodstock Historical Society.

Joan Zumpfe, 83



Dudley-Joan Zumpfe, 83, passed away on Thursday, January 1st surrounded by her loving family. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Paul, her son Christopher and her two granddaughters, Cassie

and Alex. Her daughter Kristin and her partner Steve, her grandson, Nic, and her niece Michelle. Her Brother in law and his wife Carl "Zeke" and Nancy. As well as many great nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. She was pre-deceased by her parents, Jack and Lucy, her sister Nancy and her niece Barbara.

Joan graduated from Worcester State College in 1964 with a teaching degree and taught in the Whitinsville and Dudley-Charlton school districts. She later became a mainframe computer programmer working in the insurance and banking industries

in Worcester and Boston and was a vital part of the Y2K conversion.

Joan was an avid bird watcher and went on safaris in Kenya and South Africa as well as on trips to the Amazon River in Peru and to the Grand Canyon. She is a past president of the Forbush Bird Club.

Joan volunteered with the Dudley Council on Aging and loved music and was a member of Opera Worcester and performed in choirs, including singing the National Anthem at a Patriots game.

She was also a devoted Red Sox fan and loved to shop from catalogs to find unique and special gifts for those she loved.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary.

or your local Wildlife Sanctuary.

The family is planning a celebration of life in the spring. www.bartelfuneralhome.com for her online guestbook.

Sara (Sally) Korswig May

Sara (Sally) Korswig May passed away peacefully on December 29, 2025 at Day Kimball Hospital following a brief illness. She was born on September 10, 1931 to Alfred and Vivian (Newton) Korswig in Bristol, CT and spent her childhood in Thompson before moving to East Woodstock in 1945. She married Wesley May in 1951 and they spent nearly fifty years together until his passing in 2001, raising their four sons in the village of East Woodstock.

Sally graduated from The Woodstock Academy (class of 1948) and earned a business degree from Bryant University. In addition to managing the household she worked in administrative roles for the Woodstock public schools, the Woodstock town hall, and for twenty years at Day Kimball Hospital, retiring in 1995. She enjoyed reading, music, art, nature, and animals. Sally was a caring person known especially for her spark and her dry sense of humor.

After retirement Sally became an intrepid traveler. Her journeys took her to Norway, Alaska, Bermuda, Canada, and across much of the continental United States. At home she was deeply involved in the East Woodstock Congregational Church and community affairs and had many lifelong friends in the town. Together with her sons, she entered into conservation easements that will preserve the 125-acre family farm against development in perpetuity. She gratefully appreciated her life in the village

and her ability to live independently in her home until 2025 when she relocated to Westview Health Care Center.

She took her greatest joy spending time with her family and her home was often the gathering place for holidays and special events. She is survived by her brother Karl (Ann) of Woodstock, sons Dale (Kate) of Hampton, Doug of Pomfret, Darrell of Dayville, and Derek (Valerie) of Pomfret. She also leaves grandsons Daniel, Aaron, Trevor, Jordan, and David, and granddaughter Emily Brown, four great granddaughters (Lucy, Ariel, Mia, Evelyn), and nieces Karen Doyle, Terri Ducharme, Joann Ainslie, and Jamie Thompson. The family would especially like to thank all of the care assistants from Assisted Living Services and Westview who provided care and friendship to Sally in her later years.

A memorial service will be held January 17, 2026 at 11am at the East Woodstock Congregational Church, 220 Woodstock Road, East Woodstock with a reception to follow. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Sally's memory be made to the May Memorial Library, P.O. Box 14, East Woodstock, CT 06244, or to the Muddy Brook Fire Dept., P.O. Box 222, East Woodstock, CT 06244.

The Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT is in charge of the arrangements. Share a memory at SmithandWalker.com.

SMITH AND WALKER

Funeral Home and Cremation Service

148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT 860-928-2442

www.smithandwalker.com

~ ~ ~

GAGNON AND COSTELLO

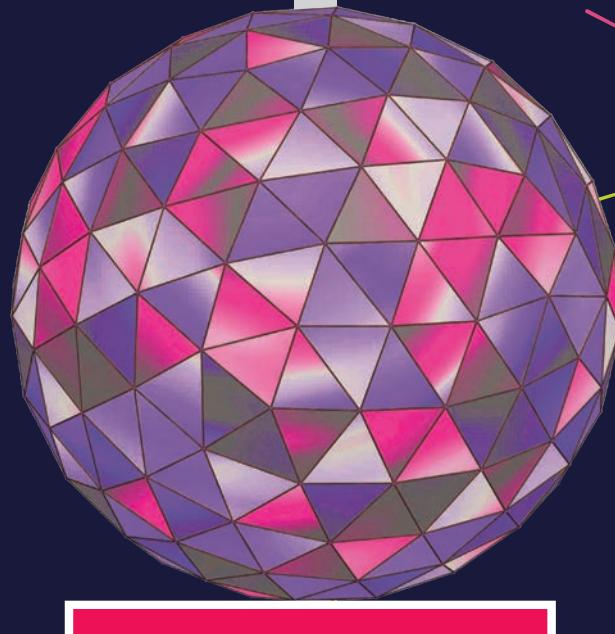
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33 Reynolds Street, Danielson, CT 06239 860-774-9403

Funeral Directors

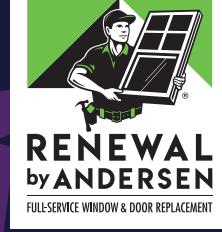
Timothy Farner, Steven Farner, Andrew Farner

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2026

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Superior Products.
Exceptional Service.®



Ends January 31

**Say "YES!" to a more
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The ball has dropped, the new year has arrived, and we're still feeling festive. So, we're keeping the celebration rolling throughout January with a tremendous sale on our windows and doors!



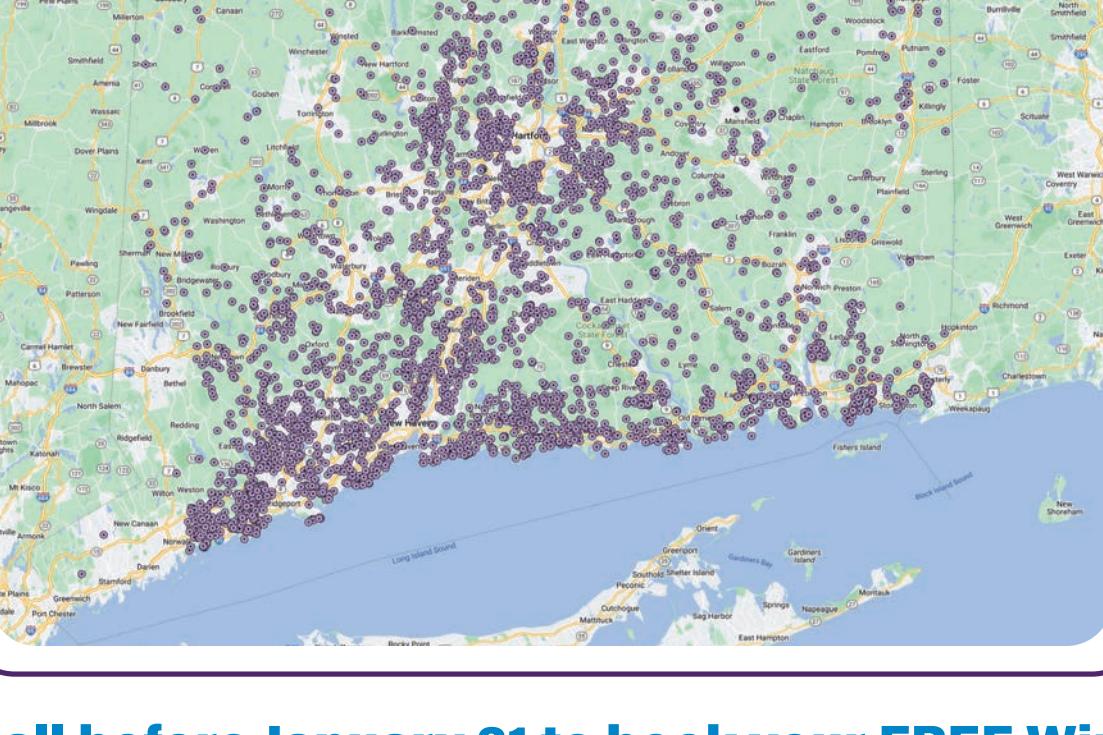
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And
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4.9 out of 5**
★★★★★

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