



No winter lasts forever.  
No spring skips its turn.

# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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## Generous gift to Westview resonates with residents and patients

DAYVILLE — In the key of legacy, the gift of music sustains at Westview Health Care Center through the generosity of Linda Lemmon and her late companion, Robert “Bob” Gomes. She recently reached out to Westview to offer a magnificent, melodic contribution to their entertainment space: A beautiful black-lacquered grand Kawai piano.

Lemmon felt that this refined instrument, played by Bob’s hands at their home for many years, could continue to provide peaceful piano moments and performances for years to come in a new home. Westview delighted in hearing about her considerable gesture, and arranged for this set of ivories to be placed in the facility’s Formal Dining Room. This is Westview’s primary event location for Therapeutic Recreation, performances, parties, family gatherings, and meal service. Notes from the room will continue to echo through the halls at Westview as they ring from this beautiful gift. Pleasant tones will reverberate in perpetuity from this special space of sound, singing, and smiling.

Following delivery, Westview had a brass plaque affixed to the piano as a gesture of remembrance and honor, reading: “Donated in Memory of Robert ‘Bob’ Gomes.” A commemorative celebration was held recently. Pianist Jack Coleman joined Lemmon and



Westview residents, patients, and staff to inaugurate the piano with an afternoon concert. The performance began with Jack playing “As Time Goes By” — Gomes and Lemmon’s favorite song. Residents and patients appreciated additional seasonal holiday standards and familiar songs to sing along with as Jack Coleman entertained the audience at the Dayville skilled nursing facility. Many Westview staff members also enjoyed witnessing this presentation as a won-

derful example of the long-lasting impact of a treasured musical heirloom passed forward through generations.

Hearing Gomes’ piano again brought Lemmon sentimental satisfaction.

She spoke to what this piano represents to her and what it can offer to listeners, commenting, “Remember the old saying about how tossing a pebble into a pond creates ripples? That crossed my mind when Bob’s piano came to life

again at its inaugural concert at Westview. I feel those notes—and every note after that—will send out waves of joy, inspiration, and peace. Music is the universal language. And like the pond, the listener cannot help but be changed.”

Westview Executive Vice President and CEO David T. Panteleakos has known Linda through many community connections over the years, and greatly appreciated when she contacted Westview

about her wishes for Gomes’ piano.

In talking with Lemmon, Panteleakos valued their mutual interest in music and expressed his gratitude for her generosity: “We are so grateful to Linda for thinking of others when determining the best disposition for this amazing gift! It just so happened that we were on the hunt for a new piano at the time, and she called out of the blue. It was pure coincidence and I cannot think of a better Christmas present for our residents than the amazing gift of music. We will always cherish that this piano was provided in such a loving way; ensuring that Bob’s legacy shall continue as time goes by.”

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 17 years.

## Brooklyn Middle School addresses pocket knife incident

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — Officials in the Brooklyn School District have reached out to families about a security concern where a student was found in possession of a pocketknife on the grounds of Brooklyn Middle School.

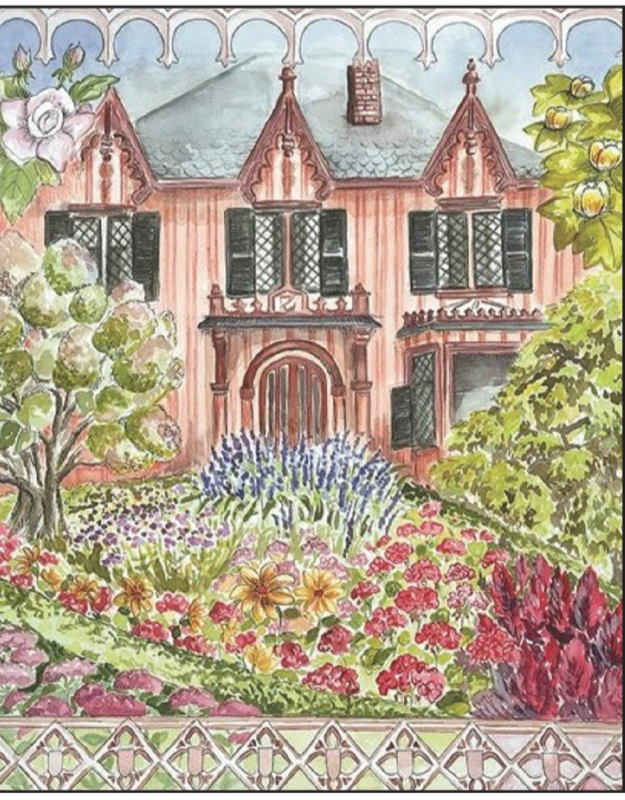
The incident was reported to school officials by other students and, in an effort to ensure a safe learning environment and keep everyone informed, the school issued a letter at the request of the Superintendent that was made public on social media. The letter provided minor details into the incident, but it’s important to note it does not imply any violent intent and confirms no students were harmed or in danger.

“We are proud of the student who promptly reported this to us, exemplifying the value of communication and their commitment to ensuring the safety of our school community,” the letter read, signed by Brooklyn Middle School Principal Heather Tamsin and Assistant Principal Amy Golas.

The letter was also co-signed by Brooklyn Elementary School Principal Melissa Violette and Assistant Principal Mark Weaver. “Their actions reflect the care and responsibility our students show for one another. At no point were any students in danger, and we sincerely appreciate those who brought this matter to our attention,” it read.

It should be noted that Brooklyn Public Schools did not post the letter themselves on their

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Courtesy

The winning poster depicting Roseland Cottage in Woodstock.

## Roseland Cottage subject of CHG Poster Contest winner

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock’s famed Roseland Cottage will grace Connecticut’s Historic Gardens 2025 poster after a contest sought submissions from artists to capture the beauty of the organizations many floral displays.

Connecticut Historic Gardens (CHG), which just celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024, represents

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## Killingly Therapeutic Academy at Westfield prepares for fall opening

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Therapeutic Academy at Westfield is preparing for a 2025 launch bringing a new program to the retired high school at Westfield Avenue. The district revealed plans to launch the Academy in the fall and could open the doors as early as next school year.

A major goal of the Academy is to serve stu-

dents both locally and regionally who need extra assistance in their education. The program is a partnership between Effective School Solutions and the Killingly Public Schools to provide therapeutic services, academic instruction, and additional supports. Killingly Superintendent Susan Nash explained how the program will work during the Jan. 8 meeting of the Board of Education.

“This will service students grade 5 through

12 who face challenges thriving in a traditional school environment and our goal for this program is to create a safe academic setting that fosters social, emotional, behavioral, and career-focused wellbeing. On top of the therapeutic program, we will have a transition program for students up through their 22nd birthday offering many daily life activities and work skills,” said Nash.

The Academy will be housed in the upper floor

classroom area of the old high school on Westfield Avenue, replacing the departing EASTCONN Northeast Regional Program. Nash explained that the Academy will not only provide a local resource for students of Killingly but also create an additional revenue stream as the district opens the program to outside communities.

“This is an opportunity for us to bring back many of our students

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Courtesy

The St. James Council Knights of Columbus held our Free Throw Championship on Sunday, Jan. 12, with 29 local kids participating. Lots of fun was had and age group winners advance to the State Championship at St. Paul High School in Bristol on March 1. A special thank you to Mr. Jarrod DiZazzo, St. James School Athletic Director, for supporting our event.

# Attorney Kate Cerrone appointed to serve as Magistrate for CT Superior Court Judicial Branch



Attorney Kate Cerrone

and through remote technology, ensuring accessible and efficient resolution of cases for Connecticut residents.

"I am deeply honored to accept this appointment and view it as an extension of my commitment to serving our community through the legal system. My legal practice of handling real estate closings, business transactions, and advising clients will continue alongside this role. I am looking forward to the new opportunity, which aligns with my mission to support and improve the lives of others through the law," said Cerrone.

Cerrone brings both deep legal expertise and a commitment to understanding each case's human impact to her new role. As a partner at The Northeast Law Center, she has built her practice on the foundations of personal connection, steadfast commitment to clients, and unwavering integrity. Her appointment reflects not only her comprehensive knowledge of the law but also her dedication to improving the lives of others through the legal system.

Magistrates are appointed by the Chief Court Administrator to assist in managing the caseload of the Superior Court. They play a critical role in adjudicating small claims disputes, motor vehicle infractions, and other violations. Eligibility for appointment requires active membership in the Connecticut Bar for at least five years, along with a demonstrated ability to preside with fairness and efficiency.

As part of her new responsibilities, Attorney Cerrone will ensure that cases are handled with the highest standards of judicial conduct, reflecting the core principles of Connecticut's Superior Court system. Cerrone has established herself as a leading real estate and business law attorney in Northeast Connecticut, known for combining exceptional legal expertise with genuine personal connection. Her practice philosophy centers on understanding each client's unique situation, fostering collaboration, and maintaining an unwavering commitment to ethical practice.

Through The Northeast Law Center, she has built a practice dedicated to improving the lives of individuals, businesses, and the greater community through comprehensive legal services. This new appointment further demonstrates her commitment to serving Northeast Connecticut and upholding the highest standards of legal practice.

For more information about Attorney Kate Cerrone or to schedule a consultation, visit [KateCerroneLaw.com](http://KateCerroneLaw.com) or call The Northeast Law Center at (860) 928-2429.

## POMFRET

### SCHWARTZ PUBLIC LECTURE BILL T. JONES

Dancer and Choreographer

Bill T. Jones is one of the most innovative dancers, directors, and choreographers of our time. His performances are eloquent expressions of movement and thoughtful thematic meditations. Since founding a dance company in 1982 with his late partner, Arnie Zane, Jones has used dance to explore contemporary ideas about identity, race, and sexuality. He often focuses on themes of grief and death, especially in his acclaimed 1994 performance "Still/Here," which included the participation of terminally ill men and women. Jones has received a MacArthur Fellowship, two Tony Awards, the National Medal for the Arts, and many other honors.

**Sunday, January 26**  
7:00 – 8:00 PM

Pomfret School, Hard Auditorium  
398 Pomfret St.  
Pomfret, CT 06258

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Register at [pomfret.org/schwartz](http://pomfret.org/schwartz).

PUTNAM and KILLINGLY — The Connecticut Judicial Branch has appointed Attorney Kate Cerrone of The Northeast Law Center to serve as Magistrate for the Superior Court Judicial Branch for the 2025 calendar year.

In this role, Cerrone will preside over small claims matters, as well as criminal infractions and violations trials, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 51-193t and 51-193u. Magistrates are tasked with conducting proceedings both in person

## Salvation Army warmed by Interact Club's fund-raising tally

PUTNAM — It was one of the coldest winters in years but that didn't stop the members of the Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club from ringing the bells at the local Salvation Army kettles. Interact Club members, their friends, Rotarians and family members have been ringing the Salvation Army Kettle bells since 1997. Rotarian Roberta Rocchetti, advisor, said the Interact members in that time have raised more than \$250,000 for this region. "This Kettle campaign is the only source of revenue for the Putnam Salvation Army office. They use the money to assist the needy of northeastern Connecticut with utilities, rent, fuel oil, and more," she said. She added that this year, "We received \$11,447.75 in kettle donations (including \$500 from the Rotary Club) and a very generous check for \$2,000 to bring the total to \$13,447.75. That is amazing considering we only had four Saturdays to collect donations." Last year the group had five weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas and it took in \$14,608.53. "I'm grateful to all 96 students from Woodstock Academy, Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Putnam High, Marianapolis Prep, Pomfret School and UConn who stood out in the cold to man the kettle. I appreciate all other volunteers who helped set up and fill in where necessary. I am so grateful to Putnam Supermarket for letting us store our kettles



Courtesy

From left: Gabriell Cerasiello, Kaylee Borders, and Abby Ditzel.

all these years and Walmart, Stop & Shop and Price Chopper for allowing us to have the Salvation Army kettles in front of their store. Without their support we could never accomplish all that we do," she said. Taking part, from Putnam High: Paige Perry, Gabriell Cerasiello, Kaydence Morris, Maddy Kimball, Emma Campbell, Alivia Ortiz, Angelina Seymour, Jayda Rivera, Carlos Harper-Mendoza, Ella Carota, Kaylee Borders, Keivon Robinson, Jay Patel, Gavin Patterson, Cora Desrosiers, Makenzei Fry, Hudson Smith. From Tourtellotte: Ava Tucker, Gianna Brinson, Caitlyn L'Heureux, Alexis Phav, Isabell McGlynn, Christian Dejesus, Cole Hopkins, Lindsey Sturtevant, Victoria Patterson, Kayd Patterson, Calleigh Levesque, Joshua Tackson, Dylan Axtell, Serena Smith, Sofia Thurber, June Ferraro, Bethany Nieves, Tessa Sheldon, Tanisha Patel, Tyler Shead, Keegan Stall, Abby Ditzel, Zahara Moore, Grace Akana, Ember Merrill, Anna Bell. From Marianapolis: Devi Patel-Gandhi, Emma Martineau, Henrietta Hayes. From Pomfret School: Max Gerum. From UConn: Eric Levesque, Jordyn Butler. From Woodstock Academy: Liliana Bottone, Christian Menounos, Kira Greene, Phoebe Griffin, Maddie Jezierski, Bella DiGregorio, Avery Plouffe, Ava Golden, Vivian Bibeau, Eli Manning, Sophia Milardo, Lauren Thomas, Anthony Beaudreault, Mia Sorrentino, Katelyn Bruce, Gianna DiCola-Keddy, Kaelyn Tremblay, Livia Gerum, Melanie DiPippo, Jackie Dearborn, Thatcher Paterson, Aidan Tyler, Miranda Miller, Eli Susi, Maddie Bloom, Mikayla Bessette, Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain, Kaylee Saucier, Macy Rawson, Grace Pokorny, Liliana Moran, Maura Hart, Chyanne Machamer, Jackson Dorez, Celine Leffingwell, Eva Lusignan, Allie Boyd, Sophia Sarkis, Lillian Morgis, Maggie McHugh, Audrey MacPherson, Lillian Beausoleil, Avery Thienel, Ivan Lin, Emma Quinney. She also thanked the adult volunteers: Leo Rocchetti from Stafford Springs, Patty Gaffney from Putnam, Edit Dipippo from Woodstock, Claudia Ursin and Donna Drasch from Ashford. Rotaract members: Matthew and Harrison Gardiner, John Spratt. Rotarians: Jonathan and Keri Tremblay, Dick and Marianne Loomis, Deb Hoff, Emily Barnes, Joseph Adiletta, Richard & Kathy Naumann and Mike and Roberta Rocchetti, Kayla Morin, Marc Archambault, Paul Pikora, Rotary Club past president Amanda Kelly and current Rotary Club president Doug Porter.

## Ian B. Wolanin of Pomfret Center named to Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — Ian B. Wolanin of Pomfret Center was named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2024 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester. About Saint Michael's College Saint Michael's College, founded on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic college just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country's best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers internationally respected liberal arts together with an innovative Purposeful Learning Program, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- 5. People of northern Vietnam
- 8. Employee stock ownership plan
- 12. Regions
- 14. The center of a city
- 15. Hindu serpentine deity
- 16. Roared
- 18. Sun up in New York
- 19. "Sir" in Malaysian
- 20. Shrimp dish
- 21. Muckraker Tarbell
- 22. Apex
- 23. Harmonic effects
- 26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- 30. Groups in organic chemistry
- 31. More pleasant-tasting
- 32. Spring forward
- 33. Noted writer
- 34. Building occupied by monks
- 39. "The world's most famous arena"
- 42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- 44. Long or fast speech
- 46. Things you can eat
- 47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
- 49. Actor Idris
- 50. I (German)
- 51. Taxes
- 56. Indonesian island
- 57. Nuisance (slang)
- 58. Shawl
- 59. Digits
- 60. Moved on foot quickly
- 61. "For goodness \_\_\_"
- 62. Facial body part
- 63. Russian river
- 64. Urinates

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Partner to "oohs"
- 2. Scaly water dweller
- 3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 4. Music producer Teo
- 5. Greek mythological goddess
- 6. Got together to discuss
- 7. Acquires
- 8. Involve
- 9. Some are tomato-based
- 10. Old Irish alphabets
- 11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
- 13. Blood poisoning
- 17. A moon of Saturn
- 24. Neither
- 25. Sums
- 26. They follow "A"
- 27. Satisfaction
- 28. People of southeastern Burma
- 29. Small amount
- 35. Guy (slang)
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 38. Affirmative
- 40. Almost at the top
- 41. Extremely slow
- 42. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 43. Influential mid-century playwright
- 44. Martens
- 45. Approval
- 47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- 48. African nation
- 49. Dark brown or black
- 52. A place to get caught
- 53. Large-headed, elongated fish
- 54. Type of sword
- 55. Scottish tax or levy

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

S	E	E	d		V	T	O		E	S	O	N					
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## VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Dec. 30: Red-winged Blackbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Flicker, Carolina Wren, Purple Finch, House Finch, Junco, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Golden-crowned Kinglet. Visit [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home).

# Arts Council awards two grants

PUTNAM — The Putnam Arts Council (PAC) recently awarded two \$500 grants to Putnam businesses for their art-focused projects. The grants recognize the value of each business' efforts in enriching the cultural fabric of the Putnam community and supporting the creative growth of the area.

will use their grant to complete their scene shop for constructing sets. Since 1901, the Bradley has been a cultural cornerstone in Putnam. For over a century, this historic venue has served as a gathering place for residents and visitors to experience the transformative power of live theatre. Each production provides opportunities

for local artists, technicians, costume designers, builders, and performers to collaborate, refine their craft, and showcase their talents. Their shows are enhanced by the scenery and staging that accompany them, most of which are built by volunteers. This new shop will allow them to build upon their reputation for exciting and creative pro-

ductions. Movement Magic's grant will allow them the opportunity to offer free group ballroom dance lessons to the community. Ashley Baxter, owner/instructor of Movement Magic, believes in helping people find healing through the power of movement. Her studio offers ballroom dancing, Zumba, poetry, fashion, and more

through group classes, private lessons, or private events. Her enthusiasm for dance is contagious. "Through my dance journey, I have discovered: when you move, there's magic. My aim is to help others find the magic of movement. I hope you welcome the transformative power of dance and the arts as a whole into your life—you won't regret it!" Baxter said.

expand the number and size of grants awarded in future years as well as offering scholarships to Putnam art students of all ages. PAC realizes the impact of art and creative expression on a community is immeasurable, and the initiatives proposed by these two businesses will undoubtedly provide valuable opportunities for local residents to engage in and benefit from the arts.

This is the first year the PAC has awarded grants. Their goal is to

## KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

The following Seniors achieved High Honors: Abigail Anforth, Alekos Basley, Lila Beaudreault, Dakota Bourbeau, Courtney Courtemanche, Celeste Dietlin, Lilah Dunn, Kayson Gile, Katelyn Hyatt, Caydan Jonasch, Addison Montville, Lilah Moran, Phillip Purcell, Usa Sacksith, Ada Sandberg, Hailey Shippee.

First Honors: Robert Alves, John Archambeault, Mia Ayotte, Martin Blade, Katelyn Bowen, Sage Bukowski, Jahiem Card, Dani Carlsen, Jacqueline Creswell, Kylie Day, Olivia Denaker, Emma Desrosiers, Kayden Dessert, Philip Fernandez Garcia, Kathrin Fischer, Zachary Fucci, Rebecca Gardner, Alayla Gebo, Kloe Guertin, Casey Hamilton, Gianna Henson, Eliana Keomanivong, Kylie Lawrence, Shyla Lopez, Chloe Magao, Peter Manfredo, Landon Manzi, Ella Marceau, Sasha Noury, Madison O'Donnell, Luca Oenning, Alleah Owen, Madison Paquin, Noah Reinhart, Annabella Sengvilay, Skylar Simmons, Katie Smith, Lucy St. Germain, Ivan Tang.

Second Honors: Olivia Andrade, Jaylynn Armstrong, Preston Bellerive, Christopher Benoit, Violet Bernier, Thomas Berube, Kyleigh Bigelow, Areyu Billings, Morgan Blanchard, Everton Brown, Andrew Carlson, Lilyanna Coporale, Joseph Cozza, Kailey Crump, Grace Deslauriers, Kenneth Do, Atila Dos Santos, Aiden Drew, Savana Feuti, John Fitzgibbons, Emily Fulton, Zachary Glushchenko, Ashton Goodwin, Natalie Guzman, Jared Hansen, Alexis Hunt, Soudachane Khaomongkhoun, Addison King, Evelyn Kirkconnell, Keagan Klimas, Dominik Kubera, Hayden Larrow, Knowledge Leslie, Emily Mancini, Aiden Mantia, Rachael Owen, Devon Plantier, Emma Rainville, Russell Sharpe, Jaxsun Smith, Andrew Souriyamath, Leena Stanley, Cameron Stravato, Lincoln Waterman, James Watson.

The following Juniors achieved High Honors: Michael Allen, Ezekiel Benoit, Isaiah Benoit, Gavin Bessenaire, Samantha Bourque, Alena Clayton, Michael Fabiano, Kane Geddis, Ethan Hall, Melody Hutchinson, Emerson Joly, Evan Kozey, Alex Murdock, Cheyenne Reynolds, Riley Ritchotte, Talia Santese, Callan Senecal, Tyler Smith, Samantha Smyth, Wesley Sprouse, Logan Zajac.

First Honors: Amirah Alston-Madison, Jayden Alvarez, Jace Basinet, Chase Conklin, Morgan Deojay, Ella Dunn, Jayden Durand, Christopher Graff, Hannah Highley, Savannah LaFlash, Aiden Lamotte, Lindsay Lemery, Grace Main, Miguel Morente-Uz, Ella Moyer, Owen Murray, Klaus Resulaj, Kendall Rosen, Sebastian Sierakowski, Quinn Sumner, Loghan Voghell.

Second Honors: Layla Adams, Peityn Adams, Hayden Allard, Hunter Allard, Aliza Asselin, Jalen Audet, Samantha Baker, Shyah Baker, Emma Belliveau, Jaliyah Blair, Elizabeth Carlson, Kinsey Clark, Neishalie Delbrey, Hannah Desimone, Jenna DiFusco, Kalynn Dombkowski, Tyler Drew, Roman Garcia Colocho, Ian Gaudet, Brianna Gervais, Joseph Gould, Alexa Gregoire, Matthew Guenette Jr, Kristine Hamilton, Siobhan Hart, Lilli Herbrandt, Angelina Hitchew, Ava Johnston, Panayiotis Kazantzis, Adam Klosowski, Isaac Lake, Dakota Loring, Joseph Mackie, Ryder Maguire, Chloe Moniz, Gavin Moore, Madison Moreau, Walter Okoney, Nathaniel Orengo, Exael Padilla, Lily Peckham, Ella Pereira, Elizabeth Poplawski, Mackenzie Pothier, Julianna Rodriguez, Jake Sangasy, Brianna Schardt, Jacob Searcy, Brian Smith, Amaya Spadola, Donovan Stephenson, Caralyn Tellier, Elizabeth Terwilleger, Hailey Therrien, Sophia Tomany, Wyatt Tryba Mailloux, Catrina Turgeon, Calvin Vandale, Danielle Veillette, Mariette Vien, Ryan Webster, Ryleigh Zachow.

The following Sophomores achieved High Honors: Shai Baker, Logan Brooks, Clover Cooper, Quin Crowley, Lily Gadbois, Addyson Larkin, Edward Purcell, Jaiden Rickell

First Honors: Tomas Gutierrez, Attila Jarvis, Zoe Labonte, Emilie Lecrone, Alisa Libby,

Selena Lopez, Elijah Poh, Trevor Remillard, Kendall Ternowchek, Cydney Thompson, Allegra Turbayevskiy, Richard Turcotte, Claire Zachow, Samphina Zinnah.

Second Honors: Aiden Anforth, Ellsie Antobenedetto, Zachary Blanchard, Isamileny Busanet, Bryan Cairrao, Chloe Cesolini, Ethan Clemente, Alexia Collazo, Willow Deary, Felicia Desabota, Noah Domenici, Kayla Drinkwater, Kaden Dupuis, Logan Durand, Trinity Eldridge, Savannah Frias, Hailey Gluck, Dannielynn Gonzalez, Gracie Hamelin, Owen Hartley, Haylie Lavoie, Addison Lucier, William Mancini, Esme Miller, Austin Newman, Riley Nolin, Sarah Owen, James Paiva, Viviana Pearson, Dylan Pedersen, Matthew Poirier, Max Richardson, Drew Seiffert, Stella Seney, Sophia St. Germain, Christian Tremblay, Hailey Tursi, Abigail Vose, Presley Waterman, Mason Wiesner, Amiyah Woodmansee, Mason Yuill.

The following Freshmen achieved High Honors: Claire Antunes, Harris Benjamin, Hazel Campbell, William Clayton, Kate Crowley, Ty Crowley, Corinne Daniels, Ev Dos Santos, Marika Exarhoulias, Vivien Fisher, Rowan Frazer, Bethany Garvey, Michael Gottlieb, Lianna Hutchinson, Jake Jaworski, Aaden Khamphoukeo, Zachary Lackner, Liam Lamotte, Loretta Lannon, Victoria Liguz, Jaynie MacQuarrie, Samairy Madera, Greyson Marquez, Graham Milot, Sophia Moran, Haley Nolet, Ava O'Rourke, Nina Purcell, Daphne San Souci, Jackson Santese, Violet Schaefer, Alizah Soto, Satya Thongsouvanh.

First Honors: Alan Abbott, Ella Adams, Kylie Anderson, Riley Anderson, Isabella Baker, Graciella Baublitz, Jake Beaudreault, Devin Blanchette, Bridget Brown, Alexandria Caisse, Delia Chmura, Adisen Clark, Jake Costello, Caitlyn Cote, Jack Daher, Arya Davis, Kyla DeJesus, Gabriel Dombkowski, Shakira Doyle, Bryce Dumeer, Ava Ellis, Hailee James, Benjamin Lemery, Peyton Loeber, Emmanuel Martinez, Monty Niyomkham, Jackson Olson, Jon Palmer, Rigel Pelletier, Reese Ritchotte, Savannah Roberts, Kalia Rosado, Gianna Sanchas, Makayla Stubbs, Olivia Sylvestre, Arianna Turner, Giselle Wolfenden, Sofia Zira.

Second Honors: Alayna Adams, Julia Asselin, Ethan Ayers, Jaden Barnett, Jacob Belliveau, Lillian Berube, Samuel Berube, Hannah Bourque, Andre Cardona, Christopher Caron, Lylah Connetti, Denica Cribby, Alissa Daignault, Michael DeAngelis, Antonio Demaio, Alton Gay, Gabriella Grajales, Madison Hardy, Elijah Johnson, Tyler Kincaid, Max Kinsella, Jacob Long, Lillian McDonald, Deven Mix, Maximus Normandie, Chloe Oates, Loxley O'Leary, Angel Pacheco, Cyncere Perry, Madeline Plumadore, Jeddriel Ramirez, Lyla Rondeau, Brandon Sanchez, Jaydin Santerre, Aaliyah Shields, Chase St. Jean, Shealyn Stephenson, Nathan Tiffany, Gabriel Tiffit-Gardiner, Rosalyn Worden, Ayden Zimmerman.

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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
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**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
 EDITOR

# The ties that really matter

You never really think about how much a good friend means until life throws you a curveball or a moment of joy, and you look around for someone to share it with. A true friend isn't just a person who's around when it's convenient; they're the ones who stick with you through life's messier moments, offering support when you need it and calling you out when you need that too. But as the years pass, it's easy to let these relationships fade into the background, overshadowed by work, family, and the endless demands of daily life.

Friendship isn't just a nice thing to have; it's a cornerstone of what makes life meaningful. Studies show that strong relationships can boost mental health, reduce stress, and even help us live longer. But this isn't about science. It's about the people who make you laugh until your ribs hurt, who know your embarrassing stories and love you anyway. These bonds are rare, and they deserve more care than we often give them.

Think about your own life, your moments of celebration, your hardest days. Who was there with you, either physically or in spirit? A good friend is the one who shows up, even when it's inconvenient, and listens without judgment. They're the person you call when you need advice but also when you just need someone to laugh with. That kind of bond doesn't come along every day, and when it does, it deserves to be nurtured.

But here's the thing: friendships don't maintain themselves. Life's busy pace often makes us assume that the people who matter will always be there, even if we don't put in the effort. Days turn into months, and before we know it, the people who once meant everything become distant memories. It's not intentional, it's just what happens when life gets in the way. Yet the cost of losing those connections can be profound, leaving us feeling isolated or unmoored when we need them most.

The good news? It doesn't take much to rebuild or maintain those bonds. A quick phone call, a handwritten note, or even a spontaneous "How are you?" text can remind someone they matter to you. Showing up doesn't always have to mean grand gestures; often, it's the little acts of consistency that count. It's not about having dozens of close friends; one or two truly meaningful relationships are enough to make a world of difference.

As life keeps moving forward, take a moment to think about the friends who've been there through thick and thin. Reach out to the ones you haven't spoken to in a while, even if it feels awkward at first. Friendship, like anything worth having, takes effort, but the rewards are immeasurable. A good friend isn't just someone who walks into your life, they're someone who stays. Make sure you do your part to keep them there.

In the end, life's most valuable currency isn't money or success; it's the people who stand by us through all of it. Good friends remind us of who we are when we forget, and they make even the hardest days a little easier to bear. Don't let the busyness of life rob you of one of its greatest gifts. Stay in touch. Stay connected. Because the best friendships are worth holding onto, no matter how far life pulls you apart.

## 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

### Earth - Midnight in Paris

To the Editor:

The planet is getting hotter, and that's not good. All ten of the hottest years recorded on Earth have occurred since 2010. 2023 was the hottest year ever recorded, until 2024 broke that record. Unlike past changes in our climate which occurred over millennia, the changes we see today are noticeable from year to year. That is because today's changes are not part of nature's slow climate cycle, but are driven by humanity as we bulldoze the planet's forests and burn ever more fossil fuels. More than anything else, those two things are changing our climate.

Our atmosphere sets Earth apart from all other planets ever spotted in the night sky. Taking billions of years to form, our atmosphere is a thin envelope of gases that have stabilized at just the right concentrations to foster complex life and human civilization. To give perspective on just how thin our atmosphere is, Einstein said "imagine an egg with a single drop of water spread across its entire surface." That's all we have protecting our living planet from the endless dead vacuum of space and constant bombardment of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

In 1985, scientists discovered a hole in the ozone above Antarctica. It was huge - three times the size of Brazil, and expanding. This was a frightening discovery because the ozone layer shields the Earth from the sun's deadly UV radiation. Environmental protection was less politicized then and in only two years 197 countries signed an international treaty, the Montreal Protocol in 1987, to phase out the ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that caused the hole.

Scientists know that several million years ago, volcanic activity produced atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) levels as high as they are today. But with that, global temperatures were also higher, polar ice caps smaller and liquid oceans more expansive. With sea levels up to 80 feet higher, places like Boston, Mystic, and New York City were once all underwater.

Over vast amounts of time, those short duration volcanic CO2 spikes were absorbed by the planet's biomass and oceans and the Earth cooled and seas retreated. 11,700 years ago, with CO2 levels at 280 ppm, a comfortable and steady climate marked the onset of the Holocene Epoch. This "goldilocks" period of ideal climate enabled humanity to shift away from a nomadic existence toward permanent settlements and agriculture. Modern civilization followed, and much of it in places that were previously underwater when CO2 levels were higher.

Stop for a minute and imagine how much fossil fuel humanity burns around the globe, 24/7, without pause. We are now the CO2 volcano - one that never stops. We only began doing this 200 years ago, with the onset of the Industrial Revolution. Since then, CO2 concentrations have increased by 50 percent, from 280 parts per million (ppm) to 424 ppm. According to Dr. Joseph Romm

of the University of Pennsylvania, global temperatures are now changing on Earth 50 times faster than they did at the beginning of modern civilization.

Like CFC's did in the 1980s, CO2 is rapidly altering the composition of our thin atmosphere, and with grave concerns for modern civilization. With nearly half of all humanity now living within 100 kilometers (62 miles) of the coast, much of our modern world will be inundated as CO2 levels climb and the polar ice caps melt again.

Climate change has been an incredibly huge and complex story to decipher. Over the ages, scientists have done heroic work in the coldest, hottest, wildest and most remote places on Earth to gather evidence and decode the story. The likes of Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Jacques Cousteau and Carl Sagan have all contributed to our understanding. And, like sentinels on a watchtower, scientists the world over have been warning us of coming danger.

JFK urged in his 1962 State of the Union Address: "The time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining." In 1987, humanity did just that and saved the ozone layer. But with climate change we continue to squander our sunny days. In his 1967 song All Along the Watchtower, Bob Dylan urged: "Let us not talk falsely now, the hour is getting late!" But Donald Trump, who has called climate change a hoax, has promised to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement on January 20, and ramp up "drill baby drill", putting the U.S. in a disgusting club whose only other members are Libya, Yemen and Iran!

What exactly is the Paris Agreement? Simply put, it's one of only a few vast attempts by humanity (like the Montreal Protocol) to work together as a planetary species on something for the benefit of all living things. Adopted by 194 countries at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015, the legally binding agreement's stated goal is to "hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels." The agreement's "maximum target" is actually 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), but we've already warmed the Earth nearly that much and keeping below it now is impossible.

Countries that are adopting the changes called for in the Paris Agreement are seeing profound environmental and economic benefits. In 2024, China sold nearly 28 million cars, with half of them being electric (EV) or hybrid vehicles. Those EV sales not only helped clean China's polluted air, they helped China rip the title of world leader in car sales right out of U.S. hands! How could the U.S. let this happen? Why isn't the U.S. leading the world into the future with EVs and taking the enormous economic benefits that come with that? And why isn't the U.S. fighting for our planet - the only home we have? Oh, I know why - Elon is planning on moving to Mars! But what about the rest of us?

KEN WOLSLEGEL  
WOODSTOCK

### MAGAs, quit preaching to me about negativity

To the Editor:

I've had enough of the soapboxing and preaching about how I'm Mister Negative and just an angry negative troll who just wants to make everybody mad...from Trump supporters. Oh, irony of ironies.

Republicans can run their mouths all they want. The bottom line is that they made this bed and don't want to sleep in it. Trump began his political career coming down the escalator and telling us how Mexico was sending us all their rapists, then turned the White House into a reality show for four years with staffers constantly coming and going, but much more recently, with all those families losing their homes in California to the wildfires, continuing his never-ending negativity by name-calling their governor as "Governor Newscom" and whatever other drivel he's barf-typed onto Truth Social.

Even more recently, MAGAs are getting community noted on social media for putting feelings over facts as usual and lampooning California firefighters for "fighting the

fires with women's handbags." Little do they know as usual that those were canvas bags that were standard gear for quickly dousing small fires in less time than it takes to hook up a hose. Hysteria and fanaticism is standard operating procedure for this bunch...at least when they're not trying to act normal for a change to get votes from more people than their lunatic base.

Even if people want to preach to me about being Mister Negative, I'd say being negative would be quite justified at this point after this country elected a white-collar criminal as President who will mostly likely proceed to be a narcissistic Hindenburg blimp of a President and crash the economy. After all, he "ballooned" the deficit last time. Thank you I'm here all week. This assumes of course that we can get Trump off of his fanatical obsessions over Greenland, Canada, and the Panama Canal to actually do some work.

I'm going to need a bigger popcorn machine when Lame Duck Trump takes office.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

### Thank you, Willie

To the Editor:

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Willie Bousquet for decades of tireless service and unwavering dedication to the Recreation Department and the people of Putnam. Your extraordinary leadership has left an enduring legacy, and you have touched the lives of countless residents, making Putnam a better place to live.

Through your vision and hard work, generations of children and teens (my nephew included) have grown, learned, and thrived in the programs you've overseen. Through your town position, you have inspired young people to embrace teamwork, creativity, and community spirit, leaving an impact that will be felt for years to come. Families across town are richer for what you have helped create.

Your efforts in organizing parades, downtown events, veterans celebrations, and more have brought our community together as a

jewel of Northeast Connecticut. You've created opportunities of joy, pride, and memories that remind us of what it means to be part of something bigger. Putnam is stronger, more vibrant, and more connected because of your passion, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

You've not only served this community—you've transformed it, raising the bar and inspiring all of us to care more deeply about our town. Even in the last few months of your tenure, you helped develop the Putnam History Makers Award, which will be the icing on the cake as you depart, and your contributions will be appreciated for generations. Thank you for your incredible service, your vision, and your heart. You have made Putnam a place we are all proud to call home.

With gratitude,

MIKE BOGDANSKI  
PUTNAM

## The building blocks of character

Character is so important that we ought to teach it in school. We could give everyone a handout on how to develop good character and reward it as we watch it develop. Along the winding path of life, we might find a way to measure it, like



NANCY WEISS

the number of steps we take each day, not just when people are developing their personalities, but through the ages. Adults face plenty of challenges to their character and need

reference points at the most inopportune moments. We need to make good character more desirable than wealth.

David Brooks wrote a piece in the New York Times entitled: "The Character-Building Tool Kit." In it, he outlined strengths of the heart, strengths of the mind and strengths of the will, as the foundations of character. I read the article while watching the fires blaze in California. What makes someone rush toward a fire to save a person or an animal and makes another loot the homes of evacuees? In the unimaginable stress as disaster unfolds, what inspires anyone to help others when every nerve ending must be screaming - Run. Now?

Certainly, families, churches, organizations and schools are among the places where the foundations of character are built. A friend reminded me of a dinner party long ago where the conversation pivoted on the question of whether or not a person without religious belief could have good character. Some thought no. Some thought yes. Everyone knows someone, many people, who do not adhere to any religious faith, but have good character. For every Jimmy Carter, we have people who never set foot in a Sunday school class who are great humanitarians, but traditions that provide concrete examples, such as being charitable, help those of us who aren't as well-grounded as Carter.

I enjoyed Brownies and Girl Scouts. Working on badges with my mother is one of my warmest memories of her. Our leader, Mrs. Brundrett, was patient but focused. We learned the pledge and how to fold the flag. We felt loyal to the other girls in the troop even if we weren't friends in school. Later I held a statewide role in the 4-H program. I saw the firm bonds between the leaders and the members. Both mixed skill development with tangible ways of how to behave.

My husband loved his years in Boy Scouts. My grandson plays basketball on a middle school team. Watching him and the other boys deal with winning and losing, sportsmanship and bad calls, nearly brings tears to my eyes. Organizations give people a world beyond their families. Children and adults need to see good character in action in groups to which they belong, even if sometimes the people and, the groups are flawed, as long as they aren't immoral or corrupt. We lose much when we think everything can be achieved individually as part of the whole.

Friends reminded me of the power of reading books and the influence their messages have on how we form character. There is a moment, perhaps those tween and teen years, when the images and themes in books are so compelling that we take a flashlight and read late into the night. Our minds are so pliable that this is when we embrace lifelong heroes and codes of behavior.

We develop character in school through examples of openness, group membership, listening, caring for our classmates, reading great books and volunteering for public service. We have a role to play in helping young people form good character, and the obligation to keep our own character in the best shape we can muster.

# Tax season 2025: Key dates, tax law changes, and strategies for the year ahead

As we enter 2025, the tax landscape is especially significant with several major changes on the horizon. It will be more important than ever to stay informed about your finances and to work closely with your accountant and financial planner to ensure your financial plan stays as tax efficient as possible. Here's a brief overview of the key tax dates, figures, and potential changes to know and consider in the year ahead.

Key tax filing dates and deadlines in 2025

The 2025 tax filing season begins, of course, on Jan. 1, with the deadline to file 2024 taxes falling on April 15. Should you ask for an extension, the deadline to file an extended return is Oct. 15.

Inflation adjustments coming in 2025

The IRS has announced inflation adjustments that will affect taxpayers' standard deductions and tax brackets in 2025.

The standard deduction for single taxpayers increases by \$400, to \$15,000. The deduction for married couples filing jointly increases by \$800 to \$30,000, and those who file as head of household will see a \$600 increase in their standard deduction, to a total of \$22,500.

For 2025, all tax bracket thresholds are increasing by approximately 2.8 percent. This means taxpayers can earn slightly more income in 2025 before moving into higher tax brackets, while the tax rates themselves

(10 percent, 12 percent, 22 percent, 24 percent, 32 percent, 35 percent, and 37 percent) remain unchanged. For example, a single filer in 2025 can earn up to \$626,350 before hitting the top 37 percent tax rate, compared to \$609,350 in 2024 - a difference of \$17,000. Similarly, married couples filing jointly can earn up to \$751,600 in 2025 before reaching the 37 percent bracket, up from \$731,200 in 2024 - an increase of \$20,400.

Other increases for 2025 include: the health FSA contribution limit increases to \$3,300 (up from \$3,200 in 2024); the estate tax exemption increases to \$13,990,000 (up from \$13,610,000 in 2024); the annual gift exclusion increases to \$19,000 (up from \$18,000 in 2024); the maximum earned income tax credit increases to \$8,046 for three or more qualifying children (up from \$7,830 in 2024); and the transportation fringe benefit monthly limit increases to \$325 (up from \$315 in 2024).

A critical financial planning consideration: The 2025 TCJA Sunset

The end of 2025 marks a pivotal moment as key provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) are set to expire. Without congressional action, Jan. 1, 2026, will bring significant changes. These would include: higher tax rates across most brackets;



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substantially lower standard deductions; the return of personal exemptions; the removal of the SALT deduction cap; lower estate tax exemptions; a reduction in the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 to \$1,000; and changes to qualified business income deductions.

It's important to take these potential changes into account and adjust your financial plan accordingly if and when they occur. At WHZ, we're helping our clients to navigate these changes through personalized strategies aligned with their particular needs and stages of life.

Here's a high-level look at what you may want to consider if the sunset of the TCJA goes forward, depending on where you're at in life.

For those under 55, you may want to consider: accelerating your income into 2025 when beneficial; maximizing your contributions to tax-advantaged accounts; converting to a Roth IRA while tax rates remain lower; planning education funding with tax advantages in mind; and conducting an overall review of your investment strategy to ensure continued optimal tax efficiency.

If you are over 55, you may want to: evaluate your estate plan before the exemption amounts decrease; consider accelerating planned charitable giving; review your

retirement distribution strategies; assess the timing of your Social Security benefits; and plan for potential changes in retirement income taxation.

Business owners and executives have some additional things to consider. You may want to: review your business structure in consideration of potential tax changes; evaluate the timing of income recognition and expenses; evaluate and optimize retirement plan strategies; consider succession planning implications; and review your compensation structures and benefits.

And lastly, if you have a high net worth, you may want to: consider estate planning adjustments before the exemption reduction goes into effect; review and adjust your gifting strategies to ensure they remain tax efficient; evaluate the structure and funding of any trusts; consider accelerating capital gains

recognition; and plan for potential changes in itemized deductions.

Whatever your particular situation, it will be important to stay aware of these potential tax law changes and be ready to adjust your financial strategy accordingly. There's clearly a lot that could change and many moving parts to consider so if you're not already working with a trusted accountant and financial advisor, this would be a good year to start.

Our team at WHZ stays current with evolving tax legislation and its implications for our clients, so that they don't have to. We take a comprehensive approach through our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process, ensuring their tax strategy aligns with their broader financial goals while maintaining flexibility for potential legislative changes.

To discuss how these changes might affect your financial plan, schedule

a complimentary consultation on our website at [whzwealth.com](http://whzwealth.com), or by calling (860) 928-2341.

Authored by Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor Leisl L. Langevin CFP®, CFA®, Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser: 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com> These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

## Did you Know?



Quinebaug Pines State Park

Where is your high school diploma? Could you find it easily? Is it lost or has it been discarded? While researching my ancestors, I discovered the whereabouts of a great uncle and his family in another part of the country. Contact with Uncle Ira's family proved joyful for all of us, and on a recent visit they shared the contents of a box which contained treasured keepsakes which he'd kept throughout his life. Among these keepsakes was his Putnam High School diploma. The year was 1885, and he was the only boy in his graduating class of four! Putnam High School had prepared him for a successful life as a college professor, co-founder of Denver University, and well-known botanist. Just wondering if your diploma is as treasured to you as Ira's was to him. Researched and written by Sandra Cutler Ames

Priest's Island/

This was used as a retreat place for priests and parishioners.

There was a suspended bridge to the island.

Land deeds at the beginning were as follows:

Israel Rose to Rev. Eugene J. Vygen dated June 2, 1873

Recorded in Putnam Land Records Vol.6, Pages 331-332.

Rev. Eugene J. Vygen to St. Mary's Catholic Church

Dated July 15, 1881. Recorded in Putnam Land Records

Vol 8, Page 486.

Rev. Eugene J. Vygen to St. Mary's Catholic Church

Dated April 26, 1886 Recorded in Putnam Land Records

Vol. 14, Pages 3.80St Mary's Church to Ranson Bradley

Dated February 15, 1913, Recorded in Putnam Land Records

Vol. 28 Pages 455-456. Ranson Bradley to State of Connecticut

Dated October 3, 1923 Recorded in Putnam Land Records

Vol. 34 Pages 363-364.

Researched by Fab Cutler

Thanks to Atty. Nick Longo for researching these land records.

Memories from Willie Zamagni Scrapbook

In 1935 WPA project by FDR was established.

Beyond the railroad overpass on Park Street, which skirts the Quinebaug River, to the pine fringed entrance of Quinebaug Pines State Park, 1.1 miles. Close to the entrance is a parking space. The park, formerly called Priest's Island, because it was owned by the Catholic Church, is a 36 acre islet, reached by the mainland by a suspension footbridge. Here is one of the most noteworthy stands of white pine in the state.

Researched by Willie Zamagni

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The day may come when there aren't enough firefighters

To the Editor:

My dad was Wesley Terwilliger, one of the founding members of the South Killingly Fire Company, who literally built the original fire station with his own hands, along with Fire Chief Don Daly, Armand Ricard, some Coolidges and others whose names I do not recall.

Wesley would put in a full day's work as a machinist/tool & diemaker, come home to wife Elizabeth and our family of six daughters (at the time - two boys would be born later), eat his dinner, and then go up to the fire station to install flooring, whatever carpentry, electrical or plumbing work, or finish work needed to be done--all volunteer with our neighbors. Because my dad could see that it would in the long run benefit our community and our family to have our own firefighters. Those men never expected a dime for the work they did because they viewed it as an investment in our quality of life and the safety of our neighborhood.

My dad was chosen as a Lieutenant in the So. Killingly Fire Company when it was up and running. As a small village fire company with no office or call center, there were three "fire phones" installed in the homes of Chief Daly, one of the Coolidges (sorry, not sure which one) and at our house: a separate wall phone that all six of us children knew was never to be touched except by our mother-- one of her many abilities and tasks as a stay-at-home mom. By the way, don't ever let me hear anyone say that stay-at-home moms had "nothing to do but watch the kids."

When that phone rang, it was because someone was reporting a fire nearby. My mom and whomever answered the call, usually Ann Daly, the chief's wife (and founder of the Senior Citizens Center in Brooklyn) would confirm who had answered and then spring into action calling lists of either daytime or night-available South Killingly firemen. (At that time, all of them were men.)

I remember feeling some combination of scared (a fire!!!) and safe because I could see someone was going to put out that fire--people I knew and trusted.

One thing I must include in this recounting is my dad's courage in trying to save the life of a truck driver whose vehicle crashed and overturned at the foot of the hill on Route 6. He was trapped in a burning cab and my dad had to be pulled back and restrained from a desperate attempt to rescue him. The driver died, and my dad and the other volunteers never forgot that hor-

ror. So I am thinking of firefighters because of the two recent wind-whipped brush fires locally--in January!-- and the terrible damage and loss of life in the California fires. I remember my dad once describing a fire that got away from them as "moving faster than a man can run."

These people are heroes to me because they know they could lose their lives in this essential effort. And they go ahead and do what needs to be done, fearful or not. To me, courage is when you keep moving toward the danger in spite of your fear, not necessarily because you have no fear.

These fires are happening because of extreme heat and the dryness that results. 2024 is now Earth's hottest year in recorded history, according to our National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's "National Center for Environmental Information," which our tax dollars have funded since 1970. Fossil fuel emissions have been identified with incontrovertible evidence by over 97 percent of the world's climate scientists as a major cause of the heating of our planet.

In order to keep from ever higher and higher temperatures, and the accompanying disasters caused by such heat, we need to end the use of fossil fuel energy by transitioning to renewable and clean power sources. These essential renewable alternatives are readily available for us to make that change. But our political leadership, which needs to help that happen, is refusing to move in that direction, instead touting the necessity for even more gas pipeline expansions and drilling for oil and fracking methane.

Please contact Gov. Lamont at 860 566-4840 or [governor.lamont@ct.gov](mailto:governor.lamont@ct.gov) and your state representatives and senators to urge them to follow the requirements of Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act, passed in 2008. Our time is running out to keep Earth livable for humans. This legislative session--once again-- is crucial to use the diminishing time we now have to move us toward safe, efficient, less expensive energy.

Some day, there may not be enough firefighters left to save us from a full inferno. Remembering my dad and our other fire-fighting volunteers, it would be a travesty to let that happen.

Respectfully,

CLAUDIA TERWILLIGER ALLEN  
THOMPSON

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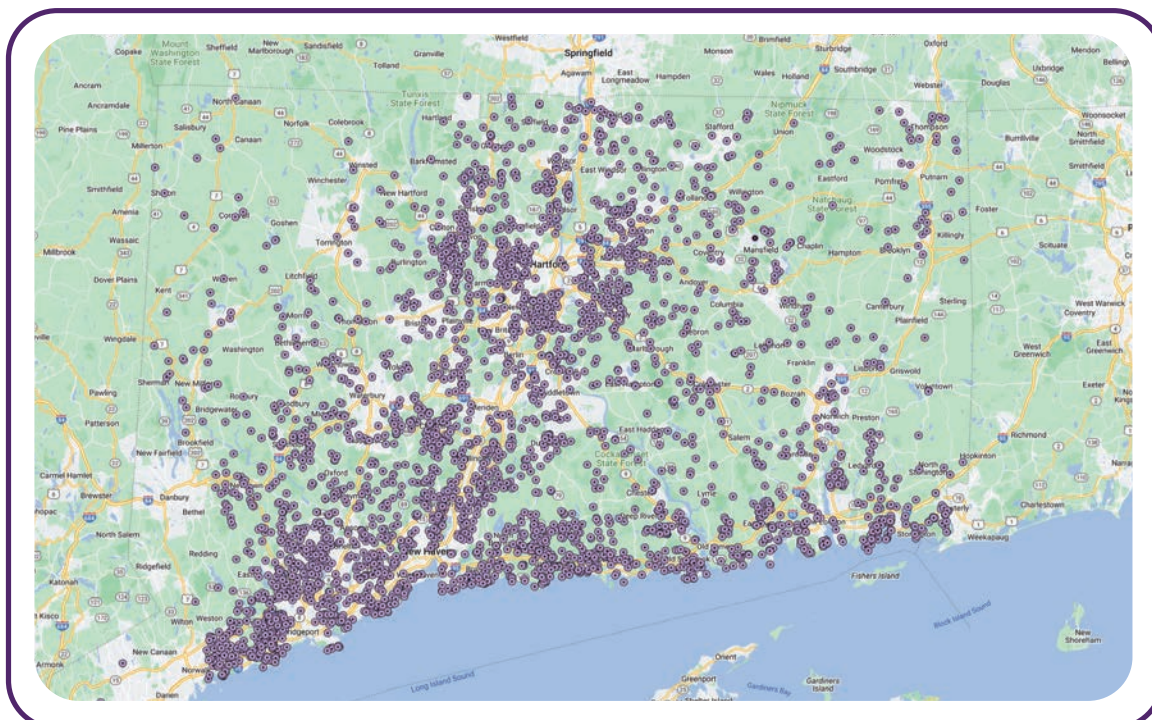
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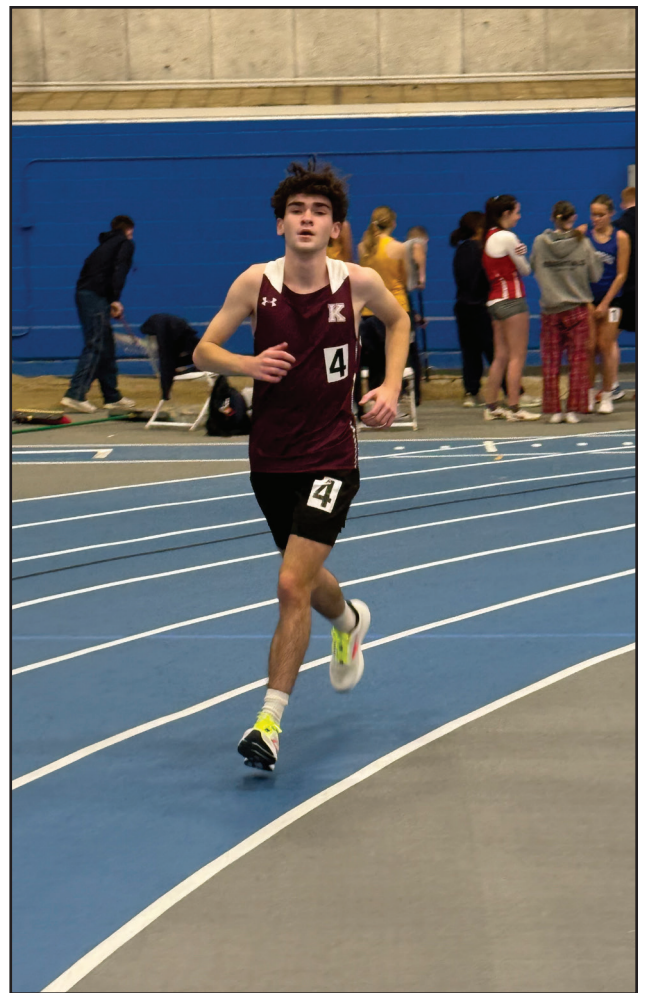
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# Killingly Indoor Track leaves it all on the field



**BY MARK NEUMAN**  
HEAD COACH  
KILLINGLY INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

**KILLINGLY** — On Jan. 11, the Killingly Indoor Track & Field team battled at The Coast Guard for The Bear HS Invitational. This meet is a qualifying event and capped which had six schools battling... competition was the most intense of the season!

As always, ladies first: Graciella Baublitz competed in a tough field in Shot Put and put up a fresh PR chucking her Shot Put for 21' 11"! Rebecca Gardner battled in the 300m running an amazing race finishing 21st out of 35! Absolutely great job representing on and off the track!

On to the gentlemen: Cooper Logee could be seen all over the track...

he competed in the Long Jump to not only PR making States but also made the Long Jump Finals finishing 2nd! He also went air born to finish 3rd in High Jump! Special shout out to our long-distance Senior Caydan Jonasch! He battled hard in the 3,200m, finishing 3rd with a PR and riiiiight afterwards battled in the 4x 400! His 4x 400 team battled hard to finish 7th with Jackson Olson, Casey Hamilton and Jon Palmer. Jon was also seen

all over the track battling in the 55m and also the teams 4x 200 which had Monty Niyomkham, Casey and Elijah Ward battling hard and finishing 6th! Elijah also qualified for the Long Jump finals with Cooper finishing 8th with another fresh PR! Izayah Molodich battled a field of 28 in the 55m and made the finals! He finished 4th in the finals and has already qualified for States continuing to battle to go sub 7 seconds! Great job gentlemen, you fought hard and left it all on the Track & Field!



As always, the team represented Killingly proudly and left it all on the Track & Field! We battle next Saturday in Providence at the East Coast Invitational! Let's keep the train rolling!

## Area residents named to Lasell University Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — Hailey Johnson, a Lasell University student from Thompson, and Addison Tymok of Pomfret Center were named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the Fall 2024 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. For more information contact: Ian Meropol, Chief Communications Officer, at 617-243-2150, or imeropol@lasell.edu.



*Courtesy*  
At the January meeting of Putnam's Inland wetland commission, officers were voted in for 2025. Left to right: Adam Paquin (chairman), Ted Altmeier, Jr., Scott Irwin (co-chair), Cindy Dunne, Mike Bogdanski (secretary).

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# Maximize seed starting success with a seed starting chart



Melinda Myers

Save money on plants by starting seeds indoors with grow lights, containers, and seed starting mix.

Now is the time when many of us are busy ordering seeds. We often end up with many seeds, some new ones we need-

ed or wanted and perhaps a few duplicates of those we have left from past seasons. It is easy to overlook some of these as the indoor and outdoor planting season begins.

Save money by inventorying your current seed collection, reducing the risk of ordering seeds you don't need. Decide what seeds you want to keep and grow this season and those you want to pass along to or swap with gardening friends. You may choose to make seed art with older or improperly stored seeds and invest in fresh seeds that are sure to germinate.

If in doubt, check the seed viability of older stored seeds with a simple germination test. Wrap ten seeds in a damp paper towel and place them inside a plastic bag. Check the seeds in a week or so to see how many sprout. If all the seeds sprout, follow the planting guidelines on the seed packets. When only half the seeds sprout, you will need to plant the seeds twice as thick and so on.

Check catalogs and your favorite garden center for any seeds you need to purchase.



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

Place your order early for the best selection.

Once the seeds arrive, look at the back of the packet to determine when to start the seeds indoors or out.

Many seed companies now provide this information on their website instead of the seed packet. Check with your local University Extension website for recommended planting dates in your area.

Record the start date on your calendar, garden chart, or spreadsheet to make the process easier. Consider organizing your seeds to make it easier to find and plant them at the proper time. You may want to organize the seeds in alphabetical order or by the month for planting. Design a system that works best for you.

You can create your own seed storage organizer or purchase one. Store the seeds in a cool dark location in an airtight container to help maintain their viability and keep them safe from mice.

Once your seed starting schedule is created and seeds are organized, prepare the space for starting seeds indoors if needed. Make sure your grow lights are in working order and

you have sufficient containers, flats, and seed starting mix for planting.

Save money by repurposing yogurt, applesauce, and similar food containers into seed starting pots. Just clean and add drainage holes. Look for used cell packs, flats, and small pots that can be used again. Disinfect these by soaking them in a one-part bleach and nine-part water solution for ten minutes then rinse with clear water. Repurposing saves you money and helps reduce plastic waste and the risk of disease that could kill your seedlings.

Taking time to plan and organize now can save you money while helping you maximize the productivity and beauty of your gardens.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, *Revised Edition*, and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Coral Castle

I've always been a person who loves to travel. Over the years, I've taken dozens of road trips, spanning almost every state. My dad used to take us on road trips in the motorhome, and he would stop for every historical marker, every boulder that seemed out of place, and every national park. If we saw a strange-looking animal, we'd stop to stare.

One place I learned about recently that I'd love to visit is the Coral Castle in Florida. The pictures are stunning, but what truly captivates me is the impossibility of how it was built.

Spanning over 1,100 square feet, the Coral Castle is made up of massive coral blocks, some weighing up to 30 tons—equivalent to the weight of six elephants. These stones form walls, furniture, and intricate carvings, all seamlessly aligned.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
TOBY MOORE

Altogether, the structure contains over 1,000 tons of coral rock—a feat so astonishing that it defies explanation.

What makes the Coral Castle even more incredible is that it was built entirely by one man, Edward Leedskalnin.

From 1923 to 1951, Edward quarried, transported, and positioned these enormous stones, often working at night to protect his methods from prying eyes. Using only rudimentary tools like pulleys, levers, and wedges, he accomplished what modern engineers with advanced machinery would find daunting.

To this day, experts are baffled by how Edward achieved such precision and scale without heavy equipment.

Perhaps what drove Edward to create the Coral Castle is even more remark-

able than the structure itself. As the story goes, Edward was set to marry the love of his life, Agnes Scuffs, in his native Latvia. He called her his "Sweet Sixteen" because she was just 16 years old. On the eve of their wedding, however, she broke off the engagement, leaving Edward heartbroken.

Consumed by grief, he emigrated to America and began work on what many believe was a monument to his unfulfilled love. Each stone, carved and placed with meticulous care, seemed to carry the weight of his devotion, a tangible expression of the loss he could never overcome.

The Coral Castle isn't just a feat of engineering—it's a mystery. I often write about how anything is possible, but have you ever considered that it might be possible for one man to move and position stones weighing 30 tons—all by himself? And not just move them, but do so in the dead of night, shrouded in secrecy?

Edward's work remains one of the most astonishing accomplishments in history.

Witnesses tell stories that only deepen the intrigue. Flatbed trucks loaded with enormous coral stones would arrive at Edward's property, yet no one ever saw how he got the stones onto the trucks or offloaded them once they arrived. Drivers would return in the morning to find their cargo unloaded and perfectly positioned, as if by magic.

One neighbor claimed to have seen Edward late one night, standing near an enormous stone that seemed to "float" into place. The neighbor described the

block as if it defied gravity, though this account has often been dismissed as the product of awe and exaggeration.

Another story comes from a truck driver who left a delivery of coral stones overnight. By morning, the stones had been removed and arranged within the Coral Castle with no visible equipment or assistance.

Edward himself only added to the mystery with cryptic statements like, "I understand the secrets of weight and leverage," and, "I've discovered the secrets of the pyramids."

These remarks fueled speculation that Edward had tapped into lost knowledge or harnessed forces beyond modern understanding.

The Coral Castle features towering monoliths, a perfectly balanced gate that pivots with a finger's touch, and spiral staircases carved from single blocks of coral. Each piece showcases a level of craftsmanship and ingenuity that seems impossible for one man to achieve.

Edward's ability to transform raw coral into this intricate masterpiece leaves us marveling at both the structure and the enduring allure of mystery.

Edward Leedskalnin's methods may forever remain a secret, locked away with him, but his creation continues to captivate visitors and defy explanation.

So, the next time you laugh when someone says, "Anything is possible," remember the Coral Castle and the man who made the impossible real.

## QVCC Foundation receives donation from UNICORR/Nutmeg Container



Courtesy

Pictured, left to right: Allison Rich of TEEG, Amanda Kelly of Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center, Charlie Pious of UNICORR/Nutmeg Container, Monique Wolanin of the QVCC Foundation, Taylor Shea of Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, and Karen Osbrey of IHSP.

DANIELSON — On Friday, Jan. 10, the QVCC Foundation was presented with a donation by Charlie Pious, President of the Putnam-Thompson Division of UNICORR/Nutmeg Container. Pious is a former Foundation member and long-time supporter of Quinebaug Valley Community College (now known as CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley). The donation was made as part of UNICORR's annual day of giving to local non-profit organizations. In addition to The QVCC Foundation, Interfaith Human Services of Putnam, Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, The Hale YMCA Youth & Family Center, and TEEG were also presented with donations.

Monique Wolanin, Director of Institutional Advancement shared her appreciation for the donation, commenting that "We are very grateful to Charlie and his team at UNICORR for this donation and for the continued generosity to the Foundation. As a former board member and supporter of the Dr. Robert E. Miller Educational Advancement Fund, Charlie understands the importance of providing access to education for local residents. We value his commitment to our community."

The QVCC Foundation was established in 1971 as a 501c3 organization to help those who otherwise could not attend college due to financial constraints by involving area business and community

members in fundraising efforts. Today's 25-member strong diverse group of community leaders continues to work tirelessly in support of the Foundation's mission... to raise funds so that all residents of Northeastern Connecticut are provided the opportunity to attend QVCC regardless of income and to support educational excellence, technological advancement, and professional development at the College and to serve as the Regional Advisory Council to the College.

For additional information regarding the QVCC Foundation, please contact Monique Wolanin, [monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu](mailto:monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu) or 860-932-4174.

## National Baseball Poetry Festival announces third season

LOCAL POET HONORED IN '24 IS PARTICIPATING

REGION — The National Baseball Poetry Festival kicks off its 3rd season in February with two national poetry contests, the first for grades 4-12, and the second for adults 18 and up. The adult contest deadline is March 28, and the youth contest deadline is April 16. The Festival culminates May 2-4 in Worcester, Mass. with a welcome reception, a youth poetry event, an open mic night, two Triple-A baseball games, a fireworks display, and other activities. Prizes will be awarded to 80 poets, 20 in each of the following categories: elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult.

In 2024, a poem written by Karen Warinsky, Woodstock poet, and Coordinator of Poets

at Large, an area spoken word performance group, was one of 20 from throughout the nation chosen for recognition.

"It was a great honor to have my poem, 'Little League Moms,' selected for recognition at the 2024 Festival, and a wonderful experience to be on hand in Worcester for all the festivities," said Warinsky. "I would encourage student and adult poets throughout Windham County to submit a poem, and hopefully join us at Polar Park in Worcester in May."

According to Festival founder Steven Biondolillo, the National Baseball Poetry Festival is the first-ever festival to unite sports and the fine arts.

"For the youth who make submissions and/or attend the event, the Festival fosters the appreciation of poetry and the fine arts through the lens of baseball. In addition to the youth contest and reading event, the Festival features the work of baseball illustrators and song writers, includ-

ing a Worcester-based opera composer," said Biondolillo.

Teachers interested in involving their students can visit [www.BaseballPoetryFest.org](http://www.BaseballPoetryFest.org), where a complete lesson plan and contest form can be found. The Festival website also features a schedule of activities, videos, and a list of poets expected to attend and perform at the Festival's open mic night.

"Please reach out to me directly for more information," encourages Warinsky. "I'm happy to be helping with this year's Festival and can be reached at [karen.warinsky@gmail.com](mailto:karen.warinsky@gmail.com)."

The National Baseball Poetry Festival is a project of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Biondolillo Associates, LLC. Worcester—the birthplace of Ernest Thayer, author of "Casey at the Bat"—is the Festival's permanent home and early-May—which follows National Poetry Month—its strategic place in the calendar.



# Killingly businesses a century ago

**Inclement Weather:** In case of inclement weather, check WINY or call the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center after 10:15 a.m. to see if it is open. (860-779-7250).

**Historical Happenings:** Pomfret-Fireside Chats with Pomfret's History Detectives Donna Dufresne and Walter Hinchman. The third Fridays of January (Jan. 17), February, and March 2025 at the Vanilla Bean Café. 7 p.m. Half hour presentation followed by Q & A. Bring old photos, curiosities, memorabilia and questions. Suggested dona-

tion \$10 for Pomfret's Old Town House Fund.

**Celebrate Black History Month.** The Remarkable Women of the Six Triple Eight; The Only All-Black, All-Female Unit to be sent overseas in WWII. Saturday, Feb. 15 at 12:30 p.m. (Snow date Feb. 22). Putnam Municipal Complex. 200 School Street, Putnam. Presented by Melodye Whatley.



**KILLINGLY AT 300**  
.....  
**MARGARET WEAVER**

-Mildred E. Kelley. Valley School--Dorothy Logee. Tucker School--Gladys E. Salmon. "(p. 15). Did you notice that almost all the teachers were women?"

What do you think it cost to mail a letter 100 years ago? The page on rates of postage revealed that a letter (for each ounce or fraction thereof) cost two cents. A category called "drop or local letters" was the same price. Postcards cost only one penny. (p.17). There were a few more post offices in Killingly in 1925 than there are now in 2025: Attawaugan-W. E. Frissell, postmaster. Ballouville, Frank Bennett, acting postmaster. Danielson Post Office, 127 Main Street (the current post office building on Water Street was not built until 1935), Edwin H. Keach, postmaster. "Mails arrive 5.59, 9.25 a.m. and 3.10 p.m. Leave 5.45, 8.16, 9.05, a.m. 2.50 and 6.30 p.m. Sundays arrive 6.59 a.m. Leave 6 p.m. Mails close about 20 minutes before train time." East Killingly, Robert Smith, postmaster. Goodyear, Alma Forcier, postmaster. Killingly Post Office, Main Street Dayville, Patrick Riley, postmaster. "Mails close fifteen minutes before train time." (p. 16).

Several of us at the Killingly Historical Center spent a little while discussing the page in the Directory devoted to the Fire Department. Fire Chief was A. Putnam Woodward; assistant chief, James Gartland; Captain. of Put Engine Company, C. A. Hamilton; Captain of Minnetexit Hook and Ladder Co., W. V. Gartland. Of course 100 years ago one could not dial 911 but had to run to the nearest call box to report a fire. "To give alarm, break glass, turn the key and open the door, pull the hook down as far as it will go once and let it go. Boxes were located at the Conn.

Mills Co., Danielson Cotton Co., Corner of Cottage and Furnace Streets, Corner of Furnace and Franklin Streets, Dyer Street, Corner of Main and Maple Streets, Corner of Maple and Griffiths Streets, Corner of Palmer and Prospect Ave., Corner of Main and Center Streets, Main Street at R. R Crossing, Corner Main and Water Streets...There appeared to be 26 boxes in Danielson. Blasts of the fire siren corresponded to the call box numbers. For example, 1 followed by 3 was the corner of Corner of Cottage and Furnace. The fire signal was also used to indicate no school. Lynn LaBerge noted that the fire boxes were not dismantled/discontinued until 2012. She said that interestingly, many of the boxes were where cisterns had been located in the early years of the Borough.

In August 1866, the Borough had voted to build ten cisterns and then voted to add two more in September 1882. In 1866 Cistern one cost \$500; the remaining eleven cost \$300 each. Most of the cisterns contained 250 hogsheads of water. I was clueless about what a hogshead was so did an internet search. Collinsdictionary.com said that the word dated back to the 15th century from the English 'hog-ges hede'. The unit of measurement equaled 63 gallons. The abbreviation is "hhd." Cisterns, themselves, have been in existence for many centuries in many countries. You even may recall cisterns being mentioned in the Bible.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, January 2025. Special thanks to Lynn LaBerge for fire department information. 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.

## KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

### JAN. 20 – JAN. 25

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS** (agendas and minutes at www.killingly.org)

Monday the 20th  
**ALL TOWN BUILDINGS WILL BE CLOSED TO OBSERVE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

Tuesday the 21st  
Planning & Zoning Commission Workshop (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 6 p.m.  
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 22nd  
Board of Education Meeting (KPS Central Office - Conference Room A) 7 p.m.

Thursday the 23rd  
Open Space Land Acquisition Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 6:30 p.m.

Friday the 24th  
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

Saturday the 25th  
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**  
Monday the 20th  
**ALL TOWN BUILDINGS WILL BE CLOSED TO OBSERVE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

Tuesday the 21st  
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day

Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Chubby Chats (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 10 to 11 a.m.

Inside Out Interactive Movie Experience (Ages six to 12) (Library) 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Wednesday the 22nd  
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Little Listeners (Ages two to five) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday the 23rd  
Virtual Author Talk: Amanda Montell (Library) 2 p.m.

Friday the 24th  
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

Saturday the 25th  
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

**KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS COMING UP...**

Virtual High Five 2025 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 3 – Jan. 7 through Feb. 4 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Yoga for every "body" – Session 3 – Jan. 8 through Feb. 12 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Getting in Line Beginner Line Dancing – Session 3 – Jan. 8 through Feb. 12 – Wednesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Thursday Yoga with Mary – Session 3 – Jan. 9 through Feb. 13 – Thursdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Tuesday Pound for Adults with Chris – Session 3 – Jan. 7 through Feb. 11 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Homeschool Art Club – 3 Month Session - Tuesdays

January – Drawing and Painting

February – Intro to Mixed Media

March – Maker Madness

January 7th through March 25 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Zumba with Movement Magic – Jan. 27 through Feb. 10 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors Workshop – Jan. 27 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors Workshop – Feb. 10 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Beginner Salsa Dancing – May 5 through May 19 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing - Session 2 – March 3 through March 17 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 1 – March 3 through March 25 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Outdoor Spring Strength and Conditioning – March 11 through April 22 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 2 – April 28 through June 9 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation Web site for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killingly.org.

Recently, I checked the Killingly Historical Center library holdings to see what local business directories were on the shelves. I was happy to find one entitled the Danielson, Connecticut Business Directory 1923-1924, especially since an interior page said, "For the year ending October 1925." (p.15). Thus, I could look back to approximately 100 years ago and share a few gleanings from that time.

Business advertising on the front cover and first page included Darbie's Home Furnishing Store, 121 Main Street, next to Town Hall; Dowe's, est. 1850, office supplies, stationery, newspapers, magazines & books, 112 Main; The Spa--Candy, Cigars, Soda, Ice Cream; Henry A. McEwen, Jeweler, 99 Main-Diamonds, Watches, jewelry, clocks, silverware, cut glass, Kodaks, Victrolas and Brunswick Phonographs; R. W. Pellett-Trucking & Baggage Transfer-7 Railroad Square; the Windham County National Bank; The Danielson & Plainfield Gas and Electric Co., 118 Main St. The Crescent-25 cent, 50 cents, \$1.00 store-formerly the Keystone Store in the Danielson Trust Building; Bacon's Furniture Store-William Clarence Bacon; Charles H. Pellett-Hudson & Essex Cars-Sales and Service, 221 Main; Quinebaug Lake Ice Co.-wholesale & retail ice, Herbert C. Keech Estate, 32 Hutchins St., corner of Mechanic.

One of the items, which caught my eye in the directory, was the population of various area towns. Killingly had a population in the 1920 census of 8,178; (Its population in 2020 was 17,722); Brooklyn in 1920, 1,655; (8450 in 2020); Pomfret in 1920, 1,454; Putnam in 1920, 8,397; Thompson in 1920, 5,055; Woodstock in 1920, 1,767. Windham had the largest population in Windham County in 1920 with 13, 801 individuals.

Schools in town and their teachers and principals were also included in the publication. "Killingly High School--Principal, Ernest R. Warren; Robert G. Bruce, Marion D. Chollar; Louise W. Danielson, Adah A. Danielson, Roberta A. Horton, Bertha E. Stevens, Flora A. Shippee. Danielson Grammar School--Principal, Elton H. Knight; Clara H. Williams, Grace M. Stanton, Myrtie E. Marland, Elizabeth H. Woodworth, Anna M. Hammett, Edith L. Fuller; Esther C. Holley. Goodyear School--Principal, Herbert D. Hoyt, A. Laura Chase, Ruth A. Fiske, C. Ellia Day, Agnes W. Jacobs. Dayville School--Principal, Winifred H. Duffee, Mary B. Russ Maude D. Capron, Lulu W. Bailey. Attawaugan School--Principal, Margaret M. McConnell, Mary E. MacConnell, Cora S. LaBossiere, Anna C. Butler. Ballouville School--Principal, Grace W. Edick, S. Eloise Shalton. Center School-Principal, Annie L. Page, Beatrice Beckett. East Killingly School--



*Courtesy*  
Mike Kellett, Senior Vice Commander of The American Legion, Department of Connecticut, presented Danielson's Post Commander, Bob Kelly, an award for meeting 100 percent of our membership goal. This is the fifth year in a row Post 21 has accomplished this. It couldn't have been done without the great work Kelly and our Adjutant, Georgette Rohrig, and Charlie Crowley have been doing.



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# Rotary scholarships: The tie that binds a community

PUTNAM — One of the most important programs for the members of the Putnam Rotary Club is its scholarship program.

It's a continuum running through generations. Scholarships named for passed Rotarians who contributed to the community are awarded to high school students who will pass that on to the community of tomorrow.

The Putnam Rotary Club turned 100 years old last year and the scholarship program has been a tie that binds.

Everything from endowments to good-natured fines to golf tournaments and much more through the years has built a scholarship program that this year awarded \$30,000 to six local students heading to college.

Six scholarships were awarded for the 2023-2024 year.

Amanda Kelly, president for that year, said, "The Putnam Rotary Club is proud to be able to offer these scholarships and provide support to students in our region. This past year we had a very impressive group of scholarship applicants."

She thanked the committee for its work and congratulated the students who received a scholarship.

Doug Porter, current Rotary president, said the awards ceremony Jan. 2 "was a great evening for both the scholarship recipients and the Rotary Club of Putnam."

Noting that scholarships are "a major focus" of the Rotary Club of Putnam, Porter thanked the Rotarians who worked so hard to raise money for the scholarships and congratulated "these outstanding students from northeastern Connecticut."

Rachael Johnston, chair of the Scholarship Committee, said, "We were, frankly, blown away" by the caliber of the scholarship applicants. They all excelled in sports, community service and "oh yes, throw in academics."

The six winners included: John O'Brien Scholarship (presented by The Putnam Rotary Club Foundation president Joseph Adiletta) — Ava Hovestadt; A. Leon Archambault Scholarship (presented by Denise, Marc and Mary Archambault) — Talia Tremblay; Maurice Beaulac Scholarship (presented by Maureen Beaulac) — Lily Goyette; and three Raymond and Violet Brousseau Scholarships (all presented by Ronald P. Coderre) — Julia Coyle, Eric Levesque, and Peyton Bentley.

Hovestadt, a Woodstock Academy grad, is attending College of the Holy Cross and is majoring in economics and also getting a certificate in finance and banking.

Tremblay graduated from Woodstock Academy and is majoring in nursing at UConn. "I would not have been able

to pursue this at my top school without this scholarship," she said.

Coyle graduated from Woodstock Academy and is majoring in government and history at Connecticut College. She is also interested in international relations. She is taking part in cross country and track and said she has co-authored a chapter in a book about the Ukraine. "It's been a great experience so far."

Levesque, a co-president of the club's Interact Club last year, is a double major in accounting and actuarial science. Because of the number of advanced courses he took at Tourtellotte, he has junior credit standing at UConn. He is working to recreate the Rotaract Club of Storrs which went extinct after COVID-19. It is being sponsored by the nearby Stafford Springs Rotary Club.

Bentley is a Northeastern student, taking London Scholars Program. She is majoring in biology. "This scholarship has really motivated me to strive for excellence," she said.

Goyette is attending UConn and is studying Allied Health Science with the intention of going graduate school for occupational therapy. The scholarship, she said, is enabling her to "explore all my opportunities."

John J. O'Brien Memorial Scholarship

John J. O'Brien was a WWII veteran. He spent many years in the textile industry as a sales manager. When he retired he bought Joe's Package Store. He was a member of the Putnam Board of Education, a life member and past exalted ruler of the Putnam Lode o Elks, a member of the Albert J. Breault Post VFW #1523 and a communicant of St. Mary of the Visitation Church.

He was a member of the Putnam Rotary Club for more than 20 years, serving as president in 1976. He received the Paul Harris Fellow Award. He is remembered as a gentleman with a sense of humor who exuded leadership, class and professionalism. He died in 1993.

Maurice P. Beaulac Memorial Scholarship

Maurice Beaulac was a pharmacist. He and his wife Mary successfully operated Beaulac's Pharmacy in Thompson and Woodstock. He was active in community affairs, serving as an alderman on the City Council and as a member of the Water and Sewer Authority. He was a corporator of Day Kimball Hospital, a communicant at St. Mary Church, a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association and a director at Putnam Bank.

He joined the Putnam Rotary Club in 1968, serving as president in 1971. He received the highest Rotary Award, a Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Active in the club on many subcommittees, he and his wife hosted the annual Rotary picnic at their summer home in Lake Alexander. Once a huge thunderstorm opened up on the picnic and perhaps 80 Rotarians crowded into their cottage. And Moe smiled through it all. He died in 2009.

Leon Archambault Memorial Scholarship

A Leon Archambault was the owner and president of Archambault Insurance Associates of Putnam and Danielson, a family business originally founded by his father. A devoted civic servant, he served as chairman of the Putnam Water Pollution Control authority, was a member of the Board of Finance and the Economic Development Commission, a corporator and director of Putnam Bank, a corporator of Day Kimball Hospital, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, a member of the Northeast Concert Choir and a volunteer teacher for Literacy Volunteers of America. He served six years in the Connecticut National Guard.

He served as president of the Putnam Rotary Club in 1979 and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow. He was a quiet unassuming individual who led by example. He died in 2006.

Raymond and Violet Brousseau Memorial Scholarship

The couple owned and operated The Church Clothing Company of Putnam which specialized in the finest of men's and women's clothing. Through their hard work, the couple was proud to give back to the community of Putnam which had given them so much during their many years in business. Their charitable gifts benefited Day Kimball Hospital, the Congregational Church of Putnam and the Putnam Rotary Club.

Mr. Brousseau was a member of the Putnam Rotary for more than 60 years. Loyal and dedicated to the motto of Rotary "Service Above Self," he prided himself in participating in every aspect of the organization. He served as president in 1941 and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow. He was proud of his record of Perfect Attendance which exceeded more than 40 years. He served as the club's scholarship committee chair up to the time of his death. The club's annual basketball game for high school senior boys and girls was named the Ray Brousseau Senior Basketball Shootout. He died in 1998.

(Scholarship biographies written by Ronald P. Coderre)

# NDDH encourages homeowners to "Plan a Raid on Radon"

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE RADON TEST KITS FOR NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

BROOKLYN — The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) is partnering with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to educate residents about the dangers of radon exposure and to encourage them to take action to protect their families and home.

Exposure to radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers in the United States. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the country each year. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. If you smoke and your home has radon, your risk of developing lung cancer can be much higher.

It takes many years for lung cancer to develop. Most people do not have symptoms until lung cancer is advanced and harder to treat. The good news is that lung cancer from

radon is preventable, and simple steps can be taken to reduce the risk of radon exposure.

Ways to keep radon levels low:

- Increase air flow in your house by opening windows and using fans and vents to circulate air. However, natural ventilation in any type of house is only a temporary strategy to reduce radon.

- Seal cracks in floors and walls with plaster, caulk, or other materials designed for this purpose.

- You can cover the earth floor in crawl spaces with a high-density plastic sheet. A vent pipe and fan can be used to blow the radon from under the sheet and vent it to the outdoors.

NDDH is launching our "Plan a Raid on Radon" campaign. We have a limited supply of free radon test kits and educational materials for district residents. Visit the health department at 69 South Main Street in Brooklyn to receive one free radon test kit per home with instructions for use and a radon fact sheet. Participants will receive a follow-up call from Stephanie

Hynes, our Environmental Health Specialist, within two weeks to ensure the kit was used and returned to the manufacturer according to instructions for analysis.

Radon levels vary seasonally and tend to be higher in the winter

months. The best time to test for radon is between the months of November through March. Windows and outside doors should remain closed as much as possible during radon testing.

NDDH is unable to reserve kits or mail them. Test kits can also be purchased from a local hardware store or the American Lung Association by calling 1-800-LUNG-USA or by visiting [www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org).

The EPA recommends that homes with radon levels at or above 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) be fixed. Homeowners should consider reducing their potential lung cancer risk by fixing homes with radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L.

Radon levels can be reduced by hiring certified radon mitigation professionals who can install ventilation systems, soil depressurization systems, and seal entry routes for radon gas in existing homes. New homes are built with radon-resistant features. To learn more about radon and to obtain a list of radon mitigation contractors, visit the DPH Radon Program website at [www.ct.gov/radon](http://www.ct.gov/radon).

Additional resources: NDDH <https://www.nddh.org/services/community-health/radon/>

EPA <https://www.epa.gov/radon> and the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/radon/index.html>.

# VFW Auxiliary announces kick off of annual Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship Contest

PUTNAM — VFW Auxiliary Albert J Breault Post 1523 is excited to announce the kick-off of the VFW Auxiliary's annual Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Local students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to compete for \$37,000 in national scholarships.

Students must submit an original two-dimensional piece of artwork. Digital art, photography, jewelry and weapons are not accepted. The entry must be completed during the current school year and the entry form must include a parent or guardian's signature.

Students begin by competing for one of the nineteen scholarships at the local VFW Auxiliary level. The first-place winner from each Auxiliary advances to the Department (state) competition. Department (state) first-place winners compete for their share of \$37,000 in national awards, and the national first-place winner is awarded a \$15,000 scholarship. National first-through twelfth-place winners are featured in VFW Auxiliary Magazine, on the VFW Auxiliary web-

site and are displayed at VFW Auxiliary National Convention scheduled to take place August 2025 in Columbus, Ohio. All Department (state) winning entries are judged at National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri.

The VFW Auxiliary started the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest in 1979 to recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth. Approximately 4,000 students participate each year and in addition to \$37,000 in national scholarships, local and state VFW Auxiliaries throughout the nation award more than \$150,000 in Patriotic Art scholarships every year.

Student entries must be submitted to sponsoring participating VFW Auxiliary Post 1523 by March 31, 2025. Interested students, parents and teachers should contact Lisa Salisbury at 860-933-9181 or at [vwfauxiliary-putnamct@gmail.com](mailto:vwfauxiliary-putnamct@gmail.com) for more information.

To download an entry form and see the last year's winners, visit <https://vwfauxiliary.org/scholarships>.

# Abbie O'Brien of Dayville named a Presidential Scholar at Clarkson University

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Abbie Elizabeth O'Brien of Dayville, a junior majoring in chemical engineering, was named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2024 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours. Clarkson University is a proven leader in technological education, research, innovation and sustainable economic development. With its main campus in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, Clarkson faculty have a direct impact on more than 7,800 students annually through nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate STEM designated degrees in engineering, business, science and health professions; executive education, industry-relevant credentials and K-12 STEM programs. Alumni earn salaries among the top 2% in the nation: one in five already leads in the c-suite. To learn more, go to [www.clarkson.edu](http://www.clarkson.edu).

# DAR announces Good Citizen awards

REGION — The Sarah William Danielson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, located on Wolf Den Road in Brookly, proudly announces their 2024-2025 Good Citizen students. They are Kailie Carpenter from Howard W. Ellis Technical High School; Whitney Pynn from Putnam High School; Jack Perry from Tourtellotte Memorial High School; and Margaret McHugh from Woodstock Academy.

All of this year's honorees are seniors at their respective high schools.

# 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.



# OBITUARIES

## Betty Johnson Smith, 86



Brooklyn, CT - Betty Johnson Smith passed away peacefully at home on January 1, 2025, with her beloved husband at her bedside.

Betty was born on a small farm on December 9, 1938, in Riga, NY where she acquired a lifelong distaste for chicken. She graduated from Ithaca College in 1959 with a B.S. degree in Music Education. Music was forever in her life as she sang in the Westfield Church choir for many years and played her piano which remains in her apartment at Creamery Brook. She later received her master's degree in Elementary Education from Eastern CT State University. Her first teaching position was in the primary grades in Valley Stream, New York and she taught throughout her life, mostly kindergarten. She retired from Killingly Memorial schools in 1997.

Betty would always say that the best decision she ever made was marrying her husband of 64 years, D. Bartley Smith. Her family was always so important to her, and she leaves behind her three children David Bartley Smith,

Jr. (wife Fran); Darryl Bartley Smith (wife Una); and Janet Bartley Gorrell (husband Mark). Betty also enjoyed her seven grandchildren - David's three children Emma, Cameron and Caeley; Darryl's three children Danielle, Derek and Dale; and Janet's stepdaughter Grace. Betty would also say that she was blessed with so many friends throughout the years, especially The Aunts and their many children and families.

Betty and Bart travelled extensively throughout their marriage which brought them both much joy. Betty's other love was her house at Lake Alexander which she and Bart purchased in 1975. That home was forever a place of joy and fun for their family and friends.

The family is very appreciative of the effort and care provided by the aides at Creamery Brook who treated Betty and Bart like family. The last several weeks of care were skillfully provided by Day Kimball Hospice.

A Celebration of Life will be held on February 1st from 1 - 3 pm at Creamery Brook, 36 Vina Lane, Brooklyn. Memorial Donations may be made to Westfield Church, Danielson, CT.

## John M Carlson Jr. September 10, 1938 – January 3, 2025



Woodstock - John M. Carlson Jr. of Windswept Dr. Woodstock, CT passed away at Matulaitis Nursing Home on Jan 3rd at the age of 86.

John arrived in Woodstock at the age of 13. He lived in East Woodstock next to Stephen Lincoln, his best friend and later Brother-in-Law.

When his parents and sister moved to Newington, CT, John stayed to complete his Senior Year at Woodstock Academy. There he excelled at Basketball but most importantly, broadened his circle of friends to include Joe Reynolds, Devens Arnett, Bruce Hansen and Karl Korswig. These men, and their wives would become "The Gang". Lifelong friendships that included an abundance of laughs, dinners and vacations together.

On graduating, John completed a degree in Horticulture at UCONN, married Kathleen Cannon and return to North Woodstock to grow a family. What started as a favor to get John into a dance (he needed a partner) ended in a marriage spanning 61 years, 3 children, and 7 grandchildren. Kathleen was the love of his life. In their life he

was her strongest supporter, and in the end, she was his.

While living in North Woodstock John and Kathy raised beef and maintained a large garden. There are many cherished memories of their "pets" - Susie, Honey, Rascal etc. and harvesting vegetables from the garden. John was warm, welcoming and friendly to all. He was always willing to assist in making someone's burden lighter. He LOVED golf and in retirement (45yrs at Colt's Firearms) he enjoyed camaraderie on the course of the "Old Dimers". John resided in Woodstock 53 years - the last 26 years in Woodstock Valley.

John is survived by his wife, Kathleen. He was loving father to Ginger (Tom) Lynch, John (Eileen O'Conner) Carlson and Nicole (Chris) Desmond. He also leaves grandchildren, Garrett Lynch, Teagan Lynch & fiancé Lucas Hoffower, Hayden Carlson, Evan Carlson, Jade Desmond, Sam Desmond and Tanner Desmond. He is also survived by his sister Elin Marie Papantones, her husband Mike and their daughters Denise (Tom) Alexander, Tracie Papantones & Karianne (Brad) Noble.

For memorial guestbook visit [www.gilmanandvalade.com](http://www.gilmanandvalade.com).

### KNIFE

continued from page A1

own social media page. However, a copy was posted by parents and other media outlets.

The letter also addressed the parents, asking them to discuss

the matter with their children as they see fit: "We encourage you to have a conversation with your child regarding any concerns they may have. If they see or hear anything troubling, please remind them to report it immediately to a trusted adult in the building or

at home. We are working with all parties involved to ensure that the safety expectations outlined in our student handbook are being upheld."

The document did not confirm whether the student in possession of the pocketknife was sent home or disciplined.

### OPENING

continued from page A1

who are in out of district placements. Not only is that a financial benefit of course to bring students back, but for the students it is much better to be in your home district as opposed to an hour to an hour and a half away and separated and very isolated. Students that are here in the Therapeutic Academy can engage in their home school so they can go to assemblies if that seems appropriate, they can reengage in

other ways and really feel like they're part of the Killingly Public Schools. It's a win for the Board of Education in terms of finances and budget, but it's a win for students too," said Nash.

At launch the program will include as many as 20 slots in grades 5 through 12 and 10 more in the transition program. Nash said early indications are the program will be quite popular and there is potential for growth especially with the space available at Westfield Avenue. She also clarified that Killingly students will

be the first focus of the Academy and their ability to host outside students will be determined by the amount of Killingly students accepted into the program. Two clinicians and behavior technicians from Effective School Solutions will serve as Academy staff while an existing transition program will be moved from Killingly High School to Westfield Avenue. Nash did not provide any details on applications, tuition cost or other specifics during the Jan. 8 meeting.

### WINNER

continued from page A1

their signature greenery and flower beds helping promote and market the properties. Roseland Cottage, Woodstock's historic 1840s Gothic Revival style structure, is one of those sites and was the subject of Norwalk artist April Guilbault's entry in CHG's annual poster contest which ran from September through December of last year. The poster depicts the side profile of the iconic structure complimented by the equally iconic parterre garden that blooms each spring and summer creating a colorful display to compliment one of the region's most popular examples of classic American architecture. Roseland Cottage has famously hosted four United States Presidents, houses the nation's oldest surviving bowling alley, and allows for tours through the home which still contains much of its historic charm.

In a release by CHG announcing her win, Guilbault discussed why the Cottage became the subject of her poster.

"To read the history and know the plants and trees that were first planted there, such as the rose bushes and tulip tree, is forever intriguing to a gardener and deepens its story. To learn about its beginnings and evolution and see what has been preserved contributes to its own 'history lesson,' offering ideas that can inspire us in our own gardens. This striking salmon-hued cottage, an architectural gem, with its formal parterre garden is a joy to paint or visit any time of the year," she said.

Guilbault is a graduate of Syracuse

several historic sites in Connecticut showcasing



Winning artist April Guilbault of Norwalk.

University who has worked in broadcast graphics in several programs including "The Today Show," shows by Rosie O'Donnell, and HBC Chicago and New York. Today she works as a freelance illustrator focusing on nature-inspired visuals. She also has plenty of experience as a gardener with an herbalism certificate from the Rosemary Gladstar Science and Art of Herbalism program. Her poster serves as a perfect marriage of her artistic style and her respect and love for gardening and history.

The poster will be present throughout the year at the 16 CHG sites and will serve as a centerpiece for advertising CT Historic Garden Days, on Sunday, June 22.

## Roderick "Rory" J. MacPherson, 71



Roderick "Rory" J. MacPherson, 71, of Putnam, CT passed away peacefully on January 11, 2025. He was born in Waltham, MA to the late William and Marion (Cantwell) MacPherson. Rod

loved his community in Putnam and enjoyed cruising around in his convertible and on his motorcycle. He enjoyed attending the Putnam car shows, live music and cruise nights with his family. He made fond memories going to the Bakers Dozen and sitting by the water to enjoy his coffee and the view. Besides his parents, Rod was predeceased by his wife, Karen I. MacPherson in 2011.

Roderick is survived by his daughter Heather Courville and her husband David, daughter Melissa Williams and her husband Shannon, his son Andrew MacPherson and his wife Alyssa, his grandchildren Christian, Andrew, Lily, Stella, Jacob, Gavin and Dahlia, his girlfriend Debby Foley; his brother Keith MacPherson and his sister Alison Prescott. Relatives and friends may join the family on Saturday, January 18, 2025 between 2pm-5pm at the Gilman & Valade Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT. A Funeral Home Service will take place on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 2pm at the Gilman & Valade Funeral Home. For online condolences please visit [www.GilmanandValade.com](http://www.GilmanandValade.com).

## Lisa Ann Deuyour



Lisa Ann Deuyour passed away peacefully at her daughter's home in Putnam, Connecticut on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on January 29th 1966

in Southbridge, Massachusetts to Bruce D Deuyour and Marie C Gray. Lisa is predeceased by her father Bruce D Deuyour; her son Daniel B Deuyour; her parents, Teresa and Hoop Henderson; her brother Alan Henderson; her granddaughter Trinity F House; & her sister Melissa Gardner.

She will be greatly missed and live on in the heart of her surviving family, a son Toby Ciukaj and his wife Annie Axtel-Ciukaj of North Grosvenordale, A daughter, Cassandra Simmons and her husband Matthew Simmons of Putnam, a sister, Laura Bell and her husband Mike Bell of Maine, a brother, Jamie Gardner and his wife Janet Gardner of Southbridge Mass. Many nieces and nephews and of course her grandchildren, Talon and Kaden Ciukaj, Lillian and Rayne Deuyour, Jacob and Cheyenne Simmons, & Jace, Matt and Evan Axel and her one very loved pet, a cat named Mouse.

Lisa work as a laser technician at IPG photonics in Oxford Mass. She enjoyed her work almost as much as she enjoyed

spending time with her grandchildren. She also loved to work in her gardens and doing various crafts.

Lisa's personality brought warmth and joy to everyone she encountered and her passing will be mourned deeply by everyone who knew and loved her. Her memory will live on in the hearts of our family, friends, and all those who were honored to have had the privilege of knowing her.

## LEGALS

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On January 6, 2025, the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency approved, with conditions, application #09-24-38, 0 Route 198 (MBL 6387/40/01), Brian Sweet for Driveway access to property for horse/agricultural use. Bill Rewinski, Chairman

On January 7, 2025, the Wetlands Agent approved, with conditions, application #12-24-53, 0 Route 198 (MBL 5282/02/02A, K&M Villa-State, LLC for a 5-lot subdivision with 2 lots containing Upland Review Area. Dan Malo, Wetlands Agent  
January 17, 2025

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

**Donald Theodore Lewis (25-00003)**  
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of North-east Probate Court, by decree dated, January 7, 2024, 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:  
EVELINA MONIKA RUSZKOWSKI,  
THE PRUE LAW GROUP, P.C.,  
720 MAIN ST 4TH FL,  
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226  
January 17, 2025

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

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## Zachary Roethlein of Pomfret Center completes intensive research project

WORCESTER, Mass. — Zachary Roethlein, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in Aerospace Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled Developing a Mentorship Programme for The Hope Exchange.

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they

graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture from the way people live and work to the values they

hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revo-

lutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

## Area residents named to UConn Dean's List

STORRS — The University of Connecticut congratulates the following students who were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2024:

- Brooklyn  
Ella Anderson, Stella Dipippo, Christopher Dooley, Cole Lavigne, Kayleigh Murray, Sai Patel, Julia Purcell, Ida Sanders, Isabel Summer, Xin Sun, Julia Young
- Danielson  
Laney Dunn, Mackenzie Farquhar, Ross Hill, Drew Noble
- Dayville  
Anabelle Bergstrom, Abby Card, Matthew Card
- Moosup  
Julia Koski, Zachary Robbins, Emily Zoberge, Emily Smith
- Plainfield  
Asfandyar Ali, Maxwell Cleaveland,

- Emmalee Deojay, Olivia Lamoureux, Lawrence Smith
- Pomfret  
Maya Bullied
- Pomfret Center  
Claire Anderson, Remi Benton, Danielle Cabassa, Anastasia Serating
- Putnam  
Carter Morissette
- Thompson  
Avery Butler, Eric Levesque, Madison Toutant
- Tolland  
Nolan Alexander, Jeremy Blanchard, Joshua Blanchard, Alyssa Boggis, Matthias Bubloski, Maria Cayward, Sara Clokey, Shay Coleman, Madelyn Cyr, Sophie dela Cruz Maitland-Smith, Emma Dineen, Andrew Fox, Jacob Gerow, Jada Gist, Alexa Granfield, Anna Hekkala, Jocelyn House, Zophia Kearns, Saad Khan, Amalia Klinowski, Anna Klinowski, Aidan Kohl, Julia Kohl, Abhay Kohli, James Leahy, Elinor Levy, Zoe Livingston, Elizabeth Ly, Max Orlich, Charlotte Pacheco, Brynn Peters, Elijah Polance, Aren Popik, Emerson Ricciardone, Sophia Rotondaro, John Santangelo, Junaid Shah, Temoor Shah, Clarissa Surette, Carolyn Sutton, Madison Sztaba, Marleta Zidovskiy, Ella Zmijewski.

## Western New England University celebrates outstanding academic achievements

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 750 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

The following local students were named to the Dean's List:  
Kirsten Deorsey of Woodstock  
Morgan Bonin of Woodstock

Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including more than 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

[www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com](http://www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com)

## Husson University announces academic award recipients

BANGOR, Maine — Husson University is pleased to celebrate the academic achievements of students recently named to the President's List, Dean's List and Honors List for the Spring 2024 semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Full-time online students who earn President's List, Dean's List and Honors List recognition must be enrolled as an undergraduate, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours over the course of 21 weeks, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted, and achieve a designated semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

- President's List: 3.80 to 4.0 semester grade-point average
- Dean's List: 3.60 to 3.79 semester grade-point average
- Honor's List: 3.40 to 3.59 semester grade-point average
- Evan DeRonsle of Danielson - Dean's List - BS Business Administration- Marketing Management
- Connor Thompson of Danielson - Dean's List - BS Forensic Science

For more than 125 years, Husson University has prepared future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has offered quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; and communication. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.



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