

Donald Cimochoowski named Thompson’s Veteran of the Month

THOMPSON — United States Army Specialist E-5 Donald (Donny) Cimochoowski of Marcy Lane in North Grosvenordale has been selected by the nominating committee to be recognized and honored as the September 2026 Veteran of the Month for the Town of Thompson.

Cimochoowski is a disabled Vietnam War Veteran who was awarded the medal of commendation for saving mul-

iple American lives in Bo Duc, Vietnam.

Donald was born on May 2, 1947, to parents Edward and Clara Cimochoowski, and has lived his entire life in North Grosvenordale. As a young boy, he attended the former St. Joseph Grammar School graduating in the class of 1961. He then matriculated to the Ellis Technical School and learned his lifelong trade in the Machine Shop as a Maintenance Machinist. He remembers with fond appreciation, his machine instructor Pondo Gity, also a long time well know and respected North Grosvenordale resident and athlete. In 1986 Donny earned his associate degree from the Quinebaug Valley Community College completing day and evening classes.

Donny was drafted in 1966. He chose instead to enlist on his own terms for a four-year commitment in the United States Army. He immediately was assigned to Fort Jackson, S.C. for his Basic Training, and remained there for approximately 4 months. At the conclusion of basic training he was assigned to the Danvers, Ma. Nike Missile Battery Facility for his advanced training (A.I.T.). As part of his advanced training he was sent to White Sands New Mexico to be instructed in training exercises for shooting missiles at reported enemy aircraft. At the conclusion of Specialist Cimochoowski’s advanced training, he was deployed to the 23rd infantry division in Munich, Germany. While in Munich he was trained to become a fire director and after a two-month deployment in Germany, he was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, the home of the 23rd Infantry for a full year to train to become a lead instructor in Vietnam, training the local Vietnamese villagers to take over the American fighting effort. Sergeant Cimochoowski also was trained in the customs and the Vietnamese language so he could properly articulate to the villagers and gain their trust.

On June 23, 1969, Donny was deployed to Vietnam. Specialist Cimochoowski was part of the very first school in Vietnam, under the direction of General Abrams, to actually work with, and educate the local young Vietnamese children to prepare them to use fire missions, and how to fire artillery so that eventually the Americans could begin to pull out of Vietnam. He completed an eight-week teaching assignment, and after the Vietnamese students graduated, he would accompany them to their respective villages on the Cambodian border to oversee their work and their fire missions. On the Ho Chi Ming Trail, also known as Thunder Road, the Americans were constantly subjected to enemy incoming fire, artillery, hidden mines, grenades and living with the constant fear of agent orange contamination.

Donny was diagnosed with agent orange disease in 2004. Specialist Cimochoowski flew numerous missions in military helicopters as a forward observer to find, detect and eliminate enemy targets. Sergeant Cimochoowski’s last tour of duty in Vietnam was in Bo Duc at the LZ Jerry Fire Base with the 101st airborne. His recollection of LZ Jerry Fire Base was that clearly this was the most dangerous “hot spot” he had been in, with an extremely high rate of American war casualties. Without much detail,

Sgt. Cimochoowski related to me that this was the location where he was awarded the Medal of Commendation for his heroic actions that saved many American lives in a very active and dangerous battleground. Sergeant Donald Cimochoowski was also presented his Commendation of Service citation by Major Le-Tat-Bien. It read, in part, “Sergeant Cimochoowski has performed his assigned duties in an outstanding manner. His vast knowledge in the Artillery field, and skilled as an instructor, has contributed a great deal to the exemplary success obtained by CIDG trainees and his experience of Artillery.” Major Le-Tat-Bien, the Commanding Officer of Detachment B-16 of the Vietnamese Special Forces (Airborne) “greatly appreciate Sergeant Cimochoowski for his achievements throughout his tour of duty as Artillery Instructor at the Trung Training Center.” Interestingly enough, this is also the location where Donny’s Mom Clara, swears that she spotted her son Donny, on the NBC National news one evening, running between a bunker and diving into another bunker for cover.....Sergeant Cimochoowski was returned from Vietnam to the United States Army personnel center in Oakland, California and was eventually separated from his overseas duty and received his honorable discharge from the United States Army on June 23, 1970.

For his service to his country, Specialist E-5 Donald Cimochoowski received the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Commendation Medal twice, and the Gallantry Cross with Palm, in addition to his previously mentioned Commendation of Service citation.

After returning from his tour of duty in the Army, Donny worked as a machinist for a number of years at the John M. Dean plant in Putnam. While at John Dean, he worked his way up from a maintenance machinist, to Assistant Plant Manager, and then as Plant Manager. He also worked for Spirol Corporation in Dayville, and then for Parker and Harper in Worcester, Mass.

Donny has enjoyed a lifetime passion for music since he was a teenager. He was, and he continues to be very well-known musician and entertainer having played with numerous bands for more than 65 years. He began his musical career as a base guitarist and singer with the newly formed band called “Felix and the Cats” in 1964. If you grew up in that decade, you certainly danced to their music. The original members of that well know and well-traveled group included friends Chippy Hoffman, drummer Armand Lafleur, lead guitarist Roger Laporte, John Roux and Ernie Plante. Unfortunately, Donny remains as the only living member of his original band. This group “Felix and the Cats” played every School dance, most weddings, stag and showers, and events at all the local clubs and venues within a 75-mile radius of Northeastern Connecticut. They opened for, and played with the “Cowsills” at the old “Dance Land” venue in Quadic, played at the Albee Theatre in Providence with Peter and Gordon, with Jerry and the Pacemakers, and with Terry Knight and the Pack who later went on to become “The Grand Funk Railroad.”

It goes without saying that “Felix and the Cats” and all its original members became a household name and a beloved group with all teenagers and young music and dance enthusiasts following their every appearance. In the mid to late 70’s the group “Plum Road” was formed with Donny and members Charlie Zamagni, Ernie Plante, and Chippy Hoffman. This group became the “House Band” for the very popular and well-known “Treasure Island Restaurant and Dance Club” in Webster. Treasurer Island was the go to place, to see, and to be seen for many, many years. In the late ‘70’s, “Friendship” was formed with Donny, Greg and Fred Para, Eddie Morgan and Jerry Cullen. Donny and his musical friends remained together for decades playing their music every weekend all over the Tri-State area. Not willing to end his musical career just yet, Donny recently re-connected, with members Steve Lapointe, Barry Ayer, Chuck Thorstenson, Tuzzy Navarro and Anna to form another new group “Now and Then”. The stories and experiences that Donny could tell from his passion of music and playing with his bands for most of his life could easily be written into a best-selling novel. Needless to say, those of us who have had the pleasure over the years to see and hear Donny’s music are quite fortunate, and we have been treated to great music and dance for over 6 decades. The beat plays on...

Donny is a member of the VFW post 10088 of Quinebaug. He is also a member of the American Legion Post 0067 of Grosvenordale and a Lifetime member of the Valley Springs Sportsman Club in North Grosvenordale. He was a 21-year Bar Tender at the VSSC and loved by all. For many special events, the organizers would often request the Donny be the bartender of their event. He was just that kind of a wonderful and loved by all individual.

Donny has two Brothers Richard and Thomas and a Sister Dolores. He has two adult Sons Kyle and Eric and twin Granddaughters Ashlyn and Aubrey. Donny’s long-time partner, Ginny Menzigian who he had originally met while playing with his band at Treasure Island in the ‘70’s, rekindled their relationship some 10 years ago on a chance meeting at Indian Ranch. They remained together until sadly, Ginny passed on May 19. Ginny, a Pediatric Nurse, had recently had been under Hospice Care. Donny was her full-time caretaker during her last few difficult months. She will be greatly missed by Donny and her Family and Friends.

United States Army Vietnam War Veteran Donald (Donny) Cimochoowski will be presented with a commemorative plaque by the Selectmen and the Veterans Officer at the Sept. 1 Board of Selectman meeting.

Thank you, Donny Cimochoowski, for your service from a very grateful community.

Paws Cat Shelter holding can and bottle drive

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a Can and Bottle Drive on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 11pm - 2pm at the shelter located at 74 School St. in Putnam. Please separate two-liter bottles. Pet food and donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more info or to make a monetary donation, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.



Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3-Month

3.90 % APY*

9-Month

4.00 % APY*

1-Year

4.10 % APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Dennis Antonopoulos

Financial Advisor

5 Albert St

Auburn, MA 01501

508-832-5385

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 08/13/26. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867P-A-E-FL EXP 31 MAR 2028 AECSPAD 29721639

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

CLUES ACROSS

1. Longtime *Vogue* editor Wintour

5. A Spanish title of respect

10. A way of looking

12. Properly

14. Rolled steel

16. Not down

18. Law degree

19. Consume food

20. Intermediate ecological stage

22. Old world, new

23. Dispense justice

25. Stiff hair-like structure

26. Ethiopia

27. Cool!

28. Father

30. An enthusiastic devotee of sports

31. Holm oak

33. Be united

35. Rattling breaths

37. Supermarket chain

38. Provided with a quality

40. Samoan monetary unit

41. Swiss river

42. Hill (Celtic)

44. Have already done

45. ATM company

48. Syngman __, Korean president

50. Very willing

52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

53. Food listings

55. Bachelor's place to crash

56. Big Blue

57. Sports magazine

58. Relating to a place north of south of the equator

63. Female follower of Bacchus

65. A type of laugh

66. Slovenly women

67. Large jug

CLUES DOWN

1. Boxing's GOAT

2. Zero

3. Midway between north and northeast

4. Concurred

5. Added flavor

6. Amount of time

7. Eggs of parasitic insects

8. S-shaped moldings

9. Atomic #45

10. __ d'art: small artistic item

11. A godparent's "kids"

13. Nocturnal burrowing lizard

15. Hit lightly

17. Aircrafts

18. Witness

21. Alluding to something

23. Take to the limit

24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal

27. Start over

29. Administered

32. Romanian monetary unit

34. Unit of liquid capacity

35. Equips with weapons again

36. Disney town

39. Female deer

40. Title of respect

43. A place to go rafting

44. A way to conclude

46. Type of television

47. Georgia rockers

49. Leonhard __, Swiss mathematician

51. Slang for gun

54. River in Bosnia and Herzegovina

59. Bar bill

60. Small, gray-headed crow

61. Frozen water

62. Norwegian krone

64. Commercial

PUZZLE SOLUTION

W

E

N

D

E

S

S

B

V

H

D

E

T

K

O

V

O

D

V

N

E

V

W

I

S

W

B

I

O

V

D

S

N

E

W

E

V

L

H

E

O

V

E

E

E

H

H

H

C

N

D

I

D

H

O

L

H

V

V

E

N

E

S

D

E

N

D

N

E

S

V

H

I

T

S

E

T

V

H

E

H

O

O

X

E

T

I

N

V

J

D

V

D

D

V

H

H

L

E

V

L

E

S

S

E

L

E

W

C

E

E

T

V

H

E

S

L

V

E

D

T

S

D

N

E

L

V

T

D

H

E

T

I

O

B

L

H

E

I

H

V

E

N

I

T

E

O

H

O

N

E

S

V

N

N

V

Villager Newspapers

TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:

MIKAELA VICTOR
RETAIL ADVERTISING
860-928-1818 EXT. 313
mikaela@villagernewspapers.com
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
KERRI PETERSON
860-928-1818, EXT. 303
kerri@stonebridgepress.news
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 860-928-4215
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550
TO SUBMIT A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS
RELEASE
E-MAIL:
brendan@villagernewspapers.com
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
Frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

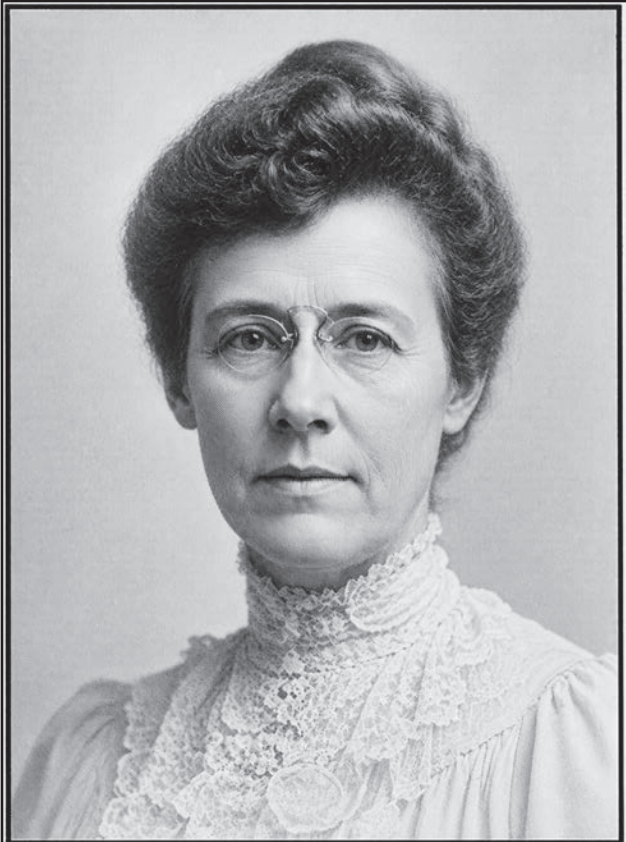
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DiNICOLA
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
860-928-1818 x 323
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE LARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

The Woodstock Villager (USPS 024-999) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 10A Beeches Ln, Woodstock Ct 06281. Periodical postage paid at Putnam, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to Villager Newspapers c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Hometown Heroes: Mary Bishop—guardian of the Revolutionary generation



Mrs. Mary B. Bishop

BY MICHAEL J. ROCCHETTI
COMMANDER

MAYOTTE-VIENS AMERICAN LEGION POST #13
PUTNAM

PUTNAM — Long after the soldiers of the American Revolution had passed from living memory, Mary Hope (Bugbee) Bishop devoted much of her life to ensuring that their names, service records and final resting places would not be forgotten. Through painstaking genealogical research, cemetery surveys and historic-preservation efforts, she helped preserve the stories of hundreds of Revolutionary War veterans from Putnam and the surrounding towns of northeastern Connecticut.

Mary Hope Bugbee was born in Woodstock on May 23, 1858, the third child of Edwin Sumner Bugbee and Frances Agatha Thurber Bugbee. She attended the district school in the neighborhood where the Bugbee family lived and later completed her education at Woodstock Academy.

Her interest in early American history was deeply personal. Mary descended from Edward Bugbee, who settled in Roxbury, Mass., and from his son Joseph Bugbee, one of Woodstock’s early settlers. Her Revolutionary War ancestor, Ensign Hezekiah Bugbee, served during the struggle for American independence.

Mary was also descended from Mayflower passengers John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley. In 1911, she became a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants. She was later made a life member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and joined the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America.

She married first Benjamin Franklin Medbury (1835-1923) of Providence, Rhode Island. In October 1917, at the age of 59, she married Ebenezer Bishop (1841-1919) of Woodstock, a respected Civil War veteran and successful Boston real-estate dealer.

Their marriage was brief. Ebenezer died from pneumonia in a Boston hospital on January 3, 1919. He was buried in the family plot at North Woodstock Cemetery. Mary’s greatest historical legacy, however, began years before her marriage to Ebenezer Bishop.

She conceived the idea of organizing a Putnam chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. On May 14, 1897, the Elizabeth Porter Putnam Chapter was formally

established, with Mary serving as its organizing regent. She played a major role in obtaining the genealogical documentation necessary to prove the ancestry of its approximately fifty charter members.

Under her leadership, the chapter immediately began identifying and marking the graves of local Revolutionary War veterans. It was a formidable undertaking. Many of the veterans had died early in the nineteenth century, and their graves were scattered among old town cemeteries, isolated family burial grounds and abandoned plots hidden in woods and fields.

Some markers had become weathered and difficult to read. Others were broken, displaced or overgrown. Establishing a soldier’s identity often required more than locating a stone. Researchers had to compare inscriptions with military rolls, pension applications, family records, church registers, town documents and published genealogies.

Mary Bishop and charter member Helen Mansfield prepared individual filing cards containing the genealogical and military records of each soldier they identified. By 1929, the Elizabeth Porter Putnam Chapter reported that it had located and marked an extraordinary 414 Revolutionary War graves in Putnam and the surrounding communities.

These cards represented far more than a list of names. They connected each veteran’s military service with an identifiable burial place and family history. In an era long before computers, digital photography or searchable databases, Mary and her associates created a carefully organized body of information that could be preserved and consulted by future generations.

The chapter also established the tradition of placing American flags on the veterans’ graves each Memorial Day. Members were assisted by children from the Quinebaug Children of the American Revolution Society. This annual observance transformed Mary’s historical research into an act of public remembrance. The soldiers were not simply entries in a record book; they remained honored members of the community.

Her concern extended beyond the graves that had already been found. As Connecticut State Consulting Registrar and chairman of the State Genealogical Committee, Mary promoted an ambitious effort to copy the inscriptions in old cemeteries throughout Connecticut. She understood that gravestones were fragile historical records. Once an inscription eroded or a stone disappeared, information found nowhere else might be lost forever.

This work was especially important in northeastern Connecticut, where numerous small family cemeteries had already become neglected or nearly forgotten. Mary’s efforts anticipated the statewide cemetery-recording project later undertaken under Charles R. Hale during the 1930s.

Her surviving work remains particularly relevant to the search for lost burial grounds such as Putnam’s old Wheelock Cemetery, also known as the Pigeon Hill Cemetery or Old Wheelock Yard. Historical accounts identify Revolutionary War veterans Nathaniel Arnold, John Phipps, Jonathan Sabin and Silas Sabin as having been buried there. The cemetery has since disappeared from the visible landscape. Records created by early researchers such as Mary Bishop may now provide some of the best evidence that those veterans were buried there and were once formally honored.

Mary was also instrumental in preserving one of northeastern Connecticut’s most famous historic landmarks: the Wolf Den in Pomfret, traditionally associated with Israel Putnam’s legendary encounter with a wolf in 1743.

During the first year of the Elizabeth Porter Putnam Chapter’s existence, its members learned that the magnificent trees surrounding the site were in danger of being cut for timber. The chapter arranged to purchase the 97-acre property so that its woods and historic character could be preserved. Mary was made permanent chairman of the Wolf

Den Committee.

The chapter cared for the property for twenty-seven years. In 1925, after disease damaged many of its chestnut trees, it transferred the land to the Connecticut State Park and Forest Commission. The property consequently became part of the state’s protected forest reservations, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

Mary served the DAR in nearly every important capacity, including regent, historian, librarian, registrar and treasurer. On the chapter’s twenty-fifth anniversary, she was again elected regent and served for another two years. At the state level, she served twice as councilor and became State Consulting Registrar. She was also a member of the DAR’s National Committee on Genealogical Research.

Gov. Everett J. Lake appointed her to represent Windham County at the tercentenary celebration at Plymouth, Massachusetts. She also represented Windham County in helping furnish the historic Oliver Ellsworth Homestead.

Mary Hope Bugbee Bishop died in Meriden on April 15, 1941, at the age of 82. By then, she had spent more than four decades preserving the history of the families, soldiers, cemeteries and landmarks of northeastern Connecticut.

Her work demonstrates that preserving history does not always occur on a battlefield or in a government office. Sometimes it is accomplished quietly, one cemetery, one weathered inscription and one carefully documented soldier at a time.

Because of Mary Bishop’s tireless efforts, hundreds of men who fought for American independence were not reduced to forgotten names on crumbling stones. Their identities, military service and burial places were recorded, marked and honored.

Mary Bishop was not herself a military veteran. Nevertheless, she performed an invaluable service for generations of veterans who could no longer speak for themselves. In preserving their memories, she became one of northeastern Connecticut’s own hometown heroes.

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall
This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances.
The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL Egrets Landing-31A - LIGHTHOUSE POINT CONDOMINIUMS - TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA

Oceanfront 2-bedroom condo.
Gated community with pool. Full Appliances.
Ocean views of ships and birds with a short walk to the beach.
Bookings Contact: Oceanfront Cottage Rentals. (800) 786-5889
<https://www.oceanfrontcottage.com/rentals/egrets-landing-31a>

THE SIDING STORE INC.

Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms

SUMMER SPECIALS
NOW IN EFFECT

AFFORDABLE!

\$\$\$\$

Financing available to qualified customers!

thesidingstoreinc.com

860.423.7771 860.963.9035

860.886.1718 860.564.7088



We take pride
in our customer
service!

References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

WANTED TO BUY Antiques & Old Stuff

- Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys
- Pewter • Glassware •Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
- Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines
- Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns •Lamps • Kitchenware
- Cookware •Knives •Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
- Video Games • Advertising Signs & Much More

CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

Empty Bowls returns for 20th year to support TEEG and fight food insecurity

THOMPSON — For 20 years, the Empty Bowls event has brought together local artists, restaurants, community members, and supporters to make a meaningful difference in the fight against hunger in Northeast Connecticut. This year’s event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 26 at TEEG in Thompson, with proceeds benefiting TEEG’s efforts to combat food insecurity throughout the region.

Hosted jointly by TEEG and Sawmill Pottery, Empty Bowls offers guests a unique opportunity to enjoy a delicious community dinner while supporting neighbors who struggle to put food on the table.

Throughout the year, the potters and students at Sawmill Pottery create 250 handmade bowls especially for the event, while only 200 tickets are sold. This ensures that each guest has a wide selection of unique bowls from which to choose. After selecting a favorite, guests use their bowl to enjoy an evening of unlimited soup and bread donated by generous local restaurants. And when dinner is finished, guests can add unlimited ice cream for dessert for just \$5.

The handmade bowl is also the guest’s to take home—a lasting reminder of the evening and of the difference the community can make when it comes together.

For Dot Burnworth, owner of Sawmill Pottery, Empty Bowls represents something larger than an annual fundraiser. Burnworth believes strongly in the responsibility of local businesses to give back to the communities they serve. Through Sawmill Pottery’s participation, she is able to combine her passion for pottery with her commitment to strengthening her local community.

“Empty Bowls is one of the ways we can use what we do every day to make a difference with our neighbors who might be struggling to put food on the table,” Burnworth said. “It is a ton of work, but it’s incredibly meaningful to see local businesses, artists, restaurants, and community members come together to support a cause that directly affects so many people in our community.”

There will be two seatings, at 4 and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30, with the optional unlimited ice cream add-on available for \$5.

The event has become a much-anticipated community tradition and has raised around \$140,000 over the past two decades to help address food insecurity in Northeast Connecticut. Every bowl selected, every bowl of soup enjoyed, and every ticket purchased helps support TEEG’s work providing resources and assistance to local individuals and families.

Empty Bowls is more than a dinner. It is a celebration of community, generosity, local creativity, and the simple idea that no one should have to face hunger alone.

For 20 years, the community has gathered to help fill empty bowls—and on Sept. 26, it will have another opportunity to do so.

Better Hearing Dream Team!



Ralph Campagna, BC-HIS

Stephanie Balducci, AuD
Doctor of Audiology

Jim Verge, BC-HIS

Call 860-315-9656 to
schedule a hearing evaluation.

amplisound

Let us check your insurance benefit. We are
providers for: Anthem BCBS, United Healthcare,
Aetna, Connecticare, Humana, Wellcare,
Care Partners, Cigna, CT Medicaid, etc.

HEARING CARE CENTERS

19 Quinebaug Ave, Putnam
351 Merline Road, Vernon
www.amplisound.com





P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818
FAX: (860) 928-5946
WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

New leadership, and a new chapter for Killingly schools

The beginning of a school year always carries a sense of renewal. New classrooms, new teachers, new routines and new opportunities arrive together as students return from summer vacation.

This year, Killingly Public Schools will add something considerably more significant to that list: a new superintendent.

Dr. Paul Haughey arrives in Killingly with more than two decades of experience in educational leadership, including eight years as superintendent of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District in Massachusetts. He succeeds Dr. Sue Nash, who left Killingly earlier this year to become superintendent of Ellington Public Schools.

Leadership transitions at the top of a school district deserve attention because a superintendent's influence reaches virtually every corner of the system. Budgets, staffing, curriculum, facilities, student services, communication and long-term planning all eventually reach the superintendent's office.

But effective leadership does not mean arriving with a long list of immediate changes.

One particularly encouraging element of the Killingly Board of Education's announcement was Chair Susan Lannon's description of the qualities the board sought during its search. The board wanted an experienced leader who would "listen first," recognize the work already being done within the district and bring people together around students.

That is a sensible approach.

Every incoming superintendent inherits both challenges and strengths. The temptation for any new administrator can be to demonstrate leadership by quickly putting a personal stamp on an organization. Sometimes changes are necessary, but understanding a district should come before attempting to reshape it.

Haughey appears to recognize that. In accepting the position, he spoke about partnering with staff, families and the community while building upon Killingly's existing traditions. Those relationships will be important.

Schools work best when teachers believe administrators understand what happens inside their classrooms, parents know their concerns will be heard and taxpayers understand how decisions are being made. Students, meanwhile, need consistency and an environment where the adults responsible for their education are working toward common goals.

Building that trust takes time.

Haughey's experience should help. Eight years leading one district means he has already navigated the realities of public education beyond theories and strategic plans. Superintendents must balance educational ambitions with budgets, staffing limitations, state requirements and community expectations. They must also make difficult decisions knowing that almost every significant decision will affect children, employees and taxpayers.

There will inevitably be disagreements. No superintendent can satisfy every parent, employee, board member or resident on every issue. The better measure of leadership is whether disagreements are handled openly, respectfully and with a clear explanation of why decisions are being made.

Killingly also deserves credit for maintaining continuity during the transition. Former Plainfield Superintendent Ken DiPietro stepped into the interim role following Nash's departure, giving the Board of Education time to conduct its search rather than treating an important appointment as something that simply needed to be completed quickly.

Now the search is over, and Haughey arrives as another school year begins. His first months should be spent listening to the people who know Killingly's schools best: students, teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and community members. From there will come the opportunity to identify priorities and determine where the district should go next.

A new superintendent brings the possibility of new ideas. The greater opportunity, however, is to combine those ideas with the knowledge and experience already present throughout Killingly Public Schools.

That is how a leadership transition becomes something more valuable than a change of names on an office door. It becomes the beginning of the district's next chapter.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Thompson Republican Town Committee needs to recover its integrity

To the Editor:

[Recently], John B. Lenky, former Chairman of the Thompson Republican Town Committee and a former candidate for District 51 House of Representatives, released a statement about recent events concerning two current members of the Thompson Republican Town Committee.

Specifically, John is calling for removal of said two members from the RTC for their apparent violation of personal confidence in truthfulness. This violation has served to significantly undermine their professional trustworthiness, rendering them unworthy to serve any longer on the committee.

Why it matters: Voters must be able to trust those they elect to represent their interests. When Republican voters discern that self-interest has taken precedent over dutifully serving the voters' interests, their confidence is eroded. When Republican voters observe certain actions that raise serious doubts regarding ongoing distractions related to non-Thompson politics, it becomes the duty of their representatives on the RTC to change course.

Key facts:

Mr. Steve Nickerson, in the role of temporary Convention Chairman, and Ms. Susanne Witkowski in the role of temporary Convention Secretary, were key players while conducting the Republican Convention on May 15. The purpose of the Convention held at the Thompson Library was to endorse candidates for District 51 House of Representatives. The final Convention voting resulted in five votes for incumbent Chris Stewart and four votes for Mr. Ryan Courmoyer, who had earlier announced his candidacy for the seat.

At our local Convention, the acting chair, Nickerson, voted against Ryan. Following the vote, efforts were made for Ryan Courmoyer to not run. Later the same day, they were joined by other political operatives from Putnam, one of whom approached Ryan Courmoyer in a demonstrably close-encounter manner.

The day following the Convention, Nickerson prepared and submitted the required documentation containing the voting results to the Secretary of State. Ryan was not given an opportunity to review the required submission form. Nor did he have reason to think an error would be made in a simple, basic document. Although Nickerson voted against him, Mr. Ryan trusted that the form would be completed correctly.

On or about the 18th of June, Candidate Ryan called the Secretary of State's office and asked if they received the 'Nomination Party Form' from Mr. Nickerson. Then Ryan Courmoyer drove directly to the Secretary of State's Office to request a party nomination form. An employee from the SOTS office stated to Mr. Ryan that the deadline for submission had passed, therefore his request was not relevant. The "error" occurred with the second "unknown" Secretary of State document that required Ryan's signature due to not receiving the email from the Secretary of State since Steve Nickerson provided the wrong email address after notifying Candidate Ryan it was submitted. This "email error" violation was the major responsibility and duty of Chairman

Nickerson.

As a first-time candidate, and trusting Nickerson to enter his information correctly, Ryan did not call the Secretary of State to ask about the status of his registration. In addition, since Ryan received an email on May 22 from Nickerson stating that he had filed the required forms, Ryan took for granted that Nickerson had fulfilled his duty responsibly and reliably. The result was the exclusion of Ryan Courmoyer with no opportunity for constituents of District 51 to make their choices via a Republican Primary.

Mr. Courmoyer had good reason to trust Mr. Nickerson, given that he and Mr. Nickerson regularly communicated using the same email address for Town matters. In addition, Mr. Nickerson's professional career is with Information Technology, where accurately entering data is a critical component to his job.

In response to the error and the ultimate exclusion of Ryan Courmoyer in the Republican Primary for District 51 on the 11th of August, Nickerson and Witkowski quickly deflected the issue, claiming that the error was unintentional. They also stated it was Mr. Ryan's responsibility to call the Secretary of State to verify his status. Thereafter, Mr. Nickerson and Ms. Witkowski participated with other political operatives from Putnam in an ongoing effort to pressure Candidate Ryan to disassociate with his supporters and drop out of the race. This included orchestrated social media campaigns, text message trolling and other tactics. Their defensive and evasive response, and their subsequent actions appear to indicate a clear intent.

Thompson Republican considerations:

We Republicans may disagree on some or even all issues. We may not like each other.

But what binds us together as Republicans is our commitment to our Republic's values and principles as outlined in our nation's Constitution upon which our country was founded and has flourished. The anchor of these values and principles is the foundational underpinning of trust.

We Republicans take trust seriously. We trust that elected officials and those who are elected to perform a leadership role will do so in a trustworthy and responsible fashion. This duty is not optional.

The actions of Steve Nickerson, supported and encouraged by Susanne Witkowski, clearly indicate that both individuals have violated Ryan's trust. They also violated the trust of the Thompson RTC members, along with Republicans in Thompson and within the 51st District, all of whom were woefully deprived of the opportunity to cast a ballot for the Republican candidate they thought would best serve their interests.

John B. Lenky closes his statement with the following quote: "I recommend that the Thompson RTC vote to ask for the resignations of both Mr. Nickerson and Ms. Witkowski, if they are not voluntarily offered. As Ben Franklin said, "Words may show a man's wit, but actions his meaning."

ALVAN R. HILL
WOODSTOCK

This is not just a Plainfield issue

To the Editor:

The proposed trash-to-energy facility in Plainfield may be located within our town's borders, but its potential impact will not stop at the Plainfield town line.

This should concern everyone who calls northeastern Connecticut home.

Think about the trucks that could travel our regional roads bringing waste to this facility. Think about our air, waterways, environment, public safety, infrastructure, and the rural character that makes northeastern Connecticut such a special place to live.

Plainfield residents have been fighting to make sure this proposal receives the scrutiny it deserves. But we should not have to fight this alone.

I am asking residents throughout northeastern Connecticut to contact their state senators, state representatives, selectmen, mayors and other local officials and ask them to become involved. Ask questions. Ask what this facility could mean

for your town. Ask your municipal leaders to stand with Plainfield and explore every lawful avenue available to protect our communities.

Today, it is being proposed in Plainfield. But the trucks, environmental concerns and potential consequences are regional.

Regardless of what town you live in, we share the same roads, breathe the same air and depend upon many of the same natural resources.

Northeastern Connecticut needs to speak with one voice: Our communities should not become the testing ground for a project that could change this region for generations.

Please contact your state and local representatives and ask them to stand with Plainfield.

This isn't just Plainfield's fight. It belongs to all of northeastern Connecticut.

MARY SILVESTRI
PLAINFIELD

Why reinvent the wheel? Keep Pat Boyd in Hartford

To the Editor:

When we elect a state representative, we need someone who can get to work on Day One, not spend the first-year learning how Hartford works. That's why I'm supporting Pat Boyd for State Representative in the 50th District.

Pat has nearly a decade of experience in the General Assembly. He knows the legislative process, understands the issues facing our towns, and has built the relationships necessary to get results. As co-chair of the Public Safety & Security Committee, he's taking a lead on issues that matter to our communities.

While his opponent has experience in local government, which is valuable, it doesn't prepare someone for everything involved in serving in the General Assembly. There's a difference between

criticizing government and knowing how to make it work. Pat knows how to make it work.

His opponent has stated that he wants to, "bring integrity back "to the position. I take exception with this comment. Pat has integrity. He has demonstrated an ability to work with both sides of the aisle to achieve the best results for, not only, his constituents, but also for this great state we chose to call home.

This election is simple: Do we want to start over, or do we want to keep someone who already knows how to get the job done? I'll take experience. I'll take results. I'll take Pat Boyd.

Keep Pat Boyd in Hartford.

CHARLIE TRACY
POMFRET CENTER

Off to the fair

America 250. Saturday, Sept. 19. 12:30-1:30 p.m. PowerPoint presentation on Revolutionary Families of Northeastern Connecticut by Killingly Municipal Historian Margaret M. Weaver. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library & the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam. Margaret will talk about how the Revolution was affecting families here in the Quiet Corner. Have you heard about the House the Women Built? All are welcome.

Support one of Killingly's Historic Properties. Killingly Grange No. 112 will sponson a Chicken BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Half chicken, Corn on the Cob, Potato Salad, Roll and Dessert. \$16 per meal. Dine in or take out. Limited number of meals. Call 860-884-1813 to reserve a meal. At the door pay by cash, check or credit card.



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

I t ' s Labor Day weekend, and what could be more fitting than to write about the Woodstock Fair? Perhaps some of you attended the 1963 Woodstock Fair. The Thursday, Sept. 5, 1963 issue of the Windham County Observer and Putnam Patriot's headline read: "Woodstock Fair's Attendance Tops All Previous Records. Nearly 50,000 Present for 1963 Event. The 103rd Woodstock Fair, a yearly event for the Labor Day weekend... surpassed records of previous years not only in attendance but in entries and participants. Gov. John Dempsey was among the visitors. He spent several hours watching the races and chatting with fairgoers Saturday. State Agricultural Commissioner Joseph Gill and U. S. Representative William St. Onge also roamed the fairgrounds...Ballooning Barbara Keith, the Fair's 'flying grandmother,' launched her free flight hot air sport balloon Saturday and Sunday as a special jet age attraction. (Hot air balloons went out of vogue about a century ago). The launching(s) were successful, to the delight of hundreds of onlookers, but landing the thing was not so easy. Plans for the Saturday trip called for Grandma Keith to land at the nearby Putnam Country Club, but wind conditions were not right and she was carried some 13 miles south, landing in East Killingly. She bravely took off again Sunday afternoon, but this time she came down in a tree in Foster, RI. Grandma called off her Monday take-off because of a fractured ankle received in the landing. She was admitted to Day Kimball Hospital and released the next day." (p.2 of 28).

An Internet search revealed that the first Woodstock Fair was held in 1859 in the vestry of the Baptist Church on Woodstock Hill. I tried to find early articles but found none for that year. The earliest was a short announcement in the September 19, 1861 Windham County Transcript. "The Woodstock Fair. The Woodstock Agricultural Society will hold their annual Fair on Wednesday of next week. An address will be delivered by Gilbert W. Phillips, Esq. of Putnam. It is safe to predict a good exhibition as the citizens of Woodstock never do anything by the halves." (p.2).

The next I found was from the Windham County Transcript of Thursday, Oct. 1, 1863. "A fog, concealing the heavens and the earth, appeared on the early morn of Wednesday, causing doubt

A monster socialist / Communist paranoia in my mind...not

To the Editor:

I must thank John Day for the great amount of time he must have put in critiquing my last letter here. Though he seems defensive and perhaps in denial of growing socialist involvement in the Democrat party, he correctly pointed out that I did not explain the difference(s) between Socialism and Communism. No, I didn't. I believe most folks know that Socialism is Communist training wheels. They are both birthing parts of a government central planning system. Karl Marx himself advocated Socialism as a more effective approach to eventual Communist control than murderous uprisings and in most instances Bolshevik leadership agreed. So socialism is widely considered by central control adherents to be the best way to begin moving advanced societies away from Capitalism. Historical fact. Still a phenomenon. A Monster Socialist / Communist paranoia in my mind...not.

And Mr. Day implies that I am perhaps the type of person that holds back USA progress with my scrutiny and announced opposition to Socialism / Communism. Perhaps he does not know the difference between a Social Democracy and a Socialist Democracy. "Where do I start?" The USA has evolved into a Social Democracy along with many other developed countries and that is a very good thing. However, a Social Democracy is something very different than a Socialist Democracy. Example: the Socialist Democrat Mayor of New York City is planning government owned grocery stores — a plan that would not be proposed in a Social Democracy where the word Social primarily means government participation for the benefit of the needy through health, justice and personal aid programs paid for via tax revenue(s). But, as a government moves towards being a Socialist Democracy by eventually controlling production and distribution of goods, creating government owned food stores is a step towards that end. Democrat Socialists of America (DSA) want just that - an American Socialist Democracy. They have little interest in a Social Democracy such as ours. If you believe me wrong hit Google AI and ask "what does the DSA organization stand for?" Then ask "Are the Democrat Socialists of America making big gains and causing a serious schism in the Democrat party?"

We all know that most things have a beginning and an end. This is certainly true of government systems and Communism

has a predictable un-success story when you consider the awful plight of citizens in the Cuba's and North Koreas of our world. But when you consider Communist governments like Vietnam, you see that their moving away from total control of production and distribution towards quasi-capitalist arrangements, you see that they have lifted many of their citizens into private ownership / prosperity and made possible a better life for nearly all their working citizens. I've been to Vietnam in the past five years and traveled the modern, long, elevated highway connecting Hanoi's airport to center city. I went by huge factories - Vespa, Nikon, North Face, Canon, Honda, Johnson Health and many others. These factories support thousands of privately owned local service business' such as restaurants, hotels and B&B's, retail shops, etc. And the money employees earn in the factories themselves means simply more meat in the pho. The future is bright for the Vietnamese because the government allowed the basics of free market capitalism and stepped aside. Yes, Vietnam's government is presently Communist Party controlled but they have adopted a hybrid type of capitalism as the way forward. However, does anyone suppose that these successful VN business' and people will eventually spell the end to Communist Party control? I say ...perhaps...because we have a Vietnamese/American friend in Worcester who now owns restaurants, food stores, apartments and a travel agency. She has built a beautiful second home in Nha Trang, Vietnam, and takes vacationing friends there — my wife among them. This woman is definitely a bravo free market capitalist and has invested back in her origin country because she sees a day when Vietnam is no longer a Communist nation. Smart lady. One of thousands sharing fellow feelings. But anyone pushing Socialism / Communism for America...not smart ...and I hope the Democrat party leaders de-couple completely and soon from the DSA candidates and office holders who have gained prominence within their party. America needs a strong pro-American Democrat Party to mitigate inequalities and injustices that can come from an opposition one party dominance. But I do worry that they won't because a recent Gallup News Poll reveals 66 percent of polled Democrats currently have a positive image of socialism. And I also hope John Day realizes that there are no MAGA hats in the Clements' house.

EDWARD CLEMENT
THOMPSON

Miss Obama yet?

To the Editor:

Miss President Obama? Apparently, you were never told about the treason/sedition that he and his entire administration, including VP Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the fabricator of the hoax, committed against President Trump as he was about to take office in 2016/2017.

The liberal Democrats will bash Trump every opportunity they get, and trust me, Trump is far from perfect, however I suggest you all read the following and respond here in the Op/Ed section. These are not all my words, just to be transparent, but they align with my thoughts.

In December of 2016, President Barack Obama chose to use Hillary Clinton's fake opposition research "investigation" results, commonly known as the "Steele Dossier," claiming that then president-elect Donald Trump was a "Russian asset" and "in Putin's pocket," despite the fact that President Obama's FBI had just come out with their own Soon-to-be released investigative report on President Trump that proved, beyond any shadow of a doubt, hat Donald Trump was not a Russian asset. (This lie continues today.)

Some whistleblowers did not feel comfortable signing an affirmation stating that the Hillary Clinton report was credible because it was so obviously not. This decision by the Obama administration to change their plan the day before its release and use the Clinton campaign's fake propaganda produced by former British MI6 operative Christopher Steele was made on Dec. 9, 2016.

President Obama then presented this known false information to his DOJ and told his entire administration that they were going to be using Hillary Clinton's source opposition research, knowing that it was fake and made up, and told the administration that it was OK that they lie about it because they would be protected by law. They then proceeded to profusely leak this known false "President Trump is a Russian asset" narrative to the press through government administration operatives such as Christopher Wray, James Comey, Jim Clapper, John Brennan and the hideous Adam Schiff, a person who has perpetuated this Russian hoax from the beginning and every chance he got through his liberal media sycophants, and continues to do it to this day. (The statute of limitations time starts when the lying stops, so that timer hasn't even started yet), and never has offered an apology or retraction of this false information that he continues to spew.

That is how the Russia hoax got started, completely made up by Hillary Clinton and funded by the DNC, among others, and set into motion by President Obama and his administration, including VP Joe Biden and

then Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. At that moment, President Obama became the first President in U.S. history to openly commit Treason against a duly elected incoming President.

Barack Obama was given the honor of being the first black POTUS, and what does he and his entire administration (with few exceptions) do? He commits the WORST federal crime a citizen, let alone a POTUS, can...T R E A S O N. He and his entire administration betrayed this country and every America citizen in it. Obama's crime of treason is far worse than anything Trump has ever been alleged to do or has done. Far worse!! Prove me wrong!

Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and every other clown in his administration, especially Adam Schiff, are guilty of treason. They crippled Trump's campaign, his transition and his presidency for nearly three and a half years.

Trump still won the presidency and did more for this country during his first term than Biden or Harris could ever hope to do in a lifetime of terms, and the winning for the American people continues into his second term.

You liberals need to stop watching CNN and MS NOW as they have been gaslighting you for a decade now. You won't see a Democrat president until well after the 2044 election cycle, if ever.

MICHAEL DOUGLAS
BROOKLYN

What's going on/what's wrong with the Woodstock Fair?

To the Editor:

There are very few certainties in life, but for me, one certainty was looking forward to the Woodstock Fair "Always Labor Day Weekend." It signified the end of summer, the beginning of another school year and the beginning of Fall. In a world where the pace of life has gotten increasingly fast - it seemed like the Woodstock Fair was the same year after year. You could count on it being consistently the same and there was something healthy and refreshing about that. I guess there was just a kind of innocence bundled with nostalgia with the idea that some things will never change and the Woodstock Fair represented that to me ... until the leadership of the Fair (The Woodstock Agricultural Society) decided to make a few unfortunate changes. As a result, I'm boycotting the 165th Edition of the Woodstock Fair for more than a few reasons. The biggest reason was their complete and total disregard for their own published guidelines about submitting artwork that would be used for the cover of the Premium Booklet & for other promotional materials. The Guidelines state: "We Invite All Non-Professional Artists to Enter". I wrote a lengthy editorial about this in the July 17 edition of the Woodstock Villager (which you can read by going to the archives that are on-line // <https://stonebridgepress.com/PdfSource/PublicPdfArchives?publicationId=15> // but suffice it to say that they chose artwork from a prominent professional local artist by reputation and self-proclamation that adorns the Premium Booklet this year. The really sad news is that they are boldly proclaiming the same guidelines for the 2027 edition of the Woodstock Fair - which I encouraged them to change / it is completely false &

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It feels like Groundhog Day

To the Editor:

We've seen this movie before. The déjà vu of the first Trump presidency is back: longtime Trump allies - Tucker Carlson, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Thomas Massie, Joe Rogan, Candace Owens, and Lauren Boebert - have currently publicly broken with Trump. In addition, Joe Kent, his own director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, resigned earlier in the year in protest of the war with Iran, saying Iran posed no imminent threat, and the U.S. was pushed into the conflict by outside pressure. (USA Today)

These Republicans are the latest additions to a long list of one-time allies and former aides who either turned against Trump or whom he turned against. No person in U.S. politics, certainly no recent president, has such an expansive list of high-profile allies turned enemies. (CNN)

From his former vice president to a revolving door of attorneys general and defense secretaries, to national security advisers, chiefs of staff, and personal lawyers, the list of Trump allies turned critics during his first presidency runs more than two dozen names deep.

In this current presidency, nothing has

Earth — A warning from a warming Himalaya

To the Editor:

Known as the cryosphere, about 10 percent of the Earth is permanently frozen. Beyond Earth's polar regions, the Himalayan Mountains contain the largest amount of ice in the world. Himalayan glaciers, the source of two of the world's five largest rivers, also provide drinking water for a quarter of the world's population. Glaciers in the Himalayas, Alps, Andes, and Rocky Mountains are central to the Earth's hydrologic cycle, wherein snowfall eventually forms glaciers, which undergo partial melting in the summer and thus feed streams and rivers essential to the world's agricultural production. Without these mountain glaciers, global human food production literally dries up!

But mountain glaciers across the world are warming rapidly and melting. Since the turn of the 20th century, the observed glacier loss has been a steady, accelerating retreat, leaving empty valleys or lakes where massive glaciers formerly and continuously crawled down the mountains at "glacial pace." Here in the U.S., Glacier National Park was the place where, years ago, we could see more than 100 active glaciers feeding the Earth's hydrologic cycle. But today, the park contains only 26 active glaciers, and scientists predict it could have none in as little as four years. We may change its name to "The Park Formerly Known as Glacier," but what will we do about losing a huge natural watershed and all the biodiversity and downstream uses it supports?

On Aug. 26, a massive Himalayan glacier collapsed and released a surge of water and mud into the Lhende Khola River, near the border of Nepal and Tibet. The monstrous flash flood that resulted traveled at 120 miles per hour, leaving a trail of death and destruction across mountain communities. Early reports have only begun to count the dead and forever missing.

If you haven't seen video footage of the event, look it up. It's hard to believe your eyes. At first, I couldn't believe mine and thought what I was seeing had to be computer-generated, like some Hollywood disaster film. But it wasn't. In an instant, entire communities were wiped away. Large buildings, roads, and bridges—entire villages full of people—were washed away. Dozens of buses were hurled around like chunks of fruit in a blender. Others, spared the initial blast, were overwhelmed and lost before they could escape as water rose 30 feet in 30 minutes.

This disaster immediately reminded me of the 2025 Los Angeles fires in its scale. But as this event was so instantaneous and absolute, the ancient volcanic eruption at Pompeii and the 2004 Indonesian tsunami

seemed to move Trump supporters, not the Epstein child sex trafficking ring, the tariffs squeezing household budgets, the failure of trickle-down economics, ICE killings, nor the self-dealing grift or blatant corruption. Perhaps the tide is changing direction due to the endless Iran war, growing unease over environmentally destructive and costly data centers, and/or the threats to deploy ICE, U.S. Army, National Guard troops to our election polling locations. Time will tell.

Hopefully the changing tides will turn into votes in the midterm elections. Hungary showed what's possible when voters decide enough is enough; nearly 80 percent of voter turnout ousted Prime Minister Viktor Orban. Imagine what voter turnout like that will do here in the U.S. Early voting starts on Oct. 19. Make a plan to vote. Check your voter registration, know your polling place and show up to vote in the midterms. Just like in the movie Groundhog Day, we can end this loop by voting with care for our neighbors and the best interests of our country.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

that killed 230,000 seemed like better analogies. The collapse of ice, rock, mud, and water was so massive that, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, it generated a seismic signal—an earthquake—measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale.

Like the steady retreat of mountain glaciers around the world, the event in the Himalayas may signify another "new normal" created by climate change. This raises important questions: What does climate change have to do with the disaster? And what lies ahead?

While it's too early to attribute this event solely to climate change, there can be little doubt that it played a profound role. Climate change is making the Himalayan and other mountain regions increasingly unstable as they warm, lose ice mass, and destabilize slopes. As the cryosphere and other elements of Earth's life-support systems destabilize, such as the Atlantic's Gulf Stream currents, we are seeing an accelerating rate and intensity of fires, droughts, storms, and floods. And now, like the icicles that fall from house gutters in the sun, catastrophic ice collapse may be added to the list of regular disasters as Earth is subjected to rapid climate change. According to the United Nations, Nepal's mountains lost close to one-third of their ice over roughly three decades, and the rate of glacier loss accelerated significantly in the 2010s. It all makes sense.

The people of Nepal now need help—big help. But have we even finished helping the tens of thousands of L.A. residents displaced by the colossal fires in 2025? That event inflicted a quarter-trillion dollars in losses! And what about 2024's Hurricane Helene in Florida? I read that, well over a year later, local streets were still buried in storm debris that went on for blocks. What about Paradise? That beautiful mountain community never recovered. What about the 2023 fires in Lahaina, Hawaii? That historic town will never be the same.

The property insurance industry has repeatedly warned that these "climate-fueled natural disasters" are destabilizing the industry, resulting in soaring reinsurance costs, market withdrawals, and the potential for systemic collapse of the industry itself. Of all this, legendary venture capital investor John Doerr says, "People are coming to the realization that it is now cheaper to save the Earth than to destroy it." Or, as Ben Franklin put it, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Both are right—if we do what we need to do right now, we can avert catastrophe and, in the process, save money. And, of course, we'll save lives and reduce human suffering. So what lies ahead? The choice is ours.

KEN WOLSLEGEL
WOODSTOCK

misleading & blatantly UNFAIR to all non-professional artists.

The second disturbing change is that the Fair, I am told, will be offering beer & wine beverages! This will no doubt introduce some issues that the Fair has avoided for 164 years. It begs the question why? From my point of view there can only be one answer and it's not a good one — money. I suspect that we'll see some disorderly conduct, maybe a few fights break out & probably a number of car accidents — hopefully, no fatalities. This is not a good change or look for the supposed family friendly fair. The third disturbing change, I am told, is the elimination of the horse show. I wonder why? That's a sad change for all the horse owners & spectators that look forward to this competition each year. One final comment, that you may not know - is that none of the money collected by the Woodstock Fair is shared with the Town of Woodstock. I always thought it was a great thing for our Town - but this is not the case - it is collected and kept 100 percent by the Woodstock Agricultural Society. If you are disturbed by these changes vote with your non-attendance/maybe this will get their attention. And I'd also encourage you to call or send an e-mail to: 860.928.3246 / secretary@woodstockfair.com / generalmanager@woodstockfair.com

Respectfully & sadly submitted,

GARY BRAATEN
WOODSTOCK



Courtesy

During the early evening of Wednesday, Aug. 26, Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 went swimming at Quaddick Lake State Park. The Cub Scouts ended their vacation, after a busy and fun season of visiting farms and museums, as well as overnight camping and a week of summer camp, among more than a dozen programs the pack has held since June. Pack 21 is designed for families to do fun and interesting things together, guided by trained and experienced adult leaders. Pack 21 is looking for boys and girls ages five through ten to join us. For information, call John Ryan, at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.



ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ VillagerNewspapers.com





Alex (Kallgren) Revane

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — One of only three four-time All-Little East Conference selections in Eastern Connecticut State University field hockey history, Alexandra (Kallgren) Revane has been chosen for induction into the Eastern Athletics Alumni Hall of Fame, it has been announced by chair Scott Smith.

Kallgren ’18 becomes the second field hockey selection in the 29-year history of the field hockey program and the first to gain induction based exclusively upon her field hockey exploits (Mo Deegan, a field hockey-lacrosse standout between 2001 and 2005, was a 2014 inductee).

Kallgren is the final-announced member of the five-person Class of 2026, following the announced induction of former four-year All-Little East Conference volleyball player Adrianna Mihalek ’17, who maintains the program standard for career kills; Max Fantl ’10, a former four-year All-LEC forward and two-time LEC Offensive Player-of-the-Year in soccer and an all-conference lacrosse midfielder and four-year member of the program; Christian D’Ambrosio, the former 22-year head women’s soccer coach who won a record 240 matches and 13 LEC regular-season and playoff titles from 2000 through 2021; and two-time baseball All-America and current home run and RBI leader Melvin Castillo ’11.

Dudley’s Alex (Kallgren) Revane named to Eastern Alumni Hall of Fame

The 32nd induction ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. at the campus’s Fine Arts Instructional Center’s Concert Hall and Lobby, with a social to follow. For ticket information, contact Scott Smith at 860-465-4326 or at smithsc@easternct.edu.

A four-year starter at midfield and forward between 2014 and 2017, the Dudley, MA native was ranked either first or second on the team each season in goals, assists and points with one exception, when she ranked third in assists as a sophomore in 2015. Nine years after playing her final match, Kallgren remains the all-time leader in points (93) and game-winning goals (9), shares the all-time lead in goals (37) and is second in assists (19) (Kallgren had stood alone atop the all-time goals list until her record was tied by All-Region forward Emma Sanson in the fall of 2025).

Three times chosen to the LEC second team and once to the third team, Kallgren is one of only three players in program history named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) national Senior Team, when she played in the last NFHCA North-South Senior All-Star Game conducted, in 2017 (the game was discontinued after 2017, although a national Senior Team is still selected by the NFHCA).

Through a commitment to strength and conditioning, Kallgren “was able to build, basically, what we call, a ‘bullet-proof body.’”, says former Eastern strength and conditioning coach Mike Jones. “She was very durable and able to go out there, game-after-game, and perform. She always had a great work ethic, and she can certainly thank her parents (Duane and De) for that. She already had that work ethic from home, and she applied the work ethic to [the strength and conditioning room].”

Kallgren led the team in points and goals in each of her first two seasons (in 2014 and ’15), with her career-highs of 29 points (equalling the season record at that point) and 12 goals (second-most in a season at that point) in 2015 helping launch the most successful season to that point in program history. With the program managing only one winning record in its first 17 years, the 2015 club set or tied 12 current team season records in winning 13 of 20 matches

In that 2015 season, the Warriors set season records to that point for overall wins, winning percentage (.650),

consecutive wins (six) and LEC wins (8-3 record). Placing fourth in the 12-team conference (its highest finished to that point), the Warriors won twice in the playoffs at home (their first home LEC playoff games in the 18-year history of the championship) over Westfield State University (3-0) and Fitchburg State University (2-1) to stretch their winning streak to six and reach the LEC title game for the first time, where they lost a one-goal road decision.

In that year’s LEC playoffs against Fitchburg, Kallgren set up the tying goal with 20 minutes left when Brianna Passero sent home the rebound of a shot by Kallgren that was saved, and Kallgren’s 12th goal of the year four minutes later proved as the game-winner.

Today, Kallgren stands as one of only four players in program history with as many as two matches of three or more goals. Her first hat trick came against Westfield State in the LEC opener at home in her fourth career game in mid-September – a 6-1 victory that snapped a nine-game losing streak against the Owls; her second hat trick proved to be the final goals of her career and sparked a 5-4 road win over four-time defending LEC playoff champion Keene State in mid-October of her senior year – the team’s first victory over Keene in 15 years that guaranteed the Warriors of a fourth straight LEC playoff berth (Kallgren assisted on a fourth goal in that match that gave her a career-high seven points, which remain tied for the third-most in a match in program history).

After joining the program as freshmen in the fall of 2014, Kallgren, Katie Jankura and Maddie LaRusso became the first players in program history to qualify for the LEC playoffs in each of their four seasons, with Kallgren and Jankura serving as senior captains in 2017.

In her career, Kallgren appeared in all 72 possible matches (starting all but three) and contributed at least one point in more than half of those matches. Through 2025, Kallgren is the only player in program history with two of the Top 10 scoring seasons and is one of only two players with two of the Top 10 marks for goals in a season.

Kallgren graduated with a B.S. Degree in Sport Management and currently serves as a health fitness professional. She resides in her hometown with husband Michael and infant daughter Lillian.

Poets at Large presents Knowles and Aeroelastic Flutter

POMFRET — Poets at Large will continue its seventh season on Saturday night, September 26th with two disparate types of poetry. The show begins at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret, and featured that night will be Frederick-Douglass Knowles II and performance artist duo Aeroelastic Flutter. Suggested donation is \$10.

Knowles is a Hartford Poet Laureate Emeritus, an English Professor at CT State Community College and author of “BlackRoseCity” (Author House 2011). He is the recipient of The Nutmeg Poetry

Award, a Connecticut of the Arts Fellow in Artistic Excellence in Poetry/Creative Non-Fiction, and a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee. He will be showcasing work from his newest book, “Sinking in Moonlight Alone.”

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

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

Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum, there’s new art coming to Putnam!

PUTNAM — The beauty of Main Street is being revitalized with new metal sculptures starting with a feature of Jack and the Beanstalk. Jack and the Beanstalk is the first in a series of three metal sculptures hand crafted by Master Metalsmith Michael Saari. Saari, a Woodstock resident, is a skilled craftsman with more than 40 years of experience. Mr. Saari boasts an impressive resume with works featured in New York City, Mount Vernon Virginia and Marianapolis Preparatory School, among many other locations.

This sculpture project came to fruition from the efforts of the Putnam

Business Association looking to enhance the appearance along the sidewalks of Main Street. In previous years, trees that had dotted the sidewalks were removed due to overgrown roots and four locations were determined to need new features. The first installation was in 2025; an Ivory Silk lilac tree in front of 130 Main Street. This tree was provided by the Town Economic Development Department, Mary Ann Chinatti.

The next sculpture will honor Putnam’s historic role in the textile industry, and the third sculpture will be a shopper on Main Street. Plans and construction for those installations are for

late 2026 and Spring 2027.

This project is supported by the generous donations from Putnam Business Association, Putnam Area Foundation and Putnam Arts Council. Materials generously donated by Rawson Materials.

The Main Street Sculpture Committee includes Sheila Frost, Dick Loomis, Mayor Barney Seney, Tom Borner, Mary Ann Chinatti, Beth Johnston, Elaine Turner, Michael Saari.

The Committee wishes to thank all the generous sponsors, the Town of Putnam Highway Department, Mayor Barney Seney, and PBA President Kate Cerrone.



Community Connection



WE BUY GOLD

Trusted with Appraisals, Custom Design, Repairs, and more since 1947!

42 Central St, Southbridge MA
(508) 764-7415 | www.Cormiers.com



The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

Morse Lumber Co., Inc.

Building Materials & Supplies

Lumber • Insulation • Mouldings
Drywall • Ceilings • Flooring
Hardware • Cements • Siding • Roofing
Windows • Doors • Concrete Block
Sawmill Products

Rough Sawn • Dimension Lumber
Boards • Timbers • Industrial Lumber

994 North Woodstock Road
(Rt. 169) - 1/2 mile from CT line
Southbridge, MA 01550
www.morse-lumber.com

Toll Free 1-800-764-3231 or 508-764-3231

“Quality Materials and Service Since 1951”

Crooked Creek Farm

East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!

Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.crookedcreekfarmma.org

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!



KILLINGLY
continued from page A4

for a while whether the day was to be foul or fair, but before nine o'clock it was so dissipated that one's eye could clearly discern the end of his nose, and soon a bluer sky and a clearer sun, or purer air never exhilarated the life-blood, or made 'out-doors' more attractive. And the most attractive spot in the region, seemed to be under and near the beautiful elms in South Woodstock. Scarcely a more beautiful spot can be found in that beautiful town, and rarely has there ever been a larger gathering in it, or for a more excellent purpose. The first exhibition was a trial of oxen and horses with the plough. Much interest was excited by this by the large number present, and we doubt whether George Goddard, Esq., or any other man, ever had a piece of ground ploughed quicker or better. It was easier to decide which was done the quickest than to say which was the best. Edwin Bugbee's horse team did the work in twenty minutes, and his ox team in twenty-five minutes and others but a few minutes more. The ploughs used, with a single exception, were 'The Cylinder,' manufactured by James Allen of Putnam... "There were displays swine, sheep, of fruits and vegetables, "fancy articles," etc. "The late frosts prevented a large display of flowers, but a few beautiful bouquets appeared. There were some fine paintings and crayon drawings" (p.3).

I knew that Putnam had once had a fairgrounds, but I initially was having difficulty pinpointing when it came into existence. (The Aspinock Historical Society was closed when I began my research). The first mention I found in assorted newspapers was in the August 15, 1906 Windham County Observer (p.2; genealogybank.com). The article simply mentioned someone living near the fairgrounds. My late grandmother Margaret Lyter always said, "Patience and perseverance" so I did call Putnam's Municipal Historian Bill Pearsall for help. Luck was with me for the Aspinock Historical Society files contained the February 2020 issue of the Pomfret Times which had an article on the fairgrounds by James Platt. "The Fair, was located on the land between The Quinebaug River and Park Street on what is now known as Lower Kennedy Drive. The current farmers market is on part of the site as is the Ford Dealer and the interchange with I-395. The fairgrounds included a half mile race track which was considered to be fastest race track in the state at that time. The track was used mainly for trotting horse races, but bicycle racing was also a big attraction." The first fair of the Putnam Park and Fair Corporation, J. B. Tatem, president, was held August 30, 1898, ran for three days and drew an attendance of 7,000. "The fair was last opened in 1910 with an attendance of only 2,500 people." In November of that year the directors and stockholders voted to sell the property. (Windham County Observer, November. 30, 1910, p. 6; genealogybank.com). Pictures of the Putnam Fairgrounds can be seen at the Aspinock Historical Society in Putnam's Municipal Complex.

Nevertheless, after the sale the property continued to be utilized and referred to as the Putnam Fairgrounds as the next articles show. The Friday, Sept. 1, 1916 Worcester Telegram and sounded like it would have been quite a fun to attend this event at the former fairgrounds. "Bloomer Girls to Play Putnam (men's) Team Tomorrow. Putnam, Aug. 31. The Putnam baseball team, Thomas McDermott manager, will play the New York Bloomer Girls Saturday afternoon at the Putnam Fairgrounds. The Bloomer girls claim to be the champion female team of the world and Mr. McDermott, who has seen them play, says Putnam will have to put the best possible team into the field to defeat them... Manager McDermott said this afternoon the regular Putnam team will line up against the girls. Sunday afternoon the Putnam team will play Marlboro on the Putnam fairgrounds." (p.16; genealogybank.com). The Monday, Sept. 4, Worcester Telegram carried an article about Putnam's 7-0 win over Marlboro, who had had a 16-game winning streak snapped. I was able to get at least some idea of the Putnam's players of that time. Nanning, 3 b; Barnicle, c; Gilmore, rf; Johnston, 1b; Labelle, lf; Hogan, 2b; Pearce, ss; McNamnee, c; Hanley, p. Attendance was listed at 1000. (p.11; genealogybank.com). The Aspinock Historical Society has a photo of the team.

The Putnam Fairgrounds which is one of the topics under consideration for the upcoming Walldog Mural Fest in 2028. Committee Chairwoman Elaine Turner sent the following summary about the artists, "'The Walldogs' are an internationally renowned organization of present-day sign and mural artists. The Walldogs organize an annual festival where hundreds of artists descend upon a town to paint several dozen murals over three to five days. The first festival took place in 1993 in Allerton, Iowa, and has grown to include 450 Walldogs who have painted 665 murals in 39 towns. The beautiful artwork elevates community pride, drives economic development, and boosts tourism. 2028 will bring the Walldogs to Putnam CT. You can learn more about The Walldogs at https://thewalldogs.org/ and join the movement by emailing eturner245@gmail.com

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, August 2026. Special thanks to Bill Pearsall and Elaine Turner. For additional information email me at margaretnweaver@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. For Windham County Transcripts visit killingly.historyarchives. online courtesy of the Killingly Public Library. For Putnam Patriots and Windham County Observers visit the home page of the Putnam Public Library and look on the right hand column for links.

Your business has a healthy profit: Should you refinance, reinvest, or hold cash?

Picture a company coming off a strong year. After payroll, taxes, and normal operating costs, there is \$500,000 sitting in the operating account that the business does not need next month. The owner has three broad choices: restructure debt, put the money back into the business, or hold it.

Nearly every business owner reaches this point eventually; it's a question that our team here at WHZ fields frequently from our clients who own a business. The honest answer is that all three can be right, and which one wins usually depends on facts that have nothing to do with the money itself. The best way to determine which is right for you is to walk through them in order.

Before anything else, determine the cost of your capital

Before choosing anything, put two numbers on paper: what your existing debt costs after tax, and what a dollar reinvested in the business has actually returned over the past several years. If your debt costs 8 percent and your incremental return on invested capital is 15 percent, reinvesting usually wins. If those figures are reversed, they are telling you something.

Interest rates have settled into a steadier range after several volatile years, which means this comparison holds long enough to plan around instead of needing to be rerun every quarter.

Option One: Refinance or restructure debt

Refinancing is a cash flow decision more than a rate decision. Consolidating variable-rate balances, extending a term to lower monthly obligations, or replacing a line of credit that has become a permanent fixture can all free working capital without spending a dollar of profit.

The tax side of this equation has improved recently as well. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) returned



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

the business interest limitation to an EBITDA-based calculation, which restored deduction capacity for capital-intensive businesses that had lost it under the narrower rule. So, debt is somewhat cheaper after tax than it was two years ago, making refinancing a potentially winning choice. Just be sure to check prepayment penalties, personal guarantees, and any covenant that tightens as leverage changes before signing on the dotted line.

Option Two: Reinvest in your business

This is where the law moved most. OBBBA permanently restored 100 percent bonus depreciation for qualifying property acquired and placed in service after Jan. 19, 2025, and reinstated immediate expensing of domestic research and experimentation costs rather than spreading them over five years. Section 179 expensing allows up to \$2,560,000 in 2026, phasing out once purchases exceed \$4,090,000.

In practice, a qualifying equipment purchase can reduce this year's taxable income roughly dollar for dollar. That is a real advantage, and it is also where owners get into trouble. A deduction is not a reason to buy something the business does not need. Fully expensing a poor purchase still leaves you with a poor purchase.

Remember that reinvestment also means people. A key hire, a retention package, or training that reduces turnover rarely shows up on a depreciation schedule, but it often produces the higher long-term return.

Option Three: Hold cash deliberately

Cash should be a position, not a leftover. Yields have shifted enough that reserves earn something meaningful again, though inflation still works against purchasing power over time.

Holding makes sense when the pipeline is uncertain, when a known outlay is coming within the next 12 to 18 months, when you are preparing for a sale or ownership transition, or when your reserve sits below three to six months of operating expenses. Past that point, idle cash tends to sit on the balance sheet earning less than the business itself does, and an acquirer may not pay you much for it.

The Fourth Option most owners overlook

Profit can also move out of the business and into your own retirement plan, and this is frequently the most efficient use of a strong year.

For 2026, an owner can defer up to \$24,500 as an employee, plus an \$8,000 catch-up at age 50 or older, or \$11,250 for those age 60 through 63. Employer profit-sharing contributions stack on top, with total annual additions capped at \$72,000 per participant and compensation counted only up to \$350,000. The contribution is deductible to the business, funded from the same profit you were deciding about, and it moves money from a balance sheet exposed to business risk onto one that is not.

For owners with a small or older employee group, adding a cash balance plan alongside the 401(k) can allow considerably more. One change to note for 2026: if your prior-year FICA wages exceeded \$150,000, catch-up contributions must now go in as Roth, which shifts the deduction math slightly.

Remember that this is a wealth decision, not only a

business one

For most owners, the business is both the largest asset and the largest concentration of risk. Every dollar reinvested increases that concentration. Every dollar moved into a retirement plan or personal portfolio reduces it. The right mix depends on how close you are to a transition, how diversified your personal holdings already are, and how much liquidity you would want if the business hit a rough stretch.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, our Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well. process looks at the business and the household together, working alongside your CPA so the tax answer and the wealth answer are the same answer.

Schedule a complimentary discovery session at whzwealth.com or call us at (860) 928-2341 to review how this year's profit should be put to work. Together, we can help you move forward with Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Authored by James Zahansky, AWMA®. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. 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. 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.

Chelsea Groton Foundation awards grant to Ragged Hill Woods program



POMFRET CENTER — As our summer camp program ends at the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp, we move on to concentrating on our Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Education Programs. We are excited to acknowledge receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the Chelsea Groton Foundation to support our Ragged Hill Woods program.

The Foundation's mission is to support their ongoing commitment in partnership to the long term growth in the local community. We are very grateful for this award which will allow us to keep tuition costs as low as possible to allow access to more participants. This is the second year that we have received support from this Foundation and as you can see, it

made a lot of campers smile.

Our fall homeschool days for children in second through fifth grades will run from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Mondays as follows: Sept. 14 – Nature Detective Training, September 21 – Mapmakers and Trailblazers, Sept. 28 – Tree Time Travelers, October 5 – Forest Feasts: Seeds, Nuts, and Survival, Oct. 19 – Forest Floor Recycling Crew and Oct. 26 – Rocks, Roots and Hidden Trails. Cost is \$45 per child per class or \$250 for all six weeks. Topics are being selected for our six week Wednesday afternoon programs from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for children from Kindergarten to grade 6 from Sept. 9 to Oct. 21. All programs are held rain or shine. You can email ragged-

hillwoods@gmail.com to inquire about topics and specific dates for this series.

Got Space?
we do.

Contact Mikaela Today,
860-928-1818

Day Kimball Health recognizes Emily Fowler as Employee of the Month

Day Kimball Health (DKH) has named Emily Fowler, BSN, RN, registered nurse in the Ambulatory Care Unit (ACU), as Employee of the Month for July 2026.

Fowler joined Day Kimball Health in December 2012 as a per diem registered nurse on the Medical-Surgical Unit shortly after graduating from nursing school. Over the past 14 years, she has built a career defined by professional growth and a commitment to serving patients and colleagues alike.

Throughout her time at DKH, Fowler has held a variety of nursing roles, including staff nurse and case manager. For the past six years, she has been an integral member of the ACU, where she provides patient care in one-day surgery, endoscopy and IV therapy. She also serves as charge nurse and clinical resource for fellow staff members while assisting with unit staffing and scheduling.

In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Fowler contributes to several initiatives that support quality care and organizational excellence. She participates in performance improve-



Emily Fowler

ment projects and serves on the Nurse Clinical Practice Committee and Orthopedic Surgery Task Force.

“Emily exemplifies the compassion, professionalism and dedication that define exceptional patient care,” said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health. “Her commitment to our patients, her will-

ingness to support her colleagues and her leadership within the organization make her truly deserving of this recognition. We are grateful for the positive impact she makes every day.”

Fowler said she is honored to receive the recognition and credits her colleagues with making her

work rewarding.

One of the aspects of nursing she values the most is the opportunity to build relationships with patients and help guide them through challenging experiences. She also appreciates the lifelong learning that comes with nursing and the collaborative approach required to achieve the

best possible outcomes for patients.

“Emily is someone our team can always count on,” said Rachelle Davis, RN, MSN, ambulatory care unit clinical manager. “She consistently goes above and beyond for both patients and colleagues. Whether she is caring for patients, mentoring staff, coordinat-

ing schedules or stepping in where help is needed, Emily leads by example. Her knowledge, positivity and willingness to support others have made her an invaluable member of our team.”

Originally from Grafton, Massachusetts, Fowler lives in Woodstock with her husband and two children. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Worcester State University.

About Day Kimball Health

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

Pomfret program to explore medicine on the Revolutionary War battlefield

POMFRET — The Pomfret Historical Society will turn back the clock to

the Revolutionary War this weekend with an interactive look at the difficult, danger-

ous and sometimes unsettling work of an 18th-century military field surgeon.



“Doctoring the Soldier: The Life of a Military Field Surgeon During the Revolutionary War” will be presented Saturday, Sept. 5, at 3 p.m. at the Old Town House, 11 Town House Drive, Pomfret Center.

Historical researcher and reenactor Daniel Newman will lead the program, drawing on more than 40 years of study of 18th-century medicine and surgery. Newman portrays a British surgeon attached to the 54th Regiment of Foot and will discuss the medical practices, surgical techniques, remedies and cures available during the colonial era.

Among the treatments visitors will learn about are practices known as “bleeding, blistering and purging,” which were commonly employed by physicians at a time when modern anesthesia, antibiotics and an understanding of infection were still far in the future.

The program will also place those medical practices within the experience of soldiers who fought during the opening months of the Revolutionary War.

One such soldier was Elihu Sabin, who left his family in April 1775 after joining Capt. Zebadiah Ingalls and the 11th Regiment in answering the call following the battles at

Lexington and Concord.

According to an account preserved in the Seth Chase family papers and provided by Eliza Kimball of the Abington Social Library, Sabin’s daughter, Lavina, remembered her father saying goodbye before departing with his gun over his shoulder.

After the Battle of Bunker Hill, fought largely on Breed’s Hill on June 17, 1775, Sabin eventually returned home wounded. According to the family account, Sabin was unable to dismount from his horse without assistance and knocked on the family’s door using his crutch.

Although he recovered sufficiently to live for more than another 50 years, the wound continued to trouble him periodically throughout the remainder of his life.

Sabin would have been among the many wounded soldiers treated by military surgeons serving with the forces gathered in and around Boston during the early months of the Revolution.

Battlefield medicine was crude by modern standards, and military surgeons faced a daunting combination of gunshot wounds, infections, disease and limited medical knowledge. Soldiers with less serious injuries could

have their wounds dressed and return to service, while others recuperated in makeshift hospitals and encampments. Injuries that might be routinely treated today could become life-threatening, sometimes leading to amputation or death.

The experience was shared by soldiers on both sides of the conflict. Field surgeons treated everything from relatively minor injuries to catastrophic wounds while working without the medical technology later generations would take for granted.

Newman’s presentation will give visitors an opportunity to examine that world through a hands-on program exploring the tools, theories and treatments available to military doctors during the Revolutionary era.

The presentation is free, and is funded through an America 250 grant from The Last Green Valley. Donations will be accepted to support continued renovations and maintenance of Pomfret’s Old Town House, which was built in 1841.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early for parking and refreshments.

For additional information, contact Pomfret Historical Society Program Director Donna Dufresne at windsong@snet.net.

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.

Hiring?

Reach More

Local/Applicants

Email: Mikaela@villagernewspapers.com

Phone: (860) 928-1818

Help
Wanted

Seven signs your child may be struggling with bullying

Remember the words to this old song?

“School days, school days,
Dear old golden rule days.

Readin’ and ‘ritin’ and ‘rith-me-tic

Taught to the tune of a hick’ry stick.”

For parents, the return to school this fall signals the big shift from summer to the back-to-school season. My suggestion to you this fall: Don’t wait for your child to use the word bullying. Sometimes the behavior changes before the words do. As I write this monthly article, I recognize these signs in my younger self after being bullied and beaten up. It’s amazing how after 50 years, I can still vividly remember having these feelings of despair and sadness along with these symptoms. When I was a kid, my Grandmother would tease me. She would say, “You are so shy that if someone were standing on your foot, you would not say a thing.” These tips are warning signs of more serious mental health issues to watch out for.

Your child suddenly doesn’t want to go to school. Frequent complaints of feeling sick, requests to stay home, or unusually anxious behavior about Monday mornings can be a warning sign. I desperately wanted to skip school after being beat up. Walking the halls at school with a black eye was one of the most humil-



TIPS FOR SUCCESS
MIKE BOGDANSKI

iating experiences of my life. Comments like “loser” followed me for days. It’s not that they want to skip; it’s just that it’s hard to learn when you are scared.

Their friendships suddenly change. A child who normally talks about friends may stop mentioning them, lose a friendship unexpectedly, or seem increasingly isolated. After being beaten up by the alpha teen in my neighborhood group, I lost my circle of friends. My parents were great about pushing me to keep in contact with other friends in town because we all need a support system and a sense of belonging. Even with kids around, your child can feel alienated and lonely.

Your child has mood or behavior changes. Increased irritability, sadness, anger, withdrawal, or emotional outbursts can signal that something is happening at school. On the outside, your child may look the same, but inside, their emotions are in a whirlpool of despair, helplessness, and sadness. They are trying their best but may not have the tools to cope. Long talks and hugs go a long way in helping.

They start avoiding certain places or activities. Pay attention if your child suddenly doesn’t want to ride the bus, go to the cafeteria, attend recess, participate in

activities, or go to a particular class. Going to these places is difficult because your child knows the bullies lie in wait and the bullying will begin again. As much as you might tell them to “tough it out,” it’s not that easy. After being beaten up and bullied, my Mom drove me to school every day so I didn’t have to take the bus. I am not sure this helped. I wished and hoped that I had confidence and self-defense skills, but at that time I had none.

Their school performance changes. Difficulty concentrating, missing assignments, declining grades, or losing interest in school can sometimes accompany social problems. It’s difficult and nearly impossible to learn when you live in a state of terror. Bullying has many debilitating effects on kids and will result in a lack of concentration and, as a result, poor academic performance and grades.

Your child becomes unusually quiet about their day. If “How was school?” used to generate stories and now gets a quick “fine,” gently ask more specific questions rather than assuming everything is okay. Withdrawal from family and friends is another warning sign.

Your child loses confidence or begins blaming themselves. Statements like “Nobody likes me,” “I’m stupid,” or “It’s probably my fault” deserve attention. Children experiencing repeated negative treatment may begin to internalize it. A child who is bullied may

feel like it was their fault that this is happening to them.

An important point for parents: None of these signs automatically means your child is being bullied, but these are signals to slow down, listen, and start a conversation. Sometimes it’s easier for your child to speak to a trusted uncle or aunt because it feels safer. Let’s do whatever it takes to get your child talking about their feelings, and communication is key. If you think this situation warrants seeing a counselor or therapist, please take action. If you live in northeast Connecticut, I have the perfect person to recommend.

It’s a long road back from being bullied. I have two proven suggestions. One: find your kids a bodyguard, not like a Secret Service escort or a person with aviator sunglasses, but a confident and respected student in their class who will stick up for them. Bystanders need to become upstanders.

Secondly, build your kids from the inside out. Confident kids don’t get bullied. Your child needs a skill that will build their confidence. When a child excels in any given field, their confidence will grow (in time). I wish I had the confidence I have today back then. I was shy and quiet, but being a martial arts black belt has given me great confidence and saved my life.

“These days, my motto is simple: there are two kinds of people in the world — people who know me, and

people who want to know me.”

Mike Bogdanski is a martial arts Grandmaster and anti-bully activist.

Quiet Corner Garden Club to dedicate Founders Garden

WOODSTOCK — The Quiet Corner Garden Club will dedicate the new Founders Garden at the Center for Woodstock History, 523 Route 169, Woodstock, during a ceremony on Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend both the ceremony and a program about Bee Keeping by Master Beekeeper Scott Herbert in Palmer Hall immediately following.

The Founders Garden, a project funded by a Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Bee Resilient Garden Grant, is designed as a memorial to the founders of the Quiet Corner Garden Club, formerly the Woodstock Area Garden Club.

Planned to complement the historic Palmer Auditorium building, the Founders Garden includes Doug Tallamy’s Keystone plants, a butterfly house, and pollinator watering station.

Members of the Quiet Corner Garden Club created and have been maintaining the gardens at the Center for Woodstock History since 1978.

For more information about the Quiet Corner Garden Club, find us on Facebook or our Web site at quietcorner-gardenclub.com.

University of Rhode Island celebrates new graduates during 2026 Commencement

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island celebrated more 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University’s 2026 Commencement. Approximately 3,800 undergraduate degrees and 900 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 15-17.

Among the graduates were:
Emma Korsu of Brooklyn graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Management and a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Conservation Biology
Linsey Arends of Brooklyn graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Affairs
Emily Stetkiewicz of Pomfret Center graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
Elias Newall-Vuillemot of Woodstock graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Brian Jameson of Woodstock graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Molecular Neuroscience

About the University of Rhode Island
The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island’s flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today’s world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

Livestrong’s 343-mile First Responder Ride for Resilience to pass through area

THOMPSON — Ahead of the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, Livestrong, a non-profit

dedicated to improving the daily lives of cancer survivors, is hosting a landmark First Responder Ride for Resilience, a five-day, 343-mile cycling journey from Boston to the 9/11 Memorial in New York City honoring the 343 firefighters lost on September 11, 2001. Riders will move through northeastern Connecticut on Monday, Sept. 7. Local residents are invited to cheer on riders, volunteer at a water stop, or donate to show their support.

According to research from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, firefighters are nine percent more likely to be diagnosed with cancer and 14 percent more likely to die from it than the gener-

al public. The ride brings together first responders, cancer survivors, and community members to raise funds benefiting Friends of Firefighters, the Boston Fire Cancer Foundation, and Livestrong, expanding access to cancer survivorship and mental health programs for first responders and their families.

“This ride wouldn’t be possible without the communities that welcome it along the way,” said Suzanne Stone, President and CEO of Livestrong. “Every stop gives people an opportunity to honor the firefighters and first responders affected by September 11 while supporting organizations that continue to serve them. We hope people will see this as a chance to come together around something that matters: honoring the heroes we lost,

and standing with those still fighting today.”

“Friends of Firefighters was born out of 9/11 with the promise that firefighters would never have to face the weight of the job alone,” said Nancy Carbone, Executive Director of Friends of Firefighters. “In the last 25 years, we have lost nearly 800 members of the FDNY to September 11th and 9/11 cancer, and job-related cancer remains one of the greatest risks our firefighters face every single day. Whether you ride, volunteer, or donate, you’re providing hands-on support for the physical and mental toll cancer takes on our first responders.”

To register, volunteer, donate or view the local route through northeastern Connecticut, visit 911ride.org.

Maps chronicling the day to day progress of the Ride

for Resilience and projected routes can be found at ride-withgps.com.

About Livestrong
Founded in 1997, Livestrong has supported more than 10 million people living with, through, and beyond cancer, providing the trusted information, programs, and community that help survivors navigate every stage of the journey. Livestrong helped establish survivorship as a formal field of study in cancer care and continues to expand access to the practical and emotional support that cancer survivors and their families deserve. Because surviving is just the beginning. To learn more or to donate, visit Livestrong.org.

Interact Club members busy helping

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club’s

Interact Club lent a helping hand at the Putnam



Business Association’s (PBA) Pluck-A-Duck fund-raiser’s Kids Zone Aug. 9. Mabel Perreault and Matthew Rybacki gave out popcorn and Calleigh Levesque volunteered at the Make a Wish table. Denise Esslinger from the PBA thanked the Interact Club members for their help.

On Aug. 15, the Interact Club volunteered at the TEEG backpack and school supply distribution. Club members helped families with choosing all the supplies needed for the grade their child is attending.

Elizabeth Perry, TEEG coordinator, thanked the

club members for collecting back packs and volunteering at the event, saying, “Thank you to Shyla and Sandi Beckett, Mabel Perreault, Matthew Rybacki, Alyssa Daniels and Sophie Godzike.”

The Putnam Rotary Club’s Interact Club is regional club that focuses on community service for ages 12-18. The club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8 at the Putnam Public Library.

For more information contact Rotarian Roberta Rocchetti 860-933-8603 or robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

Sandra Lee Flath, 84



Sandy was deeply involved in her community and her church, where she sang in the choir. She served as a vol-

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Concert Choir of Northeastern Connecticut, P.O. Box 4, Pomfret Center, CT 06259, or to The Friends of Pomfret Public Library ~ Memory Café program, PO BOX 24, Pomfret, CT, 06258.

Deborah loved horses and her dogs, and also would act as an animal sitter for people.

Services for Deborah are private at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to CT Alzheimers Association or Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeast CT. For memorial guestbook, please visit www.DoughertyBrothers.com.

Sr Zoosup continued her teaching ministry in Moosup, CT and in California. In 1997, she received her certification as a Catholic Chaplain and in 1998 she returned to the East Coast to take up the service of

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the DHS Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 497, Putnam, CT 06260. The Gilman-Valade Funeral Home, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT is in charge of arrangements.

Dan was a member of the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523 in Putnam, Post 13 American Legion, and the Valley Springs Sportsman Club. In his leisure time he loved fishing, going for long rides on his motorcycle, and especially enjoyed the camaraderie of the Danielson Veterans

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam CT. For Dan's full tribute and to sign the memorial guest-book, visit www.gilmanandvalade.com.

"Most people never get to see what it's actually like inside a structure fire. You may see the trucks, lights, and firefighters from the outside, but this quick helmet-cam video gives you

a glimpse of what your Thompson volunteer firefighters experience on the inside. It's what they spend countless hours training for," wrote the Thompson Fire Engine Company. "Television rarely gets it right. Inside a real structure fire, there aren't always clear rooms and perfect visibility. Smoke can bank

The video remains online for all to view on the Thompson Fire Engine Company's Facebook page.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us

brendan@

villagernewspapers.com



LEGALS

The fiduciary is:
Lerai S Nabozny,

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 18, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Citizens of Thompson are hereby informed that the Board of Assessment Appeals for the Town of Thompson will hold its sessions on the following dates:
September 17th 2026, 6:00 pm – 7:00

Notice given of sessions to conform to
Section 12-110 of the General Statutes
of the State of Connecticut.
Board of Assessment Appeals
James Niedzialkoski – Chairman
Scott Faunce
Brian Loffredo
September 4, 2026

MOTHER OF ALL

WINDOW & DOOR SALES



Superior Products.
Exceptional Service.

Renewal by Andersen has been in business for over 30 years, and this is one of our **BIGGEST SALES EVER!**



Sale ends September 30!

Save up to **30%** on windows, patio doors & entry doors¹

PLUS NO money down, **NO** payments, **NO** interest **for 1 YEAR!**² if paid in full

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 12-month promo period expires.

• We're the full-service replacement window division of Andersen. And 3 out of 4 real estate agents surveyed agree that **Andersen® products increase a home's value by at least 10%.***

• Our patio doors feature world-class engineering—including **our continuous weather stripping for year-round comfort, and our multi-point locking system for optimal security.**



Call by September 30 to book your **FREE** window and door inspection



Proud Partner of UConn Athletics



959-456-0067

¹Actual savings will vary depending on the quantity of purchased windows, with a required minimum purchase of 6 professionally installed windows to qualify for promotion. Purchase must occur on or before 9/30/26. Promotion is available during first in-home appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under CT HIC.0634555. MA.173245. RI.36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2026 Andersen Corporation. ©2026 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. ²2024 Andersen brand survey of U.S. real estate agents.
³Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Renewal by Andersen Retailer is neither a broker nor a lender. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.