



PUTNAM VILLAGER

Friday, September 22, 2023

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Tornado touches down in Killingly

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The National Weather Service and Connecticut Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) have confirmed that a tornado touched down in Killingly on Wednesday, Sept. 13, causing downed trees and power lines and minor property damage.

The National Weather Service in Boston reported that the tornado touched down between 4 and 4:10 p.m., and originated in Killingly before pushing 1.61 miles into Foster, R.I. The preliminary report issued by the National Weather Service confirmed the tornado began on Bailey Hill Road removing shingles from a two-story home before moving northeast towards Ledge Road and into Rhode Island. Photos provided through the DEMHS on social media confirmed significant damage to trees and power lines in the tornado's path. No other significant property damage was reported from the storm. The tornado was designated an EF-1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale with a maximum



The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security released this photo of debris and downed wires following a confirmed tornado in Killingly on Sept. 13.

width of 70 yards and peak winds of around 100 miles per hour. No injuries or deaths were recorded from the incident.

In a year that has seen tornado warnings and watches become commonplace during especially dangerous storm fronts throughout the

summer, this is the first confirmed twister in the Quiet Corner in 2023. The tornado was one of several that touched down in the tristate area in a mat-

ter of hours, all resulting from the same storm. In addition to the Killingly tornado, two separate EF-1 twisters were confirmed in Gloucester, R.I.

and Lincoln, R.I., respectively, and an EF-0 tornado was recorded in North Attenuborough, Mass.

The Killingly tornado followed a very similar path to another EF-1 twister from August of 1985, which moved through East Killingly into Rhode Island border into Foster. While tornadoes used to be a rarity in the region, such events have become more commonplace over the last two decades. The Sept. 13 event is the fourth confirmed incident in the Quiet Corner since 2018, a record for the region since the debut of the Fujita Scale in the 1970s in not only a five-year span, but also in a single decade. In 2018, two EF-0 tornadoes were recorded in Ashford and Woodstock respectively while another EF-0 touched down in Thompson in August of 2021. Other notable tornadoes have occurred in recent years just across the Massachusetts border including an EF-1 tornado in Webster directly related to the 2018 Woodstock twister and a powerful EF-3 tornado that tore through Sturbridge and surrounding towns in 2011.

Putnam, Thompson hold Republican primaries

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — For the first time in more than a decade, towns in Northeastern Connecticut held primaries for municipal elections on Sept. 12, with Republicans in both Putnam and Thompson called to the polls to decide who will challenge for their respective boards of selectmen.

Both towns saw challenges to the slates endorsed by their Republican Town Committees with the primary winners going up against their Democratic opponents this November. There were no Democratic primaries, as there were no challengers to the endorsed slates.

Putnam saw Michael Bogdanski challenging the four RTC

endorsed candidates, while Thompson saw an entire slate of challenges led by incumbent First Selectwoman Amy St. Onge challenging the RTC endorsed slate led by Thompson RTC Chairman Bill Warner.

Putnam's primary confirmed the RTC endorsed candidates, with Bogdanski receiving the fewest votes of the five options, although it was a close contest. Rick Hayes earned the most votes with 160 followed by Michael "Tow Truck" Paquin with 132. However, the final three candidates were separated by less than 20 votes. Roy Simmons earned 127 votes while David Pomes took 117 and Bogdanski received 109. The small difference between these three candidates triggered an automatic recount that had to be

resolved within five business days of the primary. As of this report, the results did not change. With only two Democratic nominees (incumbents Gloria Marion and Scott Pempek) and six Board of Selectmen positions available, all endorsed candidates from both parties are virtually guaranteed to be elected in November unless a prominent write-in or third-party candidate earns support. Incumbent Republican Mayor Barney Seney is unchallenged in his bid for reelection.

In Thompson, the primary was much more contentious as an entire slate of alternate candidates sought to usurp the RTC endorsed slate following the controversial decision by the RTC not

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Community support helps Danielson Lions replace stolen propane tanks

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Danielson Lions Club food trailer was back up and running for Celebrate Killingly on Sat. 9 after being sidelined since July following the theft of the trailer's propane tanks.

Following Killingly 4th of July celebration, where the trailer was one of the most popular food vendors in Owen Bell Park, unknown individuals stole both propane tanks attached to the trailer leaving the Lions

Club unable to cook for town events until they were replaced. While the Lions Club could have funded the replacement themselves, it would have come at the cost of donations and scholarships vital to the Lions Club's contributions to the local community.

Thankfully, the community at large stepped up to raise enough funds to replace both tanks. Danielson Lion Club Treasurer Betsy Burgess said that when the theft took place, it was certainly disappointing and disheartening, but see-

ing the support from the community proved to be a more positive, but equally overwhelming, experience.

"When we got the phone call that someone stole our propane tanks, I had lots of emotions. First was disbelief, then disgust, sadness, then 'done.' I thought, why should I get up at five in the morning on a Saturday to cook and serve 200 pancakes, sausages, and eggs for Parks & Recreation? Why sweat and miss my grandchildren's sports games to

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New mural unveiled at Putnam Elementary School



PUTNAM — RiseUP for Arts unveiled its latest public art project at the Putnam Elementary Open House on Aug. 29, the evening before the start of school. The piece is a playful, colorful large scale clay mural depicting an elephant teetering on a ladder, spraying the earth with a rainbow engraved with the words "kindness, happiness, community, generosity, compassion, and friendship." The center of the mural reads: "Together we can create a beautiful world."

The mural was conceived as a community based public art project, which means it was an artist led initiative in which members of the community (in this case, PES students) had the opportunity for hands-on participation. Lead artist, Dot Burnworth, explains "this process of community involvement allows participants to express the shared values of their collective group while fostering a sense of pride and ownership over the space. It is perfect for school settings— especially for kids who are not especially invested in their education. It

helps them feel a sense of belonging at school."

Burnworth came up with the mural design by sifting through the kids' drawings and comments, pulling together repeating images and themes.

She shares, "the elephant climbing the ladder represents overcoming adversity in order to reach one's goals. The rainbow represents the ideas the students want to share with the world."

Creation of the mural began in February of this year when Burnworth and fellow artist Heather Viveiros of Sawmill Pottery spent 6 weeks as resident artists at the elementary school. During that month and a half, the students learned about the importance of public art, brainstormed ideas for the mural and got lots of time to work with the clay, creating border tiles as well as land and water tiles that were mosaicked into a three-dimensional Earth.

After their residency at the school, Burnworth and Viveiros returned to their studio to create,

glaze and fire the large pieces of the mural in their kilns. Installation took the entire month of August, finishing just in time for an unveiling at the school open house. The kids were thrilled.

Student Leah Gonsalves's face lit up when she saw the mural on the wall.

"I can't believe I helped make this!" she beamed with pride.

This was just what the artists were hoping to hear.

Viveiros said, "The look of pride and amazement on all the kids' faces as they looked up at the mural was the most gratifying conclusion to the whole process."

The project was sponsored through a partnership between Putnam Public Schools and RiseUP for Arts, a statewide public art and youth mentoring organization. Funding was received from The Last Green Valley, Weiss, Hale and Zahansky, Centreville Bank, and CT Office of the Arts.

State campus workforce programs offer training for in-demand careers

DANIELSON — There is still time to register for several career programs and courses this fall at CT State Quinebaug Valley in Danielson and CT State Three Rivers in Norwich. Students can enhance their skills or train for a new career with a variety of health, manufacturing and technology courses and programs on the campuses.

Tuition scholarships are available to eligible students through a variety of community partners. Tuition assistance may also be available for veterans, SNAP recipients, and those who are eligible through WIOA. To learn more visit <https://ctstate.edu/workforce-development>.

Health Care

Certified Nurse Aide program, CT State Quinebaug, Danielson, Sept. 25-Dec. 7, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m. This program is intended for adults who are interested in entering the health care field, preparing them for employment in both public and private agencies. The cost is \$1,999.

Basic Life Support, CT State Three Rivers, Norwich, Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Participants who complete this four-hour course will earn a nationally recognized Healthcare Provider certification e-card. The class teaches both single-rescuer and team basic support skills for application in both pre-hospital and in-facility environments, with a focus on high quality CPR and team dynamics.

Intro to Medical Cannabis, CT State Three Rivers, Norwich, Nov. 29, 4-8 p.m. This course provides introductory knowledge about cannabis and how medical cannabis is used in Connecticut. Students who complete the training will receive a certificate of completion. The cost is \$159.

Manufacturing

Introduction to Plastics Manufacturing, CT State Quinebaug, Danielson, Oct. 3-Dec. 19, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. This course provides students with a foundation in the field of plastics, covering topics ranging from basic chemistry to the practical aspects of working with plastics in manufacturing processes. The cost is \$540. Plastics 2 will be offered Oct. 3-Dec. 19 on Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. for \$950.

Information Technology and Business

Commercial Drones, CT State Three Rivers, Norwich, ongoing online program. The two-part 45-hour Unmanned Aerial Vehicle training and educational program enables students to obtain a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certified Drone Pilot license and the authority to operate a commercial drone business. The cost for Introduction to Commercial Drones is \$1,250. Cloud Connected Drone Operations is available for \$1,600. The exam fee is not included. Both courses can be started at any time. For more details visit www.threerivers.edu/drone.

IT Bootcamp, CT State Quinebaug, Danielson, Sept. 21-Nov. 9, Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. The cost is \$475.

Excel BTB, CT State Quinebaug, Danielson, Oct. 16-24, The first session is Oct. 16-23, Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. The second session is Oct. 17-24, Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. The six-hour course will also focus on tips and tricks for spreadsheet presentation. The cost for each session is \$199.

Real Estate Principles and Practices: This course prepares students for a licensed career in professional real estate. The cost is \$599 and includes the textbook. CT State Three Rivers, Norwich, Oct. 2-Dec. 13, Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-8:30 P.M.

The 12 community colleges in Connecticut merged on July 1, 2023, to become CT State Community College, one of the largest community colleges in the country and largest in New England, dedicated to quality, access and affordability. CT State students can apply once and take classes and access services at any campus. Locations include Asnuntuck (Enfield), Capital (Hartford), Gateway (New Haven and North Haven), Housatonic (Bridgeport), Manchester, Middlesex (Middletown and Meriden), Naugatuck Valley (Waterbury and Danbury), Northwestern (Winsted), Norwalk, Quinebaug Valley (Danielson and Willimantic), Three Rivers (Norwich), and Tunxis (Farmington). Find out more at ctstate.edu.

Campaign for new tennis courts at Woodstock Academy gets underway

WOODSTOCK — For the past two years, tennis athletes at Woodstock Academy have had to play their home matches away from home.

The boys and girls tennis teams have had to utilize the Pomfret School, Rectory School and Killingly High School courts to practice and play their matches.

Pomfret School was a gracious host last spring but it wasn't easy for tennis athletes who had to work around the host team's schedule.

"Practice times were cut very short often. With the home courts, we could practice on our schedules, not on Pomfret's. No one came and watched our matches. We didn't have a lot of support," said Centaurs senior Peyton Bentley.

The Woodstock Academy is hoping that will change in the near future.

"The courts we have currently at the Bentley Athletic Complex are just not playable. They are in a place where drainage

issues, even if we were to correct them there, would make them unplayable again in the future. It's just a bad place for them. We're unable to have a tennis program on our home turf without building new ones," said associate head of school Jon Sturdevant.

The game plan is to utilize space on the South Campus where a grass soccer field now resides between the South Campus turf field and the South Campus gym to build new courts.

The cost is estimated to be about a million dollars.

The effort to raise that money will begin on Sept. 28 in the Loos Center on South Campus at 6 p.m. with a kickoff event.

"We're going to provide some light food and beverages. There will be a brief presentation in the theatre with an overview of the plan, the fundraising so far and the plan for future fundraising. It will be a general overview of the project to engage our community," Sturdevant said.

Sturdevant said that most of the former Woodstock Academy tennis players, with whom the school has on record, have been sent invites but it is an open invitation to attend.

Those who wish to attend are asked to email an RSVP to Sarah Andrews at sandrews@woodstockacademy.org.

It's something that Woodstock Academy athletic director Sean Saucier hopes will move quickly.

"It's been a significant need for many years now," Saucier said. "Trying to run a program without a facility has its own challenges. Luckily, we've had some great

community partners at Rectory, Pomfret and Killingly who have come through for us to help in this time of need. To have courts on South Campus would be a tremendous asset."

There is a lot of upside to the project.

The current plan is to build at least four courts but there is enough room in the area to expand that number.

According to Sturdevant, the ideal number would be six if the funds are available to do so.

The grass soccer field has not had much in the way drainage issues.

The locker rooms for the South Campus gym

would be easily accessible.

The athletic training services are much easier to provide on campus.

And new courts may equal more athletes.

"If you build it, they will come," Saucier said with a smile. "We want to get these in place and give our programs a nice shot in the arm."

And Bentley feels that the courts will be well utilized.

"Tennis is a sport that people play their whole lives. I started when I was in elementary school. It's a sport that people stick with. It's not like we're going to have the courts and then they will be abandoned. Everybody is

going to want to play," the senior said.

There is another group that will benefit from the new facilities.

The residential students would have easy access to the courts.

"Tennis courts are also an important part of a residential campus. This is the first priority of a multi-phase project for athletics on South Campus," Sturdevant said.

The current courts at the Bentley Athletic Complex will be leveled to allow for more parking at the facility which is also a critical need.

Nominations sought for Killingly High Athletic Association Hall of Fame

KILLINGLY — The Killingly High School Alumni Athletic Association Hall of Fame is currently seeking nominations for consideration and induction as student-athletes, coaches, teams and supporters. The purpose of the association is "To honor the greatest student-athletes, coaches, teams, and supporters of Killingly High School and preserve its athletic history, promote its values and celebrate excellence." Nominations and donations may be sent to: KHS Athletic Association Hall of Fame, c/o Athletic Director James Lackner, Killingly High School, 226 Putnam Pike, Dayville, CT 06241. It is anticipated that an induction ceremony for the Class of 2024 will take place during the Fall of 2024.

The Killingly High School Alumni Athletic Association Hall of Fame held its annual public meeting as required by its written by-laws on June 8 at the Killingly High School Library for the purpose of electing its officers and members of the Executive Committee. Formal written public notice was published in the Norwich Bulletin [May 28] and the Killingly Villager [June 2] along with the agenda for the annual meeting.

The results of the election were held and are final. The following were elected at the annual meeting: Peter Gerardi, President; Wayne Magao, 1st Vice-President; Leo Chatelle, 2nd Vice-President, Erika Ponciano, Secretary; Patrick Crowley, Treasurer; Kyle Rickey, at-large member; Vance Carter, at large member; Joseph Caccioputti, at -large member. Pursuant to the by-laws, the Killingly High School athletic director, Kevin Marcoux, remains a member of the Executive Committee until his resignation takes effect at which time the newly appointed athletic director will become a member.

At subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee held on June 21 and June 28 revised by-laws were proposed and adopted and appointments made to the Executive Committee to fill vacancies and additional at-large positions which had been created. The current Executive Committee consists of the following members: Peter Gerardi, President; Wayne Magao, Vice-President; Erika Ponciano, Secretary; Patrick Crowley, Treasurer; The at-large members include Leo Chatelle, Kyle Rickey, Vance Carter, Arthur Crowley, Gene Blain, Raymond Beausoleil, Stephen Marchesseault and the current Killingly High School Athletic Director James Lackner.

The Association currently has successfully established IRS status as a public charity and exempt from Federal Income Tax under IRC Code Section 501(c)(3). The formal association entity for tax purposes is the "Killingly High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, Inc."

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At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Sep. 11: American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, American Kestrel, Bobolink, Bobwhite Quail, Cooper's Hawk, Hummingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Phoebe, House Wren, Carolina Wren. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home.

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John Rauh and Paul Kelly to lead Roseland Legacy Campaign



John Rauh, Legacy Campaign General Chairman.

Courtesy



Paul Kelly Legacy Campaign Honorary Chairman.

WOODSTOCK—A pair of prominent business leaders have agreed to join in an effort to spearhead the Roseland Park & Golf Course Legacy Campaign “150 Years and Beyond.” The campaign with a goal of \$500,000 is aimed at restoring the combined property as it was originally designed and envisioned by Henry Chandler Bowen in 1876. According to Martha Beckwith, President of the Roseland Board of Trustees, John Rauh the

former owner and president of Cable Works in Putnam will assume the role of Campaign General Chairman. She added that well-known local businessman Paul Kelly will serve as the Legacy Campaign Honorary Chairman. “These two individuals are proven leaders in the Northeastern Connecticut area. We are proud that they’ve agreed to serve in these important leadership roles. Paul and John are

enthusiastic about the park and golf course and its future,” said President Beckwith. John Rauh established Cableworks in Putnam in 1984, following a decade of working in the Steel Cable industry as a sales representative. Originally from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area, Rauh has been a resident of Pomfret for more than 40 years. Rauh has been actively involved in Pomfret and Woodstock, serving two separate terms as a member of the Pomfret Board of Education. He’s also served for 20 plus years on the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees, four years in which he served as Board President. He was instrumental in the forming of the Woodstock Academy Foundation. John was married to his first wife Nancy for 49 years prior to her death from cancer. He is currently married to his wife of five years, Mary. He is the father of two adult children. “I’m very committed to the Legacy Campaign because I believe that Roseland Park and Golf Course is an asset to the Town of Woodstock and Northeastern Connecticut. I’d like to see it serve all the citizens of the area for generations into the future,” said Rauh. Paul Kelly is a graduate of Woodstock Academy and the University of Connecticut. He joined his father Edmund and his uncle Larry in the family business, Kelly’s Tire in 1973. For the last 42 years, he and his brother Dennis have owned and operated the business located on School Street in Putnam. Kelly, like his counterpart Rauh, believes in giving back to the community. He served as a member of the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustee for 38 years, retiring in 2023. He’s also been a member of the school’s foundation and served for many years on the Putnam Bank and Foundation

Boards of Trustees. He most recently served as the Vice Chairman of the successful Hale Youth & Family YMCA Capital Campaign, which raised \$15 million for the establishment of the facility. He was an original member of the YMCA Advisory Board. “I strongly believe in working for worthy causes that benefit the people of our communities. Roseland Park and Golf Course is a community asset that our generation

is entrusted to preserving. We cannot afford to allow this facility to slip through our fingers. I’m committed to the success of the Legacy Campaign,” avowed Kelly. Roseland Park and Golf Course has engaged the services of former Woodstock resident and renowned park architect Wilson Martin of GroundView located in the Boston area in planning for the future of the facility. The firm has been actively working with the

Trustees in preparation for the Legacy Campaign. “Shortly, we’ll be announcing more information regarding our strategic plan and the organization of the remaining leaders of our fundraising effort. We’re looking forward to enjoying a Roseland Park and Golf Course as envisioned by Henry Chandler Bowen nearly 150 years ago,” concluded President Beckwith.



Courtesy

AUTUMN ART IN THE ARBORETUM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD OCT. 21

You’re invited to join nationally recognized artist Barbara Lussier (pictured below) at the Palmer Arboretum in Woodstock (Route 169 behind the Palmer Memorial Hall also the Old Woodstock Town Hall) on Saturday, October 21st from 9 a.m. to noon. Barbara will be leading a plein air workshop offering guidance and instruction on capturing the light and painting outdoors. The Palmer Arboretum will be a beautiful setting as the park includes cypresses, flowering azaleas, an Arnold Palmer Witch Hazel, a Paper Bark Maple, a Royal Star Magnolia, a Fothergillas Major, a Burkwood Viburnum, Mountain Laurel, Dwarf Fothergillas, and Paxisterna among many others. This will be Barbara’s last class in the area before she moves, so you don’t want to miss it! The cost for this workshop is \$70 for adults and \$20 for students. Adults can register on line at <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodstock-ct/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTI3MTIyMzY=> and students at <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/woodstockct/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTI3MTIyNDI=>. Registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 13. Questions about this unique opportunity can be directed to Philippa Paquette, Chair of the Palmer Arboretum Committee, at 860-918-9599. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 22.

Woodstock Legion post hosting monthly open house Saturday

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites the public to our free open house and breakfast on Sept. 23 from 8-10 a.m. Come to our post, located at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, to see what we do for our veterans and the community and see our newly renovated post home. We are always looking for new members and due to the LEGION Act of 2019 all veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941 are eligible to join.

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High School Notebook

KILLINGLY FIELD HOCKEY MOTIVATED AS SEASON ROLLS ALONG

Killingly High School

Field Hockey (0-3)
Varsity field hockey was defeated on Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Thursday, Sept. 14, against Fitch and East Lyme, 1-6 and 0-5. Gina Soraseun scored a goal against Fitch. Despite the losses, the team played hard and are learning as the season progresses. Killingly head coach Erika Ponciano explained how the early season woes are just motivating the team to work harder.

“They know that they are a young team, we’ve talked about it since the start of the season, that it’s not going to be easy, that we are going to have to work hard each and every day,” Ponciano expressed. “After every game I see them reflecting and writing things down on areas they need to improve. They are hungry for a win, and I know it will come. We have positive leaders on the team. They love the sport and the game of field hockey, they want to get better and they are showing up every day.”

The team is doing everything they can do to get better each and every day and Ponciano is seeing the improvements game by game.

“I’ve seen huge improvements on skill work such as dodging, dribbling and making good solid passes,” stated Ponciano. “We’ve changed some players around on the field and the formation is starting to mold together which overall is helping them play better as a team.”

Girls’ Volleyball (3-1)
The Volleyball team traveled to Wheeler High School on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Varsity defeated Wheeler 3 sets to 0, 25-16, 25-17, 25-21. Shanaya Brown had 3 kills; Chloe Yip had 6 digs, 6 aces, 3 kills; Grace Deslauriers had 4 aces, 3 kills; Shyah Baker had 8 assists; Emma Miller had 4 blocks, 5 kills; Addison Montville had 6 assists, 4 aces; Jocelyn Crowley had 5 kills to lead Killingly.

The volleyball team hosted Putnam High School on Friday, 9/15. Varsity defeated Putnam 3 sets to 1, 25-10, 21-25, 25-8, 25-19. Shanaya Brown had 4 kills; Chloe Yip had 8 digs, 7 aces; Shyah Baker had 4 assists; Jocelyn Crowley had 9 kills; Emma Rainville had 3 blocks, 2 aces, 6 kills; ans Addison Montville had 9 aces, 4 assists to lead Killingly.

Football (0-2)
Soren Rief rushed for 189 yards on 35 carries with 1 TD, and also threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Aiden Lamotte on a halfback option pass in a 34-14 loss to Notre Dame West Haven (1-1) on Sept. 15. Killingly led 14-7 at the half, but NDWH took a 21-14 lead in the fourth quarter and scored 2 touchdowns in the last 2 minutes to pull away.

Rief also finished with 10 tackles, Gabe Torrente also finished with 8 tackles for Killingly. Killingly returns to action next Thursday, 9/21 at Windham.

Girls’ Varsity Soccer (2-0)

Killingly girls’ soccer won 2-1 on Friday, Sept. 15 against Ledyard at Killingly high school. Sherrie Simoneau scored early in the first half off of a cross from Laura Farquhar. Killingly led Ledyard 1-0 going into the second half. Early in the second half Laura Farquhar took a shot from outside and slipped it past Ledyard’s keeper to score the team’s second goal. Morgan Blanchard had the assist to Laura. With 11 minutes left in the second half Ledyard won the ball off of a goal kick and popped it into the back of the net past Horne. Killingly was able to hold them 2-1 for the rest of the game to take the win.

Boys Varsity Soccer (0-0-2)

On Saturday, Sept. 16, the game went back and forth, Killingly tied with Woodstock, 0-0, Saturday morning. Killingly’s goalkeeper, Demetrius Thornton made 9 saves to secure the shutout.

Ellis Tech

Boys’ Varsity Soccer (2-0-1)

Ellis Tech tied against Norwich Tech on Sept. 12, 3-3 and defeated Vinal Tech 7-2 on Sept. 14. Ellis Tech made a comeback against Norwich Tech, the boys were down 2-1 at half and tied the game up with 20 seconds left in the game on a goal by Hunter Giovanni. Cameron Fulone and Trevor Lamothe each scored in the contest. Ellis Tech finished with 14 shots. Keeper Ben Mayo had 5 saves in the game.

Girls’ Varsity Soccer (3-0)

Ellis Tech remained undefeated with wins on Sept. 13 and 15. Ellis Tech/Putnam defeated Norwich Tech 7-0 on Sept. 13 and Wilcox 4-0 on Sept. 15. Tori Iozzi scored 3 goals in each game, Lily Goyette added 2 goals against Norwich and scored once against Wilcox. Ava Morrison and Emily Fryer each scored against Norwich.

Woodstock Academy

Girls Varsity Soccer (2-0-1)

Woodstock Academy improved to 2-0 with a 2-0 win over Ledyard on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Centaurs junior Juliet Allard turned around a defensive battle in a matter of 27 seconds in the second half. Woodstock Academy broke a scoreless tie with 29 minutes, 56 seconds to play when a corner by senior Kendall McCormack was headed to the Ledyard goal by Macy Rawson. Colonels’ keeper Dudley made the save but the rebound ended up on Allard’s foot and she pushed it home for the Centaurs. Just 27 seconds later, Kaylee Saucier sent one into Allard who fired it home from about 25 yards out to account for the final. It was the second shut-out performance for Woodstock Academy.

Woodstock Academy tied 0-0 in double overtime on Friday, Sept. 15 to a visiting Stonington team. Centaurs coach Dennis Snelling, who recently recorded his 200th career victory in a win over Ledyard Tuesday, was hoping the good times would continue for his Centaurs.

He and his Woodstock Academy team had to settle for a tie against the Bears in the first Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I match of the season for both. Both teams had their chances and the best both came from juniors wearing the No. 10. The Centaurs’ Leah Costa missed an open shot by about five feet in the first half and Stonington’s Iliana Rashleigh put one off the post on the other end. Stonington outshot Woodstock Academy, 16-8.

Boys’ Cross-Country Centaurs take 2 at Hopeville Pond on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

JEWETT CITY – Christian Menounos is hoping for a big year and he started off on the right note.

The Woodstock Academy junior finished first in 15 minutes, 44 seconds to lead the Centaurs to a 22-37 win over host Griswold and a 15-44 victory over Waterford in the season-opening tri-meet.

Colton Sallum (17:04) was third for Woodstock Academy, Charlie Caggiano fourth and Joel Koleszar fifth.

Freshman Tycen LaBelle challenged

Menounos but finished two seconds short.

Girls’ Cross-Country Centaurs split the season-opening meet on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

JEWETT CITY – Senior Julia Coyle finished second overall in 21 minutes, 34 seconds and sophomore Olivia Tracy was third in 22:06 in the season-opening tri-meet for the Centaurs.

The duo led Woodstock Academy to a 15-50 win over host Griswold at Hopeville Pond but Waterford posted a 25-30 win over the Centaurs.

Varsity Field Hockey (2-2)

Woodstock Academy lost to Stonington, 6-1 on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Grace Pokorny scored in the fourth quarter for the Centaurs. Clara Dowdle assisted on the goal. Madison LaVallee had 10 saves in the cage for Woodstock Academy.

On Thursday, Sept. 14, Woodstock Academy tallied their first win of the year with a 2-1 win over NFA. The Centaurs have been working on their penalty corner play and it showed against the Wildcats. Clara Dowdle took a pass from Talia Tremblay off a corner with 3 minutes, 45 seconds left in the second quarter and she pushed into the cage from just inside the shooting arc for what proved to be the game winner. Woodstock Academy did not allow a shot by the Wildcats in the second half. The Centaurs tied the game just 1:46 into the second quarter on a goal by Celine Leffingwell.

Woodstock Academy kept their winning ways going on Saturday, Sept. 16 with a 1-0 overtime win against East Catholic. The Centaurs were dominant in regulation play, getting 17 penalty corners and five quality shots, but couldn’t break through until the extra period.

Grace Pokorny scored the game-winner for Woodstock Academy off an assist from Clara Dowdle as the Centaurs made it two straight in the win column.

Girls Varsity Volleyball (1-3)

All three sets were close, unfortunately, all of the results went against the Centaurs. Woodstock Academy lost 3 sets to none against Glastonbury on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Liliana Bottone paced Woodstock Academy with 14 kills while Sophie Gronski had 21 assists and Cassidy Ladd added 16 digs.

It was another close three-set battle for the Centaurs, but unlike their first two matches, they came out on top in

this one 3 sets to none against Griswold on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

Woodstock Academy just got past the Wolverines 26-24 in the first set and used the momentum from that to win the next two sets, 25-20 and 25-19. Liliana Bottone had 12 kills and three aces for the Centaurs while Sophie Gronski dished out 13 assists and recorded nine digs.

It was another hard-fought battle that the Centaurs just fell short in, losing three sets to one against Waterford on Friday, Sept. 15. The Lancers took the first two sets, 25-20 and 29-27, but Woodstock Academy battled back from an early deficit to take the third set, 25-19. Waterford closed out the win with another overtime, 27-25, win in the fourth set. Setter Sophie Gronski had 27 assists for the Centaurs to go along with six aces. Liliana Bottone had 12 kills and Kaylee Bundy added nine in the loss.

Boys’ Varsity Soccer (1-1-1)

Will St. John came through when the Centaurs needed it most. The sophomore broke a scoreless tie with just three minutes left in regulation and followed that up with an insurance goal with 12 seconds left to lift Woodstock Academy to their first win of the season, 2-0 against Somers on Friday, Sept. 15.

Woodstock Academy tied Killingly in a scoreless 0-0 battle on Saturday, Sept. 16. Junior goalie Eli Susi was the star of the show as he kept Killingly off the board in the first half. Killingly (0-0-2) was awarded a penalty kick with three minutes to play in the first half. Susi, who finished with five saves, stuffed the attempt to preserve the shutout for the Centaurs. It was the second straight day in which Susi made a save on a penalty kick. He also did so in the second half of a 2-0 Woodstock Academy win over Somers Friday.

Football (1-1)
East Lyme 37

Woodstock Academy 21
EAST LYME – Sam Clark caught a touchdown pass from Teddy Richardson for the first score of the game. Clark also threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Eric Mathewson and a 19-yarder to Henry Wotton in the fourth quarter for the Centaurs (1-1, 0-1 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I).

In between, it was all East Lyme.

Hartford Healthcare Mobile Mammography Van coming to Putnam Nov. 2

PUTNAM — Putnam’s Commission on Aging (COA) has arranged for the Hartford Healthcare Mobile Mammography Van to be at the Town Complex on Thursday, Nov. 2.

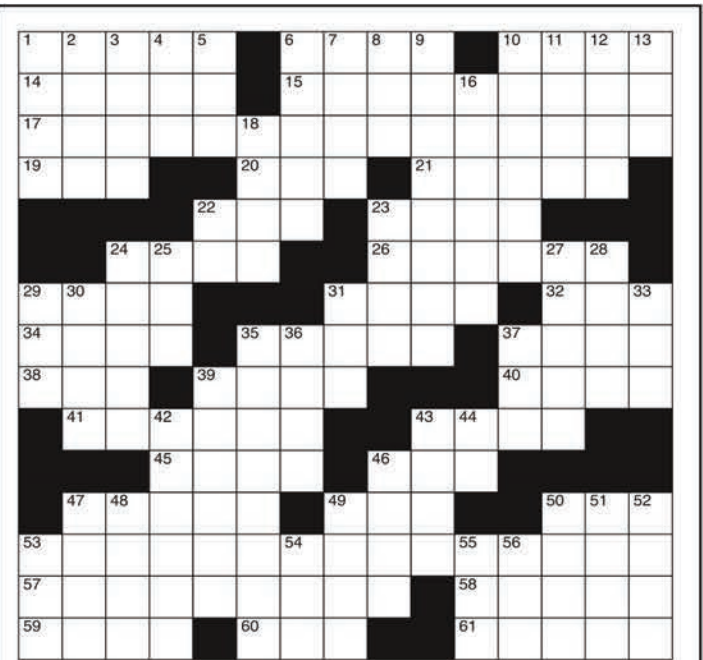
Up to twenty mammogram appointments will be available starting at 8 a.m.

These screening mammograms are offered for women age 35 and older who have not had a mammogram in over a year. A specific list of eligibility requirements and intake forms are available in the town of Putnam’s Recreation Department and in the Community Room. Hartford Healthcare will bill your health insurance directly. Lack of health insurance is not a deterrent, as donated funds are available to cover the costs of the uninsured.

Contact the Putnam Commission on Aging via the Recreation Department to schedule an appointment, for intake forms and detailed information by calling 860-963-6800 ext 140 or emailing marcy.dawley@putnamct.us.

The town complex hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mammograms can save lives, and the Putnam COA welcomes you to take advantage of this situation.

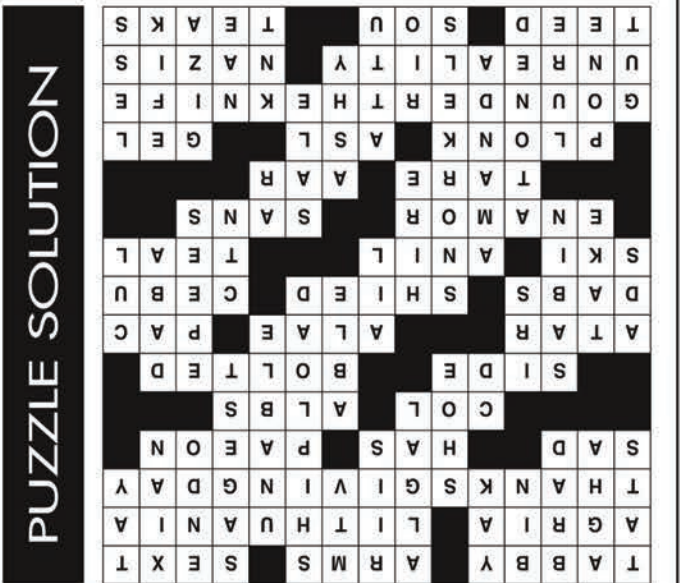


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of cat
- 6. Weaponry
- 10. Western Christian Church service
- 14. Significant eruption of pustules
- 15. Baltic nation
- 17. Start of American holiday season
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Maintains possession of
- 21. Metrical foot of one long and three short syllables
- 22. Mountain pass
- 23. Vestments
- 24. Type of dish
- 26. Escaped quickly
- 29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 31. Wings
- 32. Political action committee
- 34. Touches lightly
- 35. Stood back from
- 37. Philippine Island
- 38. Popular winter activity
- 39. Type of amine
- 40. Small freshwater duck
- 41. Filled with love
- 43. Without (French)
- 45. Vetch
- 46. Swiss river
- 47. Describes a sound
- 49. Sign language
- 50. Hair product
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Quality of being imaginary
- 58. Far-right German party
- 59. Drove
- 60. Former French coin of low value
- 61. Hard, durable timbers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body art
- 2. Middle East military title
- 3. Actor Pitt
- 4. Container
- 5. Speak incessantly
- 6. Relating to algae
- 7. Jacob ___, journalist
- 8. Rock TV channel
- 9. Boat's cargo
- 10. Most wise
- 11. Within
- 12. Chinese industrial city
- 13. Scotland's longest river
- 16. Not capable
- 18. Footwear
- 22. Savings account
- 23. Capable
- 24. Vaccine developer
- 25. Tax collector
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Native religion in China
- 29. Promotional materials
- 30. A shot in a film production
- 31. Afflict in mind or body
- 33. A passage with access only at one end
- 35. Breathing devices
- 36. Employ for wages
- 37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
- 39. Popular Boston song
- 42. Made amends
- 43. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 44. Atomic #18
- 46. With fireplace residue
- 47. Unleavened cornbread
- 48. Draw out
- 49. Southwestern Alaska island
- 50. Where the Pyramids are
- 51. People of Nigeria
- 52. Smaller quantity
- 53. Destroy the inside of
- 54. City
- 55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
- 56. No (Scottish)



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Robin Lawton named Employee of the Month at Country Living at Westview Commons

DAYVILLE — Robin Lawton earned recognition as July Employee of the Month at Country Living at Westview Commons.

Performing her role as a server in the Great Room of the residence, she takes great pride in the relationships she has built with the people living there. Robin joined the team at Westview Commons in April 2023, and she has felt embraced by the residents since her very first day. Robin appreciates that her role is not only as a server during daily dining, but also as a form of “cheerleader” at Westview Commons. She can often be seen Singing Happy Birthday to the residents, or wishing them well upon a recovery from ill-

ness or injury, and generally gladhanding the room full of patrons at Westview Commons.

Lawton remarked, “The residents have become a second family to me. They are all people that I care about and I want to see happy, and I am blessed to know that they feel the same way about me. It is such a special space here. A beautifully decorated dining room with a baby grand piano sets the atmosphere for a great dining experience!”

Lawton is very impressed with the time and effort that goes into the meal preparation at Westview Commons. She values the culinary crew’s presentation and knowledge of the menu

as it helps the residents to choose their meals. Concurrent with her employment at Westview Commons, she also works with Simply Elegant Catering Company. Prior to her time in these settings, she held positions in local pharmacies; utilizing her degree as a Pharmacy Technician. She also holds a certification as a Paraprofessional. This education helped her to perform a role at Northeast Placement Services in Moosup. All of these collective opportunities form her strong belief in the value of giving back to the community—helping others to understand how fortunate they are.

Growing up, Lawton enjoyed meticulous meals made by her moth-

er and grandmother—always from scratch. She knew then that an amazing aroma and a loving kitchen would always be desirable to her and others. She puts tremendous effort into being respectful, having an amazing work ethic, and persevering for everything she wants in life. She credits her ethos to her upbringing and the values instilled to her by her parents. Her three sons have continued her family legacy. Her son Joshua and his wife Amanda have brought Jackson and Andrew into the world; her son Zachary and his wife Grace celebrate their own Addison and Thomas; her son Matthew and his girlfriend Jess look forward to their opportunities together. She was married to David Lawton for 32 years—a lasting love that still exists in her heart following his passing in 2017. In the fall of 2024, Robin is excited to marry her fiancée Daniel and embark on another new adventure in life.



Robin Lawton

Commons for the appreciation and kind words. This is the greatest compliment that I could receive!”

Westview Commons’ Executive Vice President, David T. Panteleakos, has high praise for Lawton’s esteemed efforts towards the facility’s goals, stating “Robin is an amazing addition to our outstanding culinary and food service team at Westview Commons. She always has a bright smile and offers kind sentiments to everyone she encounters. Congratulations to Robin on this distinct designation as our July Employee of the Month!”

Northeastern Connecticut. Affiliated with Westview Health Care Center, a nationally-ranked nursing facility according to CMS and U.S. News and World Report for the past 15 years consecutively, Westview Commons is a catered living facility dedicated to a genuine 5-star experience including outstanding service, culinary expertise, and professional in-house entertainment. Located in Dayville, Westview Commons combines convenience, tranquility and comfort; providing a lifestyle that seniors deserve.

Audubon Society hosting program on stone walls

POMFRET — Dry stone walls are the most noticeable features of the larger domain of stone objects that also includes cellar holes, cairns, piles, lines, scatters, and individual notable stones.

UConn professor of earth sciences and author Dr. Robert Thorson will outline the history of our quintessentially New England fieldstone walls, provide several key clues to interpreting them, link them to modern habitats, and make recommendations for their conservation and management. His presentation will be at the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd., Pomfret Center, on Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 7-8 p.m. The admission fee is \$5 for CAS members; \$10 for non-members. Registration is requested.

Thorson is the author of “Stone by Stone: The Magnificent History of New England Stone Walls,” the 2003 Connecticut Book Award winner for nonfiction, and “Exploring Stone Walls,” the first field guide to stone walls. We will be giving away one copy of the latter title. He coordinates The Stone Wall Initiative (<https://stonewall.uconn.edu/>) website, an online resource for those interested in the historic stone walls of New England.

Beginning with his field guide, Thorson has worked out a naming and classification system for relict stone walls. His thinking is that an objective tool and scientific approach to their study will lead to better documentation, inventorying, and environmental management. He suggests there are parallels between wetlands conservation and stone wall conservation.

If you have spent any time in the woods, you are more likely than not to have come across an old stone wall. Maps produced by aerial imaging systems, such as LiDAR (Light Direction and Ranging) which “look” through the forest canopy, reveal an abundance of them. They are indicative of early agricultural and industrial impacts on the landscape.

When European colonists first came to Connecticut, the land was heavily forested with huge chestnut, oak, and pine trees. By the mid-1800’s, only 20 percent of the state was forested. The trees had been cut, and stone walls built to clear the land for agriculture and construction, pen livestock, and mark boundaries. For several reasons, in the second half of the nineteenth century, the cleared land was abandoned, and the forests and woods reclaimed it. Like pottery and tools, the walls remained as artifacts of times past.



CAS Northeast Corner Director Sarah Heminway comments, “Our hope is this program helps to foster a deeper awareness of and appreciation for the many stone walls in our Quiet Corner towns.”

At Trail Wood in Hampton, donated to CAS by Edwin Way Teale and Nellie, his wife, Edwin measured five miles of “stone fences” on the property. He wrote about them in his book, A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm. The best walls at Trail Wood are made of schist from the Hebron Gneiss formation, a stone that naturally splits into tablets and slabs and was especially good for capstones. Teale also considered the natural history of his stone walls – a hunting ground for long-tailed weasels, food storage for squirrels, a travel route for a red fox, shelter for a blue jay, homes for field mice...

While advocating for a scientific approach to their management, Thorson deeply appreciates the old stone walls for enhancing our lives and he hopes to see them conserved. When he moved to Connecticut, he came to understand “the ... cultural bond between New England’s stone walls and its regional identity.”

Thorson sums it up this way: “The soul of New England perches on a rock.”

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Are you ready for some football?

Sunday, Sept. 10 was both a delight and a nightmare for a “sports junkie” like me. The men’s U.S. Open Tennis finals, the Red Sox, and the Patriots were all playing at the same time. The “last channel” button on the remote sure did get a lot of use. One extra plus, however, was the idea for the topic for this column — Football.

Did you know that there were semi-pro football teams in Northeastern Connecticut in the 1950’s? Perhaps some of you even remember them. While checking our Sports Drawer at the Killingly Historical Center for information on the Danielson Blackhawks, I also came across a photocopy entitled, “The Putnam Bulldogs.” The picture said, “Courtesy of the Aspinock Historical Society.” It’s too bad that none of the names of the players were listed. It appeared to have been from an old calendar. If you know anyone who played on this team, please email me. Perhaps you can identify some of the individuals on the calendar.

A second photocopy, of a Monday,



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

Nov. 2, Journal/Transcript, announced the there would be a “Tribal Reunion.” “Members of the Danielson Blackhaws and Quinebaug Indians, local semi-pro football teams of the early 1950’s, will hold a reunion November 20 at the Danielson Elks. Players, managers and waterboys inter-ested in attending should call Frank Bieniarz, George Drogo, or Pat Leo for details. Members of the 1951 Blackhawks who were in the picture—Manager, George “Chief” Perrault, Norm Burdick, Jack Brennan, Charlie Phillips, Roy Hammond, Russell Clark, Hugo Laime, Norm Peloquin, Mort Blumenthal, Henry Propowski, Frank Beniarz, Bill Mignault, Norman “Joe” Allard, Hardie Burgin, Normand “Turtle” Trudell, Edmond “Tarz” Simonds, Jim “Crusher” Flood, Henry “Slasher” Zurowski, Duke Dumaine, Charlie Rienaldi, Ted Tetreault, Don Collins, and Dick Barbeau.”

A follow-up article in Monday, Dec. 14, 1987 Journal/Transcript said that fifty-one former players, coaches, etc. were in attendance. The article noted that

Gerry “Hooker” Carroll, a former Plainfield High athlete “travelled the longest distance to get to the good time, flying in from Florida. John Martin drove in from Cooperstown, NY. Phone calls were received from Milt Curtis, who now resides in Florida and John Weaver who’s with the Navy in the Sunshine State; Weaver reported that he was getting ready to depart for a tour of duty in the Persian Gulf.” “Everyone in attendance was presented with Blackhawk caps as a remembrance of the evening. A moment of silence was observed for the six deceased members of the teams.” “Putnam’s Ted Tetreault created a big stir by showing up decked out in his original Blackhawk jacket.”

Please share your memories of the Blackhawks and the Indians by emailing me. Likewise, if there were other semi-pro football teams in the area, please let me know so I can add them to the files.

Do you remember what Killingly High School football player from the seventies went on to play professional football? If you said Eric Laasko, you guessed correctly. Unfortunately, he has already passed away. I found his obituary in the Dec. 31, 2010 Norwich Bulletin obituary archives on Legacy. “Eric Henry Laasko November 29,

1956 - December 25, 2010 Pompano Beach, FL - Eric Laasko, 54, died unexpectedly at his home in Pompano Beach, Florida on Christmas Day. Eric was born in New York, NY on November 29, 1956 to Olavi Laakso and the late Liisa (Miettinen) Laakso. Eric grew up in Sterling and graduated from Killingly High School in Danielson in 1974. An outstanding football player in high school, Eric received many scholarship offers to play in college. He chose Tulane University not only for its football program but also for its academic reputation and the city life that New Orleans offered. After graduating from Tulane in 1978 with a degree in geology, Eric was chosen as a fourth round draft pick by the Miami Dolphins, where he played until 1984. Eric is survived by his sons Shane Jared Laakso and Brent Hunter Laakso, both of Florida; his father, Olavi Laakso, also of Florida; and his sister Irma Laakso Gregory of South Windsor. Funeral services were held on Wednesday December 29, 2010 at Menorah Gardens, Southwest Ranches, FL.”

A number of years ago we had displayed a sports exhibit at the Killingly Historical Center and included a few of Eric’s statistics from his years at Miami. 1978: 16 games; 1979: 10 games; 1980 16 games; 1981 16

games; 1982 9 games; 1983 15 games; 1984 4 games. Perhaps in years to come we’ll see another Killingly High football player hit the pros. Please, share your memories of Eric for our files by emailing me or sending an email to director@killinglyhistorical.org.

Walktober Continues: Consider getting outside (and out of your neighborhood) this weekend and participate in one or more of the scheduled Walktober walks or events. Are you curious about Benedict Arnold’s early years in Eastern Connecticut? The Norwich Historical Society will host The Benedict Arnold Trail (#59) on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9:30-11 a.m. Check in for the tour at the Norwichtown Green. After the tour attend the event Benedict Arnold Returns (#71) at Leffingwell House Museum from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Although it’s on September, Halloween decorations are in all the stores. Perhaps you’re interested in gravestones and gravestone carvers. The Pomfret Cemetery Association, the Pomfret Historical Society, and the Town of Pomfret will sponsor an event from 10 a.m.- 2pm. on Saturday, September 23 Written in Stone: Virtual Tour of

the Gravestone Carvers of South Cemetery in Pomfret. Guests can access information about the 22 featured stones and carvers by using QR codes with their phones. Tour guides Janet Booth, Donna Dufresne, and Keegan Day will explain how the access the interactive map. Guests are invited to bring a lunch and join the gravestone cleaning workshop which will take place from 1-2:30 p.m. (pomfret-historical-society.org).

There are a number of additional events/walks this weekend from Norwich, Willimantic, Woodstock, to Sturbridge. Visit the lastgreenvalley.com for an up-to-date listing.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, September 2023. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killingly-historicalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329.

History in ancient stone

It may be unusual to think of a cemetery as a public art gallery, but they are indeed. There are eight burying grounds in Woodstock: Barlow, Bradford-Marcy, Bungay, Center, East Woodstock, North Woodstock, Quasset, and Woodstock Hill. Each of these cemeteries are graced with stones carved in the manner of many different time periods. Some are notable for their art forms or designs. Others are identifiable with particular gravestone carvers. A few are whimsical in their messages. All are important records of the people who lived here years ago. In fact, they are so plentiful it would be impossible to feature each burying ground and its memorials in this space.

The earliest burying ground mentioned in Bowen’s “History of Woodstock” is “Four acres adjoining James Corbin’s house was registered as town property, to be used as a training ground and burying place” in the year 1694. That would be where the present cemetery exists next to the First Congregational Church on Woodstock Hill. It has been used for more than 300 years.

Woodstock Hill cemetery has been noted as

WOODSTOCK THROUGH THE YEARS

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



eight grave markers are attributed to them, mostly slate and designed in a style common to eastern Massachusetts.

The memorial to Abigail Paine is particularly notable, carved with a clock face on the top and detailed: “Here lies the Body of Mrs. Abigail Paine, Relict Widow of Mr. Samuel Paine; She Died Jan. 13, 1752: in the 80th Year of Her Age.” Another stone for Abigail Perin is decorated with a cherub.

The carvings became more elaborate and the stones larger in the late 1700s, with decorations of angels, skull and bones, draped ribbons, crowns, trees, and faces. Some of the text includes not only names and dates, but epitaphs like the one for Josiah Hammond: “Mr. Josiah Hammond, Departed this Life, the 5th of October 1793, in the 94th Year of his age. Belov’d in life. Lamented in death. He calmly bid adieu to this world. With a pleasing hope of Life immortal beyond the Grave. Behold my friends as you pass by, As you are now so once was I, As I am now so you must be. Prepare for death & follow me.”

As a functioning burying ground for 300 years, the memorials in Woodstock Hill cemetery also include those from

the 19th, 20th and now the 21st centuries. Yet its stones represent just a fraction of the those gracing the seven other burying grounds in Woodstock.

This first weekend of autumn is a pleasant time to visit the ancient cemeteries of Woodstock to appreciate both the art and the history found in each. Most of the stones are so weathered that they can be easily damaged; acid rain, lichens and centuries of exis-

tence have had cumulative adverse effects. Protect the town’s heritage by enjoying them, but only taking pictures, not rubbings.

Books on Woodstock history available at any of the town’s four libraries:

Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. History of Woodstock. Boston: James R. Osgood, 1882.

Larned, Ellen D. History of Windham County, Connecticut. 2 vols. Worcester,

Massachusetts: Printed by Charles Hamilton, 1874.

Woodstock Historical Society. A Journey Through Woodstock. Woodstock, CT: Woodstock

Historical Society, 2011.

Woodstock Tercentenary Committee. Heritage and Horizons, Woodstock Remembers 300 Years. Woodstock, CT, 1968.

Uncertainty is not your enemy

Many of us have an innate discomfort with change.

Humans crave predictability—from the consistent taste of our favorite drive-through burger to the measurable calories burned in our workout routine.

This desire for standardized outcomes is natural; once we find something that works, we naturally gravitate toward replicating it. This repetition leads us into a comfortable routine, fostering a predictable pattern of thoughts and emotions. This predictability makes us feel as if we are eradicating most of life’s uncertainties, wrapping us in a comforting blanket of stability.

The routines are good. Plenty of information indicates they are good for you. Still, even in a routine, we often desire to accomplish more and do something different and extraordinary.

My favorite author, Joe Dispenza, says, “Routines lull us to sleep... becoming the person we aspire to be requires that you stop being the old self.”

What does that mean?

Sure, we may like change when it comes to trying a new food, reading a new book, or watching a new show on TV. But how often do we like change when it causes uncertainty? If you’re like most people, the answer is never.

Certainty is comfortable, and over time, it becomes familiar. We can become so familiar with something that deviating from the norm feels unnatural and uncomfortable.

Take an angry person, for example. They always have a dark cloud over their head and typically respond to most circumstances angrily. Why is that? Over time, they’ve become so comfortable with their anger, and it becomes so familiar that any other emotion feels foreign and unsettling.

Indeed, emotional habits can feel like a constant, but life rarely adheres to the scripts we write for it. Whether it’s the loss of a job, the death of someone close, or an abrupt move to an unfamiliar city, life’s curveballs have a way of upending our emotional equilibrium. The immediate reaction is often one of discomfort and fear.

Questions flood our minds: How will I manage my finances? Will I ever find a loving relationship again? Can I adapt to this new place? This juncture is our

encounter with the unknown, the point where we’re forced to navigate the murky waters of uncertainty.

Uncertainty has its transformative magic. To take advantage of this magic, you must step out of the known and venture into new territory: the unknown.

Dispenza says, “After all, if you focus on the known, you get the known. If you focus on the unknown, you create a

possibility... the longer you invest your energy into the unknown, the more you are going to create a new experience or new possibilities in your life.”

Far from being an unwelcome intruder, change can act as a catalyst, compelling us to break free from the mundane and the familiar.

In those moments when the rug is pulled out from under us, we’re not just thrown into disarray but also presented with an invaluable opportunity for growth, exploration, and possibility.

When we adapt to new circumstances, explore new skills, or cultivate new ways of thinking, we’re presented with something greater than simply adjusting. We’re changing our reality. How? By changing our personality.

Dispenza says, “Your personality creates your personal reality, and your personality is made up of how you think, act, and feel... most people try to create a new reality as the same personality, and it doesn’t work, you literally have to become someone else. The process of change requires breaking the habit of the old self and becoming a new self.”

Uncertainty propels us to think differently, and only when we begin to think and feel differently can we become that new self.

When unsure what to expect, our minds explore uncharted territory, conceiving new ideas, solutions, feelings, and emotions that we might not have considered otherwise.

In this light, uncertainty isn’t our enemy but rather an untapped potential reservoir: In the tension between the familiar and the unknown, we discover who we are and who we can become. So the next time life throws you a curveball, don’t just brace for impact—embrace it.

As Dispenza puts it, “The best way to predict your future is to create it not from the known, but from the unknown.”



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“In the Studio” features artists from the Quiet Corner-home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we’ll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We’ll also learn some “artspeak” terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those “artist words”.



In this interview, we’re meeting with multi-media artist, Carolyn



collage under a thin layer of plaster and then beeswax. We keep our own bees. Most of the

In the Studio



CYNTHIA SAARI

wax is from our own hives and loosely filtered so that it still contains pollen and hive debris. I mix this with a little commercial white beeswax and damar (tree) varnish for stability and hardness.

You’ve taught mindfulness as part of stress reduction. How is art a part of that?

For me both creating art and meditating are a pathway to a higher level of consciousness, seeing and peace.

What is your favorite aspect of starting a project?

That is a very good question and one that bears some thought. I really enjoy arranging materials and my palette. This can take a few

work table for us; what’s on it right now?

My work table is pretty full right now. I have jewelry that needs to be tagged. I have a couple of framed pieces that just need a hanging mechanism. I have two private art students and we are currently working on monoprints. I have print samples for this upcoming week on my stool. Most of my bench area is cluttered with things that inspire me. To help with organization I took a couple of old medicine cabinets and inset them into the wall. I also have hung an old typeset drawer. Each serves as way to display bits of beauty that I have found, sourced and have been given.

Let’s talk about dye work beyond work on paper. I hear that you are incorporating it in weavings...and potholders!

One of my private students mentioned that she had been weaving potholders during COVID. She used cotton loops on a small loom. I decided that we could shake this up a bit and weave on a larger potholder loom with wool loops. We have been dyeing our own loops and to date have quite a range of colors foraged from pantries, gardens and the woods. Next, we will be dyeing yarn for weaving.

How does living in the Last Green Valley affect your process?

I have found this area to be very rich in inspiration. I get a whole lot of raw material from the woods and truthfully from the recycle center at the Woodstock Transfer Center. I also love to attend yard and estate sales. I am always on the lookout for old fabric, books, papers, letters and ephemera. I live on one of Woodstock’s many beautiful lakes. My landscape paintings are what I see and what I feel about what I see around me.

Can you think of an artist who has influenced your work?

I am very influenced



by Richard Diebenkorn especially his Ocean Park series. Once again, I am very drawn to his use of layers as a way to create depth and demonstrate the process of creating a piece. In many of his pieces you can still his pencil lines. He doesn’t make an effort to cover or erase them instead they are very integral to the piece. I also really like Lenore Tawney and Candy Jernigan.



Some makers work steadily (daily), others in bursts...where would you put yourself?

I work daily but I do work in bursts. I alternate between jewelry, metalwork, painting, mixed media and work with fibers. Because I both sell and teach, I need to be sure that I am balancing my time so that I am maintaining these commitments. They are both commitments that I am very grateful for. My daily life is one of creating.

Thank you for speaking with us; I hope to see more of your work in the Quiet Corner!

Word of the day:

Ephemera—things lasting a short time e.g., flowers, insects, and other natural materials/items.



About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock) is a nationally recognized flame-work glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Significant projects include costume work for the Santa Fe Opera, and flamework demonstrator at the Peabody Essex Museum. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

Economic gardening in Thompson

65 Main St. planning project launches in October

THOMPSON — The Town of Thompson Department of Planning and Development has been awarded funding from the USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) grant program to develop a Small Business Support Center; with a focus on food system and agriculture start-ups at the town-owned building located at 65 Main St. in the North Grosvenordale neighborhood.

Public input is a critical component of the planning process for the planned facility and the adjacent 3.2-acre parcel. Thompson will be holding 12 monthly public workshops, the first being held on October 4, 2023. The planning grant project will be underway as the building is renovated under a separate grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration. All activities related to the 65 Main St. project are fully grant-funded, with no matching requirement from local tax dollars.

For some time, Thompson has been poised at the threshold of opportunity. As with many comparable communities in Northeastern Connecticut, recovery in Thompson from the collapse of the mill-based economy has been slower than in more tech-oriented regions; and the economic drain was exacerbated when construction of I-395 diverted much of the traffic away from the traditional village center. Despite these challenges, Thompson is not without its assets. The community has an agricultural history that has always run parallel to the boom-times of the mill era and has since outlived those industrial giants. Several family farms persist within the town, which is designated by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture as a Farm-Friendly Community. At the same time, the bones of the mill area remain and are ripe for redevelopment to meet 21st Century needs. The UAIP planning project will capitalize on these traditions and local resources.

A key component of the planning process is a year-long public workshop series, meeting monthly, to determine the specific needs of Thompson’s small business community, identify deficits in local food security and imagine ways in which the future facility at 65 Main Street can show the highest community utility. The workshop sessions will present all aspects of the project and solicit input from residents and stakeholders to be considered as part of the final master plan for the facility.

The public workshop will launch on Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 6-8 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library/Louis P. Community Center, 934 Riverside Dr., North Grosvenordale. Project partners will discuss all elements of the project, answer questions, outline the schedule for the workshop series and solicit participants for the year-long process. All are invited to attend. Registration is encouraged but not required: <https://tinyurl.com/65Main-Meeting1>.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

There are so many reasons to love daffodils. These spring-blooming bulbs aren’t fussy about where they are planted. They come back to bloom again year after year and are not bothered by deer, rabbits, or other garden pests. But there’s also a whole world of beautiful daffodils beyond the classic yellow ones. Daffodils are available in unusual flower styles and unexpected colors that can bring a whole new look to spring gardens.

Get an early start on next year’s daffodil season with Barrett Browning, a variety with pure white petals and brilliant red-orange trumpets. It is an excellent choice for naturalizing. Pink Charm also boasts white petals but has a large coral-pink trumpet with ruffled edges. It is considered one of the best pink daffodils and is known for its vigor and reliability.

Add eye-catching color with the dependable heirloom Red Devon’s brilliant yellow petals and flashy orange cups. For a more subtle approach choose the pastel hues of British Gamble. Its white petals are a perfect backdrop for the ruffled peachy-pink trumpet on these enormous, five-inch blossoms.

Change the shape of things with some split trumpet daffodils. Cassata is a strong grower with a

ruffled lemon-yellow cup that lies almost flat against broad white petals. Cum Laude boasts big, bright, extra frilly flowers with peachy accents. Lemon Beauty’s flowers feature pure white petals, and its split trumpet resembles a bright yellow star.

Double daffodils add elegance to gardens and spring floral arrangements. They also stretch the season by blooming several weeks later than most other types. La Torch’s upward-facing fragrant double flowers are a mix of yellow petals and bright orange ruffles. Delnashaugh is a late-blooming double with layers of pure white petals interspersed with apricot-pink ruffles. Lingerie’s extra-large blooms have thickly ruffled centers of white and golden yellow petals.

Some daffodils produce a bouquet of blossoms on each stem. Pueblo grows just twelve inches tall, and its primrose yellow flowers gradually fade to creamy white. Beautiful Eyes has two to three flowers per stem, with white petals, bright orange cups and a gardenia-like fragrance.

Take it down in size by planting a few miniature daffodils. Tuck them into rock gardens, under shrubs, along paths, in containers, and mix them with other spring flowering bulbs and perennials. Tete a Tete has perky, bright yellow blossoms and grows just seven inches tall. Tete Boucle is similar in size, but its double flowers display layers of yellow, gold, and green



Courtesy – Longfield-Gardens.com

Late-blooming Delnashaugh double daffodil has showy layers of pure white petals coupled with apricot-pink ruffles.

petals.

Jet Fire is another outstanding miniature daffodil. It has bright orange trumpets and golden yellow swept-back petals and is a great small-scale naturalizer in the landscape. Minnow is an adorable little gem with pale-yellow petals and bright yellow trumpets. Sundisc’s petite flowers have pale yellow petals and an almost flat, deep yellow trumpet. Miniature daffodils are a particularly good choice for perennials gardens, where they won’t overwhelm neighboring plants.


For more on these and other unique daffodils, see Longfield Gardens’ Types of Daffodils to Know and Grow. With so many daffodil varieties to

choose from, you are sure to find new ways to add spring beauty to your yard and gardens.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD* instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

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EDITOR

Prelude to winter

As the leaves start to change their hues, New England officially welcomes yet another enchanting fall season this upcoming weekend. With the crisp air and vibrant foliage, the region's autumnal beauty is unparalleled. However, as we embrace the picturesque landscapes and harvest festivals, it's hard not to wonder what the upcoming winter has in store for us.

New Englanders are no strangers to harsh winter weather; however, speculation is brewing that the 2023-2024 winter might be especially snowy. While predicting the exact extent of winter weather remains an inexact science, several factors are causing meteorologists to raise their eyebrows.

First and foremost, the past few years have shown a pattern of increasingly unpredictable weather, influenced by changing global climate conditions. The Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) is currently in a positive phase, which typically means a colder and snowier winter for our region. La Niña conditions in the Pacific Ocean can also intensify these effects, potentially bringing more precipitation and frigid temperatures to our region.

In addition to these climate patterns, experts are closely monitoring the behavior of the jet stream. Shifts in the jet stream can significantly impact New England's weather, steering storms and influencing the severity of winter conditions. As we head into fall, the position and strength of the jet stream will be key indicators of what lies ahead.

It's important to remember that while a snowy winter can be challenging, it also brings its own magic. The pristine landscapes covered in a blanket of snow, the joy of winter sports, and the cozy moments by the fireplace all contribute to the unique charm of a New England winter.

In light of these potential winter challenges, now is the time to prepare. Residents should ensure their homes are winter-ready, with sufficient heating, insulation, and emergency supplies. Motorists should have their vehicles winterized, and travelers should stay informed about weather forecasts and road conditions. Outdoor enthusiasts must also check the weather for summit temperatures before hiking or back country skiing.

As we savor the pumpkin spice lattes and apple-picking adventures of fall, keep a watchful eye on the horizon. While we cannot control the weather, we can prepare for whatever winter brings our way. And when the snowflakes fall, we'll embrace them with the same indomitable spirit that has defined our region for generations.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chloe Markley for Town Council Killingly District 4

To the Editor:

I would like to introduce myself and tell you why I am running for Killingly Town Council in District 4. I'm Chloe Markley, and I grew up in a rural western Massachusetts. I moved to Killingly in 2015, when I married Joe Markley, whose family has lived in the area for generations. Together we have one daughter, Madelyn, who attends St. James (a family tradition). I've worked in the tech field as a user researcher for 15 years. I intend to bring my extensive skills in user research to my work on the town council. My job, in addition to managing a team, involves listening to users of software and services to understand what is not working and then fix those issues. As a town council member, I pledge to listen to the people of District 4 and solve the issues they care about.

I'm not much for politics, but I've been fairly unhappy with the direction that the town and school district has taken in the last few years. I strongly believe that we have a great community. We live in a wonderful area that's the best of both worlds: it's rural and quiet; but we also have easy access to lots of great small businesses, shops & restaurants. Our town also hosts many fun events throughout the year.

I'd like to see Killingly continue to grow

and thrive; attract new families and businesses to the area. This sort of growth will not only boost stagnant tax revenue, but act as a fly wheel for the success of the town. If we can improve the image of our school system, provide support for our children, encourage new families to settle here, and ensure the retention of our teachers and administrators – we will entice new businesses to the area, which will serve the community. It becomes a virtuous circle that continues to feed itself and support positive growth.

I know I'm relatively new to this area and to the community development scene. However, I am a fast learner and a hard worker. I've been working since high school, and I self-funded two graduate degrees. I am confident that I will learn from those around me on the town council and come up-to-speed quickly on the work we need to do. I am passionate about this community and dedicated to helping the people of Killingly.

If you are in District 4, I humbly ask for your vote. And to everyone, please vote on Nov. 7 and make your voice heard. Thank you!

CHLOE MARKLEY
DANIELSON

Quiet Corner Democrats – stop falling for the Facebook trap

To The Editor:

Have you been on Facebook lately? If you use social media, the odds are that you have. Facebook is the largest social media platform in existence, boasting just shy of three billion monthly active users. I'd argue that the only reason why Facebook isn't considered the Evil Empire of social media is because its current leadership doesn't know what they have.

Facebook could theoretically replace several sites if someone wanted to become an influencer due to all the media functions it now has, but some of its design elements still hearken back to the MySpace era, when social media involved you having a page about yourself that a few friends liked and it wasn't so much about anything public facing, unlike much of social media these days.

Facebook's more dated design elements make it more suitable for local stuff that's more tied to a geographic location, such as local media, local politics, local discussions, the various yard sale groups I often see, etc. WINY's success here in Putnam is a great example of this in local media. Local politics... not so much. The way our local parties handle Facebook is a mixed bag at best, but when I tried bringing this up with my local Putnam Democrats the response was rather lukewarm, so I decided to present these ideas here instead for whoever is interested.

When you decide to become a social media influencer, one of the things folks won't tell you is how quickly it becomes no longer about you. Sure, you might start with posting whatever you like, but when you start getting an audience, the audience very quickly takes over, and the more public-facing your channels, pages, etc. become, the more you have to put your audience first if you want to remain relevant. In short, your page will very quickly become no longer your page, so to speak.

This is where many of our local parties completely drop the ball. Most of them post what they like, and it muddies up their page's usefulness for curious voters trying to figure out who to vote for or what the party's up to. In this day and age, where smartphones represent much if not the majority of internet traffic, people don't like swiping all over the place on their phones while trying to fish out what they're looking for from all the fluff in the middle.

Sure, Democrats don't like Donald Trump, but I don't need to go to a specific town party page to find Trump memes, and the odds are if I'm passionate about being on the blue team I already follow pages like Being Liberal, Meidas Touch, Occupy Democrats, The Young Turks, Brian Tyler Cohen, or the numerous other pages I'm constantly seeing re-posted. I would go to a town page to find out about town people, town events, or town issues. Everything else is just redundant.

If Quiet Corner Democrats want a great example of what it looks like when it's right, the Plainfield Democratic Town Committee has this down really well. Visit their page and after little or no scrolling you're looking at who's running, what's going on, how to vote. The photo section on the left on desktop has people and names on who to vote for, and they started posting early giving whatever algorithms Facebook has to pass public posts around more time to get picked up and circulated if the system's slow.

Their page also presents really well on mobile too. With minimal scrolling you get a lot of information about what's going on. Makes me wonder if someone in charge over there spends a lot of time on TikTok and Instagram. Mobile traffic is nothing to take lightly. There are entire parts of the world now where phones are the primary way that folks access the internet.

Whether we like it or not, today's Smartphone-driven social media world has made us all influencers, at least a little bit. To get an audience to respect your page, use the scope of your page to respect your audience's time.

JASON GERHART
PUTNAM

Hegedus has made a difference in our community

To the Editor:

I have known Jennifer Hegedus for almost 20 years, and I can whole heartedly say she is not only a great person but a leader, mentor, and difference maker in our community. Her commitment to her students as a teacher is consistent year after year and her drive to help them grow and develop into great human beings is admiral.

Being a teacher of our youth is a full-time job, but Jen does not stop there. Her commitment to our veterans, fallen soldiers, community youth, and those in need is also a constant in her life. Whether it's our Memorial Day Parade, 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, VJ Day Parade, Veterans Christmas, School Supply/Backpack giveaways and many more she is either a major part or the leader to make sure it's the best it can be. Add to all this her willingness to join our Board of Education to work once again to make sure our children are set up to win and our town is

putting forth the best schooling possible and there is no denying she is all in when it comes to the town of Killingly.

It's obvious that her actions and commitments speak for themselves, but what often does not is one's ability to communicate and solve problems. Jen's years of teaching have given her a great ability to listen and dive deeper to truly understand another's point of view even though at first it may not match hers. This art which used to be the norm has become much more difficult to find as individuals seem to dig in on their opinions and hold and that is not a good way to manage and make important decisions. It's because of all of this and more that I fully support Jennifer Hegedus.

Thank you.

JASON KIRKCONNELL
DAYVILLE

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Breathe in the new

"Don't take a deep breath," I said to my husband as we stood on La Rambla, a tree-lined street in Barcelona. I had just read that the air quality was unhealthy, and he had been coughing frequently. We were visiting Spain for the first time in five years. Our trip had taken us to a property that friends



had rented in the country, where we enjoyed the pastoral pleasures of quiet walks, excellent food and good Spanish wine. We visited nearby small cities and wandered through villages where time really did seem to stand still. Now we were on our own for a few days in a big city, surrounded by waves of people, all generally much younger than we. It was hot, sticky and the air was as thick as the Spanish hot chocolate we were served at breakfast. A haze hung over the streets that was more than smoke from cigarettes and marijuana.

This summer has been a steamy one everywhere, and, as we know, catastrophic in many parts of the globe. We thought early fall would be a fine time to visit Spain and over all that was true. The evenings were a bit cooler. In the morning, dew sparkled on the tips of the giant rosemary bush outside our door. A friend and I took a long walk on an unpaved road that was littered in places with ripe figs. Grapes hung heavily on the vines at the farm where we stayed. Everything seemed fecund, ripe and prolific.

Harvest time has a universal feel. The fruits of summer must be stored in a flurry of work that will guarantee survival or at least a good glass of wine on a winter's night. Modern machinery churned its way across fields. Few people seemed to live in the rural towns, just as had been the case in the spring when I visited Wales.

The shift of younger people to cities is like the change of climate, apparently moving in a new direction without any immediate sense of reversal. The house was built in the 15th century and there it stood, a witness to the whirl of natural and human made chaos and order, and a testament to skilled builders and stone construction. Humans, farmers in particular, adjust, modify and keep going.

Traveling sharpens our senses and makes us more aware of what we have back home and what is interesting about being elsewhere. There is the joy of being uprooted by choice, especially as there is a return trip ticket tucked safely on our phone. For many, travel is a reward for years of hard work and cautious living. It can be the fulfillment of a dream to see artwork, natural wonders, the birthplace of one's ancestors, or the ego satisfaction of knowing you've made it, at least a little.

But why actually travel? Do we expect to find a revelation about life, death and the universe? Do we plan to experience wild nights of fun, incredible new foods, drink gallons of wine? Do we think a trip will change us- make us more charitable, more interesting, more open, more secure? Will we find meaning, or a new love or make a new friend? Probably not. Perhaps just a little. Perhaps just an insight or a moment of connection to another place and another time.

Don't take a deep breath in polluted air, but breathe in what's the same and what's new. Travel to test your wits, enjoy another harvest, feel the optimism of youth and the comfort of the familiar. Come back changed at least a little bit.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Laura Lawrence would be a valuable addition to the Board of Education

To the Editor:

It is with immense honor that I offer my unreserved recommendation for Laura Lawrence for Killingly Board of Education.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Laura for the past several years. From the first time I met Laura, I have always been amazed by her ambitious and entrepreneurial spirit. Whether it's within Laura's personal life, career, or her community, Laura gives it her all. For example, just this past weekend, I had the luxury of volunteering with Laura for our town youth sports program. Laura is definitely someone I can count on and would certainly look to for leadership.

Additionally, Laura has an excellent rapport with everyone. She is enthusiastic, humble, and honest. Laura has excellent communication skills, which helps her connect with everyone.

I am truly honored to have known her for this long, and would highly recommend Laura. She is intelligent, competent, dedicated and very capable. I am confident that she would make a valuable addition to the Killingly Board of Education.

Kind regards,

FELICIA LEO
KILLINGLY

I'm casting my vote for Laura Dombkowski

To the Editor:

While we are entering another election, we have the opportunity to cast our vote for the individual who will try to do what is best for our children. I will be casting my vote for the best candidate for Killingly Board of Education, Laura Dombkowski.

My children both went to Killingly, and we have lived here since 1999. I have known Laura for over 15 years and I know that she will stand up and fight for what is best for our children's education. She had initially filled a vacancy and has proven that she does

belong on the Board of Education. We as the parents and guardians of the students we all want and need someone who will stand up and speak for the kids. Please join me and vote for Laura Dombkowski for the Killingly Board of Education this November. Her presence on the board will ensure that things will get done and with the upmost regard for our system and our children.

TINA STEVENS
KILLINGLY

Malignant narcissism

To the Editor:

Do the pro-Trumpers really want this person to lead our country again? This person who treasures "love letters" from Kim Jong Un as he launches missiles over Japan? Who thinks Putin is "really smart" just days after he puts into motion a plan to bomb Ukraine back into the Stone Age? This person who thinks Xi Jinping would make a great Hollywood "matinee idol" while he commits genocide on the Muslim ethnic group the Uyghers.

This guy? Why do you think we fought a Revolution so that we would not have to live under the thumb of an autocrat?

What have the Trump lackeys in Congress, the rot that is MAGA, brought to the table to fulfill their empty campaign promises? Not a damned thing! Trump's kangaroo court trying to impeach President Biden? For what?

All to avenge the twice proper and lawful impeachment of their troll cult leader. They scorn him behind his back but kiss up to him in public for fear of a negative "tweet" to the voting base for fear of losing their place at the public trough. As retiring Republican Senator Mitt Romney so concisely put it: "A new brand of cowardice has emerged" in his caucus.

Of course, all pertinent information can be found on "Trump News" (FOX). Regurgitated lies for hearty consumption by their loyal viewers. Try MSNBC at 4 p.m. weekdays for just 10 minutes (I dare you). How about one video from Glenn Kirshner or Brian Tyler Cohen or Steve Schmidt on YouTube? One of the hardest thing a person can do is to admit they were wrong or realize they were lied to. FOX viewers have had plenty of practice. Find the true story of the Dominion voting machine lawsuit against FOX and see for your-

self: First Amendment protected free speech falsehoods!

Trump's new slogan is "I will be your retribution." How inspiring is that? Not a breath of "Let me heal our divided country" in sight. So names will be taken, arrests will be made by his "trumped-up" Dept. of Justice.

The leader of the free world. Just like his pal Putin. If this sounds far-fetched, you have not been paying attention. During the Watergate era, the President's Counsel John Dean told Nixon "a cancer is growing close to the Presidency." It reappeared in 2017, and has festered ever since.

Look at all the headaches this one person has caused our country in the past seven years. Most recently his dangerous, threatening lies about the facts of his legal predicament; about prosecutors, judges and state officials who may now, and have been, targeted for retribution by one of his crackpot disciples. It has already happened on more than one occasion. If all his "fans" get what they want, this menace to society back in the White House, you will get the country that you deserve. Then also you will have brought the rest of us down as well. The autopsy of The American Democratic Experiment will read as follows: "Death by Trump." Yeah, make America great again, just keep sending your money. Even with all its problems, America was already great before his clown show, this draft dodger. The cries of the innumerable lives given for love of America should silence his every utterance.

I compare this problem of Trump to one that many households have probably dealt with one time or another. The remedy is a plunger.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

Keep right on focusing on Trump

To the Editor:

CNN has been protecting Biden for the last few years, but now they're starting to call out Biden for telling lies. In a recent segment, a CNN reporter called out several lies that Biden has said over the last several years. CNN reporter Daniel Dale stated, "This president has a pattern at this point of either inventing or embellishing stories about his own past, his biography." Mr. Dale said that "He (Biden) did it three times in one speech last month alone!" If I were one of his advisors/handlers, and with the 2024 elections coming up, I'd escort him back to the cellar.

The House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party has issued its very first subpoena demanding documents and records related to the Chinese-owned bio-lab that was discovered in California. In response to the subpoena, officials of Reedley, where the bio-lab was located, have promptly handed over thousands of pages of documents, hundreds of photos, and hours of video footage. Further investigation into the matter showed that thousands of vials containing bacterial and viral agents, including Coronavirus, chlamydia, E. coli, streptococcus pneumonia, HIV, hepatitis, herpes, rubella, and malaria, were discovered at the site, and that nearly 1,000 lab mice were found in deplorable conditions and hun-

dreds of rats were found dead. It was evident that there were serious code violations at the Reedley location as far back as December 2022. However, local officials claim that they were instructed by federal and state authorities to remain silent about the investigation, which has only recently come to public awareness. No (possible) threat to the American way of life there, though, right? Somebody needs to be hanged by their ankles over this - but pay no attention to any of that, just mask up when they tell you to, make sure you get another booster shot, and continue to be more concerned about what's going on with Donald Trump.

New York Mayor Eric Adams was called "Black Trump" by the Democrats after he spoke up about how the influx of illegals are ruining his city. That puppet mouthpiece AOC took a "remain part of the problem" approach when she spoke to New Yorkers asking them to accept the migrants; however, she was severely heckled, shouted at and booed by the crowd in attendance. Afterwards, she said that she now feels "threatened," and "fears walking the streets," and guess who she's blaming for that? Yup, it's Number 45 and his evil supporters.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

We are launching a write-in campaign

To the Editor:

We would like to congratulate First Selectman Amy St. Onge and her team on their win at the Sept. 12 Republican primary in Thompson over some of the Thompson Republican Town Committee endorsed candidates.

In Thompson, the voters are split into three categories — 25 percent are Republican, 25 percent are Democrat and the other 50 percent are unaffiliated or belong to minor parties. In July, the Thompson RTC put together a slate of candidates to fill the 21 openings Republicans could fill in the November election that would appeal to all Thompson voters. The St. Onge team put together a slate of nine candidates that would appeal to mainly their own supporters in the primary.

Considering the incumbency of the St. Onge team, their win should have been much larger than 43 votes in their party's primary; in one race, the difference was only nine votes. There are also reports of problems in Connecticut of voters being turned away at the polls for not being registered in the party that the voter thought they were; some have attributed this to voter registration updates by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. The software they use to update voters' status when they change their address may have inadvertently changed the voter's party status. There are reports that 30 voters were turned away at the Town Hall (District 2). This is just one

of Thompson's four voting districts, so it can be assumed 60 to 70 voters were turned away, much more than the margin of error.

Our country has a great democratic process; anyone can run for office. First, you can try to get your party's endorsement. If that fails, you may petition for a primary for the party's endorsement, and the St. Onge team now has that with their narrow win. The next option available to prospective candidates is a write-in campaign.

After consultations with our candidates, careful consideration of the data, and the options available, it has been decided to mount a write-in campaign for the November election. This will be like the write-in campaign that was run in Thompson two years ago. In that campaign, about nine hundred voters came out to support the write-in candidates, with a normal turnout of twenty-four hundred voters, that would give our candidates the advantage in a three-way race, especially since they were selected based on their appeal to the whole town, not just the Republicans.

We will be running as write-in candidates for the Board of Selectmen, James Clark and David Ford will be running as write-in candidates for the Board of Finance, and Peter Faucher and Lois Robin will be running as write-in candidates for the Board of Education.

BILL WARNER
DON BROWN
THOMPSON

Thank you for recognizing the value of live performance

To the Editor:

Thanks for printing "Hitting all the Notes: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Performing Arts" by Nancy Weiss in the Sept. 15 edition of the Villager. Not only is this article a tribute to our treasured civic leaders of Northeastern Connecticut, it is also a template for our present moment.

In an era when many of us mourn the loss of connection and community, the performing arts continue to offer us an antidote that is well within our grasp. The social, economic, and educational benefits of theater, music, and dance were well known to those wonderful personalities of the past fifty years who supported the arts in our little corner of the state. Their creative energy and spirit brought many of us

together and reminded us how much fun it is to participate in these art forms. But they would not want us to simply marvel at past success. They would want us to get busy. Support the local arts! See a concert or a play. Organize a group of friends and go see a performance together. Celebrate the musicians, actors, singers, and dancers in our schools and community centers! Your participation is crucial—now more than ever!

Live performance has existed as a vital part of our culture for thousands of years. Let's recognize and support this amazing and powerful phenomenon for the next generations to come.

CHIP LAMB
BROOKLYN

Why now is a great time for business owners to start a retirement plan

Small business owners, did you know that offering your employees a retirement savings plan can benefit your company? It can help attract new talent and keep your current employees happy. Also, there's some new legislation that can make it easier and cheaper for you to set up a plan. Here's how you can get started.

New, beginning this year: Tax credits for startup costs

SECURE 2.0 is a law that was signed by President Biden in December 2022. It offers potential tax credits to small businesses that start a retirement plan for their employees. But here's the catch: the plan has to meet certain requirements set by the IRS.

Under SECURE 2.0, small businesses with up to 50 employees can get a tax credit for the startup costs of the plan. The credit can be up to 100 percent of the eligible startup costs or \$5,000 per year for the first three years of the plan.

Another plus is that small businesses can also get an additional tax credit for the contributions they make on behalf of their employees. The credit is a percentage of the eligible employer contributions, up to \$1,000 per employee. However, this credit is only available for the first five years of the plan.

Auto-enrollment tax credit

Want to encourage your employees to participate in the retirement plan? There's a \$500 tax credit available to busi-



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

nesses that add an automatic enrollment feature to their 401(k) or SIMPLE IRA plans. This credit can be claimed for up to three years after adding the feature to the plan.

Start preparing now so you can roll out your plan on Jan. 1 - here's why:

Now that you know about the benefits of offering a retirement plan, you might be wondering when is the best time to start one. Well, starting your plan on January 1 can actually be a smart move. Here are five reasons why:

1. Employees have the full year to make contributions

Did you know that employees can only contribute a certain percentage of their paycheck to their retirement plan? And they can't contribute money from paychecks received before the plan started. So if your employees don't make enough money during the year, they won't be able to max out their contributions. By starting the plan on Jan. 1, you give your employees the whole year to save for their future.

2. Matching contributions are more predictable

Some businesses offer matching contributions to their employees' retirement accounts. But did you know that the matching is usually calculated on a per-pay-period basis? This means that if

your plan starts late in the year, your employees might miss out on some matching contributions. By starting the plan on January 1, you can avoid this confusion and ensure that your employees get the full benefit of the match.

3. Nondiscrimination testing is easier

Nondiscrimination testing is a fancy term for making sure that your retirement plan doesn't favor highly paid employees over lower-paid ones. Starting your plan on Jan. 1 gives you a full year to monitor the plan's activity and assess its compliance with the rules. This can help you avoid unexpected costs and keep your plan fair for everyone.

4. Safe Harbor plans have a deadline

If you want to set up a Safe Harbor 401(k) plan, you need to do it before Oct. 1 of any given year. These plans are great for small businesses because they make it easier to pass testing. By starting your plan on Jan. 1, you can take advantage of the Safe Harbor status and avoid compliance headaches.

5. It keeps things clean and simple

Starting a new benefit, like a retirement plan, at the beginning of the year just makes sense. It allows your employees to learn about all their benefits at once and keeps things organized. Plus, it's easier to remember one start date for all your benefits.

Starting a retirement savings plan for your employees is a smart move. Turn To **FINANCIAL** page **A12**

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Putnam American Legion hosts annual golf tournament

PUTNAM — Putnam’s Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post 13 held their annual golf tournament on Monday, Sept. 11 at the Connecticut National Golf Course in Putnam. Despite the hot muggy conditions, about 140 golfers completed the 18 hole course just before the rains came. According to Post 13 Commander Michael Rocchetti “while the outpouring of rain may have dampened a few golfers, it did not dampen their enthusiasm – and was a fitting end to a day characterized by another outpouring – namely the support and generosity of our local community!”

This year, the focus of the golf tournament was twofold – to honor the legacy of Putnam’s only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient – US Navy submariner Henry Breault, and to raise awareness of the suicide problem among our veterans. Many of the victims unable to endure the pain of traumatic brain injuries – a

hidden wound usually caused by the improvised explosive devices which were an ever-present danger during the prolonged conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Proceeds from the tournament will help support suicide awareness and prevention programs for our veterans in Northeastern Connecticut.

Brian Maynard, a past Post 13 Commander, served as the Chairman of the Golf Committee and put together a team that included past Post 13 Commander Michael Vassar, Eric Quinn, Edward Morissette, Traci Lefebvre, Earl Rosebrooks, Mark Brule, and Charles Mackenzie.

According to Maynard, “This was an all-star team – highly motivated and very dedicated to making the event a success.”

Since the event coincided with the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Maynard kicked-off the event with a moment of silence in honor of those

first responders who lost their lives on that day, and paid a tribute to representatives from the Putnam Police and Fire Departments. Maynard also expressed sincere gratitude for the primary tournament sponsors which included Big Gary’s Discount Liquor Store in Putnam and the Supported Living Group Rehabilitation Center in Danielson.

“The level of generosity exceeded our expectations,” Maynard said. “There are so many other major sponsors I would like to recognize, including Northeast Flooring & Kitchens, Roger Franklin, Gerardi Insurance, Fluid Coating Technologies Inc, RPC Associates, Downes Construction, Jewett City Savings Bank, Venture Communications, Antinozzi Associates, BW Dexter Masonry, Windham County Heating and AC, Rawson Materials, and many more tee sponsors. We are also thankful for



Courtesy

Left to right: Edward Morissette, Michael Rocchetti, Eric Quinn, Traci Lefebvre, Brian Maynard, Michael Vassar, and Charles Mackenzie.

the many donations we received for raffle prizes, and for the people who came out today to golf at our tournament. It’s just overwhelming! How lucky we are to live in such a great communi-

ty!”

Putnam’s American Legion Post 13 has been active in our community since 1919. This veteran’s organization stands on four pillars - Veterans Affairs and

Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. The Legion has a wide variety of related programs that directly support our local community.

Free education and support for families, friends of people with mental illness

DANIELSON — The Windham County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is hosting a Family-to-Family class, beginning Sept. 27 until Nov. 15 at the Danielson campus of Connecticut State Community College (QVCC.) The class will run from 6:30-9 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

The class is for friends and family of those living with mental illness. The 8-week series of classes is free and confidential.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support, and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

What is NAMI Family-to-Family?

Family-to-Family is an eight-session education program for family members, partners, or friends with a relative or loved one with a mental health condition, even if the condition is not diagnosed. The class is free, and taught by trained family members of people with a mental health condition.

The class offers insights into the impact mental health conditions have on the entire family, combats discrimination and promotes healing. It aims to help family members and friends understand and support their loved one while maintaining their own well-being.

Participants will receive current information about schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder (manic depression), panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, personality disorders, and co-occurring brain disorders and addictive disorders.

The class also provides up-to-date information about medications, side effects, and strategies for medication adherence, as well as problem solving, listening, and communication techniques and strategies for handling mental health crises and relapse.

Participants will receive guidance on locating appropriate support and services within the community and information on advocacy initiatives designed to improve and expand mental health services.

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program has been added to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP).

For more information and to register, call NAMI Windham County at 860-281-1402 or email info@namiwindhamct.org.

EASTCONN selects new principal to lead Quinebaug Middle College

DANIELSON — EASTCONN is pleased to announce the appointment of Edward “Ted” Keleher to the position of principal at its Quinebaug Middle College (QMC) magnet high school.

“Ted’s experience in both large and small districts provides him with a breadth of leadership knowledge, experience and connections,” said Diane Dugas, EASTCONN’s Director of K-12 Student Services. “His desire to lead in a small community where he can get to know each student and their family, work with staff and partnerships to continue to grow opportunities building upon QMC’s strengths will bring great success to QMC.”

Before coming to QMC, Keleher spent four years serving as a successful and innovative high school principal at Robert E. Fitch High School in Groton, where he worked with staff to develop and implement an International Baccalaureate Career program. He previously served as principal of East Windsor High School and as an assistant principal and math teacher at Bristol Eastern High School.

Keleher’s appointment took effect on July 24. He holds a deep enthusiasm for the field of STEM, a background that will serve QMC pathways well. In addition, Ted’s experience in both large and small districts provides him with a breadth of leadership knowledge, experience and connections.

“Really, for me, it was getting into a smaller environment,” Keleher said. “You get to know everybody quickly, and really getting to know the students and teachers personally is important to me. I’m excited to start getting rolling. It’s a great honor to be here.”

The ideal QMC student, Keleher said, is academically curious, open to new ideas and eager to follow their passions wherever they may lead.

“The high school years are when students are forming who they’re going to be,” Keleher said. “They’re coming into young adulthood. There are a lot of students out there that can say, ‘this is absolutely what I want to do later in life,’ but curiosity lets them explore a lot of different types of things and figure out what exactly they want to do.”

QMC enrolls about 160 students, grades 9-12, from 18 towns across northeastern Connecticut. The school is administered by EASTCONN through a partnership that includes EASTCONN, QVCC and seven northeastern Connecticut towns.

Located on the peaceful campus of Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) in Danielson, QMC offers high school students a middle college experience that enables them to earn a high school diploma while also earning free, transferable college credits from QVCC.

EASTCONN is a public, non-profit, Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving

the education needs of schools and communities in northeastern Connecticut since 1980. Learn more about EASTCONN at www.eastconn.org.



Ted Keleher

FINANCIAL

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move. And starting it on Jan. 1 can make things even better. Don’t wait until the last minute; get started now and reap the benefits.

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