

THOMPSON VILLAGER

©2025, Issue #37

Serving Thompson since 2005

Friday, September 12, 2025

Complimentary to homes by request

Killingly Town Council shines positive light on Conservation Commission



Members of Killingly Conservation Commission.

Courtesy

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council held a special meeting on Sept. 2 where they shone a spotlight on an important group of volunteers, the Conservation Commission.

Representatives of the commission provided an update to the Council, touting several

upgrades made over the last year helping enhance safety and access to local open space and trails to allow everyone and opportunity to enjoy Killingly's natural beauty.

The Council for their part complimented the commission on their dedication and expressed excitement about the growing

opportunities for outdoor recreation in the community.

The exchange was an opportunity to update the Town Council, and, in effect, the town as a whole, about the goings

on in Killingly's widespread conservation areas which include the Chase Reservoir, the 1892 Conservation Area (also known as the Sherman

Turn To **CONSERVATION** page **A10**

Woodstock farm spreads joy one bouquet at a time



Courtesy

Brenda Page, owner of Sharing Joy Flower Farm.

WOODSTOCK — In the heart of Woodstock, a small family-owned farm is delivering blooms and kindness across the Quiet Corner community. Each week, Sharing Joy Flower Farm donates fresh flower bouquets to hospitals, nursing homes, and patients throughout Woodstock and the greater Putnam area.

Sharing Joy Flower Farm, nestled in the heart of the community, has been on a mission since 2020 to brighten lives with their vibrant, locally grown bouquets. What began as a simple act of kindness during the early days of the pandemic has blossomed into a heartfelt tradition. These weekly donations are a reminder that joy can be shared in the simplest of ways through a handful of petals and a thoughtful gesture.

In recent weeks, the farm has made donations to patients at Day Kimball Hospital and Fresenius Dialysis Center. Each bouquet is arranged with care and a sense of purpose. They are delivered to brighten a hospital room, lift the spirits of a nursing home resident, or offer comfort to someone going through a difficult time.

"I started flower seeds in March 2020 at my home in Sutton, Mass. as

a way to keep busy during the pandemic. I grew up on a homestead in Iowa, so I am no stranger to growing things. By the summer of 2021, I had such an abundance of blooms, I was flooding my friends with bouquets and found I needed another outlet. I started sharing bouquets with nursing homes and rehab centers throughout Worcester County in Massachusetts," says Brenda Page, owner of Sharing Joy Flower Farm.

Hence, "Sharing Joy" was created.

After becoming empty-nesters, Brenda and her husband, Rob, relocated to Woodstock in October 2023. They found the perfect home for them on over 10 acres. It was enough space to create the flower field of her dreams. Sharing Joy Flower Farm was founded in spring 2024.

Since becoming familiar with the Quiet Corner, Page found new locations to receive her donations: Matulaitis Nursing Home, Day Kimball Hospital's Hospice program, and Fresenius Dialysis Center.

"These places have such great staff, it's a pleasure to drop bouquets off for them to share. I'm sharing bouquets to bring others joy, but I find I am the one receiving so much happiness from the project. Whether I'm in the garden working or creating bouquets, the work just lifts your mood. They say you only have to look at a flower for 20 seconds before it starts to improve your spirits," she said.

In addition to their donation efforts, Sharing Joy Flower Farm sells its seasonal arrangements at local markets, offering residents a chance to take home a piece of the farm's magic. The farm team takes the time to answer questions about growing flowers, share gardening tips, and discuss their donation program with customers, many of whom become program supporters themselves.

The farm continues to sell bouquets at the Putnam Saturday Market and directly at the farm. Every purchase supports their mission to keep giving. By combining business with generosity, Sharing

Woodstock school officials respond to discovery of mold

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Public Schools have issued a statement after an OSHA complaint was filed following the discovery of mold inside one of the classrooms of Woodstock Elementary School.

The district released a statement confirming the OSHA complaint and air quality testing in the elementary school after a small spot of mold was discovered on the back of a chair and reported by custodians. The resulting investigation led the district to hire a third-party company to test the air quality in the school to ensure no further contamination would disrupt the health and environment of the classrooms.

Woodstock Public Schools Superintendent Christopher Roche released an official statement on Sept. 3 acknowledging the complaint and saying the district took "immediate action." He explained that the district's Facilities Director David Julian was dispatched to investigate the mold and assess the area further after the discovery and that no additional issues were found. Even with no visible issue, they took the OSHA report seriously and began a plan to follow up which included bringing in Enviro Med, an independent environmental testing company, to perform an air quality test. That test was scheduled for Friday, Sept. 5. The results were not made publicly available for this story although the Superintendent promised that families would be informed once the results were confirmed.

If gone unchecked, mold can create significant health issues for students, especially those with respiratory issues like asthma or allergies. Unresolved mold problems can spread through air vents creating larger issues. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, schools across the country have given special attention to ensuring proper ventilation and resolving any issues that could pose a health concern for students.

While, for now, it appears the mold was an isolated incident with a yet-to-be-determined cause, Roche promised that the district would continue to take the situation seriously in their own ongoing mission to provide a healthy learning environment.

"I have asked Mr. Julian to ensure that our custodians remain vigilant in reporting and additional mold issues or concerns related to moisture in the building," wrote Roche. "Thank you for your understanding and support as we take proactive steps to ensure the well-being of our entire school community."

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@villagernewspapers.com



Blight case leads to renewed calls for ordinance in Thompson

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Calls for a blight ordinance have been renewed in Thompson, as the town works through a legal process to resolve an unsightly property situation on Thompson Road.

Thompson is currently awaiting a ruling from the courts regarding a property at 1097 Thompson Rd. that has been a concern for some time, but without a blight ordinance town officials are limited in power. The town has attempted to initiate an ordinance twice over the last two decades to no avail while town leaders acknowledge their hesitance due to the implication of telling property owners what to do with their land. Still the recent situation on Thompson Road has led some citizens to call for another attempt at passing an ordinance.

During the Board of Selectmen's Sept. 2 meeting, where the board received an update on the Thompson Road case from the Zoning Enforcement Officer, selectmen were questioned on whether they would consider promoting a blight ordinance which would allow the town to enforce rules against properties deemed unsightly or that threaten public health, safety, or property values. While Selectman Ken Beausoleil wasn't present, his fellow selectmen Suzanne Witkowski and First Selectwoman Amy St. Onge acknowledged they weren't making it a priority.

St. Onge noted that she would have supported an ordinance but chose not to make it a part of her tenure on the board especially given past votes at town meetings against the ordinance.

"I would personally be in favor of it, but there are a lot of town members who aren't, who feel that it's their property and they want to be able to do what they want on their property," said St. Onge.

Witkowski said the issue with a blight ordinance is that many may see it as telling people how they can use their properties which has her conflicted on any future proposal.

"I believe that people pay for their property, they

Turn To **BLIGHT** page **A10**

Turn To **FARM** page **A10**

Six “Big, Beautiful” tax wins for small business owners

On July 4, President Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act into law, ushering in the most significant tax reform since the original Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. As a senior partner at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors who works extensively with business owners, I've been analyzing this landmark legislation to identify the most impactful opportunities for our clients.

This sweeping bill permanently extends many TCJA provisions while introducing powerful new incentives specifically designed to support American business growth. Here are six particularly compelling tax wins that every small business owner should understand and implement.

1. Permanent 100 percent bonus depreciation
- The Act provides permanent 100 percent bonus depreciation for qualified property acquired after



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
• • • • •
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

Jan. 19. Purchase \$150,000 in qualifying equipment and deduct the entire amount immediately. At a 32 percent tax rate, that's \$48,000 in immediate savings.

This permanent provision eliminates the uncertainty we've faced with temporary phases. I now advise clients to coordinate major equipment purchases with their cash flow planning, knowing this benefit will be available long-term.

2. Supercharged QSBS benefits
- For C-Corporation stock issued after enactment, the QSBS rules now offer:

- Tiered exclusions: 50

percent after three years, 75 percent after four years, 100 percent after five or more years

Increased cap: \$15 million per issuer (up from \$10 million)

Higher asset threshold: \$75 million gross assets (up from \$50 million)

Planning to sell your C-Corp in three years? You can still achieve 50 percent federal tax exclusion on gains up to \$15 million. This creates tremendous flexibility for exit planning.

3. Permanent 20 percent QBI Deduction (Enhanced)
- The QBI deduction is now permanent with improved benefits:

Phase-in thresholds increased by \$25,000/\$50,000

Minimum \$400 deduction for businesses with more than \$1,000 of qualified income

No more expiration uncertainty

This means, for example, that a business generating \$300,000 in qualified income can deduct \$60,000 (married filing jointly), saving \$15,000-\$20,000 in taxes.

4. Immediate R&D expensing returns
- After three painful years of required amortization, domestic R&D expenses

are immediately deductible again. Plus, you can accelerate remaining amounts from 2022-2024. If you've held back on innovation investments due to unfavorable tax treatment, this removes that disincentive entirely. Innovation gets rewarded again.

5. Better business interest deduction
- The Act permanently restores the more favorable EBITDA-based interest limitation (30% of EBITDA vs. EBIT). This is huge for capital-intensive businesses with significant debt. More of your interest expense becomes currently deductible, making debt financing more attractive for expansion and acquisitions.

6. Permanent opportunity zones

OZ benefits are now permanent. These benefits allow business owners to: defer gains for five years when invested in Qualified Opportunity Funds; take a 10 percent basis step-up after five years; and achieve complete gain exclusion after 10 years

This is perfect for coordinating with business sales or real estate dispositions. With permanent status, you can plan long-term without program expiration concerns.

The WHZ Integration Strategy

What makes these provisions powerful is how they work together. At WHZ, our “Plan Well.

Invest Well. Live Well.™” process helps clients integrate these benefits with broader wealth strategies.

I've watched too many business owners focus solely on minimizing taxes without considering how those savings build long-term wealth. Every dollar saved through these provisions becomes capital for retirement planning, emergency reserves, or diversification outside your business.

Key coordination points & why business owners should act now

With most provisions effective immediately, 2025 is a critical planning year. The business owners who implement these strategies now—while maintaining proper compliance—will capture the most significant benefits.

Key strategic actions may include: timing equipment purchases to maximize bonus depreciation benefits; evaluating whether QSBS planning should influence your business structure; considering how enhanced QBI benefits affect your compensation strategy; and integrating OZ investments with exit planning and wealth diversification.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act provides unprecedented opportunities, but only for those who understand and act on them properly. Given the complexity and potential

impact, working with experienced advisors ensures you maximize these “big, beautiful” tax wins while staying compliant. Schedule a complimentary discovery session with our team at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors on line at whzwealth.com or by calling (860) 928-2341 to see how we can help you leverage these new opportunities to their fullest.

Authored by Senior Partner, Chief Strategist James Zahansky, AWMA®. AI may have been utilized for some research and initial drafting of this piece. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Commonwealth Financial Network® or WHZ does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation.

WANTED TO BUY

Antiques & Old Stuff

•Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys

• Games • Glassware •Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold

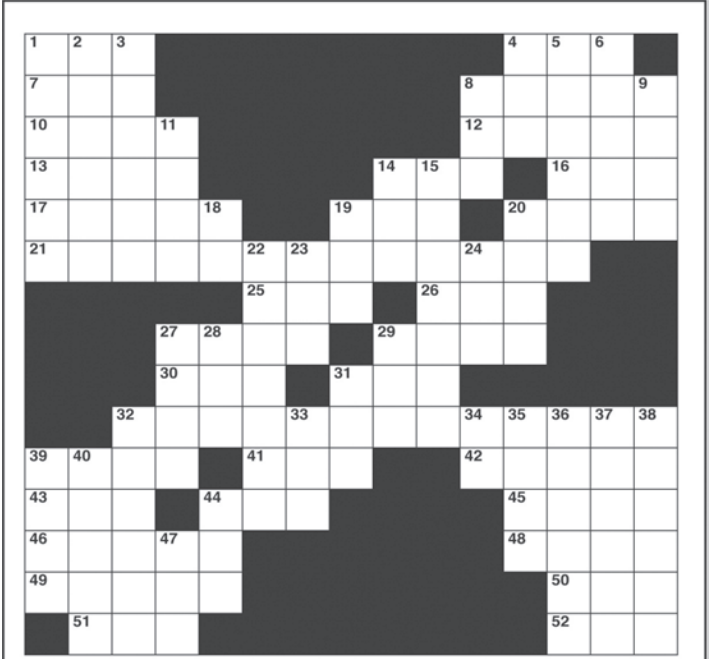
• Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines

• Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns •Lamps • Kitchenware

• Cookware •Knives •Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic

• Fire Dept • Advertising Signs & Much More

CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396



CLUES ACROSS

1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
4. Engine additive
7. Macaws
8. Listens to
10. Self-righteously moralistic person
12. Made of wood
13. Chinese lute
14. Beginning military rank
16. Indicates near
17. Ties the score
19. Chum
20. Long ago
21. Localities
25. Midway between northeast and east
26. Make fun of
27. Tennis great Arthur
29. Construction location
30. Cow's noise
31. Blue
32. One of the Fab Four
39. Formula 1 team
41. Dash
42. Lifting device
43. Basics
44. Keyboard key
45. Old Irish alphabet
46. Shaking of the Earth's surface
48. Covered stadium
49. Sword handles
50. Longing or yearning
51. Creators' social network
52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur
2. Show up
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Ocean
5. Givers and ____
6. Gets ready
8. Ad ____
9. Fit of irritation
11. Criminal organization
14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
15. American state
18. Sensor hub
19. Before
20. The boundary of a surface
22. Witnesses
23. Singular
24. Type of meal
27. Music awards show
28. Former French coin of low value
29. A bag-like structure in an animal
31. Schenectady County Airport
32. Calm down
33. Partner to cheese
34. Cola brand
35. Stepped on
36. Japanese city

PUZZLE SOLUTION

I	T	V						W	A	W	
N	E	A						S	L	J	V
E	W	O	D					W	S	I	E
W	V	G	O					C	S	E	C
E	N	V	R	C				H	V	D	S
A	E	N	L	R	V	C	C	W	T	N	V
								D	V	S	
								E	L	I	S
								G	V	R	
								E	N	E	
								S	D	O	
								T	S	R	E
								I	D	E	
								N	E	X	
								S	R	V	
								D	L	S	

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Sept. 1: Chestnut-sided warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated green warbler, Canada warbler, American redstart, Red-eyed vireo, Yellow-throated vireo, catbird, Bobolink, Red-tailed hawk, House Wren, Song Sparrow, Canada geese, and American Kestrel

Villager Newspapers

TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:

Mikaela Victor
Retail Advertising
860-928-1818 ext. 313
mikaela@villagernewspapers.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:

Kerri Peterson
860-928-1818, ext. 303
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:

E-mail:
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 860-928-4215
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT A LETTER

TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS RELEASE

E-mail:
brendan@villagernewspapers.com
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
Frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER

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

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR

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

PRODUCTION MANAGER

JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, ext. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

The Thompson Villager (USPS 024-998) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 10A Beeches Ln, Woodstock Ct 06281. Periodical postage paid at Putnam, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to Villager Newspapers c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Remembering our lumber yards

Support a Killingly Historic Property. Saturday, Sept. 13, Killingly Grange #112, 801 Hartford Turnpike, Dayville, will sponsor a Chicken BBQ from 5-7 p.m. Half chicken, corn on cob, potato salad, roll, slice of watermelon. \$15. Dine in or take out. Limited number of meals. Call 860-884-1813 to reserve a meal.



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

Sept. 27, 11 a.m., Lions Park, Lewis Blvd., Danielson. Sponsored by the Killingly Historic District Commission. Mary Kies is considered by many to be the first woman to be granted a U. S. patent in her own right. All are welcome. Visit the Mary Kies exhibit at the Killingly Public Library during regular business hours. Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Cocktail Culture: The Madmen Era. Putnam Public Library. 200 School Street. Using actual fashions Ren Antonowicz from the Spirits of Fashion will present a program exploring the connection between fashion and cocktail during the period from the late 1940's through the 1960's. Home

décor and accessories were also impacted. Free & open to the public. I haven't browsed the Windham County Transcripts in a while so thought I would see what interesting tidbits I could find from fifty years ago. The Thursday, Sept. 11, 1975 Transcript was a Back-to-School issue with local business-ess reminding everyone to be careful. Following were some of that were in this area at that time. Many are no longer here. Acme Cotton Products Co.-East Killingly, Danielson; Anderson Brennan & Reeves Agency-Danielson; Arthur's Real Estate-Danielson; the Ayers Co.-Dayville; Barrette Electric Co.-Danielson; Berris Motor Inn-Route 6 (Brooklyn); Big Valley Campground-Brick Yard Road, Brooklyn; Bob's A & W. Root Beer-Route 6, Brooklyn; A. Carl Boecherer, realtor-Canterbury; Jewett City Savings Bank; Brooklyn Package Store-Brooklyn; Colonial Paving; Frederick's Hair Fashion Studio-Brooklyn Shopping Plaza; Gagnon Funeral Home-Reynolds St.; The Hale Manufacturing Company-Putnam, East Killingly, Ballouville, Stafford Springs, Yantic, Central Village; Hurme Radio & TV-Commerce Avenue; Fred F. Jolley & Sons-Wauregan Rd.; Macadam Associates-Unisource-Specialists in Packaging Materials, Connecticut Mills Ave.; Parkwood Realty Developers, Rte. 6, Sout Killingly; Plaza Package Store-Brooklyn; William Prym, Inc.-Dayville; T. H. Ray Heating Oils-

North Main St.; Rogers Corporation-Rogers; Searles Ready Mix Concrete-Wauregan; Sorel's Garage-Route 6 Brooklyn; Valley View Construction Co.-Canterbury; Agway Supply Center-Plainfield; Alco Construction Co.-Dayville; Allard's Pharmacy-56 Main St., Danielson; Anchor Fuel, Inc.-Pomfret. There were many others but I thought I'd give you just a few for the entire listing is too long for this column. If you are interested in an old Killingly business, stop in at the Killingly Historical Center and we will check to see if it is in the Killingly Business Encyclopedia. A photo on the first page of the above Transcript quickly caught my eye. "A fire broke out late Tuesday night at the Kennedy Corp. Lumber Company in Danielson and caused extensive smoke damage and destroyed one the buildings housing insulation and various wood products. More than 50 firefighters fought the blaze from Danielson and East Brooklyn fire Departments. Cause of the fire was not known." (WCT Sept. 11, 1975, p. 1). The Kennedy family had been associated with the coal and wood business since before the turn of the 20th century. An entry in The Killingly Business Encyclopedia by Natalie L. Coolidge noted that Horace Kennedy had come from Plainfield, went into business with Charles E. Woodis for several years, then purchased the plant at the corner of Cottage and Furnace Streets in 1903, "when it became

known as the Kennedy Corporation." Horace's daughter Ethel served as company secretary until 1965. An entry from the 1913 Danielson Directory listed "coal, lumber, cement, lime, hay." The 1923-24 Danielson Directory added building materials to the listing. They erected a new building in 1927 (WCT, May 5, 1927). By the late 1920's entries were including feed. There were two other large lumber yards in Danielson fifty years ago--Tillinghast Lumber Yard on North Main Street (behind the present Jade Garden) and Young Bros. Co. on Mechanic Street. The earliest entry in the Business Encyclopedia for Tillinghast's is from the 1946 Telephone Book. By 1979, it is being listed as a lumber and home center (Journal/ Transcript, June 25, 1979). Young Bros. coal and lumber business was the oldest of the three, being started in 1887 by Cosmer A. Young. When his brother William J. Young joined the company, the name was changed. When Cosmer "first started in business, he would solicit orders for coal in the morning, return to the small office at noontime, eat his lunch and deliver the coal with his one horse and wagon in the afternoon. As his business prospered, he reinvested his earnings and enlarged the concern by building the first coal and grain elevator in the vicinity." The article contains much more. (extracted for the Business Encyclopedia from WCT, July 15, 1937). There is a photo of Young Bros.

in Killingly Revisited by Natalie Coolidge on p. 42 and one of the Kennedy Corporation on p. 64 of the same volume. How many of you recall when Horsefeathers Lounge was operating in South Killingly on Halls Hill Road? The Sept. 11, 1975 Transcript also carried an article noting it would have to comply with wetlands regulations in regards to its new parking lot. (p. 1). The Killingly Business Encyclopedia contained an entry from March 30, 1976 for the Horsefeathers registration of DBA (Doing Business As). The location had had a number of previous restaurants. Perhaps you recall one or more: Brunen's, Meadows, Perrini's, Custy's II, Chantilly Place. If so, please feel free to share your memories. The location seems out-of-the-way now, but was close to the main road from Hartford to Providence through Danielson. Feel free to share your memories about old businesses and events by emailing me. Thank you in advance. Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, September 2025. Thanks to Bernie Mitchell for help remembering the lumber yards of fifty years ago. For additional information email me at margaret-mweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

EASTCONN programs find new homes to better serve students

WILLIMANTIC — EASTCONN is pleased to announce the opening of EASTCONN CDT (Clinical, Developmental, and Therapeutic) Program for the 2025-2026 school year. Located at 832 Main St. in Willimantic, the new facility represents a thoughtful renovation of the former Path Academy building and marks an exciting new chapter in specialized education for Northeastern Connecticut. The innovative EASTCONN CDT Program brings together two well-established EASTCONN programs: the Northeast Regional Program (NRP) from Danielson and the Educational and Vocational Center (EVC) from Columbia. This consolidation creates enhanced opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing while maintaining the high-quality, individualized support for which both programs are known. EASTCONN CDT Program serves approximately 60 students in grades K-12 who thrive in highly structured, supportive, therapeutic environments designed to foster both academic excellence and behavioral growth. The program's mission centers on empowering students by helping them develop the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral skills necessary to successfully transition back to their local public schools or move to less restrictive educational settings. "We're excited to bring these programs together in a space specifically designed to help each student reach their potential," says Amy Margelony, Director of Education Services. "Our goal is to give students the tools and confidence they need to succeed, whether that's returning to their home school or taking their next step forward."

EASTCONN Bridges Community School relocates In related news, EASTCONN Bridges Community School has relocated to 14 Route 66 in Columbia, the former home of the Educational and Vocational Center (EVC). Bridges Community School provides a regionally based, comprehensive, integrated service program for students with autism and other low-incidence disabilities, serving ages PreK-22. The program provides highly structured, one-on-one instruction tailored to each student's unique needs using proven behavioral teaching methods. Teachers use systematic approaches to help students learn new skills and apply them in different settings, with continuous assessment to track progress and adjust instruction as needed. "These new facilities reflect our commitment to creating learning environments where every student can thrive," says Eric S. Protulis, EASTCONN Executive Director. "By bringing our specialized programs into purpose-built spaces, we're ensuring that students receive the individualized support they need to achieve their goals." Both EASTCONN CDT Program and Bridges Community School are accepting students for the 2025-2026 school year. If interested, contact Amy Margelony, Director of Education Services, amargelony@eastconn.org or 860-377-7650. To learn more about EASTCONN CDT Program, visit www.eastconn.org/CDT and for Bridges Community School, visit www.eastconn.org/bridges. EASTCONN is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving the education needs of northeastern Connecticut since 1980. EASTCONN provides a wide range of innovative programs and services that address the diverse needs of children, families, educators and communities.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

WOODSTOCK — An open Al-Anon meeting meets at the East Woodstock Congregational Church every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group is open to anyone affected by alcoholism, family or friend. Any enquiries can be directed to 860-634-3271.



ARTHRITIS?

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be? If not we may be able to help.

Osteoarthritis of Hands - Knees - Hips. Back and Shoulder Problems Rheumatoid Arthritis Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout

Charles A. Birbara, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School 25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674

"Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"

Proactive

Agility



WHZ,
Your big-picture approach helped us align and connect all our business and personal financial goals even as they have changed, which is no small feat.

Thank you!

Joanne

Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Visit whzwealth.com to read more about Joanne's story

(860) 928-2341
697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259
392-A Merrow Road, Tolland, CT 06084



This statement was provided 3/23/2023 by Joanne McHugh who is a client. This statement may not be representative of the experience of others and is not a guarantee of future performance or success. For additional reviews, search us wherever local businesses are reviewed. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.



P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The Quiet Corner’s legacy of service

In every town across Connecticut’s Quiet Corner, the strongest ties are often forged through service—service to country, to community, and to one another. This month, Thompson recognized Navy veteran John L. Bell, Sr. as its Veteran of the Month, a reminder that the region’s character has always been shaped by those willing to step forward.

Bell’s story is familiar to many here: a young man who enlisted, served through difficult times overseas, then came home to spend decades giving back. His service extended far beyond the Navy. From years as a corrections officer, to organizing Memorial Day parades, to serving on town boards, he has demonstrated what civic responsibility looks like in practice. He represents countless others across our towns who have done the same, often quietly, without expectation of recognition.

The Quiet Corner has always taken pride in honoring its veterans and volunteers, whether through ceremonies, plaques, or community events. But true honor lies not only in awards—it lies in how we continue their work. Supporting veterans’ organizations, maintaining the traditions of local parades, and encouraging the next generation to step up in service are ways to keep that legacy alive.

In our little corner of the state and beyond, there are opportunities every day to follow that example. Joining a town board, volunteering with a fire department, mentoring students, or even lending a hand at a community fundraiser—all of these echo the spirit of those like John Bell.

The challenges we face today may look different from those of past decades, but the answer remains the same: communities thrive when neighbors serve one another. This region is fortunate to have so many examples of that truth. As we honor individuals this fall for their dedication, let’s remember that the best tribute we can pay is to carry the work forward.

Service is not only a duty; here in the Quiet Corner, it is our tradition.

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

The invasion of our cities has nothing to do with crime

To the Editor:

I would like to take the opportunity to applaud Gov. J.B. Pritzker for his speech at the news conference on Aug. 25. Finally, someone has the spine to stand up to the “wannabe dictator” now residing in the White House.

It’s obvious that Trump is not invading cities using the National Guard and federal agents in order to assist them, as he claims. Were he doing so, he would be coordinating his actions with the parties involved in those cities. He has not done so. These officials have to find out through news channels, as the rest of us do. Gov. Pritzker has given Trump a resounding “No.” There is no emergency, and your troops are not needed here. Sending U.S. troops into cities to fight crimes is an illegal act unless it’s for emergencies or insurrections.

There are cities that have much higher violent crime rates than Chicago. Why has he not chosen to send troops to any of those cities? Because they are in red states. Trump only wants to bully the blue states. It’s basically payback for voting against him. Pretty sad to be living in a country where the president’s top priority is retaliation against half the country he supposedly represents. If he really wanted to help reduce crime rates, he wouldn’t be cutting hundreds of millions of dollars from public safety and crime prevention grants. To the Trump supporters, I would like to ask, do you really want to live in a nation of police states? Is this what you voted for? Or are you so afraid to admit you backed the wrong candidate that you’re willing to live this way?

I’d like to finish with a quote from Pritzker’s speech: “To the public servants who have forsaken their oath to the Constitution to serve the petty whims of an arrogant little man, to any federal official who would come to Chicago and try to incite my people into violence as a pretext for something darker and more dangerous: we are watching and we are taking names.”

JEAN McNALLY
WOODSTOCK

Earth - Here comes the sun! (Part 2)

To the Editor:

In order of size, the top three largest expenditures in American households are: housing, transportation and food. Energy of course, is specifically required for the first two to function. According to This Old House Magazine, Connecticut has the second highest average electricity costs in America—only Hawaii is higher. My annual electric costs run about \$2,900. Here in New England, home heating is an entirely separate energy cost. In my case, I use an oil furnace and wood stove. Last year I paid \$1,100 for firewood and about \$800 for oil (one tank). I also spend about \$140 per year on natural gas for our kitchen stove. Then of course, there’s gasoline for the cars. My wife and I both drive fuel efficient cars (hers is a hybrid) and I estimate we spend \$3,500 per year on gas. Added up, our direct energy costs come to about \$8,400 per year, or \$700 per month.

Unlike most other expenses, consumers don’t have many options when it comes to energy. We are captives of the market and pay whatever Exxon or EverSource charge. It wasn’t until I had solar installed on the roof of my nearly 200-year old house, and month after month had no electric bill, that I realized I’d been trapped in an energy monopoly my whole life. Not anymore! My 10 kilowatt solar array covers all my electric usage, even air-conditioning in the peak of summer. In fact, with each passing month, I accrue credits towards my next bill. Now I see an electric vehicle and additional gasoline savings in my future. I estimate my return on investment for solar to be five and half years, not counting EV charging, which would make it even shorter. After that, it will have paid for itself in full and my energy would literally be “free”. Good riddance EverSource and Exxon, I’ll keep that money for myself!

In his remarkable new book ‘Here Comes The Sun’ released in August 2025, Bill McKibben writes about the green energy revolution now sweeping the world with astonishing speed. This is the moment historians will look back and say “We took a decisive turn toward the sun”. Bill continues, “By 2026, according to the International Energy Agency, solar will generate more electricity than all the world’s nuclear power plants combined.”

The speed at which the world is now installing solar and wind energy was not foreseen and can be attributed to basic economics: solar and wind energy are now the cheapest and most reliable energy sources on earth, even without government subsidies. Furthermore, they lack all the extra hidden costs that come with fossil fuels and nuclear power — you know — pollution, wars, propping up dictators and billionaires, and of course, climate change and the costly destruction it brings. As The Economist put it in 2024, “An energy source that gets cheaper every time you use it marks a turning point in industrial history.” Indeed, on its current trajectory, solar power will become the earth’s largest source of all energy, not just electricity, by the 2040s. Perhaps this explains why the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum now runs on solar power (ironic right?), saving 10 grand a year; and why Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar are rapidly building vast solar fields. Stop and think for a moment how out of step America is with the rest of the world, with basic economics — thanks to Trump.

In spite of undoing all Joe Biden’s pre-scient climate legislation, Trump cannot stop Americans from making smart economic decisions. The subsidies Biden implemented to encourage America to compete have been terminated by Trump while he continues heavy subsidies for fossil fuels: a “self-imposed financial penalty that will ultimately degrade America’s long term competitiveness” writes McKibben.

In this very moment of history, humanity is turning towards the sun to power us into the future. This turning point will be celebrated around the world on September 21st — the Autumnal Equinox, in an event called Sun Day (think Earth Day). This event celebrates the realization that the energy balance of human civilization is shifting, taking the power from rich monopolies and putting it into the hands of the individual. With this moment, we begin to halt destruction of the earth and its life supporting climate and give our children and their children’s children a chance. Hundreds of locations across the U.S. and world are participating in Sun Day on Sept. 21, including right nearby in Storrs, Connecticut. Please join this great event. Details can be found at: sundayearth.org.

KEN WOLSLEGAL
WOODSTOCK

Stop the madness

To the Editor:

The U.S. Jobs Report: It’s ugly, but don’t worry, the madness is only going to get worse...

Donald Trump inherited a booming economy. Instead of strengthening it, he has undermined it with chaotic tariffs, attacks on reliable data, and policies that spread uncertainty rather than growth.

Economists have been warning for months that Trump’s cuts to federal agencies have weakened the very tools we use to measure the economy. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), which produces critical reports like the Consumer Price Index, is now operating with fewer staff and more estimates in place of hard data. When the director of the BLS refused to bend to Trump’s political demands, he fired her and installed a partisan loyalist who has publicly trafficked in conspiracy theories and bigoted rhetoric. Even the BLS website went down just before the latest jobs report was released, a symbol of the chaos he has sown in a once-trusted institution.

Meanwhile, the reality for the U.S. economy is ugly. Fears of a recession are worsening. U.S. manufacturing has contracted for six straight months. This year alone, the country has lost 78,000 manufacturing jobs, erasing the very gains Trump promised his tariffs would deliver. Hiring in manufacturing has fallen to a nine-year low. Seventy-two percent of Texas manufacturers say tariffs are hurting their businesses. Instead of “bringing jobs back,” Trump’s trade war is driving them away.

The latest jobs report confirms what families already feel: the economy is weakening. Only 22,000 jobs were added in August, far below expectations, and job numbers for June and July were revised downward. The unemployment rate has climbed to 4.3 percent, the highest in nearly four years. Inflation is rising, stretching household budgets thinner each month.

Trump continues to claim that massive new “beautiful” factories will soon deliver record job growth, but those promises are likely far-fetched. Hyundai, which pledged \$26 billion in U.S. investment through 2028, is facing turmoil after a recent immigration raid on its Georgia battery plant led to the arrest of more than 300 South Korean nationals, including business travelers. That hardly inspires confidence in America as a stable place to do business.

Trump insists the economy is the “hottest it’s ever been.” The facts tell a different story. The truth is this: tariffs and uncertainty are choking growth, undermining job creation, and driving up costs for American families.

This is Trump’s economy now. There is no one else to blame. And waiting “a year or two” for things to improve, as Trump suggests, is not an option for American workers when jobs are disappearing today and paychecks are shrinking under inflation.

Lawmakers need to stand up for American workers, farmers, and businesses by putting an end to this reckless tariff war and restoring sound economic policy. Our nation’s future depends on leaders willing to protect jobs and restore economic stability.

Please call your representatives. Tell them to stop this madness before more American jobs are lost, more businesses are hurt, and more families are pushed to the brink.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Glorious fruit

Yellow the color of the hair of a Swedish supermodel, purple deeper than the vestments of a priest, red so vibrant it nearly levitates against a white background. The colors of the fall harvest are as dazzling as any photos in a fancy decorator magazine. The yellow is a slice of sweet watermelon, a variety I’ve never tasted before. The purple is from black berries as firm and delicious as candy. The tomatoes that took a long time to ripen this year are now perfect orbs of deep crimson. My neighbor grew black tomatoes, so beautiful they should be painted like a Dutch still life.

Visits to Lapsley’s Orchard, Red Trail Hawk Farm, the farmers’ markets in Putnam and Chester offer up a bountiful assortment of fruit and vegetables that almost defy imagination. Hybrid seeds, fickle weather conditions and the creativity of farmers in selecting new varieties make this fall the best ever for visual and taste experiences.

My late father-in-law worked most of his life in his family’s market. In retirement he opened a seasonal produce stand to stave off boredom and provide a reason to buy large amounts of fruits and vegetables for his own consumption and to sell. He has been gone for decades but as I bite into a perfectly ripe peach, so juicy I need a napkin, I hear his voice exclaiming over the perfection of the first bite of a native peach.

He was not a man who expressed interest in poetry, but I think he would have reacted to a line from the poem: “The Consolation of Apricots,” by Diane Ackerman: “Somewhere between a peach and a prayer/they taste of well water/and butterscotch and dried apples...”

Ackerman was writing about eating an apricot in spring, but the taste of our local fruit is as inspirational. Every fall I’m dazzled by the availability, variety and quantity of apples. This year, apple tree limbs are so heavy it seems they will crack and fall. I grew up across the road from an apple orchard, now a housing development. I watched the owner, then a member of Congress, drive home from D.C. every Thursday night to jump on his tractor by dawn. He sprayed and sprayed. He wanted perfect apples and he came close. Bob Joy, another pomologist, cultivated varieties of apples in his orchard, which is now site of a brewery. Both men were happy tending their crops and reveling in the harvest.

The orchard I visit offers pick-your-own apples. Families snap photos of small children cradling bright red apples while the scent of cider doughnuts fills the air. The donuts are probably more profitable than the fruit, but if a connection is made between the hard work of farming and the pleasure of sweet treats, so what. The experience is a tribute to our ancient pleasure in harvesting, marking the change of seasons, and our small place in a big world.

Robert Frost’s poem, “After Apple-Picking,” captures the effort it takes to pick fruit and the exhaustion that follows. Years ago, we planted a half-acre of pumpkins, dreaming of how beautiful they would look and how easy to sell. They grew and grew. A man offered to buy them all. I was ecstatic. Then it began to rain. It felt as if it rained for months. Every pumpkin rotted. Effort and no return.

Until frost comes and ends the harvest, we can revel in the colors and tastes of local fruit. Our humanity is tied to appreciating the unearned bounty that comes our way, sometimes in the form of a perfect peach.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Anti-Robin Hood

To the Editor:

Over the course of his two Presidential terms, Mr. Trump has shown a particular disdain for trade deficits, despite economists pointing out that he has a fundamental misunderstanding about how these work.

In short, trade is a reflection of country A spending money on country B's products, and vice versa. The difference is called a "deficit" reflecting one country getting more money and the other more goods. The same can be said about his approach to tariffs. Free trade helps open markets to American business (as well as cementing strategic alliances), and is best negotiated so that each side benefits. Mr. Trump has torn up treaties, including those he signed in the past, ostensibly due to a national emergency regarding fentanyl influx. This, despite the fact that drugs deaths have fallen dramatically. He has used other haphazard rationales to attack Brazil for its litigation of former President Bolsonaro's coup attempt (a buddy of his) and India's import of Russian oil (even though he backed down from stricter American sanctions).

Tariffs have affected businesses both large and small along with American farmers who have seen oversea markets dry up. His thesis that levies would increase job growth has proven misguided as the labor market dwindles (and apparently firing the messenger is not a useful measure to create jobs). But it turns out that there was a silver lining namely hundreds of billions of dollars that can reduce the deficit.

Tariffs act as a tax on consumers and companies. The consumers most affected are those with limited earnings. So, in a perverse sense, Trump has found a way to tax the 40 percent of Americans who pay no federal income tax. At the same time, he is reducing taxes on the rich. He also wants to shrink corporate taxes to attract business to America but has started collecting a percentage of profits in companies such as Nvidia and Intel. Marxist countries do things like this. In many ways it is worse than a tax because there is no write off.

Now the waters have been muddled by an appellate court's decision stating that only the Congress can regulate tariffs and that the faux emergencies that Trump used to justify his plans were unconstitutional. Even more troubling is that America may have to pay all the money back; \$200 billion to US business alone. In other words, these duties may actually cost taxpayers. The President and his administration need to be called out for what appears to be a poorly planned and illicit scheme that was instituted while the Republican Congress tacitly approved and relinquished constitutional responsibility to oversee American dollars before the legality of all this was assured.

Never mind the President's hour-to-

hour pivots announced via social media regarding the tariffs or the validity of many of his other policies such as the aggressive ICE measures to remove working migrants, use of military troops on American soil, and stripping the American medical system's social programs as well as purging government departments of scientific experts.

Who wins? The rich who can afford a few hundred thousand or even a few million a year in the costs of their cars, yachts and third homes but gain more with huge cuts in their income taxes, capital gains and estates. And the losers? The majority of Americans who may see their money drained if tariffs stand and raise the prices of inexpensive imported clothes and electronics. We are seeing escalating food prices as farmers can no longer find workers to pick their crops. Add on rising healthcare costs as Medicare and Medicaid are trimmed at the same time tariffs could raise the prices of cheap imported drugs. There will also be reductions in food assistance and family planning programs. And finding a government employee to help process Social Security claims will become more daunting. What's more, energy costs stand to explode as the rapid expansion of AI will soon consume 7-12 percent of all electrical power at the same time Mr. Trump is eliminating solar and wind projects. He argues that these industries no longer require government support, but ignores the fact that the fossil fuel industry remains heavily subsidized.

He has a lashed out at our public education system by cutting federal dollars while attacking our colleges and universities. All this makes it much more difficult for a child to achieve their maximum potential. His intent seems to be dumbing down the average American, eliminating Union protections, and forcing people to work menial and potentially unsafe jobs.

Mr. Trump has a penchant for flaunting his wealth and cozying up to the powerful. He has turned the White House into a gaudy Mar-a-Lago north. The number of American billionaires has grown by 20 percent in just the past year, meaning the American dream is alive and well for the 1 percent. Too bad for the struggling majority. Ask yourself what charity the President supports? Most religions stress helping those less fortunate. This is a sacred tenet that anchors humanity's moral compass. Trump doesn't even go to church yet is somehow painted as Christianity's savior. What direction does his moral compass point? Does he even possess one?

Our President and his party are the anti-Robin Hoods. Taking from the poor and giving to the rich. They are duping their own supporters who stand to lose the most. And for now, all of America is lost in the forest.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

Chicago should take the help

To the Editor:

In addition to my last week's letter, the founder of the group Chicago Flips Red spoke out against certain Democrat leaders of Illinois and Chicago, and called them the "Useless Five." They included Gov. Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Johnson, and the aftermath led to a unanimous vote of "no confidence" in Mayor Pureval by Cincinnati's police union. The co-founder of Chicago Flips Red, a South Side resident, dared Pritzker and Johnson to walk through her neighborhood without armed security. Another resident said that people in the city are living in fear, and that's no surprise considering that Chicago had a bloody Labor Day weekend with eight people killed and 54 wounded by gunfire (but of course, that's all the gun's fault, right?) Former Obama campaign architect David Axelrod appeared on CNN's "The Arena" to offer Pritzker a little advice, and in referring to Trump's offer, he said: "Take the help."

And for all you lefties that droll whenever celebrities speak out against President Trump, Justine Bateman ("Family Ties") ripped the mayors of Chicago and LA for wasting their time squawking about Trump on MSNBC which was merely a diversion from the fact that these dullards have let crime run rampant in the places where the govern. Bateman's directed words for Bass were: "For the love of God, can you just do your job instead of being on national news shows?" Being a bunch of groveling little anti-Trump democrat lackeys is one thing, but how about these "useless" incompetents do their jobs at the same time? Yup, but they can also handle it, right? (And that I'll believe that when I see it happen.)

ED DeLUCA
NORTH
GROSVENORDALE

Build a better team

To the Editor:

Week after week, we are bombarded with all of the shortcomings of the Trump administration. Donald Trump won the election because it was handed to him by a fractured and divided Democratic Party. And as of today, the party is losing voters in almost every segment. The solution is to spend your time putting forth and promoting candidates that can unite the party and win. If you think just making the Republicans look worse than you is the remedy, you are bound to fail again. Ask a hundred Democrats who will be the presidential candidate in 2028, and you will get 20 different opinions. We can reasonably assume that Vance and

Rubio will be the Republicans on the ballot, and difficult to beat. Do the same thing that sports teams, business leaders and other entities do when failing. Focus on building a better team! Also, pay close attention to the fact that a significant number of Democrats voted for Trump, and ask yourself why. As a nation, we must have a two-party system of government that maintains a reasonable societal balance. Use your writing skills to fix your party and promote a more positive vision. You've all made it abundantly, and redundantly, clear how bad things are.

STEPHEN BIBEK
WOODSTOCK

Kelly Martin has helped lead Killingly's schools to success

To the Editor:

I write this letter enthusiastically supporting Kelly Martin in her bid for re-election to the Killingly Board of Education. Her leadership over the past few years has led to many successes throughout the district.

honest and transparent leadership.

The community needs people like Kelly on the BOE to help maintain the highest level of education. She has led the past four years with empathy, consistency and fairness.

Please, join me in supporting Kelly Martin for re-election to the Killingly BOE. She helps make our schools better, stronger and safer. Which makes our town a better place to live.

KYLE NAPIERATA
DANIELSON

Wasted energy

To the Editor:

Mr. Taylor, I didn't say you couldn't criticize President Trump, but the last I knew, the Villager newspaper isn't delivered to the White House. Take my dear departed mother's

advice: Worry about the things you can change; otherwise, you're just wasting energy.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL F. LABONTE
PUTNAM

Michelle Murphy will bring common sense values to Killingly

To the Editor:

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Steve Frechette. I am a Connecticut born, raised, and lifetime worker in this state. I served in the Air Force, after attending high school at the tail end of the Vietnam conflict. After I served my four years in the military, I returned home to build submarines for the US Navy. My family goes back generations in Danielson, starting on Commerce Avenue, so needless to say I am an American Patriot. I endorse Michelle Murphy for Town

Council because she holds values that are dear to most Americans; common sense values, like generations before us; parental rights, stopping foolish waste of taxpayer dollars, education not indoctrination, government transparency, just to name a few.

Please think hard before you waste a vote. Everyone has a voice, but you have to use it.

Thank you,
STEVE FRECHETTE
DANILSON

Are you proud?

To the Editor:

How many of you MAGA's and GOP'ers are proud of what you've brought down on the American way of life?

dicts himself? For example, I'm referring to the US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement he "negotiated". Donnie Despot recently said "Who would ever sign a thing like this?" He did - brilliant.

Are you proud that Despot is the only President to be involved in a pedophile scandal?

Are you proud that a third of the federal deficit has been incurred while Despot has been in office? That's a proven fact, not a fiction of those of us who want to deal in truth. He's really been successful in cutting costs - not.

On a more positive side, the Putnam Democratic Town Committee will hold their Campaign Launch Party Tuesday, Sept. 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Bear Hands Brewing Company, 75 Main St Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz will honor us by being the Special Guest. All are invited to this gala event.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

Mercury is found in products such as:



Thermostats



Thermometers



Mercury Switches



Fluorescent Lamps

Please contact your local Board of Health or Department of Public Works for information on where to safely dispose of these items.

SPONSORED BY



GIVE YOUR CHILD AN EDGE THIS SCHOOL YEAR MARTIAL ARTS!



\$99 AND A FREE UNIFORM NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL !

WWW.QUESTMARTIALARTS.US 860-928-9218

BUILDS FOCUS CONFIDENCE SELF DISCIPLINE



QUEST MARTIAL ARTS

Leaf-peeping meets Halloween fun at Adventure Park at Storrs



STORRS — Crisp air, colorful foliage, and a little seasonal magic—fall is one of the best times to visit The Adventure Park at Storrs. The Park, known as the Storrs-Mansfield area’s premier zipline and climbing adventure experience, has just released its 2025 lineup of autumn events, filled with festive outdoor thrills for ages seven and up.

“The Adventure Park is always a favorite fall destination,” said Park Manager Jesse Pasacreta. “Cooler weather and stunning foliage make it the perfect time to experience the rush of ziplining and climbing with the backdrop of nature at its best.”

This season, guests can look forward to the Park’s signature Glow in the Park events—Saturday nights now through Oct. 25. Glow in the Park transforms the forest into a glowing wonderland, where guests climb and zipline under dazzling lights set to themed playlists ranging from 70s Disco to Singalong favorites.

October brings spooky fun with Halloween-themed Glow events on Oct. 4, 11, 18, and 25. On Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31, the Park hosts their Monster Ball, an adults only (18 and up) climb from 7 – 11 p.m.

“Our Monster Ball

Adults Only night is a fang-tastic Halloween alternative for the grown ups!” added Pasacreta.

The autumn lineup also features returning favorites and seasonal surprises:

- Firepit Fridays: Cozy up by the fire after your climb every Friday, Sept. 6 – Oct. 24.
- Iron Squirrel Challenge: Sunday, Sept. 21. Take on all nine courses in one day and claim the ultimate bragging rights as an “Iron Squirrel.”
- “E y e b a l l” Scavenger Hunt: Oct. 3 – 30. Hunt for hidden “eye-balls” around the Park and earn a treat from the

Park Store.

More details on these events, as well as tickets for all the Park’s activities, are available on the Park’s Web site, myAdventurePark.com/SAP. Participants may choose day or evening timeslots.

Non-climbing participants are admitted free of charge to share the experience on the ground and enjoy the property’s nature trails, picnic tables and community firepit.

About The Adventure Park at Storrs

The nine trails at The Adventure Park consist of various challenges in the trees, including bridges, tightropes, ladders, and 28 ziplines. Participants wear harnesses with clips that connect to the trail’s safety system, ensuring that they are always locked on to the course until they reach the end. The main trails are designed for ages seven to adult, and an Adventure Playground provides a low-to-the-

The Adventure Park at Storrs is open to the general public and is located minutes from the UConn Campus. The address is 2007 Storrs Rd. in Storrs. Walk ins are welcome on a space available basis, but guests are encouraged to book ahead on the Park’s website or by calling 860-946-0606.

The Adventure Park at Storrs is designed, built and operated by Outdoor Venture Group.

Pomfret Historical Society presents “Jordan Freeman: The Fight to Set a People Free”



POMFRET — Pomfret Historical Society will present Kevin Johnson as Jordan Freeman, an African American servant of John Ledyard and the body servant of Col. William Ledyard in the Revolutionary War at Pomfret Old town House on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 3 p.m.

Jordan Freeman was an actual enslaved person of African descent. Although he did not enlist himself, he witnessed key events of the war for independence while with Col. Ledyard. Historians estimate the number of black soldiers in this war to have been about 5,000 men, serving in militias, seagoing services, and support activities, including nearly 500 from Connecticut. Some enlisted because they felt it was their duty; others because they were offered their freedom in return for satisfactory completion of a set period of service. The presentation is based on extensive research in the collections of the Connecticut State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History at 231 Capitol Ave., opposite the State Capitol in Hartford.

Kevin Johnson is an employee of the State Library’s History and Genealogy Unit, and he has been portray-

ing Jordan Freeman for about 17 years. In addition to portraying Jordan Freeman, he has been presenting as Pvt. William Webb, a soldier in the Civil War, for 26 years and has given more than 600 presentations. The Connecticut State Library provides high quality library and information services to state government and the citizens of Connecticut. It also preserves and makes accessible the records of Connecticut’s history and heritage. The focus of the Museum and its collections is Connecticut’s government, military and industrial history. Permanent and changing exhibits trace the growth of the State and its role in the development of the nation from the colonial era to the present. Additional information about the State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History can be found on its Web page at <http://www.ctstatelibrary.org>.

The program is the third in the Pomfret Historical Society Speaker Series “The Long Road to Freedom And Justice for All” funded by an America 250 grant awarded by The Last Green Valley in 2025. The first program in February featured Dr. Jennifer Rycenga’s

research on the Black students who attend the Prudence Crandall Academy in Canterbury in 1832 and their lifelong and generational involvement in fighting for freedom, equal education, and civil rights. The second program presented by Genealogist Pauline Merrick examined evidence about the Black and Native American Revolutionary War Soldiers from Pomfret. The story of “Jordan Freeman: the Fight to Set a People Free” will engage the audience in provocative questions and community engagement as we unpack the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and the quest for equality and freedom.

Seating is limited, and reservations are recommended. Contact Donna Dufresne, Pomfret Historical Society Program director for reservations at 860-465-7228 or windsong@snet.net.

The program is free. Donations for our restoration project at the Old Town House are always welcome. Refreshments will be available.

For more information about Jordan Freeman, please contact Kevin Johnson, (860) 757-6589 or Susan Bigelow, (860) 757-6584.

Quiet Corner Garden Club offers Pollinator Gardens 101 class



WOODSTOCK — The Quiet Corner Garden Club, in conjunction with the Last Green Valley’s ‘Walktober,’ will host “Pollinator Gardens 101,” an outdoor class about native pollinators and the plants that attract them, on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m.

Led by Lanette Lepper, Vice President of the Garden Club and a Director of the Woodstock Agricultural Society, the class will be held at the Main Exhibition

Hall of the Woodstock Fairgrounds.

“This is an opportunity for local residents to learn how to attract pollinators to their gardens year-round, with an emphasis on the fall blooms that are so important. The garden at the Fairgrounds was recently certified as a Monarch Waystation and we can’t wait to share it with everyone,” said Lepper.

The event is free and open to the public. No pets, please. Rain date is

Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. Attendees should enter the fairgrounds through the service gate next to Mama Italia (formerly Java Jive) and park in the grassy area to the left (unless it’s been raining, then park on the side of the asphalt on any of the side ‘streets’).

More information can be found on the Quiet Corner Garden Club Facebook page or at www.quietcornergardenclub.com.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us @



brendan@villagernewspapers.com



Boyd secures state funding for Eastford Independent Fire House upgrades

EASTFORD — State Rep. Pat Boyd (D-Pomfret) secured \$75,000 in state funding allocated for the Eastford Independent Fire Department during the 2025 Legislative Session. The Connecticut General Assembly approved this funding as part of the 2026-2027 State Budget.

The funding was allocated to the Eastford Independent Fire Department for the 2026 Fiscal Year and will be used for necessary repairs and upgrades to the firehouse. This funding is a line item in the State Budget as part of a larger \$647,000 approved for Fiscal Year 2026, allocated to various police and fire departments across the state. The line item was included in the biennial State Budget at the request of State Representative Boyd, who serves as House Chairman of the Public Safety & Security Committee.

“The upgrades and repairs to the Eastford Independent Fire House are essential to ensure the fire department can



continue to operate in the building and first responders have access to the resources they need to help residents. Things are different in Rural areas, and state assistance is welcomed. I am thrilled to see this

funding included in the State Budget, approved by the General Assembly this year and signed into law by Governor Ned Lamont,” said Boyd. “It is important we continue to provide the necessary funding like this in the

Quiet Corner to assist towns. “This year, the fire department has been faced with crucial structural repairs to the exterior of our building. In an attempt to replace our outdated windows with ener-

gy-efficient upgrades, we found significant wood rot around the windows and the wall studs. Upon further inspection by licensed contractors, it was determined that to fix the problem, it would require removing all the

vinyl siding, repairing the rotted studs and window frames, and fixing insulation that is either missing or water-damaged. In the process of this, we will upgrade any exposed electrical and complete the project by replacing all the exterior vinyl siding,” said James Roy, Eastford Independent Fire Company President.

“Thanks to the funding Representative Pat Boyd secured for the EIFC, we will be able to replace the siding, insulation, and windows—critical improvements that will enhance the efficiency and condition of our facility. We would not have been able to afford these upgrades without his help. We are truly grateful for his continued support of the Quiet Corner emergency services,” said Doug Beaudoin, Eastford Independent Fire Department Chief.

Boyd represents Ashford, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Mansfield, Pomfret, and Woodstock.

Beautify and expand your indoor garden



Courtesy — Corona Tools

Trimming with a sharp houseplant pruners or micro snips will improve a houseplant's growth habit and size

Keep your houseplants looking their best with a bit of pinching, trimming and cleanup. A few well-placed snips can

improve a plant's appearance and create cuttings to start new plants.

Start by removing any

dead stems and leaves. Improve the overall beauty of spider plants, dracaenas and palms by trimming away the brown leaf tips caused by fluoride from tap water accumulating in the leaves. Avoid the problem by using rainwater, well water or water treated by reverse osmosis.

Trimming to improve the plant's growth habit and size can provide immediate and long-term benefits. Removing a small or large portion of the stem tip encourages the plant to form more branches and compact growth. When you remove the stem tip you reduce the amount of the growth hormone auxin that promotes upward growth and discourages branching.

Encourage more branching without greatly reducing the plant's size with a soft pinch. Remove just the uppermost portion of the stem where new leaves are developing. Use a hard pinch to remove the tip and several inches of the leafy stem when you want to reduce the overall size and promote fuller growth on leggy plants.

Make a clean cut using sharp micro snips or pruners like Corona's houseplant pruners (coronatools.com). The rust proof, stainless steel blades can cut up to a quarter inch in diameter and are shaped to make it easier to cut the intended leaves and stems. Your plant will look better, and the wound will close more quickly.

Avoid leaving stubs and keep the plant looking its best by making cuts above a set of healthy leaves or a node, the place where leaves once grew. Pruning elsewhere distracts from the plant's appearance and the stubs create entryways for insects and disease.

When you finish pinching and pruning, do a bit of cleanup. Use a dry or damp soft cloth to wipe away any dust that accumulates on the leaves. Use a cosmetic brush to clean fuzzy leaved plants like African violets. Or give your plants a gentle warm shower in the sink or tub. Wrap the pot in a plastic bag if needed to keep soil out of the drain and plumbing. Removing the dust allows more light to reach the



GARDEN MOMENTS
• • • • •
MELINDA MYERS

leaves for photosynthesis which is essential for plant growth.

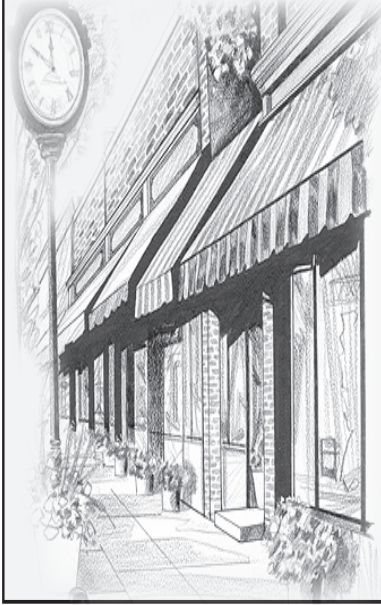
Use the trimmings from heirloom and non-patented plants to expand your houseplant collection. It's easy to start new plants from leaf stem cuttings of various houseplants like inch plants, philodendron, pothos, dieffenbachias, dracaenas, and many more. Use a sharp knife, snips or bypass pruners to cut three- to six-inch-long pieces from firm, mature non-woody stems.

Remove the lowest leaf or two from the stem where roots will form. Stick the cutting in a small container filled with vermiculate, perlite or a well-drained potting mix. Loosely cover the potted cutting with a plastic bag left open at the top to increase the humidity around the

cutting while it forms roots. Set the container in a bright location out of direct sun for several weeks as the roots develop. Once rooted, pot it up and place it in a space that receives the sunlight it prefers.

You'll be amazed at how a bit of grooming and propagating can perk up a tired indoor garden. Share or trade extra rooted cuttings with family and friends so each of you can grow your indoor garden and memories.

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



Community Connection

Cormier JEWELERS
42 Central St. Southbridge

Owned and operated by the Cormier family since 1947.

Free jewelry inspection!
Jewelry repairs on-site!
Custom jewelry design!
Jewelry appraisals!
We buy gold!

ONLY IN SOUTHBRIDGE!
www.Cormiers.com
Call or Text (508) 764-7415

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!

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

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

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

Find Us on Social Media

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

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

PSA soccer programs look forward to fall season

PUTNAM — With the resurrection of the women’s soccer program at Putnam Science Academy, the upcoming fall season is one of promise in the eyes of both teams and their coaches.

Women’s Soccer: Rebirth of a program

The women’s soccer program at Putnam Science Academy lay dormant until 2025. That is when the school decided it would bring back the women’s program to the school’s sports catalog. Coach Matt Johnson has the Mustangs off to a stellar start. He attributes the early success of the program to a summer connection through WhatsApp where the team and Coach Johnson “shared our experiences and journey with one another as way to connect and get to know each other from both a player and person standpoint. So upon arrival there was already an immediate connection and sense of chemistry.” Manolea Silva and Gabriela Mendes have

served as the ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, a concoction creating an offensive explosion. Silva and Mendes have combined for 15 goals through the team’s first seven games. Other contributions have come from Luana Mendes and Vega Larru who are starting off the season on the right foot.

One of the areas that Johnson has stressed through the early goings is the process rather than results. The team participated in various noncompetitive team building challenges to grasp the concept of equal acceptance and not having to worry about their performance, according to Johnson. “I encourage the players to be brave, confident in their abilities individually and as a team, to take chances and play without fear of mistakes, as this is their experience and should enjoy the journey and moments together as a team,” he said. Johnson praised Coach Chris Steele, the men’s prep coach and Director of Soccer Operations at Putnam Science

Academy, for putting together such an incredibly talented group of young players. Players who have equal success in the team’s strong start and those that put their desires for individual accomplishments in the rear view while helping to build their teammates up for the betterment for the team overall. Johnson acknowledges that it is extremely early in the season, but sees the “unlimited potential” and the capability of the team to compete against elite competition. “We will continue to develop as a team, build our chemistry and focus on supporting each other through good sportsmanship, hard work and a desire to compete,” he said. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the rebirth of the Putnam Science Academy women’s soccer program is alive and aglow with colors of potential and success. Assembled on the pitch, these collections of Mustangs are equipped for greatness.

Men’s Soccer: A season of promise

As the new season approaches, the Putnam Science Academy (PSA) men’s soccer team is generating considerable excitement and anticipation. Coach Steele, known for his strategic acumen and commitment to player development, has provided valuable insights into what makes this team special and what fans can expect in the coming months. Notably, PSA is currently ranked #24 in the United States prep school rankings, a testament to their hard work and potential.

When asked about his primary source of excitement for the season, Coach Steele emphasized the team’s immense potential for growth and unity. “We have a group of players who are not only skilled but also eager to learn and improve,” he noted. “The opportunity to mold this talent and create a cohesive unit is what I find most thrilling. I am confident that as the season progress-

es, we will see significant development both individually and collectively.” This focus on continuous improvement and team cohesion sets a promising tone for the season.

Identifying the team’s greatest strength, Coach Steele highlighted the team’s overall balance and depth.

“Our strength lies in the collective effort and quality across all positions,” he explained. “We have talented players in every area of the field, and there are very few gaps in our lineup. This balance allows us to be competitive in all phases of the game and provides flexibility in our tactical approach.” With such comprehensive strength, PSA is well-prepared to handle the challenges of the season.

Steele articulated his vision for the team’s identity, stating, “I want this team to be known for being tough and resilient. We will be relentless in our work ethic, disciplined in our approach,

and highly organized in our play. We will never give up, and we will always compete with integrity and sportsmanship.”

This emphasis on hard work, discipline, and organization reflects Coach Steele’s commitment to instilling values that extend beyond the soccer field.

What truly distinguishes this year’s team, according to Coach Steele, is the players’ character and unwavering commitment.

“What makes this team special is the character of the players,” he affirmed. “They are willing to work hard, sacrifice for the team, and maintain a positive attitude, even in the face of adversity. Their dedication to each other and to the program is truly remarkable.”

This combination of talent, character, and commitment creates a unique and promising dynamic within the team.

The week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

Boys Soccer

Woodstock Academy 3 Windham 1
The Centaurs opened their season on the road Sept. 2 with an Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I win over the Whippets. Pedro DaSilva scored in the first half while Tyler Odorski and Brayden De Oliveira added second half tallies. Zach Armbruster had two assists in the

win and Matt Johndrow added one.
Woodstock Academy 2 Ellis Tech 0
Two goals in the first three minutes. It’s what the Centaurs accomplished against the Eagles on Sept. 3, and all they needed to improve to 2-0 on the season. Brayden De Oliveira found the back of the net off a set play as Nate Faucher’s corner landed

in the middle of the penalty area and De Oliveira lifted it off the cross bar and it bounced down across the goal line. Just moments later, junior Matt Johndrow took a pass from Zach Armbruster, his third assist of the season, and converted to account for the winning margin for Woodstock Academy. The loss for Ellis Tech came in its season opener.

Girls Volleyball

Woodstock Academy 3 Fitch 0
A revamped starting lineup for the Centaurs opened the season on a high note Sept. 2 with the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I shutout victory on the road. Woodstock Academy lost five of its seven starters from a year ago to graduation but posted 25-19, 25-22, 25-17 scores for the straight set win. Kennedy McCooley led the way offensively with 13 kills while Kaylee Bundy added 10. Lily Morgis had 28 assists, Gianna Musumeci 13 digs and Vivian Bibeau 10 service points.

Woodstock Academy 3 Montville 1
The two returning starters from last year’s Centaurs played large roles in their second win of the season on Sept. 4. Kaylee Bundy was impressive on the front line with 18 kills and 12 digs for Woodstock Academy (2-0) while Vivian Bibeau produced from behind the service line with 24 points and five aces.

The Centaurs jumped out in front with a 25-23 first set win but lost their first set of the season when the Wolves posted a 25-22 second set victory. Woodstock Academy finished things off with 25-17 and 25-16 victories in the last two sets. Kennedy McCooley tossed in 10 kills for the Centaurs and everyone up front got help from setter Lily Morgis who finished with 34 assists.

Coventry 3 Woodstock Academy 1
For the first time, the Centaurs played in the South Campus gym at Woodstock Academy on Sept. 4, as a broken water pipe has rendered the main Fieldhouse gymnasium at the school unusable. The Patriots, however, spoiled the Centaurs debut on their new home floor. Coventry took the first set, 25-21, only to see the Centaurs tie the match with a 25-22 victory. The Patriots recorded the victory by taking the last two sets 25-20 and 25-14. Setter Lily Morgis had a good outing for Woodstock Academy (2-1) with 29 assists and 17 service points. Libero Gianna Musumeci had 24 digs and Vivian Bibeau recorded 14 kills.

Woodstock Academy 3

Griswold 2
The match appeared to be on its way to a conclusion on Sept. 8 when the Centaurs won the first two sets on their home floor, 25-18 and 25-19.

The Wolverines had other ideas as they answered with two wins of their own, 25-11 and 26-24, to force the fifth and decisive set. Woodstock Academy pulled out the 15-9 victory to improve to 3-1 on the season. Libero Gianna Musumeci had 20 digs and 11 service points including six aces for the Centaurs. Kaylee Bundy led the offense with 14 kills for Woodstock Academy while Lily Morgis had 23 assists.

Girls Soccer

Woodstock Academy 0 Stonington 0
A Bears-Centaurs matchup is always close, and the season opener for both on Sept. 3 did not disappoint, as neither team found the net. Ellary Sampson

turned aside 12 shots for Woodstock Academy while Stonington keeper Payton Stone stopped a penalty kick by the Centaurs in the second half.

Woodstock Academy 0 Waterford 0
For a second consecutive match on Sept. 4, the Centaurs held their opponents scoreless but also could not find the back of the net. Ellary Sampson made seven saves in net for the Centaurs (0-0-2, 0-0-2 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I). The Lancers are now 0-1-1, 0-1-1.

Somers 1 Woodstock Academy 0
Three matches into the season, and the Centaurs are still looking for their first goal. The visiting Spartans took advantage on Sept. 8 as sophomore Mackenzie Smith tallied just 2 ½ minutes into the second half and the goal held up. Woodstock Academy (0-1-2) did put a ball in the net but had it disallowed by an offside call.

Killingly sports wrap-up

Girls Soccer
In their home opener on Sept. 3, the Killingly Girls Soccer team defeated Windham with a strong offensive performance and a stellar defensive effort. Nina Purcell kicked off the scoring just three minutes into the game. Right before halftime, Aislynn Hassett crossed the ball to Rowan Frazer, who scored her first varsity goal. In the second half, Gracie Pekarovic-West added another goal, and Purcell scored her second of the night with an assist from Lylah Connetti. Goalie McKenna Mulvey played the entire 80 minutes, securing a shutout for the team.

Girls Volleyball

Killing 1-0 Putnam 0-2
The Killingly Volleyball team traveled to Putnam on Thursday, Sept. 4. The JV started off their season with a win defeating Putnam, 2 sets to none, 25-13, 25-15. Playing well on JV were, Lyla Rondeau, Anna Kelly, Addison Lucier and Ellsie Antobenedetto. The Varsity team also started off their season with a win as well, defeating Putnam 3 sets to none, 25-19, 25-18, 25-20. Danielle

Veillette had 17 digs, 5 aces, 3 kills; Shyah Baker had 2 aces, 8 assists, 3 kills, Jayden Durand had 6 kills, 6 aces; Kayla Drinkwater had 4 kills and Teagan Klewin had 4 blocks to lead Cheney. The team hosted Plainfield High School on Saturday, Sept. 6. The New Player’s team lost to Plainfield in 2 close sets, 0 sets to 2, 24-26, 23-25. The JV record rose to 2-0, defeating Plainfield 2 sets to 0, 25-9, 25-14. Lillian McDonald had 2 assists; Lyla Rondeau had 2 digs, 2 aces; Hailee James had 5 aces, 3 assists; Loretta had 2 kills; and Ella Adams had 3 kills to lead Killingly. Final Score: Killingly 2-0, Plainfield 1-1 25-23, 25-21, 13-25, 25-22 The Varsity record rose to 2-0, defeating Plainfield 3 sets to 1, 25-23, 25-21, 13-25, 25-22. Danielle Veillette had 10 digs, 5 aces, 2 kills; Kayla Drinkwater had 4 kills; Jaliyah Blair had 3 blocks, 5 kills; Shyah Baker had 2 blocks, 2 aces, 11 assists, 4 kills; and Jayden Durand had 10 kills, 2 aces to lead Killingly. Killingly was slated to hosta Wheeler High School after deadline on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Memorial bench to be dedicated in memory of Mary Kies

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Historic District Commission invites the community to a dedication ceremony for the Mary Kies Memorial Bench Sunday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. at Lions Park. Join us as we honor the legacy of Mary Kies, born and raised in Killingly and the first woman in the United States to receive a patent, with the dedication of a memorial bench in her name. Celebrate a pioneer in American innovation and women’s history with a brief ceremony, words of remembrance, and community gathering.

For more information, please contact the Killingly Town Hall at (860) 779-5300, ext. 7.

New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

POMFRET — The recently formed Together We Can Do It Al-Anon Family Group is meeting at Christ Church in Pomfret (Route 169) on Tuesdays at noon. Enter the lower level through the door by the flagpole in the pollinator garden. This is an open meeting, meaning not only family and friends of people suffering from the effects of addiction are welcome, but also professionals who may have clients they would like to recommend attend the meetings. Al-Anon is a worldwide program for people just like you, who are worried about someone with a drinking problem. This Pomfret group will also welcome folks concerned about someone suffering from drug addiction. Utilizing the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, the group will discuss the Steps, Concepts, and Traditions as well as offer support for your specific situation. No advice is given; understanding and support in a confidential setting are the largest benefits of membership in the group. For more information about Al-Anon, visit www.al-anon.org. For information about the meeting in Pomfret, call 203-561-7954.

Greater Putnam Interfaith Council celebrates Day of Peace

PUTNAM — The Greater Putnam Interfaith Council invites residents to a celebration in honor of the United Nations International Day of Peace on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. The program will be held at the Living Faith United Methodist Church, 53 Grove St., featuring music, readings, prayers, information, refreshments and fellowship. Non-perishable food and donations will be collected for Daily Bread.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us @

brendan@villagernewspapers.com

SEND

Setting people free

Suppose you have the courage and privilege to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. With the help of a guide, you fly to a beautiful island that few tourists ever get to see. You then hike into a remote village that has recently been discovered and celebrated for its beauty and non-existent crime-rate.

As you crest the hill your eyes are bombarded with beauty everywhere; exquisite cottages, lush gardens, clear blue water and the laughter of happy people. Your guide settles you into your ocean-view cottage. You shower and munch on a mango while perusing the menu of the resort restaurant, which has been highly recommended. Minutes later, you enter the restaurant, and the hostess greets you with a broad smile. But you are taken back at the sight. This otherwise healthy person's teeth are black and decaying. But you are quickly distracted as you are seated by a window overlooking the crystal-clear ocean.

Soon, your waiter



BEYOND
THE PEWS
• • • • •
BY BISHOP
JOHN W.
HANSON
ACTS II
MINISTRIES

comes to the table. He also greets you with a broad smile, and you are shocked to see that he, too, has blackened teeth and bleeding gums. If fact you soon notice that every native villager has rotten teeth.

Upon returning to your room, your curiosity overtakes you and you ask the resort hostess the awkward question. “What is wrong with everyone’s teeth?”

“Nothing that I know of,” she replies.

You venture further, “Do you have any toothbrushes or toothpaste I could purchase?”

That starts a conversation you thought you would never have. She explains that she has never heard of such a thing. So you

go to your luggage and retrieve your oral hygiene supplies so you can demonstrate and explain that regular brushing keeps teeth strong and clean. But she is not convinced. She asks you to explain to a few co-workers. Several of them take a little toothpaste and put it on the tip of their tongue. They immediately grimace at the strong taste and declare: “I don’t see how you could even stand to put this in your mouth. And the brush looks painful. Nobody around here does anything like you are suggesting. I don’t think we’re interested.”

Oral hygiene is an optional freedom from tooth decay. If you try to offer this freedom to someone who is unfamiliar with it, they may think you are strange. You may likely leave that place not having been able to help anyone. But that doesn’t mean it doesn’t work.

One day as Jesus taught he made two statements: “And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” and “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

(John 8:32,36)

God sets us free from many things. Then He asks us to help him set others free. But, many times, His freedom involves choices that are counter-cultural or go against the advice of “experts.” This can be frustrating, because many times people’s mindsets, fears and cultures can be so strong that they will resist freedom. But it is not proof that God’s ways do not set people free; it is only proof that many people won’t try God’s ways.

Jesus said he came to set at liberty those that are bound. Very few immediately took Him up on His offer. But eventually many were set free by His life and ministry. Even today God may have set some of us free from some things. Others may not believe or understand when we try to share those truths with them. But we should still offer. Maybe someone will be brave enough to let God set them free.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. Please learn more at www.ActsII.org.

Access hosting free “Mortgages 101” workshop in Willimantic

WILLIMANTIC — Ready to take the first step toward owning your own home? The Access Housing Education and Counseling Center (HECC) invites you to join our Mortgages 101 Workshop, presented by Cheryl Guillot, Residential Mortgage Loan Officer at Centreville Bank, on Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 5-6:30 p.m. at Access Community Action Agency, 1315 Main St., Willimantic.

And yes—dinner is on us, courtesy of Centreville Bank!

This exciting workshop is part of our popular “Creating a Pathway

to Homeownership” series—now available in Willimantic! Whether you’re just starting to dream about homeownership or you’re ready to take the leap, this workshop will break down the mortgage process in plain language so you can make informed, confident decisions.

Is this workshop for you?

Buying a home is a dream you want to make real

You feel overwhelmed by all the mortgage info out there

You want clear, practical guidance from an expert

You love free dinner (and great advice!)

Still wondering if it’s worth it? Listen to Carmen, a past participant in the series, who said, “We’ve learned so much—from understanding the steps to buying a first home, to practical advice on managing debt and saving effectively. My son and I are already putting into practice what we’ve learned and remain hopeful and excited as we continue to move closer to applying and purchasing our first home.”

Seats are limited—don’t miss this free opportunity to get expert advice, enjoy a delicious

meal, and take a giant step toward your future.

To register, email Helen Scanlon, Program Manager – HECC, at helen.scanlon@access-agency.org.

Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency for northeastern Connecticut. We are committed to providing food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable, limited-income families and individuals throughout the region.

Mountain Laurel Floral Designs announces fun September events

DANIELSON — Mountain Laurel Floral Designs, a locally owned flower and gift shop in the heart of Danielson, is inviting the community to a full slate of creative and inspiring events this September. From hands-on workshops to family-friendly gatherings, each event is designed to bring people together through art, sustainability, and local connection. Visit mountainlaurelfloralct.com for more information and to register for events.

September event lineup

Macramé for Plants
Sept. 13 | 9 – 10:30 a.m.
Join Sweet Designs to learn how to craft your

own macramé plant hanger—perfect for adding color and texture to your indoor plants.

Free Story Hour with Local Author Julia Kneeland
Sept. 20 | 9 – 10 a.m.

Bring the little ones to enjoy a lively reading from Julia Kneeland, featuring the latest adventure

of the lovable pup, Jig. A fun and free event for kids of all ages.

Herbal Teas 101 with Gigi’s Essentials
Sept. 26 | 6 – 7 p.m.
Learn the art of blending, steeping, and sipping herbal teas with Gianna

of Gigi’s Essentials.

Participants will take home a custom tea blend and beautiful tea accessories.

Needle Felted Jack-O’Lanterns
Sept. 27 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Get into the fall spirit with artist Susan Scott Kenney as she teaches the whimsical art of needle

felting. Make your own wool Jack O’Lantern just in time for spooky season!

About Mountain Laurel Floral Designs
Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is more than a flower shop—it’s a

space where community, sustainability, and artistry flourish. Owned by local flower farmers Gabby and Pam, the shop is

located at 98 Main Street in Danielson, Connecticut, and specializes in fresh, seasonal blooms

grown in southeastern New England.

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

Paws hosting annual Chicken BBQ Sept. 28

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is hosting its 10th Annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 64 Providence St. in Putnam.

Meal includes half chicken, baked potato, salad and roll. Eat in or take out. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at Paws Cat Shelter, 74 School St., Putnam, Joseph Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam and at Knights of Columbus.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more information or how you can donate, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

Killingly Public Schools Public Media Release for Connecticut School Nutrition Programs

School Year 2025-26

The Killingly Public Schools announced today its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced-price meals served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), or free milk served under the Special Milk Program (SMP).

Local school officials have adopted the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for family size and income criteria for determining eligibility. The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for determining participant’s eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals and free milk in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs: July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

Free Meals

Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	20,345	1,696	848	783	392
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354
Each additional family member	7,150	596	298	275	138

Reduced-price Meals

Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
Each additional family member	10,175	848	424	392	196

The income calculations above are based on the following formulas:

- monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12;
- twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24;
- income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and
- weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52.

All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

Students residing in households with income at or below the levels shown in the chart above are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals or free milk through SMP. **Applications will be sent home with students on the first day of school.** To apply for free or reduced-price school meals or free milk through SMP, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. **Additional copies of the application are available from each school or on the KPS website.** Only one application is required per household and an application for free or reduced-price school meals cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions.

The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purposes of determining eligibility and for administration and enforcement of the lunch, breakfast, and milk programs through SMP. Additionally, all school-aged students in income-eligible households can receive school meal benefits regardless of a student’s immigration status and the district/school does not release information for immigration-related purposes in the usual course of operating the CNPs. Note that the district may share your eligibility information with education, health, social service, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. This information may also be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

No application is required if the district directly certifies a student based on a household member receiving assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program. All students in these households are eligible for free school meals or free milk through SMP. The school district will notify households receiving assistance under the SNAP/TFA programs of their eligibility and all enrolled students residing in the household will be offered free school meals or free milk through SMP unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free meal or milk benefits extended to those students. Households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits for their children should only submit an application if they are **not** notified of their eligibility by **September 15, 2025**.

Some students may be directly certified for free or reduced-price meals or milk through SMP based on HUSKY A (Medicaid). No application is required if the district directly certifies a student based on participation in HUSKY A (Medicaid). Students in these households are likely eligible for free or reduced-price meal or milk benefits and will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be offered free or reduced-price school meals or milk through the SMP, unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free or reduced-price school meals or milk benefits extended to those students.

Additionally, some students may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk through SMP if the students were determined to be eligible for Summer Electronic Benefits (S-EBT). No application is required if the district determines that a student is eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk under participation in S-EBT. Students in these households are likely eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits and will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be offered free or reduced-price school meals or free milk accordingly, unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free or reduced-price school meals or milk benefits extended to those students.

If a student is not directly certified, the household should complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application form. The application for households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits require the SNAP or TFA client ID number and the households may be asked to provide proof of the SNAP or TFA client ID number. The signature of an adult household member is also required.

Students in households participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Please complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application or contact the determining official for more information. For a tutorial on how to complete the application, visit [How to fill out the Application for Free and Reduced-price Meals or Free Milk and Summer EBT](#).

When known to the district/school, households will be notified of any student’s eligibility for free school meals if the individual student is “Other Source Categorically Eligible” because the student is categorized as either: homeless; runaway as defined by law and determined by the district’s or school’s homeless liaison; or enrolled in an eligible Head Start or pre-kindergarten class as defined by law. Households with students who are categorically eligible under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs should complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application and check-off the relevant box. Questions should be directed to the determining official. For any student not listed on the eligibility notice, the households should contact the school or determining official about any student also eligible under one of these programs or should submit an income application for the other students.

Households notified of their children’s eligibility must contact the determining official or school if it chooses to decline the free school meal benefits. If households/students are **not** notified by the district/school of their meal benefits and they receive benefits under qualifying public assistance programs or under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs, the parent/guardian should contact the determining official for their school.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are categorically eligible for free school meals. A foster parent does not have to complete a

free/reduced-price school meal application if they can submit a copy of the legal document or legal court order showing that the student is a foster child. Additionally, a foster child may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced-price school meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving free school meals. A foster child’s eligibility for free school meals does not automatically extend to all students in the household.

Free and reduced-price school meals application forms for all other households require a statement of total household income, household size, and names of all household members. The last four digits of the social security number of an adult household member must be included or a statement that the household member does not have one. The adult household member must also sign the application certifying that the information provided is correct.

Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals, the **Determining Official, Sue Theroux**, stheroux@killinglyschools.org, **860-779-6605** will review applications and determine students’ eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals. If a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If they wish to make a formal appeal, a request either orally or in writing, may be made to **Sue Nash-Ditzel**, **Superintendent of Schools**, snash@killinglyschools.org, **860-779-6600** for a hearing to appeal the decision.

The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure. Each school and the central office of the school district has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by an interested party.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes at any time, the household should contact the school to file a new free and reduced-price school meals application. Such changes may make the students of the household eligible for reduced-price school meals, free school meals, or free milk, if the household income falls at or below the levels shown in the Income Eligibility Guidelines.

Questions regarding the free and reduced-price school meals application process may be directed to the determining official at **860-779-6605**. A video tutorial on how to complete a free and reduced-price school meals application can be viewed at [How to fill out the Application for Free and Reduced-price Meals or Free Milk and Summer EBT](#).

This is the Public Release we will send on **9/8/2025** to the following news media outlets, the local unemployment office, major employers contemplating layoffs, etc.

1. Killingly Villager

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CONSERVATION

continued from page A1

Memorial Forest), the Quandoc Conservation Area, and the Mason Hill Conservation Area, all popular hiking and outdoor recreation spaces. The Commission has updated the kiosks at all these locations, improved mapping, and added new notices to keep visitors aware of local events and trail restrictions.

Commission members have also taken it upon themselves to update paint markings along trails, adding new plastic markers that last longer and are similar to other markers utilized by trails across the state. Another new addition has been the embrace of geocaching, an activity that encourages visitors to utilize GPS markers to locate hidden treasures within the recreation areas.

The Council had heavy praise for the Conservation

Commission and their work. Member Ed Grandelski was the first to offer his compliments.

“The Conservation Commission is very busy, very active, even interacting with the Recreation Department – They’re very busy on all the properties, trying to keep them open, and it’s a very positive commission,” he said.

The geocaching element specifically caught the attention of Council Chair Jason Anderson who said he had joined the craze some time ago and knows from experience how enjoyable the hobby can be.

“I was actually excited to hear about your promoting geocaching having done it myself years ago – I was surprised how many different places there are in the area where you could go and do that,” Anderson said, likening the experience to a treasure hunt.

The Council also complimented the brochures

and public information fliers as “top notch” and a good advertisement for visitors to explore Killingly. The Commission said that they have been able to stay within their budget even though investments like the brochures can come at a high expense. While they utilize every penny of their allotment each year, they aren’t struggling in their attempt to provide the best experiences and raise awareness of the hidden gems in their community.

The Conservation Commission consists of seven members whose mission is to record open areas in the town and work with the community, especially in advising the Planning & Zoning Commission, on the use and preservation of the land. Their website contains information on all of the conservation areas within the town. Those looking to learn more can visit the site at killingly-conservation.org.

BLIGHT

continued from page A1

pay the taxes on it, they should have the right to do what they want. I think if a blight ordinance is too restrictive then it infringes on the property owner’s rights. I think if it could be written in a way that it wasn’t too restrictive then it could be good,” Witkowski said.

Thompson Veterans Agent Renee Morin offered his input as a citizen noting that despite the prior votes failing at a town meeting, he believes the outcome would be dif-

ferent if it were handled through a ballot vote.

“It’s came up twice at a town meeting, where the opposition stacked those meetings. I think there’s a small minority of people who are against the blight ordinance in town and they came out. I think if a Board of Selectman brought it to a question at a town referendum, I think you’d have a blight ordinance passed 80 percent or more,” said Morin.

He added that he feels previous Board of Selectmen never gave the ordinance a true chance to pass and that prior

attempts were “set up to fail.”

The selectmen acknowledged that there are many new citizens in town whose opinions may differ from those at prior town meetings. However, it’s unlikely a new blight ordinance will come before the taxpayers anytime soon. All three current selectmen have decided not to run for re-election in November opening the door for an entirely new board that may or may not choose to address the issue themselves in the coming years.

OBITUARIES

Roger Stephen Nelson
July 12, 1939 - July 31, 2025

Roger S Nelson, of Brooklyn CT chose to live out his remaining days as he had his previous 86. He opted for the path of nature and contemplation. Diagnosed in May with cancer he decided to allow his body to sustain itself without invasive treatment and release his spirit into the universe in its time. He was frail but hopeful. His nephew visited morning and evening; on July 31, 2025 when he entered, Roger didn’t return his greeting.

Roger, never married, is survived by 4 of his S siblings, Charles Nelson of Sandy, Utah, Janet Nelson Geoghegan of Ellington, CT, Karen Nelson Sutera of Quaker Hill, CT and Thomas Nelson of Cape Charles, VA. He had 10 nieces & nephews, was a great & great-great uncle as well. He was predeceased by his parents, Clarence & Ethel Beard

Nelson of Hamden, his oldest brother, Curtis Nelson and a niece, Paige Nelson of Gales Ferry, CT.

Roger was an Army veteran. He loved the outdoors, worked at the Quinnebaug Valley State Fish Hatchery. He enjoyed ice hockey, golf and cycling. He collected sap and made maple syrup, hand-crafted custom knives and composed poetry.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 2:00Pm, rain or shine at:

Westbrook Fishing Club 272 North West Corner Road in North Stonington, CT

For a more detailed accounting of Roger’s life, please visit adamscremationct.com

The family thanks funeral director, John Adamcewicz at this critical time.

Linda M. Renaud, 82



Linda M. Renaud, 82, of Danielson, CT passed away Friday, September 5, 2025 at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, CT. She was the beloved wife of Robert R. Renaud. She was born on September 29, 1942 in North Grosvenordale, CT, daughter of the late Glen and Yvonne (Demers) Leveille.

Linda was a Communicant of St. James Church in Danielson, CT. She loved spending her time with her family. In her younger years she enjoyed dancing.

In addition to her husband Robert R. Renaud “Bob” of Danielson, CT; Linda is survived by her daughter Heidi Montigny and her husband Roger and their children Devon, Brandy and

Colin; her son Robert Renaud II and his wife Cathy and their son Chad; her daughter Krystle Burdick and her husband Brian and their children Brianna, Carly, Killian, Owen, Gabriel and Isaac; her sister Connie Leveille; her brother Glen Leveille, Jr. and his wife Cheryl; her six great grandchildren Austin, Chloe, Weston, Remy, Lyla and Dominic. Also, many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made Parkinson’s Foundation New England Chapter, Attn: Donor Services 5757 Waterford District Drive, Suite 310, Miami, FL 33126

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 10:00 AM at St. James Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery Danielson, CT. Share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com

Marguerite Wasstrom, 97



Marguerite Wasstrom, 97, of Brooklyn passed away peacefully on Friday August 1, 2025 at Pierce Memorial Baptist Home in Brooklyn. Peg was born in Dobbs Ferry, NY on June 4, 1928, daughter of the late James and Margaret (Dodds) Morton. She grew up on the banks of the Hudson River together with her sisters who she loved deeply, Sally and Irene. She was the widow of the late Roland Wasstrom with whom she had a good run. Peg was a pioneer in her own right – one of only two women in her college of horticultural studies who went on to own and operate two businesses in her lifetime: a printing shop, The Letter Shop and an antique shop, the Peddler. She was a

master gardener and a longtime member of the Federated Church of Christ of Brooklyn whose faith was deeply embodied in her daily life. Peg treasured her family, her Scottish ancestry and her friendships. She was known for her strong work ethic and deep compassion. She continues on in her daughters Susan Wasstrom and Lucy Krause both of Brooklyn, son in law, John Krause, grandchildren, Ailla Wasstrom-Evans and Dan Evans, David, Chad, Michael and Laura Krause, and her great grandchildren, Hannele, Jackson, Carter, Oliver, Tyler, Emma and Annika. A memorial service will be held on Saturday September 20, 2025, at 12:00 PM at the Federated Church of Christ in Brooklyn Center. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Federated Church, PO Box 204, Brooklyn CT 06234. tillinghast-fh.com

FARM

continued from page A1

Joy Flower Farm has created something rare in today’s world. It is a local business rooted in both agriculture and kindness.

Residents who want to support the mission can shop at the weekly Putnam Saturday Market or visit the farm’s flower stand on Sundays from 10 am - 1 pm. Each sale helps the farm continue to deliver flowers to those who may not be able to

buy them for themselves. Supporters can also make a direct donation to the farm’s flower giving program. These contributions go toward growing, arranging, and delivering seasonal bouquets to local care facilities each week, bringing smiles to those who need it most.

For more information about Sharing Joy Flower Farm or to make a donation, visit sharingjoyflow-ers.com or follow them on Facebook or Instagram at [@sharingjoyflowerfarm](https://www.instagram.com/sharingjoyflowerfarm).

About Sharing Joy Flower Farm

Sharing Joy Flower Farm is a family-owned flower farm in Woodstock, Connecticut. They grow seasonal blooms using sustainable practices and sell them at local markets. Their mission is to spread positivity throughout their community by donating fresh bouquets to hospitals, patients, and nursing homes.



LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Marc Steven Bates (25-00317)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 3, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Victoria Bates
c/o CHRISTIAN GEORGE SARANTOPOULOS, SARANTOPOULOS &, SARANTOPOULOS, LLC, 143 SCHOOL STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239
September 12, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Frank Estey (25-00308)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 26, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Christine McAskill, 24 Rockrimmon Road, Kingston, NH 03848
September 12, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Roger Stephen Nelson (25-00314))

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of

Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 27, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Craig Nelson, 149 Whalehead Road, Gales Ferry, CT 06335
September 12, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE
WOODSTOCK PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Woodstock PZC will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 7:45 p.m. at Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169, Woodstock, for the following:

1. Application #666-07-25 Text Amendment to Zoning Regulations, Adding Definition and Regulations for “Managed Residential Communities.” Applicant: Kenneth Pelc/KM Villa State, LLC.

The public may speak and submit written communications until the close of the public hearing. Details of the application are available from the Town Planner, landuse@woodstockct.gov or available in the Land Use Office.

David Morse
Chairman
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Walter Lipponen (23-00346)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such

claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Kristin Profetto-Mayo, 2178 Christian Hill Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234
Lisa Profetto, 1521 County Road, Walpole, NH 03608
September 12, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Vivian D Clark, AKA Vivian D Gregoire (25-00328)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 29, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
ERNEST J COTNOIR, MAHER AND COTNOIR, 163 PROVIDENCE STREET, P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260
September 12, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF

Gail H Jackson (25-00333)

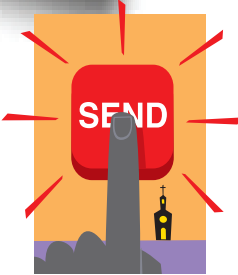
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 29, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Erik Jackson, 67 Breezy Lane, Quinebaug, CT 06262
Matthew Bard, 31 William Fairfield Drive, Wenham, MA 01984
September 12, 2025

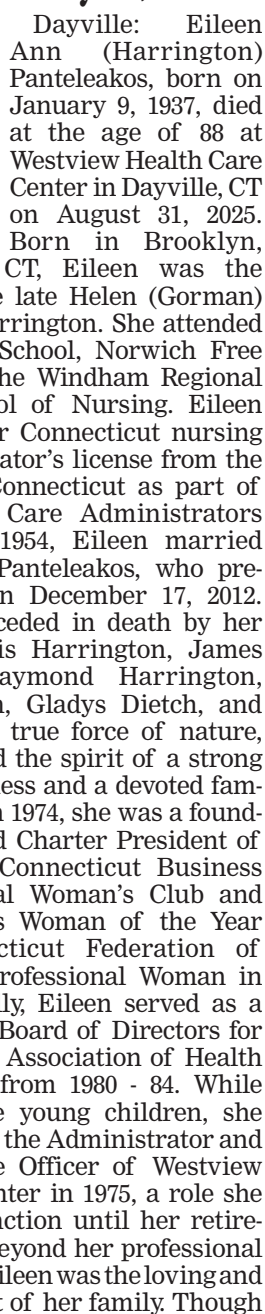
SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



brendan@
villagernewspapers.com



Eileen A. Panteleakos
January 9, 1937 – August 31, 2025



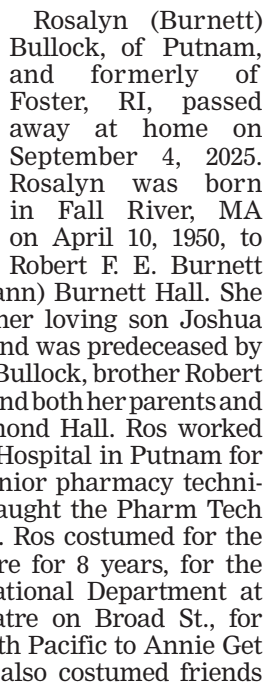
daughter of the late Helen (Gorman) and Thomas Harrington. She attended Killingly High School, Norwich Free Academy, and the Windham Regional Technical School of Nursing. Eileen later earned her Connecticut nursing home administrator's license from the University of Connecticut as part of its Long-Term Care Administrators Program. In 1954, Eileen married Arthur "Tim" Panteleakos, who predeceased her on December 17, 2012. She is also preceded in death by her siblings, Francis Harrington, James Harrington, Raymond Harrington, Doris Anderson, Gladys Dietch, and Mary Stula. A true force of nature, Eileen embodied the spirit of a strong woman in business and a devoted family matriarch. In 1974, she was a founding member and Charter President of the Northeast Connecticut Business and Professional Woman's Club and was honored as Woman of the Year by the Connecticut Federation of Business and Professional Woman in 1978. Additionally, Eileen served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities from 1980 - 84. While raising her five young children, she took the helm as the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of Westview Health Care Center in 1975, a role she held with distinction until her retirement in 2001. Beyond her professional achievements, Eileen was the loving and thoughtful heart of her family. Though

Frank Maurice Murray, 100



Addie Murray. Frank attended schools in Abington, Putnam and the then Putnam Trade School before enlisting in 1943. Frank was a WWII veteran having served in the Italian theater as a combat infantryman and was awarded several campaign ribbons and the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB). After the war Frank continued serving in the National Guard in both infantry and MP units until 1959. In 1945 he married the late Helen (Nachyly) Murray who passed away in 1983. Frank and Helen resided in the Goodyear, now Rogers Ct., and together they had four children who all survive them. Helen Richardson (David) of Woodstock Ct., Janice Allsworth (Charles) of Situate R.I., John Murray (Shirley) of Danielson Ct., and Richard Murray (Kathy) of Brooklyn Ct. In 1984 Frank married Doris Pope of Voluntown Ct. Frank and Doris were married 27 years until her passing in 2011. A step daughter, Nancy Douglass of Lebanon Ct. also survives him. In 2013 Frank

Rosalyn (Burnett) Bullock



predeceased by her husband and several siblings, Eileen's devotion to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and friends never wavered. Her profound love and guidance shaped a legacy of family: her greatest source of pride and joy. She is survived by her loving children, Timothy Panteleakos and his wife Deborah, of Killingly; Pamela Fillmore and her husband James, of Pomfret; Cynthia Olsen and her husband Keith, of Dayville; David Panteleakos, of Woodstock Valley; and Stephen Panteleakos and his wife Kelly, of Moosup. Her legacy sustains through her cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Justin Olsen and his wife Abita and their daughters Aryana and Aliyah, of Worcester, MA; Dana Whitney and her spouse Christian Gurr and their children Eli and Lively, of New Canaan; Joshua Olsen and his wife Jill and their son Miles and daughter Anabel, of Pomfret, CT; Nicole Panteleakos and her spouse Jennifer Briere, and their son Max, of Salisbury, NC; Tyler Panteleakos, of Norwich; Jeni Fillmore, of Columbia; and Joel Panteleakos and his wife Ally, their son Jonah and Ally's son Elijah Daggett of Taftville; Jordan Panteleakos, of Moosup; and Jacob Panteleakos, of Norwich. The Panteleakos family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the amazing healthcare professionals and staff at Westview Health Care Center for the exceptional care Eileen received during her extended stay. Her strength, love, and grace will be deeply missed and forever cherished by all who shared time with her. Services are at the discretion of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Resident Recreation Fund at Westview Health Care Center, P.O. Box 428, Dayville, CT 06241.

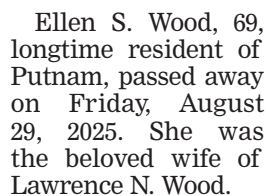
moved to Putnam Ct. to be close with his dear friend Faith Johnson with whom he shared ten years and many travel adventures with the Plainfield Seniors before her passing in 2023. In addition to his four children and step daughter, Frank leaves eight grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

Frank lived a full 100 years, in addition to being a husband and father he enjoyed many careers; ran a liver business, was an over the road trucker driving for Nukala trucking for many years, was a great mechanic running a gas station and repair business, and later as a mechanic/millwright/electrician for Delta Rubber and lastly Rogers Corporation before “retiring”, temporarily, in 1987 and then going part-time working with Mervin Whipple in cemetery maintenance for another 20+ years. A full life indeed. He will be missed.

Calling hours were held Friday, August 29, 2025 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street Putnam, CT. A Funeral service at the Funeral Home on Saturday, August 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM was followed by burial with Military Honors at Holy Cross Cemetery Danielson, CT. Share a memory at [Smithandwalkerfh.com](https://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

and family for the Mardi Gras Ball held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet for 8 years and won first place consistently. Ros enjoyed crafts and reading, and after retiring she had a flea market booth in Sturbridge featuring restored furniture and crafts. Besides her immediate family she was a big part of the lives of Kiel McConnon (Jackie) and Katie Harrison (Bill) and those of their children, Gus, Henry, Elsie, and Charlie who called her Gigi. She also leaves her niece Rebecca Andre (Ryan) and nephew Benjamin Litchfield (Kristina) and grandniece Avarie. She loved her extended family and closest friends, Kathy, Alice, Charlene, Ginger, Marilyn, Paula, Sandy and Liz. A calling hour will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. followed by a memorial service at 1:00 p.m. at Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main Street, Danielson. Burial will be private. tillinghastfh.com

Ellen S. Wood, 69

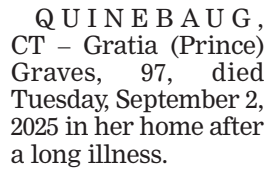


 She was born on June 29, 1956, in New Haven and was the daughter of the late Robert and Enid (Rigby) Sherman.

Ellen met her husband Larry in 1978, when they were students at Barrington College in Barrington, RI where she graduated with a BA in Business Administration. They married in Killingworth on August 25, 1979.

Ellen served as a Deacon at the Evangelical Covenant Church of Woodstock, where she and Larry have been members for more than 30 years. She was a Girl Scout leader in Putnam

Gratia Graves, 97



She leaves her daughter, Carol A. Zahm and her husband David N. Zahm of Rockwood, TN; 2 grandchildren, Nathan C. Zahm and his wife Ashley of Berwyn, PA and Matthew D. Zahm and his wife Rachael of Old Hickory, TN; 2 great-granddaughters, Isla and Monroe; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother Allan Prince.

She was born on May 29, 1928 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, a daughter of Arthur L. and Jeanie (Allan) Prince and graduated from the Northfield (MA) School for Girls in 1945. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Columbia University School of Nursing in New York City.

William (Bill) Roger Van Nieuwenhuyze
August 18, 1932 – August 27, 2025

William (Bill) Roger Van Nieuwenhuyze, 93, of North Grosvenordale, Conn passed away peacefully on August 27, 2025, as he was entering hospice care.

Bill was born in Providence, RI on August 18, 1932, the son of Roger Dorlait Van Nieuwenhuyze and Alice (LeBoeuf) Van Nieuwenhuyze Dwyer.

He was married to the love of his life, Helen (Belhumeur) on April 28, 1956, and remained together for 64 years.

Remaining to cherish Bill's memory are his children Lynn and Louis Davis of North Grosvenordale, CT/Scottsdale AZ, Linda Van Nieuwenhuyze of North Grosvenordale, CT/Phoenix AZ, Debra and Joe Petrick of Henniker NH, Wend Van Kirk and Tom Thurlow of Putnam CT, William S Van Nieuwenhuyze of Meriden CT, and Jennifer and Gary Gomes of Dudley MA, 15 grandchildren (Hillary Davis, Alex Davis, Beatrice DeSabatino and Sean Higgins, Andrew DeSabatino and Gina, Chris and Courtney Petrick, William and Colleen Petrick, Joey Petrick, Charlie Petrick, Lindsay Van Kirk and Nathan Graham, Aubrey Van Kirk, Ronald and Taylor Kong, William Van Nieuwenhuyze, Laratee Van Nieuwenhuyze, Kaelin Andersen, and Quinn Andersen and Rebecca Torres. 6 great grandchildren (Talis Petrick, Nessa Petrick, Lily Petrick, Ryan Petrick, Flora and Penny Graham; his brother Robert (Bob) Van Nieuwenhuyze, brother-in-law Robert Belhumeur and Cathy, sister-in-law Lorraine and Richard Eramo, nieces: Julie and Gerry Galeshaw, Joanne Sykes, Paula and Gary Elsmore, Susan Ferland, nephews: Jim and Shera, David and Linda, and Bobby and Jodie Van Nieuwenhuyze, David Gagne, Michael and Robyn Ferland, his Home Depot family: Michaela, Lee,

for many years. Aside from spending time with her family she loved to sew and go camping.

Throughout her life, she was humble, yet well respected and a friend and mentor to many, sharing kind words, knowledge, encouragement and advice.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her two daughters, Victoria Beausoleil and husband Rodney of Brooklyn and Miranda Freeman and husband David of Plainfield; her three sons, Brian Wood and wife Emily of Danielson, Andrew Wood and wife Suzanne of Weatherly, PA, Douglas Wood of Manchester, NH; as well as her 14 cherished grandchildren. She also leaves behind her two brothers, Philip Sherman and wife, Joyce Lai of Elkins, NH and Raymond Sherman and wife, Mari Cruz of Acworth, GA, along with her sister, Joan Goncarovs and husband Guntis of Deerfield, NH.

A registered nurse, she worked at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam and oversaw the LPN program there. She also worked at Webster District Hospital in Webster for several years.

Since 1958, Gratia was a member of the United Church of Christ, Federated in Webster, MA. She sang soprano in the church choir, was a member of the scholarship committee and enjoyed knitting for the homeless. She liked gardening and reading.

Her funeral will be held on Friday, September 12, at 11:00 AM in the United Church of Christ, Federated, 4 Church Street, Webster. Visitation will be held in the church from 10:30 to 11:00 AM, prior to the service. Burial will be in Mount Zion Cemetery, Webster. Donations in her name may be made to American Lung Association (www.lung.org). Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, MA.
www.websterfunerals.com



DONALD L BROWN

SATURDAY- SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

at 11 AM
SERVICE TO BE HELD AT
East Woodstock Cemetery
Military Salute

FOLLOWED BY A CELEBRATION OF LIFE
East Woodstock Church and Common
220 Woodstock Road, Woodstock, CT 06281

Gilman & Valade 100th Anniversary
Funeral Homes and Crematory

"Living Up to a Tradition Started 100 Years Ago"
~ Bob Fournier

1919

Alexander & Sonora Gilman

Eva & Leonard Gilman

Lawrence & Arlene Bellerose

Robert & Adrienne Fournier

2019

"A century of dedication, compassion and guidance."

Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory
104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260 • 860-928-7723 • GilmanAndValade.com

MOTHER OF ALL

WINDOW & DOOR SALES



Renewal by Andersen has been in business for 30 years, and this is our **BIGGEST SALE EVER!**

Superior Products. Exceptional Service.®



Sale ends September 30!

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



NO money down, **NO** payments, **NO** interest **for 1 Year**² if paid in full

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

• We're the full-service replacement window division of family-owned Andersen®. And Andersen's products can increase a home's value by at least 15%*

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

Call by September 30 to book your **FREE Window and Door Consultation**

959-456-0067



RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
FOR SELECT WINDOWS & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Superior Products. Exceptional Service.®



¹Actual savings will vary depending on the quantity of purchased windows, with a required minimum purchase of 6 professionally installed windows to qualify for promotion. Purchase must occur on or before 9/30/25. Promotion is available during first in-home appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen-retailers, which are independently owned and operated under C7 11C 0034655. MA 173245. R 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.renewalbyandersen.com. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Lead Surge-LLC. All rights reserved.

²Plan #621. Subject to credit approval. Renewal by Andersen Retailer is neither a broker nor a lender. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #4006403, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.99% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1460302. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders. *2024 Andersen brand surveys of U.S. builders, homeowners & visitors.