

THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Midterms see incumbents dominate in the Quiet Corner

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Voters turned out for one of the most pivotal midterm elections in recent memory as the entire country watched to determine which parties would control the Senate and House in the nation's capital.

Locally, state leadership positions were also decided as every regional seat in Hartford featured a contest, with mostly incumbent victories but a few surprises along the way.

The statewide vote for Governor resulted in another victory for incumbent Ned Lamont, making history in the process as only the second governor in the state's history to serve three consecutive terms and the first Democrat to claim that honor. Lamont soundly defeated his young Republican challenger Ryan Fazio who would have made history as the first governor in the nation born in the 1990s.

Democrat Stephanie Thomas earned a victory for Secretary of State while Erick Russell was voted Treasurer and Sean Scanlon Comptroller. William Tong will continue as Attorney General and every congressional representative seat in Connecticut remains Democratic including Joe Courtney who carried most of the Quiet Corner towns except for Thompson which has become a Republican stronghold. Connecticut's Senate seats were not up for election in the midterms.

The victories were part of a "blue wave" across the nation as voters rebuked the Trump administration by handing

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Saturday Winter Market debuts in Putnam



BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — Summer has come and gone, which usually means the end of the season for the Saturday Putnam Farmers Market, but they're not done yet.

What would normally be the start to the offseason has instead evolved into a new annual tradition, the Putnam Saturday Winter Market. Nov. 7 served as the kickoff for this new version of the market which will continue the program through the winter months, allowing its vendors and farmers to set up shop inside the Putnam Municipal Complex every Saturday to continue to sell their products and network with their customers.

Cosley Campbell, Market Manager of the Saturday Putnam Farmers

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Christmas on the Hill offers "Something for everyone!"



Courtesy

Volunteers from the 2025 Christmas on the Hill Holiday Bazaar. This year›s event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock at 543 Route 169 in Woodstock.

WOODSTOCK — The First Congregational Church of Woodstock has been hosting their Christmas on the Hill fundraiser for well over 50 years. The tradition continues this year—with two components: The indoor/outdoor holiday bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 21, which is preceded by a week-long online auction.

The online auction opens at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13 and runs online for a full week until 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19. The auction features over 200 items—antiques, collectibles, sporting equipment, and handcrafted artwork, not to mention homemade raspberry and blueberry pies prepared by the baking pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer! Bidding information can be found on the church website or through https://new.biddingowl.com/COTH.

The Indoor/Outdoor Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Shoppers will find gifts in all price ranges. There is something for everyone," said Debby Kirk, fair coordinator. "From heirloom and costume jewelry, to unique handcrafted treasures, to new and gently used items for all ages. The Penny Social includes gift cards and merchandise donated by dozens of local vendors and artisans."

During the fair, the kitchen will be serving corn chowder, butternut bisque, and hot chili for lunch. There will be a bake sale with pumpkin rolls and a variety of cookies. Shoppers can select from an array of greens arrangements, porch boxes, and balsam wreaths to prepare for the holidays.

The public is invited to pick up pre-orders and auction items at the bazaar.

"Our signature dish is a delicious ready-to-bake chicken pot pie with homemade cranberry relish. These sell out quickly so pre-order is recommended by Nov. 15," continued Kirk.

"Christmas on the Hill captures the very best of the holiday season: joy, generosity, and community," Pastor Kevin Downer shared. "As a long-standing tradition for many in the region, it offers a chance to gather with neighbors, discover unique gifts, and bring home favorite holiday treats ahead of Thanksgiving. More importantly, it reflects the spirit of giving, with proceeds helping support the church's outreach ministries and local nonprofit partners including TEEG, Community Kitchens of Northeastern Connecticut, CROP Hunger Walk, The Last Green Valley, and Covenant Soup Kitchen."

The First Congregational Church of Woodstock is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. The church is located at 543 Route 169, Woodstock, just south of the Woodstock Common. For more information about the auction and the November 21 bazaar, go to www.firstchurchwoodstock.org or call the church office at 860-928-7405.

Woodstock Building Associates wins prestigious 2026 HOBI Award

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Building Associates (WBA) is proud to announce that it has received a 2026 Home Building Industry (HOBI) Award from the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut (HBRA of CT). Recognized as Connecticut's most prestigious awards in the home building industry, the annual HOBI Awards celebrate excellence in design, construction, sales and marketing, and financing.

WBA received the award in the "Outstanding Custom Home, 3,000–4,000 SF" category for a custom lake house built in Holliston.

The award-winning project features the custom construction of a striking three-bedroom lakeside residence designed to maximize indoor-outdoor living. The home includes a walkout basement with a finished, lake-facing exercise room, along with dedicated mechanical and storage space.

Expansive outdoor living areas include a main-level lakeside deck, a separate grilling deck, welcoming front and side porches, a private second-floor primary bedroom deck, and decorative exterior awning roofs.

Inside, the nine-foot main level features an open-concept kitchen, dining, and living area, complemented by a walk-in pantry, home office, guest suite with walk-in closet, mudroom with built-in benches, and a custom floating staircase.

The eight-foot upper level includes a full family bathroom, dedicated laundry room, second bedroom, and a spacious primary suite. The primary suite features a cathedral ceiling, walk-in closet, private deck access, and an en-suite bathroom complete with a soaking tub, tiled shower, and separate water closet.

Energy efficiency and sustainability were also important considerations in the home›s design. The residence features all-electric appliances, fresh-air ventilation, and a Mitsubishi ductless mini-split HVAC system. WBA also incorporated provisions for the installation of 30 photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, allowing the homeowners to pursue a net-zero energy home.

HOBI Award winners will be featured in Connecticut Builder Magazine. The awards ceremony will take place Nov. 12 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plainville, Connecticut.

For more information about the HOBI Awards, visit hbra-ct.org.

About Woodstock Building Associates, LLC

With nearly five decades of experience and a team of skilled professionals, Woodstock Building Associates, LLC is an established leader in custom home building and remodeling. Serving northeastern Connecticut, central Massachusetts, and the Franklin, Massachusetts area, WBA delivers thoughtfully designed and expertly executed projects of all sizes. From initial design through final construction, the team works closely with clients to bring their vision to life.

For more information, visit wbahomes.com.

The catch-up contribution rule change many high-earners don't know about

BY JONATHAN MATHEWS

FINANCIAL FOCUS

JONATHAN MATHEWS
ASSOCIATE VP, CLIENT EXPERIENCE & RELATIONSHIPS

Imagine a senior operations director, age 57, earning $290,000. She has maxed out her 401(k) for two decades, and since turning 50, part of that money has gone in as a pre-tax catch-up contribution that lowered her taxable income. She has never had to think about it.

This year she is contributing the same amount and her plan is still accepting it. The tax treatment changed underneath her, though, and unless she has studied a pay stub since January, she'll find out in April.

What changed with Roth catch-up contributions in 2026

Beginning with the 2026 plan year, Section 603 of the SECURE 2.0 Act requires higher-paid employees to make catch-up contributions as Roth contributions. There is no opt-out. If the rule applies to you, your catch-up dollars go in after tax or they don't go in at all.

The provision was originally set for 2024, then delayed. The IRS issued final regulations in September 2025, and while those formally apply in 2027, the statutory requirement took effect Jan. 1 under a good-faith compliance standard. The delay is why so many executives filed this away as a future problem.

Who the SECURE 2.0 Roth catch-up rule applies to

You are subject to the requirement for 2026 if your Social Security wages from the employer sponsoring your plan exceeded $150,000 in 2025. That is Box 3 of your 2025 Form W-2. Total compensation, household income and your 2026 salary don't enter into it.

Three details follow:

The threshold is per employer. If you changed jobs in 2025, wages are generally measured at the employer whose plan you contribute to, not combined.

Someone with no Social Security wages from the plan sponsor, such as a partner with only self-employment income, is generally not covered.

The number is indexed. The statute set it at $145,000, the IRS raised it to $150,000 for this year's determination, and the figure governing 2027 will be announced this fall.

What it costs this year

In 2026 the standard catch-up for people 50 and older is $8,000 on top of the $24,500 base deferral limit, for $32,500 total. Under the old treatment, our director's $8,000 reduced her taxable income. At a 32 percent federal marginal rate that was worth about $2,560, and Connecticut income tax pushed it closer to $3,000.

Now the same $8,000 goes in as Roth. Her savings rate hasn't changed, but roughly $3,000 in tax she used to defer is due this year. If her withholding reflects last year's assumptions, that shows up as a smaller refund or a balance due. The fix is usually a withholding adjustment or an estimated payment, and both are easy in November.

Why the long-term math may still favor you

For many high earners, the change lands somewhere between neutral and advantageous. Roth dollars grow and come out tax-free in retirement if the qualified-distribution rules are met. Since 2024, Roth accounts inside a 401(k) are also exempt from required minimum distributions (RMDs) during the owner's lifetime. For an executive who expects pension income, deferred compensation and a large traditional 401(k) forcing out income at 73 or 75, a bucket that never has to be tapped is a real planning asset.

There is a subtler point. Contribution limits are set in nominal dollars, so $8,000 of Roth shelters more after-tax wealth than $8,000 pre-tax, which still owes tax on the way out.

The tax backdrop matters too. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act made current brackets permanent, with the top rate at 37 percent instead of reverting to 39.6 percent. If you expect a retirement bracket similar to or higher than today's, paying tax now at a known rate is a defensible trade.

The age 60 to 63 super catch-up: $11,250

Employees who turn 60, 61, 62 or 63 during the calendar year may contribute an enhanced catch-up of $11,250 for 2026 in place of the standard $8,000, for a total deferral of $35,750.

Two things trip people up. The enhanced amount replaces the standard catch-up and doesn't stack on it. It is also optional for employers, so confirm with your plan administrator that your plan adopted it.

The provision has no expiration date. What closes is your own eligibility: at 64 you revert to the standard catch-up. The extra $3,250 a year over four years is $13,000 of tax-advantaged room that disappears if unused. Above the wage threshold, the super catch-up must also be Roth.

Three things to check before year-end

Confirm your plan offers a Roth source. If a plan allows catch-up contributions but has no designated Roth option, an employee over the threshold can't make catch-up contributions at all. Most large employers added Roth early. The gap turns up at smaller and closely held companies, and the person affected is often the owner.

Verify the switch on your paycheck. Many plans use a deemed Roth election, which reclassifies contributions to Roth automatically once you pass the base limit. Pull a recent pay stub and confirm the dollars are landing where you expect.

Look at the rest of your return. Losing an $8,000 or

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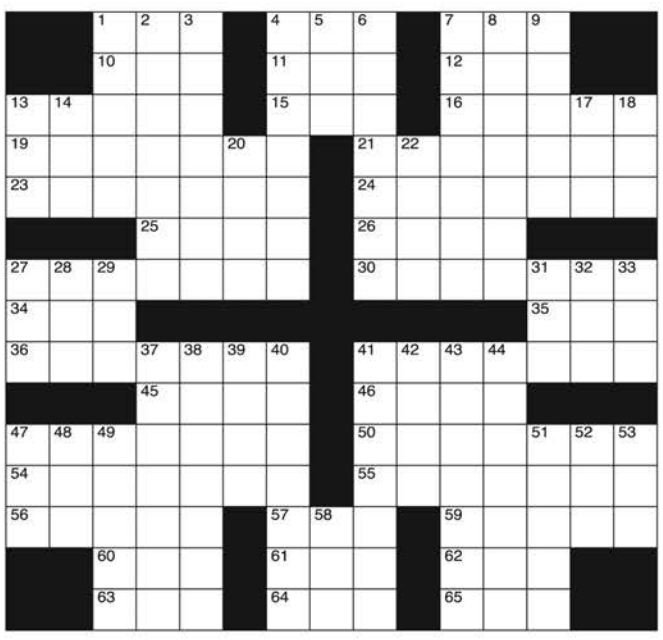
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure metric
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They __
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Whatever happened to being bored?

THIS CORNER OF CONNECTICUT

By CARL

I've been thinking lately about something that seems to have disappeared from everyday life, and I don't mean common sense, although there's a pretty good argument to be made there, too.

I'm talking about boredom.

Remember boredom? That wonderful, aggravating condition where you had absolutely nothing to do and nobody seemed particularly concerned about finding you something?

When I was growing up, telling an adult you were bored was a dangerous proposition. There was a very good chance you'd be handed a rake, a broom or some other implement of manual labor. Parents had a remarkable ability to cure boredom with chores, which is probably why most of us learned to keep our mouths shut about it.

These days, boredom seems almost impossible. We've got televisions with hundreds of channels, phones that can access practically every piece of information ever recorded, and enough entertainment available at the touch of a button to occupy several lifetimes.

And yet, somehow, people seem more restless than ever. I noticed this recently while sitting in a waiting room. Years ago, a waiting room was a place where you waited. You might thumb through a magazine from three Christmases ago, study the wallpaper or engage in that old-fashioned activity known as thinking.

Now everybody has their head down, staring at a screen. Nobody looks around. Nobody makes conversation. Even the magazines have disappeared, although considering their age and condition, that might be an improvement.

I can't criticize too loudly because I've become part of the problem myself. There are times when I reach for my phone without having the slightest idea what I'm looking for. I check the weather, even though I looked outside five minutes earlier. I read a headline about something happening halfway around the world, then another about something I don't particularly care about. Before long, 20 minutes have passed, and I couldn't tell you a single useful thing I've learned.

That's progress, I suppose.

What bothers me isn't the technology itself. I happen to appreciate being able to get directions without unfolding a road map across the steering wheel. I enjoy being able to communicate with family without waiting until everybody gets home to answer the telephone. And I'll admit that having a camera in my pocket has its advantages.

It's the idea that every empty moment now needs to be filled.

There was a time when sitting on the porch doing absolutely nothing was considered a perfectly respectable way to spend an afternoon. You could watch the occasional car go by, listen to the birds or wonder whether the lawn needed mowing badly enough to interrupt your peace. Usually, the answer was no.

Around northeastern Connecticut, we're fortunate to have plenty of places where doing nothing can still be a worthwhile activity. A quiet back road, a pond on a chilly November morning or a stretch of woods after the leaves have fallen can provide more entertainment than you'd expect, provided you're willing to pay attention.

Of course, November in Connecticut also offers the opportunity to stare out the window and wonder why you didn't finish all those outdoor projects back in September. That's a different sort of entertainment, generally accompanied by regret.

I sometimes wonder what younger people would make of the childhood afternoons many of us remember. No organized activity, no electronic entertainment, no elaborate schedule. You went outside, found something to do and were expected to return home in approximately the same condition you left.

We built things that didn't work, invented games with rules that changed whenever somebody started losing, and occasionally got into trouble because our imaginations were considerably more ambitious than our judgment.

Looking back, I suspect those boring afternoons taught us something useful. We learned how to entertain ourselves. We learned how to solve small problems without immediately asking somebody else. We learned that not every minute of the day needed a purpose.And sometimes, we learned that throwing rocks at a hornets' nest was a terrible idea.

I'm not suggesting we should abandon modern conveniences and return to a world where the highlight of the evening was watching somebody adjust the television antenna. There are plenty of things about the old days that deserve to remain there. But I do think we've lost something by eliminating every opportunity to be alone with our thoughts.

Maybe that's why so many of us feel as though we're constantly busy without accomplishing much. We're forever absorbing information, answering messages and keeping ourselves occupied, but we rarely allow our minds to wander. And wandering, as it turns out, can be a pretty pleasant experience.

So I've decided to make a small change. Every now and then, I'm going to put the phone down, turn off the television and allow myself to be bored. No schedule. No particular objective. No need to accomplish anything. I might sit by the window with a cup of coffee. I might take a walk without counting the steps. I might even spend a little time staring into space, something I used to be quite good at before everybody started calling it a waste of time.

If somebody asks what I'm doing, I'll tell them I'm busy. And for once, I might actually mean it.

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Dunn Marketing moves into new office, launches new Web site, earns Silver Davey Award



KILLINGLY — Dunn Marketing LLC has moved into a larger office at 142 Main St. in Killingly, launched a new website and earned a Silver Davey Award, three milestones that reflect the agency's steady growth into one of northeastern Connecticut's leading marketing firms.

More room for the team, and for clients

The new office sits right downstairs from the agency's former home on Killingly Main Street and offers more than double the space. It gives Dunn Marketing's growing team room to work side by side, along with a larger, more comfortable meeting space that is better equipped for client meetings and working sessions.

"Our team has grown, and the way we work with clients has grown with it," said Laura Dunn, founder, CEO and chief brand strategist of Dunn Marketing. "We wanted a space where a client can sit down with us, spread out and really work through a plan together. Staying on Main Street mattered to us, too. This community is home."

A new dunnmarketing.com

This month, Dunn Marketing also launched a new website at dunnmarketing.com. The site features expanded client case studies and new information on how the agency serves organizations in life services sectors such as healthcare, law, nonprofit organizations, and finance.

"Before someone picks up the phone, they want to know we understand their world," Dunn said. "A behavioral health nonprofit and a wealth management firm have very different audiences and very different rules. The new site shows the work we've done for both, and the results behind it."

Silver Davey Award for Trudeau Center film

Also this month, "60 Years of Transforming Lives & Creating Bright Futures at Trudeau" earned a Silver Davey Award in the 2026 Film/Video Non-Profit category. The film, produced by Dunn Marketing with J. Russo Productions, celebrates six decades of the J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center's work with children and adults with developmental disabilities, and the families, staff and community who make it possible. The Davey Awards honor small teams and independent creators producing strong work on limited budgets. Entries are judged by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts (AIVA). The 2026 competition drew thousands of entries from boutique agencies, in-house creative teams, small production companies and independent creators.

"Telling a story that meaningful was an honor from the first interview to the final cut," said Marci Seney, PCM®, CDMP, vice president of client services at Dunn Marketing. "Our whole team felt that responsibility in every frame. This award really belongs to the people who let us into their lives and trusted us with their stories."

A growing record of national recognition

The Davey Award is Dunn Marketing's eighth national honor in three years. Earlier in 2026, the agency earned three Communicator Awards of Distinction, also judged by AIVA: one for its brand refresh of The Prue Law Group, P.C., and two for its work with WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, recognizing a financial services TV commercial series and a white paper.

In 2025, Dunn Marketing received three Communicator Awards. Its Trudeau Center 60th anniversary video earned an Award of Excellence, the program's highest honor, and Trudeau's "We Create Bright Futures" billboard campaign earned an Award of Distinction. A third award recognized the agency's campaign for WHZ.

In 2024, Dunn Marketing's "Serve, Don't Sell" content marketing campaign for WHZ won a Gramercy Institute Financial Content Marketing Award, sharing the Personal Investing, Business-to-Consumer category with Vanguard.

SCL Aesthetics opens in Putnam



Courtesy

Selectwoman Gloria Marion, Dan Gomes, Sara Garcia Gomes, PBA President Kate Cerrone, and Selectman Mike Bogdanski.

Company offers personalized aesthetic medicine focused on natural confidence-enhancing results

PUTNAM — SCL Aesthetics, a new boutique aesthetic medicine practice in Putnam, is bringing a personalized and art-forward approach to cosmetic treatments to Connecticut's Quiet Corner. Founded and led by Sara Garcia-Gomes, APRN, FNP-C, IBCLC, a Family Nurse Practitioner with more than 15 years of clinical experience, SCL Aesthetics is dedicated to helping clients look refreshed, confident, and naturally beautiful while remaining true to themselves.

A ribbon cutting and grand opening was held last night with over one hundred people in attendance.

The name SCL Aesthetics carries a deeply personal meaning. SCL comes from "Sarita Cara Linda," a childhood nickname meaning "little Sara pretty face." The name reflects the practice's commitment to self-expression, heritage, confidence, and the belief that beauty should celebrate individuality rather than conformity.

Located in a welcoming boutique-style setting in downtown Putnam, SCL Aesthetics serves clients throughout Connecticut, as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The practice was created with the belief that aesthetic medicine should be thoughtful, individualized, and rooted in a strong understanding of facial anatomy and skin health.

"SCL Aesthetics was built on the idea that aesthetic treatments should enhance your natural features, not change who you are," said Garcia-Gomes. "My goal is to provide treatments that leave clients looking rested, refreshed, and confident while still looking like themselves."

The practice specializes in a range of advanced aesthetic services, including neurotoxin treatments such as Botox and Dysport to address fine lines and wrinkles, TMJ discomfort, and migraines. Dermal fillers are offered to enhance and restore volume to areas such as the lips, cheeks, jawline, and chin. Additional services include Radiesse, platelet-rich plasma (PRP) treatments, microneedling, chemical peels, laser hair removal, and IPL photofacials designed to improve skin tone, texture, and overall skin health.

What sets SCL Aesthetics apart is its collaborative consultation process. Every client begins with a personalized evaluation of their facial anatomy, skin condition, and aesthetic goals. This comprehensive approach allows Garcia-Gomes to create customized treatment plans that align with each client's unique features and desired outcomes.

By combining medical expertise with an artistic eye, SCL Aesthetics aims to provide subtle, beautiful results that enhance natural beauty rather than dramatically alter appearance. The practice's philosophy is simple: refreshed, not overdone; enhanced, not altered; still you.

As a locally owned business, SCL Aesthetics is proud to join the growing Putnam business community and looks forward to helping clients throughout the region feel more confident in their skin through safe, personalized, and results-driven aesthetic care.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Local food deserves a place in every season

sThe end of the outdoor farmers' market season does not mean the end of a farmer's expenses. Nor does it mean customers lose their interest in buying food from someone they know.

Putnam's new Saturday Winter Market recognizes both realities. By bringing farmers and vendors inside the Putnam Municipal Complex, the market is extending a familiar connection through months when opportunities to sell directly to customers can become harder to find.

That is a practical step worth supporting.

After completing its 16th summer season, the Putnam Saturday Farmers Market had something valuable to build on: established vendors, regular customers and enough interest to consider what might come next. Market Manager Cosley Campbell responded to farmers who wanted to continue by finding an indoor outlet. The result gives an existing program room to grow without requiring it to abandon what made it useful.

For customers, the appeal is straightforward. A winter market offers another place to buy vegetables, meat, dairy products, honey and other goods while maintaining relationships formed during the warmer months. For vendors, it provides an opportunity to keep earning income and remain visible.

That continuity matters. A customer who discovers a farm at the winter market may become a visitor to its farm stand later. Someone who stops for one familiar product may find another producer worth returning to. Those connections take time to develop, and a long seasonal interruption can make that work more difficult.

The market also offers a useful introduction for smaller operations that have yet to establish a broad following. Having a product available is one challenge. Helping people learn where to find it is another. A shared indoor market creates a place where that introduction can happen.

There are reasons to be encouraged by the response. Organizers reported 36 approved vendors, including 10 full-time participants, with 21 vendors attending the Nov. 7 opening. Those numbers suggest interest in trying the idea. The more meaningful measure will be whether enough shoppers return to make participation worthwhile through the winter.

An opening day can generate attention. An ordinary Saturday in February will test the habit. Supporting the market need not mean making sweeping promises about changing every household's shopping routine. Families have budgets, schedules and different needs. Buying everything locally is neither possible nor practical for everyone.

But purchasing a few items, trying an unfamiliar vendor or making an occasional stop can help establish a dependable customer base. Small purchases become meaningful when enough people make them regularly.

The indoor location also makes sensible use of a public gathering place. The Municipal Complex can help bring residents and producers together during a season when outdoor browsing becomes less inviting. That gives the market a chance to remain part of the weekly routine rather than something customers must rediscover each spring.

There will be details to work through, as there are with any new undertaking. Vendor participation may vary, and the market will need to keep customers informed about what is available. Clear, consistent information will help turn initial curiosity into repeat visits.

Putnam has an opportunity to carry a successful seasonal relationship into the rest of the year. Farmers and vendors have expressed their willingness to participate. Organizers have provided a place.

Now shoppers can help determine whether this becomes a lasting part of winter in the Quiet Corner. A regular stop between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on a Saturday is a modest commitment, but it could make a useful difference to the people on the other side of the table.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The light at the end of the tunnel

To the Editor:

Yes! We can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it's been a long, dark one. It was heartening to see the election results on Wednesday morning after so much depressing and hateful news over the last two years. This is a huge win but for a few states like Florida, Alabama and Arkansas that seem to have "kick me again" signs on their backs. I'd rather look toward the ones that finally made the right choice like Texas, Kansas and South Carolina.

Now the hard work begins. The democrats will try to reverse some of the damage that has been done and restrain the corrupt and destructive behavior that this administration has so blatantly demonstrated but if anyone is expecting gas and grocery prices to drop anytime soon, think again. Reducing inflation will take some time and unless the war in Iran is resolved, gas probably won't be dropping either. We'll also have to tolerate the Trump backers' derision when nothing changes immediately. At least we have the comfort of knowing our newly elected officials will be working in our best interests.

I know that "they're all crooked" is a commonly used phrase among the Trump supporters to justify the corruption that has been taking place. That is a fallacy. If it were true, the democracy we enjoy would never have lasted 250 years. People are just people. Some are crooked and some aren't. Sometimes people lie and sometimes they don't. You can't portray all politicians as corrupt any more than you can call them all heroes. But I will say this. I trust the Democrats that we just voted in more than the incumbent (we do know what that word means) Republicans that have so clearly proven to us how untrustworthy they really are and who do not have our interests high on their agendas.

To all the people who voted to see our democracy restored, dignity back in Congress and a secure future free from the hypocrisy and corruption that has been the hallmark of this administration: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

JEAN MCNALLY
WOODSTOCK

RIP hatred

To the Editor:

[Last] Tuesday was a great day for all Americans. We get our country back from an authoritarian dictator wannabe. People choose hope over fear, justice over corruption; shunned hatred and voted for hope, their country and the real America. Your vote counts, and the politicians must listen. For the past 11 years, we have been berated, picked on, made to feel less than a human being. More about the people in the country than billionaires and rich corporations. Nice to see Musk get zippo for his $500 million he spent to influence the elections. Zippo. DOGE that Elon.

While big law firms, big educational universities, large corporations when needed to stop the corruption did not and worried about themselves not America. The Federal courts did the backstopping in slowing and stopping the menace from growing. Then the American citizens took over. The hatred and the killings in Minnesota really started the surge that showed the American people to put an end to this. No Kings' protests and all other civil protests just grew all spring. summer and fall of this year We The people worked.

Trump will go down as a stain on America but that can be overcome by the spirit of the citizens. Time for those who have taken advantage with the permission and help of the Cult Leader will have to face the music.

Yet, it is the time to repair the problems facing the country, they are still there. High prices. lacking affordable health care, the rule of law (ICE will now face the law for their actions that they have taken against many Americans) better wear your body cams and remember that there will be consequences to their bad acting, ending this.

One of the biggest problems facing this country that is rarely talked about is income inequality. Others include unnecessary wars, and what about the Epstein files. It is only time Petey H to go. Go back to knowing that Russia is not our friend but a lethal enemy. Putin may have had a day as bad as Musk had. The sound you may be hearing soon from Washington is the amount of the Cult Leaders' cabinet running for the hills and his family as well. It did not take long for Vance to try to distance himself from his boss. Good luck. They may get pardons, but they may get some jail time as well. They deserve it.

There are many things to work on for the Democrats and Republicans, if they see the new landscape, to work together for the benefit of all Citizens. Republicans spent too many years bending the knee and kissing the ring, or another part of the Cult Leader's body. Do not mind me for enjoying a moment.

To Dave Clark — loved your letter last week. Could not have said it much better than you did. Loved it; got a feeling Eddie D did not.

This one is for us, all of us. The light will shine again

DAVID CASSETTARI
EAST KILLINGLY

My apologies to Mr. DeLuca

To the Editor:

First, I wish to apologize to Mr. DeLuca that my last response to him took two weeks. I hope that this response, made two days after his last letter appeared, is more to his satisfaction. The reason my first response took two weeks is multifold. I have a job. I have additional responsibilities that take my time. I needed to do research, compose and edit my thoughts. The Villager is a weekly publication, and though I wrote my response in a few days, it was not submitted in time to make the publication. I hope he

accepts this apology; I will try and do better in the future.

In his response, he said he would "try to do better in the future" to provide actual sources for his data, yet still did not provide any. Yes, I did talk about California, because that was the bulk of Mr. Deluca's letter, and what needed to be addressed. His information was demonstrably false, and I corrected it.

Instead of countering my data with other data, he chose to attack the source of my data, not the data itself. This is a form of an ad hominem attack where he counters the data with emotional personal attacks, or blames the source and not the information. In his first letter he claimed that the Democrats had more billionaire donors than the Republicans. I offered actual, verifiable data, to the contrary and rather than offer other data from other sources he gives a condescending comment, again attacking me,

and not the information that he clearly doesn't like, or have an answer to.

In his first letter he implied that the high prices of fuel and groceries under Biden were intolerable, but those same high prices under Trump are something we "need to adapt" to. His adaptation was to use his personal wealth to install a less expensive method of heating his home. I too have used my wealth to install a less expensive method of heating my home, but I am not so arrogant to believe that that is all anyone has to do. I am fully aware that more than half the population in this country is living paycheck

to paycheck and cannot afford to simply install new systems. I don't care how Mr. DeLuca got his wealth, but his "adapt" answer, as well as his reply in his last letter, are condescending to people struggling to get by. But no, Mr. DeLuca, the opportunities that you and I had are not available to every American citizen. When I went to college to earn my first degree, in state tuition was $100 a semester.

Today's college graduates are saddled with debt that is more than I paid for my house. When I moved out of my parent's house, a roommate and I shared an apartment even though we were both making just above the minimum wage. The last increase to the national minimum wage was in 2009, when gasoline was at $2.35 a gallon. The inflation rate since 2009 has increased by more than 50 percent. Young

people saddled with debt and starting out are not able to compete and succeed in the same way that Mr. DeLuca and I were. I actually had two jobs that had pensions, something that virtually does not exist anymore, but was common through most of the last century.

Finally, Mr. Deluca criticizes my use of AI, which I admitted I used for my research, as does ever military installation, hospital and medical research institute, government agency, news media, and university. I did not use AI to write my response, only to help with finding the data. This is the equivalency of asking a librarian to assist with research. I still verified the data. Again Mr. Deluca, instead of offering contrary data, attacks the source. I wish to remind him that his favorite lame duck president refers to Artificial Intelligence as "Super Intelligence."

DAVE CLARK
THOMPSON

www.VillagerNewspapers.com

Medicine in the blood



KILLINGLY AT 300

MARGARET WEAVER

Killingly Historical Society Fall Meeting. Saturday, Nov. 14 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The Dirty Blue Shirts will present a program on Federal fashions (the Dolley Madison era). You will be able to see and feel clothing of the New Republic, the ways in which we stayed on top of European styles, and the ways in which we made our own sartorial marks on the international scene. You may remember the wonderful program they presented last year on women's fashions of the Revolutionary era. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. A short business meeting will take place at 1 p.m. prior to the program.

Killingly Grange #112 Craft Fair: 801 Hartford Turnpike, Dayville. Display and market your crafts to the public. Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Rain or shine. Rent space inside or outside for $20. Tables available for $5. Contact Terry Barton to reserve a space/table at tmbartonkillinglygrange@gmail.com or text 860-884-1813 or for additional information. You do not have to be a member of the Grange to participate.

Order your Thanksgiving Pies. Killingly Grange #112 is again selling apple and pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving. $16 per pie. To reserve a pie call Terry at 860-884-1813 or Penny at 860-230-7367. Last day to order Saturday, Nov. 21 at 5 p.m. Pick-up Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Does it bother you that today is Friday the 13th? Do you know how people came to be superstitious about that date? A Google check revealed the following from AI: "In Norse Mythology at (a) famous banquet in Valhalla, the trickster god Loki arrived uninvited as the 13th guest and tricked the blind god Hod into killingly the beloved god Balder. In Christian tradition, at the Last Supper, 13 people attended the table---Jesus and his 12 apostles---with Judas Iscariot commonly viewed as the 13th guest who betrayed him. "There is also a mathematical component to the dislike of the 13th. "Culturally, the number 12 represents completeness (12 months in a year, 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 gods of Olympus) making 13 feel unbalanced and disruptive." For more about this phobia see Encyclopedia Britannica or History.com.

I've been doing extensive research on the family of John Hughes of Ireland and Killingly in response to a genealogical query to the Killingly Historical Center. I was intrigued to discover that the 1871 death of four-year old Mary Hughes (daughter of James) from typhoid fever had been recorded by a woman physician, Ellen F. Hammond. (KVR, 2, p. 544). I had been reading "We the Women" by Norah O'Donnell with Kate Andersen Brower and knew from the chapter on the Blackwell sisters, Elizabeth and Emily, how difficult it was for a female to become a doctor in the 1800's. In fact, it wasn't until 1849 that Elizabeth Blackwell became the "first woman to earn a medical degree" and even graduated at the top of her class at Geneva Medical College in

Turn To KILLINGLY *page* A10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will the midterm results bring relief from rising costs?

To the Editor:

I found some news from Friday's (Nov. 6) Yahoo Finance report to be interesting. (Hey, Dave, did you notice I mentioned its source?) First was that "world food prices dip in October," and "oil heads for sharp weekly drop on Mideast export hopes." Isn't it odd that the stock market, like our elections, is influenced by "hopes, fears, and concerns?" As for the price of oil, I could go ahead and parrot talking points like how long was the price of oil over $100 a barrel under which president, or who it was that closed down refineries, but I won't. Maybe food is so expensive because so many people are getting it for free?

Another interesting bit in that report came from Mark Cuban, who suggested that those living paycheck to paycheck "get a job, even if it's at McDonald's." At age 75, I still work a part-time job three days a week, and still donate to a 401k plan. And so that I don't raise anyone's "hackles," I realize that not everybody can do the same, and that there are people who truly need the assistance. But instead of questioning me, why don't you ask yourselves who's now being more catered to, those who've worked all their lives or the continual generations of welfare deadbeats and the "undocumented?" Additionally, there's my much younger coworker who said what he makes barely covers his living expenses, but instead, chooses not to work on all the jobs available days or hours.

We now have to live with the results of the midterm elections, and I can only guess in which direction this country is now heading. As for Connecticut, those results were really of no surprise. But will those results bring relief to those concerned about frozen pipes, the cost of groceries, what we pay in taxes, and the high cost of living? Do our state's welfare deadbeats and its "undocumented" residents have those concerns as well?

If you didn›t already know this, there›s this thing called «Fetch» where you can scan your purchase receipts and build up points toward redeemable gift certificates. Also, some grocery stores give you «gas points» for shopping there which reduces what you pay for a gallon of gasoline. If you work in Connecticut, or in Massachusetts (like I do), you acquire one hour of «sick time» pay for every 30 hours you work. Additionally, with my latest Eversource bill came a notice of the "Connecticut Energy Assistance Program" (CEAP) and information on where you can apply for help in paying your heating bill. Restrictions (of course) apply. Also, some towns give their seniors a reduction in their property tax bills depending on their income. And while you're waiting for this relief to come, I suggest you do something to help yourselves and check into these already available benefits. Did you ever hear the saying that "God helps those who help themselves?"

Ed DeLuca
North Grosvenordale

Thompson stands up for conservative values

To the Editor:

Thompson voters! A big thank you for your participation in the Nov. 3 election. As you know, on both a nationwide and statewide scale, there was a big blue Democrat wave that took place.

However, Thompson was able to withstand the headwinds and continues to stand up for conservative values and principles. All the Republican candidates listed on the Thompson ballot received a plurality of the vote, with stalwart conservatives such as Chris Stewart being re-elected as our Representative of the 51st District, and Frank McGarry re-elected as our Registrar of Voters. Although from a Republican perspective, the blue wave was disappointing, the voters have spoken.

Keeping in mind that in midterm elections the party in power, in this case the Republican party, normally loses seats, nationally, statewide, as well as on a local level. It is disappointing but not unusual, and we as a party need to do better. Regarding Thompson specifically, let us continue to be a beacon of conservatism. We cannot do this without your help. The Thompson Republican Town Committee is always looking for people to assist us in our cause. We encourage you to participate in all things Republican on a local level. For more information on how you can help, please look for us on Facebook under "Thompson Republican Town Committee, and on our website at www.Thompsonrtc.org. Thank you again for your support! Steve Nickerson- Chairman, Thompson Republican Town Committee. Quote of the day from Ronald Reagon - "We've been blessed for the opportunity to stand for something - for liberty and freedom and fairness. And these are things worth fighting for, worth devoting our lives to."

Steve Nickerson
Thompson

The people have spoken

To the Editor:

And so, the people have spoken. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. There would no third time.

President Trump and his MAGA cult were obliterated in a record rebuke of their unpopular policies. The country showed it is not a one trick (white Christian male) pony as the glorious splendor of the American experiment was on full display. Muslims, pastors, Black women, Native American women, LGBTQ, and Latinos all were welcomed into Washington or state houses, many for the first time, as government begins to mirror the nation's diversity. Project 2025 and all of its hidden xenophobic and racist philosophies were put back into a cage. The electorate rejected a failing economic scheme, an ongoing unnecessary war, a barbaric immigration protocol, and a new foreign doctrine that rewards America's foes and belittles its friends and neighbors. Trump also attempted outright bribery

It was also a rebuke of the billionaires (and trillionaire) who along with the President were trying to shove AI down our throats. They spent hundreds of millions of dollars attempting to influence votes. A technology that risks the annihilation of the human species and which requires developing huge tracts of land at the expense of local water and power along with making many jobs extinct sounds chancy. What is the real benefit? Is this really worth it?

So now comes the hard part, as Democrats must clean up a mess in order to justify this election and avoid a similar outcome in two years. Republicans though have the harder job. Reviving a party based on fiscal responsibility, global leadership, and limiting governments fingerprints in private matters all of which had fallen to the wayside under Trump and MAGA. The current plan of strengthening our borders needs to continue at the same time that the ICE gestapo evaporates and a more sensible plan of dealing with our shadow immigrants and their families is created.

Trump, for his part, once more demonstrated his inability to act as a leader of the country let alone his party. His immediate concerns right before and after Election Day seemed all about his ego and his building projects. He gave a long and rambling speech about the Lincoln reflecting pool and then hawked his garish East Wing ballroom. Nothing about a new national mandate or of unifying the country. Even his supporters blamed ignorant and unappreciative voters for the outcome. They blamed the Iran war started by Trump. They blamed a hostile media. They felt that the Grand Old Party were merely innocent bystanders.

America was never meant to be one color, one religion, or one gender. It is a nation of immigrants from every world nook and cranny. Most of all its laws create a level playing field where all are on equal footing. None superior to another. Each entitled to the same government granted rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The people have spoken.

The clock is ticking.

God bless America.

Lee Wesler
Woodstock

A moment of opportunity

To the Editor:

Ebenezer Scrooge woke up Christmas morning a changed man after a night of harsh reality. Anyone looking for a similar transformation by Donald Trump after the midterms was (of course) disappointed. Trump will continue to be the same despicable character for the rest of his life, but there's still hope for positive changes in Congress.

The Democrats need to hold Trump and his minions accountable for the corruption and destructive policies, but their main focus has to be improving the lives of the American people. Getting stuck in "revenge politics" will just mimic everything we voted to get rid of. The Republicans have a great opportunity also — to reflect on how they got here, and go back to being the legitimate political party they were before guzzling Trump Kool-Aid.

I think most Americans want a government with two parties that can disagree, but still work together on solutions for our many problems. A government run by level-headed leaders, where extremists aren't part of the decision making process. It's probably unlikely to happen, but we can dream.

Todd Patrie
Pomfret Center

Additional Letters to the Editor, see Page A-8

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.

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NCCO to host "Fire and Grace" concert Nov. 20 & 22 at Clark Chapel

BY JANE ANDERSON VERCELLI
NCCO PRESIDENT

POMFRET — The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra presents our Fall Concert of light classical music featuring cellist Kurt Kaufman of Woodstock performing "The Swan" by Camille Saint - Saens.

The concert's theme is "lively and lyrical gems for strings" written by 18th and 19th century composers, including Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) and Edvard Grieg (1843-1907).

The orchestra is also performing the lyrical and contemplative "Rhosymedre" (which translates to 'Lovely"') by Ralf Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) and "A Ukrainian Symphony" by Maxim Berezovsky.

The musical highlight of the concert will be Kurt Kaufman's performance on cello of "The Swan," originally composed in 1886 for one cello and two pianos. In this concert the solo cello will be accompanied by the orchestra.

Kurt Kaufman, a graduate of the Juilliard School, was an inaugural member and principal cellist of our orchestra when it was founded by violinist Yaroslav Tereshchenko in 2012. He brought his then young daughter who was studying violin to rehearsals as she became an accomplished musician herself.

Mark your calendars for our two performances on Friday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 22 at. 2 p.m. Both concerts will be held at Clark Chapel, Pomfret School, Route 44 and 169. Questions? Call Jane Vercelli at 860 428-4633.

Woodstock Valley man named Assistant Deputy Superintendent at Worcester County Jail



Courtesy

Sheriff Evangelidis (Right) with newly promoted Assistant Deputy Superintendent Christopher Rogala.

WEST BOYLSTON, Mass. — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is proud to announce the promotion of Christopher Rogala of Woodstock Valley to Assistant Deputy Superintendent (ADS) at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction.

Rogala, a 20-year veteran of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, began his career as a temporary correctional officer on June 5, 2006, before becoming a permanent correctional officer in December of that year. Throughout his career, Rogala has steadily advanced through the ranks over his tenure with the Sheriff's Office. In addition to his nearly two decades of service with the Sheriff's Office, Rogala served eight years in the United States Army.

In his new role as Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Rogala will oversee several critical areas of facility operations, including Classification, Inmate Records, Inmate Receiving, Transportation, Kitchen Operations, and Medical Security. His responsibilities will include ensuring the safe, secure, and efficient operation of these departments while maintaining the care, custody, and control of the inmate population.

"ADS Rogala has dedicated nearly two decades to serving the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, consistently demonstrating the professionalism, leadership, and work ethic that we value in our command staff," said Evangelidis. "His extensive experience, combined with his military service, has prepared him well for this next chapter. I congratulate him on this well-deserved promotion and am confident he will continue to make a positive impact on our operations."

The Worcester County Jail and House of Correction houses pretrial detainees and inmates serving sentences of 2.5 years or less. In addition to managing the facility, the Sheriff's Office operates community resource centers in Fitchburg, Worcester, and Webster.

For more information about the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and career opportunities, please visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com.

Thompson Public Library announces Seventh Annual Textile Artists' Community Show

THOMPSON — The Seventh Annual Thompson Textile Artists' Community Show will be on view at the Thompson Public Library from Dec. 3 - 30. The show will feature textile pieces of various media made by community members who live or work in Thompson.

A reception will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library. The reception is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided thanks to the Friends of the Thompson Public Library. The library is currently accepting submissions to the show until Saturday, November 14th. To submit a piece, visit thompsonpubliclibrary.org or visit the library for a submission form.

Woodstock Commission on Aging launches Senior Resource Guide

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Commission on Aging has officially launched the new Woodstock Senior Resource Guide, a comprehensive tool designed to help older adults and their families easily navigate local care, programs, and support services.

The guide brings together key local resources on aging in place, healthcare options, financial and legal planning, food assistance, transportation, and social or recreational opportunities.

How to Access the Guide:
Online: Download the document directly via the Town of Woodstock Web site.

Mobile Access: Scan the printed QR code using a smartphone camera to view the guide instantly on mobile devices.

Physical copies: View a print copy at Woodstock Town Hall, local libraries, fire stations, or community worship centers.

About the Woodstock Commission on Aging

The Woodstock Commission on Aging works to evaluate, develop, and support services and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for senior residents in Woodstock. For inquiries, feedback, or to suggest resources for future guide updates, please contact 860-928-6595 or email AgeFriendlyWoodstock@gmail.com.

Hellstar earns big win at home, defeats Doves 87-68

WOODSTOCK — Hellstar delivered a dominant performance at home Nov. 8, defeating the Diamond Doves 87-68 to improve to 7-1 on the season and 2-1 in OTE league play.

Led by a balanced scoring attack and strong contributions on the glass, Hellstar controlled the game and showcased its depth in an impressive 19-point victory.

Antoine Caughman Jr. led the way with 20 points and seven rebounds, providing a strong offensive presence throughout the contest. Jalen Taggart added 16 points and seven rebounds, while Isaac Olaniba contributed 10 points, nine rebounds and three blocks to help anchor Hellstar on both ends of the floor.

Siy Siaisiai recorded nine points, 10 rebounds and three blocks, delivering a strong defensive performance inside. Zack Dawson also added nine points, while KelBron Clement chipped in five. Bright Delves finished with four points, 11 rebounds and six assists and Ant Pannell added four points, seven rebounds and three blocks in the win.

Hellstar plays again Monday night, Nov. 16 at home starting at 7 p.m. vs. Fear of God (FL), who features the #3 player in the country, Cayden Daughtry.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A successful government cannot be based on destruction

To the Editor:

Oh, great. Now we have a clone of Germany's Joseph Goebbels sitting even closer to our ruling idiot. Stephen Miller's agenda is straight out of the fascist notebook. Miller has even said that "the powers of the President will not be questioned."

Miller and his gang who drafted their bible, i.e., Project 2025, have developed a plan to totally ignore Congressional legislative power and rule by decree, i.e. by executive order. In reality, they will not be testing the limits, as they claim, but will be ignoring anything or anyone who would impose those limits. This is not conjecture on my part. This is how they have been operating all along.

Simple logic says no successful government can be based on the complete destruction of everything. If you destroy the very fabric of law, honesty, morality and humanity, what do you have left? Not enough people` to keep things running. Wealth will be undone because there will be not enough "middle class" to build, supply and consume the basics of the economy.

Destruction is easy. No thinking, no caring for the consequences, no assuming blame. Just smash and kill everything because you don't like it. Building, cooperating and compromise is hard work. Since the outcome is not ensured, dictators will not be part of it.

Finally, to paraphrase (and sanitize) a post from the Net, "We've done our job. Don't mess this up." We Dems have to put aside our traditional internecine bickering and keep our eyes on the big picture – repairing the Donnie Dimwit/Stephen Miller destruction and corruption.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Amazon Warehouse: Wrong project, wrong place

To the Editor:

Environment: Just east of 395, and embraced by Cook Hill and Mashentuck roads are 556 acres (420 football fields). This is a wildlife habitat, which tempers the ambient heat, absorbs copious amounts of CO2, creates oxygen, shelters thousands of birds and hundreds of other creatures, not to mention numerous plant species, and literally billions of insects, including bees, which are already fighting extinction. The land filters the air and water, and mitigates run-off during severe storms that, due to climate change, are ever-more frequent. But Amazon wants to convert 264 acres (200 football fields)into a heavily polluting heat sink: an enormous building/parking area with an incredible amount of run-off during downpours, run-off laden with brake dust, oil and gasoline leaks, and whatever else thousands of vehicles will emit. The remaining 291 acres of "buffer zone" simply cannot compensate for the heat, pollution, traffic, noise and light from a 24/7, 365 operation.

Traffic: Aside from countless trailer trucks, hundreds of Amazon vans and large numbers of gig workers' own autos will cycle back and forth. Adjacent homeowners will see their property values plummet and their rural tranquility utterly destroyed. There will be near-constant caravans of Amazon vessels clogging all the local roads."Amazon's contract drivers and delivery vehicles have higher safety violations than USPS, FedEx or UPS, sometimes 89 percent higher over a three-year period." Drivers report intense pressure to meet deadlines, sometimes skipping lunch or speeding up (CBS News). A dispatcher can call a driver (drivers are monitored by Amazon's "Flex App" and "Mentor App") if they fall behind schedule. Amazon requires 999/1,000 deliveries be on time; this is based on contractors' orders in eight states. Killingly will see an exponential number of these drivers zipping around Northeastern Connecticut, but Amazon routinely denies culpability for crashes, injuries or deaths.

Working conditions: "Amazon has faced thousands of legal actions in the past six years, with hundreds tied to its [distribution] centers, plus class action lawsuits alleging unsafe working conditions; They and their subsidiaries have been involved in at least 13,000 legal proceedings, a significant portion involving staffing, safety and pay." "Over 45 thousand workers allege unsafe conditions: extreme heat, unrealistic quotas and poor safety training." Amazon has a "stunningly high rate of job-related injuries, treating workers as disposable to sustain production paces," which is why Amazon is on track to replace 600,000 future hires with robots by 2033. Amazon is touting 500 jobs at the Killingly plant? For how long and with what kind of turnover, which, in California, is double that of other logistics employers? That sounds like a 21st century sweatshop, to me. According to MoveOn.org, two Amazon workers, one in Oregon (2026) and another in Colorado (2022) died on the job; in the first instance, the manager reportedly told the others, "just turn around and not look. Let's get back to work." In Colorado, "cardboard boxes were placed around the body, and everyone was expected to work as normal." "Pregnant workers were forced to stand on their feet, lift heavy items, and work in unsafe conditions against their doctors' orders; it even caused some workers to miscarry" (MoveOn.org). "Amazon manipulated injury data to make warehouses appear safer" (NPR). This kind of abuse can only stem from a systemic philosophy of workers' being expendable.

Fire: The Killingly fire marshall has met with the Ryan Company's reps (right now, Ryan Company, not Amazon, is buying the land and building the warehouse). But if the fire marshall believes Killingly will only be called for blazes, he's mistaken. In Johnston, R.I., Fire Chief Keith Calci noted that "firefighters have responded [to the Amazon facility] 160 times for calls related to some kind of medical assistance; people can't call in sick, or they'll risk being fired, so they come to work sick, and the rescue has to go pick them up." Did Ryan Company or Amazon mention this little hiccup to Killingly Fire Marshall Randy Burchard? I doubt it!

Wetlands: Most landowners who want to fill in wetlands are usually denied. Why can Ryan Company fill in four plots totalling one-half acre?

Air quality and environmental damage: One warehouse can emit thousands of metric tons of greenhouse gas annually. This distribution center is yet another climate change accelerator: "Human blood chemistry reflects rising atmospheric carbon-dioxide concentrations and may reach toxic levels within fifty years" (Harper's/June '26). So our children and grandchildren are no longer guaranteed a full life span. Please visit "Keep Killingly Rural" on Facebook and donate to our legal defense fund to stop this project.

STEVE KRZYWDA
KILLINGLY

Public comment is overrated

To the Editor:

Recently, I took a look at the social media uproar over public comments in Killingly zoning meetings about the proposed warehouses. After watching some of these meetings I found what everyone was upset about. Besides shutting down public comment and heavily restricting what can be commented on in the meetings, apparently there are bureaucratic rules about whether committee members can take public comments into account for making decisions, and in the most extreme cases e-mailed public comments were instantly discarded because of these rules.

I applaud Killingly for their transparency, but even if these rules, or whatever they are, didn't exist, public comment is still just a way for people to feel like they're making a difference when that completely doesn't have to actually be the case.

If you deal with big business or anything formal, there's an unwritten rule that if something isn't written down, it didn't happen. Likewise, it's also the case that what's written down becomes what happened whether you said it or not. Regardless of what you actually say, what makes it into the minutes or other written documentation becomes what you said, whether you said it or not.

I've seen public meetings twist things in the minutes, and I've seen this done in the private sector too. We live in the day and age of live recordings, but live recordings expire. Zoom meetings may not be archived, and Facebook Live was changed to no longer be evergreen awhile back. In terms of what you say getting into the public record, putting things in black and white still counts for a lot despite all of our technology.

I really have to question the usefulness of public comment here in 2026. You have a cap of a few minutes, partially dox yourself if the meeting's live on the internet via having to say your home address, and this is before we talk about any rules that might render what you say as completely unactionable.

We can, and must, do better than this if we care about the First Amendment.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

www.VillagerNewspapers.com

Courtesy

PUTNAM CUB SCOUT PACK 21 PLAYS FAMILY GAMES

Recently, Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 played family games and learned to do bead working. Pack 21 is there for parents to play and have fun with their children, while the Cub Scouts develop character, citizenship and physical fitness. Pack 21 is guided by trained and experienced adults and is chartered to the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St. in Putnam. Pack 21 is actively looking for boys and girls aged five through ten to have fun with us, so please join us by calling Pack 21's John Ryan today, at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.











Courtesy

Christ Church Pomfret recently donated $500 to The Friends of Assisi Food Pantry for Thanksgiving Fixings. Pictured, left to right, are Jennifer Litke, Food Coordinator; Judy Miller, Christ Church Pomfret Outreach Committee; & Melinda Dion French, Assistant Director.



Hometown Heroes of the Quiet Corner: Cpl. Byron Asa Carroll, Jr., USAAF (1923-1943)



Cpl. Byron Asa Carroll, Jr.

BY MICHAEL ROCCHETTI
COMMANDER
MAYOTTE-VIENS AMERICAN LEGION POST #13

In the quiet village of Alconbury, in the pastoral flatlands of rural East Anglia, about 80 miles north of London, England, there is a memorial plaque at an abandoned Royal Air Force base nearby. This plaque is dedicated to the American airmen who died during WWII in one of the worst flight line accidents in US Air Force history. Among the names is Byron Asa Carroll.

During World War II, the aircrews of the United States Army Air Forces faced extraordinary dangers flying bombing missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. Less widely recognized were the dangers confronting the ground crews responsible for maintaining, fueling, and arming the aircraft before each mission. These mechanics, armorers, and technicians worked daily among thousands of gallons of highly flammable aviation gasoline and tons of high explosives, with little margin for error. On May 27, 1943, one of the worst ground accidents in the history of the Eighth Air Force claimed the lives of nineteen American servicemen, including 19-year-old Corporal Byron Asa Carroll, Jr. of East Killingly.

Born on Dec. 19, 1923, Byron was the son of Byron Elmer Carroll Sr. and Nettie May (House) Carroll. Raised in East Killingly, he was well regarded throughout his community. Like thousands of young Americans following the nation's entry into World War II, Carroll answered the call to military service, enlisting in the Army in 1942.

Recognizing his mechanical aptitude, the Army Air Forces sent him to Yakima, Washington, where he studied aircraft mechanics. He subsequently received additional training at Rapid City, S.D., preparing him for service with a heavy bombardment unit. Following a brief furlough at home, Carroll departed for England in the spring of 1943. His family received letters from him overseas, but could have little imagined the tragedy that would soon unfold.

Carroll was assigned to the 412th Bombardment Squadron of the 95th Bombardment Group (Heavy), part of the 8th Air Force. He served as crew chief of Boeing B-17F Flying Fortress serial number 42-29685, a four-engine heavy bomber preparing to participate in the growing American strategic bombing campaign against Germany.

A fully loaded B-17 was an imposing and potentially dangerous machine. It could carry approximately 2,800 gallons of high-octane aviation gasoline and, depending on the mission, a bomb load of ten 500-pound bombs. Ground personnel were responsible for inspecting engines, servicing aircraft systems, refueling, loading ammunition, and preparing the bombs that would be dropped on enemy targets. A single mistake, mechanical malfunction, or accidental detonation could have catastrophic consequences.

On May 27, 1943, the 95th Bombardment Group was preparing its aircraft at RAF Alconbury, an airfield in Cambridgeshire, England. The group had only recently arrived at the base and was preparing to begin combat operations against occupied Europe. At approximately 8:30 p.m. that evening, ground crews were loading bombs aboard the B-17s when a 500-pound bomb associated with aircraft #42-29685 suddenly exploded. The initial blast triggered additional detonations, unleashing a devastating chain reaction across the crowded flight line.

The aircraft was destroyed in an instant. Exploding bombs, burning aviation fuel, and flying metal engulfed the surrounding area. The force of the explosions hurled aircraft wreckage hundreds of feet. An engine from the destroyed bomber reportedly flew more than 600 feet, striking another B-17 before coming to rest beneath a third aircraft.

The blasts left a crater approximately thirty feet in diameter and six feet deep. Four B-17 Flying Fortresses were destroyed, five more suffered severe damage, and six sustained lesser damage. Nineteen American servicemen were killed, twenty-one were seriously injured, and fourteen others reportedly sustained minor injuries. Among those killed was Corporal Byron Carroll, the young Connecticut crew chief responsible for the aircraft at the center of the disaster.

The explosion was so powerful that American servicemen attending a motion picture in the nearby village of Alconbury heard and felt the blast. They hurried back to the airfield to assist the injured and help recover their fallen comrades.

One surviving pilot, Gale House, later recalled that he and members of his crew had been sitting on blankets near their aircraft when the explosion occurred. Bomb fragments tore through the surrounding aircraft, while dirt and debris rained down upon the men attempting to escape. House was wounded, and his navigator, First Lieutenant Frank Metzger, was killed instantly.

Another eyewitness, Harry Conley, explained that ground crews had been loading bombs with their fuses already installed, a procedure intended to speed aircraft preparation. The tragedy demonstrated the extreme danger of this practice, which was subsequently discontinued.

The loss was particularly devastating because the 95th Bombardment Group had been stationed at Alconbury for only a few days. Before its airmen could fully enter the strategic bombing campaign, the unit had suffered nineteen fatalities in a single accident on the ground.

Back in Connecticut, Byron Carroll's parents received a War Department telegram informing them that their son had died somewhere in the European theater on May 27. The message provided no explanation of the circumstances.

On June 10, 1943, the Windham County Transcript reported the heartbreaking news under the headline, "E. Killingly Boy Serving In AEF Loses His Life." Because Carroll was associated with a bomber crew, the newspaper speculated that he had been killed during combat operations against Germany. His family and neighbors had no reason to suspect that he had actually perished in an explosion while preparing an aircraft for a mission.

Carroll's death was officially classified as DNBI (Disease or Non-Battle Injury) rather than killed in action. Nevertheless, his sacrifice was no less real. He died performing the essential and dangerous duties that made the American air offensive possible.

He was survived by his parents, his sisters Mrs. Howard Soule of Killingly, Mrs. Clarence Hayfield of North Scituate, R.I., and Mrs. Rose Allen of Putnam, and his brother Daniel Greene of Putnam. Cpl. Byron Asa Carroll, Jr. was laid to rest in Westfield Cemetery in Danielson. He was just nineteen years old.

Seventy years after the disaster, on May 27, 2013, American military personnel, local historians, and representatives of the Alconbury community gathered to dedicate a memorial plaque honoring the nineteen men who had died. The ceremony ensured that the airmen whose lives were lost before their aircraft ever reached enemy territory would not be forgotten.

Carroll's story reminds us that military service in wartime involved dangers far beyond the battlefield. The mechanics, crew chiefs, armorers, and maintenance personnel who kept America's bombers flying faced hazards that could prove just as deadly as enemy fire. Their work was indispensable to victory, and their sacrifices deserve equal remembrance.

For the people of East Killingly, who named their VFW Post in his honor, Corporal Byron Asa Carroll, Jr. remains one of their own, a young man who left his Connecticut hometown to serve his country and never returned alive.

Taste of Northeast CT celebrates the Quiet Corner's culinary identity



HAMPTON — The Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce welcomed guests to Stonehurst at Hampton Valley on Thursday, Nov. 5 for its newly rebranded annual event, Taste of Northeast CT, formerly known as Taste of the Towns.

With a renewed focus on regional tourism, Taste of Northeast CT brought together local restaurants, bakeries, breweries, farms, and artists for an evening celebrating the people and businesses that contribute to the region's identity.

The event utilized both the Barn and Mansion at Stonehurst at Hampton Valley. Guests traveled between the two venues aboard a trolley, enjoying food tastings, local art, and opportunities to connect with businesses and community members. An outdoor fire pit offered another gathering space for guests to enjoy throughout the evening.

"This was my first major event as the new Executive Director of the Chamber, and it was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces come together," said Kelly Bellavance, Executive Director of the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce. "We look forward to continuing to grow this event year after year and finding new ways to highlight all that Northeastern Connecticut has to offer."

Beyond celebrating the region, Taste of Northeast CT serves as an important fundraiser supporting the Chamber's ongoing work throughout its 23-town service area.

"Events like Taste of Northeast CT allow us to continue the important work of the Chamber, from advocating for our local businesses to providing educational opportunities, networking events, and resources that strengthen our region," said Amy Brunet, President of the Chamber's Board of Directors. "At the heart of our mission is bringing people and businesses together. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended, participated, sponsored, and helped make this event possible."

The Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce extends its appreciation to the participating businesses, artists, farms, sponsors, volunteers, and community members whose support made this year's event a success.

Participating Food & Farms:

A Cupcake For Later, Amy's Cakery, Salute Café, Balanced Bites, Black Pond Brews, Emerald Buddha, G7 Catering, The Mansion at Bald Hill, Willimantic Brewing Company, Grown Connected, KDCrop Farms, Botl Farm, Kindred Crossings, Westview Farm, Russo's Roots, La Strada Pizza Co., Leona's Baking Co., Sadie's Sweet Shop, Black Dog Bar & Grille, Courthouse Bar & Grille, Two Dogs Coffee Company, Creamery Brook Bison, Heirloom Food Company, Little Dipper Farm, and Mimby Farm.

Participating Artists:

Tom Menard, Kerri Art Studio & Gallery, Art Guild Northeast, David Wagner and Shemikah Colleton.

Taste of Northeast CT is held annually on the first Thursday in November. The Chamber looks forward to welcoming the community back on Thursday, November 4, 2027, for another celebration of all that Northeastern Connecticut has to offer.

About the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce

The Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce serves 23 towns throughout the region, supporting local businesses through advocacy, education, networking, and community engagement.

Pomfret Library sees strong turnout for visiting author's presentation



POMFRET — The Pomfret Library drew a strong reception last week for local author Lisette Rimer, who presented her memoir on the death of her son, Patrick Wood. Some who attended had marveled at Patrick's piano performances and watched him accept awards at convocations.

Rimer said, "It was like a homecoming for Patrick, who spent many hours at the Pomfret Library." Patrick was known for his academic achievements, his humor, and friendliness at Pomfret School, where he graduated as valedictorian. In spite of his successes, he died by suicide in 2006. Rimer wrote "Back from Suicide" to reveal why Patrick's brilliance was overshadowed by depression.

"I learned the hard way that depression can attack anyone just like other diseases," she said.

Several of Patrick's teachers, along with other educators, listened as Rimer focused on Patrick's description of depression as unpredictable. In an essay called "Being Shy," he wrote that some days he was okay. Other days he was terrified. At times he would feel paralyzed and seized by irrational fear. On his worst days, he felt the whole world was out to get him. His struggle against shyness was also a struggle against the unpredictability of his own character.

Rimer said, "Patrick made me realize that students can look perfect on the outside, but they might be crumbling on the inside. He was close to his family, especially his twin sister, Libby. But sometimes he was unexplainably sad. It was as if his own ability separated him from other students."

Rimer said she wanted teachers and administrators to understand how even the most successful students can be vulnerable, how disappointments can build, internally and undetected until they dominate. Patrick googled his symptoms on a Pomfret School computer to learn that abnormal sadness was a symptom of depression. He had therapy while at Pomfret, but treatment became irregular when he went to Stanford. He died seven months after graduating with honors in 2005.

Rimer expressed gratitude to Ashley Danenhower for filming the presentation available at: https://youtu.be/prcgsKLi44A. She also thanked Pomfret Library director Laurie Bell and the board of trustees for hosting the presentation and providing a welcoming atmosphere for discussion. "It's hard to talk about suicide in most situations," Rimer said, "but people opened up about their own experiences that night. They connected with Patrick's story. If suicide can happen to Patrick, it can happen to anyone."

"Back from Suicide" won numerous awards, which prompted questions on how the book was written.

Rimer said, "It was a long, torturous process with a lot of Kleenex around my keyboard. I never wanted to write a book, especially about suicide. But if I was going to do it, it had to be worthy of Patrick. It had to make him come alive."

"Back from Suicide" reveals the suicidal mind through the misery of depression and the difficulty of coming out. It's the enigma of self-destruction after a lifetime of success. For more information, go to: www.backfromsuicide.com.

Quiet Corner Garden Club earns awards at Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Awards Ceremony

REGION — The Quiet Corner Garden Club received an impressive 22 awards at the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Awards Luncheon held on Oct. 21. The awards recognized the club's outstanding contributions to community beautification, environmental conservation, historic preservation, horticultural education, and community service, as well as the exceptional dedication of its individual members.

The awards spanned three levels of garden club recognition: National Garden Clubs, Inc., New England Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.

"These awards reflect the remarkable commitment, creativity, and hard work of our members," commented Lanette Lepper, Club Vice President and Michelle Lengyel, Civic Committee Chair. "From restoring gardens and preserving important landscapes to planting trees, supporting pollinators, educating children, and bringing the therapeutic benefits of gardening to the community, our members demonstrate how gardening can make a lasting difference."

Among the National Garden Club honors, the club received a Certificate of Commendation for Landscaping of Public or Religious Grounds for its Quasset Cemetery project, led by Mary Ann Johnson. The club also received Certificates of Appreciation for its Floral Design Course, led by Marcia Kettle, and its restoration of the historic gardens at the Abington Social Library, led by Deni Van der Voort.

At the New England Garden Clubs level, Noreene Stehlik received the prestigious Laura Wetmore Conservation Award for her extensive, multi-town America 250 tree-planting initiative.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut recognized the club and its members across several categories:

The Joyce P. Harris Award: Wendy Fusco received this honor, presented for outstanding horticultural achievement for her restoration of the 24-acre, historically significant Cat Hollow Park in Killingly.

Conservation Award for Excellence in Conservation: Noreene Stehlik was honored for her ambitious tree-planting undertaking that represented one of the most significant conservation efforts in the club's history.

A Tribute Award is a distinct award honoring an individual who has made an outstanding contribution within their Club. In a first for the Club, a Tribute Award in Communication was presented to Caroline Delaney for her work on the monthly Newsletter and press releases.

Other categories included:

Award of Excellence - "Pots to Table" program with TEEG

Three Civic Development Individual Citations - Mary Ann Johnson, Maureen Lane, Elaine Turner

Individual Award of Excellence Healing, Therapy & Senior Gardening- Linda Kaplan

Certificate of Individual Achievement - Mary Ann Johnson & crew for Palmer Hall property

Club Certificate of Achievement - Planting pollinator favorites at the Clock Tower Gardens Woodstock Fairgrounds

Two Public Relations and Membership Awareness Awards - Facebook and Newsletter

Youth Award Individual Certificate of Achievement - Lynn Davis

Luckner Individual Certificate of Achievement - Elaine Turner

Luckner Club Citation - Flower arranging workshop for home schooled girls that assisted at Plant Sale

Special Award Certificates of Appreciation - Marcia Kettle

Good Deed Citation - Memorial Garden watering during drought, led by Laura Salo

Special Certificate - Laura Salo

Tribute Award Communications- Caroline Delaney

The Quiet Corner Garden Club's accomplishments extend well beyond the gardens themselves. Through partnerships with local organizations, public garden projects, education programs, conservation initiatives, and volunteer service, members continue to enhance the beauty, history and environmental health of northeastern Connecticut communities.

The awards are a testament to the club's dedication to its mission of promoting gardening, protecting natural resources, preserving horticultural heritage and enriching the communities it serves.

If you love gardening or want to learn more about it, now is a great time to consider joining the Quiet Corner Garden Club. Send an email to qcgardenclub@gmail.com to learn more!



Courtesy

Quiet Corner Garden Club award winners. Left to right, back row - John Davis, Michelle Lengyel, Linda Kaplan, Mary Ann Johnson. Front row - Caroline Delaney, Deni Van der Voort, Lanette Lepper, Wendy Fusco, Noreene Stehlik, Marian Hallowell.

KILLINGLY

continued from page A4

Western New York. The male students did not want her attending lectures, and definitely did not want her assisting at surgeries or dissections. Being a trailblazer was not without many challenges!

I was curious about what happened to Ellen Hammond, and discovered she, too, was a trailblazer here in Connecticut. Her obituary in the Tuesday, December 13, 1932 Hartford Courant (p.4; genealogybank.com) read, "Dr. Ellen Gladwin dies, Aged 87 In Asylum Ave. Home. First Woman Graduate of Medical School to practice in City (Hartford). Dr. Ellen Hammond Gladwin of 930 Asylum Avenue, a physician in this city for nearly 50 years and the first woman graduate of a medical school to practice medicine in Hartford, died Monday morning at the age of 87 years. She retired from practice about 10 years ago. Born in East Killingly in 1845, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Justin Hammond and Susan Hammond. She was a graduate of Mr. Holyoke College and in 1872 was graduated from the Woman's Medical College of New York… Dr. Gladwin had been in ill health for five months. She retired shortly before the death of her husband Sidney M. Gladwin, in 1932. She leaves four cousins, Dr. Grace Murray and Miss Katherine Peckham in Putnam and Miss Faith Levens and Miss Delia Levens in Norwich. She was a member of Center Church and of the Hartford Medical Society…"

I had heard of her cousin, Dr. Grace (Peckham) Murray from Linden Whipple when we did a Putnam Heights Cemetery Walktober walk a few years ago. She is buried in that cemetery on Route 21. Grace was a world traveler and died April 8, 1933 in Kyoto, Japan of influenza at age 84. She was the widow of Judge Charles H. Murray of the New York Court of Claims. Dr. Murray was born in Killingly, CT October 16, 1848 and was graduated from Mt. Holyoke College in 1867 and received her medical degree from the Woman's Medical College of New York in 1881. "She had crossed the Atlantic 20 times and the Pacific 15 times. Her travel experiences included a 3,000-mile trip up the Amazon River." (Brooklyn Eagle, 4/10/1933; genealogybank.com). In addition to being a traveler, Dr. Murray was also a writer, submitting articles to numerous newspapers at the beginning of the 20th century. I chuckled when I saw one entitled, "The Dangers of Tight Clothing (Corsets) on Young Girls" reprinted from the New York Herald in the Birmingham Herald, Jan. 13, 1901. "The corset is capable of more mischief than any other piece of wearing apparel invented since the days of the fig leaf.", p. 16; (genealogybank.com).

Since Grace's sister, Katherine Peckham, was called Miss in the Hammond obituary, I was not expecting her to also have a medical bent. Much to my surprise I learned that she, too, had studied for a medical degree in her middle years, receiving one from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1889. She practiced for a few years in Boston then retired to Putnam Heights to live with her sister Rosa Peckham Danielson. Katherine Fenner Peckham died 1 April 1939 age, 99. (Windham County Observer-Putnam, CT, Wed., Apr. 5, 1939, p. 9; genealogybank.com; findagrave).

Do you wonder what might have inspired these three women to face the challenges that being a female physician in the 19th century implied? Perhaps they were inspired to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers. Ellen's father, Dr. Justin Hammond, was an East Killingly doctor. Dr. Hazael Peckham also was an early 19th century physician in East Killingly; Justin Hammond was his son-in-law. Hazael's son Fenner H. Peckham lived in East Killingly, Providence, and Killingly Hill/Putnam Heights. Fenner H. Peckham, Jr. and Katherine Fenner Peckham's nephew Charles Peckham were also doctors. I think the lure of the medical profession was in their blood! The world was a better place because of them.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, November 2026. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. For Windham County Transcripts, visit killingly.historyarchives.online courtesy of the Killingly Public Library. For Putnam Patriots and Windham County Observers visit the home page of the Putnam Public Library and look on the right hand column for links. If you are out of this area, check to see what papers your public library has available. For Online Land Records go to Search IQS.

Final spoken word reading for Poets at Large's Fall season set for Nov. 21

POMFRET, Conn. — Nov. 21 will be the final spoken word event of 2026 for Poets at Large. That night poet and troubador Tommy Twilite will perform, followed by author, poet, musician Scott Laudati.

This event begins at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean, 450 Deerfield Rd., Pomfret. Suggested donation: $10. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to be in the open mic. Recommended for age 16 and up.

Tommy Twilite is a Massachusetts troubadour who combines music, poetry, exploration and

adventure into his performances. He is the co-founder and former director of the Florence Poets

Society, former editor of Silkworm and is a Lifetime Beat Poet Laureate. He also hosts the Twilite Poetry Pub on WXOJ Valley Free Radio. His latest chapbook, Kills No Bird is a follow up to his 2021 collection, Fifty Words for Rain. Twilite is well known as someone who can transport an audience to another realm with his words and music. He was honored by the National Baseball Poetry Festival in 2024 for his poem, "The Tools of Ignorance."

Scott Laudati runs Bone Machine, a punk rock press, from his apartment in NYC with his dog, Josie. He is the author of Play The Devil (novel) and RAINBOW ROAD (poetry). His essays/poems/short stories have been published by The Columbia Journal, The Stockholm Review, Hobart, The Belfast Review, The Adirondack Review and others. Laudati has won the Jack Grapes Poetry Prize, The Riggs Gold Medal Essay Award and The Stark Award in Fiction. Follow him for his ruminations on pizza & existentialism published yearly by X-R-AY magazine at @ ScottLaudati. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts and is sponsored in part by bankHometown, Linemaster Switch, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. The Vanilla Bean is ADA compliant.

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.

Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up

Girls Soccer

The Killingly Trailblazers traveled to Bethel on Friday night for the first round of the state tournament. Despite a hard-fought effort, the Trailblazers fell to the Wildcats, 3-0. McKenna Mulvey was outstanding in goal, recording 14 saves on the night. Defensively, Lylah Connetti led the way with strong support from Mabel Peterson, Kate Crowley, Layla Raymond, and Lianna Hutchinson.

Thank you to our senior captains, McKenna Mulvey and Gracie West, for your leadership, dedication, and commitment throughout an incredible 12-5-2 season.

FINANCIAL

continued from page A2

$11,250 deduction raises your adjusted gross income (AGI), and AGI drives other thresholds: the state and local tax (SALT) deduction phaseout that begins at $505,000 of modified AGI, and Medicare income-related surcharges, assessed on a two-year lookback.

Treat it as one decision

This rule slipped past people because it arrived as a payroll change. Nobody had to sign anything. Yet your contribution strategy, withholding, mix of taxable, tax-deferred and tax-free savings, and retirement income sequencing all shifted at once.

If you are 50 or older, earning above the threshold, and haven't reviewed how your catch-up contributions are being treated this year, that is an hour well spent with your advisor and your CPA before Dec. 31.

At WHZ, our goal is to help you move forward with Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life. Schedule a complimentary discovery session at whzwealth.com or call 860-928-2341.

Authored by WHZ Associate Vice President, Wealth Advisor Jonathan Mathews, CFP®. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. Retirement plan contribution limits, wage thresholds, and tax rules referenced here are current as of the date of publication and are subject to change. Plan provisions vary; whether a specific catch-up feature is available to you depends on your employer's plan document. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, 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.

MARKET

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Market and Winter Market, explained that as the program wrapped its 16th season, they wanted to find a way to keep their customers engaged and continue to support their farmers and vendors through the winter months. This sparked the idea of the Winter Market, which essentially moves the program indoors until the end of April.

"It was such a great success this year and the farmers all just wanted to keep it going, so I tried to give them an outlet to sell their products so that's how we landed here," Campbell said. "The farmers get great foot traffic all summer but then when their season ends, what happens? This is the perfect outlet. It's also an opportunity for those who have lesser-known farm stands to start gaining a network all winter long and then when the weather is good people will go to their stores, so it's a win-win."

Patrons can expect to see most of the same shops and farms represented at the Winter Market that they've grown to love during the summertime. Products range from vegetables, meat, cheese, milk, honey, and other fresh goods to crafts and vendor-specific products for a wide selection. Campbell explained that some vendors travel, but many are from right in the area.

"They are largely from Connecticut. We have one baker from Massachusetts. Everyone is mostly from the Quiet Corner. We have a couple of farms joining us from Windham. I have a gluten-free wholesaler that will be driving up from Simsbury in the spring, which will be really exciting. So, our vendors and farmers are from all over with many of them from right here," said Campbell.

Thirty-six vendors have been approved for the Market, with ten full-time. Twenty-one joined the first Winter Market on Nov. 7.

The 25-week Saturday Winter Market runs from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. every Saturday through the end of April except for Dec. 26 at the Putnam Municipal Complex. Information on the market and its vendors can be found on the Putnam Saturday Farmers Market social media pages.

MIDTERMS

continued from page A1

control of the Senate and House of Representatives to the Democrats.

Possibly the upset of the night in the local state elections was the battle for the 35th District State Senate seat which was won by Democratic challenger Ethan Werstler over incumbent Jeffrey Gordon.

Werstler won the seat away from Gordon carrying Ashford, Coventry, Tolland, Vernon, and Willington but possibly most impressively he also won Woodstock where Gordon served as the long-time chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission until his election to the State Senate. While Gordon won Eastford and Thompson among other towns, it wasn't enough to erase Werstler's lead. Werstler is the first Democrat to win the district since 1993.

Democrats also flipped the seat for Northeast Judge of Probate. Democrat Kate Cerrone took on Republican incumbent Gabrielle Labonte with Cerrone claiming victory carrying Ashford, Pomfret, Putnam, and Woodstock while Labonte earned wins in Brooklyn, Eastford, and Thompson. The difference was just over 250 votes, making it one of the night's closest elections.

The 29th District Senate seat was much less dramatic than the prior election. Democrat Mae Flexer retained the seat for a seventh term defeating Republican Chris Reddy in a rematch of 2024 when Flexer won by less than a percent leading Reddy to refuse to concede and to question the outcome. The latest tally was much more decisive in favor of Flexer, who earned more than 55 percent of the vote between Democrat and Working Family Party voters to Reddy's 41 percent.

While locally, Reddy carried Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Scotland, and Thompson, Flexer earned victories in Putnam, Pomfret and dominated in voter-heavy Windham and Manfield.

For State House, all representative seats remained unchanged for the Quiet Corner as both Republican and Democrat incumbents staked their continued claim on their respective seats.

The 44th District saw Republican Anne Dubay Dauphinais prevail in a rematch against Democratic challenger Samantha Derenthal. Dauphinais carried all three towns in the district, Killingly, Plainfield, and Sterling, on the way to winning her sixth term in the State House.

In the neighboring 47th District, Republican Doug Dubitsky also earned another term defeating Democratic challenge Marcus Palumbo. Locally, Dubitsky easily won Brooklyn, along with every other town in the district except Norwich.

The 50th District Seat had some drama earlier this year when Republicans shifted candidates following a controversy involving rhetoric used by their original endorsed nominee Jadon MacCormack. They pivoted to former Pomfret Selectman Anthony Emelio who defeated MacCormack in a primary but couldn't unseat Democrat Pat Boyd who earned his sixth term in the seat carrying every town in the district.

The 51st District saw incumbent Republican Chris Stewart fend off Democratic challenger Dr. Lina Wagner continuing a stronghold on the seat previously held by his father-in-law Rick Hayes. While Stewart lost Putnam, he claimed decisive victories in Killingly and Thompson.

In the 52nd District, Kurt Vail won another term despite losing Woodstock to Democratic rival Vincent Tocci. Vail was able to overwhelmingly carry the other three towns in the district, Somers, Stafford, and Union, to earn another term.

OBITUARY

David Crouse Ames, 93



David Crouse Ames, 93, passed away November 1, 2026 at Day Kimball Hospital following a recent decline in health. David was born April 9, 1933 in Rutland, Vermont to Merton Warren Ames and Thelma Augusta Crouse.

David has one brother, Steven Warren Ames, of New Milford, Connecticut. He is predeceased by his sister, Sally Ann Ames MacDonald, who lived in Carmel, Maine.

David grew up in Scituate and East Providence, Rhode Island, moving to Putnam in 1950. David met his future wife, Sandra Cutler, at a Putnam High School dance that same year. After several years of dating they were married on October 28, 1955. David and Sandra, assisted by David's father, Merton, and Sandra's father, Loid Cutler, built their house by themselves between 1959-1961. Ill health necessitated their recent 71st anniversary be celebrated via a telephone conversation between David, in the hospital, and Sandra, at their home on Chase Road in Putnam.

David and Sandra have two daughters: Deborah Ames Malone, married to James Malone, and Susan Ames Page, married to Ronald Page.

David is survived by his wife, brother, two daughters, two grandsons, Nicholas Page and Jonathan Page, and several nieces and nephews.

David worked most of his career as a typewriter repair technician. David worked for the Royal Typewriter Company and New England Business Machines, serving clients throughout central Massachusetts. He finished his career in 1995 with State Mutual Insurance where he assisted in their transition from typewriters to computer keyboards.

David enjoyed all aspects of automobiles including classics and modern. Along with fellow automobile enthusiast and friend Tommy Davis, David visited several automobile museums in New England and attended many classic car shows with David's brother, Steven, who is also a car enthusiast.

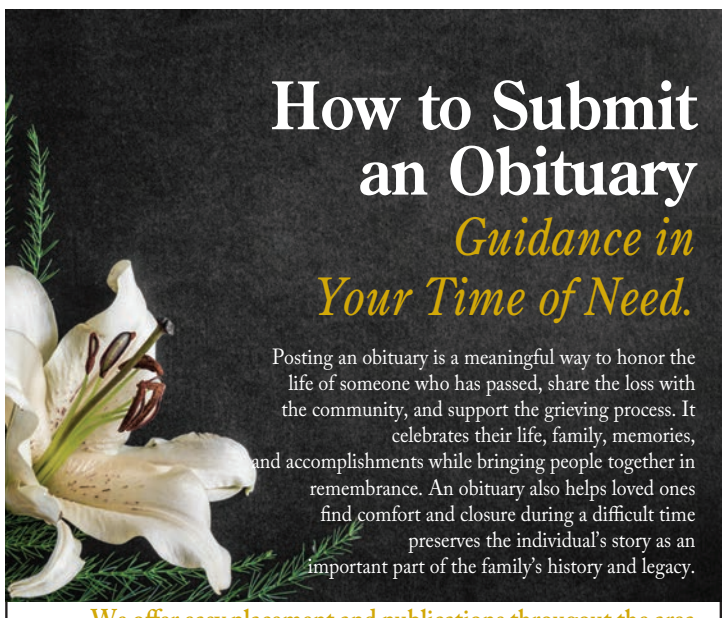
David loved music. He had a natural talent and played trumpet and organ despite the fact he had virtually no formal training. David had an organ in his home and often enjoyed playing it in the evenings after work. He also sang for many years in the Concert Choir of Northeastern Connecticut.

In later years, David could often be found at the counter at Marika's Place, where he enjoyed the company as much as the food. Next time you're in there, give Dave's favorite cheddar cheese omelette a try.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Kidney Foundation (https://www.kidney.org) in David's name.

Final arrangements and burial will be private.

Share a Memory at Smithandwalkerfh.com



How to Submit an Obituary

Guidance in Your Time of Need.

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LEGALS

Town of Putnam
Planning & Zoning Commission
Legal Notice

The Town of Putnam Planning & Zoning Commission will conduct a public hearing on November 18, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in Room 201 of the Municipal Complex located at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT. for the proposed Plan of Conservation and Development in accordance with Section 8-23 of the State of Connecticut General Statutes. The proposed plan has been filed in the office of the Town Clerk and online on the Town of Putnam website at www.putnamct.us. A hard copy of the proposed Plan of Conservation and Development will be available for review, in the Land Use Office and the Putnam Public Library located in the Municipal Complex at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT during regular Town Hall business hours. At this Hearing interested persons may be heard and written communcations received.
Patricia Hedenberg, Chairman.
November 6, 2026
November 13, 2026

Town of Putnam
Planning & Zoning Commission
Legal Notice

The Town of Putnam Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Hybrid meeting on November 18, 2026, at 7:00 P. M. in Room 201 at the Putnam Municipal Complex, located at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT. A public hearing will take place on each of the following:
Docket # 2026-16 High Street Condominium Association is requesting a Special Permit in accordance with Section 703 to convert 2(4Family Buildings) known as 8-12 High Street into 8 individual condo units and for an upcoming build of 4 units known as 16 High Street into 4 individual condo units. The applicant is requesting a waiver under subsection 9(k) and 9(m) be placed as a condition of approval. Property is located at 8-12,16 High Street. Town Assessors Map 15, Lot 108, Zoned R-10.
Docket # 2026-17 Larry K. Groh Jr. & Erica Groh request for a Special Permit in accordance with Section 703 to convert a new construction duplex into 2 condominium units. Property is located at 17 Prospect Street, Town Assessors Map 15, Lots 134, Zoned R-10.
Patricia Hedenberg, Chairperson
November 6, 2026
November 13, 2026

Town of Putnam
Zoning Board of Appeals
Legal Notice

The Town of Putnam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a hybrid meeting on November 17, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in Room 201 on the second floor at the Putnam Municipal Complex, located at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT. A public hearing will take place on the following:
Appeal # 2026-007 Joseph Dion requests for variances for the side yard setback from the required 10 feet down to 6 feet and for the rear yard setback from the required 20 feet down to 0 feet for the construction of a new building. Property is located at 284 School Street, Town Assessors Map 12, Lot 17, Zoned HC.
Appeal # 2026-008 Bruce Fitzback request for a variance for the front yard setback from the required 50 feet down to 10 feet for a kitchen addition on the north side of the house and a sunroom on the south side of the house which was built in 1835. Property is located at 9 John Bennett Road, Town Assessors Map 45, Lot 12, Zoned R-40.
Scott Zadora, Chairman
November 6, 2026
November 13, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
William Gardner (26-00423)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 4, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Holly Gardner
c/o JAMIE DA VIS ALEMAN, LAW OFFICE OF JAMIE DAVIS ALEMAN, LLC,
33 BROAD STREET,
DANIELSON, CT 06239
November 13, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
ESTATE OF Richard John Coduri, Jr., AKA Richard J Coduri, Jr., AKA Richard John Coduri, AKA Richard Coduri (26-00440)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 2, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Grace K Coduri
c/o ELLEN ROSEMARY SUTLIFFE HAIN, COHEN AND WOLF, P.C.,
1115 BROAD STREET,
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604
November 13, 2026

Killingly Public Schools selected for prestigious Nellie Mae Education Foundation Award

DISTRICT RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, AND INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

KILLINGLY — Killingly Public Schools is proud to announce that it has been selected as a recipient of an award through the Nellie Mae Education District and Community Collaboration (NEDCC) initiative, a highly competitive regional effort designed to strengthen partnerships among schools, families, students, and community organizations to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for young people.

The award places Killingly Public Schools among a distinguished cohort of district-community partnerships across New England that have been recognized for their vision, leadership, and dedication to creating rigorous, relevant, and equitable learning experiences for students. According to the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, participating communities represent diverse approaches and local contexts while sharing a common commitment to ensuring that all young people are prepared to thrive in school, their communities, and future careers.

"This recognition is both an honor and a tremendous opportunity for our district and community," said Dr. Paul S. Haughey, Superintendent of Schools. "We are deeply grateful to the Nellie Mae Education Foundation for its investment in our students and community. This award validates the important work already happening across Killingly Public Schools and provides an opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with families, educators, students, and community stakeholders as we continue building innovative pathways for student success. We are excited to learn alongside other communities throughout New England and contribute to work that can positively impact students for years to come."

The NEDCC initiative is intended to foster collaboration among school districts and community partners while creating opportunities for participating organizations to learn from one another, identify effective practices, and address challenges through shared innovation and continuous improvement.

Carrie Apanovitch, Principal of Killingly High School, praised the recognition and emphasized its significance for students.

"Being selected for this award is an incredible opportunity to build upon the important work already underway at Killingly High School to expand meaningful career pathways and real-world learning experiences for our students," Apanovitch said. "I am especially grateful for the collaboration and commitment of our partners at CT State Community College–Quinebaug Valley, Dean of Faculty and Students, Mac Griswold, and our KHS Career Center Coordinator, Chad Neal, whose leadership and dedication have been instrumental in advancing this work."

District leaders note that the award aligns closely with ongoing efforts to expand student opportunities, strengthen family and community engagement, and ensure all students have access to high-quality educational experiences that prepare them to meet the demands of an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation has indicated that a full list of funded NEDCC communities will be released following completion of grant agreements with participating organizations.

"Our community has always believed in the power of collaboration and shared purpose," Dr. Haughey added. "We look forward to working closely with our partners and to demonstrating what is possible when schools and communities come together around a common vision for student success."

About Killingly Public Schools

Killingly Public Schools serves students and families in Killingly, Connecticut as well as the surrounding communities within Windham County, providing high-quality educational opportunities that empower every student to achieve academic excellence, develop strong character, and become engaged citizens prepared for future success.

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