

*"Que sera, sera. Whatever will be, will be."  
- sung by Doris Day*



# THOMPSON VILLAGER

*Serving Thompson since 2005*

©2026, Issue #15

Friday, April 17, 2026

Complimentary to homes by request

## Laperle's inducted into Martial Arts Hall of Fame



**DANIELSON** — Daryl Laperle, 7th Dan Black Belt and Chief Instructor of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy (DMAA), was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame during its ceremonies in Costa Mesa, Calif. on March 21.

This was Master Laperle's sixth such honor, with five previous inductions into halls of fame, one into the Golden Gate Hall of Honors, two into the Action Martial Arts Magazine Hall of Fame, and two previous USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductions for the "Golden Life" and "Tang Soo Do Master of the Year" awards.

The induction comes on the heels of Master Laperle's Silver medal victory in the men's heavyweight full-contact fighting division at the 15th annual international World Martial Arts Games, held in Oslo, Norway this past November as a member of the U.S. Martial Arts Team. The event drew hundreds of participants from more than 22 nations in many different martial arts styles, showcasing techniques, weapons, and combat skills at all levels of proficiency.

The USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame is the oldest hall of fame in martial arts. Founded and organized in 1976 by 10th degree Grandmaster Jim Thomas, who has won more than 200 awards and appeared in more than eight Martial Arts motion pictures, and Mike Day (deceased), US Navy SEAL combat veteran, Purple Heart, Silver and Bronze Star recipient, the organization celebrated its 50th anniversary at the induction ceremonies this year.

Previous inductees include action stars Mel Novak (Bruce Lee's Game of Death), Laurene Landon (Maniac Cop 1 and 2), model and martial artist Dawna Lee Heising (Samurai Cop 2: Deadly Vengeance, Nemesis 5: The New Model), multi award-winning actress Vida G. (The Mindy Project, Jimmy Kimmel Live), five-time world kickboxing champion filmmaker Robert Parham, world karate champion and action star Kathy Long, and action hero Dan Southworth (The Scorpion King).

DMAA is a member of the Cheezic Tang Soo Do Federation, a worldwide Martial Arts organization with more than 50 schools worldwide and more than 5,000 students. Master Laperle has been the school's head instructor for 32 years. Among his many accomplishments, he is the youngest martial artist in Cheezic Tang Soo Do's history to earn 4th, 5th and 6th Dan Black Belt ranks. Additionally, at age 42, he was the youngest member of the Cheezic Federation to achieve the rank of 7th Dan Master Belt. Master Laperle has competed for the USA Karate Team throughout the United States, as well as Australia, China, Bermuda, Poland, Holland as well as the former Soviet Union.

In its 52nd year, the Danielson Martial Arts Academy (DMAA) is one of the longest running Karate schools in New England. The school has been voted the "best martial arts studio" ten years in a row in the Norwich Bulletin's Community Choice Awards. This March, DMAA was named the Cheezic Tang Soo Do School of the Year. You can learn more about the Danielson Martial Arts Academy by visiting [www.danielsonmartialarts.com](http://www.danielsonmartialarts.com).

## DEEP provides insight in Rogers PFAS testing

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

**KILLINGLY** — PFAS contamination in the Rogers area of Killingly has been a major talking point dating back to last year. While the Town Council has received several small updates in the early months of 2026, they received much more insight into the situation on April 7 thanks to a special presentation by representatives of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).

PFAS, which stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are common in many man-made household products as well as firefighting foam. Due to their chemical structure, these substances are difficult to break down and destroy, making contamination difficult to resolve without proper filtering. Over the last decade, PFAS contamination in wells has become a significant public health issue. Locally, contamination was detected in private wells in the Rogers area of Killingly after CT DEEP initiated voluntary testing in the area of a firefighter training facility.

The purpose of the April 7 presentation was to provide some more direct insight into the exact numbers from local tests, the significance of PFAS as a health concern, and the difficulty of determining a source. The discussion was led by Meghan Lally, the Rogers Area PFAS Investigation Project Manager for CT DEEP, who explained that PFAS has and continues to be a common chemical in various industries dating back to the 1940s. While its use in firefighting foam proved effective in helping advance firefighting techniques, it also unintentionally compromised well sources which Lally said is no fault of firefighters but an unfortunate result of a lack of understanding of the chemical's risks. Odorless, colorless, and tasteless, the chemical is nearly impossible to detect without conducting a proper test. Overexposure to the chemicals in drinking water can lead to health complications over time.

Due to the chemical's relevance in firefighting foam, CT DEEP began voluntary testing homes within 1,000 feet of a training facility in Rogers. Fourteen properties agreed to take part with the results averaging 404 nanograms per liter (ng/L), well over that 16 ng/L target level. Lally called the results "really high and alarming" with every property recommended to treat their water through a special POET (Point-of-Entry Treatment) system. These results necessitated increased testing by another 500 feet that saw 14 more properties test well above the 16 ng/L limit. A third test conducted in November saw at least 48 homes requiring treatment. A fourth round of testing is now underway.

Lally said the important thing to take away from these tests is the public health risk. She stressed that

## TEEG receives state grant to provide locally grown products

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

**THOMPSON** — The Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG) is one of 12 food security programs throughout the state, and the only one in the Quiet Corner, to receive a share of \$1.55 million in state grants to purchase Connecticut Grown products from local farms.

Gov. Ned Lamont's office announced the funding award on April 9 which will allow the recipients to work with local farms to help provide healthier options to food-insecure populations. TEEG will receive \$150,000 to help fund the purchase of fresh, locally produced products for its community market, which, in turn, also supports the local economy by financially compensating farmers for their contributions.

In announcing the funds, Lamont spoke about the significant boon this program provides for communities on multiple levels.

"Every family should be able to access nutritious, locally grown food, and this program aims to eliminate barriers to healthy eating while also supporting Connecticut farmers and their operations," Lamont said in a statement. "This program was effective when it was supported by federal funding, and by releasing these state dollars we can help ensure that it continues to function and its mission can endure."

TEEG has long worked to create mutually supportive partnerships with local farmers in their community. The agency operates two stationary community markets, one in Thompson and another in Pomfret, as well as a mobile pantry providing access to both perishable and shelf-stable items supported heavily by partnerships with Putnam Walmart and numerous food share programs.

Turn To GRANT page A11

## Northeast Early Childhood Council honors 2026 Community Champion Award recipients



**REGION** — The Northeast Early Childhood Council (NECC) proudly recognized five outstanding individuals and organizations at its annual Community Champion Awards Dinner held on April 2.

The NECC Community Champion Awards are presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses in recognition of their leadership and commitment to young children and families across the region. Each recipient has made meaningful contributions to advancing NECC's mission: "To ensure all children, prenatal through age 10, in Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, Sterling, and Thompson are healthy, safe, and

successful learners."

This year's honorees reflect the strength, compassion, and collaboration that define the Northeast Connecticut community.

TEEG (Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group)

TEEG plays a vital role in supporting children and families through responsive, relationship-based programs. Initiatives such as Hand in Hand and Strong Like a Mother create spaces that reduce isolation, build connections, and strengthen parenting confidence.

Their team consistently responds

Turn To CHAMPIONS page A11

Turn To TESTING page A10

# Hayleah Castleberry earns Westview's February Employee of the Month award

DAYVILLE — Hayleah Castleberry merited recognition as Westview's Employee of the Month for February 2026.

As a Certified Nursing

Assistant at Westview Health Care Center, Castleberry forms essential connections with patients and residents across their continuum of care. Through

both clinical attentiveness and compassionate presence, she ensures that each individual receives not only the support they need, but the dignity they deserve.

While the responsibilities are considerable—requiring both physical effort and emotional awareness—she approaches each day with a steady commitment to her patients and her team.

Teamwork is central to Castleberry's approach. She values the cohesion of her nursing unit; noting that communication is the foundation of their success. The ability to convey essential information quickly and effectively allows the team to remain focused where it matters most—on patient care. This shared understanding creates an environment where collaboration is seamless and support is constant.

Castleberry grew up in Moosup and attended Norwich Technical High School. She earned her CNA certification directly through an accelerated program at Norwich Tech. She entered the healthcare workforce upon graduation; building a strong foundation of experience over her

five years at Westview thus far. She has gained valuable knowledge while becoming a consistent and dependable presence within the nursing team. Meaningful moments of care are often on display at Westview, and one such interaction recently reflected Castleberry's humility and unassuming dedication. At the end of a full day's activities in assisting a resident, she was met with a simple but heartfelt expression of gratitude as the resident expressed her appreciation for Castleberry and the nursing team, telling her "Thank you for today—you did great!" For Castleberry, kindred interactions like these serve to remind her that the work she performs each day carries profound significance. While providing care is routine for staff, it represents something far greater to the people they assist.

Outside of work, Castleberry enjoys spending time with family and embracing the natural beauty of New England. She resides in Putnam with her boyfriend, William, and remains closely connected to her family across the Windham County region. Whether visiting New England beaches (Rocky Neck State Park in Niantic is a favorite), exploring regional hiking trails, or competing in spirited family game nights, she values quality time spent with those closest to her. Monopoly competitions, in particular, are known to frequently spark lively rivalries whenever the board is set.



Hayleah Castleberry

Reflecting on her recognition, Castleberry expressed gratitude and a strong sense of team unity, stating, "I am grateful to be selected as Employee of the Month—it was definitely a surprise! While this represents an individual acknowledgment, I know our responsibilities are a team effort. Teamwork and communication are huge factors in accomplishing our goals. We all work together to keep our residents and patients at the center of our efforts." Castleberry continued to illustrate the sense of unity she feels among patients, residents, colleagues, families, and visitors alike: "We build connections with each individual and appreciate how we get to know their families through the process. There is a strong bond throughout Westview—and I am so thankful for this recognition!" Westview Administrator David T. Panteleakos commended Castleberry's consistency and compassionate

approach to care, commenting, "Hayleah's commitment to her patients' care, her reliability as a teammate, and her ability to foster meaningful connections make her an invaluable member of our nursing team. Congratulations to Hayleah!"

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 18 years.

**Edward Jones** > [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

**Want to become a more tax-efficient investor?**

Learn about investment strategies that could potentially lower next year's tax bill. Talk to a financial advisor today to learn how.

**Dennis Antonopoulos**  
Financial Advisor  
5 Albert St  
Auburn, MA 01501  
508-832-5385

FAP-1942P-A-E-AD EXP 30 NOV 2027 © 2026 AECSPAD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20			21	22				23				
		24	25				26					
27	28	29	30			31			32	33	34	
35		36				37			38			
39				40				41				
42				43				44				
45			46			47			48			
		49				50			51			
52	53	54			55			56		57	58	59
60				61				62		63		
64				65						66		
67				68						69		

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Greek goddess of marriage
5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
10. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
14. Dark olive black
15. Light, crinkled fabric
16. Notre Dame has a golden one
17. Leaked blood
18. Confronted
19. Negligible amount
20. Facilitated
22. Hill or rocky peak
23. Minneapolis suburb
24. Songs to one's beloved
27. Brake horsepower
30. Angry
31. Children's game
32. Spelling is a type of one
35. Obtained in return for labor
37. Indicates center
38. Chinese dynasty
39. Old World buffaloes
40. Slang for time off
41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Defunct regional economic organization
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. Peter Griffin's daughter
47. Digital audiotape
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Pages may be dog-\_\_
55. Israeli city \_\_Aviv
56. Type of sword
60. Middle Eastern military title
61. Wise individuals
63. French Polynesian island Bora \_\_
64. Popular shoe type
65. One of 50
66. Divulge a secret
67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
2. Ancient Syrian city
3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
4. Range of mountains
5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
6. Spoke
7. City in Georgia
8. Theatrical
9. CNN's founder
10. Icelandic poems
11. Bjorn \_\_, tennis player
12. Bowfin genus
13. One point north of northeast
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Electroencephalograph
25. Cool!
26. Male parent
27. Where some gymnasts work
28. Capital of Vietnam
29. Sailboats
32. Shelter (Scottish)
33. Completed
34. Discharge
36. Arrest
37. Partner to cheese
38. Coffee receptacle
40. Stagnate
41. Satisfies
43. Snakelike fish
44. Consume food
46. Type of school
47. Erase
49. Inform
50. Girl's given name
51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
52. Every one of two or more things
53. Northern India city
54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. Isodor \_\_, American Nobel physicist
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

PUZZLE SOLUTION

H	E	R	A		M	O	M	O	T		E	B	A	N
E	B	O	N		C	R	A	P	E		D	O	M	E
B	L	E	D		F	A	C	E	D		D	R	I	B
E	A	S	E	D		T	O	R		E	A	G	A	N
				S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S		
B	H	P		M	A	D		T	A	G		B	E	E
E	A	R	N	E	D		M	I	D		M	I	N	G
A	N	O	A	S		V	A	C		S	U	E	D	E
M	O	A	B		E	E	C		E	A	G	L	E	S
S	I	S		M	E	G		D	A	T		D	D	T
				T	E	L	E	M	E	T	E	R		
E	A	R	E	D		T	E	L		S	A	B	E	R
A	G	H	A		S	A	G	E	S		B	O	R	A
C	R	O	C		S	T	A	T	E		B	L	A	B
H	A	S	H		R	E	N	E		I	A	S	I	

## Auctions, bargains and books coming to Pomfret this May

POMFRET — Two longtime community traditions return to town Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2, with the 72nd annual Windham County 4-H Auction and Tag Sale and the Friends of the Pomfret Public Library Book Sale offering residents a full weekend of bargains and fundraising.

The Windham County 4-H Auction and Tag Sale will take place both days at the Windham County 4-H Outdoor Center, 326 Taft Pond Road. Organizers note that the south end of Taft Pond Road remains closed at the bridge. Visitors should enter from Route 244 or take Firetower Road off Route 44 and follow posted detour signs to reach the site.

The annual auction begins each evening with a preview at 5 p.m., followed by the live auction at 6 p.m. both nights. Items available for bidding include antiques, unique goods and services, live plants, tickets to events and vacation destinations, along with themed silent auction baskets and a 50/50 raffle.

Several featured items highlight this year's auction. On Friday night, bidders will have the opportunity

to compete for an overnight Cape Cod getaway. Saturday's offerings include two VIP tickets to the July 11 Boston Red Sox versus Baltimore Orioles game, with front-row seats directly behind home plate in Row A-1. The Saturday program also includes two tickets to the Travelers Championship golf tournament in Cromwell scheduled for June 24.

Alongside the auction, the popular tag sale will again fill approximately 4,000 square feet with donated merchandise. Early bird shoppers may enter from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Friday for a \$5 admission fee. After that, the tag sale will be open free of charge from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Mary's Kitchen will be open both days from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., providing food for visitors attending either the auction or tag sale.

The Windham County 4-H Auction and Tag Sale has long served as a major fundraiser supporting local youth programming and educational opportunities through the 4-H organization. Proceeds help maintain the Outdoor Center

and support regional 4-H initiatives throughout Windham County.

Also on Saturday, May 2, the Friends of the Pomfret Public Library will host their annual book sale at the newly renovated Pomfret Public Library, 449 Pomfret St., from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The sale will include a wide selection of books, CDs and DVDs available at modest prices, with hardcovers selling for \$2 and paperbacks for \$1. The event offers residents an opportunity to expand their home libraries while supporting programs and services at the local library.

Together, the two events provide residents across Northeastern Connecticut with opportunities to shop, socialize and support local organizations working to strengthen youth development and literacy in the community.

## Putnam Library, Aspinock Historical Society join forces for Revolution program series

PUTNAM — On July 21, 2025, Putnam Public Library was selected to receive a grant as part of PBS and WETA's national engagement campaign for "The American Revolution," a sweeping six-part, 12-hour series from Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt that explores the rich, complex origins of the United States, as we enter our nation's observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Working in partnership with the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam,

Putnam Library is offering a wide variety of free educational and entertaining programs, a listing of which is attached for more detailed information. Location: Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Room 109. No registration is required. For more information, please contact Nicole Flagg Nichols, Adult Services Librarian at [adultservices@putnamct.us](mailto:adultservices@putnamct.us) or call the Putnam Public library: 860-963-6826.

Event information can also be found at: <https://ouramericanstory.org/events/> <https://ct250.org/events/calendar/>.

## Villager Newspapers

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

**VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS  
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS**

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
FRANK C. CHILINSKI  
860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
[Frank@salmonpress.news](mailto:Frank@salmonpress.news)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818 EXT. 102  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DINICOLA  
508-764-6102  
[jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com)

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
860-928-1818, EXT. 323  
[brendan@villagenewspapers.com](mailto:brendan@villagenewspapers.com)

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
860-928-1818, EXT. 305  
[julie@villagenewspapers.com](mailto:julie@villagenewspapers.com)

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

# Tourtellotte receives high marks from NEASC during decennial visit

**N O R T H G R O S V E N O R D A L E** — The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) awarded ongoing accreditation to Tourtellotte Memorial High School at its 2026 Decennial Visit. The NEASC Commission on Public Schools (CPS) assessed the degree to which TMHS aligns with their qualitative Standards for Accreditation: Learning Culture, Student Learning, Professional Practices, Learning Support, and Learning Resources.

The accreditation program involved a self-reflection conducted by stakeholders at the school; the Collaborative Conference visit conducted by a visiting team of peer educators and NEASC representatives; the school's development and implementation of a growth/improvement plan; and the 4-day Decennial Accreditation visit in early March conducted by a visiting team of educators and NEASC representatives. The visiting team reviewed the self-reflection, Collaborative Conference report, and Decennial Summary Report documents; met with administrators, teachers, other school and system personnel, students, and parents;

and visited classes to determine the degree to which the school aligns with the Standards for Accreditation and the school's progress toward their identified priority areas for growth as indicated in the school's improvement/growth plan.

The NEASC Visiting Team found that Tourtellotte Memorial High School meets all standards of accreditation, writing in the Decennial report, "Tourtellotte Memorial High School is a thriving educational institution that provides students with robust academic programs, a wide array of extracurricular activities and clubs, athletic teams, artistic opportunities, and technical career pathways that reflect offerings typically found in larger school districts than the Thompson Public Schools. Students excel at TMHS, are very proud of their school, and know there is a promise of preparation for post-secondary education and/or career development."

The school also received several commendations related to curriculum development and other praise including, "community partnerships that benefit students and school programming, the numerous and well-established career pathways that are linked to specific area businesses and trades providing students with opportunities for post-secondary careers, the staff's commitment to supporting and enhancing diverse programming in STEM and the Humanities, the variety of high-quality co-curricular activities and athletic teams offered giving students the opportunity to explore and develop talents in the arts, sports, clubs, and collaborative experiences," among other commendations.

The visiting team also remarked on the "notable growth" that the school system achieved between the Collaborative Conference and the Decennial Visit despite budgetary constraints, including a rise in academic performance, daily attendance, and graduation rates.

The report reads, "The high school has accomplished in two years what most schools aspire to achieve in five to eight years. The school's commitment to curriculum advancement, effective instructional strategies, and mastery of skills identified as essential by employers is evident across all departments." Additionally, the NEASC visiting team noted in the report a need for continued support from the community: "To support this level of success, it is critical for the school to secure ongoing support from the town as it continues to introduce essential programming and maintain sufficient funding to sustain the school's continuous improvement efforts."

School officials are hopeful that the efforts of the students and staff at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, as indicated in the NEASC Report, will drive community support.

TMHS Principal TJ Mellen said, "As a father of three boys—two of whom are in high school—and an educator of twenty-six years, I can confidently say there is no other school that compares to the quality of education students receive at TMHS. I could not be prouder of the staff for their dedication, creativity, and 'do whatever it takes' attitude in making Tourtellotte such an exceptional school. As noted in the NEASC report, 'The teachers and staff of TMHS are coaches, mentors, and heroes who willingly wear many hats and ensure that every student receives individual attention and guidance.'"

## NCCO to hold Spring Concert May 15 and 17 at Clark Chapel

BY JANE ANDERSON VERCELLI  
PRESIDENT

NORTHEAST CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

**P O M F R E T** — The Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra presents our spring 2026 concerts of American music for strings ranging from late 18th century fiddle tunes to 20th century works by American composers Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein and John Williams.

The concerts will be held May 15 at 7 p.m. and May 17 at 2 p.m. at Clark Memorial Chapel on the campus of Pomfret School, Routes 44 and 169, in Pomfret. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

The program opens with "American Landscape" by Soon Hee Newbold and "Souvenir De Porto Rico" by Louis Gottschalk. A medley of familiar fiddle tunes dating from the late 18th century will be played, featuring the orchestra's concertmaster, Brianna Toedt.

American composer Jay Ungar wrote "Ashokan Farewell" as the final song for sessions at his music camp in New York state. The sweet, mournful tune was popular-

ized by Ken Burns when he used it throughout his televised series on the Civil War.

In this concert, "Ashokan Farewell" will open with Melissa Joyal of Pomfret playing the melody as a violin solo introducing the full-bodied arrangement of the tune performed by all orchestra sections: violin, viola, cello and string bass.

Our principal violist, Monica VanderBaan of Thompson, will introduce George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" by playing the first notes as a trill and glissando on her viola. This distinctive and dramatic opening is usually played by a clarinet.

Other popular 20th century compositions on our program include Moon River by Henry Mancini and Jurassic Park by John Williams.

The fast pace of "Hoe Down" from "Rodeo" by Aaron Copland will have audience members tapping their toes in contrast to Scott Joplin's contemplative piece titled "Solace" which is familiar as a theme in the 1973 movie "The Sting."

Two compositions by American women composers are included: "Summer Dreams" by Amy Beach, a prolific composer and

pianist from New England (1867 to 1944) and "Allegro Moderato" by Florence Price (1887 to 1953), the first African American woman to compose a symphonic work performed by a major orchestra.

Violinists Jan Zacharski of Brooklyn and Brianna Toedt of Columbia are featured in "America" from "West Side Story," which will be presented along with a medley of familiar tunes from the 1960's Broadway musical.

Clark Memorial Chapel, built in 1908, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

<https://www.pomfret.org/facilities-display/~board/facilities/post/chapel>

Questions: Call Jane Vercelli at 860 426-4633.

## First Northeast Connecticut Wedding Expo to debut at Hope Lodge

**M O O S U P** — Mountain Laurel Floral Designs, Destination Event Co., and Hope Lodge are pleased to announce the First Annual Northeast Connecticut Wedding Expo, taking place on Sunday, April 26, from noon to 3 p.m. at Hope Lodge in Moosup.

This thoughtfully curated event offers an inviting and intimate alternative to large, convention-style wedding expos. Designed with couples in mind, the showcase brings together a select group of talented local wedding professionals, creating a relaxed environment where meaningful, one-on-one conversations can happen.

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with a range of trusted vendors, including photographers, planners, DJs, caterers, attire specialists, and much more, all dedicated to

helping bring each couple's unique vision to life. To ensure a high-quality experience, vendor participation is limited and carefully selected.

Participating vendors include: Rustic Streats, Two Dogs Coffee Shop, Sadie's Sweets, The Rose Room, Leona's Baking Co., OfficiateMyWeddingCT, Life Through a Shutter Photography, Wildflower Photography, BeautybyLisa, CC Creative Jewelry, Bridal on Main, Empire Travel Inc, Ashleigh Taylor Bridal, Flawless Beauty, Beauty & Spa, Yeah Good Weddings, Countryside Journeys by Lux, Movement Magic, Sweetly Planned, Griffin Rentals, and Brunet & Company Real Estate.

Event Highlights:  
Explore fresh ideas and inspiration.  
Meet experienced local wedding

professionals.  
Ask questions and receive personalized guidance.  
Build your ideal wedding vendor team.

Admission is free for engaged couples, and those who pre-register will receive a complimentary swag bag. Guests are encouraged to bring their fiancé, friends, or anyone involved in the planning process to enjoy an afternoon of inspiration, connection, and stress-free wedding planning.

To pre-register, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/NECTWeddingExpo26>. For more information, follow the Facebook event for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HfgoWmB6x/> or reach out to Mountain Laurel Floral Designs or Destination Event Co.

### Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

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

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

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



### FREE CLASSIC CAR CRUISE EVERY MONDAY.

"TILL DARK IN THE PARK" From 4pm until dark RIVERSIDE PARK 815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE THOMPSON CT

FOOD By Homestead Foodie shed MUSIC by DJ DICK SALVAS RAFFLE + MORE GREAT PEOPLE GREAT CARS

BENEFITS COMMUNITY 81 FIRE DEPT 4/20/26-9/14/26

"TILL DARK IN THE PARK" JOIN US [wfwccarclub@gmail.com](mailto:wfwccarclub@gmail.com)

### THE SIDING STORE INC.

Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms  
**WINTER SPECIALS NOW IN EFFECT** **AFFORDABLE!**

\$\$\$\$ Financing available to qualified customers! [thesidingstoreinc.com](http://thesidingstoreinc.com)  
860.423.7771 860.963.9035  
860.886.1718 860.564.7088

References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

### WANTED TO BUY Antiques & Old Stuff

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

**CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396**



### ARTHRITIS?

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

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

**Charles A. Birbara, MD**

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

"Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"

## TOWN \* OF \* WOODSTOCK

Invitations to Bid Are Available For the Following ...

- 2026 Aggregate
- 2026 Catch Basin Cleaning
- 2026 Equipment Rental
- 2026 Guard Rail Installation
- 2026 Facilities General Maintenance and Repair\*\*

Sealed Bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm on Thursday, May 21,2026 at the ...

Woodstock Town Hall  
415 Route 169, Woodstock CT 06281

Please contact the Highway Department Assistant for a copy of the bid package at 860.974.0330.

Contracts are subject to State set-aside and contract compliance requirements.

\*\*Electrical, roofing, carpentry, plumbing, painting

## TOWN OF POMFRET SEEKS QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR PART-TIME ASSESSOR

The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a part time Assessor for 9.5 hours/week – to include 4 hours during business hours. The Assessor oversees all of the activities and statutory functions handled by the Assessor's Office. Work involves the extensive collection and analysis of data involved in the inspection, valuing, and assessment of all real estate and personal property within the Town for the purposes of preparing and maintaining the Grand List. Thorough knowledge of state assessment statutes, modern methods of assessment, including industrial and commercial properties and proficiency with specialized software programs.

Position requires: Bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting, or a closely related field from an accredited institution or 4 years of relevant work experience; Possession of a CCMA II is preferred. CCMA I is acceptable with willingness to earn II. Complete job description is available online at: <https://www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmens-office/pages/employmentvolunteer-opportunities> Position reports directly to the First Selectman. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit letter of interest, application, and 3 letters of reference to: Selectmen's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. Application deadline: April 30, 2026 EOE/AA



P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818

FAX: (860) 928-5946

WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHERBRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## A stronger future begins with those who sup- port our youngest neighbors

In communities across Northeast Connecticut, the strength of the future often depends on work that many residents never see.

It happens in early childhood classrooms, in living rooms during home visits, in food distribution lines, at community baby showers, and in the quiet moments when a parent finds the support they need to keep going. Much of that work takes place long before a child ever walks into a kindergarten classroom. Yet it shapes everything that comes afterward.

That is why the Northeast Early Childhood Council's recent Community Champion Awards deserve attention beyond the walls of the April 2 celebration where they were presented.

This year's honorees represent something essential about life in Northeastern Connecticut. They remind us that supporting children is not the responsibility of any single agency, school, or town. It is a shared effort that depends on partnerships, compassion, and steady leadership across the region.

Organizations like Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group have long understood this. Their programs connect families with food, guidance, and one another. Efforts such as Hand in Hand and Strong Like a Mother help reduce the isolation that many parents quietly experience, especially in rural communities where services can be spread far apart. When families feel supported, children benefit in lasting ways.

Individual initiative matters too. Jessica Gervais's creation of Parent's Corner is a reminder that meaningful change often begins with someone noticing a gap and deciding to do something about it. Making public events more welcoming for caregivers with young children may seem like a small adjustment. In practice, it helps families remain engaged in community life rather than feeling left out of it.

The same spirit of service can be seen in longtime advocates such as EASTCONN Head Start's Louise Brodeur, whose work helping families access clothing and basic necessities reflects the kind of quiet dedication that rarely seeks recognition but strengthens communities every day.

Local businesses also play an important role. Brooklyn Walmart manager Marchelle Savage's support for school supply drives, food programs, and community initiatives shows how corporate resources, when guided by local leadership, can make a real difference close to home.

Health care partnerships are equally critical. Day Kimball Healthcare's Nurturing Families Network provides early support that helps parents build strong relationships with their children during the years when development matters most. Programs like these do not simply respond to problems. They help prevent them.

Taken together, these efforts illustrate something worth remembering. Communities that invest in young children are investing in stability, opportunity, and long-term success for everyone who lives there.

Across Brooklyn, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, and Thompson, families rely on networks of support that often operate quietly in the background. The Community Champion Awards bring those contributions into view. They also remind us that progress for children rarely happens by accident. It happens because people choose to work together.

That kind of cooperation has always been one of the defining strengths of our little corner of the state. It is encouraging to see it continuing today in ways that will shape the next generation for years to come.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Woodstock Budget "Final" meeting

To the Editor:

On April 7, the Woodstock Board of Finance held their "Final" meeting to review and put forward the final budget for 2026-27 to be presented to the Annual Town Meeting on April 21 and to go to referendum on April 28.

Driving home, I was trying to find a word to describe what I had just sat through; comical, no not funny, more like pathetic, world class pathetic. Not just this one meeting but the entire budgeting process this year – at least on the part of the BOF. Last year I had hammered them over and over to "just do their job" and it took three referendums to get a budget – I think they took that as a reverse challenge and decided this year to do absolutely nothing, putting forward the budgets as proposed on March 10th – no changes, no real questions, nothing. They know this is ridiculous, even in their closing discussions and statements they acknowledged that they expect to be back after the referendum to address the budget again – but can't or don't want do anything now as they would use up some of their potential for adjustments for the next round(s). Very clearly, they plan a repeat of last year, and will just make minimal adjustments and keep running it up the flag pole until the voters' tire of showing up and voting and they can get something to pass even commenting that that is why they created more time – moving the Annual Town Meeting and Referendum earlier. Watch the Video if you think I'm kidding – 26 minutes in.

Now the punchline: This budget will require an estimated 20.62 mils to cover the cost according to the town Finance

Director. After the average 30 percent increase in assessments, this means a 9.9 percent tax increase for the average taxpayer. If you are one of those who saw an increase greater 30 percent in your property assessment, congratulations you get an even bigger increase. You've got the assessment and can now do the math – assessment times 0.02062 that's your new tax bill. Over the last four years property taxes have already increased 24 percent (5.8 percent, 7.48 percent, 2.8 percent, and 5.95 percent compounded). With this year's ridiculous increase of 9.9 percent that will be just over 36 percent in five years; again, unless you're among those who saw higher than average assessment increases who get more of an increase. And it gets better, at the same time as these ridiculous increases have been passed, they have also managed to spend down the General Fund by 30% or more. The general fund that had been built up under Prop 46. Wonder why they wanted it repealed so bad? On April 28, you have three choices: vote "Yes" and this passes and you can count on more in the future, vote "No" emphatically and send it back to the BOF and maybe they catch on, or stay home and let the spenders, who will show up, cast your vote as a default "Yes." It will take an emphatic "NO" vote to get the BOF to do their job, the job they have signed up for – actually managing the town's finances. Remember the Spenders will never run out of your money or smoke and mirrors to hide behind. Good luck.

DAVE RICHARDSON  
WOODSTOCK

### The business of war

To the Editor:

I have a question (I know...you're thinking, Uh-oh!).

At what point in our long march of ascension to becoming a 'civilized society' will we acknowledge that wholesale warfare against other countries is among the most barbaric, inefficient, and counter-productive endeavors we pursue as human beings?

I am sure many will consider this, at the very least, a naïve question, but really, let's think about it for a moment.

Some bad guys in a far-away land do some very bad things that have terrible consequences for us, or for people we consider friends, and our answer is to bomb them, and God knows how many others (who have very little to do with what the bad guys have done) "back in to the stone age."

So, in an effort to teach the bad guys a lesson about how we think the world should work, we completely destroy the world they live in, and everyone in and around it. This not only does not actually teach those bad guys anything, (after all, they are dead) but it inevitably provides the bitter resentment, anger and maddening rage that will produce a whole new crop of 'bad guys' that we will then be confronted with in the future. It is a never ending, vicious and incredibly brutal circle of horror!

With all the trillions we spend building weapons and bombs capable of completely obliterating entire geographical sections of the world in an instant, and all the technology and 'intelligence' we incorporate into that effort, is it even conceivable that we might accomplish the objective of dealing with those 'bad guys' in a way that is even a little bit more selective, accurate and efficient, and that might actually provide some deterrence to the behaviors that we have ascribed to the 'bad guys'?

I mean, c'mon, we've been at this for a very long time now — literally thousands of years — and our approach, that of wholesale devastation, has not only not changed (other than in capability), but has also done little, if anything at all, in deterring the actions of those we consider the 'bad guys.'

What if we focused just a bit more on finding ways to identify, isolate, and eliminate the actual bad guys in a much more specific manner. What if we singled them out, called them by name, and then took surgical precise action to eliminate them, and only them, and then clearly took ownership of those actions in a very public manner and assert to the world that such individuals would not be allowed to continue to have their way in our world, at least not as long as we have the capacity to prevent it.

Oh, but then, they would do the same to our 'good guys' you might say.

I suppose they might, . . . but would that be worse than what we all do now?

In the grand scheme of things, how can we truly expect people around the world to differentiate our 'good guys' from their 'bad guys' if everyone is employing the same tactics of wholesale destruction to validate and affirm their positions?

This novel approach of course will never fly, because the sad and ugliest truth is that at least in our own case, the amount of profit and gain available in the production of weaponry, in the business of 'War,' puts bread on the table and toys in the garage of far too many of us. Our economic engine in our own country, is fueled overwhelmingly by the wholesale destruction and ongoing deployment of weapons and actions of mass destruction.

Behind every policy maker, every international law and its enforcement, are the selfish interests of individual people. Everyone has an agenda, and those agendas are driven first and foremost by selfish interest. Such is the fallen nature of mankind. To ignore that reality is not simply foolish, but actually the very cause of virtually all that ails us.

I find it most perplexing that when it comes to holding someone, anyone, accountable for 'crimes against humanity' we most often impose that judgement, and punishment, upon 'humanity' itself. Oddly enough, we answer 'crimes against humanity' with, you guessed it... 'crimes against humanity.' Then we wonder why nothing ever changes!!!

This presents quite a quandary for us here in the home of the brave and land of the free.

We instruct the entire world to follow our example, to be like America.

Then, when they actually do just that, forging their way ahead towards their own comfort and prosperity by blowing the hell out of their competition and 'enemies', we deem them a great threat to the world and start pushing those buttons of destruction to eliminate them. While doing so, we express shock and horror at the brutality of their barbarism.

If the truth of it all were not so horrific, it would actually be funny.

No, I do not claim to have an immediate solution, but I am confident in asserting that the methods we have been employing to 'safeguard' civilization for the past few thousand years, have not really been working too well at all, and in fact they just might be the single greatest contributor to the problem itself.

There has got to be a better way. . .

CHARLES F. HARRINGTON  
POMFRET CENTER

## Daffodils in bloom

Mark your calendars: Celebrate America 250 Killingly. Mohegan educator and storyteller, Madeleine Hutchins, will present a program and video on the history of the Mohegan tribe for The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society at the Killingly Public Library at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2. The Society's annual meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. prior to the program. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will be closed that day, Saturday, May 2.



KILLINGLY  
AT  
300  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open by appointment. For additional information, please call (860) 207-6044 and leave a message.

Celebrate America 250. Wednesday, April 22, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Putnam Public Library. Revolutionary Connecticut with Natalie Belanger of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History. This new program on how Connecticut colonists experienced the Revolution, and how they have since commemorated it, utilizes artifacts and documents from the Museum's collection. Co-sponsored by the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam.

Celebrate America 250/Putnam at Trivia Night, Wednesday, April 29 at Marley's Pub at the Black Dog Bar & Grille, 146 Park Rd., Putnam. Sponsored by the Putnam Lions. All funds raised will go toward Putnam's America 250 celebration. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Trivia contest starts at 7 p.m. Reservations encouraged; Donations welcomed.

This is my favorite season garden-wise. The daffodils and forsythia are beginning to bloom, brightening the winter weary (and dreary) landscape. I was curious about how long daffodils have been around, and learned quite a bit on several sites from Great Britain. "The botanical name for the daffodil is Narcissus, named after a young man known for his beauty in Greek mythology who was tricked into falling in love with his own reflection. The drooping flowers that characterize most daffodils are said to represent Narcissus bending over to catch his reflection in a pool of water.

The name derives from the Greek 'narco', which is the root of the word narcotic. The etymology probably relates to the daffodil's toxicity – all parts of the plant are poisonous. The Romans are known to have planted daffodils in memory of loved ones or comrades fallen in battle. It's likely they brought them to Britain from the Iberian Peninsula, predominantly Spain and Portugal, where the largest variety of daffodil species are found." (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/history/gardens-landscapes/history-of-daffodils>).

"Daffodils have been around since approximately 300BC. A Greek botanist describes them in his book titled, 'Enquiry into plants'. Despite this early mention of the flower, it remained until the 19th century when more classifications took place. Due to their popularity, there are now over 26,000 different daffodil cultivars coming from 56 species. The petals are mostly yellow or white however orange, red and even green colour combinations can be found. Many cultivars have brightly coloured cups/trumpets which can range from yellow, white, pink, orange, red, green or a combination."

(<https://www.bostonbulbwholesale.co.uk/blog/news/the-history-of-the-daffodil-a-symbol-of-joy...>)

Once again, I'm turning to the Killingly Public Library Web site and the Windham County Transcripts to get a feel for life in Killingly and vicinity 100 years ago. One front-page article of the April 15, 1926 Transcript read, "Medal Awarded to the Wauregan Co. Local Cotton Mill Honored for Excellent Designs. Make Chintz Draperies. Change in Fabrics is an Encouraging Step toward the revival of New England Cotton Manufacturing. The Wauregan Company, Wauregan, Conn., is one of the few New England cotton mills which has been awarded a medal for artistic merit of design at the exhibition of modern textile art held this week at the galleries of the Boston Art Club. The award is the joint decision of the Boston Chamber of Commerce co-operating with the Boston Art Club. The Wauregan Company has long enjoyed recognition in the shirt manufacturing industry for the excellent quality and designs in its varied lines of shirtings. This reputation, however, has been limited to the circles of shirt manufactures and the shirting trade, because once the fabrics were made into shirts all traces of their identity and source were lost. The growing demand for home decoration has created a substantial market for chintz draperies...Less than a year ago the first samples were displayed to great department stores of the country. Buyers who make periodical trips to Europe for the newest and best in draperies exclaimed over the technical perfection of the cloth..." "The

Turn To KILLINGLY page A12

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tourtellottes's rising test scores should come as no surprise

To the Editor:  
 Something different is happening at Tourtellotte Memorial High School. Over the past three years, SAT scores have risen dramatically. This improvement is no accident; it stems from a comprehensive change in how students prepare for the annual test. At Tourtellotte, the SAT is more than just an exam—it's a competition, pitting the school against others across the state. Each student sets a personal score goal, and everyone plays a role in helping the school outperform the state average. In English Language Arts classrooms, students build the core skills essential for SAT success. They practice these skills daily through engaging, fast-paced games, working together to surpass a classwide target for correct responses. Students also learn to optimize their performance for test day. They understand the importance of adequate sleep, proper

nutrition, and hydration. In addition, they practice meditation and visualization techniques to help them see their success before achieving it. As many colleges and universities return to requiring standardized test scores in the admissions process, Tourtellotte students are well positioned to benefit. In fact, the New Haven Register recently reported UConn's acceptance rates for Connecticut high schools, with Tourtellotte leading the state—100 percent of its applicants were admitted. This is an exciting time to be at Tourtellotte. Students are achieving more than ever before. Many words could describe what is happening: impressive, exciting, even inspirational. The one word that does not apply is "surprising."  
 THOMAS S. SMITH  
 ENGLISH TEACHER  
 TOURTELLOTTE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

### Misinformation from Trump devotees

To the Editor:  
 I read the Opinion section of the Villager weekly, without fail, as I like to see all the misinformation that those with Trump Devotional Syndrome (TDS) are posting. The April 10 edition was no exception. It didn't take too far into the first writer's piece to see his belief that opinion is the same as fact, and if his demigod Trump said it, it was gospel. In particular was his criticism of a previous writer's (me) comments about the bombing of a girl's school in Iran. I just shook my head as he claimed that "that allegation has repeatedly been proven false," even though every news outlet, including FOX, as well as the Pentagon have said the three missiles that hit the girls' school were likely Tomahawk missiles and which ship they were launched from. FOX twisted it into a pretzel, but still had the same information. The only ones saying otherwise were the POTUS and the Secretary of War. But accuracy doesn't matter to Trump devotees. I did something foreign to them, in that I looked this all up before writing, which I did before writing this and I could find nothing "debunking" the claim. The writer goes on to criticize (my) comments on why Trump didn't go to the U.N, NATO, Congress or the American people. Of these, going to Congress is required by law. As to the "element of surprise" he talks about, ships and military buildup in the area had been well reported and going on for weeks, it was not a surprise. Then, he says that Trump's requirement to go to Congress is misinformation, but a reading of Article 1, Section 8 of the constitution is clear that only Congress has the power "To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;"  
 Again, research vs. opinion. In Article II

Section 3 the Constitution talks about the power of the President as Commander and Chief of the Armed Forces, but nowhere does it say that the president can declare, or enter a war without the explicit permission of Congress. Again, fact, not opinion. There were some exceptions made by Congress with the War Powers Act, but it still basically calls for the POTUS to go to Congress, except when we, or one of our allies, have been directly attacked. We were not directly attacked by Iran, nor were any of our allies. I would call the writer's attention to the first Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, when Iraq invaded Kuwait. George H.W. Bush went to Congress, the U.N. and NATO. He built an international coalition, built forces in the area, and still attacked with surprise on the night of Jan. 16. There was a clear goal, known by all, and an exit strategy. There were daily news reports by General Schwarzkopf and yet nothing was leaked to the enemy. As the original letter writer (me) wrote, a right way, a wrong way, and the Trump way. I could go on, but I think you all get the message of how the TDS delusions have them post opinion as fact, and just expect it to be accepted without any critical thought or independent research. Oh, and diplomacy was working in Iran and was successful, under former administrations, without going to full scale bombings. The 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which aimed to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief was working, and was a multi-nation, agreement. There were some bumps, but overall, it was working. Trump killed it during his first term.  
 DAVE CLARK  
 THOMPSON

### The only justification for attacking Iran has failed

To the Editor:  
 There was one, and only one, thing to justify the unprovoked attack on Iran. No, it was not to destroy their military. They have somewhere around a million troops available. Yes, we trashed a feeble air force and navy, but they really had no pressing need for these. Nor was regime change in the cards. Taking out a few dozen head honchos does not take down a regime. Governments, including ours, have multiple layers and redundancies. There is always someone who steps in. What's more, the IRGC are Islamic radicals. It would be silly to expect them to suddenly "find Jesus." One needs only to understand the Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas, ISIS or al-Qaeda to recognize the futility of changing an idea. Finally, it was also naïve to believe that the average citizens could rise up to overthrow the party in power without a strong and organized opposition. After all this is a country of 93 million people with differing factions. The only way any of this was going to succeed would have been a repeat of Operation Desert Storm and a massive ground troop invasion followed by a multi year occupation. The answer is, the one thing that needed to be done was to neutralize Iran's nuclear material. The President told us this was done last summer based on a few bombing runs. Then we were told that their uranium was now weapons grade and a bomb was imminent. This threat remains. They also have plenty of missiles to left deliver a warhead. At this point, Trump appears to want to negotiate a treaty. Which, of course, means that despite MAGA bravado about how he is the first president to stand up to Iran, he will basically take us back to an Obama treaty. Now, to pressure Iran, and as of the composition of this letter, the president plans to blockade the Strait of Hormuz. In other words, the plan to re-open the world economy's lifeline is to close it. This of course begs the question, what if a tanker decides to ignore the warning? Would the US navy board and/or fire on a vessel to enforce American policy? Would they detain the crew? As all these ships are in international waters, at the very least this would constitute an act of piracy and is more likely an act of war. But negotiations with Iran will be much more difficult. If one looks at this from the Iranian standpoint, they are dealing with a leader who ripped up a signed treaty that they negotiated not only with America, but also with other major powers. They also see a country that is thousands of miles away who launched an attack based on a hypothetical situation. In addition, they now know that they can hold the world hos-

tage by blocking the waterway quite easily with drones, handheld missiles and mines. As far as the Iranian people are concerned, they are dealing with a man who felt ending their civilization was in order. A country that killed thousands of their innocent citizens including children (those that refute this are the pathologically ignorant). An army that targeted civilian infrastructure, which is a war crime, run by a man who called for killing any surrendering enemy combatant. Even the Nazis took prisoners. So, if anything, Trump has validated that North Korea's logic behind needing a nuclear weapon is sound. America could one day decide that any country is a danger. We have given Iran added motivation. This could in turn lead to other regional regimes to seek a bomb. The only sensible solution is to once again, somehow, get the original players back to the table and grant Iran concessions. This kept Iran in check for years. But Trump continues to antagonize our closest allies making this all but impossible. Donald Trump lives in the world of the what if scenarios and the "I can do no wrong" delusions. Iran, just like Russia and N Korea, must understand that to use a bomb means self-annihilation. The difficulty is that some of their leaders don't care. As a result, a global economic depression remains a real outcome. And as America's influence in the world wanes, we learn the hard lesson that our choice of leadership matters. The system that our founders created 250 years ago was one that prevented a single individual from making all the decisions. The other two branches of government have turned a blind eye. America chose the worst possible man, who surrounded himself with the worst possible advisors (or lack thereof), at the worst possible moment. We did it knowing what his chaotic first presidential term looked like. If there is any hope, it's that the grownups in the Republican Congress take back the reigns. Otherwise, it could be our civilization that sees an end.  
 LEE WESLER  
 WOODSTOCK

**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.

Additional Letters To The Editor, see Page A-10



# Community Connection

**Morse Lumber Co., Inc.**  
 Building Materials & Supplies  
 Lumber • Insulation • Mouldings  
 Drywall • Ceilings • Flooring  
 Hardware • Cements • Siding • Roofing  
 Windows • Doors • Concrete Block  
 Sawmill Products  
 Rough Sawn • Dimension Lumber  
 Boards • Timbers • Industrial Lumber  
 994 North Woodstock Road  
 (Rt. 169) - 1/2 mile from CT line  
 Southbridge, MA 01550  
 www.morse-lumber.com  
 Toll Free 1-800-764-3231 or 508-764-3231  
 "Quality Materials and Service Since 1951"

**Cormier JEWELERS**  
**WE BUY GOLD**  
 Trusted with Appraisals, Custom Design, Repairs, and more since 1947!  
 42 Central St, Southbridge MA  
 (508) 764-7415 | www.Cormiers.com

**Crooked Creek Farm**  
 East Brookfield, Massachusetts



**Stock up now!**

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

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

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!**

**Morin JEWELERS**  
 Fine Jewelry & Gifts  
 The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence  
**WE BUY GOLD**  
 Specializing in Custom Designs  
 All types of Jewelry Repairs  
 MASTER JEWELERS  
 BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®  
 409 Main St. Southbridge, MA  
 morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250  
 Located at CVS Plaza

**Talbat**  
 Celebrating 20+ Years in Business  
**Talbat Embroidery Shop**  
 Custom Embroidery & Heat Transfers  
 We're here to service all of your heat transfer and embroidery needs, jobs big and small!  
 508-764-0555



**RENEWAL**  
by **ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Superior Products. Exceptional Service.®

# We just made windows and doors **MORE AFFORDABLE.**



## HERE'S HOW

- ✓ Buy new windows and doors now and pay down the line. That's **zero, zilch, nada until April 2027!**<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ We have a number of **exceptional financing options** that allow you to finance your entire project or just a portion of it.
- ✓ We're a division of Andersen, one of the largest and oldest window companies in America. So, we can often give **bigger discounts** than smaller contractors and most window companies.
- ✓ From replacing your windows and doors in stages to choosing a different window style, our Project Consultants are experts at finding ways to **save you money.**

Now until April 30

# PAY NOTHING FOR 1 YEAR<sup>2</sup>

**NO money down, NO payments, NO interest**

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

Plus

**SAVE \$500**  
on windows<sup>1</sup>

**SAVE \$1000**  
on doors<sup>1</sup>

With

an additional **5% OFF** your entire order!<sup>1</sup>



Evening and weekend appointments available!



**RENEWAL**  
by **ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

# 959-456-0067

Superior Products. Exceptional Service.®

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 6 or more. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 4/30/26 with the purchase then occurring on or before 5/10/26. Additional 5% discount on entire order valid during first appointment only. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at [www.rbaguidelines.com](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2026 Andersen Corporation. ©2026 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup>Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Renewal by Andersen Retailer is neither a broker nor a lender. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. [www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.

# Estimated taxes in 2026: What business owners should adjust after April 15

For many business owners, April 15 can feel like the finish line of tax season. But in reality, it's only the beginning of the next tax cycle; especially if you're responsible for paying quarterly estimated taxes. As we move into the 2026 tax year, our team at WHZ is advising our business owner clients to pay attention to several policy changes, new compliance expectations, and shifting income dynamics.

Here's a look at the key things all business owners should do to reassess their estimated tax strategy right after April 15.

Why estimated taxes matter for business owners

Estimated taxes are how the IRS collects income and self-employment taxes from individuals and business owners whose income isn't subject to withholding. Unlike employees who have taxes withheld from each paycheck, many business owners—especially those operating as sole proprietors, LLC members, partners, or S-corporation owners—must pay taxes incrementally during the year. If you expect to owe \$1,000 or more in federal taxes, this rule will generally apply to you.

Estimated tax payments typically include income tax, self-employment tax, and additional taxes on investment income or other non-withheld earn-

ings. If you fail to pay enough tax throughout the year, the IRS may assess underpayment penalties and interest, even if you ultimately pay the full balance when filing your return.

This is why proactive planning after April 15 is so important.

Key estimated tax deadlines for 2026

The IRS collects estimated taxes quarterly based on when income is earned. For the 2026 tax year, the payment schedule is:

- April 15 – First payment (income from Jan. 1 – March 31)
- June 15 – Second payment (April 1 – May 31)
- Sept. 15 – Third payment (June 1 – Aug. 31)
- Jan. 15 – Fourth payment (Sept. 1 – Dec. 31)

Because the first payment is due the same day as the annual filing deadline, April 15 effectively marks the transition into the new estimated tax cycle.

Adjustment #1: Recalculate your estimated income for 2026

Many business owners simply reuse the prior year's tax numbers to determine estimated payments. While this can work in stable years, 2026 may require

a more careful recalculation.

## FINANCIAL FOCUS LOGAN D. LUM

Factors that could affect your tax liability include business growth or declining revenue, changes in deductions or credits, new tax legislation or policy changes, and adjustments to deduction levels or other thresholds.

If your income is trending upward, or if your business experienced a strong first quarter, your estimated payments may need to increase to avoid penalties later in the year.

Adjustment #2: Understand the Safe Harbor rules

One of the most useful tools for avoiding underpayment penalties is the IRS safe harbor rule. To stay penalty-free, taxpayers generally must pay either:

- 90 percent of their current year tax liability, or
- 100 percent of the previous year's tax liability
- 110 percent of the prior year tax if income exceeded \$150,000

Using the safe harbor method can simplify estimated tax planning, especially for business owners whose income fluctuates. However, if your profits increase dramatically, relying solely on last year's numbers may still leave you with a large balance due at filing time, so projections

remain important.

Adjustment #3: Update cash flow planning

Estimated tax payments are not just a tax issue – they're a cash-flow management issue.

Quarterly tax bills can surprise business owners who haven't set aside funds throughout the year. A best practice is to reserve a percentage of revenue in a dedicated tax account. Consider setting aside 25–35 percent of net income depending on your tax bracket and state taxes.

In addition, businesses should track income and expenses monthly, adjust tax reserves if revenue spikes, and review estimated payments mid-year with a tax professional. This approach helps avoid scrambling for liquidity when payment deadlines arrive.

Adjustment #4: Consider payment automation

The IRS increasingly encourages electronic payment methods. Businesses can submit estimated tax payments electronically through systems like the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) or IRS Direct Pay. Scheduling payments in advance can help reduce the risk of missed deadlines and simplify compliance.

Adjustment #5:

Coordinate with your overall financial plan

Taxes should never be addressed in isolation. For business owners, estimated taxes intersect with retirement contributions, business reinvestment decisions, compensation structure, and long-term wealth planning.

Tax planning should be part of a broader financial strategy rather than a once-a-year exercise. By integrating tax planning with your overall financial plan, you can often reduce tax liability while improving long-term financial outcomes.

Take the next step

April 15 is not just a tax filing deadline—it's the starting point for your 2026 estimated tax strategy. For business owners, the smartest move is to review income projections, adjust quarterly payments, and ensure your cash flow plan supports those obligations. Doing so can help you avoid penalties, maintain financial flexibility, and keep your business moving forward confidently.

If you're a business owner unsure whether your estimated tax strategy is aligned with your financial plan, get in touch with our team at WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors. We work closely with business owners and their tax professionals to coordinate tax

planning with investment strategy, retirement planning, and long-term wealth management, helping to ensure that your profits get put to work for you in the strongest ways possible.

Schedule an introductory discovery session today to see how we can help you to ensure your 2026 tax strategy, and your business as a whole, is positioned to support your broader financial goals. Call us at (860) 928-2341 or make an appointment on our Web site at whzwealth.com.

Authored by WHZ Wealth Advisor Logan Lum. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. 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 Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>.

## Pomfret Historical Society to host program about Lexington Alarm in 1775

POMFRET — The Pomfret Historical Society and The Last Green Valley will host a program about the Lexington Alarm on April 20 at the Old Town House, exactly 250 years from the day the Lexington Rider reached Israel Putnam to raise the call to arms. Join author and historian Dayne Rugh to learn about how news of the outbreak of the American Revolution was delivered from Massachusetts to Connecticut. Rugh will trace the steps of the valiant riders who raised the alarm through the Connecticut countryside in the days following the first battle on the Lexington Green.

Dayne Rugh is the Director of Slater Memorial Museum where he oversees all museum operations, programming, and exhibitions,

and is also past President of the Society of the Founders of Norwich, in Norwich, CT, the owners and operators of the Leffingwell House Museum and the Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop. He has published content for the Connecticut History Review, Connecticut Explored, connecticuthistory.org, Norwich Magazine, The Bulletin newspaper, Mystic Seaport Museum, and the Journal of the American Revolution.

The program is open to the public and doors will open at 7 p.m. after a brief annual meeting for historical society members. The audience is invited for refreshments, and the art exhibition "Afterlife: Re-Imagining 18th Century Gravestone Carvings" by Laura Tedeschi. The art is for sale by check or Venmo.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The presentation is the second in a series of educational programs in collaboration with the Pomfret America 250 Commission

and was generously funded by an America 250 grant from The Last Green Valley. The program series "Long Ago But Not So Far Away: Exploring the Revolutionary War Through a Local Lens"

includes historical presentations and a concert series celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Events will take place in the historic Old Town House from April to October.

On April 20, 1775, the Lexington Rider came to Northeast Connecticut to warn Israel Putnam that the "Regulars" (British soldiers) were gathering in force, and the first battle of the Revolutionary War had begun. Putnam was plowing his fields on the farm in Pomfret with his son Daniel when the rider brought the news. Dropping the plow in the field, Putnam hastily wrote messages to the Sons of Liberty in the region setting the alarm in motion for the call to arms. Before embarking on his 100-mile journey to Boston, Israel Putnam also wrote a

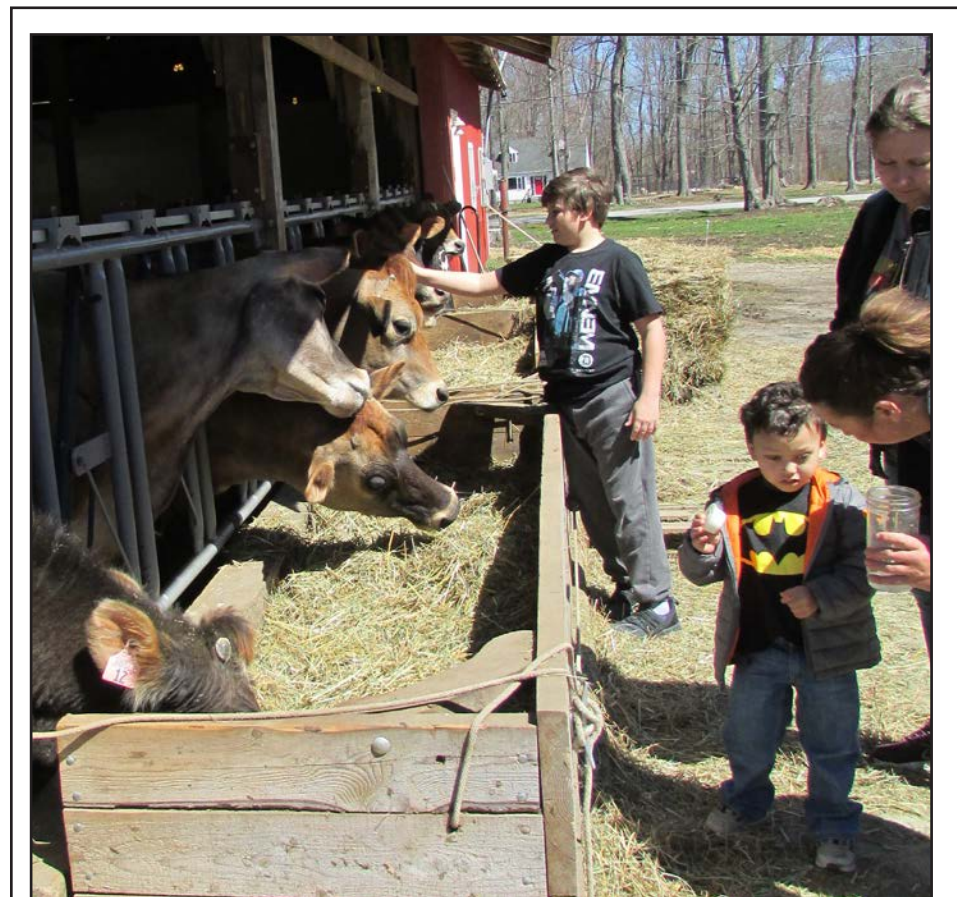
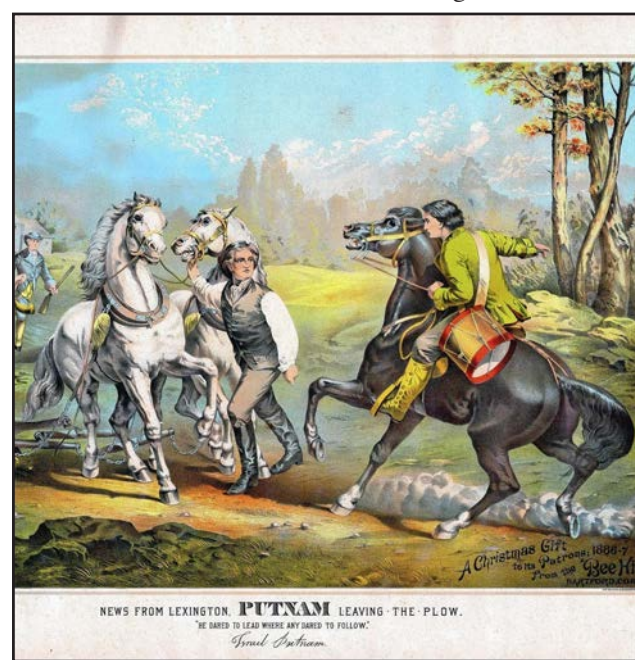
hasty note to his neighbor, Godfrey Malbone, a staunch loyalist:

Saturday, 12 p.m. Dear Sir. I have this minute had an express from Boston that the fight between Boston and Regulars [began] last night at sunset, the cannon began to and continued playing all night, and they beg for help,—and don't you think it is time to go?

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, Israel Putnam

Malbone's reply was short:

Go to the devil  
For more information about the program and art exhibit, contact Donna Dufresne, Pomfret Historical Society Program Director: [pomfret250commission@gmail.com](mailto:pomfret250commission@gmail.com) 860-465-7228



Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam visited Buttercup Dairy Farm in Canterbury on Saturday, April 11. This is just one of the many fun and challenging activities Cub Scout Pack 21 does throughout the year. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.



Courtesy

## TOURTELLOTTE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS ELECTRIC BOAT HIRING EVENT

On March 30, Tourtellotte Memorial High School proudly hosted an Electric Boat hiring event, bringing together students from Killingly High School, Woodstock Academy, Plainfield High School, and Quinebaug Middle College, as well as Tourtellotte, for on-site interviews with EB's hiring staff. The event was a great success, with 28 students receiving job offers that same day. These students represent the next generation of skilled professionals—welders, painters, electricians, carpenters, and machinists—who are set to launch their careers at Electric Boat's Groton and Quonset Point, Rhode Island locations. At the same hiring event, Tourtellotte's welding applicants completed a hands-on assessment to evaluate their welding skill levels. Two students secured a higher starting wage at the Step 3 pay grade level, highlighting their dedication to the trade under the guidance of their CTE Tech Ed teacher, Mike Joyce. Tourtellotte would like to extend a sincere thank you to Electric Boat for bringing together the schools in the "Quiet Corner" and providing students with these amazing opportunities.

# Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up



## Boys Tennis

Killingly 0 East Lyme 7  
Will Clayton lost to Aaron Huang 2-6 2-6  
Evan Kozey lost to Keegan Stadler 1-6 2-6  
Jackson Santese lost to Ethan Don 2-6 0-6  
Brady Brezniak lost to Trevin Wren 0-6 3-6  
Max Richardson & Brady Jonasch lost to Alex Pindell & Eric Loverins 2-6 0-6  
Tomas Gutierrez & Ed Purcell lost to Jack Chm & Rohan Zohng 1-6 0-6  
Riley Noli & Glenn Leveille lost to Sahir Gupta & Mateo Topi 2-6 4-6

Killingly 0 Lyman 7  
Will Clayton lost to Luke Spellman 1-6 2-6  
Evan Kozey lost to Colin Rahmann 7-5 4-6 12-10  
Jackson Santese lost to

Mathew stotts 4-6 1-6  
Bradey Brezniak lost to Aaron Rodriguez 0-6 0-6  
Max Richardson & Brady Jonasch lost to Asa Augusta & Will Blakeslce 2-6 2-6  
Ed Purcell & Tomas Gutierrez lost to Collin Fonseca & Nolan Fonseca 1-6 6-7  
Waiting Pandya & Aden Khamphoukeo lost to Desmond Tardif & Noel Denmark 3-6 1-6

## Girls Tennis

April 10, 2026 match K-Trailblazers verse Windham HS  
KHS girls' tennis defeated Windham 6-1  
Singles:  
# 1 S: Talia Santese (K) defeated Asialyse

Badillo (W) 6-0, 6-0  
# 2 S: Nina Purcell (K) defeated Sinahi Villanueva (W) 6-0, 6-1  
# 3 S: Abbey Danielson (K) defeated Zoe Loyola (W) 6-2, 6-1  
# 4 S: Mariette Vien (K) defeated Lluvia Garcia (W) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles:  
#1 Doub: Kayce Edwards & McKenna Mulvey (K) defeated Mia Loyola & Kaylee Juarez (W) 6-1, 6-3

#2 Doub: Samantha Smith & Corinne Daniels (K) defeated Allisson Roca & Allie Villanueva (W) 6-1, 6-0

# 3 Doub: Allegra Turbayevskiv & Lillian Beach (K) loss to Jaslen Curbelo & Rihanna Ayala (W) 6-2, 8-6(TB), 4-7 (TB)

## Baseball

Bacon 5, Killingly 4  
Killingly Baseball (1-2) fell to Bacon (1-2) by a final score of 5-4. Despite being tied 3-3 in the 6th inning, Bacon came out on top.

Jake Beaudreault pitched 5.1 innings allowing 3 earned runs and striking out 4, while he also added a 2 run homer to right center at the plate.

Jake Voyer helped the offense with 2 hits and an RBI and Alex Murdock added an RBI single. Michael DeAngelis, Joey Gould, and Gaighe DeBella each added hits to their line.

Stonington 2, Killingly 1  
The boys (1-3) fell on the road to Stonington (4-0) by a final score of 2-1.

Despite taking the loss, Gaighe DeBella pitched well going 5 innings allowing only 3 hits and 2 unearned runs, striking out 9 batters.

Jake Beaudreault hit an RBI double in the 1st inning scoring Michael Fabiano Jr for Killingly's only run. Alex Murdock added 2 hits as well for Killingly.

## Boys Track

On April 9, the Boys Killingly Track & Field team kicked off the season! We battled in a tri-meet at home against Tourtellotte and Plainfield, who brought good teams and competition! Killingly unfortunate-

ly took the L to Plainfield; however, they took the W against Tourtellotte.

In the 100m dash, Kaiden Cayer flew to finish 2nd to lead Killingly, followed by Braydee Testa and Isaiah Benoit who took 4th and 5th! In the 200m dash, Braydee was at it again finishing 2nd, followed by Kaiden Cayer and Preston Suprenant! In the 400m, Isaiah kept running at top speed to finish 3rd, followed by Cameron Deschamps in 7th and Liam LaMotte in 8th! In the 1600m, Calvin Vandale is finishing his Senior year strong finishing 2nd, special should out to Costandinos Yonclas who fought hard in the event as well! In the 4x 100, Kaiden to Preston to Braydee to Aveion Janton-Adams for the WIN in the event! In the 110 hurdles and 300 hurdles, Jeremiah Smith is back doing what Jeremiah does; he took 1st in the 110 hurdles and 3rd in the 300 hurdles. At Shot Put, Ezekiel Benoit finished tops amongst the boys hoisting his shot for 10th place, Larry Cote and Wesley Srouse finished right behind! In the Discuss, Zeke finished 2nd with Wes and Breydan Pearson close behind! In the Javelin, with the flick of a wrist, Aveion finished 3rd, Zeke 4th and Breydan close behind! In the High Jump, Jeremiah Smith hit 6' 4 for 1st, Coop took 3rd and Braydee took 4th! In the Pole Vault, Isaiah Benoit launched himself for 3rd, and Gabriel Covington took 4th! In the Long Jump, Jeremiah Smith took 1st,

Coop claimed 2nd, Aveion took 4th! Annd in Triple Jump, Isaiah flew for 4th, Calvin 5th, and Cyncere Perry took 6th!

Gentlemen, absolutely awesome meet and you left it all on the Track & Field. You represented Killingly proud and certainly yourselves! We hit the road next Saturday, the 18th at Old Lyme for the Wildcat Relays!

## Girls Lacrosse

### Vs. Wheeler

The Killingly girls lacrosse team kicked off our season April 7 against Wheeler. We are a young team, with seven of the 12 starters being freshmen and sophomores. Our defense, led by Lianna Hutchinson had a hard game, with many strong defensive stands. Thailia Collette stood her ground in goal with 11 saves. Riley Ritchotte, Lylah Connetti and Tilly Jarvis all netted a goal for the Trailblazers. The final score was 8-3 in Wheelers favor, however there were highlights on both ends of the field that will continue to be built on as the season progresses.

### V. New London

The girls faced New London on April 9. The final score was 11-4 with New London winning. Sophomore Ashley Boudreau had a strong defense game. Riley Ritchotte netted a hat trick and Lylah Connetti tallied a goal.

# The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

## Prep Soccer

Woodstock Academy Prep 1 3  
Taft School 1  
Haesung Kim scored two goals for the Centaurs and Arthur Masson added the other as the Centaurs Prep 1 soccer team continued its spring season.  
Leo Chu, Huidam Jeong and Jorge Castellanos had assists for the Centaurs.

## Girls Lacrosse

Ledyard 9  
Woodstock Academy 6  
The Centaurs opened their season on a chilly day on their home field and fell short to the Colonels.  
Kaylee Saucier scored four goals and assisted on the other two by Vivian Bibeau for Woodstock Academy.  
Clara Dowdle had two assists for the Centaurs.

## Fitch 19

Woodstock Academy 10  
Centaurs senior Kaylee Saucier closed to within one point of the 100-mark for her high school career as she scored seven times and had two assists to leave her at 99. Vivian Bibeau added two goals and an assist and Clara Dowdle had a goal and two assists in the loss for Woodstock Academy (0-2).

Senior Bethany Lovering scored 10 goals for the Falcons (2-0) and Haley Singer added four.

## Boys Lacrosse

Waterford 10  
Woodstock Academy 5  
Patrick Griswold and Jackson Aleman scored two goals each for the Centaurs in the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I opener for both teams.

Logan Rumrill added a goal and Corey Lafond had a pair of assists for Woodstock Academy (1-1, 0-1 ECC Division I).

Waterford improved to 1-1, 1-0 with the win.

## Fitch 6

Woodstock Academy 3

The Falcons (2-1, 1-0 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) jumped out to a 4-0 first quarter lead and it was enough to decide the contest.

Patrick Griswold scored twice for the Centaurs (1-2,0-2) with Jackson Aleman getting the other goal and Corey Lafond contributed an assist.

## Softball

Lyman Memorial 4  
Woodstock Academy 3  
Sophomore Cayla Hawkins hit a walk-off homer to lead off the bottom of the seventh to give the Bulldogs (1-1) the win.

Woodstock Academy took the early, 1-0, lead on an RBI single by Campbell Favreau in the first inning only to see the Bulldogs scored three times in the bottom of the first inning.

That's the way it remained until the top of the seventh when a Caroline Ethier fielder's choice drove in a pair of runs to tie the game for the Centaurs.

Ellary Sampson had three hits for Woodstock Academy (0-2) while Favreau and Maci Corradi had two each.

## Girls Tennis

Woodstock Academy 5  
Stonington 2  
A trip to Stonington is rarely productive for a Woodstock Academy tennis team.

The Centaurs turned that around a bit on Wednesday as they posted the win on the Bears' home courts.

Wynter Worth and Catherine Trudeau won at second and fourth singles for Woodstock Academy (2-0) and the three doubles teams did the rest.

Delilah Kesselman and Sophia Aguilar Del Olmo won at first singles; Jayda Ngibuini and Andrea De Cos Ortiz were the second doubles winners and Maria Oliinyk and Lillian Gregorzek picked up the third doubles victory.  
Gwen McGugan and

Laura Runkie picked up wins in singles play for the Bears (0-2).

Woodstock Academy 7  
Montville 0

Gianna Musumeci and Kerrigan Reynolds each won 6-0, 6-0 and Wynter Worth and Catherine Trudeau lost only three games between them in their four sets to lead the Centaurs to their third consecutive win to start the season.

The Wolves slipped to 2-1 on the year.

## Girls Track

Woodstock Academy 83.25  
East Lyme 66.75

Woodstock Academy coach Josh Welch knew the throwers would play a large role for the Centaurs in the track and field season and that was the case in the season opener for both teams in East Lyme.

Senior Lily Morgis established a school record in the discuss, finishing first in the competition with a throw of 130-feet, 1-inch.

Morgis followed that up with a second-place finish in the javelin to teammate Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain and was third in the shotput which teammate Avery Plouffe won.

On the track, Emma Weitknecht finished first in the 100 and 300-meter hurdles and was also a member of the winning 4x100m relay team.

Emme Langevin was a member of the winning 4x800m team, finished first in the 1600m and 2nd in the 3200m.

## Boys Track

Woodstock Academy 114.5  
East Lyme 34.5

The Woodstock Academy boys track and field program took a page out of the school's girls track team keys to success as it dominated the throwing events against the Vikings in the season-opening meet for both at East Lyme.

held on to the victory.

Sophomore Rhys Asikainen had four hits and knocked in four runs for Woodstock Academy (0-3, 0-1 ECC Division II) and Caleb Simoneau had two hits and two RBIs.

Jack Treat had three hits, including two homers and Cameron Payne had four hits and knocked in three runs for Montville (1-2, 1-0).

## Softball

Montville 16  
Woodstock Academy 5  
The Wolves scored 10 runs between the second and fourth innings to win their third straight game in dominant fashion.

Savannah Malinkowsky paced Montville with three

hits and five runs batted in while Rori Clark added two hits and two RBI.

Faith Sortwell and Maci Corradi had two runs driven in for the Centaurs (0-3) and both Ellary Sampson and Caroline Ethier had two hits.

Woodstock Academy 12  
Ellis Tech 0 (5)

Lillian Dumond drove in three runs on a pair of singles and Ellary Sampson hit a two-run homer as the Centaurs (1-3) picked up their first win of the season.

The Centaurs also benefited from three runs scoring on wild pitches and two more on errors.

Makayla Horan had two hits in the loss for the Eagles (0-4).

# Eastern to host fitness challenge for future first responders

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University's Career Pathways Program will host the "Eastern Fitness Challenge" on April 13 in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). The event will take place at 1 p.m. on the Webb Hall Lawn.

The challenge is based on the tests that Connecticut police and fire professionals must pass before being hired. DESPP representatives will be on site, providing students in Eastern's Emergency Services and Public Safety (ESPS) Pathway opportunities to discuss career prospects.

DESPP includes the Connecticut State Police; the Police Officers Standards and Training Council; Emergency Telecommunications; Fire Prevention and Control; Emergency Management and Homeland Security; and Scientific Services.

"Our fitness challenge event is intended to highlight the importance of physical fitness in certain careers, like fire, police, emergency medical services, and many others," wrote William Lugo, professor of criminology and sociology and director of Eastern's Career Pathways program.

Lugo continued, "We hope to do this in a fun and engaging way and are excited to partner with so many state and local agencies."

Eastern's Career Pathways Program, including the ESPP Pathway, combines coursework and experiential learning to provide students with real-world experience in in-demand fields and help them build sought-after skills and robust professional networks before graduating.

## Baseball

Montville 11  
Woodstock Academy 10  
The Centaurs left the bases loaded in the top of the seventh as the Wolves

# A spring tradition runs on

## KILLINGLY SPRINGTIME CLASSIC 5K TO BENEFIT CHRISTY'S ANGELS



**KILLINGLY** — For generations, spring in Danielson has meant more than just warmer days and blooming daffodils. It has meant gathering together. It has meant community. And for many, it has meant lacing up running shoes for a race that has become part of the town's story.

On May 9, the Killingly Springtime Classic 5K will return to Davis Park, continuing a tradition that traces its roots back decades to the Springtime Festival road race. While the festival itself is no longer held, the race has endured, evolving over time but never losing its spirit.

The race was revived in 2015 as a fundraiser for Westfield Congregational Church, beginning a new chapter that has continued to build on its community roots. Over the past decade, the event has supported a range of local organizations, including Make-A-Wish, Friends of Assisi, Brooklyn

Cares, TEEG, and the Fuel Fund.

This year, the event continues that tradition of giving, while taking on an especially personal meaning. Proceeds from the race will benefit Christy's Angels, a local 501(c)(3) organization that provides practical, everyday support to families in Windham County navigating a cancer diagnosis.

The race is being organized with the help of Christina Vogt, who sees the event as more than just a run.

"I really enjoy keeping this tradition going," Vogt said. "There's a long history of people finding connection and community through this race. Since its revival in 2015 as a fundraiser for Westfield Congregational Church, it's given us the opportunity to support so many local organizations. It's about bringing people together and making sure those moments continue."

The Killingly Springtime Classic 5K has long been known for its welcoming atmosphere. The paved, wheel-measured course offers a single loop through Danielson, with divisions for both adults and youth. Runners and walkers alike are invited to participate, with convenient parking available near Davis Park and an organized awards program that recognizes participants across age groups.

This year, the race will be held in conjunction with the Westfield Church Daffodil Bazaar and Craft Fair, creating a full morning of activity in the heart of the community. Visitors can browse local vendors, enjoy seasonal offerings, and take in the simple joy of a town coming together after a long winter.

For Christy's Angels, the connection to this race is deeply personal.

Christy Ferland, for whom the organization is named, ran the Springtime Classic several times over the years. Known for her strength, energy, and determination, she approached life with the same spirit she brought to the starting line.

After being diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in 2021, Christy continued to show up for life in remarkable ways, even participating in 5Ks during her illness. She passed away in July 2023 at the age of 46, leaving behind her husband, Cale, and their four children.

In the wake of her passing, Christy's Angels was created to support other families facing similar challenges, providing services such as house cleaning, yard work, and snow plowing so families can spend more time together at home. More than 90% of the funds the organization raises go directly to services that support cancer patients and their families in Windham

County.

For Cale, learning that this year's race would benefit the organization was both unexpected and deeply meaningful.

"When the organizers reached out, it meant more than I can put into words," he said. "This is a race that was part of Christy's life, something she genuinely loved. To see it continue, and to know that it will now help other families who are going through what we went through, is incredibly special."

More than just a race, the day is shaping up to be a celebration of resilience, remembrance, and renewal.

Community members from Danielson and neighboring towns are invited to take part in whatever way feels right, whether on the course or along the sidelines. With the race, the craft fair, and the energy of spring in full bloom, May 9 offers a chance to reconnect and be part of something that continues to bring people together year after year.

Registration for the Killingly Springtime Classic 5K is open, with the race set to begin at Davis Park on the morning of May 9. To learn more or register to participate, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Danielson/KillinglySpringtimeClassic5K>

Christy's Angels is a local 501(c)(3) dedicated to supporting families as they navigate the challenges of a loved one's cancer treatment. The organization helps ease the burden of everyday responsibilities such as housekeeping, yard work, and home maintenance, giving families more time to focus on care, connection, and one another. If you or someone you know is in need of support, or if you would like to contribute, please visit [www.christysangels.com](http://www.christysangels.com).

# Stephen Kopcik No Flake, Takes NASCAR Icebreaker 150 at Thompson Speedway



*Courtesy*  
After his breakout win at Martinsville Speedway (VA) just two weeks ago, Stephen Kopcik made his mark yet again with his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win at Thompson Speedway.

**THOMPSON** — Yet another picture-perfect day greeted the fans at Thompson Speedway last weekend to finish off the 52nd Icebreaker with the help of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour.

Single car, time-trial qualifying saw Mike Christopher Jr. leading much of the session before Matt Hirschman and Jon McKennedy both tied with a 19.125-second lap. Hirschman would lead the twenty-nine car field to green for the Icebreaker 150.

McKennedy took over the top spot with a strong inside exit off turn two, leading the pack as Christopher Jr. and Stephen Kopcik dug in and followed in second and third. McKennedy's day almost came to a grinding halt with Trevor Catalano backwards by the turn two gate with the leader narrowly escaping calamity as the yellow lights flashed. A long green flag run would follow with McKennedy leading the way as Matt Swanson cut his way through to third on the grid before Ronnie Williams' left rear decided to leave the building on lap 107.

The majority of the field jumped into the pits for fresh American Racer rubber with Stephen Kopcik winning the race off pit road and just 35 laps remaining. Kopcik tried to pull away on the outside groove but McKennedy held on. It wasn't until a brewing battle with Ron Silk finally put the nail in the coffin for McKennedy, allowing Stephen Kopcik to run all the way to Icebreaker victory lane for his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win at Thompson Speedway making it two in a row on the NASCAR circuit. Ron Silk and Mike Christopher Jr. rounded out the top three followed by McKennedy and Hirschman rounding out the top-five.

A strong field of SK Light Modifieds made their start of the season with Dalton McCarthy quickly taking control over last year's championship runner-up John O'Sullivan. A freight-train quickly began around the top side as O'Sullivan calculated his move behind McCarthy with each lap coming on the scoreboard. Following a quick-spin caution, Kevin Davis joined the front row picture, sharing a few divebomb moves with McCarthy before the original frontrunners made contact on the final lap

sending McCarthy into the turn one wall and O'Sullivan penalized to last of the lead lap cars. Young Kevin Davis took down the Big-T win over Danny Gamache Jr. and newcomer Milania Shilosky.

Matt Lowinski-Loh took charge of the Late Model front row after getting the jump on defending champion Jake Johnson as 'The Jet' went to battle Jacob Burns for second. Just after the halfway point Johnson made his way underneath Jacob Burns to finally put the #91CT before time ran out at the end. Matt Lowinski-Loh dominated to the end with the 25-lap Icebreaker win over Johnson and Burns at the line.

Sophomore racer Zack Sangermano jetted off with the Thompson Sunoco Modified feature event as Saturday front-runners Todd Owen and Keith Rocco worked to build momentum at the tail end of the top-ten. Contact with Rocco and Derek Ramstrom in turn two sent Ramstrom pit-side and Rocco to the rear for the assist with Sangermano and Chase Cook bringing the field back to green. Rocco would make it back into the top spot underneath Todd Owen with ten laps remaining, reigniting Saturday's duel between the two masters.

With Rocco on the defense watching Owen in his mirror, Jon Puleo remained in the cat-bird seat in third, waiting to pounce just inches away if the two rivals made a poor choice. Unfortunately for Puleo, that chance never came with Keith Rocco making it two-for-two at the 52nd Icebreaker with Owen and Puleo rounding out the podium.

The Street Stocks finished off the evening with Austin Erickson and Jarrod Soucy bringing the field to green for their 20 lap closer. Erickson led the way but multi-time 2025 winner George Baldwin rapidly made his way into second. Saturday's R&R Open Street Stock winner Ryan Lineham made his presence known at the halfway point, passing Baldwin for second and setting his sights on Erickson's one second lead. It was too much to overcome as Austin Erickson took the checkered flag over Lineham and Baldwin at the line.

Thompson Speedway returns to Wednesday Night Racing with the Midweek

Modified Madness on Wednesday, May 13 headlined by special, extra-purse events for both the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds and the SK Light Modifieds. The Late Models, Street Stocks and Thunderstock Crown Vics join in for an action-packed midweek opener with a 6:00pm start time on Wednesday, May 13!

The North East Short Track Network (NESTN) will stream Wednesday Night Racing at Thompson Speedway all season long, visit [www.nestn.tv](http://www.nestn.tv) for more info including Pay-Per-View pricing and ways to subscribe!

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, [media@actour.com](mailto:media@actour.com), or visit [www.actour.com](http://www.actour.com). You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact [passracing@roadrunner.com](mailto:passracing@roadrunner.com) or visit [www.proallstars-series.com](http://www.proallstars-series.com). Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSML14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email [oval@thompsons Speedway.com](mailto:oval@thompsons Speedway.com), or visit [www.thompsons Speedway.com](http://www.thompsons Speedway.com). You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Thompson Speedway – Thompson, CT  
52nd Icebreaker – Day II

NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour – Icebreaker 150 (150 Laps)  
(Finish Pos., Car #, Driver Name, Total Laps Completed)

- 1 21 Stephen Kopcik 150
- 2 16 Ron Silk 150
- 3 31 Michael Christopher 150
- 4 79 Jonathan McKennedy 150
- 5 60 Matt Hirschman 150
- 6 64 Austin Beers 150
- 7 51 Justin Bonsignore 150
- 8 46 Craig Lutz 150
- 9 44 Chase Dowling 150
- 10 3 Tyler Rypkema 150
- 11 05 Teddy Hodgdon 150
- 12 58 Eric Goodale 150
- 13 1 Patrick Emmerling 150
- 14 11 Eric Berndt 150
- 15 89 Matt Swanson 150
- 16 36 David Sapienza 150
- 17 82 Andrew Molleur 150
- 18 28 Doug Coby 149
- 19 54 Tommy Catalano 149
- 20 24 Andrew Krause 149
- 21 15 Joey Cipriano 149
- 22 22 Kyle Bonsignore 149
- 23 8 John-Michael Shenette 149
- 24 20 Max Zachem 149
- 25 18 Ken Heagy 146
- 26 95 Cory Plummer 143
- 27 50 Ronnie Williams 106
- 28 73 Paulie Hartwig 98
- 29 56 Trevor Catalano 45

Thompson Sunoco Modifieds – (30 Laps)

1. 09 Keith Rocco Berlin, CT

2. 81 Todd Owen Somers, CT
3. 7 Jon Puleo Branford, CT
4. 47 Zack Sangermano Plainfield, CT
5. 24 #Mikey Flynn Hampden, MA
6. 2 Danny Cates Chaplin, CT
7. 24MA Nathan Pytko Oxford, MA
8. 86 Robert Georgiades E. Hampton, CT
9. 12 Rob Schultz Neptune, NJ
10. 99 Mike Mayberry Naples, ME
11. 77 Chase Cook Norwich, MA
12. 1 #Andrew Brousseau Charlestown, NH
13. 4 Zach Leone Worcester, MA
14. 35 Derek Ramstrom Worcester, MA
- DNS 57 Justin Beecher Billerica, MA

Late Models – (25 Laps)

1. 17 Matt Lowinski-Loh Thompson, CT
2. 91CT Jake Johnson Rehoboth, MA
3. 30RI Jacob Burns E. Greenwich, RI
4. 9MA Brian Tagg Oxford, MA
5. 38RI Connor Souza Riverside, RI
6. 31CT Travis Hydar Woodbury, CT
7. 70 Rick Gentes Harrisville, RI
8. 42CT Manny Dias Danielson, CT
9. 52 Jeff Belyea Swansea, MA
10. 73CT Jared Materas Somers, CT
11. 31NH Eddie Gomarolo Swanzey, NH
12. 57 Adam Petetty Assonet, MA
13. 28 #Shaun Kekacs Bristol, CT
14. 32 Jason Williams Colchester, CT
15. 94CT Charles Bailey Lisbon, CT
16. 1CT Jared Roy Moosup, CT

SK Light Modifieds – (20 Laps)

1. 10 Kevin Davis Somers, CT
2. 96 Daniel Gamache Jr. Medway, MA
3. 99 Milania Shilosky Colchester, CT
4. 07 Austin Goff Stafford Springs, CT
5. 15NY Gerard Giordano Freeport, NY
6. 23 Brady Parolo Agawam, MA
7. 80 #Thomas Herrington Grafton, MA
8. 15 John O'Sullivan Norwich, CT
9. 34MA Dalton McCarthy Oxford, MA
10. 6 Todd Douillard Palmer, MA
11. 26 RJ Marcott Millville, MA
12. 55 Dennis Smeade Oxford, MA
13. 1 TJ Tomasi Blackstone, MA
14. 99x Dylan Houghton Springfield, MA
15. 27 Corey Caddick Richmond, RI
16. 91 Riley Paul Ledyard, CT

Street Stocks – (20 Laps)

1. 22 Austin Erickson Ashland, MA
2. 19 Ryan Lineham Warwick, RI
3. 11 George Baldwin Lowell, MA
4. 77 Andrew Gillis Ashland, MA
5. 25 Al Stone III Durham, CT
6. 67 Aaron Plemons Uncasville, CT
7. 75 Ryan Waterman Danielson, CT
8. 42 Jarrod Soucy Wales, MA
9. 30 #Charles Beal Ledyard, CT
10. 85 Michael Viens Seekonk, MA
11. 55 Nick Anderson Oxford, MA
12. 19R #Ryan Pomposelli Smithfield, RI
13. 86 Jon Porter Baltic, CT
14. 66 Tyler Cinamella Willimantic, CT
15. 73 Larry Barnett Moosup, CT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The AI race demands rules now!

To the Editor:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) isn't coming. It's here, and it's accelerating. It now looks a lot like a global race, closer in spirit to the nuclear arms buildup than to a typical tech cycle. Nations and companies are pushing forward because they feel they have to. Falling behind no longer seems like an option.

Anthropic, an AI company in the U.S., has developed a new model called Claude Mythos that it won't release because its cyber capabilities are too dangerous for general availability. According to Anthropic, "AI models have reached a level of coding capability where they can surpass all but the most skilled humans at finding and exploiting software vulnerabilities."

An Anthropic engineer with zero security training asked Claude Mythos to find remote code execution bugs overnight. By morning, it had produced a working exploit. It appears Mythos is the most capable AI model ever built. It found zero-day vulnerabilities (i.e., security holes) in every major operating system and every major web browser. Fully autonomously with NO human guidance.

If systems like this can autonomously discover security holes across major operating systems and browsers, then the long-standing balance in cybersecurity has changed overnight. For decades, attackers and defenders operated at roughly human speed. Not anymore.

In a closed-door meeting, U.S. officials warned major banks about the cybersecurity risks posed by Anthropic's Claude Mythos. The financial industry faces a dual-use dilemma: leveraging defensive capabilities or risking cyber exploitation.

Every company that builds or maintains software now faces an environment where AI can find bugs that 27 years of human review and 5 million automated scans missed. The global cost of cybercrime is estimated at around \$500 billion annually. If AI tools are deployed effectively on the defensive side, they could identify and fix vulnerabilities faster than ever before. That could save billions and strengthen critical infrastructure.

But the opposite is just as plausible. If these capabilities spread without guardrails, attackers gain the same advantage. The scale, speed, and automation of AI-driven exploits could overwhelm existing defenses. What used to take teams of skilled hackers could be done by far fewer people, far more quickly.

Anthropic itself is concerned, "We find it alarming that the world looks on track to proceed rapidly to developing superhuman systems without stronger mechanisms in place."

The question is whether the industry will move fast enough to use these capabilities

for defense before they're used for attack.

If that is not alarming in and of itself, the demand for more AI is leading to the rapid growth of data centers which is resulting in community protests from concerned citizens. It's a unifying issue regardless of party affiliation.

Citizens are calling for transparency about the true costs of data centers, not just the typical economic development propaganda of growing the grand list and increased tax revenue which town budgets rarely realize. Citizens want the truth about the water the data centers consume (billions of gallons), the electricity they'll demand (200 trillion watts an hour), the emissions they'll produce (backup diesel generators release 200 to 600 times more nitrous oxides (NOx)), and the lasting impacts on the communities that host them. Data centers can operate with as little as fifty employees. The extensive land taken up by these new data centers have adverse impacts on local farming and economic development. The negative effects on human lives and surrounding communities are vast.

At a minimum, AI and data center guardrails should:

Set strict safety and disclosure requirements for high-capability AI systems, especially those with cybersecurity implications

Establish international norms to reduce the pressure to cut corners in pursuit of strategic advantage

Require transparency from companies building data centers about water use, energy demand, emissions, and economic impact

Ensure that new infrastructure relies heavily on renewable energy and does not shift costs onto local ratepayers

Protect vulnerable communities from becoming default hosts for resource-intensive facilities

None of this will slow innovation. What it will do is shape how AI data centers and innovation affect people. AI will keep advancing. We need to demand guardrails and rules while we still can.

There's a proposed construction of a distribution center between I-395, Westcott Road and Mashentuck Road in Killingly? What specifically is this? An AI data center? A detention center?

It is clear, the pace of AI development won't wait. Policy and guardrails can't afford to wait either. Contact your local and state representatives and ask that they create AI oversight and data center regulation. Show up at community meetings where these projects are proposed. Push for transparency before approvals are granted, not after construction begins.

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

### The big mystery...solved

To the Editor:

Have you ever wondered what happens at that stone building just past the Academy in Woodstock? You are not the only one! I constantly hear from residents that they have lived here for years, and always wondered just that. I would like to solve that mystery by introducing the citizens of northeast Connecticut to the Senexet Grange #40, its history and its mission.

The Senexet Grange is a community grange which is part of the Connecticut State Grange and the National Grange. The National Grange organization originated in 1867 as a grass roots solution to improving social and economic conditions of post-Civil War farmers. Its original mission, which still holds strong today, was to promote education, cooperation and community. The Grange was the first organized group that included women as equal members and grew to an influential institution fighting monopolies like the railroad to protect agriculture. Senexet Grange was organized in 1886 and the unique stone building was built in 1936 in the Historic District of Woodstock within walking distance from Woodstock Academy. The mysterious stone building served as a gathering place for many past generations of Woodstock farmers hosting dinners, square dances and shows on Saturday nights for the community.

Enough history...The purpose of supporting farmers legislatively is now shared with other groups like the Farm Bureau and our community is no longer the exclusively farm community that it was in the past. For this reason, community service is the current cornerstone of Senexet Grange. Our local members provided 882 hours of individual

service last year (working at community kitchen, delivering meals to homebound elderly, transportation of elderly to medical appointments and grocery shopping, transporting grocery donated food to town and other distribution areas, visiting/socializing with the elderly, cleaning roadsides, volunteering at community events, etc.). Grange members still

hold strong to the original idea that helping others makes a difference and forms a better community.

Additionally, the Grange aims to cultivate connections in the local community by collaborating with other groups like

Woodstock Recreation to provide line-dancing classes and the Lions Club to provide them with space to sort donations going back to the community. Senexet grange sponsors events like Meet the Candidates on local election

years, Locally Grown Day annually to promote local agriculture, the annual Winter Boot Drive to support TEEG. We host various public information presentations, community suppers and we also administer the John F. Duffy and Helena B. Duffy Scholarship funds. Our website is a great place to learn about local farms and how you can support

them as well as recreation opportunities and annual community events in Woodstock. The Senexet Grange Facebook page will connect you with community programs in our area and what is happening at our local farms. The Quiet Corner Events Facebook page will provide you with a variety of events taking place in our area—there is something for everyone! Our social media pages were created to connect people to local opportunities and meet others with similar interests.

Our membership currently includes individuals from Thompson, Pomfret, Ashford, Killingly and Woodstock. We are a small but mighty group that works together to maintain/repair/renovate our building with fund-raising dinners, sales of holiday pies and hall rentals.

And we find time to socialize with each other—potlucks, crafting, celebrating holidays, awarding our long term members. In 2026 the Senexet Grange will celebrate its 140th anniversary. We invite you to join us in this endeavor—individually and as a whole family.

We also invite any group that is looking to use a meeting hall for events or ongoing meetings to call Amy at (860) 455-8844 or send an email to [grange40ct@gmail.com](mailto:grange40ct@gmail.com). Please feel free to visit our Facebook pages to see events we have planned. And please consider a visit to see us in action, or better yet join us for family fun. You can email us or stop by at our regularly scheduled meetings on the 4th Wednesday of every month (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) at 6 p.m. Hope to see you in the stone building soon!

AMY MONAHAN  
PRESIDENT  
SENEKET GRANGE

### Has partisan politics become a mental disorder?

To the Editor:

What exactly does someone actually gain from all the political mumbo jumbo I see people throwing around these days?

My formal background is business, and I was taught that politics is antithetical to what business is trying to do. When you're trying to provide service and solutions to as many people as possible to beat the competition it only hurts you to brand certain kinds of people as "the other" and treat them badly or refuse service.

In my college days, I noted the difference between professional business classes and politically-charged liberal arts electives. Fast-forward two decades and 2020s politics is so ridiculous with the Us Versus Them nonsense that if someone's "not involved in the scene" so to speak then being into politics can make you look completely nuts.

The biggest thing I'm sick of seeing is denying ourselves the fruits of our technological labor because "the other guy likes them." During the pandemic it was masks and vaccines. More recently it's AI, clean

energy, electric cars, or even cars that do anything with electricity at all, such as hybrids. Life isn't about making your own life worse because "the other guy" likes something.

I seriously think that when people hamstring themselves because "the liberals like it" or "MAGA likes it" it should be considered a form of self-harm. If you like something, who cares what other people think, including the people on the other side? Nobody's life needs to be dictated by other people's opinions — ever.

Likewise, as we've seen with our political parties taking cheap shots at each other during elections and then bragging about "we worked together on this" and "bipartisanship" when it's not election time the whole Us Versus Them thing either is a thing or just isn't so depending on whether or not a vote is coming up.

Enough is enough. We politicize and polarize far too much these days, and some of it just looks ridiculous.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

### They think we're stupid

To the Editor:

In your 10 April 2026 edition, Michael Douglas of Brooklyn accuses "Trump-haters" (there they go again) of falsely alleging our authoritarian president of, "bombing a girl's school with hundreds of victims." He claims that the allegation has, "repeatedly been proven false."

He doesn't say what specifically is false about the crime. The destruction of an Iranian girl's elementary school killing over 160 students was caused by a US Tomahawk missile strike according to multiple credible US and European media reports and subsequently acknowledged by Pentagon investigators.

So what's Mr. Douglas's gripe? Is it that the president didn't personally target the school? Okay, but he ordered the military to attack Iran without any credible evidence that it posed a security risk to the US and his order resulted in the destruction

of that school and other civilian targets. So, Trump is responsible for those deaths and those of thirteen US military personnel and thousands of Iranian civilians.

Mr. Douglas further falsely asserts that diplomacy wasn't utilized by previous administrations to deal with Iran and claims that, "Trump-haters will post whatever they wish in hopes that someone reads it and believes it." Really? Mr. Douglas is actually describing Trump and himself.

These MAGA cultists think we're stupid. But a large majority of the American people now recognize that the thing that Trump was always the best at, lying, is no longer working. His attempts to distract from his failed economic policies and cover-up of the Epstein files with a stupid, illegal war in the Middle East aren't working either.

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY

### TESTING

continued from page A1

this contamination is isolated only to wells that draw water from the ground and not homes utilizing public water. While they do want to determine a source of contamination, public health and safety are their first priorities.

"Testing and anything beyond testing is totally voluntary, but we do encourage folks to participate because there is a potential risk to their health if their well is impacted. We want to just make sure they understand that risk when they make their decision," said Lally.

When discussing a source, Lally said they couldn't completely rule out the fire training facility in Rogers, but they do know for sure that the facility is not the source of contamination for homes in the third round of testing.

Inquiries about a source were also addressed by Ray Frigon, Director of CT DEEP's Remediation Division, who told the Town Council that determining exactly what entities were responsible for the full extent of the PFAS, and in

turn potentially holding any company responsible for reimbursing costs accrued for mitigation, is no easy task.

"We are facing a very significant pollutant here that is incredibly unique given that low concentrations result in human health impacts and it's everywhere," said Frigon. "It's in so many different places. The odds of finding it should you look for it are very good. This type of situation is very challenging for us because there are so many opportunities to identify sources. Is there one source at play here? No. There are multiple sources at play. Our job is to try to tease out what the most likely sources are based on groundwater flow direction, concentration, and the signature or fingerprint of the PFAS chemical."

Frigon wanted to set the realistic expectation that this process will take time, and they may never be successful in determining an exact source. More importantly, however, their focus is first and foremost on helping the

homeowners understand the risks of continued use of unfiltered, contaminated well water and how to mitigate any further exposure.

CT DEEP will continue working with town officials to keep residents informed and report any results as they come in. Testing is expected to expand in the area until CT DEEP receives a round of results that contain no levels above the standard PFAS limits.

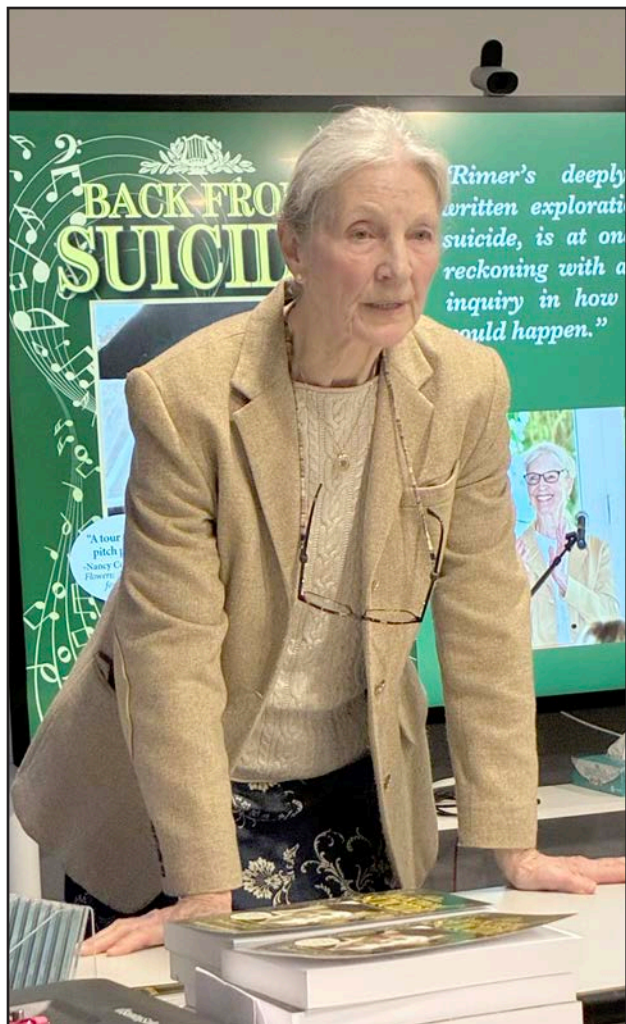
Both Lally and Frigon also stressed that their operation is not related to a separate awareness campaign by UConn and the Department of Public Health that is encouraging PFAS testing throughout the community. While CT DEEP encourages anyone who wants to test their wells to do so, their current investigation is specific to Rogers, although they did acknowledge that any positive results shared through the UConn and DPH tests could result in expanding their investigation to other areas of town as needed if a trend begins to arise.

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ VillagerNewspapers.com





# Local author shares story of son's suicide with National Alliance on Mental Illness



DAYVILLE — At a recent National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) meeting at United Services in Dayville, author Marie Lisette Rimer described the unlikely suicide of her son, Patrick Wood. The room was full as Rimer described Patrick's graduation from Pomfret School. He achieved perfect SAT scores and was the valedictorian in 2001. He graduated from Stanford with honors in 2005. Seven months later, Rimer struggled to understand his death.

The presentation was organized by Ivy Ross for the Windham County affiliate of NAMI and included three of Patrick's teachers from thirty years ago at Pomfret Community School. They described their fond memories of Patrick and were among the many who wanted to learn why a brilliant, loving son could kill himself at age 23. Rimer said, "It made no

sense that Patrick could not see the bright future he had. To me, he was proof that his depression was a disease. I described that awareness in 'Back from Suicide' to pass on my mistake of not realizing that mental illness overpowers the rational side of our brains. It is not logical. It is biological."

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) stresses that mental illnesses are biologically-based medical problems. It emphasizes scientific information and unites families who are enduring mental illness. According to NAMI, mental illness is connected to brain disorders.

Rimer said, "NAMI is exactly the kind of influence needed for suicide survivors. Guilt cycles through our lives because of the stigma and the mythology that suicide is a weakness. We are convinced suicide is our fault. My goal is to replace mythology with biology."

Rimer said an example of the biology of depression is how high stress can damage connections in the brain. Parts of the brains of suicide victims are smaller than those who die from natural causes.

"If I had known that depression was a legitimate disease, I would have understood that the lows override the signs of health. I would have understood that Patrick's gifts were eroded by a medical condition," she said. "Patrick killed

himself ostensibly because of rejection, but suicide goes beyond the ostensible. NAMI reinforces that message through education on mental illness."

"Back from Suicide" reveals the suicidal brain through the misery of depression and the difficulty of coming out. It is available on www.backfromsuicide.com and Amazon. More information on NAMI is available at: <http://www.namiwindhamct.org>.

## Pet Pals hosting low cost rabies clinic

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospital, Rt 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line on April 25 from 2 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$15 cash per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please.

For information, registration and appointment, contact PET PALS at 860-317-1720.

## KILLINGLY

continued from page A5

Wauregan Company was not the only local business to profit from the demand for draperies and curtains. During the 1920's Powdrell and Alexander was purchasing factories in various parts of Killingly from Danielson to Attawaugan, Ballouville and Pineville. And soon operated six curtain factories. Soon Danielson was known as "Curtaintown USA."

I have finally adjusted to Daylight Savings Time and am enjoying more daylight in the evenings. In 1926, it must have been up to the local communities as to whether and

when the change in time would occur. "Mill Men Favor Daylight Saving. Chamber of Commerce Seeks Uniformity of Action. Asks that all Follow. Manufacturers in Town of Plainfield Decide to Advance Clocks. No Decision Yet in Putnam. The mill executives of this vicinity, according to the investigation committee appointed at the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce are practically unanimous in their desire to adopt daylight savings time during the coming year. The committee reported... that all except two (factories) favor the change in time, while these are willingly to abide by the decision of the majority. (The

Chamber also) "Resolved: that the executive committee of the Danielson Chamber of Commerce recommend that all citizens of the towns of Killingly and Brooklyn adopt a time schedule to agree with that which will be effective in the mills, so that all may operate on uniform time." (WCT 4/15/1926).

On April 11, I had the pleasure of attending the historian Bev York's presentation on the Sons of Liberty in Northeastern Connecticut at Putnam Library. The group originated in the 1760's in Boston, but soon spread to this area. Members were opposed to British taxation, among other things, and worked tirelessly against the British

Stamp Act which taxed everything from newspapers and their ads to playing cards. Since they were a secretive group, most of the men were unknown. However, Pomfret's Israel Putnam was a known supporter. Each Colony had a Stamp Collector. The Sons of Liberty targeted Connecticut's Stamp Collector Jared Ingersoll, and he was among the unpopular men burned in effigy in nearby towns like Windham. The Sons of Liberty were determined that they would get his resignation. Bev referenced Ellen Larned's "History of Windham County, Connecticut," which I now quote: "Five hundred horsemen armed with clubs and

other weapons and provided with eight days provisions, marched deliberately across the country under the leadership of Captain John Durkee, intercepted Ingersoll on his way to Hartford and compelled him to write his name to the formal resignation prepared for him. Putnam, accredited with a prominent share in the instigation of this irruption, was detained from personal participation by illness" (pp. 94,95). Daughters of Liberty did not participate in those activities but did their part weaving homespun and substituting homegrown herbs, etc. for the forbidden British goods and tea after the Non-Importation Acts went into effect.

Bev York will be doing the program on Windham Area Sons of Liberty on April 22 for the Mansfield Historical Society at the Mansfield Public Library, 54 Warrenville Rd. It is free and open to the public.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, April 2026. Special thanks to Bev York. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto: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 at [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety).

# COUNTRY LIVING AT WESTVIEW COMMONS

Independent and Assisted Living Community



## Designed Elegance

- Easy Month-to-Month Lease • No Waiting List Fees • No Assessment Fees • No Community Fees •
- One and two-bedroom units (available up to 1,075 sqft.) with kitchenettes •
- specialty finishes, such as coffered ceilings, oversized bathrooms, walk-out patio doors •
- washer/dryer hookups • weekly housekeeping and linen service • three chef-prepared meals daily •

Active Living Redefined:

Harrington's Irish Pub, Bistro Café, and Picturdrome Theatre right at home!

Give us a call at 860-428-2230 to request more information or schedule your personal tour.



Country Living at Westview Commons • 117 Ware Road, Dayville, Connecticut, 06241 • 860-428-2230 • [westviewcommons.com](http://westviewcommons.com)