



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

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Friday, July 31, 2026

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An amazing homecoming for Lucy Marcy

EASTFORD — After nearly 50 years away, Lucy Marcy's headstone has finally returned home to Eastford.

The remarkable journey began in mid-July when Eastford First Selectman Deb Richards received a call from Elaine Hess, Chairperson of the Montville Cemetery Group.

While organizing the basement of Montville Town Hall,

the group discovered Lucy Marcy's headstone, which they believe had been stored there since the 1960s. Further investigation revealed that the stone had been found years earlier along a back road in Montville and brought to Town Hall for safekeeping. How it came to be abandoned there may never be known.

With assistance from Montville Town Historian



Jon Chase, the group began researching the stone's origins. Using records compiled by Mike Carroll of Rediscovering History, Inc., along with the Hale Index System, they determined that Lucy Marcy had originally been buried in Deane Cemetery in Eastford. Elaine Hess then contacted Deb Richards to arrange for the

headstone's return.

On the morning of July 20, Lucy Marcy's headstone was carefully reset in Deane Cemetery, placed behind her footstone and near the grave of her husband's first wife, Polly. Oren Marcy married Polly in 1797 and, following her death, married Lucy in 1820.

Polly's parents are also

buried in Deane Cemetery, along with Oren and Polly's three-year-old daughter, Esther.

Although the exact date of Polly Marcy's death remains unknown, Lucy Marcy died in 1830. Despite extensive research, the burial location of Oren Marcy, who died in 1828, has not been confirmed. It is believed that

he was buried in Deane Cemetery, but his headstone has never been located.

The successful return of Lucy Marcy's headstone was made possible through the dedication and collaboration of many individuals. Special thanks go to the Montville Cemetery Group, Mayor Bunnell Sr., Montville Town Historian Jon Chase, Mike Carroll of Rediscovering History, Inc., and Eastford officials First Selectman Deb Richards, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Tom DeJohn, and Historian Tom Latham, whose combined efforts ensured that Lucy's marker was finally returned to its rightful place.

After nearly half a century away—and nearly two centuries after her death—Lucy Marcy's headstone once again rests in Eastford, reunited with her family. Her story is a remarkable reminder of the importance of preserving local history and honoring those who came before us. This long-overdue homecoming stands as a testament to what can be accomplished through historical research, community collaboration, and a shared commitment to preserving our shared heritage.

Killingly continues monitoring PFAS as source remains in question

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is getting closer to determining a source and limit to the PFAS contamination in the Rogers area of town.

Town Manager Brian Palaia provided an update on the situation during a July 14 Town Council meeting where he revealed that while a specific source of the contamination has not been determined, DEEP is getting closer to an answer and is preparing to begin an in-depth investigation that could lead to enforcement action.

"They're looking in-depth at one property owner, and they've asked the EPA to step in and escalate things so they can get some traction," Palaia said. "I'm not sure if they're going to get that cooperation or not. I'm not at liberty to say which property that is, it's private at this time."

The good news is that testing results are pointing to an endpoint for the extent of the contamination. DEEP has conducted four rounds of testing to date and is planning at least two more rounds. PFAS testing requires the extension of the testing zone each time a test above the allowable PFAS contamination limit is detected.

"They're starting to see the concentrations diminish as they move outward, so they're optimistic that they're eventually going to start getting concentrations that are within acceptable limits," Palaia told the Council.

To date, the town has conducted four PFAS tests impacting 150 homes, 104 of which were determined to have PFAS concentrations above the allowable limit.

Looking at the next steps, Palaia said the town reached out to the Department of Public Health and Connecticut Water for grant funds for water system improvements. The plan would be to install a public water main in the area which would allow residents access to town water rather than utilizing private wells. According to Palaia's report included with the July 14 Town Council meeting agenda, a preliminary review by the state identified a match of \$800,000.

In other PFAS related news, Connecticut Water also received approval from Killingly's Planning and Zoning board in July to construct a new PFAS treatment building in town which will allow Killingly to meet stricter state standards finalized in 2024. Killingly currently meets state standards, but with newer standards set to take effect before the end of the decade, the new facility will keep the town in compliance.

State Primary turns focus back to 50th District Republican candidates

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Republicans of the 50th District are preparing to head to the poles in less than two weeks to decide who will contend against Democrat Pat Boyd for the district seat in the State House.

The primary, on Tuesday, Aug. 11 is potentially the most closely watched of its kinds in many years thanks in no small part to the controversies surrounding one of the two candidates. Jadon MacCormack, a resident of Brooklyn and the party's original endorsed nominee, is being challenged by former Pomfret selectman Anthony "Tony" Emilio, who made

it on to the ballot as a petitioning candidate after local Republican's sought to replace MacCormick following controversial public remarks during Pride Month.

MacCormick posted anti LGBTQ+ rhetoric on social media on June 2 igniting a firestorm of criticism after he called for the celebration of "Straight Month." These comments, combined with prior rhetoric posted on his social media page, resulted in backlash from leaders of both political parties who denounced MacCormick's post calling for him to step down from the race. MacCormick instead doubled down, committing to his opinions in follow-up

interviews and social media posts and refusing to drop out of the race.

Party leaders sought to separate themselves from MacCormick's rhetoric with local Republican Town Committees pushing to change their endorsements to a new candidate in Anthony Emilio. The longtime staple in Pomfret politics surpassed the 240 petition signatures required to be included on the ballot and received the backing of not only local party committees, but some GOP leaders currently serving in Hartford as well.

The race will determine a challenger for Democrat Pat Boyd, who does not have a primary opponent and is

seeking his sixth term having first been elected in 2017 following the retirement of longtime Republican Rep. Mike Alberts. Boyd has received challenges before in 2016 during his initial run, 2018 and 2022, but the controversy surrounding the 2026 primary creates possibly his most visible challenge to date.

The 50th House of Representatives district includes Ashford, Brooklyn, Woodstock, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret, and Mansfield. Registered Republicans in these towns should turn to their respective Town Clerks offices for voting details and locations for the Aug. 11 primary.

Local Young Marine honors America's birthday with historic Great American History Adventure

DANIELSON — In celebration of America's 250th birthday, 12 selected Young Marines from across the United States honored the nation's past, present, and future with a patriotic journey to cities and landmarks central to the founding of American democracy. Chosen to participate in this group was YM/Sgt. Major Mason Steele with Natchaug River Young Marines in Danielson.

The Great American History Adventure gave these Young Marines the opportunity to stand where history was made, walk in the footsteps of patriots, and gain a deeper understanding of the courage, sacrifice, and ideals that shaped the United States.

The Young Marines is a

national non-profit 501(c)(3) youth leadership and development program for boys and girls, age eight through high school graduation. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The trip was made possible through a grant from the American Legion Child Well-being Foundation, Inc. which is "Dedicated to the Betterment of Children." The Young Marines extend their sincere appreciation to the foundation for helping provide this once-in-a-lifetime educational experience.

In each city and at each



Sgt. Major Mason Steele from Natchaug River Young Marines and SSgt. Khalil Rucker with 8th & 1 Young Marines in Young Marine in Washington, D.C. observe the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Courtesy Photo

historical monument, the Young Marines learned firsthand how that historical location contributed to the story of our country.

"At a time when our nation is preparing to celebrate 250 years of independence, this trip gave our Young Marines something no textbook alone can provide," said Col. William P. Davis USMC (Ret), national executive director and CEO of the Young Marines. "They saw the places where America's story began. They stood at memorials that honor the men and women who defended our freedom. They came home with a stronger sense of duty, gratitude, and pride in being part of this great nation."

Among the cities and historical monuments visited

were:

Washington, D.C. – Tour of Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and Mount Vernon on July 4. In addition, the Young Marines executed a walking tour of the city including a visit to the Peoples House, a White House History Museum and other historic sites within the District of Columbia.

Philadelphia – Valley Forge, Independence Hall, the Liberty bell, and the Museum of American Revolution.

New York City – Fraunces Tavern Museum, Statue of Liberty, 9/11 Memorial and other historic sites

New York State – United States Military Academy West Point Museum, New Windsor Cantonment

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Edmund “Doc” Bonneau named Thompson’s Veteran of the Month

THOMPSON — United States Coast Guard ET2 Edmund "Doc" Bonneau of Valley Road in North Grosvenordale has been selected as the Town of Thompson's August 2026 Veteran of the Month. Bonneau is the first Coast Guard veteran to receive the recognition.

Bonneau was born Sept. 9, 1945, in Webster, Mass. to Edmund and Doris Bonneau. He attended Zion Lutheran Church School before graduating from Bartlett High School in 1963.

Inspired by his Little League coach, Neal Mahan, a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Bonneau enlisted in the Coast Guard immediately after high school. He originally hoped to attend the Coast Guard Academy and make the service a lifelong career.

Bonneau entered basic training at Cape May, New Jersey, on Sept. 10, 1963. After completing boot camp, he attended the Coast Guard Electronics School in Groton, where he spent eight months training as an electronics technician. Upon graduating in August 1964, he was promoted to Electronics Technician Third Class (ET3).

His first assignment was aboard the Coast Guard Cutter General Greene in Gloucester, Massachusetts, where he served with a search-and-rescue unit operating in the North Atlantic. His technical expertise and leadership earned him a promotion to Electronics Technician Second Class (ET2).

In May 1965, Bonneau volunteered for assignment to the Coast Guard's Long

Range Navigation, or LORAN, system in the Pacific. Although he had hoped to reunite with Mahan, who had previously served there, his former coach had already transferred.

Bonneau spent the next 13 months servicing electronic navigation equipment in Guam before transferring in June 1966 to the LORAN station on Nantucket, Massachusetts. There he continued maintaining the navigation system, considered the forerunner of today's Global Positioning System technology.

Among his duties on Nantucket was climbing the station's more than 600-foot transmission tower to replace aircraft warning lights, a responsibility he recalls as both challenging and memorable.

Bonneau also participated in two historic national events during his Coast Guard service. Following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in November 1963, he was assigned to Washington, D.C., where he stood honor guard in the U.S. Capitol and marched in the president's funeral procession.

The following year, he again served in an honor guard detail during President Lyndon B. Johnson's commencement address at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Rather than pursue a career in the Coast Guard, Bonneau decided to use his GI Bill benefits to study oceanography and become an educator, hoping to mentor young people as Mahan had mentored him.

He was honorably discharged

from the Coast Guard on Sept. 5, 1967. During his service, he earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Shortly after leaving the military, Bonneau enrolled at Fitchburg State College, where he studied biology while working second shift at Foster-Grant in Leominster to help pay for expenses not covered by the GI Bill.

On June 27, 1970, he married his wife, Jackie. The couple recently celebrated 56 years of marriage.

Bonneau earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology education from Fitchburg State in 1971 before continuing his studies at the University of Connecticut, where he received a doctorate in oceanography in 1976.

His professional career began as a marine biologist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. After one year, he accepted a teaching position at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, where he spent two years teaching marine biology and marine ecology.

Bonneau eventually returned to New England, joining the faculty at Tourtellotte Memorial High School in Thompson, where he spent 22 years teaching biology, advanced biology, anatomy and physiology.

Known to generations of students simply as "Doc," he became recognized for both his high academic standards and his dedication to mentoring young people.

One of his most memorable contributions was creating an annual advanced biology camp-

ing trip to Mount Monadnock, where students learned wilderness survival, teamwork and leadership skills outside the traditional classroom. The program continued for approximately 12 years and became one of the school's most popular educational experiences.

Beyond the classroom, Bonneau volunteered as an assistant coach for the Tourtellotte Memorial High School baseball team under longtime coach Tom Auclair for nine years. He also served as head coach of the Thompson Middle School baseball team for three years and coached preschool soccer through the Thompson Recreation Department.

Jackie Bonneau also devoted her career to education, teaching high school in Massachusetts for 37 years while serving 16 years on the Thompson Board of Education.

The Bonneaus have two children, Christopher and Jennifer, four grandchildren, Robinson-Jeter Bonneau Rice, Dylan, Krystina and Madison Love, and one great-granddaughter, Adelyn.

Bonneau has remained active in the community as a 43-year member and former financial secretary of the Valley Springs Sportsman Club in North Grosvenordale. He is also a 40-year member of American Legion Post 67 in Grosvenordale, a member of the Putnam Elks Lodge and a regular participant in the Danielson Veterans Coffee House.

Bonneau will receive a commemorative plaque from Thompson's first selectman and veterans service officer during the Board of Selectmen meeting on Aug. 4,.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated

6. Snakelike fish

9. Database management system

13. Social evolution anthropologist Service

14. American rocker Grohl

15. Greek personification of compassion

16. Negatives

17. Rescued

18. Self-immolation by fire ritual

19. Assigns tasks

21. Popular type of cigar

22. Discounts

23. The whole quantity

24. New York Giants legend

25. Indicates before

28. Lentils

29. Extremely angry

31. Body part

33. "North Star State"

36. David __, US playwright

38. Lower and raise one's head

39. Private rendezvous

41. In a way, improved

44. A place to play

45. Astronomical period of 18 years

46. Automobile

48. Something you can take

49. A radio band

51. Jaws of a voracious animal

52. Short-billed rails

54. Chinese province

56. Shameless

60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine

61. Indian respectful titles

62. Fail to entertain

63. Dried-up

64. Central Utah city

65. Southern U.S.

66. German river

67. Necessary for breathing

68. Put into play

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment

2. Wings

3. Yellowish volatile liquid

4. Makes less severe

5. Debit note

6. Overhang

7. The nights before

8. Type of light

9. Lacking enthusiasm

10. Tattle

11. Some is "heavy"

12. One who is canonized

14. Indicates date and place of writing

17. "Peace" in Arabic

20. "Olaf" actor Josh

21. Fragmented rock

23. They __

25. Advanced degree

26. Backside

27. Influential architect and design couple

29. An act of undue intimacy

30. Words from which later words are derived

32. 10 meters

34. Neither

35. Fungal sacs

37. The law of God revealed to Moses

40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

42. A promise

43. Challenges

47. British Air Aces

49. Large bank

50. Served as an omen

52. Cavalry sword

53. Vaccine developer

55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules

56. Italian Seaport

57. Hip joint

58. __ Clapton, musician

59. Insect repellent

61. Constrictor snake

65. "The First State" (abbr.)

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Celebrate Homegrown & Handmade at Locally Grown Day in Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — The Senexet Grange & Farms in Woodstock invite you to join us to celebrate everything local-ly homegrown and handmade at Locally Grown Day.

This full day of special activities for all ages on several farms in scenic Woodstock is a great opportunity to slow down and enjoy the views while visiting our local farms. Be sure to bring a cooler for the fresh food finds you will purchase along the way!

8-11 a.m. Senexet Grange Fair will be on display with Historic Barns of Woodstock &

Free Coffee and make your own American Flag shirt craft (bring a white shirt)

9 a.m. Free Morning Yoga Class with Roots to Fly Wellness @ Senexet Grange 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Woodstock Farms is open with fresh fruit & vegetables at the stand and featuring their flowers with a special pick your own option (15 stems for \$10) and photo op. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vendor Fair opens at Echo Farm — over 25 local vendors in addition to the amazing unique items available at Echo Farm. Live music and food are also available on site

until 4 pm. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Visit Westview Farm to make a floral craft and meet the new-est calf on the farm. Shop the Westview Farm store for fresh vegetables, farm raised beef and fresh picked floral bouquets. 10 a.m. Farm to Table Market is offering a build your own sundae option with CT made Turlmeadow Ice Cream. Be sure to visit the cows and goats during your visit to the market offering fresh beef and glass bottle milk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Take a Hayride Farm Tour at Fariholm Farm to learn more about

operations on the farm. Shop the farm store for farm raised meats, fresh eggs and more!

11 a.m. Buzz on Beekeeping Presentation at Senexet Grange. Learn the basics about beekeeping with David from Bees and the Trees.

Butts Western Beef will be at Chace Building Supply selling their famous roast beef sandwiches. They will Cozy Crumb joining them for the day.

Noon to 3 p.m. Fun for the Kiddos at Pinecroft Hill Farm includes face painting, balloon animals, touch a tractor and pet a calf. Take a photo in the sun-flowers and meet the 4th generation at their lemonade stand. Daisy Fresh Foods will be onsite starting at 1 pm with popcorn, cotton candy and Mexican street corn nachos made with Pinecroft Hill Farm corn!

Noon-4 p.m. W o o d s t o c k Creamery will host Blue Ox Pizza Box food truck. There will be harvesting equipment out to explore, you can meet the working oxen and view the robotic milk-er. The creamery will be offering homemade skyr samples and a door prize. Be sure to check out the fresh, made

on-site dairy items and unique local items on sale in the creamery.

2-4 p.m. Pick your own flowers and make your own Floral Arrangement at Sharing Joy Flower Farm

2-5 p.m. Live music and food truck at Taylor Brooke Brewery. Visit the winery while on the Taylor Brooke Vinyard.

3-8 p.m. Dinner, Dessert & Tractors at Buck’s Soft Serve. Poultry in Motion will be onsite and tractors of all kinds will be in the field to explore.

Locally Grown Day is an annual event that takes place on the first Saturday in August to showcase the local farms that are the heart of Woodstock and promote shopping local. We appreciate the access to fresh food and want to share that opportunity with others. Please join us on Locally Grown Day to see just how much our local farms have to offer! Visit senexetgrange.com for more details about Locally Grown Day and follow Senexet Grange on Facebook year-round to keep up with what is happening at farms in our region.

Hope to see you in Woodstock on Saturday, Aug. 1.

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Why are more trees failing in Northeastern Connecticut?

REGION — If it seems like more trees have been coming down in recent years, you’re not imagining it. Across northeastern Connecticut, homeowners in communities like Putnam, Pomfret, Woodstock, Thompson, Killingly, Brooklyn, and surrounding towns have experienced stronger storms, heavier rainfall, and damaging wind events that have taken a toll on our trees. Combined with the lingering effects of the spongy moth outbreak, these conditions have contributed to an increase in hazardous trees and property damage throughout the region. At Stately Tree Service, we’ve seen

a noticeable increase in calls from homeowners dealing with fallen limbs, uprooted trees, and trees that appeared healthy from the outside but were actually weakened from within. One of the biggest misconceptions is that a tree must look dead before it becomes dangerous. In reality, many hazardous trees still have green leaves and appear healthy while suffering from internal decay, structural damage, or weakened root systems. Many homeowners may also remember the widespread gypsy moth infestation that affected our region several years ago. While many trees survived

the initial outbreak, repeated defoliation left thousands of oaks under significant stress. Today, we’re still seeing the effects, as many of those weakened trees continue to decline and become more vulnerable to failure during storms. Weather has only added to the problem. Prolonged periods of heavy rain can saturate the soil, reducing the stability of a tree’s root system. When strong winds follow, even trees that have stood for decades may suddenly uproot or lose large limbs. Homeowners should periodically inspect the trees on their property, especially after severe weather. Warning

signs may include dead or hanging branches, cracks in the trunk, mushrooms or fungal growth near the base, thinning canopies, exposed roots, or a tree that has recently begun leaning. While these signs don’t always mean a tree needs to be removed, they shouldn’t be ignored. Our region is known for its beautiful, mature trees, which add character, shade, and value to our homes and communities. Taking a proactive approach to tree safety can help reduce the risk of property damage and improve safety for homeowners, neighbors, and anyone enjoying the outdoors. As weather patterns continue to change and the long-term effects of the gypsy moth outbreak remain evident across northeastern Connecticut, regular tree inspections and early action can make all the difference in preventing avoidable damage.



Courtesy Photos

Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam beat the rain on Tuesday, July 21, and spent the morning studying nature at Cub Country Day Camp at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford. Joining with dozens of other Cub Scouts from throughout Scouting America's Connecticut Rivers Council, Putnam's Cubs will be at camp all week. Going to summer camp is something Pack 21 Cub Scouts look forward all year long. Certainly, summer camp is important, but it's just one of the fun and exciting things Pack 21 does throughout the year, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan, at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.

Pomfret Public Library hosts “Life in Balance” at weekly Memory Café

POMFRET — The Pomfret Public Library invites community members to a special edition of its weekly Memory Café featuring Life in Balance on Wednesday, Aug. 19 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Presented by Laurie String and Matthew Chuck of Rude Dog Boxing, this engaging program will focus on practical ways to maintain mobility, balance, and strength while aging. Participants will learn simple techniques and exercises that can help improve stability, support everyday movement, and promote healthy, active living. Designed for older adults, caregivers, and anyone interested in healthy aging, “Life in Balance” offers an encouraging and welcoming environment where attendees can discover strategies for staying active and reducing the risk of falls. No prior fitness experience is required. The program will be held at the Pomfret Public Library, 449 Pomfret St., Pomfret, as part of the library's weekly Memory Café. Memory Cafés provide a friendly, supportive gathering place for individuals living with memory loss, cognitive changes, and their care partners. Admission is free, and all are welcome. For more information about Life in Balance, the Memory Café, or other upcoming library programs, contact the Pomfret Public Library at 860-928-3475 or visit www.pomfretlibrary.org.

Local students named to Holy Cross’ Spring Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — College of the Holy Cross congratulates the students named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year. The following local students made the list: Molly Landis of Brooklyn, Class of 2027 Eliza Simpson of Brooklyn, Class of 2026 To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher. About Holy Cross: The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,200 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.



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.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Home at last

There are few things more enduring than a cemetery. They are places where generations are remembered, where family stories are etched into stone, and where communities quietly acknowledge the lives that helped shape the towns they call home. When one of those markers disappears, something more than a piece of granite is lost.

That is why the return of Lucy Marcy’s headstone to Deane Cemetery in Eastford is worth celebrating. At first glance, it might seem like a small story. No ribbon-cutting, no large public investment, no major policy decision. Instead, it is the account of a headstone that somehow traveled more than 50 years ago from Eastford to Montville, where it sat forgotten in a town hall basement until a group of dedicated local historians uncovered its story. But history is often preserved through exactly these kinds of quiet acts.

No one involved in this effort stood to gain anything personally. Members of the Montville Cemetery Group could easily have viewed the abandoned stone as someone else’s problem. Instead, they researched its origins, reached out to local historians, worked through historic records, and contacted Eastford officials. Likewise, Eastford’s leaders and volunteers embraced the opportunity to restore a small but meaningful piece of the town’s past.

It took cooperation across communities, patience, and a genuine respect for history. That spirit deserves recognition.

Small towns often measure themselves by what they build next, but they should also be measured by how carefully they protect what came before. Every old cemetery contains stories that cannot be found in textbooks. Family names, military service, infant graves, epidemics, changing customs, and migration patterns are all reflected in these quiet places. They are outdoor archives that connect today’s residents with those who laid the foundations of their communities.

Unfortunately, many historic cemeteries face challenges. Time, weather, vandalism, and neglect gradually erase names and memories. Volunteers across Connecticut spend countless hours documenting graves, repairing damaged markers, clearing brush, and researching forgotten lives. Much of this work happens with little public attention.

Lucy Marcy’s story reminds us why that work matters. Her headstone was not simply returned to a cemetery. It was returned to the context that gives it meaning, beside family members and within the landscape where she lived nearly two centuries ago. While historians still cannot confirm the location of her husband Oren’s grave, restoring Lucy’s marker helps preserve one piece of the Marcy family’s history for future generations.

There is also something encouraging about the collaboration that made this possible. In an era when communities often seem divided, this project demonstrates that preserving history remains common ground. Historians, municipal officials, volunteers, and researchers from different towns all contributed their expertise toward a shared goal. No politics, no controversy, simply neighbors helping neighbors restore something that belonged. That cooperative spirit is every bit as valuable as the restored monument itself.

The return of Lucy Marcy’s headstone also serves as a reminder that history is never truly finished. Even today, forgotten records emerge, lost artifacts are rediscovered, and unanswered questions occasionally find long-awaited solutions. Every local historical society, cemetery association, and volunteer researcher plays an important role in keeping those possibilities alive.

Eastford has welcomed home more than a headstone. It has reclaimed a small chapter of its own story.

For nearly 200 years, Lucy Marcy has been part of Eastford’s history. After spending decades far from where she belonged, her memorial once again rests among her family in Deane Cemetery.

Sometimes, preserving history does not require grand monuments or expensive projects. Sometimes it simply requires people who care enough to make sure that, after all these years, someone finally comes home.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
SNAP benefits are a lifeline

To the Editor:

I am outraged that the Department of Agriculture is withholding much needed SNAP benefits from hundreds of thousands in Arizona (the latest), as well as much needed SNAP benefits around the country. Secretary Brooke Rollins cites “error rates” as the reason. Error rates do not necessarily indicate fraud; more likely they reflect errors made by over-worked social workers who are already doing too much with too little support.

I volunteer at a local food bank, and see the desperate

Affordability: the whole story

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to the editor the writer claimed that states run by Republicans were affordable, while states run by Democrats were too expensive.

But to get the whole story, don’t you have to look at other factors? Texas, for example, ranks 48th among states in healthcare based on both cost and quality. In contrast, Connecticut ranks 3rd. Connecticut residents live, on average 80.9 years. Texans live 78.5 years. You’ll see a similar contrast if you look at quality of education. Texas ranks 25th; Connecticut comes in at number 2. Personally I’ll take Democratic policies even if they cost a little more if it means I live 2.5 years longer and my kids are better equipped to succeed.

But do Democratic policies actually cost more? Not when you look at income levels as well as “affordability”.

Be aware and vote

To the Editor:

It has been a long time in writing to the Villager. Not much has changed with the Cult Leader/Taco/Neville/grifter-in-chief. Just more grifting.

I want to send a shout out to those who are continuing to write in concerning the state of the Democracy. Specifically, but not limited to, Lisa Arends, Todd Patrie, Billy Taylor, Lee Wesler and Steve Enzell. Look forward weekly to your editorials in the Villager. Let me include the Villager itself for publishing.

Please vote; it is our only hope. I say that with concern that it may not count or the wish of the people maybe not allowed to register. The vote could be rigged by the Cult Leader and the results will be tampered with due to his own hand. There is a chance that there may not be an Election In November. Nov. 3 on a Tuesday. For yet another lie by him that will nullify the election, if he does not get the results that benefit him. Remember he has the military, ICE and on his side. All we have on our side is our democracy. Vote. It will come down to results in Maine, Michigan, Wisconsin and a handful of other states. They may count ‘til the numbers come up to what he wants. He is very scared of Congressional probes into his administration, his

The SAVE Act and what it means for women voters in Connecticut

To the Editor:

On July 22, the House passed a version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that includes the SAVE America Act. It is the latest attempt by Trump and the Republicans to push through a major change to voter registration before the 2026 midterm elections. It is voter disenfranchisement that disproportionately affects women, minorities, and low-income communities. CT women, especially married women, should understand how different this change would be from how we register to vote today. (Campaign Legal Center)

Connecticut law does not require voter registration applicants to show proof of citizenship; applicants simply attest under penalty of perjury that they are U.S. citizens and eligible to vote. Penalty of perjury in various contexts, such as signing tax returns or submitting sworn declarations in legal proceedings is common and legally binding. Connecticut was one of nineteen states whose attorneys general sued to block a related federal proof-of-citizenship executive order, arguing that election administration is a state and Congressional matter, not a presidential one. The U.S. Constitution grants states the authority to regulate the “Times, Places and Manner” of elections, for Senators and Representatives as outlined in Article I, Section 4. The SAVE Act would override that entirely, replacing Connecticut’s current signature-and-attestation system with a federal mandate for original documents. (US Court Blocks Trump’s Proof of Citizenship Voting Order: Key Legal Changes, Impact on Voter Registration & Elections)

The reality is that the “show your papers” requirement is an attack on women’s right to vote. The SAVE Act would require voters who don’t have a passport to present a birth certificate that matches the name on their driver’s license, and roughly 69 million married women (about eight in 10 women) nationwide took their husband’s last name after marriage. Updating a name after marriage typically means updating her Social

Facts matter, but conclusions matter more

To the Editor:

Michael Douglas deserves credit for bringing up an interesting point in his letter last week — that many of the country’s most expensive states (Florida is a notable exception) have Democratic legislatures and governors, and that the converse is also true — that many of the country’s least expensive states have Republicans in charge. It is a finding worth investigating fully to see what exactly it means, but Mr. Douglas skips the investigation part and jumps immediately to making a political point: that current Democratic interest in and concern about affordability rings hollow and reeks of hypocrisy.

But, in doing so, he makes a crucial error: he confuses “correlation” with “causation.” There is indeed, as reported recently by CNBC, a correlation currently between cost of living and leadership of a state by Democrats or Republicans. But, no one has shown causality, nor is it likely that they will be able to. Just because there is an association between the cost of living and which political party is in the majority in a state doesn’t mean that the policies of that political party are responsible for the association.

There are just too many other factors that go into determining cost of living to make a simple argument that the political party in power determines how expensive a state is to live in. For starters, one would want to examine the historical data: how expensive was New York under Nelson Rockefeller, compared to other states; how expensive was Connecticut under John Rowland and Jodi Rell, or how expensive was California, relatively, under Governor Ronald Reagan?

And, yes, it might be cheaper to live in Oklahoma, and the zoning boards might not be as restrictive, but

need of many whose benefits diminish even as the cost of groceries increases. America should represent the best in our world.... we have always been a generous and just people. The current Administration is destroying the faith in our country’s goodness. Please contact Secretary Rollins and ask that she exercise common sense and integrity to restore assistance to our less fortunate citizens.

Karen Ryker
Woodstock

Davis Park



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

America 250 Killingly, Saturday, Aug. 8, 1 p.m. Musick of the Revolution in New England with Richard Franklin Donahue. Killingly Historical Center, 196 Main St. Richard will perform a collection of “New Songs”

& Hymns that were published during the American Revolution from the Stamp Act through the British Surrender at Yorktown. Free. All are welcome. Sponsored by the Killingly Historical Society.

Putnam Public Library. 200 School St. Baseball’s Own Civil War: 1848-1865. Wednesday, Aug. 12, 6-7:30 p.m. “An exploration of the early days of ‘base ball’ and the conflict between the 1848 ‘Knickerbocker’ (New York) game rules, and the 1858 ‘Town Ball’ (Massachusetts) style of play. Learn how the American Civil War helped to settle the debate as to which variant would become our national past-time. Co-sponsored by the Aspinock Historical Society.

Killingly Grange #112, 801 Hartford Turnpike, Agricultural Fair. Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Entry Day Friday, August 14, 4-6 p.m. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Download handbook & forms from the Facebook page-www.facebook.com/KillinglyGrange/ or contact Terry Barton at 860-884-1813 or tmbartonkillinglygrange@gmail.com for additional information.

The Killingly Historical Center recently received a query from a woman who was in possession of a beautiful commemorative, engraved cane which was given to Danielsonville resident Silas Hyde in 1890, a Davis Park Commissioner, in thanks for all the work that he had done to prepare the park. She wondered if there was any mention of the gift in a local newspaper. Much to my delight, the Windham County Transcript had one, and with the help of Suzanne Gosselin, I was able to send it to her. “The Trustees of the Davis Park association have sent to Mr. Silas Hyde, who is now in Maine, a handsome gold-headed cane as a partial recognition of the gratitude they feel for his valuable services, cheerfully and freely rendered in planning and superintending the grading of the park.” (WCT June 6, 1890, p.2). Searches for the article revealed that much grading and preparation was being done to the lot in 1890. Although the woman did not request information about the early beginnings of the park, I decided to see what other mentions I could find since it is a much-used spot in town. The tidbits that also show up while doing such a search always prove interesting.

A Wednesday, Sept. 18, 1889 Transcript carried a small tidbit: “Some person can get a comfortable house for a few hundred dollars by purchasing the building on Davis Park and moving it to a lot not far distant.” (p.2). In 1889 one would not have had to contend with all the wires which exist today, and I am always amazed at the number of houses which were moved to other locations. Grey’s Atlas of 1869, Danielsonville panel, indicates that Samuel Reynolds owned the house on the property at that time (thus Reynolds Street).

I digress to mention a few of the local “Whittlings” also in the above column which mentioned the house. “The Providence Polo Club arrived here en route for Brooklyn, last night, and stopped at the Attawaugan (Hotel). The club would have made a short parade on Main Street this forenoon in their brilliant uni-

Young people learning about leadership

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club experienced an in-depth look into what great things young people are doing today ---and the leadership skills they’re building.

Local students who attended RYLA spoke at the July 21 Putnam Rotary Club meeting and described their experiences. RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, an intensive leadership training program for young people. It is organized locally by Rotary International clubs and districts.

Local students who attended the program in Springfield included: Caleb LaFrance, Lilah Ledogar, Ayden Perry, Landon Perry, Colby Plouffe, Jaydin Sevine and Kristina Nieminen.

But that wasn’t all. Two students who attended the World Affairs program in Wisconsin also described their experiences. Dylan Axtell and Maddison Carlson learned a lot during the intense program with team and leadership building. They also gained problem solving skills.

But that wasn’t all. The Putnam Rotary Club’s Interact Club co-presidents, Calleigh Levesque and Mabel Perreault, gave Rotarians a rundown on their goals for this year.

One of the early projects still going on is the Interact Club’s collection of backpacks and school supplies for TEEG. Donations



Courtesy Photo

Interact chairs Mabel Perreault, left, and Calleigh Levesque.

can be dropped off the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center in Putnam until Aug. 13,

this place, last week, with the following players: Bert Geer, catcher; Henry Graves, pitcher; Michael Sullivan, first base; Walter Hall, second base; James Bolles, third base; William Dexter, short stop; Fred Burroughs, right field; William Hoyle, center field; Robt. Bishop, left field. The new club will play on the West Side grounds next Saturday, at 4 o’clock p.m. with a nine from Central Village. A collection will be taken, and the young players are ambitious to secure funds to obtain uniforms.” (p.2).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2026. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. For Windham County Transcripts, visit killingly.historyarchives.online courtesy of the Killingly Public Library.

Weaver

continued from page A4

forms if the weather had been pleasant.” “The St. Alban’s parish are to give Danielsonville people a magnificent concert soon, by the genuine Yale Glee club. Which is not the Apollo club.” (p. p.2).

Medical knowledge was still in its infancy. I had to smile to myself at the following... “Never enter a sick room in a state of perspiration, as the moment you become cold your pores absorb. Do not approach contagious diseases with an empty stomach nor sit between the sick and a fire, because the heat attracts the vapor.” (p.2). “The exhibition of spiritual mental phenomenon to be given by Emerson in Hyde hall, Nov. 8 , will be the first of the kind that ever was witnessed here. Mr. Emerson is considered one of the finest mediums in the country, and the spirit messages given through his organism are wonderful. The low price of admission insures a crowded house. Tickets 10 cents at James’ drug store.” (p.2).

Back to more on Davis Park. The Wednesday, May 14, 1890 Windham County Transcript carried the following, “The announcement was made on the street last Saturday that Hon. Almond M. Paine, a prominent and influential citizen of this town---Judge of Probate for several years---had informed the trustee of the Davis Park association that he would be pleased to place in the new park a handsome fountain, to cost about \$500---and his magnificent gift has been accepted with many thanks. A committee will visit New York to make the purchase, Mr. Paine leaving the selection to the officers of the Park association. The fountain will be placed on the highest spot of the park, near the centre. The band stand, which enterprising ladies are securing funds to erect, will probably be placed not far from the fountain...”(p.2). There are post cards at the Killingly Historical Center which show both the elaborate fountain and the bandstand. Stop in and see them.

On Oct. 6, 1890, it was voted that Davis Park be exempt from town taxes for five years. (Weaver, Margaret & Geraldine & Raymond Wood, Miles of Millstreams, p.139 with reference to the Town Meeting Records). Work continued on the park which by the next spring was quite a nice place even though it wasn’t quite finished. “Park Commissioner Silas Hyde has been confined to his house by the prevailing distemper* since Friday, and a few finishing touches on the Davis Park is delayed. The general verdict is that the Venus fountain is a fine work of art, and a beautiful ornament to the village. Not a dissenting voice has been heard from any quarter. The Transcript expects to see a summer house and band stand, combined, on the Davis Park next year that will not cost less than \$500...” (WCT May 6, 1891). (* The same paper noted under Local Whittlings, “La grippe is still monarch of all he surveys in this latitude.”. Hyde was certainly not the only one suffering from sickness). The first mention of an event in the park was in the May 20, 1891 Transcript. “Company F band gave a short concert on Davis Park Wednesday evening. It was an impromptu affair, and only a part of the band were present.” (p.2). The Borough of Danielsonville was given control of Davis Park in 1893. (Miles of Millstreams., p. 140). Note: Danielsonville was shortened to Danielson in 1895.

Take me out to the ball game. The May 14, 1890 Transcript also noted, “A local base-ball nine was organized in

or you can drop off the supplies directly to TEEG at 15 Thatcher St., N. Grosvenordale.

LiR-QV Open House

DANIELSON — The public is welcome to attend a Fall Open House sponsored by Learning in Retirement (LiR-QV) on Friday, Aug. 21, at 1 p.m. in the Killingly Community Center, 185 Broad St., Danielson.

All are welcome to hear about the Fall programs and enjoy a presentation by noted storyteller and journalist Mike Allen, on The Importance of Connecticut to the Revolution. Connecticut played an important role in winning independence from the British Empire. Many local figures contributed to the formation of the new country, while Connecticut earned the nickname “the provision state” because of its supplies of food and ammunition to the Continental Army. Light refreshments will be served following the program.

LiR-QV programs are held on Monday and Fridays, from September through November. Space is limited. For further information about LiR visit lir-qv.org

Putnam Corridor Gallery features Kathleen Mittan

PUTNAM — The Corridor Gallery in the Putnam Municipal Complex is currently featuring the vivid and realistic artwork of Kathleen Mittan. The show, entitled “Wild Hearts, Tame Spirits,” showcases Kathleen’s love of horses, nature, pets, and the world around us.

Mittan is a self-taught artist who has a fondness to pallet knife painting and paint pouring media. She has had professional experience in both graphic design and fine arts. Her style is both abstract in the pouring technique and realistic in fine arts. Her style is vivid and realistic, capturing the heart and soul of each one

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

Wars are easier to start than to end

To the Editor:

Ukraine was caught totally unprepared for its giant neighbor Russia’s assault. Nightly bombing by missiles and drones, not just threats. And half a million boots (and tanks) on the ground. Yet today, after four and half years, Ukraine stands strong.

Iran is a much larger country in population and territory. It has been tunneling and hiding its missile defenses for 10 years of US and Israeli attacks and threats. It has been making and selling drones to others for years.

Our Emperor Trump clearly did not know

what or where the Strait of Hormuz was. I can only guess that he and the worshipful courtier’s around him are not aware of Ukraine’s successful resistance to years of Russia’s bombing (which we call “strikes” - sounds nicer) and ground invasion.

If Trump’s buddy Putin can’t find a fig leaf to cover his withdrawal from his Ukraine disaster, can we expect Trump to find an excuse to end his in Iran? I hope so, but I fear not. We are in for long, bloody and very expensive ego struggle.

Tim McNally
Pomfret Center

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Now welcoming new patients





Courtesy Photos

Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam spent part of Wednesday, July 22 building a dinosaur skeleton and shooting arrows at Cub Country Day Camp at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford. The theme at JNW Cub Day Camp this summer is "The Land Before Time," so that's why they built a triceratops. Joining with dozens of other Cub Scouts from throughout Scouting America's Connecticut Rivers Council, Putnam's Cubs will be at camp all week. Going to summer camp is something Pack 21 Cub Scouts look forward all year long. Certainly, summer camp is important, but it's just one of the fun and exciting things Pack 21 does throughout the year, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan, at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.



Courtesy Photo

Young Marines from across the country visited the United States Capitol and other historic landmarks while celebrating America's 250th birthday during the Great American History Adventure.



Courtesy Photo

At Washington's Crossing Historic Park in Washington Park, Pa., Young Marines explore the grounds. This landmark was among many visited by the Young Marines as part of the Great American History Adventure.

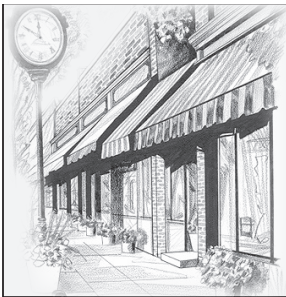
Marines continued from page A1 and Washington's Headquarters. Boston - Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill and the USS Constitution, Old State House, Quincy Market, and the Boston Tea Party Museum.

Throughout the trip, many of the Young Marines referred to the experience as the "trip of a lifetime." Each evening, the group reflected on what they had learned and why those sites remain important in America's history. "Before this trip, I knew these places were important but seeing them in person made me understand what people sacrificed so we could live free," said YM/SgtMaj Steele. "Standing at Mount Vernon, Independence Hall, the Statue of Liberty and the memorials in Washington made me proud to be an American and proud to be a Young Marine."

The Young Marines thank the American Legion Child Well-being Foundation, Inc. for its generous support and for helping make this historic trip for America's 250th possible. Because of the foundation's commitment to the well-being and development of young people, these Young Marines gained a deeper understanding of their nation's purpose, the responsibilities of citizenship, and the enduring value of service to others.

The 12 Young Marines who participated in this trip are:
YM/SgtMaj Quinn Lawton with Upstate Young Marines in Greenville, S.C.
YM/SgtMaj Mason Steele with Natchaug River Young Marines in Danielson
YM/SgtMaj Sydney Oke with Lapeer County Young Marines in Lapeer County, Mich.
YM/SgtMaj Valerie Huete with JPSO Young Marines in Harvey, La.
YM/SgtMaj Charlotte Bisila with Lewis & Clark Young Marines in Ridgefield, Wash.
YM/SgtMaj Philip Zajac with San Diego Young Marines in San Diego, Calif.
YM/GySgt Bailey Kehoe with Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines in Castaic, Calif.
YM/GySgt David Fleming with Tarrant County Young Marines in Ft. Worth, Texas
YM/SSgt Indigo Mutter with Lewis & Clark Young Marines in Ridgefield, Wash.
YM/SSgt Khalil Rucker with 8th & I Young Marines in Washington, D.C.
YM/GySgt Luke Stevens with Ashtabula County Young Marines in Jefferson, Ohio
YM/MGySgt Layton Wright with Upstate Young Marines in Greenville, S.C.

About the Young Marines History
Young Marines' humble beginnings in 1959 with one unit and a handful of boys, the organization has grown to more than 200 units with over 5,000 youth and 1,950 adult volunteers in 40 states, the District of Columbia, Japan (Okinawa), and affiliates in a host of other countries.
For more information on the Young Marines, visit the Web site at <https://www.YoungMarines.org>.



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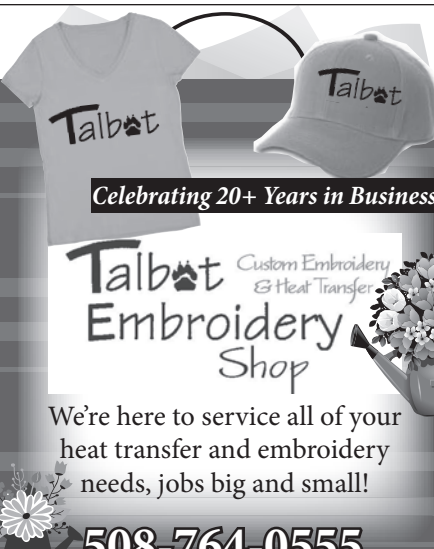
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Courtesy Photos

Friday, July 24 marked the end of a fun and successful week by Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam when the Cubs completed their annual stint at Cub Country Day Camp at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford. Going to summer camp is something Pack 21 Cub Scouts look forward to all year long. Certainly, summer camp is important, but it's just one of the fun and exciting things Pack 21 does throughout the year, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.



On Thursday, July 23, Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam went fishing in a brook and learning how to put up a tent. Pack 21 is attending Cub Country Day Camp at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford this week. Going to summer camp is something Pack 21 Cub Scouts look forward to all year long. Certainly, summer camp is important, but it's just one of the fun and exciting things Pack 21 does throughout the year, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan, at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.



Rectory School names Meghan Fluckiger first Executive Director of Horizons Rectory School

POMFRET — Rectory School has appointed Meghan Fluckiger as the inaugural Executive Director of Horizons Rectory School, marking a new chapter and milestone for the six-week summer academic and enrichment program, expanding this cornerstone partnership between the school and the surrounding Northeast Connecticut communities.

As Horizons Rectory School completes its third summer of operation and already shows signs of success, Meghan’s first year in her new role has focused on continued support for returning students, build-

ing new partnerships with local districts, and expanding offerings as the program grows steadily.

Rectory Schools’ commitment to deepening its impact across the region meant that a director would be required to continue to expand the program’s success.

Head of School Julie Anderson said that the choice to appoint Meghan was obvious, commenting, “As new towns and donors have joined, all have put their trust in Horizons Rectory School because of what she has built, from the relationships with superintendents, to the support,



Meghan Fluckiger

Courtesy Photo

care, and moments that she has provided for local families.”

Fluckiger, a Rectory Faculty member since 2010 and former English

Department Leader, helped build the Horizons program from the ground up — developing its daily schedule, curriculum, and instructional approach alongside colleagues who managed budget and operations.

Teaching fifth grade for nine months of the year, she could have enjoyed her summer respite, but the opportunity to support students with reading is a passion of hers and aligned perfectly with Horizons’ mission. She was recruited to be the lead teacher for the summer of 2024 and jumped at the chance.

This program lets my passion reach a much larger landscape,” she said, “and Elementary Literacy is what I actually went to school for; Being able to see students fall in love with reading is the most rewarding thing as a teacher.”

Horizons Rectory School serves elementary students from partner districts, current participants include Killingly, Pomfret, Putnam, and Thompson. The program is designed to combat the "summer slide" through a model built around three hours of direct, systematic phonics and literacy instruction each morning, followed by afternoons of enrichment, including daily swim lessons, art, and STEM activities.

“The curriculum follows a lot of what Rectory’s Elementary School already does,” she added. “Being in the same spaces allows us to follow all best practices and helps us provide a very intentional educational environment where students receive focused attention throughout the summer.”

As Executive Director, Fluckiger will focus on scaling the program while preserving the cohesive, relationship-driven culture that has defined it. Her priorities for the coming year include deepening partnerships with current partners and developing new relationships throughout Northeastern Connecticut. She also hopes to expand by adding a dedicated reading specialist and creating more community events for those new or unsure what to expect in the summer.

“We want as many people as possible to see our program in action,” Fluckiger said, describing plans to invite prospective families and community members to visit and experience Horizons firsthand. Looking ahead three to five years, she envisions the program serving grades one through five.

“My first year we had 10 students,” Fluckiger said. “Now the returners eagerly welcome new students to the class, and as new grades are introduced, we feel confident that we are able to

bring a fun and engaging summer experience with dynamic summer camp elements.”

To see that through, her full-time role as Executive Director may take her away from the classroom, but it will enable her to meet with community members seeking to support and realize her vision.

Horizons is a national nonprofit organization well established in communities across the country. Once students are accepted into the program, they are guaranteed a spot in the following summer’s cohort, and data indicate that those students are more likely to pursue higher education. To qualify for the program, students must be receiving free or reduced-price federal lunch program, determined by federal income guidelines.

Fluckiger emphasized that Horizons’ impact extends well beyond the summer session.

"It's not just six weeks," she said.

Families remain connected to program resources year-round, including support in areas like food access, transportation, and mental health, often facilitated through community partners such as TEEG (Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group). A key part of her vision is educating parents alongside their children, so families can continue to support learning at home.

For Fluckiger, success is measured in more than test scores.

"Seeing academic growth and new skills are important – yes," she said. "But it's also social and emotional: kids knowing who they are as students and building the confidence to take risks." She pointed to small but meaningful moments her students have shared with her as signs the program is working, from trying a new food in the dining hall, to being brave in the pool, discovering a love of reading, or proudly sharing their work with family who visit the class.

Also joining the effort is former executive director of TEEG, Anne Miller. Her role as committee chair, working alongside Julie Anderson, includes overseeing the program's implementation.

“Meghan’s experience and leadership speak for themselves,” they said. “Her appointment positions Horizons to expand its reach across the region while staying rooted in the relationships and creating a place for each family to feel safe and supported.”

The next chapter will begin in the fall as Fluckiger looks to add an additional cohort for the summer of 2027.

I opened a Trump account, and you can too

I recently opened new 530A accounts, commonly called Trump Accounts, for my three children. None qualify for the \$1,000 federal pilot contribution because they were born before the eligibility window. Even so, I decided the accounts were worth opening.

The reason was not politics or the government contribution. It was the opportunity to begin saving for my children’s retirement years before they would typically be able to do it themselves. As both a financial advisor and a parent, I evaluate new planning opportunities through two questions: Does the strategy make sense on paper, and would I use it for my own family? At first, I was skeptical. After reviewing the rules and opening the accounts myself, however, I concluded that this is a tool many families should understand.

Current rules at a glance

A 530A account is a new type of traditional IRA established for a child. The child owns the account, while a parent or guardian generally serves as custodian until adulthood. Children born between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2028, may qualify for a one-time \$1,000 federal pilot contribution if the required election is made.

Families may contribute even if the child does not have earned income. During the child’s growth period, annual contributions are generally limited to \$5,000. Parents, grandparents, relatives, and others may contribute toward that limit.

Employers may also contribute up to \$2,500 annually through a qualifying program, but that amount counts toward the same \$5,000 limit.

Why I opened the accounts

The primary benefit is simple: families can begin investing for a child’s retirement years before many children would typically qualify for a custodial Roth IRA. A custodial Roth IRA has traditionally been one of the best ways to begin retire-

ment savings for a child, but contributions generally require earned income.

A 530A account helps fill that gap by permitting contributions before earned income exists. The greatest benefit is not merely the amount invested. It is the time available for that money to compound. A dollar invested at age 5 or 10 has decades longer to grow than one first invested in someone’s twenties or thirties. I opened these accounts because I wanted to start that clock earlier.

What I like

The structure is relatively straightforward. The child owns the account, a parent acts as custodian, and investments during the growth period are generally limited to low-cost index funds intended for long-term growth.

The account supports the same fundamentals advisors often emphasize: start early, keep costs low, stay invested, and allow compounding to work over time. It also gives parents and grandparents another way to help children build long-term assets alongside options such as 529 plans, custodial accounts, and annual gifts.

Taxes and distribution rules

Individual contributions are not deductible, but they generally are not included in the child’s income when contributed.

Contributions from individuals generally create tax basis, while the federal pilot contribution, qualifying employer contributions, and certain other contributions generally do not. Future taxation may therefore depend on the source of the funds, account growth, and the rules in effect when money is withdrawn or converted.

These accounts are not flexible short-term savings vehicles. During the growth

Financial Focus

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JONATHAN MATTHEWS

period, distributions are generally prohibited except in limited circumstances. Afterward, the account is generally treated under traditional IRA rules. Taxable withdrawals may be subject to ordinary income tax and, in some cases, an additional 10% penalty.

What I don’t like

No planning tool is right for every goal. For education funding, a 529 plan may be more appropriate. If a child has earned income, a custodial Roth IRA may offer better tax treatment. Families seeking greater flexibility may prefer a UTMA or UGMA account.

The rules are also still developing, and additional Treasury and IRS guidance is likely. That is why I view a 530A account as one option within a broader financial plan, not a universal solution.

The Roth Conversion question

Advisors are watching the potential for future Roth conversions. A conversion may eventually make sense, but it could create taxable income depending on the account’s earnings, basis, the child’s income, tax bracket, dependency status, and future regulations.

I would not open an account solely because of a hypothetical Roth conversion. Still, the possibility is worth monitoring. Consider a child who receives \$5,000 annually for 15 years beginning at age 3, with a hypothetical 7 percent annualized return. By adulthood, the account could be worth approximately \$125,000 to \$130,000.

The account itself is not magic. The head start is.

My takeaway

Families should generally prioritize emergency savings, high-interest debt, employer retirement-plan matching, and their own retirement security before

Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today

774-200-7308 • mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

Raymond J. Caplette (1922-1993): A legendary combat leader in two wars

BY MICHAEL J. ROCCHETTI
AMERICAN LEGION MAYOTTE-
VIENS POST #13
PUTNAM

THOMPSON — Among the many remarkable soldiers with ties to northeastern Connecticut, few compiled a combat record as extraordinary as Master Sgt. Raymond J. "Cappy" Caplette. A veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, Caplette repeatedly displayed exceptional courage under fire, earning two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, and three Purple Hearts during more than twenty years of military service. Quiet, modest, and deeply respected by the men he led, he became one of the most decorated enlisted soldiers from the Quiet Corner.

Raymond Joseph Caplette was born on April 4, 1922, in Webster, Mass., the son of Felix Edward Caplette Jr. and Mary Louise Dusaume. He grew up in a large French-Canadian family with ten brothers and sisters. Tragedy struck early when his father died in 1937 and his mother followed two years later, leaving the older children to help raise the younger members of the family. The 1940 federal census found eighteen-year-old Raymond living with his brothers and sisters on Prospect Street in Webster after completing the eighth grade.

Built for action, his WWII draft card described him as being six feet, one inch tall, 165 pounds, brown hair and hazel eyes. At the onset of the war, he was working at the Headway Shoe Company in Webster. Like many young men of his generation, his future changed dramatically as the world descended into war. Already serving with Company L of the Massachusetts National Guard, he received a community send-off when his unit was called to active duty in January 1941, nearly a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II.

Company L became part of the 181st Infantry Regiment, 26th "Yankee" Infantry Division, one of New England's most

distinguished National Guard divisions. Caplette spent more than two years overseas, serving with the First, Third, and Ninth Armies as Allied forces fought their way across France, Luxembourg, and Germany.

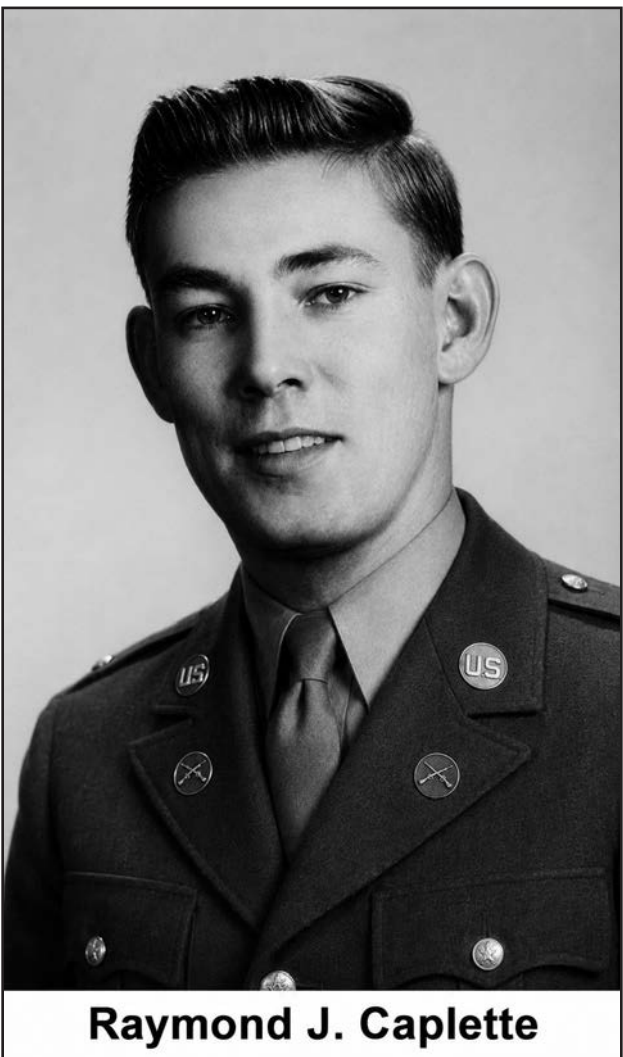
Combat came at a terrible cost. During fighting in Luxembourg on September 16, 1944, then-Corporal Caplette was wounded in action and awarded the Purple Heart. Yet even his wounds did little to slow him.

On April 12, 1945, during fierce street fighting in Germany, Caplette performed the act of heroism that earned him his first Silver Star. When his platoon's advance was halted by deadly sniper and rocket launcher fire from a fortified building, Caplette volunteered to accompany his platoon leader in eliminating the position. Armed with a bazooka, he advanced from doorway to doorway under intense enemy fire before reaching an exposed firing position. There he launched four rockets directly into the enemy stronghold, allowing his platoon leader to assault the building from the rear and destroy the remaining defenders. His fearless actions broke the German resistance and inspired every man in his platoon.

Following Germany's surrender, Caplette briefly served in the United States Marine Corps before returning to the Army in November 1945. On Aug. 2, 1947, he married Bella St. Germaine in Thompson, Connecticut, establishing a home in North Grosvenordale while continuing his military career.

When war erupted again in Korea in 1950, Caplette found himself back in combat, this time with Company K, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Only weeks into the campaign, he was wounded by exploding mortar or artillery fire but quickly returned to duty. Then came one of the most desperate episodes of the Korean War.

In late October and early November 1950, during the Battle of Unsan, Chinese Communist forces launched their



first massive offensive against United Nations troops. The 8th Cavalry Regiment was surrounded by overwhelming numbers of enemy soldiers, and entire companies were shattered. Hundreds of Americans were killed, wounded, or captured. Caplette refused to surrender.

Gathering together the survivors, including numerous wounded men, he began leading them through enemy-held mountains toward friendly lines. For more than a week—and according to some accounts, eleven terrifying days—the exhausted soldiers survived on raw field corn, beans, and potatoes. They crossed icy rivers, climbed rocky mountains with blistered feet, and endured freezing nights without blankets while avoiding enemy patrols.

When they finally reached American lines, Caplette had successfully brought nine American soldiers and one South Korean soldier safely through the encirclement after initially gathering more than forty survivors. Their incredible escape became national news.

The Associated Press described the ordeal as a "week of hell." One soldier

was tragically killed by friendly fire moments before the group could identify themselves, but Caplette's leadership gave hope throughout the Eighth Army that other men listed as missing might also survive behind enemy lines. His courage did not end there.

During another engagement, Caplette charged an enemy machine-gun position alone, destroying the crew with grenades and rifle fire. At Shrine Hill, he personally led the assault

uphill, reaching the summit first while firing his M-1 rifle so rapidly that the barrel became too hot to touch. On another occasion, after his platoon had been mauled, he disappeared for more than two hours. His men feared he had been killed until he emerged carrying a wounded soldier on his back. Only afterward did medics discover that Caplette himself had suffered two very painful grenade fragment wounds.

His fellow soldiers adored him. One newspaper quoted a combat veteran saying, "We like Cap? Hell, I love the guy." Another officer described his return from Unsan as "nothing short of a God-given miracle."

In May 1951, Caplette received his second Silver Star for extraordinary heroism in Korea. Later that year, he also received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during nearly a year of continuous combat with the 8th Cavalry Regiment.

By then, Caplette had become one of the Army's most highly decorated enlisted men. His awards included: two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, numerous campaign and service medals spanning two major wars.

When interviewed after returning home in 1951, Caplette remained characteristically humble. Asked why Americans were fighting in Korea, he answered simply that

communist aggression anywhere in the world threatened freedom everywhere. Despite surviving two wars and suffering multiple wounds, he intended to remain in the Army. "I've been lucky," he repeatedly told reporters.

After completing more than twenty years of military service, Master Sergeant Raymond J. Caplette retired from the Army on June 30, 1961. His remarkable military career had begun as a National Guardsman before World War II and ended after serving through one of the Cold War's fiercest conflicts.

He later settled in Florida, where he died on Feb. 23, 1993, at the age of seventy. He was laid to rest in Glen Haven Memorial Park and Mausoleum in Winter Park, Fla.

Master Sgt Raymond J. "Cappy" Caplette embodied the finest traditions of the American enlisted soldier. Calm under fire, devoted to his men, and willing to risk his own life again and again to save others, he earned the respect of every soldier who served beside him. His extraordinary record of courage in both World War II and the Korean War stands as one of the greatest military legacies produced by the Quiet Corner and serves as a lasting reminder of the character, sacrifice, and leadership of Connecticut's hometown heroes.

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

THOMPSON — Ahead of the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, Livestrong, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the daily lives of cancer survivors, is hosting a landmark First Responder Ride for Resilience, a five-day, 343-mile cycling journey from Boston to the 9/11 Memorial in New York City honoring the 343 firefighters lost on September 11, 2001. Riders will move through northeastern Connecticut on Monday, Sept. 7. Local residents are invited to cheer on riders, volunteer at a water stop, or donate to show their support.

According to research from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, firefighters are nine percent more likely to be diagnosed with cancer and 14 percent more likely to die from it than the general public. The ride brings together first responders, cancer survivors, and community members to raise funds benefiting Friends of Firefighters, the Boston Fire Cancer Foundation, and Livestrong, expanding access to cancer survivorship and mental health programs for first responders and their families.

"This ride wouldn't be possible without the communities that welcome it along the way," said Suzanne Stone, President and CEO of Livestrong. "Every stop gives people an opportunity to honor

the firefighters and first responders affected by September 11 while supporting organizations that continue to serve them. We hope people will see this as a chance to come together around something that matters: honoring the heroes we lost, and standing with those still fighting today."

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

mental toll cancer takes on our first responders."

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

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



Local students graduate from Nichols College

DUDLEY, Mass. — Nichols College congratulates the 2026 graduating class, who earned their academic degrees at the College's commencement ceremony on May 2, 2026, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Delcie D. Bean IV, founder and CEO of Paragus IT, an employee-owned managed information technology (IT) services firm that is one of the most successful, fastest-growing IT firms in the region, delivered the commencement address.

The following local students earned the degrees listed:

Kyle Busha of N. Grosvenordale earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Alivia Dalpe of Thompson earned a Bachelor of Science in

Business Administration

Jenna Bankowski of Pomfret Center earned a Bachelor of Arts

Ryan Odorski of Woodstock earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Thomas Gugliotti of Woodstock earned a Master of Science in Counterterrorism

Christopher Thibault of Woodstock Valley earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

akala Dube of Brooklyn earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

We applaud these students for their achievement.

tigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the pres-

Pluck-A-Duck raffle event bigger than ever

PUTNAM — Quack Quack! The Putnam Business Association proudly announces the 2026 Pluck-A-Duck Raffle Event is taking place on Sunday, Aug. 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 10 at noon, because one day simply isn't enough for this unique fundraising event.

The PBA Pluck-A-Duck Raffle Event joins forces with the Town of Putnam's Main Street Car Cruise on Aug. 9, the largest Classic Car Show in Connecticut! Attendees will enjoy viewing more than 2,500 classic cars, live music & more, including the colossal Kids Corner in Rotary Park, where free family fun awaits! Kids of all ages will delight in Xen's Critters Petting Zoo, Bounce Houses, Balloons By Bella, Art by Simone Facepainting, Destination Events Co. Photo Booth, Arts & Crafts Tent, Popcorn Station, games, mascots, Balloon Delightz Stuff-A-Pet, vendors and exhibitors with fun activities and giveaways. The popular Wonderful Waddle treasure hunt returns this year, where young attendees will visit various activities and exhibitors to have their form stamped. Completed forms are turned into the Putnam Business Association's Kids Corner tent, where

one lucky winner will be randomly selected to receive a backpack filled with school supplies along with a BMX Kink Curb Bicycle from Cobble Classic, valued at \$450. The Wonderful Waddle forms will be available for download on the Putnam Business Association and Discover Putnam Facebook pages and day-of-event at the Wall Of Wishes display.

Is there a special wish that would make you feel "just ducky?" Post it on the Creamery Brook Village Wall Of Wishes, and a donation will be made to Make-A-Wish Connecticut, in support of creating life changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. The Wall Of Wishes was designed and created with the assistance of Putnam Science Academy's Director of Visual Arts, Sarah Stoll, and PSA art students.

Making a splash once again is the Celebrity Dunk Tank, where local celebs like Attorney Kate Cerrone of The Northeast Law Center; Influencer Billy Palazzo; Lindsey Stark of Leona's Bakery and ten additional area business owners and professionals will tempt event-goers to donate a minimum of \$5 for two chances to make our celebrities take the plunge. Or donate \$20 or more for a guaranteed

dunk! The three celebrities that successfully raise the most funds, will have a donation made in their name to their preferred charity, from a grateful Putnam Business Association. Online donations can also be made in support of the celebrities through Aug. 8 at <https://www.discoverputnam.com/pbarubberduckrace>.

The Aug. 9 event is the final opportunity to purchase the 2026 Pluck-A-Duck Raffle tickets at stands in Rotary Park, downtown Putnam on Main Street, and the roving photo-worthy Duck Mobile.

Are you a Jeep owner? Don't miss our Duck, Duck, Jeep Contest! Jeep owners are encouraged to turn heads by creating the most duck-tastic ride in town with this rubber duck-themed decorating contest, held at this year's Aug. 9 Main Street Car Cruise. JEEP owners can deck out their Jeep with ducks, yellow flair, and splashy style, and compete to win one of three categories, with trophies & gift cards awarded, sponsored by Runnings!

Thousands of rubber ducks will be released at our secret duck pond on Monday, Aug. 10 at noon, swimming happily and then plucked for over 130 fantastic prizes, including the grand prize of a \$1,000

VISA Gift Card, sponsored by Breezeline and Byrnes Agency/HUB International Co. Viewers can cheer on their lucky ducks during the live broadcast on WINY Radio 1350 AM & 97.1 FM, and the Putnam Business Association and WINY Radio's Facebook pages, powered by Jewett City Savings Bank. The first 2 viewers responding to WINY Radio or the PBA's Facebook pages correctly identifying the total number of ducks floating in the pond will win a \$75 gift card to ANYA restaurant, courtesy of J.B. Concrete Products.

And just when you think it's over, the final 9 ducks waddling out of the pond will be selected for our popular "Last Lucky Duck" prizes, sponsored by D.B.C. Solutions, ERW LLC and 85 Main. Plus, one lucky business sponsor will be awarded the Corporate Duck raffle prize of a \$750 VISA Gift Card and their name engraved on the Corporate Duck Trophy.

The 2026 Pluck-A-Duck Raffle Event is the Putnam Business Association's largest annual fundraiser supporting their advocacy for local businesses and beloved free community events like the Great Pumpkin Festival, Zombie Fashion Show

and SuperHero Day that draw thousands of visitors to northeast Connecticut. Thirty-seven non-profit organizations and schools will also make a splash this year from selling duck raffle tickets to raise critical funds for their mission and those they serve. Organizations like Bags of Hope CT, Hale YMCA Youth & Family Center, United Services, Nutmeg Acres Wildlife Rehabilitation, PAWS Cat Rescue, Danielson Veterans Coffee House, Anchors of Hope, NAMI Windham County NWC, Cub Scouts Pack 43, Quinebaug Valley Senior Center, St. James Parochial School, Riley Farm Rescue, VFW Auxiliary Post 1523, TVCCA Meals-On-Wheels Program, The Arc Eastern Connecticut, TEEG, Quiet Corner NEMBA and many more will also greatly benefit from the 2026 event.

Pluck-A-Duck Raffle Tickets can be purchased at these essential non-profit organizations, and local businesses, including WINY Radio (45 Pomfret St., Putnam), Centreville Bank (40 Main St., Putnam; 100 Averill Rd., Pomfret; 11 Pratt Road, Plainfield CT and 125 Wauregan Road, Danielson CT), bank-Hometown(182 Main St., Putnam; 13 Canterbury Rd., Brooklyn, 835

Riverside Dr., North Grosvenordale, and 4 Gore Rd., Webster, Mass.), Sparrow Soaps Company (350 Kennedy Dr., Putnam), and Woodstock Creamery at Valleyside Farm (210 Child Hill Rd., Woodstock), at upcoming community Farmers Markets and events, and online at www.discoverputnam.com/pbarubberduckrace.

The Putnam Business Association and our more than 8,000 feathered friends extend appreciation to our event sponsors Beacon Bank, Tom & Kathy Borner, Breezeline, Byrnes Agency/HUB International, Centreville Bank, Christopher Heights of Webster, Creamery Brook Village/PierceCare, Day Kimball Heath, Green Valley Orthodontics, JTs Appliance, Jewett City Savings Bank, New York Pizza Company, Renewal By Anderson of Southern New England, Runnings, Spicer Propane & Oil, The Last Green Valley, The Sunshine Shop, Thompson Smiles, Xfinity, WD Home Services LLC and WIN Waste Innovations, along with local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes in support of this beloved community tradition.

LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Gerard J Cotnoir (26-00260)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 16, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Ernest J Cotnoir,
65 Cleveland Street, Putnam, CT 06260
July 24, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
WOODSTOCK PLANNING &
ZONING COMMISSION**

On July 16, 2026, the Town of Woodstock PZC met and made the following decision:

Approved, Application: #677-06-26 (5781-52-15) – 429 RT 169-Woodstock Academy-Bentley Athletics-Replacement of Existing Tennis Courts. Details of this approval may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov

David Morse
Chairman
July 31, 2026

**Legal Notice
Town of Putnam
Notice of Special Town Meeting
August 17, 2026**

The Electors and Citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Putnam, Connecticut, are hereby notified and warned that a Special Town Meeting of said Town will be held in Room 109 of the Municipal Complex at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:30 in the evening for the following purposes:

1. To choose a moderator for said meeting.
2. To determine the wishes of those present and eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town of Putnam with respect to approval of a proposed amendment to the Town's ash landfill Ground Lease Revenue Fund.
3. To determine the wishes of those present and eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town of Putnam with respect to approval of a proposed ordinance to exempt up to two acres of residential land for qualifying veterans.
4. To determine the wishes of those present and eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town of Putnam with respect to approval of a proposed ordinance to extend certain veterans' tax exemptions to qualified surviving

spouses.

5. To determine the wishes of those present and eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town of Putnam with respect to approval of a proposed ordinance granting certain tax exemptions to veterans determined totally disabled based on individual unemployment qualification.
6. To determine the wishes of those present and eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town of Putnam with respect to approval of a proposed amendment to the ordinance granting a property tax exemption for vehicles owned by certain individuals.
7. To determine the wishes of those present and eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town of Putnam with respect to approval of a proposed ordinance establishing penalties and a citation procedure for zoning violations.

Copies of the proposed ordinances and amendments are on file in the office of the Town Clerk and are available for inspection during normal business hours.

Dated at Putnam, Connecticut this ____th day of July, 2026.

Town of Putnam, Its Board of Selectmen
Norman B. Seney, Mayor
J. Scott Pempek, Deputy Mayor
Rick Hayes
Gloria Marion
Michael Paquin
Roy Simmons
Michael Bogdanski
Attest: __
Town Clerk
July 31, 2026

**Legal Notice
Town of Putnam
Public Hearing
August 17, 2026**

The public is hereby notified and warned that a Public Hearing will be held in Room 109 of the Putnam Municipal Complex at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:15 in the evening for purposes of discussing (i) a proposed amendment to the ash landfill Ground Lease Revenue Fund resolution, (ii) a proposed ordinance to exempt up to two acres of residential land for qualifying veterans, (iii) a proposed ordinance to extend certain veterans' tax exemptions to qualified surviving spouses, (iv) a proposed ordinance granting certain tax exemptions to veterans determined totally disabled based on individual unemployment qualification, (v) a proposed amendment to the ordinance granting a property tax ex-

emption for vehicles owned by certain individuals, and (vi) a proposed ordinance establishing penalties and a citation procedure for zoning violations. Copies of the proposed ordinances and amendments are on file in the office of the Town Clerk and are available for inspection during normal business hours.

July 31, 2026

Town of Putnam
Zoning Board of Appeals
Legal Notice

The Town of Putnam Zoning Board of Appeals held a meeting on July 21, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in Room 201 located on the second floor of the Putnam Municipal Complex, located at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT. The following action was taken:

Appeal # 2026-005 Chris Ramos request for a variance in accordance with Section 401 "Schedule of Dimensional Regulations" to increase the height of an accessory building from 22 feet to 26 feet to accommodate (2) 12' X 12' overhead doors and 10's storage space. Property is located at 16 Decubellis Court, Town Assessors Map 39, Lot 56, Zoned R-40. APPROVED
Scott Zadora, Chairman
July 31, 2026

PROPERTY AUCTION

The tax collector of the Town of Thompson has levied upon the following properties in Thompson and slated them for public auction to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges under C.G.S. § 12-157. Volume and page numbers refer to the Town's land records. Unless paid, these properties will be auctioned in "as is" condition at 10:00 a.m. on September 16, 2026 at the Thompson Town Hall at 815 Riverside Drive in North Grosvenordale.

±2.25 acres on West Thompson Road (Volume 321 Page 333) owned by the Estate of Wendell A. Dobson, owing \$2,088.00. Daniel Dobson; Edward A. Dobson; William Dobson; Melissa Greenwood; the Connecticut Office of the Probate Court Administrator; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Wendell A. Dobson may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

±0.51 acres on Riverside Drive (Volume 733 Page 88) owned by Dudley Sand & Gravel Corp., owing \$5,682.82. Danielle Verdini and Dennis R. Blanchette may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

150-152 Church Street (Volume 464 Page 165) owned by Kenneth E. Gareau, owing \$13,325.85. Henri Cloutier and Cecile E. Cloutier or her Estate may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

1 Floral Avenue (Volume 1033 Page 67) owned by Kyle Geddes and David Audette Patterson, owing \$16,909.72. The Connecticut Water Company may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

±24.67 acres and ±0.93 acres on Riverside Drive (Volume 142 Page 154 excluding any portions in Putnam CT) owned by Greatrex Corporation, owing \$20,680.71.

±4.19 acres on Wakefield Pond Road (Volume 364 Page 47 excluding all portions in Burrillville, Rhode Island) owned by John B. Sharkey and Mary I. Sharkey, Trustees of the Sharkey Family Trust dated October 8, 1993, or their Estates or Successor Trustees, owing \$3,174.77. The Connecticut Office of the Probate Court Administrator; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouses and heirs of John B. Sharkey and Mary I. Sharkey may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

±4.1 acres on Pompeo Road (Volume 70 Page 354) owned by Thomas F. Zabka or his Estate and Patricia A. Zabka or her Estate, owing \$2,859.80. Scott Thomas Zabka; Amphone Zabka; the Connecticut Office of the Probate Court Administrator; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouses and heirs of Thomas F. Zabka and Patricia A. Zabka may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

The dollar amounts listed are through the end of last month. Additional taxes, interest, fees, and other charges authorized by law accruing after the last day of the month immediately preceding this notice are owed in addition to the amount indicated as due and owing in this notice.

Bidders must present \$5,000 per property by certified check payable to "Pullman & Comley, Trustee" on the day of the sale, and the winning bidder must pay the balance of the sale price within 5 days or forfeit that deposit and the property. Unless redeemed, the purchaser will take title "free and clear" six months after the auction except for certain encumbrances. Details at www.cttaxsales.com.

July 31, 2026

“Claws & Applause” launches call for performers and sponsors

PUTNAM — The stage is set, the music is ready and now Claws & Applause: A Lip Sync Battle for Paws is officially calling on local performers, business and community members to join the show!

Taking place Friday, Aug. 28 at Montana Nights Axe Throwing in Putnam, this fundraising event will bring the community together for an unforgettable night of over-the-top lip sync performances, outrageous costumes, audience voting and friendly competition.

And right now, organizers are looking for performers and sponsors ready to step into the spotlight!

Individuals, groups, businesses, organizations and friends are invited to form a team, choose a song and put together a show-stopping lip sync performance. Whether performers go for hilarious, dramatic, glamorous or completely over-the-top, no actual singing talent is required, just creativity, enthusiasm and willing-

ness to have fun for a great cause! No professional experience necessary. If you can commit to the bit, work a crowd and have fun, there is a place for you on the Claws & Applause stage!

"We want people to come ready to laugh, cheer, compete and have an incredible night of fun, as we look to raise money to help shift our focus from constant crisis management to prevention and long-term care for the cats in and beyond our shelter," says event organizer Jennifer Lowell. With more than 400 cats currently in care, including those placed in foster homes, Paws Cat Shelter continues to face tremendous demand for rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming services. The event aims to raise critical funding for a spay and neuter initiative to help address the cycle that contributes to overcrowded shelters in the first place.

Local businesses and community partners are also invited to become part

of the event through a variety of sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorships range from \$100 – \$2,000 and offer opportunities for recognition through event signage, promotional materials, VIP experiences, stage recognition and more. Sponsors can make a meaningful community impact while helping Paws Cat Shelter work toward a long-term solution.

One Night. One Stage. All for the cats! Get involved today by forming a team, becoming a sponsor, purchasing tickets, voting for your favorite performers or making a donation.

Paws Cat Shelter is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming cats in need while promoting compassionate animal welfare throughout the community. Through the support of volunteers, donors and local advocates, the organization continues to provide lifesaving care and adoption opportunities for homeless cats.

*Local residents to participate in Pan-Mass
Challenge to support cancer research*

NEEDHAM, Mass. — This Aug. 1 and 2, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) will bring together more than 6,000 cyclists and 4,000 volunteers on Aug. 1 & 2 to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Participants from local communities will be among those helping support the PMC's mission to fund lifesaving cancer research and treatment.

Local participants include:
 Mary Monaghan of Thompson
 Christina Tomeo of Thompson
 Lucille Langlois of Quinebaug
 Margaret Goulette of Quinebaug
 Jacquelyn LaVallee of N. Grosvenordale
 Roger Durand of N. Grosvenordale
 Pam Maynard of North Grosvenordale
 Shirley Faucher of Woodstock
 Sarah Rich of Woodstock Valley
 Lynn Evans of Woodstock
 Tracy Schroder of Woodstock
 Craig LaFiandra of Woodstock
 Jo Hannafin of Woodstock
 Donna Mullin of Pomfret Center
 Keith Stolarek of Pomfret Center
 Kristen Brown of E. Woodstock
 Anne Cunneen of Danielson
 Rosalie santerre of Killingly
 Andrew Danna of Dayville
 Ralph Oriola of Brooklyn
 Steven Laplante of Brooklyn

The PMC, which raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraiser in the world, is aiming to raise more than ever this year, with a fundraising goal of \$79 million.

This year's PMC comes at an especially critical time,

with federal research support shrinking, grant approval rates reaching historic lows, and cancer cases continuing to rise. For the 20th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will go directly to Dana-Farber, one of the nation's top three hospitals for cancer research and care.

"The theme for this year's PMC, which is 'now, more than ever,' underscores the paramount importance of every single dollar raised in fueling the search for a cure," said Billy Starr, founder and chairman of the PMC. "We are endlessly grateful to every rider, volunteer, donor, and sponsor who makes the PMC possible. Because of their training miles, long hours of volunteering, generous support, and unwavering commitment, we are moving ever closer to a world without cancer."

Since its inception in 1980, the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber, making it the organization's largest single contributor and accounting for 67 percent of the annual revenue of The Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber's community-driven fundraising arm. This unrestricted annual funding has empowered and accelerated advancements in cancer research, deeply benefitting patients across the world.

During each annual PMC weekend, thousands of cyclists and volunteers come together from across the world, hailing from 47 US states and 12 countries, with a shared purpose of raising as much money as possible for Dana-Farber. Cyclists ride routes ranging from 25 to 177 miles. Included among these participants is the PMC Living Proof community, riders and volunteers who were previously treated or are currently undergoing cancer treatment and serve as Living Proof of the progress made through raising funds

for cancer research and treatment.

There is still time to participate in this year's Pan-Mass Challenge. Folks interested in getting involved can learn more and register at PMC.org.

About the Pan-Mass Challenge

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bike-a-thon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the world. Founded in 1980 by Billy Starr - who remains the event's founder & chairman, an annual cyclist, and a fundraiser - the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. As Dana-Farber's single largest contributor, the organization generates 67 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to fueling cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber. In addition to its two-day bike-a-thon across Massachusetts, the PMC is powered by further "spokes in the wheel," with initiatives including the PMC Winter Cycle, an indoor spin event; PMC Unpaved, a gravel bike ride; and PMC Kids Rides, mini bike-a-thons for children ages 2 to 15. The PMC attracts riders and volunteers from 47 states and 12 countries and over 300,000 individual donors. Across events, the PMC has successfully melded support from committed cyclists, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and individual donors, all of whom are essential to the PMC's goal and model: to attain maximum fundraising efficiency while increasing its annual gift. The PMC's aspiration is to provide Dana-Farber's doctors and researchers with the necessary resources to discover cures for all cancers. For more information, visit www.pmc.org.

OBITUARIES

Agnes Oleksiak, 97



 N O R T H
GROSVENORDALE,
CT - Agnes (Dias)
Oleksiak, 97, died
Friday, July 24, 2026
in Westview Nursing
Care & Rehabilitation,
Dayville, with family at
her side. Her husband
of 39 years, Edward Oleksiak, died in 1988.
She leaves 3 children, Michael Oleksiak
and his wife Rose of Waterville, ME,
Theresa Nichols and her husband Rex of
North Grosvenordale, John A. Oleksiak
and his wife Cheryl of Ludlow, MA,
James S. Oleksiak and his wife Jeanne
of North Grosvenordale, Cynthia A.
Leander of Windsor Locks, and Richard
J. Oleksiak and his companion Kim
Tonkin of North Grosvenordale; 12
grandchildren, Jason Steele, Kim Neal,
Melissa Caisse, Benjamin Nichols, Lori
Gattinella, Jennifer Theriaque, Daniel
Oleksiak, Adam Oleksiak, Kristin English,
Michael Leander, Jared Oleksiak and
Sarah Oleksiak; 15 great-grandchildren;
a son-in-law, Bob Steele of Millbury,
MA; nieces and nephews. She was pre-
ceded in death by her daughter Barbara
Steele, by her brothers John and Emanuel
Dias, and by her sister Hilda Hebert.
She was born in Dartmouth, MA

on December 14, 1928, a daughter of John and Herminia V. (DeSilva) Dias and was raised there. She lived in New Bedford, MA before moving here in 1948. Mrs. Oleksiak first worked as a stitcher at Bates Shoe Company and then was a solderer and bead winder at Olektron Corporation, both in Webster. When she retired, she was a home health aide for the Samaritans. Agnes was a communicant of Saint Stephen's Church in Quinebaug and a member of the former PAV Auxiliary in Webster. She enjoyed the outdoors and gardening. She loved family gatherings. The family would like to express their thanks to the staff at Westview Rehab for the care of their mother while she was a resident there. Her funeral will be held on Friday, July 31, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Stephen's Church, corner of Routes 131 and 197 in Quinebaug. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Thursday, July 30, in the funeral home. Donations in her memory may be made to TEEG, 15 Thatcher Road, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

www.websterfunerals.com

Richard E. Montigny, 91



Richard E. Montigny, 91, of Putnam, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2026, just one week shy of his 92nd birthday. Born on April 20, 1934, in Putnam, he was the son of the late Alice and Joseph Montigny. He was raised in Putnam alongside his brothers Raymond and Roland Montigny, both predeceased, and Robert and Mark Montigny both from Thompson, CT.

Between his military service, Richard worked as a photographer and craftsman in positions at Kaman Aircraft Corporation in Moosup, Grube Camera in Putnam, and Jens Risom Design, Inc. in Thompson. During these years, he also raised the children of his first marriage, Maria Theresa Landry (predeceased), Ross Montigny of Brooklyn, CT, Jay Montigny (Banya) of Putnam, CT, Todd Montigny (predeceased) and Robin Gaucher (Timothy) of Danielson, CT. In later years, Richard welcomed grandchildren Deirdre Lacroix and Stephen Lacroix, both of TN, Tyler Montigny of Plainfield, CT, and Sara Cloud (Michael) of New London, CT, and many great-grandchildren.

Richard married Alice (Bourey) Montigny in 1989, and together they shared a life defined by a deep and inseparable bond. With quiet strength and compassion, he cared for Alice at home throughout her battle with Alzheimer's until her passing on April 19, 2012. Together they blended their families, creating a large and close-knit circle that included daughters Genie Johnson (Mike) of Woodstock, CT, Dale Moore (David) of Port Charlotte, FL,

Tyler P. Lane
1993 - 2026



Tucson, AZ – Tyler P. Lane, 32, of Tucson, AZ formerly of Putnam, passed away on Sunday, June 28, 2026, in Tucson. Born in Putnam, he was the son of Pamela (Lane) Lafleche of Thompson. Mr. Lane worked for Amazon in their fleet maintenance division.

Tyler had a passion for and enjoyed playing the guitar.

He is survived by his mother, Pamela and her husband Randy Lafleche, Sr. of Thompson; his stepfather Brian

Deslongchamps of AZ; his sister, Nicole Bertrand of Torrington; his maternal grandmother, Patricia Lane of Thompson; his stepbrother, Randy Lafleche, Jr. of Ballouville; his stepsisters, Kayla Lafleche of Putnam and Danielle DeLeon and her husband Jose of Auburn, MA, and six dear nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his maternal grandfather, Paul Lane.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Tyler's family from 5:00PM to 7:00PM on Friday, August 7, 2026, in the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit www.gilmanandvalade.com

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148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT 860-928-2442
www.smithandwalkerfh.com

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