

“Just stay on track,
and never look back”
- Dolly Parton

THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Friday, September 25, 2026

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Killingly BOE recognizes three outstanding individuals

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Board of Education recognized three outstanding individuals during their first regular

meeting of the new school year on Sept. 9, naming their teacher and paraeducator of the year as well as acknowledging a key player in the district's community engagement initiatives.

The first honoree was

the 2026/2027 Teacher of the Year chosen from all schools and this year it was Killingly High School's Bethany Knowlton, a staple of the district's agricultural education program.

Board of Education

Chair Susan Lannon said Knowlton was recognized for her positivity and support as both a coworker and an educator.

"I think if anyone is familiar with you, either for a brief period of time or a long period of time, they know you're always smiling, happy to help, and a true dedicated teacher to the students over at the KHS agricultural program," Lannon told Knowlton, who maintained that signature smile as she accepted the honor.

Right after Knowlton was the Killingly Public Schools 2026/2027 Paraeducator of the Year Tara Smith from Killingly Intermediate School. Like Knowlton, Smith's everlasting smile was a consistent part of the compliments shared by Lannon as she presented the

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Courtesy — KIS News

Jonathan Blake named Killingly's new Director of Planning and Development

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council has appointed a familiar face to fill its vacant Director of Planning and Development role.

Jonathan Blake was appointed during the Town Council's Sept. 8 meeting, adding to his decade-long history with the Killingly where he has served various roles including as the town's Planning and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Blake will succeed Ann-Marie Aubrey, who retired earlier this summer.

Blake was chosen from a small pool of six candidates, according to Town

Manager Brian Palia. Only a couple were brought in for interviews, and Blake was a standout.

"There were three applicants that had some experience. One of them was from out of the area. There were two that were local. So we interviewed two," explained Palaia.

The chairs of both the Planning and Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, which Blake will work most closely with in his new role, were part of the interview process.

The recommendation was confirmed in a memorandum included in the meeting packet for the Town Council's Sept. 8 meeting

which noted Blake's 11 years of experience in the field, including ten in Killingly. His experience includes roles as Assistant Planner and Zoning Enforcement Officer, and Planner 1.

That correspondence also explained that the Town Charter doesn't necessarily require Town Council approval for this appointment to proceed, but it is traditionally brought to the Council for their blessing before it is confirmed.

The Council approved the appointment unanimously with little debate although some members did note Blake's qualifications and the need for a knowledgeable individual to take on the role.

Tolland native serves with Navy's first unmanned patrol and reconnaissance squadron



Lt. Robert Downes

BY MEGAN LEMLY
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH
U.S. NAVY

MAYPORT, Fla. — Lt. Robert Downes, a native of Tolland, Connecticut, serves in the U.S. Navy and is assigned to Unmanned Patrol Squadron 19 (VUP-19), the Navy's first unmanned patrol and reconnaissance squadron.

Downes graduated from East Catholic High School in 2009. The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Tolland. "I played multiple sports growing up," Downes said. "That taught me the value of teamwork, humility and always pushing myself to expand my knowledge. We have a crew of nine people here, so we have to be able to work as a team to get the mission accomplished. Adaptability is another important skill in the Navy because everything is always changing. Staying up to date with those changes makes you a better officer."

Downes joined the Navy six years ago. Today, Downes serves as a naval flight officer.

"I joined the Navy because I was looking to get flight experience," Downes said. "I also felt a call to serve."

Additionally, my dad and Uncle Greg both served in the military. Their service was a big influence on why I joined the Navy."

Members of VUP-19 support the "Big Red" mission, a historical nod to the command's role in the Korean War. In 1951, during night interdiction missions, the squadron would drop red night illumination flares to support allied air and ground units.

Today, more than 500 Sailors serve at VUP-19. Members of the squadron maintain and launch

the MQ-4C Triton aircraft to provide persistent Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, distributing valuable and time-critical intelligence to combatant and fleet commanders.

With 90 percent of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

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Woodstock couple explore New England's rail trails



Courtesy

Roger and Trisha Underwood along Erie Canal near Buffalo.

WOODSTOCK — For the past several years, Roger and Trisha Underwood of Woodstock rode their bicycles on roads and rail-trails throughout southern New England. A rail-trail used to be a railroad. The tracks have been removed and the trail

improved, so now it is used for recreation purposes.

Meanwhile, they have always dreamed of an overnight ride. So during the spring of 2025 they prepared for their dream vacation by riding their bicycles locally for hundreds of miles. During July, after much preparation they parked their car in Albany New York. Then rented a car and drove to Lockport New York. The following day they departed on an eight-day, 343-mile journey east along the Empire State Trail. Most of this trail is alongside the Erie Canal. The best part is that there are no motor vehicles allowed. After a long day in the hot sun, they looked forward to a nice restaurant meal. Then an air-conditioned hotel with showers, a comfortable bed and a nice breakfast. After a successful journey they collected their car and returned home.

Using the experience they acquired last July, they decided to do it again. So this Spring they logged-in many more miles preparing for another cross-state journey. However, this time, they would begin in

Turn To UNDERWOODS page A11

Historic Southbridge, Massachusetts newspaper building heads to auction

OPENING BID: \$25,000

SOUTHBRIDGE: A nearly 200-year-old Southbridge, Massachusetts

landmark is heading to auction with an opening bid of \$25,000, offering prospec-

tive buyers an opportunity to acquire a substantial historic property.

Stonebridge Press is selling its building at 25 Elm St., known as the Tiffany-Leonard House and long associated with the Southbridge News. Online bidding through Crexi.com

Turn To AUCTION page A10



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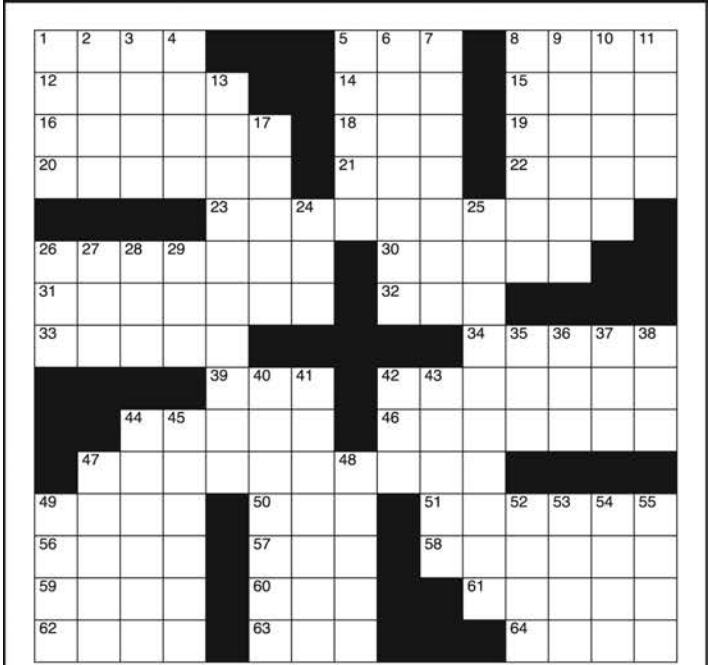
DANIELSON — Thursday, Sept. 17, six-time Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee and current US Martial Arts Team Member, 7th Dan Master Daryl Laperle announced the promotion of students in Danielson Martial Arts Academy’s most recent grading.

- Leslie Laporte - 1 Gup Red
Abbey King - 3 Gup Red
Bodhi Dyer - 3.5 Gup Green
Liberty Harty - 3.5 Gup Green
Waylon Hayden - 3.5 Gup Green

- Emily Castro - 4.5 Gup Green
Elacy Brown - 4.5 Gup Green
Ava Moyer - 5 Gup Purple
Camilo Jaimes - 5.5 Gup Purple
Henry Pettus - 5.5 Gup Purple
Benjamin Mello - 6 Gup Purple
Mackenzie Gagner - 6.5 Gup Blue
Hunter Dumas - 6.5 Gup Blue
Luke Mauro - 7 Gup Blue
Gavin Mota - 7 Gup Blue
Grayson West - 7 Gup Blue
Amelia Mauro - 8 Gup Blue
Holden Orellana - 8 Gup Blue

- Axel Laperle - 8 Gup Blue
Elliana Evans - 8 Gup Blue
Colton Morin - 9 Gup Orange
Cyrus Briggs - 9 Gup Orange
Killian Knox - 9 Gup Orange
Estelle Pettus - 9 Gup Orange
Biancha DiPaola - 9 Gup Orange
J.J. Said - 9 Gup Orange
Zeke Murdock - 9 Gup Orange

For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.



CLUES ACROSS

1. “Wicker Man” actor Nic

5. Protection

8. Cloth worn over a shoulder

12. Ceramic jars

14. Midway between northeast and east

15. South American hummingbird

16. Platforms

18. Taxi

19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

20. A citizen of Yemen

21. Military mailbox

22. Nuclear near reach weapon

23. Clears

26. Broken

30. Actress Lathan

31. Avid fan

32. One and only

33. Proceeding

34. River in Portugal and Spain

39. Doctor of Education

42. Defeat handily

44. Less complicated

46. Handyman tools

47. Written works

49. Castle dweller’s safety net

50. Honorable title (Turkish)

51. Greatest

56. Can do

57. A place to sleep on the road

58. Member of U.S. Navy

59. 24-hour units of time

60. Actor Horsley

61. In a way, sounds off

62. Formerly (archaic)

63. Eye infection

64. Plundered

CLUES DOWN

1. William __, Buffalo Bill

2. Wings

3. Candle or lantern

4. Freedom from difficulty

5. A type of pie

6. Metrical foot

7. __ Kerr, actress

8. Nap

9. Popular singer Bocelli

10. Immune responses

11. “Mad Men” leading man

13. A citizen of Senegal

17. Philly basketball player

24. Not even

25. Measures wind speed

26. Insecticide

27. Jordan glided through it

28. Bird-like dinosaur genus

29. Expression of satisfaction

35. Big Blue

36. One point east (clockwise) of due north

37. Of she

38. Oral rehydration solution

40. Knocks off course

41. Popular cop show of yesteryear

42. Zhou dynasty state

43. Genus of gulls

44. Onion flatbreads

45. Declare as true

47. Of a lobe

48. Missouri county

49. Produced

52. Volcanic crater

53. Off-Broadway theater award

54. KU hoops coach Bill

55. Check for

Christ Church Pomfret hosts end-of-life planning workshops

POMFRET — Christ Church Pomfret will host the second in a series of end-of-life workshops on Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. at 527 Pomfret St. in Pomfret. This free event is designed to help people at all stages of life and health consider the major dimensions of end-of-life planning and ease stress and uncertainty for participants and loved ones responsible for closing an estate.

Living your life with purpose and intentionality promotes a fulfilling legacy. Preparing for and sharing your end-of-life wishes is a gift to your loved ones.

Led by Becca Allen, LCSW, the workshop series aims to ensure the practical and emotional work of dying is met with clarity, dignity, and love. Allen, who specializes in end-of-life planning, explores how we might live a life consistent with our values, how we want to be remembered, and how we prepare for the end of life, both spiritually and administratively.

During the first workshop, held in April, participants discussed how faith and values inform our daily lives and how we approach end-of-life topics.

During the Sept. 27 workshop, Allen will focus on “getting your house in order” to address essential aspects of end-of-life planning. Allen will guide participants, room

by room, to clarify values, document legal and legacy wishes, organize administrative duties, address after-death preferences, and explore physical belongings and emotional unfinished business.

Sponsored by the Christ Church Pomfret Vestry and task force of the Third Century Society, the workshops are free and open to the community and relevant to adults of all ages interested in exploring the big questions of living and leaving a meaningful legacy. Childcare will be provided.

A vibrant church community since its founding in May 1828, Christ Church Pomfret, an Episcopal Church for northeast Connecticut, is a place where faith and real life intersect. From here, we are called to share God’s love in the Church and in the world through generous hospitality, serving one another, community involvement, and providing a safe place to explore a relationship with God. Whether you are a Quiet Corner native or have recently moved here, a committed Christian or someone inquiring about

the faith for the first time, we want you to feel at home. Please know that you are invited to participate in all aspects of our worship. We are so glad that you’re here.

TEEG and Sawmill Pottery host Empty Bowls event

THOMPSON — Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists and crafts people in cities and towns around the world to raise money for food related charities to care for and feed the hungry in their communities. Locally, TEEG and Sawmill Pottery are hosting the event on Saturday, Sept. 26, and offering two seatings: 4 and 6 p.m., under a tent at the TEEG offices, 15 Thatcher Rd., North Grosvenordale.

The \$30 ticket price includes a hand-made pottery bowl filled with all-you-can-eat soup. For an additional \$5 participants will enjoy an after-soup scoop of ice cream, and tickets are available for purchase on the TEEG Web site: www.teegonline.org.

The wide variety of soups offered are donated by local restaurants, and the bowls are handcrafted by Dot Burnworth, Owner and Head Custodian of Sawmill Pottery, along with volunteers she recruits. Additional handmade bowls will be available for sale at the cost of \$20, as long as supply lasts.

Take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate the power of community, raise funds to help provide food and hope in our communities, and be reminded that even the simplest meal can make a lasting difference. r further information about this event, contact Chelsea French at 860-923-3458 during business hours or via email at chelseaf@teegonline.org.

TEEG is a 501(c)3 social service agency serving critical needs of low-income individuals and families in the towns of Pomfret, Woodstock, and Thompson, with food insecurity as a cornerstone of its mission. As TEEG continues to grow, it has established itself as a vital resource to our community, offering youth and family programs in addition to several basic needs programs including heating assistance, state and federal benefits assistance, holiday programs, homelessness support, summer camp scholarships, client care coordination, and the food markets. For more information about the work of the organization, please visit www.teegonline.org.

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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Day Kimball Health receives \$20.2 million to strengthen rural health care in Northeast Connecticut



From left, Andrea Barton Reeves, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Social Services, Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health, and Gov. Ned Lamont pose for a photo during a news conference announcing finalized Rural Health Transformation Program grant agreements at Day Kimball Health in Putnam, Conn., on Sept. 16.

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health has received approval for \$20.2 million in Year 1 funding through the Rural Health Transformation Program, a significant investment that will help modernize health care infrastructure, improve access to services and strengthen the delivery of rural health care across Northeast Connecticut.

The funding was highlighted today during a news conference hosted at Day Kimball Hospital with Gov. Ned Lamont and representatives from the Connecticut Department of Social Services, Rural Health Transformation Program, and participating health care organizations.

“This is an extraordinary investment in the health and well-being of Northeast Connecticut,” said Kyle Kramer, Chief Executive Officer of Day Kimball Health. “For the patients and communities we serve, this funding will allow us to make meaningful investments in the technology, facilities, equipment and services needed to bring more high-quality

care closer to home. This is an important milestone for Day Kimball Health, and now the work begins to put these investments into action.”

Day Kimball Health’s \$20.2 million in Year 1 funding will support five major workstreams:

Advanced imaging, including MRI, CT and SPECT-CT capabilities and related improvements

IT and digital infrastructure to strengthen technology, data, analytics, connectivity and care coordination

Oncology services to expand access to high-quality, patient center-care

Convenient care to expand access to appropriate and convenient care within the community

Virtual health and tele-specialty services to provide greater access to specialty care without requiring patients to travel outside the region

The investments will help address some of the challenges patients in rural communities face, including long travel times for

specialty services, limited transportation options and fewer health care resources than are typically available in more populated areas. Together, the five initiatives will strengthen access to care, improve coordination among providers and help build a stronger, more sustainable health care system for Northeast Connecticut.

The Rural Health Transformation Program is a federally funded initiative administered in Connecticut through the Department of Social Services and approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The program provides \$50 billion over five years to strengthen rural health care across all 50 states. Connecticut received approximately \$154.2 million in federal funding for Year 1.

Day Kimball Health will now advance planning and implementation across the five major workstreams in accordance with DSS and CMS requirements. Individual projects will move forward on different

timelines based on planning, procurement, renovation and implementation needs.

For more information about Day Kimball Health’s Rural Health Transformation Program initiatives and to follow progress as the work moves forward, visit www.daykimball.org/rural-health-transformation-program/. To learn more about the federal Rural Health Transformation Program, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/dss/rural-health-transformation-program>.

This project is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$20.2 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

About Day Kimball Health
Day Kimball Health is a non-profit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Health at Home and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield and Putnam. Its service area

includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000

staff, including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is daykimball.org.

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Killingly library invites children to read to a therapy dog

KILLINGLY — Young readers will have a furry audience waiting for them later this month when the Killingly Public Library hosts a special “Read to a Therapy Dog” program.

The program will be held Friday, Sept. 25, from 3 to 4 p.m., coinciding with an early release day for Killingly students. It is open to children ages 6 to 12.

During the afternoon, participating children will have an opportunity to spend individual time reading to a visiting therapy dog from Cold Noses, Warm Hearts.

The program offers young readers a relaxed and friendly setting where they can practice reading aloud while spending time with a trained therapy dog. Rather than reading in front of a classroom or group, children can settle in with their canine listener and enjoy a book at their own pace.

Library officials describe the program as an opportunity for “budding bookworms” to combine reading with quality time alongside a friendly, tail-wagging visitor.

Registration is required and can be completed through the Killingly Public Library website at killinglypl.org or by calling the library at 860-779-5383.

The Killingly Public Library is located at 25 Westcott Rd. Additional information about library programs and services is available through the library’s Web site or by calling 860-779-5383.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Recognizing the people who make a school community work

Schools are often measured by numbers. Test scores, graduation rates, enrollment figures, budgets and attendance statistics all have their place. They tell us something about how a district is performing. They do not, however, tell the whole story.

Sometimes a better measure can be found in the people who show up every morning and quietly make a school a better place for the children who walk through its doors.

The Killingly Board of Education offered a welcome reminder of that during its Sept. 9 meeting, recognizing three people whose contributions to Killingly Public Schools come from very different roles.

Bethany Knowlton of Killingly High School was named the district’s 2026-27 Teacher of the Year. Tara Smith of Killingly Intermediate School was honored as the 2026-27 Paraeducator of the Year. Community Engagement Coordinator Kristine Cicchetti was also recognized for her work strengthening connections between the school district and the greater Killingly community.

There is something worth noticing about the qualities emphasized when these three women were recognized.

Board of Education Chair Susan Lannon spoke about Knowlton’s dedication to students in the high school’s agricultural education program, but she also mentioned something much simpler: her willingness to help and the positive attitude she brings to her work.

Much the same was said about Smith. Her recognition as Paraeducator of the Year included praise for going above and beyond, advocating for students and colleagues, and bringing kindness to her work.

Those qualities cannot easily be entered into a spreadsheet. Yet anyone who has spent much time around schools understands how important they are.

Teachers are obviously essential, but schools also depend upon paraeducators, custodians, secretaries, cafeteria employees, bus drivers, coaches, counselors and countless others whose names may never appear on an honor roll or graduation program. Children notice the adults who encourage them. They remember the person who took a little extra time to explain something, offered reassurance on a difficult day or made them feel as though they belonged. That is why recognition such as this matters.

Cicchetti’s work illustrates another important piece of public education. A school district cannot thrive as an island separated from the community surrounding it.

The Community Engagement Committee has worked to build connections between Killingly’s schools and residents, including through the community night held in August. Board member Kevin Marcoux made an important observation while recognizing Cicchetti: Schools can accomplish worthwhile things and still struggle to tell people about them. That communication matters.

Residents who no longer have children in school can easily lose touch with what is happening inside classrooms. Students, meanwhile, benefit from understanding that education does not end at the school-house door. Local businesses, civic groups, volunteers, families and municipal organizations all have something to contribute, and students themselves have something to contribute to Killingly. Building those relationships creates a stronger community on both sides.

Public education faces plenty of difficult conversations. Communities debate budgets, policies, staffing, facilities and academic priorities. Those discussions are necessary, and disagreements will always exist. But amid those debates, it is worth occasionally recognizing what is working and, more importantly, who is making it work.

Knowlton, Smith and Cicchetti represent three different pieces of that effort: teaching students, supporting them and connecting their schools with the community around them.

Their recognition should also serve as a reminder that there are many others doing similar work throughout Killingly’s schools without receiving an award.

A strong school district is ultimately built one interaction at a time. It happens when a teacher stays a few minutes longer to help a student understand a lesson. It happens when a paraeducator advocates for a child who needs additional support. It happens when someone finds a new way to bring families and neighbors into the life of their schools.

Those moments may never appear in the district’s statistics. They still count.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Waking up in dark times

To the Editor:
Have you heard of something called “dark enlightenment?” The term describes a way of seeing the world that some powerful people believe in. Its basic idea is that democracy and equality have failed because the empathy at their heart is a weakness. According to the tech bros, society should be run by a small group of supposedly superior people with the intelligence, wealth, and power to take control.

The phrase “dark enlightenment” turns history upside down. The historical Enlightenment challenged the idea that kings and churches should rule simply because they had always ruled. It appealed to human reason and the basic worth of human beings. Enlightenment thinking helped shape the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

Today, however, we are told that equality has gone too far and has made us weak. Here the “dark enlightenment” and MAGA’s attacks on “woke” meet. Supporters of the dark enlightenment reject equality while MAGA uses the term “woke” as a social catchall for efforts to recognize unfair treatment and do something about it. Advocates of “dark enlightenment” argue that democracy and societal efforts towards equality and equity have failed. Underneath that argument lies a darker belief: caring about others makes us weak.

But let’s be clear: to be woke means to be awake. The underlying idea is not radical. Religious and philosophical traditions have long taught that to be awake is to understand how our

actions help produce the world we live in and to take responsibility for our part in it. Those who celebrate the anti-woke agenda believe we should live in a dog-eat-dog world and take relief from their own suffering in the defeat of others.

For the tech bros, compassion and empathy are weaknesses and get in the way of the strong doing whatever they decide must be done. Their rhetoric points toward a world in which the doors are locked and the stranger is left to starve on the doorstep.

Recent history offers a darker warning. Before World War II, the Nazis built a culture in which neighbors could be stripped of their humanity, imprisoned, and erased from the world. When trying to understand how the Holocaust had happened, Hannah Arendt suggested a difficult truth: great crimes against humanity do not need monsters to commit them. Instead, they require the thoughtless participation of obedient loyalists driven by a narrowness of mind and a numb moral center. Arendt called this “the banality of evil.”

Her warning belongs to us now. To be awake begins with answering the soul’s deepest call: to recognize ourselves in others. From that recognition, we find the need to resist the comfort of obedience and question what we are told, especially when powerful people ask us to see our neighbors as enemies. That is what it means to stay woke.

JOSEPH ZORNADO
DANIELSON

Vote like your lives, and those of your loved ones, depend on it

To the Editor:
As I write this letter on Friday evening, Sept. 18, the Kennedy Center For the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. has been surrounded by thousands of ordinary people in the streets to protect this memorial to President John F. Kennedy from being demolished by our current president.

Who ever dreamed in a million years that such a sentence would be other than a description of a nightmare, instead of the actual conditions on the ground in our nation’s Capitol?

Apparently, the reason for this person elected to our country’s highest office stating his desire for such destruction is that courts have ruled that he cannot have his own name added to the outside of the building. Oh, please, did I just write that sentence, too?

This same current president, who claims top-level expertise at designing and constructing beautiful buildings, months ago demolished the East Wing of the White House—our house where he is a temporary tenant—and after that managed to ruin the reflecting pool—our reflecting pool. These structures do not belong to him any more than they belong to me. We, the people of the United States of America, own those structures collectively. (Oh, dear, there I go sounding like a Communist again.)

While we are looking at \$6.40 per gallon for diesel fuel, which will add to the already-inflationary costs of food and any other commodity that needs to be transported to markets, this president seems to spend his time hiring people to create plans for a ballroom, a new White House helipad (already completed) and an enormous arch that will obstruct the panoramic, patriotic view of some of our most treasured icons, such as the Lincoln Memorial.

My question, which has been in my mind since this president pardoned over 1,500 convicted Jan. 6 felons on his first day in office is: Why is no one stopping him?

Why is it that Congressional Republicans into blindly supporting Trump?

To the Editor:

Addressing our current uncivil “war” at home, every morning, I get up facing a virtual breakfast of arsenic, strychnine and botulism hoping a vaccine (aka a successful impeachment or election) has broken thru the inhuman wall of excrement destroying our way of life. (No apologies for the mixed metaphors.)

You know, we’re governed by children. Like children, Donnie Dimwit and his administration have no patience. If they don’t like something, they do something huge to fix it now. They don’t know that trying to change the course of something as huge as the government and the economy can’t be done overnight. It always results in massive misery. Moderation is not in their vocabulary. Like children, they are incapable of considering the consequences of their actions. Just blast away and then blast away with another

fix even more stupid before the first one is even started. And like children, they only understand rule by bullying and threats.

At the GOP CON-vention in Texas, Donnie Doofus talked about the Demss, “I’m going to try and cheat like hell like they do.” The horror here is that the GOP is going along with this admission of corruption.

I have to wonder what kind of power is there that can coerce all GOP Congress members to blindly support Donnie Destructo. Certainly, many must understand he lies and violates civil and federal laws. Party loyalty is one reason, but I can’t accept that is all of it. Are these Congress members being blackmailed, threatened with financial, political or personal ruin? Certainly makes sense. There, I’ve said it – this is what many of us are thinking.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

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.

The flavor of the times

Walktober, sponsored by the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, is underway. There are events and walks

for people of all ages and physical ability. Calendars of events (258 this year) are available at local town halls and libraries. The brochure encourages use of the calendar “in conjunction with our website, TheLastGreenValley.org. to ensure you have the most up to date information. You’ll find additional Walktober experiences, weather updates and more on the website.” For additional information, call 860-774-3300.



KILLINGLY
AT
300
MARGARET
WEAVER

America 250. Killingly Public Library. 25 Westcott Rd., Danielson. The Deborah Avery Putnam Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is excited to announce the opening of an interactive exhibit featuring display panels and kiosks that use storytelling, artifacts, and primary accounts to connect with people and places that shared the birth of our nation. The exhibit was created through a collaboration between the American Battlefield Trust and the National DAR, and made possible by generous matching funds from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program. It opened September 19 and will run through September 30 during regular library hours. Free and open to the public.

America 250. Oct. 3 & 4. Walktober Walk #84. Revolutionary Pomfret in Historic Abington Village. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Reenactments, performances, educational programs, music, sutlers & crafts, Food court. Bean supper at Abington Congregational Church followed by a debate between Loyalist Godfrey Malbone and Patriot Israel Putnam. Visit pomfretct.gov/pomfret-america-250-commission for a detailed program schedule.

America 250. Oct. 10. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Walktober Walk #134. Fashions of the Colonial Period with Ren Antonowicz of Spirits of Fashion. Putnam Municipal Complex. 200 School Street Putnam. Sponsored by the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society. Free and open to the public.

I thought I’d do a few newspaper extracts to bring out the “flavor” and issues of the times. The Sept. 21, 1876 Windham County Transcript contained a few articles about the upcoming national elections including the editorial. “Unless something unforeseen occurs to change the current public opinion, Hayes and Wheeler will be triumphantly elected. If the election was to take place today, that result would seem certain. All that the Republicans need to do to make tomorrow brighter than today is to tell the truth, and tell it in the best way, and tell it to the largest possible number. To this end, there should be a Republican meeting in every town...”(p.2). “Flag Raising in East Killingly. The Republicans of East Killingly are to put out a handsome campaign flag next Saturday afternoon at 4 o’clock. Hon.

KILLINGLY

continued from page A4

J. T. Wait and Col. Warner will address the people, and Paine’s band will furnish the music. The East Killingly Republicans are wide awake, and will give a good account of themselves in November.” (p.2). Even Putnam Heights got in the act. “Our people raised their beautiful banner on Monday, dedicated of course, to Hayes and Wheeler, our probable next President and Vice-President. Mr. Harris of St. Louis (William Torrey Harris, the future U. S. Commissioner of Education who was born on the Heights), though a Democrat, made a telling speech in our favor. The bell was rung and the

enthusiasm that prevailed in our small community was a sufficient guarantee of our good intentions for November.” Signed Republican. (p. 3).

Rutherford B. Hayes was one of the four presidents who visited Henry Bowen’s “Pink House”, Roseland Cottage. Other presidents visiting Woodstock were U. S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley. Of course, the railroad made it quite easy for the men to travel as far as Putnam. The 19th President of the United States, Hayes won the disputed 1876 Presidential election over Tilden in the electoral college which did not determine a winner until March 2, 1877, several days before the inauguration. Hayes saw

the end of Reconstruction in the South which led to the disenfranchisement of many non-whites. (https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/educational-resources/disputed-election-1876).

Under County locals on the same page, “Going up finely and rapidly: the walls of the Music Hall block.” The Music Hall is now Killingly’s Town Hall.

September can be a dry time of year which would have been an extra concern in 1876 when water powered many of the mills. “All the mills at East Killingly were stopped a few days ago for want of water, and a part of the mill machinery in this village was idle at the same time for the same reason. The heavy rain of Sunday will start up many looms. (p.2).

“Our village sent a good delegation this week to

the Centennial---Messrs. Amasa Dowe, M. P. Dowe and son, Alba Hyde, Ralph James, Misses Ellen J. Hyde, Abbie and Hattie Backus; Rev. Mr. Brewster and wife. Charles Smith, all started Monday evening. Dr. Nicholas went on Saturday. (p.2).

This exposition had been timed to coincide with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United States. “The Philadelphia Centennial Exposition was a world’s fair that demonstrated the young American republic’s innovations in science, agriculture, industry and the arts. The six-month long event attracted prominent speakers from across the country, including the Republican candidate for president, Rutherford B. Hayes. “Mass-produced products and new inventions were on

display within Machinery Hall. Inventions included the typewriter and electric pen along with new types of mass-produced sewing machines, stoves, lanterns, guns, wagons, carriages, and agricultural equipment. The exposition also featured many well-known products including Alexander Graham Bell’s first telephone, set up at opposite ends of Machinery Hall, Thomas Edison’s automatic telegraph system... The right arm and torch of the Statue of Liberty (formally Liberty Enlightening the World) were showcased at the exposition. For a fee of 50 cents, visitors could climb the ladder to the balcony, and the money raised this way was used to fund the pedestal for the statue.” Heinz Ketchup and Hires Root Beer were first exhibited to the public at this

Exposition. (Wikipedia).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, September 2026. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. For Windham County Transcripts, visit killingly.historyarchives. online courtesy of the Killingly Public Library. For Putnam Patriots and Windham County Observers visit the home page of the Putnam Public Library and look on the right hand column for links.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America needs energy security beyond oil

To the Editor:
American drivers are paying substantially more at the pump as the war involving Iran continues to disrupt global oil markets. The national average for regular gasoline has reached \$4.48 per gallon, with diesel at \$6.51. (AAA)
This is more than a gas-price problem. It is a national energy-security problem.
Oil is traded in a global market, and disruptions in major producing and shipping regions affect American consumers. The U.S. war on Iran has severely disrupted oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and now the red sea and contributed to higher global oil prices. (Then there is the other global impact on oil supplies caused by Russia’s war on Ukraine.)
Meanwhile, oil and gas companies are benefiting from the surge in prices. According to an August 2026 analysis by the Senate Joint Economic Committee, major oil and gas companies reported more than \$125 billion in profits during the first half of 2026. The committee also calculated that President Donald Trump’s oil-and-gas stock holdings increased in value from as much as \$45.6 million at the end of 2025 to as much as \$61.1 million, an estimated increase of up to \$15.5 million. The report notes that Trump also purchased as much as \$3.6 million in additional oil-and-gas stocks during the first three months of 2026. (Joint Economic Committee)

These figures deserve public scrutiny—not because owning investments is inherently improper, but because Americans deserve transparency when a sitting president has substantial financial interests in an industry whose stock values can rise during an international conflict that is also increasing costs for consumers.
The bigger question is why the United States remains so vulnerable to big oil companies and disruptions in a global oil market.
Congress needs to act and exercise its constitutional authority over war powers and conduct vigorous oversight of U.S. military involvement in the Iran war. Americans deserve to know the objectives, financial and human costs, legal authority, and expected duration of any military action.
Congress needs to accelerate the transition toward a more diversified transportation-energy system. That means creating effective incentives for electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, hydrogen technologies that are economical and environmentally safe, public transportation, and other domestically produced clean-energy alternatives.
This is about consumer choice, economic security and national security. The more transportation options Americans have beyond gasoline, the less vulnerable households are to sudden oil-price shocks caused by conflicts or disruptions around the world.

We should not wait for the next war, pipeline attack, or shipping crisis to ask whether America has become too dependent on globally traded fuel.
Congress has tools available to address both sides of this problem: exercise its constitutional war powers and oversight responsibilities, while investing in a transportation system that gives Americans alternatives to oil and gasoline.
We need to hold Congress accountable for the war in Iran and demand our representatives protect American consumers from unnecessary energy vulnerability and incentivize the clean-energy technologies that can give Americans more choices. Mid-terms are coming. Vote for representatives who are working for the American people not big oil or billionaires.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Keep Anne Dauphinais fighting the good fight

To the Editor:
I am writing to express my support for the re-election of Rep. Anne Dauphinais.
I have known Anne for several years, and by talking with her and listening to her talk with others in our community, you can see the passion she has to keep fighting in Hartford. She understands the struggles of her constituents and what we are facing in our district, which fuels her energy to keep fighting for us.
She listens and is readily available to answer questions, explains why she voted as she did, reads the bills, researches them, listens to the public comments, and listens to the floor debate to make a well-thought-out decision. The name put on a bill isn’t always as it seems. Most times, it is like a bait and switch, which gives the public a misconception.
Please support Anne Dauphinais, as I am, and let her keep fighting the good fight for us.
Sincerely,

KEVIN KERITULA
DAYVILLE

Hometown Heroes: Platoon Sgt. Charles Lada, USMC
KILLED IN THE BATTLE FOR NAMUR



Charles Lada

BY MICHAEL ROCCHETTI
COMMANDER

MAYOTTE-VIENS AMERICAN LEGION
POST #13

For most of his four years in the United States Marine Corps, Charles Lada prepared other Marines for combat. As a rifle-range instructor at Parris Island, South Carolina, he taught young recruits the marksmanship skills they would need on battlefields around the world. When Lada finally received his own overseas assignment, his first major engagement would also be his last. On February 1, 1944, the North Grosvenordale Marine was killed during the assault on Namur Island in the Kwajalein Atoll. He was only nine days short of his 25th birthday.
Charles Lada was born in North Grosvenordale, Connecticut, on February 10, 1919. He was the son of Joseph and Veronica Ambrociewicz Lada, Polish immigrants who established their home at Three Rows in

Thompson. Charles shared the family home with his parents and six siblings: Helen, Hattie, Wanda, Anthony, Joseph Jr. and Theresa.
Like many children of immigrant families in North Grosvenordale, Charles grew up in the shadow of the community’s textile mills. He attended Tourtellotte Memorial Junior High School and later worked at the former North Grosvenordale mill.
In March 1940, more than a year before the United States entered the Second World War, Lada enlisted in the Marine Corps. His mother, Veronica, died that same year. Lada received his Marine training at Parris Island and demonstrated sufficient ability with firearms to be retained there as a rifle-range instructor. By July 1942, after a little more than two years in the Corps, he had been promoted to sergeant.
He remained in the United States for more than three years before being sent to Camp Pendleton, California, and assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. By then he had attained the senior enlisted rank of platoon sergeant.
Only about four weeks after leaving the United States, Lada went into combat in the Kwajalein Atoll of the Marshall Islands. The Kwajalein Atoll is a great ring of coral reefs and small islands surrounding one of the largest lagoons in the world. Its position in the central Pacific gave it tremendous strategic importance. Capturing the atoll would break through the outer perimeter of Japan’s island defenses and provide the US with airfields, anchorages and bases for further advances toward the Marianas, the Philippines and ultimately Japan itself.
American forces attacked both ends of the atoll. Army troops landed on Kwajalein Island in the south, while the 4th Marine Division assaulted Roi and Namur in the north. Roi contained the principal Japanese airfield, while neighboring Namur was crowded with blockhouses, storage buildings and defensive positions. The two islands were connected by a narrow causeway and together formed the principal objective of the 24th Marines.
On Feb. 1, 1944, Company F landed on Namur and advanced into a confusing landscape of shattered buildings, smoke, shell craters and concealed Japanese positions. It was Lada’s first major battle. At approximately 1:05 that afternoon, Marine assault teams approached a large concrete blockhouse. From the outside, it appeared similar to the many fortified structures that had to be destroyed during the advance. The Marines blasted an opening in its wall and threw satchel charges inside. The building was packed with Japanese torpedo warheads. The blockhouse disappeared in a tremendous explosion. A column of smoke rose more than 1,000 feet into the air as concrete, wood, metal fragments and torpedo warheads rained down upon the Marines. The blast shook ships offshore and left a large, water-filled crater where the building had stood. Twenty Marines were killed and approximately 100 were wounded. Company F suffered the worst losses, with 14 men killed and 43 wounded. Two additional Japanese structures exploded before the Marines could fully recover, producing further casualties and destroying nearly all of the battalion’s communications.
According to the account published by the Windham County Observer in 1947, Platoon Sergeant Charles Lada was killed by the ammunition explosion. His death came on the first day of the assault and during his first major engagement.
Despite the terrible blast and determined Japanese resistance, the Marines continued their advance. Roi and Namur were secured the following day. Their capture helped open the way for the continued American advance across the central Pacific, but victory came at a painful cost for Company F and for families in communities such as North Grosvenordale.
Only a few days before

Lada’s father learned of his death, the family had received word that Charles had arrived safely overseas and was participating in the Marshall Islands fighting. On Saturday, Feb. 12, a Navy Department telegram arrived at the Lada home informing Joseph that his son had been killed in action. Wartime security restrictions prevented newspapers from publishing the location and circumstances of his death. The initial notification reported that he had been buried at sea.
News of the young Marine’s death spread quickly through North Grosvenordale. A solemn requiem high Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph’s Church on Feb. 19, 1944. Friends, relatives and neighbors gathered to honor a hometown Marine whose body could not then be brought home. Charles was survived by his father; his brothers, Army Private First Class Anthony Lada and Joseph Lada, Jr.; and his sisters Helen Aucoin, Hattie LaFleur, Wanda, and Theresa Lada.
For more than three years, the family had no grave nearby where they could mourn him. After the war, the United States government began the immense and solemn work of returning America’s overseas dead at the request of their families. Later records clarified that Lada’s remains had been interred in the Marshall Islands, rather than permanently buried at sea as the family was initially told. Joseph Lada requested that his son be returned to North Grosvenordale.
In October 1947, Charles Lada’s mortal remains were sent home. A military funeral was held at St. Joseph’s Church, followed by burial in the Lada family plot at St. Joseph Cemetery. Members of the local American Legion Post #67 rendered full military honors.
Charles Lada’s journey from a mill village in northeastern Connecticut to Parris Island, Camp Pendleton and the battlefield on Namur, was shared in broad outline by thousands of young Americans. Yet his individual story deserves to be remembered.
He was the son of Polish immigrants who sought a new life in America. He was a mill worker, a Marine, a rifle instructor and a platoon sergeant entrusted with leading men in battle. After spending years preparing other Marines for war, he gave his life during his first great test in combat. Today, Platoon Sergeant Charles Lada rests once again among the family and community he left behind. His sacrifice on Feb. 1, 1944, helped secure a vital American victory and advance the long campaign across the Pacific. He was one of Thompson’s own, and he remains one of its Hometown Heroes.



On Wednesday, Sept. 16, Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 learned how to use leatherworking tools with Den Leader Patrick Federer. This is just one of dozens of fun things Pack 21 does throughout the year, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 will be making scarecrows next week, to enter in the Putnam The Putnam Business Association's annual scarecrow contest. Pack 21 is chartered to the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523 of Putnam. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.

Courtesy



Abington Congregational Church to host Loyalist vs. Patriot supper and program Oct. 3

POMFRET — The Abington Congregational Church will host a thematic dinner and theater program in collaboration with the Pomfret 250 Commission as part of the Revolutionary Pomfret Reenactment and Living History Events which will be taking place throughout the weekend from Oct. 2 to Oct. 4.

Abington Congregational Church, built in 1751, is the oldest meeting house in continuous use in Connecticut. The church is celebrating its 275th anniversary this year and has recently published a book about the history of the church which will be for sale during the supper theater on Oct. 3.

The Church supper will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, featuring pulled pork and ribs, beans and traditional fixings with a modern twist by local chef, Nathan Gould of Pintail Restaurant in Pomfret. The meal will be served in the church hall, (Tracy House) 542, Hampton Rd., Pomfret Center (Abington), followed by a theatrical interpretation of a debate between Loyalist Godfrey Malbone, and Patriot Israel Putnam at 7 p.m. in the historic church. The play was written by local historian, Donna Dufresne with Chip Lamb, and is based on the letters from Malbone to his brother John from 1769 to 1780 in which he espouses his opinions about his Pomfret neighbors and their "treasonous acts" against the King and his own Loyalist views.

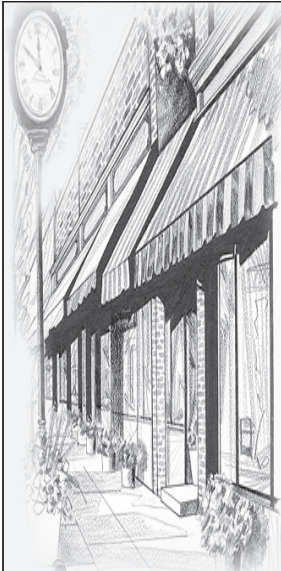
Loyalist vs Patriot will be performed by actors Chip Lamb and Kenneth Noll. Chip Lamb, actor, director, and playwright will portray Godfrey Malbone. He has been a theater educator for over thirty years. He has performed in New York and in regional theaters, directed over 70 productions in colleges and independent schools, and has written several plays. Kenneth Noll, Professor Emeritus of molecular biology from the University of Connecticut has spent nearly two decades performing in community theater and historical reenactments. Besides his portrayal of Israel Putnam, he has performed as the historical figures Charles Darwin and Charles Dickens for libraries, museums, and universities.

Tickets for the supper theater event are \$42.50 (for the 250th) including the dinner and the Loyalist vs Patriot debate and must be purchased in advance. They are available online using the QR code below. Seating is limited and tickets are selling fast, so please order tickets as soon as possible. For more information about buying tickets, details about the program, and updates about the Reenactment Visit the Pomfret 250 Commission website pomfret250commission@gmail.com OR contact Donna Dufresne, chair of the Pomfret 250 Commission at windsong@snet.net or pomfret250commission@gmail.com.

Tickets available at <https://square.link/u/SUG48wT6>.

Trinity Episcopal Church to host Fall Festival

BROOKLYN — Trinity Episcopal Church will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3 from 10 to 4. The church is located at 7 Providence Rd., at the intersection of Routes 6 and 169. There will be live music, local crafters, artisans and other vendors, hot food, baked goods, a silent auction, face painting, a free bouncy house, carnival games, pumpkin painting and more. Fun for the whole family! Information at <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurch-brooklyn.org>.



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Pomfret’s America 250 Commission presents Revolutionary Pomfret reenactment and living history event in October



POMFRET — On Oct. 3 & 4, Pomfret will celebrate America’s 250th anniversary with a Revolutionary War Reenactment and living history event. October is the perfect month to celebrate the Declaration of Independence because it was formally approved during the Connecticut Assembly legislative session in New Haven on Oct. 10, 1776. The town-wide celebration will be marked by a Revolutionary War Encampment consisting of several Reenactment Groups from southern New England.

The Revolutionary Pomfret Reenactment and Living History Event will take place at the Pomfret Recreation Park in Abington and will feature Revolutionary Era sites throughout neighborhood. The theme for the whole weekend is ‘Long Ago But Not So Far Away: Exploring Revolutionary America Through a Local Lens.’

The event will include a variety of educational programs, military exercises, 18th century music, and storytelling. There will be demonstrations of Early American crafts and skills in and around the encampment in the enclosed rec fields where visitors can authentically experience the past. Outside the encampment there will be a food court near the Rec Barn, historically themed vendors and crafts, a demonstration tent for fiber arts and other crafts, and scheduled programs at the pavilion where visitors can learn about local heroes such as Israel Putnam and Nathan Hale.

There will be several highlighted programs during the weekend beginning with the grand kick-off Tavern Night and welcome to the soldiery hosted by the Vanilla Bean Café on Friday, October 2, 2026. The public is invited to attend the welcome reception with a tasting

of local breweries at 6 PM followed by a concert of Tavern songs, sea chanty’s, and other music enjoyed by British and American soldiers during the Revolution. Concert tickets are \$10 at the door. The Vanilla Bean will feature an ala carte tavern menu of stew and ale in addition to their regular menu items.

On Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10 a.m., The Grand Muster will take place at the historic Abington Congregational Church. The public is invited to attend as reenactors gather to reenact the 11th Regiment soldiers enlisting in preparation for their march to Boston. The ladies of Abington will arrive by horse and wagon to bid adieu to husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons. Some local women will arrive by horseback in their 18th century clothing. The men will be examined by Dr. Elisha Lord (Dan Newman), the Abington 11th Regiment surgeon. Reverend Bruce

Headman will portray orithe Reverend Abiel Leonard who left the pulpit at Woodstock Congregational Church to join the Continental Army as Chaplain in 1775. He will give The Prayer to the Soldiery before they gather their arms and march to their encampment.

Saturday evening at 6 p.m., there will be unique ham and bean supper prepared by Chef Nathan of Pintail Restaurant at the Abington Congregational Church followed by the reenactment of a debate between Loyalist Godfrey Malbone and Patriot Israel Putnam. Tickets for the dinner and theater production are \$42.50 (for the 250th) including dinner and the performance of the original play, Loyalist Vs Patriot: Lifelong Debate Between Godfrey Malbone and Israel Putnam. Space is limited so order your tickets ahead of time. For more information about reser-

ations and tickets visit the Pomfret 250 Commission Website below.

Reenactment activities will take place at the Rec Fields from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday. Highlights in the scheduled events include a visit by Major General Israel Putnam (Kenneth Noll) on Saturday who will tell stories from the battlefield, and Nathan Hale’s sister, Joanna Hale (Bev York) on Sunday who will tell stories about her famous brother Nathan Hale and other family members who fought in the Revolutionary War. All events except the church supper and debate at Abington Congregational Church are free. Your donations and flag sales have helped to fund the programs and reenactments and are much appreciated. Be sure to visit the Pomfret 250 Commission Welcome Table in the Marketplace Tent to learn more about

Pomfret’s local history and involvement in the Revolutionary War.

The final ceremony will take place on Sunday, Oct. 4 with a Fife & Drum parade led by the Kentish Guards from the Clinic Road gate at the Recreation Park to the Old Abington Burial Ground. A wreath will be laid for the 60 Revolutionary War Soldiers buried there. They will be honored with a musket salute and taps.

A full schedule of events during the Reenactment and details about tickets to the Bean Supper can be found on the Pomfret 250 Commission Website <https://www.pomfretct.gov/pomfret-america-250-commission>

For more information about specific events, contact program coordinator and chair Donna Dufresne at windsong@snet.net or pomfret250commission@gmail.com.

Attend a Pomfret School Open House this Fall

POMFRET — Pomfret School is pleased to announce two Open Houses this fall. Prospective students and their families are invited to attend the in-person events on the Pomfret Hilltop on Monday, Oct. 12, and Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, to explore our private high school for boarding and day students located in Pomfret.

“Our Open Houses are one of the best ways for local families to learn more about one of the top small independent schools in the country — right in their own backyard,” said Dean of Enrollment Management Susan Mantilla-Goin. “From meeting our students and faculty to touring our beautiful campus and learning about financial aid opportunities, visitors will experience the close-knit, supportive community that



defines life on the Hilltop.”

The Open Houses will highlight Pomfret’s student-centered academic philosophy, four-year

approach to college counseling, comprehensive athletics and afternoon programs, and residential life and dorms. Guests will hear firsthand from current stu-

dents about what it is like to live and learn at Pomfret. Admissions officers will be on hand to answer questions about Pomfret and the application process.

Advanced registration for the Open Houses is required at pomfret.org/admissions/events.

Applications for the 2027-2028 academic year are now being accepted. Early Decision applications are due Tuesday, Dec. 1, and early decision financial aid applications are due Tuesday, Dec. 15. Regular admission applications are due Friday, January 15, 2027, and financial aid applications are due Monday, February 1, 2027. An interview is part of the application process, and families are encouraged to schedule their interview early.

For any questions regarding the Open Houses or admissions process, contact Pomfret’s Admissions Office at 860-963-6120 or admissions@pomfret.org, or visit pomfret.org/admissions.

Hiring?

Reach More

Local Applicants

Email: mikaela@villagernewspapers.com Phone: (860)928-1818

Help
Wanted

Killingly High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up

Field Hockey
Killingly fell to East Lyme, 10-0, in its Sept. 15 game. Jaynie Macquarrie had another strong performance in goal, recording 15 saves throughout the game. Olivia Cesolini had a strong performance in the midfield, working hard on both sides of the field and helping to move the ball forward. The team continued to compete and work hard throughout all four quarters.

The girls fell 4-0 to Waterford in a matchup on Sept. 17. Jaynie Macquarrie recorded seven saves in goal, putting together another solid performance to keep Killingly in the game. Attilea Jarvis led the midfield with strong control of the ball and helped generate offense by advancing play toward the goal. Despite the loss, Killingly continues to show improvement and is gaining confidence with each game.

On Sept. 21, Killingly fell to East Lyme, 11-2. Olivia Cesolini and Attilea Jarvis each scored for Killingly, providing a pair of offensive highlights for the team. Jaynie Macquarrie made 11 saves in goal, helping keep Killingly in the game with a number of strong stops. Killingly continues to work hard and make progress as the season moves forward.

Girls Soccer
Killingly Girls Soccer hosted St. Bernard under the lights on Tuesday evening, Sept. 15 in a hard-fought ECC match-up. After falling behind 1-0 in the first half, the Trailblazers responded with energy and determination after the break. Early in the second half, Gracie West delivered a corner kick that found Kezlee Morrarty, who finished it to even the score at 1-1. The girls battled for the remainder of the game to earn the draw and move their season record to 2-0-1.

Football
Killingly Falls to Woodland, 28-12
Killingly fell to 0-2 losing to Woodland Regional 28-12 Friday night, Sept. 19. Woodland jumped out to a 22-0 lead before Killingly responded with touchdowns in the second and third quarters.

Quarterback Jaden Barnett accounted for both Killingly touchdowns, scoring on a seven-yard run before connecting with Braydee Testa for a 19-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter. Barnett finished with 99 yards passing and 40 yards rushing, while Testa caught seven passes for 99 yards. Jayden Fuentes led the Killingly rushing attack with 71 yards on 18 carries.

Killingly finished with 257 yards of total offense, including 158 on the ground, but Woodland controlled the game with 322 rushing yards and 416 total yards. The loss snapped Killingly's nearly three-year home winning streak, dating back to a loss to Fitch on Oct. 20, 2023. The Trailblazer go on the road next Friday night at Windham, kickoff is set for 6 p.m.

Lebanon Historical Society's antique show returns for 59th year

LEBANON — It's a tradition — fall colors, antiques, chowder and pie all enjoyed outside on the historic Lebanon Green as the Lebanon Historical Society celebrates 59 years of its outdoor antique show. Many historic homes surround the beautiful Lebanon town green often referred to as the heartbeat of the Revolution.

For more than half a century, rain or shine, antique dealers and collectors gather on the Green in Lebanon. Once a common sight in Connecticut towns, outdoor antique shows are now almost gone from the

landscape. The show on the Lebanon Green offers a bit of nostalgia for everyone. Now in its 59th year, the Lebanon Historical Society's Outdoor Antique Show is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Up to 60 dealers will offer antiques and high-quality collectibles to buyers who come from around the state and through-out southern New England. The event started in 1966 as a money-making effort to fund Society programs and, eventually, to help pay for the land needed to build a Museum. Today, the Antique Show is still the

Historical Society's largest and most important fund-raising event with proceeds supporting school programs, exhibits and historical presentations.

Some dealers have been participating for many years, but new-to-the-field dealers are added every year. Visitors can expect to find everything from 19th century furniture to vintage tools and from traditional pottery to textiles, glassware and jewelry.

For the \$8 admission fee visitors can spend the day wandering the field, talking with dealers and finding a bargain. Lunch and snacks

are available for purchase all day including home-made chowders, sandwiches as well as grilled burgers and dogs and end it all with a slice of home-made pie!

Parking is free and the event goes on rain or shine.

For more information, contact the Lebanon Historical Society 860-642-6579 / museum@historyof-lebanon.org or visit us on the Web at www.historyof-lebanon.org.

Dealer spaces still available. \$90 for a 20-by-24-foot space. Call 860-423-8876 or 860-642-6579.

Robert Olson's Magic Collection goes up for auction

PUTNAM — A longtime resident of Putnam, Robert Olson's early years were shaped by a strong academic foundation. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School and went on to study Electrical Engineering at Brooklyn College. He always said his technical training at Brooklyn Tech allowed him to land the job at Old Sturbridge Village, (OSV) and made him indispensable as an interpreter early on in his career.

It was, however, his insatiable passion for history and learning, paired with his energetic love of performing, that ultimately defined his life's work and legacy. From the moment he joined Old Sturbridge Village as an interpreter, Olson found his true calling. For over five decades, he dedicated himself to the living his-

tory museum, immersing himself in the stories of America's past. It was there that he discovered Richard Potter—America's first magician—and this discovery would change the course of his life. He often stated that he owed everything to Richard Potter. For more than 50 years, he performed as Richard Potter, captivating generations with historical magic shows that blended education with wonder. With meticulous research and heartfelt dedication, Robert recreated Potter's performances and brought them back to life for modern audiences. He brought joy, laughter, hope, and wisdom to all that watched.

Through this persona and performance art, he found a way to connect deeply with people of all ages. Through humor, precision

and whimsy, he taught history while evoking awe. His work at Old Sturbridge Village allowed him not only to follow his passion but also to become a beloved figure in the world of historical entertainment.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Olson served his country honorably from 1961 to 1963 as part of the U.S. Army's military intelligence division in New York City.

After retiring from Old Sturbridge Village, he kept connected to both his passions. He never stopped sharing his love for the past; he continued to research, learn, and perform magic. Getting together with fellow magicians and attending New England Magic Collectors Association meetings and gatherings.

He stayed connected with his OSV friends and continued up until December 2024 performing Richard Potter at OSV's Christmas by Candlelight. His last magic show was Father's Day 2025 at George Washington's encampment in Newburgh, New York.

Those who knew Robert will remember him as someone who made life more magical simply by being present. He had a rare gift in teaching others how to grow up without ever losing their sense of childlike wonder.

The auction takes place at Haversat & Ewing Galleries, LLC on Oct. 2 & 3 online at: www.haversatewing.com.

Eastern hosting free small-business academy this fall

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University will host Liberty Bank's Academy for Small Business this fall, bringing a tuition-free business education program for local business owners through Eastern's Small Business Resource Center (SBRC), a joint initiative of Eastern's College of Business, Liberty Bank, and the Town of Windham.

The academy will run from Oct. 13 through Nov. 12 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. in Eastern's Student Center. Upon completion

of the course, participants will be awarded a certificate of completion and will be invited to apply for a \$5,000 business line of credit from Liberty Bank.

Registration: Business owners and entrepreneurs can register for the program via Liberty Bank's Academy for Small Business Web site: <https://www.liberty-bank.com/about-liberty-bank/learning-center/academy-for-small-business>

The academy provides comprehensive business training, education, and guidance to small business

owners, entrepreneurs, and students. Eastern faculty will lead 10 classes focused on building knowledge and skills in banking services and credit reporting, organizational structure, healthy business planning, financial management, risk management, and tax planning.

The program aims to strengthen entrepreneurs' and small business owners' knowledge and skills to help build successful organizations and support economic communities throughout Windham and eastern Connecticut.

"The Academy for Small

Business is a great example of how the SBRC can connect Eastern's resources with entrepreneurs and small business owners in our community," said Miles Lovell, graduate intern at the SBRC. "It speaks directly to our mission of empowering entrepreneurs by providing free and accessible resources, education, mentorship, and support."

A dozen business owners and entrepreneurs enrolled

in the inaugural Academy for Small Business in fall 2025, representing industries ranging from card merchant services to dog grooming and wellness. Participants connected with Eastern faculty and developed relationships with fellow business owners.

Niti Pandey, dean of Education and Professional Studies, commented on last year's academy: "The academy was

a great opportunity for emerging local entrepreneurs to learn about running a small business, network with each other, and engage with Eastern faculty, community partners, and students," Pandey said. "It was a wonderful example of how Eastern can help provide valuable resources for supporting economic development in the region."

Woodstock Historical Society, Old Sturbridge Village collaborate on "After the Revolution" programs

STURBRIDGE, Mass. — The Woodstock Historical Society is collaborating with Old Sturbridge Village on two evening presentations on Sept. 24 and Oct. 8. These presentations will provide a fascinating look into the lives of rural New Englanders in the decades after the American Revolution.

With the Revolutionary War at an end, rural New England could not simply return to old habits and traditions. Everyday life had been impacted despite the fact that after initial campaigns, the active battle ground moved south. And while the local economy had been buoyed by the production of war material, including arms, food and clothing, the world suddenly looked different.

Old Sturbridge Village staff Marlene Healey, Coordinator of Households, and Jean Contino, Coordinator of Domestic Crafts, will host the presentation on Sept. 24, "Far Above the Country Mediocrity." This will explore how everyday life changed in the decades following the Revolution. They will compare life in a rural New England home of the 1770s to that of the 1830s, exploring questions like "How were homes furnished and decorated?" and "How did manufacturing and transportations transform the availability of goods?"

Katherine Fecteau, Curator of Exhibitions at Old Sturbridge Village, will host the presentation on Oct. 8, "After the First

Fifty." This will explore national transformation in the United States after the first fifty years of a new nation through the eyes of the people who experienced it firsthand. Learn about 11 Americans whose lives shed light on the change, innovation, and emerging spirit of reform that influenced this period in our history.

Both presentations will begin at 6:30pm in the Center for Woodstock History at 523 Route 169, Woodstock, CT 06281. Reservations are required for entry. Programs are free, but contributions are essential to the ongoing work of the historical society.

To learn more, please visit www.centerforwoodstockhistory.com.



Courtesy

VFW Post 10088 raised \$600 at a recent breakfast held in August in Thompson. VFW Auxiliary member Erica Groh presents the VFW Post 10088 Commander Gary Surozenski with a \$600 check. All money raised will go towards improvements of the VFW Post in Quinebaug.

Midterm elections and the markets: What history says about 2026

Since 1937, the S&P 500 has averaged 9.2 percent in midterm election years and 13.3 percent in every other year, according to J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Two very different numbers. Both of them positive.

That gap is the whole story, and it gets lost every two years under a mountain of election coverage. Midterm years are choppy. They have still, on average, ended higher.

How midterm years usually trade

Markets dislike uncertainty about the rules, and a midterm is a referendum on who writes them.

The seasonal pattern is remarkably consistent. J.P. Morgan's data shows the S&P 500 slightly negative in each of the first three quarters of a midterm year, then up an average of 6.6 percent in the fourth.

Capital Group comes at it from the other end and finds that since 1950, the average one-year return following a midterm election has been 15.4 percent, close to double the average for other 12-month stretches in that period.

Individual years vary, and they vary widely. The S&P 500 finished 2018 down 4.4 percent and 2022 down 18.1



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ADVISER

percent on a total return basis. Neither year had much to do with who won in November. Averages describe a tendency, not a promise, and anyone who tells you otherwise is selling something.

What is actually on the ballot

Republicans hold the Senate 53 to 47 and the House 219 to 213 with three seats vacant. Democrats need a net gain of three House seats and four Senate seats. That is a thin margin in a year when the sitting president's party has historically given ground, which has been true in nearly every midterm since the Civil War.

Prediction markets are pricing exactly that. In mid-September, Polymarket traders put Democratic control of the House near 88 percent and a Democratic Senate close to a coin flip. Those odds move daily. Read them as a temperature, not a forecast.

The mood behind the numbers is easy to identify. Grocery bills, gas prices,

mortgage rates, and the conflict with Iran all show up when people are asked how the economy is treating them, and consumer sentiment has been sliding into the fall.

Why gridlock is the likeliest result

Assume Democrats take one chamber or both. President Trump keeps the veto pen, and he keeps the executive orders, regulatory actions, and emergency declarations that have driven most of the tariff and immigration changes so far. Legislation written by a Democratic House would have a short life.

What changes is oversight and spending. Expect hearings on artificial intelligence risk, affordability, ICE detentions, the Iran conflict, and Trump family business dealings. Expect the debt ceiling to become a negotiation again before it is reached in 2027, though budget reconciliation still gives the White House a route around a hostile chamber. And expect one file both parties may finally be forced to open together, which is the long-term solvency of Social Security and Medicare.

For a diversified portfolio, gridlock is a fairly boring outcome, and boring is underrated. Capital Group's work going back

to 1933 shows double-digit average S&P 500 returns under unified government, under a split Congress, and under a Congress controlled by the party opposing the president. Three very different arrangements in Washington. Three respectable numbers.

Four things to keep in mind between now and year end

1. Pre-election volatility is normal and usually short-lived. Rhetoric peaks in October, and so does the temptation to do something about it. The rally in midterm years has historically arrived in the fourth quarter, often starting about a month before the vote, which means the cost of stepping aside tends to land right when it hurts most.
2. Your allocation should answer to your plan, not the polls. If the balance of power in Congress would meaningfully change your retirement income strategy, the issue is the strategy. A plan built for a 25- or 30-year horizon should absorb a two-year swing in committee chairmanships without flinching.
3. Rebalancing is where discipline pays. Strong market performance can shift your investment allocation by increasing equity exposure and overall risk. Rebalancing back to policy

is unglamorous work that trims what has run and adds to what has lagged, and it does not require a single opinion about the election.

4. Dec. 31 does not move. Roth conversion decisions, tax loss harvesting, charitable gifting, required minimum distributions, and business owner planning all run on the calendar year, not the election cycle. Those deadlines are certain, which is more than anyone can say about the Senate map.

Business owners in particular should get their advisor and CPA in the same conversation this fall. Entity structure, bonus depreciation, and QBI planning move real dollars, and they move them on a schedule set by the tax code rather than by whoever takes the House.

I have watched markets work through divided government, unified government, impeachments, shutdowns, and a long list of elections that were each described at the time as the most consequential in a generation. The through line has not changed. Stay diversified. Rebalance. Do not try to time it. Keep returning to the long-term plan that got built when nobody was shouting.

Then vote, turn off the coverage, and let the plan do its job.

SNHU announces summer Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

CLARA Costabile of Pomfret Center
Adam Van der Swaagh of Danielson
Hanna Kunkel of Thompson
Jake Ross of Brooklyn
Scar Jones of Dayville
Amy Tucciarone of Dayville

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 94-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

SNHU announces summer President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Darcey Bastow of Pomfret
Aurora Charlton of Woodstock
Aleksiy Ryan Lilov of Eastford
Anthony Thompson of Danielson
Jeremy Colwell of Danielson
Justin Bressette of Woodstock
Melisa Montpelier of Danielson
Dean Lawrence of Eastford
Gregory Hook of Danielson
Paul Julien Jr of Danielson
Makenzie Raduege of North Grosvenordale
Brady O'Donnell of Danielson
Liam Loughlin of North Grosvenordale
Shannon Hermann of Eastford
Alycia Briggs of Danielson
NICHOLE Cloutier of Woodstock
Nicole Dragon of Danielson
Makenzie Raduege of North Grosvenordale
Liam Loughlin of North Grosvenordale
Caitlynn Dalton of Brookline
Jennifer Smyth of Dayville
Chelsea Lawrence of Dayville
Haley Candia Perez of Dayville
Roland Strickland of Brooklyn
Steven Sliwa of Dayville
Ryan King of Putnam
Amanda Valinski of Putnam

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 94-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester. Recognized as one of the «Most Innovative» regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

TEEG prize calendars available online

THOMPSON — TEEG October Prize Calendars are now available on the TEEG website, www.teegonline.org, as well as from members of the organization's Board of Directors. For a \$10 donation, participants will be eligible to win daily prizes worth between \$50 and \$150, as well as a grand prize of \$500 cash. The last day for sales is Sept. 28.

The daily prizes are gift certificates to local restaurants such as Crowe's Nest, Grill 37, and Anya; to local businesses such as Mackey's and Green Valley

Floral; and no-special-occasion shops such as Main Street Gelato and Black Pond Brews; and are often combined with a cash prize. Spicer Oil also donated two \$100 gift certificates!

Perhaps the most special prize on this year's Calendar is a lasagna meal that includes fresh focaccia and a family salad, generously donated by Chef Sarah Eddy at New Boston Beef, who will prepare the meal on a mutually agreeable date.

Take advantage of this

winning opportunity to visit new or favorite local businesses while helping to provide food and hope in our communities.

For further information about this event, contact Chelsea French at 860-923-3458 during business hours or via email at chelseaf@teegonline.org.

TEEG is a 501(c)3 social service agency serving critical needs of low-income individuals and families in the towns of Pomfret, Woodstock, and Thompson, with food insecurity as a

cornerstone of its mission. As TEEG continues to grow, it has established itself as a vital resource to our community, offering youth and family programs in addition to several basic needs programs including heating assistance, state and federal benefits assistance, holiday programs, homelessness support, summer camp scholarships, client care coordination, and the food markets. For more information about the work of the organization, please visit www.teegonline.org.

Woodstock Commission on Aging launches Senior Resource Guide

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

The guide brings together key local resources on aging in place, healthcare options,

financial and legal planning, food assistance, transportation, and social or recreational opportunities.

How to Access the Guide:
Online: Download the document directly via the Town of Woodstock Web site.
Mobile Access: Scan the printed QR code using a smartphone camera to view the guide instantly on

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

About the Woodstock Commission on Aging
The Woodstock Commission on Aging works to evaluate, develop,

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

Trinity Episcopal Church to host Fall Festival

BROOKLYN — Trinity Episcopal Church will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3 from 10 to 4. The church is located at 7 Providence Rd., at the intersection of Routes 6 and 169. There will be live music, local crafters, artisans and other vendors, hot food, baked goods, a silent auction, face painting, a free bouncy house, carnival games, pumpkin painting and more. Fun for the whole family! Information at <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurch-brooklyn.org>.

Paws Cat Shelter to hold chicken BBQ fundraiser

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is hosting its 11th Annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 27 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 68 Providence St. in Putnam.

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

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

AUCTION

continued from page A1

is scheduled to begin at noon on October 5, 2026, and run for two days. The listing describes approximately 9,536 square feet on a 0.32-acre lot. The building will sell to the highest bidder.

Stonebridge Press says the decision reflects how its employees now work. Staff members operate remotely from home offices, on the road and throughout the communities the newspapers serve in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Digital tools allow them to coordinate their work without gathering in one central office, leaving the company with more building than it needs. In addition, the publishing company has a small office in Woodstock, primarily for their Connecticut Villager newspapers, serving Northeastern Connecticut.

The company continues serving its readers and advertisers through that arrangement, with employees working in their local markets. Selling the Elm Street property will allow another owner to make use of space that no longer fits the publisher’s daily oper-

ations.

“We’d love to see someone in our communities get this property at a bargain price and put it to good use,” said Frank Chilinski, president and publisher of Stonebridge Press.

Purchased by the local newspaper company in 1997 for \$190,000, the building has been vacant and for sale since January 2024. Before being put up for auction, the most recent asking price was \$295,000. Its municipal assessment is \$480,300.

Built around 1832, the Tiffany-Leonard House has a history reaching back to the region’s early manufacturing economy. Its original owner, Bela Tiffany, was a business partner of Samuel Slater in establishing a cotton mill in nearby Webster. The property later belonged to Manning Leonard, another prominent local businessman. Bela Tiffany’s lineage was the renown jewelers on 5th Avenue in New York City.

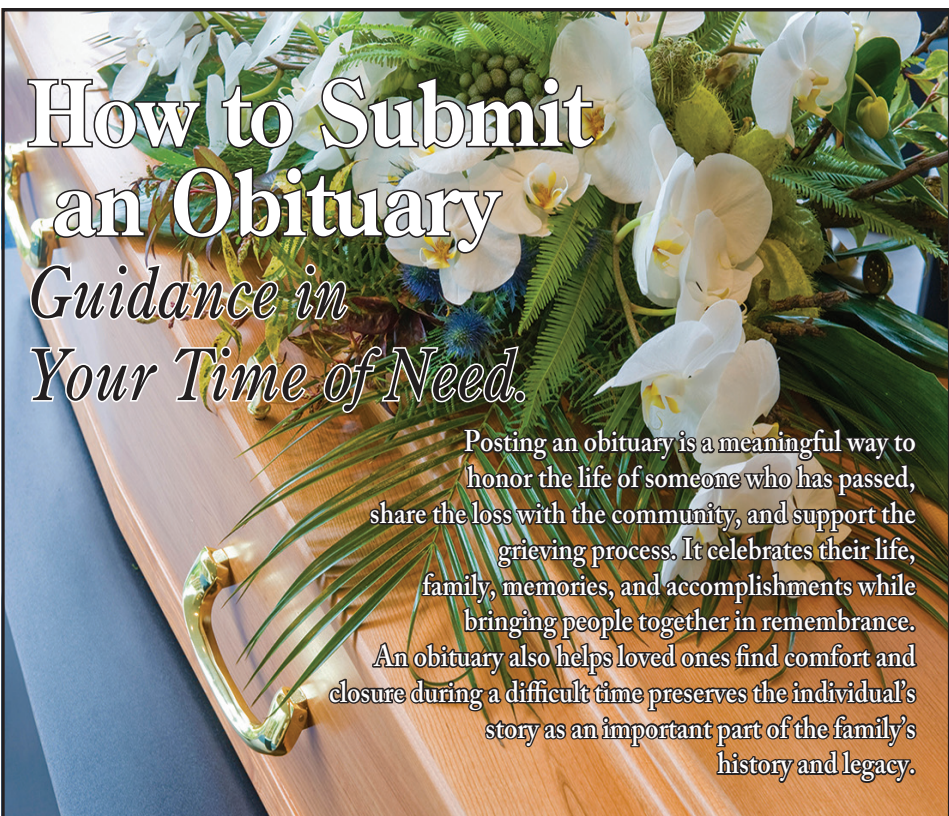
The two-story brick house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Its Greek Revival architecture includes four tall columns supporting a

triangular pediment, giving the front of the building the appearance of a classical temple. The brickwork and graceful proportions offer the kind of character that may appeal to a buyer who values older buildings.

Located steps from downtown Southbridge, opposite the Elm Street Fire House, the property is listed as an office building. Crexi’s description includes central air conditioning and two bathrooms identified as ADA compliant. Buyers considering a different use should review the property’s suitability and any required approvals.

The bidding will open at \$25,000, subject to reserve and auction terms. Prospective bidders should review all auction terms and property documents. This will be a non-contingent sale closing in early November.

Photos, property information and registration details are available at Crexi.com by searching for 25 Elm Street, Southbridge. For more information or a building tour, contact Jonah Glickman at 508-868-3765 or email Audrey Hanna at ahanna@crexi.com.



How to Submit an Obituary

Guidance in Your Time of Need.

Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process. It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance. An obituary also helps loved ones find comfort and closure during a difficult time preserves the individual's story as an important part of the family's history and legacy.

We offer easy placement and publications throughtout the area

Just drop us an email, be sure to include a photo if you would like. Include your publication choice and provide a contact number for prepayment.

Deadline is Monday at noon for this week's edition.

Our Rates: \$ 250 per newspaper for 400 words or less.

Photos and symbols included at no extra charge.

For obituaries over 400 words, the charge is \$ 250 for each additional 400 words or less.

Please note this price is per newspaper.

*Send all Obituaries to obits@stonebridgepress.news
If you have any question please call Julie at 508-909-4105*

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LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY BOROUGH OF DANIELSON SOUTH KILLINGLY FIRE DISTRICT TAX NOTICE

The second installment of real estate and personal property taxes for the Town of Killingly, the Borough of Danielson, and South Killingly Fire District listed on the October 1, 2025 Grand List are due October 1, 2026. Taxes will become delinquent after November 2, 2026. All bills are subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date of October 1, 2026. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST DUE PER STATE STATUTE 12-130. Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, during the posted hours, by mail, online, or in our drop box.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments at www.killingly-ct.gov.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
September 25, 2026
October 9, 2026
October 23, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION WOODSTOCK INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY

On September 14, 2026, the Town of Woodstock IWWA met and made the following decision:

- 1) Approved, 05-20-10EX- 9 Basset Hill Road-(MBL #5781/50/21B)-Josh Pratt-Extension of Wetlands Permit-Cleanout of Pond.
- 2) Approved, 08-26-01 – 112 Woodstock Road (MBL #5167/11/36A) – Mark Billings – New office building in Upland Review Area

Details of this approval may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at landuse@woodstockct.gov
William Rewinski
Chairman
September 25, 2026

TOWN OF KILLINGLY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS September 29, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Killingly Town Hall Room 102 AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Citizens Comments
3. Approval of minutes of April 21, 2026, hearings
4. Unfinished business
5. New business:
- Motor Vehicles appeals from 2025 Grand List
6. AdjournmentThe fiduciary is: Dorothy M Morgan, 188 Gorman Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234
September 25, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Ernest F Gatto, Jr. (26-00322)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 6, 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:
Cheryl A Nowlan
c/o WILLIAM J MONTY,
LAW OFFICE W MONTY,
930 ROUTE 169, P.O. BOX 266,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
Jeffrey E Gatto
c/o WILLIAM J MONTY,
LAW OFFICE W MONTY,
930 ROUTE 169, P.O. BOX 266,
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281
September 25, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Paul Henry Fitze (26-00339)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 14, 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:
Maria Fitze
c/o MATTHEW-ALAN HERMAN, LAW
OFFICE OF ALAN SCOTT HERMAN,
16 SOUTH MAIN ST.
P.O. B, P.O. BOX 663,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
September 25, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Ernestine M Mailhot (26-00088)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 20, 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.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Laura J Deschenes
c/o KATHLEEN MARY CERRONE,
BORNER, SMITH, ALEMAN,
HERZOG & CERRONE,
155 PROVIDENCE STREET,
PUTNAM, CT 06260
September 25, 2026

PROPERTY AUCTION

The Town of Thompson auctioned the following properties in Thompson to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges on September 16, 2026:

±2.25 acres on West Thompson Road owned by the Estate of Wendell A. Dobson was sold to Ryan M. Lajoie of 324 W. Thompson Road, Thompson CT 06277 for \$5,470.17.

±4.19 acres on Wakefield Pond Road 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 was sold to Jared J. Fortin of 405 Croff Road, Pascoag RI 02859 for \$36,000.00.

±4.1 acres on Pompeo Road owned by Thomas F. Zabka or his Estate and Patricia A. Zabka or her Estate was sold to Hany Youssef of 22 Lapiere Road, N. Grosvenordale CT 06255 for \$8,000.00.

The redemption period expires on March 15, 2027. If redemption does not take place by the date stated and in the manner provided by law, the delinquent taxpayers, and all mortgagees, lienholders and other encumbrancers who have received actual or constructive notice of such sale as provided by law, are hereby notified that their respective titles, mortgages, liens, restraints on alienation and other encumbrances in such properties shall be extinguished.
September 25, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Debra J Stefenski (26-00349)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 11, 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.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Cynthia Hebert
c/o EVELINA MONIKA
RUSZKOWSKI, THE PRUE LAW
GROUP, P.C., 720 MAIN ST 4TH FL,
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226
September 25, 2026

TOWN OF KILLINGLY METERED USE LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-4:30pm, Tuesday 8-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. By mail, online, or in our drop box.

The first installment of metered use is due September 1, 2026. If payment is not received on or before October 1, 2026 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month, or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
September 25, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Daniel Jason Morgan (26-00324)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated August 25, 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.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Dorothy M Morgan,
188 Gorman Road,
Brooklyn, CT 06234
September 25, 2026

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Richard I Barry, Sr. (26-00331)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate,District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated July 21, 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:
Kendall J Barry
c/o THOMAS SALVA TORE
FIORENTINO, FIORENTINO &
PETRONE, P.C., 773 MAIN STREET,
MANCHESTER, CT 06040
Richard I Barry, Jr.
c/o THOMAS SALVA TORE
FIORENTINO, FIORENTINO &
PETRONE, P.C., 773 MAIN STREET,
MANCHESTER, CT 06040
September 25, 2026

Town of Putnam Planning & Zoning Commission Legal Notice

The Town of Putnam Planning & Zoning Commission held a Hybrid Meeting on August 19, 2026, at 7:00 P. M. in Room 201 at the Putnam Municipal Complex, located at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT. The following action was taken
Docket # 2026-11 Jacob Paradise request for a Customary Home Occupation Permit in accordance with Section 706 of the Town of Putnam Zoning Regulations to operate a small engine repair business. Property located at 125 Heritage Road, Town Assessors Map 038, Lot 007, Zoned R-40. APPROVED
Patricia Hedenberg, Chairperson
September 25, 2026

TOWN OF PUTNAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Putnam Zoning Board of Appeals held a hybrid meeting on September 15, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in Room 201 on the second floor at the Putnam Municipal Complex, located at 200 School Street, Putnam, CT. APPROVAL was granted on the following:
Appeal # 2026-006 Joseph Scott & Chery L. Pempek request for a variance from the required 50’ side yard setback down to 35’ for the construction of a 24’ X 30’ 1.5 story garage. Property is located at 90 Five Mile River Road, Town Assessors Map 32, Lot 73, Zoned AG-2.
Scott Zadora, Chairman
September 25, 2026

OBITUARIES

Daniel D. Blanchette
1987 – 2026



Daniel D. Blanchette, 39, passed unexpectedly from this life on September 14, 2026. He was born March 10, 1987, to Dennis and Janet Blanchette in Putnam CT. As the oldest of three siblings, he was the first one to bear a machete and could be found collecting rocks or reading an epic fantasy novel. He was a boy scout of troop 25 for many years. Dan attended high school at Marianapolis Prep, graduating in 2004. He went on to attend UCONN earning dual degrees in Civil Engineering and German. Daniel was an avid rock climber and outdoor enthusiast. He often climbed in Rumney, NH, Hueco Tanks, TX, and Bishop, CA. He played guitar and loved live music. Daniel was a civil engineer and owner of J&D Site Designs LLC in Thompson, CT. He was always generous and kind to everyone he crossed paths with. He was loved by his wife, Lisa and chil-

dren, Brett and Bridget. Daniel and Lisa met rock climbing atop Pidgeon Mountain in Georgia on a UCONN rock climbing trip in 2010. They began their life together with a yearlong road trip, and a stint living in Santa Barbara, CA before settling down in Pomfret, CT. Daniel and Lisa shared a love for homestead life, cultivating their land with gardens, fruit bushes, and chickens. Dan was an amazing father and always found time to spend with his children and family. Daniel is also survived by his parents Janet and Dennis Blanchette, sisters Ellen Blanchette and Alison Luong, and their families. Services to honor and celebrate Daniel’s life was held at Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam on Sunday September 20, 2026, from 1:00 to 3:00pm. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to: AccessFund.org, Ragged Mountain Foundation, or Western Mass Climbing Coalition For memorial guest-book, please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

John Paul McCormac

July 12, 1937 - September 4, 2026



Putnam - John Paul McCormac, 89, of Sabin Street, passed away on September 4, 2026, in his home. Born in Webster, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late John and Frances (Stelmack) McCormac. A local golf enthusiast, John’s friends and fellow golfers called him “The Legend.” When he wasn’t on the golf course, John worked for the State of Connecticut for the Department of Transportation. He also served in the Army National Guard as a Sergeant for many years. John is predeceased by his wife, Dorothy (Murphy) McCormac, his sisters Patricia Lohneiss and Maureen McMerriman, and his brother Paul McCormac. John is survived by two daughters, Paige McCormac of Daytona Beach, FL, and Nancy McCormac Carr (Daniel) of Mikado, MI; his grandson Nathan Kelly of Ft. Myers, FL; his sisters Jane Lopresti (Paul) and Kathleen Espinosa (William); and six stepchildren. Services for John will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, P.O. Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260. For the memorial guestbook, visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.



Roberta “Bobbi” Mullen, 66



Roberta “Bobbi” Mullen, 66, of Rogers, CT, was called home to be with the Lord on September 9, 2026. She was born on December 20, 1959, in Putnam, CT, the daughter of the late John and Flora (Hiscock) Mullen. She is survived by her sisters Flora Houle and Patricia Rowell, and her brothers Joseph and Laurence Mullen. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews, including Linda Spooner and her husband Josh, and Karen Houle and her husband Craig Dauphinais. Bobbi shared a particularly close bond with Linda and Karen. She also had two devoted great-nieces: Paige and Violet Spooner. She was predeceased by her partner of over 30 years, Patrick Galvin; her brother-in-law Roland Houle; her brother Michael Mullen; and her dear friend

Shannon Labonte. For over 30 years, Bobbi served as a para-professional in Killingly Public Schools. The students affectionately referred to her as “Miss Bobbi.” She was also a school bus monitor for the town of Killingly. She enjoyed crafting, spending time with her family, and watching NASCAR with Patrick. Bobbi was kind, generous, and fiercely loyal to her family and friends. The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff at ARK Healthcare and Rehabilitation at Governor’s House in Simsbury, CT, for the compassionate care and kindness they provided to Bobbi over the past year. A Private Service will be held in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson, with arrangements entrusted to Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a charity of your choice. Share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com

Send all obituary notices to
Villager Newspapers, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to
obits@stonebridgepress.news

BOE
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award.

“She goes above and beyond and is always smiling. She is recognized by our students, our family, the faculty and staff – I think

what else stands out about her is her advocacy for her colleagues and her students and her kind heart,” Lannon said. The final recognition of the night was for Community Engagement Coordinator Kristine Cicchetti who has been a vital leader of the

Community Engagement Committee which serves as a bridge between Killingly Public Schools and the public helping students and community members engage with each other beyond the limits of the classroom. Board of Education mem-

ber Kevin Marcoux noted how significant Cicchetti has been to the growth of that program. “I always say sometimes we’re our own worst enemies not getting the word out for all these great things that we do, and you had all these great ideas and

the committee had all these great ideas but it took a leader to put it all together and we thank you for a wonderful job,” he told Cicchetti. For her part, Cicchetti provided a short presentation about the different initiatives the Community

Engagement Committee has championed, including community night in August, which have helped students learn more about the opportunities in Killingly and how they can be a bigger part of making their town great.

DOWNES
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Downes has had many opportunities to achieve a c c o m p l i s h m e n t s during military service. “My proudest accomplishment in the Navy is earn-

ing my ‘Wings’ because it took almost two years of flight school, and it is not something that anyone can achieve,” Downes said. “I am also proud of becoming a P-8 mission commander. Knowing that the plane is my responsibility and that I’m in charge of how the crew performs is a pretty proud

accomplishment for me.” Downes serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation’s prosperity and security. “Serving in the Navy means sacrificing part of yourself for the better-

ment of the country and your team,” Downes said. Downes is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible. “I want to thank my wife, Alyssa, for her support throughout multiple deployments and flight school,” Downes added.

“Her support means everything to me. She is a doctor and completed her residency while I was going through flight school. I also want to thank my parents, Robert and Mary.” This year, the Navy is commemorating its contribution to the nation’s defense as the United States celebrates

250 years of independence. According to Navy officials, for more than 250 years, the Navy has sailed the globe defending freedom and protecting prosperity. For more information, visit: <https://www.navy.mil/navy-250/>

UNDERWOODS
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East Greenbush, N.Y., where they parked their car. This time, they began an eight-day, 413-mile bicycle ride west to the Niagara River in Buffalo, N.Y. They averaged 51 miles per day. However, there was one long day of 75 miles which included a strong headwind. The weather was nice except for one day where they encountered two thunderstorms.

The first day was on a Monday. At 4 a.m. in the morning, it was up and off to East Greenbush. Then an urban ride north on a paved trail to Waterford, where they viewed the eastern end of the Erie Canal. Then west to Amsterdam along the Mohawk River.



Trisha Underwood at beginning of journey.



New York’s Erie Canal.



The Empire State Trail along the Erie Canal.

Tuesday was another ride on a paved trail to Herkimer. Wednesday, the trail changed to stone-dust to Rome. Thursday was their long 75-mile day to Weedsport. Friday was an easy day to Newark. So far, the weather was warm and sunny.

However, Saturday was a cloudy day. As they were traveling along the canal south of Rochester, this is where they encountered the two thunderstorms on their way to Brockport. Luckily, they were able to

shelter under picnic shelters both times. Sunday was a lovely day along the canal to Lockport. On their way they passed the northern most point of the Erie Canal. During Monday they rode on paved trails to the Niagara River in Buffalo. Then turned around and rode back to Lockport. Tuesday morning, they rented a car which brought them back to their car. Then home.

Riding a bicycle over four-hundred miles along New York State’s Erie Canal is not an afternoon in the park. It takes a lot of planning and preparation, and a measure of good luck. However, they have completed the journey twice with many memories and stories to tell.

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