



"Oh, the places you'll go!" - Dr. Seuss

# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Friday, February 21, 2025

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## ROTARIAN HONORED

Last week, Amanda Kelly, the current director of the Hale Youth and Family Center (YMCA) in Putnam, announced her appointment as the Chief Operating Officer for the YMCA of Greater Providence. Unfortunately, with this new position in Providence, she will not be able to continue as a Putnam Rotarian. At the Feb. 4 meeting, the Rotary Club of Putnam honored Amanda Kelly for her service to the club and our community. Doug Porter, the current president of the Rotary Club of Putnam, presented Kelly with a framed proclamation from the club for her nine years of service including service as the club president for 2023-2024, the club's 100th birthday. Porter said, "The club will miss Amanda's energetic participation in the club's activities and the community and wishes Amanda success in her new position in Providence."

## Subcommittee explores evolving Brooklyn's emergency services

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — The Town of Brooklyn is examining ways to create a more efficient emergency service model as local fire departments continue to struggle with a lack of volunteers and resources.

The Brooklyn Board of Fire Commissioners has created a subcommittee with the purpose of exploring "strategic foresight of fire protection." The idea is to determine the best course of action to help keep local department's staffed and potentially implement new models to move away from a volunteer

approach.

David Lee, a Board of Finance Liaison on the Brooklyn Board of Fire Commissioners, provided an update on the subcommittee's work during a town forum on Feb. 4 where he explained their mission statement is to explore the future projects and sustainability of emergency services in town. They are charged with examining all possibilities to enhance the service and create a dependable force of first responders and how that may force Brooklyn to change its approach from a budgetary standpoint.

"The committee is poised to drive that conversation in the commu-

nity and move towards ensuring safety and resilience," said Lee. "Part of that is an assessment and engagement process in which they're going to conduct a review of the existing emergency service model including fire and EMS, evaluating strengths, challenges, staffing levels, training and response times, solicit feedback from stakeholders including volunteer members, community leaders, and residents to understand the needs and expectations of these services in the community, and explore alternatives. As part of that there's going to be a funding request."

Turn To **EMERGENCY** page A9

## Thompson Public Schools holding annual Cereal Challenge

THOMPSON — Join Thompson Public Schools in Cereal Challenge 2025!

What is the Cereal Challenge? Spearheaded by the Tourtellotte Memorial High School (TMHS) Marketing classes, with assistance from the Future Business Leaders of America, the Thompson Public Schools are once again holding a Cereal Challenge. The goal this year is to gather 2,700 boxes of cereal.

Once all the boxes of cereal are gathered, the final activity of the Cereal Challenge is a domino display. It's being held on March 7, which happens to be National Cereal Day!

The domino toppling begins in TMHS, running down the stairs, into the middle school, throughout their halls and concluding at the entrance to the Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Kelli Langer, TMHS business teacher shared: Turn To **CHALLENGE** page A9

## Interact Club is everywhere



PUTNAM — Winter doesn't slow the Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club. On Jan. 25, June Ferraro and Sofia Thurber, co-presidents of the Interact Club, gave a beautiful speech at the MLK luncheon at the Living Faith United Methodist church in Putnam. They spoke about how Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream is still relevant today. They explained how the Rotary's 4 way test and MLK's dream blend together perfectly (speech follows at the end of this story).

Feb. 1, the Interact Club assisted the Quinebaug Valley Rotaract Club with its Trivia Night fund-raiser. Interact Club members helped with check in, sold raffle tickets, served dinner and were table runners. The Rotaract Club made \$7,100 toward its scholarship fund.

Feb. 8, Interactors carved a huge block of ice at the Putnam Fire & Ice event in hopes of receiving donations for their International project, The Heifer Fund. The club's goal is to purchase some animals through the Heifer Fund for families in underdeveloped countries to serve as a sustainable food source.

The Interact Club meets at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday at the Putnam Library from September through May. For more information contact Rotarian

Turn To **INTERACT** page A9

## Killingly Town Manager announces resignation

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly Town Manager Mary Calorio has tendered her resignation as she prepares to take a new position in the region.

Calorio made the emotional announcement at the Town Council's Feb. 11 meeting. While her contract requires a shorter transition period, Calorio decided to negotiate with her future employer for a longer stay with the town to help it through budget season, setting May 5 as her final day.

"It has been my honor to serve as the town manager for the town of Killingly for the last six years. This is a phenomenal community that I greatly respect. The staff that is here is an amazing group. I will surely miss them," said Calorio.

Town Council Chair Jason Anderson echoed the sentiments of many Council members that Calorio's departure will be a significant loss for the town.

"I've learned a lot from you on my time in the Council and I know how dedicated you are to this community," Anderson told Calorio. "I do appreciate you giving us this extended notice. I know it's something you didn't have to do and it just goes to speak to your character."

The announcement coincidentally came in the same meeting where Calorio was challenged by Council member Ed Grandelski and others who felt that certain orders from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding a project on Hartford Pike were not being followed. While he wasn't the only Council member to comment on the issue, Grandelski was the most vocal. Calorio defended against the accusations saying the situation was handled in a manner consistent with the consultation of the Department of Transportation and that Grandelski's statements were "unfounded and unwarranted." She clarified however that her resignation was unrelated to the accusations. Even then, it was difficult for some to separate that contentious debate, one of several over the last year between the Town Administrator and Council members, from Calorio's announcement.

One Council member, Patti Larrow George, expressed her frustration with Calorio's treatment and how it may have impacted her decision to leave.

"It's a great loss to this town and there are people sitting at that table that should be looking in the mirror as to why we've lost people," said George. "Maybe people who only sit there twice a month and don't do the job should consider what goes into these positions. It's going to be a great loss to Killingly and there's going to be a lot more fallout than you realize."

Calorio recommended that the town consider hiring an outside Interim Town Administrator to fill the vacancy while they seek a permanent hire. In the days after handing in her resignation it was announced that Calorio had taken a new position with NECCOG.





# Killingly track's best battle at States



BY MARK NEUMAN  
HEAD COACH  
KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

**KILLINGLY** — On Thursday, Feb. 13, Killingly Indoor Track & Field team competed at Hill House for States. This is where the best of the best come to compete that have qualified in Division M in Connecticut. There are 45 high schools that took to the track to compete! Killingly sent four of our best to battle and do competition!

Izayah Molodich battled a field of 61 in the 55-meter dash. He flew finishing sub 7 seconds at 6.99 and finished in 29th place! Aveion Adams battled in the 55-meter dash as well flying in his heat to finish with a time of 7.15s and finishing 54th! He was also battling in the Long Jump where he took on a field of 36 and finished 21st flying in the air for 18 feet, 7 inches.

Cooper Logee was battling in the Long Jump also where he flew for 17 feet 6.75 inches and also battled in the High Jump finishing 11th soaring to a height of 5 feet 8 inches!

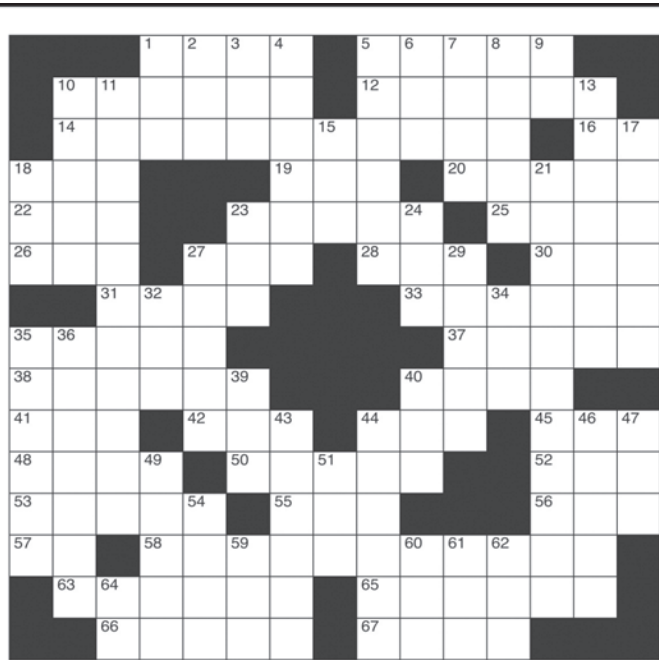
Jeremiah Smith battled hard in the 55m Hurdles, mowed down the competition to finish 2nd! We are hopeful that his time SHOULD move him into State-Opens next Thursday! He also flew in the Long Jump, finishing 15th with a distance of 19 feet, 5 inches. And in the High Jump, he pulled off his best superman pose flying in the air 5 feet 8 inches to finish 9th!

Absolutely great job, all; you left it on the track & field all season to represent. You have always represented yourselves and Killingly proud! Well done all, and great season! On to State Opens Thursday, Feb. 20!



## VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Feb. 10: Bluebird, Barred Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Junco, Flicker, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Mockingbird, White-throated Sparrow, Blue Jay, Crow, Goldfinch.  
Visit [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home).



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tropical Asian plant
- 5. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 10. Helps to preserve food
- 12. Plant disease
- 14. One who predicts
- 16. Equally
- 18. Burundian franc
- 19. Pouch
- 20. Arizona city
- 22. Surround
- 23. Hard, heavy timber
- 25. Witnessed
- 26. They \_\_\_
- 27. French river
- 28. A way to drink
- 30. Small constellation
- 31. Peruse a written work
- 33. Type of hound
- 35. Plant of the goosefoot family
- 37. Evade or escape
- 38. A way to confine
- 40. Volcanic crater
- 41. Weekday
- 42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
- 44. Local area network
- 45. Sensory receptor
- 48. Posted
- 50. Tibetan pastry
- 52. Licensed for Wall Street
- 53. Very willing
- 55. Golf score
- 56. Consume
- 57. Touchdown
- 58. Tends to remind
- 63. In a way, smoothed
- 65. Poke holes in the ground
- 66. Herbaceous plants
- 67. Taiwanese river

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body art
- 2. Boxing's GOAT
- 3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Calculating machine
- 6. Keyboard key
- 7. Outburst
- 8. Man-eating giants
- 9. New Hampshire
- 10. Type of sword
- 11. Counting
- 13. Pants style
- 15. Political action committee
- 17. U.S. government legislative branch
- 18. Civil Rights Act component
- 21. Contractors take one
- 23. Spanish soldier
- 24. A person's brother or sister
- 27. Expressed pleasurer
- 29. Song of praise
- 32. Shock treatment
- 34. Patti Hearst's captors
- 35. Counteract
- 36. Goes over again
- 39. Popular Dodge truck
- 40. Male adult
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Rope used to lasso
- 46. Become less intense
- 47. Subway rodent
- 49. Lead alloy
- 51. Japanese honorific title
- 54. Advise someone
- 59. Famous NYC museum
- 60. Ocean
- 61. Cathode-ray tube
- 62. Cologne
- 64. It starts with these two

### PUZZLE SOLUTION



## Killingly hoop girls fall to Windham

**KILLINGLY** — Killingly Girls Basketball (9-11) was led in a loss against Windham (19-1) behind 8 points and 11 rebounds from Ariahna Headen, while Amaya Spadola added 8 points and 11 rebounds!

Final Score: Windham 73, Killingly 32.  
Aniya Jenkins had 18 points, while Jaelize Rivera had 21 points for Windham.

## Thompson Lions to host roast pork dinner

**THOMPSON** — The Thompson Lions Club will host a roast pork dinner at \$15 per meal Saturday, March 8, from 5-7 p.m. at American Legion Post 67, 17 Thompson Hill Rd.

The menu includes roast pork, salad, potato, vegetable, and dessert, with all proceeds to benefit the Thompson Lions Club.

## Quiet Corner Garden Club announces 2025 Symposium

**DANIELSON** — The Quiet Corner Garden Club will host "Growing Gardeners 2025," a Symposium, on April 5. The Symposium will be held at CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley, (QVCC), 742 Upper Maple St., Danielson, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Healthy Plants, Healthy People, Healthy Planet."

Join us for an informative, fun-filled day as we explore topics such as "Pollinators and Native Plants," "Herbs," "No-Till Gardening," "Seed Starting," "The Home Medicine Chest," "Habitats for Attracting Birds," "Mushroom Foraging," and more! Browse our nature inspired vendors and informative exhibits. Meet local farmers and sample their products. Giveaways and door prizes add to the fun!

Tickets are limited. A box lunch is available for an additional charge. For more information and to buy tickets, go to [www.quietcornergardenclub.com](http://www.quietcornergardenclub.com).

## 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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# Vanilla Bean Café hosts Pomfret Historical Society Fireside Chats

POMFRET — The Friday, Feb. 21 fireside Chat at The Vanilla Bean Café will be about “Pomfret’s Six Villages and School Houses,” presented by Donna Dufresne and Walter Hinchman of the Pomfret Historical Society. This is the second Fireside Chat scheduled for the winter months.

Hinchman and Dufresne will discuss the distinctive six different villages and share interesting stories about some of the people and the school buildings from the 18th & 19th centuries. Slideshow includes vintage photographs and documents from the Pomfret Historical Society Archives. Anyone interested in local history is welcome. Pomfret has close ties to the history of Woodstock, Putnam, Killingly, and Brooklyn. Bring your questions, stories, and family memorabilia to share. A \$10 donation is welcome to benefit the Pomfret Historical Society. For more information contact Donna



Dufresne, Pomfret Historical Society, windsong@snet.net

On Jan. 17, the Vanilla Bean Café hosted the first Fireside Chat about local history offered by Pomfret Historical Society. Although bitterly cold outside, the house was packed with those who were curious to learn about Pomfret’s rich history going back to the mid-1700’s. The cozy venue known for its food, hospitality, and music provided the perfect ambiance for a time-travel journey about the property where the Vanilla Bean now stands, led by local historians, Walter Hinchman and Donna Dufresne.

The Fireside Chat Programs are presented by the Pomfret Historical Society on the third Fridays of the month in January, February, and March at the Vanilla Bean Café 450 Deerfield Rd., Pomfret Center; at 7 p.m. Full menu and beverages are available from the Café.

## February is Heart Health Month: Here’s what you need to know

BY RICHARD SOUCIER, MD, FACC  
CARDIOLOGIST  
DAY KIMBALL HEALTH, THE HEART GROUP

As a cardiologist at Day Kimball Health, I see firsthand how heart disease affects people from all walks of life. It remains the leading cause of death in the United States, yet so much of it is preventable. Heart Health Awareness Month is the perfect time to take a step back and think about what we can all do to protect our hearts and live longer, healthier lives.

### Know your numbers

One of the most important steps you can take is to know your numbers—blood pressure, cholesterol, and other key health markers. High blood pressure, often called the “silent killer,” can go unnoticed

for years, doing serious damage before symptoms appear. The same goes for high cholesterol, which can lead to blocked arteries and increase the risk of heart attacks.

At your next check-up, ask your doctor about your numbers and what they mean for your heart health. Managing these risk factors early can prevent problems down the road.

Improving heart health doesn’t require drastic changes—small, consistent efforts make a big difference. A few key habits can significantly lower your risk of heart disease:

**Stay active:** Aim for at least two hours of moderate exercise per week. Something as simple as walking daily can improve circulation and strengthen your heart.

**Eat a heart-healthy diet:** Focus on whole foods like fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains. Reducing processed foods and

excessive sugar helps keep cholesterol and blood pressure in check.

**Quit smoking:** This is one of the single best things you can do for your heart. Smoking damages blood vessels and significantly increases the risk of heart disease.

**Manage stress and sleep:** Chronic stress and poor sleep can contribute to high blood pressure and other heart problems. Finding ways to relax—whether through meditation, exercise, or simply taking time for yourself—can go a long way.

**Maintain Good Oral Health:** Poor dental hygiene can lead to gum disease, which increases inflammation in the body and raises the risk of heart disease. Brush and floss daily, schedule regular dental check-ups, and watch for signs of gum disease like bleeding or swollen gums.

Clearing up common myths

There are a lot of misconceptions about heart

health, and I often find myself debunking the same myths.

Heart disease isn’t just for older people. The process of developing heart disease starts much earlier than most people realize. Preventative care should start in your 30s or even sooner if you have risk factors.

Supplements aren’t a substitute for medical care. There’s little scientific evidence to support the effectiveness of many over-the-counter supplements for heart health. It’s always best to stick with proven medical treatments.

An aspirin a day isn’t for everyone. While aspirin therapy can help some people, it’s not a blanket recommendation anymore. The risks can outweigh the benefits for those without a history of heart disease.

The way we diagnose and

treat heart disease has improved dramatically over the past few decades. Surviving a heart attack today is far more likely than it was 20 years ago, and conditions like heart failure can now be managed much more effectively.

At Day Kimball Health, we’re bringing the latest advancements in cardiology to our community. From new medications to minimally invasive procedures like transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), we’re making it easier for patients to receive high-quality heart care close to home.

heart health

The best advice I can give is that it’s never too early—or too late—to make heart-healthy changes. If you smoke, quit. If you don’t exercise, start moving. If you don’t know your numbers, make an appointment with your doctor. These simple steps can go a long way in protecting your heart and improving your quality of life.

This Heart Health Month, take control of your health. Your heart—and your future—will thank you.

## Salve Regina University announces Dean’s List

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following students were named to the Dean’s List during the fall 2024 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Livia Armstrong of Woodstock Mallory Tyimok of Pomfret Center Cassidy Wilson of Danielson Ella Davis of Brooklyn Ella Mandeville of Dayville Gianna Ormstead of Dayville Cassidy Wilson of Danielson

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. For more than 75 years, Salve has offered rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 master’s degree programs, combined bachelor’s/master’s programs, and doctoral programs.

Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year transformational program through which they develop the experience, skills, and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy, and ideas. For more information, visit [salve.edu](http://salve.edu).

## Paws Cat Shelter Shop to help homeless cats

PUTNAM — The Paws Cat Shelter Shop located at 74 School St., Putnam, will be open Saturday, March 1 from noon – 3 p.m. New items and handcrafts will be available. Adoptable cats will be available for viewing. All proceeds to help the shelter.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more info or to make a monetary donation, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

### Team Mass Boys & Girls Aau Basketball Tryouts

**Cost: \$30** Covers both tryouts (players get t-shirt)  
**Aau card \$25** (purchase on our website, well pull them)

**Tryout # 1: February 22, 2025**  
**Location: Tantasqua Jr High School** (320 Brookfield Rd Fiskdale Ma)

- **Boys Grades 4th-6th** 8:30am-9:40am
- **Boys Grades 7th & 8th** 9:45am-10:55 am
- **Boys Grades 9th-12th** 11 am-12:10 pm
- **Girls Grades 4th-6th** 12:15 pm- 1:25 pm
- **Girls Grades 7th-8th** 1:30 pm-2:40 pm
- **Girls Grades 9th-12th** 2:45 pm- 4 pm

**Tryout # 2: March 1, 2025**  
**Location: Oxford High School** (100 Carbuncle Dr Oxford Ma)

- **Boys Grades & Girls Grades 4th-6th** (9am-10:25 am)
- **Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th** (10:30 am-11:55 am)
- **Boys and Girls Grades 9th-12th** (12 pm-1:30 pm)

Pre Register/pay on website: [teammassbasketball.com](http://teammassbasketball.com)  
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## Job change?

Whether retiring or changing jobs, you’ll want to know your retirement account options.

There are four potential options for your 401(k) when leaving an employer:

- Leave it in your former employer’s 401(k) plan, if allowed by the plan.
- Move it to your new employer’s 401(k) plan, if you’ve changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.

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Financial Advisor

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EDITOR

# Baby, it's cold outside

Newsflash: it's cold. Our little neck of the woods here has finally hit frigid sub-zero temperatures. Folks may be running low on fuel, or even running empty, causing frozen pipes to burst. Fuel companies are scheduled two weeks out in some cases, and several customers are feeling stressed due to the financial burden this cold weather brings. Our only advice is to hold on tight and think about how toasty things will be when temperatures soar into the teens and low 20s again.

The winter solstice on Dec. 21 has passed, and the days are getting longer... and, we hope, sunnier. One perk to this post-New Year's time is that, well, the holidays are over. The hustle and bustle starts in late November and doesn't calm down until the week following New Year's. Is it overrated? Maybe. We hope you are all able to relax in the days ahead.

When weather hits sub-zero, it's hard to remember why we live here. We live in New England because winter, for the most part, is fun and manageable. We love our snow sports, the smell of wood stoves cranking and the beauty of the snow-capped mountains.

Some of you may think of our ancestors who had to cut chords of wood by hand all year long just to prepare for the harsh New England winters. Houses way back when had no insulation or the walls were stuffed with straw and mud. Common houses were much smaller, therefore easier to keep heated with one wood stove. The fireplace was the focal point of a colonial home and was the place where family members would talk and work on small projects during the evening. The average size of a house according to today's standards is about 2,600 square feet. A home of that size hundreds of years ago was often occupied by the wealthy, who were able to afford to put a wood stove in each room of the house. Children of ten slept in lofts where the heat would rise and often shared a bed with siblings, using body heat to keep warm.

In days of old, people used thick curtains and down comforters to keep the heat in. Before bedtime, many would use a bed warmer, which was a brass pan with a long handle that was filled with hot rocks. Foot warmers were popular as well. These fancy contraptions were made of a wood framed tin box also with heated rocks that would be placed by the feet under the comforter. This heating method was used for trips in the horse and buggy as well. Church goers would bring their own boxes of heat and blankets to keep warm during a Sunday service.

Important to note is the fact that over the years humans have increasingly adapted to warmer weather as a result of modern technology. Our ancestors were able to withstand much colder temperatures and remain more comfortable in colder temperatures than we do today. All of that aside, we are pretty lucky to have the conveniences we do during these cold blasts.

Since winter is not nearly over, here are a few tips with regard to winter survival. Avoid frost bite and frost nip at all costs. When the water molecules in your skin cells freeze, they die. Once this happens, they can cause damage to your muscular and nervous systems. Exposed skin can develop frostbite within 30 minutes with winds of 10 mph and a temperature of -5 degrees. If you are outside and find your hands freezing, the warmest place for them to go is under your armpits, the warmest part of your body.

Another culprit is hypothermia. When your body hits 95 degrees you're entering the danger zone. When your organs start to drop in temperature they begin to shut down. If you notice yourself shivering or lacking coordination, it's time to get warm fast. Other more severe symptoms include low energy, difficulty speaking, a weak pulse and the cessation of the shivers. It's important to stay well nourished during any time spent outside, as your body needs that energy to stay warm. Always have a Snickers bar or something similar handy just in case. Staying hydrated is a must as you need water to keep your nervous system running properly. One rule of thumb is to never eat snow while trying to survive in frigid temperatures. Your body will be forced to warm it from the inside which wastes energy and can cause hypoglycemia. Try to keep your heart rate up as cold temperatures cause your heart rate to decrease. A higher heart rate will generate heat within your body however be sure not to do so much that you start to sweat, cold and sweat are never a good combination.

We hope none of you ever find yourselves in a situation where you need to implement any of the information above, however knowledge is power. Stay warm, summertime is just about six months away, where we will of course crank the air conditioning and complain about the heat and humidity.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It's an overthrow of democracy

To the Editor:

Trump/Musk are trying to destroy the organizational infrastructure of the agencies and departments they have gutted, so that they can never be rebuilt – and that is exactly what Trump/Musk intend. Even if they lose every court case, it won't matter. Trump/Musk are openly defying court orders and lying about their activities. We must assume that they are maximizing chaos and will never show any restraint. Their track records tell us that they are not just reading our data, they are downloading it and injecting new code into key systems. They are not just redirecting the CIA, the NSA and the FBI toward revenge against Trump's 2020 "enemies," they are transforming these agencies into KGB-like forces that will provide the muscle in their authoritarian regime.

I beg you all to recognize the full extent of their ambition. We need to impose parliamentary obstacles, yes. But that is not enough. We need to whip fellow Democrats and Independents into unity like they've never been whipped before. We cannot afford indecision or fear. If 500 protestors show up outside the USAID building, with press

in tow, Trump/Musk's gang will be overwhelmed. And you can bet patriotic citizens will occupy the building to keep them out. Even if we don't regain access, broadcasting that video will send a powerful message.

We must exploit every speck of leverage we have. If Republicans want to shut down the government, let them. At this point, it doesn't matter who the public blame, or if our leaders are primaried in 2022. Trump/Musk have given us no reason to believe that they will allow future elections. It's about slowing or preventing the destruction of our Constitutional government.

We need to identify a shadow cabinet who will publicize truthful information about their areas of expertise, and begin planning for rebuilding should we prevail.

The case for the impeachment of all of these thugs is building. There certainly are grounds. Surely there are a few legislators across the aisle who have doubts about our Brave New World.

With great determination and hope,

ROBIN LOFQUIST

DANIELSON

### Collective resistance is called for

To the Editor:

Trump wielding executive powers (legitimate or not) to free convicted seditionists; to attempt to manipulate the system so corrupt government officials with pending criminal cases are not tried in court; and to appoint a sycophant billionaire to reconfigure federal agencies to his advantage has to be viewed as the actions of a wannabe monarch. His implicit MAGA message is a return to widespread advantages for the powerful, the rich, and his personal "soldiers."

Many who voted for him and are not part

of those groups, who bet on him making their lives financially better at any cost and regardless of his poor character, may now be asking themselves if they have a problem on their hands. I hope they arrive at that conclusion and speak out against the injustice and danger we are all now facing.

Collective, organized protest, along with courts and judges who serve according to the law as opposed to a "ruler," is what is called for in these troubling times.

PATRICIA SUSLA

WOODSTOCK

### A message to the military

To the Editor:

Democracy is the ultimate symbol of our American excellence. Democracy allows our society to be innovative and surpass expectations. We are able to grow as a people and experience all of the joy, sorrow, excitement, and disappointment life holds in store without an authoritarian figure telling us how to act. We have also cultivated the greatest military force in the world. Our strength as a culture has passed onto our military since the Revolution. Our armed forces have been our sword and shield, leading us into prosperity and bringing about our American Excellence. This is why I want to reach out to our military and ask for their assurance.

America is in its most divided era of politics since the civil rights movement, and we have started to see the results of political division. Our government is being challenged by forces from the outside in, and the possibilities of fascism are terrifying and more real than ever. We are divided in our politics, but we must face this challenge together. America needs its military and police to be the bulwark against tyranny. They have succeeded in beating down fascist threats to our democracy before. Now we need their insurance more than ever. The most lethal fighting force in the world is needed to uphold our democratic norms. And I won't forget our police. They need to do what they can to protect our community values and uphold peace, but protecting the Constitution is a close second.

When I talk about protecting our democratic values, I mean protecting the Constitution. That is the most fundamental aspect of our society that needs to be upheld. Our rights as people come first and foremost, and this is a task I believe the armed forces can easily complete. However, the structure

of our government is equally as important. The balance of power is being challenged, and we are closing in on a Constitutional crisis. The choice to follow orders is key to upholding these values. If the Supreme Court declares an act is unconstitutional, their word is law. If the President orders that these orders be ignored, the choice becomes yours. We need to have you; the enlisted Army sergeant, Marine private, local police officer, and Air Force veteran, stand for democracy when others cannot.

I understand that America has never been completely dedicated to serving our military in the same way they serve us. I come from a military family as the proud son of an enlisted Air Force veteran. I understand that the military experience is not glamorous or inherently rewarded by society. I have talked with veterans who society rejected once they ended their service. The negative experiences some Americans have had with police and military members in the past fuel our misconceptions and feelings. We forget that just as our military needs us, we need them.

Our society needs to rethink our relationship with the military. We need to forge greater ties between civilians and military personnel. We need to treat our veterans with respect and give them back what they gave to serve our country. We let billionaires and mega corporations hoard wealth while many enlisted personnel and police are paid the lowest possible wages. If our military and police are to serve and protect our democracy and Constitution, we need to support them in every way possible. Remember that, Democrats.

DEDRICK BAUBLITZ

THOMPSON

### Politicizing eggs is stupid

To the Editor:

Welcome to 2020s America, where we politicize everything but the kitchen sink (until kitchen sinks get politicized of course). On today's episode - eggs! Oh, where do we begin with this one? In our current egg hysteria's most extreme form, I've seen pictures of "skyrocketing egg prices" on the Internet where the sticker shock price tag says "free range organic eggs." Yes. And? Those eggs would cost far more than most any ways because of being free range and organic. As usual, the internet is the internet. It is not a hivemind of human intelligence - it's more like a sewer of humanity's lowest common denominator. The Internet is also really good at distorting things and making fringe cases look mainstream and common.

Normal egg prices are up, but it's not some evil Trump or Biden master plan at making us hate chickens. It's simply bird flu.

Yet again, inflation is caused by too much money chasing too few goods and services. One way to create too few goods and services is to have a disruption in supply, as we saw during the Covid pandemic, when supply chains were disrupted due to various reasons. Today it's a much simpler situation. Bird flu is ripping through poultry farms, and the strains going around are evolving to infect mammals, so some cows are being affect-

ed too. In some cases, it jumps from livestock to a human, making me wonder when it'll start jumping from human to human. Either way, the shock and awe inflation numbers I'm seeing for eggs and beef don't surprise me.

When Trump talked about lowering grocery prices on the campaign trail, he was once again taking advantage of stuff his merry MAGAs don't know — a master stroke to mass-brainwash the normally pro-private sector anti-government party into cheering for socialism, which is what it would be if Trump had the government strangle the private sector to bring prices down. Don't tell MAGAs though. That just gives them a headache. I wouldn't have a problem with it though, since most economies are mixed market anyways and I don't think our people should suffer because of some rhetoric in our heads that we want to stick to.

We could have the Federal Trade Commission make sure egg companies are really dealing with bird flu and not just blaming bird flu while manipulating the market to milk consumers...if Elon Musk and his DOGE buddies haven't fired all the regulators yet.

JAY GERHART

PUTNAM

# Winter normal

Day after bone-chilling day, it is clear that we are having a real winter, much like those we used to know.

There are ice floes like glaciers glistening in the brief moments of sunshine along my driveway and piled up by public plow drivers at icy inter-

sections. We have to relearn how to steer a car into a skid and slow down on slick roads, although that lesson seems lost on many of the other drivers I encounter. Cars have gotten so much better in navigating in snow, but nothing really works on glare ice. And so, at least for a day or so, we hunker down and enjoy the winter. It feels comforting to believe momentarily that all is moving in a predictable pattern.

It is February after all, and no matter how much the wind howls and the ice slams against the kitchen window, spring is slowly inching toward us in the simple accretion of nearly three more minutes of light every day. The birds know it, and even on the coldest mornings hop around with renewed vigor. I've stopped filling our feeders with sunflower seeds and suet, as I don't want to infect the flock of domestic chicken that live next door with Avian Influenza. From what I've read, the possibility of spreading infection is low, but for the moment anyway, I'm leaving the feeders empty and thus unvisited. I miss the array of birds that dropped by on a regular basis.

School closings and late openings of businesses invariably lead people to say that we are becoming soft or overly cautious. Perhaps we are or have changed our attitudes as to what is a reasonable risk and what is not. We became accustomed to zoom meetings and iPad lessons. We may have thought struggling through the snow built one's character or hair-raising bus rides were good for the riders and the drivers. Some things can't be done from home or on-line, but many can. Besides, what is better than an unplanned day to haul out the sleds and the snowshoes. Memories are made from moments when we experience the surprising. One afternoon on a snowy hillside can ground us for a lifetime.

Last night, the wind was howling and snow was blowing off the roof. It reminded me, as it always does, of the Robert Frost poem, "An Old Man's Winter Night." I especially like two lines: "A light he was to no one but himself..." Can any words better portray isolation and age? And then after a log shifts in the stove and disturbs his sleep: "One aged man-one man- can't fill a house/A farm, a countryside, or if he can,/It's thus he does it of a winter night." I hear the wood settling every time.

The forsythia I picked at our daughter's home is showing off its yellow finery in a cut-glass vase on our dining room table. Every year, I snip armfuls in two-week intervals to create an early spring display. The flowers, smaller than when they blossom outside, are bright jewels. A handful of quince, which will send out coral flowers, is another harbinger. Soon witch hazel and pussy willows, which I find more difficult to locate in the wild than I did once, will catch my eye as I drive on a back road. With my clippers at the ready on the front seat I'll stop and snip as many as I dare.

We have to take comfort where we can find it. The turmoil of the manmade world rolls on. Wild winter weather feels encompassing and normal.



NANCY WEISS



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Musk Derangement Syndrome is setting in

To the Editor:  
Remember when you bought Teslas because they were an electric vehicle, a status symbol, and as such, you were going to help save the planet? But now that Musk has aligned himself with Trump, dolts have become less supportive and more abusive. In addition to seeing pictures of graffiti spraypainted on Teslas, a Massachusetts doctor and owner of a Tesla Cybertruck said that drivers are now shouting at him and throwing him the finger; his patients are canceling their appointments, and he's received a voice message urging him to shoot himself. Isn't that a nice way to treat a "migrant" who legally immigrated here from Syria and made a successful business for himself? However, he's now considering moving out of Massachusetts, and do you think the tolerant Democrats will help set him up in some luxury hotel in NYC? A co-host on a (liberal) NPR talk-radio show program, was so proud when he bought his Tesla, but with the changing of the guard, he's become an anti-Musk mouth-piece, but then he does know who signs his paycheck. (And maybe he's since traded in his Tesla for a Chevy Volt?) And it's certainly no surprise that they're now [complaining] more about the man who exposed the fraud and the wasteful spending than at those who caused it. But I wouldn't expect anything less, and now we have Musk Derangement Syndrome. Another gripe is that Musk and Trump are among those hated rich guys, but then us wannabe's run out every week to buy our Powerball tickets.

Pokey Warren said that the voters have no right to know how their tax dollars are being spent. Really, now, and that dullard from Rhode Island, Whitehouse, had a page on Facebook showing Trump holding Putin's hand while looking at Zelensky. (And replies to that were not at all in his favor.) You would think this idiot would be working to help see an end to the war, and that

he and Pokey would at least be somewhat concerned about the unaccounted for one billion dollars of our taxpayer money that was sent to Ukraine?

A Republican senator said of Pelosi that "It must suck to be that stupid." Putting my opinion of her aside, that certainly wasn't the right thing to say if you expect any cooperation from her. Also, I think it was wrong of Trump to mention that Taylor Swift got booed while attending the Super Bowl. Every day, I get emails from right wing news sources, and the bulk of them highlight right vs. left confrontations. On the other hand, we have our own puppets like Murphy, who, when re-elected, echoed that "we are now in a fight for our democracy," and Tong, who said that "we will never surrender." On Facebook, I'm being bombarded with pages from whining Democrat politicians - the ones you didn't hear a peep from over the last four years - ringing the panic bell, and then we wonder why there is no mutual cooperation in solving problems? Maybe the "basic truth" here is that they are all part of the problem and not part of the solution? But now it's all Trump's fault, and before, it was Biden's, and if you really believe that one side is totally right, and that the other is totally wrong, I'd say you have no right to question my grey matter because you're a totally brain-washed fool!..In my opinion. Additionally, Facebook constantly has sore-loser pages popping up like "Occupy Democrats" and "We hate Trump" that parrot the same old stuff that I've read here; and yes, they also know all the words.

Yes, we all should be concerned about where we're headed, but if hating Trump, or his Cabinet picks, has become the focus of your every waking moment, besides being candidates for a rubber room, I truly pity you.

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### This is how it happens

To the Editor:

I used to wonder how the events of 1933 could have happened in Germany. Not anymore.

### Communicate your concerns about QVCC

To the Editor:

My previous letter of a few weeks ago regarding the fear of losing Quinebaug Valley Community College sparked a few people to ask what they could do.

My suggestion is to email the following persons and make them aware that we are at risk of having no college in Northeast Connecticut, with disastrous effect for our Quiet Corner.

Gov. Lamont: <https://portal.ct.gov/>governor>contact>email-government>

Sen. Douglas McCrory, Education Committee Chair: [www.senatedems.ct.gov/>senator>email-contact](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/>senator>email-contact): Doug McCrory

Terence Chen, Chancellor: [CCSU-chancellor@ct.edu](mailto:CCSU-chancellor@ct.edu)

Sen. Mae Flexer: [www.senatedems.ct.gov/>senator/maeflexer](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/>senator/maeflexer)

I urge all present students, alumni and Northeast Connecticut residents to communicate their concerns. For those who do, my thanks.

FRANK ALEMAN  
DAYVILLE

### 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.

### Normalization of lawlessness

To the Editor:

Anyone who hasn't read Bruce Lyman's letter in the Feb. 14 Villager and taken some time to consider the prescient words of then-future President Abraham Lincoln would be well-advised to do so. Lincoln warned his audience against an attack on American institutions such as the one we are now witnessing.

Lincoln specifically warned about disrespect for the law and "sober judgment of Courts" that we now find rapidly unfolding under the Trump Administration. Lawlessness and corruption are becoming normal with Trump's attacks on the Constitution, our laws, the Judiciary, and the prerogatives of Congress.

Cop beaters who attacked the US Capitol at Trump's urging in January 2021 are pardoned after being convicted in US courts and hailed by Trump as "patriots" and "political prisoners."

Trump illegally issued a decree to invalidate a portion of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution regarding birthright citizenship.

Trump's Justice Department has moved to dismiss corruption charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams despite overwhelming evidence, in a transparent move to coerce Adams into violating New York law by cooperating with Trump's deportation plans. Justice Department lawyers, many of them Republicans and veterans of the military, who refused to comply with such an unethical order were forced to resign or were fired.

Kash Patel,

Trump's nominee to be Director of the FBI, wrote a book calling Trump's political adversaries "gangsters" without any proof and vowing to weaponize the department to hunt them down and prosecute them.

Trump demands personal fealty instead of loyalty to the Constitution.

Elon Musk, Trump's hatchet man, is illegally closing government offices and impounding funds that were approved by Congress. His actions are causing foods and medicines to spoil and will result in countless unnecessary deaths.

The Vice President and other MAGA sycophants are openly suggesting that Trump won't have to comply with court orders. Trump repeatedly vilifies judges that he disagrees with and their families, putting their lives in danger.

Without attribution (of course) to Norwegian neo-Nazi and mass murderer of 69, Anders Breivik, Trump quoted on Truth Social, "He who saves his Country does not violate any law." Some of us foolishly thought that idea was laid to rest in the US with Richard Nixon's resignation. Apparently, tyranny is enjoying a revival.

Normalization of lawlessness and corruption is an essential element in the march toward authoritarianism. Lincoln knew it and your readers should too. Things appear likely to get much worse but, at least, maybe the price of groceries will come down.

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY

### Local students named to Dean's Honor Roll at Wichita State University

WICHITA, Kan. — Wichita State University has announced the names of 3,865 students who were on the WSU Dean's Honor Roll for fall 2024, including Ronald N. DeGray of Woodstock.

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

About Wichita State University  
Wichita State University is Kansas' only urban public research university, enrolling more than 23,000 students between its main campus and WSU Tech, including students from every state in the U.S. and more than 100 countries. Wichita State and WSU Tech are recognized for being student centered and

innovation driven.

Located in the largest city in the state with one of the highest concentrations in the United States of jobs involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), Wichita State University provides uniquely distinctive and innovative pathways of applied learning, applied research and career opportunities for all of our students.

The Innovation Campus, which is a physical extension of the Wichita State University main campus, is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing research/innovation parks, encompassing more than 120 acres and is home to a number of global companies and organizations.

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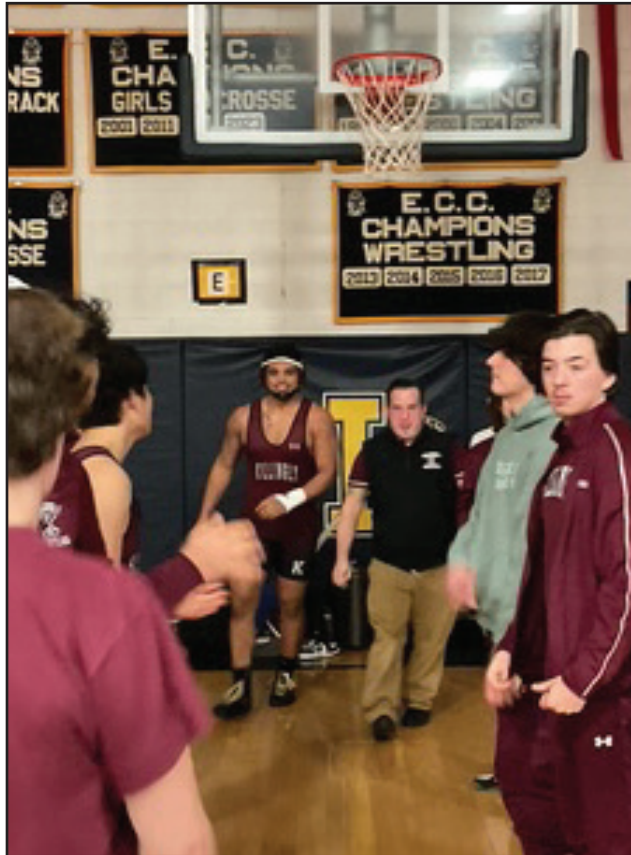


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# Killingly Wrestling



Courtesy

Killingly Wrestling posted a 41-28 win over Ledyard tonight and in the process broke the school record for wins in a season with 32. Pinning tonight were Max Richardson, Brady Zadora, Aiden Mantia, Exael Padilla and Anthony Oates. Gavin Jonaschipped in with a tech fall while Zach Phillips and Mason Connetti won by decision. Our new school record is now 32-2 and 4-0 in Division II. Next up: ECC Championships are Saturday right here in Killingly.

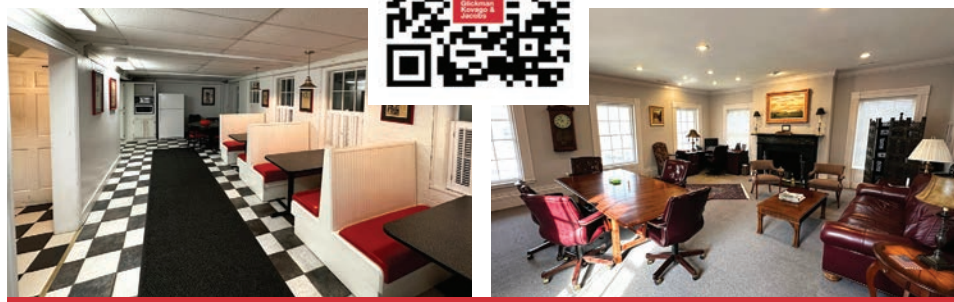


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- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



## Dean's List honors announced at Tufts University

MEDFORD, Mass. — Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

- Zachary White, Class of 2026, of Pomfret Center
- Ben Gordon, Class of 2026, of Woodstock
- Shawn Mentzer, Class of 2027, of Pomfret Center

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Tufts Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.



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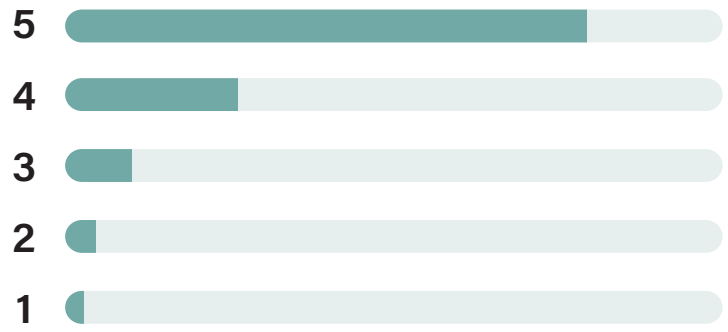




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# Avoiding financial scams at tax time and beyond

BY JAMES ZAHANSKY, AWMA®  
AND ALLISON T. POIRIER

Tax season creates prime opportunities for scammers looking to take advantage of unsuspecting individuals, particularly older adults. Here, WHZ Strategic Financial Advisors Principal/Managing Partner James Zahansky, AWMA® and KKC Law Partner Allison T. Poirier share what you need to know to protect yourself and your loved ones from financial fraud.

Avoiding scams when filing taxes

Scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their approaches. They often prey on fears about owing money to the IRS or missing important deadlines. Some of the most prevalent schemes include:

IRS impersonator calls: Some scammers pretend to be IRS agents, warning of arrest or legal consequences if instant payment isn't made. Keep in mind, the IRS does not reach out by phone, email, or text. They always start with a letter via the U.S. Postal Service.

Stolen identity tax fraud: Criminals steal Social Security numbers

to file fake tax returns and claim refunds before the actual taxpayer files. Submitting your tax return early in the season may help stop this kind of fraud.

Email phishing schemes: Emails that look like they're from the IRS or tax software firms might ask for personal information or have harmful links. They often appear very legitimate but show small warning signs, like minor spelling mistakes or strange email addresses.

Strategic steps for fraud protection

Just as we support strategic financial planning to help clients reach their goals, we suggest a strategic approach to prevent fraud. Here are key protective measures to implement:

Never share sensitive information by phone or e-mail: Financial institutions and government bodies will not request sensitive information, such as Social Security numbers, banking details, or passwords, through these means.

Implement strong digital security: Use robust, unique passwords for all financial accounts and enable two-factor

authentication whenever possible. Consider using a password manager to maintain complex passwords securely.

Monitor financial accounts regularly: Review bank and credit card statements promptly for suspicious activity. Sign up for account alerts to be notified of unusual transactions immediately.

Work with trusted professionals: Partner with qualified tax preparers and financial advisors who have established reputations and proper credentials. Ask for referrals from trusted sources and verify credentials independently.

Legal safeguards to consider

From an elder law perspective, several legal tools can provide additional protection against financial exploitation.

Durable power of attorney: This legal document lets you appoint someone you trust to handle your financial matters if you can't manage them yourself. It's important to pick a person with good financial skills and someone you can completely rely on. Since most Powers of Attorney are effective immediately (i.e. do not

require you to be incapacitated before your appointed agent can act on your behalf), they make it easy for your agent to step in and assist you if you need help.

Revocable living trust: Trusts not only ensure assets avoid probate upon your death, but they also can set clear rules for how your assets are to be managed during your lifetime and help keep an eye on financial transactions. Additionally, in the event you can no longer manage your assets, the trust will have an appointed successor trustee who can quickly step in and take over management when needed. Trusts can be a crucial planning tool for older adults who might be vulnerable to exploitation.

Conservatorship: If you are the child or loved one of an elderly person who has lost the capacity to protect himself or herself from a scammer, you may want to discuss appointing a conservator to handle your loved one's financial and legal affairs for them.

Advanced directives: These documents ensure your wishes are followed regarding healthcare decisions if you become incapacitated.

Taking action when fraud occurs

If you suspect you've been targeted by a scammer, take immediate action:

Report suspicious calls claiming to be from the IRS to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Contact your financial institutions to secure your accounts. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports with the major credit bureaus. Document all communications and keep detailed records.

The role of family and professional support

Creating a network of trusted individuals who can help monitor for signs of fraud is crucial. Ask a trusted family member or friend to help monitor your finances. Have regular discussions with your financial advisor about any troubling financial activities. Keep open communication with your tax professional to watch for any warning signs. Consider consulting an elder law attorney for extra protective steps.

At WHZ, our goal is to provide you with

"Absolute Confidence, Unwavering Partnership, For Life." Schedule a complimentary consultation on our website at whzwealth.com or give us a call at (860) 928-2341. And for help with putting protective legal measures in place, contact KKC Law at kkc-law.com or (860) 646-1974.

Authored by WHZ Principal/Managing Partner & Chief Strategist James Zahansky, AWMA® and KKC Law Partner Allison T. Poirier. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. WHZ is located at 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com> These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.

## Town meeting at the turn of the 19th century

Inclement Weather: In case of inclement weather, or a Killingly Parking Ban, check WINY or call the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center after 10:15 a.m. to see if it is open (860-779-7250).



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WEAVER

Rescheduled to snow date--- Celebrate Black History Month. The Remarkable Women of the Six Triple Eight; The Only All-Black, All-Female Unit to be sent overseas in WWII. Saturday, Feb. 22 at 12:30 p.m. Putnam Municipal Complex, 200 School St., Putnam. Presented by Meloye Whatley.

Pomfret Historical Society Fireside Chat: Friday, Feb. 21. Vanilla Bean Café 450 Deerfield Rd., Pomfret Center, 7 p.m. Pomfret Town Historian Walter Hinchman and historian Donna Dufresne will discuss Pomfret's Six Villages and the people who lived there and the School Houses. There will be a slideshow of vintage photographs. A \$10 donation is welcome. For more information, contact Donna Dufresne at windsong@snet.net.

In honor of Black History Month, I borrowed "Venture Smith: My freedom is a privilege which nothing else can equal," by Chandler B. Saint with Robert Pierce Forbes from Putnam Library. Published by the Beecher House Center for the study of Equal Rights it provides background material, and copious footnotes, to the autobiography which Smith, the captured and enslaved son of an African prince, "wrote"/probably dictated since he was going blind, in 1798. Since my research on the enslaved, the underground railroad, and local abolitionists continues, I already have ordered my own copy. I know from the summary that Venture was able to purchase his freedom, became a businessman in Southern Connecticut, and died in Haddam Neck, CT in 1805 (p. 211). Next week I'm

looking forward to reading more of the book and learning more about this significant individual in Connecticut's Black history.

As I mentioned in the column of Feb. 14, I have been doing work in Killingly's early town meeting records at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century. At that point in history, apparently, special meetings were held to admit inhabitants of the town as freemen. I think this enabled them to vote but have found nothing helpful to confirm that by an internet search. I copied p. 302 from Book 2 since Joseph Adams, who lived in my house, was one of the justices of the peace so will share several of the entries on that page. "Killingly, Sept 20th 1813. At a meeting of the Civil Authority and Selectmen of the Town of Killingly Legally convened (sic) at the (?) place for holding freemans (sic) meetings in said town the following gentlemen were examined in said meeting and were adjudged to be qualified to be admitted freemen of this State, viz Wm. B. Sprague & Jacob (?) Jr. Samson Howe, James Danielson, Ezra Hutchins, Joseph Adams, Joel Day, Anthony Brown, Hobart Torrey (Justices of the Peace); Joseph (Buck ?), Nathan Fuller, Silas Hutchins, Rolan Leavens (Selectmen). "The next year a similar meeting was held on Sept. 19 (1814). Albigeance Warren, Artimas Eaton, and Benj M. Green were found qualified. Elisha Howe was a justice of the peace in that year (Ezra Hutchins and Joel Day were not listed. They might have still been j.p.'s and just did not attend the meeting). Selectmen were Joseph Buck, John Day, John Adams, and Arber Covel. (Keep in mind if you are searching for relatives in that time period that spellings were not yet standardized and varied greatly).

All sorts of unexpected tidbits showed up

in these town meeting records. The following was military in nature. "This may certify that Silas Hutchins is a member of the 3rd Compy, 22 Regmt (sic) of sd States troops, and has done duty in sd company the year past according to Law with George Addison Capt. The above is a true copy of the original certificate recorded by me Luther Warren Town Clerk." (Ibid, p. 302). It is not dated but is adjacent to, and in similar script, to a September 19, 1814 entry.

My life seems to be revolving around the weather the past few weeks so I decided to check and see what I could find about weather many years ago in several diaries from Eastern Connecticut. The older is the Diary of Joshua Hempstead 1711-1758. Hempstead lived in New London and provided a wonderful record of his daily activities, the weather and numerous deaths, marriages and baptisms. For this article I was looking specifically at mentions of the weather three hundred years ago in 1725. Keep in mind that this was considered part of the Little Ice Age when temperatures were significantly colder. "Tuesd (February) 16. Snow & Rain. Wednsd. 17. Fair. Thurs 18 Cold & Fair... Friiday 19 fair... Saturd. 20 snow & some rain. Snow 3 Inches." Then Hempstead recorded a number of fair days. However, "Fryd 26. Cold Snow. 6 to 8 inches." The next few days he again mentioned snow. (p.154). If the coastal section of Connecticut was having that kind of weather, it was probably even worse here in the hills of Northeastern Connecticut.

Closer to home and over a century later, Dr Edwin Hill of East Killingly was noting weather in his Diaries (The Diaries of Dr. Hill 1851-1896 edited by Marcella H. Pasay). One hundred fifty years ago in 1875 his initial entry is weather related, "Sa. 02 Jan. Raining with ice on the trees all day." "Thursday, 07 Jan. Cloudy and rain all day. Ice plenty." "Wed, 20 Jan. Pleasant and cold." "Wed. 24 Feb. Cloudy all day with rain in early morning. Thaws and mud is quite deep." I found it quite interesting that Dr. Hill did not mention snow once in those first two

months of 1875,

January of 1876 started out with unseasonably warm weather. "Sat. 01 Jan. Pleasant all day and very warm. Thermometer standing at 75 degrees in shade (Wouldn't that feel good!). Horses sweat profusely. Mud deep." (Think how difficult it must have been to travel about by horse and carriage with all that mud). "Sun. 02 Jan. Pleasant all day. Mud." "Thurs. 20 Jan. Pleasant all day. Colder. Mud frozen. Attended Mrs. Jarley's wax figures at West Killingly Methodist Church last evening. A good deal of fun!" Sat. 22 Jan. "Snow in evening." "Tues. 25 Jan. Cloudy all day with fine snow in small quantities." "Friday 04 Feb. Snow in early morning. Clear by noon and pleasant p.m." "Sat. 05 Feb. "Factories stop for want of water." "Mon. 21 Feb. Snow late in the evening." Dr. Hill then left Killingly for several days to attend the funeral of a relative in Great Falls. "Mond. 28 Feb. Snow last (night) and cloudy a.m. and p.m. with snow on the line of the Eastern Railroad.,Returned home by the 6 p.m. boat train via New York & New England Railroad from Boston (to West Killingly)." (p.122)

The last entry on the page caught my eye, and I thought you might find it interesting. "Tues. 21 Mar. Snow in early evening last night with rain at early morning, raining hard until 1 p.m. then cloudy. Water runs freely in road. Snow melted except under walls. Chase Reservoir broke. Pike Road (Route 101) washed out by the water." (p.122). Several days later more damage from the rains was mentioned. "Sun. 26 Mar. Heavy rain last night washed roads badly. Heavy damage to Quinebaug Company Mill. And Norwich & Worcester Railroad not passable in many places. The water overflowed and ran down Main Street, Danielsonville in a flood." (p. 12). I'm proofreading this article on Sunday, February 16 when we have had overnight snow followed by freezing rain with ice on the trees and now rain. Come, spring! Come!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, February 2025. 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](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety).

## KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

Feb. 24 - Feb. 28

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at [www.killinglyct.gov](http://www.killinglyct.gov))

Monday the 24th  
PURA 101 Informational Workshop (Killingly High School Auditorium) 6 p.m.  
Republican Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 - Town Hall) 7 to 8 p.m.  
Tuesday the 25th  
Democratic Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 - Town Hall) 5:30 to 9 p.m.  
Wednesday the 26th  
Board of Education Meeting (KPS Central Office - Conference Room A) 7 p.m.  
Thursday the 27th  
Open Space Land Acquisition Meeting (Room 102 - Town Hall) 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday the 24th  
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day  
Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Homeschool Club (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday the 25th  
Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Can't Put It Down Book Club (Ages 50 and up) (Library) 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesday the 26th  
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.  
Little Listeners (Ages 2-5) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday the 27th  
Story Craft (Ages two to six) (Library) 10:30 to 11 a.m.  
Friday the 28th  
AARP Tax Assistance (Library) 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/ EVENTS COMING UP...

Virtual High Five 2025 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday)  
Let's Get Moving February - Feb. 4 through Feb. 25 - Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Senior Yoga February - Feb. 7 through Feb. 28 - 9 and 10:30 a.m. - Fridays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Pound for Adults with Chris - Session 4 - March 4 through April 8 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Relaxation and Guided Meditation - Session 4 - March 11 through April 15 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Beginner Salsa Dancing - May 5 through May 19 - Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing - Session 2 - March 3 through March 17 - Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors - Session 1 - March 3 through March 25 - Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Outdoor Spring Strength and Conditioning - March 11 through April 22 - Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors - Session 2 - April 28 through June 9 - Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Mystic Village/Mystic Luxury Cinemas Trip - April 17

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at [www.killinglyct.gov](http://www.killinglyct.gov).

[www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com](http://www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com)



**EMERGENCY**

continued from page A1

That funding number was estimated at up to \$10,000 for procuring legal services to assist in drafting policies and agreements and ensure compliance while they explore options include a hybrid staffing approach. Over the years Brooklyn, like many departments, has struggled to maintain and recruit volunteers while the required training has become more complex. Lee stressed the problem is not unique to Brooklyn, but they are trying to figure out a way to change their model to make local emergency services more sustainable.

“There is an increasing trend towards a hybrid approach with an increasing paid staff. We have it in our communities. Dayville has paid people on staff, Scotland has paid people on staff, Canterbury has some paid people on staff. The ambulance service in town is paid between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., so we’re already in that range; it’s just getting the right number of people to respond to the calls when they’re not just strictly ambulance,” said Lee.

The subcommittee is also considering stipends and other forms of payment as part of their research and are exploring how other towns have worked to evolve their systems as well.

While the discussion on Feb. 4 only served as an update to keep the public involved, Lee said the subcommittee hopes to develop actionable recommendations for the 2026-2027 budget cycle.

**CHALLENGE**

continued from page A1

“The domino display is a way for us to get younger students involved and interested in collecting food for those less fortunate and to be an active participant in the donation of cereal to TEEG. Once the domino activity is complete, we have each student grab at least one box and all three schools march the boxes to TEEG. It is a very powerful moment to watch a sea of all of Thompsons students carrying boxes of cereal to TEEG to help those around them!”

Let’s help the Thompson School’s reach their goal of 2,700 boxes of cereal by Feb. 28! You may bring your donations to the Town Hall – donation boxes are located outside the Town Clerk’s Office and the Tax Office, to WINY and to the Thompson Public Library.

**INTERACT**

continued from page A1

Roberta Rocchetti at 860-933-8603 or roberta-rocchetti4@gmail.com.

The Speech: “In the Interact Club the Rotary’s Four Way Test partially reiterates what MLK professed in this portion of the speech: ‘I still have a dream, a dream deeply rooted in the American dream - one day this nation will rise up and live up to its creed, We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal. I have a dream...’ “The Four-Way Test is a set of guidelines created by the Rotary Club to help members make good, ethical decisions. It asks four simple questions: 1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned? “Within each of these four questions, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s actions echo what these questions profess. Is it the truth? MLK stood for truth in all things, particularly when it came to exposing the realities of racial injustice. He fought for truth in society’s recognition of human rights and dignity for all people, regardless of race. “Is it fair to all concerned? MLK’s core message was one of fair-

ness, seeking justice for African Americans and all marginalized groups. His advocacy for civil rights was rooted in the belief that everyone deserves equal rights and opportunities, regardless of background. Will it build goodwill and better friendships? MLK believed in nonviolence and sought to build bridges between communities through mutual respect and understanding. His peaceful demonstrations and calls for love over hate aimed to strengthen relationships and build a more harmonious society. “Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Dr. King envisioned a world where the actions taken would benefit everyone, not just certain groups. His dream was of a society where freedom, justice, and equality could be enjoyed by all people. “These four questions are designed to help to make sure that the members of this organization make decisions that are fair, ethical, and beneficial to all involved. The test emphasizes honesty, fairness, and a commitment to building strong, positive relationships, and it is widely used within the organization to promote integrity and service. It’s often seen as a reflection of the values of Rotary in both personal and professional conduct. The quality and equity of the work we do is reflected in the four way test.”

**Did you know?**

BY SANDRA CUTLER AMES AND FAB CUTLER  
ASPINOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Did You Know?**

In times past, there were strict guidelines that needed to be followed if one chose to become a teacher. Here are a few from the year 1872:

- After 10 hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
  - Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society. (Note the absence of feminine pronouns)
  - The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.
  - Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
  - Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- And now a couple specifically for the ladies:
- Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
  - You may ride in a buggy with a man, if the man is your father or your brother.

What do you think? I suspect that if such rules were in effect today, there would be a serious shortage of teachers!

Researched and written by Sandra Cutler Ames

**Did you know?**

EBENEZER COVELL



Putnam’s First Park , aka Wilkinson Park, was located on the northerly side of Pomfret Street. It was between Cargill Falls and Canal Street.

Other Parks in Putnam  
Simonzi Park is located on Kennedy Drive on the River Trail.

Murphy’s Park/Recreation Park is located off Woodstock Ave onto Recreation Park Road.  
Rotary Park is located on Kennedy Drive.

Veteran’s Park is located on corner of Bridge and Church Street

Thanks to Ellis Tech, Electrical and Masonry Depts. Electrical Instructor John Murdock and his students for their part in

the lighting of Veteran’s Park.  
Masonry Instructor Elliott Hayden and his students for setting the individual veteran bricks in place with his expertise. They will resume more bricks in the Spring. What a great honor this Park is to our veterans. ALL veterans honored in one place!

Robert Miller Park is located on corner of Kennedy Drive and Providence Street, across from Belding Heminway.

Flagpole in Robert Miller Park was dedicated to Ken Gunsalus for his 75 years of scouting with Troop 25 in Putnam.

Industrial Park is located on Industrial Park Road, off Killingly Avenue.

Mechanic’s Park was located in vicinity of Seward, Bradley, Fremont and Pleasant Streets. It had a band stand and roller skating rink.

Small park, corner Marshall and Providence streets.

CT State Park was located on Park Street, opposite the Fairgrounds.

Researched by Fab Cutler

**EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College announces Honor Roll**

DANIELSON — EASTCONN’s Quinebaug Middle College (QMC) has released the Semester 1 Honor Roll (Fall 2024) list for the School Year 2024-2025:

- High Honor Roll  
Tabor Ambrose- Windham  
Samyah Azeez- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Dahl Avery-Burdsal - Uncasville (Montville)  
Cameron Barber- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Alexis Barber- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Lillian Bertram- Pomfret  
Isabella Barnett- Windham  
Joshua Beshaw- Canterbury  
Allysen Bonafine- Windham  
Alexander Bishop- Brooklyn  
Claire Bonafine- Windham  
Nancy Bushey- Sterling  
Scott Bonafine- Windham  
Grace Carter- Wauregan (Plainfield)  
Camden Chaplin- Central Village (Plainfield)  
Leah Chappell- Dayville (Killingly)  
Marisa Chappell- Dayville (Killingly)  
Elyse Coutu- Plainfield  
Tobias Clark- Brooklyn  
Sarah Goss- Plainfield  
Emma Decker- Windham  
Erin Gravel- Putnam  
Zoey Dubois- Danielson (Killingly)  
Ava Guillemette- Plainfield

- Giovanni Duclos- Plainfield  
Lawrence Haworth- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Yvonne Fitzsimmons- Danielson (Killingly)  
Lacie Horton- Eastford  
Jason Fletcher- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Darby Lalumiere- Killingly  
Ella Forgues- Dayville (Killingly)  
Z Lane- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Noah Glynn- Dayville (Killingly)  
Kelton McKenna- Sterling  
Kyla Grant- Plainfield  
Rae Neal- Putnam  
Alison Gutierrez Cordero- Windham  
CJ Orthmann- Canterbury  
Talisha Headley- Windham  
Anna Polaino- Killingly  
August Holdridge- Taftville (Norwich)  
Jocelyn Richards- Plainfield  
Keys Hughes- Danielson (Killingly)

- Cheyenne Skidmore- Brooklyn  
Madison Knudson- Plainfield  
Paige Williams- Thompson

- Yareni Mendez- Hernandez- Windham  
Natasha Miller- Sterling  
High Honors: 32 (22%) / Honors: 26 (18%)  
Gavin Moore- Brooklyn  
Kelsey Parent- Putnam  
Elsie Peterson- Plainfield  
Sophia Phillips- Danielson (Killingly)  
Cassandra Reynolds- Danielson (Killingly)  
Ninoshka Robles Solano- Windham  
Tristanie Sweet- Moosup (Plainfield)  
Rae Neal- Putnam  
Honor Roll  
Ava Aubin- Plainfield  
Pamela Andujar Collazo- Windham  
Morgana Avery-Burdsal- Uncasville (Montville)

**Pomfret’s Louella Flanagan named to UMass Dean’s List**

AMHERST, Mass. — Pomfret Center resident Louella Flanagan, Class of ‘27, was appointed to the 2025 Dean’s List at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Students who receive Dean’s List honors earned a grade point average of 3.500 or better. Additional congratulations to Louella Flanagan for being named to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars for the second year in a row. Student members of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars are recognized for their demonstrated commitment to the ideals of Scholarship, Leadership and Service.

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# Dr. Bhaumik

I was invited to a Super Bowl party in LA, so I figured—why not? I flew out, rented a car, and as I wound my way up the hills of Bel Air, I realized this wasn't just any party. The address led me to an opulent mansion owned by Dr. Mani Bhaumik—a scientist, entrepreneur, and someone whose life story made the Super Bowl seem like just another event.

The game was on, the food was great, and the energy in the room was electric—but being someone who is fascinated by those who have accomplished great things, I was more interested in getting to know Dr. Bhaumik than in watching the game.

As I spoke with him, I realized his life's journey was extraordinary.

He was born into

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
—  
TOBY  
MOORE

abject poverty in a remote village in India, so poor his family had trouble meeting basic needs. He didn't receive his first pair of shoes until he was a teenager, but he made up for his lack of resources with an unstoppable hunger for knowledge.

Opportunities were scarce, and success was predetermined. Still, as destiny would have it, he lived with Mahatma Gandhi for a time, absorbing the wisdom of one of history's most outstanding leaders, not knowing that he, too, would one day leave a profound mark on the world.

Through sheer determination, he earned a place at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, where he pursued physics and eventually became the institution's first doctor-

al graduate. In 1959, he set his sights on the United States to pursue postdoctoral research at UCLA. Arriving in the U.S. with almost nothing, he faced an entirely new set of challenges. He was an immigrant scientist in a time when opportunities for foreign researchers were not easily handed out.

But failure wasn't in Dr. Bhaumik's nature. His relentless curiosity and determination eventually led him to breakthrough research in laser technology.

In 1968, he secured a position as the director of the laser technology lab at Northrop Corporation, where he played a pivotal role in the development of the excimer laser. This technology would later revolutionize vision correction, leading to the LASIK surgery that mil-

lions rely on today. Yet, his success wasn't limited to science alone. Dr. Bhaumik had an entrepreneurial spirit that allowed him to expand his work beyond research labs and into the world of business. His ventures in technology and industry earned him a fortune, enabling him to become a philanthropist.

Adding a touch of Hollywood glamour to his rags-to-riches story, He dated Eva Gabor and was featured in an episode of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" with Robin Leach!

Despite reaching the pinnacle of both scientific and financial achievement, he sought something even more significant. The fundamental questions of existence. How does science intersect with spirituality? Could quantum physics explain the mysteries of

consciousness? Was there a higher power woven into the fabric of the universe?

These questions led him to write "Code Name God," a book exploring the intersection of cutting-edge physics and the search for meaning.

He wrote, "There is a grand design in nature, and that grand design is the reflection of a grand intelligence."

Dr. Bhaumik didn't frame this as religious doctrine—he wasn't preaching faith in a traditional sense. Instead, he proposed that science itself, through the discoveries of quantum mechanics, points toward a unifying intelligence beyond the cosmos.

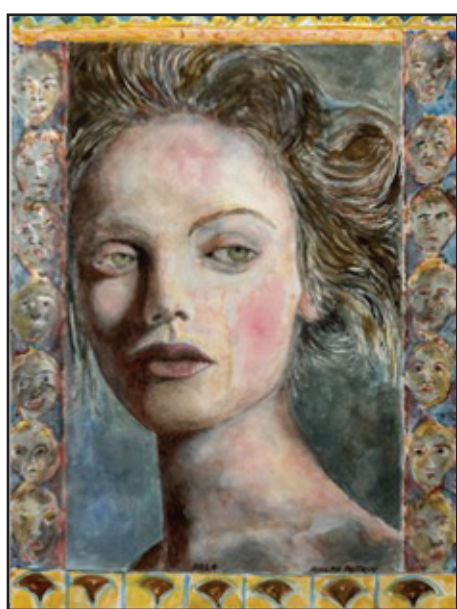
Dr. Bhaumik's journey isn't over. Even now, he stays up late writing research papers, speaking at conferences around

the world, and funding initiatives that promote education and science. While many might have retired to enjoy the fruits of their labor, Dr. Bhaumik remains as driven as ever; not for more success, but for deeper understanding; he's still asking questions, exploring, and giving back.

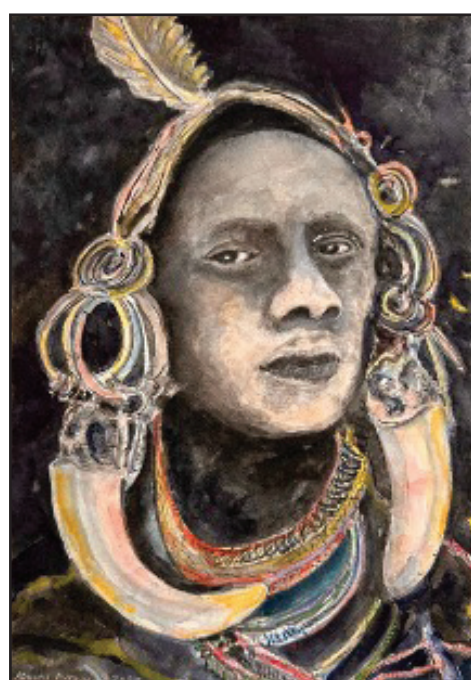
I finally turned my attention back to the game. But as I watched the players fight for victory, I couldn't shake the thought—here we were, celebrating champions on the field, and yet I was in the presence of a different kind of champion.

If there's one lesson to take from Dr. Mani Bhaumik's story, it's this: whether you're on the field, in a lab, or just navigating life, never stop learning, never stop striving.

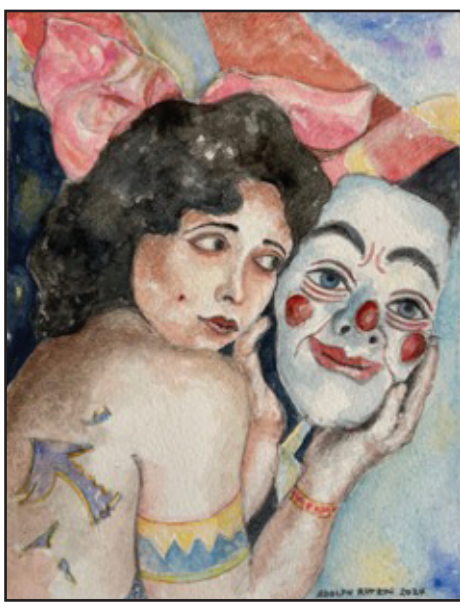
## In the Studio



Looking Into Darkness (2024) Watercolor, 12 x 9 in.



Watching (2024) Watercolor, 10 x 7 in.



Dear One (2024) Watercolor, 8 x 6 in.



Waiting (2024) Watercolor, 11 x 7.5 in.

"In the Studio" features artists from the Quiet Corner—home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we'll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We'll also learn some "artspeak" terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those "artist words." In this interview, we're meeting with Quiet Corner artist Adolph Rutkin of Killingly and looking at some of his recent watercolors.

Hello Adolph, and thanks for joining us to talk about your work. There are so many interesting things about your work in addition to the subjects. For example, a number of your portraits are "framed" by painted borders. The compositions, smaller scale and titles of the pieces are also intriguing. What can you tell us about "Looking Into Darkness"?

"Looking Into Darkness" is about what the near future holds. Mysteries, fears, encounters and judgements. We are surrounded by the faces of others past and present. The composition brings you to the center of the picture and the frame allows one to explore the subtleties that may or may not protect oneself.

Where did the inspiration for "Watching" come from, and was it painted in several sessions?

My inspiration comes from how people decorate their bodies in different cultures, which has always intrigued me. How traditions color our life styles. "Watching" can be thought of as how we see others and also how we are seen.

I first drew it in pencil and then added a black wash and then color to give the portrait more of a voice.

A number of your pieces remind me of images from old circus posters and Early American sailors' tattoos. Is this something you have studied?

The circus has always been a place of fantasy and imagination. We, as society, dress up and put on makeup and maybe a costume to perform in and then we start the day to create a show for children of all ages, as they say in the circus. It's a colorful slice of life, yet behind the scenes the performers lead a different life, a micro world. Who are the people who join the circus? Have they joined to escape the challenges of life? Or to belong with others in a protected environment and not be a castaway.

On another topic, tattoos. From the past to the present, they are the history that people wear - the tales and adventures. They tell their stories through the images on their bodies. Now it's a portrait. A story within a story. How revealing is a tattoo of who we really are?

The paintings do appear to tell stories, as you reference your work on your website [www.adolphrutkin.com](http://www.adolphrutkin.com) What is "Dear One" telling us?

It's telling



about love and desire. Are my feelings true or made up? Does the mask hold the answer? Will he divulge the truth to me, or am I dreaming? The answer is within the viewer. You decide.

"Waiting" has so much in it. What were your thoughts in developing this character?

She is a woman with many attributes. And yet we know little about her other than how she is dressed and decorated. And so the question is what is she waiting for? Possibly an event of spectacular dimensions? So, we wait with excitement and imagine. Will she be disappointed in her long wait? And will we know what is disclosed after the wait?

I see that "Waiting" is the postcard image for your current show at the QVCC Spirol Art Gallery. Will attendees see it there? (note: Jan. 23-March 6 with reception on Feb. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m.). What would you like attendees to take away from this show?

I would like them to take away the concept that people are complicated and have many levels of expressing themselves. A portrait presents a person in a certain light and hides other mysteries and questions. When I choose an image, it is based on its visual strength and the amount of invention that I can add, whether it be the composition or the color. It's a playground for me. I want to invite the viewer in. When I add the title, it is to bring another level of exploration to the piece. Not everything can always be answered.

What, if any, advice were you given as a young

### Kelsie Boulet-Briere named to Goodwin University President's List

EAST HARTFORD — Kelsie Boulet-Briere of Dayville earned a place on Goodwin University's President's List for the fall 2024 session. The fall 2024 President's List includes 266 students, all of who scored a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Goodwin University in East Hartford is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit [www.goodwin.edu](http://www.goodwin.edu).

### Local students named to Goodwin University Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD — Goodwin University announces 503 students achieved Dean's List status for the fall 2024 session.

Bridgette Derosier of Thompson  
Becky Pluta of North Grosvenordale  
MacKenzie Beeso of North Grosvenordale  
Willow Charles of Dayville

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### Amber Pepper named to Dean's List at Endicott College

BEVERLY, Mass. — Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2024 Dean's List students.

In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester. Among those named to the Dean's List at Endicott College for the Fall 2024 semester is Amber Pepper of Brooklyn. Amber is majoring in History and is the child of John and Jamie Pepper.

### Local resident named to Dean's List at Dickinson College

CARLISLE, Pa. — Noah Salsich, a senior environmental studies and political science major at Dickinson College, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. A graduate of Woodstock Academy, he is the son of James Salsich and Jessy White of Woodstock.

All students earning a position on the dean's list-a recognition of academic excellence-must have a grade-point average of 3.7 or above on a 4.0 GPA scale for the semester.

Dickinson College, located in historic Carlisle, Pa., was chartered in 1783. The private college is nationally recognized for its cross-disciplinary, active approach to learning, international education, civic engagement and its commitment to teaching its students about sustainability across the curriculum, the community and the globe. [www.dickinson.edu](http://www.dickinson.edu).



# Chinese antiques



In this column, I'll be discussing Chinese antiques, which came in at number 9 on my recently updated top 10 antiques and collectibles list.

Chinese time periods are referenced according to dynasties, indicating a succession of rulers from the same family. Some of the earliest are the Xia (Hsia) Dynasty from 2100-1600 BCE and the Shang Dynasty circa 1600-1050 BCE. Some more recent ones are the Ming Dynasty from 1368-1644 and the Qing (Ch'ing) Dynasty from 1644-1912. Chinese antiques are referred to by the century in which they were made or the dynasty when they were produced. For example, a vase from 1500 would be referred to as a Ming vase. China's dynasties lasted until 1912. The Republic Period took place from 1912-1949 and it has been the People's Republic of China from 1949 through the present.

Since 2007, China has had a policy that antiquities being exported must be from 1912 or later, when dynasties no longer ruled. There is also a requirement that exported pieces can't be "cultural property." As a result of the policies, I haven't found anything particularly valuable in collections of Chinese memorabilia that were obtained in the last 18 years.

However, there are plenty of Chinese antiques that came to America before the stricter regulations went into effect. For example, jade pieces have been selling very well. In 2023, we auctioned a jade incense burner that brought \$700. An 18-karat gold and jade ring went for \$800 in 2021. Three small jade figures, including one with a gold chain, fetched \$2,100 last year. We sold a Chinese silk tapestry with dragon designs for \$1,800 last year. Over a decade ago, we sold a 17th century bronze figure (pictured in the accompanying photo) for several thousands of dollars.

I've reported on some major finds of

Chinese antiquities in past columns. I previously wrote about a \$35 Connecticut yard sale find of a 15th century Chinese bowl that brought over \$700,000 in a 2023 auction.

There are many other stories of Chinese items bringing astronomical results with even post-1911 items sometimes bringing high figures. A 1968 stamp from China's Cultural Revolution depicted China in red. The government destroyed the stamps because they didn't include Taiwan in red. A few copies escaped destruction, and one sold for \$2 million in 2018, according to the South China Post and other sources. Artist Qi Baishi's "Twelve Landscape Screens," that was painted in 1925 became the first Chinese artwork to top \$100 million, selling for \$140.8 million at a 2017 Beijing auction.

Older pieces can bring some jaw-dropping figures. A 17th century bronze bowl with Phoenix head handles and gold accents sold for \$4.9 million in 2019. The family had been storing tennis balls in the bowl when an auctioneer spotted it, according to CNN.

A UK Daily Mail article published last month described the sale of a family heirloom vase that took place over a decade ago. During the 1970s, a family brought the vase to an appraiser on a British Broadcasting Corporation show called "Going for a Song." The appraiser believed it to be a "clever reproduction" worth £800 (slightly over \$1,000). The family later brought the piece to another auctioneer who told them that it was "either the best replica in the world, or it's worth millions." When it was auctioned in 2010, it ended up reaching £53 million (\$66.75 million). The family described as "not having a lot" was overwhelmed with the mother brought to tears. The story didn't end there, though, because the buyer backed out. Fortunately, the sale was negotiated with another buyer. Thankfully, this family hadn't been storing their tennis balls in the fragile vase.

We are still working on a large one consignor Civil War memorabilia auction, Beacon Hill estate auction, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are always accepting consignments of quality pieces for future auctions. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) or (508-612-6111).



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

# OBITUARIES

## Claire Burgess, 89



Claire Burgess, age 89, of Dudley died Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at Harrington Memorial Hospital of Southbridge, MA. After an illness Claire was born February 22, 1935 in Dudley, MA. She is the daughter of the late Romeo and the late Rose (Bousquet) Arpin. Predeceased by her husband John Burgess.

She is survived by two daughters: Karen Das of Stuart, FL and Nancy Kelly of Greensburg, PA, and one son: James Burgess of North Grosvenordale, CT; Sister: Linda Carter of Thompson Ct. and one brother: Gerald Arpin of Thompson, CT; She

also has seven grandchildren; Three great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews Her long time Companion, Don Farquhar of Webster, MA;

Predeceased by her Sister, Lorraine Marks, and Brother, Roger Arpin.

Claire was an Insurance broker at Nalewaik insurance for many years.

A private memorial Mass at St. Anthony Of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Rd., Dudley, MA Private Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, North Grosvenordale CT

In lieu of flowers donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, PO Box 501 St. Jude PL Memphis TN 38105-9959 Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Avenue Dudley is assisting the family .memory book at [www.bartelfuneral-home.com](http://www.bartelfuneral-home.com)

## Francis J. Spiewakowski, 85



THOMPSON, CT - Francis J. "Spin" Spiewakowski, 85, passed away peacefully Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at home.

He was born on May 15, 1939 in Webster, MA, a son of Frank and Catherine (Duszlak) Spiewakowski and graduated from Bartlett High School in 1957, and also attended Worcester Junior College.

He served for 8 years in the United States Army National Guard.

Mr. Spiewakowski first worked as the distribution manager for Bates Shoe Company in Webster, MA, then became the lead man at Pratt & Whitney in Hartford, CT. He and his wife owned and operated Spinorama Laundromat in Webster, MA for 12 years. His final employment was as the purchasing manager for HT Machines in Webster, MA.

A devoted family man, Spin found great joy in spending time with his family. He was lovingly known as "dad" to his daughters, and "da" and "grampy" to his grand and great-grandchildren. In his retirement, he was a tinkerer and general handyman around the house. He enjoyed golfing with his buddies, gardening, and playing cards.

He leaves his wife of 63 years, Maryann E. (Willette) Spiewakowski;

2 daughters, Lisa M. Frattura and her husband Roberto of Carmignano, Italy and Su Spiewakowski and her partner John Olender, Jr. of Ashford, CT; 3 grandchildren, Nastasia Frattura and her husband Enea Dinami, Maximilian Francis Frattura, and Alexia Frances Olender; 2 great-grandchildren, Nora Dinami and Edoardo Dinami; a brother, Walter Spiewakowski of Norton, MA; 2 sisters, Theresa Kudron of Brookfield, MA and Barbara Leduc of Webster, MA. He was preceded in death by his infant son Robert Spiewakowski and by his sister Dorothy Daviau.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at 11:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster, MA (please meet at church). Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until the time of the Mass. Donations in his memory may be made to either St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to Saint Louis Endowment Fund, 52 Negus Street, Webster, MA 01570. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA. [www.websterfunerals.com](http://www.websterfunerals.com)

# Local students complete degrees at Wichita State University

WICHITA, Kan. — More than 1,240 students completed a total of 1,378 degrees and certificates at Wichita State University in fall 2024, including Tyson J. Etienne of Putnam.

The breakdown of degrees and certificates granted includes 908 degrees and certificates for 845 undergraduate students and 470 degrees and certificates for 397 graduate students.

And of those earning a bachelor's degree, 47 were summa cum laude, 223 were magna cum laude, and 123 were cum laude.

Undergraduate students who have attained a grade point average of 3.9 out of a possible 4.0 received the summa cum laude award; those with an average of 3.55 received the magna cum laude award; and those with an average of 3.25 received the cum laude.

About Wichita State University  
Wichita State University is Kansas' only urban public research universi-


ty, enrolling more than 23,000 students between its main campus and WSU Tech, including students from every state in the U.S. and more than 100 countries. Wichita State and WSU Tech are recognized for being student centered and innovation driven.


Located in the largest city in the state with one of the highest concentrations in the United States of jobs involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), Wichita State University provides uniquely distinctive and innovative pathways of applied learning, applied research and career opportunities for all of our students.


The Innovation Campus, which is a physical extension of the Wichita State University main campus, is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing research/innovation parks, encompassing over 120 acres and is home to a number of global companies and organizations.


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to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)*

# LEGALS

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF THOMPSON ORDINANCES

At a Special Town Meeting on January 22, 2025, the following ordinances were amended or adopted:

- Amendment of Ordinance §25-6 Annual Town Meeting Date
- Adoption of Ordinance regulating Purchases and Sales for the Town of Thompson

Copies of the ordinances are available for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours and at [www.thompsonct.org](http://www.thompsonct.org).

This notice is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This notice does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Thompson for any purpose.

Renee Waldron  
Town Clerk  
February 14, 2025  
February 21, 2025

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Susan Parker (24-00460)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 7, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Jessica Bolte,  
1081 Riverside Drive,  
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255  
February 21, 2025

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Robert Joseph Meagher, SR (25-00051)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 7, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Cheryl A St. Onge  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND,  
LONGO & HIGGINS,  
168 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 528,  
PUTNAM, CT 06260  
February 21, 2025

Woodstock Hist Dist Comm public hearing Feb 26, 6:30 pm Town Hall, for 582 Rt 169, Dawson, demolition of two structures.  
G Usher, Chair.  
February 21, 2025

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Virginia M Mainville (25-00016)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 7, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Gerald Mainville Jr.  
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST  
ONGE & BROUILLARD,  
50 ROUTE 171,  
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
February 21, 2025

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

### Dennis Patrick Comprone, AKA Dennis Comprone (25-00004)

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

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Marie P Santi  
c/o STEPHEN J ADAMS,  
STEPHEN J ADAMS, ESQ,  
158 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 682,  
PUTNAM, CT 06260  
February 21, 2025





Volunteers of Westfield Church help visitors check out with their chocolate-themed Valentine's Day desserts.



Plenty of children's crafts and activities were available allowing young visitors a chance to get their creative juices flowing



Potential buyers look over a table of delicious food items, some themed after chocolate and others around the Valentine's Day holiday itself.



A table of raffle baskets helped raise money for the church's programs as visitors sought to take home several Valentine's Day themed prizes.



There were plenty of Valentine's Day delights to be enjoyed by all as tables worth of home-made goods were up for sale throughout the day.



The Valentines cookie decorating table was a popular spot where children could get creative and messy with their sugary creations.



Children took part in a musical-chair-style game called the "Cake Walk" where landing on a number could luck them into a special prize from toys to hand made treats.

# Westfield Church celebrates Chocolate Festival

DANIELSON — Westfield Church in Downtown Danielson was the place to be the morning of Feb. 8 as the church hosted a special Chocolate Festival themed around the delicious great and Valentine's Day. The day included homemade treats and meals, including a popular lasagna dinner, as well as appropriately themed games for both kids and adults for special prizes. A raffle helped raise money for the church's programs while the general atmosphere helped everyone embrace the spirit of the most romantic holiday of the year. It was a good time offering a little something for everyone on a chilly winter morning in New England.



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