



WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

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Putnam Science Academy alumni make their mark in 2026 March Madness

PUTNAM — As the excitement builds for the 2026 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, the influence of Putnam Science Academy continues to shine on college basketball's biggest stage. The Mustangs' nationally recognized program will be represented throughout the tournament by a number of former players and coaches who helped build the academy's championship tradition.

Among the coaching ranks, former PSA stand-out Mamadou Diarra is currently on the staff of the UConn Huskies men's basketball. Another familiar face from the Mustangs' sidelines, Shane Doyle—who helped guide Putnam Science Academy to the 2018 national prep championship—now serves on the staff of the Hofstra Pride men's basketball.

Several former PSA players will also take the floor during the tournament. Barry Evans, a member



University of Virginia Star Ugonna Onyenso.

ber of the PSA Class of 2022, was part of the historic 38-0 undefeated national championship team at

Putnam Science Academy. Evans is a senior wing for VCU. His team remains one of the most dominant



UConn Assistant Coach Mamadou Diarra with PSA Coach Tom Espinosa.

Onyenso, a center for the Virginia Cavaliers men's basketball, represents the PSA Class of 2022. Onyenso was also a key member of the Mustangs' undefeated national championship squad.

Another champion making his presence felt at the college level is Collins Onyeniaka, who helped Putnam Science capture the 2023 national championship. Onyeniaka now plays for the Alabama Crimson Tide men's basketball and will look to contribute during the tournament run.

From coaching staffs to starting lineups, the fingerprints of Putnam Science Academy can be found throughout this year's March Madness field. The continued success of these former Mustangs highlights the academy's role as one of the premier prep basketball programs in the country.

With so many alumni competing on college basketball's biggest stage, it promises to be an exciting tournament. The entire Putnam Science Academy community will be watching closely and wishing all of its former players and coaches the best of luck as they chase a national championship.

Pomfret's Leah Pollard nominated for State Superior Court

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

P O M F R E T — Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont has announced the latest nominations for judges to serve the Connecticut Superior Court, including one local making history as the first judicial nomination from Windham County in over a decade.

On March 10, Lamont announced 14 nominees to fill 20 vacancies within the state's Superior Court. Among them is Leah Pollard of Pomfret, who previously served 17 years as probate judge for the Northeast Probate Court and administrative judge for the Northeast Regional Children's Probate Court.

Pollard is a UConn graduate who earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the

University of Colorado and currently serves as an attorney with Connecticut Legal Services. She becomes the first nominee for the State Superior Court out of Windham County in 15 years.

Lamont released a statement about the importance of picking the proper personnel to serve the state's court system.

"This class of nominees have the qualifications and meet the high standards the people of Connecticut deserve on the bench," Lamont said. "I am proud that our administration has a record of selecting nominees who've expanded the diversity, backgrounds, and professional experiences of those who serve our court system."

Pollard's nomination drew praise from state law-

makers, specifically Senator Mae Flexer and State Representative Pat Boyd who released a joint statement praising the Pollard's capabilities and service to her county, especially the Quiet Corner.

"We're grateful for Gov. Lamont's leadership in recognizing that the absence of more judges from our corner of the state does a disservice to the residents of Northeastern Connecticut," said Flexer, who also serves as Senate Vice-Chair of the Judiciary Committee. "Leah's experience in the probate courts is going to serve her well as a Superior Court judge."

"I am thrilled Leah Pollard was nominated by Gov. Lamont for the Connecticut Superior

Turn To POLLARD page A7

squads in the program's history.

Mo Dioubate, who played at PSA before graduating in 2023, is now competing for the Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball. During his time at Putnam Science, Dioubate helped the Mustangs secure back-to-back national prep championships in 2022 and 2023, cementing the program's reputation as a national

powerhouse.

Another former Mustang, Jaeden Roberts (Class of 2024), is now a guard for the Hofstra Pride men's basketball. Roberts was part of last year's national championship team at Putnam Science Academy and continues to carry that winning experience into the college game.

In the frontcourt, Ugonna

Rivers announces resignation from Killingly Town Council

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council will be short one member as Democrat Jim Rivers has announced his departure effective March 11.

The Killingly Democratic Town Committee posted a printed notice, with an acknowledged receipt by the Town Manager's office of March 5, confirming Rivers' resignation. His departure was official as of

the Town Council's March 11 meeting. Rivers was elected to the Council last year as part of a Democratic slate that dominated the municipal election. He also currently serves as the Executive Director of the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments. This role, along with other commitments, appears to be the driving force behind his resignation.

"At this time, I have personal and professional commitments that have

substantially increased since I expressed interest in running for election last spring," wrote Rivers. "I cannot continue to devote the time that this position requires to properly serve the good citizens of Killingly."

Rivers, who won his seat with 1,325 votes, the second most votes in last year's Town Council race topped by only Republic John Cesolini and Democrat

Turn To RIVERS page A7

SPIROL International Corporation marks decades-long partnership with Day Kimball Health

Kimball Healthcare (DKH) Foundation recognized a continued partnership with SPIROL International Corporation, which recently contributed \$18,118 through its employee giving program to support cancer care initiatives at Day Kimball Health. The contribution reflects the company's ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves.

SPIROL has partnered with DKH for more than 30 years and has a long-standing tradition of corporate social responsibility. Since 2019, SPIROL's employee giving program has raised \$97,700 to support the Northeast Connecticut Cancer Fund of DKH, which provides financial assistance for cancer-related screening and treatment

services for individuals who may not otherwise have the resources to obtain care.

"At SPIROL, giving back is not just a commitment, it is a reflection of who we are. We are proud to once again support the Northeast Connecticut Cancer Fund of Day Kimball Hospital and the vital services it provides to our community," said Jessica van der Swaagh, Global HR Director, SPIROL. "This partnership is driven by the collective spirit of our employees, whose generosity and compassion continue to inspire us. Their willingness to come together in support of an important cause speaks volumes about the culture of care and teamwork at SPIROL. We are honored to stand alongside the Cancer Fund and Day Kimball Hospital

in support of patients, families, and caregivers across our region."

SPIROL's fundraising team organized several philanthropic initiatives throughout the year and designated its fiscal year 2025 employee giving campaign to support the fund. Employees also participated in DKH Foundation fundraising committees and events, including the 2025 Cruisin' for Cancer Care Guest Bartender Night; Beer, Wine & Spirits Tasting; and Cruise, BBQ & Brew. To further support employee giving efforts, SPIROL provided a \$5,000 company match.

"After seven years of working with DKH, it is humbling to see what our team has done in a short

Turn To SPIROL page A7



Courtesy

The SPIROL fundraising team gathers to celebrate the results of their fiscal year 2025 fundraising efforts for the Northeast Connecticut Cancer Fund of DKH. Pictured (L to R): Ben Zern, Production Supervisor; SPIROL; Casey Hunter, EHS Coordinator, SPIROL; Ramona Rodriguez, Clerk, SPIROL; Nicole Caron, Customer Service Supervisor, SPIROL; Kristen Willis, Director of Development, Day Kimball Health; David LaFleur, President & Executive Vice President, SPIROL; Matt Bartlett, Manufacturing Manager, SPIROL; and Tim Thorstenson, Distribution Account Representative, SPIROL. Not pictured: SPIROL fundraising team members and volunteers Tara Meinck, Business Operations Manager; Peggy Snow, Scheduler; Eric Champagne, Operations Supervisor; Rebecca Eddy, Production Control Manager; and Andrea Durand, Supply Chain Planner.

KHS Class of 1966 FOLK Fund celebrates 27 years of grant-making

Courtesy
Students in the KMS after-school Robotics club, run by KMS science teacher Kimberly Vincent, learn how to manipulate their tiny robot on a table-top playing field.

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Under the guidance of KHS tech teacher Robert Polselli, one of the KHS Robotics teams performs at an International VEX competition in London, England in 2025. The KHS Junior team won the Excellence award there - the highest honor at a VEX competition. Each year the VEX competition committee introduces a brand-new game (a complex set of tasks) and corresponding manual that requires student teams to create, build, and drive their unique brand-new robot that can successfully accomplish as many required tasks as possible on the regulation 12-by-12-foot playing field. Both Vincent and Polselli received 2025 and 2026 FOLK grants to help finance the robotics activities of their respective students.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Inclined to do

4. Sketches

10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)

11. Atomic #58

12. Dorm official

14. Small Eurasian deer

15. Southern constellation

16. Workers' groups

18. Former

22. Excellent

23. Romance language related to Spanish

24. Reference

26. Equally

27. Dirty towels

28. A cargo (abbr.)

30. Ammunition

31. You get one in summer

34. Slang for trucks with trailers

36. Swiss river

37. Exchange rate

39. British School

40. College teacher

41. Foreign Service

42. Horse gear

48. Cost to fly

50. A salt or ester of boric acid

51. Mocking

52. One who bird-watches

53. Concluding passage

54. A major division of geological time

55. Sodium

56. A way to produce

58. Soak

59. Laughed loudly and harshly

60. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

1. Moth species phalonia _____

2. Quantum of energy

3. Break the law

4. Location of White House

5. Official cancellation of a decision

6. Where rockers work

7. Cut of beef: _____ mignon

8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile

9. Atomic #62

12. Genus of evergreen subshrubs

13. Flowering plant of the legume family

17. Inches per minute (abbr.)

19. Tropical fruit

20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust

21. James _____, painter

25. Popular dessert

29. Payment (abbr.)

31. Cuisine style

32. Genus of true flies

33. City in western France

35. Arrogance

38. One holding a position of command

41. Weekday

43. An evening party

44. Print errors

45. Not good

46. Egyptian Sun god

47. East German town

49. Olfactory property

56. Atomic #37

57. "Pollock" actor Harris

KILLINGLY — Friends of Learning in Killingly (FOLK), established in 1998 by graduates of the Killingly High School Class of 1966, recently celebrated its 27th year of grant-making by awarding a record number of grants to Killingly educators. The Awards Reception took place on Wednesday, March 11 at the Killingly Schools Central Office.

At the Reception, 21 Killingly teachers or teaching teams from across the district were honored for their innovative initiatives; in total the recipients received 22 grants to help them carry out their proposed enrichment projects for Killingly students. FOLK Committee Chair and Co-chair Janice Ahola-Sidaway and Robert Beauregard, along with many FOLK volunteer reviewers, hosted the Reception. Three of the 22 grants were awarded by Ted Haveles, President of KHS Class of 1969, on behalf of and in the name of his Class: enrichment tools for Goodyear special needs students to foster head-eye coordination, a planetarium fieldtrip by all KCS grade 1 students, and support for the KIS Robotics Club. Notably, this year marks the Fifth Anniversary of grant-making by the Class of 1969.

Initiatives by four teachers at Goodyear Early Childhood Center will enhance the school's outdoor environments: Lorie Nordman will create an outdoor STEM center by installing a long clothes line and pulley system between the building and a nearby slope on the property for students to experiment with simple machines. Holly Bennett will create a mud kitchen for pretend (and messy!) cooking with mud, sand and water. Christina Stravato plans to create garden arches for students to grow climbing plants. Joanne Laflamme will install low-tech communication posters in the playground to help non-verbal students participate more fully alongside their classmates. At KCS, teacher Sara Parsell and her kindergarten colleagues will create a small outdoor perennial and annual garden that students will help plant and maintain on a rotating basis.

Research has shown that social-emotional learning (SEL) improves academic performance, attendance, mental health, behavior, and life skills. Goodyear teacher Jackie Brennan, KCS teacher Michaela Raymond, and KIS teacher Anna Carnevale will purchase SEL kits that will build on SEL resources in their respective schools.

Research also shows that students with special needs (e.g., weak head-eye coordination, autism, other learning disabilities) benefit from ac[v]iles that strengthen sensory-motor skills.

Goodyear physical therapist Tiffany O'Leary, Goodyear teacher Mandy Jarvis, and one of the district's occupational therapists, Lucille Garcia, will use their respective grants to strengthen these skills in their students. Under the leadership of KHS teacher Robert Polselli, KMS teacher Kimberly Vincent and KIS teacher Kevin Stone will purchase supplies to prepare their respective students for friendly in-school competition (Vincent) and State-level robotics competitions (Stone). Polselli's grant will provide needed supplies to help support new KHS teams and established award-winning KHS teams for State, National, and International competitions, as well as for mentoring ac[v]iles by his students at KMS and KIS.

Other grants will help Goodyear teacher Jackie Brennan to buy literacy book sets, KCS teacher Drew Griffiths to buy creative materials for purposeful play in the classroom, KCS teacher Karen Avis to buy art enrichment supplies, and KMS teacher Nancy Juhola to buy rugged world/U.S. roll-up maps for her classroom and that of her colleague Meredith Crabtree.

Three of the 22 grants will support fieldtrips or trips to national competitions. A grant to longtime advisor to the Killingly chapter of the Technology Student Association, Jim Hutson, will help fund his students to compete at the State and National levels. Advanced Practice teacher Abigail Durling, along with her colleague Mike Weunscher, will use their grant to take their AP students to the Roger Williams Zoo. Sarah Horwath's grant will fund a local fieldtrip by all KCS grade 1 students to the KIS planetarium, where they will be mentored by a group of KIS grade 8 students. Finally, a grant to teacher Lisa Higgins of the Transitions Program for students aged 18-22, will help support the district-wide Food Pantry Backpack Program, which is managed by Higgins' students.

The FOLK endowment Fund is able to function as a 501(c)(3) charitable entity through its partnership with Greater Worcester Community Founda[ti]on (GWCF), which administers the FOLK Fund. All gifts to the FOLK Fund are therefore fully tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law; and 100 percent of gifts received goes toward the FOLK Fund. The Fund also benefits from GWCF's legal oversight; investment expertise; administrative support; and technical, operational, conceptual, and planning assistance. For more information on the FOLK Fund, contact donorservices@greaterworcester.org.

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Enrollment openings available at ACT Performing Arts Magnet High School for 2026-2027

WILLIMANTIC — EASTCONN’s Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) magnet high school has a limited number of seats available for Fall 2026 enrollment. Academically motivated students in grades 9-12 from across eastern Connecticut are encouraged to apply for this distinctive opportunity to pursue intensive study in the performing arts. The school’s recent string of achievements in film, creative writing, and other artistic disciplines demonstrates its commitment to nurturing exceptional young talent.

Located in the historic Capitol Theater in downtown Willimantic, ACT offers a NEASC-accredited program that weaves rigorous academics together with immersive, professional-level arts education. Students learn from both certified academic teachers and working professional artists in an intimate, collaborative setting – with an average of just 35 students per grade.

“ACT students don’t just study the arts – they practice them at a professional level while they’re still in high school,” said ACT

principal Sarah Mallory. “When a student wins a film festival award, publishes a university literary journal, or steps onto a real stage in a 1920s-era theater, that’s not a simulation of real life. That’s the real thing. We’re proud to offer that kind of experience to students from across eastern Connecticut.”

ACT students choose from seven specialized arts pathways: Acting, Creative Writing, Dance, Integrated Arts & Management, Media Arts, Music, and Technical Theater (sets, lighting and costuming). The school’s

distinctive facility provides daily access to professional-grade resources, including a fully equipped theater, scene shop, modern audio/video editing suites, spacious dance studios, and a comprehensive costume shop – enabling students to produce work of genuine professional quality.

That quality shows in results. ACT students regularly earn recognition in prestigious competitions and venues, including Young Writers publications, Scholastic’s Art & Writing Awards, DMV-Travelers’ Teen Safe Driving Video

Contest, and the Quiet Corner Film Festival. Student work has appeared in university publications and public performances, giving ACT graduates a portfolio of real-world experience before they leave high school.

Through an ongoing partnership with Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), eligible upperclassmen can earn free credits by taking university courses while completing their ACT education. The partnership also connects students to ECSU’s literary festivals

and cultural events, deepening their engagement with the broader arts community.

Prospective students can still apply at www.eastconn.org/act. Limited seats are still available; the application process should be completed as soon as possible.

EASTCONN, ACT’s administering organization, is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has served northeastern Connecticut’s educational needs since 1980. Learn more at www.eastconn.org.

Local author to speak about son’s death by suicide

DAYVILLE — Marie Lisette Rimer, author of “Back From Suicide,” will speak on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at United Services, 1007 North Main St., Dayville, from 6-8 p.m. Rimer is an educator and mother whose son Patrick succumbed to suicide. After his death, Lisette sought to

understand why her son, a brilliant and successful young man, nevertheless struggled with the depression that would lead to his death. Her book, “Back From Suicide,” was published in 2024. Ms. Rimer received a BA in Sociology and an MA in Secondary Education at the

University of Connecticut. She was a publicist for the Connecticut legislature and an award-winning English teacher at Rectory School in Pomfret, Connecticut. The joy of three children and country living was shattered by the suicide of her youngest son, Patrick Wood. Patrick was his class

valedictorian and AP Scholar, and graduated from Stanford University. Lisette explores the seeming contradiction between the promises of his young life and the grip of depression that overtook him. “ ‘Back from Suicide’ is brilliant and beautifully

written. Lisette made me feel as if I were walking with her through Berlin with Patrick’s friends. She proves that children who have it all are vulnerable to mental illness,” says Dr. Lee Hausner, “Children of Paradise: Successful Parenting for Prosperous Families,” former senior psychologist, Beverly Hills Unified School District.

This free presentation, open to the public, is sponsored by NAMI Windham County, and affiliate of the

National alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI Windham County provides support, education and advocacy throughout Windham County on behalf of individuals and families affected by mental illness. A short meeting of NAMI Windham County members will precede the presentation at 5:45. Light refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is requested by email at info@namiwindhamct.org.

CT State to hold open house

DANIELSON — Connecticut State Community College (CT State) will hold Open Houses at 12 locations throughout Connecticut in March and April for those interested in learning about becoming a CT State student.

Prospective students and their families are welcome to tour CT State campuses and learn about degree and certificate programs, financial aid, the free tuition program and admissions.

Open houses are listed by town below. For more details, including building location, parking, and event updates, visit ctstate.edu/openhouse. Preregistration for the open houses is encouraged, but not required.

Danielson CT State Quinebaug Valley, April 23, 5 p.m. Many CT State degree options offer seamless transfer to the four Connecticut state universities and Charter Oak State College, making it the most affordable path to attain a bachelor’s degree in Connecticut. These credits can also be transferred to other public and private colleges in Connecticut and throughout the United States.

Registration starts March 15 for summer session and April 1 for the fall credit semester. Accelerated summer sessions begin May 22, May 29 and July 6, and fall credit semester starts August 27.

Financial aid and payment plans are available for

fall semester for full- and part-time credit students who qualify, and eligible students can use veteran’s benefits. For new students wishing to register for a class, the first step is to complete a free online application at www.ctstate.edu/apply. All new students are also encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov>.

About CT State Community College Established in 2023 with 12 main campuses across the state, CT State is the largest community college in the Northeast and the fourth-largest open-enrollment public two-year college in the country.

Students can apply once

and attend classes at any of CT State’s campuses— CT State Asnuntuck (Enfield), Capital (Hartford), Gateway (New Haven and North Haven), Housatonic (Bridgeport), Manchester, Middlesex (Middletown and Meriden), Naugatuck Valley (Waterbury and Danbury), Northwestern (Winsted), Norwalk, Quinebaug Valley (Danielson and Willimantic), Three Rivers (Norwich), and Tunxis (Farmington). Open houses are held each spring and fall, and campus tours are available year-round. Visit ctstate.edu for more.

11th Annual open sing in the spirit of Pete Seeger coming to FCC Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — The eleventh annual tribute concert dedicated to the memory of folk icon, Pete Seeger is scheduled for Sunday, March 22 at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, Route 169, Woodstock Hill. Tickets are available at the door for a donation of \$25. The event, affectionately called “For Pete’s Sake,” is hosted by former State Troubadour Sally Rogers of Pomfret, and Leslie Sweetnam of Woodstock, joined by a host of area song leaders who will present the songs while lyrics are projected for all to join in, including Bill Harley, Sally Rogers, Howie Bursen, Jeff Perkins, Sandy Pliskin, Marilyn Ravina, Carol Rossetti, Carolyn Brodginisky, Maria Sangiolo, Hugh Blumenfeld, and Leslie Sweetnam.

Seeger was one of the folk singers responsible for popularizing the spiritual “We Shall Overcome” that became the acknowledged anthem of the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Even more than a performer, Pete was a skilled song-leader, teaching generations of Americans to add their voices to make a room rock with that sound. Our song leaders will teach each song, many already familiar, so we can sing along, and all words are projected on a large screen.

Seeger is best remembered for touring with two groups, the Almanac Singers and the Weavers in the 1940s and 1950s, and is credited for leading folk music’s revival and survival in the 1960s.

He had a string of hit records during the early 1950s as a member of the Weavers, most notably their recording of Lead Belly’s “Goodnight, Irene,” which topped the charts for 13 weeks in 1950. Other hits written by Seeger, some recorded by other artists, include “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?”; “If I Had a Hammer”; and “Turn, Turn, Turn.” He also popularized Woody Guthrie’s “This Land is Your Land.” Many of these will be performed (with audience participation!) at the March 22 concert. Seeger was a prominent singer of protest music in support of international

disarmament, civil rights, counterculture, and environmental causes. As a social activist, he supported progressive causes such as racial and religious inclusion which influenced his work. A fact not well known about Seeger is that he was a U.S. Army veteran, having served in the Pacific during World War II. He was trained as an aircraft mechanic but later assigned to Special Services where he entertained his fellow troops with his banjo and songs.

After the war, he worked on the Civil Rights History Project at the Library of Congress, which no doubt influenced his songwriting and social activism. Admission is a \$25 donation per person to benefit the Community Kitchens of NE Connecticut which have fed hundreds (if not thousands!) of hungry local people here in the Quiet Corner, especially active during the COVID Crisis. Hot delicious meals are prepared by volunteers and are still being served at their locations in Woodstock, Central Village, Danielson, Thompson. To volunteer or to find out about their serving times and locations, contact: communitykitchensnect@gmail.com or call them at 860-779-2465.



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A long-awaited seat at the table

For many residents of Northeastern Connecticut, it can sometimes feel as though decisions are made elsewhere, by people who may not fully understand the character, challenges, and strengths of this region. That is why the recent nomination of Leah Pollard of Pomfret to the Connecticut Superior Court carries significance that goes well beyond one individual’s career milestone.

If confirmed, Pollard would become the first Superior Court judge from Windham County in 15 years. That fact alone speaks volumes.

Representation matters in ways that are not always obvious at first glance. Courts are tasked with interpreting laws that affect every corner of the state, yet the lived experiences of those who serve on the bench inevitably shape how they approach their work. A judge who has spent years serving families in probate court here in Northeast Connecticut brings with her a familiarity with the rhythms of rural communities, the realities facing working families, and the unique challenges that come with limited access to services.

Pollard’s background reflects that kind of grounded experience. Seventeen years as a probate judge is not a brief stop along a career path. It is a sustained commitment to helping families through some of life’s most difficult and personal moments, from estate matters to guardianships and children’s cases. That kind of work demands patience, empathy, and a steady hand, qualities that translate well to the broader responsibilities of the Superior Court.

Her nomination also highlights something that local leaders have pointed out for years. When entire regions go unrepresented in key areas of state government, it can create an imbalance, even if unintended. Windham County has long been proud of its independence and resilience, but it should not be overlooked.

This moment suggests a recognition, at least in part, that the Quiet Corner deserves a stronger voice in statewide institutions.

It is also worth noting that Pollard’s career has been rooted not only in the courtroom, but in public service. Her work with Connecticut Legal Services reflects a commitment to access and fairness, particularly for those who might otherwise struggle to navigate the legal system. In a time when confidence in institutions can feel strained, that kind of background is meaningful.

Of course, a nomination is only the first step. The General Assembly will now take up the responsibility of reviewing and, ultimately, deciding whether to confirm Pollard and the other candidates put forward. That process is important and should be thorough. The standards for a Superior Court judge are high, as they should be.

But for residents of this region, there is already something to take note of. After years without representation at this level, Northeastern Connecticut is once again part of the conversation.

That matters.

It matters for young people considering careers in law who can now see someone from their own communities reaching this level. It matters for residents who want to feel that their region is understood, not simply from a distance, but from lived experience. And it matters for the broader idea that every part of the state, from its cities to its most rural towns, has a place in shaping the institutions that serve us all.

There is a quiet pride that runs through towns like Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson, and Killingly. It is not loud or boastful, but it is steady. Moments like this bring that pride a little closer to the surface.

The coming weeks will determine the outcome of this nomination. Regardless of the final vote, the message is already clear. Northeastern Connecticut is not on the sidelines. It belongs at the table.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How can we prevent the construction of an ICE facility here?

To the Editor:

How can we in Northeast Connecticut prevent, or at least forestall, the placement of an ICE detention complex in our community?

Worries about the building or repurposing of warehouses to “house” those detained by the Department of Homeland Security are legitimate, far reaching and, once initiated, difficult to stop. The costs to small communities such as ours can be devastating on many levels and pragmatically in terms of energy, water and sewage usage far exceeding what is available to the existing population. In some instances, the proposed number of detainees in the facility is larger than the number of people in the community in which it is placed. It would be lovely to be able to predictably say “could never happen here” but devastating to then find, without having taken preventative action, a facility is being built or a warehouse transformed in one of our towns.

I don’t have an answer to the initial question

of how to prevent such a thing from happening. I do know that many communities across the country have taken action, passing ordinances, or other regulations that would inhibit ICE from taking advantage of a fairly rural community. It is reported that Connecticut legislators are proposing legislation that would allow towns and cities to block the re-purposing of commercial warehouses for housing immigrants being detained by the federal government. The legislation, raised by the Planning and Development Committee this month, would require municipal approval for converting a commercial warehouse into a detention center that would house any individual for more than 24 hours. If passed, would one or all of our 10 towns demand or grant such approval? The time to stay informed, talk with each other and our town governments is definitely now.

CELESTE CHARTIER
PUTNAM

Woodstock budget ‘27

To the Editor:

Buckle up, folks, as this is going to get interesting. On Tuesday, March 10, the Woodstock Board of Finance (BOF) held its budget review meeting – would seem to be the only one to be held prior to the public hearing on March 24. Attendance was low, especially on Zoom as the link in the agenda didn’t work – you had to go to the link in the previous agenda or type in the address to connect, so I only saw two people, including myself, who were not official participants on the Zoom side.

When they got to the budget reviews, First Selectman Chan Paquette kicked it off with warning that it was going to be a tough year for taxpayers and so the Board of Selectmen was tough on budget proposals. Town Government side, which accounts for roughly 21 percent of the budget, is proposing a \$181,695 increase – 2.77 percent. And then came the BOE – after a lengthy introduction of all the reasons why it was going to be a doozy, came the number a \$1,174,023 increase. The public didn’t get to see the actual “10” account numbers but the Superintendent did go through some of the major ones – those in attendance may have had access to a paper copy. Woodstock Academy tuition is down a couple of hundred thousand with overall tuitions down more than \$46,000; so WPS spending up more than \$1.2million. Actual enrollment is a

question as two of the slides on the issue didn’t match up. There were no substantive questions from the BOF. Now we get to the fun part: as most Woodstock residents know we went through a reevaluation this past year so reference points can get a little tricky. Karen Fitpatrick, Finance Director, summed it up at the end of the meeting this way: the reevaluation saw an average increase of 30 percent and with that the needed mil rate to cover the proposed budget will be 20.62 mils. Now, a 30 percent increase in evaluations should lower the mil rate from 24.4 mils to 18.77 mils meaning the average taxpayer would be looking at a 9.9 percent tax increase. If you were one of the unfortunates who saw an assessment increase greater than 30 percent, well, your taxes go up from there. Now remember this is on top of, compounded to, 24 percent in increases over the last four years. It just keeps getting better. Watch the video when it gets posted and don’t choke on the popcorn.

Time to start paying attention, show up and ask questions, and above all show up and vote. The public hearing is on March 24, the Annual Town Meeting on April 21, and the town referendum will be held on April 28. Good Luck.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

Walt’s Power Equipment — a farewell to a local legend

To the Editor:

If you ever owned a gas-powered lawn or garden tool, chances are you knew Walt’s Power Equipment. For nearly 40 years, Walt served Pomfret and the surrounding towns with skill, honesty, and a quick wit. He could fix just about anything, and if you couldn’t bring it in, he’d pick it up himself.

I always enjoyed stopping by the shop—not just for repairs, but for conversation. Sometimes it was just Walt; other times, his business partner Jeff was there, along with a couple of regulars who would wander in. The talk flowed easily, from work being done to what was happening around town or in the wider world. Walt always made me laugh when he’d look at me with that grin and ask, “What have you done now?” He always had good advice about what equipment to

buy—and what to stay far away from.

Time finally caught up with old Walt. Last summer, with some encouragement from his children, he decided to hang up his tools and close the shop. I’d been planning to write something about the place when I learned that Walt had passed away just a few days after I started writing. He died on March 9, 2026.

Walt served his country proudly—first in the Army, then in the Navy as an aircraft mechanic. He brought those same skills, precision, and pride to his work after opening his shop in 1987. More than that, he brought kindness, laughter, and a sense of community that will be deeply missed.

We’ll miss you, Walt. You fixed more than our machines—you brightened our days.

TONY EMILIO
POMFRET

Day Kimball has gone above and beyond for our family

To the Editor:

The Day Kimball Healthcare Home Agency, a partner of Yale/New Haven Health, has done a great service to our family member who suffers with Parkinson’s Disease. We could not be more satisfied with the professionalism of the Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Nurses, Fall prevention specialists

and Social Workers.

Eight years into this debilitating disease, they have offered way beyond their special training and experience. Our family appreciates and thanks you all for your hard work and dedication.

MOLLY TRUESDALE
KILLINGLY

Come and enjoy Soup by the people, for the people!

To the Editor:

I want to invite you to our 24th annual Souper Supper hosted by the Woodstock Democrats on Saturday, March 21, from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the East Woodstock Congregational Church.

Souper Supper is a community celebration of our democratic electoral process, so please come on out and join us for a wholesome, hometown, sit-down dining experience. All are welcome: Democrats, Independents, unaffiliated voters, even Republicans!

Soup, by the people and for the people, is our theme. If you love soup or would just like to try a certain variety, here’s you best chance! Our menu will include many of the crowd favorites from years past, and you can try as many as you’d like.

It’s affordable, too. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$25 for families. Get your tickets at the door Saturday, March 21, or call me at 860-928-0773.

All soups are donated by volunteers. Previous

varieties have included corn chowder, kielbasa and cabbage, lentil, vegetable pumpkin chili, potato curry, spicy taco soup, fish chowder, barley, broccoli cheese, hamburger, curry squash, Tuscan bean, chicken spinach soups and regular chili, plus peach mango cold soup.

All food is prepared in a kitchen inspected and certified by the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) to ensure public health and safety.

The WDTC has been serving the Souper Supper since 2001. We hope you’ll help keep it going strong. I know you can’t wait ’til you hear me announce, “Soup’s on!” Hope to see you on the 21st!

PEG WILSON
SOUPER SUPPER CHAIR
WOODSTOCK DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

The gentle art of letting someone go first

There are small moments in a day that don’t seem like much at the time. They pass by quickly, barely noticed, and yet they say something about who we are, and maybe even who we’re trying to be.

I’ve been thinking lately about something as simple as letting someone go first.

Not in any grand, heroic sense. Just the everyday kind. The car at the four-way stop in Woodstock where no one’s quite sure whose turn it is. The line at the coffee counter in Putnam where someone’s only grabbing one item. The narrow aisle in a store where two carts can’t quite pass without a little negotiation.

You see it all the time. Or maybe more accurately, you notice when you don’t.

There was a morning not long ago, over in Killingly, where traffic had that slow, steady feel to it. Not quite a rush, but enough that everyone seemed a little focused on getting where they needed to be. I was coming up on an intersection where another driver was waiting to pull out. He had that look. You know the one. Hoping for a break but not quite expecting it.

I had the right of way. Could have kept going without a second thought.

Instead, I slowed and waved him through.

He hesitated for a second, then went, and gave that small, grateful wave in return. Nothing dramatic. Just a simple acknowledgment between two people who don’t know each other and likely never will.

And yet, for a moment, the day felt a little different.

It struck me afterward how often those moments present themselves. Not just on the road, but everywhere. Little chances to ease someone else’s way, even if only by a few seconds.

Letting someone go ahead in line. Holding a door a beat longer than necessary. Pausing a conversation so someone else can speak. None of it costs much. A moment here, a moment there.

But I wonder how often we rush past those chances.

We live in a time that places a high value on efficiency. Getting things done quickly. Moving along. Staying on schedule. And there’s nothing wrong with that, of course. We all have places to be.

Still, there’s something to be said for the quiet decision to step aside, even briefly, and let someone else have the space.

It’s not about losing something. It’s about choosing not to hold on quite so tightly to every second.

I think people notice it more than we realize. Not in a way that leads to applause or recognition, but in that small shift in expression. The slight softening. The look that says, “That helped.”

And here’s the part that interests me most. Those moments tend to ripple.

The person who was let into traffic may be more likely to do the same a mile down the road. The one who was waved ahead in line might hold the door for the next person. It’s not guaranteed, of course, but it happens often enough to matter.

Kindness, especially this quiet, everyday kind, has a way of moving along.

I’ll admit, I don’t always get it right. There are days when I’m too focused, too distracted, or maybe a little too impatient. Days when I take my turn and keep going without thinking much about it.

But when I do remember, when I take that extra second, I’ve noticed something.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘All the news that’s fit to print’ – 2026 version!

To the Editor:

Yesterday, I bought a newspaper! The ‘Old Gray Lady,’ as a matter of fact, The New York Times.

Honestly, I cannot remember the last time I dropped a few coins on the counter to buy one, and my curiosity was only enhanced by the fact that it cost me \$4 for the trouble! Four dollars for a copy of the Times — not the Sunday Times, mind you, but just a Thursday copy. When did that happen?

Anyway, I was at the store, picking up a gallon of milk (which was cheaper than the paper by the way!) and I saw the rack of papers. I thought, what the hell, let me see what the eggheads at the Times think is going on in the world.

You see, I quite literally grew up in a world wallpapered in Print media. Newspapering was my first job as a boy, and my first real 40 hour a week job as a teenager. I delivered the Boston Globe along with my four brothers in our Franklin Ma. neighborhood in the late sixties and then started my working career at The Middlesex News in Framingham in the mid-‘70’s. I spent the next thirty years or so, working in some facet of newspaper production, printing or distribution and enjoyed a lucrative career doing so. Newspapers, during that time, were at their apex, both in size and volume, as well as importance in the greater culture. It was a matter of perfect timing for me. Specifically within the ‘production arena’ of newspapering, technology was having an enormous impact, and I was a bright eyed and eager participant in that ‘revolution’. The methods used in producing daily papers was changing so rapidly that we who got in at a young age, were presented with countless opportunity to ride that wave and benefit from its cresting. Ironically, eventually it was that same technological momentum that eventually basically killed off the golden goose, but that is a whole other story.

It was another stroke of luck that I happen to be a voracious reader at that time as well. I would read at least a couple of daily newspapers every day. In those days, a lot of people read the paper daily, but being that I worked in Newspaper printing plants, I had no shortage at all of reading materials to pore through, and I read them all! Additionally, the upward momentum of my career, my production ‘expertise’ carried me quite literally all over the world, working in and consulting at major newspapers in cities all over this country and in Europe. I practiced my understanding of Spanish reading copies of “El Diario Vasco” in San Sebastian Spain, and looked at the pictures and found ‘English language’ copies of Newspapers in Sweden and other European countries. I was it seems, addicted to the ink on those pages and completely immersed in that addiction every day.

So picking up that copy of the ‘Old Gray

CORNER
continued from page A5

The day seems to slow down, just a touch. Not in a way that throws everything off, but in a way that makes things feel a little more human.

And in places like Northeastern Connecticut, where life still has room for that kind of pace, it feels like something worth protecting.

So the next time you find yourself at that four-way stop, or in that line, or facing that small, everyday decision, you might try it.

Let someone go first.

It won’t change the whole world. But for a moment or two, it might change the tone of the day.

And sometimes, that’s more than enough.

WWW.VILLAGER
NEWSPAPERS.COM

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.

Lady’ seemed almost necessary yesterday when I noticed it on the shelf. I did some work in fact for the Times, for the Globe, and was right in the thick of the great color revolution initiated by USA Today in the late 80’s. Newspapers had been putting bread on my table for all of my life.

This morning, I sat down with my breakfast and spread the paper out before me on the table. Imagine my disappointment as I flipped through all 54 pages and did not see one single story or article that caught my eye and enticed my interest. All those years ago, I read everything in the paper, cover to cover. In fact today, the only thing that even remotely tempted me was the crossword puzzle but at this point I was so cynically jaded I figured that it too would simply be more of the same useless pablum that I had found on every other page.

The word ‘Trump’ was ever-present, even in the sports section. Every article was political in nature and delivery, and every one held the same doom and gloom posture. The arts section simply baffled me, I did not recognize anything in it. The fashion pages seemed silly, but to be fair, that was true even 50 years ago when I would smirk thumbing through them, I mean, who actually wears this stuff, anyway?

Newspapers, of course, were always highly political, and in my youthful idealistic days, I ate it up and still hungered for more. There was however in those days at least some effort, often very good and sincere efforts, to provide a point v. counter-point of reading, and I always read both sides. We don’t have that luxury anymore, just one voice screaming at us about how everything is bad, and everything we might believe in is wrong. It is at the least boring and at worst, depressing.

I can’t get that four dollars back, but I suppose it was not a complete waste.

At the very least, the four dollars bought me a nostalgic reminder of when things were much better, when people were much smarter, and each day’s edition at least offered some hope we might think our way out of all that ails us.

Those were good times, and we were lucky to have them.

CHARLES F. HARRINGTON
POMFRET CENTER

There is a right way to do things, a wrong way,
and Trump’s way

To the Editor:

I would like to raise some points regarding Mr. Jay Gerhart’s letter in the March 13 issue of the Villager.

First, I want to say that I agree with Mr. Gerhart that there is good reason for a regime change in Iran. What he says about the U.S. being instrumental in installing the corrupt government of the Shah in order to prevent the people of Iran from directing their government according to their wishes is absolutely correct. That led to the revolt that allowed the religious Ayatollahs to take control and, with dictatorial powers, suppress the rights of women, the rights of free speech, and the rights of the people of Iran to freely elect the government of the people’s will.

But is this war the right way to go about it? There is no question that the Iranian government was killing thousands of protestors, which is a pure violation of human rights. But is that what Trump is truly interested in? If the case was to be made that the Ayatollahs were violating the civil and human rights of the citizens of Iran, or that Iran’s nuclear program was indeed a threat to global peace, should this case not have been brought to the United Nations? To NATO? To Congress? To the American People?

None of this was done. Oh yes, Trump did some chest pounding and saber rattling, but did he make his case? He did not. He unilaterally, along with Netanyahu began a Pearl Harbor like bombing raid in Iran that destroyed some military bases, cities, and at least one girl’s school with hundreds of victims. He did not discuss this with Congress, which the Constitution requires. He did not discuss this with the international community, which at least Bush did do in going back to Iraq. He did not warn Iran’s neighbors so they could be on the alert for retaliation. He did not even warn our own citizens in the region to leave before the battle started. Instead,

he told them afterwards that they were on their own to get out once the bombs started falling.

Trump had no plan going in, no end plan, and no specific goal. Or did he? Much like his attack on Venezuela where he kidnapped the president but left the same people in power, he wanted, and took, their oil. Is this his same plan for Iran? We don’t know, because he hasn’t told us why we are there, other than a nuclear threat that he supposedly ended in his bombing raids several months ago when he told us their ability to make bombs was completely destroyed. Which time was he lying? (That’s a rhetorical question.) Trump now says the war will end when he feels it in his gut. What is that supposed to mean?

Trump says that any new leader in Iran must meet with his approval. Not the approval of the international community, not the approval of Congress, not the approval of the United Nations, not even the approval of the people of Iran, but his approval. Trump’s family has already increased their personal wealth thanks to this war, how much more will they gain with his approval of a new leader?

Trump, who did not discuss this attack with any other country, except Israel, is now literally begging for help to get ships through the Strait of Hormuz, and he is getting turned down by them. Meanwhile, North Korea, Russia and China are watching as the U.S. depletes its military arsenal, and the Kurds are saying they are ready to move in and take over Iran. So replace one religious dictatorship with another.

In the meantime, prices of everything are going up, due mostly to the cost of oil going up. Yes, Mr. Gerhart, I agree that there is good cause to change the regime in Iran, but there is a right way to do things, a wrong way to do things, and the Trump way to do things.

DAVE CLARK
THOMPSON

ADDITIONAL LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR,
SEE PAGE A-8

PRIMARY CARE,
RIGHT WHERE LIFE HAPPENS.

Our trusted providers are here for every age and every stage of life. From checkups and preventive screenings to managing ongoing and urgent health needs, you can count on our team for expertise, compassion, and care that fits your life.

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*See Renewal by Andersen® Products and Installation Transferable Limited Warranty for details. †It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details.

POLLARD
continued from page A1

Court,” added State Rep. Pat Boyd. “She has been an advocate for Northeastern Connecticut and a dedicated community member. This nomination is an attribute to her work and impact in the Quiet Corner.”

Pollard and the rest of the governor’s nominations must be reviewed and approved by the General Assembly. Also includ-

RIVERS
continued from page A1

David Griffiths who each received 1,334 votes, called it an honor to serve even for only a short time on the town’s highest elected board. He offered his continued assistance to the council as he transitions away from his elected post.

Traditionally, Town Council vacancies are filled by candidates that represent the same constituency as the department candidate. In this case, Rivers was

SPIROL
continued from page A1

period of time to positively influence our quiet corner,” added Matt Bartlett, Manufacturing Manager and Fundraising Co-chair, SPIROL. “Philanthropy at SPIROL is part of our fabric, and it is so important to make sure that as a part of the community, we’re always ensuring our neighbors have support. A successful fundraising year is more than a milestone, it’s a shared commitment turned into measurable impact.”

SPIROL’s continued engagement reflects a shared commitment with DKH to strengthen community health and support local patients and families. Through employee involvement and participation in community initiatives, SPIROL team members help advance healthcare programs across the region.

“We are grateful for SPIROL’s continued partnership and the meaningful role their employees play in supporting the health of our community,” said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health. “For more than three decades, SPIROL has demonstrated what it means to be a true community partner. Their commitment to giving back reflects a shared belief that when organizations and individuals come together, they can

ed on the list of nominees were Campbell D. Barrett of Durham, Jeffrey R. Beckham of Tolland, Patrick M. Fahey and Philip Niller both of Glastonbury, Felice Gray-Kemp of Hamden, Seán McGuinness of Norwalk, Patrick T. Ring of Windsor, John Shaban of Redding, Rosemarie Weber of Granby, Justine Whalen of Branford, and Theodore M. Doolittle, Sean Kehoe and Nisa Khan all from West Hartford.

an at-large member of the Town Council representing Killingly as a whole rather than a specific district.

While candidates are also often members of the same political party as the departing member, Killingly’s Town Charter, dated 2019, does not specify any requirement for political alignment. Any candidate considered for the vacancy is subject to interviews by the Town Council at large and must receive a majority vote of support to be installed.

make a real difference for patients and families across our region.”

The DKH Foundation works closely with community partners like SPIROL to advance healthcare programs, services, and resources that benefit residents throughout northeast Connecticut. Through ongoing partnerships and philanthropic support, organizations and individuals help ensure that high-quality care remains accessible close to home.

For more information about the DKH Foundation, visit daykimball.org/foundation or contact the DKH Development office at (860) 928-7141.

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Health at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff, including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons, and specialists. Its Web site is daykimball.org.

As women’s wealth grows, financial confidence must too

If you’re a woman who’s ever felt intimidated by investing or uncertain about your financial future, you’re not alone. But it’s time for that to change. Women are set to inherit the majority of the upcoming \$84 trillion “Great Wealth Transfer” happening over the next decade. That means now is a crucial time for women to get comfortable with managing – and building – wealth.

The confidence gap is real – but it’s not about ability

Recent research reveals a striking disparity in financial confidence between men and women. A January 2026 NerdWallet survey found that 65 percent of men believe they can handle income loss this year. In contrast, only 46 percent of women feel the same way.

This gap isn’t about capability, though. It’s about confidence. Studies consistently show that when women do invest, they often outperform their male counterparts.

Women’s financial power is growing

The statistics tell an encouraging story about women’s growing financial power. Women control more than \$10 trillion in U.S. household financial assets, expected to reach \$34 trillion by 2030.1 More women are investing than ever before, with 71 percent now participating in the stock market.2

Despite these gains, 82 percent of women want more financial information.3 Many feel less knowledgeable about long-term topics like building wealth and managing investments.

Understanding the unique challenges

Women face distinct financial challenges that require thoughtful planning. The gender pay gap persists, with women earning approximately 85 percent of what men earn.4

Women are more likely to take breaks from work to care for others. They also live longer than men, averaging five years more, according to the Social Security Administration. Additionally, women often face higher healthcare costs in retirement.

These realities make

comprehensive financial planning essential. The good news? Seeing these challenges is the first step to creating a financial plan with your advisor that tackles them directly.

Five steps to build financial confidence in 2026

1: Get crystal clear on your financial picture

You can’t build confidence without understanding where you stand. Review your complete financial situation—income, expenses, debt, assets, and savings. Many women report feeling confident managing day-to-day finances like paying bills (88 percent) and maintaining good credit (75 percent), but struggle with long-term planning.3 Document everything, then identify gaps between where you are and where you want to be.

2: Create specific, actionable goals

More than two-thirds of women have clear financial goals, and those with specific objectives are more likely to achieve them.1 Whether it’s building an emergency fund, saving for retirement, or investing for long-term wealth, write down your goals and break them into manageable milestones. A roadmap transforms abstract financial anxiety into concrete action steps.

3: Start investing—even if you start small

One of the biggest barriers to wealth building is waiting to invest until you feel “ready.” The truth is, time in the market matters more than timing the market. If your employer offers a 401(k) match, contribute at least enough to capture it. For 2026, you can contribute up to \$24,500 to your 401(k) (plus \$8,000 catch-up if you’re 50 or older). Automate your investments so you’re consistently building wealth without having to think about it.

4: Educate yourself, but don’t go it alone

Half of women work with financial advisors, compared to just 37 percent of men.5 That’s actually a strength, not a weakness. Seeking expert guidance is a smart strategy for success, and WHZ strategic wealth

FINANCIAL FOCUS

HOLLY C. WANEGAR INVESTMENT ADVISER

advisors have the tools to assist you. A qualified financial advisor can help you make tough decisions. They can create a detailed financial plan just for you, and also help you optimize your asset allocation.

5: Focus on long-term strategy, not short-term noise

Women tend to be more deliberate investors, taking on appropriate risk, maintaining diversified portfolios, and taking a disciplined approach. Resist the temptation to make quick decisions based on market volatility. Instead, focus on your strategic plan and make adjustments based on your evolving life circumstances, not market headlines.

Taking the first step

Building financial confidence isn’t about becoming a financial expert overnight. It’s about taking consistent, strategic steps that align with your goals and values. Women who gain more financial freedom do not always earn the most money. They are the ones who take control, ask for help when needed, and stay focused on their long-term goals.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, our comprehensive approach addresses the specific challenges and opportunities women face. We take time to understand your personal goals, family situation, career trajectory, and values. Our team works together to give you different viewpoints. This includes investment management, tax planning, and legacy issues.

Whether you’re navigating career advancement, managing complex compensation packages, planning for retirement, or preparing for generational wealth transfer, we’re here to provide the guidance and support you need. Our goal is to provide you with “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” Schedule a complimentary discovery session online at whzwealth.com, or give us a call at (860) 928-2341.

Authored by WHZ Wealth Advisor Holly Wanegar. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>.

SOURCES:

1 Empower Financial Happiness study and McKinsey & Company research (May 2025)

2 Fidelity (as reported in The Motley Fool, March 2025)

3 New York Life Wealth Watch survey (2024)

4 Pew Research Center 5 Wells Fargo 2021 study (reported in The Motley Fool)

Scholarship available to Putnam students

PUTNAM — The Putnam Arts Council is currently accepting applications for its third annual round of scholarships. The Council will award one Putnam resident currently pursuing an education of any level up to \$1,500 in scholarship assistance.

The intention of the scholarship is intended to help students of any age or field of study to further their art-related discipline. The scholarship may be used towards public or private formal education, or towards a class, workshop, etc. outside of an educational institution.

Application deadline is May 31. The grant will be awarded early July 2026. For more information, visit www.putnamctartscouncil.com.

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Women behind the scenes

I n c l e m e n t
Weather: In case of snow, freezing rain or mixed precipitation please listen to WINY for notices about the Killingly Historical Center closings. You may also call the Center’s phone about 10:15 a.m. or later and see if anyone answers.



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The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar is open by appointment. For additional information, please call

(860) 207-6044 and leave a message.

Fish Fridays: Support Killingly Grange #112, an historic property (the old Killingly Centre school-house) 801 Hartford

Turnpike. March 20, 27, and April 3 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Meal 1: Baked or Fried Fish dinner \$18-10 oz. fish fillet, potato, coleslaw, roll, dessert, drink. Meal 2: Clam cakes & chowder, \$12-6 clam cakes and 1 bowl of clam chowder. Al la Carte while supplies last: clam strips \$10; Clam cakes: 6 for \$8, 12 for \$14; clam chowder, \$6/bowl; Fried fish sandwich-\$5; Onion rings-\$4; French fries-\$3; Cheese sticks-\$3. Limited number of meals. Call or text Terry

at 860-884-1813. At the door pay by cash, credit card or check payable to Killingly Grange.

\$1 per meal discount if you bring a nonperishable food item for the food pantry.

Celebrate America 250. “Women in the American Revolution.” Putting the “Her” in “Heroics.” Saturday, March 21 at 1 p.m. at the Putnam Public Library. Co-sponsored by the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam. Eric Chandler (The Past Presented) will enlighten us with stories of some unsung heroines of the American Revolution and their bravery as soldiers and spies.

Celebrate America 250. “The Sons of Liberty in Windham County”. Saturday, April 11 1-2:30 p.m. at the Putnam Library. Bev York of The American Museum will speak of “Some of the same patriots who served on the Connecticut Assembly and the Governor’s Council of Safety were radical rebels by night”. Co-sponsored by the Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam.

America 250. Quiet Corner Garden Club Book Discussion. “Founding Gardeners-The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation.” Wednesday, April 15, 4-5 p.m. Putnam Public Library. Hosted by Lanette Lepper. Copies of the book are available to borrow at Putnam Library with a valid CT, MA, or RI Library card. Call 860-928-6826 for additional information.

I’ve been spending a lot of time lately on research and matters pertaining to this area’s involvement in the Revolution, so I thought I’d again keep you up-to-date on what was happening 250 years ago, in March 1776. It was an extremely important month for New England and the Greater Boston area in particular. The American forces under General George Washington had been woefully short of artillery. The situation improved in the beginning of March 1776 when his troops, under the cover of darkness, were able to move the 57 guns, which Henry Knox had brought back from the captured Fort Ticonderoga (New York) by oxen and sled, to Dorchester Heights above the British army. On March 4, they began bombarding the British in Boston. Washington prevailed! On March 17, 1776, British General William Howe realized that they could no longer hold the city and began evacu-

ating his 9000 troops who headed for Halifax, Nova Scotia. “In late March following the British evacuation, George Washington began preparing to move the Continental Army to New York to face expected British attacks.” For Northeastern Connecticut residents, it meant that many local men would be returning home, at least for a while. Most future battles would be taking place farther from home, and the militias would again be called upon. (<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/boston;AI>).

Women were doing their part behind the scenes. This is Women’s History Month, so I thought I’d include a little on an intriguing young enslaved woman who lived in Boston at the time of the Revolution. Have you heard of Phillis Wheatley, the first African American woman to “publish a book of poems.” “Born around 1753 in Gambia, Africa, Wheatley was captured by enslavers and brought to America in 1761. Upon arrival, she was sold to the Wheatley family in Boston, Massachusetts. Her first name Phillis was derived from the ship that brought her to America, “the Phillis.”

“The Wheatley family educated her and within sixteen months of her arrival in America she could read the Bible, Greek and Latin classics, and British literature. She also studied astronomy and geography. In her early teenage years, Wheatley began to write poetry, publishing her first poem in 1767. Publication of ‘An Elegiac Poem, on the Death of the Celebrated Divine George Whitefield’ in 1770 brought her great notoriety. In 1773, with financial support from the English Countess of Huntingdon, Wheatley traveled to London with the Wheatley’s son to publish her first collection of poems, “Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral”—the first book written by an enslaved Black woman in America. It included a forward, signed by John Hancock and other Boston notables—as well as a portrait of Wheatley—all designed to prove that the work was indeed written by a Black woman. She was emancipated shortly thereafter... Although she supported the American Revolution, she believed that slavery was the issue that prevented the colonists from achieving true heroism. She wrote several letters to ministers and others on liberty and freedom. During the peak of her writing career, she wrote a well-received poem

praising the appointment of George Washington as the commander of the Continental Army.” “In 1778, Wheatley married John Peters, a free Black man from Boston with whom she had three children, though none survived. Efforts to publish a second book of poems failed. To support her family, she worked as a maid in a boardinghouse while continuing to write poetry. Wheatley became ill and died on December 5th, 1784.” (<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/phillis-wheatley>).

Boston was home to a second Revolutionary era female poet who was well known---Mercy Otis Warren. She “was a published poet, political playwright and satirist during the age of the American Revolution—a time when women were encouraged and expected to keep silent on political matters. Warren not only engaged with the leading figures of the day—such as John, Abigail, and Samuel Adams—but she became an outspoken commentator and historian, as well as the leading female intellectual of the Revolution and early republic... An avid patriot, Warren began writing political dramas that denounced British policies and key officials in Massachusetts, notably Governor Thomas Hutchinson. Her 1772 satire, The Adulator’ (published anonymously in the Massachusetts Spy newspaper), criticized the British colonial governor’s policies a full four years before Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. Warren also published two additional plays skewering British colonial leaders, Defeat (1773) and The Group (1775.) She supported the Boston Tea Party and boycotts of British imports and urged other women to follow suit...” (<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mercy-otis-warren>). The women in Northeastern Connecticut probably would have been following what Mercy Otis Warren was saying and doing since many still had close relatives in the greater Boston area.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, March 2026. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democracy requires participation: contact your representatives

To the Editor:

Have you called your representatives this week? Your call matters. Every call is logged, counted, and shared with the senator or representative and the staff shaping policy. When enough people speak up, it creates pressure. And pressure drives action.

There are so many important issues to address. Pick an issue that matters to you and let your representative know your thoughts:

Constitutional violations, government corruption and foreign influence.

Justice and transparency for victims in the Epstein investigation. This is bigger than Watergate!

Affordability: Rising prices of groceries, health care, housing, energy, and gas.

High costs due to illegal tariffs that have affected U.S. importers and consumers.

Economic instability: inflation, unemployment, mass layoffs, a shrinking GDP and unsustainable growing national deficit.

What about the stock market? It is now below 50,000 points (despite Bondi’s February statement ... the “Dow is over 50,000”).

Government shutdowns that harm American workers and services.

Tax breaks for billionaires while Americans lose health care, education, and infrastructure funding, yet there is unlimited funding for wars and ICE.

The assault on voting rights and women’s reproductive rights.

Mass surveillance of Americans.

Large-scale data breaches affecting millions of Americans as a result of DOGE and hackers.

War and military conflicts that put

American service members at risk.

Declining global trust in U.S. leadership.

Corporate consolidation and monopolies driving up prices in industries like health care, tech, banking, airlines, agriculture, groceries, oil and gas.

Vertical Integration in the Health Care industry where large companies own the Insurers, Pharmacy Benefit Managers, Specialty Pharmacies, Providers and control pricing. The for-profit hospitals that put profit over patients.

Environmental destruction, deregulation, fossil fuels, and polluting data centers.

The need for sustainable energy and serious action on climate change.

Independent news media that has been decimated in favor of government news propaganda.

The impact of AI, social media, and emerging technologies on jobs, privacy, and human well-being. Massive Data Centers polluting communities and draining water supplies.

Immigration policies and detention practices raising humanitarian concerns.

Massive ICE detention centers (concentration camps) being built in communities who don’t want them.

Locally, I hope that the proposed massive development between I-395, Westcott Road and Mashentuck Road, totaling over 1.37 million square feet in Killingly is neither an ICE detention facility nor an AI data center.

These issues affect our lives, our communities, and our future. If any of them matter to you, pick up the phone and tell your representative. Democracy only works when people participate.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

Valuable services provided

To the Editor:

The Thompson Villager must be commended for providing a valuable service to the local community by aiding some particularly distraught residents of the area. This Opinion Page has become a useful anger-management tool, not unlike a psychiatrist’s couch, allowing for the public release of uncontrolled rage by several local Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS) sufferers who are compelled to express their deeper, mostly unfounded, hatred of the President on a weekly basis.

Hate is a powerful emotion that can arise from the most irrational of sources, and has been prominent on this page since 2015 when Donald Trump first arrived on the political scene. These same TDS rants continued weekly even throughout Joe Biden’s entire term of office. Hate can become dangerous if left unchecked, but the valuable service provided here allows those seething with rage the opportunity to vent their feelings in an open public forum. However, this public discharge not only benefits these rabid Trump haters, but also the many other readers who so look forward to this weekly dose of insanity as a ‘comic relief’ from everyday stress. These unhinged letters expressing such outrage always elicit chuckles and often great belly laughs, a well-known

stress reliever.

Billy, Lee, Stephen and Lisa, part of the usual cast of TDS characters, almost seem like close friends who feel comfortable enough to reveal their darkest fears and anxieties for the rest of us to ponder. They seem to entrust us with their angry, misguided thoughts, perhaps not realizing how absurd their rants come across to anyone outside of their not-so-Secret Society of Trump Haters.

Make no mistake, no one takes these diatribes seriously except this small group of very angry, far-left fanatics who are merely, as they say, ‘preaching to the choir’. But the TDS Comedy Theatre troupe always provides the rest of us with a few good laughs on a weekly basis, and for that we are grateful.

I am certain that we can expect this regular display of humor to continue well beyond 2028 when Trump’s term is over, because there is no indication that there are any democrats close to being qualified to take over the Presidency in the foreseeable future, especially with folks like AOC, Newsom and Kamala constantly struggling to put a coherent thought together. So please, keep those hilarious TDS letters coming. They are priceless!

KEITH ELLIOTT
THOMPSON

My 105th editorial

To the Editor:

I’ve been offering these OpEd letters for well over 10 years. This is my 105th. I say this not to brag, but to show how tragic it’s been that we’ve had to keep at it for so long. I’ve tried to not be repetitive or merely regurgitate the headlines. But considering the constant flow of idiocy and criminality from Donnie Despot and his cabal it has not been hard.

My first submission was shortly after Donnie-would-be-Dictator came down that escalator. I was appalled that this egomaniac clown would be so moronic to use the Presidential election as just another publicity stunt. It was astounding that he was so stupid to not realize he was debasing a democratic process that carried such exis-

tential importance not just to the US but to the entire world as well.

These OpEd letters have not been intended to convert the ardent MAGA and Donnie-King-and-Tyrant supporters. That would be a true exercise in futility. The hope has been to put into perspective what is really going on and the justification to oust not just Donnie Tyrant himself but the philosophy of his movement.

The immediate goal is to win at the mid-terms. And it must be done with such an overwhelming plurality that no matter how or what Donnie Tyrant does to corrupt the voting process there will be no question of his losing.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Tickets for “Have a Heart” available now

WOODSTOCK — Tickets to the 25th Annual Have a Heart fundraising event for TEEG are now available on the TEEG website: www.teegonline.org. This milestone event will be held on Friday, May 1 from 6–9 p.m. at the Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock.

TEEG is also announcing the fun addition of a photo booth, complementing the festivities fans of this event have come to love and cherish—such as an abundance of silent auction items and eight live auction experiences. The photos will memorialize patrons’ support of this special event at no additional charge.

Ticket prices will remain at \$35 per person, and include generous appetizers as well as lots of fun in the elegant environment of the Mansion Banquet Hall. Anyone having trouble buying tickets online can contact Chelsea French at 860-923-3458 during business hours or via email at chelseaf@teegonline.org. Board members can accept cash or check payments to secure tickets for patrons as well.

“I’m hoping to welcome a record crowd to this fabulous event,” shared Carl

Asikainen, Executive Director of TEEG. “The organization has come a long way since its humble beginnings as a volunteer-run community effort in 1985, and it’s thanks to the folks who come to this event along with all of our supporters.”

TEEG is a 501(c)3 social service agency serving critical needs of low-income individuals and families in the towns of Pomfret, Woodstock, and Thompson, with food insecurity as a cornerstone of its mission. Since its founding in 1985, TEEG has developed and expanded its programming to include both emergency and ongoing food assistance—including holiday meals—benefits navigation, youth programs, and personalized case coordination. For more information about the work of the organization, please visit www.teegonline.org.

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Components of fascism:
Structure, ideology, and historical
examples from Nazi Germany

BY BRUCE P. SHAY
POMFRET CENTER

Let me preface this commentary with a little family history. My grandfather, Rudolph Schay, was a journalist in Germany in the years leading up to the war. He had the opportunity to interview Hitler when Hitler was in prison (think “Mein Kamph”) and wrote extensively about his perceptions of the rising regime and what it would mean for the Jews and other minorities, Germany, and the world at large. For this he was beaten to within an inch of his life by Hitler’s “Brownshirts.” As soon as he had recovered sufficiently, he took my father, Ruben, and fled first to France and then to the Philippines. My father, Ruben Schay (Shay) subsequently fought the Japanese in the Philippines after driving an ambulance for the U.S. Army. Afterward, he immigrated to America, became an American citizen, enlisted in the Army, and served honorably through the Korean and Vietnam conflicts before retiring as a Lt. Col. after more than 20 years of service. I was told a lot about my father’s and grandfather’s experiences and as well have read my grandfather’s treatise regarding the rise of Hitler; I believe that I am in a position to provide a bit of commentary regarding the parallels between then and now.

Fascism is a political ideology and system of governance characterized by extreme nationalism, centralized authoritarian power, suppression of opposition, and a strong emphasis on social hierarchy and unity under the state. The most widely studied example of fascism is the regime established by Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945. The Nazi state illustrates many of its defining components in a particularly extreme and historically significant way.

Several core components are commonly associated with fascist systems:

1. Authoritarianism
Authoritarianism refers to a political structure in which power is concentrated in the hands of a single leader or a small elite group, with limited or no democratic accountability. Our Congress seems to have abdicated its authority and no longer enforces accountability from the current administration. Under Hitler’s rule, Germany quickly transitioned from the democratic system of the Weimar Republic to a one-party dictatorship. After being appointed chancellor in 1933, Hitler used the crisis following the Reichstag Fire to push through emergency decrees (think “Executive Orders”) that suspended civil liberties. Soon afterward, the Enabling Act of 1933 allowed Hitler’s government to pass laws without parliamentary, i.e., “Congressional” approval. This consolidation of authority meant that political power was no longer dispersed among institutions, but instead flowed directly from Hitler himself. In other words, there were no “Checks and Balances.” In current times, “Executive Orders” are used in a similar fashion. Opposition parties were banned, and dissent became a criminal act. Consider the parallels in our day such as the protest killings in Minneapolis and other cities. Consider also the administration’s desire to “federalize” voting, in conflict with the Constitution, in a blatant attempt to suppress voting rights.

2. Totalitarianism
Totalitarianism extends beyond authoritarian rule by seeking to control nearly every aspect of society, including politics. In modern days, suppression of the Voting Rights Act and the attempt to ratify the “SAVE Act” are current examples. Control of culture such as what is happening at the Kennedy Center, education - Harvard, et al, and personal life are other aspects. The Nazi regime attempted to reshape German society in accordance with its ideology through a process known as Gleichschaltung (coordination). Independent institutions—including trade unions, cultural organizations, and regional governments—were absorbed or replaced by Nazi-controlled bodies. Organizations such as the Hitler Youth and the

League of German Girls were created to indoctrinate children and adolescents with Nazi values from an early age. Consider what is happening in our schools today with the mandate to post the 10 Commandments in several states, and mandates and laws prohibiting the teaching of certain topics. Schools, universities, and professional organizations were required to align with state ideology. The goal was not merely political dominance but total cultural and social conformity.

3. Extreme nationalism
Fascism places extraordinary emphasis on national identity, unity, and superiority. The nation is portrayed as an organic community that must be protected and strengthened. In Nazi ideology, nationalism was fused with racial theory. The regime promoted the concept of the “Aryan” German people as a superior race and insisted that the state existed to protect and expand this racial community. Today, White replacement theory is an example of this phenomenon. Propaganda frequently glorified German history and destiny while portraying Germany as a victim of foreign conspiracies and injustices. The current pogroms against immigrants, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community are prime examples of this.

4. Cult of leadership
Fascist regimes typically center political life around a charismatic leader who embodies the will of the nation. In Nazi Germany, this principle was formalized as the Führerprinzip (“leader principle”). According to this doctrine, absolute authority flowed from Hitler as the supreme leader, whose decisions were considered inherently correct and beyond challenge. Our own Supreme Court is having, at best, difficulty challenging the current administration and reining it in. The same could be said of our Congress. State propaganda—organized by figures such as Joseph Goebbels (Consider one of Trump’s advisors and MAGA in general) portrayed Hitler as Germany’s savior. How many times have we heard, “Only I can solve this?”

5. Militarism and expansionism
Militarism—the glorification of military power and readiness for war—is another hallmark of fascist systems.

The Nazi regime rapidly rebuilt Germany’s armed forces in violation of the Treaty of Versailles. Massive military spending and conscription prepared the country for territorial expansion. Today’s administration’s attempts on Canada, Greenland, Venezuela, Gaza, Cuba and Iran are modern-day examples of this attempt at territorial expansionism. This expansionist agenda led directly to the outbreak of World War II in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. The war was framed as a necessary step in securing “living space” (Lebensraum) for the German people. We are now experiencing a frightening replay of this with the Iran conflict. This is exemplified by the recent comments from the Secretary of Defense: “...We also don’t fight with stupid rules of engagement... No more politically correct and overbearing rules of engagement.” Germany invaded Poland, sparking World War II. Is the potential (and likely) invasion of Iran a harbinger of World War III?

6. Suppression of opposition
Fascist governments eliminate political opposition through intimidation, censorship, and violence.

The Nazi state created a vast apparatus of repression. The secret police organization known as the Gestapo monitored citizens and eliminated dissent. Political opponents were arrested and imprisoned. In America, ICE fills that role today. Masked and unidentifiable, they terrorize our population. Many were sent to early concentration camps such as Dachau concentration camp, which initially held political prisoners before becoming part of the broader system of camps used by the regime. In today’s America, ICE Detention Centers and off-shore, contracted facilities such as SECOT, fill that role. Captives die every day in these detention centers.

7. Propaganda and information control

Propaganda is essential for maintaining fascist power because it shapes public perception and reinforces ideological narratives. Under the direction of Goebbels, the Nazi regime tightly controlled newspapers. Today, we see the same trend with TV and newspaper outlets such as Fox, CNN, CBS and The Washington Post, among others. Just this past week, the Pentagon publicly criticized the military newspaper, Stars and Stripes and promised an overhaul of the publication because it is “too Woke.” Hegseth’s Defense Department has been particularly antagonistic on this topic. Radio broadcasts are also being controlled. Consider the defunding of NPR, PBS, and Voice of America. This past Saturday, Federal Communications Commission Chair Brendan Carr warned that broadcasters will lose their licenses if they don’t “operate in the public interest” because of their reporting on the Iran conflict, which the administration labeled as “Fake News.” Books deemed contrary to Nazi ideology were publicly destroyed during the Nazi Book Burnings of 1933. Book bans across the United States have been a hallmark of this administration and its followers.

8. Racism and state-sponsored persecution

One of the most extreme features of Nazi fascism was the systematic persecution of groups defined as racially or socially inferior. Muslims, Hispanics, Blacks, other people of color, the LGBTQ+ community fall into this melting pot of discrimination today. The regime institutionalized antisemitism through laws such as the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, which stripped Jews of citizenship and basic rights. These policies eventually escalated into the genocide known as the Holocaust. Millions of people—including Jews, Roma, disabled individuals, political prisoners, and others—were murdered in camps such as Auschwitz concentration camp. Today, ICE has detention centers where people are dying. The administration proposes revoking “Birthright citizenship” and the citizenship of those who came to this country and attained their citizenship through the naturalization process. Under these sorts of proposals, my father, an immigrant refugee, could be stripped of his acquired citizenship and deported, even though he was a decorated combat veteran.

9. Control of the economy
Although fascist regimes often allowed private property and businesses to exist, the state exerted strong influence over economic activity to serve national goals. In Nazi Germany, the government directed industrial production toward military expansion and national self-sufficiency. Businesses were expected to align with state priorities; labor unions were replaced by the state-controlled German Labor Front. Economic policy was therefore subordinated to political and ideological objectives. Today, tariffs and political pressure on certain industries fill this role, damaging our economy and forcing people out of work.

Conclusion
Fascism is not defined by a single policy but by a collection of political and social features. These include authoritarian leadership, totalitarian social control, extreme nationalism, militarism, propaganda, suppression of dissent, and often racist ideology. In the case of Nazi Germany, these components combined to produce one of the most destructive regimes in modern history. The Nazi example demonstrates how fascist systems can dismantle democratic institutions, reshape society through ideology and propaganda, and mobilize state power for aggressive expansion and persecution. Studying these historical patterns helps illuminate the dangers posed by authoritarian movements and underscores the importance of democratic safeguards and civil liberties.

It took Germany (and the world) a generation to substantially recover from the Fascism of the 1930’s and 1940’s. Is this really what you want? Really?

KILLINGLY HIGH
SCHOOL ANNOUNCES
HONOR ROLL

KILLINGLY — The following Killingly High School seniors achieved High Honors in Quarter 2: Jayden Alvarez, Aurora Beggs, Emma Belliveau, Ezekiel Benoit, Isaiah Benoit, Gavin Bessenaire, Jaliyah Blair, Samantha Bourque, Elizabeth Carlson, Alena Clayton, Jayden Durand, Kane Geddis, Brianna Gervais, Melody Hutchinson, Emerson Joly, Evan Kozey, Savannah LaFlash, Alex Murdock, Owen Murray, Jordan Parker, Lily Peckham, Mackenzie Pothier, Cheyenne Reynolds, Julianna Rodriguez, Kendall Rosen, Talia Santese, Brian Smith, Tyler Smith, Samantha Smyth, Amaya Spadola, Quinn Sumner, Sophia Tomany, Mariette Vien, Ryan Webster.

First Honors: Layla Adams, Hayden Allard, Hunter Allard, Michael Allen, Amirah Alston-Madison, Samantha Baker, Jace Basinet, Lillian Beach, Logan Burt, Nicholas Caron, Hailey Collins, Chase Conklin, Gavin Corrao, Morgan Deojay, Kalynn Dombkowski, Shannon Donovan, Ella Dunn, Michael Fabiano, Susie Fournier-Nason, Ian Gaudet, Christopher Graff, Ethan Hall, Kristine Hamilton, Siobhan Hart, Lilli Herbrandt, Madysyn Illig, Amani Kamau, Adam Klosowski, Isaac Lake, Aiden Lamotte, Lindsay Lemery, Joseph Mackie, Grace Main, Chloe Moniz, Miguel Morente Uz, Walter Okoney, Ella Pereira, Klaus Resulaj, Riley Ritchotte, Brianna Schardt, Callan Senecal, Hailey Therrien.

Second Honors: Aliza Asselin, Jalen Audet, Shyah Baker, Adam Breton, Eva Briere, Brezlin Brown, Bryan Cairrao, Jacob Cozza, Abbey Danielson, Neishalie Delbrey, Kiara Delvalle, Jenna DiFusco, Kayce Edwards, Rylie Edwards, Emily Fishman, Madisyn Golbranson, Joseph Gould, Alexa Gregoire, Matthew Guenette, Kaiden Guertin, Hannah Highley, James Hogan, Amber Hunt, Christopher Jankowski, Ava Johnston, Lacie Keegan, Teagan Klewin, Logan Lamontagne, Cooper Logee, Madison Moreau, Ella Moyer, Exael Padilla, Zachary Phillips, Elizabeth Poplawski, Giuliana Rheume, Joselinne Sanchez-Ruelas, Jake Sangasy, Sebastian Sierakowski, Jeremiah Smith, Preston Suprenant, Ivan Swabby, Wyatt Tryba Mailloux, Danielle Veillette, Hugo Zayas.

The following Juniors achieved High Honors in Quarter 2: Logan Brooks, Chloe Cesolini, Addyson Larkin, Alisa Libby, Gracie Pekarovic-West, Edward Purcell, Trevor Remillard, Jaiden Rickell, Alexa Rodriguez, Sophia St. Germain, Kendall Ternowchek, Cydney Thompson, Allegra Turbayevskiy.

First Honors: Aiden Anforth, Shai Baker, Quin Crowley, Gaighe DeBella, Felicia Desabota, Justin Dominguez-Bolaina, Kayla Drinkwater, Tomas Gutierrez, Attilea Jarvis, Anna Kelly, Zoe Labonte, Zoey Lafleur, Emilie Lecrone, William Mancini, Brandon Melmed, Leah Valentine, Mason Yuill.

Second Honors: Jiyeer Baldwin, Alexandria Baron, Zachary Blanchard, Danielle Chiyaya, Alexia Collazo, Rowan Crousey, Willow Deary, Ashton Dubeau, Maddux Duquette, Logan Durand, Trinity Eldridge, Savannah Frias, Benjamin Giguere, Brady Girardin, Hailey Gluck, Camila Grajales, Owen Hartley, Krista Kettle, Glen Leveille, Addison Lucier, Esme Miller, Taber Mowrey, McKenna Mulvey, Austin Newman, Riley Nolin, Sarah Owen, Mason Parker, Viviana Pearson, Dylan Pedersen, Matthew Poirier, Mia Rayta, Max Richardson, Crystal Rondeau, Drew Seiffert, Maximus Shafer, Lillian Shippee, Christian Tremblay, Atalia Vessello, Jake Voyer, Presley Waterman, Jaelyn Wellman, Amiyah Woodmansee, Claire Zachow.

The following Sophomores achieved High Honors in Quarter 2: Olivia Cabral, Alexandria Caisse, Kate Crowley, Corinne Daniels, Ev Dos Santos, Marika Exarhoulias, Michael Gottlieb, Lianna Hutchinson, Loretta Lannon, Peyton Loeber, Jaynie MacQuarrie, Samairy Madera, Sophia Moran, Nina Purcell, Reese Ritchotte, Satya Thongsouvanh.

First Honors: Ella Adams, Kylie Anderson, Jaden Barnett, Jake Beaudreault, Caitlyn Cote, Ty Crowley, Jack Daher, Ava Ellis, Rowan Frazer, Katie Hill, Jake Jaworski, Zachary Lackner, Liam Lamotte, Ethan Laoroyal, Victoria Liguz, Lillian McDonald, Haley Nolet, Jackson Olson, Rigel Pelletier, Kalia Rosado, Daphne San Souci, Gianna Sanchas, Violet Schaefer.

Second Honors: Alan Abbott, Riley Anderson, Claire Antunes, Graciella Baublitz, Jacob Belliveau, Harris Benjamin, Samuel Berube, Nolan Bonin, Ashley Boudreau, Hazel Campbell, Christopher Caron, Delia Chmura, Adisen Clark, William Clayton, Antonio Demaio, Bryce Dumeer, Madison Hardy, Aaden Khamphoukeo, Jacob Long, Greyson Marquez, Graham Milot, Deven Mix, Monty Niyomkham, Chloe Oates, Angel Pacheco, Jon Palmer, Naitik Pandya, Madeline Plumadore, Jeddied Ramirez, Lyla Rondeau, Brandon Sanchez, Jackson Santese, Aaliyah Shields, Odin Spjut, Shealyn Stephenson, Nathan Tiffany, Arianna Turner, Giselle Wolfenden.

The following Freshmen achieved High Honors in Quarter 2: Rosalie Beach, Natalya-Rose Benoit, Gabriel Covington, Makenzie Cutler, Kennadie DaSilva, Jayden Desimone, Emerson DeVillez, A-riss Kuljancic, Alexandria Magee, Adalyn Malarkey, Gianna Peters, Rosa Wilson, Lexie Young.

First Honors: Declyn Benjamin, Olivia Cesolini, Maria Dos Reis, Katherine Evans, Hayden Frazer, Alivia Gagne, Lucy Gavis, Jasper Gilbert, Kairah Guertin, Brandon Harrison Jr., Asher Jarvis, Autumn LaCasse, Bryce Lemovitz, Adam Lovendale, Avery Main, Naomi Nunez, Emily Pedersen, Mabel Peterson, Brianna Robbins, Amyah Rodriguez, Gabriela Romero-Garcia, Mariya Sarandi, Jaclyn Suprenant, Emma Young.

Second Honors: Ashley Amosco-Gilbert, Abigail Andrade, Laylanie Benitez, Timothy Carlson, Nathan Comtois, Larry Cote, Peighton Denomme, Cameron Deschamps, Zachary Ferland, Christopher Fernandes, Aislynn Hassett, Josie Hebert, Cruz Jimenez-Garvey, Ayla Laprade, Ryder Manning, Haidynn Miller, Xavier Mongeau, Jose Morente Uz, Kezlee Morrarty, Amani Ortiz, Aubrey Paskalis, Layla Raymond, Emma Roninson, Alexander Saunders, Damien Seace, Harrison Seney, Allyana Shafer, Emmalyn Soullier, Andre Souriyamath, Dakota St. Jean, Evah Thuotte, Analaya Torres, Nathan Toth, Isabella Weber, Emily Zadora.

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.

Pomfret Recreation Department unveils full slate of programs from spring through summer

POMFRET — From youth sports to adult leagues and creative workshops, the Pomfret Recreation Department has released a wide-ranging lineup of programs designed to serve residents of all ages through the spring and summer months.

The schedule includes a mix of returning favorites and new offerings, with activities taking place at the Pomfret Community School, Pomfret Community Center, Recreation Park and other local venues.

One of the first programs underway is the Before School Floor Kickball and Wiffle Ball program, running from March 2 through April 11 at the Pomfret Community School gym. Open to students in grades 4 through 8, the co-ed program meets on school days from 7:50 to 8:20 a.m. and is led by instructor Ryan Ericson. The program is designed to give students an active start to the day, with scheduled breaks on March 6 and April 3.

Adult recreation continues with the Men’s Over 30 Basketball League, which runs through June 29 at the school gym. The league meets Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and welcomes players of all skill levels.

Card players also have ongoing opportunities through the Winter Cribbage League, held Tuesday evenings through April 14 at the Pomfret Community

Center. The league, open to participants age 12 and older, includes weekly competitions with a variety of formats and will conclude with an outing and tournament later in the year.

Looking ahead to April, several one-time and short-session programs are scheduled. On April 11, the Scents and Stems Workshop will bring together Farmwicks Candle Co. and Jillie’s Flowers for a hands-on experience combining candle-making and floral design. The workshop will be held from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the community center.

During school vacation week, families can take part in April Break Family Fun, offered in two separate sessions. Activities include crafting clay fairy doors, mushroom paintings, decorated plant pots and pipe cleaner flowers. Sessions will run April 13 and 17 in the afternoon, and April 14 and 16 later in the day, all at the community center.

Elementary school students will have a chance to gather at the Spring Social on April 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Pomfret Community School cafeteria. Open to students in grades 3 through 5, the event will feature games, music and refreshments.

Outdoor and seasonal programs expand in May and beyond. On May 16, participants can join Patti from Lapsley Orchard for a “Make Your Own

Herb Pot” workshop at the orchard. Later in the month, the Pickleball League begins May 21 at Pomfret Recreation Park, with weekly Thursday evening sessions continuing through Aug. 13.

Summer programming includes both youth and adult options. A Summer Lego Camp, scheduled for July 13 through July 17 at the Pomfret Community School cafeteria, will offer separate sessions for children ages 5-8 and 9-12. The camp is operated by Play-Well and focuses on creative building and problem-solving.

Card players can return for the Summer Cribbage League, running June 9 through Aug. 18, while the Summer Pitch League will meet Thursday evenings from June 11 through Aug. 20, both at the community center. Each league concludes with an end-of-season tournament.

Recreation officials note that most programs are open to non-residents, and additional offerings, including a Someone Special Dance, summer volleyball league and a fishing derby and fall festival, are expected to be announced later this year.

Registration for all programs is available online or through the Pomfret Town Hall. More information, including schedules and forms, can be found on the department’s website or through its social media page.



Paul Pierre Tetreault, 89, of Dayville passed away with his children by his side on Thursday March 12, 2026, at the Backus Emergency Care Center in Plainfield. He was born on June 30, 1936, in Putnam, son of the late Leonid and Clara (LaFond) Tetreault. He was the beloved husband of Marie L. Tetreault who predeceased him. Paul grew up in Putnam and attended the local schools, graduating from Putnam High School. He joined the United States Air Force and served his country honorably throughout his very decorated career. Paul worked many jobs, not only in the military but as a civilian. He worked for the United States Air Force as a cryptographer and construction operator. Paul went on to work for Electric Boat, Pratt and Whitney, Gene’s Appliance, and owned and operated Tetreault’s Appliance. He landed in Westover, MA with the United States Reserves where he proudly retired as Chief Master Sargent.

Paul was a serving member of St. James Church in Danielson and donated to numerous causes and organizations to help better his community. In his free time Paul most notably enjoyed golfing. In his younger years he held letters in track and field and football. He will forever be known for his cribbage card playing, but is still looking for the perfect hand...

Paul was a loving, devoted family man. His wishes were for his family to always stay together cohesively. He had an extremely strong devotion to his faith and spent many hours with the Eucharist in Adoration to our Lord seeking intercession

through our Mother Mary. His marriage to Marie Lucille Tetreault of years was the love of his life. His passing was due to an extremely long illness. Paul’s children were always near and dear to his heart. He found love and friendship with Camille Fitch and her family after his wife’s passing. Chief Master Sargent Paul Tetreault had an extreme devotion to the military and proud patriotism for his country. Our father will not only be missed by his family, but also by countless people in the community. God bless you devoted son to the Lord. We love you.

Paul is survived by his children Monique Phelan and husband John, Michael and Laura Tetreault, Mark and Sherry Tetreault, and David Tetreault. He also leaves behind his siblings Roland Tetreault, Ann Marie Desabota, Claire Tetreault, Pauline Tetreault and Lee Fontaine. Paul also leaves behind his beloved grandchildren Misty Tetreault, Holly Tetreault, Kelsey Phelan, Chris Phelan, Pat Phelan, Matthew Phelan, Melissa Tetreault and Eric Tetreault and six great grandchildren. He also will be missed by his loving companion Camille Fitch.

Calling hours will be held in Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main Street Danielson on Thursday March 19, 2026, from 5-7pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Mary’s Church in Putnam on Friday March 20, 2026, at 9am. Following Paul’s funeral mass, burial with full military honors will take place at the CT Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Middletown at 12 noon. tillinghastfh.com



Narcan training course rescheduled due to snowstorm

DAYVILLE — In response to the ongoing opioid crisis, The Northeast Insurance Professionals and Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association have collaborated to provide a Narcan Training Course open to all community members. The training course will take place on March 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (rescheduled from Feb. 25), at the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association, 399 Route 169 in Woodstock.

This educational session is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and confidence to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. Attendees will learn how to identify the warning signs and symptoms, how Narcan works and how to properly administer Narcan during an over-

dose. Trainer devices will be available for participants to practice the action of administering Narcan when responding to an emergency.

“Naloxone saves lives. When more people are trained and prepared, our entire community benefits,” said NEIP President, Lysa Molnar. “This training empowers individuals in our community to act quickly and confidently during an emergency.”

Narcan is a safe, FDA-approved medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose within minutes. The training is appropriate for parents, educators, business owners, healthcare professionals and any concerned community member.

The event is limited to 30 attendees, and light refreshments will be provided. A \$10 donation is requested that will fund the Fire Association’s ongoing training for public safety.

To register or to learn more, contact Lysa Molnar, NEIP President by emailing neip18@yahoo.com or call 860-377-0755.

By increasing access to overdose prevention education and lifesaving tools, the Northeast Insurance Professionals and Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association aims to reduce stigma, prevent overdose fatalities, and strengthen community response efforts.

Woodstock Dems’ Souper Supper fundraiser set for March 21

WOODSTOCK — “Soup by the people, for the people” is, once again, the tried and true “recipe” for the popular Souper Supper community celebration hosted each March by the Woodstock Democratic Town Committee. This year’s event is set for Saturday, March 21, at the East Woodstock Congregational Church, corner of Woodstock Road

and Dr. Pike Road in East Woodstock.

In response to last year’s demand (140 customers!), the hours have been extended to 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are the same as last year: \$10 for adults and \$25 for families. Tickets are available at the door or by calling event coordinator Peg Wilson at 860-928-0773.

Soup lovers can rejoice!

Many popular, crowd-pleasing soups featured in past years are expected to headline the menu again this year. Along with a multitude of soups including vegetarian, the menu also includes appetizers, bread and butter, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages.

The Souper Supper has been an annual Woodstock tradition since 2001. 2026 marks its 24th year!

“Come and enjoy!” Peg Wilson encourages. “The WDTC welcomes Democrats, Independents, unaffiliated voters, even Republicans!, plus citizens from all towns,” Wilson said. “Join us and dine; it’s a sit-down event in a friendly atmosphere as we celebrate the democratic electoral process.”

To ensure public health and safety, all food is prepared in a kitchen inspected and certified by the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH).

Main Street Danielson to host family-friendly spring celebration March 28

DANIELSON — The community is invited to celebrate the arrival of spring with a fun-filled day on Main Street in Danielson on Saturday, March 28 starting at 10 a.m. The event promises a range of family-friendly activities from a scavenger hunt to crafts and even a dog adoption event!

The festivities will kick off after Killingly Parks and Recreation’s Easter Egg Hunt at Davis Park. Community members are encouraged to stroll down Main Street and explore local shops offering coffee, snacks, and special activities throughout the day.

Main Street Scavenger Hunt

Grab a scavenger hunt sheet from the KBA tent at the Easter Egg Hunt at Davis Park or from any of the participating businesses on Main Street, then pop into each shop to find the special egg! Find all eggs and return the sheet to Mountain Laurel Floral Designs to be entered to win fun raffle prizes from Main

Street businesses. The scavenger hunt will run from 10 a.m.-noon.

Main Street kids’ activities

Mountain Laurel Floral Designs will be celebrating its one-year anniversary and hosting a variety of hands-on crafts for all ages from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Craft options will include adorable bunny headbands, painted garden pots, and paper egg wreaths, with crafts starting at just \$2. Plus, Mountain Laurel is partnering with Art by Simone to offer festive face painting.

Pet lovers won’t want to miss the activities at Bark-Society, who will host a fun photo booth and host a dog adoption event in partnership with Doggoholic Rescue from 10 a.m.-noon, a great opportunity to meet adoptable dogs looking for their forever homes.

Two Dogs Coffee Shop will be hosting a kids scavenger hunt – find all of the mini chickens and win a prize! Plus, stop by NorthStar Home Loans

and Chubby Dog Coffee Gaming Bar for fun activities such as sand art and coloring sheets. Lastly, the Easter bunny will be visiting Lilium for pictures with kids!

With family-friendly activities, local shopping, delicious food, and opportunities to support small businesses and an animal rescue, the Main Street Spring Celebration is set to be a highlight of the season in Danielson!

Event Details

Saturday, March 28
Easter Egg Hunt at Davis Park begins at 10 a.m.

Scavenger hunt runs 10 a.m.-noon

Kids activities at each business based on shop hours

For more information, reach out to Mountain Laurel Floral Designs at mountainlaurelfloraldesign@gmail.com or 1-860-774-9791.

(voice only). Please leave a message when you call. Proceeds will benefit the Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 2026 Summer Camp Fund, to help our Cub Scouts go to summer camp in July. Parking is available behind the building and in the municipal parking lot at 175 Providence St.

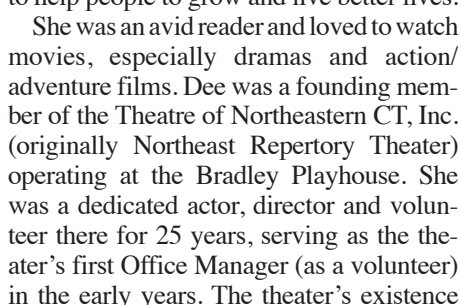
Spaghetti dinner to send Putnam Cub Scouts to summer camp

PUTNAM – Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam will host its Spring Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner, including salad, garlic bread, coffee, tea, lemonade and bottled water on Saturday, April 18, from 4 until 7 p. m., at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St., Putnam.

Tickets are just \$10 for adults, while children 12 and under eat for free. Take-out or eat-in. There will be free live music, candy bars for sale and raffles by the VFW. Advance tickets are available at the VFW Post and at Joseph’s Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam, and by calling (860) 928-5873

For Advertising Information
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Dorina (Dee) L. (Laperle) Hopcroft
1947 – 2026



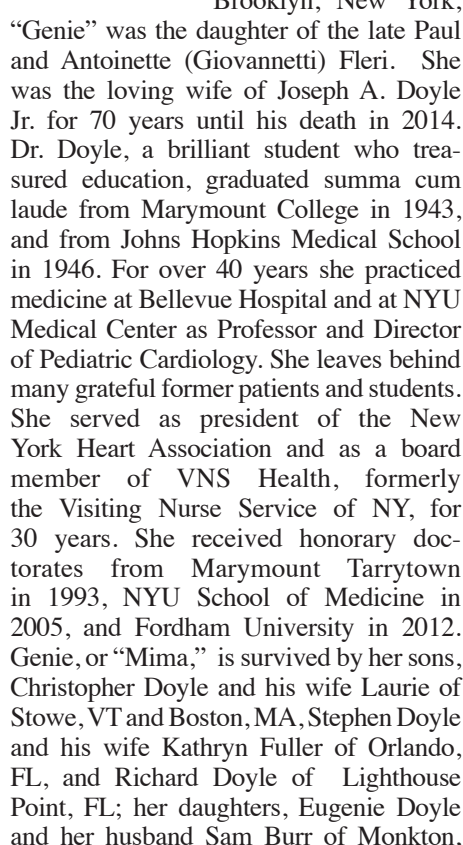
Proud of her Swedish heritage, Frances

Jeannette was a communicant of St. James Church in Danielson. She loved animals, especially dogs, birdwatching, shopping, and vacationing in Maine and

For memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. James Church, Danielson, CT, on April 11, 2026, at 11:00 AM followed by burial at St. Joseph Cemetery and a reception at the E. Killingly Firehouse. Share a memory at Gagnonandcostellofh.com

Dr. Eugenie F. Doyle
Oct. 19, 1921 - March 8, 2026



James enjoyed meeting people and worked for several years as a door-to-door salesman of internet services. He

A Celebration of life will be held

Cremation and Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in James's memory to Community Cat Connection, MA or Paws Cat Shelter, CT.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jon Trudeau
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, EDWIN C.
HIGGINS III, 168 MAIN STREET,
P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
March 20, 2026

*Send all obituary notices to Villager
Newspapers, PO Box 90, Southbridge,
MA 01550, or by e-mail to [obits@stone-
bridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stone-
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Putnam Cub Scouts have fun with fire trucks



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Courtesy

Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam visited the Putnam Fire Station on Church Street on Wednesday, March 11. Putnam Fire Department officers talked to the Cubs about fire safety and prevention and showed them all of the department's trucks and equipment. This is just one of many fun and challenging activities Cub Scout Pack 21 does throughout the year. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.

