



"If you must be a fool, be a cool fool. That's my rule!"  
- Jim Carrey

# KILLINGLY VILLAGER

©2026, Issue #13

Serving Killingly since 2006

Friday, April 3, 2026

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## Volunteers return from ninth Guatemala service trip



POMFRET — Quiet Corner volunteers working through Partners in Development returned healthy and tired but appreciative of our blessings after serving during the last week of February, 2026 in two villages of SW Guatemala. The team members were comprised of 14 people including 4

medical, 1 Spanish translator, 2 educators about water filters and nutrition and 7 construction workers.

The medical team evaluated and treated 470 patients, providing free care and medications. In one village, the work requires translation from Spanish. In another

village, the translation is Quiche to Spanish, then Spanish to English. Progress can be a little slow.

The construction team installed 52 fuel efficient ONIL woodburning stoves in homes. These stoves take smoke and creosote out of the home, reduce fuel consumption by 2/3, reduce burns and save peoples lungs. Over the nine service

trips, the team has donated and installed more than 400 stoves.

The construction team worked on a new 400 square foot house, dug two drainage ditches and layered stucco over all interior walls. Funds for this house were raised by this same group during a pig roast picnic last July. (Watch for info about a pig roast fundraiser picnic this coming summer.)

The team also replaced termite-eaten support posts on the porch of the Ixtacapa medical clinic and painted ceiling tiles, interior and exterior walls of the Xojola library and repaired book shelves. One educator instructed use and maintenance of 97 Sawyer bucket water filtration systems to enthusiastic recipients. The filters

Turn To TRIP page A11

## Local schools face false threats

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Several local schools initiated lockdown procedures and brought in state police to investigate after a series of reported threats were reported over several days as part of what appears to be a larger-scale series of events across the state.

Killingly, Putnam, and Woodstock schools all responded to security concerns, with the first reported at Killingly High School on March 25, then Putnam and Woodstock two days later. While no credible threats were detected from these incidents, school officials stressed the importance of taking these situations seriously no matter the outcome or likelihood of a hoax.

The first incident at Killingly High School on March 25 sparked a sweep of the school and lockdown after a threat was made and later confirmed to be unfounded. Other schools across the state had also received threats, but no actual incident occurred. While sadly one-off threats to specific schools are not uncommon and don't often result in an actual attack, Killingly's incident turned out to be just the start for a week of concern throughout the region.

Two days later, on March 27, both Woodstock Academy and Putnam schools also received threats. Woodstock Academy school officials confirmed to news outlets that a lockdown was in place that morning. Police reports indicated no direct connection to the Killingly incident. A controlled dismissal was later confirmed. Woodstock Middle School also went into lockdown due to its proximity to Woodstock Academy, but later continued operation as normal without an early dismissal.

A message from Woodstock Academy administration later confirmed that the school received "a threatening phone call" which necessitated the lockdown which may be part of a larger string of incidents across the state effecting numerous educational institutions.

"State Police have indicated that the call is believed to be part of a 'swatting' incident. We have also been informed that several other schools in the surrounding area received similar threats," read the notice.

Swatting is defined as the criminal act of reporting a fake emergency to cause a heavy police response.

"After law enforcement completed their investigation and determined that there was no active threat, the lockdown was lifted. However, out of an abundance of caution and in coordination with local authorities, we made the decision to dismiss students early," the notice explained.

Neighboring Putnam also endured a threat with the Putnam Police releasing an official report indicating that a Putnam Middle School student's email had been compromised resulting in a bomb threat written in a foreign language that automatically translated to English being sent through the school's network. The threat was not initiated by the student. While some reports had indicated Putnam High School was involved in the incident, the official police report lists Putnam Middle School.

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## "Barks & Blooms" to offer spring fun for pets and people

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Business Association (KBA) is pleased to announce its next "Pawsitively Killingly" event: Barks & Blooms, a spring festival celebrating furry family members, spring flowers, and local artisans. The event will be held on Sunday, May 17 from noon to 3 p.m. on the grounds of Killingly Intermediate School. Admission is free, and all leashed, well-behaved dogs and pets are welcome.

A full afternoon of fun for pets and their people Barks & Blooms is designed to be a celebration for the whole family — two-legged and four-legged alike. The festivities kick off at 11:30 a.m., with a pre-event "Pack Walk," giving early arrivals a chance to stretch their legs alongside their dogs with a 30-minute walk before the main event begins. All pets must remain leashed at all times throughout the event.

The event officially opens at noon, with a ribbon-cutting and "pawesome" gift bags for the first 50 attendees. Activities will include voting and awards for a pet photo contest conducted by the event's title sponsor, Charleen's Portrait Studio; a pet tricks competition; police K-9 bite training demonstration; animal readings and reiki from Above the Clouds; dog training demonstration; paw print memento making; pet-made art masterpiece station; and more.

The festival will also feature live music from Daley DJ, a dog adoption parade featuring adoptable pups from Doggoholic Rescue, and a vendor fair featuring a variety of pet and floral products as well as crafters, artisans and business-sponsored activities. Food trucks Poultry in Motion and Wicked Sinister will also be on-site offering delicious food and rink for festival-goers.

Participating vendors include: Charleen's Portrait Studio; Bark-Society; Mountain Laurel Floral Designs; Happy Hounds LLC; Author Julia Kneeland; Bark N Crumble; Strout's Custom Acrylics; Beth's Creations; Salt & Light Baked Goods; CoCo & Enzo "Eclectic Art"; Little House Sourdough Co LLC; United Methodist Church of Danielson; Paula's Pet Sitting; Felted Fillies and Friends; Kay's Creations; Colonial Dog Training; Sophia's Farmhouse; and others.

For full event details, vendor updates, and more, visit [killinglyba.org/barksandblooms](http://killinglyba.org/barksandblooms) or visit the Barks & Blooms page on Facebook.

Building on the success of Bark Harvest Barks & Blooms marks the latest chapter in the KBA's "Pawsitively Killingly" initiative, which launched in the fall of 2025 with the inaugural Bark Harvest festival. That

Turn To FUN page A1

## New dog ordinance proposed in Thompson

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER  
CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Thompson town officials are proposing a new ordinance that would implement stricter requirements for dog control and leash regulations they say would address safety and animal control concerns that have become increasingly prevalent in the rural Quiet Corner community.

The new ordinance was proposed by Animal Control Officer Briana Bardier and received unanimous support from the Board of Selectmen at a meeting on March 17. However, the proposal will require approval from the public at a town meeting.

The regulation would codify town rules for dogs to remain under control by an individual, that they should remain on leashes when not on the owner's private property, and would implement standards for the disposal of feces while establishing fines for any violations. The rules would state that no owner allows a dog to run at large within the town of Thompson, defined as a dog being off the owner's premises and not under control.

The leash requirement would have all dogs restrained by leash when off private property including on highways, right of ways, and any public land or parks not owned by the dog's owner. It further requires the removal and disposal



of all feces deposited by the dog with stations being set up by the town. License and vaccination regulations set by the state would be maintained. The first violation of this ordinance per animal would result in a \$75 fine from the Town of Thompson. A second offense would result in a \$92 ticket from the state.

Bardier and the selectmen agreed it was a good solution to an ongoing source of public concern.


"There is not a leash law in Connecticut. It is a direct control or leash-only and direct control should be 'Fluffy, come, sit' and Fluffy should be at your side before you even finish speaking. That is not the case in Thompson, specifically the dam, the airline trail, Riverside Park, and Quaddick," explained Bardier. "These are hot spots where dogs are loose. They are biting people without provoca-

tion."

Bardier stressed that this is not a response to any specific incident in town but rather a proposed solution to a variety of calls she receives daily in her office. First Selectman Nick Donohue said he fully supported the new ordinance, finding it surprising that Thompson didn't already have rules in place.

"It seems like a very common-sense approach to an off-leash dog problem in 2026. I know in every municipality that I worked for in Worcester County each one had a leash law and they've had leash law for years and decades," Donohue stated.

The Board of Selectmen approved the ordinance unanimously. As of this writing, the date of the required public meeting had yet to be officially scheduled.



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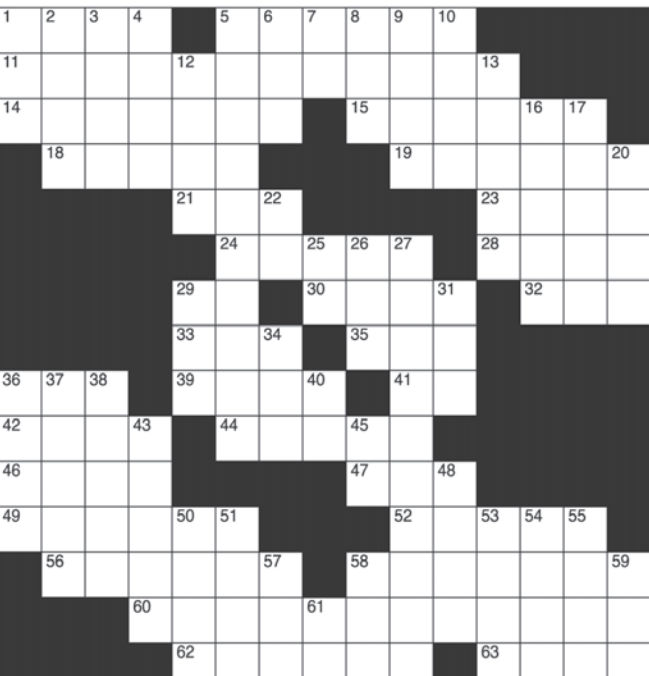
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Absence of difficulty
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. More cushy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA and CIA critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Hammer is one
- 30. Selfs
- 32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 33. Nowhere to be found
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses and passports are two
- 39. Snake-like fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Stages in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. In the center
- 49. Pleasantly smooth
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. \_\_\_ Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel or eject (variant sp.)
- 4. Sea eagle
- 5. Taxonomic category
- 6. Chinese languages
- 7. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL legend Randy
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. It says who you are
- 25. Atlantic coast state
- 26. Grow older
- 27. Associations
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Leader
- 37. Indigo bush genus
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's father
- 43. Mackerel genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. Type of molding
- 51. Small, thin or twisted bunch
- 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Relating to the ears
- 58. "To the \_\_\_ degree"
- 59. Residue when something is burned
- 61. It cools a home

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

E	A	S	E	E	M	B	A	L	M										
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# Community Foundation invests in policy solutions to expand child care access, housing stability in Eastern CT

REGION — The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut is proud to announce the awarding of Systems Change grants to support advocacy efforts addressing the root causes of critical challenges facing families in the region. These grants invest in policy and systems-level solutions to improve access to childcare and housing stability across Eastern Connecticut and align with the Community Foundation's larger goal and efforts, along with more than 110 partners, in the campaign to End Child Poverty Now in Connecticut.

"Systems change requires sustained advocacy, collaboration, and a willingness to address the structural barriers that hold communities back," said Maryam Elahi, President and CEO of the Community Foundation. "These grants support organizations working at the policy level to ensure that families in our region have access to the resources they need to thrive."

The 2026 Systems Change grants support the following initiatives: \$20,000 to the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance (through Advancing CT Together) to advance policy solutions that expand access to childcare in Eastern Connecticut, addressing key barriers such as low Care4Kids reimbursement rates and challenges in funding new childcare facilities. "Eastern Connecticut is a childcare desert, primarily because there aren't enough families who can afford the true cost of care," said Merrill Gay, Executive Director of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance. "That means we need to expand subsidies and strengthen programs like Care4Kids and Early Start. Our advocacy will focus on advancing these solutions to ensure more families can access the care they need."

\$20,000 to Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness to support advocacy efforts aimed at protecting and strengthening the Homeless Response System in Southeastern Connecticut. Funding will help sustain critical housing and support services in the face of significant federal funding threats, while positioning the region to respond to anticipated future cuts. Sarah Fox, Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH), states: "We are deeply grateful for this investment and for the foundation's recognition that lasting change requires advocacy, strong public policy, and systemic action. Through the CT CAN End Homelessness Campaign, CCEH is working alongside partners across Connecticut to strengthen systems, advance policy and advocacy solutions, and build coordinated responses that prevent and solve homelessness. This support helps move that work forward at a time when it is urgently needed."

This is the second year that the Community Foundation has awarded Systems Change grants. These investments reflect the Community Foundation's broader commitment to advancing equitable, long-term solutions through advocacy and partnership. By supporting organizations working to influence policy and funding decisions, the Foundation aims to create lasting impact beyond individual programs.

About the Community Foundation

Serving 42 towns and comprised of more than 600 charitable funds, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut's vision is a healthy, thriving, sustainable Eastern Connecticut with greater equity for all. We collaborate with partners to put philanthropy into action to address the needs, rights, and interests of our community. The Community Foundation manages a permanent community endowment and has awarded over \$100 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofits and students since its founding in 1983. To learn more, visit cfect.org.

## Mountain Laurel Floral Designs announces April workshops

DANIELSON — Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is excited Spring is finally here, and while the ground warms up, the shop is bringing garden activities indoors. This April, enjoy a wide range of workshops for all ages, from creating seed paper to starting flower seeds and even painting beautiful watercolor pastoral landscapes!

"As flower farmers, Gabby and I are so happy Spring is finally here and we can get outside again," said co-owner Pam Blinten. "It's the perfect time to plan out your gardens and start seeds for the upcoming season. We're here to help with several gardening classes this month!"

To register for upcoming workshops, visit [mountainlaurelfloralct.com](http://mountainlaurelfloralct.com). Customers are also encouraged to sign up for Mountain Laurel's email list to receive special monthly workshop offers and updates.

Mountain Laurel is also opening up their space for small private workshops and events. If you have a birthday party, shower, or a small gathering and you're looking for an intimate space where you can let your creativity take over, consider Mountain Laurel! Pam and Gabby will work within your budget and theme to design a custom floral arranging or crafting workshop based on your guests' interests. If you're interested, email [mountainlaurelfloraldesign@gmail.com](mailto:mountainlaurelfloraldesign@gmail.com).

- April Workshops**
- Needle Felted Bunnies & Flowers  
April 11 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
\$55 - Learn how to craft a bunny in a field of flowers using wool and a needle. Led by local artist Susan Scott Kenney.
  - Stitch Club  
April 12 | 3 - 5 p.m.  
\$5 - Bring any stitching project and hang out with fellow crafters. New to stitching? We'll teach you cross stitch or crochet! Basic materials can be purchased for \$10.

- Seed Paper  
April 17 | 9:30 - 11 a.m.  
\$25 - Turn recycled materials into hand-made seed paper containing flower seeds, then plant it in your garden to grow into beautiful blooms!

- Stippling 101: Intro to Dot Drawing  
April 19 | 1 - 3 p.m.  
\$55 - Local artist Kayla Degnan will teach the art of stippling, a drawing technique using tiny dots to create shading, depth and texture. Includes materials and pens. Ages 15 and up.

- Earth Day Seed Bombs  
April 22 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
\$15 - Celebrate Earth Day by crafting seed bombs packed with wildflower seeds. Learn how to create and plant these mini garden starters to bring more greenery to your community! Stop by at the time most convenient for you.

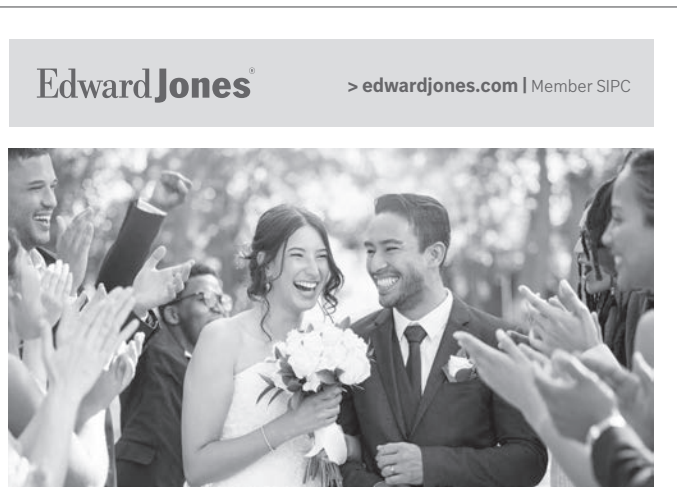
- Dahlia Tuber & Flower Seed Starting  
April 23 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
\$20 - Learn the basics of tuber/seed starting to help your garden and dahlias thrive. Includes a free seedling six pack!

- Two-Class Watercolor Landscape Workshop  
April 25 & May 2 | 1 - 3 p.m.  
\$75 - This two-part workshop goes beyond Watercolor 101, guiding students through the foundations of landscape painting. Learn how to build a painting with a clear foreground, middle ground, and background.

About Mountain Laurel Floral Designs

Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is more than a flower shop—it's a space where community, sustainability, and artistry flourish. Owned by local flower farmers Gabby and Pam, the shop is located at 98 Main St. in Danielson, and specializes in fresh, seasonal blooms grown in southeastern New England.

The business began with a shared love of the land and a commitment to sustainable flower farming. Today, Gabby and Pam create floral arrangements that honor the rhythms of the seasons and host a variety of hands-on workshops that celebrate creativity and connection.



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# Pomfret Historical Society celebrates America 250 programs with open house, art exhibit at Old Town House

POMFRET — The Pomfret Historical Society (PHS) invites the public to an opening day celebration on April 11. The Old Town House (OTH), built in 1841, is one of only handful of Town Houses built in the 1840's still standing in Southern New England. An emblem of participatory democracy, the OTH with its vaulted ceiling and fifteen large windows, is the perfect venue for the monthly educational programs, concert series, and exhibits celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

PHS is collaborating with the Pomfret America 250 Commission to provide rich and diverse educational programs celebrating local participation in the Revolutionary War under the theme of: Long Ago But Not So Far Away — Exploring the Revolutionary War Through a Local Lens. Topics include Revolutionary Gravestone Carvings; The Lexington Rider;

Hidden Patriots; John Trumbull's Paintings; Doctoring the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War; Witnessing Black Patriots from the Revolutionary War to the Tuskegee Airmen; and a summer concert series featuring music of the Revolutionary period and Early America. Concerts, programs, and exhibits will take place in the OTH from April to October, culminating in a Living History event, Revolutionary Pomfret, on Oct. 3 & 4, which will take place in historic Abington Village and the Pomfret Recreation Park.

The April 11 Open House for the 2026 season will feature artist — illustrator, Laura Tedeschi, whose Afterlife series reimagines early New England gravestone carvings in vibrant color. Laura has had a lifelong connection to historic burial grounds and has participated in several PHS workshops about local gravestone carvers. Through her vibrant pastel and acrylic creations, Laura transforms traditional "soul effigies" and memorial imagery for the contemporary pallet. Drawing on global visual traditions, the series highlights the bold forms and symbolism of early Sothern New England stone carvers while honoring those memorialized by the headstones. The artwork will be available

to buy at the OTH during the April 11 Open House, the April 20 PHS program, and by appointment.

The exhibit and following presentation highlights the remarkable carvings of Richard and Libbeus Kimball who lived in the Jericho section of Pomfret from the 1750's to the late 1780's. Libbeus served with the 11th Regiment from Abington and eventually moved to upstate New York where he died in 1839. The work of Richard and Libbeus Kimball can be found throughout Pomfret's early burial grounds.

The open house and Afterlife Art Exhibit reception will begin at 1 p.m., with refreshments, gallery walk, and historical information about the OTH and Pomfret during the Revolutionary War. At 3 PM, Laura Tedeschi and gravestone carver scholar Keegan Day will give a presentation about the carvers represented in Laura's work.

For more information contact Donna Dufresne, windsong@snet.net or visit the following Web sites:

Pomfret Historical Society: <https://pomfret-historical-society.org/>

Pomfret America 250 Commission: <https://www.pomfretct.gov/america-250-celebration-committee>

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## Poets at Large presents Stewart and Anderson April 18

POMFRET, Conn. — Poets at Large will once again present well-known poets Joshua M. Stewart and Doug Anderson on Saturday night, April 18 at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret.

Joshua Michael Stewart is currently the Massachusetts Beat Poet Laureate (2025-27) and he has published poems in the Massachusetts Review, Louisville Review, Rattle, Night Train, Evansville Review, Cold Mountain Review, and many others. His first full-length collection of poems, "Break Every String," was published by Hedgerow Books in April 2016. Stewart received his BA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and lives in Ware, MA. He's employed as a teacher/counselor, working with individuals with special needs.

Doug Anderson's most recent book, "Undress, She Said," was published by Four Way Books. He has received awards from the NEA, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Poets & Writers, the

Massachusetts Artists Foundation, the Virginia Quarterly Review, and others. His first book, "The Moon Reflected Fire," won the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and his second, "Blues for

Unemployed Secret Police," a grant from the Eric Matthew King fund of the Academy of

American Poets. His third book, Horse Medicine, was published by Barrow Street Press in 2015

and his memoir, Keep Your Head Down was published by W.W. Norton in 2009.

Anderson taught in the Pacific University of Oregon and Bennington College MFA programs, and at Smith and Emerson Colleges. He lives in Ashfield, Massachusetts.

Poets at Large has brought over 120 published and awarded poets to the area since 2020 and dozens of people have participated in the open mic portions during that time. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant and are recommended for ages 16 and up. Readings for the rest of the season are sponsored in part by donations from bankHometown, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic; five-minute max as time allows.

## Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

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# Quiet acts of service reach far beyond our borders

It is easy to think of Northeast Connecticut as a place defined by its small towns, familiar roads, and longstanding traditions. Yet every year, residents from this region quietly remind us that the spirit of community here does not stop at town lines or even at national borders.

A group of volunteers connected to Christ Church in Pomfret recently returned from a service trip to southwestern Guatemala, where they spent a week providing medical care, installing wood-burning stoves, improving housing, teaching nutrition, distributing water filtration systems, and supporting children through education and sponsorship programs. Their work reached hundreds of people in just a few days. The impact will last much longer.

Four hundred seventy patients received treatment from the team's medical volunteers. Families received fuel-efficient stoves that remove smoke from their homes and reduce the risk of burns and respiratory illness. Nearly one hundred households learned how to maintain water filtration systems capable of removing parasites and unsafe contaminants. Children gained access to books, sports equipment, and lessons about healthy food choices.

These are practical improvements, but they also represent something deeper. They show what happens when neighbors here decide that their responsibility to others does not end at the edge of our own community.

Many readers know someone who has participated in one of these service trips over the years. Some helped raise money at local events such as summer pig roasts. Others donated supplies or supported the effort in quieter ways. This is how global service often begins in rural Connecticut. It starts with familiar faces and ordinary gatherings.

What stands out about this particular effort is how consistent it has become. Over nine trips, volunteers have installed more than 400 stoves and maintained long-term relationships with families and children through sponsorship programs. That kind of continuity matters. It turns a short visit into a lasting partnership.

There is also something worth noting about the makeup of the team. Medical professionals worked alongside construction volunteers. Educators taught nutrition and water safety. Translators bridged language gaps across multiple cultures. This was not a single type of service. It was a shared effort built from many skills.

That reflects something true about life in Northeastern Connecticut. People here tend to step forward with what they know how to do. Some build. Some teach. Some organize. Some care for others directly. When those abilities come together, even a small group can make a meaningful difference.

The volunteers themselves often say they return home feeling grateful as much as tired. That reaction makes sense. Service of this kind has a way of changing the people who participate in it. It reminds them how much they have, how much they can share, and how connected communities can be even when separated by distance.

It also reminds the rest of us that generosity does not always take the form of large headlines or formal recognition. Sometimes it looks like a week of hard work in another country. Sometimes it looks like fundraising at a picnic. Sometimes, it looks like one person deciding to sponsor a child they will never meet in person.

In a region where neighbors still help neighbors shovel driveways, coach youth teams, and organize community events, it is no surprise that the same spirit extends outward into the wider world.

Acts like these reflect the best traditions of our little corner of the state. They show that even from small towns, people can make a very large difference.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### President Trump will end the war because he has to

To the Editor:

Right on cue, we're hearing all these pretty stories about how we're winning and the war will be over soon. Expect that to continue as the Trump administration concocts a grand narrative for running out of time.

Much like other limitations on executive orders and the like, President Trump only has a few more weeks to wrap things up or get Congress on board, otherwise this can only be a short thing like President Reagan's invasion of Grenada. I don't think Congress getting on board matters though. This war has built-in soft limits.

Locally we're up to \$4/gallon gas. After \$5/gallon gas Trump becomes worse than Biden, but the United States, much like with post-pandemic inflation, has things easier than other parts of the world that depend more on the Strait Of Hormuz and are facing rationing and fuel shortages.

Welcome to the Find Out stage, Mister Trump. There was the gung ho statement awhile back that, "No other president had the courage to do this!" I'm not so sure doing this was courageous. I think we're finding out now why nobody else did this, because doing so is like, "Look at me I'm macho!" and death-gripping a nettle plant thorns and all.

Maybe the Right should keep this in mind next time I support moving away from fossil fuels so oil politics doesn't have to swing us around like this.

As for now, this is the part where we grab the popcorn and see what rosy syrupy fairy tale we'll hear from Washington about why we're winding down operations.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

### Trump will steal the election

To the Editor:

Does anyone doubt Trump is going to try to steal upcoming Congressional midterm elections? Think about it. If only 15 Congressional districts turn from red Republican to Democrat blue Democrats will have firm control of the House. There goes Trump's control of the money, and most importantly, what he fears most of all, another likely successful, impeachment.

What will he do to stay in power? Anything. He clearly has ICE as his personal brown shirt army. The drum beat of claims of fraud has started and will only escalate. To prevent the fraud, he will send in ICE to grab voting machines and ballot boxes in the Democratic strongholds (read urban, black, brown) of those 15 CDs. "We'll do the vote counting to prevent fraud." And

guess what? The Republican Trump loyalist wins. What a surprise.' Straight out of Bulgaria, Liberia, name a dictatorship.

Who is going to stop the ICE raiders? Citizens? Maybe in experienced Minneapolis, but nowhere else. Local cops? Unlikely as unprepared and likely sympathizers. So we sue, and three years later, the Trump Supreme Court says he won fair and square. And oh, by then, Trump, if still alive, will be working on his third term.

You know he is going to do it. So what are we going to do to prevent it? I don't know now, but we better come up with a plan or we lose our country to a tin horn dictatorship. Think about it.

TIM MCNALLY  
POMFRET

### We protest for what is possible

To the Editor:

On this past Saturday, over 1,170 participants lined the streets on both sides across from Owen Bell Park at Killingly Commons for a locally-organized No Kings III protest of the Trump administration's policies, actions, and apparent violations of the U.S. Constitution. (This number was verified by volunteers who actually counted those on the sidewalks.) The protesters held signs, some dressed in inflatable costumes, sang along with local musicians, and happily greeted each other as familiar faces were joined by first-time attendees. Messages on the signs ranged from insults such as "Morons Are Governing America" to expressions of support for the U.S. Constitution — "The U.S. Constitution is Not a Suggestion" — to opposition to ICE operations and the war with Iran to calls for the release of all Epstein files and prosecution of those sexual predators.

The sign I held read "Make Lying Wrong Again, Impeach and Remove Him. Fear Not. Organize. Resist." Most signs were hand-written, some very artistically, and some were printed in very professional-looking block lettering. The inflatables that I saw included a bald eagle, a large baby Trump wearing a diaper, and an alligator holding a sign that read: "See ya later dictator" on one side and "In a while, pedophile" on the other. Some of us are old enough to remember a song with the words: "See ya later, alligator; in a while, crocodile," which were obviously altered to create two accusations of our current President.

How disrespectful! This may be the response from some readers. Yes, I agree. Also disrespectful are some words from the occupant of the Oval Office that seem to bring almost every discussion or social media post down to a level that still seems surreal to me. Some examples? On March 22, our President posted on social media: "Robert Mueller just died. Good, I'm glad he's dead..." On March 20, his account stated "Without the U.S.A., NATO IS A PAPER TIGER... COWARDS, and we will REMEMBER!" These are only two examples; many others can be found where this President refers to those who displease him with such descriptions as "radical left Democrat Lunatics," "Sleepy Joe Biden," "Laffin' Kamala" or "RINOS," meaning Republicans in Name Only, along with adjectives like "weak," "ineffective," "inept" or "deranged." Other epithets for members of his own political party who have disagreed or voted against his wishes include "DeSanctimonious," "Slimeball Comey," "Marjorie Traitor Brown," "Low IQ War Hawk," "Birdbrain," and "Wacky Omarosa."

The most derogatory accusations used by this President have been reserved for strong women of the Democratic Party, especially those targeted by racism: deliberately mispronouncing or altering Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's name,

referring to her as a "ringleader" of corrupt practices and suggesting that she should "go back" to Somalia. In 1995, Ilhan Omar came to the U.S. at age 12 after spending four years in a Kenyan refugee camp to escape the Somali Civil War, which means her family fled when she was eight years old. She was granted asylum here (not released from an insane asylum, as Mr. Trump often seems to confuse the two situations), and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2000 when she was 17. Why should she be sent back to Somalia? Because the President doesn't like her?

Other nicknames of Democratic women include "Hillary Rotten Clinton," "Crazy Hillary," "Crazy Nancy," and "Nervous Nancy." This, from the President of the United States of America, not from a socially-challenged junior high school boy seeking attention. (My apologies to any junior high school-age boy who may be offended by this comparison.)

So, yes, some of the signs on Saturday were disrespectful, as noted above. But I don't believe such signs would have been displayed if this President for many years now had not stooped to such low language. I would not describe that as "honesty" on his part. One can disagree without being disagreeable, remembering my Uncle Arthur's reminders when members of our church headed toward being a little testy with one another.

There is no excuse for spewing such vulgar and unintelligent name-calling. The one thing we can all control is the words that we write, or that come out of our mouths. Accusing the targets of such verbal abuse of being "snowflakes" only attempts to divert attention from the behavior of the aggressor.

Getting back to the No Kings III protest, one of my favorite signs, held by a small, quiet woman, read: "I'm here because I love my country." That sums it up for me. When you love your country, you want better for us all than what is now occurring. We want adequate—generous, even—health care for all people, not just the wealthiest; we want a fair chance for every child to have an education that permits flourishing and fulfillment of dreams; we want housing that our paychecks can cover without fear of eviction, bankruptcy or unsafe conditions; we want to be able to shop for groceries without having to put back items that we can't afford; we want clean breathable air, drinkable water and nontoxic soil surrounding us and the preservation of our beautiful planet Earth. All of these conditions are possible if we decide to pursue them. There is enough for everyone if we share with one another. (Now is when I sometimes expect to be called a Communist, but I believe that Jesus Christ also encouraged sharing and living together in harmony.)

None of these basic living needs are being encouraged, proposed or pursued by the current administration. And that is why eight million of my fellow U.S. countrymen and women filled the streets in over 3,000 towns like Killingly and cities like Atlanta, Ga. and Boise, Idaho on last Saturday for the largest protest in our nation's history. We know what is possible, and we will continue to work in every peaceful nonviolent way we can think of to make the promise of such lives in the United States a reality: "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Respectfully,

CLAUDIA ALLEN  
THOMPSON

## Remembering Chuck Norris

Recently, we lost Carlos Ray Norris. You may know him as the late, great Chuck Norris.

We all know his action-packed movies, his signature side kick, and his "Walker, Texas Ranger" days on TV, but did you know he came from very humble beginnings? Poor. Not a father.



TIPS FOR  
SUCCESS  
MIKE  
BOGDANSKI

Joined the football team and warmed the bench. Lost a brother in Vietnam. His way out of this tough start in life led him to the military to escape these hardships.

First, let me dispel the rumor that I sparred with Chuck. Chuck was in the golden age of competition (circa 1960-1969) in the U.S. I am in the silver age generation, and was heavily involved in the 1980's, competing nationally and internationally.

Over the years, I have had several great teachers in many different martial arts. Although I have trained in many systems, my primary training is in Tang Soo Do, a Korean art. Mr. Norris was in my karate family tree.

Here are a few stories about my Chuck connections.

Osan Air Force Base, South Korea (late 1950's)

After being stationed in Korea, Norris joined many young G.I.s who began martial arts training after watching a demonstration to fill their off-duty time. Mr. Shin was one of the local Tang Soo Do instructors from town who taught daily classes on base in a Quonset hut. Service members trained for several hours each night under very rigorous conditions, in very cold winter weather and very hot summer weather. The long daily classes enabled students to accelerate their progress and even achieve black belt status in 1.5 years, as was the case with my teacher, Mr. Cheezic, who received his black belt in a morning grading. Norris then received his green belt that same afternoon (Mr. Cheezic was very proud of the fact that he was Norris' senior in rank).

One of my teachers, Grandmaster Kim of South Korea, told me this Chuck story. The Grandmaster had his school just a few blocks from Osan. As a matter of fact, I had the honor of visiting this mecca of martial arts in 2010. Norris was a military policeman and had the opportunity to requisition a military jeep for travel to Seoul for advanced training. South Korea is currently a very advanced country, but after the war there, with many dirt roads and scarce streetlights, there was great suffering and poverty. While driving from the air base to the city in an open-sided jeep, trying to avoid many road hazards, a critical incident occurred when crossing a barely sustained, weakened bridge.

The jeep lurched violently, and Grandmaster Kim was flung helplessly toward the deep abyss of the ravine below. Norris, just in time, reached over, grabbed him, and kept him from being ejected, almost certainly to a critical end. The Grandmaster used to tell us that Chuck Norris saved his life. Not his first act of heroism.

After Korea, Norris returned to California and opened a chain of karate schools in the Los Angeles area. To boost the school's enrollment, he began competing in local martial arts tournaments. With overwhelming success, he ventured out across the country and became a national champion. With these credentials, his school grew exponentially, and with his skill and good looks, he soon became the instructor to the stars and was often on many popular TV shows (you can view these on YouTube). Steve McQueen, one of his stu-

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### 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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### America is repeating its economic mistakes

To the Editor:

After the Great Depression, the United States rebuilt its economy through bold government action called the New Deal. It was a 1933-1938 series of economic, social and political reforms under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Today, some experts are sounding the alarm and warning of a potential "Greater Depression" driven by our unsustainable national debt.

According to AP News, U.S. debt has surpassed \$39 trillion and is growing by roughly \$1 trillion every five months. This surge reflects decades of policy choices, including massive tax cuts, increased defense spending (and now another war), and expanded immigration enforcement. The consequences are already being felt. Higher debt drives up borrowing costs for families, raises prices for everyday goods, and limits what future generations can afford.

Much of today's debt stems from tax policy changes that favor corporations. In 1960, the corporate tax rate was 52 percent. Major tax cuts under the Reagan and Trump administrations, significantly reduced federal revenue. Reagan reduced the corporate tax rate from 46 to 34 percent with his "trickle-down economics" which led to a surge in corporate profits. Trump's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) lowered the corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent and promised higher wage jobs and increased investment in innovation and products. Instead, wage growth lagged and stock buybacks were the highest ever. Economist report that 2021-2024 were the highest years on record for corporate profits in U.S. history. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, there is no evidence that the TCJA, "which included deep tax cuts skewed to the wealthy and drove up deficits, had significant positive impacts on the economy." In 2025, republican lawmakers doubled down and passed Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act extending the tax cuts for billionaires. Corporate profits now account for 9 percent

of GDP as a share of the economy, higher than during the Great Depression when it was 8 percent. According to Economist Kathryn Edwards, that is not a good thing. CEO pay has risen to over 230 times that of the average worker, and wages have failed to keep pace with rising living costs.

Is this the Golden Age of America that the current administration is promising? It is said that those who don't learn from history are destined to repeat it. Why are policy makers in Washington repeating the same thing over and over again expecting different results?

Federal revenue is derived from taxes. Individual income taxes provide approximately 50 percent of federal revenue, payroll taxes 35 percent, and corporate taxes only 10 percent. Individual income taxes and payroll taxes shoulder the vast majority of the tax burden. The math doesn't work and it hasn't for a long time. The current tax system does not generate enough revenue to sustain government spending.

Fixing this imbalance will require difficult choices like: ending corporate welfare and raising corporate tax rates; increasing the Social Security payroll tax cap on high earners. At the same time, advances in AI are estimated to displace 6-7 percent of workers over the next ten years in both blue- and white-collar jobs, raising serious questions about the future of income and payroll tax revenues.

We cannot solve a problem we refuse to diagnose. If the current tax system cannot fund the government we expect, then the system, not the people, is broken. Real reform will only happen when voters demand leaders who serve the public interest, not billionaires and corporate balance sheets.

As you research the candidates running in this year's elections, look for democratic candidates who put people and the public interest first.

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

### Pointing out that this war was started without proper planning is not "deranged"

To the Editor:

It is both perplexing and frustrating that certain contributors to our little newspaper's Op-Ed section seem to ignore content and prefer name calling. Perplexing because I am sure that they are feeling the same economic anxiety as prices shoot through the roof, but frustrating because their only answer is to label anyone critical of the administration as having "Trump Derangement Syndrome." They choose to skip over the arguments that some regulars present, this writer included, rather than refute our opinions. When I was in grade school, I was taught that the elements of a good essay are to come up with a question (usually provided by the teacher) and do the research that would then corroborate one's conclusion. Simply questioning the teacher's intellect would no doubt lead to an F.

So I propose a simple challenge. I will present one opinion based on one issue. Please find me wrong. This week, we have learned that most of our military bases in the Middle East have been decimated by Iranian drones and missiles. They have been described as uninhabitable by the New York Times and soldiers are operating from hotels. And before you argue that the Times' news is useless because of an anti-Trump bias, the same reports have been noted by publications the UK, India and a host of other foreign countries, including Russia. They have nothing to gain from falsifying the news. Since one of the justifications for going to war was to prevent Iran from attacking US interests it

would seem that we actually incited what we were trying to avoid.

My conclusion is that we started a war without proper planning. We failed to arm our bases with tools to counter the attacks just as we failed to consider that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps would attack our shipping lanes. We also did not dissect the lessons of the Russia-Ukraine war and the ever-expanding role of drone warfare. We disregarded that Iran was supplying Putin with state of the art drones. As a result, we have left ourselves more vulnerable to our enemies, wasted billions of dollars of taxpayers' money which now will be needed to rebuild, shown that our military planning, was inept and that our intelligence (or lack thereof) gathering was a dismal failure.

I am not deranged when I point the blame at the Commander in Chief and his collection of yes men who all seem to be Fox News (whose motto is "the world according to Fox") castoffs.

So I await a reply. Please avoid the words Obama, Clinton, Biden, Democrats, the left wing fringe, CNBC, MSNBC, Schumer, Pelosi and a stolen election. Nor are the southern border, immigrants, ICE, Antifa or George Soros germane. None of these parties was at all involved in the plan to launch this war. The word Epstein is acceptable; feel free to use it as often as you like.

Trump has made America weaker again (and again).

Your serve, Keith.

LEE WESLER  
WOODSTOCK

### An unhealthy practice

To the Editor:

I am happy to live in Putnam, and to be able to obtain services at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam.

But I think it is an unhealthy practice to have patients who are coming in for routine outpatient tests, such as mammograms, bone density screenings and others to have to register through the Emergency Room.

We are getting these tests in the first place to stay healthy. To have to sit in a crowded emergency room, waiting to be called to the registration desk with very sick patients, coughing, sneezing and vomiting, does not

make a person feel safe and comfortable at all.

Twice, I have felt healthy upon registration, but yet have caught sicknesses several days later, after being exposed in the Emergency Room.

Isn't there another way for the outpatient to enter and register without being put into this situation? It just does not make sense.

I understand it is not like this in Plainfield, and will most likely travel a little further to go there in the future to avoid this situation.

CATHERINE LA PROVA  
PUTNAM

### What is going on in Woodstock?

To the Editor:

I went to the budget meeting in anticipation of hearing why the fire department would be denied funding, and I learned that a library was also being defunded! I would not have even known this was happening if the gentleman in attendance hadn't men-

tioned it off the cuff while commenting on the fire department's circumstance.

Both of these organizations deserve your support and need to be adequately funded.

What is going on in Woodstock?

GEORGE KERR  
POMFRET

### Does the far right really know the path to America's well-being?

To the Editor:

Let's look at some more provable "fake" facts. The lowest life expectancies, ranging from 72.2 years to 73.9, are all in red states. Starting with the worst, they are W. Virginia, Mississippi, Kentucky, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The best states for life expectancy range from 79.2 to 80.0 are all in blue states. In increasing order they are Rhode Island, Minnesota, California, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Hawaii. On average, this amounts to about six years longer for blue states. My wife and I have both exceeded Connecticut's average - thank you.

So once again, explain to me MAGA's claim just how the Republican and Far Right philosophy, "wisdom" and agenda justifies they have the true path to American well-being. Indeed, their path invariably

leads to misery. If you look at everything they propose and do, just ask yourself, "Will this result in more misery than not? Can the misery be justified? Will this build things up or just tear them down?"

To bolster this point, after only a few weeks at war, Donnie Despot "needs" \$200 billion more. Justify to me how he can cavalierly ask for this huge amount for destruction but can't "afford" billions to support health care, raise the minimum wage, or improve infrastructure? The real kicker here is that most of this outrageous spending will be paid for by borrowing the money, i.e., increasing the debt. This is a smoke and mirrors trick to avoid raising taxes, but will have to be paid down the road. We're paying for more misery for the entire world.

STEPHEN ETZEL  
PUTNAM

### Earth — Trump gives coal new life

To the Editor:

On Feb. 11, Time magazine reported: "President Trump was presented a trophy proclaiming him the "Undisputed Champion of Beautiful Clean Coal." He received it surrounded by more than a dozen coal executives and miners during a White House ceremony, just after ordering the Department of Defense to purchase billions of dollars' worth of power from coal plants." In the decades leading up to this moment, coal had already lost economic competition as its percentage of the US energy grid shrunk from 50 percent in 2006 to 15 percent in 2024, a 64 percent decline. Market forces had spoken and coal had lost.

Meanwhile, the winner - green energy, rejected and mocked by president Trump, added \$2.1 trillion to China's GDP in 2025. That spectacular growth could have been ours and for a brief moment is was. According to Forbes Magazine, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, a bill that largely addressed climate change, had kick-started a green energy boom in America like the one China is now experiencing. With this, we were competing for the world's green energy future, which was literally invented here in America. Of this future, legendary venture capital investor, John Doerr said: "CleanTech will become the greatest business opportunity of the 21st Century." Green energy job growth in the US was forecast at 1.5 million new jobs by 2032. Instead, because Trump torpedoed the Inflation Reduction Act, it is projected the US will lose 330,000 green energy jobs by 2030. China was delighted to take them!

Some, who have never crawled into a mine shaft (like Trump) regard coal with great nostalgia. But does anyone really think coal miners wouldn't gladly trade their toxic and deadly coal jobs for one in green energy? Beyond the fact a kilowatt of electricity generated by coal now costs nearly three times that of solar, there are other enormous downsides to coal, but Donald Trump never mentions them. To provide just a glimpse, New York Times best selling author, Jeff Goodell has granted me permission to reprint parts of his brilliant expose on the Coal Industry—his 2006 book "Big Coal." The following comes directly from his book:

"Since 1900, more than 100,000 people have been killed in coal mine accidents, many forever entombed by collapsed roofs and tumbling pillars. Black lung, a disease common among miners from inhaling coal dust, can be conservatively estimated to have killed another 200,000 workers. And burning coal is even more deadly. In just the past twenty years, air pollution from coal plants has shortened the lives of more than half a million Americans. The broad legacy of environmental devastation - acid rain, polluted lakes and rivers, mined-out mountains - is impossible to tabulate. In Appalachia alone, the waste from moun-

taintop removal mining (instead of removing the coal from the mountain, the mountain is removed from the coal) has buried more than 1,200 miles of streams, polluted the region's groundwater and rivers, and turned about 400,000 acres of some of the world's most biologically rich temperate forests into flat, barren wastelands. Plumes of toxic particles drift from Ohio northeast to Maine; a molecule of mercury emitted from the stack of a power plant in Tampa ends up in the brain of a child in Minneapolis. If and when fruit trees start growing on the Alaskan tundra, American coal burners past and present will be largely responsible.

Not so long ago, you could justify coal's dark side with a single word: jobs. In the 1920s, when more than 700,000 workers worked in the mines, it was plausible to argue that miners were the backbone of the economy. Today there are more florists in America than there are coal miners. And if coal mining were the sure-fire ticket to wealth and prosperity that many in the industry claim, West Virginians would be dancing on gold-paved streets. Over the past 150 years or so, more than 13 billion tons of coal have been carted out of the Mountain State. What do West Virginians have to show for it? The lowest median household income in the nation, a literacy rate in the southern coalfields that's about the same as Kabul's, and a generation of young people who are abandoning their home state to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

The argument that cheap power is vital to keeping American manufacturers competitive also is suspect. At a time when U.S. auto manufacturers spend more money on health care for their workers than on steel for their cars, it's increasingly hard to make the case that cheap electricity is a major factor in keeping jobs from being exported to Asia. By contrast, a full-blown push for clean energy could unleash a jobs bonanza that would make what happened in Silicon Valley in the 1990s look like a bake sale."

From just three paragraphs of Jeff's 260-page book, you get the picture: coal is a chapter of human development best left in the past, like whaling. We have a better and cheaper alternative today. If you've already made the switch to solar, no doubt you're loving it. Since installing my rooftop solar a year ago, I have paid nothing (literally, zero), for my electricity. My ROI (return on investment - the time it takes for the system to pay for itself) will be less than six and a half years. For the 20-plus years after that, my electricity will be free, regardless of rate hikes from pandemics or wars. Furthermore, my personal power usage won't destroy the environment, contribute to climate change, further enrich the fossil fuel industry or be subject to the whims of a president. I like this kind of independence. Don't we all?

KEN WOLSLEGEL  
WOODSTOCK

### TIPS

continued from page A1

dents, got him into acting.

I was at a kickboxing show at Foxwoods casino, where Chuck was the guest of honor. He was in the crowd signing autographs. When my wife's turn came, she (at 5'6) was surprised to see they stood eye to eye, even with his cowboy boots. Sometimes our heroes are just regular people.

Why I admired Chuck Norris.

I just loved his "good guy" image. He was easy-going, firm, and respected. He often played the part of a hero, whether as a police officer, a soldier, or a concerned mentor. In

one of his movies, he enters a bar and gets beaten up by a criminal crew of 16 guys. In a post-movie interview, he was asked, why didn't you use your movie magic to defeat them all? His reply was, "That's not realistic." His average-Joe persona made me admire him; he was not boastful like Jean-Claude Van Damme or Steven Seagal, and he carried himself with a calm, peaceful demeanor.

For years, I heavily supported our local D.A.R.E. programs, and Chuck started a program called "Kick drugs out of America."

He was a legitimate martial artist, always learning and combining arts to make himself and his students

better, and I, too, followed this path of never-ending learning. Being a lifelong student exemplifies one of his greatest qualities. I saw a photo of him training in martial arts on his birthday, just days before his passing.

Our art emphasizes self-discipline and character, and this gave Chuck a reputation for promoting the greater good. He was filled with dignity, and there was no trash-talking or ego.

Chuck Norris memes have been popular on the internet for decades, so I thought I would close with one.

Chuck Norris didn't die - he got tired of being undefeated on earth.

Mike Bogdanski is a martial arts Grandmaster and anti-bully activist.



Courtesy

Members of Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam planted their own spring vegetable gardens during their weekly meeting on Wednesday, March 25. Expert gardener Jim Tetreault taught the Cub Scouts how to prepare containers of soil and plant tomato, lettuce and beet seeds. They'll raise the seeds up to seedlings indoors at home until May, when Mr. Tetreault will show the children how to plant them outside. This is just one of the many fun and challenging activities Cub Scout Pack 21 does throughout the year. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.



# Arthur "Mac" McLean named Thompson's Veteran of the Month

BY RENE J. MORIN  
VETERAN AFFAIRS OFFICER  
TOWN OF THOMPSON

THOMPSON — Navy Hull Senior Chief Technician (HTCS), Arthur "Mac" McLean of Highland Road in Thompson has been selected by the nominating committee to be recognized and honored as the April, 2026 Veteran of the Month for the Town of Thompson.

On Oct. 30, 1957, at the age of 17, McLean joined the United States Navy and reported to "Boot Camp" at Great Lakes, Illinois to begin what would turn out to be a 30-year Navy Career, culminating as a Senior Chief Petty Officer, E-8. Much happened in his military career between 1957 and 1987.

After Boot Camp, McLean was transferred to the United States Naval Station at Treasure Island in San Francisco, California where he spent the next 6 months in the Metal Smith School and learned his trade that would eventually lead him to become a Senior Chief Hull Technician aboard several Naval Ships that he served on.

During his military time, McLean embarked upon a successful career totaling 22 years of distinguished active duty service commencing with his first duty station the USS Jason AR-8 and culminated his tours of duty on the USS Independence CV-62. In the interim, his duties had been many and varied, including an assignment to the Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the USS Raleigh LPD-1, the USS Tanner AGS-15, the USS Juneau LPD-10, and the USS Windham County LST-1170, Comcrudeslant Staff and Comnavairlant Staff. Post active duty, Senior Chief Hull Technician Art McLean served the U.S. Navy Fleet Reserve for an additional eight years.

From July 1966 to July 1971 (five years), McLean served on 4 different campaigns in Vietnam. Beginning with the Vietnamese Counteroffensive Phase 11 from June 1966 to May 1967, the Vietnamese Counteroffensive Phase 111 from July 1967 to January 1968, followed by the Vietnamese Phase IV Counteroffensive from April 1968 to June 1968 and a final Counteroffensive from May 1970 to July 1971. For his participation and heroic work in these war time campaigns, McLean was authorized to wear a Bronze Star on the suspension rib-

bon bar of his Vietnam Service Medal for each of the Counteroffensive campaigns listed above.

From August 1971 to October 1974, McLean served as an enlisted assistant to the Force Hull, and as Trails Officer on the staff of the Command Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Throughout this tour of duty Chief McLean's performance of a wide range of duties were uniformly outstanding. His consistent and impressive achievements were exceedingly above those normally expected from a chief hull maintenance technician. In addition, McLean acted as a hull representative on the former Comcrudeslant Hull and Machinery Appraisal Team based in Norfolk, Va. In this capacity, he was charged with the inspection of ship hull structures and the technical evaluations of hull strength and watertight integrity. He was also instrumental in the planning and installation of a sewage treatment system aboard the USS Koelsch. He worked closely with the Naval Ship Engineering Center in Philadelphia during that assignment. For his exceptional service during his years aboard the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, McLean was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and a Navy Achievement Medal Citation from The Secretary of the Navy Douglas C. Plate, Vice Admiral.

During the following two years, 1975 and 1976, as a member of the ships 3-M inspection team, he was responsible for the inspection of damage control and fire-fighting equipment, weapons and elevators. McLean traveled the Mediterranean and to various East Coast Ports while conducting instructor Training School at the Naval Station in Norfolk. He was an especially knowledgeable Hull Technician whose services were often sought by the navairlant ship's training section. Due to his superior knowledge, he was asked to return to the Mediterranean for the purpose of conducting the ship's Force overall maintenance training. He ably and cheerfully completed this assignment by teaching this curriculum to over 200 shipboard members. McLean was recommended for positions of additional responsibility and was recommended to a Master Chief Petty Officer.

During the period March 1977 through March 1978, McLean was assigned to a Command of the Naval

Air Force Atlantic Damage Control Inspection Team. As such, he conducted numerous inspections and drills aboard the USS Forrestal, the USS America, the USS John F. Kennedy, the USS Saratoga, the USS F.D.R. and the USS Lexington. His vast experience and mature Leadership have gained him the respect of all members of the Lexington's damage control organization. HTCS McLean's self-initiative and resourcefulness are a credit to himself and to his command. Inspectors of his caliber are a pleasure to work with and will always be welcome aboard the USS Lexington wrote E.B. McDaniel, the Commanding Officer of the Lexington.

McLean transferred to the Fleet Reserve on June 15, 1979, for the remaining eight years of his Stellar Military Career, culminating with his honorable discharge in 1987. Upon the occasion of McLean's transfer from active duty to the Reserve Fleet, a Certificate of appreciation from the United States Navy was presented to Kathleen T. McLean, certifying that she has earned Grateful Appreciation for her unselfish, faithful and devoted service during her Husband's Naval career. Her unflinching support and understanding helped to make possible her Husband's lasting contribution to the Nation. The Certificate of Appreciation was signed by Thomas C. Watson, Jr. Captain, United States Navy Commanding Officer dated June 15, 1979.

For his distinguished Service to his country, McLean was awarded numerous medals and awards including the Navy Achievements Medal, The Good Conduct Medal 3 times, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal for his conduct on the USS Tanner AGS-15, the Vietnam Service Medal four-times, the National Defense Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

McLean was born on Oct. 28, 1940 to parents Arthur and Gladys Mclean of Webster, Mass. He attended St. Mary's School in Southbridge and St. Louis School in Webster before attending Cole Trade High School in Southbridge. He met his wife Kathleen while home on leave from Vietnam in 1968. They were married in August of 1968 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii before he was deployed again to Vietnam. Together, they have three adult children (Brent, Tara and Torrey). Mac is proud to and quick

to relate that all three of their children are members of the American Legion. Brent was a Lieutenant in the United States Coast Guard, Tara was a Navy Corpsman and Torrey was a Sergeant in the Army National Guard. Mac and Kathleen have six grandchildren (Conner, Tegan, Sean, Brent, Virginia Rose and Bryanna).

After returning from 30 years serving his country, Mac was a very sought-after employee. He was able to pick and choose who he wanted to work for and what he wanted to do. Among the various after Military career jobs Mac took on were as a Foreman for the old Glass Container Company in Dayville and for the National Chromium Company in Woodstock, a Service Manager for Midas Muffler, he also worked at Electric Boat as a First-Class Sheet Medal employee and also at the Command Aircraft in Moosup. Mac finally retired from work in the early 2000's.

Mac has dedicated much of his post service time to the American Legion cause, assisting other Veterans in their post Military careers. Mac joined the American Legion Post 67 in Grosvenordale in 1981. He is currently a 45-year Member in good standing. Mac has served as Post 67 Sergeant at Arms, as Post Historian, and as Senior Vice Commander. He has served as District 4 Sergeant at Arms, Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander and as District Commander. Mac has also served the American Legion on the State level. His first assignment was as Assistant Sergeant at Arms, then Sergeant at Arms and as Vice Commander. He has represented the Department at numerous National Conventions as an Assistant Sergeant at Arms. Mac is a member of the American Legion National Sergeant at Arms Club. He has also served on the State Department National Security Committee, the Golf Committee and the American Legion Boys State Commission. Additionally, Mac is a Member of the VFW Post 10088 in Quinebaug and of the Fleet Reserve Association. He is still servicing America Proudly.

The Town of Thompson will honor HTCS Art "Mac" McLean with a plaque presentation at the Board of Selectman meeting on Tuesday April 7 at 7 p.m. in the Thompson Town Hall.

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# Trevor M. Collins named Westview's January Employee of the Month



Trevor M. Collins

DAYVILLE — Trevor M. Collins was heralded as Westview's January 2026 Employee of the Month.

Collins is a Line Cook for Country Living at Westview Commons; upholding a standard of excellence in dining to complement the many comforts of the Dayville Independent and Assisted Living Facility. The kitchen staff at Westview Commons work together

to understand their roles and best possible contributions, and Trevor addresses needs with enthusiasm. He covers a range of responsibilities—from start to finish—all throughout the dietary space. Receiving shipments, organizing stock, maintaining resources, breaking down refuse and recycling, are among the necessary duties that make way for the more appealing act of present-

ing precisely prepared dishes for residents.

Collins and his family have multi-generational roots in the Northeast Connecticut, and he spends time among family friends as often as possible. He values being able to know the people he is around and the surrounding setting he is in with the same level of familiarity. Trevor, his wife Bethany, and their daughters Thea

and Lilia appreciate this abundance of nearby love and support. Pastime passions of Trevor's include cheering for New England sports conquests, reading, and gaming—especially engaging in epic bouts of Dungeons & Dragons and Magic the Gathering.

Trevor is a graduate of Killingly High School, and in the years that followed, he pursued advanced education in diverse areas of study. Trevor achieved both a Bachelor's degree in Cyber Security from Southern New Hampshire University as well as a Bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales University. After graduating from culinary school, Trevor's first professional role was at the University of Connecticut's Catering Department. This massive operation of meals routinely handles thousands of orders in a given day. The high-volume output and demands of that position helped Trevor to understand more about the foodservice industry and the rewarding results of working with a team of like-minded professionals.

In his present role at Westview Commons, Trevor appreciates the

"restaurant quality" touches that he and the dietary team impart to meal service. The resident dining experience at Westview Commons benefits from the cohesion of individual staff contributions. A particular point of pride for Trevor is operating the grill; perfectly searing proteins served as centerpieces of individual plates. Trevor and his colleagues in Westview Commons' Dietary Department look to blend their unique knowledge in culinary arts with the considered palette of the residents. They carefully develop creative, new dishes to enhance the options whenever possible; enjoying the moments when they can talk with the residents and gain feedback about the continually evolving menu.

Trevor considers this Westview recognition to be humbling and unexpected, commenting, "Finding out I was selected for Employee of the Month was a complete surprise. I give my best every day, and strive to provide the same quality for everyone that dines at Westview Commons. Our residents and guests are the heart and soul that motivates the best efforts from each department here. I work to be as efficient as possible—because that's what the role,

the residents, and my colleagues deserve from me."

Westview Commons' Executive Vice President David T. Panteleakos values Trevor's commitment to presenting well-considered cuisine, and said, "Trevor is a strong member of our culinary team at Westview Commons, exhibiting professionalism through consistent methods and proven results. Congratulations to Trevor!"

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

## DMMA students earn promotions in rank



DANIELSON — Thursday, March 26, five time Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee and current USA Karate Team Member, 7th Dan Master Daryl Laperle announced promotion of students in Danielson Martial Arts Academy's most recent grading.

TJ King - Apprentice Black  
Liliana Huling - 2 Gup Red  
Leslie LaPorte - 2 Gup Red  
Rebeca Castro-Sandoval - 4 Gup Green  
Jeff Fugazzi Jr. - 4 Gup Green  
Ziggy Fugazzi - 4 Gup Green

Chloe Wishart - 4.5 Gup Green  
David Schreiner - 4.5 Gup Green  
Emily Castro - 5 Gup Purple  
Abby Napierata - 5 Gup Purple  
Lexi Proulx - 5.5 Gup Purple  
Ava Moyer - 5.5 Gup Purple  
Christian Mello - 6 Gup Purple  
Avery Dietlin - 6.5 Gup Blue  
Bennett Drew - 6.5 Gup Blue  
Isaac Griffiths - 6.5 Gup Blue  
Krisztian Toth - 6.5 Gup Blue  
John Wisniewski Jr. - 6.5 Gup Blue  
Lillian Spaulding - 7 Gup Blue  
Ella Dietlin - 7 Gup Blue  
Lilith League - 7 Gup Blue

Linda Byrne - 7 Gup Blue  
Jaiyden Randolph - 8 Gup Blue  
Cora Quinn - 8 Gup Blue  
Jaxton Burek - 8 Gup Blue  
Grayson Grady - 9 Gup Orange  
Everett Graff - 9 Gup Orange  
Clara Fowler - 9 Gup Orange  
Amelia Mauro - 9 Gup Orange  
Korbin Dalton - 9 Gup Orange  
Elliott Melendez - 9 Gup Orange  
Lincoln Person - 9 Gup Orange

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

## HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED**  
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## Christ Church Pomfret hosts Easter Egg hunt, Holy Week activities

POMFRET—Christ Church Pomfret will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 5, starting at 11:15 a.m. on the lawn at 527 Pomfret St.

Please join us for a morning of community and laughter as children hunt for colorful eggs hidden throughout the church grounds.

You are invited to join us for our Holy Week activities, which include a Maundy Thursday soup supper at 6 p.m. and a service at 7 p.m. on April

2; Stations of the Cross at noon and the Good Friday liturgy with solemn collects at 7 p.m. on April 3; a Holy Saturday liturgy at 10 a.m. on April 4; and celebrations of the Resurrection with Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 5.

For more information about the egg hunt and Holy Week activities, please visit christchurch-pomfret.org.

A vibrant church community since its founding in May 1828, Christ

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

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

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# What you should know about AI-driven financial insights

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how investors access information, evaluate opportunities, and make financial decisions. In many ways, it's a positive development. The ability to process large datasets, identify patterns, and generate insights in seconds is something that, even a decade ago, would have been difficult to imagine. But like many powerful tools, AI is most effective when it's used in the right context—and potentially harmful when it's relied on without judgment.

decision-making. But it's still just a tool.

The limitation: Context

Where AI tends to fall short is in understanding context—specifically, your context. Financial planning is not just about optimizing for returns or minimizing taxes in isolation. It's about aligning decisions with your goals, your time horizon, your risk tolerance, your family dynamics, and often your business interests.

At WHZ, we view financial planning as a coordinated process—integrating investment strategy with tax planning, estate considerations, and real-life circumstances. AI can assist with pieces of that puzzle. But it doesn't see the full picture unless it's guided carefully—and even then, it may not interpret that picture correctly.

A real-world example

Here's a fictitious example based loosely on a similar interaction I had with a client recently. He sent me a financial plan he had generated with the help of AI and asked for my feedback. At first glance, the recommendations seemed reasonable. Let's say, for example, that the plan suggested reallocating his portfolio, increasing retirement contributions, and improving tax efficiency.

But when we step back



**FINANCIAL FOCUS**  
JIM ZAHANSKY  
INVESTMENT ADVISER

and evaluate his full situation, the gaps become clear.

The AI didn't account for a pending liquidity event from his business. It didn't factor in a planned real estate purchase within the next 18 months. It didn't recognize that part of his portfolio was intentionally concentrated due to legacy holdings tied to family wealth.

In other words, the recommendations were technically sound, but strategically misaligned.

Had he implemented that plan as-is, it could have created unnecessary tax consequences, reduced flexibility at a critical time, and worked against his longer-term objectives. That's not a failure of the technology. It's a reminder of what the technology can't do on its own.

The risk of overreliance

One of the more subtle risks of AI-driven financial insights is the illusion of completeness. Because the output is often well-structured and confident in tone, it can create a false sense that all variables have been considered. In reality, AI is

only as good as the inputs it receives—and it lacks the ability to prioritize competing goals the way a human advisor can.

This becomes especially important in periods of uncertainty. Markets shift. Tax laws evolve. Personal circumstances change. Navigating those changes requires thoughtful adjustments—not just reactive decisions. AI can process new data quickly. But it doesn't exercise judgment, and it doesn't understand the trade-offs that often define good financial decisions.

Where a human advisor still matters

The role of a financial advisor is not just to provide information; it's to interpret it and apply it within the context of your life. That includes:

Understanding how different parts of your financial picture interact

Identifying risks that aren't immediately visible in the data

Helping you stay disciplined when markets create noise

Coordinating strategies across investments, taxes, and estate planning

Adjusting plans as your goals and circumstances evolve

In many cases, the most valuable advice isn't about what to do—it's about what not to do.

A balanced approach

AI is not something to avoid. It's something to use appropriately.

When paired with experienced guidance, it can enhance analysis, improve efficiency, and support better conversations around planning. But it should not replace the decision-making process itself.

Think of it this way: AI can generate possibilities. A human advisor helps determine which of those possibilities actually make sense for you. That distinction matters.

AI-driven financial insights are here to stay, and they will continue to improve. But financial planning is ultimately about people, not just data. Your goals, your timeline, and your circumstances are not static, and they're not easily reduced to an algorithm.

The most effective approach is not choosing between technology and human advice. It's integrating both, using AI as a tool while relying on experienced guidance to bring clarity, discipline, and perspective to your decisions.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we work with clients to integrate technology-driven insights with personalized, coordinated financial planning across investments, tax strategy, estate considerations, and long-term goals. The result

isn't just more information—it's clearer direction.

Get in touch to see how we can help you do the same. You can schedule a complimentary discovery session on our website at whzwealth.com, or by calling (860) 928-2341. Our goal is to provide each of our clients with "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life."

Authored by WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors Senior Partner, Chief Strategist James Zahansky, AWMA®. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. 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>. 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.

## Headlines from 50 years ago

Note: The Killingly Historical Center will be closed Saturday, April 4, Holy Saturday. It will be open as usual on Wednesday, April 8. Happy Easter!



**KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER**

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

Fish Fridays: Support Killingly Grange #112, an historic property (the old Killingly Centre school-house) 801 Hartford Turnpike. April 3 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Meal 1: Baked or Fried Fish dinner \$18-10 ounce 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. "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.

Plainfield America 250, in conjunction with the Deborah Avery Putnam Chapter of the DAR, presents Taverns and Tavern Life in Early New England by Tom Kelleher of Old Sturbridge Village, Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m. at the Plainfield VFW 7 Windsor Avenue, Plainfield. Free and all are welcome.

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 Connecticut, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island Library card. Call 860-928-6826 for additional information.

I've just finished reading the first chapter of "Founding Gardeners," and am amazed at the lengths George Washington went to after the end of the Revolution to redesign and replant much of the landscape near his house, Mount Vernon, tearing out formalized, walled-in gardens, designing two groves of native trees, laying out a serpentine way leading to the house and much more. Andrea Wulf noted, "Mount Vernon was more than just fields that provid-

ed Washington's livelihood, it was also an expression of his social standing within Virginia society" (p.18). Although he had the labor of many enslaved individuals, Washington, himself, helped plant the varied trees, not being afraid to get wet and muddy. I'm now reading about Jefferson and Adams visiting famous British gardens while they were ambassadors overseas working on the Peace Treaty and other troubling issues. Both were also extremely interested in horticulture. Feel free to stop at the desk at Putnam Library and ask for a copy of the book.

This week, I thought I'd see what the headlines and tidbits were 50 years ago so many of the businesses would be in your lifetimes. The April 1st, 1976 Windham County Transcript announced the March 24 official opening of Malloy's Five Cent to \$1 store on Main Street in Danielson. The store, located in the building which formerly housed W. T. Grant's, was managed by David Irish. "Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies were Robert Princeton, borough councilor; Donald Caulfield president of the Killingly-Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce; Adrien Bessette, tax collector; Alfonso DelPesco, co-chairman of the Chamber Mercantile Bureau; Robert N. Manship, chief of the Danielson Police Department; Mr. and Mrs. William Mosher, store owners; Henry Mazzarella, owner of the Cinema, who assisted in coordinating the opening of Malloy's in Danielson; David Irish, store manager; Richard Tracey, manager of Malloy's Colchester Store; and Killingly Town Manager R. Gary

Stenhouse. (Do these people ring a bell?) (p.1).

"Thomas Harkins will be installed as exalted ruler of the Danielson Lodge of Elks during festivities slated April 4 at the National Guard Armory in Danielson. Other officers slated to be installed are Norman Armstrong, esteemed leading knight; Ron MacLaren, esteemed loyal knight; Rene LeSage, esteemed lecturing knight; Ernest Couture, secretary, Raymond Veillette, Jr., treasurer. Trustees are John Burke, Jr., William Chapman, and Joseph Castano, Leonard Maynard and Ernest Joly, Jr.; also Edward Russell, inner guard; Frank Damato, tiler; Lee Burris, chaplain; Harold Chandler, organist. David Dyson II, esquire... Harkins succeeded John Burke, Jr..." (p.1)

You know I love to look at the ads. I turned to page 13 and was greeted by the picture of a smiling elephant. Jumbo Discount Store was having a sale from April 4 through 9 in honor of their second anniversary. They would be giving away a chain saw and drill, a 15 inch Magnavox color tv, and an Escort three-piece luggage set. An interesting note said that the store was open Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., but was closed Saturdays. The April 1, 1976 Transcript seemed to carry an insert of ads for there were a number of pages. Do you remember the Spinning Wheel Gift Shoppe? Danielson Suzuki on Route 6 in Brooklyn? Keech's Mini Mall? The Trinket Shoppe-Etc. Etc. Etc.? Bargain Supply? Hurme Radio and Television? Phil's Radio and TV? Shaw Stationers of Putnam? LaPointe Jewelers on Main Street in

Danielson? Rose's Record Shop in Danielson? S and S -Radio Shack Dealers? Mathieu's Jewelry Store? Allard's Pharmacy on Main Street? Bob Racine Sports in Putnam? Shaw Stationers in Putnam? Anna Poona-Putnam? Dowe's was advertising a large selection of Easter cards. Grocery prices are certainly much higher than fifty years ago. Mickey's Supermarket was advertising Beef Chuck Roast for 79 cents a pound; Bottom Round Roast was \$1.39 per pound. Chicken legs were 59 cents per pound; ground beef was 89 cents per pound. Eggo Waffles were 55 cents for a pack. Carrots were two large bunches for 35 cents; celery was 39 cents for large stalks.

Did you or a family member work for Glass Containers in Dayville (site of present Killingly Commons for "youngsters" and newcomers)? In 1976, "Glass Containers Corporation recently made a generous donation to the Day Kimball Hospital Annual Giving Appeal. Receiving the gift on behalf of the Hospital is Executive Director, Charles Schneider from Edgar Siesman, Plant Manager of Glass Containers. Have you been in to the Killingly Historical Center to see the nice display of memorabilia from Glass Containers? If not, do stop in during regular hours.

Early April ads included local stores carrying seeds. Agway: "Seeds are in! Ripe ideas for making your garden grow." (Route 12, South, Plainfield); Lewis Greenhouses (Harts seeds and starters, Moosup); Tillinghast Lumber, Complete Line of Lawn Care Products and Garden Supplies, North

Main Street, Danielson; Suburban Nurseries-Route 6 Brooklyn, Lofts Grass Seed. Page 7 also contained a lengthy article from Storrs on the benefits of using local seed varieties and many types which were available fifty years ago.

Committees in the area were gearing up for the Springtime Festival to be held in May. Perhaps you were one of the contestants. The April 1 Transcript carried an article calling for baton twirlers. "Baton twirlers, you are hereby alerted! Strauda McKinney, director of the Springtime Festival Baton Twirling Competition, has issued an invitation for you to participate in the May 8 event. Open to all young persons five to 18 years of age who reside within the ten-town area, the competition will be held at Killingly High School from 2 to 4 p.m. and will be open to the public for viewing... Three divisions of competition have been arranged to include Novice Solo, the Duet Twirl, and a Team Dance Twirl... Another attraction for the May 8 event is the appearance of the United States Coast Guard Academy Trick Rifle Team..." I enjoyed the Springtime Festival Parade.

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](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety).

## ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ VillagerNewspapers.com



## Danielson sets spring schedule for budget vote, council meetings

DANIELSON — Borough residents will have several opportunities this spring to weigh in on local spending decisions and follow municipal business as officials prepare for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Borough of Danielson has announced a series of public meetings between April and June, including its annual budget meeting, regular council sessions, and monthly Fire Commissioners meetings. All sessions are scheduled to take place in the second-floor meeting room of the Danielson Fire Department, 47 Academy St.

The annual budget meeting is set for Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. During that session, taxpayers will vote on the borough council's proposed budget. The meeting represents one of the most direct opportunities for residents to influence borough finances, as the spending plan must be approved by voters before it takes effect.

Regular monthly council meetings will follow on Wednesday, April 15; Wednesday, May 20; and Wednesday, June 17, each beginning at 7 p.m. Borough officials typically use these meetings to conduct routine business, review reports, and address issues affecting services within the borough.

The Fire Commissioners also will meet Tuesday, April 28; Tuesday, May 26; and Tuesday, June 23, with each session scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The commissioners oversee fire service operations and related administrative matters within the borough.

Officials encourage residents to attend the upcoming meetings, particularly the April 13 budget vote, which directly determines the borough's financial plan for the coming year.

Residents seeking additional information about meeting agendas and borough business can consult materials posted by borough officials ahead of scheduled sessions.

## Old Trinity announces Easter week services

BROOKLYN — The public is invited to a 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service at Old Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church St., on Sunday, April 5. Dress warmly and come to sing!

The following Holy Week service will be held at the current Trinity Episcopal Church location, 7 Providence Road (intersection Routes 6 and 169): Palm Sunday Eucharist, March 29, 10 a.m.; Maundy Thursday Eucharist/Foot Washing, April 2, 5:30 p.m.; Good Friday, April 3, 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3 p.m. Meditation on the Cross (online only), 7 pm Voices from the Foot of the Cross; Holy Saturday, April 4, 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer; Easter Festival Eucharist, April 5, 10 a.m. followed by our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Trinity's services are available online at <https://www.facebook.com/trinitychurchbrooklyn>. For more information, visit <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurch.org>.

## Quinebaug Valley Senior Center to host fall prevention program

BROOKLYN — Quinebaug Valley Senior Center is excited to present a free program titled "Fall Prevention in our Quiet Corner" on Wednesday, April 29 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. The presentation will be held at Quinebaug Valley Senior Center at 69 South Main St., Brooklyn.

A Certified Fall Prevention Specialist from Day Kimball Healthcare at Home will conduct this comprehensive and interactive session. Participants will identify their individual risk factors for falls and learn proactive measures to minimize the risk of fall and fall-related injuries.

Supported by Day Kimball Homecare and the Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds from the Older Americans Act, "Fall Prevention in the Quiet Corner" aims to prevent falls and enhance the safety and independence of seniors.

Please register for this event to take advantage of this chance to focus on your safety, independence and well-being!

To register, please contact QVSCC at 860-774-1243 or email [Director@QVSCC.org](mailto:Director@QVSCC.org).

## Putnam Corridor Gallery features Anna Ionkin

PUTNAM — The first ever public display of the amazing art by Anna Ionkin is currently on display at the Corridor Gallery in the Putnam Municipal Complex. The show, entitled "Many Paths," features landscapes from around the quiet corner and places Anna has traveled over the past year. Mixed in are smaller moments from her home.

Anna sums up her approach to art by saying "Nature is an overflowing well of inspiration but also a source of connection. Whether I focus on a bird, plant, a whole landscape or just the sky, I try to reimagine the familiar to make them feel more fantastical as if looking at them with new eyes by over emphasizing colors and stylization. My work connects with the people in my community who share appreciation for simple pleasures that come from hikes, bird watching, and gardening. The moments and scenes I render have a New England charm but also explore my personal experience living in rural Connecticut."

The show will be on display until the end of June. The Corridor Gallery, sponsored by the Putnam Arts Council, is located at 200 School St., Putnam. Hours and more information are available at [PutnamCtArtsCouncil.com](http://PutnamCtArtsCouncil.com)

## Paws Cat Shelter to hold can and bottle drive

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a Can and Bottle Drive on Saturday, April 11 from noon – 3 p.m. at the shelter located at 74 School St. in Putnam. Please separate two-liter bottles. Pet food and donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

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

## Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to benefit Quinebaug Valley Senior Center

BROOKLYN — Quinebaug Valley Senior Center will be hosting a Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner which will include salad, bread, coffee, tea, and bottled water. The event will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the senior center located at 69 South Main St., Brooklyn.

Tickets are available for 15 per person, eat in or take-out. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the senior center or at the door.

Call QVSCC at (860)774.1243 for more information. Please come out to support us so we can continue to help the seniors in our communities.

## Eastern student Colby Groves of Woodstock Valley performs in "Three Sisters"

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern's Department of Communication, Film, and Theatre captivated audiences with its production of "Three Sisters," written by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov and directed by Rachel Jett, from March 5-8 in the Delmonte Bernstein Studio Theatre. The production followed the story of four siblings at a war-torn military outpost.

Among the production's contributors was Colby Groves of Woodstock Valley, a senior majoring in Pre-Elementary Education. Groves served as Vershinin in the play.

Olga Prorozov (Kylie Nigretti '28) navigates the trials of managing her family amidst the turbulent love lives of her younger sisters, Irina (Shyaina Poole '29), and Masha (Zolei Burgos '26), the latter of whom is cheating on her husband Kulygin (Isaiah Gaspard '29).

The lives of the titular sisters inspired their actresses to be introspective through the lens of their characters.

The sisters' weak-willed brother Andrei (Isaiah Longmire '29) fares no better in his shallow marriage to the cruel Natasha (Jessie Dupont '29) who among other petty deeds attempts to throw out the siblings' loyal servant Anfisa (Samantha Mallory '29).

The play connects the lives of the sisters with those of several hapless members of the Russian Army, including Masha's illicit lover Lieutenant Colonel Vershinin (Colby Groves '27), hot-headed Solyony (Colin Gilligan '29), and easy-going sub-lieutenants Rode (Declan Harris '29) and Fedotik (Allison Thebeau '27). Additional turmoil comes from the drunken exploits of army doctor Chebutykin (Sean Jolly '28) and lovelorn lieutenant Tuzenbach (Lucas Poole '28).

The play proved to be a welcoming first-time theatre experience for much of the cast.

## American Legion Post 21 Danielson offering high school and college scholarships

DANIELSON — American Legion Post 21 in Danielson is offering scholarships to high school seniors and to students who are already attending college.

The Post will be awarding three \$1,000 high school scholarships and two \$1,000 college scholarships. Applicants must be a resident of Killingly, Danielson, Brooklyn, or Pomfret and must have a relative, living or deceased, who served, or is currently serving, in the military. Checks will be issued to the winners in each category. High school scholarship applications have been provided to the high school guidance departments. The deadline for submitting applications is May 1.

For more information or to request an application, contact Scholarship Committee Chairman Dave Mulford by email at [dmalloway@yahoo.com](mailto:dmalloway@yahoo.com) or by phone at (860) 771-9151.

## How to Submit an Obituary Guidance in Your Time of Need.

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

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

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If you have any question please call Julie at 508-909-4105*

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# LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE OF**

**Joann V Gorham (26-00103)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 18, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Victoria E Ywarsky  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS,  
EDWIN C. HIGGINS III,  
168 MAIN STREET, P.O.  
BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
April 3, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE OF**

**Zita Savickas,  
AKA Sister Mary Paul (26-00079)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 20, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Sister Igne Marijosius, Superior  
c/o KAREN JANSEN CASEY,  
COONEY SCULLY AND, DOWLING,  
10 COLUMBUS BL VD, HARTFORD,  
CT 06106  
April 3, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE OF**

**Ernestine M Mailhot (26-00088)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 20, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Laura J Deschenes,  
6 Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, CT 06234  
April 3, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE OF**

**Nancy M Boucher (26-00038)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 24, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Brian D Boucher  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS,  
c/o ERNEST J COTNOIR,  
MAHER AND COTNOIR,  
163 PROVIDENCE STREET,  
P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
April 3, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ESTATE OF**

**Thomas G Krupa (26-00090)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 25, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

c/o HALLEY CONNOLLY ALLAIRE,  
ALLAIRE ELDER LAW, LLC,  
271 FARMINGTON AVE,  
BRISTOL, CT 06010  
April 3, 2026

**BOROUGH OF DANIELSON ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

The legal inhabitants of the Borough of Danielson Qualified to vote at Borough meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Danielson Fire Station, 47 Academy Street, Danielson, Connecticut on April 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm for the following purpose to witt:

1. To hear and act upon the report of the President.
2. To hear and act upon the report of the Fire Chief.
3. To hear and act upon the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 as presented to the meeting.
4. To see if the voters will vote to authorize the President and Treasurer to borrow money, if required, upon notes of the Borough, whether funded, floating, emergencies or of any other nature during the ensuing year.
5. To do any other business Proper to be done at said meeting.

Dated March 18, 2026 - Borough of Danielson Administrator

	2025-2026 Proposed Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>		
<u>General Fund</u>		
Property Taxes	833,818	845,025
PILOT Money	17,000	18,000
Telecommunications Tax	1,600	1,600
LOCIP Grant	4,411	4,155
Fire Protection Services	24,000	24,000
Interest Income	60,000	48,400
General Funds	39,500	40,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>980,329</b>	<b>981,180</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<u>Fire Department</u>		
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		
Allotments	27,200	27,200
EMS Overnight Stipend Program		12,775
Fire Chief Salary	8,200	15,000
Duty Shift Allotment (M-F 6am to 6pm)	35,000	41,760
Annual Member Recognition	2,500	2,500
Capital Expenses	80,589	5,000
Operating Expenses	117,750	129,050
Retention/Recruitment	25,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>296,239</b>	<b>243,285</b>
<u>Other Expenses</u>		
Building Maintenance	36,225	44,634
Building Capital Improvement	40,000	60,000
Building Reserve	15,000	20,000
Facility Infrastructure Reserve	15,000	20,000
Fire Truck Loan Payment	62,540	62,535
Fire Truck Reserve	30,000	30,000
Hydrants	170,000	176,304
Insurance	77,000	70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>445,765</b>	<b>483,473</b>
<b>Total Fire Department</b>	<b>742,004</b>	<b>726,758</b>
<u>General Government Expenses</u>		
Attorney	7,500	7,500
Auditing/Accountant	18,000	18,000
Borough Office Expense	4,900	3,172
Borough Administrator Salary	21,525	23,000
Council Contingency	200	200
Council Expense	1,700	1,500
Election	2,000	2,000
Insurance	24,000	25,000
IT Data Tech Services	16,000	29,165
IT Liason Support Stipend		2,500
Legal Notices	5,000	7,500
Payroll Taxes	8,000	9,325
President's Salary	2,100	2,160
Sidewalk Repair	20,000	20,000
Sidewalk Reserve	30,000	30,000
Stipend for Council	1,400	1,400
Street Lights	60,000	57,000
Tax Collection Services	15,000	14,000
Tax Refunds/Liens	1,000	1,000
<b>Total General Government Exp</b>	<b>238,325</b>	<b>254,422</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>980,329</b>	<b>981,180</b>

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# Local/Applicants

**Email:**

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**Phone:**(860)928-1818 Ext. 326

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# OBITUARIES

## Arthur B. Gomes, 87



Arthur B. Gomes, 87, of Dudley died Sunday, March 29, 2026 in the comfort of his home surrounded by his loving family. Arthur was born January 26, 1939 in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late John B and Yvonne (Brunette) Gomes.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years Barbara (Pikul) Gomes, daughter: Brenda Gomes and her husband Thomas Lauria of Sturbridge, and son: Gary Gomes and his wife Jennifer Gomes of Dudley. His sisters: Theresa Evans and Janet Peckham both of Thompson, CT.; Grampy to 4 grandchildren; Erica; Jonathan; Colleen; and Mariah. Great Grampy to 5 great grandchildren.

Arthur Moved from Thompson in 1961 and settled in Dudley with his wife Barbara as they ran St. Georges Flowers and Gifts on West Main St. for 30 years retiring in 1998. Arthur was a people person and his staff of flower girls loved him dearly. Art loved his Nascar he traveled to Dover,

Talladega, Loudon and Albany. He was a Jack of all trades. In his retirement he took up golf and enjoyed planning trips to Myrtle Beach with his golfing buddies Spenny and Bobby.

He was a communicant of St. Louis Church and a Life time Member of the Elks Lodge 2118 in Auburn.

Predeceased by his brother, Albert Gomes and sisters Tina Larose, and Delores Lavigne.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held 1 PM on Wednesday, April 1 at St. Louis Church, 14 Lake St., Webster. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Garden Of Peace Cemetery, Webster. Calling hours are Wednesday Morning from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield ave. Dudley.

The family would like to thank the visiting nurse Tarah and aides Betty and Pam at Care One Nursing and Hospice, and also his special care helpers Pat, Sue and Kelly. Memorials for Arthur may be made to St. Judes Childrens Hospital or a charity of ones choice.

www.bartelfuneralhome.com

## Henrietta E. Cyr, 83



Henrietta E. Cyr, 83, of Dayville passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Monday March 23, 2026 at Davis Place in Danielson. She was born in Putnam on November 30, 1942,

daughter of the late Henry A. and Edna (Beaulac) Cyr. Henrietta worked for many years at Danielson Curtain and went on to work at Linemaster Switch and ConnTrol before her retirement.

Henrietta developed a vast network of friends throughout her life, especially those who had the pleasure of playing bingo and cards with her. This was made obvious at her 80th birthday celebration where she was surrounded by well over 100 family and friends. She enjoyed her time spent at the Plainfield and Brooklyn Senior Centers.

Henrietta leaves behind her two beloved sisters Rochelle Alix of Brooklyn and Marilyn Mancini & husband Joseph of Pomfret Center. Her niece and caregiver Lisa Skellinger of Brooklyn whom

she loved like the daughter she never had. Also brother-in-law Pete Rabbitt and sister-in-law Barbara Cyr. She also leaves nephews Michael Rabbitt of North Stonington, William Cyr of Wrentham, MA, and Justin Mancini of Pomfret Center. Nieces Heather Magnussen of Barrington, RI, Stasia Cardillo of Knottingham, NH, and Judy Lane of Pomfret Center. A number of great nieces and nephews, one great great niece and many cousins.

Besides her parents, Henrietta was predeceased by her sister Eileen Rabbitt and brothers Robert, William, and Henry Cyr.

Henrietta was kindhearted and good to her younger sisters and their friends while in their youth. She made many boring weekends memorable while riding around in her car Ezmerelda VanGluttenberg Ella Washington Jones. We'll never forget!

A calling hour will be held in Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main Street, Danielson on Wednesday April 8, 2026 from 9:30 to 10:30AM followed by a Memorial Mass of Christian burial at Saint James Church in Danielson at 11AM. Burial will be private for her family. tillinghastfh.com

## Thomas C. Crescimanno 1945 – 2026



Thomas C. Crescimanno, age 80, of 36 Vina Lane, Brooklyn, Connecticut, formerly of Killingly, Connecticut, passed away after a lengthy illness on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

He was born in Putnam, Connecticut, son of the late Benedetto T. Crescimanno and Rose (Pugliese) Crescimanno. Thomas was predeceased by his brothers, Anthony J. Crescimanno and John Crescimanno, and by his sister, Linda T. Crescimanno. Thomas is survived by his sisters, Rosemary Kettelle of Danielson, and Gloria Anderson of Corona, California.

He is also survived by his children, daughter Stephanie Majewski and her husband James, and son's Brian T. Crescimanno, Steven J. Crescimanno and his wife Megan; and by eight grandchildren, Nicholas, Nathan, Zachary, Ava, Allison, Avery, Jackson and Gavin.

Thomas graduated from local schools and attended universities in Oregon and California prior to his entry into the U.S.

Army in 1968. He served in Vietnam with the Americal Division as a squad leader in the 198th Light Infantry Division, and was awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge.

Upon completion of his military service, he earned his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Connecticut. He took an early retirement from the State Labor Department where he served in a variety of positions involving employment and training.

In his later years, he taught Social Studies and Business courses at Connecticut and Rhode Island schools.

Funeral services will be at a time and place determined by his family. In lieu of flowers, those interested in a donation could make one to a library of their choice. Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home & Cremation, 48 School Street, Webster, MA has been entrusted with Thomas' arrangements. A memorial guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com

## Jean Marie Coderre, 77



Jean Marie Coderre, 77, of Danielson passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on Saturday March 28, 2026. She was born in Brooklyn, NY, on October 25, 1948, daughter of the late

Walter Louis and Aurore Cora (Langevin) LeClair. Jean was a long-time employee of Acme Cotton, having climbed up the ranks to eventually manage an entire department. Wanting to further her education, Jean went back to school to become a medical assistant. She worked at Woodstock Medical for many years until her retirement. "Jeannie" thoroughly enjoyed her shopping trips to Walmart, observing the birds at her feeders outside her kitchen window, crocheting colorful afghans, and endlessly watching her favorite childhood show, Lassie, in her final years.

Jean is survived by her husband Brian L. Coderre, her children (Kathleen Perrotta of Cranston, RI; Donald Libby of Danielson; Jennifer Coderre of Danielson; and David Coderre of Danielson. 10 Grandchildren: Don, William, Angelique, Christopher, Danielle, Alexandria, Eric, Joey, Nick, and Abby. She also leaves behind by her brother, Walter LeClair (spouse Dorie), sister, Marie LeClair, and brother in-law Michael Lamoureux (spouse Linda Lamoureux). Besides her parents, Jean was predeceased: by her sister, Linda Lamoureux. A calling hour will be held in Our Lady of LaSalette Church in Brooklyn, CT on Saturday April 11, 2026, from 10-11 am with a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial in the church beginning at 11 am. Burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery in Plainfield. tillinghastfh.com

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

### THREATS

continued from page A1

"Working closely with Putnam School System personnel, investigators determined that the threat was non-credible. No Putnam student was involved, and the threat did not originate locally," the report stated. "This incident is being reviewed in connection with a series of similar school related threats recently reported in the region."

State Police have not released details regarding any coordinated swatting effort or if any of these incidents are in fact connected. However, they do represent a concerning trend that has spread throughout the state, especially recently, of schools receiving false threats. School officials noted that these matters are taken seriously and that schools treat each threat as if it were a real situation. However, false incidents can result in disruption of the school day and anxiety among students and staff creating long term concerns, making them a serious offense both legally and as a disruption to the peace of mind of a vulnerable young population.

### TRIP

continued from page A1

remove down to 0.1 micron-sized material, removing all parasites, and last 10 years if properly maintained with daily backwashing. Filters were donated by Sawyer.

Another educator taught eight sessions of healthy eating by cooking with elementary and junior high sponsored kids. They had

a blast!

The team donated 100 Spanish books to the Ixtacapa study center and Xojola library and gave out 17 soccer balls and four air pumps. There were kids eager to exchange books and even more kids eager to play soccer.

The team met with most of our 29 sponsored children. Sponsorship is the heart of the Partners

in Development process. Sponsorship of one of the poorest of the poor children in Guatemala starts that child on a path of having some opportunity in life. The child is required to go to school, but the entire family benefits by better nutrition and free medical care. Go to www.pidonline.org to learn more and to select a child to sponsor.

After our busy work

week, we detoured on our way back to Guatemala City to Volcan Paycaya. Pacaya last erupted 4 years ago, and steam still occasionally exits from the crater. All team members ascended the volcano, either by hiking, riding a horse or by 4 wheeler. The views of surrounding villages and volcanoes were stupendous.

Eleven members of the team were repeat volun-

teers. The majority of the team comes from Christ Church in Pomfret but all denominations or no church affiliation are welcome. Why do we keep returning? The number of smiles, hugs and blessings that the team received are uncountable! For more information, contact Mitzi Davis, MD at: connect9295@gmail.com.

### FUN

continued from page A1

event was an overwhelming success, drawing families, pet owners, and dog lovers from across the region — and raising more than \$1,500 for Doggoholic Rescue, a local organization dedicated to finding loving homes for dogs in need. The KBA is proud to carry that momentum into spring with an event that celebrates both the season and the community's remarkable bond with its four-legged residents.

About the Pawsitively Killingly Initiative

Killingly has developed something truly special: a remarkable concentration of dog-related and dog-themed businesses, particularly along Main Street. From coffee shops that celebrate their canine spirit in their very names, to pet care businesses that cater to the dog-loving community, Phaiiah's Dog Park and more, Killingly stands out as a destination for pet owners.

Dog-themed businesses on Killingly Main Street

alone include Bark-Society (a dog groomer and retail shop), Two Dogs Coffee Shop, Chubby Dog Coffee Co. & Gaming Bar, and CrossFit Underdog Union — creating a one-of-a-kind cluster of canine-inspired businesses that reflects the friendly and active heart of this community.

"Killingly has something no other community around us can claim," said KBA President Jennifer Reynolds. "Our 'Pawsitively Killingly' events are a way for us to celebrate that identity, bring people together, and shine a

spotlight on the incredible local businesses that make our town so special."

A community that loves its dogs

The Pawsitively Killingly initiative represents the KBA's long-term commitment to celebrating what makes Killingly unique. By shining a light on the town's dog-friendly businesses and hosting events that bring the whole community together, the KBA hopes to strengthen local pride, support animal welfare, and build on the warm spirit that defines

Killingly.

Proceeds from the event will support Doggoholic Rescue's work as well as future Pawsitively Killingly initiatives. The event is organized through the Killingly Business Association and sponsored by Charleen's Portrait Studio, with support from BankHometown and Quiet Corner Veterans Support Coalition, as well as Jaylee Stokes Yoga, Monogrammit Plus, Happy Hounds LLC, and Dunn Marketing.

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~ ~ ~

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