



“Laughter is an instant vacation.”  
- Milton Berle

# WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

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Friday, June 27, 2025



Courtesy  
The Marianapolis Preparatory School  
Class of 2025.

THOMPSON — On Sunday, June 1, 74 students (58 seniors, one postgraduate, four joint diploma students, and 11 international diploma students) graduated from Marianapolis Preparatory School.

On Saturday, May 31, during Baccalaureate Mass, members of the Marianapolis Class of 2025 received medals honoring their academic achievements. On Sunday, June 1, during Commencement, members of the class received Silver Bowl award honors, which celebrate sev-

eral areas ranging from athletics to community service to character.

Marianapolis Class of 2025 in Alphabetical Order  
Chloe Alba, Sutton, Mass.; Faye Battersby, Putnam; Regan Benedict, Woodstock; Alexandra Bergeron, Webster, Mass.; Luke Beyers, Leicester, Mass.; Astrid Bidwell, Worcester, Mass.; Tùng Bách Cao, Hanoi, Vietnam; Mwewa Chiwaya, Moosup; Pin-Yen Chu, Tainan, Taiwan; Riccardo Cocchi, Milano, Italy; Dunja Čujić, Belgrade, Serbia; Filippo D’Albertis, Verona,

Italy; Gianah DeAngelis, Putnam; Caitlin Diaz, Oxford, Mass.; Sophia DiPietro, Worcester, Mass.; Carolina Dogre Conde, Chetumal, Mexico; Charles Eggen, Worcester, Mass.; Khaleb Gaskin, St. James, Barbados; Kira Gillette, Webster, Mass.; Lauren Gingo, Webster, Mass.; Nicholas Gouveia, Upton, Mass.; Rachael Grady, Foster, R.I.; Justin Griffiths-Lam, Thompson; Luisa Henao, Southbridge, Mass.; Duy An Hồ, Hanoi, Vietnam; Nam Nhật Hoàng, Hanoi, Vietnam; Anh Quỳnh Hoàng, Hanoi, Vietnam; Laurens Jacz, Den Haag, Netherlands; Dylan Jagiello, Dudley, Mass.;

Woobeen Jeong, Yongin-Si, Korea; Madeline Joyce, Dudley, Mass.; Jiří Kakáč, Boritov, Czech Republic; Riley Landry, Leicester, Mass.; Amy LaRochelle, Oneco; Norah Larson, Charlton, Mass.; Thi Tô Lê, Hanoi, Vietnam; Yüchéng Li, Mongolia, China; Ethan L’Italien, Douglas, Mass.; Amelia Margoupis, Sutton, Mass.; Shane McGlone, Southbridge, Mass.; Marko Milacic, Belgrade, Serbia; Brady Miller, Sturbridge, Mass.; Lauren Moors, Uxbridge, Mass.; Logan Mueller, Webster, Mass.; Nghĩa Tuấn Ngô, Hanoi, Vietnam; Bách Hồ Chí Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam; Han Nguyễn,

Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Linh Trang Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam; Thư Hà Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam; Xuân Như Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam; Nhi Phương Nguyễn Đào, Hanoi, Vietnam; Hoài An Nguyễn Trần, Dong Nai, Vietnam; Hồng Ân Nguyễn Trần, Dong Nai, Vietnam; Ashton Nichols, Hopkinton, Mass.; Kaan Ofluoglu, Istanbul, Turkey; Sora Oliveri, Worcester, Mass.; Natalie Olkowski, Uxbridge, Mass.; Chiara Palazzo, Milano, Italy; Derek Perveiler, Pomfret; Khanh Nhật Bảo Phạm, Hanoi, Vietnam; Phú Đông Phạm, Hanoi, Vietnam; Dunja Radukić, Belgrade, Serbia; Erwin Sanchez,

Brooklyn; Evelyn Savoie, Northbridge, MA; Havish Swadia, Southbridge, Mass.; Nhi Ngọc Thảo Trần, Hanoi, Vietnam; Thái Nam Trần, Hanoi, Vietnam; Sebastien Troyse, Sturbridge, Mass.; Boris Manuel Valdez De La Rosa, Worcester, Mass.; Vincent Vo, Worcester, Mass.; Miles Wesolowski, Brooklyn; Sophia Wildes, North Uxbridge, Mass.; Rasim Zekiri, Plainfield; Keyuan Zhang, Beijing, China

Academic Awards and Silver Bowl Honors

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## Killingly BOE appoints Nelson King to fill vacancy

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Board of Education has finally filled the vacant seat left by the passing of the late Danny Rovero confirming former board member and educator Nelson King to serve the remainder of the term.

King, a former principal of Putnam High School with 34 years of experience in the education field 26 of which were spent on Killingly, had previously served six years on the Board of Education. Two prior candidates for the vacancy were rejected by even split decisions from the eight remaining board members along party lines.

However, King had no problem earning support from either side of the aisle. Republican board member Kelly Martin said many people spoke highly of King and that she appreciated that he is an “old school Democrat.” Democratic Board Member Kevin Marcoux complimented King’s career and that he approached his duties without a personal agenda. The Board of Education voted unanimously to confirm his appointment.

During his interview King spoke of his decades-long friendship with Rovero from students to town officials in Putnam to their individual terms on the Killingly Board of Education. King admitted that he probably wouldn’t have been Rovero’s top choice as his successor, but he is confident he would have at least been on the list and considered it an honor to succeed his friend and fill out the remainder of Rovero’s term.

When asked about his approach to the position, King confirmed he wanted to help the board focus on the students and not what was best for either political party. “You make those decisions based on what is best for the students,” said King. “I informed the Democratic Town Committee when I was interviewed that if they were looking for someone to just adhere to party unity, I’m not the individual they want.”

He further stated that his goal was to “provide and endorse a quality education for every child in Killingly Schools contingent on the financial resources we are provided.”

## The Jacksons, Gretchen Wilson, GFR and Fuel headline 2025 Woodstock Fair

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Fair, Always Labor Day weekend, has announced its Main Stage lineup for its 164th year which will run from Aug. 28 through Sept. 1.

The Woodstock Fair will have four headline shows this year featuring four different genres of music, alternative rock, country, classic rock and pop.

The largest of these acts at this year’s Woodstock Fair consisting of one of the biggest family names in the history of music in America. The Jacksons will grace the Putnam Area Foundation Main Stage presented by the Loos Center for the Arts at Woodstock Academy on Monday, Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.

The Jacksons, famous

for songs such as “Can you Feel It,” “I Want you Back” and “ABC” will also be performing a tribute to their late brother, Michael.

The Woodstock Fair will be open until 8 p.m. on Sept. 1 and will also feature its second high stakes Cornhole championship tournament on Labor Day as well as the return of lawn and gar-

den tractor pulling.

The Woodstock Fair is also proud to welcome back to New England Gretchen Wilson. The singer was the winner of Season 13 of “The Masked Singer” recently, and will perform her memorable hit “Redneck Woman,” as well as “Here for the Party” and her

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## Veterans Coffeehouse awards \$1,000 scholarships to three area students

PUTNAM — Three area students each were awarded \$1,000 college scholarships by the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse. The awards were presented at the 2025 Scholar Breakfast hosted by the Coffeehouse at the Putnam Elks Lodge 574 on June 17.

The students are Kaelyn Ann Tremblay of Woodstock, Madison Grace Lamothe of Putnam, and Kathrin Elizabeth Fischer of Killingly.

Kaelyn Tremblay is the daughter of Jonathan and Keri Tremblay of Woodstock. She is a graduate of Woodstock Academy. Kaelyn will

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# Killingly directs opioid money to Quiet Corner Peer Support Group

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council has approved utilizing Opioid Settlement Funds to support a new initiative in town, the Quiet Corner Peer Support Group.

Formed in December, the Quiet Corner Peer Support Group, led by its president and former police officer Keven McNeill, has established a mission to help strengthen mental health and emotional support resources for first responders. The 501(c)(3) non-profit chose Killingly as its potential home base with plans to establish a facility on donated land and provide a variety of services

to help retired and active first responders and military personnel through their struggles with PTSD, drug and alcohol abuse, trauma, and their battles with contemplating suicide. The organization approached the town seeking money from the Opioid Settlement Fund, money managed by the state received through legal settlements with pharmaceutical companies, to help support their growth and establishing their home base. On June 10, the Council approved allocating \$166,000 to the cause.

During a presentation to the Council, McNeill explained that the Quiet Corner Peer Support Group has already proven to be an important tool

for local veterans, firefighters, and law enforcement helping them navigate the struggles that can result from traumatic experiences in their careers.

“We’ve only been around a couple months and we’re starting to see a trend that is following a national trend that’s coming to the Quiet Corner,” said McNeill. “We have the full support of all the Killingly Fire Departments. All the chiefs signed a letter of agreement. They’re very passionate chiefs. They want this to succeed. They want a place to send their folks when they’re struggling. I think we have a bright future. We’re going to change a lot of lives in our town.”

The presentation laid out a plan to build a wellness center on donated property at Evergreen Farms heavily supported by donated materials and labor. The proposal also included a \$125,000 budget which includes \$10,000 for ASAP (Acute Stress Adaptive Protocol) certification and deployment, \$75,000 for the wellness center, and \$40,000 for a program coordinator. The core services described in the presentation include peer support groups, training and education programs, ASAP services, crisis support, and outreach and advocacy missions.

The Council approved an allocation above the \$125,000 initial ask totaling \$166,179 after a lengthy public hearing which proved to be, at times, a bit contentious especially after a letter from their legal counsel provided an inconclusive opinion on whether the town could allocate opioid funds for the project especially in regard to the construction of a building on donated land. Many members of the Council expressed their support for the group but wanted to make sure they were allocating the funds properly and within state guidelines in a manner that wouldn’t negatively impact the town of the organization. In the end they chose to support the program regardless of any potential consequences from the state.

The Quiet Corner Support Group also announced an additional \$10,000 donation from two community members following their presentation to the Town Council. The organization called Killingly’s support historic and “a powerful step forward” for their mission of “healing, hope, and honoring those who serve.”

## POMFRET SCHOOL SPRING 2025 HONORS ANNOUNCED

POMFRET — The following local students were named to a Spring 2025 Honors list at Pomfret School:

Head of School Scholar Honors

To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 4.00 and received no grade lower than an A-

Class of 2025  
Carson Ames (Pomfret)  
Mila Ganias (Woodstock)  
Fergus Litowitz (Pomfret)  
Chloe Woodard (Pomfret)

Class of 2026  
Mirabelle Cole (Brooklyn)  
Anson D’Alleva-Bochain (Pomfret Center)  
Robert Ellsworth (Eastford)  
William Leary (Pomfret)  
Delaney Williams (Brooklyn)

Class of 2027  
Rowan Lehmann (Putnam)  
Ella Sousa (North Grosvenordale)

High Honors

To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 3.67 and received no grade lower than a B+.

Class of 2025  
Audrey Bonaventura (Wodstock)  
Mia McCarter (Pomfret)  
Matthew McClure (Woodstock)  
James Rice (Pomfret Center)  
Jessica Stolarek (Pomfret Center)  
Calvin Wolanin (Pomfret Center)

Class of 2026  
Remy Jacquet (Pomfret)  
Max Ring (Pomfret)  
Ian Sherman (Brooklyn)

Class of 2027  
James Lake (Pomfret)

Class of 2028  
Claire Anderson (Brooklyn)  
Coco-Lyon Jacquet (Pomfret)  
Tatum Litowitz (Pomfret)  
Amber Sherman (Brooklyn)  
Camila Stewart (Pomfret)

Honors

To achieve this level of distinction, students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 3.33 and received no grade lower than a B.

Class of 2025  
Adam Lee (Pomfret Center)  
Shepherd Wilcox (Pomfret Center)  
Brody Zahansky (Pomfret Center)

Class of 2026  
Gabriela Brown (Woodstock Valley)  
Olivia Crawford (Pomfret Center)  
Zane Ender (Eastford)  
Shelby Geragotelis (Brooklyn)

Class of 2027  
Beatrice Foronda (Putnam)  
Rita Rawcliffe (Woodstock)  
Zinan Zhang (Woodstock)

Class of 2028  
Max Gerum (Pomfret Center)  
Isabella Weinhardt (Dayville)

Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 350 students in grades 9 through 12 and post-graduates. Set on a stunning 500-acre campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret empowers students to pursue lives of purpose and meaning by inspiring the next generation of change makers and problem solvers. Learn more at [www.pomfret.org](http://www.pomfret.org).

## University of Hartford students named to Dean’s and President’s Lists

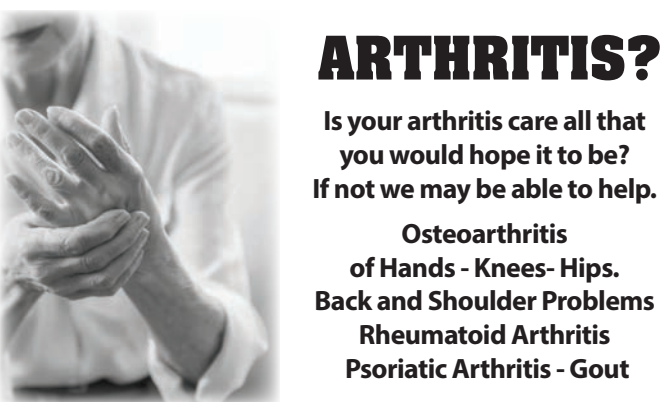
WEST HARTFORD — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,228 students have been named to the Dean’s List and President’s List for the spring 2025 semester.

The Dean’s List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C. The President’s List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President’s List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Among the local honorees are:  
Gracen Van Der Swaagh of North Grosvenordale - Dean’s List and President’s List  
Javier Dejesus of North Grosvenordale - Dean’s List  
Brooke Fettig of Thompson - Dean’s List and President’s List  
Nicholas Halloran of Woodstock - Dean’s List  
Ella Lach of Pomfret Center - Dean’s List

Congratulations to all the honorees on their hard work and academic success!

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut’s capital city, approximately 4,100 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students representing 48 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We’re a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impact change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters.



### ARTHRITIS?

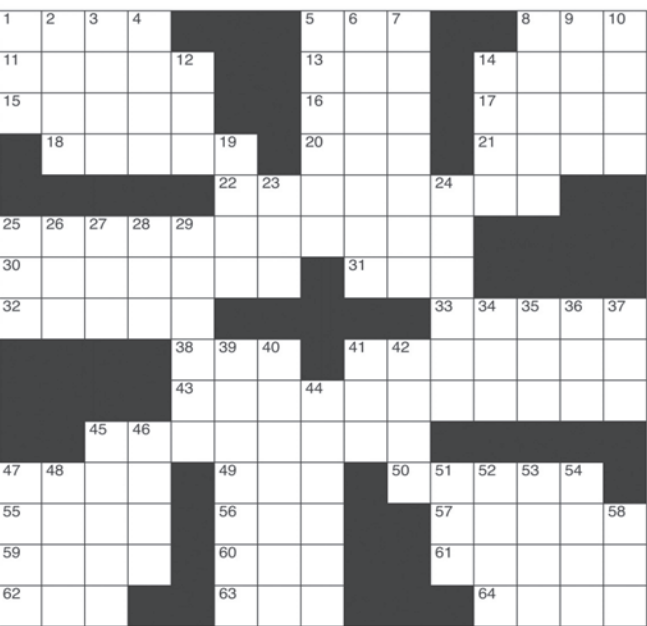
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#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Computer manufacturer

5. Noted space station

8. Kurt Russell film “Captain”

11. Automaton

13. Everyone has one

14. Incline from the vertical

15. Fights

16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)

17. Finishes off

18. Places to store things

20. Dutch painter Gerard \_\_\_\_

21. Smaller quantity

22. There’s a North, South and Central of these

25. In an early way

30. More spacious

31. Short-term memory

32. One who possesses
33. Sesame

38. Forbid

41. A way to explain

43. Not around

45. Evoke or suggest

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Dekameter

50. Fencing sword

55. “Luther” actor Idris

56. Affirmative (slang)

57. Afflicted

59. One point north of northeast

60. Born of

61. Arabic name

62. Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_\_

63. Not the start

64. Post

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Creative expression

2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut

3. City in ancient Syria

4. College army

5. More disturbed

6. Pays no attention to

7. Restored

8. Competitions

9. Lyric poems

10. Famed American lawman

12. Expression of disappointment

14. Scars

19. Satisfy

23. Central European river

24. Brass instrument

25. One who gets paid to perform

26. Propel with oars

27. Long period of time

28. Woman (French)
29. Type of plane

34. Pitching stat

35. Pointed end of a pen

36. Pro sports league

37. Body part

39. Inoffensive

40. Yellowish cotton cloth

41. Feline

42. Does not tell the truth

44. Set out to attract

45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician

47. Repair

48. Genus of flowering plants

51. Tributary of the High Rhine

52. Prejudice

53. C. European river

54. Restrain

58. Father



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#### VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
[Frank@salmonpress.news](mailto:Frank@salmonpress.news)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818 EXT. 102  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DiNICOLA  
508-764-6102  
[jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com)

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
860-928-1818 x 323  
[brendan@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:brendan@villagernewspapers.com)

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
860-928-1818, EXT. 305  
[julie@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:julie@villagernewspapers.com)

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# Celebrate Independence Day in Putnam July 5

PUTNAM — The Town of Putnam can't wait to light up the bandstand and the skies on Saturday, July 5 (rain date Sunday, July 13). You are invited to attend free of charge!

A concert with wildly popular and dynamic rock cover band Roc-Kin-On gets everyone into a holiday celebratory mood. The band will rock on from 7-9pm. Dancing, singing along, and even chair dancing

are encouraged for the best time ever!

After the Roc-Kin-On performance ends, expect Putnam's outstanding fireworks show to blast off starting at approximately 9:15pm. These fireworks are always a crowd pleaser. Oooohs and ahhhhs and wild cheering are guaranteed. Be sure to shout them out!

This fantastic event is brought to you by the

Town of Putnam with extra sparkle thanks to:

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Putnam Lodge No. 574  
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bankHometown  
Ron (RPC) & Donna Coderre  
Lauren Briere

In addition to enjoying a delicious meal in a downtown restaurant, or to-go foods and snacks from Price Chopper pre-event, these tasty and entertaining options will be on hand in the park: Not Your Average Popcorn, Berry Sweets, Creamery Brook Bison, Dude's Donuts, Danielson Lions Club Food Truck, Little B's BBQ, Putnam Leos II Club-Event

Official Water Vendor, Face Painting by Emily Rouillard, and Jump Zone's inflatables.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to Rotary Park, 190 Kennedy Dr. in Putnam for an experience not to be missed. As always, your patience and politeness are appreciated during these big events.

## Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — A total of 2,331 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) were named to the university's spring 2025 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost

Andrew Sears. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Dean's List for Spring 2025:

Annarose Avery from Brooklyn, class of 2026, majoring in Management Engineering.

Vicente Bastura from Pomfret Center, class of 2027, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

John Peabody from Woodstock, class of 2025, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused

research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social

sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

## PUTNAM HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

PUTNAM — Putnam High School has released its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honors – Five eligible courses with all grades 80 and above and a 90 percent or better simple GPA for the quarter.

Honors – Five eligible courses with all grades 75 and above and an 85 percent or better simple GPA for the quarter.

Class of 2025  
High Honors: Brooke Champagne, Melanie Garcia, Logan LaFrance, Madison Lamothe, Isabelle Magalhaes, Evan Mailloux, Edy Morente Mendez, Jacob Olson, Isabel Porter, Whitney Pynn,  
Clara Souza, Hailey Summers, Justin Vukas, Ava Wolinski,  
Honors: Aaliyah Daughenbaugh, Lillian Ennis, Antonio Furtado, Yakelin Gomez Flores, Olivia Hetrick, Anthony Lowell, Kaylee Mayo, Ava Morrison, Emily Olecki, Sean Stamp, Jasmin Wolinski

Class of 2026  
High Honors: Leah Benzie, Kaylee Borders, Nicholas Devlin, Evan Garvey, Kianna Griffin,  
Benjamin Gustafson, Cali McCaughey, Kaydence Morris, Madalyn Parquette, Paige Perry, Kasyn Robillard, Kaylin Rodrigues, Madison Thomas  
Honors: Audrina Buzanoski, Ella Carota, Brynn Dignam, Devin Fleck, Joselin Garcia Osorio,

Jayce Jodoin, Julius Lang, Aidan Martin, Gavin Matte, Jordan Travisano

Class of 2027  
High Honors: Delanie Bernier, Mia Cosentino, Ayla Daniels, Leland Fisher, Avah Grimshaw,  
Sidra Jahangir, Alina Kamara, Jay Patel, Nathaniel Ramos, Jillian Spalding,  
Honors: Danny Boriboun, Madelyn Haynes, Elieana Ionkin, Aubrey Paquette, Gavin Patterson,  
Bridgett Reidy, Iyanah Ruiz, Emani Vega, Calvin Wormley

Class of 2028  
High Honors: Kaitlin Brodeur, Theodore Buzanoski, Laura Coderre, Abigail Daniels, Avalynn Fiske, Eliza Garvey, Chloe Gazzola, Sophie Godzik, Caleb LaFrance, Nyla Magalhaes, Jayda Rivera, Cassidy Sabatinelli, Angelina Seymour, Mya Smith, Gavin Weiker  
Honors: Codie Baillargeon, Bailey Champagne, Amy Charron, Catherine Levesque, Nicole Mazioli, Oliver Paine, Taylor Thomas, Logan Walker

Area resident named to Dean's List at University of New England

Sarah Williams Davidson DAR awards scholarships

BIDDEFORD, Maine — Hanna Longwell of Woodstock has been named to the University of New England's Dean's List for the spring semester 2025. Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine's largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit [www.une.edu](http://www.une.edu).

BROOKLYN — The Sarah Williams Davidson Chapter of the DAR, located at 36 Wolf Den Rd. in Brooklyn, is pleased to announce their 2025 Excellence in American History Awards to area high school juniors.

The students are Samantha Bourque-Killingly High School, Alexa De Leon-Putnam High School, Briana Martin-Tourtellotte Memorial High School, and Drew Sperry from Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School. Congratulations to all.

The Woodstock Academy student will receive their medal and certificate at their Awards Day in the fall. That is the Academy's custom.

### The Annual Jamboree

Friday, July 4, 2023 • 10:00am – 3:30pm  
220 Woodstock Road, Woodstock, CT 06281

Parade steps off at 1:00pm  
East Woodstock Coronet Band Concert,  
live entertainment, children's games,  
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(tag sale), food choices and much,  
much more!

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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# The power of a local reset: Why time off doesn't always mean getting away

In a world that is go, go, go, taking time off is often seen as a luxury. But it's not; rather, it's a necessity. And it doesn't require a plane ticket or an elaborate itinerary. sometimes, the best kind of break is the one you take without ever leaving town.

Stepping away from your daily grind, even for a few days, allows your mind to unclench and your shoulders to drop. Whether you're walking a familiar trail with no notifications pinging in your pocket or sipping coffee on your porch without a single obligation, local rest is still rest.

In small towns and rural places, we often think we have to "go somewhere" to recharge. But a reset can happen in your own zip code. Turn off the emails, skip a meeting and leave your to-do list for another day. Give yourself permission to be unavailable. That's not laziness, it's healthy.

We tell each other to check in on neighbors, to care for our communities, but how often do we check in on ourselves? Time off isn't selfish; it's how we stay grounded, how we avoid burnout, and how we keep showing up for others.

So, if you need a break, take one. Walk the back roads. Sit by the river. Read a book you already own. Say no to things that drain you, and yes to stillness. Even ten miles from home, you can still find the space to reset.

You don't owe the world constant productivity. You do, however, owe yourself a little breathing room every once in a while.

### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Support Thompson Public Library's critical services

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to ask for the support of Thompson's voters in the upcoming referendum on July 2. As a member of Thompson Public Library's Board of Trustees, I am extremely concerned about the false information that is being distributed by the Thompson Transparency group. Numbers can be manipulated to serve any personal agenda, and that is what this group is currently doing.

Let us be clear—if deeper cuts must be made, services for our Seniors, our youth, our Library and Community Center, our Town, and our educational system will be drastically affected.

At our June 6 Special Meeting, the Thompson Public Library's Board of Trustees reluctantly made cuts that will have lasting effects on all our citizens. Thompson's Public

Library continues to be the backbone of our community, through the efforts of many who have helped it to thrive over the years. From Senior Lunch to Toddler Story Time to community events, the Library and Community Center have provided assistance, support, and resources for everyone in our community. We cannot afford to withstand any further cuts to our budget without losing valuable services on which our community and citizens have come to rely.

Please join me in voting "Yes" on July 2, to maintain our Library and Community Center's critical services for the whole community.

DONNA REYNOLDS LYNCH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Fighting misinformation: The real story behind Medicaid funds in Thompson Schools

To the Editor:

Recent statements made during Board of Education and Board of Finance meetings—as well as on social media—have painted a misleading picture, suggesting that Thompson Public School officials are "misappropriating" or "hiding" Medicaid reimbursement funds. While these claims are made under the banner of transparency, it's clear they are intended to advance a political agenda.

Medicaid reimbursements are allocated to school districts for a small number of qualifying students to help offset the costs of specialized services, including psychological, speech, physical, and occupational therapies, as well as transportation. In our district, data is collected by school staff and submitted to an outside vendor to process claims. These claims are then sent to the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) through the School-Based Child Health Program. Importantly, districts can only apply for these funds with written parental consent.

Currently, Thompson Public Schools receives Medicaid reimbursement for 40 of the 204 students with diagnosed disabilities—just 19.6 percent. Furthermore, the district is reimbursed at only 25 percent of the gross claim amount. The quarterly checks from DSS may also include retroactive payments for previously adjusted claims, which means the totals may not always align with a simple 25 percent calculation.

Contrary to misinformation being circulated, the district does not receive the full gross claim amount, nor is it "cooking the books." These accusations are baseless and dangerously misleading.

Medicaid contributes only a small por-

tion of the revenue required to support the increasing costs of special education. It is far from the "cash cow" that some have falsely portrayed it to be. These funds are critical in supporting our most vulnerable students, not a means of financial manipulation.

As the school district's financial steward for the past eight years, I was hired to advocate for the children of Thompson—to ensure that all students have equitable access to education and the resources they need to succeed. Over time, the student population in our community has changed significantly. We are now serving more students living in poverty, more students with diagnosed disabilities, more English Language Learners, and many more students facing mental health and social-emotional challenges.

To provide equitable access to education, we must offer specialized instruction. We actively pursue all available revenue streams—including Medicaid reimbursements and educational grants—to help fund these essential services. It is truly remarkable what our faculty and staff have achieved on a limited budget.

It is deeply disheartening to see some individuals spread falsehoods and sow mistrust for political gain. The Thompson Public Schools will address Medicaid reimbursement and the School-Based Child Health Program at our upcoming meeting on Monday, July 14, at 7 p.m. I encourage all interested community members to attend and hear factual, straightforward information about this funding source.

MELINDA A. SMITH, M.ED.  
SUPERINTENDENT  
THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Support Woodstock and our schools

To the Editor:

To read Dave Richardson's letter in the Villager last week urging residents to vote down the latest Woodstock town budget is to enter a nasty shadow world of half-truths implying that those striving to run our town and educate our children are not up to the task.

Sprinkling "FOIA [Freedom of Information Act]" throughout his letter, he seems to be saying that the Woodstock Department of Education and Boards of Education and Selectmen have been hiding financial information from town residents when virtually everything he sought is available on the town Web site or simply by asking for it from folks at the Town Hall. Likewise, he gratuitously insults those Woodstockers who volunteer untold hours a month: "If you don't want to do the job, don't volunteer for it. Get a hobby."

In one rather bizarre sentence, Mr. Richardson snidely refers to Woodstock's poor 4th grade Math testing results: his solution — cut the budget and eliminate even more positions. Really?

His schtick is getting very, very, very old. And it's dead wrong.

I look at Woodstock's budget in simple terms:

First, spending in Woodstock in 2000 was \$3,835 per resident. In 2020, it was \$3,759 per resident, adjusted for inflation. In 2025, with this latest budget proposal, the Town is asking for \$3,649 per resident, adjusted for inflation.

Second, consider the following: 2024 Thompson per pupil expenditure is \$23,165. 2024 Pomfret per pupil expenditure is \$20,725. 2024 Woodstock per pupil expenditure is \$18,742. The Connecticut state average is

\$20,722 per pupil.

Third, according to the latest US News and World Report data, the pupil/teacher ratio in Thompson is 11:1, in Pomfret 11:1, and in Woodstock it is 13:1.

Fourth, note local mill rates (One mill equals \$1 in taxes per \$1000 assessed property value): Thompson mill rate 2025: 28.11; Pomfret mill rate 2025: 27.16; Brooklyn mill rate 2025: 29.54; Woodstock mill rate 2025: 23.04. (data.ct.gov)

I also think about the wonderful education my youngest daughter got in Woodstock's Elementary and Middle Schools in the early 2000s. In the Elementary School she took full advantage of regular library sessions and was in the gifted and talented program, which she continued on into the Middle School. She is now a Nurse Practitioner, working in the ICU at the Columbia/Cornell Hospitals in New York City. She speaks appreciatively of the start she got at those two Woodstock schools and is deeply saddened when I tell her that there is no librarian at the Elementary School and that the gifted and talented program is no more.

Nowadays, I hear all too often from parents of school-age children in Woodstock, who were drawn to Woodstock initially by the schools, but are now seriously considering moving away because they feel that the schools are being starved and that the "Town doesn't really value education." It is hard for me to argue with that.

Please support Woodstock and support our schools. Vote Yes on this latest budget proposal July 1.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.  
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

## 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.

## Difficult people



NANCY WEISS

Difficult people. They are found everywhere, seemingly more often than in the past, but what to do about them when their presence is a dilemma. My husband and I have just returned from a trip to the Basque country of Spain and the northern part of Portugal. We visited the Gugenheim Museum in Bilbao and walked portions of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, part of a centuries old pilgrimage. The trip was conducted by a well-regarded tour company and it consisted of eleven people plus a guide.

This was the third trip we have undertaken with the same company, and we thought we knew pretty much what to expect. For nearly two weeks, we would eat most meals together; ride on buses and vans and wander around historic sites, hike along paths and peek into shops. Our group was two couples, one single man and six women, two of whom knew each other. Our guide was in her early thirties, lived in Lisbon, has worked for the company for several years. She was well-trained, flexible, articulate and smart. She needed every bit of her patience during the trip.

Remember the kid in school who raised his/her hand before the teacher completed her talk? Think of the person who finishes other's sentences as if the speaker weren't spitting out the words fast enough. How about the person who, no matter the quality of a meal or the authenticity of the ingredients ate a better one somewhere else? I could go on, but the picture is clear. Now imagine spending not one week but two with such a personality.

On the first day, we learned that the woman who would become such a tedious companion has just completed trips to Morocco and Turkey. She seemed very well versed in art and had visited the Gugenheim Museum in Bilbao before our group arrived. It all sounded interesting and possibly enlightening. Most of us who take such trips see the possibility of making new friends or at least expanding our circle of lively acquaintances. Soon the level of sharing became a burden and the range of opinions a millstone that threatened to crush every bus ride or café stop.

But what to do? There was no sense in outright confrontation as there were days and days on the trip. Paying attention or showing compassion for her complaints only encouraged her. I generally believe that simple good manners work well by showing that it's time to move on and include other people in a conversation, but she was too self-centered to pick up any clues.

As we strategized at every meal to seat ourselves as far away as possible from our fellow traveler, I asked myself over again the real reason for travel in the first place. For some of us it seemed to be another notch on the belt of achievements. It proves we are sophisticated enough to want to go to far-off places and successful enough to afford it. For others it is a fulfillment of a dream to see the sources of great literature and paintings. On this trip I visited a site many see as sacred, "the most beautiful bookshop in the world," Livraria Lello in Porto mobbed with people because JK Rowling was inspired by it.

All trips come to an end and as we left crowded Portugal, our mid-course vow to never again travel with a group began to wane. I stopped ruminating about what I should have said or done. Once I withdrew into my own pilgrimage, our nemesis faded away, never to be seen again.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let’s salute Old Glory this Independence Day

To the Editor:

America recently celebrated Flag Day, commemorating the First Flag Resolution, proclaiming Stars and Stripes the symbol of our emerging republic.

Here is a review of the colors and their meaning:

1. Red (valor, hardiness, sacrifice).
2. White (purity, innocence).
3. Blue (perseverance, vigilance, justice).

Stars and Stripes:

- 1 Stars (representation of states, heavenly bodies).
2. Stripes (original 13 colonies).

Flag Symbolism:

1. Freedom and Liberty.
2. Democracy and Unity.
3. Hope and Aspiration.
4. Resilience and Endurance.

After 9/11, I recall seeing many households displaying our beloved flag as a show of unity during this tough time. As we get ready to celebrate Independence Day, I take pride in how many places I see the symbol of our freedom: homes, schools, municipal buildings, parades, and businesses. As I reviewed the history of our flag and Flag Day, I decided to dive into the fascinating origin story of “Old Glory,” focusing specifically on how that well-known nickname came to be rather than just the flag’s initial creation. This article can provide some historical detail.

The nickname “Old Glory” is unique among national symbols because it didn’t come from a government decree or a national contest. It was born out of the deep personal affection of one man for his cherished flag and patriotism, helping popularize the name across the nation.

It begins with Captain William Driver and his special birthday present. On the day he turned twenty-one, Captain Driver of Salem, Massachusetts, received a magnificent, hand-sewn American flag from his mother and a group of local young women. This flag was significant for its time, featuring 24 stars (representing the 24 states then in the Union) and 13 stripes.

As Captain Driver prepared to set sail on his square-rigged brig, the Charles Doggett, he unfurled his new flag. As it billowed in the ocean breeze for the first time, he was so moved by its beauty and symbolism that he spontaneously declared, “I name her ‘Old Glory’! And that became his lifelong and deeply personal nickname for that specific flag.

Captain Driver carried “Old Glory” with him on numerous voyages across the globe, including expeditions to the South Pacific. The flag served as his “staunch companion and protection,” a familiar sight to him even in distant lands, reinforcing his Mother’s gift and his deep connection to it. Captain Driver reportedly unfurled “Old Glory” and displayed it prominently during a mutiny attempt by a disgruntled crew. He rallied his loyal crew members and, by invoking the flag and all it symbolized – law, order, country, and his authority as the ship’s captain representing the United States – he quelled the uprising and rebellion.

After years at sea, Captain Driver retired in 1837 and settled in Nashville, Tennessee, where he took “Old Glory” with him. He continued proudly displaying this well-traveled flag from his home, often strung across the street, and it became a familiar sight to his neighbors.

About twenty years after his retirement, the country experienced the tragic fracture of the Civil War, and Tennessee seceded from the Union. “Old Glory” became a potent symbol of Union loyalty in a deeply divided state. Confederate sympathizers repeatedly demanded that Driver take down his flag and even attempted to seize it.

Defiant, Captain Driver, a staunch Unionist, refused. He famously protected “Old Glory” by sewing it into a comforter, hiding it from Confederate discovery. This ingenious (but not so sneaky) concealment became a part of the “Old Glory” legend.

In 1862, the flag re-emerged. When Union forces, led by General William “Bull” Nelson, captured Nashville in February 1862, Captain Driver, who was 60 years old, triumphantly revealed his hidden treasure. Driver personally carried “Old Glory” to the Tennessee State Capitol building and, with a crowd of cheering Union troops, he hoisted it high over the city, replacing the Confederate flag. It began a proud journey for Tennessee in our country’s reunification.

How did we get to know this nickname, you ask? This dramatic and defiant act of patriotism, widely reported in Union newspapers, brought Captain Driver’s nickname, “Old Glory,” to national prominence. The story of his unwavering loyalty and his hidden flag resonated deeply, turning his affectionate term into a cherished nickname for the American flag itself.

Want to visit this living piece of history this summer? This legacy, Captain Driver’s original “Old Glory” flag, which he named and famously protected, is now a treasured artifact. Before his death, he bequeathed it to his daughter who donated it to the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. “Old Glory” still serves as a historical link to this unique origin story and is a testament to the power of personal connection to a national symbol and how one man’s devotion helped forge a beloved nickname for the flag that continues to evoke patriotism and pride.

Our flag is a powerful symbol of our nation’s history, ideals, and sacrifices for freedom, particularly on Independence Day, when we declared our freedom as our own country. As an amateur historian, this research made me think more about the past and especially the future of our town, state, and country. While celebrating this year, I encourage you to think about our flag and “Independence Day” more than the beautiful fireworks we love.

Also, do one better: Look up the evolution of the American flag. You might be as surprised as I was.

MIKE BOGDANSKI  
ASPINOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We need accountability — not more war

To the Editor:

Earlier this year, Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence in the Trump administration, stated that Iran was not close to developing a nuclear weapon. Intelligence can evolve, but we’ve also seen how those in power twist facts to justify decisions they’ve already made. So, we should be asking hard questions.

Why did Israel choose to strike Iran now? Some point to Prime Minister Netanyahu’s current corruption trial and his efforts to dissolve Israel’s government. Israel is in political crisis, facing protests and an anti-Netanyahu movement. It could be a coincidence. But it all feels eerily familiar.

In America, President Trump campaigned on a promise of “no more wars.” He pledged peace. Yet, on June 22, he ordered airstrikes on Iran without Congressional approval. So much for peace. So much for the Constitution.

Leaders around the world have expressed concern that the attack could lead to a dangerous escalation across the Middle East. Many are urging de-escalation. Reckless military action isn’t strategy, it’s provocation. Now we’re left wondering what comes next. How safe are our troops? Our citizens abroad? Our cities at home? Are we staring down another forever war, or worse,

another 9/11? It’s easy to start wars but hard to end them.

In response to the U.S. strikes, Iran’s parliament has voted to shut down the Strait of Hormuz. A quarter of the world’s oil moves through that narrow channel. That means oil prices will soar again. We’ve seen this before, and we’ll see it again unless we break our dependence on fossil fuels. Maybe now Congress should bring back the EV tax credits and accelerate investment in renewables. War for oil should have ended decades ago.

And let’s not ignore the price tag: \$58 billion or so, paid by U.S. taxpayers, for stealth bombers, bunker-busting Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) bombs, and the troop deployment. All without a Congressional vote. That’s a violation of the War Powers Act and the Constitution. One man should not have the power to drag us into war. That’s why we’re supposed to have checks and balances.

If you’re worried like I am, pick up the phone. Call Congress. Demand accountability. Peace isn’t passive, it takes work, it takes oversight, and it takes all of us. Our kids and future generations deserve to live in world where there is peace.

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

Invest in Thompson’s future by maintaining a level funded budget

To the Editor:

There has been a lot of talk by the residents of Thompson about the lack of business in our town. I couldn’t agree more. In fact, six years ago, when I was elected as First Selectman, I envisioned bringing Industry to Thompson. It was a major goal of mine.

What I have discovered is that with only a fraction of Thompson is served by water and sewer utilities, and completely lacking gas utilities, Thompson does not have the infrastructure to support major business and industry. In fact, during my time as First Selectman, two companies approached me to explore bringing natural gas to Thompson. The owners of these businesses have roots in the area, and because of that they were particularly motivated to try to find a way to relocate their companies in town. I pursued the possibility directly with Eversource to estimate the cost for a gas line expansion from Putnam. At that time, Eversource estimated that four miles of new gas lines would overtop \$4.6 million, costs which will have only gone up since then. From the perspective of Eversource, there are not enough potential gas utility customers to offset the cost of expansion, and the investment in new infrastructure doesn’t pencil out, leaving Thompson without a realistic path to add gas service.

Many Thompson residents may not be aware that a proposed industrial park failed to get approval from the taxpayers

in the 1970s; and a commercial business park proposal similarly failed when put to a vote by taxpayers in the 1990s. It is easy to blame the absence of business and industry on any given administration and staff, but residents had the opportunity to approve these past development efforts, and they turned it down. The choices made decades ago continue to affect us today.

Our focus now must be creating a community where small businesses want to set up shop. Mixed-use commercial storefronts, professional offices and restaurants in the heart of North Grosvenordale are an achievable level of economic development. We have received a \$4.1 million grant for the reconstruction of the Main Street area. The Economic Development Commission is working hard to encourage growth and commerce in North Grosvenordale. Beautifying our parks and trails, ensuring our roadways and bridge infrastructure are in good condition and fulfilling our obligations to the school all require community investment. And, yes, the system in which we operate means that investment is made through the contributions of taxpayers.

I ask Thompson residents to join forces to invest in the future by voting Yes on July 2 to maintain level funding in 2026. A Yes is a vote to see this community thrive and succeed.

AMY ST. ONGE  
THOMPSON

Where are the voters?

To the Editor:

Concerned Citizens of Woodstock (CCoW) is a coalition of bipartisan residents of all ages from every part of town. They advocate for a healthy, sustainable community with adequate town services, programs, education, and communication. Robust voter participation is critical for a healthy town, according to CCoW.

Despite referenda on May 20 and June 10, voters of Woodstock have yet to agree to a town budget for FY 25-26. For each of the votes, the turnout was disappointing: 1153 on the 20th, and 1608 on the 10th. Considering

there are about 6,300 registered voters in Woodstock, the 18 and 26 percent, respectively, who voted represent a small minority indeed. For the health of the community more voters need to make their voices heard.

Each town meeting and budget vote costs the taxpayers more money. There have already been three rounds of cuts to the original proposed budgets, including nine classroom staff positions for elementary and middle school (more than \$1 million cuts in education), eliminating funding for the North Woodstock Library, cutting \$3,000 from the Constables, cutting the position

of Town Treasurer, cutting the First Selectman’s increase in half, and cutting \$94,728 from the highway department. And there were many more. Residents will feel the impact. It means no constables will be on duty at the town beach. It means no salt and sand for personal use will be available to town residents next winter.

The next referenda is July 1, after the statutory deadline for the town to have a final budget in place. It is critical that every voter takes part in this decision-making process. The polls are open from noon to 8 p.m. on July 1, at the town hall.

If one is not able to vote in person, absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk immediately following the town meeting on June 24.

CCoW urges every voter to take part in this important decision.

CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER  
CONCERNED CITIZENS OF  
WOODSTOCK

Additional Letters to the  
Editor, See Page A-8



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# Gold and silver coins and sterling silver

Today, I'll discuss number 3 on my top 10 list of antiques and collectibles, which is gold and silver coins and sterling silver. There are many non-silver or non-gold coins that can be valuable, but I will discuss these examples in a future column. Silver and gold coins made my top 10 list because they are all worth at least their melt value.

We typically handle between five and ten coin collections a year. If you have coins that you saved or inherited, you can do some research to learn more about them. Dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins made in 1964 or earlier are made with 90 percent



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
• • • • •  
WAYNE TUISKULA

silver. Coins may also have numismatic value, aka the value to collectors. As with other collectibles, age and condition are important factors.

Where the coins were made is another important factor. Silver coins were made in many countries throughout the world. Within the United States, coins were minted in different cities including Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco. There can also be variations of certain coins, for example seven versus eight tail feathers on the eagle on a silver dollar. These factors all play a part in the value.

Gold coins have some similarities to silver coins, such as the condition and age being

important factors. Gold coins were also made in other countries and minted in different cities in the United States.

Sterling silver serving pieces are like coins in that some may be worth just the silver value, while others are worth much more than their melt value. Sterling silver is 92.5 percent pure, so it has a little more silver content than coins. Pieces crafted by important silversmiths or well-regarded manufacturers, or those that are well-designed can increase value well above the silver content.

For example, a silver set by silversmith Ephraim Brasher, a neighbor of George Washington, sold for \$4,250, well above the silver price at the time we sold it. A Tiffany sterling silver Olympian flatware set brought \$3,500, which was close to twice what it would have brought in

melt value. An 1889-CC Morgan silver dollar sold for over \$800 when the silver value was around \$20 or \$25 at the time, likely because not many silver dollars were minted at the Carson City mint that year. We sold a 1924 St. Gauden's \$20 gold Double Eagle coin for \$2,400 in 2022. The condition of that coin increased its value by about 50%.

The price of gold and silver fluctuates over time, and prices regularly rise and drop. Silver was selling for \$29.09 per ounce in late June 2024 and it's at \$35.95 as I write this column. In late June last year, gold was \$2,324.98 per ounce and now it's reached \$3,384 per ounce. If you have a coin that's worth its weight in gold, you can be thankful it's at this year's price.

We just had a sale with coins end this week and are accepting more con-



signments. We will have many sets of sterling silver in an upcoming fall/winter sale. We continue to work on a Civil War auction, Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction, and major auction with gold, sterling, art, and antiques. We also continue to accept consignments for future sales. Please visit our website [https://central-](https://central-massauctions.com)

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

## Observe!

Imagine your alarm blaring at 6:30 a.m. You hit snooze, sit up, and feel your chest tighten as your mind floods with errands—grocery run, project meeting at ten, soccer pickup at five. Maybe you spill coffee on your shirt, making things worse. Thoughts rush like rapids: “Did I send that report? Where are my keys? Ugh, traffic.”

But you don't have to jump into every river. You can sit on the riverbank of your awareness and simply watch each swell of thought roll past like a leaf on water.

Later, you're stuck in traffic, brake lights glowing ahead, and a car horn blares behind you. Your mind churns: “I'll be late. My boss will be furious. I'm failing.”

Don't drown your-

self in worry. At that moment, I shifted roles from panicked swimmer to calm spectator. Name the feeling—“That's anxiety”—then take a slow, deep breath, picturing the worry as a single leaf drifting downstream.

As Eckhart Tolle teaches, “You are the observer of your thoughts, not the thoughts themselves.” From your spot on the bank, the swirling water can't reach you.

Back at your desk, you open a harsh email from a coworker—“They must think I'm terrible at my job.” Your gut tightens, and your first urge is to fire off a reply as you press your coffee to your lips.

Take a pause and imagine that sharp feeling as just another small wave on the river. Push your

feet onto the floor and let your shoulders relax.

Marcus Aurelius wrote, “You have power over your mind—not outside events.” Allow yourself to stand on solid ground at the river's edge, not in the rushing current.

At lunch, you scroll through social media and feel that familiar tug of comparison—“Everyone else's life looks perfect.” Your soup grows cold as images of smiling faces and highlight reels wash over you.

Instead of diving in, stop and ask, “What am I feeling?” Maybe it's envy, stress, or boredom. Then, take a full, slow breath, feeling your shoulders drop. Picture that thought as a stray twig on a river, carried away around a bend until the surface smooths out again.

In the afternoon, a friend or family member offers criticism, and your stomach flips like a turbulent whirlpool. Your eyes may narrow, and your heart might race. You might want to snap back or explain yourself.

Instead, mark the thought—label it “hurt” or “defensiveness”—and step back on the bank. Picture the idea as a swirl in the water. Breathe in, breathe out, and feel the pull of that mental current weaken as it drifts away. Let yourself remain dry and solid at the river's edge and choose how—or whether—to respond.

That night, lying in bed, your mind replays every awkward comment or mistake on a nonstop loop, turning your thoughts into a rushing river.

Your mind is shining a

spotlight on your errors. With practice, you can whisper, “I'm just getting caught up in the stream of worry again,” and step back, then let it float away until it disappears. You stay on the bank—fully awake and free. If new worries arrive—about work, money, or relationships—you do the same: name it, breathe, and release.

Why does this help? The instant you step off the mental treadmill and onto the riverbank of awareness, you carve out a tiny gap between stimulus and reaction. That gap may feel small—just a breath—but it's enormous in what it gives you: choice.

In that space, you decide whether to wade into the current or stay dry. Over time, as you observe and label each mental flow,

your responses soften. Your brain calms, and you make smarter moves instead of getting swept away.

You can practice this anywhere — walking to class, waiting in line, or sitting at home. When a thought pops up—nerves about a test, panic over a project, or judgment about a friend—stop, name it, breathe, and picture it drifting away.

This habit takes just seconds but changes everything. You are the riverbank, not the torrents. Notice the current, label it, breathe, and let it pass. In that simple act of observation lies true freedom—and a calmer, more joyful life.

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  

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TOBY  
MOORE

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## University of Bridgeport announces Dean's List

BRIDGEPORT — University of Bridgeport congratulates more than 350 students who were named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have a term grade point average of between 3.2-3.69.

Alicia Tiffany of Thompson  
Cheyann Tiffany of Thompson

University of Bridgeport offers career-oriented undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees and programs for people seeking personal and professional growth. The University promotes academic excellence, personal responsibility, and commitment to service. Distinctive curricula in an international, culturally diverse, and supportive learning environment prepare graduates for life and leadership in an increasingly interconnected world. The University is independent and non-sectarian. [www.bridgeport.edu](http://www.bridgeport.edu)

## Elms College announces Dean's List for Spring 2025

CHICOPEE, Mass. — The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the dean's list for the spring 2025 semester. Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list!

Adrianna Randolph of Danielson  
Megan Stjean of Brooklyn

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

## Caribbean music comes to Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — Bring a chair or blanket to enjoy a free concert by the St. Luke's Steel Band Sunday, June 29 at 4 p.m. at Roseland Cottage, presented by Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut, The Community Cultural Committee, and Loos Center for the Arts.

## VTSU congratulates local students for earning Dean's List honors!

RANDOLPH CENTER, Vt. — Vermont State University is proud to congratulate Tommy Blevins of Brooklyn and Wyatt Robbie of Woodstock for being named to the Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. Well done!

Dean's List designation is reserved for students who maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Vermont State University serves students on five campuses and multiple learning sites across Vermont and beyond, as well as online. Vermont State provides a high-quality, flexible, and affordable education for students seeking associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees, certificates, and in-demand professional credentials. The university builds upon a history of public higher education in Vermont dating back to 1787. Learn more at [VermontState.edu](http://VermontState.edu).

## Caroline Wilcox graduates from Elms College

CHICOPEE, Mass. — Caroline Wilcox of Pomfret Center received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Elms College following the conclusion of the Spring 2025 semester.

Wilcox was among 279 students who received their degrees in December.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

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Rather than go online where you are bound to get applicants from all over the world who click on every open job, why not advertise **locally**, where you will get qualified, **local** applicants for your **local** job.

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- Spencer New Leader
- Southbridge News

- Webster Times
- Sturbridge Villager
- Charlton Villager

- Woodstock Villager
- Thompson Villager
- Putnam Villager
- Killingly Villager



Email: [ads@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:ads@stonebridgepress.news)

Phone: (774) 200-7308

[www.Villager Newspapers.com](http://www.VillagerNewspapers.com)





Oak Ridge Organics showed off some of their products mainly comprised of soaps and similar goods.



The art festival wasn't just about visual art and vendors. Several musicians also lent their talents to entertain visitors throughout the weekend.



Jennifer Atwood works on a charcoal drawing at her booth where she sold some of her completed projects.



Sawmill Pottery continued its presence at events in Putnam at possibly the most appropriate event yet, the Putnam Fine Arts & Crafts Festival.



Artist Brandon Lee shows off his unique contributions to the art festival, sculptures made from recycled industrial wire.



Fruitcake designs showed off its selection of vintage inspired and tin jewelry.



Sheldons' Sawmill of Ashford showcased a fine selection of cutting boards, and the like all hand made for a variety of tastes.



A selection of unique birdhouses by Eric's Aviaries of Dudley drew customers in to see the extent of his artistic style.

# PUTNAM HOSTS ART FESTIVAL WEEKEND

PUTNAM — The town of Putnam hosted its third annual Fine Arts & Crafts Festival on June 21 and 22 bringing a variety of vendors spanning different art forms and products to the Putnam Municipal Complex for the first weekend of summer and one of the best weather weekends in many months. From organic products to wood and metal sculptures, books, paintings, and more the festival included a bit of something for everything complimented by baked goods, music and more adding to artistic flair of the weekend.



Lucid Art included a variety of colorful artworks depicting unique interpretations of animals, people, skulls and more.



Courtesy

Concetta Rose Coddling of Danielson graduated on May 17 from Lesley University. She earned a second Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health counseling, specializing in expressive art therapy.

Email Us!



What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

Email us your thoughts to:  
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We'd Love To Hear From You!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Woodstock’s budget is a challenge

To the Editor:

The town of Woodstock, along with the other small towns in the area, faces the perennial challenge of funding town services. Connecticut relies on local property taxes to fund public school districts, which leads to disparities between wealthy and lower-income communities. Adding to our revenue challenge is the fact that Woodstock heavily relies on residential homes to provide its personal property tax revenue, as there is very little industrial, commercial, or retail in our town. The Board of Finance and Economic Development Commission are addressing this issue and have made several longterm recommendations to address expanding tax revenue. An additional challenge is the physical size of the town, which requires additional costs to transport students over long distances and to maintain extra miles of highways and bridges.

Every two years, we elect our Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Board of Education to analyze and deal with the town’s challenges. In our opin-

ion, Woodstock is indeed fortunate to have qualified town leaders who work collaboratively in a bipartisan manner to manage our town. Woodstock town board meetings are always open to all citizens, and all documents and minutes are readily available for review. There is no need for FOIA requests, as Woodstock’s elected officials have consistently managed the process in a professional and transparent manner.

Woodstock has one of the lowest mill rates in Northeast Connecticut, and our per-pupil expenditure is one of the lowest in the state. Yes, Woodstock faces tax revenue challenges, and yes, the high cost of many state-mandated programs, as many other towns face. However, we all understand the importance of adequately funding our fire departments, emergency services, libraries, town hall, transfer station, and schools.

Please join us by voting Yes on July 1 to support the budget referendum.

GLEN AND CHRISITNE LESSIG  
WOODSTOCK

What will it take for Republicans to speak up?

To the Editor:

I am sure there are many Republicans who do not support much of what Trump is doing. But fearing recriminations, they will not speak out. On our side, there are many of us who have spoken out against Trump since 2015 who have feared legal and physical consequences. But Republicans have not said one word condemning the existential peril of Trumpism and MAGA.

Trump’s bombing of Iran has placed us at a level of risk that was completely avoidable. There was a nuclear settlement with Iran which was widely agreed to, and was working. Then our idiot President withdrew us from the pact for absolutely no good reason. Probably because in his first term, the deal was working and he could not take any credit for setting it up. The upshot was, Iran continued developing technology that they would not have otherwise have completed. And now we have a military “solution” risking a war instead of a negotiated solution. Of course, that is to be expected since Trump has never successfully solved

anything thru negotiation.

Now we see a memo from Homeland Security head Noem calling for the elimination of FEMA to replace it with a scaled down version. When are you GOP’rs going to rise up and speak out against this outrageous call to kill, I’d have to say even murder, an untold number of Americans? Under the specious guise of eliminating fraud and waste, this administration is really attacking political opponents to seek power and money, not improve the safety and quality of life of us We the People.

And another outrage is talk about lifting portions of the ban on asbestos. Asbestos is a proven lethal carcinogen causing mesothelioma. This was adjudicated in 1988 when a \$30 billion settlement fund (\$81 billion in today’s value) was set up to resolve hundreds of lawsuits against Johns-Mansfield. What more proof do you need to convince you about the complete disregard of human life and human suffering this means?

STEPHEN ETZEL  
PUTNAM

Where was the outrage before Trump?

To the Editor:

You anti-Trumpers loved it all while he was the “hunted,” but now you’re losing your minds since he’s become the “hunter.” You shivered in fear that he would come after his political opponents, but you rejoiced all while they went after him. You parroted their fears, you fell for their lies. So now you’re relying on these pawn judges to do the job, but you’re crying foul as they’re getting knocked down like bowling pins. (And how about trying to convince me that what I’ve said isn’t true?)

As for President Trump being a felon, it seems fair to me that a felon should be running the show considering how many Democrats have been arrested, have been charged with, or are facing charges for various offenses. (But then, I guess that’s now okay as long as they’re anti-Trump, right?) I certainly won’t say that there aren’t any

Republicans to add to that list, but that only helps in solidifying my claim. And am I the only one who’s ever heard somebody say that “they’re all a bunch of crooks?” (And that list of “crooks” well predates Trump’s terms as President, and they’re included in all levels of our government.) But then again, these are the people we vote for.

And now for another Facebook funny: “Is there anything better than seeing legal Hispanic Americans arresting a Democrat mayoral candidate for trying to protect an illegal alien from being deported?” (And the accompanying photo was even funnier.) Also, did I really just hear that Murphy is now concerned with how our tax dollars could be spent? Now, that has to be a first for a true puppet member of the “tax and spend” Democratic party.

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Will we become the people who did nothing?

To the Editor:

The MAGA cult has either chosen to ignore, or perhaps has become detached from, reality. See Ed DeLuca’s letter to you in the June 20 Villager. While he, and a small minority of Americans, amuse themselves with juvenile name-calling, petty distractions such as Nancy Pelosi’s verbal mistakes, and revel in the violence and cruelty such as the unprovoked attack and detention of a US Senator who merely tried asking a question of dog killer Kristi Noem, America goes to hell.

Even though the public disagrees with Trump’s performance on almost every major issue facing the nation, Trump plows ahead. Political violence, openly encouraged by President Trump by his pardoning of insurrectionists and cop beaters, has resulted in a right-wing assassination of a Minnesota state representative and her husband. Three-quarters of politically and hate-motivated attacks since Trump began advocating violence against his critics in 2015 have been perpetrated by right-wing zealots.

Americans generally agreed with Trump when he campaigned to stop the country’s continuous involvement in foreign wars. Still, he suckered us again with his decision to join

Israel’s decades-long war with Iran. Maybe he needed to distract us from his inability to find enough violent immigrants to deport and resorted to having masked secret police illegally snatching American citizens and visa holders off the street and sending them to detention camps. Or perhaps, Trump wants Americans to forget his broken promises to stop the war on Ukraine and lower grocery prices on day one.

Currently, I’m visiting Canada, like I do every summer. During Trump’s first term, Canadians were sympathetic to Americans who claimed they voted against Trump. This time, however, Trump’s policies are causing real harm here, and people recognize that Americans fully knew that they were electing an unstable, vindictive, convicted felon. In their eyes, America has rejected its traditional values and has become a nation that can no longer be trusted.

In the future, our grandchildren will study this era in America and ask their teacher the same question I, as a young student, asked about 1930s Germany: why didn’t anyone do anything to stop them?

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY

Examining the President’s “Big, Beautiful Bill”



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS  
• • • • •  
LAURENCE  
HALE  
INVESTMENT  
ADVISER

more than \$500,000.

Collect the Baby Bonus Under Trump’s big, beautiful bill, any baby born after the start of this year through Dec. 31, 2028, will have \$1,000 deposited into a Trump Account by the government. To qualify, the babies must be US citizens and have one parent with a Social Security number. The funds will be invested in a US stock index fund or its equivalent.

Families can then contribute up to \$5,000 a year to these accounts. Several businesses, including Uber, Dell and Goldman Sachs, have said they will set aside billions of dollars to invest in the Trump Accounts of their employees when they become new parents. Children can access half of the funds when they turn 18 to pay for education, starting a business, or a first-time home purchase. The remainder of the funds can be disbursed when the person turns 30 and used for any purpose.

Green tax breaks are gone

In order to pay for the new legislation, the Trump administration will cut costs in some places and increase revenue generating opportunities in others. Among the cost cuts, the legislation eliminates or phases out Biden administration tax breaks that encouraged clean energy projects and the use of clean energy. Biden era tax deductions resulting from the purchase of an electric vehicle or putting solar panels on a home will be eliminated under the big, beautiful bill. The legislation would also add a new \$250 annual fee on EV drivers because they use the roads but don’t pay gas taxes.

SNAP and Medicaid affected

The big, beautiful bill makes it more difficult to receive food and medical aid. Able-bodied adults without dependents must

fulfill work requirements to receive food aid until they are 64, up from today’s age of 54. The work requirement also applies to parents with children that are at least seven years old, which is more stringent than today’s benefits which are given to parents without requiring work until their children are 18.

Under the bill, able-bodied adults without dependents who receive Medicaid are required to provide at least 80 hours per month of work, education or service beginning in 2029. No such requirement currently exists. People would also have to verify their eligibility to receive Medicaid twice a year, instead of once a year and they won’t qualify if they own a home worth \$1 million or more.

Understanding the impact of taxes is always tricky especially when the rules of the game are changing. WHZ advisors will continue to track Trump’s big, beautiful bill as it continues down the road to becoming a law. If you have any questions about the proposed tax changes and the impact your portfolio and tax planning, please contact us for a complimentary consultation on our Web site at whzwealth.com, or give us a call at (860) 928-2341.

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jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

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# Three centuries of the 4th

Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar now open for the season: The Boxcar is open every Saturday & Sunday from May through October from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For special tours, call 860-207-6044.



KILLINGLY  
AT  
300  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

Since Killingly celebrates the Fourth of July this evening with its Red, White, and Blue festivities and fireworks at Owen Bell Park, I thought I would look for tidbits about Fourth of July celebrations and ads from past years. I turned to the Windham County Transcripts at the Killingly Public Library website (killinglypl.org). Will you be eating hamburgers and hot dogs? Chicken BBQ? Davis & Burton Market was advertising “spring lamb and peas, lettuce, beets, carrots, new turnips, new potatoes, and watermelons on ice. Remember they deliver orders. Leave your orders early.” (WCT, July 2, 1903, p. 7). I chuckle when I see “peas.” For years when my husband was alive, we planted peas in the garden. It

seemed no matter how he staggered the plantings, the peas seemed to come around the Fourth of July. We spent many holidays shelling and freezing them. That year (1903) Wildwood Park was to be the site of major festivities for the holiday. “Hon. Joseph Barbour of Hartford will deliver a Fourth of July oration at Wildwood Park at 10:30 a.m. on the 4th of July. This address will be the magnet that will attract thousands of people, as Mr. Barbour is... one of the leading orators of New England.” (Ibid.) I learned that Danielson had a Fourth of July parade in 1962 from several tidbits in the South Killingly column by Mrs. Henry Eldridge. She noted that both the 4-H Galloping Ghosts and 4-H Top Hands marched in the parade. Perhaps you were one of the marchers. I didn’t see any other write-up about the parade route or when it was held. (WCT, July 12, 1962, p. 7). The June 27, 1877 Transcript announced a “Grand Celebration

at Roseland Park, Woodstock on the Fourth of July. Distinguished speakers, Splendid music, Park dressed with Flags-Sabbath Schools-Temperance Societies-Churches and all other organizations cordially invited--A Free Holiday for all the People--Grand Display of Fire Works in the Evening--Roseland Park illuminated with Chinese Lanterns--Rockets each side of the Lake--Roman Candles on the Lake, Illuminated Balloons in the Air; Whole Day and Evening devoted to the Celebration.” The accompanying article noted that Henry C. Bowen of New York (owner of Roseland Cottage--the Pink House) had purchased the property four years previously and had made consider improvements. (p. 1). I love to hear about interesting archaeological finds so was fascinated when my son Gabe texted me that Capt. Cook’s ship had been found in Newport, RI. I was eager to do an internet search to see what I could learn. Cook was a famous explorer who had sailed the South Pacific in the 18th century. What was the Endeavor doing in Rhode Island? There were many accounts to be found when I searched. This is what Ben Cost of The New York Post from June 16, 2025 had to say. “Captain James Cook’s lost ship Endeavor found after 250 years...The HMS Endeavor has been rediscovered off Rhode Island closing the book on a maritime mystery that has endured for 250 years. The iconic vessel’s alleged final resting spot was detailed in a recent report by the Australian

National Maritime Museum which has been searching for the lost ship since 1999...25 years of detailed and meticulous archaeological study...it has involved underwater investigation in the US and extensive research in institutions across the globe. During the explorer’s first expedition, between 1768 and 1771, the Endeavour circled the globe and became the first European ship to land in eastern Australia and to circumnavigate New Zealand. The legendary ship fell into obscurity shortly thereafter. It was repurposed as a transport ship for British troops. Endeavour was then sold off to the shipping company Mather & Co., before getting refitted and renamed the Lord Sandwich, when it formed part of the British fleet during the Revolutionary War... (It) was scuttled off the coast of the US in 1778... Researchers were able to confirm that it was indeed Cook’s lost ship by comparing the wreckage with the vessel’s historic plans, finding that the placement of certain timbers was a dead ringer for the locations of its main and fore masts in the outline. Meanwhile the ship’s measurements matched those taken during a 1768 survey of the Endeavour.” (Search the article yourself to see images of the ship, the shipwreck and Capt. James Cook, plus additional information). If you conduct your own search, you will notice that articles on the subject appeared in 2022, with individuals saying the announcement was premature with not enough proof at that time. The AI over-

view notes that thirteen British ships were scuttled in the general area of the wreck. That was a common practice in war-time to try to blockade a harbor. The British did not want French ships to gain access to the harbor. (Will they find a ship in the swamp on Oak Island?) Newport and the Narragansett Bay communities were much besieged by the British during the Revolution occupying the town from December 1776 until October 1779. In fact, a number of Rhode Islanders purchased land in Killingly and other Northeastern Connecticut towns and moved further from the conflict. AI noted that according to the Newport Historical Society over half the town’s population fled. Troops from Northeastern Connecticut answered the call for militia to that area several times during the War. Edward Adams, who lived in my house during the Revolutionary period, was born in Barrington, RI, which was located not far from Newport, and apparently returned there for a while and fought for Rhode Island in the Revolution. He, and his family, did return to this property, and his descendants lived here for a number of generations. Did you know that individuals could purchase medicinal marijuana in the early 1900’s. Killingly Historical Society president, Bernie Mitchell, who collects stamps, recently received an offer to purchase US Marihuana Tax Stamps. “At the beginning of the 20th century, marijuana

was legal for medicinal and research purposes. However, as the century went on, more people began using it for more than just medical necessity...the federal government was faced with a growing recreational marijuana problem and no authority to criminalize the substance. They had to come up with a different solution...The Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 required all producers, laboratories, dealers, importers, and doctors to register each year to legally buy and sell marijuana. The annual license fee ranged from \$1 to \$24. Each ounce of marijuana was taxed an additional \$1 when sold to a registered individual. Those who couldn’t meet the strict registration criteria were taxed \$100. Failure to comply was punishable by five years in prison and a \$2000 fine. The first tax evasion arrests were made the day after the act was passed. Marijuana Tax stamps were valid from 1937 until 1969. No one knows for sure how many were issued.” (Mystic Stamp Company).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, June 2025. Special thanks to Gabe Weaver and Bernie Mitchell for topics for this column. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main Street Danielson Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook, www.facebook.com/killingly-historicalsociety.

## Relinquish

In order to let God bless and direct our lives, we have to trust Him enough to let go of control. We need to decide that we will be ok with whatever God decides. This is a challenge; it is hard to give up our opinions and our control to a God - who we can neither see nor fully understand. Ironically, the more “successful” someone seems to become, the harder it may be for them to let God be God. As a result, some of the “most needy” people end up being most likely to receive healing and provision from God, because they are willing to treat Him like the Almighty King that He is. Conversely, some of the “most successful” people have a hard time trusting God and receiving His blessings, because they don’t want to lose what they have been able to cobble together.

One challenge comes from the fact that humans just don’t understand a lot about life. Listen to what God says through Isaiah the prophet in chapter 55, verse 8 (NLT): “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.” So often our limited understanding keeps us from trusting, believing and obeying God... thereby robbing us of the good things God wants to do in our lives.

There is an intriguing story in I Kings about a non-Jewish king who was taught this lesson in a very dramatic fashion. Nebuchadnezzar II was king of Babylonia from approximately 605 BC to 562 BC. He is considered the greatest king of the Babylonian Empire. He built the famous Hanging Gardens of Babylon; one of the seven ancient wonders of the world.

Nebuchadnezzar is most famous for the conquering Jerusalem in 586 BC. He destroyed the temple and deported most of the remaining residents to Babylon. He was a brutal, powerful, and ambitious king. Daniel chapter 2 records God giving Nebuchadnezzar a dream about the kingdoms that would arise after his own. He demanded his astrologers and wise men to interpret his dream without him telling it to them. When they were unable to deliver, Nebuchadnezzar ordered all of the astrologers and wise men to be killed. Daniel spoke up and, through a miracle from God, interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The king then promoted Daniel to be one of his most influential advisers. When Daniel interpreted his dream, the king declared, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.” (Daniel 2:47)

This king was used of God to judge Israel and was given a prominent place in history. Unfortunately, he then became proud, and God did something to give him some perspective. In Daniel chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar is given another dream by God. Daniel interpreted the dream for Nebuchadnezzar and informed him that the dream was a warning to the king to humble himself and recognize that his power, wealth, and influence were from God, not of his own making. Nebuchadnezzar did not heed the warning of the dream, so God judged him as the dream had declared. Nebuchadnezzar was driven insane for seven years. When the king’s sanity was restored, he finally humbled himself before God.

Partnering with God can bring a person great blessing. The trick is to always make sure God is God. Our current world culture has shifted toward making man the center of the universe. That never goes well. But God has repeatedly proven that we can trust Him enough to relinquish all control to Him.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more resources or sermon videos please visit www.ActsII.org.

BY JARED JACAVONE  
DIRECTOR  
THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

At the Thompson Public Library, you can access a wide variety of resources. You can check out the latest novels, cherished classics, and fascinating works of non-fiction. You can also work with Ancestry Library to explore your family’s story, and conduct research through a wide variety of databases from the State Library of Connecticut. In addition to books, our youngest patrons can enjoy activity bags, educational LaunchPads, and interactive Wonderbooks. Thanks to the Friends of the Thompson Public Library, we are proud to announce a new section in our collection-a Library of Things!

What is a Library of Things? It is a collection of items that can include hobbyist materials, board games, toys, instruments, yard games, or even tools. Sometimes items aren’t always used regularly by a household, so instead of having to purchase and store them, you can check them out from the Library as needed! Just like a library book, these items are available to borrow with your library card for a two-week period.

The Friends of the Library’s donation of gardening and everyday tools have jumpstarted our Library of Things. Items available for checkout include a gardening kit, a bench/kneeler, a pole saw, a root slayer, a weed puller, a shovel, a rake, and much more! We also carry items for indoor and outdoor entertainment, such as a bocce ball set, cornhole set, badminton set, multi-sided dice sets, and various board games. We also carry some unexpected items to help you with your next big project, such as a

projector, projector screen, slide clicker/laser pointer, and even a Blu-ray player! For other projects, you can also borrow a laser level, stud finder, telescope, ratchet set, screwdriver set, ukulele, and metal detector. If you are interested in getting started with textiles, you can check out a crochet hook set, knitting needles, interlocking blocking mats, and even a sewing machine!

The majority of the Library of Things collection is located next to the periodicals section. Items located behind the Front Desk require the completion of an agreement form before borrowing-please speak with a staff member to learn more.

So while visiting the Library to pick up your next book or to participate in our Summer Reading Program, why not try out some of the items in our Library of Things? After all, you never know when you will need a metal detector!

Check out some of our new arrivals below. Have a great week, and we hope to see you at the Library!

DVDs:  
As You Like It (2007)  
Galaxy Quest (1999)  
Hellboy (2004)  
Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008)  
Henry V (2000)  
Highlander (1986)  
Kill Bill (2003)  
Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries Sense and Sensibility (1995)  
The Death of Stalin (2018)  
The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy (2005)  
The Menu (2023)

Blu-Rays:  
Arrival (2018)  
Civil War (2024)  
Hellboy (2019)  
Misommar (2019)  
Pride and Prejudice (1996)

Fiction:  
“Lincoln’s Lady Spymaster,” Gerri Willis  
“Rossum’s Universal Robots,” Karel Capek  
“The Dead Letter Delivery,” C.J. Archer  
“The Lost Year,” Katherine Marsh  
“The Rarest Fruit,” Gaëlle Bélem  
“The Untitled Books,” C.J. Archer  
“When Sleeping Women Wake,” Emma Pei Yin  
“Wild Dark Shore,” Charlotte McConaghy

Juvenile Fiction:  
“Air,” Monica Roe  
“Confessions of a Junior Spy,” Rosaria Munda  
“Emily Windsnap and the Pirate Prince,” Liz Kessler  
“Emily Windsnap and the Tides of Time,” Liz Kessler  
“Harriet Spies,” Elana K. Arnold  
“Isle of Ever,” Jen Calonita  
“Monsters of Fife: Sea Dragons,” Jane Yolen  
“Simon Sort of Says,” Erin Bow  
“Star Friends: Dream Shield,” Linda Chapman  
“Star Friends: Mystic Forest,” Linda Chapman  
“Team Chu and the Battle of Blackwood Arena,” Julie C. Dao  
“Team Chu and the Epic Hero Quest,” Julie C. Dao  
“The Dragon’s Apprentice,” James Riley  
“The Pupper Place: Ozzy,” Ellen Miles  
“Trex,” Christyne Morrell  
“What Happened the Rachel Riley,” Claire Swinarski

Picture Books:  
“How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?” Jane Yolen and Mark Teague

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MARIANAPOLIS

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Computer Science Medal: Thur Hà Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam

Dance Medal: Caitlin Diaz, Oxford, Mass.

Drama Medal: Xuân Như Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam

English Medal: Amelia Margoupis, Sutton, Mass.

Eric Gustavson History Medal: Madeline

Joyce, Dudley, Mass.

Fr. Gurklis, MIC Mathematics Medal: Keyuan Zhang, Beijing, China

Modern Language Medal: Sophia Wildes, North Uxbridge, Mass.

Gertrude Salvas English Language Medal: Hoài An Nguyễn Trần, Dong Nai, Vietnam

Distinguished Leadership Medal: Dunja

Ćujić, Belgrade, Serbia

Marilyn S. Ebbitt Medal: Luisa Henao, Southbridge, Mass.

Music Medal: Kira Gillette, Webster, Mass.

Physics Medal: Dunja Ćujić, Belgrade, Serbia

Religious Studies Medal: Luisa Henao, Southbridge, Mass.

Salutatorian Bowl: Chloe Alba, Sutton, Mass.

Social Sciences Medal: Madeline Joyce, Dudley, Mass.

The Congregation of the Marian Fathers Centennial Awards: Luisa Henao, Southbridge, Mass.

The Dr. Louis Loffredo Memorial Award: Ashton Nichols, Hopkinton, Mass.

The Father Casimir Kuckell, MIC Memorial

Awards: Madeline Joyce, Dudley, Mass., and Charles Eggen, Worcester, Mass.

The Father John Petrauskas, MIC Memorial Award: Caitlin Diaz, Oxford, Mass.

The John Kendrtarvich Memorial Award: Kira Gillette, Webster, Mass.

TheMarianapolisAlumni Merit Award: Gianah DeAngelis, Putnam

The Marianapolis Service Award: Miles Wesolowski, Brooklyn

The Mothers of Marianapolis Award: Carolina Dogre Conde, Chetumal, Mexico

Tom Perkins Art Medal: MwewaChiwaya,Moosup

PhotographyMedal:Miles Wesolowski, Brooklyn

Valedictorian Bowl: Vincent Vo, Worcester, Mass.

FAIR

continued from page A1

other top country songs. Wilson will take the stage on Saturday, Aug. 30 at 8 p.m.

Classic rock is back at the Woodstock Fair on Sunday, Aug. 31 at 8 p.m. as Grand Funk Railroad makes a first-ever stop at the Fair to play their timeless hits including “We’re an American Band,” “Some Kind of Wonderful,” “Time Machine” and the “The Loco-Motion.”

In the tradition of the past two Fairs which have seen the likes of Scott Stapp, the lead singer of Creed, and Lit, comes Fuel. One of the top alternative rock bands of the 90’s, Fuel will play its best such as “Hemorrhage,” “Shimmer” and “Falls on Me,” on the Main Stage

on Friday, Aug. 29 at 8 p.m.

The Nerveless Nocks Globe of Death will also be at the Main Stage, doing three motorcycle stunt shows daily beginning on Friday, Aug. 29 presented by WHZ Wealth. Also appearing on the Main Stage will be Nutshell, an Alice in Chains Tribute band; country artist Jason Ingriselli and the Miles North Band; The Best of Led Zeppelin tribute band and Ed Peabody and the Big Blue Thang band. Illusionist David Garrity and hypnotist Jim Spinnato will also perform.

All shows at the Woodstock Fair are free with the \$15 general admission ticket. Seniors (65+) and active military with ID are \$10; children 10 and under are free. Family four-pack tickets are now on sale at a spe-

cial price on woodstock-fair.com.

The Woodstock Fair becomes Connecticut’s only five-day Fair this year as it will get underway on Thursday, Aug. 28 at 4 p.m. The special preview show will feature the Southern New England Truck Pullers on the Woodstock Fair’s brand new 325-foot pull ring beginning at 4 p.m. The Fiesta Shows midway, Kiddieland and food booths will also be open and at 9:30 p.m., there will be a huge fireworks display presented by Linemaster Switch. The entry for the special preview show is \$10 with tickets already on sale at woodstockfair.com.

The entire Woodstock Fair will officially open at noon on Friday, Aug. 29.

Maximize your harvest with succession planting



Melinda Myers

A second planting after harvesting your first crop is possible if there is enough time for it to mature and be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Make the most of every square inch of garden space and containers with succession planting. As you harvest your first crop of the season, consider replanting the space with a vegetable that will mature and can be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Start by calculating the number of frost-free days remaining in your grow-

SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page A1

attend Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston and plans to study engineering or architecture.

Madison Lamothe is the daughter of Jeramiah and Beth Lamothe of Putnam. She is a graduate of Putnam High School. Madison will attend the University of Connecticut at Storrs. She is undecided on her major course of study.

Kathrin Fischer is the daughter of Heather Vallee and Robby Fischer of Killingly. She is a graduate of Killingly High School. Kathrin will attend the University of New England in Biddeford, Me., and plans to study kinesiology in a pre-med major.

Part of the Veterans Coffeehouse scholarship application includes a short written essay about honoring veterans. The three scholarship win-

ners were asked to read their essays to the audience of 103 veterans and 17 volunteers, plus several caregivers of veterans.

All three shared brief stories about their grandfathers’ military experiences.

“Never forget them is a solution to honoring veterans,” Kathrin Fischer said.

“Preserve their memories in daily life by letting them know you appreciate their service,” Madison Lamothe wrote.

And Kaelyn Trembly told the audience, “My Grampy is my hero! He was a Marine in Vietnam and a role model the rest of his life.”

Coffeehouse President Fred Ruhlemann addressed the scholars, saying, “It’s an honor for us to help you! Thank you for applying. And it was nice to hear your stories about grandfathers.”

Awarding student

scholarships is another way our Veterans continue to serve our communities long after our military service to the nation has concluded, Ruhlemann said.

Founded in 2015, the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse now meets every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. at Putnam Elks Lodge 574. It was the first Veterans program of its kind in the state, and possibly first in the nation as well, and has become a key resource for Veterans in eastern Connecticut. Its mission states it is “A comfortable location for ALL veterans to meet, socialize, develop camaraderie and receive support information regarding veterans benefits and services.” Veterans Administration representatives visit the Coffeehouse several times monthly to meet individually with Veterans. The Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse is now a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Killingly resident earns law school degree

CONCORD, New Hampshire — On May 16, Hayley Schnatter of Killingly graduated from University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law in Concord, earning a Juris Doctor degree.

Ms. Schnatter is also a graduate of Southern New Hampshire University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Studies.

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LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER ASSESSMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in our drop box.

Sewer assessment bills are due June 1, 2025 and becomes delinquent on July 2, 2025 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month with a minimum interest charge of \$5.00.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killinglyct.gov.

April Lamothe, CCMC Revenue Collector  
Town of Killingly  
May 23, 2025  
June 6, 2025

TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER USE NOTICE

The first half of the Sewer Use charge is due July 1, 2025 and will become delinquent after August 1, 2025. The Sewer Use charge will be subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST DUE.

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, during the posted hours, by mail, online, or in our drop box.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org.

April Lamothe, CCMC Revenue Collector  
Town of Killingly  
June 27, 2025  
July 4, 2025  
July 25, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

David W Baer (25-00251)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 13, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Jason Reis  
c/o MEGHAN ELIZABETH SMITH, SMITH LAW GROUP, LLC,  
12 GOOSE LANE, UNIT H,  
TOLLAND, CT 06084  
June 27, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Judith M Holewa,  
AKA Judith Holewa,  
AKA Judith M Kiley (25-00190)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 1, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Joseph E Holewa  
c/o MATTHEW-ALAN HERMAN, L  
c/o GEORGE A LAW, LAW OFFICE  
OF GEORGE A. LAW, 595 MAIN  
STREET, PORTLAND, CT 06480  
June 27, 2025

‘LEGAL NOTICE WITCHES WOOD TAX DISTRICT TAX COLLECTOR’S NOTICE

The first installment of Real Estate bills listed on the October 1, 2024 Grand List become due and payable to the Witches Woods Tax District on July 1, 2025.

Payments must be postmarked by August 1, 2025 to avoid interest charges. Interest will be charged on August 2, 2025 on all delinquent payments at the rate of one and a half percent per month or a minimum charge of \$2.00 per tax bill, in accordance with Section 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or the interest. (Section 12-130 C.G.S.) If you did not receive a tax bill, please contact the Tax Collector immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector’s Office at taxw-lake@gmail.com or the Assessor’s office at 860-928-6929 ext. 326.

Payments must be sent to:  
WITCHES WOODS TAX DISTRICT  
PO Box 725, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
Frederick Chmura  
Tax Collector  
June 27, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Steven Palardy (25-00188)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge

of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 17, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Albert Palardy  
c/o MATTHEW-ALAN HERMAN,  
LAW OFFICE OF ALAN SCOTT  
HERMAN,  
16 SOUTH MAIN ST. P.O. B,  
P.O. BOX 663, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
Timothy Palardy  
c/o ANNA-LIISA NIXON,  
KIRSCHBAUM LAW GROUP, LLC,  
935 MAIN STREET, LEVEL A,  
MANCHESTER, CT 06040  
June 27, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF

Richard W Pakenham (25-00236)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 18, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Nancy E Harper  
c/o SAMANTHA GRAVES, THE PRUE  
LAW GROUP, P.C., 720 MAIN STREET,  
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226  
June 27, 2025







# Leah Kelleher adds to Westview Sports Medicine



Leah Kelleher

DAYVILLE — Leah Kelleher PT, DPT carries her vocation forth with passion, professionalism—and most importantly, purpose. Her role today as a Doctor of Physical Therapy is rooted in an early keenness towards medicine developed through family experiences. Through her education and experience, she has accumulated a wide array of knowledge spanning from enabling pediatric populations to helping patients with neurological challenges. She wishes to help her patients live and move to their fullest potential: to aid their ability to live actively, and if needed, to equip individuals with assistive devices to reach their goals. Kelleher firmly believes that committed efforts result in positive outcomes. She maintains that mindset as constant motivation for herself and her patients as a Physical Therapist at Westview Sports Medicine.

Raised in Methuen, Mass., formative experiences in Kelleher's early life manifested inspiration and motivation for a career in medicine. Her mother works for a prominent medical device manufacturer, and she had many opportunities to witness surgeons learning how to perform new techniques with innovative equipment. This imparted her with a desire to pursue her own role in healthcare, and she focused on that mission all the way through her college education and graduate work. She attended the University of Hartford; earning a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences and Doctorate of Physical Therapy. Without hesitation, she began working in the acute care setting of a large hospital in Rhode Island. Her entry to the medical field started with the specialized PT considerations of the hospital's neurological population. True to her own cultivated interests and expertise, she took a role identifying patient needs to medical device manufacturers. Leah formed a strong foundation in her career as a Physical Therapist ensuring patient access to the most promising assistive equipment.

Kelleher was making important strides in her career and in life. Competitively riding horses since childhood, she was no stranger to overcoming obstacles. Faith and confidence in her own ability has proved valuable at many points in her experience. Just months before her wedding, her father suffered a massive stroke. His unwavering commitment to walk her down

the aisle stood firm. His resolve amazes Kelleher, and his continued inner strength despite these challenges ignites her efforts as a Physical Therapist.

She points to her father's fortitude as an inspiration for the patients she is privileged to work with: "I take what I learned from his initial recovery—and the difficulties he continues to face—and I teach that to all of my patients. You have to do the work to see the results. My father's experience emboldens me to challenge my patients and empower them in recovery."

When Leah and her husband Ryan welcomed children into their life, they looked to establish their home in a quiet New England setting while maintaining access to pursue their respective professions. Ryan is a Firefighter and Paramedic in West Hartford, and Leah sought opportunities for Physical Therapists in Windham County. Leah took her passion for therapy and rehabilitation to another Connecticut hospital's outpatient clinic and continued to work with neurologically afflicted patients. She also gained the opportunity at that time to connect with pediatric patients and guide them towards their full physical potential. With her own children, Lila, Rhett, and Emerson now growing up, Leah sought daycare options near their home and discovered Westview Child Care Center. Through frequent conversations, Leah struck up a running dialogue with Westview Child Care Center Director Katy Holzer. Their conversations easily flowed between insights into child development to their shared love of horses to a mutual respect for physical therapy. Many around the Westview campus began to hope that Leah would bring her talent to work with Westview Sports Medicine, and they hailed her addition to the team in May 2025.

Across a lifetime of personal and professional experiences she has accumulated a wealth of treatment knowledge; aiding patients recovering from strokes, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and vestibular impairments. Possessing nuanced understanding to treat adults as well as infants, toddlers, and adolescents with a varied set of diagnoses, Leah seeks the growth of patient therapy options for all ages. Leah has a mirrored perspective on critical aspects of the therapeutic journey—both as a family member supporting a loved one recovering from trauma and as a Physical Therapist ardently guiding patients back to their peak ability.

Leah identifies her hopes and goals as a member of the Westview Sports Medicine: "Westview Sports Medicine is full of amazing people whose collective goal is to improve our patients and provide our community with the best care."

Westview Health Care Center Administrator David T. Panteleakos promotes the facility's credo of 'Caring for Generations' as a guiding concept for our team members.

"Leah joins our amazing team with an impressive amount of physical therapy knowledge and patient-focused experience," stated Mr. Panteleakos. "Her ability to work with patients across all ages is a multifaceted strength and a true complement

to our Sports Medicine outpatient program. Leah is a great addition to our team; and we look forward to seeing continued triumphs for Leah and her patients here at Westview Sports Medicine."

Westview Sports Medicine is part of the Westview family, along with Westview Health Care Center, Westview Outpatient & Aquatic Center, Country Living at Westview Commons, and Westview Child Care Center. 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 17 years.

## Church of the Good Shepherd celebrates 278 years

WOODSTOCK — The Church of the Good Shepherd, 12 Bradford Corner Rd., West Woodstock, cordially invites the public to a time of festivities and music on Sunday, June 29 as they celebrate 278 years of ministry.

Following a special worship service at 10:30 a.m., led by Pastor Joseph DiLeo, there will be an extended fellowship hour featuring a light lunch of sandwiches and salads in the Fellowship Hall, during which, from 12:15 – 12:45 p.m., there will be a concert on the lawn by the church's bluegrass gospel group, directed by Music Director Edward Bradley and comprised of church members and friends, who will be opening for a concert by the East Woodstock Cornet Band at 1 p.m.!

This is a community event, free and open to the public. Come, enjoy yourself and share good music and fellowship with us! Bring your own lawn chair. You are welcome to come to the afternoon concerts even if you do not attend the church service.



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